



# SAINT LUCIA



## KEY FACTS

**POPULATION (estimate 2015):**

183,600

**AREA (UN 2006):**

616 sq km

**CAPITAL:**

Castries

**CURRENCY:**

East Caribbean dollar (XC\$)

**HEAD OF STATE:**

HM Queen Elizabeth II

**GOVERNOR-GENERAL:**

Sir Neville Cenac

**HEAD OF GOVERNMENT:**

Prime Minister Allen Chastanet

**FORM OF GOVERNMENT:**

constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy

**PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:**

bicameral

**STATE STRUCTURE:**

unitary

**LANGUAGES:**

English (official), French Patois (recognised)

**NATIONAL ELECTIONS:**

last: 2016, turnout: 53.4%; next: 2021

**WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2016):**

MHA: 16.7%, senators: 27.3%

**LOCAL ELECTIONS:**

there is no elected local government

**WOMEN COUNCILLORS****(appointed 2016/17):**

45.3%

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2015/16:**

2.0%

## SUMMARY

Saint Lucia is a constitutional monarchy with two levels of government: national and local. The constitution makes reference to local government but contains no specific provisions. The main legislative text governing local government is the Constituency Councils Act 2012. Local elections were suspended in 1979, and since then the Minister of Local Government is responsible for the appointment of all councillors. There are ten administrative quarters within Saint Lucia, which contain 15 constituency councils. In 2016/17, 45.3% of appointed councillors were women and in 2015/16 local government expenditure was 2.0% of total government expenditure. The functions and responsibilities of local government have been discharged by centralised authorities since 1980, and many of the services provided are carried out in tandem with other governmental agencies.

### 1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Saint Lucia is a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.<sup>35.1a</sup> The head of state is HM Queen Elizabeth II who appoints and is represented by a governor-general, who must be a citizen of Saint Lucia. The bicameral parliament comprises an elected house of assembly and an appointed senate. The 17 members of the house of assembly are elected using the first-past-the-post system, while the 11 members of the senate are appointed by the governor-general; six on the advice of the prime minister, three on the advice of the leader of the opposition and two at the governor-general's discretion. Following the 2016 national election, 16.7% (3/18) of members of the house of assembly and 27.3% (3/11) of senators were women.<sup>35.1b</sup> Both houses sit for a concurrent term of up to five years. The prime minister appoints a cabinet from members of both houses.

### 2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 2.1 Constitutional provisions

The constitution makes reference to local government but contains no specific provisions or protection.<sup>35.1a</sup>

#### 2.2 Main legislative texts

The main legislation governing local government is the Constituency Councils Act 2012.<sup>35.1b</sup>

#### 2.3 Proposed legislative changes

Since the change in government in 2016, there are plans to review the draft Local Authorities Bill (2015) which was set to replace the current Constituency Councils Act 2012, to ensure that it is in keeping with the government's national plans and policies. The revised bill will address issues relating to the institutional, financial and legislative frameworks of local authorities. The aim is to encourage and promote a greater level of public participation and involvement in the affairs of the nation and its development.

### 2.4 National urban policy

A national housing and resettlement policy<sup>35.1c</sup> was adopted in 2008; while in 2016 the government began working on the new Urban Agenda adopted at the UN's Habitat III conference and has funded a project entitled the Urban Renewal Program within the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal. This project seeks to fulfil the obligations of the Government of Saint Lucia as a signatory to the UN-Habitat Agenda III.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 3.1 Local government within the state

There are ten administrative quarters within Saint Lucia, which are governed via 15 constituency councils.

#### 3.2 Ministerial oversight

Local elections have been suspended since 1979. Currently the minister in charge of local government is responsible for the appointment of all council members. Recommendations are made to the minister with appointments approved by cabinet. The minister assumes overall responsibility for policy formulation and direction. In each local authority, the mayor or chairperson functions as the administrative head with the assistance of two local government officers (north and south) and administrative clerks. The ministry provides support in four areas: advocacy, local-level innovation, capacity development and regulation.

#### 3.3 Council types

There are two types of council: village and city councils. However, under the Constituency Councils Act 2012, all councils are referred to as constituency councils. Each council has no less than nine and no more than 15 appointed members, including either a mayor or chairperson, and decisions are made by the council membership.



## 4. ELECTIONS

### 4.1 Recent local elections

### 4.2 Voting system

### 4.3 Elected representatives

There has been no elected local government in Saint Lucia since the last elections in 1979.

### 4.4 Women's representation

There has been a small increase in the number of appointed women councillors from 60/136 (44.1%) in 2015/16 to 62/137 (45.3%) in 2016/17. The number of women mayors has stayed the same at two out of four (50%); however, there has been a decrease in the number in female chairpersons from 5/11 (45.5%) in 2015/16 to 4/11 (36.4%) in 2016/17 – see Table 35.1b.

## 5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### 5.1 Legal requirement

The Constituency Councils Act 2012 makes provision for community involvement in local authority decision-making.

### 5.2 ICT use in citizen engagement

No information available

## 6. ORGANISED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There is no organised local government in Saint Lucia.

## 7. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Local authorities have been encouraged to participate in the development process through links with civil society organisations. In the absence of a local government association, the Ministry of Social Transformation,

**Table 35.1a Distribution of councils and population**

Quarter (unitary)	Upper-tier quarter	Second-tier authority	Population (2010 Census)	Population (2015 est.)	% rural
	Castries	Castries City	40,666	na	na
Castries South-East			14,516	na	na
Anse la Raye/Canaries	-	-	11,858	na	na
Bobonneau	-	-	12,723	na	na
Soufrière/Fond St Jacques	-	-	8,472	na	na
Choiseul/Saltibus	-	-	6,098	na	na
Laborie	-	-	6,701	na	na
Vieux Fort North	-	-	6,982	na	na
Vieux Fort South	-	-	7,326	na	na
Micoud North	-	-	8,691	na	na
Micoud South	-	-	6,982	na	na
Dennerly North	-	-	7,697	na	na
Dennerly South	-	-	4,920	na	na
Gros-Islet	-	-	22,493	na	na
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>165,595</b>	<b>183,600</b>	<b>na</b>

Source: Department for Local Government correspondence with CLGF

Local Government and Community Empowerment ensures that good relations are maintained between the various governmental agencies and civil society organisations.

community initiatives. Finance officers are also appointed to carry out reviews and to ensure adherence to financial regulations.

## 8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

National government provides institutional support and monitoring to local government authorities through local government officers. These officers interact with and assist the respective authorities in their various

## 9. FINANCE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for collecting local taxes, while the local councils collect user fees. The main sources of revenue are: trade, hawkers' and vendors' licences; property rental fees; market and cemetery dues; and dividends. Castries Constituency Council revenue earned for the financial year 2015/16 totalled approximately XC\$12.9m, made up as follows: XC\$5.8m locally raised revenue; XC\$4.3m government subvention; and XC\$2.2m dividend income. Total expenditure for the year was approximately XC\$11.1m, of which XC\$0.308m was capital expenditure

### 9.1 Local government expenditure

Total local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure 2015/16 was 2%, down from 2.5% in 2014/15.

### 9.2 Locally raised revenue

The Constituency Councils Act 2012 makes provision for local government to raise revenue but no clear guidelines are established. The draft Local Authorities Bill (2015) is intended to provide the legislative framework to facilitate this change.

**Table 35.1b Women councillors and mayors/chairpersons 2014-17**

Election	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Councillors						
<b>Female councillors</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>45.3</b>
Male councillors	76	55.5	76	55.9	75	54.7
<b>Total councillors</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Mayors						
<b>Female mayors</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50.0</b>
Male mayors	na	na	2	50.0	2	50.0
<b>Total mayors</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Chairpersons						
<b>Female chairpersons</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36.4</b>
Male chairpersons	na	na	6	54.5	7	63.3
<b>Total chairpersons</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Department for Local Government correspondence with CLGF

**Table 35.2a. Income and expenditure for local government 2015/16 (in XC\$m)**

Income	2015/16 XC\$(m)	Expenditure	2015/16 XC\$(m)
<b>Centre-local transfers</b>	17	<b>Administration</b>	na
Castries Constituency Council	4	Staff	na
Other constituency councils	13	Other administrative costs	na
<b>Locally raised revenue</b>	.3	<b>Services</b>	na
Property taxes	na	Operations and maintenance	na
Licences and fees	na	Other	na
Other income	na		
<b>TOTAL income</b>	<b>17.600</b>	<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>	<b>17.133</b>

Source: Department for Local Government correspondence with CLGF

### 9.3 Transfers

In 2015/16 the national government allocated XCD\$13,600,351 for the operations and management of the other 14 constituency councils. The Finance Administration Act 2005 governs the transfer payments made from national government to local councils. Local government authorities receive an allocation from national government based on multiple considerations, including the projected revenue flows and budgetary priorities of national government. Castries Constituency Council receives an annual subvention of XCD\$4m in addition to its own locally raised revenue. Local councils also collect revenue on behalf of the government. The total revenue collected for 2015/2016 was XC\$256,296. Local governments are not permitted to set deficit budgets.

### 9.4 Loans

No information available.

### 9.5 Local authority staff

Local authority staff are recruited both centrally (higher grades) and locally. There are administrative clerks assigned to all councils except Castries Constituency Council, which has a chief executive officer (CEO) and a financial controller. The power to discipline remains with the body responsible for recruitment.

## 10. DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICE DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY

### 10.1 Overview of local government service delivery responsibility

The functions and responsibilities of local government have been transferred to centralised authorities. Many of the services provided are carried out in tandem with other government agencies. To some extent services include: maintenance of roads, pavements, footpaths and streets; cleaning and de-silting of drains, streets, pavements and rivers; maintenance of squares, parks and open spaces; landscaping and beautification programmes; maintenance of daycare services; maintenance of public buildings; environmental monitoring and development control; supervision of solid waste collection; assistance with planning and organising national activities; management of cemeteries, playing fields and public facilities; disaster preparedness; and revenue collection.

### 10.2 ICT use in service delivery

National government has provided a framework to improve service delivery – such as intranets – but local governments have yet to develop their own individual strategies within that framework to improve local service delivery.

## 10.3 Local government's role in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Local government provides a forum to lobby for changes in policy and to request supportive actions to promote development. Local councils also work with non-governmental bodies to enhance economic and social wellbeing in their communities through inclusion and access to opportunity. Through the CARILED project local government authorities have been empowered to exercise their powers and functions fully in order to maximise economic growth and social development of their communities.

## REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES

- 35.1a National government [www.stlucia.gov.lc](http://www.stlucia.gov.lc)
- 35.1b Women in national parliaments. Inter-Parliamentary Union <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>
- 35.2a Constitution of Saint Lucia [www.govt.lc/constitution](http://www.govt.lc/constitution)
- 35.2b Constituency Councils Act 2012 [http://slugovprintery.com/template/files/document\\_for\\_sale/laws/3245/Act%201%20of%202012.pdf](http://slugovprintery.com/template/files/document_for_sale/laws/3245/Act%201%20of%202012.pdf)
- 35.2c National Housing and Resettlement policy <http://archive.stlucia.gov.lc/docs/NHRPolicy.pdf>
- 35.3a 2010 population census [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010\\_PHC/Saint\\_Lucia/SL\\_Pre2010census\\_report.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/2010_PHC/Saint_Lucia/SL_Pre2010census_report.pdf)
- 35.3b Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government and Community Empowerment <http://socialtransformation.govt.lc>
- 35.4 Elections Commission
- 35.5 No reference for this section
- 35.6 No reference for this section
- 35.7 No reference for this section
- 35.8 No reference for this section
- 35.9 Based on the total budget figure XCD\$-1,050,069,200 and the total expenditure of XCD\$ 17,133,410 in the -2015/16 national budget [www.govt.lc/www/text/-2015/16-BUDGET-STATEMENT.pdf](http://www.govt.lc/www/text/-2015/16-BUDGET-STATEMENT.pdf)
- 35.10 No reference for this section
- 35.11a UN statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 35.11b Commonwealth Local Government knowledge hub [www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub](http://www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub)
- 35.11c UNDP HDR Saint Lucia country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LCA>

**Table 35.2b Local government expenditure as a percentage of total government expenditure 2015–2016**

	2015-16
Total government expenditure	1,050,069.2
Total local government expenditure	17,133.0
<b>Local govt expenditure as a % of total govt expenditure</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Source: Figure 35.2a and the national budget statement 2015-16<sup>35.9</sup>



### Annex 35.a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Saint Lucia

Services	Delivering authority				Remarks
	National government	Quarter	Castries Quarter (upper tier)	Castries City (lower tier)	
<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Police	■				
Fire protection	■				
Civil protection	■				
Criminal justice	■				
Civil status register	■				
Statistical office	■				
Electoral register	■				
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)		■		■	
Primary	■				
Secondary	■				
Vocational and technical	■				
Higher education	■				
Adult education					
<b>SOCIAL WELFARE</b>					
Family welfare services	■				
Welfare homes	■				
Social security	■				
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>					
Primary care	■	■	■	■	
Hospitals	■				
Health protection	■				
<b>HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING</b>					
Housing	■				
Town planning	■				
Regional planning	■				
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Roads		■	■		
Transport	■				
Urban roads		■	■	■	
Urban rail					
Ports	■				
Airports	■				
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION</b>					
Water and sanitation	■	■	■	■	
Refuse collection and disposal	■	■	■	■	
Cemeteries and crematoria		■		■	
Slaughterhouses					
Environmental protection		■	■		
Consumer protection	■				
<b>CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS</b>					
Theatres and concerts					
Museums and libraries	■				
Parks and open spaces		■	■	■	
Sports and leisure facilities	■				
Religious facilities					
<b>UTILITIES</b>					
Gas services					
District heating					
Water supply	■	■	■	■	
Electricity	■				
<b>ECONOMIC</b>					
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■				
Local economic development/promotion		■	■	■	
Trade and industry	■				
Tourism	■	■	■	■	

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service