

Informing the Blue Economy

Small Island States as Sentinels of the Oceans

A presentation on behalf of Mr. James Alix Michel
Former President of the Republic of Seychelles.



Informing the Blue Economy

Small Island States as Sentinels of the Oceans

“As a pioneering advocate of the sustainable use of our oceans, I am only too aware of how little we still know about the greater part of our planet. Without scientific information our overdue attempts to introduce effective policies will be seriously limited. The acquisition and sharing of good information is essential to the cause and this symposium offers a valuable opportunity to take another step forward”.



Ocean & Coastal Information in support of sustainable development

* Small Island States contribution



Ocean & Coastal Information in support of sustainable development

- * Small Island States contribution
- * Cooperation between nations
- *



Ocean & Coastal Information in support of sustainable development

- * Small Island States contribution
- * Cooperation between nations
- * Thinking beyond boundaries



Informing the Blue Economy

Small Island States as Sentinels of the Oceans

“We are an ocean species; we are all islanders now”





Established in 2016, the James Michel Foundation aims to continue to champion the idea of the sustainable development of the sea.

The foundation embraces the *three interconnected issues*:



The Blue Economy



Climate Change



Sustainability





The small island states

Seychelles



- An archipelago consisting of 115 islands
- 455 square kilometres of land
- population of fewer than 100,000 people





The small island states

Seychelles



- An archipelago consisting of 115 islands
- Less than 500 square kilometres of land
- population of fewer than 100,000 people,
- nearly 1.4 million square kilometres of EEZ.





We are Ocean people



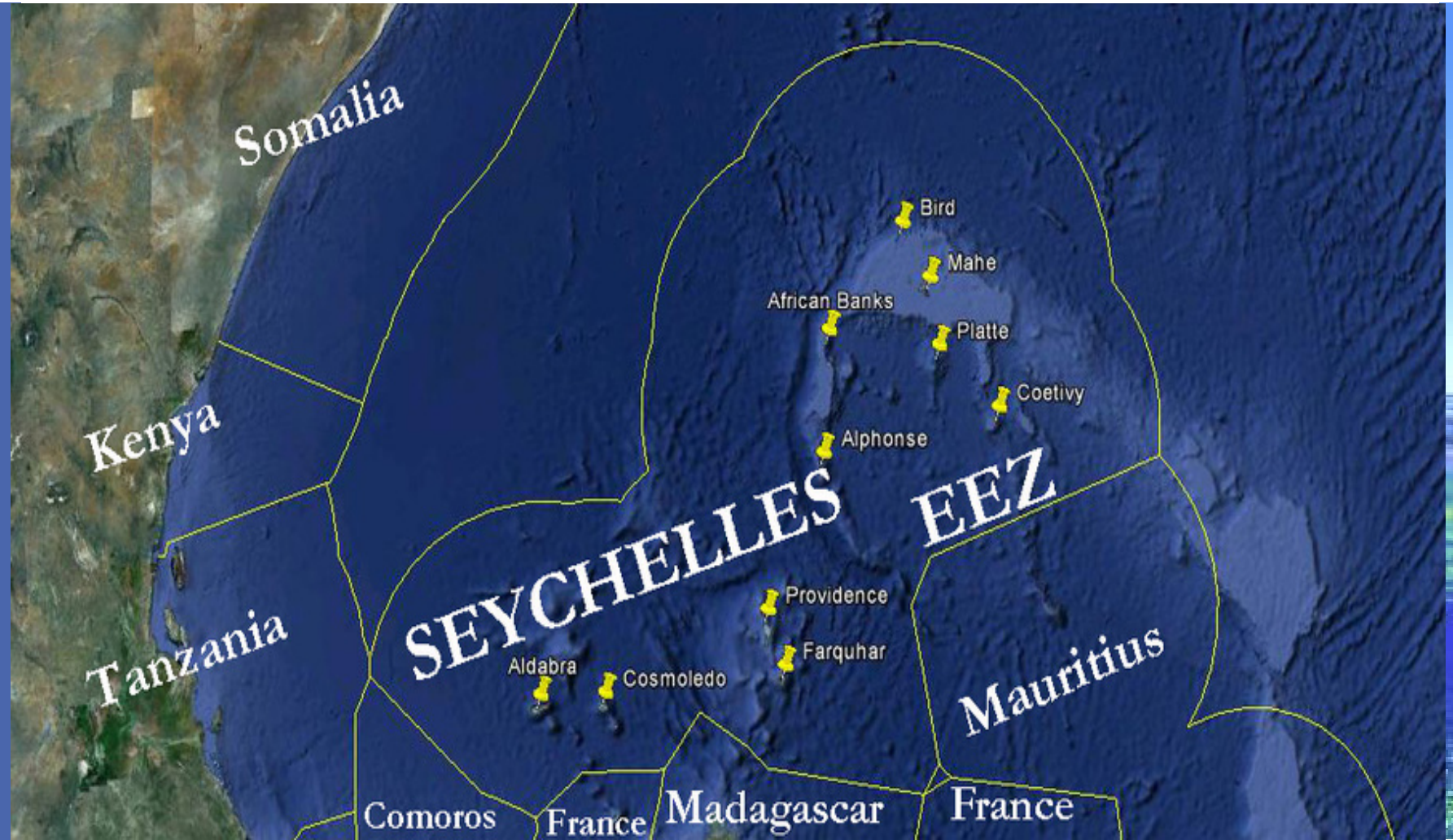


We are
Ocean people





Looking beyond the shoreline



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“There was at last recognition that the planet’s natural resources could no longer be squandered, as had been largely the case to date. Unless something was done, we would not only be limiting our own prospects but there would be nothing to hand on to future generations. In response, individual nations started to take initiatives, supported in important ways by the United Nations”.





The Oceans, the poor relation





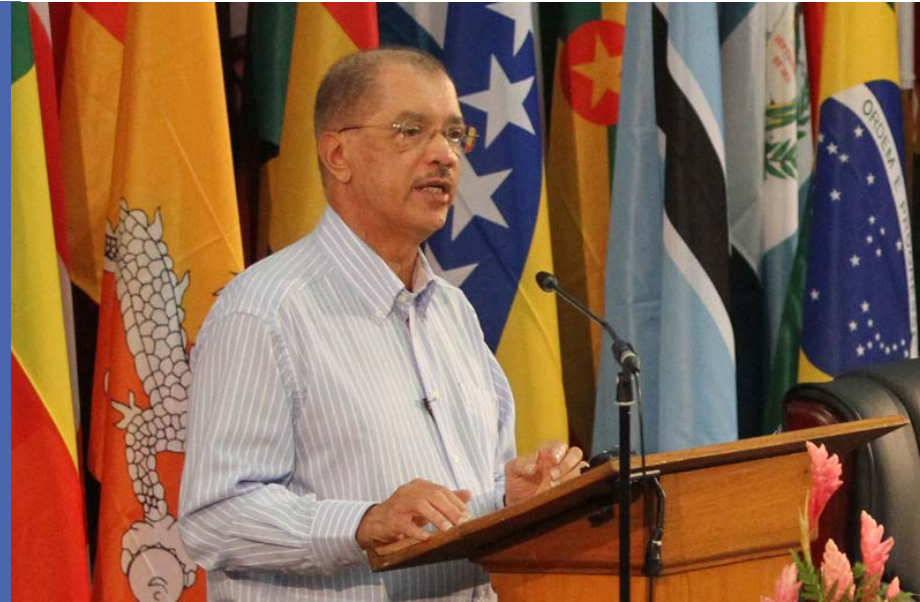
The Blue Economy : aligning with small island states





UN Conference on Small Island Developing States

Apia, Samoa
1 September
2014



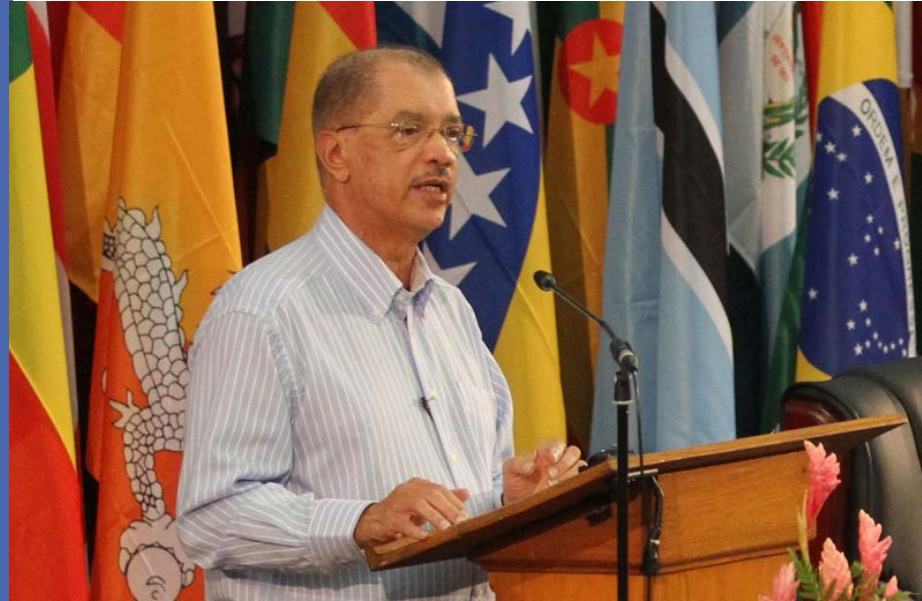
“Island development can be transformed if we pursue a model of development that is ocean-based rather than only land based. We are ocean nations. We are the children of the oceans. The oceans are our life-source, the pulse of our survival, and the catalyst for building a new development model that builds on our strengths whilst reducing our weaknesses”.





UN Conference on Small Island Developing States

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“... Our Islands are the sentinels that protect our oceans, while they must also be the platforms for the sustainable harvest of their resources. ”



Ocean & Coastal Information in support of sustainable development

Who better to entrust with the task of watching over our oceans than the many island-dwellers who are surrounded by the sea?

.... where better to find information in support of sustainable development than on the world's islands and coastal areas?





The Information Age





Setting up the Blue Economy Department



Ocean & Coastal Information in support of sustainable development

...strengthen collaborative arrangements, bringing together large nations and small island states like my own. In Seychelles, we already work with a number of partners but there is undoubtedly scope to extend this network. Partnering with other Foundations and university research hubs will open new opportunities, one example being the collection and sharing of information about the Indian Ocean itself.



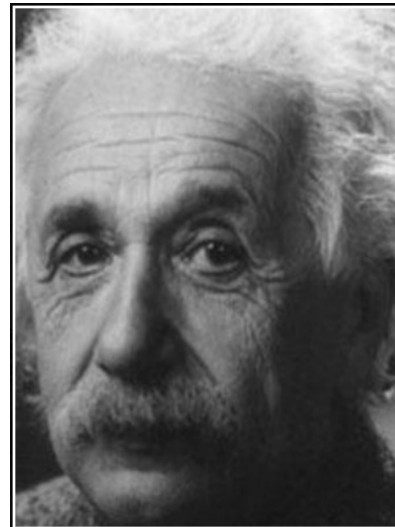


The Information Age

YAHOO!



...information comes in all shapes and sizes and it is not always as accessible or as easy to transfer as one might expect.



Information is not knowledge. The only source of knowledge is experience. You need experience to gain wisdom.

— *Albert Einstein* —

AZ QUOTES





The Information Age

YAHOO!



You Tube

... there is no difficulty in getting information to people but achieving universal understanding is a longer and more difficult process. A lifetime of thinking in one way will not necessarily change overnight. Perhaps it is more realistic to think in terms of generational change.





The Information Age

YAHOO!



You Tube

...a shortage of information is not the problem. Political factors intervene. The fact is that ministries have competing priorities and, at least in the short term, it is not always easy or advisable to over-ride these”.





The Information Age

Basic questions needs answering:

- What is the topography of the sea bed?
- Does it contain valuable minerals and will they ever be accessible?
- What will be the impact of even a small increase in temperatures on fisheries and plant life?
- And what do we know about the sea column, that vast three-dimensional mass of water between the surface and the seabed?





The Information Age

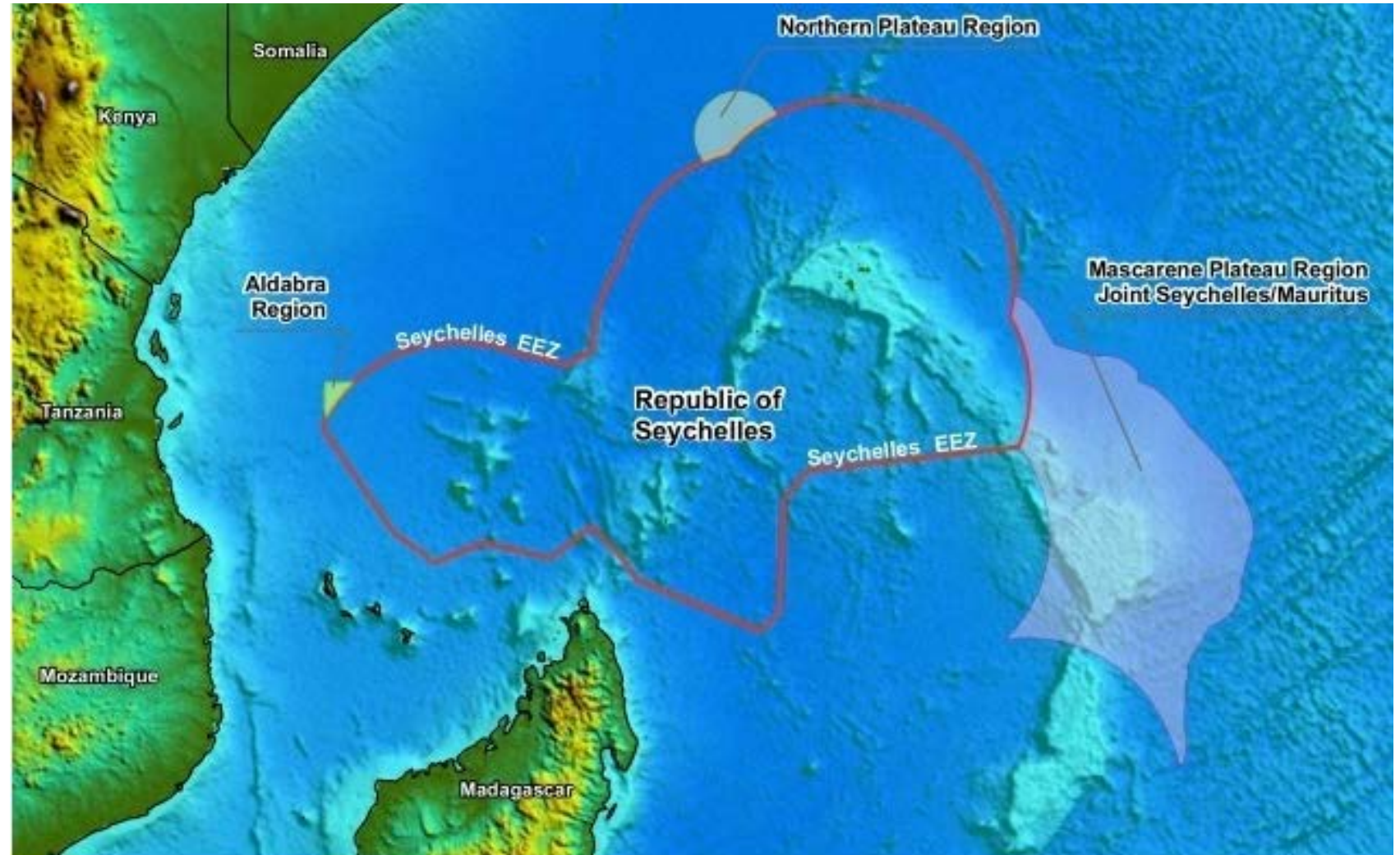
Basic questions needs answering:

- In the face of global warming how do we deal with coral bleaching?
- How do we ensure the health of our coral reefs to protect our fish stock in return?





Agreement with Mauritius for the joint management the Mascareignes Plateau





Debt-to-
Adaptation
Swap - \$30 M
cancelled



www.globalcitizen.org

Leonardo DiCaprio
Helped Pay Off
Seychelles Debt to
Protect Oceans





Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan





Seychelles Blue Bond to improve the management of fisheries

SeyCCAT's innovative financing mechanisms provide new resources to expand MPA coverage and to improve governance of priority fisheries, including the implementation of the Mahe plateau fishery management plan.

SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund will annually (from 2018) disperse, via a competitive process, over US\$650,000 to projects that support new MPAs and to pre-development and growth stage ventures that aim to improve the sustainability of fisheries. Other initiatives,



SEYCHELLES' CONSERVATION
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TRUST



Towards a Blue Economy knowledge Exchange: Possible

- How can value be added to the fish catch in archipelago states?
- What lessons can be taken from the experience of mariculture in other parts of the world?
- What do we really mean by sustainable tourism and where are the best examples of good practice?
- How can advanced technology be used to start the process of cleaning our oceans?



Towards a Blue Economy knowledge Exchange: Possible

How can all these support the betterment of life of the islanders and coastal populations?

Information needs to be processed, simplified and made accessible to all actors in the global network based on their needs.





towards a Blue Economy Knowledge Exchange

Possible ways forward:

- * Global data Banks about Blue Economy
- regional as well as activities-based data banks
- A global oceans levy to support the research for precise and up to date information.



“...investing in the Blue Economy won’t come cheap. But can we afford not to? And would we want anything less than the best? Information will be a key part of this transformative process. It is time to change our thinking. It is time for visionaries to step forward. The time for mere talking is over. Let us hope that this symposium will prove to be a timely stimulus to action”.



“There is also the question of ocean governance to be addressed.
...possibly to be administered by UNCLOS in the best interests of
all nations and as precursor to world peace. But this is another
topic altogether.





Thank you

www.jamesmichelfoundation.org

