RISK FINANCING & INVESTMENT

Funded by the European Union

RRP
INTRA-ACP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Implemented with the European Union, the World Bank and the Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)

Funded by the European Union

GFDRR

Administered by THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

CASE STUDY

RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENTS

Catalysing Climate-Resilient Investment Through Risk Analytics in St. Lucia

With support from the Intra-ACP DRRP, St. Lucia is accelerating risk-informed planning for resilience. Through World Bank/GFDRR technical assistance, St. Lucia is strengthening its enabling environment for climate-resilient investment by generating pre-investment risk analytics, building local capacity, and embedding risk into infrastructure design. By translating evidence into action, this support is positioning St. Lucia to protect communities, safeguard critical infrastructure, and advance its climate resilience goals.

72%
OF INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGES IN TRANSPORT SECTOR
IN THE 2013 TROUGH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01 COUNTRY/REGION/LOCATION
St. Lucia

02 RISK ADRESSED
Floods – river, urban, coastal; Landslides

03 IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD/TIMEFRAME
July 2023 to January 2025

04 ACTORS/IMPLEMENTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS
EU, World Bank and GFDRR working with national authorities

05 KEY BENEFICIARIES
Government of St. Lucia, local communities

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE

St. Lucia faces growing climate and disaster risks that threaten sustainable development. The country's small size, reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, and dense coastal settlement patterns increase its exposure to multiple climate-related hazards. The 2013 Christmas Eve trough underscored this vulnerability, triggering widespread flooding and landslides that devastated communities, disrupted livelihoods, caused significant damage, and exposed critical gaps in infrastructure resilience.

With climate change accelerating and disaster risks intensifying, strengthening climate-smart development is essential to safeguard ecosystems, protect livelihoods, and secure long-term development gains. Limited fiscal space and institutional capacity further constrain the country's ability to respond and recover, reinforcing the case for pre-investment risk analytics that embed resilience from the outset.

WHY THIS ACTION MATTERS?

Climate-related hazards result in considerable losses and damages, **highlighted during the 2013 Christmas Eve trough, which caused 6 deaths and damages equating to 8.3% of GDP in a 24-hour period**.

Through targeted technical support, risk analytics are informing investment decisions and **strengthening national capacity to protect communities** and safeguard critical infrastructure.

Risk analytics and urban resilience assessments have guided **investments under the USD 25 million St. Lucia Urban Resilient Flood Investment**. Project aimed at mitigating hazard impacts and strengthening infrastructure to protect lives and livelihoods.

See the intervention and results on page 2 →

RISK FINANCING & INVESTMENT

Funded by the European Union

RRP
INTRA-ACP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Implemented with the European Union, the World Bank and the Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)

Funded by the European Union

GFDRR

Administered by THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

INTERVENTION AND APPROACH

Through targeted technical support, a comprehensive urban risk analysis and flood mitigation pre-feasibility study are advancing resilience in Castries and Anse La Raye. An assessment of urban hazards identified key infrastructure resilience actions, charting a clear pathway for managing climate-related risks. This work uncovered practical nature-based solutions, including multipurpose retention basins and integrated bioswales, that, if selected for investment, can enhance urban environments and mitigate the impacts of floods, hurricanes, heatwaves, and other climate hazards.

A capacity building workshop strengthened local stakeholders' knowledge and skills in climate risk management and nature-based solutions, enhancing capacity to apply climate-smart technologies in infrastructure planning and design. An Inception Report for the flood mitigation pre-feasibility study in Castries and Anse La Raye was developed, and gaps in flood risk management infrastructure were identified through stakeholder consultations, directly informing the design of a new investment financing project.

Overall, these activities strengthen investment readiness and translate resilience priorities into concrete, practical action.

PROGRAMME OUTPUT ALIGNMENT

RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENT
This work advances the Intra-ACP DRRP's agenda by strengthening risk analytics and infrastructure planning. By translating risk evidence into actionable investment decisions and leveraging climate-smart urban planning solutions, it is laying the groundwork for long-term resilience.

RESULTS AND CHANGE

1 **Evidence-based investment decisions.** Risk analytics are catalysing future investments in resilient infrastructure. Identified gaps in flood risk management are informing the design of the Urban Resilient Flood Investment Project, translating evidence into targeted, resilience-oriented investment.

2 **Enhanced application of climate-smart solutions.** The opportunity scan for nature-based solutions in Castries and Anse La Raye provide actionable pathways for climate-resilient infrastructure that leverage ecosystem services and reduce hazard impacts.

3 **Strengthened local capacity for climate-smart action** The capacity building workshop equipped government stakeholders with the skills to apply nature-based solutions in infrastructure planning and design.

EARLY CONCRETE UPTAKE IN ONGOING INVESTMENTS:

Gaps in the flood risk management infrastructure were assessed through local stakeholder consultations informing the design of the new investment project financing.

Risk analytics have identified priority flood mitigation investment options for Castries and Anse La Raye through the pre-feasibility study. These are now being prioritised by the government for advancement through the feasibility stage, and eventual design and implementation stages.

> *"This project equips St. Lucia with the tools it needs to better manage and reduce the risks of flooding. By strengthening disaster preparedness and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, St. Lucia is taking important steps to safeguard its people, economy and vital assets from the growing impacts of climate change."*

LILIA BURUNCIUC
Director for the Caribbean
World Bank

KEY ENABLERS OF SUCCESS

- INVESTMENT-DRIVEN RISK ANALYSIS
- STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

SOURCES https://www.gfdrr.org/en/publication/saint-lucia-joint-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment