



ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
SEYCHELLES

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

ACCS

Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles

<https://accsey.com>

INTEGRITY MATTERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION SEYCHELLES

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SUBMISSION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report for the year ending December 2022, is submitted in accordance with Section 81 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2016, which stipulates that: *“The Commission shall, as soon as possible after the expiration of each financial year and in any event not later than the 31st March in any year, submit to the Minister, and the Minister responsible for Finance, an annual report dealing generally with the administration and its activities during the preceding financial year and the Minister shall cause the report to be laid before the National Assembly.”*



Ms. May De Silva
Commissioner
Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACA	Anti-Corruption Agency
ACCS	Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles
AG	Attorney General
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
AU	African Union
BO	Beneficial Ownership
CAA	Constitutional Appointments Authority
CAACC	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre
CFT	Countering Financing of Terrorism
CoSP	Conference of State Parties
DoJ	Department of Justice
EU	European Union
ESAAMLG	Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
IACCC	International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre
ICAC	Independent Commission on Anti-Corruption in Mauritius
IAD	Internal Audit Department
ICAR	International Centre for Asset Recovery
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILEA	International Law Enforcement Agency
IVLP	International Visitor Leadership Program
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
NAC	National AML/CFT Committee
NCA	National Crimes Agency (UK)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
SADC	Southern African Development Community

SRC	Seychelles Revenue Commission
TAC	Technical Anti-Money Laundering Committee
TIS	Transparency Initiative Seychelles
TGMI	The Guy Morel Institute Seychelles
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WB	World Bank

COMMISSION CHARACTERISTICS

On 27th February 2004, Seychelles signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption ("UNCAC"). On 16th March 2006, Seychelles ratified the Convention which made it a legal obligation to implement the Convention.

Article 6 (Preventive Anti-Corruption Body or Bodies) and Article 36 (Specialized Authorities) of the UNCAC emphasises the importance that every signatory country establishes at least one Anti-Corruption body and "specialized authorities of ethics" in accordance with their own legal systems and endows them with the "necessary power of independence."

The Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles (ACCS) was established after the enactment of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2016 in March 2016 by the President and the National Assembly.

The ACCS is "a self-governing, neutral and independent body and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority" Section 4 (2) Anti-Corruption Act 2016. The Commission is mandated to investigate, detect, prevent, and prosecute corrupt practices. ACCS has the added functions of Declaration of Assets for senior public servants under the Public Officers Ethics Act 2008 and for President, Ministers, Members of the National Assembly, and the Mayor under the Public Persons (Declarations of Assets, Liabilities and Business Interests) Act (Act 26 of 2016) as amended.



MISSION



VISION



VALUES

MANDATE

To *investigate, detect, prevent, and prosecute* corrupt practices in the government sector as stipulated in the Anti-Corruption Act, 2016.

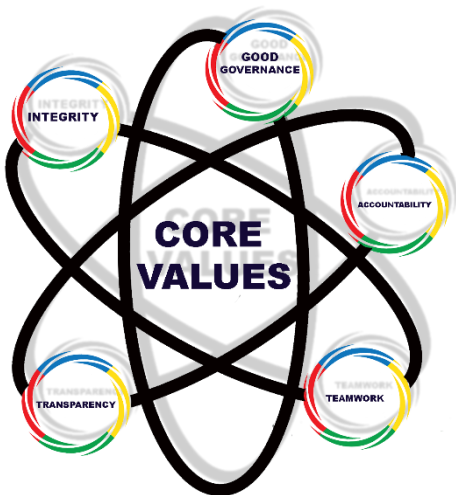
VISION

To be a robust institution that fosters a corruption-free society in an environment of integrity, accountability, and transparency.

MISSION

To fight corruption through effective investigation, detection and prevention of corrupt practices for a corruption free Seychelles.

CORE VALUES



COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles ("ACCS") is headed by a Commissioner assisted by a Deputy. It is comprised of four functional units, a Prevention Unit, which also carries out the educational function; an Investigations Unit, a Complaints Unit and a Policy and Compliance Unit. In conjunction, ACCS Corporate Services include an Information Technology section, a Human Resource and Administration section, a Finance section, and a Legal Advisor to assist the functional units.

ACCS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Following the dissolution of the Board of the Anti-Corruption Commission in April 2021 an Advisory Council was formed and is comprised of a chairperson and three other members.

The members of the Advisory Council are appointed by the President in accordance with Section 10 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, following recommendations of the Constitutional Appointments Authority (CAA).

Composition of the Advisory Council as at December 2023:

- Bernard Pool - Chairman
- Angelique Antat
- Karine Dick
- Dyane Azemia (to 03.10.23)

We recognize the contribution that Dyane Azemia made to the Advisory Council. Sadly she passed away on the 3rd October 2023.

The functions of the Advisory Council are set out in section 11 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2016 and involve overseeing the administrative policy of the ACCS and review and recognize legislative provisions for the prevention of corruption with recommendations to the President.

COMMISSIONER

In accordance with Section 6 (1) of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 (as amended) the Commissioner is appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Constitutional Appointments Authority (CAA).

The amendments to the legislation changed in 2021, and the title of the head of the ACCS from Chief Executive Officer to Commissioner. The Commissioner is responsible for the control, direction and administration of the Commission as set out under section 6 (2) of the Anti-Corruption Act.

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

It's been another busy year for the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles, packed with awareness sessions, staff training, meetings, court cases and a local conference hosting our international partners in Commonwealth Africa and beyond. As a member of the National Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Committee, our staff were busy with working on our contribution to the National Risk Assessment Exercise.

We began the year with Transparency International's announcement that Seychelles had been ranked as the 23rd least corrupt country in the world in the global Anti-Corruption perception index, rising one place. This is a recognition of all the hard work of those involved in the national fight against corruption and the strength of the regional and international support that we have gathered over the years.

At the beginning of March, ACCS partnered with the Information Commission to deliver a presentation at the Convention for Information Officers which was funded by the British High Commission. Also in March, the ACCS was successful in securing a Global Asset Restraint order, a first in the history of law enforcement in Seychelles. This was brought under the AML/CFT Act 2020 and ensured that assets obtained through criminal conduct cannot be dissipated internationally.

In April, ACCS joined its international partners in Miami at an annual workshop, as an associate member of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC). This was co-hosted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol. The Seychelles delegation delivered a 45-minute presentation on the challenges faced by small jurisdictions with limited expertise in fighting financial and economic crime.

In May, ACCS hosted the 13th Commonwealth Africa Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies Conference from the 15th – 20th May. ACCS took over the chairmanship of the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Heads Association which brings together key partners from the region.

In addition, we carried out the Declaration of Assets exercise for high level government officials once the amended Schedule was 'gazetted'. By the end of December 2023, only one public official did not meet the set deadline to submit their declaration of assets. It is anticipated that the declaration of assets will finally be digitized in 2024 as the system is tested in the second quarter of 2024.

In June, Mr. Richard Verma, the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, USA, visited the Seychelles and met with ACCS officials to discuss the challenges faced by our small institution. It was also an opportunity to thank the State Department of the United States of America for assisting ACCS with specialist resources in financial forensics and accounting.



Three FBI officers were seconded to ACCS from January to March to work alongside our officers which is a first in law enforcement in Seychelles.



In addition, ACCS participated in the World Bank Corruption Hunters workshops in Abidjan and joined a panel in discussing corruption around Climate Change funding.

In July we said goodbye to the head of one of our key partners, the EU Ambassador Vincent Degert, whose term ended. Ambassador Degert supported the work of ACCS and ensured that we had EU support during the set-up phase of our organisation. Their support in capacity building and assistance from specialist investigators in corruption and financial crime was invaluable. The EU will continue to be a strategic partner in our ongoing fight against corruption.

In September the ACCS were invited to deliver a one-hour presentation in international cooperation in fighting corruption, at the International Women in Policing conference in Auckland, New Zealand. This was co-funded by the IACCC as our associate member from Cayman Islands was a co-presenter together with IACCC. We also participated in a panel discussion at the International Association of Prosecutors annual conference in London. The topic explored piracy,

drugs and corruption that affected our small island state as well as a further presentation on the use of digital technology in large scale investigations.

In December, the ACCS was recognised at the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) annual Anti-Corruption Champions Award ceremony. The Commissioner collected the award from Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, in Washington, DC. This was in recognition of ACCS' work in prevention and investigation of corruption in Seychelles despite the challenges and limitations we have faced.

Congratulations to the @StateDept's 2023 International Anti-Corruption Champions! They have demonstrated tremendous courage in their work to prevent, expose, and combat corruption. They are taking part in an International Visitor Leadership Program (#IVLP) to engage with Americans committed to this work in St. Petersburg, FL, Washington DC, and Atlanta, GA.

#ACCA2023 @ECAatState @StateINL @MeridianIntl @WPLive @gcv



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We headed the delegation at the UN Conference of State Parties (CoSP) in Atlanta, which was attended by representatives from the Seychelles FIU, AG's office, Asset Management Unit in the Ministry of Finance, Transparency Initiative Seychelles (TIS) and ACCS. This was funded by UNODC, ICAR and FCDO and coordinated by the StAR initiative, World Bank Group. Mr. Mouhamadou Diagne, World Bank Vice President of Integrity, signed an MOU with ACCS as a side event at CoSP 10.



Our international partners continue to support the ACCS specifically on the Black Iron case. By the end of 2023, the Legal Team had successfully defended various Notices of Motion brought against the ACCS, won an appeal against a ruling relating to property belonging to a third party. This means that the Anti-Corruption Act is clear on the definition of "property."

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) supported the ACCS through funding for specialist support in prosecution, corruption, money laundering and mutual legal assistance. We said farewell to H.E. Patrick Lynch the British High Commissioner, who's been supporting the work of ACCS through the UK's strategic priorities of good governance. This was a continuation of their support when the UK was part of the EU.

The Australian Federal Police have been another key partner to the ACCS providing us with mentorship and training in financial crime investigation. We said farewell to Sergeant Louise MacGregor who has taken up a new role in the Far East.

As an Associate Member we continue to be supported by the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) and the National Crime Agency of the UK who provide our institution with specialist support, in particular coordinating our requests to other jurisdictions.

The International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) is another key partner who has been providing specialist support in our efforts to recover assets back to Seychelles.

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) supports ACCS through its Rapid Response Programme enabling specialists in prosecution of corruption and financial crime investigations.

Our success in fighting corruption is with the cooperation of our local and international partners as criminals move their stolen assets within and outside of our jurisdiction. By the end of December 2023, ACCS had sent 13 international letters of requests through Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and received 11 responses.

We thank the MLA Unit in the Attorney General's Office for their continued support and the assistance of their State Counsels in providing advice to our investigators. Our gratitude is extended to the Ministry of Finance, National Planning and Trade, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Information Commission, Ombudsman, FIU, Prisons Service, Seychelles Revenue Commission, Seychelles Police, Registrar General's Office, Seychelles Intelligence Service and Transparency Initiative Seychelles. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff of the ACCS for their continued efforts and hard work over the reporting year.

As we look towards 2024, we will endeavour to keep up the fight against corruption and maintain the support and confidence of the public. We hope that all our national and international partners will stand beside us as we seek to uphold the rule of law and ensure that integrity remains non-negotiable.



Ms. May De Silva
Commissioner

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

1. Strengthening our local and regional partnerships through development of our investigative and prevention work
2. Ongoing work through the AML/CFT Committee in compliance and mitigation regime in line with FATF, ESAAMLG and UNCAC immediate outcomes.
3. Digitisation of our case management of all ACCS functions (Complaints, Investigations & Declaration of Assets) and secure cost-effective office premises.
4. Ongoing International cooperation in the fight against corruption
5. Representation of ACCS at an international level to highlight our work to learn from the experts and share our experiences.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Appropriation of highest budget to date
- Securing funding for complex cases with an international angle.
- International in-kind support to complement the existing services.

LOOKING AHEAD

The ACCS is making an appeal to the Executive and the National AML/CFT Committee for us to develop a national Anti-Corruption strategy. The strategy should include the articles of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which Seychelles ratified in 2006. Furthermore, we should incorporate both the AU and SADC strategies on corruption which will then be adopted by the ACCS. We hope to strengthen further partnerships with our strategic partners to ensure that we fight corruption as a collective rather than in isolation. The prevention work in schools and the public sector will continue as we aim to deliver on our mission to reduce corruption.

FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE

The ACCS is comprised of five functional units, a Prevention Unit, which also carries out the educational function; an Investigations Unit, a Financial Forensic Unit; a Complaints Unit and Policy and Compliance Unit.

In conjunction, ACCS Corporate Services include an Information Technology section, a Human Resource and Administration section, a Finance section and a Legal Advisor to assist the functional department.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services consists of:

- **Human Resource Management and Administration**
- **Finance**
- **Information Technology.**
- **Legal**

Corporate Services provides consistent strategic support to all ACCS Units to deliver on its Mandate as stipulated in the Anti-Corruption Act, 2016, as amended.

CS deals with issues of management effectiveness, recruitment, gender equity and equal opportunity issues, work systems improvement and capacity building (continuous learning), effective financial administration and management support, and resource mobilization and allocations (Capital and Assets) to enable improved performance by other units.

CS also liaise directly with other key stakeholders such as the Department of Finance, Attorney General's office and other external service providers to ensure ACCS effectively delivers on its mandated role in fighting corruption.

Finance

The ACCS' financial activities are governed by the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act 2012. The annual budget is approved by the National Assembly.

Every year, the Commissioner presents the next year's budget to the National Assembly for approval. It details objectives, performance measures and budgetary planning for all proposed activities. The budget provides an overall strategic context of the Institution's Strategic plan.

The approved budget allocation for the Commission for the year 2023 was SR 53,262,678.84 as detailed in the following table:

Expenditure	Amount SCR
Wages & Salaries	13,778,804.86
Good & Services	39,091,418.98
Minor Capital	392,455.00
Total	53,262,678.84

Additional Funding

With the creation of a further taskforce in addition to the ongoing high profile complex investigation, additional funds were found to be necessary, and an amount of SR 9,820,717.00 was allocated.

The revised budget for the year 2023, was therefore **SR 63,083,395.84**

Legal

The Anti-Corruption Commission's Legal Unit supports all its unit by providing legal advice and acting as a bridge between ACCS and external institutions.

Main Functions and duties:

1. Provide legal advice.
2. Assist the investigation with cases.
3. Work hand in hand with the Policy and Compliance Coordinator to ensure compliance with national and international standards.
4. Act as liaison to various external institutions.

The above is a summarised list of duties. The Legal Advisor's work is versatile and highly varied requiring agility and flexibility in approach to ensure the needs of all internal departments are met, and external partners are properly serviced.

Structure

The legal department is part of the ACCS Secretariat and currently has one staff member out of a complement of two: The Legal Advisor to the Commission.

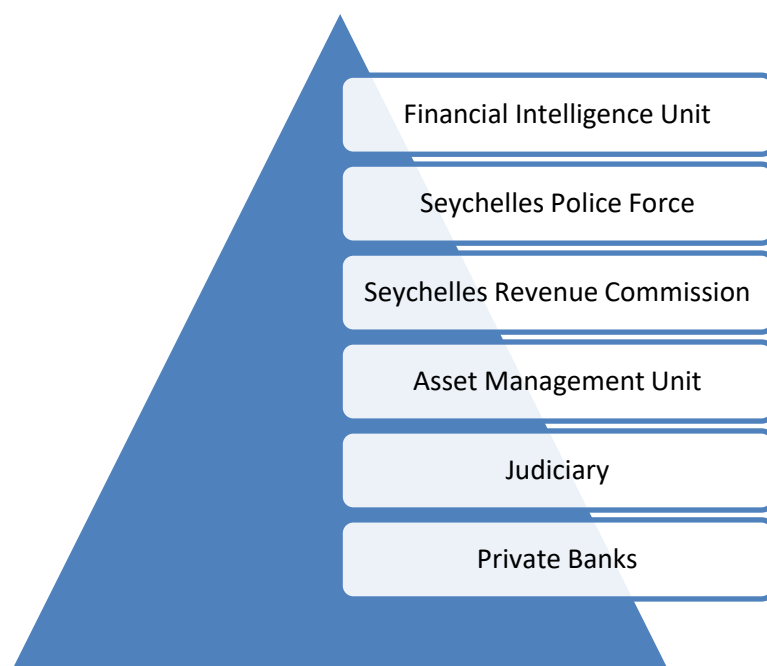
Review of 2023

Throughout the reporting year numerous milestones were achieved and a few legal issues managed appropriately with unwavering devotion and steadfast support for all internal departments. The department also assumed several critical responsibilities in support of ongoing investigations, including the maintenance of restriction notices and acting as the main point of contact for defence attorneys. Throughout the year there were several training opportunities undertaken in conjunction with continuing professional development obligations.

Performance

1. Support to ongoing prosecutions:
 - i. Defence liaison
 - ii. Witness preparation
 - iii. Attorney General's Office liaison
 - iv. Actioning court orders
 - v. Support to the Investigation team
 - vi. Support to the prosecution team
2. Legal Support:
 - i. Assisted the administration by providing legal advice
 - ii. Review of legal documents
 - iii. Responses to correspondence
 - iv. Attendance at meetings in a legal capacity
3. Investigation:
 - i. Review of case files
 - ii. Provision of legal advice
 - iii. Support to the investigation teams and taskforces
 - iv. Case updates
 - v. Review the case file before handing it over to the Attorney general office
4. Complaints Unit:
 - i. Provision of legal advice on complaints
 - ii. Referrals of cases
 - iii. Review initials reports
5. Compliance Department:
 - i. Review of policies
 - ii. Drafting of Memoranda of Understanding
 - iii. Review contracts
 - iv. Oversee and observe meetings for monitoring purposes
 - v. Assistance and planning input to 2023 policy review

Institutions Liaised with in 2023



Statistics on Restrictions and Restraint Orders (2023)

Number of Asset Restraint Orders	Number of Individuals with Assets Under Restrictions	Number of Banks monitoring restrictions	Number of individuals with fixed assets under Restrictions
2	3	4	3

Mentorship Review 2023

As a corollary of having international lawyers deployed the Legal Advisor is currently under the mentorship of the ACCS Legal Counsel. The role involves attending court, participating in case meetings, and providing support to Counsel in their daily tasks. The opportunity and experience have been extremely beneficial in terms of training, adhering to the highest standards required at ACCS and maintaining integrity as a legal professional in upholding the rule of law in Seychelles.

Challenges

- i. Continued failure to recruit for the post Principal Counsel (PC) due to non-competitive salary meant the burden of the legal department remained on one individual to cater to the legal needs of the commission.
- ii. A policy refresh has been identified as good practice, with departments ensuring they should participate actively in reviewing their internal policies and procedures.
- iii. Limited fleet of transport hampers productivity.

Strategies to Overcome Challenges

- Efforts to advertise the PC role regionally.
- Create more awareness of the importance of policies and procedures.
- Better distribution of tasking.

HR & Admin

The Human Resources and Admin Unit provides consistent strategic support to all ACCS Units to achieve their targets. The Unit is responsible for the planning, implementation, managing and running of all the human resources activities, from workforce planning to employee exit inclusive of staff welfare and administration (managing of the admin store i.e., consumables, office supplies/stationaries and cleaning materials) activities of the organisation.

In line with the Commission's Mandate, Vision, Mission and Core values, the Unit aims to work collaboratively with the operation units, in support of their strategies, providing the best possible human resources to build a vibrant, efficient, and effective team of the right calibre, integrity and experience to tackle the scourge of corruption.

In September 2023, our HR & Admin Executive was accepted on a Masters programme in HR in the UK and we anticipate that she will be reviewing and updating our HR policies in the last quarter of 2024. As part of her training, she will be following a placement at Hampshire Police to focus on HR in law enforcement. The aim is for ACCS to raise its standards as a law enforcement agency as we are assessed on our effectiveness across all our services by ESAAMLG.

Training and Professional Development

	Name of Training	Remarks
1	Anti-Corruption Regional Workshop	International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)
2	Leadership for Women in the Criminal Justice Sector	International Law Enforcement Agency (ILEA)
3	BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance	Arden University
4	Open-source Intelligence	Basel Institute on Governance
5	Investigation techniques and evidence gathering techniques	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
6	International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Basel Institute on Governance
7	Basic Investigation and Evidence gathering technique course	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
8	Financial Analysis using Excel	Basel Institute on Governance
9	Introduction to Corruption Prevention	Human Rights Education Legal Professionals
10	Corruption Risk Assessment Course	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
11	Corruption and Governance MA	University of Sussex
12	Legal Aspects of International Financial Institutions (LAIF)	Africa Training Institute (ATI)
13	Prosecution of Corruption cases: Interpretation of Anti-Corruption Laws	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
14	Program for Anti-Corruption	Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
15	Window Forensics Analysis	The SANS Institute
16	Building Institutions to Fight Corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa	IMF - Africa Training Institute
17	Forensics Accounting session	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
18	Financial Education	International Training Centre
19	Monitoring of Anti-Corruption Strategies at Senior Leadership Level	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
20	Validation workshop National Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment of Non-Profit Organisation	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
21	National Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment of Non-Profit Organisation	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

	Name of Training	Remarks
22	Operational Analysis of Suspicious Transaction Reports	Basel Institute on Governance
23	AMS Workshop	IACCC
24	Visualise Cases and Flows of Money	Basel Institute on Governance
25	Financial Investigative Techniques	International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)
26	Source and Application of Funds Analysis	Basel Institute on Governance
27	Terrorist Financing	Basel Institute on Governance
28	Anti-Corruption Symposium	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
29	Transnational Organized Crime Reporting Template	Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC)
30	Proposed piloting of the training model for Anti-Corruption agencies in selected member states	Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC)
31	World Bank International Corruption Hunters Alliance Forum	World Bank
32	Private sector engagement for Anti-Corruption Agencies	Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC)
33	Targeting and Intelligence Analysis	NCA Contractor Cloud-break
34	Cybersecurity capacity maturity model for nation (CMM) Assessment in Partnership with the World Bank & The Cybersecurity capacity centre for Southern Africa	The Cybersecurity Capacity Centre for Southern Africa (C3SA)
35	Conference on Combating Corruption	UNODC
36	Store & Inventory Management	TGMI
37	Innovations in Governance	Singapore Cooperation Programme
38	Unlocking Digital Mysteries: Password Cracking for OSINT & Forensics Investigations	SANS Institute
39	Turning Financial Evidence into Intelligence	European Union AML/CFT Global Facility & Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
40	Analysis Software Mentoring Training	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
41	National Mentoring Workshop on the use of i2 Analysis Software for the Seychelles Law Enforcement Agencies	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

	Name of Training	Remarks
42	Senior Leadership and Management Programme for Deputy Heads & Senior Assistant Directors of the Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs)	Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre (CAACC)
43	Financial Investigations for Public Corruption	International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)
44	Master in Human Resources Management	Ministry of Education (ex ANHRD)
45	INTERPOL Experts Working Group Meeting: Fight against corruption	INTERPOL
46	Investigating Digital Assets Training	Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
47	Countering proliferation financing involving virtual assets	U.S. Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
48	Women, Business, and the Law 2024	World Bank Group
49	Workshop for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in the SADC Region	Southern African Development Community Secretariat (SADC)
50	Fighting tax crime: The ten global principles	Global Relations and Development Division
51	Open Government Partnership training & Sensitisation	Office of the President

The HR and Admin Unit has developed an **Education, Training, Development and Bond Policy**. This is to ensure that there is transparency and equality of access and opportunity to attend learning and development events for all staff.

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Unit within the ACCS is responsible for maintaining the information technology and cyber security of ACCS and developing strategies, policies, and goals. The ITU ensures technical support is provided to all departments within ACCS, including the two sub-offices. The ACCS has been classified as part of the Critical National Information Infrastructure of Seychelles, and as a result cyber-security must be maintained at the highest level.

IT has made significant progress in improving ACCS IT infrastructure, information, and cyber-security. In 2017 ACCS started with no IT infrastructure to building a complex and international standard IT infrastructure with state-of-the-art cyber security controls. However, cyber threats and risks remain a growing concern.

IT Unit staff

The IT Unit currently has three full-time members of staff. The Director of Information Technology and Cyber Security has overall responsibility for the management of the unit and line management responsibility for the IT Officer and IT Assistant. All members of staff have a level of expertise in the IT unit and conduct regular staff training as new equipment and innovations are introduced to the ACCS.

Information and Cyber Security in 2023

In order to mitigate the current increasing global and internal cyber threats and risks, several security controls have been implemented as protective measure for the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). The main objective of information and cyber-security is to maintain Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of ACCS Critical National Information and infrastructure.

ACCS is often subjected to ransomware attacks of both a targeted, malicious nature as well as random opportunists trying to steal cyber information and as levels of nefarious activities increase so must levels of protection. With ongoing geo-political issues, increasing sanctions activity and escalation of cyber warfare ACCS IT has resolved to transition its security infrastructure following a thorough integrity and capability review to guarantee the preservation of the critical systems.

For a continuous productive environment all IT hardware is maintained and managed regularly to ensure processing performance is achieved whenever it is needed, as well as constantly being upgraded to newer technologies. As always, the ACCS systems are continuously patched and upgraded to provide robust IT infrastructure and adhere to international standards.

During the reporting period a new ACCS Information Technology & Cyber Security Policy was introduced and endorsed by the ACCS senior management team. This policy amalgamates an updated version of all previous policies and introduces a new cyber security policy. The primary objectives of the policy are to govern the use of technology and to ensure that employees comply with rules best practices rules and international security standards. The policy not only outlines rules and compliance measures but also ensures that the IT unit operates in accordance with these standards. The four key pillars of the policy are i) cyber security, ii) internet use, iii) networks and servers, and iv) IT support.

A case management system has been successfully introduced and all necessary amendments for investigations and complaints have been implemented. In addition, a secure asset declaration management system is being developed and an upgraded Wi-Fi system with enhanced transparency and security benefits installed.

As data seized within complex investigations and prosecutions grows exponentially, capable digital investigative technologies are required within the ACCS in order to manage vast amounts of material. The ACCS ITU team seeks to facilitate all support function requests to facilitate ongoing investigations, and where possible utilise and adapt open-source tools primarily at no cost.

One of the key areas of work for the ITU is the ACCS computer helpdesk work and ensuring the staff of the ACCS have ongoing digital support. From 1st January to 31st December, 353 requests for assistance were received with only 26 remaining unresolved at the end of the reporting year.

The main constraint for ACCS IT is budget and capacity building. Budget is still insufficient to keep up with the ever-changing technological landscape, IT infrastructure and mitigate the emerging Cyber Security risks & threats.

Looking Ahead

ACCS will have to continue financially supporting the IT unit in acquiring new technology and increasing IT staff for the continuity of an effective IT Infrastructure and resilient cyber security controls. The IT unit itself will be required to continue to provide 24/7 support to other ACCS units as well as ensuring its own critical infrastructure is secure both physically and virtually. A good example of this is the explosion in Providence in December 2023, which left the ACCS HQ insecure and vulnerable for a period of time. The SMT and IT unit were on the scene within minutes in order to ensure security was restored as soon as possible.

The reality of maintaining an effective IT infrastructure and cyber security system requires continuous investments in those areas. Increasing the IT budget and adding more staff to the IT unit can benefit ACCS as well as the rest of Seychelles by developing robust cyber skills within the country, allowing the ACCS IT to adapt to emerging technologies and mitigate cyber security attacks and risks.

UNIT STRUCTURE

To achieve its mandate, the ACCS has created different units.

- **Prevention**
- **Complaints**
- **Investigations**

These units were also created in accordance with the different sections of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 (as amended).

CU

COMPLAINTS UNIT

The Complaint's Unit derives its mandate under section 52 (1), (2) & (4) of the Anti-Corruption Act.

Functions of the Complaints

The main functions of the Complaints Unit are to:

- Receive and register complaints made to the Commission by an individual or Authority.
- Report complaints made to the Commissioner for consideration.
- Carry out a preliminary inquiry in cases upon approval and recommendation by the Commissioner.
- Undertake intelligence work related to cases or based on information.

The Complaints Unit is separated from the investigations Unit. This is to ensure transparency in investigation of cases. Once primary evidence exists in a complaint case, the case is forwarded to the Investigations Unit for further inquiries. The Complaints Unit may conduct a complete investigation only in circumstances authorised by the Commissioner.

Staffing & Structure

The Complaints Unit is under the authority and control of the Commissioner though the line management of the Deputy Commissioner. There are currently three staff working in the Complaints Unit, the Complaints and Intelligence Coordinator who supervises the unit and two Investigations Officers. One of those Investigation Officers was promoted in September 2023. One member of staff from the Investigation Unit is on Training and Placement in the Complaints' Unit.

Highlights of 2023

The receipt and registration of complaints from the public and Authorities increased in 2023 which is a positive sign that public confidence in the ACCS is continuing to grow. Five cases were processed through the initial inquiry stage and passed to the Complaints Unit following the gathering of primary evidence, which was an increase in 2022 and above the figure forecasted in last year's report. Several requests for information remain outstanding with other ministries and agencies and a number of banking orders and search warrants were obtained executed.

Reports on record: 27

Reports processed: 17

Cases registered: 11

Cases forwarded to Investigation Unit: 5

Cases referred to Prevention Unit: 1

Cases within the Complaints Unit: 57

Cases with Court Orders obtained: 4

Training and secondment opportunities were progressed across the ACCS to develop skills and awareness of other departments and to assist in managing limited resources elsewhere. External training on the development of financial intelligence into evidence further enhanced staff skillsets, and future opportunities to develop continuing professional development in areas such as intelligence, information analysis, surveillance and profiling will also be canvassed both locally and internationally.

To address the increase in reports submitted to ACCS an internal strategic review of the complaint's unit was conducted at the end of 2023 to increase the efficiency and flow of casework and strengthen the use of the nascent electronic case management system. A memorandum of understanding to utilise existing networks to gather information in a timelier manner has also been developed and regular case reviews and the return of seconded staff will see further progress into 2024.

PU

PREVENTION UNIT

The Anti-Corruption Act 2016 permits the ACCS various preventative functions which include raising awareness, promoting the values of honesty and integrity, organising training and workshops, and performing any other duties as may be considered necessary for the prevention of corruption.

Section 5 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 (as amended), its prevention functions are:

- (i) Review and recognize provisions of laws for the prevention of corruption and submit recommendations to the President for their effective implementation;
- (ii) Raise awareness and promote the values of honesty and integrity among people with a view to prevent corruption;
- (iii) Organize seminars, symposiums, workshops on the subjects falling within the functions and duties of the Commission;
- (iv) Identify the various causes of corruption in the context of socio-economic conditions of the Republic and make recommendations to the President;
- (v) Co-ordinate or co-operate, as applicable, with the institutions authorized to prevent and combat corrupt practices so as to implement an integrated approach to the eradication of corruption;
- (vi) Adopt and strengthen mechanism for educating the public to respect the public good and public interest and, in particular:
 - (vii) Create an awareness for the fight against corruption and related offences;
 - (viii) Develop educational and other programmes in collaboration with the media;
 - (ix) Promote an environment for upholding ethics in governance;
 - (x) Disseminate information and sensitise the public about the negative effects of corruption and related offences;
 - (xi) Do all such other things that are incidental or conducive to the attainment of its functions; and
 - (xii) To perform any other duty as may be considered necessary for the prevention of corruption.

Highlights of 2023

The Prevention Unit has continued to build on the successes of the ACCS Strategic Action Plan 2017-2023 to reduce the prevalence of corruption and economic crime and made further good progress in public awareness and risk mitigation and management. Numerous meetings and discussions were held with the Investigation Unit, Complaints Unit and Information Technology (IT) Unit and in collaboration with two international consultants have developed strategies and determined the terms of reference of the Risk Mitigation and Management Process.

As part of this activity the Prevention Manager attended an online Corruption Risk Management course organised by the Commonwealth Africa Anti-Corruption Centre, in collaboration with United Nations on Drugs and Crime.

Continued professional development was a mainstay of the unit. With the assistance of the Republic of Seychelles the Senior Prevention Officer was enrolled on a master's degree in counter corruption and another senior officer participated in Anti-Corruption training in Cairo organized by the Government of Egypt. There was participation in a training workshop for Southern Africa Development Corporation (SADC) Anti-Corruption Agencies in Johannesburg on engaging the private sector in addressing the linkages between corruption and transnational organized crimes.

Collaboration with national stakeholders continued. Participation at the Information Commission Office (ICO) Convention, arranged in collaboration with the British High Commission on International Information Day, allowed a platform to raise awareness with approximately 115 information officers from ministries, departments and agencies. Inter-agency collaboration with all members of staff at the Industrial Estate Authority and pre-session meetings with 10 public institutions.



	NAME OF INSTITUTION
1	Industrial Estate Agency
2	Tourism Department of the Ministry of Tourism and Foreign Affairs
3	Air Seychelles
4	Information Commission
5	Island Development Company
6	Ministry of Local Government
7	Department of Foreign Affairs (Diaspora Unit) of the Ministry of Tourism and Foreign Affairs
8	Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority
9	National Assembly
10	Department of Climate Change and Environment of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and Agriculture
11	Seychelles Police Force

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Commissioners of the ACCS and the Seychelles Prison Service, collaboration commenced on an extensive programme for the prevention of corruption within the prison system and short awareness sessions have been delivered ahead of comprehensive practitioners' workshops. In furtherance of the memorandum of understanding a poster was designed and developed for the prison services to sensitise the staff members on the danger of participating in corruptive actions.



Moving forward with the vision of strategic partnerships, a total of eight awareness sessions were conducted with six public institutions for approximately 140 staff members. This involved extremely active and engaging participation in two-hour sessions with a parallel programme of activity within police and prisons services as part of joint preventative measures.

Highlighting to the youth of Seychelles the damage caused by corruption has long been a feature of the ACCS's work and the Prevention Unit and 2023 has been no different, save for an increase in outreach with new organizations targeted. In total 169 youth and young adults have been engaged and no doubt messages have been cascaded through their peers and social media activity.



NAME OF INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	NUMBER OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS	AGE RANGE
Seychelles National Youth Council (SNYC)	1	36	11-19
Seychelles Maritime Academy (SMA)	1	13	17-20
Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE)	1	45	17-36
Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH)	1	12	17-18
ACADEMIA – University of Seychelles (UNISEY) Seychelles Institute of Art and Design (SIAD) Seychelles Business Studies Academy (SBSA) Seychelles Advanced Levels (SALS)	1	63	17-26
Seychelles Institute of Technology (SIT)	1	13	18-23
TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH	6	169	11-26

With diminishing global economies and public cuts there has been a move towards developing public-private partners and discussions. Three private organisations - SACOS, Cable and Wireless and Mason's Travel - were contacted for pre-session meetings and two of those were held prior to the end of the reporting period from which very good feedback was received. All parties are eager to develop more activity in the future and further tourism and telecommunication companies are expected to join the programme activity.

As part of the Commonwealth Africa Heads of Anti-Corruption Regional Conference the Prevention Unit developed the theme 'Year of the Youth 2023', and as part of the televised opening ceremony one of our Youth Ambassadors from our Youth Against Corruption (YAC) group gave a short presentation on corruption to demonstrate the work that our unit has been doing with the youth. The program also constituted a short video which saw the participation of several YAC ambassadors speaking about how corruption impacts the youth.



To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Africa Anti-Corruption Day and to highlight the theme of fighting corruption now for the Africa we want (Lager kont koripsyon pou sa Lafrik ki nou ti a kontan), the Prevention Unit created a video whereby some members of public were interviewed and asked questions on how they view corruption in the Seychelles, what they know about corruption, how much would they rate corruption on a scale of 1-10 and how every individual can contribute towards the fight against corruption. The video was shown on prime-time television by the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation as well as posted on the ACCS website, YouTube account and Facebook page.

The Prevention Unit worked together on a project for a video for the International Anti-Corruption Day, which falls on the 9th of every year. The theme for the year was "Uniting the world against corruption. The video was an interpretation of how values affect corruption, and this was done by a group of youth from the Youth Against Corruption Ambassadors and the video was aired on National Broadcasting Agency (SBC).

A series of internal meetings were organized with the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Legal Advisor, Prevention Manager and the Policy and Compliance Coordinator to discuss the development of the Code of Conduct, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Policy for Public Officers.

External meetings were organized with the Chief Secretary of Public Service Bureau and the Private Secretary for the Employment Department to discuss the policies further to ensure that the Code of Conduct and Ethics and the Anti-Corruption policy will be in line with and updated by the PSB and the Employment Act. The Code of Conduct in nearing the submission phase and the Anti-Corruption Policy for Public Institutions was submitted to the Commissioner for final approval just prior to the end of the reporting period.

These sterling efforts on raising public awareness and development of preventative policies have all been achieved despite resource challenges both within the Prevention Unit and the wider ACCS brought on by other core business needs and a lack of resources. As the activities of the Prevention Unit continue to grow, there is a real need for further recruitment of a Prevention Officer and Risk Mitigation Officers, as well as communication and education staff. These new posts would ensure the effective and efficient implementation of targeted risk assessments and inspections and greater reach for the awareness sessions to the 115 or so public institutions, as well as the private sector.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the Prevention Unit will seek to continue with the education and awareness activities but seek to diversify by placing more emphasis on creating 'safer' public institutions through a Corruption Risk Mitigation (Management) Program. Link analysis reveals it may not be beneficial to create awareness if the public institutions themselves do not put in place appropriate structures, policies, and procedures to ensure corruption-free organizations. Where possible we will look to develop in-house or adopt external e-learning programs, materials and briefing tools which could be used to broaden reach and delivery resources for schools, and private and public institutions. Extensive training will continue to be required to enhance the skills of staff in the field of Corruption Risk Management, compliance, and professional studies.



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigation Unit (IU) is mandated to conduct enquiries and investigations into allegations and suspected offences under section 52 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 (as amended). As a result of the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2019 ACCS now may investigate or take or continue the investigation of offences provided under Chapter X and Chapter XXXVIII of the Penal Code (Cap 158). The investigation unit is also mandated to enquire into and conduct investigation of offences of money laundering (under the AML Act 2020) committed in furtherance of corrupt practices.

Unit Profile and Human Resources

The Investigation Unit is currently based at the ACCS Headquarters, occupying three small offices and other administrative rooms.

The Investigation Unit started the year 2023 with seven permanent staff members, made up of a Chief Investigations Officer, five Investigators and one Investigations Clerk. During the year a number of the team were deployed to discrete investigations and taskforces.

Investigations Unit Review of 2023

Work input for the year 2023 has been significant for the IU, continuing the reporting period with priority being given to Black Iron placements at the Digital Forensic Unit and Review Team. By the middle of the year three staff had commenced maternity leave, which highlighted the challenges over resilience as for most of the year there were only three investigators and the CIO.

Assistance, responses and correspondences from most agencies and criminal justice partners continued to be positive, although there were some extended delays from some ministries and authorities.

Due to the ACCS' growing global reputation and strategic engagement offers of in country and overseas training are numerous, and whilst not all can be accepted due to the need to conduct core business, there are efforts to prioritise the areas in which the IU need to strengthen its capacity and innovation.

Several delays and staff shortages led to a reduction in capacity and output, however completed four cases for prosecution and completed 15 back log cases for closure. Total of remaining cases as of December 2023 is 25.

Brought Forward	Received in 2023	Total	Closed	Attorney General Office	Referral	Total Completed	Ongoing
25	4	29	8	1	2	11	18

Looking Ahead

There will be further focus on the investigation of corruption and efforts will be made to reduce time scales by ensuring regular case reviews. As the ACCS grows in maturity we are identifying further gaps in the Anti-Corruption Act against best practice. The Anti-Corruption Act needs continuous review and regulations, and we will also look to develop the law and policy on whistleblower protection (section 69 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016) alongside the Attorney General's Office, UNODC and Transparency Initiative Seychelles. Section 62 of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 on forfeiture of unexplained wealth, will also need reviewing and this has been tabled at the National AML/CFT Committee.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges, 2023 has been a fruitful year, the IU has received numerous trainings, and the reporting year ended with the ACCS' first conviction.

We will continue to improve in 2024, and with adequate training, new staff, most importantly analysts, resources, and commitment of everyone we will achieve our objectives set for 2024.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ACCS has always considered international cooperation and mutual assistance to be a crucial part of Seychelles anti-corruption development strategy to fight corruption and misuse of office, financial crime and money laundering and further prevent such practices. National and international cooperation is embedded in section 5(1) (j) and (k) of the Anti-Corruption Act 2016 which provides the legal basis for the ACCS to develop coordination and cooperation with other institutions authorised to investigate, prosecute, prevent and combat corrupt practises.



Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Meetings and Conferences

- REGIONAL MEETING ON PRE-TESTING OF KNOWLEDGE TOOLS FOR USE BY PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CURBING CORRUPTION, 6th - 7th FEBRUARY 2023, JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- REGIONAL MEETING ON VALIDATION OF KNOWLEDGE TOOLS FOR USE BY PARLIAMENTS IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CURBING CORRUPTION BY THE DGHR TECHNICAL WORKING, 8th - 9th FEBRUARY 2023, JOHANNESBURG, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME, 15th -17th MAY 2023, SWAKOPMUND, THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.
- MEETING FOR THE SADC ANTI-CORRUPTION SUB COMMITTEE (SACC), 26th June 2023- Virtual
- GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA IN COLLABORATION WITH UNODC -CONFERENCE ON COMBATING CORRUPTION: THE CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNCAC, 29th May - 2nd June 2023, LUANDA, ANGOLA
- MEETING FOR THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOCAL PERSONS FROM ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN THE SADC REGION- 28th SEPTEMBER 2023 – Virtual



COMMONWEALTH AFRICA ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTRE (CAACC)

Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies for Commonwealth Africa Annual Conference



This year Seychelles and the ACCS were delighted to host the 13th Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies for Commonwealth Africa annual conference between 15th and 19th May 2023. The conference was a resounding success, and Seychelles showcased all its wonderful natural and cultural glories as the Heads of 19 Anti-Corruption Agencies for Commonwealth Africa met in Victoria to convene the 13th Regional Conference. Following an opening speech by Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland KC, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, His Excellency Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles delivered the keynote address and formally declared the conference open.



The meeting was attended by over 60 participants representing 21 Anti-Corruption Agencies from 16 Commonwealth Africa countries and 12 international organizations. The represented countries were Botswana, The Kingdom of Eswatini, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.



The conference theme, 'Uniting Commonwealth Africa in the Fight Against Corruption' gave a chance for all participants to understand and contribute to the importance of working collaboratively and cooperatively to reduce public corruption across member states and beyond, to adopt modern technology wherever possible and to ensure no stone was left unturned in seeking to return illicit assets to the public purse.

The conference consisted of three parts: country presentations, thematic discussions, and organisational matters. Each country in attendance was able to update the conference on their successes and challenges over the past year, to share best practices and promote innovative ideas. A few success stories were highlighted surrounding investigations, prosecutions, recovery of assets, public awareness campaigns, training initiatives and use of modern technology and innovations. As the smallest by far, and one of the youngest Anti-Corruption institutions in attendance, the ACCS ranked highly amongst the success stories having developed exceedingly well in such a short timeframe.

Several central themes were discussed during the conference. Firstly, the challenges faced by operational Anti-Corruption practitioners in the investigation and prosecution of large and complex Anti-Corruption cases. Secondly, the use and development of technology and innovation in fighting corruption, and finally the need for public-private partnerships to be developed both locally and regionally to assist in protecting the public and public funds.

There were reoccurring challenges such as pressure on resources, a lack of technical equipment and adequate budgets, varying degrees of political will and support, some silo working and inadequate legislation to properly tackle corruption in a multi-faceted and cross cutting manner.

Regarding organisational matters, the Commonwealth Secretariat briefed the participants on the current membership and finances of the group, as well as the wider Anti-Corruption activity in the Commonwealth. Ghana was nominated to host the 14th Commonwealth Regional Conference for Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Africa in Accra in 2024, and the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles was confirmed as the Chair of the Association of the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa for 2023/2024.



In addition to the Secretary General and President of Seychelles' attendance at the conference the event was greatly enhanced by the participation of invited guests from the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Australian Federal Police, UK Serious Fraud Office, International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) at the Basel Institute of Governance, World Bank, African Development Bank, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Transparency International, Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FITI), Grant Thornton and Partnership for Transparency Europe



Cameroon, Lesotho, and Mozambique sent their apologies to the conference.

Networking events and receptions were hosted by State House, the British High Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commissions of Seychelles and we are grateful to all the dignitaries and senior officials from the Government of Seychelles and the National Assembly for their attendance and engagement.



A visit to the Botanical Gardens to see the indigenous Coco de Mer and the oldest residents of the islands, the giant land tortoises was a wonderful way to close the conference and bid au revoir to our distinguished visitors to our beautiful islands.



**THE 13th REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
HEADS OF ANTI CORRUPTION AGENCIES IN COMMONWEALTH AFRICA,
VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES**

**THEME: UNITING COMMONWEALTH AFRICA IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

RESOLUTIONS

WE, the Heads and Representatives of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa, meeting at the thirteenth Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa (Conference) and Annual General Conference (AGM) hosted by the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat at Victoria from 15th to 19th May 2023,

APPRECIATING the invaluable support and warm hospitality provided by the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles Office, the honour of the presence of His Excellency President Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, who gave the the keynote address, strong support for the opened the Conference,

FURTHER APPRECIATING the Commonwealth Secretariat for the support and participation of the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland, KC

IDENTIFYING that corruption continues to be a significant challenge in the Region requiring a need to strengthen continental and international cooperation and collaboration among the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa,

CONCERNED about the substantial losses and damage that Africa continue to suffer as a result of grand corruption, abuse of public office, exploitation and illicit financial flows,

RECOGNISING the value of an effective network and forum for discussing developing issues, best practices and advances in the fight against corruption to increase transparency, integrity, openness and accountability, whilst reducing the impact and harm to Africa, and

CONTENT that a full exchange of views and innovative experiences among Anti-Corruption Agencies and other participants has taken place at the 13th Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa,

I. COMMITTED to:

- i) unite Commonwealth Africa in the fight against corruption
- ii) increase youth education and public awareness of the impact, harm, and cost of corruption
- iii) develop preventative and enforcement measures, as well as promoting integrity and accountability in public office through leadership, honesty, selflessness and innovation
- iv) improve the quality of outgoing Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests through issuing guidelines, training and designation of quality assurance gatekeepers for outgoing MLA requests

v) use the power of technology to enhance capacity building and build dynamic and continuous exchanges between Anti-Corruption Agencies and key stakeholders

2. CALL upon:

i) the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and Member Governments to continue to promote anti-corruption measures, seek stronger sanctions, improve asset recovery and combat illicit financial flows

ii) Member Governments to develop smarter solutions as part of anti-corruption measures to reduce administrative red tape through improved and effective e-governance

iii) Member Governments to address funding challenges and provide adequate resources to Anti-Corruption Agencies

iv) Member Governments should enact and implement effective legislation, open and transparent procedures on declaration of assets of senior public officials, supported by unexplained wealth provisions and civil asset recovery and forfeiture measures

v) Member Governments and the International Community to strengthen collaboration in the fight against corruption, develop information sharing and further engage citizens on corruption issues at local, national, regional and international levels

vi) Citizens of Commonwealth Africa to support anti-corruption measures, including not paying bribes and report corruption practice.

3. EXPRESS appreciation to:

i) the President of the Republic of Seychelles and its citizens for hosting the Conference

ii) the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles for the warm hospitality extended to the Delegates during their stay in Seychelles and the success of the Conference

4. FURTHER EXPRESS profound appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth Secretariat for the continued support to the Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa and co-sponsoring and co-organizing the 13th Conference.

5. AGREE that the next Regional Conference of Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa in 2024 will be hosted by Ghana in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

6. CONFIRM Seychelles, and the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission Seychelles as the Chair, and Ghana as the Vice-Chair of the Association of the Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa.

DECLARED AND SIGNED AT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES ON FRIDAY 19th MAY 2023

DECLARED AND SIGNED AT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES ON FRIDAY 19th MAY 2023

Handwritten signatures and stamps:

- Signature:* JACQUES
- Stamp:* ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION SEYCHELLES
- Signature:* [Signature]
- Stamp:* EACC KNUYA

Handwritten text:

NIRERE Madeleine, Ombudsman of the Republic of Rwanda
Office of the Ombudsman of Rwanda [Stamp: EACC Nigra]

Handwritten text:

~~DP~~ - Directorate on Corruption & Economic Crime of Botswana.

MENGUE ME NDIUNG, Isidore
1er Vice President de la Commission Nationale de Lutte contre la Corruption et l'ENRICHISSEMENT ILLICITE (CNLCI) (GABON)

COR MAAME YIN TUMBA ABDO-DAMBAU
EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC AND ORGANISATION CRIME OFFICE (ECO) GAMBIA. [Signature]

Handwritten text:

Signature: [Signature]
CHRA, GHANA
JAC, Mauritius.

Handwritten text:

Signature: [Signature] O.S.P.
GHANA
[Signature] [Signature]

DECLARED AND SIGNED AT VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES ON FRIDAY 19th MAY 2023

 ACC ZAMBIA D.G.

 DEPUTY DG
PREVENTION & COMBATING OF CORRUPTION
BUREAU, TANZANIA

 - Beth Kannyo Turwomwe
Inspector General of Government
Uganda.

 Kimelabelou ABA
President of HAPLUCIA - Togo

 Leonard Letgetho
Special Investigating Unit
South Africa

 FRANCIS BEN KAT FAUT
Anti-corruption Commission of the
Cote d'Ivoire.

 GRACE ORIEOMA AGHA-IIBE
INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES &
OTHER RELATED OFFENCES
COMMISSION, NIGERIA.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

ACCS has always considered international cooperation and mutual assistance to be a crucial part of Seychelles anti-corruption development strategy to fight corruption and misuse of office,



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

Transparency International publicised its annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2023 and once again Seychelles continues to be recognised regionally and internationally for its tireless work in trying to root out corruption in all its forms, having maintained our position as the least corrupt country in Africa and improved our global standing, by three places to the 20th least corrupt country in the world.

Seychelles was assessed using 3 data sources:

- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU),
- Global Insight Country Risk,
- Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)

The statistics below show Seychelles performance for the CPI for 2023. reporting year in January 2022.

Data Source	Score
Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)	72
Global Insight Country Risk	71
Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)	71
Overall (mean)	71

Seychelles ranking in the **Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)** continues to improve, with a change +4 percentage points. This indicates a political commitment to fight corruption.



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