



SNAPSHOT

Climate-smart disaster law in Saint Lucia

In Saint Lucia, the Government, Saint Lucia Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are working towards strengthening and integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in law and policy.

This snapshot connects this work with the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), a global

initiative bringing together stakeholders from climate, humanitarian and development communities with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025. REAP Target 1 encourages countries to review and integrate their disaster risk management and climate change adaptation laws, policies and/or plans to ensure that they reduce climate change impacts and exposure on people and the environment.

Our call to action

There is a need for greater coherence across climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and development agendas at national and international levels. To implement the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments should adopt a coherent approach, and integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in laws, policies, strategies and plans, including national planning processes.

IFRC calls on governments and key stakeholders to:

- Develop and implement effective climate-smart disaster-related laws. This includes aligning their laws and systems across the humanitarian, development, environment and climate sectors to ensure coherence, stronger coordination, and enable concrete impacts on the ground.
- Address the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised people and communities in legal frameworks, including people in crises and those displaced, so that they are reached, informed and included in global, national and local decisions and plans, and their needs are met.

Disaster law and policy review in Saint Lucia

A small island developing state, Saint Lucia faces a very high level of disaster risk, from tropical cyclones, flooding and landslides to earthquakes and volcanic activity. In addition, changing climate conditions have produced extreme heat, sea level rise, coastal erosion, droughts, and increased water stress.

A review of Saint Lucia's laws, policies and plans on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is underway as part of the Adaptation Action Coalition Disaster Risk Reduction project, supported by the Government of the United Kingdom and the British Red Cross, and as part of 'Ready Together', a joint project with the Saint Lucia Red Cross, IFRC and the French Red Cross Regional Platform in the Caribbean.

The review will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of existing domestic legal and institutional frameworks.

The review process includes engagement and consultation with representatives from civil society, vulnerable groups, the National Emergency Management Organisation, the Sustainable Development and Environment Department and other relevant public authorities.

The review will culminate in a report identifying recommendations and next steps for strengthening the laws and institutional frameworks related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Saint Lucia.

In partnering with the Government of Saint Lucia to deliver these projects, the Saint Lucia Red Cross will be supporting the country to work towards meeting its international commitments under the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bringing climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction together

Saint Lucia is continuously working on strengthening and updating its climate change legislation and policy. Its Climate Change Adaptation Policy of 2015 endorses the principle of a cross-sectoral approach to climate adaptation and concretely addresses adaptation facilitation (i.e., appropriate policy, legislative and institutional environment); adaptation financing (i.e., measures to ensure adequate and predictable financial flows); and adaptation implementation (i.e., concrete actions to prepare for, or respond to, the impacts of climate change).

To facilitate climate adaptation planning and to enable the integration of climate change adaptation considerations into all relevant policies and programmes, St Lucia has developed a long-term National Adaptation Plan, running from 2018 to 2028.

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) and the Sustainable Development and Environment Department (SDED) have been spearheading the revision and creation of climate-related legislation. NEMO has proposed amendments to the Disaster Management Act of 2006, while the SDED has been working on a Climate Change Bill and an Environmental Management Bill.

These respective pieces of legislation will strengthen the nexus between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. For example, proposed amendments to the Disaster Management Act are expected to provide for an inter-ministerial committee comprising the Prime Minister, ministers with responsibility for disaster risk management, national security, health, the environment, transport and works, housing, agriculture, finance, foreign affairs, and planning, and any other minister involved in disaster management or the administration of legislation relating to disaster risk management.

It is anticipated that IFRC and Saint Lucia Red Cross will support the Government with further revision of climate change-related legislation in future.

Regional leadership and impact

Saint Lucia has taken a leadership role, both at the regional and international level, in addressing climate change and its impact on vulnerable countries.

The President of Saint Lucia is a founding member and the current President of the Adaptation Action Coalition, a coalition building on the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit to build momentum and support action to adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Together with the United Kingdom, Saint Lucia is co-chair of the governing board of REAP, showing the international recognition of Saint Lucia's resolve at the highest level to advocate for the protection of people and ecosystems from climate change through robust resilience and adaptation.

Saint Lucia is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. Through this committee, Saint Lucia and other small island developing states have emphasised the limits of adaptation and the need for the international community to give greater consideration to loss and damage caused by climate change.

Regionally, Saint Lucia has responsibility for sustainable development, the environment and disaster management within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Due to the pivotal role that Saint Lucia plays in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, it is anticipated that its progress towards enhancing coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation will encourage other member states to be proactive and strengthen their own legal and policy frameworks.

Reaching the most in need

The anticipated amendments and improvements to the legal and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation stand to benefit vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, persons with disabilities and migrants. Together, IFRC and Saint Lucia Red Cross will also continue to advocate for the consultation of vulnerable groups in the review and development of new climate- and disaster-related laws and policies.

Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

The Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) brings together stakeholders across the climate, humanitarian and development communities with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.

REAP also aims to facilitate intergovernmental collaboration and knowledge exchange. This aligns with the objectives of the [Adaptation Action Coalition](#), given that activities support peer-to-peer learning between countries and regions, and enable showcasing of successes and learnings about taking to scale risk-informed early action in a tangible and action-focused way.

REAP Target 1

Target 1 focuses on the necessity to better connect the complementary goals of disaster risk reduction/management and climate change adaptation.

GOAL: 50 countries have reviewed and integrated their crisis/disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies, national frameworks for climate services and/or plans to ensure that they reduce climate change impacts and exposure on people and the environment.



Activities under the REAP project in Saint Lucia are supported by the following partners:



About IFRC Disaster Law

IFRC Disaster Law works with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments to strengthen disaster risk governance, through the development and implementation of climate, disaster and emergency-related legislation, policies and procedures.

With 20 years of experience supporting the development and implementation of disaster law and policy around the world, we are the global leader in disaster law technical advice to governments.