

Adapting to Climate Change at the National Level in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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Small Island Developing States are currently having to negotiate the future effects of climate change on their nations. Those of the Caribbean are especially vulnerable, given that the hurricane season alone costs the region **\$835 million per year on average**. These challenges mean that adaptation measures are necessary in government planning. This study seeks to examine climate adaptation and its challenges in St Vincent and the Grenadines. It looks at Second National Communication (SNC) documentation sent to the UN, an important policy document in understanding country's vulnerabilities and **adaptive capacities to climate change**. In addition, the study uses interviews with development sector professionals to examine climate change policy in SVG.

The paper indicates that SVG has taken steps to integrate climate adaptation into its policy framework, with seventy-three national-level adaptation actions reported in the SNC. The main components being mainstreamed are hurricanes from a climate-induced perspective, and economic constraints from a non-climate induced perspective. The significance of this mainstreaming activity is vital for multisectoral adaptation action, as has been highlighted in **previous work**.

The major limitation faced in implementing adaptation measures was found to be finances. The research highlights the need for SVG to improve its access to international funding sources for climate change. In addition to finance, lack of technical capacity and human resources were other major challenges to climate adaptation.

The paper hopes to inform governments and donors on the current state of climate change adaptation in policy and planning initiatives in SVG. The recommendations from this study suggest that more work is needed for successful implementation of climate adaptation initiatives.



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