



Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Policy and Strategy

Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Policy and Strategy lay out the Government of Saint Lucia's efforts to enhance and promote collaboration on climate change-relevant research in the country. Together, these documents provide the necessary guidance for research partners to plan and undertake disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary fit-for-purpose studies with the potential to contribute in a meaningful manner to sound climate action (including adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage) and development decision making in Saint Lucia now and in the coming decades.

Filling pressing knowledge gaps through fit-for-purpose research will enable the Government of Saint Lucia to better execute, monitor, and steer the implementation of its climate change agenda.

Saint Lucia is highly vulnerable to climate change. In the absence of appropriate action, climate change could cost lives, livelihoods, and a projected minimum of 24.5% of the country's GDP by 2050 and 49.1% by 2100.¹ There is an urgent need at all levels of government and society for the generation, access to, and use of science-based information to facilitate the identification, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of effective and efficient climate actions, including mitigation, adaptation, and addressing loss and damage.

A RESEARCH COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Policy establishes simple procedures to streamline the process of requesting and executing research collaboration on climate change issues between the Government of Saint Lucia and interested actors. It fosters collaboration that contributes towards strengthening national capacities for the systematic observation and monitoring of climate, environmental, and socioeconomic information. The policy's procedures also ensure that the country has access to and benefits from the results of all climate change-related research conducted in/on its territory.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In the context of Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Policy, the Government of Saint Lucia defines scientific research as all studies that follow the scientific method to answer well-defined questions.

These studies:

1. Are conducted in an objective, logical, and systematic manner to generate knowledge and improve understanding of subjects of interest.
2. Follow a coherent plan of data gathering and analysis.
3. Can be conducted from a single scientific disciplinary lens, be it multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary.
4. Can utilise observational, experimental, quantitative, qualitative, or mixed approaches to test hypotheses or be exploratory and offer baseline information.
5. Can integrate Traditional Knowledge and involve civil society as active participants in the research process (e.g., citizen science).

¹ Bueno, R., Herzfeld, C., Stanton, E.A., Ackerman, F. (2008). *The Caribbean and Climate Change: The Costs of Inaction*. Stockholm Environment Institute - US Center, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, Medford

RELEVANT RESEARCH FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Strategy provides guidance to research partners regarding the topics on which the Government of Saint Lucia is interested in establishing research collaborations. It offers key elements for planning and developing research initiatives relevant to Saint Lucia's policy and development in an increasingly changing climate.

CRITICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Saint Lucia's Climate Change Research Strategy provides a comprehensive overview of the country's urgent research needs. It includes 130 thematic and cross-cutting climate change-relevant questions of national importance and offers suggestions on required research outputs and activities to potential research partners. The main thematic areas of interest for research under which questions are grouped are:

- Cross-cutting research and information for science-based decision making
- Biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services
- Coastal, marine, and ocean environments
- Food production (agriculture and fisheries)
- Water
- Energy and transport
- Human health
- Human settlements, the urban environment, and critical infrastructure
- Tourism
- Human mobility (displacement, national relocation, and international migration as last-resort options due to climate change)
- Climate risk transfer mechanisms.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased generation and use of climate change-relevant information in national (sectoral and cross-sectoral) decision making.
2. A wider range of climate-resilience building options, informed by science and evidence, will become nationally available.
3. Strengthened coordination of climate change-related research and information management within and across development sectors.
4. Strengthened climate-relevant research partnerships resulting in a larger number of research and collaboration efforts and a wider range of research partners.
5. Improved national capacities to undertake research and the systematic observation of climate change-relevant variables.
6. A better understanding of and increased confidence in science at all levels of society.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

The execution of research projects responding to critical research questions pertinent to specific development sectors will be the responsibility of the research partners and the line ministries and agencies with the mandate of managing those sectors. Cross-sectoral and multi-sectoral research initiatives will be coordinated by one leading agency in collaboration with the other relevant agencies. Information on the research projects' objectives, execution, and results will be shared across agencies and ministries.

It is expected that funding for research initiatives will be derived mainly from grants or other sources available to research partners. Saint Lucia will support research projects with the proactive engagement and time of Government staff and, potentially, with the allocation of new public resources to sustain the research results (e.g., to sustain the monitoring of critical climate change-related variables). Additionally, the Government of Saint Lucia will integrate the critical research questions and their associated research outputs into existing and proposed bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes, including those pertaining to climate finance.



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