

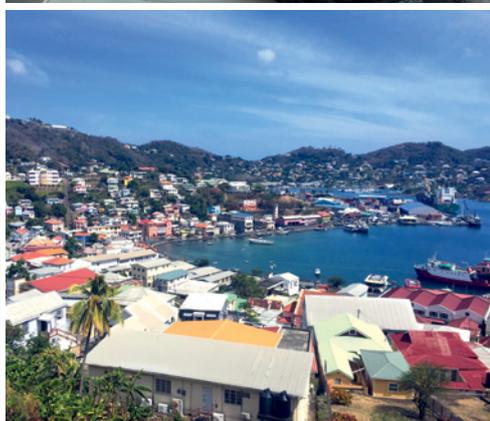
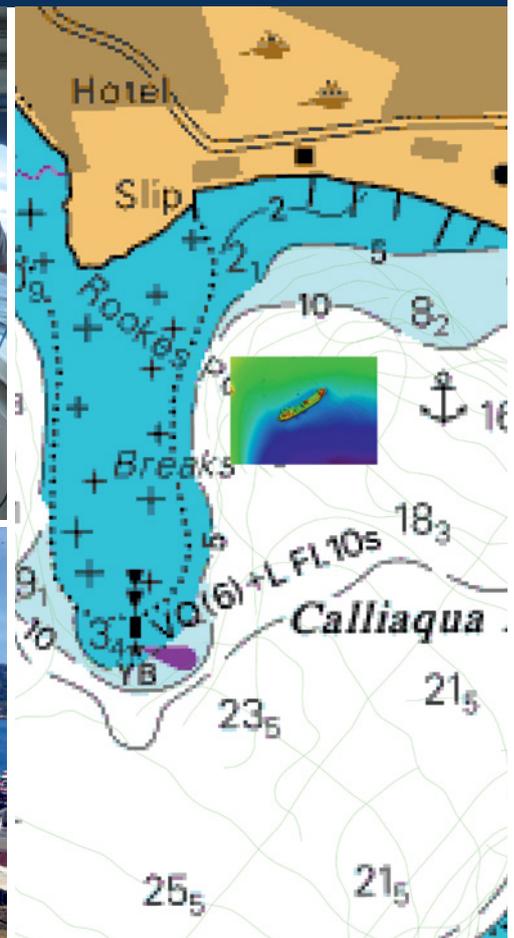
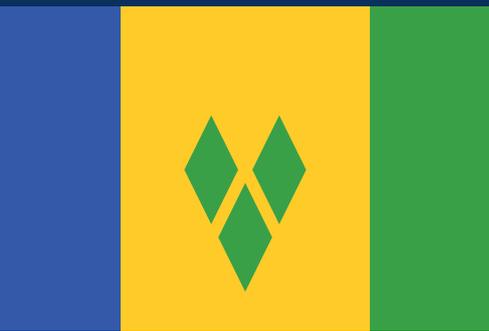
Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

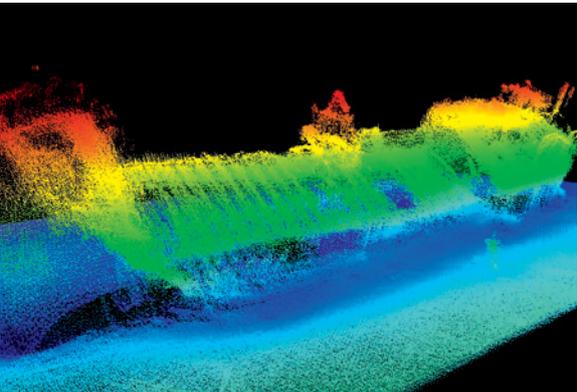
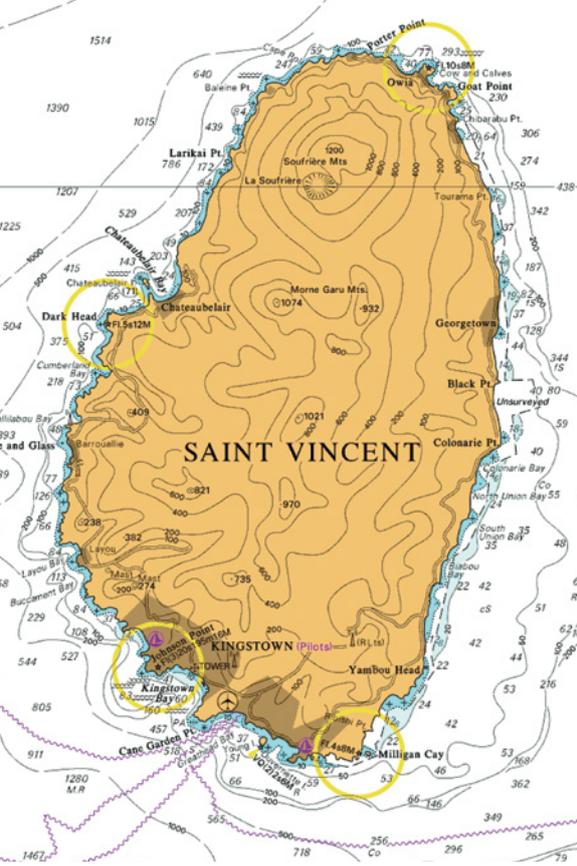


Funded by
UK Government

Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies
across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Country review





The CME Programme is designed to support sustainable, growing marine economies that create jobs, drive national economic growth, reduce poverty, ensure food security and build resilience against forces of nature. Funded by the UK Government and delivered by a partnership of world-leading marine organisations from the UK, the programme aims to ensure marine resources in Commonwealth SIDS are better understood and managed.

This review highlights opportunities where the UK can apply and leverage its world-leading expertise to make significant, cost-effective and lasting positive impacts on each country.

Relevant strategic plans

International – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is subject to international laws and obligations such as listed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; Safety of Life at Sea; Conservation of Biological Diversity (Aichi Targets); SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (including Sustainable Development Goals; 2 – Zero hunger; 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 13 – Climate action; 14 – Life below water).

Regional – Relevant mechanisms and bodies within the Caribbean include Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism; Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project; the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project, and the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy.

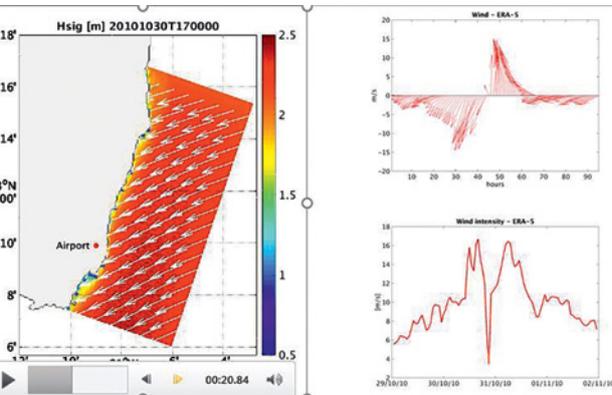
National – National strategies for enabling the safe and sustainable development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' marine environments include; the Development of a National Ocean Policy (2013); National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan (2004-2006); National Parks and Protected Areas Systems Plan (2010-2014), and a Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2012, draft).



Challenges faced

Management of coastal and marine environments –

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has signed up to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to protect 20% of its coastal waters by 2020, and has already benefited from considerable activity conducted through the CME Programme. Extensive seabed and habitat mapping has been undertaken, resulting in a range of products including new navigational charts and habitat maps. All of the data collected has been passed on to the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and while some training on effective use of these datasets has been provided, challenges remain for managing, sharing and utilising these datasets. If this data cannot be fully understood, accessed and exploited by local stakeholders, its full value will not be realised.



Hydrographic governance and coordination – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines needs to ensure the appropriate maintenance of their high quality hydrographic data holdings by improving their maritime safety information systems and hydrographic governance. The CME Programme can provide guidance in building self-sufficient governance systems, helping to ensure compliance with international obligations.

Sustainable use of marine resources – In 2017, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was identified as a non-cooperating third country under the EU's regulation to fight and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing due to the lack of control by the authorities of ships flying their flag. There is also a need for fisheries management capacity to sustainably exploit existing and potential additional stocks.

Protection and preservation of the marine environment – Maintaining the health and biodiversity of marine ecosystems within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is fundamental for environmentally sustainable development. In particular, the protection and preservation of coral reefs is of critical importance from both an environmental perspective and the ecosystem service they provide to the tourism sector. Characterisation of the impacts of marine pollution on the health of the marine ecosystems and water quality is needed to help improve wastewater management practices, and to better understand the impacts of ballast water and invasive species introductions. This is to understand routes of entry for invasive species to create plans to mitigate and manage accordingly.

Climate change impact assessment – Marine and coastal environments are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change through factors such as rising temperatures, ocean acidification, sea-level rise and invasive species. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines there is a particular requirement to increase capacity for mitigating the impacts of coastal erosion and reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities through adaptation strategies.

Understanding, quantifying and monitoring those factors and their effects on local marine ecosystems is essential for developing appropriate risk mitigation and coastal planning strategies.

Natural and environmental disasters – In 2010, Hurricane Tomas resulted in approximately USD \$3.3million worth of damage in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with critical road networks affected by landslides and the flooding of major rivers. Coastal infrastructure and marine environments need to be better adapted to the impact of natural hazards, with improved resilience built into systems to mitigate associated risks.

Training and capacity building – Improved awareness, skills and knowledge is required to enable Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to implement integrated ocean governance. Increasing both national and regional cooperation through the sharing of equipment and knowledge is also needed to reduce costs and improve decision making.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Activities and benefits

By providing data, training, advice and support, the CME Programme is designed to help address economic and environmental needs, leaving a lasting legacy of self-sufficiency in marine management.

Programme activities are split across six core themes, though potential action is not identified in every category in all Small Island Developing States.

Priority projects identified for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines include:

Marine data collection for environmental resilience (core output 1)

Activity – Develop risk assessment of non-native species introduction and management plan.

Benefits – Understand potential routes of introduction and provide management plan for local policy makers.

Activity – Habitat mapping to characterize marine biodiversity resources.

Benefits – Inform decision making to implement Marine Protected Areas as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative commitment using high quality data and evidence.

Monitoring and risk assessment to increase climate change resilience (core output 2)

Activity – Coastal vulnerability modelled and mapped and understood by local stakeholders. Mitigation activities advised to local policy makers.

Benefits – Provides local stakeholders with a better understanding of the impacts of waves and surges, and generates an enhanced understanding of the sensitivities of marine environmental and ecosystem services to climate change. The findings will consequently enable local planners and stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding the sustainable management of their marine resources, and will guide future coastal management and planning.

Science infrastructure development, training and knowledge exchange (core output 6)

Activity – Work with key maritime personnel to develop local hydrographic governance.

Benefits – Key elements of governance in place in line with IHO Phase 1 compliance, reducing potential barriers to international trade.

Activity – Work with key maritime personnel to develop local marine spatial data infrastructure.

Benefits – Allow the full value of existing data to be realised by enabling access, understanding and exploitation.

Programme outputs

If all of the potential activities were to be delivered, the CME Programme, working with key departments in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, would result in the following development of marine capacity by the end of the scheduled Programme.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
Limited, or no, characterisation of physical parameters in marine and maritime sectors.	The physical parameters of the key marine and maritime environments and sectors are mapped and quantified.	The physical parameters are analysed in terms of the biological, sociological and economic context, resulting in a more in depth appreciation of their vulnerabilities and opportunities/limitations for sustainable use.	Defensible policy is produced for the marine and maritime sectors that details consideration for the sustainable development of the ocean economy.	Full competency in undertaking the previous phases is developed and sustained across multiple sectors, leading to the safe and sustainable development of marine and maritime economies.

Output 1 – Marine data collection for environmental resilience and safe and efficient trade.

Output 2 – Monitoring and risk assessment to increase climate change resilience.

Output 3 – Decreasing pollution and improving human health.

Output 4 – Sustainable fisheries development.

Output 5 – Natural capital assessment.

Output 6 – Infrastructure development, training and knowledge exchange.

Expected impact

Through delivering these activities, outputs and benefits the CME Programme would help to facilitate:

Output 1 – Adherence to the UN convention on the Law of the Sea and Safety of Life at Sea; Reduction in the cost of imports and increase in the profitability of exports; Reduction in the risk of maritime accidents and damage to the environment; Ability for evidence-based decision making, leading to an increase in Marine Protected Areas; and evidence to sustainably manage and protect natural resources.

Output 2 – Reduce vulnerability of communities and environments vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; Integration with regional and global hazard monitoring networks; Informed coastal management and planning decisions.

Output 4 – Reduced pressure on existing fish stocks and marine environments.

Output 5 – Enhanced awareness of the social and economic value of marine ecosystems; Quantification of the cost/benefit ratio of existing policy options, supporting decision making.

Output 6 – Confidence and ability to make sound independent decisions regarding the development of marine environments; Access to state-of-the-art marine equipment, models and techniques; Development of national and international networks.

Strategic outcomes

By better understanding and managing the marine resource potential within Saint Vincent and the Grenadines the CME Programme will help create jobs, drive national economic growth and reduce poverty through:

Prosperity – Diversifying revenue potential by opening up new economic opportunities.

Sustainability – Ensuring all marine and maritime activities are environmentally safe and sustainable.

Security – Making infrastructure and human capital resilient to natural disasters and climate change.

Legacy – Building the capacity of national authorities to plan and optimise their marine spaces.

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

The CME Programme is being delivered on behalf of the UK Government by a partnership of world-leading marine expertise.


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