

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme



Funded by
UK Government

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

St Lucia

Country review



Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science



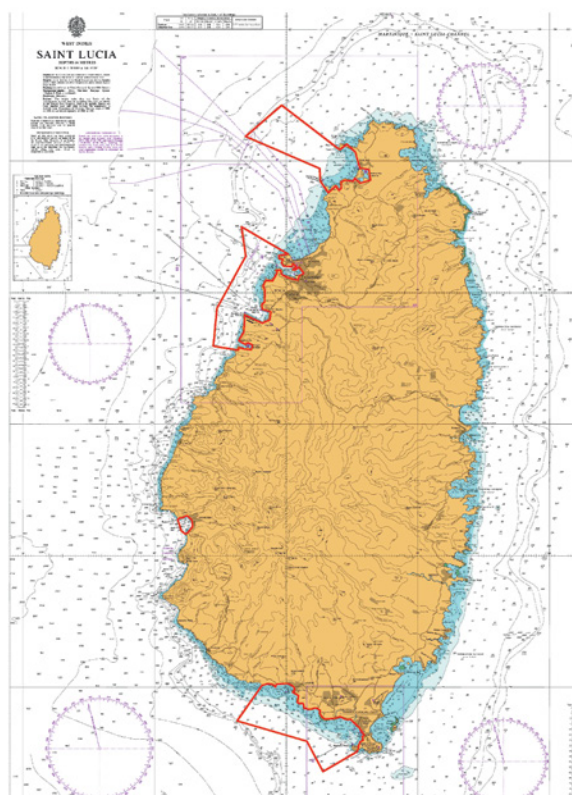
UK Hydrographic
Office



National
Oceanography Centre
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



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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 – St Lucia is subject to international requirements and obligations as listed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea; Safety of Life at Sea; Conservation of Biological Diversity (Aichi Targets); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway; and the United Nations 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 St Lucia’s marine environments include; the National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan; the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Development of a Coastal Zone Management Strategy and Action Plan for St Lucia.



Challenges faced

Management of coastal and marine environments –

St Lucia has signed up to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to protect 20% of its coastal waters by 2020. However, the current lack of environmental and biological data has limited current decisions to support economic development. The lack of up-to-date, modern data has a number of impacts on the successful management of St Lucia's marine estate. St Lucia has an urgent need for modern data and modernised charts that will support the safety of navigation and sustainable decision making for port/coastal development and environmental management. In fisheries management there is a lack of enforcement capacity, and an interest to develop priority aquaculture products. There is also a need to develop capacity in spatial planning and data management, and evaluate data to understand the cost and benefits of different policy options in light of a number of large-scale developments.

Safety and security – None of St Lucia's seabed has been surveyed to modern standards, and this is having a direct impact on the wider marine economy by reducing the efficiency of imports and exports and increasing risk of a maritime accident. It is also restricting tourist access by cruise ship. To enable and encourage safe navigation for ships in St Lucia's waters, official navigational charts for St Lucia need to be updated.

Hydrographic governance and coordination – None of the relevant agencies with St Lucia have current capacity to undertake seabed mapping to modern standards. There is also strong potential for improving hydrographic governance, so that requirements and data are appropriately shared to derive the maximum value and benefit. Some government departments are not aware of the importance to pass on data or maritime safety information to their Maritime Unit for wider dissemination in line with international obligations.

Protection and preservation of the marine environment – Maintaining the health and biodiversity of marine ecosystems within St Lucia is key for sustainable development. In particular, the protection and preservation of coral reefs is of critical importance from both an environmental perspective and for their role in the tourism sector.

Characterisation of the impacts of marine pollution (through effluent and run off) on the health of the marine ecosystems was identified as a key issue, and water quality data is needed to help improve wastewater management practices, and to better understand the impacts of ballast water and invasive species introductions.

Climate change impact assessment – Marine and coastal environments are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change through factors such as ocean acidification, sea-level rise and invasive species. 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 \$336m worth of damages in St Lucia. Coastal infrastructure and marine environments need to be better protected from the impact of natural hazards, with improved resilience built into systems as a mechanism for mitigating the associated risks.

Training and capacity building – Improved awareness, skills and knowledge are required across marine sectors to enable St Lucia to implement integrated ocean governance. There is also an opportunity to increase both national and regional cooperation through the sharing of assets and knowledge in order to help reduce costs and improve decision makers' understanding.

St Lucia – 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 St Lucia include:

Marine data collection for environmental resilience, and safe and efficient trade (core output 1)

Activity – High quality hydrographic data collection with provision for later augmentation for habitat mapping, leading to new modern editions of navigational charts, improved compliance with international obligations and data supplied to local states to inform onward management of the marine environment.

Benefits – Improving overall safety of navigation: reducing risk to lives and the environment. Enabling cargo ships to reduce their under keel clearance with confidence, therefore reducing costs and thereby increasing profit. Helping encourage cruise ships to visit.

Activity – Mapping of key ecosystems (e.g. seagrass) through small and large-scale habitat maps.

Benefits – To enable decision makers to determine sustainable development priorities, to protect biodiversity resources and designate Marine Protected Areas.

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

Activity – Regional Climate Change Report Card.

Benefits – To provide climate change information to support effective climate change adaptation.

Activity – Enable effective sea-level monitoring to aid environmental resilience.

Benefits – To advise on infrastructure build and development of coastal defences.

Decreasing pollution and improving human health (core output 3)

Activity – Monitor and facilitate management action on effluents and run-off.

Benefits – To advise on priority actions to remove or reduce pollution.

Sustainable fisheries development (core output 4)

Activity – Support the introduction of effective monitoring and enforcement of IUU fishing.

Benefits – To enable sustainable exploitation through capture fisheries.

Activity – Advise the introduction of aquaculture processes for key commercial species (e.g. lobster) and food fish for local consumption (e.g. tilapia).

Benefits – To enable sustainable exploitation of aquaculture products, to provide alternative livelihood opportunities, and provide solutions to the future food security challenge.

Natural capital assessment (core output 5)

Activity – To quantify the socio-economic value of key ecosystems.

Benefits – To enable cost benefit analysis of different policy options (e.g. placement of coastal infrastructure in relation to marine habitats).

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

Activity – Work with key maritime personnel to develop local hydrographic governance and create a National Hydrographic Committee or similar.

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

Activity – Seabed mapping data handover workshop.

Benefits – Ability of local personnel to understand and utilise acquired seabed mapping data in country.

Activity – GIS training.

Benefits – Ability of local staff to support spatial management of territorial waters and inform sustainable infrastructure development.

Activity – Data management training.

Benefits – To enable effective access and sharing of key data.

Programme outputs

If all of the potential activities were to be delivered, the CME Programme, working with key departments in St Lucia, 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; Evidence to sustainably manage and protect natural resources.

Output 2 – Identification 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 – Development of new opportunities for aquaculture diversification; Enhanced economic potential of existing products.

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 St Lucia 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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