



## **Seychelles Legal Information Institute (SeyLII)**

### **Strategic Plan 2015-2017<sup>1</sup>**

#### **About SEYLII**

The Seychelles Legal Information Institute (SEYLII) was established in 2012 under the auspices of the Judiciary of Seychelles. SEYLII is a member of the international Free Access to Law Movement. SEYLII's objective is to provide free, reliable online access to essential Seychelles legal resources. These core resources have not previously been readily or cheaply available to most citizens of Seychelles. They make it easier for practitioners and judges to research the law, to prepare cases for hearing, and to write fairly researched judgments and decisions, and for lawyers and non-lawyers (both local and international) to understand and monitor the changing nature of Seychelles' legal environment.

In addition to providing a portal for case law and legislation, SEYLII aims to increase public awareness of the operations of the domestic courts and the broader legal profession, thereby improving access to the courts and strengthening public confidence in the administration of justice.

SeyLII subscribes to the principles of The Declaration on Free Access to Law. In this context it adheres to the principles that:

- Public legal information from all countries and international institutions is part of the common heritage of humanity. Maximising access to this information promotes justice and the rule of law;
- Public legal information is digital common property and should be accessible to all on a non-profit basis and free of charge;
- Organisations such as legal information institutes have the right to publish public legal information and the government bodies that create or control that information should provide access to it so that it can be published by other parties.

#### **SEYLII's Vision**

To be the primary legal resource institution in Seychelles providing free access to law.

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<sup>1</sup> This strategic plan has been developed after consultation with the SEYLII Working Group and reference to the NATIONALII Training Manual and the Canadian Legal Information Institute (CANLII) Strategic Plan.

## **SEYLII's Mission**

To offer the legal community and the public free, reliable, unrestricted online access to essential Seychelles legal resources.

## **SEYLII's Strategic Priorities**

1. Establish SEYLII in the permanent role of being the primary source of free access to law in Seychelles.
2. Continually enrich the content of SEYLII to meet the needs of public and professional users.
3. Deliver easy-to-use professional grade tools and a compelling site experience.
4. Continuously promote and defend free access to law.

### **1. Establish SEYLII in the permanent role of being the primary source of free access to law in Seychelles.**

In order to meet its commitments to The Declaration on Free Access to Law, SEYLII undertakes to

- publish via the internet public legal information originating from more than one public body;
- provide free and anonymous public access to that information;
- not impede others from obtaining public legal information from its sources and publishing it; and
- support the objectives set out in the Declaration.

In this context SEYLII will seek to bring as much of that content as possible within a policy framework guided by principles of open access. It will be the focal point for the gathering, uploading and provision of public access to the sources of law from government, courts and administrative decision-making bodies.

### **2. Continually enrich the content of SEYLII to meet the needs of public and professional users.**

SEYLII undertakes to publish primary legal materials needed to conduct core legal research as well as appropriate secondary legal materials, such as law journals, law reform commission publications, and academic and other research papers of use to the academic or practicing lawyer.

It will build on its existing national collection of sources of law to ensure that all relevant material is included on:

1. The Constitution
2. Legislation, primary and subsidiary
3. Case law, starting with the highest court of record and including specialist courts and tribunals.

The following broad categories for SEYLII will be created:

1. Legislative documents collection. Subsections here may include Numbered Acts, Consolidated Acts and Subsidiary Legislation
2. Case law collections organized per court, special court or tribunal
3. Other
  - a. Law Journals
  - b. Law Reform publications
  - c. Government Gazettes from the Government Printer
  - d. Academic and other paper series
  - e. Various policy documents, papers and studies produced in the legislative process
  - f. Legal Notices – Government Gazette and Court
  - g. Cause lists
  - h. Practice Directions
  - i. Hansard – Parliament/Government Printer/ National Archives
  - j. Finding aids.

### **3. Deliver easy-to-use professional grade tools and a compelling site experience.**

In order to attract regular users, SEYLII undertakes to deliver enhancements to keep its core functions as a research tool attractive and user-friendly. In terms of searchability, it will therefore pursue opportunities to improve search functionality to accommodate new and non-traditional approaches to search. It will continue to develop mobile access including tablet adaptation of its information. It undertakes to identify online training tools to heighten user site experience and will place greater emphasis on delivering tools, tips and training where users need it most – on the site itself.

#### **4. Continuously promote and defend free access to law.**

SEYLII has relied on visionary volunteers from the international and national legal, academic and justice communities to pull together its undertaking of a Seychellois movement for free access to law. SEYLII has a responsibility to support international initiatives in countries where battles for simple access to data are still being fought. It will continue its engagement with other signatories of The Declaration on Free Access to Law. It undertakes to support international developments in the free access to law movement and it will do so through participation in international fora and through contributing to international efforts in this area.