

Saint Lucia - Enhancing Urban Flood Resilience in Castries and Anse La Raye with Nature-Based Solutions

Country

Saint Lucia

EURCa Component

Mainstream Resilience

Amount approved

€850,000 / \$895,000

Duration

09/2024 – 10/2026

Context and Objectives

Saint Lucia is particularly vulnerable to disaster and climate shocks. Located in the Caribbean hurricane belt, the island faces both slow-onset events (sea level rise, coastal erosion) and sudden-onset events (hurricanes, flooding, landslides). Extreme flooding events were recorded in 1980, 1994, 2010, 2013, and most recently in November 2022, imposing significant economic and social costs in low-lying coastal zones, such as the capital Castries as well as Anse La Raye.

The objective of this project is to enhance the government's knowledge of flood hazards and risks impacting Castries and Anse La Raye and build capacities to define and implement a

program of flood risk management and resilient infrastructure investments. Investments identified through this grant are informing the design of a World Bank project currently under preparation.

Main Activities and Expected Results

Recipient-executed: Identification of prioritized investments for flood risk reduction

This activity identifies pre-feasibility flood risk mitigation measures and interventions with particular attention on nature-based solutions. Cost-benefit analyses, the study of social and environmental implications, and stakeholder input are being used to select preferred interventions. The work under this activity is further divided into two streams:

- **Development of models and databases.** This part consists of the development of databases for flood hazard and flood risk assessment, the determination of flood risk baseline conditions under current and future climate projections, and the final pre-feasibility study.
- **Identification of prioritized investments for flood risk reduction.** This study assesses the economic feasibility of risk reduction alternatives, their social and environmental impact, technical limitations, and maintenance implications.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced capacities of relevant sectoral authorities and DRR practitioners to mainstream disaster and climate risk in sectoral strategies, policies, plans and investments.
- Enhanced capacities of the competent authorities in understanding, developing, and using disaster risk financing instruments and strategies.
- Improved capacity in flood risk analysis, in the development and design of interventions, and the execution of the necessary maintenance activities.

Recipient-executed: Training and capacity building for implementation readiness

This activity focuses on enhancing the capacity across key government agencies to strengthen project implementation readiness. Training of counterpart staff is provided to build capacity in flood risk analysis,



in the development and design of interventions, and the execution of the necessary maintenance activities.

Expected Results:

- Improved government capacities for risk identification, risk reduction, preparedness and other project implementation capacities. The proposed activity will also assess gaps and support activities to enhance preparedness systems.
- Improved preparedness, response and recovery measures, infrastructures and capacities of national and subnational authorities and local communities to respond to emergencies and disasters.
- Improved capacity in flood risk analysis, in the development and design of interventions, and the execution of the necessary maintenance activities.

Bank-executed: Implementation support

Activities include supporting the Project Coordination Unit with the preparation of Terms of Reference, the design and execution of capacity-building activities for strengthened project management capacities, the execution of technical training activities, and technical expert support as needed.

Partnerships and Coordination

The World Bank implements the project in close coordination with the Department of Economic Development. The project team coordinates its efforts with the EU Delegation in Barbados. The project also leverages data provided by partners such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). Additionally, consultation is conducted with EUROCLIMA, the Caribbean Development Bank and their EU-funded water management project with WASCO, the national water utility, and with the EIB on their regional project focused on water management and the ocean ecosystem.