

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

SAP053: FISH-ADAPT: Transforming climate resilience and sustainability in Saint Lucia's fisheries communities**Access the document:** <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b42-02-add04>

The GCF Observers Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities welcomes this proposal, which marks the first single-country project for Saint Lucia. We commend its strong adaptation focus and the attention it gives to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in Saint Lucia, sectors that are deeply vulnerable to climate change and significant to the country's economy, food security, and livelihoods.

We appreciate the project's objective of delivering clear benefits to fishworkers, aquaculture farmers, and their households, and the focus on co-benefits for the tourism and hospitality sectors, while enhancing ecosystem services from mangroves and coastal coral reefs, and promoting the diversification of livelihoods. We also appreciate that the project will provide technical assistance to address climate vulnerabilities by strengthening critical infrastructure, while supporting financial literacy and improving access to climate finance for beneficiaries.

We would like, nonetheless, to highlight a few areas where the proposal could be further strengthened. First, we encourage more clarity on the types of credit and insurance instruments to be made available to beneficiaries. It is important that these tools effectively unlock capital to support climate-resilient activities while ensuring that beneficiaries truly benefit from these instruments, and any debt burden remains manageable for fishworkers and aquaculture farmers.

Second, we echo ITAP's suggestion to take into account environmental stressors beyond climate change. Overfishing, habitat degradation, including coral reef loss, coastal pollution, and unsustainable fishing practices have historically reduced the resilience of Saint Lucia's fisheries. While we support the project's strong focus on the needs of fishworkers, incorporating these additional factors could improve the project's long-term sustainability.

Finally, we acknowledge existing actions within the GAP aiming to improve women's access to loans and increase their capacity for asset ownership in the aquaculture sector through changes to land lease and ownership requirements. To build on this, we believe the proposal could benefit from a specific activity or target that aims to increase women's participation in



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both fisheries and aquaculture sector, complementing the structural reforms already included.