The Seychelles

Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Introduction

• First case of COVID 19 detected in Seychelles on the 11th March
• Total of 11 cases recorded
• No community transmission
• Full recovery of all patients confirmed by Public Health Commissioner on 18th May
• ‘New normal’ started on the 4th May
Containment Measures COVID – 19 pandemic

Quarantine & Isolation

4 quarantine centres were set up for all travelers & persons who have been in contact with COVID 19 patients

3 isolation centres are available

Key health safety pillars being enforced by Department of Health – COVID-19

• Increased vigilance in case of reintroduction
• Social and physical distancing
• Hand and respiratory hygiene
• Random testing within the community
Border Control and Travel Restrictions

• Ban on visitor arrivals from 25th March until 1st June 2020.
• Ban on foreign travel by Seychellois citizens except for medical emergencies from 23rd March to date.
• No new gainful occupational permit issued
• Ban on cruise ships until 2022

Confinement

• Closure of schools from 16th March until 18th May 2020.
• During the month of April all persons in Seychelles were restricted from outdoor movement except for employees of essential services
Support to the private sector including the tourism industry

- **FISCAL POLICY**
  - The Government of Seychelles has committed approximately US$ 70 million to guarantee salary payment of all employees until June 2020 extended to December 2020 for Seychellois Employees only.
  - All tax payments due by March 2020 are postponed to September 2020.
  - Corporate Social Responsibility Tax, Tourism Marketing Tax and business Tax due for April, May and June have been postponed to September 2020.

- **MONETARY POLICY**
  - Central Bank of Seychelles and all commercial banks agreed on a moratorium for loan repayments for affected sectors for at least 6 months. This will cover both interest and capital repayments.
  - Low interest loan for micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed individual are being considered and to extend to other businesses as well

- **JOBS & SKILLS**
  - An extra US$1.0 million allocated to the Unemployment Relief Scheme, a programme coordinated by the Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Civil Status.
Reopening in 2 Phases

• First phase will be to private jets to island resorts - acting as safe holiday destinations & quarantine centres

• Second phase opening on the three main islands with limited movement following the introduction of tracing apps

In the meantime click video https://youtu.be/n3Ur48GUqPo
The Ministry for Tourism has developed a visitors guideline which provides guidance for the following:

- Entry into Seychelles (including booking of accommodation, Entry procedures for foreigners, Insurance requirement)
- Entry at the Airport (Arrival Luggage Collection, Receiving of visitors by accommodation establishment staff)
- Domestic Transportation (Airport Transfers)
- Stay at Accommodation Establishment
- Symptomatic Cases (Emergency Procedures for visitors who display flu-like symptoms)
- Live Aboard Vessels (Procedures for embarkation and disembarkation, communication in terms of social distancing between staff and guests, Emergency procedures in the event of guest displaying flu-like symptoms)
Other Measures in place for the re-opening

• Guidelines for different tourism operators have been developed. Following the guidelines the operators will develop their own standard operating procedures.

• Re-opening of the country by phases. Starting with private jets and chartered flights going to island resorts.

• Only visitors from low risk countries will be allowed to enter and they will need a certificate that they are COVID 19 negative (CPR test)

• Restricted movement within and between islands

• Mandatory requirements to wear mask on board Air Seychelles domestic flights and repatriation flights.
Thank You