Contents
01. Introduction from the Executive Chairman

02. History

03. The Vision and Mission

04. The Executive Committee

05. Library and Museum

06. Programmes
   - Blue Economy
   - Seychelles
   - Global Blue Diplomacy
   - Blue Economy Incubator
   - Climate Change and Sustainable Development
   - Scholarships
   - Research and Innovation

07. Become a member

08. Donate

09. Contact us
James Alix Michel
Former President of the Republic of Seychelles
INTRODUCTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

After twelve years as president of the Republic of Seychelles, and much longer before that in various posts in politics and administration, I have given thought to how I can continue to play a positive role in the country that remains at the heart of my life.

In part, there is a question of legacy, so that a record is provided of what have, indeed, been eventful years in the development of Seychelles. But it is not just a question of looking back. My wish, as well, is to look forward, to find a way to continue my contribution, yet this time outside the political arena. I have concluded that the best way to do this is to establish a personal Foundation.

The Foundation will be broad enough to embrace different activities but I would like it to be especially known for its focus on the Blue Economy, Climate Change, and Sustainability. These are all key issues for the small island state of Seychelles. But they are also of crucial importance regionally – across the Indian Ocean – and globally.

In my time as president, I have gained valuable experience of these issues and I enjoy access to a wide network of international contacts. I have been consistent in pressing the case for responsible policies on a global scale and I have gained the trust of numerous world leaders. Seychelles is a small nation but our mature response to the great challenge of promoting the Blue Economy, adapting and reducing the impact of Climate Change, and achieving the United Nation’s goals for Sustainable Development, is highly regarded. Under my past leadership, we have won the support of our own citizens and the international community alike.

Of course, there is so much more to be done and the Foundation that I have created will enable me to channel my efforts and aspirations for the good of all. I am eager to continue to work with young people, who are our future leaders. I am fascinated by the ingenuity of scientists and policy-makers who are responding to the great challenges we face with boundless skills and imagination. And I am enthusiastic to do all that I can in any role to advance the prospects of humanity.

The Foundation itself is apolitical, as is its governance, and trustees will be invited on that basis. My task will be to work with like-minded interests, to do everything I can to make a real difference. I am privileged to be in this position and all who know me will agree that anything less than making a great success of the venture is not on the agenda. I invite you all to join me on this new, exciting and essential journey.

James Alix Michel

Former President of the Republic of Seychelles
The James Michel Foundation was registered on 6th February 2017. The Foundation’s work stems from experience and legacy of Mr. Michel’s presidency between April 2004 and October 2016, particularly in three key areas in which he has been most active in promoting in Seychelles and in various international fora.

Here is a brief history of some of the areas of his work.
Blue Economy
Since 2011, President Michel has been lobbying various international agencies, including the UN and the African Union, to give greater importance and visibility to the sustainable development of oceans as part of the ‘Blue Economy’ concept. Mr. Michel also co-hosted the Blue Economy Summit in Abu Dhabi on two occasions as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week.

With Seychelles’ leadership and proactive diplomacy together with several small island states, the African Union adopted the Blue Economy as part of its economic development policy, and the United Nations included the oceans as part of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with Goal 14 being the sustainable use of oceans, in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

James Michel enabled Seychelles to become part of the Clinton Global Initiative Blue Guardians project, which aims to leverage big data solutions and harness informational tools to allow Small Island Developing States to set priorities in sustainably managing their fisheries, tourism and renewable energy sectors. The program is also raising a Blue Guardians multi-donor trust fund that will go to participating islands for technical assistance, data acquisition and natural resource management.

During his presidency, James Michel set up a Blue Economy Department to promote the concept to the Blue Economy, and he spearheaded a Blue Bonds initiative, to raise capital for the sustainable management of both ocean resources and fisheries using market mechanisms with the support of development institutions, as well as directing a $21 million debt-for-nature swap agreement with the Paris Club, as an innovative method of debt forgiveness in which a part of the country’s foreign debt was forgiven in exchange for a commitment for investments in domestic environmental conservation and sustainability projects.

This was done through the creation of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SEYCCAT), with aid from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and generous grants from a group of international conservation foundations, including the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

Under Michel’s presidency, Seychelles started its journey to become the first country in the world to have a comprehensive marine spatial plan for its entire ocean territory, which continues to be developed through an ongoing full survey of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone.

On the subject of the Blue Economy President Michel has written a book “Rethinking The Oceans – Towards the Blue Economy” which was published by Paragon House in June 2016.

He is also patron of the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute at the University of Seychelles, of which he is also the Chancellor.
Climate Change
President James Michel’s leadership in conservation of island biodiversity and the fight against climate change at a global level has on many occasions been highlighted at major international meetings. He has been vocal at global summits on climate change, and has lobbied industrialised nations to do more to reach a global climate agreement. In 2016 Seychelles was one of the first 16 countries to ratify the Paris Agreement, after global consensus was reached in 2015.

James Michel co-chaired the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) which brings together world leaders to promote action on conservation and sustainability of islands. GLISPA was formed following a call by President Michel and the President of Palau, Tommy Remengesau at the Mauritius International Meeting on Small Islands in January 2005 for an international partnership to build bridges between islands, regardless of their size and political status.

It is with GLISPA’s support that President Michel established the Sea Level Rise Foundation (SLRF) in Seychelles as a global initiative to bring together resources and expertise to help small island states, large countries with islands and other low-lying areas to adapt to the growing threat of sea level rise.

James Michel created the Seychelles Energy Commission, tasked with promoting and developing renewable energy in Seychelles, including setting up a Seychelles Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programme, enabling homeowners to apply for affordable loans to purchase energy efficient household appliances and solar energy panels. Mr. Michel laid the groundwork for the MASDAR Wind Energy Project for the creation of the first wind farm in the Seychelles, which was funded by the United Arab Emirates Abu Dhabi Government under the Abu Dhabi Fund.

He promoted the creation and financing of a new solar panel farm, through financing from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
James Michel has propelled Seychelles on the international scene as an ardent advocate of the cause of small island developing states (SIDS) and their sustainable development.

Sustainable development that reduces the vulnerability of small island states to climate change, food and energy crises remains at the forefront of Michel's agenda. He is also one of the patrons of the World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF).

During his presidency, Seychelles was ranked 1st to 3rd highest in Human Development Index in Africa, and also graduated to the status of ‘High-Income’ country within the World Bank classification.

He was responsible for the promulgation of legislation transforming half of Seychelles’ territory into nature reserves – the highest proportion in the world. At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, in 2014, Mr. Michel called for the introduction of a Vulnerability Index which would ensure that small islands states get a ‘fair deal’ within the global development architecture and affordable financing for development projects, considering that SIDS are the most vulnerable to the globalised economy.
THE VISION
AND MISSION
Vision
The James Michel Foundation is guided by a commitment to promote the Blue Economy concept, both in its national and international aspects, to sensitise people about climate change and its impacts on Seychelles and the world, to promote environmental protection and sustainable development and defend and promote the cause of small island developing states.

Mission
The Foundation aims to:
• encourage and sensitisise the people of Seychelles to partake in the promotion of the Blue Economy concept, both in its national and international aspects, especially through the use of a pro-active “blue diplomacy” as a means to further entrench the said concept in respect of the world development agenda;
• maintain and safeguard the environment for the present and future generations and to make the protection of our environment and the sustainable development concept a central tenet of all its activities and operations;
• actively promote awareness of climate change and its concomitant effects (sea-level rise, erosion, loss of biodiversity) with a view to sensitising the people from all cross-sections of the society of the threat they pose to Seychelles and the world, and the necessity of taking remedial action to reverse it;
• maintain Seychelles leadership role in all matters pertaining to the environment;
• promote research and development in the field of the Blue Economy;
• provide scholarships and training programmes for the young people of Seychelles with a proven aptitude for the Blue Economy;
• promote maritime security and food security from sustainable marine resources;
• promote energy efficiency and renewable energy; and
• provide seed-financing to young innovative entrepreneurs in sectors relating to the Blue Economy, through its “incubator programme”.
Executive Chairman
James Alix Michel was the third President of the Republic of Seychelles between April 2004 and October 2016. Prior to this he was the Vice-President and the longest serving Cabinet minister in Seychelles, serving a total of 39 years in the Cabinet. He is the patron of the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute and also patron of the Jj Spirit Foundation. He is the Chancellor of the University of Seychelles.

Vice-Chairman
Professor Dennis Hardy is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Seychelles. He was formerly deputy vice-chancellor of Middlesex University in London and later headed the university’s campus in Dubai. As an urban planning specialist, his most recent assignment was in South Australia. He has written numerous books and articles on communities, utopianism and planning history and is a past president of the International Communal Studies Association.

Treasurer
Jacquelin Dugasse was a minister of the Government of Seychelles for 19 years where he held portfolios in health, fisheries agriculture, international business, national development, employment, ICT, economic planning, land and housing. He is chartered accountant and owns an auditing, accounting and consultancy firm.

Secretary
Srdjana Janosevic, is currently the media adviser to President Michel. She was formerly Chief Press Secretary in the Office of the President during his tenure. She also worked as a journalist of the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation, reported for CNN International and was formerly Administrator of the Seychelles News Agency.
MEMBERS

Joseph Albert
Joseph Albert is tourism and hospitality expert and prominent businessman, who is currently the Chairman of Creole Travel Services Group. CTS has three primary business activities; one of the largest tour operators in Seychelles, ownership and management of 2 boutique hotels and ownership of fast ferry services ‘Cat Cocos’.

Paul Morin
Paul Morin is a Chairman and CEO of the Morin Group, which is a leading fisheries and sea cucumber industry operator in Seychelles. He is the Chairman of the Association of Members of the Seychelles Sea cucumber Industry and Vice-Chairman of the Fishermen and Boat Owners Association.

Doreen Monthy
Doreen Monthy was the Personal Assistant to President James Michel for thirty-three years during his service as a Minister, Vice-President and President of Republic of Seychelles.

Alejandro Angauuzzi
Alejandro Angauuzzi is a scientific expert in global fisheries and sustainable development. He is currently the Global Tuna Project Coordinator of the Common Oceans Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the Acting Executive Secretary of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, where he served as Executive Secretary and Science Manager for 15 years. He also worked for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission as a scientist for 14 years.

Maxim Behar
Maxim Behar is an awarding global PR expert and thought leader. He is the Chairman of M3 Communications Group in Bulgaria and President of the International Communications Consultancy Organisation. He is also the Consul General for Seychelles in the Republic of Bulgaria since 2004 and the Co-Founder of the Seychelles News Agency.

David Savy
David Savy is an aviation expert and business consultant, who was formerly Chairman and CEO of Air Seychelles for 14 years and formerly pilot captain of Boeing 757/767 aircraft. He is the Chairman of the Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority and Skychef/Servair. Capt Savy helped set-up the Seychelles EEZ maritime surveillance and monitoring program in the early 80’s whilst serving in the armed forces.

Ameer Ebrahim
Ameer Ebrahim is a marine conservationist and doctoral candidate in Marine Ecology at the University of Queensland. He is currently carrying out his PhD research in collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority. He is a member of the Seychelles chapter of the SID’s Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH).
The James Michel Foundation Library and Museum is the presidential library and museum of James Michel, the third president of the Republic of Seychelles (April 2004 – October 2016). It is located in “Espace Building” at Ile du Port, Mahé, Seychelles, which also houses the offices of the Foundation’s headquarters and those of the former president.

The purpose of the library and museum is several-fold, not least to:

(i) promote and preserve the legacy of President James Michel;

(ii) promote his accomplishments through educational programs and exhibits;

(iii) maintain and preserve documents, artefacts, gifts of state and museum exhibits that relate to the former president’s life and career;

(iv) provide scholars with access to Presidential documents;

(v) conduct oral history interviews with members of the public and Presidential administrations;

(vi) sponsor research conferences;

(vii) provide a supporting environment for research, discussions and consultations on the Blue Economy, climate change, small island developing states and sustainable development;

(viii) showcase Michel’s publications and interventions both in traditional print and electronic format;

(ix) provide the platform for an archival and retrieval centre;

(x) provide an active series of public programmes aimed especially at the youth.

The library features numerous items from Michel’s time as president, including books that he has written, speeches that he has delivered and interviews that he has given, other documents and photographs. The Library also contains a rare collection of books, manuscripts and books on Seychelles, some of which dating back to the 19th century.

The museum showcases artefacts from James A Michel’s three terms as president and include electronic information along with physical documents, as well as various personal gifts and items of local historical and cultural value.

The Digital Library of President Michel’s press releases, speeches, messages, photo galleries and videos can be accessed on www.jamesalixmichel.com.
We can make a difference by being more inventive. We should look not simply at the way the sea has been used in the past and replicate that. Of course, we must listen to fishermen and boat-builders, divers and ship’s captains, who have a deep understanding of the sea and what it can offer. But we must also invite some of the world’s best minds to turn their attention to the oceans, breaking new frontiers of knowledge and application.”

James Michel, 29th November, 2016
Seychelles

The James Michel Foundation takes an active role in the promotion of Seychelles Blue Economy activities; engaging with the business and maritime communities, scientists, NGOs, academic institutions, government agencies and departments, to encourage the implementation of the Blue Economy initiatives in the islands where:

- the ocean’s great resources should be used sustainably;
- economic benefits should be distributed fairly; and
- the carbon footprint of the country should be reduced.

The James Michel Foundation organises conferences, workshops, training sessions and other networking events in order to give life to the Blue Economy movement in the islands.

The James Michel Foundation engages with Seychellois investors and entrepreneurs for the development of new business ventures in the Blue Economy and also connects foreign investor with potential Blue Economy partners in Seychelles.
Global Blue Diplomacy

The James Michel Foundation spearheads the Global Blue Diplomacy programme, engaging world leaders, scientific experts and philanthropists, while seeking support from the scientific community, governments, civil society and private businesses to promote and realise Blue Economy initiatives around the world, as a unique model of ocean conservation and economic development.

While the James Michel Foundation does not directly implement global projects, it facilitates the Blue Economy movement around the world by helping people and organisations to network, start new partnerships, pool resources, and make an active contribution to the Blue Economy paradigm being discussed on the international scene.

The James Michel Foundation engages with international organisations and promotes the Blue Economy concept at international events, to seek greater support of the international community for Blue Economy initiatives and policies.

Through networking events, knowledge-building partnerships, and media engagements, the James Michel Foundation seeks to create a greater awareness of the challenges faced in developing and implementing Blue Economy strategies.
“The success of the Blue Economy will depend on unleashing a new generation of entrepreneurs who can match the impact of the likes of Bill Gates and Steve Jobs in the legendary Silicon Valley. Can we anticipate individuals who can do the same for the Blue Economy, creating a global transformation in our use of the sea? We can learn much from the example of the Information Age pioneers.

Their success was not a result of top-down planning. Instead, young people found their way to a particular locality, attracted by an absence of inhibiting rules and regulations, by the inspiration of being with other like-minded individuals and by the proximity of the world-class Stanford University. They made good use of vacant garages and front-rooms, dressed casually and played loud music. Their genius was not only to come up with ground-breaking ideas but to turn these into business opportunities. It was a heady mix but surely we could imagine comparable clusters of bright young people at different points around our oceans”.

James Alix Michel- 29th November 2016.
You can dive into the Blue Economy, with all its opportunities for sustainable ocean-based businesses, by applying for support under the Blue Economy Incubator Programme.

The programme is a start-up incubator that encourages young, ambitious Seychellois entrepreneurs to develop innovative business ventures that will become leading ventures in the Blue Economy.

The James Michel Foundation may provide funding, technological and administrative support, as well as introductions to potential partners and investors.

**The Blue Economy Incubator Programme includes:**

- Advice on creating a feasible and profitable business plan.

- Start-up funding – successful applicants may receive seed funding for the implementation of their business proposal, according to a strict set of criteria. Projects will be selected by a committee and funding for their implementation will be sought from donors.

- Training sessions and mentorship by technological experts, entrepreneurs and coaches.

- Advice and support for setting up a new business, including recruitment and management advice.

- Meetings with potential investors to pitch investment proposals.
“Climate change... a crime against humanity. We are all guilty. And we are all victims. But increasingly, SIDS [Small Island Developing States] themselves, are refusing to be victims.” James Michel, 23rd September 2014.
Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The need for clear thinking and constructive action on the vexed issue of Climate Change has never been greater. America’s threat to withdraw from the Paris Agreement highlights the fragility of international progress. Yet, while politicians talk, the waters of our oceans reach ever higher around the shores of small island states. In some cases, the very future of such nations is in jeopardy, the homes and livelihood of thousands if not millions will be lost.

James Michel has been in the forefront of leaders who have warned of this impending threat. His message to the rest of the world, and his call for action, has been loud and clear:

Climate change... is a crime against humanity. We are all guilty. And we are all victims. But increasingly, SIDS [Small Island Developing States] themselves, are refusing to be victims. James Michel, 23rd September 2014.

Continuing this campaign, he sees in his Foundation a new opportunity to increase global awareness and encourage a concerted response. He speaks for small island states but he speaks for the rest of the world too. Climate Change will affect us all; it is a global issue. Nor can it be seen on its own, for Climate Change and the idea of Sustainability are inseparable. That is why the Foundation will champion the implementation of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Promoting the adoption of renewable sources of energy and other sustainable practices will show what can be done now to mitigate the impact of rising temperatures and consequent conditions.

Funds are available from various sources, local and international, to support research and practical actions, and the Foundation will provide an effective means to tap into these, within Seychelles and through a wider network. It will create outreach programmes and partnerships with local and international organisations that are equally concerned with these issues and which, like Seychelles, wish to bring tangible benefits to their own communities.
Scholarships

The James Michel Foundation strives to encourage post-secondary school graduates and mid-career professionals in Seychelles to study and obtain qualifications that will enable them to enter a fulfilling career in the Blue Economy or increase their knowledge in the field.

The scholarship scheme is designed for applicants with appropriate qualifications who would like to undertake short courses as well as undergraduate or post-graduate studies at selected academic and training institutions.

Details of the fields of study as well as conditions pertaining to tuition and living costs, will be advertised in due course.

The James Michel Foundation can also help the prospective applicants for a scholarship to find the right institution for their field of study. The Foundation has established contact with a number of institutions worldwide, offering a wide range of courses and will help their members to apply for those courses.
Research and Innovation

The James Michel Foundation is a think-tank for research and innovation in the Blue Economy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. It puts a premium on the potential of science and human ingenuity to tackle three of the world’s most challenging issues.

The Foundation will work alongside the many local and international academic institutions and NGOs but it will also aspire to be a hub for ideas that cross organisational and national boundaries. Being itself in a small island state in the middle of a great ocean it will speak for others in a similar situation. But the focus on research and innovation will be directed to the rest of the world too.

Young scholars and entrepreneurs will be encouraged to come to Seychelles to share ideas and together create new ones. The Foundation will create an exciting environment where innovation will flourish.

Directly linked to the Foundation, the James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute of the University of Seychelles will offer important links to leading institutions worldwide, and will provide a flow of information on the latest developments in the Blue Economy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

James Michel himself has gained a deserved reputation as a visionary and the blend of his experience and contacts with international leaders, combined with the energy and enthusiasm of youth will underpin the ambitious goals of the Foundation. There are no limits to what can be achieved.
BECOME A MEMBER

In order to become an Associated Member of the James Michel Foundation, you need to make your application in writing to the Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Membership is open to any individual or organization that wishes to promote the aims and objectives of the Foundation and take active part in its programmes.
The former President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. James Alix Michel, has dedicated his life to the service of the Seychellois people and is passionate about protecting the environment while ensuring the economic prosperity of the country.

Mr. Michel’s work in promoting the Blue Economy, Sustainable Development and the fight against Climate Change has been recognized worldwide. With the James Michel Foundation as a non-political, non-governmental organisation, President Michel will continue to champion these causes and empower many others to join him in this movement.

The James Michel Foundation is dependent on the voluntary support and donations of generous individuals and organizations to carry implement its programmes and events in Seychelles and overseas.

If you would like to donate to the Foundation, please contact us for more information on the necessary procedures.

For businesses in Seychelles that are liable to pay Corporate Social Responsibility tax, the donations made to the James Michel Foundation are eligible for the 0.25 % offset against any donations made, sponsorship or projects paid for by the business and approved by a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Tax Committee, of the Seychelles Government.
CONTACT US

Address:
The James Michel Foundation
3rd Floor, Espace Building
P. O. Box 1605
Victoria, Mahe
Seychelles

Office Number: (+248) 4321682
Email: info@jamesmichelfoundation.org
Website: http://www.jamesmichelfoundation.org/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jamesmichelfoundation
Twitter: https://twitter.com/JMICHELFOUNDATN
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/foundationjamesmichel/
Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/jmfoundation
YouTube: https://goo.gl/gPTwII