
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SINT MAARTEN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



DRAFT
FEBRUARY 2, 2019



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Executive Summary is prepared to provide highlights of the Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) of Sint Maarten. The CEA has been prepared as an interactive e-book and referred to as the [Sint Maarten e-CEA](#) and is one of the World Bank Group's commitment to Sint Maarten's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. This CEA both portrays and integrates a collection of information and data to develop an approach for Environmental Priorities and Strategic Options to help inform the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. This CEA also provides the Government of Sint Maarten (GoSM) with critical information to (i) map stakeholders; (ii) identify key near term and longer term environmental and social issues to be considered in SXM's recovery plan; (iii) provide a framework that prioritizes these issues aligned with cost benefit outcomes across key sectors and (iv) provide options for potential sources of funding and implementation scenarios with a focus on GoSM improvements for environmental planning, regulation, and land and coastal/marine resources all within the context of climate change adaptation and risk management. The e-book includes a wide range of interactive elements (e.g. hyperlinks, photo galleries, video galleries, interactive graphs, interactive maps, interactive data/knowledge filters, etc.) drawing upon multiple publicly available online resources. This executive summary and the interactive e-book are organized around four main sections: (i) country baseline information, (ii) discussion of key themes and sectors contributing to environmental and natural resource stress, (iii) an understanding of the governance structure of the environment and environmental and social safeguards, and (iv) proposed actions to support sustainable and resilient development in Sint Maarten. In this document, hyperlinks are used to direct readers to the respective sections of the Sint Maarten e-CEA.

1. Country Context

Sint Maarten became a constituent country on October 10, 2010, after having been part of the Netherlands Antilles within the Kingdom of the Netherlands for over 50 years. Sint Maarten is situated in the northeastern Caribbean Sea, located at the northern end of the Leeward group of the Lesser Antilles. The northern land border is shared with Saint Martin, one of the French overseas collectivities in the Americas.

“Sint Maarten is a high-income small island, with an open, tourism-based economy with an official population of about 40,000, it is the most densely populated country in the Caribbean.”

Sint Maarten's economy is based on tourism. Restaurants, hotels, and other tourism-related sectors account for about 45 percent of GDP in Sint Maarten, with a population surpassing 40,000 and a per-capita GDP of a little over \$25,000. Tourism accounted for 73 percent of foreign exchange income in 2016, helped by large arrival numbers. The country receives an average of 1.7 million cruise passengers each year, and the airport is a hub for connecting flights across the Caribbean.

The center of the island (across which the political boundary runs) is composed of a mountainous spine rising to 425 m. The coastal areas are a mixture of flat lands and low hills punctuated by numerous ponds, primarily of high salinity. Coastal shorelines are characterized by sand or rock beaches with cliffs in between. Simpson Bay Lagoon, one of the largest lagoons in the Lesser Antilles, is a dominant feature of the island and a major yachting center. The Sint Maarten side of the lagoon is almost completely developed. The terrestrial vegetation is thorny woodland, dominated by scrub in the lowlands and low forest in the mountains with small patches of the original semi-evergreen forest on the highest ridges.

The cultural diversity of St. Maarten springs from its historical role as a crossroads for visitors to the New World. Dutch, French and British traders brought European traditions, while Afro-Caribbean people brought the language and culture of West Africa. Today the range of influences is reflected in the number of languages spoken. Dutch is the official language, but English is taught in schools and spoken everywhere, while other common languages are Spanish and Papiamentu, the dialect of the Netherlands Antilles. St. Maarten's premier cultural event is its annual Carnival, which includes parades, calypso competitions, reggae shows, and an endless array of stands serving traditional island food.

Tourism, the primary source of income on St. Maarten, often fuels or in some cases is the sole catalyst of many of environmental issues, when improperly managed. Over and improper development destroys mangroves and wetlands, yachts and divers damage coral reefs, and hotels and cruise ships often discharge raw sewage into ponds, lagoons and the sea. It is of vital importance to a tourism destination that nature and environment are healthy and well maintained. Tourists are drawn by the island's biodiversity and unique natural and cultural characteristics. The preservation of these aspects all depends on a clean environment. A polluted environment or lack of natural values, if not properly addressed, could in time lead to the demise of tourism. The implementation and enforcement of proper environmental legislation, planning and assessment procedures are important aspects of environmentally sustainable tourism development. In order to achieve a sustainable balance between environmental protection and tourism development Sint Maarten's Government Departments and other key institutions are working towards a cleaner environment for Sint Maarten.

The solid waste situation in Sint Maarten has been a burden for several decades. The government over the years has failed to give enough attention and means to deal with the waste problem. Only 0.5% of the government budget is generally allocated to manage the landfill which is not enough for a professional and sustainable waste disposal solution for the jurisdiction. Debris is managed by the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment, and Infrastructure (VROMI), which also manages solid waste collection and disposal services. VROMI collects the debris through a series of private sector contracts and is responsible for its processing and disposal on Pond Island near Phillipsburg. The Ministry of Public Health, Social Development, and Labor (VSA) also plays a role in debris management through the clearance of debris to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses.

Environmentalists in the Island have been raising concerns over the impacts of large-scale desalination on marine life. In particular, open intakes of seawater can cause fish and other larger organisms to become trapped. In addition, huge amounts of power are required to operate commercial-scale desalination – power that is often produced by importing expensive fossil fuels. This dependency on expensive fuel is – also of concern in terms of green-house gases emissions.

In addition to the above issues, many other baseline information about the island is provided in the [Section 1: The Island and the People - Baseline Information](#) of the Sint Maarten e-CEA. This section covers a wide range of topics such as; [history and cultural heritage](#), [demographics](#), [climate](#), [geology and geomorphology](#), [macro-economics](#), [leading health challenges](#), [habitats of Sint Martin](#), [critical habitats and conservation](#), and [infrastructure and population centers](#). Please click on the hyperlinks to read the respective sections of the Sint Maarten e-CEA.

1.a. Hurricane Irma Recovery Context

Hurricane Irma, a category 5 hurricane, hit the island in September 2017, leaving a trail of devastation throughout the country. Irma was shortly followed by hurricane Maria later that month further damaging the country's infrastructure.

The World Bank estimated damages and losses related to Hurricane Irma at US\$ 1.38 billion and US\$ 1.35 billion, respectively, affecting 90 percent of all infrastructure and large parts of the natural environment.

To support the SXM recovery efforts, the Government of Netherlands established a US\$ 553 million Single Donor Trust Fund (SDTF) managed by the World Bank. The SDTF financed selected activities in support of recovery, reconstruction, and resilience under the framework of the Sint Maarten's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), which outlines the country's recovery needs. The STDF is also mandated to provide short, medium, and long-term recovery projects as well as required capacity building activities.

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) identifies the recovery needs across the economy, the community and the Government infrastructure and service delivery of the country. The NRRP outlines the Government's vision, principles, and a proposed approach for rebuilding a "better and stronger Sint Maarten" following the "Build Back Better" principle. These World Bank supported activities also contribute to increased preparedness and institutional strengthening for climate variability and climate change by strengthening climate adaptation through risk management and reduction/preparedness.

One of the Bank's commitment to the NRRP is undertaking a Country Environmental and Social Analysis (CEA). This product is an Interactive e-Book which is referred to as the Sint Maarten e-CEA. This CEA both portrays and integrates a collection of information and data to develop an approach for Environmental Priorities and Strategic Options for the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. This CEA also provides the Government of Sint Maarten (GoSM) with critical information to (i) map stakeholders; (ii) identify key near term and longer term environmental and social issues to be considered in SXM's recovery plan; (iii) provide a framework that prioritizes these issues

aligned with cost benefit outcomes across key sectors and (iv) provide options for potential sources of funding and implementation scenarios with a focus on GoSM improvements for environmental planning, regulation, and land and coastal/marine resources all within the context of climate change adaptation and risk management.

Since the island of Saint Martin is relatively small, addressing environmental issues is based on a three-tiered approach, (i) focusing on the southern side (SXM); (ii) presenting island wide information on ecosystems and biodiversity, and (iii) considering the broader Anguilla Bank that includes the adjacent islands of Anguilla, St. Barts, Saba and the smaller nearby islets. The main focus of this document however, features the SXM side.

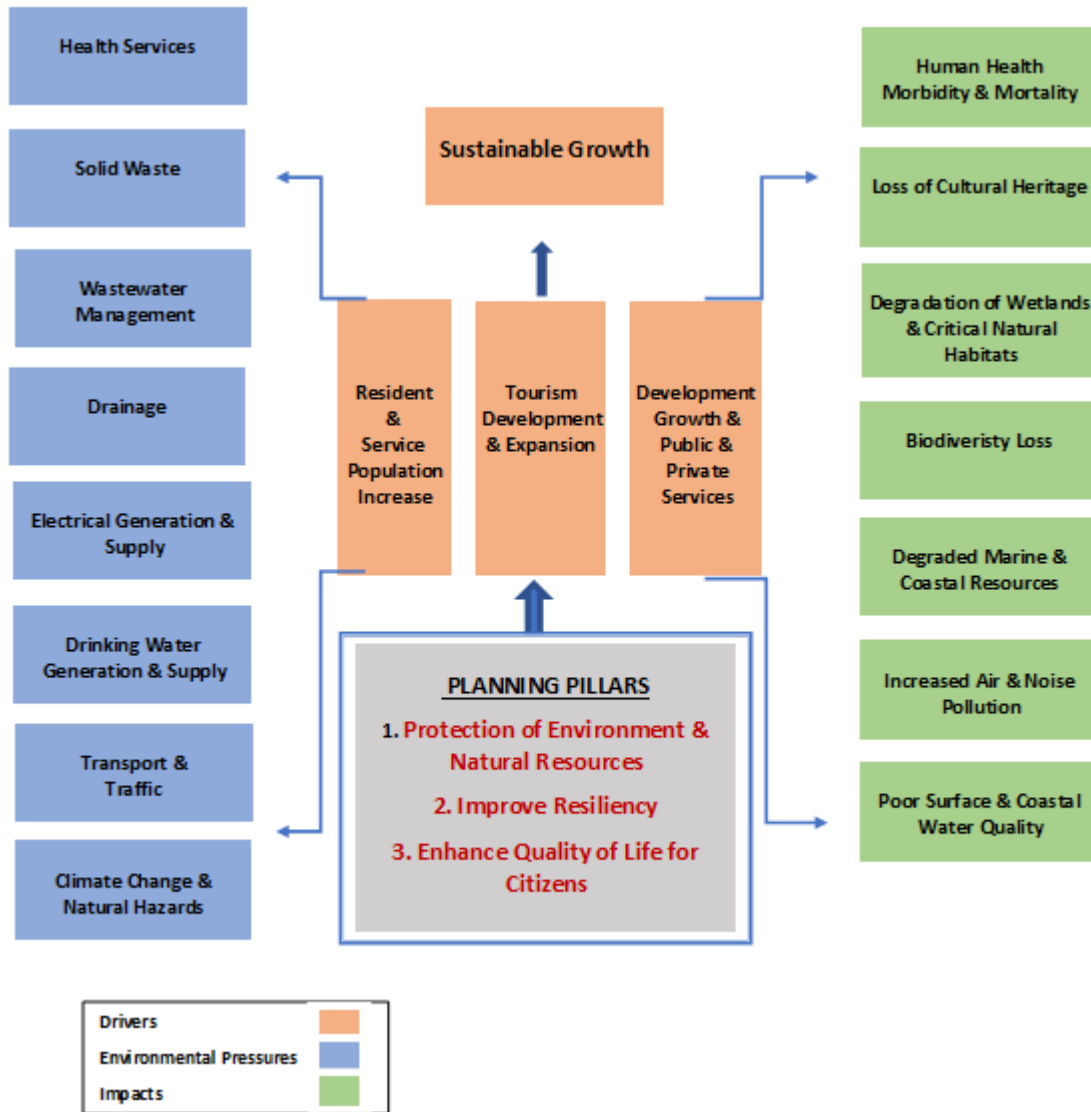
2. Key Themes and Sectors

Main environmental concerns for the island are based on activities related to 1) [health services](#), 2) [solid waste](#), 3) [wastewater management](#), 4) [flooding and drainage](#), 5) [electrical generation and supply](#), 6) [drinking water generation and supply](#), 7) [transport and traffic](#), and 8) [climate change and natural hazards](#). The e-Book includes separate sections (hyperlinks are provided) for these environmental pressures to discuss the current situations and how they create environmental impacts on the island. These activities create environmental pressures on drivers of the sustainable growth. The Sint Maarten e-CEA focuses on three drivers which are 1) resident and service population increase, 2) tourism development and expansion, and 3) development growth and public and private services. While Sint Maarten is growing based on these drivers, there are impacts on several sectors which are listed in Figure 1 which presents the key themes and sectors of the Sint Maarten e-CEA.

3. Governance

The overall management, administration and monitoring of environment and social issues of Sint Maarten is assigned to two main Ministries: Ministry of Public Health, Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure (VROMI,) and the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA). The VROMI is the most prominent institution having its hands in environmental matters related to policies, development planning, infrastructure management, and permitting and inspection and enforcement. The VROMI addresses the issues related to environment and nature conservation, protection of the tangible cultural heritage (buildings, monuments, and artifacts) and natural heritage (culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity), as well as controlling in order to safeguard an optimal living, working and recreational environment for the residents of St. Maarten.

Figure 1: Environmental Drivers, Pressures and Impacts



The Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA), is responsible for securing quality health care and developing legislation, guidelines, and policy on the island where the health care system is privately managed. There are many other key organizations from public, civil and private sectors, in addition to NGOs, research institutions, and donor institutions who contribute to promotion, advocacy and communication of environmental and social issues in Sint Maarten. These organizations and their key activities are summarized in the interactive **Table 3.3: Key Organizations for General Environmental and Social Management Provisions** at the end of the [Section 3: Governance](#). The reader can navigate Table 3.3, an interactive filter tool, by selecting the type of the organization the reader are interested in (See “Filter by Sector” below) and/or the relevant sector where this organization mainly focus its activities (See “Filter by Organization Type” below) in the Sint Maarten e-CEA.

Filter by Sector

- Show All
- Biodiversity
- Disaster Risk Management
- Economics
- Energy
- Environmental Health
- Land-use Planning
- Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage
- Solid Waste
- Telecommunication
- Tourism
- Water Wastewater

Filter by Organization Type

- Show All
- Civil Sector
- Donor Organizations and International Observer Groups
- NGOs
- Private sector
- Public Sector
- Research institutions

3.a. Sint Maarten Environmental and Social Assessment Management Regulations

Sint Maarten as a part of the Netherlands Antilles within the Kingdom of the Netherlands followed regulations and ordinances of the Kingdom. After dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles, the Island began converting those regulations to national Ordinances and Decrees, with the process still ongoing. The Sint Maarten e-CEA provides an overview for existing laws and regulations, as well as generally accepted good practice objectives for environmental and social assessment management in the **Table 3.2: Key Findings for Key Organizations for General Environmental and Social Management Provisions.**

This interactive table focused on nine general environmental and social management provisions that are important for sustainable growth based on good international practices. These provisions are; 1) environmental and social risks assessment, 2) protection of workers, 3) resource efficiency, pollution prevention and hazardous materials, 4) protection of communities, 5) land acquisition and displacement, 6) biodiversity conservation and protected area management, 7) protection of cultural heritage, 8) financial intermediaries and 9) stakeholder engagement and information disclosure. For each provisions, existing national laws and regulations are examined and gaps are identified. It is recognized that St. Maarten has a limited capacity in terms of staffing within the Ministries to undertake necessary measures for the gaps listed in table 3.3. While some provisions are easily handled by the St. Maarten Government, some areas may need additional attention to attain a reasonable set of standards approaching international good practice. A below table is extracted from the e-Book to summarize the gaps mentioned above.

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS	GAPS
1. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not an adequate legal and regulatory framework to guide environmental and social impact assessments. • There is a limited number of elements that meet environmental and social assessment good practice. • The VROMI Ministry Plan has an opportunity to improve environmental and social management via generic initiatives that require further details.
2. PROTECTION OF WORKERS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current labour legislation covers the issues of minimum wages, employee dismissal, prohibition of child labor, occupational injury, holidays and special leaves etc; however, there is no specific section on vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children of working age, migrant workers, contracted workers, and community workers.

3. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, POLLUTION PREVENTION AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and ordinances are in place to promote sustainable water and energy use. • There are gaps with regard to pollution emission and discharges standards. • The current Waste Ordinance does not address management, storage and transport of hazardous materials, chemicals and pesticides.
4. PROTECTION OF COMMUNITIES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no current regulations that require facilities to inform adjacent communities of potential risks and hazards including hazardous wastes, traffic safety, impacts of labor influx and issues associated with security personnel. • Emergency response services and plans are being improved and updated post Hurricane Irma. A number of the utility facilities have developed emergency response and evacuation procedures in coordination with affected communities.
5. LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPLACEMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, there are no requirements to address adverse impacts related to land acquisition, nor assess economic and social impacts. • There are no specific requirements that insure protection for all people affected including people who do not have full legal rights to land or assets.
6. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to protect, conserve, maintain and restore natural habitats and biodiversity have been proposed; however, it has not been legalized. • Although there are laws regarding development activities impacting critical habitats and biodiversity, degradation continues because of the lack of enforcement. • Incorporating ecosystem services into national capital is not required under current legal mandates.
7. PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive regulation addressing potential adverse impacts on cultural property requires additional formulation. • Legal protection relating to commercial use of cultural heritage remains ambiguous.
8. FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES (FI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional and global financial institutions adhere to various Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards • The extent of which island banks implement ESG and ESMS practices is currently unknown
9. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure are designed at the project level in related to project's stakeholders and their needs. • There is an opportunity to develop a national policy for unified stakeholder engagement and information disclosure procedures.

As discussed in the e-Book, the Government of Sint Maarten is engaged in a large-scale program to build back a more resilient island after the hurricanes Irma and Maria (2017). These efforts led by the National Recovery Program Bureau (NRPB) are requiring additional funding and support. Many of these initiatives are directly linked to the goals of sound environmental and social risk assessment and management. During implementation of these recovery projects, environmental, social and health issues will be raised, and they should be carefully assessed and managed. For this purpose, the NRPB will be in a critical role to monitor and supervise the adequate actions taken for general environmental and social management provisions highlighted in the interactive Table 3.2.

4. Opportunities for Sustainable and Resilient Development

In recent years, increasing attention has been paid to the impacts of tourism and related developments upon the environment throughout the Caribbean. There is an increasing acceptance of the concept of sustainable tourism development. While tourism is dependent upon the environment – scenic beauty, beautiful beaches, diving adventures, sailing, yachting and fishing excursions - a lack of knowledge, responsibility, and long-term planning

has often resulted in development which is neither environmentally nor culturally sympathetic to the tourist destination and associated communities.

Establishing a broad definition of environment is necessary in this context, encompassing an appreciation of the cumulative pressures from the key drivers of development in Sint Maarten and the resulting impacts on the environment, natural resources and cultural fabric. Improved understanding of the complex nature of tourism development, and of its linkages to the environment, is crucial if a sustainable relationship is to be attained and maintained.

It is necessary to appreciate that tourist destination areas evolve and change over time, both responding to, and being altered by, changes in tourism demand and global economic conditions. Coordination of policies, pro-active planning, acceptance of limitations on growth, education of all parties involved, and commitment to a long-term viewpoint, are prerequisites to the successful linking of tourism and sustainable development. If the trajectory of tourism growth continues in Sint Maarten and development charges ahead unchecked, the island is certain to be a prime example of “Tragedy of the Commons”.

The impact of Irma sidetracked much of the strategic sustainable development planning programs in Sint Maarten to focus on disaster response and recovery. But, the GOSM still has a vision for economic development, incorporating the principles of Building Back Better in its National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

4.a. Focal Areas for Action

Five Focal Areas are suggested for Sint Maarten based on the drivers and environmental challenges discussed in this CEA. **The first Focal Area** considers the need to improve governance for environment, natural resources and sustainability and well-being of its citizens. This Focal Area represents a collective opportunity around the policies and regulations that have been pending and or have been recognized to be important and need to be promulgated in the near future.

1

Focal Area 1 Strengthen Policies and Regulations for Environmental and Natural Resources Management



Numerous Ordinances and Decrees require revisiting to ensure there is proper legal protection of Sint Maarten's environment and cultural resources. Actions are needed to improve regulations and monitoring for pollution control. The importance of well-trained and sufficiently-resourced institutions for sound environmental management is also required. These actions will lead to reduced ENR impacts and better public services for citizens and tourists alike.

- Further develop and fill in the gaps in the regulatory framework
- Establish protected Areas regulations
- Create expanded legal protection for marine park programs around territory and island
- Establish vehicle emission standards and create vehicle emission testing program
- Establish noise level standards for day and evening hours
- Enforce hillside construction building
- Restrict building on highly erodible and unstable slopes
- Enforce sediment reduction and siltation controls for all new construction activity
- Conduct regular ambient air monitoring at specific areas around island
- And at point sources of emissions (e.g., power plants, desalination plant, WWTPs)
- Boost enforcement capacity
- Implement / improve monitoring systems
- Provide environmental information to the public
- Seek citizen engagement and establish feedback mechanism

2

Focal Area 2 Implement Recent Development Planning Proposals and Promote "Green, Clean and Resilient Sint Maarten" Incentive Activities

A number of Government and multiple stakeholder driven holistic proposals are floating around. These Plans all recognize the limits to growth for a sustainable Sint Maarten. The initiatives advocate protecting and managing the ENR of the island differently. Together with infrastructure development changes, citizen quality of life and tourist experiences will improve. Encourage and expand already in place clean up and greening initiatives.

- Continue progress in implementing NRRP
- Revisit concepts and proposals in 2016-2026 Spatial Development Strategy, Tourism Master Plan, Proposed Land parks Management Plan and VROMI Ministry Plan and prioritize and create unified vision
- Expand sponsorship of clean up campaigns with citizens, businesses and organizations
- Brand and intensify the *Green, Clean and Resilient Sint Maarten* as the foundation for a sustainable society and tourism market vision

The second Focal Area acknowledges that several past development planning initiatives have been promoted by various stakeholders. Most of these spatial, land use and development plans accept that there are limits to uncontrolled development on the island and sustainable development is widely recognized. Different themes and target sectors are analyzed many drawings a direct link to protection and management of the ENR of Sint Maarten.

The impacts of Climate Change continue to overload the drainage infrastructure of Sint Maarten from both fluvial events and sea level rise. Improvements such as expanding current canals and drains, funding proposed upgrades and proper maintenance. Efficient operation of the system requires both public institutional attention and citizen participation. Common practice to improve management of this infrastructure incorporates rainfall modelling and GIS mapping to identify locations

constantly flooding, areas that need mitigation to reduce erosion, sediment loading and flash flooding. These issues are addressed under the **Focal Area 3**.

Focal Area 4 addresses the challenges and opportunities across the utility sector. The provision of utility services in Sint Maarten from GEBE power and the desalinization plant are highly reliable. Treating wastewater remains a challenge and efforts at improving services with upgrading Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and expanding such service has been a high priority matter for years. Solid waste and the concerns around Health Care Waste (HCW) management continue to be problematic. Challenges include

better resilience needs to be linked to reducing energy costs, negative impacts to the ENR and human health.

3 Focal Area 3 Upgrade the Drainage and Stormwater Management System

To counter the forces of Climate Change conditions continued improvements in the drainage infrastructure of Sint Maarten are mandatory. Improving current canals and drains requires expansion of the system, funding proposed upgrades and proper maintenance. Efficient operation of the system requires both public institutional attention and citizen participation. Modernization requires incorporating rainfall modelling and GIS mapping for proper management and operation.

Improve System Operations

- Establish strategy for upgrading drainage system
- Create maintenance program
- Create and update community clean-up and drainage maintenance program
- Public awareness campaign on duty and citizenship to ensure drainage system cleaned and unclogged
- Expand sediment traps and collection/retention ponds
- Build in resilience adaptation measures for all drainage upgrades

Develop Operational Tracking System

- Update GIS based map for SXM drainage systems
- Create cover drainage projection (modelling) for each micro watershed and hillside
- Identify status of each key drainage component with map
- Develop hillside erosion and stability maps



4 Focal Area 4 Improve and Expand Utility Services



Improving all utility services is on-going. Attention to better resilience needs to be linked to reducing energy costs, negative impacts to the ENR and human health. Commitments and funding for pollution surveillance and enforcement is equally required. Monitoring standards based on good international practices are a realistic goal if matched with other Focus Area institutional, legal and stakeholder actions.

SOLID WASTE

- Reduce Waste Stream Amount
- Waste Stream Analysis & Solutions
- Monitor Environmental Conditions
- Landfill Management

WASTEWATER

- Improve System Operations
- Expand Services
- Waste Stream Analysis & Solutions
- Monitor Environmental Conditions

POWER

- Improve Operations
- Monitor Environmental Conditions

DRINKING WATER

- Improve Operations
- Reduce Demand
- Monitor Environmental Conditions



Commitments and funding for pollution surveillance and enforcement is equally required. Establishing monitoring standards and surveillance would provide essential information on air and water quality.

5 Focal Area 5 Promote Sustainable Tourism Across the Sector

Tourism drives the economy, and some believe the island is overly dependent on this sector. Several past tourism related planning initiatives (Tourism Development Plan, Land Parks Management Plan) recognize the importance of ENR for the tourism market and Sint Maarten branding. Private sector organizations such as the SHTA and CTO focus on ways to keep island destinations green, clean and resilient. Opportunities for partnering across the tourism sector and environmental organizations are regularly undertaken to protect the islands biodiversity and cultural heritage.

- Expand Nature Foundation restoration programs with SHTA and targeted hotel partnerships
- Expand Muller Bay restoration with Nature Foundation and others including Golf Course partnership
- Expand Birder tourism program across all 4 islands in partnership between NF, SHTA and bird watching tour groups
- Establish Conservation Education and voluntary contribution Fund with Florida Caribbean Cruise Ship Association, N.A. and European Air Carriers flying into St Martin land and bigger hotel operators on the island
- Conduct traffic study to determine options for rerouting tourist traffic
- Create incentives for clean tourist buses and transports (e.g., electric, CNG)

Tourism drives the economy, and some believe the island is overly dependent on this sector. **Focal Area 5** promotes sustainable tourism across the wider sector and stakeholders. The Focal Area features several past tourism related planning initiatives (Tourism Development Plan, Land Parks Management Plan) that recognize the importance of ENR for the tourism market and Sint Maarten branding. Private sector organizations such as the SHTA and CTO focus on ways to keep island destinations green, clean and resilient. Opportunities for partnering across the tourism sector and environmental organizations are regularly undertaken to protect the islands biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Climate Change emerges as a significant multiplier across all of the stressors and environmental impact pathways. The island knows all too well that the vulnerability to climate change will be a constant overarching threat and building resiliency is now more than ever a priority across society. This is reflected in the CEA repeatedly across all discussions and findings. The compilation of this CEA remains a preliminary process, pending stakeholder consultation and priority setting. The attenuation of findings and recommendations with a time scale for near, medium- and longer-term outcomes and goals must also still be clarified. Lastly, the coupling of actions with cost and benefits requires additional input from knowledgeable experts and key government officials. These factors need to be assimilated in a practical fashion so that the norm of “Business as Usual” does not continue to plague a sustainable future for Sint Maarten.