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# Issuance of an ePassport: Seychelles' Digital Border Strategy

Alan Renaud  
Principal Secretary  
Department for Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine  
Republic of Seychelles

# Seychelles introduced biometric passports in late 2022

## 1

### Biometric Data

The biometric passport contains fingerprints, facial biometric and digital signature elements.

## 2

### Contract

Long-time partner, IN Groupe, was awarded the contract (Dec 2021) after a competitive tender. First passport issued to the President in November 2022.

## 3

### ICAO PKD

On 30 August 2023, Seychelles joined the ICAO PKD.

## 4

### Delivery issues

Number of challenges including COVID & Chip shortages. Passport was rolled out earlier than planned due to issues with the existing passport printer.

## 5

### New design features

Proud to include environmental and cultural features such as the flora and fauna of the country, the Seychelles clock tower and the Aldabra Atoll.

# Evolving to biometric passports

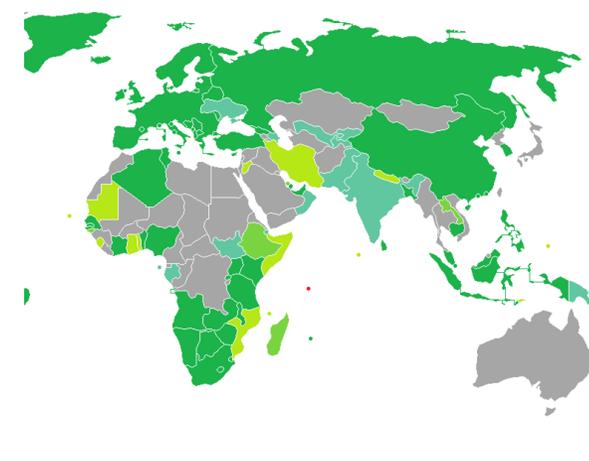
Part of a wider Digital Border Strategy



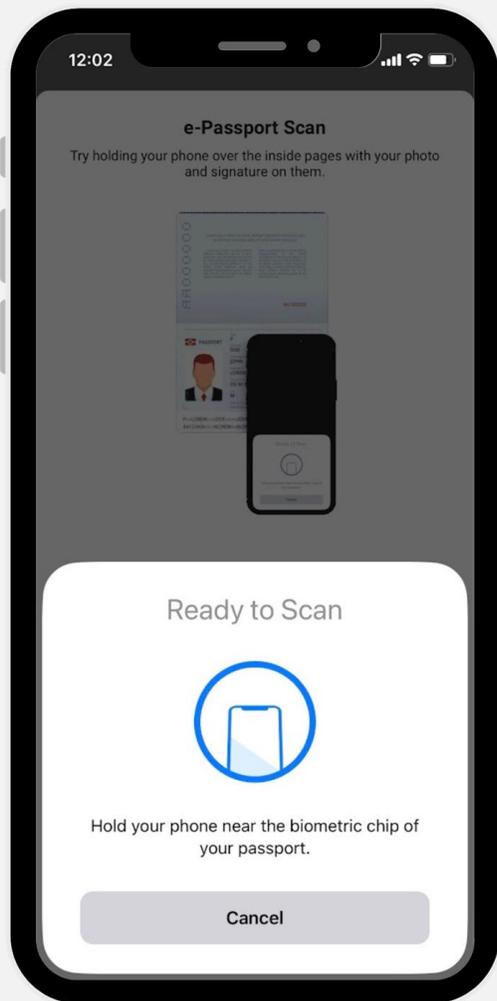
A comprehensive biometric border security programme was launched in 2021 (Seychelles Electronic Border System) including a **Border Management System, Multimodal API-PNR Targeting System and electronic Travel Authorization system** for smarter and more secure borders.



The ambition of the new passport was to offer to the citizen of Seychelles a seamless and secure travel experience with a document that **meets the latest ICAO recommendations (document 9303; 8th edition)** and integrates with the existing biometric border security programme.



Seychelles' passport is already the **most powerful in Africa with visa-free access to over 152 countries.** The shift to a biometric passport is expected to strengthen this further.



## Ongoing Integration Work

Implementing chip reading within existing biometric border security ecosystems

- We already have the capability to **read the chip via the Seychelles Electronic Border System mobile app**
- Work is underway to complete the implementation of chip reading and validation capabilities to our **Border Management System**
- We are working on the issuance of **Digital Travel Credentials (DTCs)** and implementation of bilateral agreements around the region

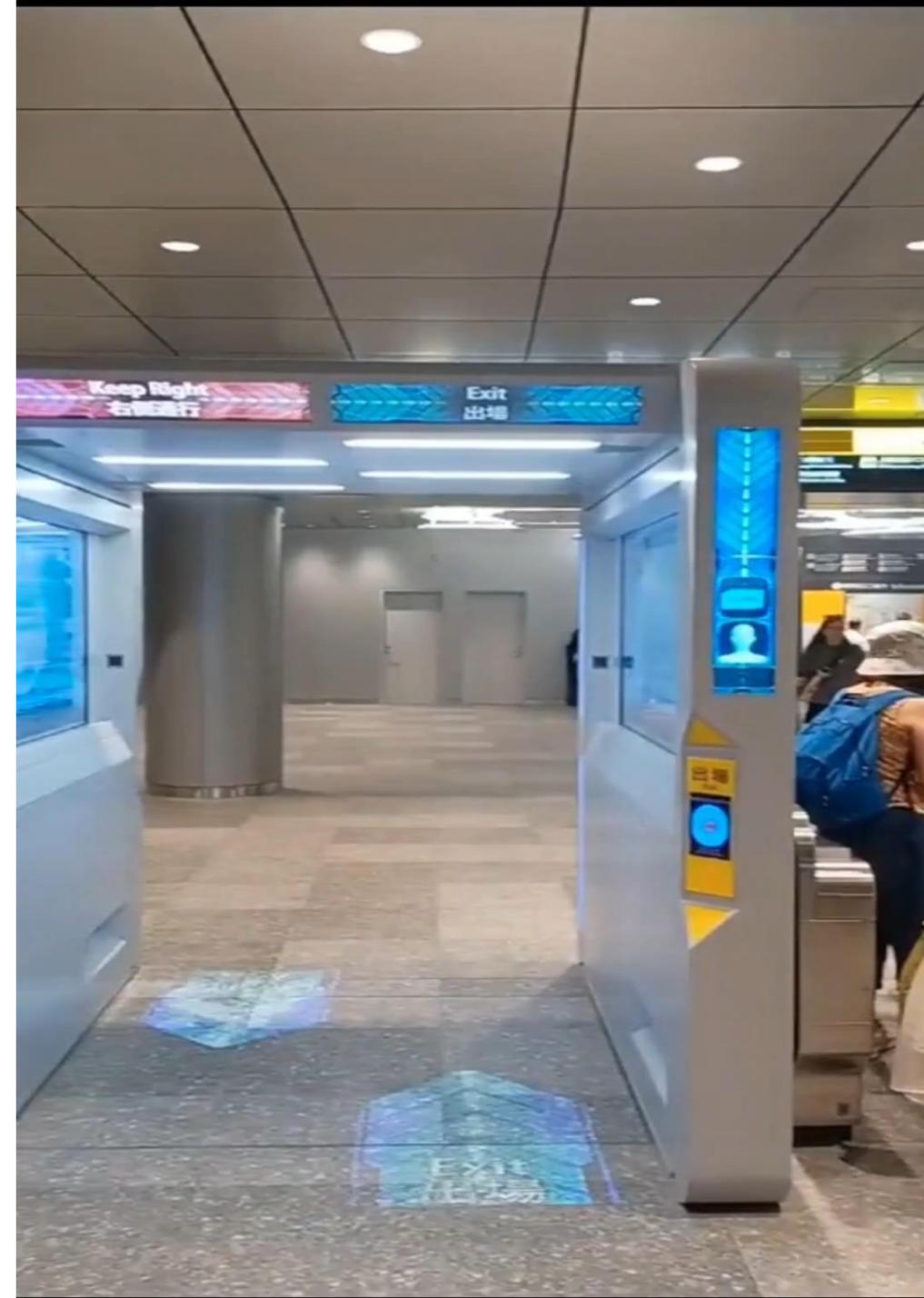
# ePassports open up new possibilities

## Tokenized entry/exit via Digital Travel Credentials (DTC)

Using a unique DTC (barcode) that is scanned on entry to identify and match the traveler 1-2-1.

Upon successful pre-enrolment, each traveler will be granted a unique DTC which they will be able to scan on arrival or departure for a fast-track entry/exit process.

Similar concept to eGates - automated border control checkpoints. In Japan, passengers scan their mobile barcode on an eGate before passing through an Immigration corridor.



# ePassports open up new possibilities

## Contactless entry / exit

Using advanced facial recognition technology, the biometric data stored in the ePassport can be used to accurately verify identity and allow recognised Seychellois ePassport holders to walk through the biometric corridor.

Seychelles has already introduced a walk-through Biometric Corridor for health screening and risk-categorisation. ePassports will soon enable non-stop contactless Immigration screening on arrival.



# Why no eGates?

## Implementing Borders of the Future

- 1. Space**

Seychelles International Airport is relatively small. eGates have a large footprint and interrupt passenger flow as passengers must stop and present themselves one by one.
- 2. Cost**

eGates signify an important acquisition and operational cost. Seychelles' biometric corridor, designed and developed by tech firm Travizory Border Security, was locally constructed and wholly-financed by revenue generated from Seychelles Electronic Border System.
- 3. Mobility**

Biometric corridors offer far greater fluidity than eGates for incoming travellers. A corridor can process up to 30 travellers per minute.
- 4. Maintenance**

eGates possess moving parts and as such, it incurs associated maintenance costs. Software updates to biometric readers result on added costs to the government.
- 5. Limitations**
  - a. Families
  - b. Elderly
  - c. Children

# Lessons for the Global Community



## Seamless entry / exit processes

Travellers want border crossings to be painless. Biometrics facilitate simple and secure arrival and departure processes



## Cross-agency collaboration

A single platform enhances efficiency - today 10 different agencies use SEBS for profiling, risk-assessment and real-time data



## Identity resolution

Greater situational awareness at the borders. Comprehensive view of the passenger (biographic and biometric) multimodal.

# Thank You

