

SECTORAL RECOVERY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR DOMINICA'S TOURISM SECTOR

CONTEXT

The Caribbean region is highly prone to disasters, causing destruction of infrastructure and property, loss of income, and costs as individuals and businesses work around disruptions. Disasters jeopardize sustainable development and economic growth prospects and have a disproportionate impact on the poor. Indeed, the economic damages and losses related to natural hazards in the Caribbean represent a yearly average of 3.6 percent of the regional Gross Domestic Product.¹

Fast and inclusive recovery efforts in the aftermath of disasters can lower social and economic burdens and allow a more rapid recovery of development levels². With climate change and the prospect of more frequent hydrometeorological disasters, resilient recovery planning and investments have become a priority for the region. This involves assessing and building the capacity needed to ensure the fast and efficient restoration of services, economic activities, and infrastructure.

Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment (SRCA), developed by the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF)³ and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), analyzes the capacity of key sectors for efficient and coordinated recovery and provides recommendations to improve recovery processes along three main axes: Governance, Competencies and Resources and Tools. Results are part of CDEMA's Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit tool.

THE TOURISM SECTOR IN DOMINICA:

- Contributes 32.2 percent of GDP (2019)⁴.
- Represents 82 percent of total exports⁴.
- Employs 35.9 percent of the labor force⁴.
- Is highly exposed to natural hazards and vulnerable to climate change.
- Is highly dependent on infrastructure.

THE SRCA FOR DOMINICA'S TOURISM

With the objective of assessing the capacity Dominica's tourism sector to plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate climate resilient and inclusive recovery projects, the SRCA was implemented in the country's tourism sector under the leadership of the Ministry of Tourism, International Transport and Maritime Initiatives (Ministry of Tourism) and the Office of Disaster Management (ODM), with the support of the CRF, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

- 1 Rozenberg, J. et. al (2021). 360° Resilience: A Guide to Prepare the Caribbean for a New Generation of Shocks. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- 2 Hallegatte, S., Rentschler, J. and Walsh, B. (2018). Building Back Better: Achieving Resilience through Stronger, Faster, and More Inclusive Post-Disaster Reconstruction. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- 3 The Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF) is hosted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank Group.
- 4 World Travel and Tourism Council (2021). *Dominica Economic Impact Report*. Available at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>

KEY RESULTS

The capacity of Dominica's tourism sector to implement climate resilient and inclusive recovery projects in a timely, efficient, and effective manner is evaluated as basic.

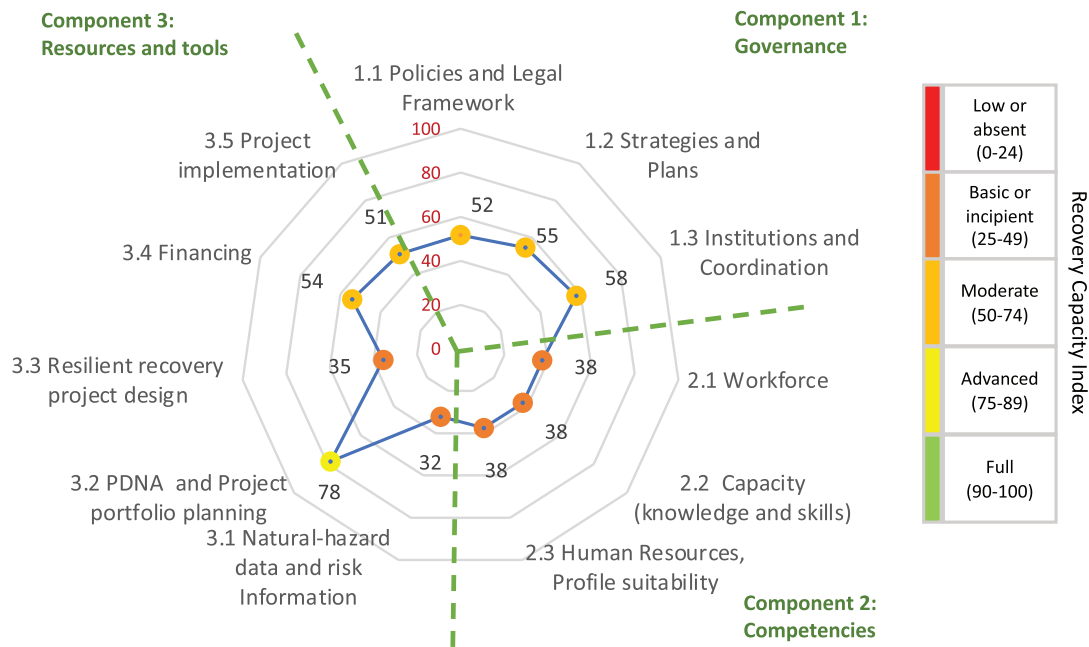
STRENGTHS:

- Major progress has been made in the integration of recovery and climate resilience in national and sectoral policy and strategic processes supporting Dominica's vision of becoming the first climate resilient nation in the world.
- There is a moderate level of resources and tools available for recovery.

CONSTRAINTS:

- Incipient competencies, operational capacity and skills available within the Ministry of Tourism and the private actors involved in the sector limit the planning, implementation and monitoring of recovery projects.
- There is a critical need to strengthen and sustain disaster risk management, gender and disability mainstreaming capacity within the Ministry of Tourism to ensure sectoral decisions are risk informed and inclusive.
- There are limitations in the availability of hazard and risk information, and in the offer of and access to financial mechanisms for recovery in the sector, including insurance.

RECOVERY CAPACITY INDEX (RCI) FOR THE 11 KEY ELEMENTS ASSESSED



SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY IN DOMINICA'S TOURISM SECTOR⁵

INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

Policies

- Finalize and approve the Comprehensive Disaster Legislation and the National Action Plan and Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction contemplated in the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030
- Develop a recovery policy for the tourism sector, and a national environmental policy.
- Prepare and implement the Resilient Dominica Physical Plan and update building codes and design guidelines for the tourism industry.

Knowledge and tools

- Recruit specialized staff in areas specific to disaster risk management.
- Institutionalize training in disaster risk management, gender and disability inclusion for public and private sectoral stakeholders.
- Integrate DRM, gender and disability inclusion knowledge as requisites in public recruitment protocols.

Data and information for risk-informed decision-making

- Complete the update of DOMINODE, Dominica's public Geographic Information System repository
- Construct a platform that provides simple and useful risk information to stakeholders in the tourism sector

Infrastructure

- Ensure the new investments that are being identified and costed by the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) and government ministries include resilient infrastructure projects that reduce the risk of service disruptions due to extreme weather events.
- Create a technical assistance plan with a range of risk reduction interventions to support hotel owners and other facilities in retrofitting assets exposed to meteorological hazards.

FINANCES

- Estimate and include a contingent annual recovery allocation in the Ministry of Tourism's budget
- Create a database of international recovery funding opportunities for tourism
- Improve the availability and access requirements to resilience and recovery financial mechanisms for local tourism enterprises, including insurance
- Create a plan to finance hardware and software updating and maintenance at the Ministry of Tourism.

⁵ Detailed recommendations are provided in Annex 1 of the Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment report.