

STRENGTHEN INTEGRATED AND COHESIVE PREPAREDNESS CAPACITY AT A REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL IN THE CARIBBEAN

Prepared through knowledge and planning

In Collaboration with

Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Caribbean (CREWS Caribbean) Project

Logistical Information

Meeting: Joint Meetings for the Regional Validation of the National Model Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) Policy | Regional Consultation on the Draft Regional MHEWS Strategy | 4th Meeting of the Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium

Date: Tuesday 12 November to Thursday 14 November, 2019

Meeting Location: Bay Gardens Hotel & Bay Gardens Inn, Gros Islet, St. Lucia

Contact: For general information related to the workshop:
Dr. Alexcia Cooke, CDEMA, Email: alexcia.cooke@cdema.org
Mr. Joaquin Azpiroz, Sr., The World Bank: jazpirozechecole@worldbank.org

General information on Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is situated in the Lesser Antillean Arc of the Caribbean Archipelago at latitude 13° 53' north and longitude 60° 68' west and situated on a volcanic ridge between Martinique to the North and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the south (Figure 5.1). The island is 42 km long, 22 km wide, and has a land area of 616 km², and is characterized by mountainous and rugged topography, with steep slopes cut by fast-flowing rivers.

Saint Lucia Meteorological **website:** <https://met.gov.lc/>
Time Zone Local time is GMT -4.



Languages of Meeting

The meeting will be conducted in English.

Currency

The currency of St. Lucia is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar which is linked to the US Dollar at the exchange rate of 1 US\$ to 2.70 EC\$. US\$ are widely accepted on the island. Major credit cards and traveler's cheques are



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widely accepted. ATMs can be found in the airport and at all banks, which include, but are not limited to, the Royal Bank of Canada, First Caribbean and Scotiabank.

Electricity

In Saint Lucia the power plugs and sockets are of type G. The standard voltage is 240 V, 50 cycles AC (a few hotels are 110 Volts, 60 cycles). Adaptors are generally available at the resorts.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire and Ambulance - Tel: 911.

Visas

Visas maybe required for nationals of some countries before entering Saint Lucia. Please determine whether this will be the case for your country before travelling.

Hotel Reservations

Rooms have been reserved at Bay Gardens Hotel & Bay Gardens Inn under the group code MHEWS) for all overseas participants.

Accommodation arrangements for CDEMA-sponsored participants will be made directly by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit.

Food and Beverages

Breakfast is included in the hotel price. Coffee breaks and lunch will be provided on the days of the workshop (one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Dinner will be covered by each participant.

Per Diem

Participants sponsored by the organisers will receive per diems to cover incidentals, dinner and terminal expenses as accommodation will be covered by CDEMA. This will be issued to participants before travel and/or on the first day of the workshop.

Arrival and Departure

Arrival in Castries

If you are arriving in Castries at the George F. L. Charles Airport, taxis are available immediately as you exit the arrivals hall at approximately to Bay Gardens Hotel and Inn. The cost is approximately US 25.

Arrival in Vieux Fort

As you exit the arrival hall at Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort, there are airport taxis available to Gros Islet at an approximate cost of US \$100. Travel from Vieux Fort to Gros Islet is about 1.5 hours.

Local Taxis

Taxis can be found at airports. Please only use authorized taxis. All authorized taxis have a light blue number plate with a TX prefix.



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Registration for the workshop

Please confirm your participation to Dr. Alexcia Cooke at alexcia.cooke@cdema.org (1-246-434-4880) or Joaquin Azpiroz Sr. at jazpirozechecole@worldbank.org. On-site registration will take place each morning of the meetings.

Meeting rooms

The venue of the **Joint Meetings** is the **Bougainvillea Conference Centre, Bay Gardens Hotel**. Please follow the directions provided in the hotel.

Information regarding the Workshop

Relevant meeting documents can be found on the workshop webpage: <https://www.cdema.org/ews-project>

Security

As in any country, it's important to use regular safety precautions when you are visiting St. Lucia. It's good practice to travel in pairs or groups and when you are crossing the street be sure to look both ways; there aren't many pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, or intersections with traffic lights around the island. Rodney Bay Village, however, does have sidewalks and marked pedestrian crossing paths. There is a Police Station located next door to the Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa in Rodney Bay Village.

The people of St. Lucia are known to be extremely friendly and welcoming, so don't be alarmed if a local engages in casual conversation with you. While the primary language spoken here is English, many locals also speak Kwéyòl (Creole) which is derived from the French language. Many locals who can hold a conversation in French.

Local Laws and Customs

There are severe penalties for all drug offences. Pack all luggage yourself and don't carry anything through Customs for anyone else. It is an offence for anyone, including children, to dress in camouflage clothing. Local attitudes towards the LGBT community are mostly conservative throughout the Caribbean. Public displays of affection between opposite or same-sex couples are uncommon. Certain homosexual acts are illegal.