

Seychelles

Professional Services Guide 2026

The specialist directory of corporate service providers, tax advisers, fiduciary firms, wealth managers, and law firms operating in Seychelles — for international businesses, UHNW individuals, family offices, and their professional advisers.

60

PROFILED FIRMS

5,500+

FIRMS ACROSS 30+ JURISDICTIONS

0%

IBC TAX ON OFFSHORE INCOME

Indian

OCEAN IFC SINCE 1994

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The SearchOffshore Seychelles Guide

SearchOffshore is the specialist directory for offshore and international professional services, connecting UHNW individuals, family offices, international businesses, and professional advisers with profiled firms across 30+ jurisdictions. This guide provides a structured overview of the Seychelles as an established Indian Ocean offshore financial centre with particular strength in IBC formation, corporate services, and a growing role in digital asset regulation.

It is designed as a starting point for conversations with qualified advisers — not a substitute for professional advice. All regulated financial services activities in Seychelles require appropriate licensing from the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Seychelles has appeared on FATF and EU monitoring lists in the past — current compliance status must be verified at the time of planning.

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SECTION 1

Seychelles: Jurisdiction Overview

The Republic of Seychelles is a sovereign archipelago nation of 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean, with a population of approximately 100,000. An independent republic since 1976 and a member of the Commonwealth and the African Union, Seychelles established its International Business Companies Act in 1994, creating one of the most prolific IBC formation jurisdictions globally. The jurisdiction registered hundreds of thousands of IBCs at its peak and remains a significant centre for offshore corporate formation, particularly serving clients from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

Seychelles has undergone significant regulatory reform over the past decade in response to FATF, EU, and OECD pressure. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has invested substantially in its supervisory framework. The jurisdiction was placed on the FATF grey list in June 2020 and exited in October 2022 following successful implementation of its action plan — advisers should confirm current status at the time of planning.

Key Facts

Status	Independent sovereign republic; Commonwealth and African Union member
Capital	Victoria, Mahé
Legal System	Mixed: English Common Law and French Civil Law traditions
Currency	Seychellois Rupee (SCR); USD widely used commercially
IBC Tax	0% on offshore income for qualifying International Business Companies
Corporate Tax	15% for domestic companies and companies with Seychelles-source income
Capital Gains Tax	None
Regulator	Financial Services Authority (FSA)
Time Zone	SCT (UTC+4)
Major Legislation	International Business Companies Act 1994 (as amended), Securities Act, Mutual Fund and Hedge Fund Act, Virtual Asset Service Providers Act 2022

“Seychelles is selected for cost-effective IBC formation, its Indian Ocean geographic positioning, and a growing regulatory framework for digital assets — but advisers must verify current FATF and EU status at the time of planning.”

SECTION 2

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Seychelles operates a mixed legal system drawing on both English common law and French civil law traditions, reflecting its colonial history. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is the integrated regulator for non-banking financial services, including IBCs, securities businesses, mutual funds, insurance, and virtual asset service providers. The Central Bank of Seychelles supervises banking institutions.

The FSA

The FSA was established as an independent statutory body with a mandate to supervise, regulate, and develop the non-banking financial services sector. Following Seychelles' FATF grey-listing in 2020, the FSA significantly strengthened its AML/CFT supervisory framework, increased enforcement activity, and implemented substantial legislative reforms across the IBC, trust, and virtual asset sectors. The FSA is now regarded as a materially more rigorous regulator than in earlier periods of the jurisdiction's development.

IBC Framework

The International Business Companies Act, substantially amended in 2021, governs Seychelles IBCs. Key reforms introduced mandatory beneficial ownership registers accessible to competent authorities, enhanced registered agent obligations, abolition of bearer shares, and strengthened AML/CFT requirements. IBCs must maintain a registered office in Seychelles through a licensed registered agent. Economic substance requirements apply to IBCs conducting relevant activities.

Virtual Asset Service Providers Act 2022

Seychelles enacted the Virtual Asset Service Providers Act (VASP Act) in 2022, establishing a licensing regime for crypto-asset businesses under FSA supervision. The VASP Act requires businesses offering virtual asset exchange, transfer, custody, or administration services from Seychelles to obtain an FSA licence. This framework has attracted digital asset businesses seeking an Indian Ocean base with a regulated licensing structure.

SECTION 3

Corporate and Wealth Structures

International Business Company (IBC)

The Seychelles IBC remains the jurisdiction's primary vehicle, though its characteristics have changed materially since the 2021 amendments. IBCs are now required to maintain beneficial ownership registers, appoint a compliant registered agent, and — where conducting relevant activities — demonstrate economic substance. Bearer shares are abolished. IBCs are exempt from Seychelles taxes on offshore income. The IBC remains a cost-effective vehicle for international holding and trading structures, subject to full CRS compliance and appropriate home-jurisdiction tax treatment.

Special Licence Company (CSL)

The Seychelles Special Licence Company (formerly the Company Special Licence or CSL) provides a structure that, unlike a standard IBC, can transact with Seychelles residents and is subject to a reduced domestic corporate tax rate. CSLs have been used in certain double-tax treaty planning structures utilising Seychelles' limited treaty network. Advisers should obtain current advice on the availability and substance requirements for CSL structures.

Trusts and Foundations

Seychelles provides for both trust and foundation structures. The International Trusts Act provides a framework for discretionary and protective trusts with asset protection features. The Foundations Act 2009 provides a civil-law-style foundation structure. Both are administered by FSA-licensed fiduciary providers.

Mutual Funds and Securities

The Mutual Fund and Hedge Fund Act and the Securities Act provide frameworks for regulated collective investment vehicles and securities businesses. Seychelles fund structures are used for certain alternative investment mandates, particularly serving African and Middle Eastern institutional investors.

SECTION 4

Key Service Categories

Corporate Services

With 24 profiled firms, corporate services is the largest category in the Seychelles directory — a direct reflection of the jurisdiction's heritage as a high-volume IBC formation centre. Licensed registered agents provide IBC incorporation, registered office, and ongoing compliance services. Post-2021 regulatory reforms have raised the bar for registered agent compliance obligations significantly.

Tax Advisors

16 tax advisory firms — the second largest category — assist with economic substance analysis, CRS/FATCA compliance, domestic corporate tax for CSLs and local entities, and the interaction of Seychelles structures with home-jurisdiction tax obligations. Given the FATF history and ongoing OECD scrutiny, specialist tax advice is particularly important for Seychelles structures.

Fiduciary Services and Trusts

14 fiduciary services firms and 14 trust firms provide trustee services, foundation administration, and fiduciary management for international private clients. The fiduciary sector has been subject to increased FSA supervisory scrutiny following the 2020 grey-listing.

Wealth Management

13 wealth management firms serve resident UHNW clients and international investors. FSA authorisation is required for regulated investment activities. Seychelles' geographic position makes it attractive to clients from Africa, the Gulf, and South Asia seeking an Indian Ocean wealth management base.

Law Firms, Accountancy, Notary, and Property Services

9 law firms advise on IBC structures, FSA licensing, trust matters, and real estate. 5 accountancy firms provide audit and compliance services. 5 notaries handle notarisation and apostille requirements. 6 property service providers cover Seychelles' active luxury real estate market.

SECTION 5

The Current Compliance Environment

Seychelles' compliance history is a material consideration for advisers. The jurisdiction was placed on the FATF grey list in June 2020 and exited in October 2022 following successful implementation of its action plan. Despite this progress, some international banks and financial institutions continue to apply enhanced due diligence to Seychelles-incorporated entities. Banking access should be confirmed before committing to a Seychelles structure.

AML/CFT Framework

The AML/CFT framework is governed by the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act 2020, substantially strengthened as part of the FATF action plan. Regulated entities — including registered agents, trust companies, insurance companies, and securities dealers — are required to apply risk-based customer due diligence, identify beneficial owners, conduct ongoing monitoring, and report to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). The FSA has significantly increased enforcement activity.

Beneficial Ownership

The 2021 IBC Act amendments introduced mandatory beneficial ownership registers for IBCs, held by registered agents and accessible to competent authorities and the FSA. The register is not publicly accessible but must be made available to law enforcement and regulatory authorities on request.

CRS, FATCA, and Economic Substance

Seychelles participates in the OECD CRS and exchanges financial account information with partner jurisdictions. FATCA compliance is through a Model 1 IGA. The Economic Substance Act requires entities conducting relevant activities to demonstrate adequate local substance.

FATF Status

2018	ESAAMLG Mutual Evaluation — significant deficiencies identified
Jun 2020	Added to FATF grey list — enhanced monitoring begins
2021	IBC Act substantially amended; AML/CFT Act enacted; FSA enforcement increases
Oct 2022	Removed from FATF grey list — action plan completed
Current	Not on FATF grey list — some banks still apply enhanced due diligence; verify status

Current FATF and EU/OECD status must be independently verified. Banking access should be confirmed in principle before committing to a Seychelles structure.

SECTION 6

Regulatory Considerations for 2026

Seychelles in 2026 is in a post-grey-list consolidation phase, continuing to implement and embed the reforms that secured its FATF exit. The key themes are banking access normalisation, VASP framework maturation, and ongoing economic substance compliance.

Banking Access — Residual Enhanced Due Diligence

Despite exiting the FATF grey list in October 2022, some correspondent banks and financial institutions continue to apply heightened scrutiny to Seychelles-incorporated entities as a matter of internal risk policy. This is a practical constraint that advisers must address before placing clients into Seychelles structures. Banking access should be confirmed with the intended bank before incorporation.

VASP Framework — Growing Digital Asset Ecosystem

The 2022 VASP Act is positioning Seychelles as a licensed digital asset jurisdiction for the African and Indian Ocean markets. Businesses considering Seychelles for VASP licensing should assess the FSA's current supervisory expectations, the AML/CFT requirements applicable to virtual asset businesses, and how a Seychelles VASP licence interacts with the regulatory requirements of their target markets.

Economic Substance — Ongoing Compliance

Annual economic substance assessments are a live compliance obligation for IBCs and CSLs conducting relevant activities. Entities that fail to demonstrate adequate substance face penalties and automatic exchange of information with the relevant foreign tax authority. Registered agents and advisers must ensure ongoing substance obligations are built into the maintenance programme for Seychelles structures.

EU Listing

Seychelles has previously appeared on EU lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. The current EU listing status should be verified with qualified advisers at the time of planning, as it affects the treatment of Seychelles structures under EU tax directives including the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directives (ATAD I and II) and may trigger enhanced due diligence obligations for EU-based counterparties and financial institutions.

Key Questions to Explore with a Qualified Adviser

1. Is a Seychelles IBC, CSL, trust, or foundation the appropriate vehicle, and what economic substance requirements apply to the proposed activities?
2. Has banking been confirmed in principle with the intended bank, given that residual enhanced due diligence on Seychelles entities remains common at some institutions?
3. What are the CRS/FATCA reporting obligations for the structure and has home-jurisdiction tax treatment been confirmed by qualified advisers in all relevant jurisdictions?
4. What is the current EU listing status of Seychelles, and does this affect the treatment of the structure under applicable EU tax directives?
5. For virtual asset businesses, what FSA licensing is required under the VASP Act and what AML/CFT obligations apply?

6. What beneficial ownership disclosure obligations apply and what information will be held by the registered agent and accessible to competent authorities?
7. Has qualified tax advice been obtained in the beneficial owner's home jurisdiction regarding the treatment of the Seychelles structure, including any CFC provisions?

SECTION 7

SearchOffshore Directory

SearchOffshore profiles 60 professional firms across 9 service categories in Seychelles. All profiled firms are either self-registered or sourced from public professional registers.

SERVICE CATEGORY	FIRMS	DIRECTORY
Corporate Services	24	View Listings
Tax Advisors	16	View Listings
Fiduciary Services	14	View Listings
Trusts	14	View Listings
Wealth Management	13	View Listings
Law Firms	9	View Listings
Property Services	6	View Listings
Notary	5	View Listings
Accountancy Firms	5	View Listings



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SearchOffshore is the specialist directory connecting UHNW individuals, family offices and their advisers with professional firms across 30+ offshore jurisdictions.

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SECTION 8

Important Notices and Disclaimer

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The offshore regulatory environment changes frequently. Information reflects the position as understood at the time of publication in May 2026 and may become outdated. Information should not be relied upon without independent professional verification. Always seek advice from qualified legal, tax, and financial professionals in all relevant jurisdictions before making any decisions relating to offshore structures, trusts, or jurisdictional choices.

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Nothing in this guide constitutes a solicitation or recommendation to establish any offshore structure, invest in any jurisdiction, or engage any particular service provider. Offshore and international financial structures involve complex legal, tax, and regulatory considerations that vary significantly by jurisdiction and individual circumstance. The consequences of incorrectly structured arrangements can be severe. SearchOffshore strongly encourages all users to obtain qualified professional advice in all relevant jurisdictions.

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