

Sustainability Guidelines: Seychelles

You are about to embark on a wonderful trip to Seychelles, known for its stunning natural beauty and wildlife. Your trip will show you all that Seychelles has to offer, leaving you with a great appreciation for this country.

Environmental Issues:

Seychelles' natural beauty is, however, threatened by environmental issues. The main environmental struggles that Seychelles faces are the following:

- Due to its geographic nature - fifteen islands distributed over 1.3 million sq km - Seychelles does not have the resources to maintain a comprehensive program of environmental regulation
- Seychelles lacks fresh water resources and is combating water pollution.

Environmental Initiatives:

While it seems as though the environmental issues might be overwhelming the country, many steps have been taken to mitigate these strains and work towards a more sustainable Seychelles.

Sustainability for Seychelles is a non-governmental organization. *S4S* has nine objectives in which the organization is committed to addressing including, but not limited to, the following:

- Water
- Wetlands
- Biodiversity conservation
- Renewable energy
- Waste management.

The aim of the project is to engage people from various backgrounds to explore the meaning of sustainable living and to develop designs promoting different aspects of it in Seychelles. The organization is comprised of teachers, students, artists, and community members. For the launch of the program, six buses in Seychelles were painted by organization members depicting environmental messages and the natural beauty in Seychelles. The Ministry for the Environment of Seychelles is committed to the success of the organization and helping in the development of sustainable ways of living.



Nature Seychelles is the largest, most dynamic environmental organization in the Western Indian Ocean and is involved in a wide range of activities targeted at improving national and regional environmental standards, advancing scientific environmental research, and restoring island habitats. One specific project is Protected Area Management focusing on studying and restoring coral reef fish, eliminating poaching, and sustainable fishing. One of Seychelles's many islands is Cousin Island, a marine protected area including a 400 m exclusion zone from the shore. *Nature Seychelles* works to establish protected areas around the rest of the islands and is committed to maintaining the biodiversity of the reefs.

Birdlife Seychelles is managing the Cousin Island Special Reserve, spearheading the first place in Seychelles where solar water heaters will be used. *Birdlife Seychelles*, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, will install the solar heaters not only as a renewable energy source, but as a showcase to demonstrate to visitors the potential of new energy technology.

As a visitor to Seychelles, you have the opportunity to visit a pristine eco-system. Respect the beaches and coral reefs that you will be fortunate enough to visit. Take the time to educate yourself on the environmental initiatives in Seychelles and limit your water usage, as they have limited fresh water resources on the islands.