

## Seychelles

***The Indian Ocean archipelago is the least populated nation in Africa, with one of the highest levels of ICT access in the region.***

**Mobile services:** There are two mobile operators providing services in Seychelles: Cable and Wireless, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC); and Airtel, a subsidiary of the Indian mobile group. Mobile penetration is high, with 94 per cent of households having mobile phones, the third-highest level in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>403</sup> Mobile-broadband has been available since 2006 with the launch of 3G networks. The mobile network has been upgraded to the latest technology, with Airtel launching LTE using 800 MHz in 2014 (its first LTE deployment in Africa) and LTE using 1 800 MHz in 2015; Cable and Wireless launched LTE in 2015 using the 800/1 800 MHz spectrum.

**Fixed services:** Incumbent Cable and Wireless has always been private and its operations in Seychelles date to 1893. Parent CWC is owned by Liberty Global. Cable and Wireless Seychelles offers prepaid and postpaid copper landline telephone service. In addition, Intelvision offers fixed telephony over its fibre-optic network and Kokonet offers voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP). Fixed-broadband is available through ADSL, fibre-optic and fixed wireless technologies. Fixed-broadband penetration is high by regional standards.

The landing of the Seychelles East Africa System (SEAS) submarine cable in mid-2012 has revolutionized Internet access through the dramatic increase in international bandwidth and consequent drop in prices. The country's interest in SEAS is managed by Seychelles Cable System Ltd. (SCS), a public-private partnership whose owners consist of the Government of Seychelles, Airtel, and Cable and Wireless. The 1 930 km fibre-optic cable goes to Tanzania, where it is connected to other submarine cable systems in the region. SCS has an ownership stake in the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy) through its participation in the West Indian Ocean Cable Company.

**Government policy:** The Department of Information Communications Technology under the Office of the President is responsible for sector policy and regulation, as well as the implementation of e-government. The main legislative document is the Broadcasting and

Key indicators for Seychelles (2017)	Africa	World
Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab.	20.7	0.9 13.0
Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab.	176.6	74.4 103.6
Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	76.0	24.8 61.9
3G coverage (% of population)	90.0	62.7 87.9
LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	90.0	28.4 76.3
Individuals using the Internet (%)	58.8	22.1 48.6
Households with a computer (%)	58.7	8.9 47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	57.9	19.4 54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s)	66.2	11.2 76.6
Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	16.1	0.6 13.6
<b>Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution</b>		
<i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i>	24.8	38.7 4.2
<i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i>	35.6	37.2 13.2
<i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i>	39.6	24.1 82.6

Note: Data in italics are ITU estimates. Source: ITU (as of June 2018).

Telecommunication Act of 2000. The National ICT Policy has five focus areas: (a) promotion of affordable, modern and high-quality ICT infrastructure and services; (b) fostering an enabling a legal and regulatory framework to ensure growth of the ICT sector; (c) development of human resources with appropriate ICT skills; (d) leveraging ICT to attract investment and stimulate economic growth; and (e) enabling online government services.

**Conclusion:** The Government has installed a predictable regulatory framework and generated a realistic degree of competition in the ICT sector given the country's small population. It was proactive in creating a public-private partnership in order to procure a critical undersea fibre-optic connection. These strategies have resulted in Seychelles having some of the highest ICT penetration rates in sub-Saharan Africa.