

FishGuard — Seychelles' AI-Equipped Drones for Illegal Fishing Detection Across a 1.3-Million-km² Exclusive Economic Zone

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Seychelles

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Facing a 1.3-million-km² ocean territory patrolled by only a handful of boats, Seychelles piloted AI-equipped long-range drones in 2018 that autonomously classify vessels for illegal fishing, then formally procured two operational units for its Air Force and Coast Guard in 2021.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-06

Seychelles Fisheries Authority (with Seychelles Coast Guard and Air Force; original pilot with ATLAN Space, Trygg Mat Tracking and GRID-Arendal) — accessed 2026-08-06

Seychelles News Agency — Project FishGuard launch — accessed 2026-08-06

DroneLife — 2018 pilot, National Geographic funding, ATLAN Space — accessed 2026-08-06

Africa Defense Forum — 2021 drone procurement and operational limits — accessed 2026-08-06

UNEP — partnership structure and technology description — accessed 2026-08-06

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