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
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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 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 $27^0 C$ ($79^0 F$) and relative humidity of 75%. Temperatures rarely rise above $33^0 C$ or fall below $20^0 C$. 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.

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Regional EWS Consortium Meeting
(N.B. Same for participants attending both meetings) | Mystique Royal St. Lucia Resort and Spa | USD 185
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Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean: Achievements and Strategic Path Forward Meeting | 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 (papress@stl.rexorts.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 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 Hewananorra 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.
**Arrival in Castries**
If you are arriving in Castries at the George F. L. Charles Airport, taxis are available immediately as you exist 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.

**Registration for the workshop**
Please confirm your participation to Ms. Nicola Drakes at 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.
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.