



Formulating a civil society agenda for action on climate change in Saint Lucia Project concept note

Background

Saint Lucia's geographic location, topographic profile and specific social and economic factors (such as high unemployment rate, the absence of a diversified economic base and the heavy dependence on two main economic sectors, tourism and agriculture) make it vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change.

Historically, hurricanes and floods have had the most disastrous impacts. In the last half century, seven storms and hurricanes have resulted in the loss of life and property. The 1980 Hurricane Allen for example, caused nine deaths, rendered 6,000 persons homeless, and caused damage estimated at EC\$250 million. In 1999, the eastward moving Hurricane Lenny generated storm surge that caused extensive damage in coastal areas. These events cause the diversion of limited resources from other development priorities towards relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

Human activities have also enhanced the risk from natural events. Deforestation, inappropriate land use, poorly planned physical development, and certain agricultural practices increase the risk of landslides and flooding that cause substantial damage to property, crops and coastal resources. Increasing volumes and improper disposal of solid wastes also contributes to flooding, particularly in built up areas, and increases risks of disease and contamination.

Saint Lucia depends on surface sources to meet its water requirements. Severe, prolonged drought events have reduced the attractiveness of the islands natural scenery and caused potable water rationing which have diminished the appeal of the tourism product. Droughts have also adversely affected agricultural development, the quality of fruit exported and have contributed to the increase in the incidence of vector borne and respiratory diseases on the island.

The government of Saint Lucia has prepared a National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan providing broad guidance on processes, plans and strategies to address the impacts of climate change and guide adaptation. A "civil society agenda for climate change" will identify specific roles and responsibilities for civil society and describe processes, plans and strategies to include civil society in the decision making and implementation of responses to the impacts of climate change.

Target country

The target country is Saint Lucia.

Intended beneficiaries

Participants will be drawn from civil society (non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), the private sector inclusive of hoteliers and consultants, media and academia) engaged in issues involved in livelihoods and the management of natural resources.

Project duration

The project will last for five months.

Goal

To build the capacity for civil society to participate in decision-making and action to address the negative impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.

Objectives

- To enhance the understanding of civil society about climate change, the impacts on natural resources and associated livelihoods, and potential actions to address this.
- To enhance the awareness and understanding of civil society about what the Government of Saint Lucia officially plans to do to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.
- To support civil society to develop a plan of action on what they will do to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.
- To support civil society to identify and communicate priorities for action to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods

Methodology/approach

The project is designed to implement several strategies key to its success:

- **Increasing knowledge and understanding** about climate change and its impacts on natural resources and associated livelihoods in Saint Lucia in civil society;
- **Building the capacity of civil society to assume a role** in decision making to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods;
- **Strengthening civil society voice** so that the government will recognise and value their input in decision making to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods;

Indicative activities

This project has three main activities.

1. The **proposal development and project management** component will include planning meetings and organizing and managing resources to support the activities under the project.
2. A **four-day national workshop** will be held in Saint Lucia, with the assistance of a local civil society organization, the Saint Lucia National Trust, to enhance understanding and awareness about climate change and to draft a plan of action to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods

3. The final component, “**Preparation of “civil society’s agenda” and sharing of lessons learned and experiences**”, will entail the preparation and dissemination of 6 page citizen’s agenda, hosting of a discussion forum on the development of the agenda on CANARI’s Facebook page, posting YouTube videos and hosting a project page on CANARI’s website.

Outputs

- **Report on four-day workshop** summarising the findings and documenting the approach and lessons learned.
- **Civil society agenda for action on climate change** 6 page document describing what is at stake, identifying the need for a civil society agenda on climate change, detailing priorities, indicating key interests and proposing roles that civil society could assume to drive the implementation of the plan
- **Facebook discussion** to contribute to sharing of lessons learned and experiences among workshop participants and the wider Caribbean on the process of developing the citizen’s agenda .
- **YouTube videos** to document and share experiences and lessons learned about developing a plan of action to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.
- **Media releases** to the general public in Saint Lucia and for CANARI’s website to advise the general public about the development of the civil society’s agenda on climate change.
- **Project webpage** on CANARI’s website to contribute to sharing of lessons learned and experiences among civil society organizations in Saint Lucia and the wider Caribbean.

Outcomes

- Civil society organisations mobilised, energised, and supported to work collaboratively to address the impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.
- Civil society organisations communicating to government about what are the priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation and what role civil society can play.

Implementing Organisation

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional non-profit organisation dedicated to working at multiple levels to develop, test, promote and support local, national and regional efforts aimed at improving the management of natural resources and the livelihoods of those who depend on them, through inclusive, participatory approaches. CANARI’s mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing the natural resources critical to development. Its geographic focus is the islands of the Caribbean, including all independent countries as well as the dependent territories of France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

CANARI has extensive experience working on participatory forest management and has been awarded in 2009 the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation prestigious award for the Institute's exceptional contribution to biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean.