

SECTORAL RECOVERY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR SAINT LUCIA'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 SAINT LUCIA:

- Contributes 41.8 percent of GDP (2019)⁴.
- Represents 80 percent of total exports⁵.
- Provides 41 percent of employment (about 32,000 jobs)⁶, of which 58 percent is occupied by women⁷.
- Is highly exposed to natural hazards and vulnerable to climate change.
- Is highly dependent on infrastructure.

- 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 (2019). 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights. Available online at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact/country-analysis/country-data>
- 5 Mooney, H. and Zegarra, M.A. (2020). Extreme Outlier: The Pandemic's Unprecedented Shock to Tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Policy Brief No. IDB-PB-339. Inter-American Development Bank, Country Department Caribbean Group.
- 6 World Travel and Tourism Council (2019). 2019 Annual Research: Key Highlights. Available online at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact/country-analysis/country-data>
- 7 World Bank (2018). Comparing the Impact of All-Inclusive and Non All-Inclusive Tourism Models on the Quality of Jobs for Women. Available online at: <https://www.a2f-c.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Tourism-Report-REVISED-WP-PUB-LIC-11-2-2019-14-25-2-TourismGenderandCompetitivenessReportFinal.pdf>

KEY RESULTS

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

STRENGTHS:

- Progress has been made in the integration of recovery considerations into national and sectoral governance frameworks, specifically into national and sectoral policy and legislation.
- There is a moderate level of resources and tools available for recovery.

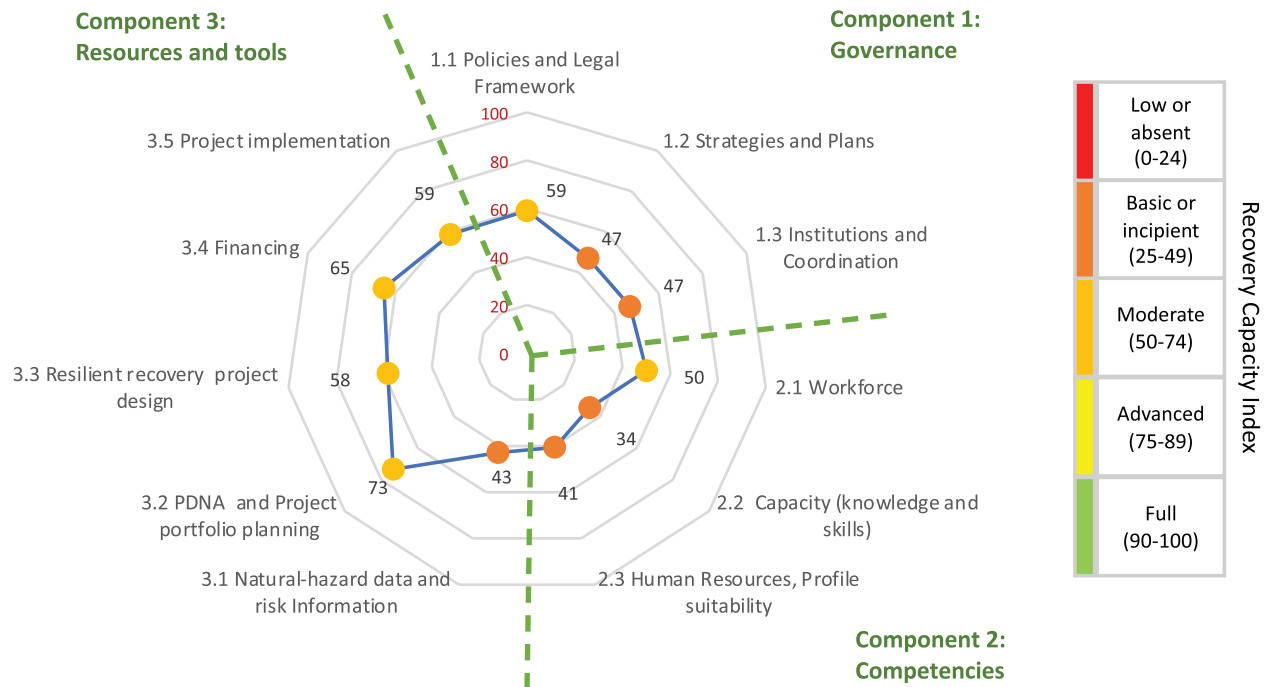
CONSTRAINTS:

- The competencies, operational capacity and skills available within the sector to undertake resilient and inclusive recovery projects are basic, particularly in terms of the knowledge and skills required for recovery project planning and implementation.

THE SRCA FOR SAINT LUCIA'S TOURISM

With the objective of assessing the capacity Saint Lucia'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, Information and Broadcasting and the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), with the support of the CRF, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

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



SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY IN SAINT LUCIA'S TOURISM SECTOR⁸

INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

Policies

- Finalize the National Contingency Plan, ensuring it provides guidance on the elaboration of sectoral contingency plans and develop a sectoral contingency plan for the Tourism sector.
- Develop a recovery framework and strategy for the tourism sector, integrating gender and disability considerations as well as specific guidance for the implementation of the Build Back Better approach.
- Revise and integrate resilient and inclusive recovery considerations in: the Hospitality Crisis Management Plan; the Tourism Incentives Act and the Tourism Stimulus and Investment Act.

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

- Finalize the construction and operationalization of the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) and the GeoNode.
- Develop detailed flood models for coastal areas.

Resilient infrastructure

- Develop an investment and maintenance plan for resilient infrastructure to ensure the continuity and operability of the tourism sector. The plan should focus on mechanisms (including nature- and risk-based solutions) to reduce coastal erosion and protect critical transport infrastructure from floods and sea level rise).

FINANCES

- Accelerate the operationalization of the National Disaster Fund
- Estimate and include a contingent annual recovery allocation in the Ministry of Tourism's budget
- Review insurance premiums and access requirements to resilience and recovery financial mechanisms for SMEs.

⁸ Detailed recommendations are provided in Annex 1 of the Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment report.