



## CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

# Island Snapshot Saint Lucia



### About the CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's<sup>1</sup> (GAC) larger regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program. The CCDRMF is designed to support community-driven projects that seek to enhance the resilience of communities and reduce risks from natural hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, tropical storms, hurricanes) and climate change.

Established in 2008 as a CAD \$3.0 M small grant facility, the CCDRMF finances projects ranging from CAD \$25,000 to CAD \$75,000, and up to CAD \$100,000 in exceptional cases. The targeted audience is community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil-society organisations, and government agencies wishing to undertake community projects in the following beneficiary countries<sup>2</sup>: *Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.*

For the purposes of the CCDRMF, a 'community' is defined as '*a group of people living in the same geographical area (such as a neighbourhood, district, city or town)*' or '*a group of people with similar interests (such as youth and women) or livelihoods (such as farmers or fishers)*'.

To date, the Fund has supported twenty-nine (29) community sub-projects totalling CAD \$1,770,517.11, of which twenty-three (23) are completed and six (6) are on-going. The Fund has also provisionally allocated CAD \$1,017,338.66<sup>3</sup> to eleven (11) projects that are under consideration for execution during the period 2017 to 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

<sup>2</sup> In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands

<sup>3</sup> Subject to amendment



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### Island Overview

The island of Saint Lucia, which is located in the Lesser Antilles and has a land area of 616 km<sup>2</sup>, is characterised by steep, rugged landscapes with deep valleys and fast flowing rivers. Although Mount Gimie is the highest point on the island at 950 m, Saint Lucia's most well-known feature is the twin Pitons (Gros Piton and Petit Piton), striking cone-shaped volcanic peaks which have been designated as a World Heritage Site. The island experiences a tropical maritime climate, with average temperatures of 27 °C. Saint Lucia has two climatic seasons: a wet season (June to November) and a dry season (December to May). Mean annual rainfall varies from 1,450 mm at the relatively flat coastal regions in the south, to 3,450 mm in the elevated interior region.

Saint Lucia's population is estimated at 169,115 (49% males and 51% females) (2012 estimates). Most persons live along the coast, with a larger concentration found in the north around the capital of Castries. Unfortunately, the narrow low land strip which circumscribes the island is characterised by concentrations of haphazard and unplanned human settlements and other development. In 2015, the main industry contributors to gross domestic product (GDP) were Transport (13.45%), Hotels and Restaurants (10.9%), Construction (7.8%) and Agriculture (3.0%).

Saint Lucia is vulnerable to a number of hydro-meteorological and geological hazards. Historically, hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and land slippage have been the most likely hazards to affect the island. Flooding, in particular, is a major concern for low-lying areas, where events have led to the displacement of people and the destruction of property. For example, Tropical Storm Debbie in 1994, resulted in damages and losses of over EC \$230 million, while Hurricane Tomas in 2010 left in its wake colossal losses of over EC \$1,358 million.

Although volcanic activity has been latent for over 200 years (note, majority of the population lives within 30 km of a volcano), Saint Lucia is located in a tectonically active area and seismic activity has been on-going. In recent years several small tremors have been recorded, but stronger shocks such as the one of magnitude 7.4 in 2007 has been observed as well. Of course, like other small island developing states (SIDS), Saint Lucia is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including changes in temperature and precipitation, intensified hydro-meteorological events and associated hazards, and sea level rise.

### CCDRMF Projects in Saint Lucia

The CCDRMF is a competitive small grant facility and between 2008 and 2015, there have been nine (9) Calls for Proposals. In total, the Fund received 212 project applications but only forty-three (43) projects, 20%, from thirteen (13) countries met the criteria and were deemed eligible for consideration.



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From Saint Lucia, the CCDRMF has received twenty-seven (27) project applications. Of these, only one (1) community-based projects was approved. This project supports disaster risk management by improving emergency communications. A brief overview of the project can be found in the table below.



Figure 1: Installed antennas, SLARC project

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
<b>On-going</b>					
<b>Repeater System for the Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club</b>	Saint Lucia Amateur Radio Club (SLARC)	To install two-way repeater communication system to improve emergency communication among communities.	2014-2016	\$20,000.00	\$28,755.00
				<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$28,755.00</b>

For more information, contact the CCDRMF at:

**Email:** [ccdrm.fund@gmail.com](mailto:ccdrm.fund@gmail.com)

**Skype:** *ccdrmfund*

### References

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