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**Saint Lucia's Climate Policy Environment:
Towards Concrete Action-A Discussion Paper
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1. The International and Regional Climate Policy Framework

For the purposes of this compilation, climate policy considers key international, regional and national instruments, including legislation, policy documents, strategies and action plans. On the international front, the instruments of note are the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#); the [Kyoto Protocol and Doha Amendment](#); and the [Paris Agreement](#). Saint Lucia ratified the UNFCCC in 1993. The UNFCCC aims to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system. The Kyoto Protocol was ratified by Saint Lucia in 2003 and commits developed country Parties to reduce GHG emissions based on setting emission reduction targets to a baseline of 1990 emissions. In 2016, Saint Lucia ratified the Paris Agreement that brings all nations under a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. Two years later, in 2018, Saint Lucia acceded to the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol that was adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2012 to establish a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, which would run from 2013 to 2020.

For the Caribbean region, climate change guidance is provided through the [Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change and Implementation Plan for the CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change](#). This plan defines the Region's strategic approach for coping with climate change for the period 2011 – 2021 and involves establishing how regional and country bodies will work together: securing investment to support the action plan; proposing a monitoring and evaluation system; and obtaining buy-in from Governments and relevant funders across the region.

At the level of the [Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the St. George's Declaration 2040](#) comprises an agenda that responds to priority environmental problems and opportunities for nature-based solutions in the Eastern Caribbean, inclusive of those associated with climate change, including and sea-level rise, threats to biodiversity, threats to freshwater resources, land degradation, degradation of coastal environments and marine resources, pollution and waste management and high energy costs.

Saint Lucia also strives to implement the [2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#), with its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Notwithstanding, given that climate change affects every facet of society, actions across the SDGs directly and indirectly contribute to building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Alliances among a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, the media, international development partners, are needed in order to boost climate action.

2. Who is the Driver in Saint Lucia?

The Department of Sustainable Development is the agency responsible for facilitating a number of environmental matters. The Department has oversight for, among others: policy formulation and review, strategic planning, international negotiations, technical guidance for project and programme implementation, support for resource mobilisation, reporting under various international treaties and associated protocols and inter-agency coordination. Typically, the Department does not implement on-the-ground initiatives, but plays a lead role in coordinating, facilitating, supporting, mobilising and enabling efforts with regard to environmental matters.

The Department of Sustainable Development envisions a society and a country where the limits of the environment are respected; communities, institutions and the country as a whole are resilient and able to cope with the impacts of climate change; the contribution of the environment to economic and social development is optimised; the social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions of development are integrated; and equity and social justice are promoted.

The mission of the Department of Sustainable Development is to lead the process towards sustainable development by: facilitating an integrated and participatory approach to governance, environmental management and science and technology; building resilience to the impacts of climate change; contributing to a sustainable economy through the creation of an enabling policy and legislative environment and ensuring Saint Lucia's compliance with relevant agreements.

The Department has a history of consultation and networking towards enhanced action across agencies and encourages ownership among sectors to drive climate action in areas where they have the requisite mandate and authority.

3. Policy-Type Strides at the National Level

3.1 Climate Change Adaptation Policy and the National Coordinating Body

Saint Lucia's National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers in 1998, with a mandate to provide advice and support to national climate change-related programmes and processes. The NCCC sits within the Department with responsibility for

coordinating climate change efforts, that is, the Sustainable Development and Environment Division of the Department of Sustainable Development, which is currently within the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development. The role of Saint Lucia's NCCC has expanded over time. Over the years, it has helped to facilitate and guide national efforts relating to: climate change adaptation and building resilience; national climate change action plans and strategies; and climate change education, training, and raising public awareness. The Cabinet-approved [Climate Change Adaptation Policy](#) of 2015 (CCAP)¹ establishes adaptation facilitation, adaptation financing and adaptation implementation as the core elements of the country's cross-sectoral and integrated framework for addressing climate impacts and also recognises the role of the NCCC in monitoring, evaluating and enhancing the implementation of climate change adaptation measures across sectors and agencies.

Specifically, the NCCC:

- Facilitates the development and implementation of guidelines and standards, processes, programmes and projects on climate change, including mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, education, training and public awareness.
- Identifies capacity gaps for responding to climate change and providing guidance on capacity building initiatives that address these needs, inclusive of institutional development, human skills, research and technology needs.
- Provides guidance and collaborate with the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and other institutional mechanisms for accessing climate finance in Saint Lucia, to ensure that programme and project proposals that are developed and submitted for climate financing, are contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the national climate change strategies and national development strategies and are compatible with the objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
- Facilitates coordination and a smooth flow of information among agencies implementing climate change programmes so as to minimise duplication of effort.
- Reviews the status of climate change programming in Saint Lucia on an annual basis, including the implementation and effectiveness of current national policies and programmes, as expressed through the National Climate Change Report and other relevant documents and report to Cabinet on same, with recommendations for improvement, as appropriate.
- Other functions considered necessary to achieve the Committee's mandate, consistent with any international climate change agreement to which Saint Lucia is a party, including national legislative acts, relevant national policies, strategies and plans or other national instruments.

¹ Preceded by Saint Lucia National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan (2002).

As a technical advisory body on climate change, including serving as the authorised coordinating body for Saint Lucia’s national adaptation planning process and the GCF, meetings of the NCCC are critical. Such meetings facilitate monitoring and guidance on a number of initiatives across multiple sectors, pertaining to both adaptation and mitigation. Over time, membership has expanded to give due consideration to the involvement of public, statutory, academic and private sector bodies whose work is related to climate change. It is important to bring these agencies together at least quarterly under the guidance of the Department of Sustainable Development, as Climate Change Focal Point, to address issues towards building Saint Lucia’s climate resilience. Further to the CCAP, the NCCC is guided by a number of policy and strategy documents. The draft Climate Change Bill, also seeks to recognise the NCCC, in addition to the previous Cabinet endorsement.

3.2 Climate Change Legislation

As part of its continued efforts in ensuring that the adequate policy and legislative environment exists to facilitate the country’s response to climate change and environmental management in general, Saint Lucia began the process of reviewing draft environmental legislation, with the view to also developing specific climate change-relevant legislation. Key for consideration was the need to avoid duplication in mandates, while covering relevant grey areas, especially in light of emerging developments at the national, regional and international levels.

Specifically, on the Climate Change Bill, this seeks to: develop a comprehensive framework to address climate change, including mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage; allocate and coordinate legal and administrative responsibilities for climate change response within the State; support embedding climate change considerations into existing and new sectoral laws, policies, strategies, plans, standards, programmes and projects; institute measures to reduce the vulnerability of the country’s population and ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change; create a process to set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and maintain a greenhouse gas inventory; facilitate compliance with regional and international climate change agreements to which Saint Lucia is a Party; continuously educate the public about climate change strategies; and promote low-carbon, climate-resilient development. The draft, which embodies the policies and modus operandus of the Department of Sustainable Development, is current with the Attorney General’s Chambers for finalisation.

3.3 National Adaptation Planning Process

3.3.1 Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans

In 2018, Saint Lucia completed the process for the development of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The ten-year Plan (2018-2028) serves as a means of identifying immediate, medium and long-term climate change adaptation needs, and developing and implementing strategies and

actions to address those needs. Along with the NAP, the Government developed Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (SASAPs) and associated supplements. Saint Lucia was specifically referenced in a decision at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) in Poland on NAPs that: *"Welcomes the submissions from Colombia, Saint Lucia and Togo of their national adaptation plans in NAP Central, bringing the total number of submitted national adaptation plans to 11, and reiterates its invitation to Parties to forward outputs and outcomes related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans to NAP Central or other means to communicate progress"*.

The following have been developed as part of this process²: [Climate Change Baseline Assessment Report \(2016\)](#); [National Adaptation Plan Stocktaking, Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report \(2018\)](#); [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP 2018-adopted by Cabinet\)](#); [National Adaptation Plan Roadmap and Capacity Development Plan 2018-2028](#); [Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Water Sector \(Water SASAP\) 2018-2028 \(adopted by Cabinet\)](#); [Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector \(Agriculture SASAP\) 2018-2028 \(adopted by Cabinet\)](#); [Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Fisheries Sector \(Fisheries SASAP\) 2018-2028 \(adopted by Cabinet\)](#); [Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan \(REASAP\) 2020-2028 \(adopted by Cabinet\)](#); Portfolio of Project Concept Notes for the Water Sector 2018-2028; Portfolio of Project Concept Notes for the Agriculture Sector 2018-2028; Portfolio of Project Concept Notes for the Fisheries Sector 2018-2028; Portfolio of Project Concept Notes for Resilient Ecosystems 2020-2028. All of these outline Saint Lucia's climate change landscape and further put forward Saint Lucia's priority climate change actions in the short, medium and long term over the ten-year period. Indicative project concept notes have also been put forward that can be expanded, amalgamated or otherwise tailored to opportunities that arise.

Efforts are underway to develop SASAPs for Infrastructure, Health and Education and to update a National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan that was developed with the Ministry of Tourism in 2015. It is worth noting that implementation of the various SASAPs is the responsibility of the Government agencies with the mandate and authority in the requisite area, working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. To facilitate capacity building, Saint Lucia also developed [Guidelines for the Development of Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans: Saint Lucia's experience under its national adaptation planning process](#) and has conducted requisite training on the same.

Further, a number of other supplements have been developed under the NAP process, as outlined in the following.

² <http://napglobalnetwork.org/in-country-support-program/saint-lucia/>

3.3.2 Climate Change Research

Saint Lucia's [Climate Change Research Policy](#) and [Climate Change Research Strategy](#) were adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2020. Their endorsement and implementation are expected to foster and strengthen collaboration with individual researchers, academic and research institutions, science foundations, international organisations and other stakeholders interested in conducting research in its territory that addresses climate change-relevant questions of national importance and provides high-quality data and information to support decision-making and outreach processes.

The Climate Change Research Policy and Climate Change Research Strategy have been elaborated in the framework of the Decade of Research and Innovation, which was launched by the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development in 2019. The Policy and Strategy documents respond to the urgent need at all levels of the Government and society in Saint Lucia 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. The Strategy provides a comprehensive overview of the country's urgent research needs, the 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 Strategy facilitates the implementation of the Climate Change Research Policy by offering guidance to research partners on the topics on which the Government of Saint Lucia is interested in establishing research collaboration and offers key elements for planning and developing disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research initiatives of relevance for Saint Lucia's development under an increasingly changing climate.

This approach is recognised in the Cabinet-endorsed CCAP, referenced earlier, which indicates that *"responding to [climate change] thus calls for interdisciplinary and multiple expertise – a coalescing of researchers and practitioners in, inter alia, climatology, ecology, economics, management of natural resources, public health, disaster risk reduction, and community development."* The CCAP further recognises that in order for climate change measures to be implemented effectively and efficiently, they have to be situated within an appropriate enabling environment that includes research and systematic observation.

Included as part of the Climate Change Research Policy is a Research Collaboration Agreement approved by the Attorney General's Chambers. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the conditions for the execution of any climate change-relevant research initiative or research activity in Saint Lucia. The Agreement is designed to provide a sound basis for cooperation, transparency, communication and trust between the parties to the Agreement, namely the Government of Saint Lucia and accepted research partners, following the provisions of the Climate Change Research Policy and taking into account potential concerns related to a) the execution of the research activities on Saint Lucia's populations, b) on the country's social,

economic and natural systems, c) the use of Indigenous Knowledge and d) the sharing of resulting benefits between or among the parties.

3.3.3 Climate Financing Strategy

Saint Lucia's Climate Finance Strategy under the national adaptation planning process was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2020. Access to finance remains a challenge for the implementation of climate change adaptation actions throughout the developing world. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Saint Lucia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and faces specific capacity constraints and circumstances. It is expected to mobilise significant international technical and financial resources to address climate change and its impacts. These resources will come in a variety of forms and from a variety of sources including: (1) Domestic public resources; (2) International public finance; and, (3) Domestic and International Private Finance. Financing the implementation of Saint Lucia's NAP will be an ongoing iterative process that involves a variety of steps, including: defining funding priorities; soliciting and/or developing project/programme concepts; aligning concepts with funding sources; elaborating full proposals approving projects; implementing projects; and monitoring and evaluating project implementation. In addition to this cyclical series of activities, there are a number of other activities that the Government intends to undertake to enhance the effectiveness of its effort to finance the NAP process, including: engagement with the private sector; strengthening relationships with accredited entities³, implementers, and other relevant entities; enhancing accredited entities' capacity for project origination, development and management, in particular for National Direct Access/Implementing Entities; improving capacity to track and monitor public expenditure on building climate resilience; training relevant actors to effectively solicit and use climate finance; further development of SASAPs-including for the remaining areas of Infrastructure, Education and Health); further engagement and coordination with existing bilateral donors; and identification of the full set of financial resources required for NAP implementation.

3.3.4 Private Sector Engagement Strategy

It should be clear by now that the national effort required for effecting transformational climate adaptation cannot be fulfilled solely by the public sector, which has limited financial resources and facilities to implement adaptation actions. Saint Lucia's Cabinet-adopted NAP has stressed the need for broad societal participation to achieve its objectives, including from the private sector, whose involvement and investment are essential for the stages between adaptation planning to implementation. The national commitment to strengthen general awareness, and the demonstrated urgency for adapting to climate change expressed in the NAP, is thus one of

³ Each project is implemented through a delivery partner or accredited entity that has met the required criteria and been prior-approved by the GCF, working in collaboration with a national implementing entity as the authorised body for the area of focus.

the central pillars of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy under the NAP process that was completed in 2019. This includes facilitating greater awareness of the business case for increasing efficiency and improving resilience within the entire private sector spectrum in Saint Lucia.

This Strategy intends to stimulate a more informed and devoted private sector to contribute actively to meeting national adaptation priorities. More specifically, this will be achieved through: educating and sharing information with the private sector on climate change and adaptation; ensuring business continuity and managing climate risks; encouraging private sector involvement in climate adaptation strategies, including through the NAP; informing investment decisions in resilience building; facilitating insurance, finance, technological innovation and development of new economic opportunities through climate-friendly products and services; identifying opportunities for adaptation partnerships with the public sector through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs); informing the development of public policy; and promoting the embracing of corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a key principle.

The proposed approach in this Strategy is tailored to Saint Lucia's specific socioeconomic realities. Major sectors identified include agriculture and fisheries; banking and financial services; construction; manufacturing; tourism; professional, personal and other services (including retail, restaurants, wellness and health services) and must be engaged as distinct thematic sectors. Community-based and non-governmental organisations will also have to be engaged in a cross-cutting manner. In some instances, there are diverse sub-segments within these groupings, such as the insurance sub-sector and credit unions within financial services that, through analysis, show unique issues and opportunities that require focused attention.

Criteria for determining the need for focused attention include, among other factors, the existing stakeholder landscape; the degree of readiness and/or receptivity; existing or emerging opportunities; and any past achievements that may provide a foundation for elaboration or synergy building. This includes potential PPPs that can provide institutional and informational support, and link Saint Lucia to wider regional or international initiatives.

The Private Sector Engagement Strategy was endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2020.

3.3.5 Climate Change Communications Strategy

As part of the NAP process, the Cabinet of Ministers also endorsed a Climate Change Communications Strategy in 2018. Saint Lucia has developed a practice of using creative means in its public education and awareness efforts. For example, in 2011, the Department of Sustainable Development hosted a climate change awareness session for journalists. In 2015, ahead of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, Saint Lucian creators (artists and performers) produced a *1.5 To Stay Alive* campaign, including releasing a song and music video to raise awareness of climate change and generate support for the Caribbean's position in

international climate negotiations.

As part of this campaign, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) also produced the short documentary: *1.5 to Stay Alive: Saint Lucia's Reality – A Youth Perspective*. Using the hashtag #1point5toStayAlive, Saint Lucia has continued to use this slogan for climate change awareness raising activities. In a similar vein, as part of Saint Lucia's launching ceremony for its NAP in 2018, some fifty persons participated in a special session for artists and performers.

3.3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was prepared in 2018 and adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers as part of the NAP process. The Plan requires the preparation of annual reports in collaboration with the NCCC. This is important as it allows for the tracking of progress in implementation of the NAP process. It also provides an opportunity for sharing the 'big picture' of adaptation across multiple sectors, to decrease disjointedness, enhance synergies across sectors, increase transparency and increase the likelihood of attracting additional funding.

3.4 Nationally Determined Contribution

Saint Lucia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) draws from the [National Energy Policy \(2010\)](#). The NDC embodies efforts by the country to reduce national GHG emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. As indicated in its initial NDC of 2015, Saint Lucia has set a target for GHG emissions reduction of 16% by 2025 and 23% by 2030, with a focus on the areas of energy, electricity generation and transport. Saint Lucia's [Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership Plan \(NDCPP\)](#) emanated from the initial NDC and was designed as a living document to attract coordinated donor funding to facilitate its implementation, and in so doing, respond to the emerging opportunities that will help to achieve the targets of Saint Lucia's NDC. Saint Lucia's NDCPP was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2019.

Saint Lucia has now become the fourth country in the Caribbean to submit its Updated NDC to the UNFCCC, having done so in January 2021.⁴ With support from several Government agencies, the youth, the private sector, academia and the NDC Partnership, Saint Lucia pursued a year-long revision process. The all-inclusive approach ensured that there was thorough analysis of the country's financial landscape, especially considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

Key aspects of the Updated NDC include the policy-related and on-the-ground efforts by the Government between 2015 and 2020 towards achieving a reduction in GHG emissions, which

⁴<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/Party.aspx?party=LCA&prototype=1>

contribute to global warming and severe climate change impacts. It also highlights the increase in GHG emissions in the electricity generation and transport sectors, as a result of the country's dependence on fossil fuels. The Updated NDC proposes key actions to harness the country's natural resources by way of increasing the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies; improving incentives and infrastructure to encourage a greater uptake in low carbon motor vehicles; improving the legislative framework; pursuing more public awareness; and encouraging strategic investment opportunities for the private sector in the transport and energy areas. These efforts will put Saint Lucia on a trajectory to reduce its emissions in these focus areas while simultaneously benefiting the country and its citizens.

Essentially, an approximate 7% (or 37 GgCO₂e) reduction in GHG emissions (from 2010 emissions) is projected in the energy sector (including electricity generation and transport) by 2030. The pathways informing the updated NDC emissions targets are supported by detailed modeling of scenarios that include direct energy use, and the coupling of the power generation and transportation sectors, which were guided by the Cabinet-approved [National Energy Transition Strategy \(NETS\)](#) of 2018. Saint Lucia's Updated NDC also draws on its 2020-adopted [Green Schools Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action \(NAMA\)](#) that contains interventions on energy efficiency, renewable energy and training and capacity building and speaks to a reduction of energy consumption of 20% by 2025 (this is based on the 20% target for the public sector defined in the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)); and a reduction of GHG emissions of 35% by 2025 (overshooting the target of 16% by 2025 defined in the initial NDC).

It is further worth noting that the process of preparing Saint Lucia's Updated NDC also led to the development of other key supplements including: A [Finance Strategy and Implementation Plan](#), pathways towards a [Climate Budget Tracking Tool](#) and [Fossil Fuel Subsidy and Taxation Reform](#).

3.5 But what of Loss and Damage Policy?

While there is not a universally accepted definition of loss and damage, with the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage in 2013 under the UNFCCC, Parties acknowledged that particularly vulnerable developing countries may not be able to adapt to all of the impacts of climate change.⁵ Indeed, Chapter 15 of Saint Lucia's NAP on "Limits to Adaptation" says: "*loss and damage means the impacts of climate change experienced despite best efforts at mitigation and adaptation*". Likewise, a submission by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in 2019 on the Review of the WIM references that "*countries must be supported*

⁵ "*Also acknowledging that loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change includes, and in some cases involves more than, that which can be reduced by adaptation...*" (decision 2/CP.19).

to address the loss and damage that will result when adaptation is not enough; in other words, loss and damage that will result despite different levels of adaptation and when these limits to adaptation are reached". The Paris Agreement references loss and damage in its Article 8, recognising the importance that parties should give to averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

Saint Lucia has thus taken steps to incorporate loss and damage in both its NAP (limits to adaptation, as mentioned above) and its NDC. Chapter 15 of the NAP indicates potential loss and damage for Saint Lucia and potential comprehensive risk management actions. In the case of the NDC, there is no doubt that without ambitious global mitigation, there is increased potential for both economic and non-economic loss and damage in Saint Lucia, affecting all sectors. As indicated in the NAP and highlighted in the updated NDC, potential loss and damage will result from storm surges and saltwater intrusion into freshwater supplies and agricultural land, frequent flooding and water shortages, which would lead to decreased food availability and security as well as permanent loss of territory due to sea level rise. Rising water temperatures and sea water carbon-dioxide concentrations will result in damage to coral reefs and declines in commercially important fish stocks, as well as impact tourism, which is dependent on these ecosystems. Sea level rise and increased extreme climatic events will also result in loss of culturally and spiritually important landscapes and ultimately migration and displacement of coastal communities. Permanent temperature increases will directly result in increased risk of deaths and injuries associated with extreme events, and indirectly, through increased outbreaks of water borne and vector borne diseases.

The Updated NDC further indicates that addressing the increased risk of significant levels of loss and damage due to climate change requires international support to implement a range of comprehensive risk management strategies, including improvement and/or creation of open sources of data to more effectively assess increasing climate risks. Such strategies laid out in the updated NDC include expanding livelihood protection policies that assist vulnerable, low-income individuals to recover from damages associated with extreme weather events; establishing contingency funds for climate impacts with flexible and rapid dispersal systems; providing support and protection for internally displaced persons, persons displaced across borders and their host communities; and providing support for the preservation or reestablishment of non-economic values that may be damaged during human mobility or otherwise.

The Updated NDC further says that as climate risks increase, existing and potential risk transfer mechanisms to address loss and damage, such as continued membership in the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), may lead to a rise in costs beyond the capacity of the national budget. As such, international support to meet the rising costs of addressing loss and damage with such risk transfer mechanisms would be necessary.

3.6 Gender and Other Vulnerable Groups and Climate Change

Gender considerations have assumed more prominence in recent times, from non-inclusion in Saint Lucia's 1st National Communication of 2001 to the UNFCCC; to specific reference to women as a vulnerable group in Saint Lucia's CCAP of 2015; to inclusion of gender considerations in Saint Lucia's NAP and supplements of 2018 and beyond.

Saint Lucia's 2nd National Communication to the UNFCCC of 2011 contains a section on Gender, Youth, Children and Poverty. Saint Lucia's CCAP indicates that during consultations under the process that led to the development of the CCAP, *"community groups, including women and youth, also identified a number of implementation adaptation measures that focused on water and which were important for their quality of life"*. The CCAP further indicates that *"... the success of the CCAP will in part depend on the extent of stakeholder (including women and vulnerable groups) ownership and participation, at all levels of society, in the conduct of vulnerability assessments, in the conduct of implementation adaptation interventions, in participation in facilitation of adaptation interventions and in the monitoring and evaluation of these interventions to determine best practices and lessons learned"*. It also proposes as an action: *"Conducting appropriate studies to understand the scope and breadth of vulnerabilities of certain groups, including poor children and the elderly, poor women and men in order to design appropriate response strategies"*.

Saint Lucia's 3rd National Communication to the UNFCCC of 2017 specifically referenced Saint Lucia's Medium Term Development Plan of 2011, including its sixteen development goals centred on five development themes, one of which is Gender Equality. The 3rd National Communication also indicates that *"Existing gender inequalities are increased or heightened by climate-related hazards: gendered impacts result from customary and new roles in society, often entailing higher workloads, occupational hazards indoors and outdoors, psychological and emotional distress, and mortality in climate-related disasters"*. Gender considerations are included at various points of the Communication, including a section on "education and employment".

Saint Lucia's NAP and SASAPs in Water, Agriculture, Fisheries (2018), as well as the more recent REASAP of 2020 all recognise the importance of *"Gender Considerations"* in the climate change process (specific sections allocated in each), with the understanding that the matter ought to be given due consideration at every stage. Thus, when project concepts are being amalgamated or expanded for funding consideration, every effort would be made to adequately address the matter in project design/developmental, implementation and monitoring stages. The latter consideration is inclusive of an Agricultural Project that was expanded and submitted and received recent approval for funding under the Adaptation Fund.

Saint Lucia's compilation on Guidelines for the Development of SASAPs (2018) indicates that in the preparation of SASAPs, it is important to look for data and reliable information that allows one to answer various questions, including: *"Are there gender issues documented for this sector in the country"*? Likewise, the Cabinet-approved Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2018) under the NAP process also reflects gender in the information to be captured in the reports. It states that *"the main objective of this NAP M&E system is to enable the GoSL to track the progress made in the planning and delivery of effective cross sectoral and sectoral climate adaptation solutions through the NAP process. In practical terms, the M&E will: Review progress in, and steer the implementation of, the NAP process, identifying gaps and solutions to address shortcomings: For example, analysing and proposing interventions for better addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, which may include the collection of relevant gender-differentiated information"*. Saint Lucia's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (2018) also includes indicative templates for monitoring the implementation of the NAP Process. Templates include questions such as: *"Total number of gender-specific sectoral and cross-sectoral measures completed during the requisite calendar year; Of the measures that were completed during the requisite calendar year, which, if any, specifically targeted men or specifically targeted women? List initiative(s) and gender targeted."*

Saint Lucia's Country Programme for the GCF (2020) references the 2020-2023 [Medium-term Development Strategy](#). It indicates that this Strategy *"focuses on six Key Results Areas (KRA): tourism, agriculture; infrastructure; healthcare; education and citizen security (Government of Saint Lucia, 2020). It also includes four cross-cutting areas: productivity and economic competitiveness; gender mainstreaming and social protection; disaster risk management, resilience and sustainable development; and information and communication technology (Government of Saint Lucia, 2020)"*. The Country Programme also recognises that *"Current priorities for a multi-year readiness programme could include gender mainstreaming and sector gender analyses, developing strategic frameworks for low-emission investments including in transport and energy, and the enhancement of Saint Lucia's REDD+ Strategy and action plan"*.

A number of revised/updated climate relevant policies give due consideration to the gender dimension, including, among others, a Water Policy and a Fisheries Policy. Quoting from the REASAP of 2020: *"...to foster equality in adaptation benefits, Saint Lucia's NAP and associated Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans focus on vulnerable groups. Gender-disaggregated information will be collected and assessed. Although the NAP and SASAPs include activities focusing on women and men generally based on a number of vulnerability factors, they do not identify activities that are specific to either women or men, owing to the lack of data on differential needs. The need for planners and decision makers to understand gender as a dimension to be taken into account in the design, planning and implementation of every project/policy/programme that involves people cannot be overstated. People are not homogeneous, but often, projects/policies/programmes pay greater attention to the product rather than on who is impacted. The gender dimension allows planners and decision-makers to*

consider who will be impacted even before implementation, noting that who is impacted will determine how they are impacted and what provisions need to be made for their direct benefit".

4. Where does it all Lead?

There was a time when the term “climate change” was synonymous with the work of the Government agency with responsibility for coordinating climate action, but through joint efforts over the years, climate change is a language spoken by agencies with responsibility for water, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, education, tourism, health, external affairs, commerce, youth, finance and economic development. Climate change receives attention, not only from the Government, but from the youth, private sector, community groups, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media. This is consistent with the commonly quoted phrase that climate change is everyone’s business.

Through a collaborative effort led by the Department of Sustainable Development, Energy Division or Department of Economic Development as the case may be, Saint Lucia has become a Party to, developed and approved a number of climate-related instruments. While these may appear to some to be only words on paper, it is worth noting that operational entities of the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism such as the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund require evidence of national alignment for proposals submitted. Specifically, the GCF requires project proposals to clearly describe how the proposed activities align with the country’s NDC and other relevant national plans, and how the funding proposal will help to achieve the NDC or these plans by making progress against specific targets defined in national climate policies and strategies, such as NAMAs and NAPs. The GCF also requires project proposals to outline how they were developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

All of this is reflected in Saint Lucia’s [Country Programme to the Green Climate Fund](#) which embodies Saint Lucia’s priority climate change actions in adaptation and mitigation. The development of the Country Programme leaned heavily on Saint Lucia’s NDC and NAP processes, among others, to identify the country’s priority sectors, consistent with the whole of Government approach. It touches on the sectors and areas of water, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, infrastructure and spatial planning, resilient ecosystems, education, health, tourism, energy efficiency, electricity generation and transportation in the first instance; as well as a number of cross-cutting measures, such as legal and regulatory frameworks; data and information management; capacity building; and awareness raising, in an effort to ensure that no sector or area is left behind.

In addition, the value of regional and international climate change treaties such as the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and their associated negotiation processes, cannot be overstated. It is through

these processes that the financial mechanism and its operating entities, as referenced in the foregoing, are established. The financial mechanism is accountable to the Parties, which decide, through negotiations and consensus, on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. Saint Lucia, and specifically, the Department of Sustainable Development and other stakeholders, continues to participate actively in these international processes.

It is also worth noting that in the current climate, Saint Lucia, the Caribbean and the world, are grappling with the COVID 19 pandemic. While COVID 19 appears to be more immediate, it has been observed that the most vulnerable to COVID 19 are also the most vulnerable to climate change; both threaten health and well-being; both are poverty multipliers and bring uncertainty, fear and feelings of loss of control and helplessness. Indeed, it has been demonstrated that climate change emergencies make the challenges of COVID 19 worse; and COVID 19 has been seen to retard the responses to climate change to the point that it has been said that climate change is a COVID patient⁶. We cannot be asked to choose efforts being directed towards one or the other. In this regard, Saint Lucia's Climate Change Focal Point-the Department of Sustainable Development; the Department with responsibility for Economic Development who is the NDA to the GCF; the Energy Division, partners and stakeholders continue to collaborate in this iterative process from planning to implementation to monitoring and all the steps in between, towards building climate resilience and finding solutions that seek to address *both* the current pandemic situation *and* the challenges posed by climate change.

⁶ Dr. Maria Protz, webinar (2021). Consultant: Institutional Assessment, Strategic Plan (2020-2-25) and Resource Mobilization Strategy and the CCCCC

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