

CASE STUDY



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National Adaptation Plans, The Saint Lucia Example



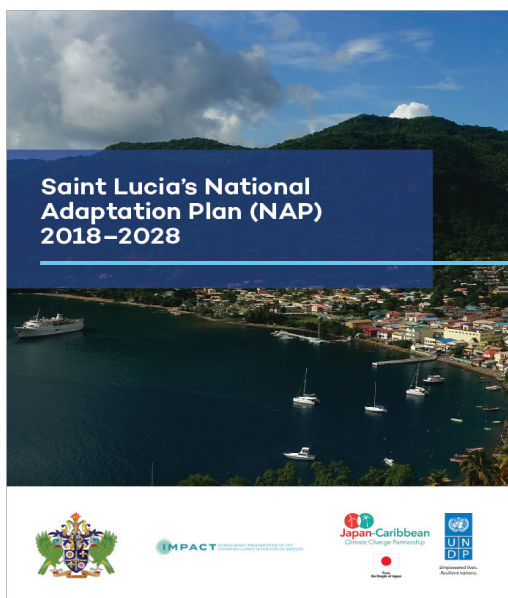
The National Adaptation Plan Process

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) through the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP), supported the development of Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), in line with the existing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) endorsed framework. Support like this assists vulnerable territories in assessing their risks and vulnerabilities to climate change and specifically

allows Saint Lucia to identify, rank, plan and implement national and sectoral measures.

Due to the extensive and robust nature of Saint Lucia's NAP, this case study has been developed to highlight the key points, takeaways and insights as it relates to the plan.

About the Saint Lucia NAP



Cover page of Saint Lucia's NAP

Saint Lucia's NAP covers a 10 year period with eight prioritized sectors as follows: water, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure and spatial planning, natural resource management (terrestrial, coastal and marine), education, health, and tourism. In addition to the NAP, Saint Lucia has also developed four sectoral adaptation plans, which include tourism¹, water, agriculture and fisheries.

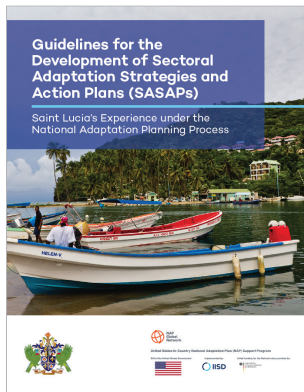
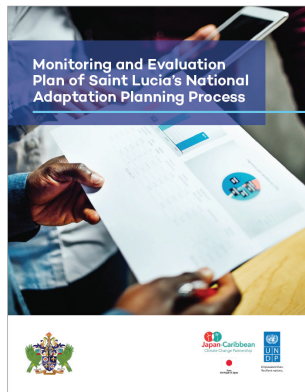
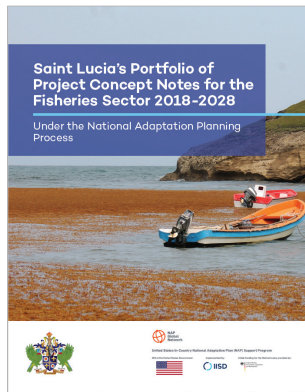
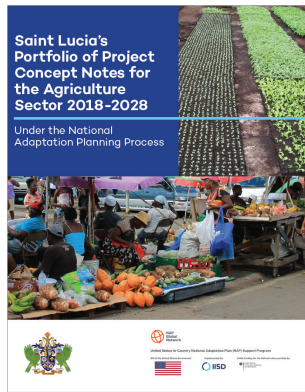
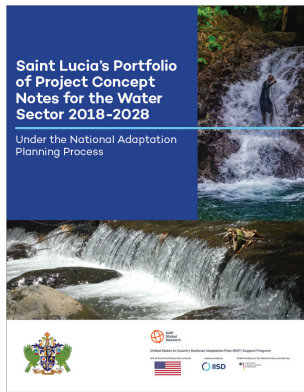
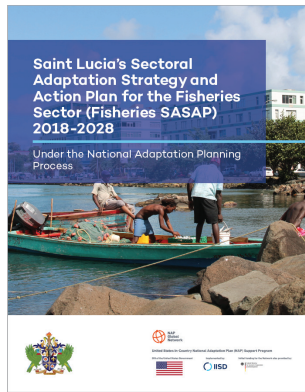
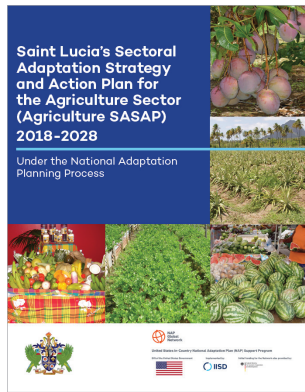
In late 2018, the country commenced work on an Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the natural resource management sector.

The NAP and Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plans (SASAPs) are living documents and will be reviewed during the ten-year time frame, and their implementation monitored and evaluated.

Below are snapshots of the cover pages of these documents:



¹ In 2015, prior to the NAP process being officially undertaken in Saint Lucia, the GoSL developed an Impact Assessment and National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Tourism Sector.



The vision of the NAP is that "Saint Lucia and its people, their livelihoods, and the country's social systems and environment are resilient to the risks and impacts of climate change through continuous, coordinated and effective adaptation efforts."

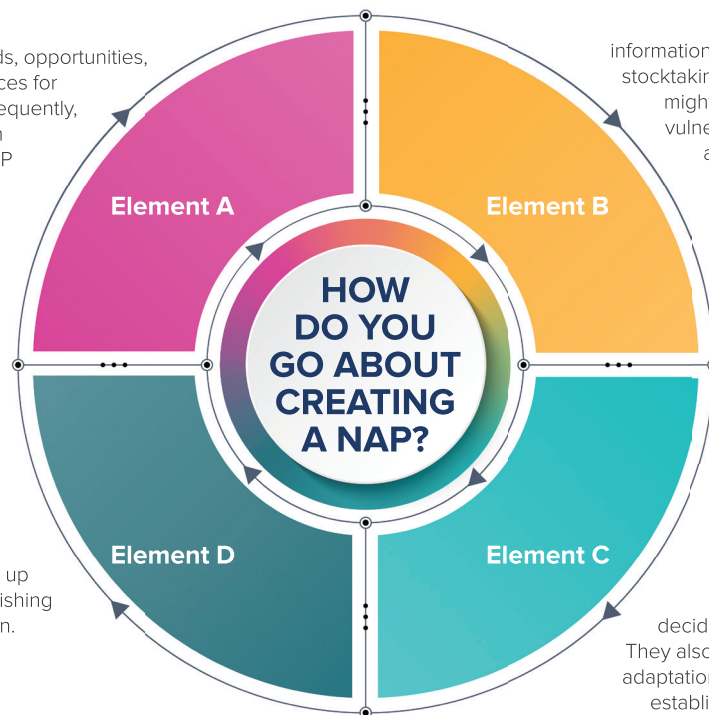
Snapshot of Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018 - 2028, pg 2.

Laying the Groundwork and Addressing Gaps.

Includes stocktaking of needs, opportunities, entry points, and key resources for adaptation in the country. Frequently, it also means establishing an institutional home for the NAP process within government and a legal or administrative mandate to legitimise the process.

Reporting, Monitoring and Review.

Planners set up systems to track their NAP's progress. This often means choosing effectiveness criteria, setting up a review timeline, and establishing a reporting and outreach plan.



Preparatory Elements.

Includes analytic activities to fill information gaps identified in the previous stocktaking effort. For example, planners might commission a national climate vulnerability assessment or develop a set of future climate scenarios if these did not yet exist. They also might synthesise existing adaptation plans from line ministries or sub-national governments and set procedures for integrating adaptation into key economic sectors.

Implementation Strategies.

This element focuses more concretely on who will do what, and how. Planners use information and criteria from Element B to set priorities and decide on the sequence of activities. They also might focus on how to finance adaptation, build needed capacities, and establish roles and responsibilities for coordinated implementation.

Insights & Takeaways

To date, Saint Lucia's NAP has evolved into one of the most comprehensive documents of its nature. The success of the territory's NAP development process was significantly dependent on a variety of key factors, as outlined below.

Engagement and Partnerships

The Saint Lucian Government

Saint Lucia's NAP process benefitted greatly from active stakeholder engagement at all levels. Most significant was the support and engagement from the Saint Lucian Government, whose commitment to readying its country for climate change is highly commendable.

The government's support and buy-in, strong in-country team leadership, and continuous representation and engagement from key in-country technical experts truly made a difference as they provided valuable inputs and guidance throughout the process. A range of other stakeholders were also involved, for example, fishermen. It also meant that the NAP was seen as a matter of national priority which advanced the national approval process and enabled the NAP to be reviewed and considered an official national policy document through rapid endorsement by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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Collaborations and Partnerships

In addition to J-CCCP's support, technical and financial assistance was also provided by these partners and this led to a well coordinated and successfully developed NAP in a condensed time frame:

- The United States In-Country Support Program (managed by the Institute for Sustainable Development [IISD], host to the NAP Global Network Secretariat)
- IMPACT project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Time

Although the document needed to be completed within an ambitious timeframe, key stakeholders prioritised NAP development and dedicated their time to ensure that the reviews were adequately addressed to provide a sound and robust National Adaptation Plan.



Saint Lucia's Department of Sustainable Development, including the Hon. Minister Gale Rigobert, present their NAP to regional donors

Providing Collaborative Spaces

As mentioned previously, the development of effective, strategic partnerships was key to the success of this initiative. Moving forward, NAP programmes should consider providing a space or outlet in which countries can discuss key aspects of the NAP with potential donors. Facilitating these open conversations, gives countries the opportunity for early consideration of next steps and of the costs of implementing adaptation actions. Knowing that they will be afforded the opportunity to engage with potential donors can encourage countries to think of how the NAP and supporting summary reports should be developed to attract financing for the projects. Developing the document with this frame of mind, decreases the likelihood of the NAP simply becoming a document on the shelf rather than an actual guide on climate action.

Using Existing Building Blocks

The NAP process built on past policies, plans, strategies and initiatives. The national counterparts therefore did not need to reinvent the wheel in the measures being proposed, but drew from them as necessary. In addition to this, the Department of Sustainable Development (SDED) also helped streamline the NAP by providing support from the inception.

A Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (SASAP) requires:



Further Considerations

Capacity Development for Understanding the NAP Process

To obtain clear national direction and stakeholder engagement, all stakeholders need to understand why the NAP process is important for their work. While the lead focal agency may understand, many stakeholders may not fully grasp the NAP process and its benefits which is essential for stakeholder buy-in.

Including Gender Considerations

Moving forward, a greater understanding of the need to view the effects of climate change through a gender lens will help create an even more robust plan. There should be a comprehensive understanding of the gender disparity communicated to key actors in the climate change space in order for there to be

a willingness to view gender as a key aspect of the NAP development and implementation process. In climate change adaptation, it is important that gender considerations be applied and where possible, key personnel benefit from gender training.

Actions towards this include:

- Conducting a national climate vulnerability assessment to inform decision-making processes on human groups and geographic areas to be prioritised for targeted adaptation action.
- Conducting a climate vulnerability study to determine the populations and groups most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Final Thoughts

Saint Lucia's successful completion of their NAP, its subsequent adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers and its [submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat](#) is demonstrative of the country's commitment to climate change action and represents a positive shift for the region. Saint Lucia's NAP document is intended to be a living document and will be revisited after the 10 year period. The document will undoubtedly serve as a guide for the island's key vulnerable sectors.

What should a NAP look like?



