

Performance Audit of the implementation of climate change adaptation actions in St. Kitts and Nevis.



SAI: St. Kitts and Nevis

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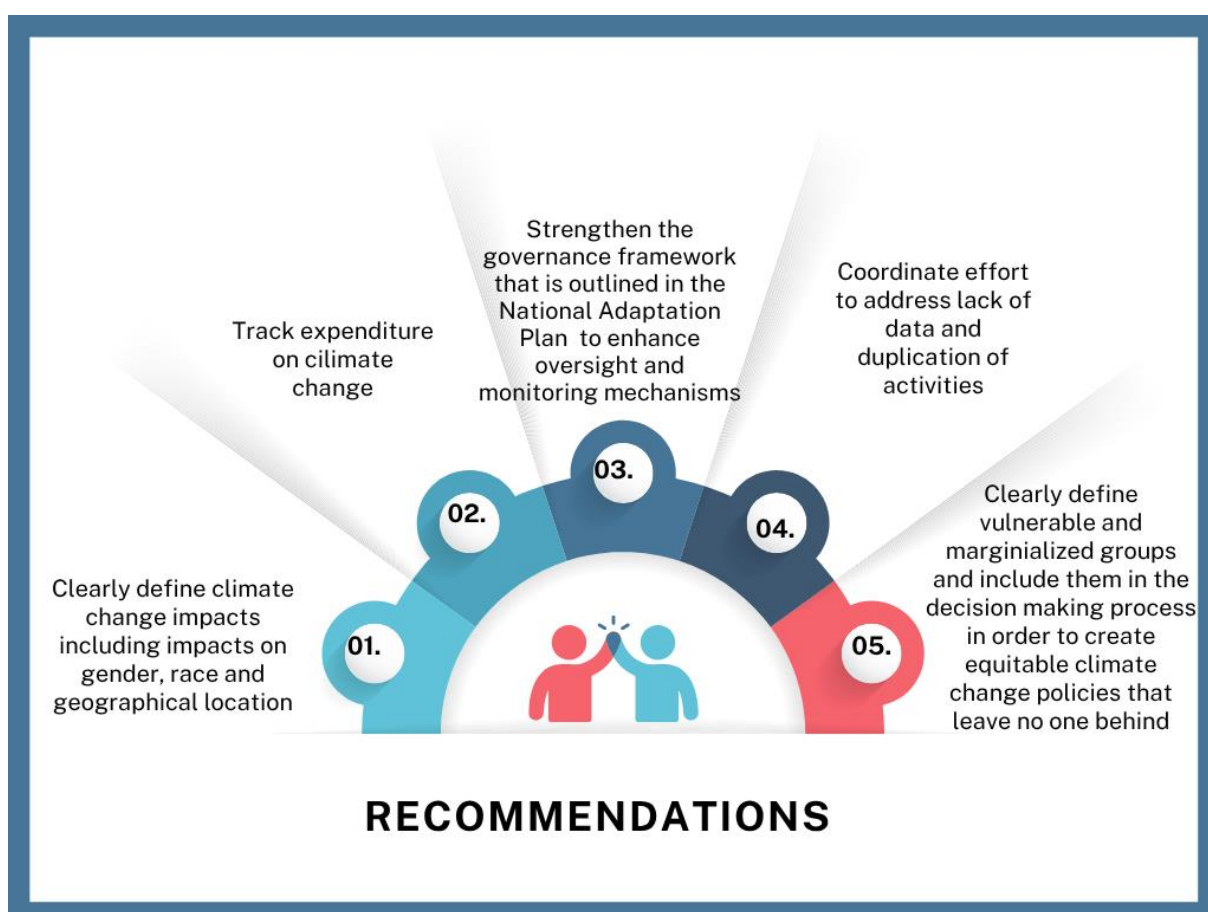
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Executive Summary

In 2023 the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) launched the Cooperative Audit on Climate Change Adaptation Actions (CCAA) in collaboration with INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Audit (WGEA) and other key stakeholders. The National Audit Office of St. Kitts and Nevis conducted a performance audit of the Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Planning or Actions. The purpose of this audit is to contribute to improved governance, effectiveness and inclusivity of the national climate change adaptation actions.

We have concluded that St. Kitts and Nevis has acknowledged the importance of Climate Change and has implemented some climate change adaptation actions since the ratification of the Paris Agreement. However, the audit found that certain climate change adaptation actions need to be revisited, revised, updated and wholly implemented.

We provide the following recommendations to the Department of Climate Action within the Ministry of Climate Change and Constituency Empowerment.



Introduction

Climate Change is a global challenge that affects every country, community and individual. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change that can lead to increases in sea levels, warmer temperatures, floods, droughts and devastating hurricanes to name a few.

The Paris Agreement was signed on December 1, 2015, by over 195 developing and developed countries including St. Kitts and Nevis to address climate change. The agreement contains provisions to hold countries accountable to their commitments and mobilize greater investments to assist developing countries in building low-carbon, climate resilient economies.

As a member state to the Paris Agreement, St. Kitts and Nevis is required to engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant plans, policies and/or contributions, which may include:

- (a) The implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts.
- (b) The process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.
- (c) The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, considering vulnerable people, places and ecosystems.
- (d) Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programs, and actions; and
- (e) Building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.

St. Kitts and Nevis is required to submit an updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) every five (5) years according to Article 4, section 9 of The Paris Agreement, which outlines its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for developing countries.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment with oversight from the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) has the overall responsibility for coordinating implementation of the National Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (NAP). An Adaptation Sub-Committee of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) has been established to facilitate this process and is comprised of key implementing agencies from the public sector as well as relevant civil society organizations and private sector representatives.

Some of the objectives of the Ministry are creating and implementing a plan for the review of all legislation under the mandate of Environment and Climate Change, identifying and leveraging opportunities for advancing our climate change agenda, to research the establishment of an agency mandate to advance the sustainable small island state agenda and to strengthen institutional governance and efficient operational capacity.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Climate Change Policy was legislated in November 2017. The St. Christopher and Nevis National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was

adopted in 2018. Both were developed by the then Department of Environment, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action).

Audit Objectives and Audit Questions

Objective

The main audit objective is to assess the efficiency of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action in implementing climate change adaptation actions since the ratification of the Paris Agreement.

Specific Audit Objectives and Questions

The audit focused on four (4) specific audit objectives and a number of questions were identified under each one, to determine if the objective was met. These are as follows:

1. To assess the provision of comprehensive climate change adaptation planning. To do this, we will consider:
 - I. Does St. Kitts and Nevis has a national adaptation plan?
 - II. Has St. Kitts and Nevis identified its climate change impacts?
 - III. Has St. Kitts and Nevis assessed the vulnerabilities and risks?
 - IV. Has St. Kitts and Nevis prioritized vulnerabilities and risks?
 - V. Has St. Kitts and Nevis formulated actions it will take to address impacts, risks and vulnerabilities?
 - VI. Is there information on the cost of policies or measures?
 - VII. Has the government identified the vulnerable or marginalized groups based on for example gender, race, class, disability etc. Does the government have data on these?
2. To assess the establishment of the legal and institutional framework in connection with the planning of climate change adaptation activities.
 - I. Is there an overall governance framework?
3. To assess the implementation of adaptation activities.
 - I. Have stakeholders been involved in the process?
 - II. What resources are allocated and spent?
4. To assess the quality of the monitoring and evaluation systems.
 - I. Is progress reported and how? Is there a monitoring framework?
 - II. Are targets and indicators set and measured?

Audit Scope

The audit focused on the actions undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action in setting up the adaptation strategy and plan and ensuring coordination of the climate change adaptation planning and actions.

We examined the preparation steps of adaptation planning which consisted of setting up the institutional framework and stakeholder participation, assessment of risk and vulnerabilities, establishing adaptation options and determining priorities, establishing action plan with specified timelines, identifying responsible institutions and funds needed, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation systems.

We also examined whether the adaptation measures from the National Adaptation Plan and the Climate Change Policy were implemented.

The audit considered work done from January 2017 to March 2024.

Audit Methodology

The auditors used a structured set of procedures to plan, execute, and report on the audit, including steps to identify key risks, gather evidence and analyze information. These included:

- Interviews with focal persons within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action and the Ministry of Sustainable Development.
- Collecting plans, policies, strategies and risk assessments related to climate change from the focal points.
- Reviewing documentation of targets set and measured with progress reports.

PART TWO

FINDINGS

Audit Question 1

Does St. Kitts and Nevis have a National Adaptation Plan (NAP)?

Audit Finding 1

St. Kitts and Nevis has a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (NAP), however it needs to be revised.

According to Article 7, Part 9 of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 13.2, it is expected that all countries that signed the Paris Agreement engage in adaptation planning processes to develop a national adaptation plan which should be submitted and updated periodically. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan is the national adaptation plan (NAP) for St. Kitts and Nevis. The NAP provides guidance and priorities and appropriate measures for adaptation to reduce vulnerability to the impacts from climate change and build resilience over the long term in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The NAP covers the period from 2018-2030. Ministries with responsibility for climate change adaptation actions were identified in the NAP, however after the change of administration in 2022, ministries were reclassified and therefore the NAP no longer correctly reflects the names of the responsible ministries. For example, before the change of administration, the Department of Environment which was responsible for operationalising the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC). This department was part of the Ministry of Agriculture. After the change of administration, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment was created. The NAP has not been updated to reflect this change. Users of the NAP would assume that the Ministry of Agriculture has responsibility for establishing mechanisms to coordinate Climate Change adaptation actions.

An updated NAP would allow all stakeholders to be aware of who is responsible for achieving the tasks outlined within the document. This would allow the Federation to proactively prepare for the effects of climate change across various sectors and communities.

Recommendation

While the Federation has a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, the Department of Environment and Climate Action needs to ensure that the NAP is revised and updated to reflect changes that have taken place since its creation.

Audit Question 2

Has St. Kitts and Nevis identified its climate change impacts?

Audit Finding 2

St. Kitts and Nevis has identified the environmental impacts of climate change in the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NAP), however the economic, social, geographical and other impacts are not well defined.

Article 7, Part 9c of the Paris Agreement and SDG 13.1 emphasizes that adaptation plans, strategies and policies should identify the impacts of climate change.

In the NAP, environmental impacts of climate change were identified, such as:

- an increase in average air temperatures.
- an increase in average sea surface temperatures.
- a decrease in average annual rainfall.
- sea level rise across the insular Caribbean.
- an increase in the intensity of tropical storms and hurricanes.
- ocean acidification as carbon dioxide emissions are absorbed by the ocean, reducing pH and the availability of biologically important calcium carbonate minerals.

We noted however that economic, social and geographical impacts were not well defined.

- Economic impacts would include increased costs associated with extreme weather events like hurricanes and floods, disruptions to agricultural production due to changing weather patterns, damage to coastal infrastructure from rising sea levels, and potential impacts on labour productivity due to extreme heat, ultimately leading to reduced economic growth and increased costs for businesses and governments across various sectors.
- Social impacts as a result of climate change, particularly on vulnerable populations, including those in poverty, older adults, low-income households, communities of colour, those experiencing homelessness, and immigrant communities should be included. These impacts include increased risk of extreme weather events, food and water scarcity, displacement, health issues and economic challenges, all of which can worsen existing inequalities. Another social impact is resettlement which could result in the loss of assets or land, including gardens.
- There are geographical areas in the Federation that are at high risk and thus would be more heavily impacted by the effects of climate change such as rising sea levels which can lead to coastal erosion and flooding, increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, changes in rainfall patterns leading to droughts, and potential damage to coastal infrastructure due to storm surges. These types of geographical impacts were not mentioned in the NAP.

The Chief Technical Officer at the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment stated that the NAP was meant to be an overarching or broad based strategy to direct the work of the ministries. Persons were identified as Team Leads from each of the key ministries to communicate progress made on adaptation actions with the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment. Each key ministry was expected to determine the impact of climate change and how it would achieve

the adaptation actions outlined in the NAP. While meetings were held with the different stakeholders, there is no evidence to support that this was communicated to the Team Leads.

We requested data from the key ministries that were used to determine the impacts of climate change and progress on adaptation actions, however none was submitted. We found that the availability of data posed a significant problem in determining the economic, social and geographical impacts of climate change for the Department of Climate Action. Team leads from each ministry were not collecting or recording this information, and where information on the impacts of climate change was available, they were not reported to the Department of Climate Action. Some Ministries stated that they were unaware that they needed to collect this information.

If the full impact of climate change on St. Kitts and Nevis is not identified, the federation will not be able to find solutions to adapt to them. As a result, vulnerable people, places and ecosystems may be neglected. The true cost to address the impacts of climate change may not be determined or may be over or understated.

Audit recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should ensure that the full impact of climate change including the economic, social and geographical impacts are identified in the National Adaptation Plan.

There must be a coordinated effort to address the lack of data. The Department of Climate Action should collaborate with the key ministries to ensure that information is collected to determine the social, economic and geographical impacts of climate change.

Audit Question 3

Has the government identified the vulnerable or marginalized groups based on factors such as gender, race, class, disability etc. Does the government have data on these?

Audit Finding 3

While vulnerable and marginalized groups were identified as women, children, youth, differently abled and elderly, a plan targeted to this group was not developed.

The "leave no one behind" principle is a core commitment within the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signifying a pledge to eradicate poverty, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce inequalities, ensuring that everyone benefits from development efforts without being left behind, regardless of their background or circumstances. It emphasizes reaching the most marginalized and vulnerable populations first. Its aim is to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations. The Paris Agreement Article 7, 9c states that the adaptation planning process may include the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems.

According to the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2021), 'the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis plans to take a cross-sectoral approach which include strengthening

coordination with national gender stakeholders, increasing institutional capacities on gender mainstreaming, conducting sectoral gender analysis to inform the design and implementation of climate actions and collecting and assessing sex-disaggregated data in its monitoring and evaluation systems.’

There were no plans outlined to suggest how this would be done. While we noted that gender and age specific data is collected by the Department of Statistics within the Ministry of Sustainable Development and also the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs, it is outdated, has not been collated or broken down by sector and does not specify the vulnerable or marginalised groups.

The NAP highlights the federations’ commitment to consider and include the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the formulation and implementation of adaptation actions. It does not detail how these groups are to be included which may affect the federation’s ability to achieve its adaptation goals. The vulnerable or marginalized groups may not benefit from climate change adaptation actions due to unfair policies and sharing of resources. The result may be that programmes will not reach the targeted groups.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should ensure that:

- special consideration is given to vulnerable and marginalized groups when formulating adaptation actions. Actions should be laid out to ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised groups are not left behind.
- data on vulnerable and marginalized groups is collected, recorded, analysed and reported.

Audit Question 4

Is there an overall governance framework?

Audit Finding 4

The SKN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (NAP) outlines the governance framework but this framework has not been established or implemented to date. The Department of Climate Action currently oversees adaptation actions however there is no proper reporting structure.

There should be an overall framework that addresses decision making, monitoring and evaluation.

The governance framework outlined in the NAP is made up of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), the NCCC Secretariat, Climate Change Focal Points, and St. Kitts and Nevis Adaptation Working Groups. This governance framework has not been established or implemented to date.

The Department of Climate Action currently oversees adaptation actions, however no proper reporting structure was established between the Department and the key ministries. The oversight function was limited due to the absence of a functional governance framework. Due to the lack of an established governance framework, oversight and accountability are weak.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action needs to ensure that the governance framework which comprises of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), the NCCC Secretariat, the Climate Change Focal Points and the St. Kitts and Nevis Adaptation and Mitigation Working Groups is established.

Audit Question 5

Is progress reported and how? Is there a monitoring framework?

Audit Finding 5

The monitoring framework has not been established to date however the Department of Climate Action has been requesting updates from the key ministries to update the NDC's and the Biennial Update report. There were no progress reports on adaptation actions provided to our office to substantiate that updates were received.

Good governance principles state that monitoring, oversight and follow-up procedures should be used when implementing projects.

The governance framework outlined in the NAP, has not been established to date. The Chief Technical Officer stated that the Department of Climate Action and the Ministry of Environment have been requesting updates on the progress of adaptation actions from the key ministries to complete the Biennial Update Report required every two years by the Paris Agreement and the Nationally Determined Contributions which is required to be submitted every five years. Our office requested proof of the submission of these updates from the Department of Climate Action, however no evidence was provided during the period the audit was conducted. There is no central repository for progress reports and a lack of oversight by the Department of Climate Action. Due to the lack of an established governance framework and effective oversight, accountability by the key ministries is weak.

Audit Recommendation

We recommend that the Department of Climate Action:

- liaise with the key ministries to receive timely reports or updates on the progress on the adaptation actions outlined in the NAP.
- establish a central repository for all reports and statistics collected from key ministries on climate adaptation actions.

Audit Question 6

Are targets and indicators set and measured?

Audit Finding 6

Short term (1-4 years), medium term (5-10 years) and long term (10+ years) targets and indicators were set in the SKN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan but there was no evidence provided to suggest that they were measured.

Good governance principles suggest that an oversight and monitoring system should be in place to ensure that targets are met. The governance framework outlined in the SKN Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan was never established. This resulted in poor monitoring and oversight that was needed to hold key ministries accountable for meeting the adaptation goals outlined in the NAP.

The Chief Technical Officer stated that a designated person was chosen as the Team Lead by each of the key ministries to correspond with the Department of Climate Action with regards to progress on adaptation actions. While evidence suggests that meetings were held with the Department of Climate Action and representatives from the key ministries, no written progress reports on adaptation actions were produced for our analysis.

The NAP identified the key Ministries that were responsible for the various adaptation actions and the time frame allotted to complete them. Time frames stated in the NAP for adaptation actions were short term (1-4 years), medium term (5-10 years) and long term (10+ years). However, the phases of each project was not broken down in the NAP. No evidence was provided to our office to suggest that the key ministries were measuring or reporting the progress on adaptation actions to the Department of Climate Action. As a result, it was difficult to measure the stage of completion of adaptation actions.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should ensure that the targets outline in the NAP are broken down in phases. A clear method of measuring the stages of completion should be outlined in the NAP.

Audit Question 7

Has St. Kitts and Nevis assessed the vulnerabilities and risks?

Audit Finding 7

As stated in the NAP, a general assessment of the vulnerabilities and risks of climate change for St. Kitts and Nevis was done however, a comprehensive assessment for each of the key ministries was not done.

The adaptation planning process must include the assessment of climate change risks and vulnerabilities. We found that the NAP includes a general assessment of the vulnerabilities

and risks of climate change. The known effects of climate change were highlighted per sector. These can be seen in Table 1 below. However a comprehensive assessment of key impacts and vulnerabilities have not been undertaken for each of the key ministries. Lack of historical and current data was cited by the Chief Technical Officer as the main reason why a comprehensive assessment was not provided in the NAP. This would make it difficult for the Federation to adequately prepare for the adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation actions will not be focused on the areas that are most at risk.

Table 1: Key vulnerabilities and risks of climate change for the key ministries

Ministry	Key Vulnerabilities and Risks
Agriculture	• Greater rainfall variability and extremes will impact on water availability for crop and livestock production. • Drought conditions will lead to water stress, while flooding will accelerate soil erosion. • Rising sea levels will exacerbate soil aridity due to saltwater intrusion into groundwater and exacerbate saltwater damage from sea blast. • Increased incidence of invasive species and new pests and diseases also pose a significant threat to the agricultural sector, and could compound damage from existing pests such as monkeys and roaming animals (e.g. cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats and dogs).
Fisheries and Coastal Marine Ecosystem	Climate change will pose a significant risk to coastal and marine ecosystems due to: • sea level rise; • extreme weather and storm surges; • increased sea surface temperatures resulting in coral bleaching; • ocean acidification; • sargassum influx. Specific impacts are uncertain but model projections indicate that there could be decreased productivity of coral reefs, fisheries and wetlands, with adverse impacts on food supply and associated livelihoods due to decreasing nearshore and deep water fish stocks and diminishing benefits associated with fishing activities. These changes will also impact on ecosystem services such as coastal protection. Vulnerable and endangered coastal and marine species, including those endemic to St. Kitts and Nevis, may also be at risk due to impacts on population size and distribution and habitat availability.
Human Health	Changing rainfall patterns and increases in temperature and humidity are likely to provide favourable conditions for water-borne and vector-borne diseases. The possible re-emergence of malaria¹² and appearance of new mosquito-borne viruses, such as chikungunya and zika, are of considerable concern. Extreme weather patterns also threaten to compromise sanitation systems and freshwater availability, with the potential for outbreaks of communicable diseases. Heat stress and related illnesses are projected to increase, particularly in the elderly and infirm, with increasing air temperatures. Additionally, impacts on the agricultural

	sector may indirectly affect human health in terms of nutritional requirements and supply.
Tourism	Current and potential climate change impacts include: • the degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity that serve as tourism attractions; • reduced water and energy supply due to saltwater intrusion into groundwater and extreme weather such as drought, floods and hurricanes; • loss and damage to physical infrastructure due to sea level rise and extreme weather including hurricanes, storms and storm surge; • reduced access to high-quality local food due to impacts on agriculture; • threats to human health due to increasing incidence of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.
Water Resources	Climate change will impact on the availability and quality of freshwater resources in several ways: • Erratic rainfall and drought could compromise aquifer recharge and reduce the potential for rainwater harvesting as an alternative supply. • Sea level rise also poses a risk to aquifers due to saltwater intrusion. • Extreme weather, such as floods, hurricanes and storm surge, could also damage water infrastructure, disrupt power supplies for pumping of groundwater and impact on sewerage and solid waste management resulting in water contamination.

Source: National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should request the key ministries to collect, record, analyze and submit historical and current data so that a comprehensive assessment of the vulnerabilities and risks of climate change can be conducted.

Audit Question 8

Has St. Kitts and Nevis prioritized vulnerabilities and risks?

Audit Finding 8

The vulnerabilities and risks of climate change were prioritized based on the five (5) key sectors considered most at risk of being directly impacted by climate change. However the impacts on gender, race and geographic location in each sector were not highlighted.

The adaptation planning process should include the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems.

St. Kitts and Nevis has prioritized the vulnerabilities and risks of climate change in the NAP. The vulnerabilities and risks were prioritized by sector along with the adaptation actions to address them. These sectors had a higher risk of being directly impacted by climate change.

There were eight (8) key areas mentioned in the NAP, and five (5) were prioritized being:

1. Agriculture
2. Fisheries and coastal and marine ecosystems
3. Human health
4. Tourism
5. Water

The other areas were:

6. Forest and terrestrial ecosystems
7. Finance and banking
8. Infrastructure and physical development

The NAP aimed to provide guidance on appropriate measures for adaptation through identification of key priorities and actions that reduce vulnerability to specific impacts of climate change and build resilience over the long term. While the NAP used a participatory approach to gain input from stakeholders, data was not included on gender, race and geographic location when prioritizing the vulnerabilities and risks. Geographic locations in the Federation that would be directly impacted by climate change were also not detailed in the NAP.

If the vulnerabilities and risks of climate change are not prioritized to consider factors such as gender, race and geographic location, St. Kitts and Nevis would not be able to direct its resources on sectors, location and people that may be more heavily impacted by climate change.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should revise the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Plan to target specific gender, race and geographic location in each sector when prioritizing the vulnerabilities and risks.

Audit Question 9

Has St. Kitts and Nevis formulated actions it will take to address impacts, risks and vulnerabilities?

Audit Finding 9

St. Kitts and Nevis has formulated short term, medium term and long term adaptation actions it will take to address the impacts, risks and vulnerabilities of climate change, but in most cases, these actions were not completed within the short or medium term.

Countries are required to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure to vulnerability.

Short, medium and long term adaptation actions were formulated to address the impacts, risks and vulnerabilities of climate change with an aim to build resilience over the long term. However we found that in most cases, adaptation actions stated in the NAP were not completed within the stipulated timeframe. In addition, adaptation actions stated completion dates (short term 1-4 years, medium term 5-10 years and long term 10 + years) but did not outline how progress would be measured. The various adaptation actions were not broken down into phases of completion so that the projects' level of completion, could be easily determined.

Audit Recommendation

We recommend that the Department of Climate Action:

- establish the governance framework which will have overall responsibility for coordinating implementation of the NAP.
- collect the relevant data from the key ministries to track progress on adaptation actions.
- prioritize monitoring and oversight of key ministries to ensure that adaptation actions are started and completed.

Audit Question 10

Have Stakeholders been involved in the process?

Audit Finding 10

A multi-stakeholder engagement process was used in the creation of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, however the general public was not included in the entire process.

Stakeholders should be proactively engaged in different phases of the policy cycle. Key stakeholders included Government Ministries and Departments, Private Sector, Tertiary Institutions and Government Media House along with Regional Partners. Surveys and focus groups were held with the general public in 40% of the prioritized sectors. The general public was not engaged in the implementation of the adaptation actions. There was no evidence to show that follow-up or feedback was solicited from the stakeholders after the initial consultation.

After consulting with the Team Leads, we noted that it was not considered necessary, nor were the Team Leads aware that they needed to engage the general public beyond the creation of the national implementation plan. Engaging stakeholders provides their perspective of the concerns they face and ensures that recommendations for addressing the impacts of climate change are tailored to their needs.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should ensure that all stakeholders are engaged in the implementation of the climate change adaptation actions throughout the entire process. This would create buy-in by the public and would promote awareness of the climate change adaptation initiatives.

Audit Question 11

Is there information on the cost of policies or measures?

Audit Finding 11

Cost was estimated for the various policies and measures to adapt to climate change using only comparative analysis. There was no breakdown showing how the costs were derived.

Good governance principles should be used to define how costs are determined and measured. Cost estimates of adaption actions outlined in the NAP were based on work done in other countries of a similar size. While this is a measure to estimate cost, it may not present a true picture of what is actually needed in St. Kitts and Nevis. Other tools such as needs-based assessments, vulnerability assessments etc. should be used to estimate costs together with comparative analysis, to reflect the needs of St. Kitts and Nevis. We found that there was no breakdown within the NAP to show how the costs were derived.

According to the Chief Technical Officer at the Department of Climate Action, this method was chosen due to a lack of historical data, relevant statistics and time constraints to produce the NAP. As a result, the estimated cost may be over/understated. The result is that the budget may be inadequate to accomplish the adaptation actions.

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should ensure that other assessment tools are used to estimate the cost of adaptation actions to be undertaken in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Audit Question 12

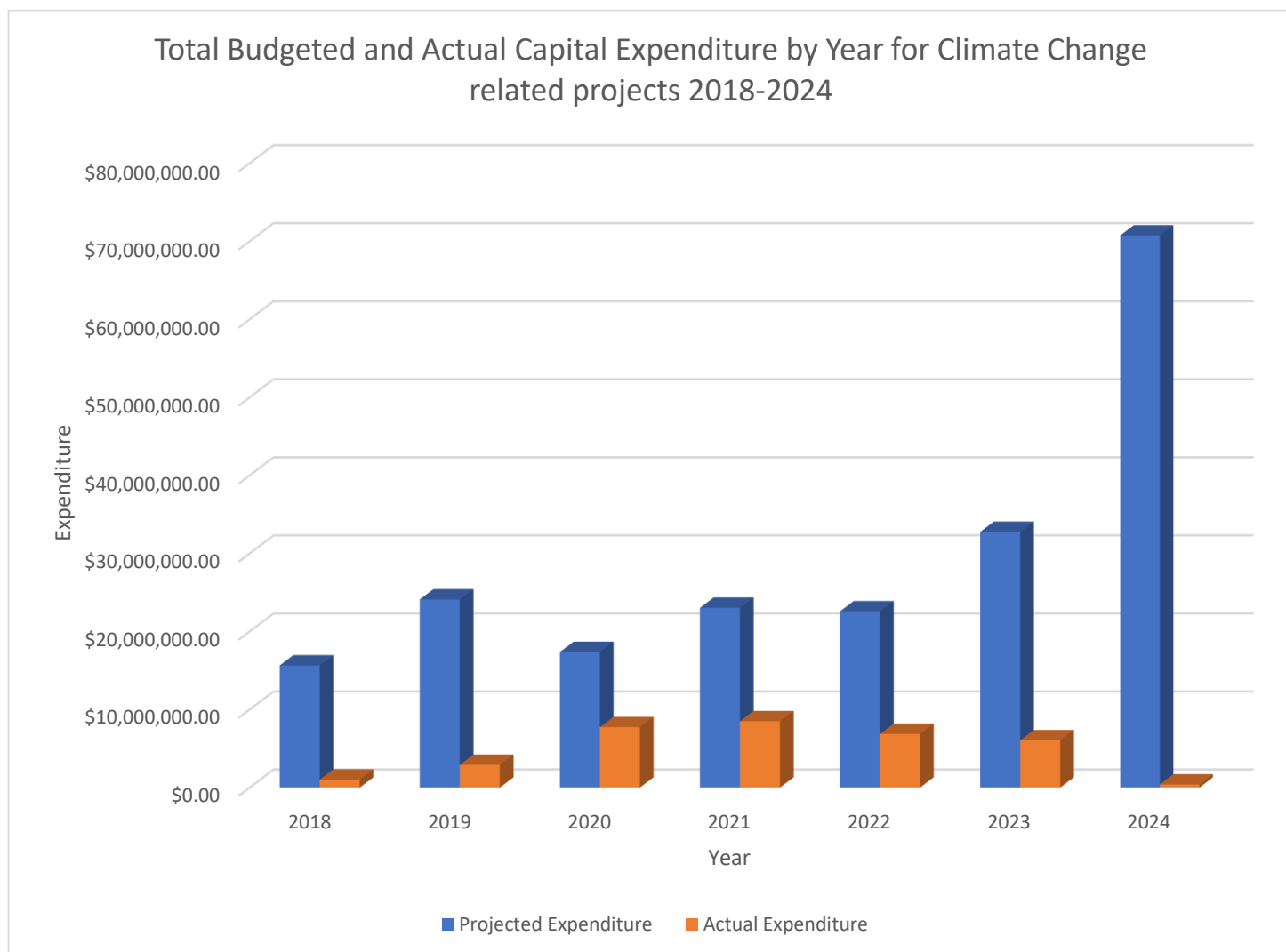
What resources are allocated and spent?

Audit Finding 12

During the period 2018 – March 2024, EC\$206 million was budgeted for climate change related capital projects. However only EC\$33.6 million was actually spent, which equates to 16% of budgeted expenditure.

The principle of economy means minimising the cost of resources. The resources used should be available in due time, in an appropriate quantity and quality and at the best price. The resources for adaptation actions were allocated from external and domestic sources in the form of grants and loans and revenues from the government.

Chart 1: Total Budgeted and Actual Capital Expenditure by Year for Climate Change Projects 2018-2024



Source: Government of St. Kitts and Nevis Estimates 2018 - 2024

The chart above shows the annual budgeted and actual expenditure for climate change related projects from 2018-2024. We noted that EC\$206 million was budgeted from development aid, loans and domestic revenues to fund climate change related projects, however only EC\$33.6 million was actually spent, which equates to 16% of budgeted expenditure.

While funding was expected from development aid for some projects, the funding was not received to execute projects. According to the Chief Technical Officer at the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, this was primarily due to the lack of expertise in the Ministries to apply for funding from external sources. It was also due to the amount of time it took to apply for and be approved for funding of projects. As a result, some adaptation actions outlined in the NAP were not completed.

We had a challenge in determining which capital projects listed in the Estimates of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis were related to climate change. The projects were not

categorized in the Government of St. Christopher and Nevis Estimates Volumes 1 and 2 for 2018-2024, to determine whether or not they were directly or indirectly related to climate change. As a result, projects were selected based on adaptation activities and actions outlined in the NAP. Other costs could possibly exist that are not capital in nature but are not considered here as there was no way to determine what those costs are and how they relate to climate change actions. The table below highlights the capital projects that were determined to be climate change - related.

Table 2: Climate Change related projects by Ministry

Ministry	Project
Min of Tourism	Coastal Erosion Mitigation Project South Frigate and Friars Bay
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Natural Disaster Mgmt - Hurricane Lenny Rehab Phase II
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Coastal Area Revetment Study (Irishtown, Fortlands, New Guinea)
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Construction of Reservoir Olivees/Beacon Heights/ Sandy Point
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Development of Water Master Plan
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Water Resource Management Project - Aquifer Protection
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Well drilling and Extension of Water Lines (Revenue)
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Phillips Slope Stabilization Project
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Slope Stabilization Project - Ottleys and Cunnings
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Solar Powered Desalination Plant
Min of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Dev & Transport	Desalination Plant
Min of Sustainable Development	Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Habitat Degradation
Min of Sustainable Development	Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem (IWECO) Management in the Caribbean SIDs Project - Sub-National Project
Min of Sustainable Development	Improving Environmental Management through Sustainable Land Management
Min of Sustainable Development	Climate Action Line of Credit (CLAC) Street Lighting Project
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources	Agriculture Support Project
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources	Greenhouse villages/ Storage Facility
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources	Water Security for Food Security Project

Source: Government of St. Christopher and Nevis Estimates Volumes 1 and 2 for 2018-2024

Audit Recommendation

The Department of Climate Action should develop a mechanism by which climate related expenditure and allocation of resources can be tracked.

Conclusion

St. Kitts and Nevis has acknowledged the importance of climate change adaptation actions and has implemented some climate change adaptation actions since the ratification of the Paris Agreement. However, the audit found that certain climate change adaptation actions need to be revisited, revised, updated and wholly implemented.

Appendices

1. Article 7, Part 9, a-e of the Paris Agreement. SDG 13.2
2. Paris Agreement Article 7, part 9c
3. SDG 1.5
4. SDG 17.14 OECD