Gender Assessment

FP325: Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities in the Caribbean (CABRIC Caribbean)

The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia | Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) | GCF/B.46/02/Add.18

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GREEN CLIMATE FUND

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE CENTRE

Building Resilience. Securing Our Future.

Annex 8a: GCF Gender Assessment (Final) for the Funding Proposal for an Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Funding Proposal titled, **'Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities in the Caribbean (CABRIC Caribbean)**

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Abbreviations

AE	Accredited Entity
ARA	Assessing Reserve Adequacy
BDB	Bahamas Development Bank
CABRIC	Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDRFI	Climate And Disaster Risk Insurance
COAST	Caribbean Ocean and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility
CPDC	Caribbean Policy Development Centre
CRAFT	Catalytic Capital for First Private Investment Fund for Adaptation Technologies
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DBJ	Development Bank of Jamaica
DFC	Development Finance Corporation
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EV	Electric Vehicle
FHP	Flexible Hurricane Protection
FPIC	Free Prior, Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCCSAP	Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDB	Grenada Development Bank
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HDI	Human Development Index
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer [or Questioning], Intersex, Asexual, plus
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SASAP	Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SLDB	Saint Lucia Development Bank
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United State Dollar
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WBL	Women Business and the Law

Partners

This gender assessment was developed with the support of E Co. Ltd, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the National Designated Authorities.

Key Terms

To provide a shared understanding of climate change issues and to create an analysis focused on the impact and exposure of women, men, girls, and boys, the following definitions are offered as a reference.

Term	Definition
Gender	Gender is a social construct shaping expectations, behaviours, and roles linked to being a woman, man, girl, or boy. These expectations are shaped by cultural norms and evolve with time.
Gender Equality	Gender Equality is the concept that women and men, girls and boys have equivalent rights, prospects, and the capacity to achieve their full potential in all facets of life, including human rights, dignity, and participation in economic, social, cultural, and political progress.
Gender Considerations	Gender considerations involve understanding and addressing the diverse ways gender influences individuals and communities. This involves acknowledging and addressing the diverse experiences, needs, and challenges faced by individuals of all genders, including men, women, transgender people, and those who identify outside the gender binary.
Gender-based Discrimination	Gender-based discrimination encompasses any form of discrimination or unequal treatment, including but not limited to, that which is based on a person's gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics. This can include unequal opportunities; stereotyping; violence; and harassment.
Gender Pay Gap	The gender pay gap measures the difference in average earnings between men and women for performing the same job or similar jobs with comparable responsibilities and skill sets. This disparity is often expressed as a percentage, highlighting the extent to which women earn less on average than men.
Gender Stereotypes	A gender stereotype is a fixed belief about the behaviours, roles or traits that are deemed appropriate for women and men. Gender stereotypes can be harmful as it can constrain women and men's ability to grow professionally, personally, and as individuals.
Gender-based Violence	Gender-based violence refers to any act of violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women and girls. This can include threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. It can occur in any context, from the home to the workplace, and is a serious human rights violation that primarily affects women and girls.

1. Introduction

The Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities (CABRIC) programme being developed by E Co. Ltd under the oversight of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) is seeking to gain funding approval by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As part of the GCF's requirements for funding proposals, it is imperative that a gender assessment is conducted, and a subsequent gender action plan is developed to address issues emerging from the gender assessment. While the programme is planned for five Caribbean countries which would possess similar environmental and social contexts, it is critical to acknowledge that there are significant key differences between these countries as well as important nuances that shape how coastal resilience programmes would need to be implemented in each country. Important to recognize is that two of the five countries have indigenous populations (Belize and Jamaica) and would thus require specific considerations as required by the GCF's indigenous peoples' framework.

1.1 GCF Gender Requirements for Projects

Outlined in its 2019 policy, the GCF has requirements for accredited entities for activities the GCF is funding. Recognizing the role of gender inequality in climate change and how climate change impacts are gender differentiated, the organisation acknowledges its role in the fight against climate change and how gender equality is pivotal to said fight. Thus, the GCF requires the following:

- Concept notes and funding proposals submitted for GCF financing meet the principles and requirements of the Gender Policy
- A gender assessment, along with appropriate environmental and social assessments (as may be required according to the level of risks and impacts), and a project-level gender action plan are submitted as part of the funding proposal
- Analysis of context and sociocultural factors underlying climate change exacerbated gender inequality and optimize the potential contributions of women and men of all ages to build both individual and collective resilience to climate change is integrated into the funding proposal
- Measures to implement the project-level gender action plan are submitted as part of the funding proposal approved by GCF
- Measures to ensure periodic updates on the gender assessments are implemented and the GCF is notified when there are major changes in the design and execution of projects, or other circumstances that may affect the implementation of the gender action plan.

1.2 Limitations

The execution of this gender assessment and all supporting activities were conducted during a short time period which places constraints on non-governmental and civil society organisations' ability to engage fully in the planned national workshops.

2. Methodology

This section outlines the approach used for the development of the gender assessment. The gender assessment was conducted using a mixed method approach of desk-based research and stakeholder engagement to obtain vital data and information to support gender analysis and to assess the state of gender, climate change and coastal resilience in the five target countries. This process was sequential wherein data gathering and desk-based literature review were executed first which would then shape how the stakeholder engagement was conducted.

This sequence of activities was used to gain a deeper understanding relevant pressures and drivers that affect the coastal resilience, and how the programme can support coastal communities in its lifetime.

This gender assessment explores a wide range of gender-related economic, social, cultural, behavioural and institutional issues that intersect with land degradation and agricultural practices such as:

- Differential access to land for women and youth
- Barriers to participation in decision-making processes for agriculture and fisheries and management of relevant resources
- Access to credit and financial services to support entry and enhance productivity in the sectors
- Limited representation in agricultural institutions, women are often underrepresented in agricultural research, extension services, and policy-making bodies.

2.1 Desk-based Research

The desk review looked at a variety of sources which included government websites, reports, and documents from local authorities, UN agencies, relevant climate change and coastal projects and documents, and other relevant funded projects and documents. The scope of this review entailed relevant literature for climate change, and gender equality. Additionally, key national socio-economic statistics were utilised.

In terms of policies and strategies to be review, a gender rating tool was used to assess the extent of gender consideration within these relevant policies and strategies (See Table 1).

Table 1 - Gender Rating Tool

Gender Rating	Meaning
Blind	There is no mention or reference of gender or women within the action, policy or project.
Aware	The action, policy or project acknowledges and highlights gendered norms, roles and responsibilities.

Gender Rating	Meaning
Sensitive	The action, policy or project includes measures to ensure that gender inequalities are not worsen in its execution.
Responsive	The action, policy or project recognizes the differences and inequalities between men and women and outlines actions aimed at addressing and resolving these disparities.
Transformative	The action, policy or project seeks to address underlying structural inequalities while challenging existing social and cultural norms.

3. Country Gender Baselines

This section of the Report provides a holistic overview of the gender, socio-economic and environmental context for each of the five countries. This overview gives insight into the vulnerabilities of each country and its population while identifying key vulnerable groups. In addition to this, the coping capacity of the countries can be understood through the available resources of each country as well as the ongoing climate resilience activities taking place in each country.

3.1 Bahamas

3.1.1 Country Overview

The 700-island archipelago of the Bahamas has a total population of 399,440, with females accounting for 52.78% of the population and males for just 47.22% [1]. The Bahamas, like most Caribbean countries, has a high percentage of female-headed households, with 42% of female-headed households in 2019[2]. Though no immediate information on the status of childhood poverty was found, the country has a high single-headed poverty rate of 9.76% amongst females, higher than that of men in the same country (See Table 3)[3]. These demographic and socioeconomic realities of the Bahamas underscore the country's vulnerability to climate change, and its effects – hurricanes and floodings – may disproportionately affect low-income and female-headed households, who might lack resources and support systems to quickly recover.

Table 2 - Country Overview for The Bahamas

Category	Data
Female Pop.	210,758
Male Pop.	188,556
% of Female headed households	42% (2019)[4]
Poverty Rate	12.76% of the population[5]

1 WHO. N.d. Bahamas: Data. Available at https://data.who.int/countries/044

2 Government of The Bahamas. 2019. Distribution of Households by Sex of Head May 2019. Available at https://stats.gov.bs/data/household-income-and-expenditure/distribution-of-households-by-sex-of-head-may-2019/

3 IDB. 2018. Development Challenges in The Bahamas. Available at https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Development-Challenges-in-The-Bahamas.pdf

4 Government of The Bahamas. 2019. Distribution of Households by Sex of Head May 2019. Available at https://stats.gov.bs/data/household-income-and-expenditure/distribution-of-households-by-sex-of-head-may-2019/

5 Government of the Bahamas. 2013. Household Expenditure Survey Summary. Available at https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/7d47abb7-03b9-49c7-8831-1d1e9846c603/Household+Expenditure+Survey+2013+Summary+Statistics.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Category	Data
Female Headed Household Poverty Rate	9.76
Child Poverty Rate	-
Labour force, female (% of total labour force)	65.1%
Labour force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)	68.96 (2022)7
% of population employed in Coastal Related Industries	M: 35, 855 F: 28, 125
Human Development Index (closer to 1 the better)	0.820
Gender Inequality Index (closer to 0 the better)	0.333

In the labour market, women constitute 65.1% of the total labour force and have a participation rate of 68.96% (2022)[8], showcasing their significant contribution to the economy. However, gender disparities persist in key industries, with women severely underrepresented in traditionally male-dominated sectors such as agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing, where only 150 women are employed compared to 3,075 men[9] (See Table 4).

Table 3 - Showing Total Employed Persons by Sex in Selected Industrial Groups. Source: Government of The Bahamas

% of population employed in Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	% of population employed in Hotels & Restaurants	% of population employed in Transport, Storage & Communication
M: 3,075 F: 150	M:22,450 F:22,225	M:10,330 F:5,750

Conversely, women achieve near parity in the hospitality sector, with 22,225 females employed compared to 22,450 males[10], highlighting their critical role in tourism. Despite these contributions, female-headed households face economic challenges, as evidenced by their higher poverty rate. The country's Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.820[11] reflects its relatively high standard of living, but the Gender Inequality Index (GII) of 0.333[12]

6 IDB. 2018. Development Challenges in The Bahamas. Available at https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Development-Challenges-in-The-Bahamas.pdf

7 UNDP. N.d. Human Development Data Center. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/documentation-and-downloads

8 UNDP. N.d. Human Development Data Center. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/documentation-and-downloads

9 Government of The Bahamas. 2023. Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey: Fourth Quarter 2023. Available at https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/21e987d3-1268-4be4-9e68-de5a786cb9c2/quarter+four+_2023+press+release.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

10 Ibid

11 United Nations Development Programme. (2021). Human Development Reports. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI

12 United Nations Development Programme. (2020) Gender Inequality Index (GII) | Human Development Reports. Available at http://hdr.un0dp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii

indicates persistent disparities in economic and social opportunities for women, further emphasising the need for targeted interventions to reduce inequality and enhance women's access to resources and opportunities.

The Bahamian government has taken steps to combat climate change, recognizing the acute vulnerability of its island geography to rising sea levels and extreme weather. Initiatives like the Caribbean Net-Zero and Resilient Private Sector Project aim to bolster climate resilience, focusing on sustainability and the integration of vulnerable communities. However, further efforts are needed to incorporate gender-responsive strategies, particularly for women in Agriculture and coastal-related industries, where 28,125 women are employed compared to 35,855 men[13] (See Table 3 above). Women in these sectors may face structural inequalities, including limited access to resources, technology, and financing (See Section on Access and Control Over Resources), which hinder their ability to adapt to climate-related effects (such as increased sea levels) and risks (such as loss of livelihood, due to flooding and sea level rise).

3.1.2 Geography and Climatology

The Bahamas has a total of 700 islands and 2,400 cays with an area of 5,358 sq. miles (13,878 sq. km.) – 30 islands are inhabited (see Figure 1)[14]. The country currently has two seasons, a wet and dry season, with the wet season occurring between June and November and its dry season between December and May. Located to the north of Cuba and just southeasterly from the United States of America, the Caribbean country has thirty-eight constituencies – 23 on the Island of the New Providence, five on the islands of Grand Bahamas and Bimini and ten on other Family islands[15].

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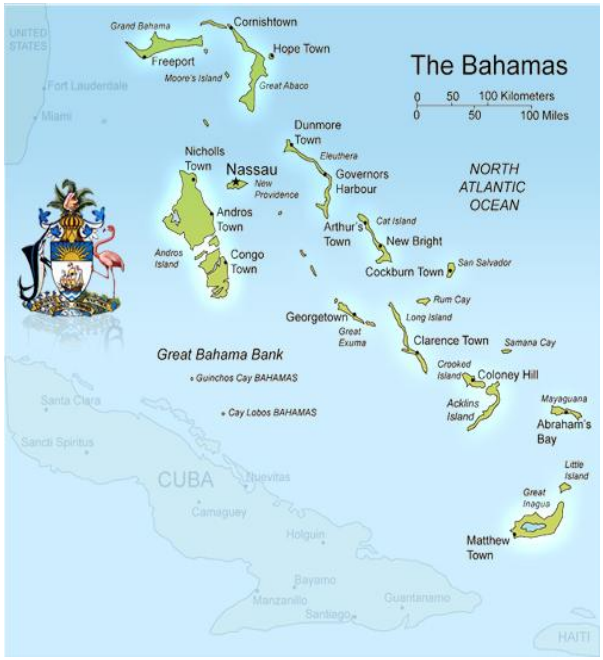
13 Government of The Bahamas. 2023. Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey: Fourth Quarter 2023. Available at https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/21e987d3-1268-4be4-9e68-de5a786cb9c2/quarter+four+_2023+press+release.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

13 Ibid

14 The Government of The Bahamas. N.d. The Bahamas. Available at https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/portal/public/About%20The%20Bahamas/Overview/!ut/p/b1/vVTLdpswEP2WfABBAoTEkrchvA3msfEB19gGY2OMMebrS9oukp7TZNNktJozV3Nn7oxEZ3RCZ6d8OOzy_nA-5cdXP-PXLNBtUeSIrSPAAyPyLNHDC8aFaAakHwA48Pu-7nK2OoddTRaBAVVuwfoKC5aAjukkTB-jcrZ3mrpaj2kc7HTxUlmZ6U7RLUmC9jSIh0aUm2gYcBvxP3BXIwdtnULxx05oxl0p4ZKF2-h6T21Kp5A8F5-WCt8WDLia-3XXFKDqk4FE2UIMU9mlLDaElKyXxzKNMitGVFVvJrYzpMC_nnXAjNqhzBmtXZqRFBhFpOd5FsvXmxx358Fqg4rZPT396R38w0TwmXYmnR2K5vm-aZ7BM2QhhgzEHMZYQAjyszTZhxlemE8Ar-r_AnxQYjoD8JsM4QrMAwJisIQ-IA6kQzoB3HpZPVpjqqegAndo14LthPkIVQAdxQqdqB4dJ4e2egFAiR59F9iOily72jDLfuH9WAWRJEpWJRybvwldJhRmQhnyLxGaF4L7akIduWTWCIeeiBigu_C7CdlvlVT3XPDlHb5bGs7__zN891KIwEOECScQHnAcwfSqSnlBvpqiagTlGGfWFQ5FEKnFuEkPbas5m5OxuAXk1sCRbAllGM4-nYrNJE9Oyq1iay8CP1IvrW2APm4oKetvWFzuVfauQUt-eGdDyjHw0T25SHEhym7Lsr3AFtJkZmfoZtbx0isn_HKEzLJ4cIVHuotQaMcpyyYwNacaqqbskeK48ifpBR6S_YpoLj9VNRyYqxzgVIKpo3UcxW0viFCdggRGXS_Irk52LklpZ3FutnQ7f4EWMtXSeXu4p5-ja_A7/dl4/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/

15 The Government of The Bahamas. 2011. House of Assembly Revision of Boundaries and Re-Distribution of Seats, 2011. Available at https://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2011/2011-0100/2011-0100_2.pdf

Figure 1 - The Bahamas



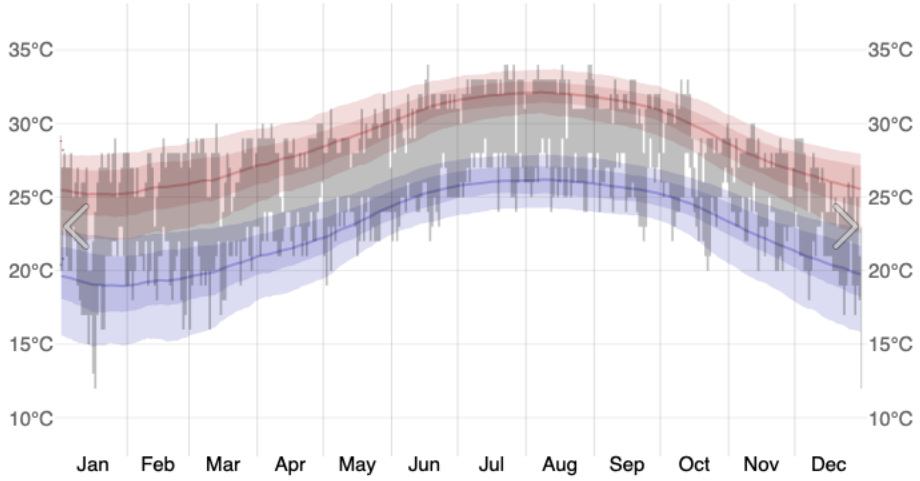
The Bahamas experiences temperatures ranging from approximately 21°C during the cooler months of December to February to around 27°C during the warmer months of June to August, with occasional extremes falling below 16°C or exceeding 32°C[16] (see Figure 2). Annual rainfall averages 44 inches (1,120 mm), with the majority occurring between June and August[17]. These months are located within the Atlantic Hurricane Season when the country might experience high winds, and heavy and sustained rainfall as is the case of Hurricane Dorian, where parts of The Bahamas experienced 35 inches of rain, causing flooding in these areas[18] (see Hazard Section).

Figure 2 - The Temperature in The Bahamas in 2023

16 Encyclopedia Britannia. 2014. The Bahamas: Climate. Available at https://www.britannica.com/place/The-Bahamas

17 Ibid

18 British Broadcasting Corporation. 2019. Hurricane Dorian: Bahamas faces 'historic tragedy'. Available at https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49602445



Ecosystem Health

Ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds are vital to the livelihoods of Bahamian communities, particularly women who rely on these resources for income and sustenance. These ecosystems provide essential services like coastal protection, fisheries support, and carbon sequestration. However, climate change poses significant threats to these natural resources, disproportionately affecting women, who are often responsible for managing household resources and ensuring community resilience. Recognizing this, The Bahamas has committed to gender-responsive climate action, ensuring that women are not only beneficiaries but also key decision-makers in climate adaptation and conservation efforts.

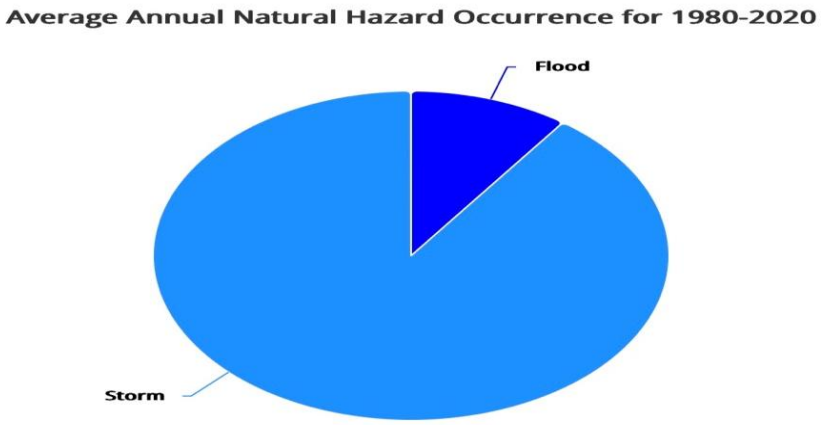
Programs like the Northern Mangrove Restoration project demonstrate the importance of integrating gender perspectives into climate initiatives. By involving local stakeholders, including women, in ecosystem restoration, these initiatives empower communities to actively participate in securing their livelihoods while enhancing climate resilience. The Bahamian government has also supported training programs for women in climate change and environmental leadership, underscoring their role in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. This gendered approach aims to build sustainable resilience and ensure that women, who are central to the nation's environmental stewardship, can continue to thrive in the face of climate challenges.

3.1.3 Hazards

Like other Small Island Developing States, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas is uniquely challenged by the effects of climate change, including increased flooding, more powerful hurricanes and rising sea levels. Particularly, The Bahamas main hazards are storms and floods (see Figure 3) due to its geographical location within the Atlantic Hurricane belt, and the low relief of its islands[19]. This reality is, has seen the country experiencing some of the worst hurricanes have to offer in 2019.

19 World Bank. N.d. Bahamas: Vulnerability. Climate Change Knowledge Portal. Available at https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/bahamas/vulnerability

Figure 3 - The Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for the Bahamas between 1980 and 2020. Source: World Bank



Hurricane Dorian caused 58 deaths[20], 2.4 billion USD in damages, 718 thousand USD in losses and 220 thousand USD in additional costs, totalling over 3 billion USD in damages, losses and additional costs (See Table 5)[21].

The Bahamas also grapples with significant water scarcity. With no freshwater lakes or rivers and reliance on erratic rainfall and groundwater reserves, many communities face challenges in accessing clean water[22]. In the Northern Bahamas, recovering from Hurricane Dorian, saltwater intrusion has led to situations in which saltwater flows from household faucets. This scarcity poses critical challenges to economic and social development, as clean water and adequate sanitation are essential for sustainable urban growth[23].

Table 4 - Summary Effects of Hurricane Dorian. Source: IDB

Sector	Damage	Losses	Additional Costs
Social	1,597,290,766	93, 163,186	82,254,021
Housing	1,487,167,663	65,014,267	57,809,391
Education	72,406,603	6, 799, 026	19,100,000
Health	37,716,500	21,351,380	5,344,630
Infrastructure	239,135,274	197,136,671	16,236,779
Power	131,355,000	68,924,558	6,335,000
Telecommunications	42,150,000	54,380,149	1,039,960

20 USAID. 2019. The Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian, Fact Sheet #12. Available at https://reliefweb.int/report/bahamas/bahamas-hurricane-dorian-fact-sheet-12-september-30-2019

21 IDB. 2020. Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas. Available at: https://publications.iadb.org/en/assessment-of-the-effects-and-impacts-of-hurricane-dorian-in-the-bahamas

22 Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations. 2024. Statement to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018-2028. Available at https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Bahamas%20%28E%29%20Rev.pdf

23 Ibid

Water and Sanitation	14,853,000	36,624,014	2,289,200
Productive	620,650,850	400,285,030	19,954,141
Tourism	529,550,208	325,199,267	15,146,625
Commerce	77,584,545	64,973,002	4,807,516
Fisheries and Agriculture	13,516,097	10,112,761	
Environment	7,146,963	27,435,048	102,473,000
Total	$2,464,223,852	$718,019,935	$220,917,941

Hurricane Dorian's damages, as highlighted in Table 5, saw a major impact on social sectors (housing, education and health) of the Bahamian society, totalling 1,597,290,766 USD in Damages, 93 163,186 USD in Losses and another 82,254,021 USD in additional cost. This highlights the key vulnerability primarily to the social sector, closely followed by the productive sector of the Bahamas, and their vulnerability to climate change. UNDP notes that there is, *a critical gap in the social development of the public sector is the lack of universal health coverage, which undermines equitable access to healthcare services for all citizens, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters and during public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic*[24].

This lack of universal healthcare exacerbates vulnerabilities for populations, in particular women, due to their caregiver role in the household, already struggling with the aftermath of events like Hurricane Dorian. As caretakers, this reproductive role often has women responsible for the health management of their children, elderly family members, and persons with disabilities during times of crisis[25] potentially leaving an increased burden on women in the management of household health in the absence of healthcare operations due to disaster damage and destruction, can cause increase stress and fatigue.

Moreover, the impact of climate change on health is further compounded by the deterioration of water and sanitation systems, with damages and losses amounting to 14.9 million and 36.6 million USD, respectively. Women and children are more likely to suffer from waterborne diseases due to disruptions in clean water supply, which disproportionately affects their health and wellbeing. In addition, economic instability caused by the disaster often leads to increased stress and reduced capacity to manage health conditions, which exacerbates the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension. This is particularly troubling for women, who experience higher rates of these health conditions due to a combination of caregiving responsibilities, social determinants of health, and limited access to preventative care[26].

24 UNDP. 2021. Social and economic impact assessment: The Bahamas. Available at https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/jm/JM---SEIA-Bahamas-compressed.pdf

25 PAHO. 2024. Bahamas: Country Profile. Available at https://hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/bahamas

26 Ibid

The shift to less nutritious diets, often as a result of disruptions to local food production, in a post-disaster scenario further exacerbates the prevalence of NCDs and highlights key vulnerabilities for all people in the Bahamas. Children, in particular, suffer from the long-term effects of malnutrition, which can affect their development, education, and overall health. Providing access to affordable, nutritious food and addressing the social determinants of health in recovery efforts are essential to improving health outcomes for women, children, and persons with disabilities[27].

3.1.4 Existing Climate Projects

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has five projects totalling **512,475,948 USD** (only GCF funding) and **2,205,200,000 USD** (in both GCF funding and co-financing) in investments. Of these, three are under implementation, and one has received approval. All four projects are gender-responsive, with documented Gender Action Plans (GAPs) or strategies to ensure equitable participation and benefits (See Table 6).

27 Ibid

Table 5 - Showing GCF Projects in Barbados

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi-Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications For CABRIC
GCF	Caribbean Net-Zero and Resilient Private Sector	This project focuses on enhancing climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities. Through innovative solutions, it addresses climate risks in agriculture, water, and energy systems, promoting ecosystem restoration and equitable resource management. The initiative prioritizes capacity-building, inclusive economic development, and gender-sensitive approaches to ensure long-term environmental and social benefits.	Yes	Approved	1)Buildings, cities, industries and appliances 2)Ecosystems and ecosystem services 3)Energy generation and access 4)Forest and land use 5)Infrastructure and built environment 6)Livelihoods of people and communities 7)Transport	Responsive	No active GAP seen	This project can provide a template for gender-sensitive approaches which CABRIC can use to enhance inclusivity in ecosystem restoration and sustainable resource management. Additionally, lessons from this project can guide holistic interventions in agriculture, water, and energy systems. This aligns with CABRIC's goal of reducing vulnerabilities through equitable participation. Lastly, fostering a climate-resilient private sector translates to enhanced income stability, paving the way for secure and sustainable livelihoods—key pillars of CABRIC's mission.
GCF	CRAFT - Catalytic Capital for First Private Investment Fund for Adaptation Technologies in	This inaugural private sector investment fund dedicated to scaling up climate resilience and adaptation	Yes	Under Implementation	• Health, food and water security • Infrastructure and built environment	Responsive	Yes	This project enhances climate resilience in the Bahamas, securing livelihoods and addressing food and health insecurity.

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi-Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications For CABRIC
	Developing Countries	technologies in developing nations. With a commitment of up to USD 100 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the project focuses on six key technologies: agricultural analytics, water harvesting and irrigation, food systems, geospatial mapping and imaging, catastrophe risk modelling, and supply chain analytics.			• Livelihoods of people and communities			CABRIC can also leverage private sector partnerships and prioritize women-led initiatives while drawing on lessons learned. Emphasizing accessible technologies and localized adaptation can strengthen CABRIC's community-driven goals.
GCF	Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Window	The project is the first large-scale private sector initiative in the blue economy. Implemented by Pegasus Capital Advisors, it establishes a private equity fund to promote investments aimed at protecting coral reefs.	Yes	Under Implementation	• Ecosystems and ecosystem services • Health, food and water security • Infrastructure and built environment • Livelihoods of people and communities	Responsive	Yes	CABRIC may adapt strategies for coral reef restoration and blue economy investments that promote gender equity and ecosystem resilience. This ensures equitable community benefits while supporting sustainable aquaculture. Integrating these measures enhances coastal livelihoods and ecosystem management
GCF	Global Subnational Climate Fund (SnCF Global) – Equity	SnCF Global aims to catalyse long-term climate investments at the subnational level	Yes	Under Implementation	• Buildings, cities, industries and appliances	Responsive	Yes	CABRIC can replicate scalable models for addressing mid-sized climate resilience projects at the community level.

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi-Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications For CABRIC
		by overcoming barriers that limit private investment in mid-sized mitigation and adaptation projects. With GCF equity financing of USD 150 million, the fund seeks to attract private institutional investment to deliver certified climate and sustainable development impacts at a global scale.			• Energy generation and access • Forest and land use			Alongside, gender-responsive budgeting and equitable access to resources can strengthen community capacities and promotes long-term social equity.
GCF	Global Subnational Climate Fund – Technical Assistance (TA) Facility							CABRIC can use this framework to enhance local capacity-building efforts and integrate gender in technical training and project development. Inclusive practices ensure socially equitable outcomes. Tailored technical support boosts CABRIC's ability to manage resilience initiatives effectively

These initiatives, funded through the GCF, emphasize gender-responsive or gender-transformative programming. Notably, many of these projects have the potential to positively support CABRIC efforts, for example, Caribbean Net-Zero and Resilient Private Sector, which has a total investment (GCF grant funding and co-financing) of **527, 200, 000 USD** sets out to strengthen key participants in the country's economy that is the private sector, that employs 61% of the Bahamian workforce in 2023[28]. By promoting climate-resilient businesses, the initiative contributes to stable income generation and economic security, particularly for women, who are disproportionately represented in low-wage and informal sectors. It also addresses structural inequalities by fostering equitable resource management and ecosystem restoration, which is key to CABRIC's mission. The project's gender-sensitive approaches can serve as a model for CABRIC, demonstrating how inclusive economic development enhances the livelihoods of low-income women while advancing social equity.

Another example is the **CRAFT – Catalytic Capital for First Private Investment Fund for Adaptation Technologies** project, which is under implementation and focuses on scaling climate adaptation technologies in developing nations. Targeted areas include agricultural analytics, water harvesting, and food systems—all critical for addressing health and food security vulnerabilities. Women, often responsible for household water and food security in the Caribbean, stand to benefit significantly from these interventions. CABRIC can leverage the project's private sector partnerships and prioritise women-led enterprises to strengthen community-driven goals. By integrating localised and accessible technologies, CABRIC can empower vulnerable groups, especially women, to adapt effectively to climate change impacts.

Though no current known projects are being undertaken by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre at this time, SAEDI Consulting (Barbados) Inc. is actively supporting research and social analysis on 2 projects in the Bahamas. These include:

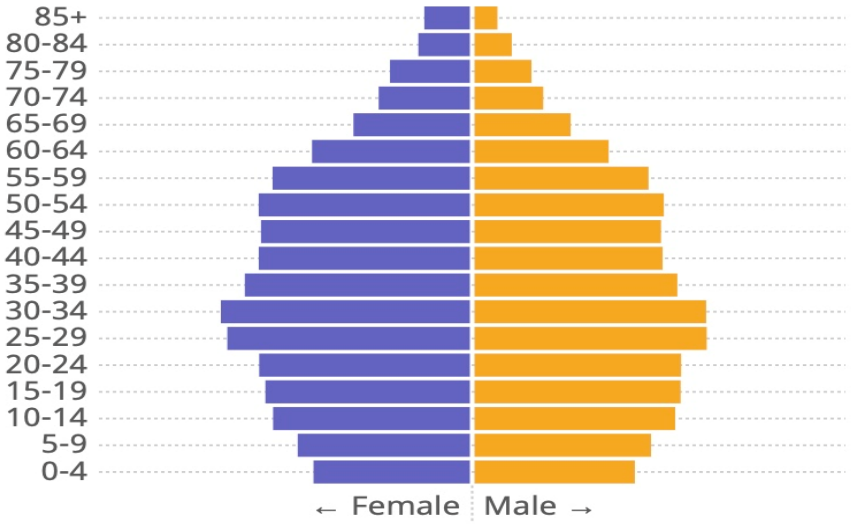
- Caribbean Small Island Developing States Multi-Country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems which is focused on Land degradation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is exacerbated by urbanization, climate change, and poor land management, significantly impacting food security. In response, fourteen Caribbean countries are participating in the SOILCARE Programme to combat desertification and restore degraded land under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and
- An energy project focused on improved and better Renewable Energy infrastructure in the public sector across Family Islands and New Providence.

28 The Government of The Bahamas. 2023. Labour Force Survey May 2023. Available at https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/wcm/connect/17dc1ce3-305c-4e26-ac0a-9194114b8fc7/PRESS+RELEASE+-+Labour+Force+Survey+MAY+2023.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

3.1.5 Demographics

With most of the Bahamian population of Lucayan Taino (Arawakan) derivation (ethnicity)[29], the population is majority African descendant. Its population of 399,440– of which ~210,758 are female and ~188,556 are male[30]. This growing population has a birth rate of 1.34, a suicide rate of 3.54 per 100,000 population and approximately 35,000 to 45,000 persons are living with disabilities. Figure 4 shows the generally youthful population of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas with 78.3% of the population between the ages of 15 and 64, 12.8% 65 and older, and 8.9% between the ages of 0 and 14.

Figure 4 - Showing Population Pyramid of the Bahamas 2023. Source: World Health Organization



Education

While primary education shows near gender parity, with boys and girls enrolled at similar rates, disparities become evident at higher levels[31]. At the secondary level, girls consistently outnumber boys, with a gender parity index (GPI) above 1.03, indicating a clear female advantage in enrolment[32]. This trend is even more pronounced in tertiary education, where female participation is significantly higher, with a GPI exceeding 1.75[33]. Despite these gains, women's educational achievements do not translate proportionally into economic opportunities. Women in The Bahamas face higher unemployment rates and barriers to leadership positions, while men are increasingly disengaged from higher education due to underperformance and dropout at earlier stages[34]. These trends highlight the urgent need

29 Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. (n.d.). The Bahamas - British colonialisation. Encyclopaedia Britannica. Available at https://www.britannica.com/place/The-Bahamas/British-colonization

30 WHO. N.d. Bahamas: Data. Available at https://data.who.int/countries/044

31 ECLAC. 2022. Addressing Gender Disparities in Education and Employment: A necessary step for achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean. Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/617fc7ac-82b0-4b2f-be83-5a14d825caf4/content

32 Ibid

33 Ibid

34 ECLAC. 2022. Addressing Gender Disparities in Education and Employment: A necessary step for achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean. Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/617fc7ac-82b0-4b2f-be83-5a14d825caf4/content

for targeted policies to address the educational and economic challenges faced by both genders to ensure equitable development.

Religion

This Caribbean nation, as of 2010 is also home to 4.7% of Caucasians, 2.1% of mixed race, 1.9 other and 0.7 unspecified[35]. According to the United States Department of State, Protestants make up 70% of the population, including Baptists (35%), Anglicans (14%), Pentecostals (9%), Seventh-day Adventists and Methodists (4% each), and smaller groups like Church of God and Brethren. Roman Catholics account for 12%, while 13% identify with other Christian groups, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Greek Orthodox, and Latter-day Saints. Religious minorities include Rastafarians (20,000), Jews (1,000), Baha'is, Muslims, Black Hebrew Israelites, and Hindus, with a small number practising Obeah. Additionally, 5% of the population report having no religion, other, or unspecified beliefs[36].

Migration

Moreover, with increasing socio-political unrest in the Republic of Haiti, The Bahamas saw a significant influx of Haitian migrants in 2020, with 29,629 individuals arriving, compared to 10,359 Americans and 8,042 Jamaicans (see Figure 5) [37]. This migration presents unique challenges, particularly for Haitian women, who face compounded vulnerabilities due to cultural and language differences, as Haitian Creole and French are the primary languages spoken in Haiti as compared to English which is widely spoken and the primary language in the Bahamas. These differences can create barriers to accessing key services, such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, further limiting their ability to secure stable livelihoods. Additionally, systemic discrimination exacerbates these issues, deepening economic precarity and increasing exposure to gender-based violence (GBV). For Haitian women, who often assume caregiving roles, the impacts of climate change further strain their resilience, making it imperative to address these intersecting barriers through gender-responsive policies and culturally inclusive support systems. These issues are explored in greater detail in the Gender Profile of this report[38].

Figure 5 - Principal Countries and Territories of Origin of Immigrants in the Bahamas, 2020. Source: IOM

		Principal countries / Territories of origin					
Destination country / Territory	Total Immigrants	1		2		3	
Bahamas	63,583	Haiti	29,629	U.S.	10,359	Jamaica	8,042

35 Central Intelligence Agency. (n.d.). The Bahamas. The World Factbook. Available at https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/bahamas-the/

36 United States Government. 2022. The Bahamas 2022 International Religious Freedom Report. Available at https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/441219-BAHAMAS-2022-INTERNATIONAL-RELIGIOUS-FREEDOM-REPORT.pdf

37 IOM. 2023. Data Report: Trends in Caribbean Migration and Mobility. Available at https://lac.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1446/files/documents/2023-07/data-report-trends-in-caribbean-migration-and-mobility.pdf

38 To be developed

Safety

With one of the lowest-ranking overall scores on the WBL 2.0 2024 of the CABRIC countries, The Bahamas scored 0.0 in the legal frameworks category and 25.0 in the supportive framework category[39], highlighting a potentially unsafe and inequitable environment for women and girls in the country. On the legal framework side, the report revealed a lack of comprehensive legislation addressing critical issues such as domestic violence, femicide, sexual harassment, and child marriage. While the existence of the Marriage Statute Law of the Bahamas 1976 offers some reference to child marriage, these legislative gaps significantly heighten risks for women and girls, leaving them more vulnerable to gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices.

On a more positive note, the supportive framework data/information indicated an annual budgetary allocation toward programs addressing violence against women—specifically risk mitigation, prevention, and response initiatives—as outlined in the Draft Estimate of Revenues and Expenditure 2023-2024[40]. While this marks an important step forward, it is vital to ensure that these resources are deployed effectively to dismantle systemic barriers and structural inequalities that underpin Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and harassment (SEAH) and expand protections for women and girls. By prioritising risk identification and mitigation, this allocation has the potential to challenge entrenched power imbalances, reshape harmful social norms, and create safer environments for women and girls. Strengthening the legislative landscape alongside these budgetary measures is essential to breaking the cycle of inequality and enabling women to participate fully and safely in Bahamian society and the economy. These issues will be explored in greater detail in the Gender Profile Section (upcoming), emphasising the intersectional barriers that exacerbate vulnerability and limit access to justice and support services, whilst enabling Bahamian women to participate fully and safely in the Bahamian society and the economy.

3.1.6 Leadership and Governance

The Bahamas operates under a Westminster political system with a constitutional monarchy as the Head of State, having achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1973. Governance in the country is conducted democratically through a bicameral system comprising the House of Assembly and the Senate, led respectively by the Prime Minister and the President of the Senate. The House of Assembly consists of 39 members of Parliament, who are elected every four years by constituencies across the nation, with women comprising 17.9% of this chamber[41] (see Figure 6). Strengthening their leadership in shaping climate action and economic policies could drive more equitable and effective solutions, supporting gender equity and climate resilience in the Bahamas.

39 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Bahamas (The). Available at https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Bahamas-the.pdf

40 Ibid

41 Inter-Parliamentary Union. N.d. Bahamas | House of Assembly | Data on women. IPU Parline. Available at https://data.ipu.org/parliament/BS/BS-LC01/data-on-women/

Figure 6 - Women's Representation in the current Parliament of The Bahamas. Source. IPU

Current representation

Women's representation in the current parliament or chamber

Current number of members	39
Women	7
Percentage of women	17.9%

The active democratic engagement of Bahamians through peaceful protests, such as the December 2024 demonstrations against corruption, highlights the crucial role of civic participation in governance. This level of civic activism ensures that leaders remain accountable to the people, fostering a transparent and responsive government. From a governance standpoint, ensuring that policies related to land, environment, and climate resilience are shaped by the needs and concerns of communities is critical to securing livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable groups, including women and girls, youth, and persons with disabilities. By advocating for good governance and accountability, civil society can push for policies that prioritise sustainable development, equitable resource distribution, and climate adaptation, which directly impact the economic stability and resilience of communities.

3.1.7 Economy

The Bahamas' tourism-driven economy recorded a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately 4.78 billion USD in 2022[42] - 14.4% increase from 2021[43], with a labour force participation rate in the Bahamas of 65.1% among women and 79.5% amongst men[44]. The hotel and restaurant industry alone contributes about 11.42% to the economy and has an almost balanced, equal participation of males and females - 49.75%, females and 50.25%, males (see Figure 7)[45]. The Bahamas has strong foreign reserves, with Gross International Reserves covering several months of imports, ensuring economic stability. However, climate change poses risks to the tourism and real estate sectors due to rising sea levels, severe hurricanes, and coastal erosion. These industries contributed over 2,110.7 million USD in 2023.

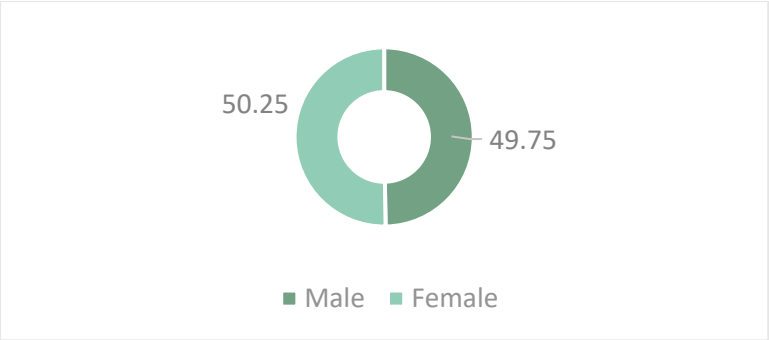
42 Statista. n.d. Total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP in the Caribbean in 2021, by country. Available at https://www.statista.com/statistics/814155/caribbean-total-contribution-travel-tourism-gdp-country/

43 The Central Bank of The Bahamas. 2023. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. Available at https://www.centralbankbahamas.com/viewPDF/documents/2023-05-09-12-27-39-2022-CB0B-Annual-Report-and-FS.pdf

44 World Bank. N.d. Gender data. Bahamas. Available at https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/bahamas-the

45 Bahamas National Statistical Institute. 2024. Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey: Fourth Quarter 2023. Available at https://cdn.bahamas.gov.bs/tenant/tenantbnsi/documents/All%20Documents/quarterfour2023pressrelease-20250407104218.pdf

Figure 7 - The Percentage of Female and Males Workers in the Hotel and Restaurant Industry of The Bahamas



Livelihoods

The dual reliance on tourism and financial services presents risks for The Bahamas, with the economic and social impacts of climate-induced disasters, such as Hurricane Dorian, revealing the profound vulnerabilities faced by marginalised groups in The Bahamas. Women, girls, persons with disabilities, and youth were disproportionately affected, experiencing heightened challenges in accessing essential resources like healthcare, stable housing, and financial protection. Hurricane Dorian alone caused 3.4 billion USD in damages and losses, affecting critical sectors such as tourism and housing—both pillars of economic stability and social well-being as noted in Table 5 (Page 10).

Women, particularly those in low-wage tourism and agriculture roles, are disproportionately affected by economic vulnerability, a reality rooted in the intersection of gendered caregiving norms and systemic inequities including the absence of a law to mandate equal remuneration for work in equal value[46]. In Caribbean societies, women often assume the primary caregiving role, making their income losses particularly devastating as they directly affect access to nutritious food, medical care, and education for their children. Single mothers, in particular, face compounded barriers, including limited resources to rebuild housing or address displacement-related costs. These challenges are starkly reflected in economic data: in 2019, 42% of female-headed households reported 28% less income than male-headed households, with a gap of 12,166 USD in mean income and 16,400 USD in median income compared to their male counterparts[47]. This disparity underscores the systemic barriers women face, including restricted access to income generation, financial instruments and recovery policies, which may further entrench gender inequities and vulnerabilities within the climate crises as seen in the heavy bill within the social and productive sectors in Table 5. However, men also face livelihood vulnerabilities. In the Bahamas, a concerning 21.5% of men are engaged in vulnerable employment, characterized by a lack of formal work arrangements, social protection, and safety nets[48]. This precarious employment situation leaves them highly susceptible to economic shocks and poverty. A

46 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Bahamas (The). Available at https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Bahamas-the.pdf

47 Government of The Bahamas. 2019. Distribution of Households by Sex of Head May 2019. Available at https://stats.gov.bs/data/household-income-and-expenditure/distribution-of-households-by-sex-of-head-may-2019/

48 Bahamas, The | World Bank Gender Data Portal

closer look reveals that after Hurricane Dorian, productive sectors including agriculture, commerce, and fisheries, saw 620.7 million USD in damages and 400.3 million USD[49] in losses, further exacerbating food insecurity and economic instability for marginalised communities. Women in rural areas, particularly those working in agriculture and informal trade, can face heightened challenges due to the loss of income and access to resources. The destruction of local food systems increases reliance on imported, less nutritious foods, disproportionately affecting women and children who are more vulnerable to malnutrition and related health conditions.

Asset Ownership

The findings on assets in the Women, Business and the Law Report for The Bahamas in 2024 highlight both progression and gaps in supporting women's property rights. Notably, the Government of The Bahamas has implemented legislation such as the Inheritance Act, Art[50]. 4(a) and the Married Women's Property Act, Sec. 2, 3, and 6, and with legislation like the Law on Property Act, Sec 10, there are still gaps in supportive frameworks for women's property rights[51]. These gaps exist in awareness measures to improve women's access to information on material and inheritance rights and anonymised sex-disaggregated data on property ownership that is not regularly published. These gaps highlight the need for actions to improve women's access to property rights and ownership information. This will ensure greater equity, empowerment, and resilience against flooding and other climate impacts for female-headed households and female-owned properties. They also limit the available collateral to these women in accessing finance to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience building.

Access and Control Over Resources

Access to and control over financial resources in The Bahamas is vital for mitigating water and food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable populations such as women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and youth. Systemic barriers such as restrictive collateral requirements, high interest rates, and limited access to credit often exclude these groups from financial services. Women-led and small-scale agricultural enterprises, critical for food security, are especially disadvantaged. They frequently struggle to secure medium- to long-term loans necessary for investments in climate-resilient farming practices and infrastructure, which are key to addressing climate-induced vulnerabilities like water scarcity and crop failure[52].

The agricultural and fisheries sectors, which play a pivotal role in local food production, receive minimal financial support from domestic banks. This lack of investment undermines resilience-building efforts, leaving these sectors ill-equipped to adapt to climate shocks. Women, who often bear the responsibility for household food and water security, are further marginalized by these financial constraints. The adoption of inclusive financial strategies,

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49 IDB. 2020. Assessment of the Effects and Impacts of Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas. Available at: https://publications.iadb.org/en/assessment-of-the-effects-and-impacts-of-hurricane-dorian-in-the-bahamas

50 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Bahamas (The). Available at https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Bahamas-the.pdf

51 Ibid

52 Mooney, H., Rosenblatt, D., et al. 2022. Caribbean Economics Quarterly: Finance for firms—Options for improving access and inclusion (Volume 11, Issue 2)

such as targeted credit facilities and capacity-building initiatives, is essential to empower these groups and strengthen climate resilience at both the household and community levels[53].

3.2 Belize

3.2.1 Country Overview

Belize, a Central American nation with strong sociopolitical and economic connections to the Caribbean, is classified as an upper-middle-income country. In 2022, its population was approximately 405,000, with a GDP of $2.5 billion USD and a per capita GDP of 6,049 USD [54]. This growth was primarily supported by expansions in key sectors such as tourism, construction, retail and wholesale trade, transport, and business process outsourcing[55]. Recent poverty data however reveals that over a third of Belize's population experienced multidimensional poverty in 2021, while more than half were unable to afford sufficient nutrition and essential non-food items in 2018[56]. In Belize, the adolescent birth rate is 0.9 per 1,000 women aged 15–19 as of 2021, 33.5% of women aged 20–24 years old were married or in a union before age 18[57].

Labour force data from 2020 reveal that women faced lower employment rates and shouldered a disproportionate burden of unpaid care responsibilities. By 2023, female labour force participation stood at 50.2%, significantly lower than the 77.1% participation rate among males (See Figure 8)[58]. As a result, women and the children under their care are among the most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable to external shocks, particularly in remote rural and Indigenous communities[59].

53 Mooney, H., Rosenblatt, D., et al. 2022. Caribbean Economics Quarterly: Finance for firms—Options for improving access and inclusion (Volume 11, Issue 2)

54 World Bank. Belize Overview. Available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/belize/overview

55 United Nations Belize. 2023 UN Belize Country Results Report. Available at: https://belize.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/2023%20UN%20Belize%20Country%20Results%20Report.pdf

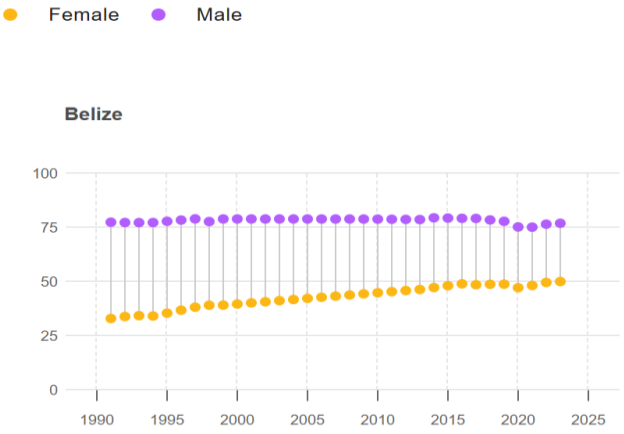
56 World Bank. Belize Overview. Available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/belize/overview

57 UN Women. Belize: Gender Data Factsheet. Available at: https://data.unwomen.org/country/belize

58 World Bank. Gender Data Portal: Belize. Available at: https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/belize

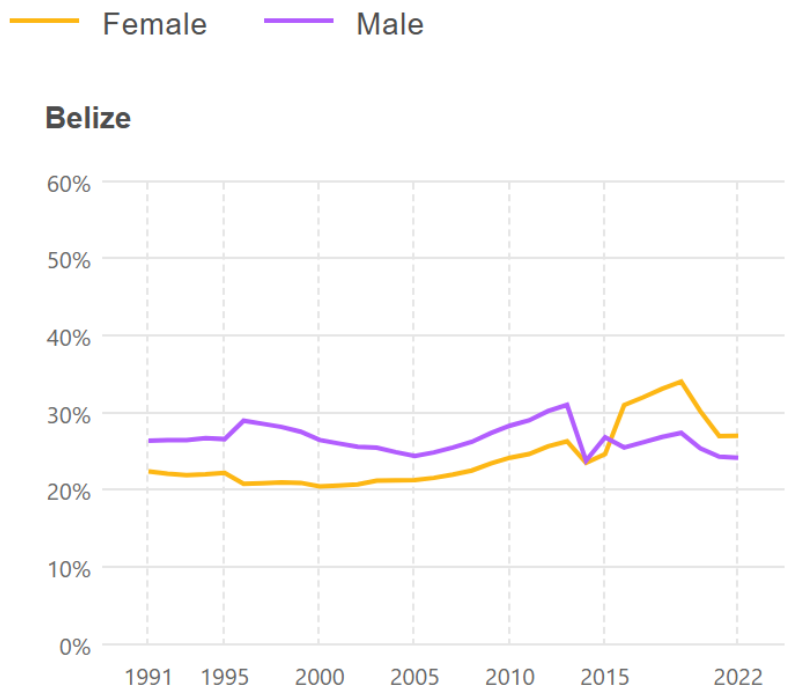
59 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). EnGenDER Belize Baseline Analysis. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/bb/undp-bb-EnGenDER-Bleize-Baseline-Analysis-2-pager.pdf

Figure 8 - Labour force participation rate, by sex (% of population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate)



In Belize, individuals engaged in vulnerable employment often lack formal work arrangements, social protections, and safety nets, leaving them more exposed to economic shocks and at greater risk of falling into poverty. In 2022, the rate of vulnerable employment stood at 27.2% for women and 24.3% for men in Belize (see Figure 9)[60].

Figure 9 - Showing Vulnerable employment, by sex (% of total employment)



Between 2022 and 2023, Belize's age dependency ratio also shifted from 48.9% to 48.2%, a slight but negligible decline. In agriculture, 4.6% of female employment and 24.1% of male employment were recorded, while in the services sector, 82.6% of female employment and 52.3% of male employment were reported. The proportion of seats held by women in

60 World Bank. Gender Data Portal: Belize. Available at: https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/belize

national parliaments rose from 12.5% to 15.6% in 2023 and the WBL score improved from 79.4 to 82.5 indicating progress in creating a more equitable legal framework for women.

Inequalities in human development hurt societies and weaken social cohesion and people's trust in government, institutions and each other[61]. Belize's 2022 HDI value of 0.700 places it in the High Human Development category, ranking 118th out of 193 countries and territories[62]. Climate change poses a significant threat to the progress achieved by Caribbean nations, and Belize is no exception to this growing challenge. Belize is vulnerable to hurricanes, storms, flooding, wind damage, and storm surge, particularly in Belize City. Its low-lying terrain intensifies the impacts of flooding and sea level rise, while extreme temperature events further compound climate risks. The World Bank's *Natural Disaster Hotspot* study ranks Belize 61st globally for relative mortality risk from multiple hazards and 8th among 167 countries for overall climate risk[63].

3.2.2 Demographics

In 2021, Belize had an estimated population of approximately 400,000, making it the least densely populated nation in Latin America[64]. The 2024 population breakdown by male and female can be seen in Figure 10[65]. This small population is remarkably diverse, reflecting the country's rich cultural and linguistic heritage. Belize is home to various ethnic groups, including Mestizo, Creole (Kriol), Garífuna, Caribbean, Maya Kekchi (also spelt Q'eqchi'), Maya Mopán, Mennonite, and Maya Yucatec, among others[66].

61 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2019: Belize. Available at: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/bz/30676858bda219d80c863567e41a777121884ae1b68013ec13498b0bd84da76e.pdf

62 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report Data Center: Belize. Available at: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/BLZ

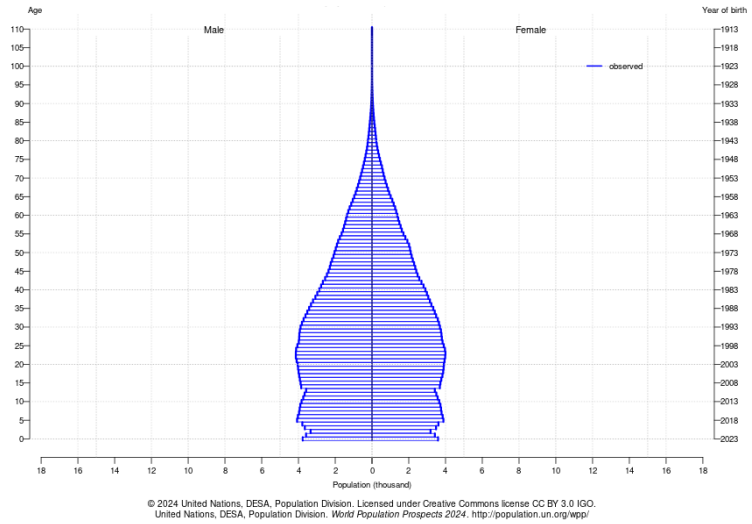
63 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Belize - Vulnerability. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/belize/vulnerability

64 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Belize: A Case Study Conducted by The Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Belize_Case_Study.pdf

65 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects: Graphs. Available at: https://population.un.org/wpp/graphs

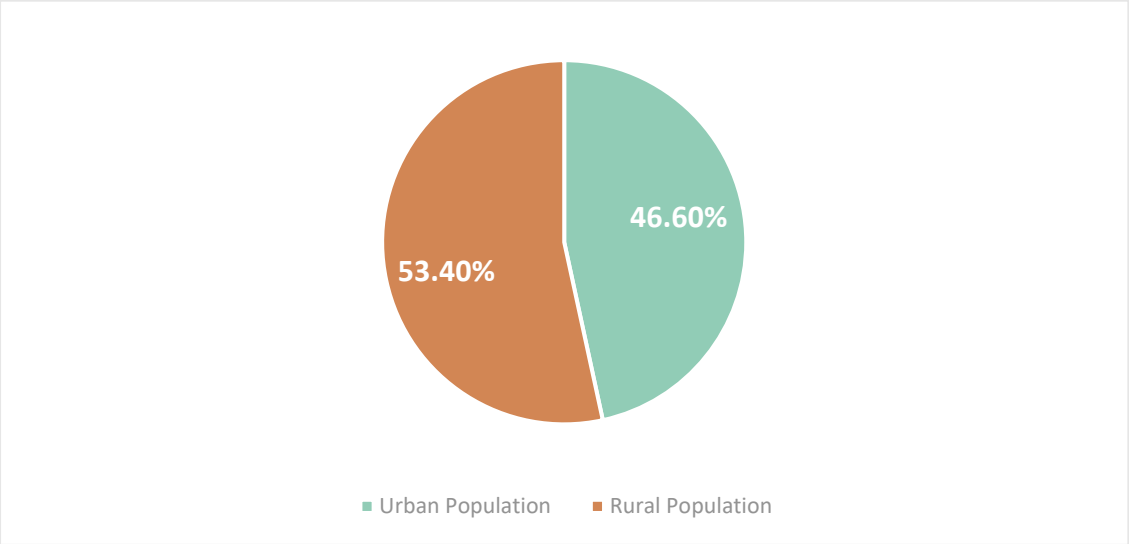
66 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Belize: A Case Study Conducted by The Climate Resilient Food Systems Alliance. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Belize_Case_Study.pdf

Figure 10 - Showing Belize's population by age and sex in 2024



According to FAO statistics from 2023 (see Figure 11), 53.4% of the population resides in rural areas, compared to 46.6% in urban centres[67]. Additionally, estimates indicate that approximately 43,700 people in Belize live with disabilities[68]. Public health data further highlights that female aged 15 and older account for 46.2% of those living with HIV, underscoring gendered disparities in health outcomes.

Figure 11 - Rural and Urban Populations in Belize (2023)



Education

In Belize, gender disparities in education are evident across different levels of the system. Female students generally demonstrate higher enrolment and completion rates than males.

67 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAOSTAT: Belize. Available at: https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#country/23

68 UNICEF Belize. Financing the Leave No One Behind Agenda. Available at: https://www.unicef.org/belize/stories/financing-leave-no-one-behind-agenda

According to the Ministry of Education's 2022-2023 data, 79.5% of females completed lower secondary education compared to 73.6% of males[69]. Despite higher overall attainment, women remain underrepresented in STEM fields, with only 41.8% of tertiary-level STEM graduates being female, based on the World Bank's 2022 report [70]. Societal norms and educational practices that reinforce traditional gender roles, as highlighted in the Caribbean Development Bank's 2016 gender assessment, may contribute to this gap [71].

Furthermore, young women face challenges in transitioning into the workforce; the World Bank's 2022 data show 34.8% of females aged 15-24 were not in education, employment, or training, compared to 14.7% of males [72]. The adolescent fertility rate also impacts educational outcomes for women, with 2022 data showing 67.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, more than double the rate in similar income countries[73]. The Government of Belize, in collaboration with international organizations, is addressing these gaps through various initiatives. These include the development of a competency-based curriculum in 2024 to promote inclusive education[74] and programs aimed at improving employability and skills training for young people. Whilst these efforts signal progress, continued work is necessary to address persistent disparities and promote gender parity in education and beyond.

Religion

The U.S. government estimated Belize's population at 393,000 in mid-2019. According to the 2010 census, Roman Catholics are the largest religious group, comprising 40% of the population. Protestants account for 32%, including Pentecostals (8%), Seventh-day Adventists (5%), Anglicans (5%), Mennonites (4%), Baptists (4%), Methodists (3%), and members of the Church of the Nazarene (3%). Jehovah's Witnesses make up 2%, while 11% follow other faiths such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Rastafarianism, the Salvation Army, and the Baha'i faith. Around 15% of the population is unaffiliated with these groups. No single religious group dominates any of the country's six districts. Catholicism is widespread, while Mennonites and Pentecostals are concentrated in the rural areas of Cayo and Orange Walk Districts. Smaller religious communities include Soka Gakkai International-Belize, with a temple in Belize City, and approximately 577 Muslims, excluding fewer than 160 members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim

69 Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Technology (MOECST). (2023). Belize education statistics at a glance 2022–2023. Available at https://www.moecst.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Belize-Education-Statistics-at-a-Glance-2022-2023.pdf.

70 World Bank. (2023). Belize Gender Scorecard 2023. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099553303062341896/pdf/IDU0593c385d0a7c4045e40b6d200604907e3e1d.pdf.

71 World Bank. (2021). Belize Country Gender Scorecard. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/536991645768064239/pdf/Belize-Country-Gender-Scorecard.pdf.

72 World Bank. (2023). Belize Gender Scorecard 2023. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099553303062341896/pdf/IDU0593c385d0a7c4045e40b6d200604907e3e1d.pdf.

73 World Bank. (2023). Belize Gender Scorecard 2023. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099553303062341896/pdf/IDU0593c385d0a7c4045e40b6d200604907e3e1d.pdf.

74 Government of Belize Press Office. (2023). MoECST concludes third round of consultations on new competency-based curriculum [Press release]. Available at https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Feb-10-PR037-23-MoECST-Concludes-Third-Round-of-Consultations-on-New-Competency-based-Curriculum.pdf.

Jamaat. Indigenous groups, such as the Maya and Garifuna, also practice traditional folk rituals[75].

Safety

Men and boys in Belize are threatened by gang violence, particularly in Belize City, which ranks among the top ten most crime-ridden urban spaces globally[76]. With 82% of homicides in Belize City attributed to gang violence, **young men and boys are at high risk of becoming both victims and perpetrators of violence.** Creole men have a particularly high probability of death from injuries (14.8%), dominated by homicides and unspecified deaths involving firearms[77].

3.2.3 Geography and Climatology

Belize is situated in Central America, between latitudes 15° 52'N and 18° 20'N and longitudes 87° 28'W and 89° 13'W. It shares borders with Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west and south, and maritime borders with Honduras in the south and the Caribbean Sea to the east (See Figure 12). The country spans a total land area of approximately 22,963 km^2 and has approximately 450 islands or islets, vast expanses of rainforest, mountains and rivers, and the world's second-largest barrier reef [78].

Figure 12 - Location Map of Belize



Belize has a moist tropical climate, with seasonal patterns that differ slightly from those of other Caribbean nations. The wet season typically occurs between May and October, while the dry season spans November to April. The country's mean annual temperature ranges from 23°C to 27°C, with coastal areas generally experiencing warmer conditions compared to the interior[79]. Critical to consider for Belize, the way it is bordered by Mexico, Guatemala

75 U.S. Department of State. (2019). 2019 Report on International Religious Freedom: Belize. Available at https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-report-on-international-religious-freedom/belize .

76 UNICEF. N.d. Adolescent Health. https://www.unicef.org/belize/adolescent-health

77 Morey F, Hambleton IR, Unwin N, Samuels TA. 2016. Ethnic and Gender Disparities in Premature Adult Mortality in Belize 2008-2010. PLoS One: 11(9): e0163172. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0163172.

78 Global Finance. Belize GDP and Economic Data. Available at: https://gfmag.com/country/belize-gdp-country-report/

79 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Belize - Historical Climate Data. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/belize/climate-data-historical

and Honduras wherein it can be impacted by river flooding and storms impacting its neighbours through the transboundary effects of systems.

Ecosystems

Belize is endowed with diverse ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, mangroves, and the Belize Barrier Reef, the second-largest barrier reef globally. These ecosystems are integral to the nation's biodiversity and underpin the livelihoods of many Belizeans through agriculture, fishing, and tourism [80]. For instance, the fishing industry contributes approximately 28 million BZD annually, playing a crucial role in local economies and food security [81]. However, these ecosystems face significant threats from climate change, manifesting as rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. Such environmental changes and human activities related to the connected rivers and water bodies Belize shares with other countries jeopardise marine and coastal resources, essential for industries like fishing and tourism [82]. Moreover, inland flooding during prolonged rainfall endangers crops and livestock, disproportionately affecting small-scale women farmers who often lack financial resources for climate-resilient farming practices [83].

In rural communities, women are primarily responsible for water collection. Climate-induced water scarcity forces them to travel longer distances, increasing their exposure to health as well as safety risks and limiting time for other economic activities. Additionally, inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) resources pose significant challenges, particularly during menstrual cycles, exacerbating health vulnerabilities among women and girls. In Belize, stigma and a lack of information regarding the importance of preventive care make men less likely to utilise primary healthcare services[84]. This can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment of health conditions, resulting in poorer health outcomes and increased vulnerability to diseases being spread as a result of climate change. Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable, with communities facing threats from hurricanes, storm surges, and flooding and the contribution of all these of coastal erosion and the contribution of coastal erosion to the knock-on effects from these threats. Women in these regions often reside in substandard housing and have lower income levels, making recovery from climate-related disasters more challenging. Despite their crucial roles in resource management and household sustenance, women frequently have limited participation in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction[85].

80 Oceana. (2020). State of Belize Fisheries Report 2020. Available at https://belize.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/State_of_Belize_Fisheries_Report_2020.pdf.

81 Oceana. (2020). State of Belize Fisheries Report 2020. Available at https://belize.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/State_of_Belize_Fisheries_Report_2020.pdf.

82 World Bank. (2021, March 24). Resilience and conservation in a changing climate: The case of Belize. Available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/03/24/resilience-and-conservation-in-a-changing-climate-the-case-of-belize.

83 UN Women. (2022). Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Belize. Retrieved from wrd.unwomen.org

84 The Coalition for Human Rights in Development. N.d. EEO-4 – Gender and Diversity Sector Analysis.

85 UN Women. (2022). Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Belize. Retrieved from wrd.unwomen.org

3.2.4 Existing Climate Projects

Belize Small Grants Programme

From 2017 to 2023, Belize's Small Grants Programme (SGP) successfully implemented 56 projects, with 98% being gender-responsive and 61% women-led. These initiatives focused on biodiversity conservation, climate change, and clean energy, benefiting 178 households and protecting over 690,000 hectares of land. The programme showcased innovative gender-environment integration, such as training indigenous female solar engineers, reducing 30 tons of CO_2 emissions annually, and establishing an all-women solar board. Aligned with global frameworks like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Small Grants Programme (SGP) demonstrated strong gender mainstreaming, fostering women's networks and advancing sustainable development (See Figure 13).

Figure 13 - SGP in Belize (2017-2023)

Belize's Small Grants Programme (SGP) from 2017-2023	
Description	**Details**
Total Completed Projects	56
Gender-Responsive Projects	55 (98%)
Women-Led Projects	34 (61%)
Years with Gender Focal Point on NSC	7 out of 7 years
Use of Gender Checklists	Consistent for all 7 years
Projects Focused on Biodiversity Conservation	34
Protected Areas Covered (Hectares)	690,756
Indigenous/Community Conserved Areas (Hectares)	6,899
Projects Focused on Climate Change	8
Households Benefiting from Energy Access	178 households
Innovative Gender-Environment Integration Example	Indigenous female solar engineers trained to bring solar energy to remote communities, avoiding 30 tons of CO2 emissions and establishing an all-women solar board
Alignment with International Frameworks	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Key Strengths in Gender Mainstreaming	Strong networking for women's organizations, connection to regional/global networks, incorporation of gender-specific outputs, activities, and indicators

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management is also implementing several impactful projects aimed at advancing climate resilience and sustainable development in Belize. These include initiatives like the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Phase 2 Project and capacity-building programs to track climate finance, both funded by UNOPS, with budgets of approximately $170,000 each. Significant funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and GCF supports projects such as Belize's Biennial Transparency Reports ($1.23M) and National Adaptation Plan development ($1.35M). Additional programs address MSME competitiveness, water security, and low-carbon futures, with key partnerships involving the European Union, Inter-American

Development Bank (IDB), and German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). These efforts highlight a strong focus on climate change mitigation, disaster risk management, and sustainable development (See Figure 14).

Figure 14 - Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management Ongoing Projects [86]

Project Name	Funded By	Implementation Period	Total Funds in US$	Description
ICAT-Belize Phase 2 Project	UNOPS	19 Months	170,000	Strengthening national and institutional capacities to support the implementation of the developed National Climate Change MRV System under ICAT Phase I.
ICAT Enhancing national capacities to track climate finance	UNOPS	1 Year	169,875	Enhancing national capacities in Belize to track and report on climate finance to meet national and international reporting requirements.
UNDP Climate Promise – APA	UNDP Climate Promise Initiative	4 Months	159,494.50	Contributing to the national work programme for implementing, tracking, and strengthening Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean	European Union-CARIFORUM	3 Months	185,800.50	Supporting climate-resilient development in CARIFORUM countries with a focus on national water security in Belize.
Preparation of Belize's Biennial Transparency Reports	GEF	4 Years	1,233,000	Preparing biennial transparency reports and national communications to the UNFCCC.
Component 2 of Sustainable and Inclusive Belize	IDB	4 Years	400,000	Improving MSME competitiveness, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability in agriculture and tourism sectors.
Enabling Activities for a Multisectoral National Adaptation Plan for Belize	GCF	34 Months	1,345,500	Developing adaptation plans for priority sectors under changing climatic conditions.
Belize Country Office – UNICEF Programme of Cooperation 2022-2026	UNICEF	21 Months	60,000	Focusing on climate change, disaster risk management, and environmental issues affecting children and vulnerable groups.
Supporting the implementation of NDCs in the Caribbean	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	48 Months	Controlled by the donor	Transforming the transport and energy sectors towards a low-carbon future.

3.2.5 Leadership and Governance

Belize is as an independent nation within the Commonwealth of Nations, governed under a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy. The British Monarch serves as the Head of State, represented locally by a Governor General, while the Prime Minister, as the Head of Government, leads based on majority party leadership in parliament. Administratively, Belize is divided into six districts and has a single-tier local government structure with limited authority, encompassing city, town, community, and village councils. Its bicameral National Parliament consists of the Senate, with members appointed through

86 Government of Belize, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management. Annual Technical Report 2023-2024. Available at: https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Min-of-Sust-Dev-Clim-Change-Disaster-Risk-Mgt-ATR-2023-24.pdf

various advisory channels, and the House of Representatives, elected via a simple majority system in 31 single-member constituencies. Parliamentary and municipal terms last up to five years, and voting is not compulsory[87].

In the context of Belize, women's growing presence in Parliament is a step forward, but continued efforts are needed to achieve gender parity and enable women leaders to thrive across all sectors. As of 2022, Belize's Parliament includes four women elected to the House of Representatives, four women appointed as Senators, and two women serving as Presiding Officers. Together, women parliamentarians make up 22% of the National Assembly. Although this represents the highest number of women serving in Parliament in Belize's history, they remain a minority in the legislative body[88].

Between May - July 2025, the council elections took place in the district villages of Belize, Cayo, Toledo, Corozal, Stann Creek, Orange Walk and out of 172 Chairpersons elected only 37 women were granted such a position (22%).[89]

Women in leadership are crucial for fostering inclusive and equitable societies. Studies show that with women in leadership, organizations and governments are more likely to focus on social welfare, education, healthcare, and gender equity. Despite these benefits, women still face systemic barriers like cultural biases, lack of mentorship, and underrepresentation in decision-making roles, including in Belize.

3.2.6 Economy

Belize is the smallest economy in Central America and the second smallest by size after El Salvador[90]. Belize's open, private sector-led economy is based primarily on tourism, agriculture, and services. In 2022, GDP) grew to US $2.95 billion, a 12.1 per cent rise following a 15.2% increase in 2021[91]. The financial services sector, particularly international financial services, is a budding sector in Belize's economy [92]. The services sector, which accounts for approximately 76% of GDP, remains the backbone of the economy. Tourism plays a critical role, with overnight tourist arrivals increasing by 22.4% in 2024, boosting the accommodation and food services industry by 33%[93]. The growth in tourism highlights Belize's reliance on its natural attractions, such as its barrier reef, which draws international visitors. The financial services sector continues to grow, enhancing Belize's position as a regional hub for international banking and offshore services[94].

87 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (n.d.). Belize: Overview of Institutional Governance Systems. Available at https://oig.cepal.org/en/countries/69/system.

88 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). (2022). Belize Women's Parliamentary Caucus: Strengthening the role of women in parliament. Available at https://www.cpahq.org/news/2022_03-belize-women-s-caucus/.

89 Elections and Boundaries Department. (2025). 2025 Village Councils Elections.

90 Global Finance. Belize GDP and Economic Data. Available at: https://gfmag.com/country/belize-gdp-country-report/

91 International Trade Administration. "Belize Market Overview - Country Commercial Guide." Available at: https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/belize-market-overview

92 Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Trade in Services. Available at: https://www.belize.org/trade-investment-zone/trade-in-services/

93 Statistical Institute of Belize. (2024). Gross Domestic Product: 2nd Quarter 2024. Available at https://www.sib.org.bz.

94 International Monetary Fund. (2024). Belize and the IMF. Available at https://www.imf.org

In the secondary sector, construction has been a notable driver, expanding by 7.3% in the second quarter of 2024 due to significant infrastructure projects[95]. Manufacturing also contributes to the economy, with increased production of sugar and citrus concentrates. Meanwhile, the primary sector delivered mixed results, with agriculture showing strength in banana and sugarcane production, which grew by 22.9% and 14.1%, respectively, in 2024. However, challenges in the fishing industry, including a 4.1% decline in shrimp output, reflect sector-specific vulnerabilities. Belize's GDP per capita rose to $7,987.6 in 2023, driven by economic recovery and increased investment. The unemployment rate fell to a historic low of 2.1% in 2024, indicating a strengthening labour market[96].

Export growth and foreign direct investment, particularly in tourism and financial services, have further supported macroeconomic stability. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Belize's economy is projected to grow by 2.5% in 2024, continuing its path of recovery and stabilization after the COVID-19 pandemic[97] Moving forward, Belize's economic outlook depends on sustaining growth in key sectors, diversifying its economic base, and addressing vulnerabilities to external shocks.

Asset Ownership

In many areas such as gender and poverty, women's access to assets (including land), and gender and the environment lack comparable methodologies for regular monitoring[98]. The WBL 2024 report for Belize shows both strengths and gaps in gender equality. The legal frameworks score (62.5/100) is below global and regional averages, indicating gaps, particularly in laws affecting women's safety, despite perfect scores in areas like property rights and pensions. The supportive frameworks score (62.5/100) is well above average, reflecting strong policies for pay equity, business opportunities, and mobility (see Figure 15). While Belize provides solid support for women's economic participation, addressing legal gaps, especially in safety including physical and sexual harassment, could further enhance gender equity[99].

Figure 15 - Belize's Women, Business and the Law Report (2024)

WBL 2.0	Safety	Mobility	Workplace	Pay	Marriage	Parenthood	Childcare	Entrepren-eurship	Assets	Pension
Legal frameworks score	25.0	100.0	25.0	50.0	100.0	75.0	25.0	25.0	100.0	100.0
Supportive frameworks score	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	25.0	100.0	66.7	50.0
Expert opinions score	12.5	100.0	25.0	37.5	75.0	56.3	12.5	87.5	100.0	75.0

95 Statistical Institute of Belize. (2024). Gross Domestic Product: 2nd Quarter 2024. Available at https://www.sib.org.bz.

96 Statistical Institute of Belize. (2024). Gross Domestic Product: 2nd Quarter 2024. Available at https://www.sib.org.bz.

97 Statistical Institute of Belize. (2024). Gross Domestic Product: 2nd Quarter 2024. Available at https://www.sib.org.bz.

98 UN Women. Belize: Gender Data Factsheet. Available at: https://data.unwomen.org/country/belize

99 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Belize. Available at: https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Belize.pdf

3.3 Grenada

3.3.1 Country Overview

Grenada, often referred to as the "Spice Island," is one of the smallest independent nations in the Western Hemisphere. Renowned for its spice production, Grenada ranks as the world's second-largest producer of nutmeg after Indonesia and cultivates notable quantities of mace, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves[100]. In 2023 Grenada had a population of 126, 840 people and retains a small, open economy that relies heavily on agriculture and tourism (see Figure 16). While the national economy was primarily based on agriculture and related exports, it has undergone significant transformation over the past four decades, shifting toward a service-oriented model[101].

Figure 16 - Background of Key Socio-Economic Information on Grenada

Capital	Saint George's
Form of government	Constitutional Monarchy
Location	Lesser Antilles – Eastern Caribbean
Total land area	344 Kilometres (km)
Population	126,840 (January 2023)
Main economic activities	Agriculture and tourism
GDP (Annual Growth)	4.7% (2021)

Source: World Bank, 2023; Allen et al., 2017; Charles, 2014

Population data from 2024 suggest that Life expectancy at birth is 75.4 years for both sexes combined, with females living longer at 78.5 years and males at 72.5 years. The infant mortality rate is 11.7 deaths per 1,000 live births, with deaths of children under age 5 recorded at 14.4 per 1,000 live births [102]. When assessing data for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the most recent population census (2011) confirmed that the total population of persons living with disabilities is 14,655. Of this population 5,858 were males and 8,796 were females. It is estimated that 13.9%of the population live with some level of disability[103].

Between 2020 and 2023, Grenada experienced economic growth, with GDP per capita rising from $8,437 to $10,463, but significant gender disparities persisted in the labour market and political representation. Women held 36.3% of senior and middle management positions in 2020, but their parliamentary representation dropped from 46.7% in 2020 to 31.3% by 2021. Female labour force participation was notably lower than male rates, with a 38.9% employment-to-population ratio for women compared to 55% for men. Youth labour force

100 BBC News. Belize Country Profile. Available at: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19598301

101 International Organization for Migration (IOM). Grenada: Country Assessment and Analysis. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/2024-06/grenada-country-assessment-analysis.pdf

102 Worldometers. Grenada Demographics. Available at: https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/grenada-demographics/

103 World Bank. Grenada: Strengthening Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Project – Project Appraisal Document. Available at: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099061024112025993/pdf/P1712561091c6a0cb1b72d1fb91f12fb701.pdf

participation showed similar disparities, with 30% for young women versus 38.9% for men, while female youth unemployment (33.3%) far exceeded male rates (23.3%).

Additionally, 27.9% of female youth were not in education, employment, or training (NEET), slightly lower than the 29.9% for males. Despite consistent Women, Business, and the Law Index scores of 80.6, a deeper look reveals persistent challenges in achieving gender equity in economic and political spheres. Grenada's overall HDI value for 2022 is 0.793, which puts the country in the High human development category, positioning it at 73 out of 193 countries and territories. About the country's GDI, Grenada retains a value of 0.976 (2022) (see Figure 17)[104].

Figure 17 - Grenada's Gender Development Index (2022)

Grenada

2022 GDI value			0.976
GDI change from 2021			+0.001
	Female	Male	Gender gap
HDI Value	0.781	0.801	-0.020
Life Expectancy at Birth	**78.3** years	**72.6** years	5.7 years
Expected Years of Schooling	**17.1** years	**16.1** years	1.1 years
Mean Years of Schooling	**9.8** years	**9.9** years	-0.1 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (2017 PPP$)	**9,775**	**17,412**	-7,637

3.3.2 Geography and Climatology

Situated in the eastern Caribbean Sea, Grenada is a volcanic island located approximately 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of Venezuela. Grenada spans roughly 21 miles (34 kilometres) in length and 12 miles (19 kilometres) in width[105] and has mountainous terrain surrounded by extensive coral reefs and mangroves. About 3% of its land area lies at sea level, with main towns and socio-economic hubs concentrated along the coast. The country's highest point is Mount Saint Catherine, standing at 840 meters[106].

The Southern Grenadines, including the largest island, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, are dependencies of Grenada. Carriacou lies about 20 miles (32 kilometres) to the north-northeast and covers an area of 13 square miles (34 square kilometres)[107] (See Figure 18). Petite Martinique, located northeast of Carriacou, is a smaller island with an area of nearly 2 square kilometres. The terrain of Carriacou is less hilly compared to mainland Grenada,

104 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report Data Center: Grenada. Available at: https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/GRD

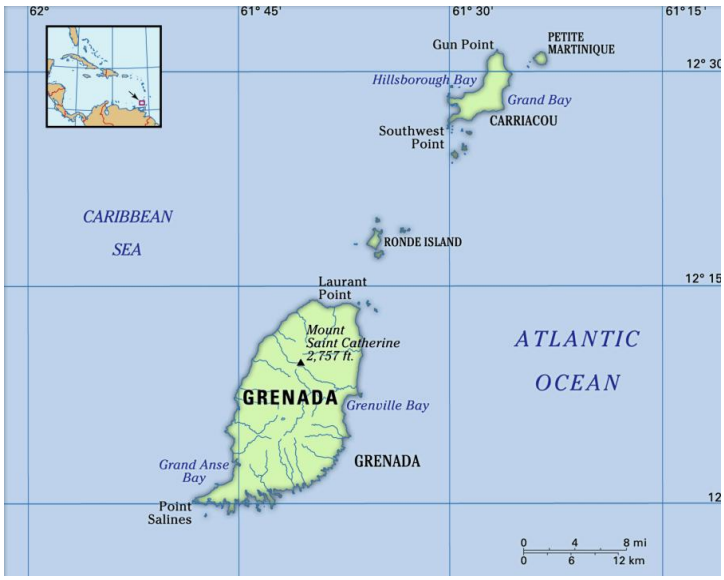
105 Encyclopaedia Britannica. Grenada. Available at: https://www.britannica.com/place/Grenada

106 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Grenada. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/grenada

107 Encyclopaedia Britannica. Grenada. Available at: https://www.britannica.com/place/Grenada

with 50% of its land featuring slopes greater than 20 degrees, and its highest elevation reaching 291 meters at High North Peak[108]. In contrast, Petite Martinique's terrain is more rugged, with 90% of its land having slopes exceeding 20 degrees, and its highest point rising to 230 meters above sea level[109].

Figure 18 - Map of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique



Located at 11°58' North latitude and 61°20' West longitude[110], Grenada's climate is influenced by its equatorial location and surrounding seas and features consistently high temperatures year-round. The annual average temperature is about 25°C, with minimal seasonal variation (see Figure 19). Maximum temperatures can however average 31.4°C, while minimums are around 24.0°C. Annual rainfall ranges from 750 to 1400 mm, with a dry season from January to May and a wet season from June to December. Carriacou and Petit Martinique receive less rainfall and often face severe droughts during the dry season[111].

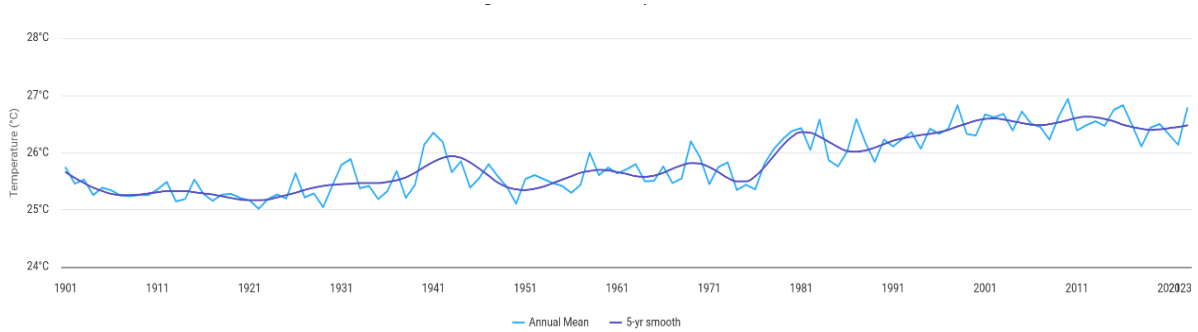
108 Government of Grenada. 2017. Grenada's second national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Grenada%20Second%20National%20Communication_Final%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf

109 Ibid

110 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Grenada. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/grenada

111 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Grenada - Historical Climate Data. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/grenada/climate-data-historical

Figure 19 - Annual Average Mean Air Temperature for Grenada (1901 – 2023)[112]



3.3.3 Hazards

Grenada, as a small state, is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. As of 2022, Grenada maintains a climate change risk index value of 1.7. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events threaten agricultural output, labour productivity, and public health. Additionally, sea level rise could jeopardize much of the country's infrastructure as a significant portion of Grenada's infrastructure and settlements is concentrated along the coastline. This includes critical facilities such as government buildings, healthcare centres, commercial hubs, and transportation networks. These areas are already vulnerable to natural forces, such as wind, waves, tides, and currents, as well as human activities like the removal of beach sand and poorly planned shoreline construction. The effects of climate change, particularly rising sea levels, are expected to intensify these challenges, leading to accelerated coastal erosion and increased pressure on these coastal zones[113].

3.3.4 Existing Climate Projects

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has three projects totalling 136,494,410 USD in GCF funding and 122,010,101 USD in combined GCF and co-financing investments. All are currently under implementation, are responsive with only two having publicly accessible GAPs (See Table 7).

The Climate Resilient Water Sector in Grenada (G-CREWS) project highlights critical approaches to food and water security, health, and ecosystem resilience. Its climate-smart water management strategies can inform CABRIC's efforts to improve water access, governance, and health adaptation measures for vulnerable groups. Additionally, its nature-based solutions align with CABRIC's focus on coastal ecosystem resilience and sustainable adaptation.

Another key project is the Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean, which finances renewable energy transitions to enhance energy security in countries such as Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. CABRIC can adopt its low-carbon solutions to reduce energy costs for irrigation, desalination, and food production, thereby strengthening food

112 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Grenada. Available at: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/grenada

113 International Monetary Fund (IMF). Grenada: Climate Change Policy Assessment. IMF Country Report No. 19/193, May 30, 2019.

and water security. Additionally, investing in renewable energy for healthcare infrastructure can improve public health resilience against climate-induced disruptions.

Additionally, several projects are being implemented under the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. Currently, two projects are active, while the Eastern and Southern Caribbean Program for Accelerating Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean (PACCA) is potentially on hold due to the Trump Administration's Executive Order temporarily pausing foreign aid. To date, four projects have been successfully completed (see Table 7).

The Eastern and Southern Caribbean Program for Accelerating Climate Change Adaptation (PACCA) further supports CABRIC's goals in food and water security, health resilience, and ecosystem adaptation. CABRIC can utilize PACCA's emphasis on sustainable water management and ecosystem-based adaptation, including rainwater harvesting, drought-resistant agriculture, and mangrove restoration, to strengthen community resilience.

Several of these projects align with CABRIC's objectives and provide key lessons. For instance, the Integrated Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience project, a multi-country initiative, strengthens climate resilience through infrastructure improvements, flood prevention, and small grants for community-led adaptation. CABRIC can leverage its devoled granting model to expand local financial accessibility, support small grants for resilience projects, and promote gender-inclusive strategies.

Table 6 - Showing Existing GCF and CCCCC Projects in Grenada

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
GCF	Integrated Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience	This multi-country project aims to enhances climate resilience by strengthening infrastructure against hurricanes, implementing flood prevention measures, and funding community-driven adaptation efforts. It supports public infrastructure upgrades, small grants, and revolving loans for climate-resilient improvements, with completion expected by March 2025	Yes	Under Implementation	• Ecosystems and ecosystem services • Infrastructure and built environment • Livelihoods of people and communities	Responsive	No public copy on website	CABRIC can leverage the local led climate adaption model of this project to strengthen local organisations, improve financial accessibility, and support community-led climate adaptation. These include small grants for resilience projects, enhanced data sharing, and gender-inclusive strategies to empower vulnerable groups.
GCF	Climate Resilient Water Sector in Grenada (G-CREWS)	This project aims to transform Grenada's water sector by enhancing governance, promoting efficient water use, and investing in resilient infrastructure to address climate-induced water scarcity.	No	Under Implementation	• Health, food and water security • Infrastructure and built environment • Livelihoods of people and communities	Responsive	Yes	The G-CREWS project offers key lessons for CABRIC in addressing livelihood insecurity by strengthening food and water security, health, and ecosystem resilience. Its climate-smart water management strategies can help CABRIC enhance water access and governance in coastal communities facing climate-

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
								induced shortages. G-CREWS' focus on health adaptation measures, such as improved sanitation, informs CABRIC's efforts to reduce climate-related health risks for vulnerable groups. Additionally, its nature-based solutions, like watershed protection, align with CABRIC's goal of enhancing ecosystem resilience. By integrating these approaches, CABRIC can expand its grant Facility, ensuring inclusive, community-led climate adaptation in the Caribbean.
GCF	Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean	This project aims to transition Eastern Caribbean countries toward renewable energy by financing geothermal energy development and enhancing energy security in nations such as Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint	Yes	Under Implementation	• Energy generation and access	Responsive	Yes	The FP020 Sustainable Energy Facility provides key lessons for CABRIC in integrating renewable energy solutions to enhance food and water security, health, and ecosystem resilience. CABRIC can reduce energy costs for irrigation, desalination, and food

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.						production by adopting clean energy, ensuring stable water and food supplies for coastal communities. Investing in renewable energy for healthcare infrastructure can strengthen public health resilience against climate-induced disruptions. Additionally, low-carbon solutions help protect coastal ecosystems from degradation and pollution.
CCCCC	2023-2027 Project Eastern and Southern Caribbean Program for Accelerating Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean (PACCA)	The PACCA project (2023–2027) aims to enhance climate resilience in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean by strengthening disaster risk reduction, sustainable resource management, and community-based adaptation. It supports policy development and local engagement to drive long-term climate adaptation solutions.	Yes	Unknown given recent pausing of USAID	• Enhancing Climate Resilience • Sustainable Resource Management • Disaster Risk Reduction • Community Engagement and Education • Policy Development and Implementation	Unknown	No publicly accessible GAP	The PACCA project provides key insights for CABRIC in food and water security, health, and ecosystem resilience through climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. CABRIC can apply PACCA's focus on sustainable water management by promoting rainwater harvesting and drought-resistant agriculture. Its emphasis on health resilience supports CABRIC's efforts in climate-proofing healthcare

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
								facilities and improving disease surveillance. PACCA's ecosystem-based adaptation aligns with CABRIC's goals of mangrove restoration and coastal habitat protection to reduce climate risks for vulnerable communities.
CCCCC	Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean Project (2020–2025)	The Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean project (2020–2025) aims to enhance the capacity of CARIFORUM member states and Cuba to mitigate climate change impacts on public health. Funded by a €7 million grant from the European Union, the project focuses on integrating health considerations into national climate adaptation plans, improving disease surveillance systems, and fostering climate change leadership across sectors. Key partners include PAHO,	Yes	Under Implementation	• Health Adaption and Planning • Surveillance Capacity and Enhancement • Interdisciplinary Leadership and Training • Policy Advocacy • Community Engagement and Education	Unknown	Unknown	The Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean project provides valuable insights for CABRIC in enhancing food and water security, health resilience, and ecosystem protection. Its climate-health integration approach highlights the need for CABRIC to strengthen healthcare infrastructure against climate shocks, ensuring disease surveillance and climate-adaptive health policies. The project's focus on waterborne disease prevention and environmental health aligns with CABRIC's efforts in

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		CARPHA, CCCCC, CIMH, and UWI.						safeguarding water resources and food security. Additionally, its emphasis on community engagement and interdisciplinary leadership reinforces CABRIC's goal of promoting localized, gender-responsive climate resilience strategies to protect vulnerable populations.
CCCCC	2019-2023 Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean: Enhancing Climate Resilience in CARIFORUM Countries	The Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme in the Caribbean (2019–2023) aimed to enhance climate resilience in CARIFORUM countries by supporting adaptation and mitigation strategies, mainstreaming climate change into national policies, and improving access to climate finance. Funded by the European Union, the program focused on strengthening regional cooperation and capacity-building to effectively	Yes		• Capacity Building • Policy Integration • Climate Finance Access • Regional Cooperation • Knowledge Sharing	Unknown	Unknown	The project provides key lessons for CABRIC in climate finance access, policy integration, and capacity building to strengthen food and water security, health resilience, and ecosystem protection. CABRIC can build on the programme's regional cooperation model to enhance cross-country knowledge sharing and climate-smart adaptation strategies. Its focus on climate finance access reinforces CABRIC's need to expand funding opportunities for

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		address climate change challenges.						community-led resilience projects. Additionally, the programme's policy mainstreaming approach supports CABRIC's goal of integrating climate resilience into national development frameworks, ensuring long-term, sustainable climate adaptation in Caribbean coastal communities.
CCCCC	The CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas (CCCRA)	The CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas (CCCRA), conducted from 2009 to 2011, assessed climate change vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities across 15 Caribbean nations. Focusing on key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, health, and tourism, the project provided localized climate projections and practical response strategies to enhance resilience and	Yes	Completed	• Community Livelihoods, Gender, Poverty, and Development • Agriculture and Food Security • Energy • Water Quality and Availability • Sea-Level Rise and Storm Impacts on Coastal Infrastructure and Settlement • Comprehensive Disaster Management • Human Health	Responsive	No publicly accessible GAP	The CCCRA project highlights key lessons for CABRIC in addressing food and water security, health, and ecosystem vulnerability through climate risk assessments and gender-sensitive adaptation planning. Its approach to analysing water availability, agricultural resilience, and disaster preparedness can help CABRIC strengthen climate-smart food systems and water management strategies integrating localized climate projections,

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		inform policy development in the region.			• Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity and Fisheries			adaptive farming techniques, and drought-resistant crops, for example. The focus on health impacts, particularly disease outbreaks and disaster-related vulnerabilities, informs CABRIC's need for integrated health adaptation measures. Additionally, CCCRA's ecosystem and biodiversity assessments reinforce CABRIC's priority to protect coastal and marine ecosystems from climate risks while ensuring community-driven resilience strategies.
CCCCC	The Australia–Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration (2012–2014)	The Australia–Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration (2012–2014) was an initiative supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australian Aid program. Implemented by Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine	Yes	Completed	• Knowledge Exchange • Reef Health Assessment and Monitoring	Unknown	Unknown	The Australia–Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration (2012–2014) offers key insights for CABRIC in strengthening ecosystem resilience, sustainable resource management, and climate adaptation for coastal communities. The project's knowledge

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		Park Authority in partnership with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre under the auspices of the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the collaboration aimed to unite coral reef managers and policymakers from both regions to share expertise, explore innovative ideas, and initiate joint projects. The primary goal was to enhance the resilience of Caribbean coral reefs against climate change impacts.						exchange model highlights the importance of regional and cross-sectoral collaboration, which CABRIC can leverage to enhance data-sharing and capacity-building for climate resilience initiatives. Its focus on reef health assessments and conservation tools aligns with CABRIC's priority to protect marine ecosystems critical for food and water security. Additionally, the emphasis on community-led reef stewardship reinforces CABRIC's commitment to local engagement and sustainable ecosystem management to mitigate climate-related vulnerabilities.
CCCCC	2010 – 2011 Review of the Economics of Climate Change (RECC/ECLACC)	The purpose of this project was to assess the likely economic impacts of climate change on key sectors of Caribbean economies through	Yes	Completed	• Economic Impact Assessment • Sectoral Analysis • Policy Development Support	Unknown	Unknown	This review provides CABRIC with insights to strengthen evidence-based decision-making for climate adaptation. Its sectoral analysis underscores the

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
		applying robust simulation modelling analyses under various socio-economic scenarios and carbon emission trajectories. The findings are expected to stimulate local and national governments, regional institutions, the private sector and civil society to craft and implement policies, cost effective options and efficient choices to mitigate and adapt to climate change.						need for climate-smart food systems, resilient water management, and sustainable livelihoods.

Summary of Grenada's Small Grants Programme

Grenada's Small Grants Programme (SGP) from 2017 to 2023 demonstrates a strong commitment to gender-responsive environmental action, with 69% of projects incorporating gender considerations and 38% specifically led by women (see Table 8). Notably, the program integrated gender focal points into the National Steering Committee (NSC) for four out of seven years, yet gender-specific activities were present in only three years, suggesting inconsistencies in implementation. Despite these gaps, the SGP made tangible strides in gender-environment integration, exemplified by the Petite Martinique Women in Action Inc. aquaponics project, which enhanced food security and technical capacity for women while promoting sustainable water use. The program also successfully engaged youth through climate-focused projects, including renewable energy initiatives and regional knowledge exchange on sustainable apiculture. Additionally, efforts in lionfish containment resulted in the removal of 7,000 pounds of invasive species, underscoring the program's role in ecological preservation and community-led resource management.

However, critical areas for improvement remain, particularly in gender mainstreaming and analysis. The program lacked a formalised gender mainstreaming strategy and conducted gender analysis for only three years, limiting the ability to track and measure long-term gender-related impacts. Furthermore, women's organisations faced weak networking structures for two years, hindering collective advocacy and collaboration. Minimal gender training for grantees further constrained efforts to build institutional capacity for gender-inclusive environmental programming. To strengthen its impact, the SGP should prioritise the development of a comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy, expand gender-focused training for stakeholders, and improve documentation of gender-specific outcomes. These improvements would ensure that gender considerations are systematically integrated into all projects, fostering more inclusive and sustainable environmental solutions in Grenada.

Table 7 - Showing Grenada's SGP's (2017 -2023)

Grenada's Small Grants Programme (SGP) from 2017-2023	
Description	**Details**
Total Completed Projects	29
Gender-Responsive Projects	20 (69%)
Women-Led Projects	11 (38%)
Years with Gender Focal Point on NSC	4 out of 7 years
Years with Gender-Specific Activities	3 years
Projects Focused on Climate Change	16
Projects Focused on Biodiversity	5
Projects Focused on Land Degradation	3
Youth-Inclusive Projects	12 (targeting ages 15-35)

Grenada's Small Grants Programme (SGP) from 2017-2023	
Innovative Gender-Environment Integration Example	Petite Martinique Women in Action Inc. project on aquaponics: improved food security, technical training for women, and reduced water use during COVID-19 lockdown
Key Environmental Achievements	Youth engagement in energy efficiency projects, lionfish containment (7,000 pounds removed), community-based aquaponics, regional apiculture exchange (7 countries)
Areas Needing Strengthening	Limited gender analysis (3 years), no formal gender mainstreaming strategy, weak women's organization networking (2 years), minimal gender training for grantees
Recommendations for Improvement	Develop comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy, increase gender analysis, strengthen women's networks, expand gender training, better document gender impacts

3.3.5 Demographics

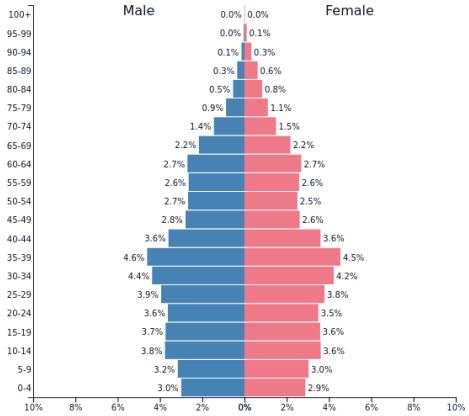
According to Worldometer live data for 2024, Grenada has a population of Grenada 117,207 people with a population density of 345 people per Km^2 (893 people per mi^2), calculated on a total land area of 340 Km2 (131 sq. miles)[114]. According to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Grenada's population consists mainly of persons of African descent (82.4%), mixed ethnicity (13.3%), and East Indian descent (2.2%)[115]. The population pyramid of Grenada for 2024 (See Figure 20)[116] reveals a balanced gender distribution across most age groups, with a slightly narrower base, reflecting a lower proportion of younger populations. The chart also indicates a longer life expectancy for females compared to males in the older age groups.

114 Worldometers. Grenada Demographics. Available at: https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/grenada-demographics/

115 Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Mental Health Profile: Grenada Country Report 2020. Available at: https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/MentalHealth-profile-2020%20Grenada_Country_Report_Final.pdf

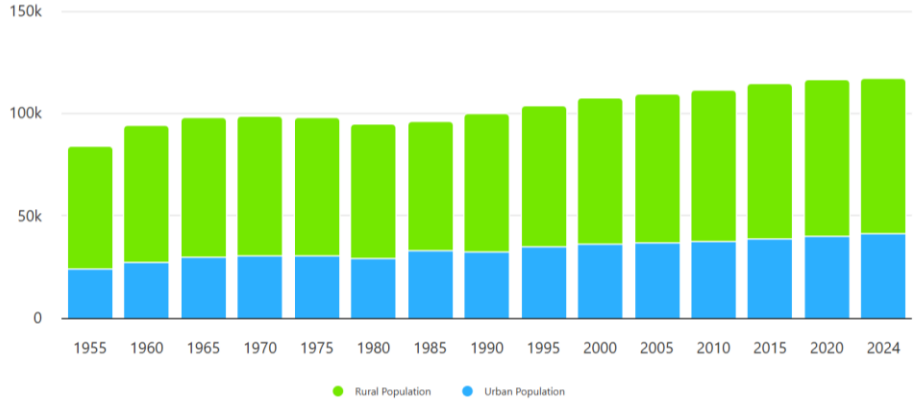
116 Population Pyramid. Grenada Population Pyramid 2024. Available at: https://www.populationpyramid.net/grenada/2024/

Figure 20 - Showing the Population Pyramid of Grenada 2024



The mean age was 33.9 years. Currently, 35. % % of the population lives in urban areas (41, 327 in 2024) (See Figure 21)[117].

Figure 21 - Grenada's Urban and Rural Population (1955 – 2020)



3.3.6 Economy

In the first half of 2024, Grenada's economy showed notable growth, driven by strong performances in tourism, transport and storage, fishing, and manufacturing. In 2022, Grenada's GDP was estimated at $1.35 billion, with tourism accounting for 40% of GDP, agriculture contributing 8%, and the remainder from sectors like manufacturing, construction, and financial services[118]. However, this progress was disrupted by the impact of Hurricane Beryl, which struck in July of 2024[119] leaving damages currently estimated at 16.5% of 2023 GDP[120]. This resulted in significant declines across several key sectors and the loss of homes and economic livelihoods. Agriculture, forestry and fishing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food services, and education employ the highest number of workers. While males primarily dominate employment in most of these

117 Worldometers. Grenada Demographics. Available at: https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/grenada-demographics/

118 World Bank. (2022). Grenada Development Indicators.

119 Government of Grenada. 2024 Mid-Year Review Report. Available at: https://grenadaparliament.gd/storage/2024/08/2024-Mid-Year-Review-Report.pdf

120 World Bank. Grenada: Macro Poverty Outlook (MPO) – 2021. Available at: https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/e408a7e21ba62d843bdd90dc37e61b57-0500032021/related/mpo-grd.pdf

sectors, women hold the majority of positions in the health and social work and financial and insurance industries[121], a relatively traditional gender segregation of occupations and work. Notably, boys are more likely to be over-age students in primary schools, indicating potential challenges with school progression and retention[122]. This can have long-term consequences, affecting their educational attainment and future opportunities related to securing jobs.

Asset Ownership

Grenada's WBL (2022) (see Figure 22)[123] profile shows a legal framework score of 100/100 for assets, ensuring women have equal rights to acquire, own, and inherit property. This legal equity is critical for promoting women's financial independence and long-term economic security. Women have the same protections as men in property transactions, inheritance rights, and asset management, creating a strong foundation for economic participation. In entrepreneurship, Grenada scores 75/100, reflecting some progress but notable gaps. While women face no explicit legal barriers to starting and running businesses, the absence of laws prohibiting gender-based discrimination in access to credit may limit their entrepreneurial activities and capacity to leverage assets for business growth.

Figure 22 - Grenada's Scores for Women, Business and the Law (2022)



Grenada stands out as one of the few countries where women own at least 20% of businesses. However, despite this notable presence, female-owned firms are often concentrated in low-productivity/low-growth sectors and face unique challenges. Key issues reported by Grenadian female entrepreneurs include limited opportunities for market expansion due to unsustainable market conditions, insufficient access to financing for product improvement and scaling, and the adverse impact of business demands on family life[124].

3.4 Jamaica

3.4.1 Country Overview

Jamaica has a total population of 2,732,500, consisting of 1,381,000 females (50.53%) and 1,351,500 males (49.47%) (See Table 9). The country exhibits a significant percentage of

121 Government of Grenada. 2024 Mid-Year Review Report. Available at: https://grenadaparliament.gd/storage/2024/08/2024-Mid-Year-Review-Report.pdf

122 UNICEF. 2021. Generation Unlimited: The Well-being of Young People in Grenada. https://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/media/2961/file/GenU%20Grenada%20fact%20sheet.pdf

123 World Bank. Women, Business and the Law: Grenada Snapshot 2022. Available at: https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2022/snapshots/Grenada.pdf

124 World Bank. Breaking Barriers to Women's Economic Inclusion in Grenada. Available at: https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099603503082357057/pdf/IDU0d3d82498080b0049d80931b04db7448ac3d6.pdf

female-headed households, accounting for 48% of all households [125]. Among these households, 70% are classified as living in poverty, highlighting the disproportionate economic burden faced by women [126]. Moreover, 50% of single-parent households, predominantly female-headed, experience poverty[127]. Childhood poverty remains a pressing concern, affecting less than 40% of the population under 18 years old[128].

Table 8 - Country Overview for Jamaica

Category	Data
Female Pop.	1,381,000
Male Pop.	1,351,500
% of Female headed households[129]	48%
Poverty Rate[130]	38.9%
Female Headed Household Poverty Rate[131]	70% | 50% (Single parent)
Child Poverty Rate[132]	>40%
Labour force, female (% of total labour force)[133]	62.6%
Labour force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)[134]	60.0%
% of population employed in Coastal Related Industries (M - Male, F-Female)[135]	M: 45.07% | F: 38.30%
Human Development Index[136] (closer to 1 the better)	0.706
Gender Inequality Index[137] (closer to 0 the better)	0.350

125 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT-1_0.PDF

126 United Nations Women. 2023. Gender inequality, climate change, and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica: EnGenDER brief. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_JamaicaF_20220203.pdf

127 Ibid

128 United Nations Development Programme. 2024. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024: Ready 17 Oct. Available at https://www.undp.org/jamaica/publications/global-multidimensional-poverty-index-2024-ready-17-oct

129 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT-1_0.PDF

130 United Nations Development Programme. 2023. Multidimensional Poverty Index: Jamaica Country Profile. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/JAM.pdf

131 United Nations Women. 2023. Gender inequality, climate change, and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica: EnGenDER brief. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_JamaicaF_20220203.pdf

132 United Nations Development Programme. 2024. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024: Ready 17 Oct. Available at https://www.undp.org/jamaica/publications/global-multidimensional-poverty-index-2024-ready-17-oct

133 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

134 Ibid

135 Total of the Combined sectors in Table 2.

136 United Nations Development Programme. 2022. Human Development Reports. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/human-development-index#/indicies/HDI

137 United Nations Development Programme. (2020) Gender Inequality Index (GII) | Human Development Reports. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII

Jamaica's labour market showcases the pivotal role of women in the economy. Women make up 62.6% of the total labour force and exhibit a labour force participation rate of 60.0% among females aged 15 and older[138]. Despite this notable contribution, gender disparities persist in several key areas. For instance, coastal-related industries, which include sectors such as fishing, aquaculture, and tourism, employ 45.07% of males compared to only 38.30% of females (see Table 9)[139,140] . This indicates the underrepresentation of women in industries crucial to Jamaica's economic and environmental sustainability.

The hospitality sector, central to Jamaica's tourism-driven economy, demonstrates near gender parity. However, in traditionally male-dominated sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, significant gaps remain, with women continuing to face barriers to entry and advancement (See Table 10). These occupational imbalances reflect broader systemic gender inequalities.

Table 9 - Total Employed Persons by Sex in Selected Industrial Groups. Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica

# of population employed in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	# of population employed in Accommodation and Food Service Activities	# of population employed in Transportation and storage	# of population employed in Manufacturing	# of population employed in Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services
M: 149,200 **F: 51,800**	M:41,700 F: 75,400	M:58,800 F:12,000	M: 52,900 F: 30,400	M:35,500 F:82,700

3.4.2 Geography and Climatology

The Commonwealth of Jamaica is the largest English-speaking Island in the Caribbean, located 90 miles south of Cuba, 600 miles south of Florida, and 100 miles southwest of Haiti, Jamaica spans approximately 146 miles in length and 51 miles in width, with a total area of 4,411 square miles (See Figure 23). Kingston, the capital city and the island's largest urban centre, is positioned in the southeastern part of the island.

138 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

139 Based on calculations in Table 6.

140 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Employed Labour Force by Industry Group & Sex. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

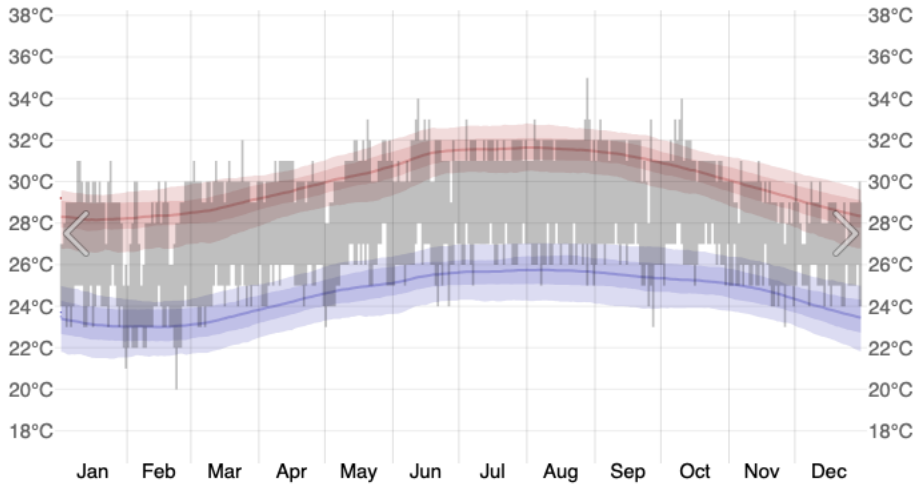
Figure 23 - Map of Jamaica



The country currently experiences colder winds between December and March, seasonal rain from October to May and June to September[141]. Jamaica experiences temperatures from 22°C to 30°C at Kingston (See Figure 24), with coastal temperatures soaring to 32°C while on the high peaks, temperatures have been recorded as low as approximately 4°C[142].

The island receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 82 inches (2,100 mm), though there are significant regional variations[143]. The mountains cause the trade winds to bring over 130 inches (3,300 mm) of rain annually to the eastern parish of Portland, while the hot, dry savannas in the south and southwest experience minimal rainfall[144]. Higher rainfall anticipated during June to September is associated with the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Figure 24 - the Temperature in Jamacia in 2023



141 Encyclopedia Britannia. 2025. Jamaica: Climate. Available at https://www.britannica.com/place/Jamaica

142 Ibid

143 Ibid

144 Ibid

Ecosystems

In Jamaica, ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs are integral to the livelihoods of local communities, providing resources like food, water, and materials for shelter. Climate change, however, poses significant threats to these ecosystems, leading to unpredictable rainfall patterns, extended droughts, and more frequent natural disasters, which adversely affect agriculture and fisheries—the primary sources of income for many Jamaicans. Women, who often play central roles in these sectors, face heightened challenges due to existing gender inequalities. They typically have less access to resources, information, and decision-making platforms, making it more difficult for them to adapt to environmental changes[145].

Recognizing these challenges, the Jamaican government has developed a Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (GCCSAP) to mainstream gender considerations into climate policies and actions. This initiative aims to ensure that both women and men can equally participate in and benefit from climate resilience efforts. By addressing the specific vulnerabilities faced by women, the GCCSAP seeks to enhance the adaptive capacities of communities, thereby securing livelihoods and promoting sustainable development in the face of climate change.

3.4.3 Hazards

Jamaica is prone to a range of natural hazards due to its location and environmental characteristics. The island faces significant risks from hurricanes, floods, droughts, earthquakes, storm surges, and landslides, with its position in the Atlantic Hurricane Belt and mountainous terrain increasing vulnerability[146]. The presence of several major fault lines also heightens the risk of seismic activity[147]. Climate change is expected to worsen these threats, leading to more frequent and intense natural disasters. These hazards frequently disrupt communities, damage infrastructure, and pose challenges to the country's development[148].

Hurricane Beryl, a Category 4 storm that struck Jamaica on July 3, 2024, caused widespread devastation, particularly in Clarendon, Manchester, St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, and Westmoreland. The hurricane displaced approximately 1,876 individuals, with many seeking refuge in shelters or host communities. It resulted in two fatalities, and 60 injuries, and left an estimated 160,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance. The primary needs identified included water, sanitation, shelter repair, food, and livelihood support[149].

The hurricane also inflicted severe damage on agriculture, infrastructure, and utilities (see Figure 25). Key crops, livestock, and fisheries were heavily affected, leading to anticipated food shortages and rising prices. Infrastructure damage included over 500 parochial roads and extensive power outages, leaving 60% of the population without electricity, with full

145 ACDI/VOCA.N.d. Jamaica rural economy & ecosystems adapting to climate change (JA REEACH). Available at https://www.acdivoca.org/projects/jamaica-rural-economy-ecosystems-adapting-to-climate-change-ja-reeach/

146 Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. N.d. Jamaica. The World Bank. Available at https://www.gfdrr.org/fr/jamaique

147 Ibid

148 Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. N.d. Jamaica. The World Bank. Available at https://www.gfdrr.org/fr/jamaique

149 ACAPS. 2024. Hurricane Beryl country profile: Jamaica. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

restoration projected to take weeks. These impacts emphasize the need for robust disaster preparedness and climate resilience measures to mitigate Jamaica's physical and economic vulnerability to natural disasters[150].

Figure 25 - Impacts of Hurricane Beryl in Jamaica. Source Getty Images



The situation is further exacerbated by Jamaica's ongoing challenges with water scarcity. The country's water resources are under pressure due to climate change impacts, such as reduced rainfall and increased evaporation rates[151]. Jamaica relies heavily on surface and groundwater sources, but significant water losses from outdated infrastructure, coupled with uneven water availability across regions, make it difficult to meet the growing demands of agriculture, tourism, and domestic consumption[152]. In parishes like Kingston, water rationing during droughts is a recurring issue, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable water management strategies[153].

3.4.4 Existing Climate Projects

The (GCF has committed approximately **764,975,948 USD** in direct funding and **2.9 billion USD** in combined GCF and co-financed investments across six key projects (all of which are multi-country projects) in Jamaica. Amongst these, three projects are currently under implementation, and two have received approval (See Table 11). Each of these initiatives integrates gender-responsive strategies, supported by GAPs or equivalent frameworks, to ensure equitable participation and benefits. These projects offer significant potential to

150 Ibid

151 Water Resources Authority of Jamaica. 2022. A National Water Resources Master Plan for Jamaica. Available at https://www.wra.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/A-National-Water-Resources-Master-Plan-for-Jamaica-2022.pdf

152 Water Resources Authority of Jamaica. 2022. A National Water Resources Master Plan for Jamaica. Available at https://www.wra.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/A-National-Water-Resources-Master-Plan-for-Jamaica-2022.pdf

153 Ibid

support CABRIC's efforts in Jamaica through their focus on gender-sensitive and transformative programming.

Table 10 - GCF Projects in Jamaica

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CABRIC
GCF	Caribbean Net-Zero and Resilient Private Sector	This project focuses on enhancing climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities. Through innovative solutions, it addresses climate risks in agriculture, water, and energy systems, promoting ecosystem restoration and equitable resource management. The initiative prioritizes capacity-building, inclusive economic development, and gender-sensitive approaches to ensure long-term environmental and social benefits.	Yes	Approved	1)Buildings, cities, industries and appliances 2)Ecosystem and ecosystem services 3)Energy generation and access 4) Forest and land use Infrastructure and built environment 5)Livelihoods of people and communities 6) Transport	Responsive	No active GAP seen	This project provides a model for gender-sensitive approaches that CABRIC can use to promote inclusivity in ecosystem restoration and resource management. It offers lessons for comprehensive interventions in agriculture, water, and energy systems, aligning with CABRIC's goal of reducing vulnerabilities equitably. Strengthening a climate-resilient private sector ensures income stability and sustainable livelihoods, key to CABRIC's mission.
GCF	Project GAIA	Project GAIA aims to create a blended finance platform that provides long-term loans for climate adaptation and mitigation in 19 of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. By offering funding through previously inaccessible sources, it seeks to address the urgent climate needs	Yes	Approved	1)Ecosystems and ecosystem services 2)Energy generation and access 3)Health, food and water security 4)Infrastructure and built environment 5)Transport	Responsive	Yes	Project GAIA could provide CABRIC with greater access to blended finance, enabling enhanced climate adaptation and mitigation efforts across the Caribbean, particularly in vulnerable communities. This partnership may support the region's resilience to climate hazards, with an emphasis on including women and marginalized groups in

		of developing nations. The project aligns public and private financial efforts to support these countries in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.						climate action. Additionally, it could foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing, improving gender-sensitive strategies for sustainable development and climate resilience in the Caribbean.
GCF	E-Mobility Program for Sustainable Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean	The E-Mobility Program for Sustainable Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean aims to enhance urban resilience to climate change by promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and improving public transportation systems in secondary cities. Focused on sustainable development, it addresses the challenges posed by climate hazards like flooding, heatwaves, and sea-level rise. The program is being implemented across nine countries, fostering low-carbon, climate-resilient urban transport solutions while enhancing the quality of life for local populations.	Yes	Under Implementation	1)Infrastructure and built environment 2)Transport	Responsive	Yes	The E-Mobility Program for Sustainable Cities could support CABRIC by promoting low-carbon transport solutions in Caribbean cities, aligning with regional climate resilience efforts. It offers gender-inclusive benefits by improving mobility and safety for women and marginalized communities. The program also enhances quality of life through cleaner, more accessible transportation options.
GCF	Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment Window	The project is the first large-scale private sector initiative in the blue economy. Implemented by	Yes	Under Implementation	1)Ecosystems and ecosystem services 2)Health, food and water security	Responsive	Yes	CABRIC may adapt strategies for coral reef restoration and blue economy investments that promote gender equity and

		Pegasus Capital Advisors, it establishes a private equity fund to promote investments aimed at protecting coral reefs.			3)Infrastructure and built environment 4)Livelihoods of people and communities			ecosystem resilience. This ensures equitable community benefits while supporting sustainable aquaculture. Integrating these measures enhances coastal livelihoods and ecosystem management
GCF	Global Subnational Climate Fund (SnCF Global) – Equity	SnCF Global aims to catalyse long-term climate investments at the subnational level by overcoming barriers that limit private investment in mid-sized mitigation and adaptation projects. With GCF equity financing of USD 150 million, the fund seeks to attract private institutional investment to deliver certified climate and sustainable development impacts at a global scale.	Yes	Under Implementation	1)Buildings, cities, industries and appliances 2)Energy generation and access 3)Forest and land use	Responsive	Yes	CABRIC can adopt scalable models to address mid-sized climate resilience projects at the community level. Incorporating gender-responsive budgeting and equitable resource access can empower communities and foster lasting social equity.
GCF	Global Subnational Climate Fund – Technical Assistance (TA) Facility							CABRIC can leverage this framework to strengthen local capacity-building and integrate gender into technical training and project development. Inclusive practices promote equitable outcomes, while tailored support enhances CABRIC's effectiveness in managing resilience initiatives.

One such initiative is Project GAIA, which aims to establish a blended finance platform offering long-term loans for climate adaptation and mitigation in 19 of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. By unlocking previously inaccessible funding sources, the project addresses urgent climate challenges in developing nations, aligning public and private financial efforts to bolster resilience. The initiative emphasizes equitable participation and includes a documented Gender Action Plan to ensure that women and marginalized groups are actively engaged in climate action. For CABRIC, Project GAIA represents an opportunity to access blended finance, enabling more expansive climate adaptation and mitigation efforts across the five countries. This collaboration could enhance the region's resilience to climate hazards while fostering knowledge-sharing and gender-sensitive strategies for sustainable development.

Another initiative is the E-Mobility Program for Sustainable Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, which focuses on promoting urban resilience by advancing electric vehicle (EV) adoption and improving public transportation systems in secondary cities. The program tackles the challenges posed by climate hazards, including flooding, heat waves, and sea-level rise, through low-carbon, climate-resilient urban transport solutions. A Gender Action Plan ensures the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in project benefits. CABRIC can leverage this program to advocate for sustainable transport solutions in Caribbean cities, enhancing mobility and safety for women and other vulnerable populations. By integrating these gender-inclusive practices, the program also improves the quality of life for local communities through cleaner and more accessible transportation options.

Currently, no known projects are being undertaken by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), although CABRIC is in development.

3.4.5 Demographics

Jamaica's population pyramid reflects a narrowing base, with a significant proportion of the population in the working-age group (15-64 years) and fewer individuals in younger cohorts, indicating a declining birth rate (See Figure 26). Women slightly outnumber men across most age groups, with notable longevity among elderly females compared to males (73 years for females versus 69 years for males[154, 155]). This demographic profile presents unique vulnerabilities in the context of climate change.

Women and girls or 1,381,000 of the population, are often tasked with caregiving and resource management in households, and face heightened risks during climate-related events, such as hurricanes or droughts, which disrupt water, food, and energy supplies. Youth, accounting for ~599,000 persons[156], comprising a considerable segment of the population, are both agents of change and vulnerable to displacement, economic instability, and education disruption caused by climate impacts. In 2018, there was an estimated 15 to

154 World Bank. 2022. Life expectancy at birth, male (years) – Jamaica. Available at https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.MA.IN?locations=JM

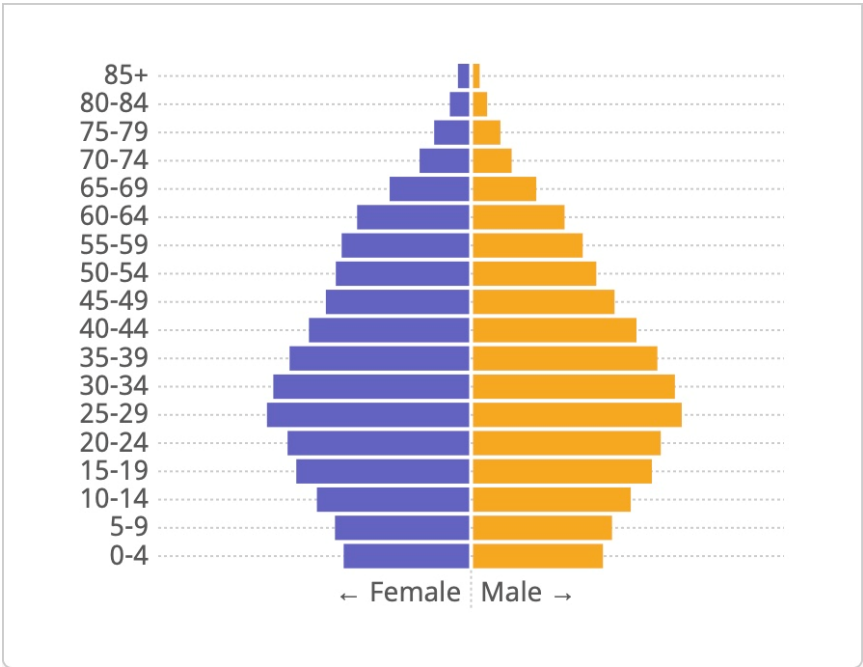
155 World Bank. 2022. Life expectancy at birth, female (years) – Jamaica. Available at https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.FE.IN?locations=JM

156 World Health Organization.2023. Jamaica: Population and demographics. Available at https://data.who.int/countries/388

17% of the Jamaican population (or 400,000 individuals) of persons with disabilities[157]. These persons face compounded challenges due to inaccessible infrastructure and disaster response systems, limiting their ability to adapt or recover. The elderly (~272,000 persons[158]), especially women, are disproportionately affected by climate extremes, with limited mobility and reliance on social support systems making them more susceptible to heat stress, health crises, and isolation. The population in Jamaica is also comprised of Yamaye/Jamaican Taíno Peoples, estimated at about 3,000 persons[159]. However, it is important to note that though the community is recognised by the government, they are not legally recognised. This has consequences for their rights and participation in climate-resilience efforts as the absence of legal recognition is a critical barrier and can exacerbate the vulnerabilities which Indigenous Peoples already face. Maroons also constitute the population in Jamaica and face challenges, such as the impacts of climate change on their ancestral connection in Scotts Hall[160], an official town of the Jamaica Maroons.

Jamaica's population structure (see Figure 26) highlights the urgency of targeted, gender-responsive, and inclusive climate strategies that address the specific needs of these groups while leveraging their strengths in building resilience.

Figure 26 - Population Pyramid of Jamaica 2023. Source: World Health Organization



Education

In Jamaica, while primary education reflects near gender parity with similar enrolment rates for boys and girls, disparities become more pronounced at higher educational levels. At the

157 World Bank. 2018. Implementation Completion and Results Report ICR Document Jamaica Social and Economic Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

158 World Health Organization.2023. Jamaica: Population and demographics. Available at https://data.who.int/countries/388

159 Minority Rights Group. N.d. Yamaye Taíno People in Jamaica. https://minorityrights.org/communities/yamaye-taino-people-in-jamaica/

160 Coley, Tameka. 2024. 'No Climate Resilience Plan Without Us!' Say Jamaica's Indigenous Peoples. https://climatetrackercaribbean.org/climate-justice/no-climate-resilience-plan-without-us-say-jamaicas-indigenous-peoples/

secondary level, girls consistently outnumber boys, with a GPI of approximately 1.10, indicating a clear female advantage in enrolment. This trend intensifies at the tertiary level, where female participation significantly exceeds male participation, with a GPI surpassing 1.80[161]. Despite these educational advances, gender disparities persist, especially as the population faces climate vulnerabilities that disproportionately affect women and other marginalised groups.

The vulnerability to climate change in Jamaica has a direct impact on both women's and men's ability to adapt and respond, with gendered implications for health, housing, and livelihoods. Women, particularly in rural and low-income communities, bear the brunt of climate-related challenges, including increased pressure on water and food security, as well as greater exposure to the health risks associated with environmental changes and resulting care burdens. Women's responsibilities for household care, including child-rearing and caring for the elderly, exacerbate these vulnerabilities. According to ECLAC (2022), while women in Jamaica have made educational strides, these achievements are not translating into equitable economic opportunities[162].

Religion

Jamaica is home to 92.1% of persons of African descent, 6.1% of mixed race, 0.8% of East Indian, 0.4% of other and 0.7% of unspecified[163]. According to the United States Department of State, approximately 26% of Jamaica's population belongs to various branches of the Church of God, while 12% are Seventh-day Adventists, 11% Pentecostals, 7% Baptists, and 3% Anglicans. Roman Catholics make up 2%, with an equal 2% identifying as United Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witnesses, Methodists, or practitioners of Revivalism[164]. Rastafarians account for 1%, and 2% of the population engage in other spiritual practices[165]. Additionally, other religious groups comprise 8% of the population, including about 23,000 members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, 18,000 Moravians, 6,500 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1,800 Hindus, 1,500 Muslims (although Muslim groups estimate their numbers at 6,500), 500 Jews, and 270 Baha'is[166]. The census also reports that 21% of the population has no religious affiliation. Although no relevant census data is available on religion, practices such as Yahweh worship, Sikhism, Jainism, Obeah, and Myalism—spiritual practices with West African roots—are more commonly found in rural villages[167].

Safety

In Jamaica, violence against children and youth is widespread, with 34.4% of males

161 ECLAC. 2022. Addressing Gender Disparities in Education and Employment: A necessary step for achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean. Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/617fc7ac-82b0-4b2f-be83-5a14d825caf4/content

162 Ibid

163 Central Intelligence Agency. (n.d.). Jamaica. The World Factbook. Available at https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/jamaica/

164 U.S. Department of State. (2023). Jamaica 2023 International Religious Freedom Report. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/547499-JAMAICA-2023-INTERNATIONAL-RELIGIOUS-FREEDOM-REPORT.pdf

165 Ibid

166 Ibid

167 Ibid

experiencing physical violence and 11.7% experiencing sexual violence in childhood[168]. Additionally, 37.8% of females and 31% of males experienced emotional violence during childhood[169]. These experiences can have long-lasting consequences, including increased risk of mental health issues, substance abuse, and violence perpetrated later in life. These different forms of violence can have a profound impact on their mental health, leading to anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts[170]. Additionally, Jamaican men face higher mortality rates from external causes, including road traffic accidents, homicides, and suicides[171]. These higher rates may be linked to risky behaviours, violence, and limited access to mental health services.

3.4.6 Leadership and Governance

Jamaica, like most English-speaking Caribbean countries, follows the Westminster political system, with a constitutional monarchy as the Head of State. The nation achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1962. Governance in Jamaica operates through a bicameral system comprising the House of Representatives (formerly known as the House of Assembly) and the Senate. The House of Representatives is led by the Prime Minister, while the Senate is led by the President of the Senate.

The House of Representatives consists of 63 members, elected every four to five years from constituencies across the island. As of recent data, 30.2% of these representatives are women, highlighting the gender disparity in political representation (see Figure 27)[172]. In contrast, the Senate has 21 appointed members, with 33.3% of these positions held by women[173].

Figure 27 - Women's Representation in the current House of Assembly in Jamaica. Source. IPU

Current representation

Women's representation in the current parliament or chamber

Current number of members	63
Women	19
Percentage of women	30.2%

[168] Together for Girls. 2023. Jamaica Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) Report 2023. https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/jamaica-violence-against-children-and-youth-survey-vacs-report-2023

[169] PAHO. 2024. Jamaica - Country Profile. https://hia.paho.org/en/country-profiles/jamaica

[170] UNICEF. N.d. Adolescent Health. https://www.unicef.org/belize/adolescent-health

[171] Together for Girls. 2023. Jamaica Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) Report 2023. https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/jamaica-violence-against-children-and-youth-survey-vacs-report-2023

172 Inter-Parliamentary Union. N.d. Jamaica | House of Representatives | Data on women. IPU Parline. Available at https://data.ipu.org/parliament/JM/JM-LC01/data-on-women/

173 Inter-Parliamentary Union. N.d. Jamaica | Senate | Data on women. IPU Parline. Available at https://data.ipu.org/parliament/JM/JM-UC01/data-on-women/

On 3rd September 2025, Jamaica had a series of by-Elections in 3 divisions: Denham Town; Olympic Gardens; and Chancery Hall, and from those on the ballot (6), only 2 were women.[174]

This gender breakdown is crucial in discussions about secure livelihoods and climate vulnerability in Jamaica. Women, particularly in rural and marginalised communities, are disproportionately affected by climate-related challenges. Their roles as primary caretakers in households and caregivers to children and the elderly place them at the forefront of dealing with climate-induced risks like extreme weather events, food insecurity, and water shortages. Yet, women often have limited representation in decision-making processes, particularly at higher levels of governance.

Increasing the representation of women in both the House of Representatives and the Senate is vital to addressing the climate vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups. Women leaders can better advocate for policies and initiatives that support climate adaptation, resilient livelihoods, and sustainable development. With more female political representatives, especially those from vulnerable communities, there could be a stronger focus on inclusive climate action, ensuring that both the economic and social impacts of climate change are addressed equitably. Such leadership would also enhance social safety nets for women in the workforce, ensuring that they have access to opportunities in the green economy, resilience-building, and post-disaster recovery programs, thus fostering more secure livelihoods for all.

3.4.7 Economy

Jamaica recorded a GDP growth rate of 2.6% in 2023, following a 5.2% growth in 2022[175]. The country's GDP for 2023 was approximately USD 15.3 billion, reflecting normalisation in economic activity post-pandemic[176]. The labour force participation rate stood at 61.3% overall, with a gender disparity showing 68.4% for men and 62.6% for women[177].

Tourism remains a cornerstone of the Jamaican economy, contributing over30% to GDP[178] and significantly, to employment. In 2023, the industry saw increased room and seat capacity alongside robust promotional activities, driving continued growth. Within the hotel and restaurant sector, women and men participate almost equally, indicating a balanced workforce in this vital sector[179].

Despite these strengths, Jamaica's tourism and agricultural sectors face increasing risks from climate change, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise. These threats directly affect livelihoods, food, and water security, as agriculture and tourism are key components of the economy. Gross international reserves stood at USD 4.9

174 Electoral Commission of Jamaica. (2025). By-Election 2025.

175 Bank of Jamaica. (2023). Annual Report 2023. Available at https://boj.org.jm/boj-publications/annual-publications/

176 Ibid

177 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

178 https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/725891582655267359/mpo-jam.pdf

179 Bank of Jamaica. (2023). Annual Report 2023. Available at https://boj.org.jm/boj-publications/annual-publications/

billion by the end of 2023, equivalent to 116.4% of the Assessing Reserve Adequacy (ARA) metric, reflecting strong financial stability[180].

Targeted efforts are needed to enhance climate resilience and ensure equitable participation in economic recovery, especially for women and vulnerable groups.

Livelihoods

The impacts of Hurricane Beryl on Jamaica highlighted significant vulnerabilities, particularly among women and other marginalized groups. The destruction caused substantial job losses, especially in agriculture and tourism, two sectors heavily reliant on female labour. Women, often employed in lower-paying, informal jobs within these sectors, faced heightened employment insecurity as their work opportunities diminished [181] . Additionally, the aftermath of the hurricane saw a rise in informal employment, a trend that often disproportionately affects women by limiting their access to secure and well-paying jobs[182].

Health vulnerabilities were also exacerbated by the disaster. Increased incidences of waterborne diseases such as dengue and malaria posed significant risks, with women bearing the brunt of caregiving responsibilities. This dual burden heightened their exposure to these health hazards, compounding the physical and mental health challenges they also faced post-disaster[183,184]. Moreover, the lack of accessible healthcare services further hindered recovery for these populations, particularly for women in rural areas.

Housing losses were another critical issue. Many families, especially those headed by single women, were left without secure living conditions due to widespread infrastructural damage. For women, the lack of stable housing not only jeopardized their physical safety but also constrained their ability to engage in income-generating activities, as they often had to prioritize rebuilding their homes[185]. This reality underscored the intersection of housing insecurity and economic vulnerability for marginalized groups.

The combined effects of job losses, health risks, and housing instability significantly deepened poverty levels. Women, particularly those in single-income households, faced severe financial challenges exacerbated by pre-existing gender wage gaps. These disparities

180 Ibid

181 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT~1_0.PDF

182 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

183 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT~1_0.PDF

184 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

185 The University of the West Indies (UWI). (2018). Climate change and tourism in the Caribbean. Retrieved from https://www.mona.uwi.edu/physics/sites/default/files/physics/uploads/03_CCAndTourism.pdf

prolonged recovery periods and heightened the economic fragility of affected households[186,187].

Asset Ownership

The 2024 findings in the WBL Report for Jamaica reveal both progress and existing gaps in supporting women's property rights. Key legislation, such as the Property (Rights of Spouses) Act and the Intestate Estates and Property Charges Act, ensures women have equal access to property ownership alongside men[188]. However, the report highlights significant gaps in raising awareness about women's material and inheritance rights, as well as the lack of anonymised sex-disaggregated data on property ownership, which is not regularly published[189]. These gaps hinder women's ability to fully exercise their property rights, limiting their empowerment. Moreover, they pose challenges for female-headed households and women-owned properties, particularly in the context of climate resilience, as these communities may struggle to protect their infrastructure and livelihoods from the impacts of flooding and other climate-related events. To address these challenges, targeted actions are needed to improve access to property rights information and ensure greater equity in ownership.

Access and Control Over Resources

In Jamaica, systemic inequities in financial resource access disproportionately affect women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, amplifying their vulnerabilities to climate change and economic shocks. Women, who lead 50-70% of Jamaican households[190], often encounter significant barriers in accessing credit and financial tools due to gendered biases in the financial sector[191,192]. Although women comprise 62.6% of the labour force[193] and frequently attain higher levels of tertiary education than men, they are required to demonstrate greater income stability to qualify for loans and other financial products[194].

186 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT-1_0.PDF

187 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

188 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Jamaica. Available at https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Jamaica.pdf

189 Ibid

190 United Nations Women. 2023. Gender inequality, climate change, and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica: EnGenDER brief. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_JamaicaF_20220203.pdf

191 Libertun de Duren, N. (2023). Households led by women: Understanding access to housing credit in Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB Technical Note No. 2847). Available at https://publications.iadb.org/en/publications/english/viewer/Household-Led-by-Women-Understanding-Access-to-Housing-Credit-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf

192 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

193 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

194 Libertun de Duren, N. (2023). Households led by women: Understanding access to housing credit in Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB Technical Note No. 2847). Available at https://publications.iadb.org/en/publications/english/viewer/Household-Led-by-Women-Understanding-Access-to-Housing-Credit-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf

This financial disparity extends to women-led enterprises, which make up only 34% of businesses in the Caribbean and face challenges scaling due to limited access to credit[195].

Climate change exacerbates these challenges, especially in the critical areas of food and water security. Women and girls, who are often responsible for securing and managing household food and water resources, are disproportionately affected during climate-induced events such as droughts and hurricanes[196]. In rural areas, where 51% of households are female-headed, limited access to irrigation, water harvesting technologies, and climate-resilient agricultural inputs undermines both food production and income generation[197]. Additionally, vulnerable groups such as the elderly, who account for 12.9% of Jamaica's population, and persons with disabilities face compounded difficulties accessing safe water and nutritious food due to mobility constraints and fixed incomes[198].

Jamaica recorded a GDP growth rate of 2.6% in 2023, following a 5.2% growth in 2022[199]. The country's GDP for 2023 was approximately 15.3 billion USD, reflecting normalisation in economic activity post-pandemic[200]. The labour force participation rate stood at 61.3% overall, with a gender disparity showing 68.4% for men and 62.6% for women[201].

Tourism remains a cornerstone of the Jamaican economy, contributing significantly to GDP and employment. In 2023, the industry saw increased room and seat capacity alongside robust promotional activities, driving continued growth. Within the hotel and restaurant sector, women and men participate almost equally, indicating a balanced workforce in this vital sector[202].

Despite these strengths, Jamaica's tourism and agricultural sectors face increasing risks from climate change, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise. These threats directly affect livelihoods, food, and water security, as agriculture and tourism are key components of the economy. Gross international reserves stood at USD 4.9 billion by the end of 2023, equivalent to 116.4% of the ARA metric, reflecting strong financial stability[203].

Targeted efforts are needed to enhance climate resilience and ensure equitable participation in economic recovery, especially for women and vulnerable groups.

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195 World Bank. (2023). Jamaica gender assessment: Economic opportunities and challenges. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099154502222328619/pdf/P175282042506702e0a7d100b3087a5be64.pdf

196 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

197 World Bank. (2023). Jamaica gender assessment: Economic opportunities and challenges. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099154502222328619/pdf/P175282042506702e0a7d100b3087a5be64.pdf

198 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

199 Bank of Jamaica. (2023). Annual Report 2023. Available at https://boj.org.jm/boj-publications/annual-publications/

200 Ibid

201 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

202 Bank of Jamaica. (2023). Annual Report 2023. Available at https://boj.org.jm/boj-publications/annual-publications/

203 Ibid

3.4.8 Livelihoods

The impacts of Hurricane Beryl on Jamaica highlighted significant vulnerabilities, particularly among women and other marginalized groups. The destruction caused substantial job losses, especially in agriculture and tourism, two sectors heavily reliant on female labour. Women, often employed in lower-paying, informal jobs within these sectors, faced heightened employment insecurity as their work opportunities diminished [204]. Additionally, the aftermath of the hurricane saw a rise in informal employment, a trend that often disproportionately affects women by limiting their access to secure and well-paying jobs[205].

Health vulnerabilities were also exacerbated by the disaster. Increased incidences of waterborne diseases such as dengue and malaria posed significant risks, with women bearing the brunt of caregiving responsibilities. This dual burden heightened their exposure to these health hazards, compounding the physical and mental health challenges they also faced post-disaster[206,207]. Moreover, the lack of accessible healthcare services further hindered recovery for these populations, particularly for women in rural areas.

Housing losses were another critical issue. Many families, especially those headed by single women, were left without secure living conditions due to widespread infrastructural damage. For women, the lack of stable housing not only jeopardized their physical safety but also constrained their ability to engage in income-generating activities, as they often had to prioritize rebuilding their homes[208]. This reality underscored the intersection of housing insecurity and economic vulnerability for marginalized groups.

The combined effects of job losses, health risks, and housing instability significantly deepened poverty levels. Women, particularly those in single-income households, faced severe financial challenges exacerbated by pre-existing gender wage gaps. These disparities prolonged recovery periods and heightened the economic fragility of affected households[209,210].

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204 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT~1_0.PDF

205 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

206 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT~1_0.PDF

207 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

208 The University of the West Indies (UWI). (2018). Climate change and tourism in the Caribbean. Retrieved from https://www.mona.uwi.edu/physics/sites/default/files/physics/uploads/03_CCAndTourism.pdf

209 Duncan Prince and Merusi. 2021. Gender-responsive Socioeconomic Study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Business and Women Entrepreneurs in Jamaica. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/IMPACT~1_0.PDF

210 ACAPS. (2024). Hurricane Beryl Country Profile: Jamaica. ACAPS. Available at https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240718_ACAPS_Hurricane_Beryl_Country_profile_Jamaica.pdf

Asset Ownership

The 2024 findings in the Women, Business and the Law Report for Jamaica reveal both progress and existing gaps in supporting women's property rights. Key legislation, such as the Property (Rights of Spouses) Act and the Intestate Estates and Property Charges Act, ensures women have equal access to property ownership alongside men[211]. However, the report highlights significant gaps in raising awareness about women's material and inheritance rights, as well as the lack of anonymised sex-disaggregated data on property ownership, which is not regularly published[212]. These gaps hinder women's ability to fully exercise their property rights, limiting their empowerment. Moreover, they pose challenges for female-headed households and women-owned properties, particularly in the context of climate resilience, as these communities may struggle to protect their infrastructure and livelihoods from the impacts of flooding and other climate-related events. To address these challenges, targeted actions are needed to improve access to property rights information and ensure greater equity in ownership.

Access and Control Over Resources

In Jamaica, systemic inequities in financial resource access disproportionately affect women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, amplifying their vulnerabilities to climate change and economic shocks. Women, who lead 50-70% of Jamaican households[213], often encounter significant barriers in accessing credit and financial tools due to gendered biases in the financial sector[214,215]. Although women comprise 62.6% of the labour force[216] and frequently attain higher levels of tertiary education than men, they are required to demonstrate greater income stability to qualify for loans and other financial products[217]. This financial disparity extends to women-led enterprises, which make up only 34% of businesses in the Caribbean and face challenges scaling due to limited access to credit[218].

Climate change exacerbates these challenges, especially in the critical areas of food and water security. Women and girls, who are often responsible for securing and managing household food and water resources, are disproportionately affected during climate-induced

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211 World Bank. 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024: Jamaica. Available at https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2024/pilot/WBL24-2-0-Jamaica.pdf

212 Ibid

213 United Nations Women. 2023. Gender inequality, climate change, and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica: EnGenDER brief. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_JamaicaF_20220203.pdf

214 Libertun de Duren, N. (2023). Households led by women: Understanding access to housing credit in Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB Technical Note No. 2847). Available at https://publications.iadb.org/en/publications/english/viewer/Household-Led-by-Women-Understanding-Access-to-Housing-Credit-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf

215 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

216 Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 2024. Labour Force Survey. Available at https://statinja.gov.jm/labourforce/newlfs.aspx

217 Libertun de Duren, N. (2023). Households led by women: Understanding access to housing credit in Latin America and the Caribbean (IDB Technical Note No. 2847). Available at https://publications.iadb.org/en/publications/english/viewer/Household-Led-by-Women-Understanding-Access-to-Housing-Credit-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean.pdf

218 World Bank. (2023). Jamaica gender assessment: Economic opportunities and challenges. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099154502222328619/pdf/P175282042506702e0a7d100b3087a5be64.pdf

events such as droughts and hurricanes[219]. In rural areas, where 51% of households are female-headed, limited access to irrigation, water harvesting technologies, and climate-resilient agricultural inputs undermines both food production and income generation[220]. Additionally, vulnerable groups such as the elderly, who account for 12.9% of Jamaica's population, and persons with disabilities face compounded difficulties accessing safe water and nutritious food due to mobility constraints and fixed incomes[221].

3.5 Saint Lucia

3.5.1 Country Overview

Saint Lucia, a small island developing state in the Eastern Caribbean, covers just 238 square miles and is home to a population of 172,948. The gender distribution remains approximately 50.68% female and 49.32% male (See Figure 28)[222]. The nation has a modest population growth rate of 0.5% and is characterised by its multi-ethnic and multi-religious composition. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.725, Saint Lucia ranks 108th out of 193 countries and territories, and its Gender Inequality Index (GII) of 0.347 places it 82nd out of 166 nations (2022)[223].

Figure 28 - Population Distribution by Age Group and Sex

Age Group	Total	Male	Female	% of Total	% Male	% Female
Total	171,834	84,716	87,118	100.00%	49.32%	50.68%
0 - 4	9,877	5,040	4,836	5.75%	2.93%	2.82%
5 - 9	11,096	5,643	5,453	6.46%	3.29%	3.17%
10 - 14	11,352	5,626	5,726	6.61%	3.27%	3.34%
15 - 19	11,463	5,951	5,512	6.67%	3.46%	3.21%
20 - 24	11,789	5,938	5,851	6.86%	3.45%	3.41%
25 - 29	12,819	6,325	6,493	7.46%	3.68%	3.78%
30 - 34	12,847	6,165	6,683	7.48%	3.59%	3.89%
35 - 39	13,335	6,291	7,043	7.76%	3.66%	4.10%

Life expectancy is approximately 76 years, and educational attainment reveals notable gender dynamics. About 49.2% of adult women have completed at least secondary education

219 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

220 World Bank. (2023). Jamaica gender assessment: Economic opportunities and challenges. Available at https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099154502222328619/pdf/P175282042506702e0a7d100b3087a5be64.pdf

221 Caribbean Policy Development Centre. (2024). Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance instruments in the Caribbean. Available at https://cpdcngo.org/download/the-landscape-and-the-implementation-of-climate-and-disaster-risk-finance-and-insurance-cdrfi-in-the-caribbean/

222 Saint Lucia Central Statistics Office. Saint Lucia Provisional Census Report 2022: Release 1, Rev 1. August 2024. Available at https://stats.gov.lc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/StLucia-Provisional-Census-Report-2022-Release-1Rev1.pdf

223 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report Data Center: Saint Lucia. Available at https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/LCA

compared to 42.1% of men. This higher educational achievement among women highlights the strides made toward gender equity in education.

The economy is predominantly driven by tourism, which directly contributed XCD 1.48 billion (24.4% of GDP) in 2022 and had a total contribution of XCD 3.44 billion (56.6% of GDP) when including indirect effects such as investment and supply chain impacts [224]. Other substantial revenue streams include real estate development and global business outsourcing. Agriculture, though smaller in economic impact, remains vital for rural livelihoods and food security. Despite these economic drivers, gender disparities persist, particularly in employment opportunities. In 2023, Saint Lucia's labour force totalled 113,246 individuals, with men comprising 54.07% and women 45.93% (See Table 12). The unemployment rate was reported at 14.0%, with a stark gender divide: 11.2% for men and 17.3% for women[225]. This is indicative of a gender gap in labour force participation, with men being more represented than women evidenced by disparities in employment opportunities, societal roles, access to the workforce, or other systemic factors influencing labour force participation.

Table 11 - Country overview of St. Lucia

Category	Data
Female Pop.	171, 834 (2023)
Male Pop.	84,716 (2023)
% of Female headed households	
Poverty Rate	
Female Headed Household Poverty Rate	
Child Poverty Rate	
Labour force, female (% of total labour force)	45.9% (2023)
Labour force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)	62.7 % (2022)
% of population employed in Coastal Related Industries (M – Male, F- Female)[226]	M: 35, 855 F: 28, 125
Human Development Index (closer to 1 the better)	0.725 (2022)
Gender Inequality Index (closer to 0 the better)	0.347 (2022)

As a small island developing state, Saint Lucia remains vulnerable to external shocks such as climate change impacts, natural disasters, and global economic downturns [227]. The impacts of climate change include, for example, rising sea levels, increased frequency of hurricanes, and extreme weather events. These phenomena disproportionately affect women, who are often more reliant on natural resources for livelihoods and are more

224 World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), St Lucia Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2023 Report. https://assets-global.website-files.com/6329bc97af73223b575983ac/647f0424704d537b61ad4964_EIR2023-StLucia.pdf

225 Government of Saint Lucia. (2023). Labour Force Statistical Report 2023. Available at stats.gov.lc

226 Total of the combined sectors in Table 2.

227 U.S. Department of State. 2024 Investment Climate Statements: Saint Lucia. Available at https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-investment-climate-statements/saint-lucia/

vulnerable to displacement and economic insecurity during disasters. For example, women working in agriculture or informal tourism roles are particularly susceptible to the impacts of natural disasters on crop yields and tourist arrivals.

Ecosystems play a critical role in Saint Lucia's resilience to climate change. Coral reefs, mangroves, and forests provide essential services such as coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity preservation. However, these ecosystems are under threat from climate change, pollution, and unsustainable practices.

Women, particularly in coastal communities, rely heavily on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, food security, and overall well-being. Many engage in small-scale fisheries, seafood harvesting, and eco-tourism, which depend on healthy marine and coastal environments. Mangroves, for example, provide breeding grounds for fish and shellfish that sustain local economies and household nutrition, while coral reefs support fish stocks essential for subsistence and income generation. Additionally, women often gather medicinal plants and other natural resources from forests, relying on traditional knowledge to support family health and local economies.

Despite their dependence on these ecosystems, women in coastal communities face distinct vulnerabilities, including limited access to land, resources, and decision-making processes. Environmental degradation exacerbates these challenges by reducing available resources, increasing economic instability, and threatening community resilience. Their active involvement in conservation efforts, sustainable livelihood initiatives, and climate adaptation strategies is crucial for protecting natural resources and ensuring long-term sustainability.

3.5.2 Geography and Climatology

Saint Lucia is bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean to the east. It forms part of the Windward Islands in the eastern Caribbean and is situated at approximately 13.5°N latitude and 61°W longitude. [228] This volcanic and mountainous island spans a land area of 616 square kilometres and stretches 158 kilometres along the coast, with the capital city, Castries, located along a bay on the island's northwest coast. The terrain features a narrow coastal ridge, rugged central mountains, and deep valleys. The island's lowest point is sea level at the Caribbean Sea, while its highest point, Mount Gimie, rises to 950 meters (3117 ft) (See Figure 29) [229].

228 World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal: Saint Lucia. Available at https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/st-lucia

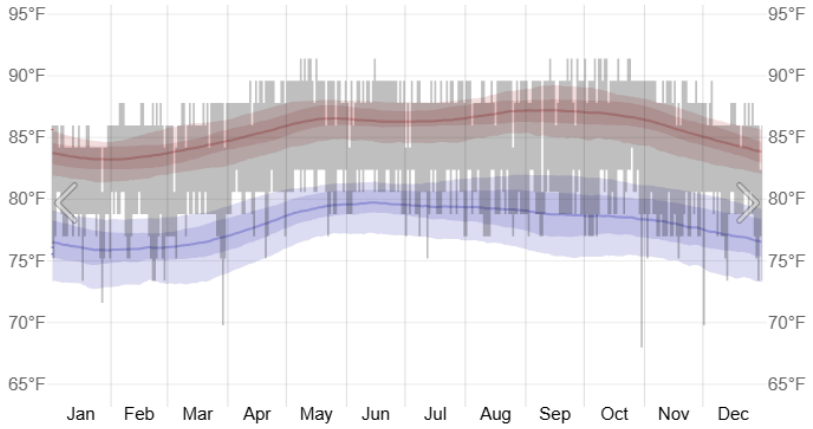
229 Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). Country Profile: Saint Lucia. Available at: https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2018/06/Country-Profile-St-Lucia.pdf

Figures 29 - Map of Saint Lucia



Saint Lucia experiences significant variability in annual rainfall, with averages ranging from approximately 51 inches (1,295 mm) along the coastal regions to as much as 150 inches (3,810 mm) in the island's interior. The climate is characterized by a distinct dry season, typically spanning from January to April, and a rainy season extending from May to November. The island's mean temperature is approximately 80 °F (27 °C), with maximum temperatures occasionally reaching the upper 80s (31 °C) and minimum temperatures dipping to the upper 60s (20 °C)[230]. The 2024 temperature data for Saint Lucia highlights consistent warmth characteristic of a tropical climate. The warmest months were June to September, with high temperatures nearing 90°F, while January and December marked the coolest periods, with lows around 70°F. Temperature variation remained narrow, with highs averaging 85°F–90°F and lows around 75°F–80°F throughout the years as seen in (Figure 30)[231].

Figure 30 - Saint Lucia Temperature History for 2024



230 Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Saint Lucia." Available at: https://www.britannica.com/place/Saint-Lucia

231 Weather Spark. Historical Weather during 2024 in Saint Lucia, St. Lucia. Available at: https://weatherspark.com/h/y/150247/2024/Historical-Weather-during-2024-in-Saint-Lucia-St.-Lucia#Figures-Temperature

3.5.3 Geography, Climatology and Hazards

Saint Lucia is highly vulnerable to various disasters, including tropical cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Moreover, shifting climate patterns have led to intensified challenges such as extreme heat, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, droughts, and heightened water scarcity[232].

To address these and other challenges, Saint Lucia has established a multi-stakeholder environmental policy framework focused on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, and sustainable natural resource management. The National Adaptation Plan (2018) outlines key adaptation and mitigation measures across eight critical sectors, supporting the 2003 Climate Change Adaptation Policy. Additionally, sector-specific strategies such as Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector (Agriculture SASAP) 2018-2028 and Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Water Sector (Water SASAP) 2018-2028 provide targeted approaches to strengthening resilience within agriculture and water resource management, both of which are essential to the country's sustainable development path.

The amended National Environmental Policy (2019) provides strategies for hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and improved planning processes. As a party to the Paris Agreement, Saint Lucia updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2021, committing to a 7% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector by 2030 and including adaptation measures aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [233].

Located in the hurricane belt and a tectonically active zone, Saint Lucia faces significant natural hazards, including hurricanes, floods, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, which threaten key sectors like tourism and agriculture. Its mountainous terrain and volcanic geology heighten vulnerability to landslides, especially after heavy rains, alongside risks of storm surges, flash floods, and moderate earthquakes[234].

Ecosystems

Biodiversity is essential to Saint Lucia, supporting food security, shelter, medicine, water availability, livelihoods, and key industries like agriculture and tourism. Despite transitioning to a service-based economy in the 1990s, tourism and agriculture remain vital, both depending on and impacting natural resources.

Saint Lucia's ecosystems face critical threats from habitat destruction, invasive species such as the green iguana and giant African snail, and climate change. Habitat loss, driven by expanding infrastructure like hotels, marinas, and housing, reduces biodiversity and

232International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Climate-Smart Disaster Law: Saint Lucia Case Study. Available at: https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/disaster_law/2021-11/Saint%20Lucia%20-%20-%20Climate-smart%20disaster%20law%20-%20IFRC%20case%20study.pdf

233 U.S. Department of State. 2024 Investment Climate Statements: Saint Lucia. Available at: https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-investment-climate-statements/saint-lucia/

234 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). (n.d.). Saint Lucia: Climate Change Baseline Assessment Report. Available at https://islands.irena.org/-/media/Sids/Files/Publications/Saint-Lucia---Saint-Lucia-Climate-Change-Baseline-Assessment-Report.pdf.

ecosystem resilience, with gendered implications for livelihoods and resource access. Women, who are often engaged in small-scale agriculture, artisanal fishing, and eco-tourism, may face greater economic insecurity as declining fish stocks and altered agricultural patterns disrupt traditional income sources. Meanwhile, men working in construction or large-scale fishing may be impacted by shifting labour demands due to environmental degradation. Climate change exacerbates issues such as coral bleaching, declining fish stocks, and degraded water quality, compounded by nutrient pollution harming freshwater and marine ecosystems. As water scarcity intensifies, the burden of securing clean water, often falling on women in rural communities may increase, reinforcing existing gender inequalities in labour and resource access.

The loss of biodiversity weakens ecosystems' ability to provide essential goods and services such as fresh water, clean air, fertile soils, and healthy fisheries. This decline directly impacts livelihoods, food security, and economic stability while reducing ecosystems' ability to buffer against climate extremes. Coastal and marine ecosystems beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds protect coastlines, support marine life, and sustain tourism and fisheries but are increasingly vulnerable to rising sea levels, ocean warming, and pollution[235].

Women, who are often primary caregivers and key contributors to agriculture, fishing, and small-scale enterprises, bear the brunt of biodiversity loss due to their dependence on natural resources for sustenance and income. In agriculture, declining soil fertility, loss of pollinators, and unpredictable weather patterns reduce crop yields, forcing women to work longer hours to secure food for their families or seek alternative livelihoods. In coastal communities, overfishing and coral reef degradation threaten women's fishing activities, limiting both their food supply and their ability to generate income from seafood sales. Similarly, in forest-dependent economies, deforestation and resource depletion restrict access to firewood, medicinal plants, and other essential materials, increasing the time and effort required for daily subsistence tasks. These ecological changes not only heighten women's workload but also exacerbate economic precarity, as they often have limited access to land ownership, financial services, and decision-making power, making it more challenging to adapt to environmental shifts.

Climate change presents significant threats[236], including extreme weather events, rising temperatures, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise, all of which threaten ecosystems, livelihoods, and human well-being. These impacts are particularly severe in small island states like Saint Lucia, where economic and social structures are closely tied to fragile coastal and marine environments.

235 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). (n.d.). Country profile: Saint Lucia – Biodiversity facts. Available at https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=lc#:~:text=Biodiversity%20Facts&text=Within%20these%20ecosystems%2C%20there%20are,impact%20on%20it%2C%20sometimes%20adversely

236 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network. (2020). Saint Lucia's Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (REASAP) 2020–2028. Available at https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/napgn-en-2020-sNAPshot-saint-lucia-REASAP-2020%E2%80%932028.pdf.

However, climate change does not affect all people equally. Gender plays a critical role in shaping vulnerability and resilience to climate-related risks. Women, especially those in rural communities, often rely on natural resources for income and sustenance, making them disproportionately affected by habitat destruction, changing agricultural conditions, and declining fisheries. Meanwhile, men, who are more likely to work in sectors such as fishing and construction, face increased occupational hazards due to extreme weather and rising sea levels.

- Extreme weather events destroy habitats and disrupt livelihoods, often increasing the burden on women as primary caregivers and providers of food, water, and household stability. Displacement and loss of income sources can exacerbate gender inequalities, increasing the risks of poverty and gender-based violence.
- Rising temperatures heighten forest fire risks, pest outbreaks, and water shortages, which disproportionately affect women responsible for household water collection and food security.
- Ocean acidification and warming degrade coral reefs, mangroves, and marine biodiversity, threatening fisheries and coastal livelihoods. Given their prominent role in small-scale fish processing and trading, women face economic instability when fish stocks decline.
- Flooding and sea-level rise exacerbate sedimentation and habitat loss, displacing coastal communities. Women, who often have less access to land ownership and decision-making roles, may struggle more to recover from these losses.

Despite its small size, Saint Lucia boasts diverse ecosystems, including rainforests, coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. However, with population centres and economic activities concentrated along the vulnerable coastline, the island's exposure to climate hazards remains high. Understanding the gendered dimensions of these risks[237] is crucial for developing equitable and effective climate adaptation strategies.

3.5.4 Existing Climate Projects

The Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean (See Table 13) is a major initiative funded by the GCF and implemented by the IDB. With a GCF investment of 80 million USD (60 million USD in loans, 20 million USD in grants) and 112.44 million USD in co-financing, the total project value reaches 192.44 million USD. Currently underway, it is set to conclude by August 28, 2027.

The project addresses the high reliance on imported fossil fuels in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, promoting geothermal energy for low-cost, reliable, and sustainable electricity. It aims to cut 9.4 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions over its lifetime, enhancing energy security and climate resilience.

To tackle financial, technical, and institutional barriers, the facility offers concessional loans, reimbursable grants, and support for institutional strengthening and capacity

237 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network. (2020). Saint Lucia's Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (REASAP) 2020–2028. Available at https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/napgn-en-2020-sNAPshot-saint-lucia-REASAP-2020%E2%80%932028.pdf.

building. A Gender Action Plan (GAP) ensures equitable participation, particularly for women and marginalized groups, integrating gender considerations into every phase of the project.

Table 12 - GCF projects for Saint Lucia

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Multi-Country (Yes or No)	Project Status	Targeted Areas	Gender Mainstreaming Level	Existing GAP	Implications for CARBIC
GFC	Sustainable Energy Facility for the Eastern Caribbean	This project aims to transition Eastern Caribbean countries toward renewable energy by financing geothermal energy development and enhancing energy security in nations such as Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.	Yes	Under implementation	1)Energy Generation and access	Responsive	Yes	The FP020 Sustainable Energy Facility provides key lessons for CABRIC in integrating renewable energy solutions to enhance food and water security, health, and ecosystem resilience. CABRIC can reduce energy costs for irrigation, desalination, and food production by adopting clean energy, ensuring stable water and food supplies for coastal communities. Investing in renewable energy for healthcare infrastructure can strengthen public health resilience against climate-induced disruptions. Additionally, low-carbon solutions help protect coastal ecosystems from degradation and pollution.

From 2017-2023, the Saint Lucia SGP achieved significant achievements in gender integration, environmental conservation, and innovation. Out of 67 completed projects, 66% were gender-responsive, and 48% were led by women, with consistent gender representation on the National Steering Committee (See Figure 31). Key accomplishments include the protection of 10,297 hectares of biodiversity-rich areas and 11,000 hectares of marine ecosystems under sustainable management.

Innovative initiatives included sargassum seaweed management, sustainable agricultural practices, and aquaponics for disabled persons. The program aligned with international frameworks, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC, while emphasizing gender mainstreaming through project design and enhanced women's networking. Despite its success, areas for improvement include developing a robust gender mainstreaming strategy, conducting more in-depth gender analysis, and monitoring gender-specific outcomes effectively. This program exemplifies a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and gender equity.

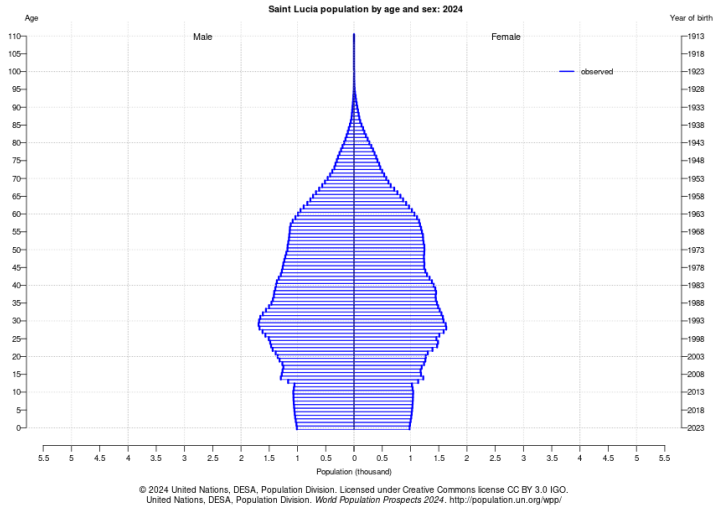
Figure 31 - Saint Lucia's Small Grants Programme

St. Lucia's Small Grants Programme (SGP) results from 2017-2023	
Description	**Details**
Total Completed Projects	67
Gender-Responsive Projects	44 (66%)
Women-Led Projects	21 (48%)
Years with Gender Focal Point on NSC	7 out of 7 years
Use of Gender Checklists	Consistent for 4 years
Projects Focused on Biodiversity Conservation	Multiple projects across biodiversity and conservation
Protected Areas Covered (Hectares)	10,297
Marine Conservation Areas (Hectares)	11,000
Projects Focused on Climate Change	Sustainable agricultural practices
Households Benefiting from Energy Access	Not specified
Innovative Gender-Environment Integration Example	Teachers' Union Project: Environmental education; Beausoliel Agricultural Project: Bio-fertilizer use; Marine Initiative: Sargassum management.
Alignment with International Frameworks	Smithsonian recognition, regional knowledge transfer, certified water quality standards
Key Strengths in Gender Mainstreaming	Limited gender mainstreaming strategy, stronger monitoring, enhanced women's networking

3.5.5 Demographics

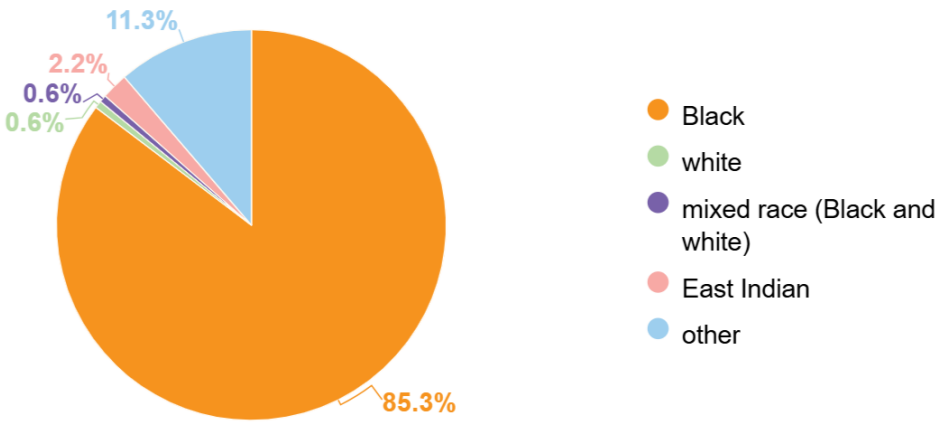
With a population density of 295 per Km^2 (765 people per mi^2)[238], with approximately 50% living within the northwestern districts of Castries and Gros-Islet. Around 8% live in and around the capital city of Castries within the Castries district itself. The urban population comprises 28% of the total population and resides mainly in major coastal cities/towns. Most of the rural population live in villages located near the flatter coastal regions.

Figure 32 Showing Saint Lucia's Population Breakdown (2024)



The population pyramid in Figure 32 above [239] shows Saint Lucia's demographic breakdown, noting a declining birth rate, with the youngest age group (0-4 years) accounting for 6% of the population. Middle-aged individuals (30-54 years) represent the largest segment at 35%, while the elderly (65+ years) comprise 12%. The distribution is nearly equal between males and females across all age groups.

Figure 33 Showing Saint Lucia's Ethnic Breakdown



The chart in Figure 33 above shows the ethnic composition of Saint Lucia, majority (85.3%) of the population identifies as Black. 11.3% is categorized as "other," while smaller proportions of the population identify as East Indian (2.2%), mixed race (Black and white) (0.6%), and white (0.6%)

238 Worldometers. Saint Lucia Population. Available at: https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/saint-lucia-population/

239United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. "World Population Prospects: Graphs." Available at: https://population.un.org/wpp/graphs

[240]. In the 2022 Population and Housing census 6,159 were cited as living with some form of disability [241].

Education

Saint Lucia has made significant strides in education, achieving universal primary and secondary schooling, with compulsory education for children aged 5 to 15. However, challenges remain in ensuring equitable outcomes. As of 2022, 92.5% of girls and 83% of boys complete lower secondary education, with a gender gap of 9.6 percentage points—far exceeding the regional average of 3.9 [242]. This indicates persistent disparities in educational attainment.

Religion

According to the United States Department of State, the 2010 Population and Housing Census revealed that 61.4% of the population identifies as Catholic. Seventh-day Adventists account for 10.4%, Pentecostals 8.8%, evangelical Christians 2.2%, Baptists 2.1%, and Rastafarians 2%. Other religious groups, each representing less than 2% of the population, include Anglicans, members of the Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, Methodists, Muslims, Hindus, and Baha'is. Approximately 6% of the population reports having no religious affiliation.

Unofficial estimates place the predominantly Sunni Muslim population between 150 and 400 individuals. Additionally, representatives of the Jewish community report there are about 200 Jewish residents, the majority of whom are noncitizens[243].

3.5.6 Leadership and Governance

Saint Lucia is a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy, with the British Monarch as the Head of State, represented locally by a Governor General. The Prime Minister, appointed by the Governor General, leads the government and is typically the head of the majority party or coalition following elections. The legislative branch is bicameral, consisting of the House of Assembly (17 elected members) and the Senate (11 appointed members). Senate appointments are divided among those recommended by the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Governor General, who also consults various interest groups.

The country is divided into 10 administrative districts, each with a municipal government of nine appointed members. Local elections have been suspended since 1979. Elections are managed by an independent Electoral Department, and voting is not compulsory. Vacancies in the House of Assembly are filled through by-elections within three months and Parliament and government terms are limited to five years[244]. Most recently, in 2025, Saint Lucia went through a general election and out of 43 candidates, 8 were women and only 2 of those won their seat.[245]

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240 Encyclopaedia Britannica. Saint Lucia. Available at: https://www.britannica.com/place/Saint-Lucia

241 Saint Lucia Central Statistics Office. Provisional Census Report 2022: Release 1, Rev 1. Available at: https://stats.gov.lc/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/StLucia-Provisional-Census-Report-2022-Release-1Rev1.pdf

242 World Bank. (n.d.). Gender Data Portal: Saint Lucia. Available at https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/st-lucia#:~:text=92.5%25%20of%20girls%20and%2083,America%20%26%20Caribbean%20aggregate%2C%203.9.

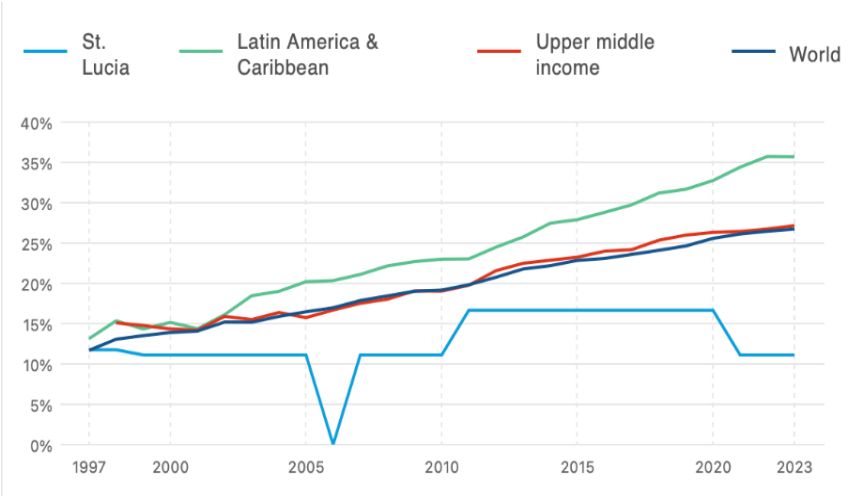
243 U.S. Department of State. (2022). 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: Saint Lucia. Available at https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom/saint-lucia/.

244 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (n.d.). Saint Lucia: Overview of Institutional Governance Systems. Available at https://oig.cepal.org/en/countries/78/system.

245 Saint Lucia Electoral department. (2025). Saint Lucia General Elections 2025.

In 2023, women held 11.1% of the seats in St. Lucia's national parliament. This figure represents the proportion of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber occupied by women (see Figure 34) Notably, this percentage has remained relatively unchanged since 2010, indicating limited progress in achieving gender balance in parliamentary representation. Furthermore, St. Lucia's rate falls below the average for upper-middle-income economies, highlighting a significant gap in gender representation at the national level [246].

Figure 34 Showing seats held by women in national parliaments.



3.5.7 Economy

Saint Lucia is an upper-middle-income country which has been challenged by relatively low levels of economic growth. Tourism is the main source of economic activity in the country's domestic economy and Saint Lucia's main export earnings are from bananas and manufacturing. The annual GDP growth is 0.60 per cent. The GDP per capita is $8,162 and the annual GDP growth rate is 1.7 per cent. The overall unemployment rate is 16.8 per cent, and the youth unemployment rate is 31.6 per cent. Despite the decline in poverty rates over the past years, poverty–especially among children, youth, and female-headed households–remains high[247].

3.5.8 Livelihoods

Women in Saint Lucia face disproportionate challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods due to climate change and disaster risks. In agriculture, where women traditionally work informally alongside men, systemic barriers such as lack of land ownership and access to financial resources hinder their ability to recover from climate-related shocks like hurricanes and droughts[248]. Similarly, in the fisheries sector, women make up only 4% of marine fishing jobs and are largely confined to unrecognized roles like fish processing and vending. In the water sector, women are

246 World Bank. (n.d.). Gender Data Portal: Saint Lucia. Available at https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/st-lucia.

247 USAID. Saint Lucia Climate Risk Profile. Available at: https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2021-09/StLucia.MAY_.2021.Final_.pdf

248 EnGenDER Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Saint Lucia. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_Saint%20LuciaF_20220203.pdf .

underrepresented in technical and leadership roles, earning significantly lower wages than men and are often excluded from key decision-making processes[249].

These challenges are compounded by limited access to adaptive mechanisms such as insurance and recovery grants, leaving women more vulnerable to poverty during crises. Despite these barriers, women play crucial roles in informal economies and micro-businesses, showcasing their resilience and adaptability. However, inclusive policies and targeted interventions are essential to address systemic inequities and strengthen their ability to cope with climate and disaster risks[250].

249 EnGenDER Gender Inequality of Climate Change and Disaster Risk in Saint Lucia. Available at https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_Saint%20LuciaF_20220203.pdf .

250 "Saint Lucia First NDC (Updated Submission)," 2022, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Saint%20Lucia%20First%20NDC%20%28Updated%20submission%29.pdf.

4. Project Enabling Environment

The policy assessment for the Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities in the Caribbean (CA-BRIC Caribbean) provides an overview of the enabling policy environment in the focus countries of The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Lucia. The policies, plans and legislation have been summarized and reviewed for their reference to and inclusion of key vulnerable groups, including youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), the elderly, and Indigenous persons. In total, 155 documents were reviewed and are included in the tables provided in Appendix 1.

The list of policies, plans, and legislation reviewed in this assessment cover the areas of:

- Climate Change
- Environment, Ecology and Biodiversity
- Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use
- Sustainable Development
- Gender

The policies, plans, and legislation have also been assessed to determine their level of sensitivity towards gender considerations and their efforts toward reducing inequalities and creating opportunities and benefits for women through strategic and targeted actions. These documents have been assessed and given a gender rating of one of either: gender blind, gender aware, gender sensitive, gender responsive, or gender transformative.

Table 1 in the Methodology section defines each level of the gender rating tool as it moves from least responsive (gender blind) to most responsive (gender transformative). Tables 16 - 18 summarize the gender assessment and show the range of gender responsiveness present in the documents within the five thematic areas reviewed (see Table 16) and vulnerable groups mentioned (see Table 17, page 111) across the five thematic areas reviewed, offering insight as to the levels of inclusion in the enabling environment for various vulnerable populations. The assessment also includes a summary table of the level of gender responsiveness across all policies, plans and legislation reviewed for each country (see Table 18, page 112).

Table 13 - Gender Rating Count of Policies by Thematic Area

Policy Category	Blind	Aware	Sensitive	Responsive	Transformative
Climate Change	13	1	7	5	0
Environment, Ecology and Biodiversity	27	2	3	3	0
Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use	60	1	8	5	0
Sustainable Development	2	0	0	12	0
Gender	0	0	0	1	3
Total	102	4	18	26	3

Among the reviewed documents on policies, plans, and legislation in five thematic areas, 26 were gender responsive. They recognized inequality differences and included actions to address them. This was primarily evident in the documents reviewed that related to sustainable development across the five countries. The remaining documents that referenced gender were shown to be gender sensitive (18), gender aware (4), and finally gender transformative (3). Of the documents reviewed, the majority were, however, gender blind (102), meaning that they made no reference to gender or women. While gender blind ratings appeared within policies and plans across the five countries reviewed, the high gender blind rating across the range of documents is largely related to the number of legislative acts reviewed, particularly in the area of coasts, water, and ocean use, which, typically rarely take into account social considerations for gender or vulnerable populations and which tend to primarily focus on providing the rules and laws governing a particular area.

The documents reviewed were assessed to determine their inclusion and attention toward vulnerable populations in addition to women, including youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), the elderly and Indigenous peoples. It should be clarified that the numbers in Table 17 correlate to the number of documents that contained a vulnerable group reference and not to the number of times a group may have been referenced within a document. As noted, a large percentage of these documents with a gender-blind rating and no vulnerable group mentions were legislative acts which tend to simply state rules and legal articles within a particular subject matter.

Table 14 - Policies, Strategies, or Plans Containing a Mention of Vulnerable Populations by Thematic Area

Policy Category	Youth	Elderly	PWDs	Indigenous	No Mention (including any reference to gender/women)
Climate Change	11	7	9	9	7
Environment, Ecology and Biodiversity	11	2	5	7	10
Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use	8	2	1	4	59
Sustainable Development	15	13	14	4	1
Gender	3	4	2	0	0
Totals	48	28	31	24	77

Across all five thematic areas reviewed, **references to youth appeared most often in the documents reviewed, with 49 documents mentioning this group, followed by PWDs at 31, the elderly and Indigenous persons tied at 22 documents each containing mentions of these groups. While the inclusion of vulnerable groups was present, exactly half of those documents reviewed contained no mention of any specific vulnerable population, including women.** Across the thematic areas assessed for inclusion or reference to vulnerable populations, documents related to climate change or sustainable development were most often found to contain these references.

Table 18 shows the number of policies, plans and legislation reviewed in each country and the gender responsiveness rating across each group of policies. Of the countries reviewed, Jamaica showed the highest number of responsive ratings in the documents reviewed, setting targeted

actions and priorities to address gender inequality. Documents reviewed from Jamaica, along with Belize also received the greatest number of gender-blind ratings. It should be noted in the case of Jamaica, this is partly a factor of the disproportionate number of policies, plans and legislative acts reviewed for the country, a result of the larger number of documents related to coasts, water, and ocean use. **What was evident in all countries was that gender ratings at the higher end of the scale (responsive and transformative) fell significantly lower than the frequency of ratings at the lower end of the scale (blind or aware).**

Table 15 - Gender Rating Count of Policies by Country

Country	Gender Rating				
	Blind	Aware	Sensitive	Responsive	Transformative
The Bahamas	19	0	4	1	0
Belize	22	0	6	5	1
Grenada	18	0	2	4	1
Jamaica	30	1	2	12	1
St. Lucia	13	3	4	4	0

In addition to the policies, plans and legislation reviewed across the 5 primary thematic areas, the review noted which of the five focus countries have adopted or joined as signatories to a number of regional and global proclamations or initiatives supporting Indigenous persons and coastal resources. These include the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, with the purpose of establishing a framework for minimum standards related to the world's Indigenous peoples in the realms of survival, dignity, well-being and rights. Across the countries included in this assessment, those countries that have adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples include The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, and St. Lucia. Grenada is noted as a non-signatory country on the UNDRIP[251] and does not have an indigenous community.

The ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 of 1989, is important for securing the rights of Indigenous persons, requiring respect for indigenous ways of life and allowing indigenous peoples rights to control their own development, including but not limited to management of their lands and natural resources. 23 countries have to date ratified the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 of 1989. None of the five countries in this policy assessment have ratified this ILO convention [252].

The policy assessment reveals significant variations in indigenous recognition that create differentiated implementation contexts. Belize demonstrates the strongest foundation through the Maya Customary Land Policy (2023) and 2015 Caribbean Court of Justice ruling affirming Maya customary land tenure, creating binding legal recognition for southern Maya communities. However, this recognition has not extended to Garifuna communities despite UNESCO cultural heritage status, nor to northern Maya (Yucatec) who maintain identity but have not pursued land

251 UN Digital Library. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly. Available at https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/609197?ln=en

252 USAID. Global Declarations and Frameworks on Indigenous Peoples. Available at https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Global-Declarations-and-Frameworks-on-Indigenous-Peoples.pdf

litigation. Jamaica lacks formal indigenous policy frameworks entirely, though Maroon communities possess quasi-legal status through 18th-century treaties. Taíno communities self-identify as indigenous with active cultural practices but operate without state recognition, making them vulnerable to exclusion from indigenous-specific safeguards. This differentiated landscape requires CABRIC to operationalize indigenous rights through international standards (UNDRIP, GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy) when national frameworks prove insufficient, ensuring that self-identification rather than state gatekeeping determines appropriate consultation approaches.

Lastly, the regional Strategic Action Program for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP), provides a comprehensive framework to enhance governance and sustainable management of marine resources across the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. The strategy addresses key challenges in the region, including fisheries and fishing practices that are unsustainable, habitat degradation, and pollution of ecosystems. These issues are addressed with a focus on ecosystem-based management, capacity building, and the strengthening of regional collaboration. The SAP gives an outline for long-term objectives addressing marine ecosystem health and socio-economic benefits while emphasizing stakeholder engagement and climate change resilience. Four of the five countries reviewed in this assessment are signatories of the SAP, including Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, while the Bahamas is not included. Despite the actions noted toward sustainable and thoughtfully managed marine resources, the SAP contains no mention or targeted actions affecting women and other vulnerable groups.

All five countries involved in the assessment have signed the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. Both agreements address the issue of sustainable fisheries management and access to fisheries resources. As with the SAP, the Policy includes no reference to vulnerable groups and no mention of issues related to gender inequality or women.

Across the 155 policies, plans and legislative documents reviewed, there is an overwhelming lack of inclusion paid to the needs and unique experiences of vulnerable populations including women, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and indigenous peoples. Even in cases where shifts in actions toward sustainable practices are highlighted, there are often no considerations given to who benefits from these actions and what measures are needed to make them truly sustainable for all members of society. In cases where there was a trend shown toward greater inclusion of vulnerable groups and gender responsiveness, these appeared in the areas of climate change and sustainable development policies. Youth and women were most often noted as the recipients of targeted actions aimed at reducing inequalities, providing greater access to opportunities and resources, and generating higher levels of participation in leadership, decision making and governance. Particularly as it applies to the subject of coastal management and climate resilience, the knowledge keepers of our communities, including the elderly and Indigenous peoples require greater attention and inclusion in leadership and decision making to make tangible advancements related to climate change and natural resource management challenges being faced.

4.1 Challenges in Creating an Inclusive Enabling Environment

In addition to assessing the policies and legislative frameworks across the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, it is also important to examine and understand, even in a limited

fashion, the capacity that exists to build a supportive and facilitative environment that promotes gender equality, reduces inequalities, and ensures equitable opportunities for women and other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, youth, and indigenous peoples in a direct access context. As stakeholder engagement has shown, trust, social capital and social standing are critical social assets to being able to execute and implement efficiently as well as effectively.

Across the five beneficiary countries, achieving these goals is constrained by the predominance of gender-blind policies, the limited integration of gender-specific mechanisms within climate finance, and the underrepresentation of women and marginalized groups in ecosystem management and governance. This includes areas such as coastal and water resource management, biodiversity conservation, and overall environmental preservation. When assessing the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, there is a noticeable lack of recognition or in-depth consideration of their unique knowledge and contributions to ecosystem and climate governance. This results in the exclusion of those most reliant on natural resources from contributing their knowledge and expertise to support sustainable land use, biodiversity safeguarding, and adaptive strategies for coping with environmental changes. Additionally, locally recognized issues such as inequitable access to water and the disproportionate burden placed on women during climate adaptation efforts, highlight a policy environment that acknowledges vulnerabilities but often fails to take concrete steps in challenging systemic inequalities.

Sustainable development policies indicate stronger inclusivity, with Jamaica demonstrating best practices through strategies that integrate gender-responsive financial mechanisms, such as loans for women-led enterprises, youth entrepreneurship initiatives, and equitable access to resources in high-growth sectors. While these policies align with regional and global climate finance goals, they lack specificity in implementing microfinance programs or ensuring marginalized communities benefit directly from financial flows. Fisheries and agriculture policies also show occasional focus on equitable participation but have not benefitted from established financial support mechanisms.

4.2 Enabling Environment for Accessing Finance

4.2.1 Policy Outlook

The policy assessment across all five countries also shows varied levels and approaches to tackling access to finance and inclusivity. Climate finance is emerging as a very important step in adaptation; however, it still remains an area with a significant amount of growth needed. Within climate change policies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), there is recognized need to enhance financial mechanisms to support efforts at managing and mitigate climate induced threats. Some examples of inclusive climate finance include Belize's Climate Resilience Investment Plan which identifies women's access to information and decision making as essential for societal benefits. However, many climate-related policies, particularly those tied to coasts and marine management, remain gender-blind and lack targeted financial frameworks to support vulnerable groups and enable targeted and actionable interventions.

The region's climate finance efforts, including resource mobilization for adaptation and mitigation, show significant gaps in aligning funding with the needs of women, youth, and Indigenous populations. While some frameworks, such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre Act, advocate for regional collaboration, the financial discourse is often shaped by

broad capacity-building goals rather than concrete, inclusive measures exposing uneven attention across sectors and countries echoing the need for more transformative policies that integrate actionable financial mechanisms.

4.2.2 Operational Environment

The operational environment for climate finance, is heavily impacted by gaps in participation and inclusive mechanisms. Without clear frameworks to ensure the involvement of vulnerable groups, such as women and marginalized communities, funds may not flow effectively to those who need them the most. This can lead to inefficiencies in the allocation of resources, where climate finance may remain concentrated at higher levels of government or in sectors that do not address the specific needs of local communities.

Beyond formal financial structures, many communities rely on localized financial management and coping mechanisms to navigate economic challenges. Informal savings systems, such as "*sou sous*" a widely practiced saving circle, allow individuals to pool resources and access funds on a rotating basis, fostering financial resilience. Similarly, barter systems and community-led savings initiatives provide alternative ways for people to meet their needs without relying on traditional banking or credit structures. While these mechanisms may not be directly tied to climate finance, they play an essential role in shaping financial behaviour and resilience at the grassroots level, influencing how communities adapt to economic and environmental uncertainties.

For communities to get the support they require from governments, it is important that policies and financial mechanisms are designed with local contexts in mind, including gender-responsive approaches. Governments need to establish clearer pathways and opportunities for directing climate finance directly to communities, ensuring that financial resources are accessible, transparent, and aligned with local needs. This requires active involvement of local stakeholders, including women, in decision-making processes, to ensure their unique challenges and perspectives are considered in the allocation of funds.

Beyond government action, collaboration with the private sector, NGOs, and regional partners is crucial in expanding access to climate finance and strengthening local resilience. Public-private partnerships can facilitate investment in community-driven climate initiatives, while NGOs play a vital role in bridging gaps by providing technical assistance, capacity-building, and advocacy. Additionally, cross-border cooperation for finance and expertise is essential, for example, in addressing transboundary climate challenges faced by Belize. Belize has extensive coastal zones that are highly vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, which threaten fisheries, tourism, and coastal communities. These issues are exacerbated by Mangrove deforestation, often driven by development and economic activities, which further reduces natural protection against storm surges. Addressing these significant challenges requires coordinated efforts between countries in the Caribbean to restore ecosystems, implement shared coastal management strategies, develop climate-resilient infrastructure, and to implement shared coastal management strategies.

4.2.3 Financial Institutions

In the Caribbean, microfinance and climate finance initiatives are crucial for promoting sustainable development, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. Financial institutions across various countries, including the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia, have implemented policies and programs that aim to address climate change, provide support for

businesses, and enhance financial inclusion. A key feature is that all these countries also have national development banks which means that financing is not fully reliant only on the commercial banking sector.

Development banks take on an acute role in addressing financing gaps for long-term, high-impact projects that are often deemed too risky or unprofitable by commercial banks. Unlike commercial banks, which focus on short-term lending and profit-driven financial services, development banks prioritize sustainable development, infrastructure, and economic transformation by offering concessional loans, guarantees, and blended financing mechanisms. Development banks have the potential to create space for innovative development financing by leveraging public funds to de-risk investments, attract private capital, and support initiatives aligned with national and regional development goals. This approach is particularly necessary in addressing systemic challenges such as climate adaptation, social infrastructure, and economic diversification.

A well-structured development bank should also enable engagement with NGOs and the private sector by providing tailored financial instruments, technical assistance, and co-financing arrangements. This differs from traditional Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), which often involve contractual agreements for service delivery or infrastructure projects with defined risk-sharing mechanisms. In contrast, development-led financing models can facilitate more flexible, long-term collaborations that integrate social and environmental priorities alongside financial sustainability. Below is a summary of the relevant financial institutions and their initiatives.

The Bahamas

The Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) focuses on sustainable development and climate change, particularly through promoting electric vehicles, aiming for 35% of vehicle sales to be electric by 2030. The initiative targets MSMEs, including many women-led businesses. The BDB also supports agricultural development with flexible financing and works with farmers, including women and vulnerable groups. Additionally, investments in sustainable fisheries contribute to economic growth and support women in the sector.

Belize

The Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in Belize supports individuals and businesses, with a focus on women, young men (18-29), and startups. It offers financing up to 90% for new and existing businesses, including micro loans from $2,500 to $75,000. Loan terms extend up to 72 months with a 12-month grace period. DFC financing covers capital investments, working capital, training, and marketing, encouraging entrepreneurship and empowering women and youth.

Grenada

The Grenada Development Bank (GDB) provides loans for climate-resilient projects such as retaining walls, rainwater harvesting, and solar water heaters for homeowners. These loans offer benefits like waived fees and extended terms. While not specifically targeting women or vulnerable groups, many homeowners, including women, benefit from these climate resilience projects.

Jamaica

The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) offers loans to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially in agriculture through its AGRIBIZ Programme, which aims to boost female participation in the sector. The program provides concessional loans, technical assistance, and

workshops. Over 6.3 million USD supports the agricultural sector, promoting financial inclusion and improving women's involvement in agriculture.

Saint Lucia

The Saint Lucia Development Bank (SLDB) finances agricultural and fishing projects, supporting crop and livestock enterprises, irrigation, equipment, and new technologies. While not targeting women directly, many women are employed in these sectors. The SLDB also runs a Gender Equality Project to promote gender equality both within the bank and in the wider community.

4.2.4 Similarities and Differences Across Country Policy Profiles

While the majority of documents reviewed across all countries were gender blind, Jamaica had the highest percentage of policies that were either responsive or transformative at 28%. The country showed the highest propensity toward policies that either provided actions to rectify inequalities between men and women or that aim to directly resolve and address the underlying issues perpetuating inequalities.

All of the countries reviewed ranged in terms of their inclusion of vulnerable groups within policies, plans and legislation. The lowest number of mentions of vulnerable populations was from the Bahamas (12 distinct group mentions across all documents), spread across the different vulnerable groups identified. The country with the highest number of different groups mentioned across all policies, plans and legislations was Jamaica with 40 mentions, primarily belonging to youth, elderly, and PWDs groups. All other countries were spread across these ranges. Within the policies reviewed for Bahamas, and Grenada, there tended to be little inclusion of vulnerable populations or if acknowledged, no clear guidelines for inclusive action or participation strategies were in place.

In looking at specific issues related to climate, gender and ecosystems, as noted in Table 17, there were similarities and differences present between the 6 focus countries as well. Two significant issues related to the environment were coastal erosion and degradation (in the Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica and St. Lucia) and saltwater intrusion (in Grenada). Soil erosion and degradation was also an issue identified for Jamaica, and St. Lucia. Differences in soil related agriculture issues also exist, for example in Belize, experiencing water scarcity and drought affecting soil quality, while in Jamaica, too much water and deforestation have similar but opposite negative effects.

While all of the countries have some level of coastal-dependent livelihoods, there is a trend of a lack of consideration and inclusion of women’s roles in fisheries and coastal livelihoods across the countries reviewed. This includes a limited acknowledgement of women’s roles in fisheries, underrepresentation in decision making (i.e. The Bahamas), and exclusion as stakeholders in marine resource management (i.e. Grenada). More broadly, in terms of ecosystems and water resources management, across all countries, there is a gap in having significant inclusion of women in these areas. This applies to participation and decision making and includes issues such as a lack of strategy including women’s roles in water management (i.e. Grenada) or equitable water resources access (i.e. St. Lucia). In the Bahamas and Jamaica, similarly, no frameworks exist for gender responsive ecosystem participation.

4.2.5 Policy Inclusion Matrix

Consolidating the information presented in Appendix 1, the provided policy matrix evaluated the national legislative and strategic frameworks of The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St.

Lucia across five primary sectors: climate change, environment and biodiversity, coastal and ocean use, sustainable development, and gender.

Each policy within the matrix was analysed for its inclusion of vulnerable populations—specifically youth, PWDs, the elderly, and Indigenous groups—and is assigned a gender sensitivity rating of either Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, or Transformative. A consistent trend across all five nations is that older, foundational legislation governing maritime boundaries, protected areas, and water resources tends to be "Gender Blind," containing no specific provisions for gender or social equity. In contrast, modern frameworks such as NDCs, NAPs, and overarching sustainable development plans (like Jamaica's Vision 2030 and Belize's Horizon 2030) are increasingly "Gender Sensitive" or "Gender Responsive," actively outlining strategies to reduce inequalities, incorporate women into decision-making, and ensure equitable access to education, agricultural resources, and employment.

Notably, while several nations are still integrating gender considerations into their environmental sectors, Belize, Grenada, and Jamaica have enacted standalone national gender policies that are rated as "Gender Transformative," meaning they are explicitly designed to dismantle the root structural causes of gender inequality across all spheres of society.

4.2.6 Recommendations to Support an Inclusive Enabling Policy Environment

- Create climate finance systems that specifically support women, youth, and Indigenous populations, ensuring they gain equal access to and control over resources and decision-making
- Strengthen regional partnerships to share resources and strategies, improving their access to climate finance for adaptation and mitigation efforts
- Ensure coastal and marine management policies address the needs of vulnerable groups, providing targeted financial support.
- Move beyond general capacity-building and implement concrete financial mechanisms that drive inclusive climate action.
- Offer financial education to vulnerable groups, empowering them to access and manage climate finance effectively.
- Set up systems to track the impact of financial policies on vulnerable populations and drive continuous improvement.
- Establish trusted intermediary partnerships with local organizations that possess existing social capital in indigenous communities, enabling engagement that respects cultural protocols, builds on established relationships, and accommodates systematic consultation processes through traditional authorities rather than expecting direct external access.

5. Multi-country Analysis

5.1 Mapping Localized Issues on Gender, Climate Change & Access to Finance

A brief analysis of climate-related issues, gender, gender-ecosystem challenges, and access to financial mechanisms across the five focus countries outlines the localized impacts of environmental changes, such as rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and shifts in rainfall patterns, which threaten vital sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and tourism (see Table 19).

Table 16 - Localized Issues on Gender, Climate Change & Access to Finance

Country	*Localized Climate-Related Issues*	*Gender Issues*	*Gender and Ecosystems Considerations*	*Access to Finance*	*Other Relevant Issues*
The Bahamas	Highly susceptible to coastal erosion and rising sea levels, with a heavy reliance on coastal ecosystems for tourism and fisheries.	Underrepresentation of women in decision-making.	No frameworks for gender-responsive ecosystem participation.	Market mechanisms present like carbon trading; international climate funds for disaster risk management.	Little or no involvement of vulnerable groups despite their role in sustainability.
Belize	Coastal zones and the Belize Barrier Reef are at risk of degradation and pollution. Agriculture faces significant challenges due to shifting rainfall patterns and drought, leading to water scarcity.	Gender-specific challenges exist in fisheries and coastal livelihoods.	Policies encourage sustainability but overlook gender roles and challenges.	Climate Finance Strategy (2021-2026) for example integrates finance mechanisms with development plans, resources targeted toward agriculture and forestry.	Limited acknowledgment of women's roles in fisheries and livelihoods.
Grenada	Hurricanes, rising sea levels, and saltwater intrusion have caused severe damage. Water management issues are compounded by dependence on coastal ecosystems for	Women excluded as stakeholders in marine resource management.	No strategies to support women's participation in water management.	Clear focus on international funding for disaster vulnerability reduction, financing resilience activities in agriculture and water sectors.	Vulnerable groups acknowledged, but no strategies for their participation.

Country	Localized Climate-Related Issues	Gender Issues	Gender and Ecosystems Considerations	Access to Finance	Other Relevant Issues
	fishing and tourism.				
Jamaica	Extreme weather events, hurricanes affecting water, agriculture, and coastal resources; soil erosion and deforestation impacting agriculture and biodiversity; degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems.	Gender-specific challenges exist in fisheries sector.	National targets include women's livelihoods but lack inclusive ecosystem approaches.	Scaling up climate finance through public-private partnerships as well as inclusive financial mechanisms targeting women and youth.	Sustainable fisheries promoted without specific support for women.
Saint Lucia	Frequent extreme weather events, including hurricanes, adversely impact water resources, agriculture, and coastal zones. Soil erosion and deforestation further threaten agriculture and biodiversity, alongside the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems.	Prevention of additional burdens on women during adaptation processes.	No actionable plans for equitable water resource access.	Leveraging international and regional climate funds in tourism, agriculture, and fisheries along with equitable financing for reducing gender-based vulnerabilities.	Acknowledges need for gender-responsive measures but lacks monitoring.

In many countries, women face distinct barriers in these sectors, often being excluded from decision-making processes and ecosystem management frameworks. While some countries have implemented policies aimed at fostering sustainability and inclusion, these strategies typically fail to address the gendered dimensions of climate challenges adequately. Additionally, Table 19 also details the available financial tools, including international climate funds and carbon trading mechanisms, which are intended to support adaptation and resilience efforts. However, despite these resources, the lack of comprehensive gender-responsive policies and the insufficient

participation of vulnerable groups limit the effectiveness of these financial strategies in achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes.

6.2. Mapping the policy enabling environment

Additionally, the policy analysis shows that not all countries are the same place. It can be seen that the Bahamas is presently lagging behind the other countries in terms of gender- responsive policies (see Table 20). Only the Bahamian sustainable development policies were found to be gender-responsive on average while its other policies were gender blind or aware. St. Lucia closely followed the Bahamas in terms of having the least gender-responsive policies with only its climate change policies on average being gender-responsive with the rest of its policies being gender-aware on average. However, it is important to note that both countries' gender polices are currently in development.

In terms of climate change policies which is critical for the climate resilience, only St. Lucia had on average gender-responsive policies. The Bahamas, Belize and Grenada climate change polices were gender aware on average. Important to flag is that on average, Jamaica's climate change policies were gender-blind meaning no considerations the gendered reality of climate change impacts were made in these policies. This can lead to gaps in actions taken by both programmatic action and duty-bearers. St. Lucia presents an opportunity for knowledge exchange to enhance the climate change policies of the other four countries.

The gender policies reviewed for Belize, Grenada and Jamaica were all transformative, indicating that there exists a good framework for gender-responsive action to occur within these countries. These polices can serve as the guiding groundwork to support further change in their respective enabling environments while also providing measures and provisions that CABRIC can utilize to ensure its activities are gender responsive.

Table 17 - Average Gender Rating Per Category

Policy Type	The Bahamas	Belize	Grenada	Jamaica	St. Lucia
Climate Change	Aware	Aware	Aware	Blind	Responsive
Environment, Ecology and Biodiversity	Blind	Aware	Blind	Aware	Aware
Coasts, Water and Ocean Use	Blind	Blind	Aware	Aware	Aware
Sustainable Development	Responsive	Responsive	Responsive	Responsive	Aware
Gender	N/A	Transformative	Transformative	Transformative	N/A

While most of the target countries have a transformative gender policy, the effects and related shifts of these policies are slow but steady. Women still remain underrepresented in leadership roles at the highest levels as seen in the gender baselines (see Section 3), on average accounting for approximately 25% of their parliament. While still low, this is a significant step towards to a more equitable future. Female educational completion rates are currently higher than males and more women are taking on technical roles. The composition and ratio of the workshop attendance (see Annex 7 Stakeholder Engagement Plan) may suggest that women are in a much better positions now, however, the nature of the workshop (particularly the gender and social inclusion themes) may also have led to female technical officers being designated to attend. Despite this possible reality, women are visibly more active within the environmental conservation space, and many are creating their own organisations.

In terms of policies for environment, ecology and biodiversity, and coasts, water and ocean use, none of the countries received an average rating above gender aware. 50% of the countries, coasts, water and ocean use policies were gender-blind which aligns with what was shared by stakeholder in terms of recognising the gendered involvement in fisheries sector and other coastal livelihoods. The limited recognition and inclusion of gender in coastal management, planning and livelihoods create gaps in coverage, leading to exacerbated inequalities.

CABRIC programming presents a critical opportunity for gender disaggregated data for coastal and environmental protection and livelihood related data to be generated that can be collected and used to inform the revision of country policies or the development of a gender-responsive model policy for coasts and environment. This model can provide a framework that can be adapted across the different countries' context to create robust, socially inclusive and gender responsive policies to guide the relevant sectors.

6.3. Key consolidated stakeholder perspectives and findings

While each country has their own cultural and environmental differences that would shape how the issues experienced. Stakeholders from the different countries across various sectors have shared similar experiences and issues. A major theme observed across the numerous engagements in both the workshop and key informant setting was resources. A lack of resources (financial, technical and human) was echoed by most stakeholders from the small organisations to even the larger ones. They are often restrained in what they can do and how they can engage due to limited resources that require them to prioritize how it is allocated. The lack of resources (time and human resource) can be seen in the ways that CSOs, NGOs and LAs are often unable to participate in consultations held by government and development partners especially when they are conducted simultaneously in a short period of time. Depending on the nature of the consultation, the number of staff members who can participate may drop significantly. This leads organisations to making difficult choices between what they can attend and for how long, often with the implied calculation of what work they can put off.

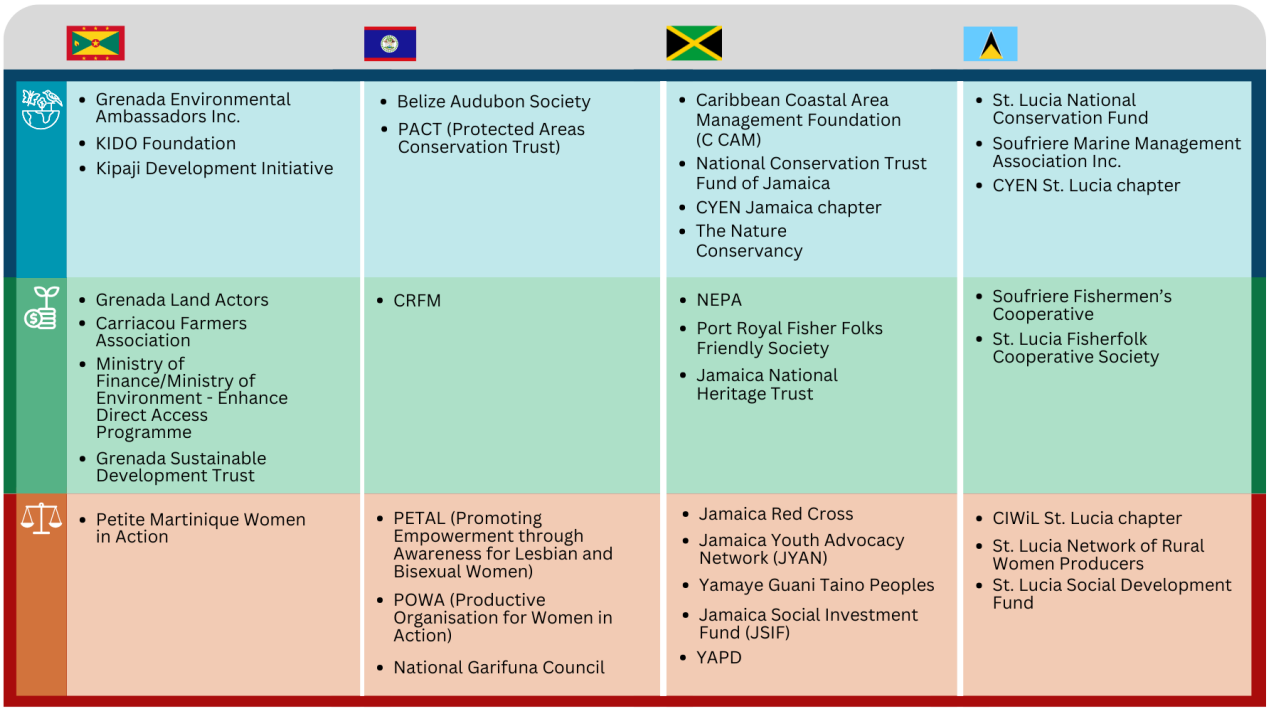
The lack of resources (time and technical expertise) also manifests in some organisations' inability to secure funding through grants. Depending on the donor, grant application processes are notorious for how time-consuming they are to complete, wherein small organisations often need to collaborate with organisations in order to complete the application process and may also need to find resources to compensate for the time of that other organization. The time barrier set up by the grant application process is not the sole barrier organisations face. The requirements also

serve to dissuade or reject organisations. Requirements can span broad as well as specialised elements such as monitoring and evaluation, ESS monitoring and safeguarding and extensive fiduciary requirements. Some well-placed and locally relevant organisations simply do not have the technical expertise needed to manage and address these items. Whilst some are able to hire consultants to handle some of the requirements, others work with other organisations to enhance their capacities, and others are unable to get started or see the process through because they lack the networks or resources.

Another common issue observed across the different countries as shared by stakeholders is the issue of engagement and participation. While the groups vary between the different countries such as IPs in Belize and Jamaica or specific local groups such as Creole speakers in St. Lucia or migrants (Haitian) in the Bahamas, these groups require special consideration to ensure they can express their right to participate and do so meaningfully. Non-local groups may attempt to engage groups without doing their due diligence or engaging local actors and fail to obtain positive results in their interventions because they failed to approach communities with the respect and care they deserve. Even local actors can be complicit in unconscious bias which serves to further marginalise some groups as these actors consider their limited resources and thus prioritize by working with groups that are easier to support. Again, this action fuelled by unconscious bias plays a role in marginalising some groups and in turn these groups observe what they may interpret as neglect and favouritism and lose trust in organisations that claim to support them. This can then impact interventions as there is less buy-in and involvement with communities.

Figure 45 displays CSO, NGO, LA stakeholders engaged during the stakeholder engagement process from the four countries where key informant interviews were able to be conducted. The stakeholders are mapped across three thematic areas: first layer (blue) – environmental protection, second layer (green) – ecosystem linked livelihoods, and third layer (orange) – social inclusion and gender equality.

Figure 35 - CSO and NGOs actors mapped to thematic areas



While these organisations are broadly separated into one thematic area, it must be acknowledged that often their work can cross and intersect with several thematic areas and that they were only categorised into one area based on the main area of their work. This intersection in thematic focus is key for enhancing resilience and sustainable development coastal communities and the broader Caribbean SIDS. The intersecting areas of work speak to a broader need for greater collaboration between stakeholders as many have stated sometimes work occurs in silos and many are unaware of the resources (especially data) others may possess. Climate change resilience requires a combination of social and gender justice work as well as environmental justice and livelihoods support to work in tandem to significantly close gaps and enhance protections.

6. Implications for the Gender Action Plan

Acknowledging the multi-country scope of the programme and that across the five countries, there are various differences that would shift the landscape for implementation in each country. While approaches for implementation cannot be fully applicable to all countries and there may be a need for nuanced or specialised methods for the countries, specific processes and key supporting items can ensure that the programme can be implemented similarly in a gender responsive way in each country. The following should be adopted in the programme:

- Noting that programme's core activity is providing funds for community-based work that means direct project actors are not the ones interacting with communities. This opens up the potential risk of GBV and SEAH occurring through the involvement of third-party actors interacting with communities under project activities. It is imperative that the programme utilises a code of conduct that features elements of GBV and SEAH to ensure that community actors' actions can reflect the intentions and goals of the programme.
- While organisations may have their standard target audience, it has been noted that it can be easier to work certain groups based on the lack of barriers to overcome when engaging these groups. Measures need to be implemented that ensures the beneficiaries of funded activities are diverse and benefits all members of the communities as equitably as possible. While CSOs, NGOs and LAs are on the ground and working with communities, healthy networks in their communities to ensure messaging is circulated, is also key. Actions can sometimes still be guided by invisible biases even when the intent is good. It is important that community members even those who may not be regularly engaged or have their voices heard be a part of project activities design and execution, enabling more gender-responsive and socially inclusive resilience action.
- Project activities should serve to enhance the capacities of communities, so they are able to take on more climate resilience initiatives on their own or even support CSOs, NGOs and LAs in accessing funding for additional efforts.
- CABRIC should empower local CSOs, NGOs and LAs to be able to regularly prepare for and seek out grant funding from local and international entities through enhanced proposal development, M&E capacity, and NGO/developmental partner connections and relationships.

7. Implications for the Environmental and Social Management Plan

Building capacity for ESS implementation would enhance the efficiency of ESS activities across all countries and could help with conducting more frequent compliance checks to reduce staff burnout. Furthermore, the engagement of Indigenous Communities in assessment and management of environmental and social risks is critical for environmental and climate projects, given the value of traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems in conservation and restoration initiatives. These knowledge systems are integral to addressing climate-related social vulnerabilities faced by vulnerable communities and are key to effectively building resilience by ensuring direct opportunities to participate in risk mitigation planning and implementation.

Organizations in **Grenada and Belize** should actively include communities in their implementation of ESS to enhance effectiveness and sustainability. In Grenada, organizations can mitigate social risks by involving locals in environmental protection initiatives, thereby creating job opportunities while ensuring community buy-in. Additionally, conducting community sessions and censuses should be a standard practice to gather feedback before implementing activities. Similarly, stakeholders in Belize must consistently engage with communities to communicate project benefits, collaborate with larger NGOs to minimize negative impacts, and support communities in managing project sustainability. By adopting these measures, organizations can strengthen community participation and improve long-term project outcomes.

The technical capacity needed for ESS implementation extends beyond staffing to include systems for data management, monitoring, and reporting. Organizations across the countries indicated that developing standardized templates, training modules, and shared knowledge repositories could significantly improve their ability to implement safeguards effectively, particularly for smaller community-based organizations operating with limited resources and expertise. Additionally, stakeholders in the Bahamas shared that there is a need for capacity building and more investments in monitoring and evaluation trainings so that organisations can better measure their impacts, given that there are very few people in the country to conduct observations, analyse data, and turn data into information.

Additionally, in **Belize**, conflict between fishers and actors conducting enforcement as part of Protected Areas management, is also a barrier to engaging fishing communities in ESS activities because of backlash and tension between the objectives, roles and responsibilities between the communities and enforcement bodies. Building better relationships and ensuring that fisherfolk understand the importance of their involvement in risk mitigation and management can assist with reducing conflict and tension and will allow fisherfolk to see themselves as key actors in project activities including ESS. Relative to involuntary resettlement, there is also a need to ensure that the risks of displacement of illegal/undocumented immigrants[253] or squatters, including in the Bahamas, are mitigated by taking necessary steps within the social safeguarding plans of the project.

253 This text was phrased in this way based on what was heard from a stakeholder, but we recognise that this language might offend some readers.

Key ESS performance standards triggered by virtue of the findings of this gender assessment include:

- *Performance Standard 7 (Indigenous Peoples)* requires differentiated implementation across Belize and Jamaica based on varying recognition contexts and gender dimensions require explicit attention across all protocols. Indigenous knowledge integration into ESS requires mechanisms that respect community-controlled intellectual property and selective knowledge sharing based on cultural protocols around sacred information.
  Due to the presence of indigenous people in these countries, the project will thus require specialised engagement policies and considerations around how indigenous people are involved in the project.
- *Performance Standard 2 (Labour and Working Conditions)* may require minimal considerations as the programme seeks to channel funding to local organisations that work with the communities and these organisations seek to empower their beneficiaries. As a result, the opportunities for exploitation should be minimal but it is still vital the programme has the necessary code of conducts and policies in place to minimise potential situations from arising.
- *Performance Standard 4 (Community Health, Safety and Security)* may not be a major concern for the programme in terms of health impacts as the programme does not intend to have major infrastructure works done which limits resulting adverse environmental impacts (e.g. noise and dust) produced from the project. However, the programme may fund work that requires the hiring of additional manpower or specialised experts to come into communities and this creates the risk of GBV and SEAH occurring. To minimise this risk, the programme would need to have codes of conducts and/or GBV and SEAH training requirements in place. This standard can also be triggered by issues relating to governance and social cohesion effects triggered or enabled via project action.
- *Performance Standard 5 (Land acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement)* will not an issue for the project, from a physical sense, due to the nature of the programme and intended scope. It is however important to consider that funded activities may economically displaced persons temporarily (i.e. halting of or disruptions to their regular livelihood activities) as effort are made e.g. to upgrade critical facilities or implement new measures. The programme should be prepared to temporarily support or provide alternative livelihood options in the likelihood of this occurring.
- *Performance Standard 3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention)* is an important one to consider not only in terms of pollution as the programme activities should produce minimal pollution (although all funded activities should seek to minimise this as necessary) but with regards to the utilisation of resources. Noting that smaller sums will be available at the community level, it is imperative that these funds are maximised to ensure that organisations can deliver the proposed work that benefits the community while not leaving the implementing organisation under-resourced or stretched thin as they had to supplement with their own limited resources.

8. Implications for the LLCA Climate Finance Architecture

Financial exclusion remains a significant challenge for women, Indigenous groups, and other marginalized communities in Grenada, Belize, and Jamaica, restricting their access to climate finance and economic opportunities. The financial ecosystem favours well-established, male-led businesses, marginalizing women in climate-sensitive sectors despite their substantial contributions to food security and environmental sustainability.

Gender-responsive engagement requires ensuring that funding mechanisms accommodate the needs of women-led initiatives. Women's organizations often lack the institutional credentials required to secure large-scale grants, restricting their access to climate finance. Developing alternative financial models, such as pooled funding mechanisms and microgrants, can help bridge this gap and support women's leadership in climate resilience projects.

The exclusion of women from insurance models has significant economic and resilience implications. Without access to financial protection, women in climate-vulnerable industries, such as fisheries, aquaponics, and small-scale agriculture, face heightened economic precarity and prolonged recovery times after climate shocks. Their informal work arrangements, lack of financial documentation, and exclusion from official value chains mean they are systematically left out of insurance coverage, reinforcing cycles of poverty and limiting their capacity to rebuild. Addressing these gaps requires the development of affordable, gender-responsive insurance mechanisms that recognize informal labour, integrate alternative financial assessment models, and expand coverage to those traditionally excluded from formal markets.

The climate finance architecture needs fundamental restructuring to address these inequities. This includes:

1. Developing simplified access modalities with tiered requirements based on organizational capacity
2. Creating financing windows specifically for marginalized groups with targeted technical assistance
3. Reforming governance structures in financial institutions to ensure diverse representation in decision-making
4. Designing financial products that recognize informal economies and alternative forms of collateral
5. Integrating gender-responsive budgeting across all climate finance mechanisms

Without these structural reforms, existing financial systems will continue to reinforce rather than reduce inequalities in climate resilience building.

9. Implications for the Grievance Redress Mechanism

Cultural norms, including the variety of languages spoken across countries such as Belize, are key in informing the design and implementation of GRMs, considering their role in managing and mitigating social risks associated with GBV and SEAH faced by stakeholders and community members.

The communities in project areas must be part of the process of drafting GRMs to ensure they have a voice in how these mechanisms are planned, developed, and implemented. This is particularly relevant to vulnerable and marginalized groups such as Indigenous Peoples, as their cultural norms, values, and perspectives must be incorporated for inclusive and effective approaches to addressing and mitigating GBV/SEAH concerns. In this regard, as the **Yamaye Taino Peoples of Jamaica are not legally recognized**, it is critical that they are included in the drafting of the GRM to avoid the exacerbation of social risks which the population already faces. Furthermore, part of the GRM process also involves prior education and sensitisation activities to ensure all involved communities understand the GRM, its role and how it is used.

Also important to note is the **patriarchal nature of Belizean society**, which was flagged by a stakeholder as a necessary consideration because **women can be subjected to physical violence if they are economically empowered by a project.** Additionally, given the migrant population in the **Bahamas**, migrants should be part of the GRM process. Implications of project activities for the safety of women and of migrants involved should inform the GRM as well and this should be clearly communicated with stakeholders to ensure they are aware that measures to address GBV and mitigate risks are integrated into the project, including in the Gender Action Plan.

Language is a critical aspect in ensuring access to GRMs. One stakeholder expressed that access issues to GRMs faced by Indigenous communities create barriers to seeking legal support. Providing GRMs in Indigenous languages is essential to ensure these communities can access and utilize these mechanisms to file grievances and seek redress. Additionally, in the **Bahamas**, access to the GRM in languages spoken by migrant communities, such as Haitian Creole, is critical.

However, accessibility concerns extend beyond language to physical access. Across the countries, PWDs encounter significant barriers when attempting to access community engagement opportunities. Meeting locations often lack appropriate accommodations, further reinforcing their exclusion from discussions where grievance mechanisms are explained, or feedback is collected. Creating genuinely inclusive GRMs requires attention to physical accessibility, simple procedures, and alternative formats for those with diverse literacy levels and abilities. Furthermore, stakeholders across **Grenada and Bahamas** have highlighted the need to explore alternative channels for persons to view project GRMs and report grievances. This includes the value of having a project website that is easily accessible to the public, as well as channels for verbal communication of grievances such as voice messages and calls. A useful approach to verbal communication is to have designated phone numbers for all grievance-related issues, while having a centralised email for written grievances also has benefits for accessibility. Additionally, stakeholders in **Bahamas** shared that some organizations do not possess formalised GRM systems. Instead, grievances are communicated through letters or are filed with board members.

In addition to these considerations, stakeholders in **Grenada** stated that the timeliness of responses to GRMs is crucial, as well as commitment to the time periods for different stages of the redress process – considerations which are important to indicate clearly in the GRM also.

GRM design and implementation must integrate gender-sensitive approaches, ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making. This includes embedding gender-responsive mechanisms, such as targeted empowerment activities, safe and confidential reporting channels, and enhanced measures to address gender-related concerns, including GBV and SEAH violations. By categorizing cases appropriately, GRM systems can ensure that reported issues receive the specific actions required for resolution, fostering a more inclusive and effective grievance redress framework.

10. Conclusion

Climate-sensitive sectors create environments where vulnerabilities multiply, producing cascading vulnerability pathways that reverberate through multiple livelihood streams simultaneously. These compound vulnerabilities require holistic approaches that simultaneously address gender barriers, accessibility constraints, and environmental sustainability.

The compiled gender baselines for the five countries participating in the CABRIC initiative (The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia) and the stakeholder engagements highlight trends that indicate challenges to achieving gender equity in climate resilience. Women play a crucial role in household and community resilience but encounter barriers due to socio-cultural norms, limited access to resources, and underrepresentation in decision-making platforms. These challenges are amplified by intersectional vulnerabilities, such as those affecting women with disabilities or those in rural and Indigenous communities. Even without explicit legal barriers in some areas, women's participation is restricted by collateral requirements, high interest rates, and limited technical training, which affect their ability to adopt climate-resilient practices and technologies.

These findings show that despite their contributions to sectors such as agriculture, water management, and community mobilisation, women's roles in climate resilience are often undervalued. For example, women in agriculture frequently manage both productive and reproductive tasks, yet their access to financing, technology, and training remains limited. This limitation affects their economic opportunities and their capacity to contribute to broader climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Another trend is the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, which limits their influence in shaping climate strategies that address their specific needs. Women's voices are often missing in decision-making spaces, leading to less inclusive climate-resilient solutions. Additionally, traditional gender norms continue to restrict women's participation in sectors perceived as male-dominated, further exacerbating disparities.

These factors will need to be considered within specific plans and resources for the CABRIC programme to enhance their implementation and effectiveness (see Figure 36).

Figure 36 - Summary of implication factors arising from the Gender Assessment



CABRIC's efforts should focus on increasing the involvement of women and marginalized groups to enhance their roles as agents of change. This includes fostering community-level engagement and promoting initiatives that empower women to take on leadership roles. Providing targeted financial support, technical training, and networking opportunities can help women overcome existing barriers and contribute effectively to building climate resilience.

The insights from this assessment present an opportunity for CABRIC to drive transformative actions. By addressing the systemic inequities identified in this analysis, CABRIC can strengthen the adaptive capacities of its participating countries, promote sustainable livelihoods, and ensure that women and marginalized groups are engaged in shaping a climate-resilient and equitable future.

Without meaningful reforms that address financial, institutional, and governance barriers, women and marginalized communities will remain disproportionately vulnerable to economic and climate-related risks. A gender-transformative approach to stakeholder engagement, financial governance, and capacity-building is critical to supporting equitable participation, strengthening resilience, and ensuring long-term livelihood security in all five countries.

Addressing the disparities outlined in this multi-country assessment requires a more inclusive and culturally sensitive approach to stakeholder engagement. Sustainable stakeholder engagement must be supported by targeted resource mobilization efforts. Expanding gender-responsive financial models, such as microfinance and peer-lending initiatives, can provide alternative funding mechanisms for women entrepreneurs and community-led organizations. Simplifying grant application processes, providing mentorship, and enhancing technical assistance can help grassroots organizations navigate complex funding requirements, strengthening financial sustainability and increasing social impact.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Inclusive, accessible and responsive GRMs

Emerging from the gender assessment are some key concerns for the design and implementation of the programme's GRM. To ensure that the GRM is effective for beneficiaries, collaborators and project actors across the five countries, the following must be considered:

- The GRM needs to be available in multiple languages for wider reach and accessibility. The GRM needs to be available in English, Dutch, Spanish, Jamaican Patois, St. Lucia Creole (Kwéyòl or Patois) and languages spoken by indigenous people. Noting that translating into the languages spoken by indigenous people would require support from experts and community groups.
- Community members should be involved in the design and development of the GRM to be employed by the project. This would allow for the GRM to be developed with community realities in mind and also builds awareness and trust in the GRM as the community would have been involved in its development.
- Noting the channels that stakeholders use to disseminate information with their communities, the GRM should be accessible via multiple media to accommodate various livelihoods.
- There needs to be a communication campaign around the GRM that includes its purposes and how to access it.
- The GRM needs to be adaptive in that persons should be able to formally or informally lodge grievance and have them be recorded and processed with the same level of care and duty despite the means they were obtained.
- Project actors at all levels should be trained in the GRM system and should know how to accept and process grievances given the shared Caribbean culture of how persons would informally lodge grievances with any project actor they might encounter opposed to utilising the actual systematised approach.
- Those in charge of the GRM processes as well as other project actors need to inspire confidence and trust in the system with all potential users.
- Develop indigenous-specific GRM protocols that integrate with traditional governance systems (Maya Alcalde systems, Garifuna NGC protocols, Maroon Colonel-led governance) while providing confidential women-only complaint channels with female cultural mediators to address situations where cultural protocols restrict women's public grievance-raising in male-dominated traditional forums or where economic dependencies prevent complaints against household members

11.2 Enhanced financial inclusion

Create dedicated financial products for women in climate-vulnerable sectors by establishing flexible collateral requirements that recognize women's limited access to formal property rights. Financial institutions should develop simplified application procedures with appropriate credit terms to address systemic barriers faced by women-led businesses perceived as high-risk due to limited collateral and informal structures.

Redesign insurance programs like the Caribbean Ocean and Aquaculture Sustainability Facility (COAST) to explicitly include coverage for women in post-harvest processing roles, not just boat-based fishing. Modify the Flexible Hurricane Protection product in Grenada to increase uptake among marginalized groups through cost reductions and targeted financial literacy campaigns.

Establish dedicated funding streams specifically for women-led climate initiatives with streamlined access modalities and tiered requirements based on organizational capacity. Implement gender-responsive budgeting across all climate finance mechanisms to ensure equitable resource allocation. Develop pooled funding mechanisms and microgrant programs designed for grassroots organizations that cannot meet conventional institutional requirements.

Establish indigenous-specific financing mechanisms that accommodate communal rather than individual land tenure, provide collateral substitutes for indigenous women who lack property titles despite knowledge authority, respect traditional governance decision-making timelines (Maya Ab'ink, Garifuna NGC voting), and don't require full traditional knowledge disclosure as funding conditions

11.3 Strengthened capacity and knowledge

Launch decentralized training programs, including technical training, with flexible schedules that accommodate caregiving responsibilities, including evening and weekend sessions, childcare-inclusive workshops, and mobile training units that travel to remote communities. Focus content on climate-resilient practices, financial literacy, and leadership development.

Expand digital training programs and improve accessibility to online learning platforms to foster greater economic independence for women entrepreneurs. Investment in localized training, accessible learning formats, and leadership pathways will enhance economic agency and strengthen adaptive capacities for women and marginalized communities.

Deploy digital inclusion initiatives including mobile training applications with offline capabilities, public access computer centers with training support, and technology lending programs to enhance digital literacy in underserved communities. Prioritize content on accessing digital financial services, online market platforms, and climate information systems.

Create an ESS capacity enhancement program that provides resources such as dedicated ESS specialists and training modules tailored for small organizations. Develop standardized templates, monitoring tools, and shared knowledge repositories to improve implementation capabilities for community-based organizations with limited resources. Design training approaches that integrate Indigenous knowledge systems into ESS frameworks.

11.4 Reform governance and decision-making

Implement institutional reforms that establish minimum representation requirements for women, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups on boards, advisory committees, and project management teams. Create enforcement mechanisms with concrete targets for representation in leadership positions throughout climate finance and environmental governance structures.

Develop leadership pathway programs targeting women, youth, and persons with disabilities, featuring mentorship opportunities, practical leadership experience, and cross-sectoral network-building. Establish long-term capacity development investments to ensure knowledge continuity despite leadership changes in climate decision-making bodies.

Implement differentiated indigenous consultation protocols - Full FPIC for formally recognized peoples, FPIC-Informed for self-identified communities, Meaningful Consultation for traditional coastal communities - with explicit mechanisms ensuring indigenous women's participation through women-specific consultation spaces within traditional governance systems

Create accountability mechanisms that track both quantitative representation and qualitative influence in decision-making processes, moving beyond rigid participation quotas. Implement independent monitoring systems led by women's organizations and community groups to enforce compliance with inclusion commitments and measure meaningful participation outcomes.

11.5 Operationalize inclusive engagement

Develop context-specific FPIC implementation guidelines that acknowledge unique cultural norms and governance structures of Indigenous communities. Establish clear process requirements for securing genuine consent throughout project lifecycles rather than one-time approvals. Document consent in accessible formats and languages understandable to the communities themselves.

Implement multilingual communication strategies that translate all climate finance and adaptation materials into relevant local languages including Garifuna, Maya, Spanish and English and French Creole. Utilize visual storytelling techniques, local translators, and multimedia approaches to reach communities with varying literacy levels. Create communications specifically designed for radio distribution to reach older populations in rural areas.

Design accessible participation frameworks developed through consultation with disabled persons' organizations. Select meeting locations based on universal accessibility criteria, incorporate accommodation requests into standard planning procedures, provide transportation support, integrate assistive technologies, and offer flexible participation options including virtual attendance to increase engagement from currently excluded groups.

12. Appendix 1 - Policy Tables

12.1 The Bahamas

Table 24 - The Bahamas Policy Table

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Climate Change			
Bahamas' Updated Nationally Determined Contribution, 2022	The Bahamas' Updated Nationally Determined Contribution sets out two key goals towards 2030 that will contribute to the fulfilment of the carbon neutrality international goal by 2050. The Government of the Bahamas recognizes its vulnerability to climate change-related impacts, and the need for planned adaptation to achieve long-term sustainable development. Therefore, this report discusses concrete actions to integrate climate change into economic, social and environmental policies.	Gender Sensitive The NDC mentions the adoption of mitigating measures to consider gender parity as well as gender responsiveness.	I
Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2015	The INDC is a multi-sectoral policy document for the period of 2015-2030. It outlines various national policies and initiatives. It is estimated that The Bahamas will reduce its emissions by a minimum of 30% below 2002 levels. The INDC addresses adaptation options in the agriculture, tourism, health, financial and insurance, coastal and marine resources/fisheries, energy, forestry, human settlement, transportation and water resources sectors.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change, 2005	The goal of the Policy is to avoid, minimize, adapt to, or mitigate, the negative impacts of climate change on environment, economy, human health and well-being, through institutional capacity building, research and development, technology transfer and public and private sector investments. Therefore, long-term sustainable strategies will be developed for the agricultural sector to ensure food security.	Gender Blind	E
Climate Change and Carbon Market Initiatives Act, 2022 (No. 15 of 2022)	The objective of this act is to enable the Government to create incentives and implement initiatives to support the overall global target of greenhouse gas emissions reduction consistent with the NDC. Also, to enable the establishment of a market in The Bahamas to trade in carbon credits.	Gender Sensitive The act makes mention that capacity building and adaptation should include gender equality and be gender responsive.	PWDs, I
Disaster Risk Management Act No. 39 of 2022.2022-12-09	The purpose of this act is to provide for a more effective and comprehensive disaster risk management policy and framework through the establishment of the Disaster Risk Management Authority.	Gender Sensitive The act makes mention that humanitarian assistance should include gender considerations.	PWDs
Environment, Ecology, and Biodiversity			
Bahamas National Trust Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022	The Strategic Plan intends to enhance biodiversity conservation in alignment with international best practices and comply with national sustainable development goals. This includes ongoing efforts to address climate change, combating the effects of plastics on our environment, and educating Bahamians about shared environmental trust.	Gender Blind	Y

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 1999	The overall objective of the Strategy and Action Plan is to provide an overview of the role that biodiversity plays in the social and economic well-being of the Nation, and to recommend the steps that need to be taken to ensure that biodiversity is conserved as economic development continues.	Gender Blind	Y, I
Environmental Planning and Protection (Amendment) Act (No. 6 of 2024)	The Act introduces stricter penalties for violations, defines "environmentally sensitive areas," amends enforcement procedures, and adds a framework for issuing and handling penalty notices to address non-compliance with environmental standards.	Gender Blind	
Ministry of Environment Act No. 39 of 2019	The Act outlines the Ministry of Environment's structure, functions, and duties, including managing the Environmental Administration and Trust Funds, and overseeing conservation of The Bahamas' land, water, air, and living resources for environmental, economic, and social benefits.	Gender Blind	
Conservation and Protection of the Physical Landscape of The Bahamas Regulations, 1997 (Cap. 260)	The Regulations provide a framework to control activities including excavation, quarrying, landfill operations, and the harvesting of protected trees. It emphasizes environmental stewardship by mandating permits, environmental impact assessments, and compliance measures to minimize ecological harm while detailing penalties for violations and ensuring sustainable land management practices.	Gender Blind	
Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use			

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Five Year Sector Strategic Plan 2010-2014 of the Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources, 2010	The overall objective of the Strategic Plan is to ensure development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors through sustainable use and integrated management of the fishery resources, coastal zone and marine environment for the well-being of current and future generations. A National Plan of Action will be drafted in accordance with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.	**Gender Blind**	I
National Policy for Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2016	The Policy aims to assist fishers and fish farmers in providing healthy products to the population while enabling them to grow profitable businesses. It seeks to foster collaboration between the government and the private sector, enhancing innovation and co-management while increasing international and state support to strengthen the industry and ensure access to vital resources. Finally, the policy supports the national implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fishery Policy, promoting regional alignment and sustainable resource management.	**Gender Sensitive** The Policy aims for equitable access for women and other groups to the fisheries sector in terms of employment and poverty alleviation.	
Bahamas' National Maritime Policy, 2015	The Policy takes a cross-sectoral approach to ensure the sustainable planning and development of maritime activities, promoting social and economic growth. Its primary goals include supporting ongoing economic activities, fostering development in the maritime sector both nationally and internationally, protecting the marine environment, and ensuring the safety of vessels within territorial and adjacent international waters.	**Gender Blind**	
Bahamas National Wetland Policy, 2007	The Policy aims to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage wetlands while integrating their protection into national development. Its objectives focus on preventing habitat loss, raising public awareness, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and supporting sustainable use. The policy addresses wetland degradation, lack of legislation, and the need for public engagement, emphasizing wetlands' role in biodiversity, flood control, water quality, and eco-tourism.	**Gender Blind**	
Coast Protection Act, 1968 (Cap. 204)	The Act establishes a framework for protecting The Bahamas' coastline from erosion and sea encroachment, including coast protection works, regulating private activities, and preventing harmful practices. The Act ensures equitable cost-sharing among landowners benefiting from protection efforts and provides compensation for those adversely affected.	**Gender Blind**	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Continental Shelf Act (Cap. 5), 1970	The Act establishes the legal framework for the exploration, exploitation, and protection of the Bahamas' continental shelf. It defines the geographical scope of the shelf, vests resource rights in the government, and regulates activities to manage natural resources, including petroleum. The Act outlines measures to safeguard infrastructure, prevent navigational obstructions, and mitigate environmental risks. Its primary purpose is to assert sovereignty over the continental shelf while ensuring its sustainable and secure use.	Gender Blind	
Bahamas Maritime Authority (Amendment) Act, 2013 (No. 18 of 2013)	The Act establishes the Bahama's Maritime Authority and outlines the responsibilities bestowed upon the authority.	Gender Blind	
Archipelagic Waters and Maritime Jurisdiction (Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Sea Limits) Order (S.I. No. 24 of 2012)	The Order, establishes maritime boundaries of The Bahamas, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial sea limits in compliance with international agreements.	Gender Blind	
Archipelagic Waters and Maritime Jurisdiction (Archipelagic Baselines) Order (Cap. 282), 2008	The Order defines the outer limits of The Bahama's archipelagic waters and the inner limits of its territorial sea. The baselines serve as the reference points for measuring the territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of The Bahamas. The policy ensures clarity and consistency in the nation's maritime jurisdiction in alignment with international legal standards.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Freeport (Marina and Inland Waterways) Byelaws (Cap. 29), 1968	The Byelaws provide rules for the navigation within the Freeport Area by or under the authority of the Port Authority, not including any area within the limits of the Harbour. It prohibits the pollution of such waters by waste matter, dead animals or fish or oil and restricts other activities on such waters.	Gender Blind	
Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 67 of 2007)	The Regulations establish guidelines for sustainable fisheries management in The Bahamas. It introduces a permit system for sportfishing events, sets species-specific catch limits, and mandates the release of protected species. Commercial sale of fish from sportfishing events is prohibited, and vessels must comply with licensing and inspection requirements. The policy balances recreational fishing with conservation efforts, with penalties for violations.	Gender Blind	
Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (S.I. No. 29 of 2023)	The Regulations update export duties and fees related to fishing activities. Key changes include adjustments to duties on various seafood products like crawfish, conch, and ambergris, and revised fees for permits and licenses for trapping, scientific research, sportfishing, and seafood processing. These amendments aim to align fisheries management practices with current economic and conservation goals.	Gender Blind	
Fisheries Act, 2020 (No. 40 of 2020)	The Act regulates and conserves fisheries resources in The Bahamas, emphasizing sustainable use, ecosystem-based management, and preventing illegal fishing. It prohibits non-citizens from commercial fishing, introduces licensing requirements, and promotes socio-economic benefits for fishing communities. The Act establishes advisory bodies to enhance collaboration and decision-making on fisheries management.	Gender Blind	
Sustainable Development			

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
The National Development Plan: Vision 2040 (working draft), 2016	The Plan outlines a 25-year strategic framework for sustainable and inclusive development. It is built on four pillars: Governance, Human Capital, the Environment, and the Economy. The Plan emphasizes modernizing governance systems, improving education and healthcare, addressing poverty and inequality, enhancing environmental resilience, and diversifying the economy. Through broad stakeholder engagement and evidence-based strategies, the Plan seeks to foster socio-economic development, promote equity, and improve the quality of life for all residents of The Bahamas.	Gender Responsive The plan Acknowledges gender disparities and includes strategies to address inequalities. Specific measures include improving access to education for girls and boys, addressing gender-based discrimination, and promoting gender equity in economic opportunities and governance structures.	Y, PWD, E
Gender			
The National Equality and Equity Policy Action Plan (NEEPAP) for The Bahamas, 2019	This document is noted to be in draft and is currently unavailable to the public.		

12.2 Belize

Table 25 - Belize Policy Table

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Climate Change			
Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Belize (2021)	The NDC provides targets to reduce GHG emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NDC also includes action that build resilience and support capacity development for adapting to the impacts of climate change across key sectors and supporting systems.	**Gender Sensitive** While the document does not specifically reference inequalities, it specifies the need for awareness campaigns targeting women and other groups on the reduction of agricultural GHG emissions.	Y, PWDs, I
Belize's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015	The INDC outlines actions for reducing GHG emissions and increasing renewable energies in its energy matrix by 85% using an actions-based approach across multiple sectors. The INDC also promotes food security and making sectors including forestry, fisheries, and agriculture more sustainable.	**Gender Blind**	Y
Low Emissions Development Strategy and Action Plan: Belize, 2021	The Strategy defines pathways for achieving low emission development in the country up to 2050.	**Gender Blind**	
National Climate Finance Strategy of Belize 2021–2026	The Strategy includes three primary objectives of achieving an integrated approach to resource access that supports climate resilience and mitigation, enhancing capacity to mobilize and use resources for priority climate actions, and maximizing the synergies with other development plans and co-benefits of climate investments.	**Gender Blind**	Y, PWDs, I

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Adaptation Strategy to Address Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector in Belize, 2015	The NAP for agriculture outlines the adaptation strategies for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector including implementation capacity and an action plan.	Gender Blind	
National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan to Address Climate Change in Belize, 2014	The Policy, Strategy and Action Plan considers actions to address the adverse impacts of climate change on a number of areas and sectors, including food security, crop production, ecosystems, marine and coastal areas, water resources, health, housing and infrastructure.	Gender Sensitive The Strategy and Action Plan seeks to empower the participation in income-generating activities related to the low carbon energy sector, particularly among women and young people. The Strategy and Action plan does not reference specific inequalities or further actions to reduce specific inequalities.	Y, E
National Climate Resilience Investment Plan, 2013	The Plan takes a cross-sectoral approach to achieving capacity building for resilience activities, including resilient economy and livelihoods, critical infrastructure, policy and regulation, and monitoring and evaluation of resilience-based investments.	Gender Responsive The Plan acknowledges the benefits of proactively increasing women's access to and control over information, resources and decision-making processes, and the benefits this can have across society.	Y, E
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre Act, 2015 (No. 6 of 2015)	The Act establishes the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, aimed at protecting member territories' climate systems, enhancing regional coordination of climate responses, providing policy and technical support, spearheading regional initiatives, and serving as the executing agency for environmental projects related to climate change.	Gender Blind	
Environment, Ecology, and Biodiversity			

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
2014-2024 National Environmental Policy and Strategy	The Strategy includes a set of 12 goals that address degradation of terrestrial resources and marine resources, sustainable land management, IWRM, transitioning to a green economy, waste management, reducing air pollution and marine pollution, integrated chemicals management, DRR, response to climate change, and governance and institution strengthening.	**Gender Sensitive** The Policy and Strategy notes that social inclusion policies will ensure the country is better able to protect vulnerable populations and involve women in decision making. No specific actions are identified for reducing gender inequalities.	Y, I
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016 – 2020), Belize	The Strategy and Action Plan focuses on improving environmental stewardship, reducing pressures on ecosystems, protecting ecosystems, strengthening ecosystem services, managing equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits, capacity building and expanding decision making and integrated public participation that supports the biodiversity and ecological resources of the country.	**Gender Responsive** The Strategy and Action Plan targets include the goal of enhancing the benefits form biodiversity and ecosystem services to all, including consideration of the needs of women for essential services including water access, health and well-being, and livelihoods.	Y, I
Belize's National Environmental Action Plan 2015-2020	The environmental NAP takes a cross-sectoral approach to ensuring Belize develops with effective environmental management practices to support present and future generations. The document is intended to work in tandem with the National Environmental Policy and Strategy.	**Gender Sensitive** The Policy and Strategy notes that social inclusion policies will ensure the country is better able to protect vulnerable populations and involve women in decision making. No specific actions are identified for reducing gender inequalities.	Y, I
National Protected Areas System Plan 2015	The Plan is intended to provide guiding principles for promoting conservation of biodiversity in Belize for future generations, ensuring equitable benefit sharing of marine and terrestrial protected areas.	**Gender Blind**	I

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act, 2009 (No. 5 of 2009)	The Act strengthens Belize's environmental governance, focusing on managing the petroleum industry and protecting critical habitats like the Belize Barrier Reef. Its objectives include improving environmental controls, establishing an Environmental Management Fund for pollution response and monitoring, and enforcing stricter penalties for non-compliance. The Act aims to ensure sustainable resource management, reduce environmental degradation, and promote accountability in environmentally impactful activities.	Gender Blind	
National Protected Areas System Act, 2015	The Act establishes a framework for the conservation, management, and sustainable use of protected areas in Belize. Its key objectives include preserving biodiversity, ensuring the sustainable provision of ecosystem goods and services, and promoting coordination among stakeholders. The Act also outlines processes for declaring, managing, and reclassifying protected areas while encouraging public consultation and co-management agreements.	Gender Blind	
Protected Areas Conservation Trust (Amendment) Act, 2017 (No. 26 of 2017).	The Act establishes the Conservation Trust to protect, conserve, and enhance cultural and natural resources in the country. T	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 23 of 2023)	The Regulations outline provisions related to the determination of whether activities significantly affect the environment and shall be subject to the requirement of an environmental impact assessment.	Gender Blind	
Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use			
National Plan of Action for the Control of Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution in Belize, 2008	The NAP outlines objectives and actions including a financing strategy to address sources of pollution including sewage, nutrients, physical alteration and destruction of habitat, deforestation, and urbanization.	Gender Blind	Y
National Adaptation Strategy to address Climate Change in the Water Sector in Belize, 2009	The Strategy provides a framework for mitigating the impacts of climate change on Belize's water resources. It includes establishing an integrated water management agency, strengthening institutional capacities, formalizing climate change governance, enhancing trans-boundary cooperation, and increasing public awareness. It emphasizes the socio-economic importance of water for agriculture, industry, and domestic use while highlighting vulnerabilities to climate change, including reduced freshwater availability and saline intrusion.	Gender Blind	
National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (Including Climate Change) for Belize, 2008	The Policy outlines a framework for sustainably managing Belize's water resources. It emphasizes the importance of water for economic, social, and environmental development while addressing the impacts of climate change. The policy seeks to ensure equitable access to water, promote efficient use, and strengthen institutional and legislative frameworks for integrated water resources management.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
South Water Caye Marine Reserve Management Plan 2019 – 2023	The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable management of the reserve, which is part of Belize's World Heritage Site. Key objectives include biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, promoting stakeholder engagement, and addressing climate change impacts. The plan integrates scientific research, regulatory measures, and socio-economic strategies to preserve the marine ecosystem while supporting livelihoods through fisheries and tourism.	Gender Blind	
Glover's Reef Marine Reserve - Management Plan (2019–2023)	The Management Plan outlines a framework for the sustainable management of Glover's Reef Atoll, a critical part of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System. The plan aims to conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem resilience, support sustainable livelihoods, and promote climate change adaptation. Key strategies include zoned resource management, stakeholder collaboration, and tourism development, all guided by scientific research and conservation goals.	Gender Blind	
Belize Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, 2016	The Plan outlines a framework to balance conservation and economic development within Belize's coastal zone. It includes strategies to mitigate environmental degradation, enhance ecosystem services, and support sustainable livelihoods. Key objectives include improving governance, promoting climate change adaptation, and integrating stakeholder input into zoning and resource management.	Gender Blind	
Coastal Zone Management Act, Chapter 329 (Act No. 5 of 1998)	The Act establishes a Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute to oversee the sustainable development, conservation, and utilization of Belize's coastal resources. It includes provisions for monitoring, funding, and enforcement to ensure the long-term health and economic benefits of the coastal zone ecosystem.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Aquaculture Development Act (Cap. 204:01), 2007	The Act provides a framework for regulating and promoting aquaculture in Belize. It establishes the Belize Aquaculture Authority to oversee licensing, development, and enforcement of aquaculture operations. The Act emphasizes sustainable development, environmental compliance, and economic benefits, including provisions for exemptions from taxes and duties for certified aquaculture businesses.	Gender Blind	
Maritime Areas Act, 1992	The Act defines and regulates Belize's maritime zones, including territorial waters, internal waters, and the exclusive economic zone. It establishes the rights and responsibilities of Belize over these areas, including sovereignty, resource management, and enforcement measures. The Act provides guidelines for resolving boundary disputes with neighbouring states, ensuring compliance with international maritime laws.	Gender Blind	
Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act, 1878	The Act establishes jurisdiction over offenses committed within the territorial waters of the British Empire, defined as up to one marine league (three nautical miles) from the coast at low water mark. It clarifies the authority of the Admiral to arrest, try, and punish individuals regardless of nationality for crimes committed within this jurisdiction, including offenses aboard foreign ships.	Gender Blind	
Maritime Areas (Amendment) Act No.7 of 2019	The Act reaffirms Belize's maritime boundaries based on international law, specifying a territorial sea limit of 12 nautical miles from the baseline and retaining the equidistance principle for delimiting boundaries with adjacent states.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Integrated Water Resources Act (CAP. 222:01), 2010	The Act establishes the National Integrated Water Resources Authority to oversee the sustainable management of Belize's water resources. The Authority governs water abstraction, use, and pollution control while promoting public awareness and adherence to environmental and planning laws. It introduces a licensing system for water use and well drilling, ensures the conservation of gathering grounds and aquifers, and mandates compliance with water quality standards to safeguard Belize's water resources for present and future generations.	Gender Blind	
Sustainable Development			
Horizon 2030 National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030	The Development Framework provides a long-term vision for sustainable development, emphasizing democratic governance, education, economic resilience, environmental sustainability, and healthy citizens. It outlines strategies to foster inclusivity, reduce inequalities, and promote accountability in governance. The framework integrates stakeholder input from diverse sectors and aims to strengthen Belize's socio-economic and environmental systems for a high quality of life by 2030.	Gender Responsive The Framework identifies gender disparities and the need to address them. It includes provisions to improve gender equity in areas such as education, political participation, and health. The framework sets goals to eliminate gender-based inequalities and empower women through inclusive development strategies.	Y, PWDs, E
Belize Medium-Term Development Strategy 2022 – 2026	The Development Strategy outlines Belize's plan to achieve inclusive and sustainable development over five years. It focuses on six strategic objectives: poverty reduction, economic transformation, trade deficit reduction, citizen security, environmental protection, and good governance. The strategy emphasizes human development, climate change adaptation, and modernization of public services while fostering public-private partnerships and regional collaboration.	Gender Responsive The Strategy addresses gender disparities, promotes women's leadership, prioritizes reducing violence against women, and targets female unemployment through job creation and education initiatives. T	Y, PWDs, E, I
Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019	The Strategy guides Belize's efforts to improve quality of life and achieve sustainable development aligned with the Horizon 2030 vision and UN SDGs. It aims to foster economic growth through enhanced productivity, infrastructure, and investment, while	Gender Sensitive The policy mentions addressing social cohesion, resilience, and equity, which indicates awareness of societal inequalities, including gender disparities. There are specific	Y, E, I

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
	promoting social equity by addressing poverty, education, and healthcare access. The strategy prioritizes environmental sustainability by integrating climate resilience and resource management and strengthens governance and citizen security through improved accountability and justice systems.	actions to promote equitable growth, social inclusion, and access to services like health, education, and social protection.	
National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan (NPESAP) 2009-2013	The NPESAP provides a framework for poverty reduction in Belize, focusing on both urban and rural areas. It looks at the integration of economic, social, and environmental measures to enhance living standards, strengthen resilience, and promote sustainable development.	Gender Sensitive The NPESAS acknowledges gender-specific challenges and includes measures to prevent exacerbating gender inequalities through targeted social and economic interventions for vulnerable groups, particularly women.	Y, PWD, E, I
Gender			
National Women's Commission Act (No. 1 of 2024)	The Act establishes the National Women's Commission to advance commitments toward gender equality and equity, increase awareness of the National Gender Policy, fulfil CEDAW, and advise the Minister on all legislative and policy matters related to women.	Gender Responsive The Act establishes a group whose primary aims are to advance gender equity and equality across government spheres.	
Revised National Gender Policy (Updated 2013)	The Policy is aimed at national efforts for achieving gender equality and gender equity. The policy's objectives are safeguarding rights to work regardless of childbearing status and provide social safety nets to women, men and children living in poverty.	Gender Transformative The Policy seeks to address the fundamental causes of gender inequality, placing the family and community as central to efforts for change. It aims to enhance and support national efforts aimed at human-centred development.	Y, PWDs, E

12.3 Grenada

Table 26 - Grenada Policy Table

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Climate Change			
National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Grenada, Carricacou and Petite Martinique 2017-2021	The Plan takes a sectoral approach and includes 5 distinct goals for responding to threats due to climate change, including provisions related to institutions, water management, food security, land management, disaster risk reduction, public health, climate data, integration of climate into national development plans and increased public awareness-raising.	Gender Responsive The Plan states the need to direct climate change education toward women (as well as the elderly and persons with lower levels of education) who reported they feel less informed (than men) about causes, consequences, and possible responses to climate change.	Y, E, I
National Climate Change Policy for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique 2017-2021	The Policy is cross-sectoral in approach, with the aim to support resilience at the individual, community and national levels in responding to the negative impacts of climate change.	Gender Blind	Y
Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan to Address Climate Change in the Water Sector for Grenada, 2015	A sectoral national plan covering the period of 2016-2021 to address anticipated adverse impacts on the water sector due to climate change.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Second Nationally Determined Contribution, 2020	The second NDC represents Grenada's continued commitment to reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement. It includes considerations for addressing various sectors including energy and transport, waste, forestry, industrial processes and product use.	**Gender Blind**	Y, I
Grenada National Environment Action Plan (1995)	The Action Plan identifies strategies intended to address issues of environmental degradation as a result of misuse and overexploitation of natural resources, particularly in economic sectors of agriculture and tourism.	**Gender Blind**	
Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project Loan Authorisation Act No. 22 of 2011	The Act authorizes Grenada to secure loans for reducing vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. It focuses on infrastructure improvements, disaster resilience, and regional collaboration for hazard assessment and emergency response, aiming to enhance preparedness and adaptive capacity in the Eastern Caribbean.	**Gender Blind**	
Environment, Ecology, and Biodiversity			
Grenada National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020	The Strategy and Action Plan takes a cross-sectoral approach to providing a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country to support livelihoods and enhanced human wellbeing.	**Gender Blind**	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Grenada National Environmental Action Plan 1995	The NEAP outlines Grenada's strategy for achieving environmentally sustainable development. It identifies priority environmental issues, such as solid waste management, water supply, land use, coastal zone management, forestry, and biodiversity conservation. The plan emphasizes the integration of environmental concerns into economic and development policies to mitigate degradation and support sustainable growth.	Gender Blind	
Environmental Protection Levy Act (Cap. 90B), Amended 2007	The Act establishes a framework for collecting levies on specific goods, services, and activities to support environmental protection efforts in Grenada. The policy targets waste management, particularly solid waste, white goods, beverage containers, and used vehicles, to reduce environmental degradation and promote sustainability.	Gender Blind	
National Parks and Protected Areas Act No. 52 of 1991 (Cap. 206)	This Act provides rules for the designation of national parks and protected areas and for the management of the national parks system. The Minister shall be responsible for the designation of any Government land as a national park or protected area. This Act sets forth provisions on the establishment, structure and duties of the National Parks Authority and the National Parks Authority Council.	Gender Blind	
Grenada National Trust Ordinance, 1967 (No. 20 of 1967)	The Ordinance establishes the Grenada National Trust tasked with preserving places of historical, architectural, and natural significance. It outlines responsibilities such as safeguarding heritage sites, acquiring properties for conservation, and promoting public awareness about the country's cultural and natural assets.	Gender Blind	
Coasts, Water, and Ocean Use			

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Grenada National Water Policy 2020	The Policy aims to ensure sustainable and equitable water resource management to support economic, social, and environmental development. It focuses on integrated water resource management, climate resilience, stakeholder participation, and the protection of water quality and ecosystems to secure water availability for present and future generations.	**Gender Sensitive** The Policy notes the specific needs and roles of women in water management and emphasizes their involvement in decision-making processes. It also addresses the importance of equitable sanitation access, particularly for women, girls, and vulnerable groups.	Y
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, 2015	The Policy provides a framework for sustainable management of coastal zones to enhance ecosystem resilience, support socio-economic development, and adapt to climate change impacts. It aims to integrate planning across sectors, ensure stakeholder participation, and safeguard coastal ecosystems while promoting sustainable livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to coastal hazards.	**Gender Blind**	
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Act No. 8 of 2019.	The Act establishes a legal framework for the sustainable management of Grenada's coastal zones. It includes provisions for the creation of coastal management plans, designation of restricted and prohibited areas, protection of species, enforcement of environmental standards, and public participation in decision-making processes. The Act aims to balance ecological, social, and economic goals while fostering resilience to environmental risks and climate change.	**Gender Blind**	
Land and Marine Management Strategy for Grenada, 2011	The Strategy provides a framework for sustainable and integrated management of land and marine resources. It focuses on updating legislation, creating institutional structures, developing management tools, and implementing monitoring frameworks to support environmental sustainability, socio-economic development, and resilience to climate change and natural hazards.	**Gender Blind**	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Water Policy, 2007	The Policy establishes a framework for sustainable and integrated water resource management in Grenada. It aims to ensure access to quality water for present and future generations, promote efficient water use, protect ecosystems, and foster stakeholder participation. The policy emphasizes good governance, financial sustainability, and climate resilience as key pillars for the water sector.	Gender Sensitive The Policy acknowledges the importance of equitable access to water for all, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and emphasizes participation and inclusivity in water governance.	
Fisheries (Marine Protected Areas) (Amendment) Order SRO. No. 10 of 2020	The Amended Order expands the scope of Grenada's marine protected areas by adding the Grand Anse Marine Protected Area. The policy is part of ongoing efforts to manage and conserve marine ecosystems and fisheries resources, ensuring sustainable use and protection of biodiversity.	Gender Blind	
Marine Boundaries Act No. 20 of 1978	The Act establishes Grenada's maritime zones, including the EEZ, to enable the exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of marine resources. It defines the rights and jurisdiction of the Government over these areas, sets penalties for unauthorized activities, and designates conservation officers to enforce compliance. It aims to protect Grenada's marine environment and resources while supporting sustainable economic activities.	Gender Blind	
Grenada Territorial Waters Act No. 17 of 1978	The Act establishes the boundaries of Grenada's territorial waters, defines rights and responsibilities within those waters, and provides a framework for regulating navigation, fishing, and marine conservation. It outlines enforcement mechanisms, including penalties for non-compliance, and grants jurisdiction to Grenadian courts over offenses within territorial waters.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Grenada Ports Authority Act Cap. 247, Amended 1992	The Act establishes the Grenada Ports Authority as a corporate entity responsible for the management and regulation of ports and related activities. The Act outlines the Authority's powers, duties, financial management processes, and regulatory framework for ensuring safe and efficient port operations. It emphasizes port infrastructure development, navigational aids, and service provision to support economic and trade activities.	**Gender Blind**	
Grenada Territorial Sea and Maritime Boundaries Act, 1989 (Act No. 25 of 1989)	The Act establishes boundaries for Grenada's maritime zones, including the territorial sea, internal waters, archipelagic waters, and the exclusive economic zone. It outlines rights and jurisdiction over these areas, regulates navigation, resource exploitation, and environmental protection, and enforces penalties for violations.	**Gender Blind**	
Sustainable Development			
National Sustainable Development Plan 2020-2035	The NSDP 2020-2035 is Grenada's overarching strategic framework to guide sustainable development through three pillars: high human and social development, a vibrant and resilient economy, and environmental sustainability. The plan prioritizes inclusivity, equity, resilience, and transformation to achieve Vision 2035, emphasizing stakeholder participation, climate adaptation, and a comprehensive approach to human development.	**Gender Responsive** The Plan outlines specific measures to address and rectify inequalities like promoting women's economic empowerment, addressing gender-based violence, and ensuring equal access to education and resources.	Y, PWDs, E
Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) 2014-2018	The policy outlines a framework for achieving inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in Grenada. It prioritizes pro-poor growth, improved access to social services, and human resource development while focusing on gender equality, youth empowerment, and addressing the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups. The strategy integrates sustainable development principles and emphasizes stakeholder participation.	**Gender Responsive** The policy exposes gender disparities, such as higher poverty rates among female-headed households and the challenges faced by women in employment. It includes targeted strategies for women's empowerment and gender equality, particularly in education, employment, and social protection.	Y, PWDs, E

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Strategic Development Plan, 2007	This policy serves as a framework to guide Grenada's long-term development across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. It focuses on inclusivity, resilience, and sustainable growth, prioritizing areas such as poverty reduction, youth and gender empowerment, environmental sustainability, and governance reform. The plan integrates global development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), into its strategies.	Gender Responsive The Policy incorporates gender equity into its strategic goals and outlines actionable measures to address inequalities and empower women, men, and other vulnerable groups. It encourages representation of women in leadership roles across public and private sectors, emphasizing the need for inclusive governance practices.	Y, PWDs, E
Gender			
Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2014-2024	The Policy and Action Plan aims to encourage greater gender equality, equity, social justice and sustainable development in Grenada by recognizing all citizens as equal participants in political, environmental, economic, social and cultural life with equal benefits, rights and privileges.	Gender Transformative A primary aim of the policy and action plan includes the transformation of inequitable gender relations 'in all spheres' in order to prevent disadvantages and discrimination, keeping women in subordinate positions. It also notes the need to transform challenges that limit the full development of men's potential.	Y, PWDs, E

12.4 Jamaica

Table 27 - Jamaica Policy Table

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Climate Change			
Climate Change Policy Framework 2021	The Policy applies a cross-sectoral approach with the goals of strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, promoting low carbon development and climate finance mobilization, and encouraging public awareness and education, and research and technology transfer in support of climate action.	**Gender Aware** The framework acknowledges the disproportionate and differential impacts women and men face in response to climate change. It identifies commitment to various international frameworks addressing gender and national policies targeted to reducing gender inequalities, however, does not outline specific actions or measures to reduce gender inequalities in the Policy Framework itself.	Y, PWDs, E
Updated Nationally Determined Contribution of Jamaica to UNFCCC, 2020	The NDC takes a multi-sectoral approach to reducing emissions across the energy sector, land-use change, and forestry sectors. The NDC outlines support for sustainable agriculture, renewable power generation, forestry and land management, and livelihood practices.	**Gender Blind**	I
Jamaica's NAP (not yet released, initiated in 2023)	Jamaica began in 2023 implementing a NAP process and developing their countries national Adaptation Plan. This document is not yet publicly available.	Document not available.	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Environment, Ecology, and Biodiversity			
National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica 2016-2021	The Strategy and Action Plan considers plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use across all sectors, while considering issues of sustainable development, gender, climate adaption and mitigation, trade, and poverty reduction.	Gender Responsive The Strategy and Action Plans outlines multiple national targets that directly support wellbeing and livelihoods, considering the specific needs of women and other vulnerable populations.	I
National Biosafety Policy for Jamaica, 2019	The Policy's goals include managing risks to human health, agriculture and biodiversity, transboundary movement, the use and handling of living modified organisms, and developing a national modern biotech sector in a regulated environment.	Gender Blind	
National Policy on Environmental Management Systems – in pursuit of a green economy, 2019	The Policy outlines strategies for the certification, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of environmental management systems across all economic sectors at both national and local levels.	Gender Blind	Y
Implementation Plan for the National Plant Health Policy 2014-2018	The Plan identifies provisions for revising existing legislation, building institutional capacity, systems, and emergency response for the current plant health system.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Plant Health Policy, 2011	The Policy takes a cross-sectoral approach toward establishing a sustainable, international compliant, and coordinated plant health system that promotes plant health, environmental health and food safety, and consumer protection.	Gender Blind	
Jamaica National Environmental Action Plan 1999-200	The Action Plan provides a multi-sectoral approach to ensuring management and environmental planning contributing to the country's sustainable development.	Gender Responsive The plan notes that economic and social development cannot be sustainably achieved without women's participation and the shared participation of men and women in the public arena and households. It also sets priority actions to address these issues.	
Policy for the National System of Protected Areas, 1997	The Policy's primary goal is to preserve natural habitat and ecosystems, including forests, reefs, coastal habitats (mangroves, estuaries, beaches etc.), wetlands and wildlife habitat.	Gender Blind	Y, E,
National Land Policy, 1997	The Land Policy establishes a framework for the country's land and geographic information management systems, development planning, land administration, resources, and environmental management.	Gender Sensitive The policy that anyone irrespective of their gender can work, claim a house on, and harvest fruits from trees planted on family lands.	Y, E

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Wildlife Protection (Protective Zone) Regulations, 1998	The Regulations establish a wildlife protection zone around game sanctuaries, prohibiting hunting of any animal, fish or bird within a wildlife protected zone.	Gender Blind	
Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act, 1991	The Act establishes a Natural Resources Conservation Authority to support the conservation, management and protection of Jamaica's natural resources.	Gender Blind	PWDs
Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, Amended 1993	The Act outlines provisions for the protection of national heritage or national monuments (including works of nature) and the establishment of the Jamaica National Heritage Trusts.	Gender Blind	PWDs
Coasts, Oceans and Water Use			
National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan 2019	The Policy and Implementation Plan applies a cross-sectoral approach to strategies for effective water resource management with the goal of ensuring social, environmental and economic well-being for current and future generations.	Gender Responsive The policy identifies differences in men and women's roles in the water sector. It states that gender mainstreaming, and gender responsive approaches are to be applied across policies, programmes and projects in the water sector.	Y, PWDs, E

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Operational Plan 2014 – 2015 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	The Operational Plan applies a cross-sectoral approach to ensuring the sustainable use of fishery resources and agricultural development with the goal of promoting food security and safety for the people of Jamaica.	Gender Responsive Included in the Plan's objectives are the strengthening of youth and women's agriculture participation and inclusion in agricultural employment opportunities.	Y
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Business Plan, 2019	The Plan outlines actions to address food safety and security, market facilitation, import substitution, infrastructure improvement, and increased output and value-add from agriculture.	Gender Responsive The Business Plan includes the strategic outcome of expanding women and youth's participation in agriculture and sets specific targets tied to this objective.	Y
Jamaica Vision 2030 - Water Sector Plan 2009-2030	The Water Sector Plan outlines a framework and plan for the sector to achieve integrated and sustainable water resources monument that provides safe water supply and sanitation that contributes to the country's social and economic development.	Gender Responsive The Plan identifies actions to expand access to technology and research in the water sector for women to support sustainable land and water resources use. It also contains actions to enhance women's education and career opportunities in the water sector.	
Watershed Policy for Jamaica, 2003	The Policy builds on the National Integrated Watershed Management Programmatic Framework by defining roles, responsibilities, actions and programmes to manage the country's watersheds. It should be noted that a new Watershed Policy for Jamaica is currently in draft (2023) and pending approval.	Gender Sensitive The policy acknowledges that it will support rural women with extension services, increasing trees grown on farms.	I

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Towards Ocean and Coastal Zone Management Action Plan in Jamaica, 2000	The Action Plan recognizes coastal resources as important economic assets and aims to elevate concern for coastal management toward planning and action.	Gender Responsive The Plan notes women's unique roles in conservation and sets a goal to increase numbers of female staff members in the Fisheries Division, including the suggestion to encourage them into more profitable positions in the field.	I
Fisheries Act No. 18 of 2018	An Act to provide for efficient management and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture, in line with international norms, standards, and best practice.	Gender Blind	PWDs
The Natural Resources (Marine Parks) (Amendment) Regulations no. 145A of 2015	The regulations outline various prohibited actions pertaining to Marine Parks, in particular fishing without permission by various methods.	Gender Blind	
Beach Control (Hotel, Commercial and Public Recreational Beaches) Regulations, 1978	The Regulations outline prohibited actions pertaining to beaches including littering, fishing, and timber cutting.	Gender Blind	
Beach Control (Protected Area) (Ocho Rios) Order, 1966	The Order declares parts of the sea floor and foreshore and sea as outlined in the schedule as protected area. It also prohibits activities including fishing, waste disposal, disturbing the sea floor and destruction or removal of coral, and marine life in the area defined in the schedule.	Gender Blind	
Fishing Industry (Fishery Management Areas) Order, 2000 (No. 37b of 2000)	The Order provides requirements for fisherfolk including permitted areas and fishing vessel types permitted.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Beach Control Act, 1960	The Act declares the rights to the foreshore and sea floor to be property of the Crown and that adjacent properties may use the foreshore for bathing, fishing and recreation as private domestic use and for any other purpose will require a licence.	Gender Blind	
Beach Control (Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 2015	The Regulations outline provisions regarding the application and issuing of use licences for beach areas.	Gender Blind	
Maritime Areas Act, Amended 1998	The Act declares Jamaica as an archipelagic state. It defines the waters, territorial sea, continental shelf, contiguous zone and internal waters of the country.	Gender Blind	
Exclusive Economic Zone Act, 1991	The Act establishes an exclusive economic zone beyond the territorial sea of Jamaica.	Gender Blind	
Port Authority Act, 1972	The Act includes provisions for establishing the Port Authority including its management, staff, functions, and jurisdiction.	Gender Blind	
Harbours Act, Amended 2001	The Act outlines provisions for the administration and operation of Jamaica's harbours. It prohibits pollution of waters from ship waste due to oil or other and lists additional harbour related offences.	Gender Blind	
Exclusive Economic Zone Act (Baselines) Regulations, 1992	The Regulations outlines geographical coordinates delineating the EEZ.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Harbours Rules, 1971	The Rules provide mandatory requirements for harbour navigation, anchorage, storage and handling of hazardous materials and the laying of fishing nets.	Gender Blind	
Water Resources Act, 1998	The Act provides for the suitable allocation, use, management and protection of water resources in Jamaica, including water quality control and the establishing of the Water Resources Authority.	Gender Blind	
National Water Commission Act, 1998	The Act establishes the National Water Commission and defines its functions.	Gender Blind	
Watersheds Protection Act, Amended 1993	The Act outlines the responsibilities and functions of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority.	Gender Blind	
Water Supply Act, Amended 1986	The Act outlines guidelines for water supply by statutory water undertakers.	Gender Blind	
Quarries Control Act, 1983	The Act contains provisions for the operation and management of quarry operations, including zones and licenses, tax, enforcement, safety and ancillary.	Gender Blind	PWDs
Water Resources Regulations, 1995	The Regulations contain 33 rules regarding the implementation of the Water Resources Act.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Water (Non-Riparian Use) Regulations, 1949	The Regulations contain procedures regarding applications for the non-riparian use of public water made under the Water Act.	Gender Blind	
Sustainable Development			
Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2021-2024	The Policy Framework aligns the goals and objectives of the country to the Sustainable Development Goals. It outlines strategic priorities for healthcare and wellness, human capital development, social protection and inclusion, governance and public sector effectiveness; economic stability and growth; employment and international competitiveness; environmental sustainability and climate change response; rural development and urban renewal.	Gender Responsive The outcomes of the Policy Framework are aligned with the SDGs, including SDG 5: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. One of the national strategy actions and outcomes is to foster equity in all spheres of society.	Y, PWDs, E
Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Business Plan 2019/2020 – 2022/2023	The Strategic Business Plan takes a cross-sectoral approach to achieving the goal of fostering an innovative, sustainable, inclusive and competitive Jamaica in the sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries and services.	Gender Responsive The Business Plan includes efforts to expand opportunities for women that enhance their economic and social wellbeing and includes specific targets for increasing opportunities, primarily in MSMEs.	Y, PWDs, E
National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme, 2017	The Policy applies a multi-sectoral approach to eradicating extreme poverty and reducing absolute poverty at national and sub-national levels. The Policy aims to achieve the vision of every Jamaican consuming goods and services beyond the minimum acceptable national standards and having the opportunities and support for income security and improved quality of life.	Gender Responsive The Policy takes a gender responsive approach and notes that productive inclusion of women in households is essential for addressing poverty. The programme targets women as beneficiaries of social protection programmes.	Y, PWDs, E

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan, 2009	The Plan is one of the sectoral plans contributing to the National Development Plan of Jamaica (Vision 2030) with the aim of achieving sustainable poverty reduction.	**Gender Responsive** The strategic plan notes that poverty is experienced differently by men and women and calls for mainstreaming gender in poverty policy and applying gender-specific responses to access and opportunity gaps in achieving sustainable livelihoods.	Y, PWDs, E
Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan	Vision 2030 is Jamaica's National Development Plan with the purpose of achieving developed country status for the country by 2030. The primary goals of the Plan are 1) empowering Jamaicans to achieve their fullest potential, 2) ensuring a just, cohesive and safe Jamaican society, 3) ensuring a prosperous economy, and 4) maintaining a healthy natural environment.	**Gender Responsive** Vision 2030 applies a gender lens to evaluate social issues including crime and poverty to support policies and programs. It notes the strategic objective of fostering equity across society.	Y, PWDs, E
Gender			
National Policy for Gender Equality, 2011	The Policy outlines the country's commitment toward gender equality. The purpose of the policy is to mainstream gender within a human rights framework to ensure both men and women experience equal access to resources, opportunities, and rewards to eliminate gender-based discrimination and support sustainable human development.	**Gender Transformative** The Policy seeks to transform existing gender ideologies, inequitable gender relations and governance practices at all levels of the public sector.	Y, PWDs, E

12.5 St. Lucia

Table 28 - St. Lucia Policy Table

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Climate Change			
Saint Lucia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018-2028	Saint Lucia's NAP takes a cross sectoral approach to creating a plan for building climate resilience in the tourism, water, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure and special planning, terrestrial, coastal and marine resources management, health, and education sectors.	Gender Responsive The Plan calls for the inclusion that adaptation measures do not impose additional burden for women. It aims to reduce gender-based vulnerabilities and promote gender equality in decision making.	E
Saint Lucia's Updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2021	Saint Lucia's NDC sets out plans to reduce 7% of greenhouse gas emissions in electricity and transportation sectors by 2030, including targets for 2025-2030 that expand on St Lucia's first NDC.	Gender Responsive The NDC includes efforts to support gender mainstreaming across climate change policies.	Y, PWDs, E, I
Climate Change Adaptation Policy 2015	The policy takes a multi-sectoral approach to addressing short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change. The approach to adaptation on sustainable development in St Lucia is holistic and participatory.	Gender Responsive The policy includes plans for studies to address response strategies targeted at women and other vulnerable groups.	Y, E
Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programme Framework, 2008	The Strategy and Programme Framework prioritizes disaster loss reduction through risk management. The main goal of the strategy is to strengthen mitigation, management, and response capacity for dealing with hazards and the effects of climate change.	Gender Sensitive The Strategy calls for the integration of gender issues into each of its four priority outcomes.	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Disaster Management Policy Framework for Saint Lucia, 2004	The Policy Framework applies a cross-sectoral approach to advancing disaster management that is focused on risk reduction, including the risk of loss of life, economic disruptions, and damage to the environment and property.	Gender Sensitive The Policy notes the need for gender-sensitive community methodologies for hazard identification and mapping, vulnerability and risk assessments, and recovery.	PWDs, E
Environment, Ecology, and Biodiversity			
Revised Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2025	The purpose of the Strategy and Action Plan is to address biodiversity and ecosystem service values to improve the conservation of biodiversity and contribute national development and human well-being.	Gender Aware The strategy speaks to women's unique roles in biodiversity management and resource needs.	Y, E, I
Saint Lucia's Resilient Ecosystems Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2028	The Strategy and Action Plan outlines a cross-sectoral strategy to build resilience in natural capital to climate change impacts, at the same time supporting biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability.	Gender Aware The Strategy and Action Plan includes descriptive context of women and men's roles in biodiversity and gender disaggregated data. It does not include actions within the plan to improve gender dynamics in decision making in biodiversity contexts.	Y, PWDs
National Environment Policy and National Environmental Management Strategy for Saint Lucia 2005 (Revised in 2014)	The Policy and Strategy offers a framework for environmental management and takes a cross-sectoral approach with policies and programmes for economic and social development. The Policy and Strategy aims to create environmentally sustainable development and to optimize environmental contributions to the economy, social, and cultural aspects of development.	Gender Blind	Y

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
National Invasive Species Strategy of Saint Lucia 2011	The Strategy's goal is to protect terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including native biodiversity, and domestic plants and animals from threat and negative impacts of invasive alien species. It also sets out to expand human and institutional capacity, policy and legislative frameworks to address these issues.	Gender Blind	
Saint Lucia National Trust Act, 1975 (No. 16 of 1975)	The Act establishes the St. Lucia National Trust responsible for managing and conserving the natural and cultural heritage of St. Lucia.	Gender Blind	
Coasts, Oceans and Water Use			
Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Fisheries Sector (Fisheries SASAP) 2018-2028	The Fisheries SASAP supports the implementation of adaptation actions that will strengthen the sustainability of Saint Lucia's fisheries, and livelihoods dependent on fisheries in response to climate change.	Gender Sensitive The Plan calls for the inclusion that adaptation measures do not impose additional burden for women.	Y
Saint Lucia's Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Water Sector (Water SASAP) 2018-2028	The Water SASAP supports the implementation of adaptation actions to safeguard the country's water resources and services in response to climate change.	Gender Sensitive The Plan calls for the inclusion that adaptation measures do not impose additional burdens for women.	
Saint Lucia Marine Litter Management Action Plan, 2022	The Action Plan outlines provisions for reducing the impacts of marine litter on human health and ecosystems.	Gender Blind	Y

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Water Management Plan for Drought Conditions, 2009	The Plan aims to support in the preparation and response to drought including the mitigation of conflict and negative impacts to natural resources and the economy.	Gender Blind	Y
National Water Policy, 2004	The Policy addresses the issue of increasing freshwater demand combined with a decline in available water resources. The Policy's primary objectives include taking an integrated water resource management approach, increased access to water resources and efficient allocation in a sustainable manner that supports conservation and biodiversity.	Gender Aware The policy includes as one of its principles women's central role in the safeguarding, provision, and management of water. It also notes the importance of water for well-being and human development, in particular for women.	Y
The Fisheries (Amendment) Act no. 3 of 2023	The Act regulates fishing and fisheries in the waters of St. Lucia.	Gender Blind	
Fisheries Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 9 of 1994)	The Regulations outline rules regarding fishing vessels, including fishing licences and registration for various activities, processing licenses, and conservation measures. It also establishes the Fisheries Advisory Committee.	Gender Blind	
The Agriculture and Fisheries Incentives (Amendment) Act, no. 8 of 2022	The Act outlines details regarding fisheries and agriculture incentives and related matters. It also sets the foundation for establishing an Agriculture and Fisheries Incentives Committee and Appeals Board.	Gender Blind	
Beach Protection (Amendment) Act, 1967 (Act No. 9 of 1984)	The Act outlines rules required for the protection and control of the seashore and beaches and regulations for individuals' interaction with them.	Gender Blind	

Document	Summary	Gender Sensitivity Rating (Blind, Sensitive, Responsive, Transformative)	Vulnerable Groups Mentioned (Youth = Y, Persons with Disabilities = PWDs Elderly = E; Indigenous = I)
Parks and Beaches Commission Act, 1983 (Act No. 4 of 1983)	The Act outlines provisions for the control, development, and maintenance of gardens, beaches, and public parks in St. Lucia.	Gender Blind	
Maritime Areas Act, 1984 (Act No. 6)	The Act describes the parameters of the maritime areas of St. Lucia, including the territorial sea, internal waters, contiguous zone, continental shelf, and Exclusive Economic Zone.	Gender Blind	
Sustainable Development			
Medium Term Development Strategy 2020-2023.	The Strategy aims to strengthen St. Lucia's economic growth in the areas of: Tourism, Education, Health, Infrastructure, and Agriculture.	Gender Responsive Gender mainstreaming is one of four cross-cutting thematic areas being applied to the development framework.	Y, PWDs, E, I
Poverty Reduction Fund Act Cap. 16.05.	The Act establishes a fund for poverty reduction, to deliver basic services and infrastructure, to finance small-scale projects to improve living conditions, and promote participation by community members.	Gender Blind	
National Vision Plan (2008)	The Plan offers a framework for addressing development issues and economic growth in St. Lucia. It builds on the government's 'live local – work local' initiative and supports local development while also encouraging growth in the region through tourism sector.	Gender Blind	Y
Gender			
Draft Gender Policy	The Draft Gender Policy is in development and not currently publicly available.		