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# Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward

Friday, February 1, 2019

## STRENGTHEN INTEGRATED EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS) IN THE CARIBBEAN

MORE EFFECTIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND TOOL TRANSFER



### Logistical Information

**Meeting:** Second Meeting of the Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium | Thursday, January 31, 2019

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward | Friday, February 1, 2019

**Date:** Thursday January 31 and Friday February 1, 2019

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

**Contact:** For general information related to the workshop:  
Dr. Alexcia Cooke, CDEMA, Email: alexcia.cooke@cdema.org  
Ms. Tamara Lovell, IFRC, Email: Tamara.lovell@ifrc.org  
Mr. John Walcott, UNDP Barbados and the OECS, Email: john.walcott@undp.org  
Ms. Almudena Montoliu, UNDP Panama Regional Hub, Email: almudena.montoliu@undp.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 km<sup>2</sup>, and is characterized by mountainous and rugged topography, with steep slopes cut by fast-flowing rivers.





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Saint Lucia experiences a tropical maritime climate. Located within the north-east Trade Wind belt the island is normally under an easterly flow of moist, warm air with an average temperature of 27<sup>0</sup> C (79<sup>0</sup> F) and relative humidity of 75%. Temperatures rarely rise above 33<sup>0</sup> C or fall below 20<sup>0</sup> C. The highest temperatures are recorded around August to October, and the lowest in the months of January to March.

The island experiences two climatic seasons, a wet season which extends from June to November, while the dry season runs from December to May. Tropical disturbances (waves, depressions, storms, hurricanes), account for the greater amount of the recorded rainfall during the rainy season. Local convectional showers and other weather systems account for the remainder.

Saint Lucia Meteorological **website:** <https://met.gov.lc/>

### **Languages of Meeting**

The meeting will be conducted in English. Translation services are available for Spanish-English/English-Spanish.

### **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 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. You may check <http://www.oanda.com/> for more currency exchange information.

Time Zone Local time is GMT -4.

### **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.

### **Suggested Hotel**

Two hotels have been selected for accommodation for the duration of the meetings.

Meeting		Rate
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<b>Regional EWS Consortium Meeting</b> (N.B. Same for participants attending both meetings)	<b>Mystique Royal St. Lucia Resort and Spa</b>	USD 185
<b>Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward Meeting</b>	Coco Palm	US 174

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

Participants who are sponsored by another organization or self-funded are required to make their own reservations directly with the hotel.

### Reservation

If you intend to stay at the **Mystique Royal St Lucia Resort and Spa**, please email or call Greta Williams ([papres@stl.rexresorts.travel](mailto:papres@stl.rexresorts.travel) or (758) 457 3131) directly to make your hotel booking. Please indicate the Regional EWS Consortium Meeting



For reservations with **Coco Palm**, please email or call Sandy Leon ([reservations@coco-resorts.com](mailto:reservations@coco-resorts.com) or (758) 655-2626) directly to make your hotel booking. Please indicate the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward| 2019 (CDEMA) as the subject of your email.



There are other hotel options in Gros Islet. If you intend to stay at another hotel, please arrange for secure transport to and from Bay Gardens Hotel and Inn on the days of the meeting.

### Food and Beverages

Breakfast is included in the hotel price. Coffee breaks will be provided on the days of the workshop (one in the morning and one in the afternoon). Lunch will be provided on January 31 and February 1. 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

There are two airports serving St. Lucia. The first is Hewanorra International Airport in Vieux Fort, which is 40 miles to the south of Castries, and the other is George F. L. Charles Airport, which is located within Castries.



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### 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 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.

### Registration for the workshop

Please confirm your participation to Ms. Nicola Drakes at [nicola.drakes@cdema.org](mailto:nicola.drakes@cdema.org) or 1-246-434-4880. On-site registration will take place each morning of the meetings.

### Meeting rooms

The venue of the Second Meeting of the Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium | Thursday, January 1, 2019 is the **Ixora Conference Centre, Bay Gardens Inn.**

The venue for the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward | Friday, February 1, 2019 is **Bougainvillea Conference Centre Bay Gardens Hotel.** Please follow the directions provided in the hotel.

### Transportation to Meeting

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit has arranged transportation for delegates daily between the hotel and the Bay Gardens Hotel and Inn. Delegates are asked to assemble in the lobby by 8:10 a.m. to support a prompt 8:15 a.m. departure on meeting days. Please note this transportation will be free of cost to delegates.

### 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.



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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 (such as hand-holding or kissing) between opposite or same-sex couples are uncommon. Certain homosexual acts are illegal.

### **Top Attractions**

While visiting St. Lucia, some popular things to see include The Piton Mountains (Gros & Petit Piton) in Soufriere, The Sulphur Springs & Drive-In Volcano in Soufriere, Pigeon Island National Landmark, the Castries Market, various waterfalls around the island, and the Rainforest. There are several tours you can take. Tours are available for booking at some hotels.