



Seychelles National Waste Policy

2025-2030

Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment
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Background

The Seychelles, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and the smallest country in Africa, faces significant challenges in waste management due to its circumstance relating to limited land area, technical capacity, access to technology and financial resources. Solid waste generation in Seychelles has now reached 100,000 tons per annum representing an average annual increase of 6% and a per capita production of 2.3kg/person/day.

The National Solid Waste Policy 2025-2030 will serve as the main driver for transformation in the waste management sector. It defines clear strategies and actions to be implemented over the policy period to enhance waste reduction, recovery, and disposal practices. The policy was developed through an inclusive consultation process, engaging government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders to ensure a shared vision and coordinated approach to improving waste management in Seychelles. This participatory approach was essential in formulating a policy that aligns with national waste priorities and the expectations of the Seychellois.

The policy is fully aligned with key national strategies such as the Seychelles Solid Waste Master Plan 2020-2035 and the National Development Strategy 2024-2028. Additionally, it reinforces Seychelles commitments under the different Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) including the various Conventions on chemicals and waste, ongoing global actions to develop a legally binding agreement on plastics, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a structured framework for the sustainable management of solid waste in Seychelles.

It builds upon the vision, objectives and lessons learned from the Seychelles National Waste Policy 2018-2023 and the Seychelles Solid Waste Master Plan 2020-2035 and identifies priority areas for actions.

The development of the Seychelles National Waste Policy 2025-2030 was funded by the GOS-UNDP-GEF Implementing Sustainable Low and Non chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) project.

Guiding principles

The guiding principles for this policy are:

Circular economy: An alternative to linear economy where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible. Waste and primary resources extraction and use are minimized, and when a product reaches the end of its life, it is used again to create further and greater value. This can bring major economic benefits, contributing towards innovation, growth and job creation.

Cost recovery: To adopt and apply progressively, as appropriate and possible equitable arrangements for recovering the economic costs of waste management from waste producers.

Evidence-based decision-making: The use of research evidence, contextual evidence, and experience to make decisions about programs, policies, or practices.

Extended Producer Responsibility: Manufacturers and economic operators must take responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their lifecycle, from production to disposal.

Multi-stakeholder approach: Decisions in waste management should take into account the roles of the private sector and civil societies that participate in the sector.,

Precautionary Principle: The lack of complete scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse for failing to act. Where there is a credible risk to the environment or human health, from acting or not acting a cost-effective and timely response should be taken.

Public education and awareness: The public must continually be educated about waste management practices to help minimize the quantity and costs associated with waste management. They should be informed about the nature of waste and waste audit methodologies.

Sustainable Development: In line with the three pillars of sustainability (economic, social, and environmental), waste management must meet present needs without compromising the well-being of future generations.

Waste as a resource. This policy promotes a shift in mindset, recognizing waste as a valuable resource. Waste should be minimized, reused, or repurposed, in line with sustainability and resource conservation principles.

Waste hierarchy: Sets the relative priority of methods for managing waste. The preferred approach is waste reduction, followed by reuse, recycling, and energy recovery with the least desirable option being disposal.

1. Policy goal

“A sustainable, efficient, and inclusive waste management system that protects public health and the environment, promotes resource efficiency, and supports Seychelles' transition towards a circular economy.”

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National Waste Policy 2025-2030 is:

2. Policy objectives

The objectives of the Seychelles National Waste Policy are:

1. To minimise the environment and health impacts associated with managing waste.
2. To significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill for final disposal.
3. To promote accountability by shifting the burden of managing waste to waste generators and producers.
4. To ensure waste management decision are guided by evidenced based decision-making approaches.

3. Actions

3.1. Enhancing infrastructures

Seychelles has made significant strides in developing and maintaining solid waste management infrastructures over the past 15 years. This policy is to build on these efforts and ensure that the country continues to develop modern solid waste infrastructures that are relevant and meet national needs. Land must be identified and made available for waste related activities. To further this work the key actions are:

- 3.1.1 Promoting effective solutions for bulky waste reuse and collection through the creation and operation of amenity sites at regional level.
- 3.1.2 Investing in improved infrastructures to manage litter and implement appropriate actions to address marine litter.
- 3.1.3 Investing in modern and effective waste bins and bin sites within 2 years
- 3.1.4 Strengthening daily municipal waste collection in vehicles specifically designed for waste collection.

- 3.1.5 Investing in minimum infrastructures (e.g. Warehouse and interim storage facility) that can be tendered to waste entrepreneurs to tackle priority waste streams and treatment technologies.
- 3.1.6 Encouraging private sector involvement in developing infrastructures and treatments through Public Private Partnerships.
- 3.1.7 Implementing actions that maximises the use of existing infrastructures such as improved sanitary landfill operation and increasing final disposal capacity for waste.

3.2. Minimisation, treatment & recovery

To increase circularity and reduce waste going into landfills, the Government will create an enabling environment that supports businesses engaged or interested in recycling and resource recovery including research and innovation in waste. Government needs to make available land such as regional composting centres. Key actions are;

- 3.2.1 Developing effective options for the treatment of green waste and its diversion from landfill.
- 3.2.2 Transforming green waste to marketable compost.
- 3.2.3 Reducing the amount of biowaste currently being disposed at the landfill.
- 3.2.4 Conducting research and feasibility studies to apply the best available and affordable techniques for key waste streams.
- 3.2.5 Restricting plastic materials as far as practicable while ensuring that affordable alternatives exist on the market.
- 3.2.6 Reviewing and strengthening the existing recycling schemes for PET, aluminium cans and alcoholic glass bottles with recommendation for extending the scheme to cover other materials such as plastics by end of 2025
- 3.2.7 Supporting operators engaged in the processing of waste materials by removing barriers and developing effective incentive framework.
- 3.2.8 Conducting research, and feasibility assessments to inform on the applicability of different waste management options such as waste incineration, including high-end treatments that has potential to save on landfill space and generate energy.
- 3.2.9 Collaborating with the Ministry responsible for Lands to earmark suitable plots to be used for waste management such as regional composting centres and amenity sites in view that availability of land is a serious impediment for recycling.
- 3.2.10 Encouraging waste minimisation through the development of product standards, extended warranties and encouraging businesses to promote reuse and recycling. -

3.3. Final disposal

While the waste management policy prioritizes prevention, recycling, and recovery, certain materials cannot be recycled or avoided and require final disposal. The policy aims to minimize the environmental impacts of landfilling. The goal is to reduce the volume of waste by 50% by the year 2030 subject to the availability of land and the adoption of appropriate technologies. Key actions are:

3.3.1 All new landfills shall be engineered sanitary landfills with effective leachate management system. Non-compliant landfills are to be phased out and decommissioned in accordance with environmental regulations.

3.3.2 In view of existing challenges¹ sanitary landfills shall be operated in a way that minimises nuisances caused by birds and other vermin by allowing for alternative daily or weekly cover as determined by the Agency responsible for waste management.

3.3.3 Landfilling shall be carried out in cells that limit the area of open waste that contributes to negative impacts such as wind-blown litter, odours amongst others.

Appropriate equipment shall be used for landfilling, ensuring the effective compaction of waste and maximisation of space.

3.3.4 Ensuring that smell from landfill is minimised as far as practicable by disposing putrescent waste in pits that are treated with other wastes and covered in a timely manner to minimise smell.

Ensuring that the transfer of putrescent materials shall be done in a manner or at specific day or time that minimises its impacts on the environment and human health.

3.3.5 Ensuring that disused landfills are rehabilitated and landfill gas recovered for energy or flared to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ensuring that rehabilitated landfill space be, as far as practicable, optimised for alternative uses.

¹ Gonzalves, C. (2024). Audit of the Providence waste facility located on the island of Mahe, Seychelles. World Bank

3.4 Institutional strengthening

The success of this policy is dependent on a competent workforce with adequate resources across the Department of Environment, involved in policy planning and supervision of waste management services and the Agency responsible for providing waste management services, the Landscape & Waste Management Agency. Currently these institutions do not have sufficient and a range of professionally trained staff to discharge their obligations. The Ministry should prioritise tertiary training in waste related subject.

Key actions are:

- 3.4.1 Using a mix of local and international expertise to conduct training needs assessment for both institutions.

Ensuring the implementation of an effective training plan on the technicalities and administrative aspects of waste management etc.

- 3.4.2 Collaborating with local and international training institutions to develop short training courses on waste management and encouraging research at graduate and post graduate level.
- 3.4.3 Increasing the number of professionally and vocationally trained persons working in waste management.
- 3.4.4 Reviewing the core functions of the LWMA to improve its effectiveness and mandate.
- 3.4.5 Requiring that the Agency responsible for wastes submit an annual performance report to facilitate the monitoring of its strategic activities
- 3.4.6 Increasing the enforcement capacities of MACCE and relevant MDA's against related offences.

3.5 Education and awareness

In view of the fact that waste is generated by a range of different stakeholders, the measures to be adopted must be disseminated and received by a wide range of stakeholders including the public. Stakeholders must be made to understand and be inspired to participate in waste management programs. The community will be encouraged to participate in a door-to-door pilot waste collection activity. Key actions are:

- 3.5.1 Promoting the sustainable management of waste within the key production sectors of fisheries and tourism.
- 3.5.2 Giving press releases and physical interactions where appropriate for new schemes on existing media platforms to inform and consult the population.
- 3.5.3 Working closely with non-state actors to further exchanges, disseminate information and raise awareness on topic of waste management.

- 3.5.4 Making available on existing Ministry and Agency portal, data relating to waste generation, treatment, recycling and disposal as well as current policy, strategies, reports and other actions undertaken in the sector.
- 3.5.5 Realising the strength of social media in changing behaviour and as a source of information amongst a wider segment of the population, the institutions shall optimise these communication outlets in order to reach maximum stakeholders and remain relevant.

3.6 Financing and cost recovery

Effective waste management requires high investment cost in infrastructures and technologies in addition to the daily operation and management costs. In line with the extended producer responsibility principle, producers of products shall bear full responsibility for their products including when they become waste. Key actions are:

- 3.6.1 Collaborating with the Ministry of Finance in accessing existing financial mechanisms for waste management e.g., environment levies on tourism and on vehicles.
- 3.6.2 Reviewing landfill disposal charges to reflect the current cost of managing waste and recover capital costs for new developments.
- 3.6.3 Reviewing waste collection charges in line with the principle of cost recovery and targets set under the Solid Waste Master Plan and the Waste Services Regulation notwithstanding that these costs may have to be partly subsidised by Government.
- 3.6.4 Reviewing funding mechanisms such as the Waste Management Trust Fund to stimulate new waste treatment technologies and innovation

The Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment and Landscape and Waste Management Agency are responsible for implementing this policy.