



Introduction

Saint Lucia submitted its 1st forest reference level (FRL) in 2021 and completed the technical assessment process for the FRL. In addition, Saint Lucia submitted its 2nd FRL in 2023. The purpose of this article is to describe Saint Lucia's REDD+ success story up until the two FRL submissions.

Saint Lucia provided the information in this article to the secretariat, as a snapshot of REDD+ implementation in the country for the celebration of the 10-years anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

REDD+ history in Saint Lucia

Preparation for REDD+

The REDD+ story in Saint Lucia started with making the decision to join the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) in 2016. This decision was based on the government's interest in exploring the role of forests in climate change, understanding the benefits derived from forests and increasing the forest area. It was also in the government's interest to know how to encourage forest owners to keep their forests instead of converting them to other land uses.

Before being a member of the CfRN, Saint Lucia established the Forest and Lands Resources Development Strategy 2015-2025.¹ Its goal 3.1 "The Department is actively engaged in global and regional initiatives to address climate change and its impacts" highlighted REDD+ even though Saint Lucia had not started any REDD+ activities yet.

Establishment of FRL

In 2017, Saint Lucia completed a REDD+ Roadmap/Strategy for Saint Lucia. Since then, with CfRN support, the readiness phase of REDD+ in Saint Lucia has started. Training on the Collect Earth tool to collect activity data and calculate GHG emissions and removals took place.



Figure 1 Forests in Saint Lucia (provided by Saint Lucia government)

As a result, Saint Lucia successfully submitted its two Forest Reference Levels (FRLs) in 2021 and 2023 (the technical assessment process

¹ <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/stl192162.pdf>.

for the 2nd FRL is ongoing at the time this article is written).

Main challenges

The challenge in REDD+ in Saint Lucia came from the small land area (616km²). In spite of the government's recognition of the importance

of forests in achieving climate goals, land conflicts (i.e., between forests and other land uses) could not be avoided, and they will become even more crucial in the future as climate change progresses. To address the issue, the Forestry Division of Saint Lucia needs to make the public aware of the tangible benefits of maintaining forests.

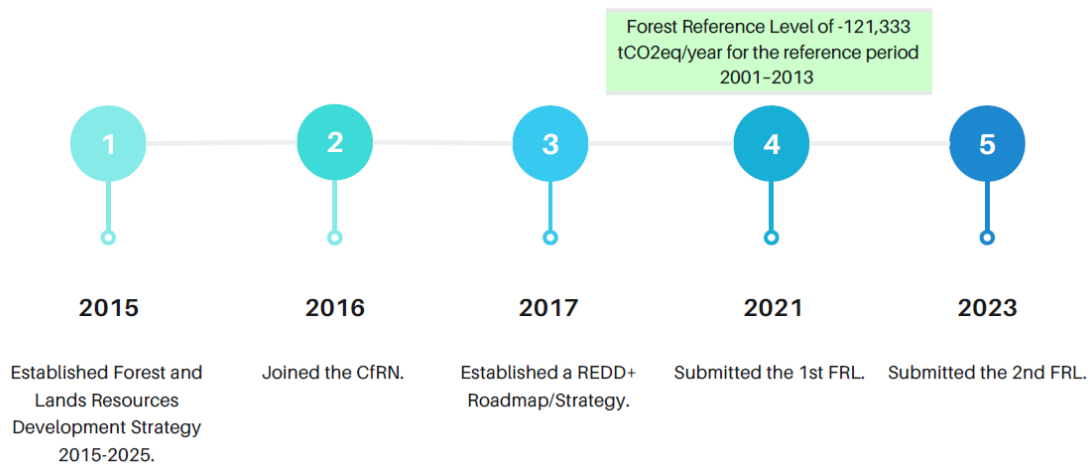


Figure 2 REDD+ history in Saint Lucia

Key stakeholders

Since about 85% of forests in Saint Lucia are private forests, it was quite critical to get private land owners involved in the process. While stakeholder consultations took place when the REDD+ roadmap was produced, more consultations are required to get everyone on board. This includes communities located near forests and dependent on forests resources.



Figure 3 Photo of field survey (provided by Saint Lucia government)

Links to other reports

The REDD+ efforts in Saint Lucia led to the improvement of its GHG inventory included in the Biennial Update Report² and the National Communication³, such as the development of country-specific emission factors.

The Forestry Division of Saint Lucia believes that the GHG inventory data quality was much improved, and its uncertainty was decreased. This progress should be recognized by other departments, such as the one responsible for producing the National Determined Contribution (NDC). Forests must take a more prominent role in Saint Lucia's NDC.

For more information, see [Saint Lucia's country page](#) on the REDD+ Web Platform.

² Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Saint%20Lucia%27s%20Final%20BUR%20revised%20Dec%202021.pdf>.

³ Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/THIRD%20NATIONAL%20COMMUNICATION%20%20SAINT%20LUCIA%202017.pdf>.