## **Report on Seychelles**

Seychelles is ranked at 28th position on the 2013 Financial Secrecy Index. This ranking is based on a combination of its secrecy score and a scale weighting based on its share of the global market for offshore financial services.

Seychelles has been assessed with 85 secrecy points out of a potential 100, which places it towards the top end of the secrecy scale (see chart 1 below).

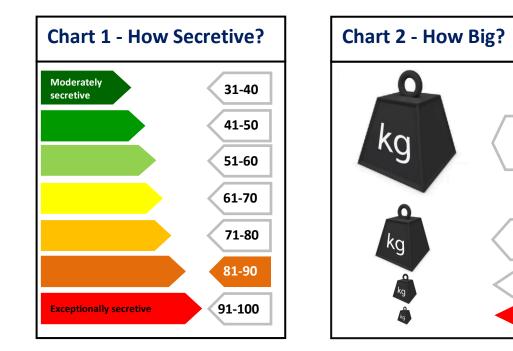
Seychelles accounts for less than 1 per cent of the global market for offshore financial services, making it a tiny player compared with other secrecy jurisdictions (see chart 2 below).

huge

large

small

tiny



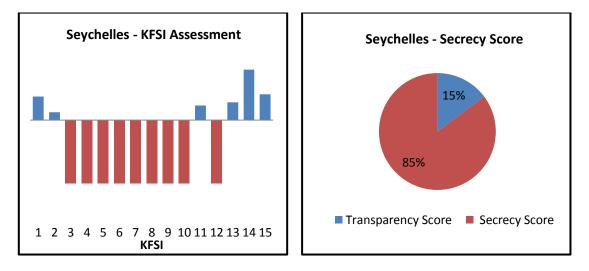
## **Next steps for Seychelles**

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Seychelles' 85 per cent secrecy score shows that it must still make major progress in offering satisfactory financial transparency. If it wishes to play a full part in the modern financial community and to impede and deter illicit financial flows, including flows originating from tax evasion, aggressive tax avoidance practices, corrupt practices and criminal activities, it should take action on the points noted where it falls short of acceptable international standards. See below for details of the Seychelles' shortcomings on transparency. See this link <u>http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/kfsi</u> for an overview of how each of these shortcomings can be fixed.

## **Secrecy Scores**

The secrecy score of 85 per cent for the Seychelles has been computed by assessing the jurisdiction's performance on the 15 Key Financial Secrecy Indicators, listed below.



The numbers on the horizontal axis of the bar chart on the left refer to the Key Financial Secrecy Indicators (KFSI). The presence of a blue bar indicates a positive answer, as does blue text in the KFSI list below. The presence of a red bar indicates a negative answer as does red text in the KFSI list. Where the jurisdiction's performance partly, but not fully complies with a Key Financial Secrecy Indicator, the text is coloured violet in the list below (combination of red and blue).

This paper draws on key data collected on the Seychelles. Our data sources include regulatory reports, legislation, regulation and news available at 31.12.2012<sup>1</sup>. The full data set is available <u>here<sup>2</sup></u>. Our assessment is based on the 15 Key Financial Secrecy Indicators (KFSIs, below), reflecting the legal and financial arrangements of the Seychelles. Details of these indicators are noted in the following table and all background data can be found on the <u>Financial Secrecy Index website<sup>3</sup></u>.

## The Key Financial Secrecy Indicators and the performance of the Seychelles are:

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TRANSPARENCY OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP – Seychelles	
1.	Banking Secrecy: Does the jurisdiction have banking secrecy?
	Seychelles does not adequately curtail banking secrecy

2.	Trust and Foundations Register: Is there a public register of trusts/foundations, or are trusts/foundations prevented?	
	Seychelles partly discloses or prevents trusts and private foundations	
3.	Recorded Company Ownership: Does the relevant authority obtain and keep updated	
	details of the beneficial ownership of companies?	
	Seychelles does not maintain company ownership details in official records	
KEY ASPECTS OF CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY REGULATION – Seychelles		
4.	Public Company Ownership: Does the relevant authority make details of ownership of	
	companies available on public record online for less than US\$10/€10?	
	Seychelles does not require that company ownership details are publicly available online	
5.	Public Company Accounts: Does the relevant authority require that company accounts	
	are made available for inspection by anyone for a fee of less than US\$10/€10?	
	Seychelles does not require that company accounts be available on public record	
6.	Country-by-Country Reporting: Are all companies required to comply with country-by-	
	country financial reporting?	
	Seychelles does not require country-by-country financial reporting by all companies	
EFFICIENCY OF TAX AND FINANCIAL REGULATION – Seychelles		
7.	Fit for Information Exchange: Are resident paying agents required to report to the	
	domestic tax administration information on payments to non-residents?	
	Seychelles does not require resident paying agents to tell the domestic tax	
	authorities about payments to non-residents	
8.	Efficiency of Tax Administration: Does the tax administration use taxpayer identifiers	
	for analysing information efficiently, and is there a large taxpayer unit?	
	Seychelles does not use appropriate tools for efficiently analysing tax related	
	information	
9.	Avoids Promoting Tax Evasion: Does the jurisdiction grant unilateral tax credits for	
	foreign tax payments?	
	Seychelles does not avoid promoting tax evasion via a tax credit system	

10.	Harmful Legal Vehicles: Does the jurisdiction allow cell companies and trusts with flee clauses?	
	Seychelles allows harmful legal vehicles	
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND COOPERATION – Seychelles		
11.	Anti-Money Laundering: Does the jurisdiction comply with the FATF	
	recommendations?	
	Seychelles does not comply with international anti-money laundering standards	
12.	Automatic Information Exchange: Does the jurisdiction participate fully in Automatic	
	Information Exchange such as the European Savings Tax Directive?	
	Seychelles does not participate fully in Automatic Information Exchange	
13.	Bilateral Treaties: Does the jurisdiction have at least 46 bilateral treaties providing for	
	information exchange upon request, or is it part of the European Council/OECD	
	convention?	
	As of 31 May, 2012, Seychelles had less than 46 tax information sharing agreements	
	complying with basic OECD requirements	
14.	International Transparency Commitments: Has the jurisdiction ratified the five most	
	relevant international treaties relating to financial transparency?	
	Seychelles has partly ratified relevant international treaties relating to financial	
	transparency	
15.	International Judicial Cooperation: Does the jurisdiction cooperate with other states on	
	money laundering and other criminal issues?	
	Seychelles does not cooperate with other states on money laundering and other criminal issues	

- http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/PDF/13-Bilateral-Treaties.pdf.
- <sup>2</sup> That data is available here: <u>http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/database/menu.xml</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> With the exception of KFSI 13 for which the cut-off date is 31.05.2013. For more details, look at the endnote number 2 in the corresponding KFSI-paper here:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com.