

Fish Fund Project Grant Application Form – Category 1

Project Information	
1. Project Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs Assessment and Capacity-Building Support for the Implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in Saint Lucia
2. Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Saint Lucia seeks funding under the WTO Fisheries Funding Mechanism (Category I) to conduct a national needs assessment for implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS).</i> <i>The project will review existing fisheries subsidies and assess their alignment with the AFS disciplines on IUU fishing, overfished stocks, and overcapacity/overfishing. It will engage government agencies, fisherfolk, and other stakeholders to identify legal, policy, and institutional gaps, and develop a roadmap for compliance and future capacity-building initiatives. The total estimated budget is US\$68,415 (US\$43,710 from the Fish Fund and US\$24,705 in-kind from the Government of Saint Lucia, with a project duration of three (3) – four (4) months.</i>
3. Objectives	<p><i>The main objectives of this project are to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Conduct a national needs assessment of Saint Lucia's capacity to implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.</i> <i>Review and map existing fisheries-related subsidies and policy frameworks against the disciplines of the AFS.</i> <i>Assess institutional, legislative, monitoring, and enforcement capacity.</i> <i>Facilitate stakeholder consultations with government agencies, fisherfolk organizations, and private sector actors to identify implementation challenges and opportunities.</i> <i>Develop a roadmap for medium- to long-term reforms, including proposals for follow-up projects that may require larger funding under Category II.</i>
4. Context	<p><i>Saint Lucia, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), is heavily reliant on the fisheries sector for food security, livelihoods, and rural development. Recognizing the importance of sustainable fisheries management and in line with its multilateral obligations, Saint Lucia ratified the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) following Cabinet Conclusion No. 695 of 2023.</i></p> <p><i>The AFS disciplines prohibit certain forms of subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the exploitation of overfished stocks, and subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. Effective implementation requires WTO Members to review their existing subsidy programmes, strengthen institutional and legal frameworks, and build capacity to monitor, report, and comply with these obligations.</i></p>

	<p><i>In the case of Saint Lucia, while subsidies in the fisheries sector are limited, the Government provides targeted support such as fuel rebates, ice production facilities, and safety equipment for fishers. These measures are designed to support livelihoods and enhance safety but must now be assessed against the AFS disciplines to ensure full compliance. Furthermore, as a SIDS with limited technical and institutional capacity, Saint Lucia requires external support to undertake a comprehensive needs assessment, engage stakeholders, and build the foundation for longer-term reforms.</i></p> <p><i>This project therefore seeks to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Map and review existing subsidies and policy measures in Saint Lucia against the disciplines of the AFS.</i> • <i>Assess institutional and legal readiness for compliance with the Agreement.</i> • <i>Engage stakeholders — including fisherfolk, cooperatives, and government agencies — to raise awareness and gather input on implementation challenges.</i> • <i>Develop a roadmap for medium- to long-term actions, including proposals for follow-up Category II funding.</i> • <i>Through these activities, the project will directly support Saint Lucia's obligations under the AFS by ensuring transparency in its subsidies regime, identifying compliance gaps, and strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable implementation.</i>
5. Expected Results	<p><i>Expected Results and Outputs</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comprehensive Needs Assessment Report documenting:</i> • <i>An inventory of existing fisheries subsidies and support programmes in Saint Lucia;</i> • <i>Analysis of their alignment with the three AFS disciplines (IUU fishing, overfished stocks, overcapacity/overfishing);</i> • <i>Identification of institutional, legislative, and technical gaps for compliance.</i> • <i>Subsidy Mapping Database/Matrix providing a clear reference tool for government officials and WTO reporting obligations.</i> • <i>Stakeholder Consultation Workshops (minimum two) engaging fisherfolk organizations, cooperatives, government agencies, and civil society, with records of inputs and recommendations.</i> • <i>Capacity-Building Sessions for Government Officials (including Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, Attorney General's Chambers), focusing on subsidy reporting requirements, monitoring and surveillance, and legislative alignment with AFS.</i> • <i>Roadmap for AFS Implementation outlining:</i> • <i>Short-term steps for compliance;</i> • <i>Medium-term reforms (legislative, policy, and institutional adjustments);</i> • <i>Long-term capacity-building actions and potential Category II funding proposals.</i> <p><i>Expected Results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased transparency and compliance readiness – Saint Lucia will have a clear understanding of its current subsidy programmes, their compliance status with the AFS, and the reporting obligations required under the Agreement.</i> • <i>Strengthened capacity of government institutions – Officials will acquire knowledge and skills to monitor, report, and enforce AFS disciplines, reducing reliance on external technical support in the future.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stakeholder awareness and buy-in – Fisherfolk, cooperatives, and other stakeholders will be informed of the new disciplines, ensuring alignment of national fisheries practices with WTO obligations and minimizing the risk of unintended non-compliance.</i> • <i>Evidence-based planning for future reforms – The roadmap will serve as a foundation for developing a Category II project proposal to the WTO Fish Fund, addressing deeper reforms such as legislative amendments, monitoring and enforcement systems, and long-term institutional strengthening.</i> • <i>Contribution to sustainable fisheries management – By ensuring compliance with the AFS, Saint Lucia will reinforce its commitment to combating IUU fishing, protecting overfished stocks, and avoiding overcapacity, thereby safeguarding the sustainability of its fisheries sector and the livelihoods dependent on it.</i>
Implementing entities	
6. Implementing Entity	<p><i>Lead Agency: Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development</i></p> <p><i>Consultant(s): An international fisheries policy/legal expert with knowledge of WTO rules, supported by a local counterpart consultant.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholders: Fisheries cooperatives, fisherfolk organizations, Ministry of Finance, Attorney General's Chambers, processors, importers, exporters, Ministry of Commerce, Customs and Excise, Chamber of Commerce and relevant civil society actors.</i></p>
7. Contact Information	<p><i>Mr. Ricky Jn Baptiste</i> <i>Director of International Trade</i> <i>Email : ricky.jnbaptiste@govt.lc</i> <i>Telephone : (758) 468 4586</i> <i>Mobile : (758) 488 2122</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Sarita Williams-Peter</i> <i>Chief Fisheries Officer</i> <i>Email : sarita.peter@govt.lc</i> <i>Telephone: (758) 468-4135</i> <i>Mobile : (758) 725-1667</i></p>
8. Partnerships	<p><i>The successful implementation of this project will require collaboration among national, regional, and international partners. The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs will lead the project and provide support in aligning the project with Saint Lucia's international trade and treaty obligations, while the Department of Fisheries will coordinate the stakeholder engagement.</i></p> <p><i>Collaboration will also be sought with regional organizations such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, both of which have ongoing programmes on fisheries governance and subsidy reform that complement this initiative. These institutions will provide technical guidance, share best practices from other Caribbean states, and facilitate regional coordination.</i></p>

	<p><i>At the international level, partnerships with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will be explored to ensure coherence with global frameworks, access to technical expertise, and capacity-building tools such as the IISD "Self-Assessment Tool."</i></p> <p><i>These partnerships will contribute to achieving the project objectives by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Providing specialized expertise in fisheries management, subsidy assessment, and compliance reporting;</i> <i>• Strengthening regional knowledge exchange and capacity-building;</i> <i>• Ensuring national implementation efforts are consistent with international obligations; and</i> <i>• Laying the groundwork for future proposals under Category II of the WTO Fish Fund.</i>
Budget Information	
9. Total Amount of the Project Grant	<i>US\$68,415 (US\$43,710 from the Fish Fund and US\$24,705 in-kind from the Government of Saint Lucia (See attached excel spreadsheet for more details)</i>
Key Elements of Implementation	
10. Monitoring & Evaluation	<p>The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs will serve as the lead agency for project implementation and overall monitoring and evaluation, ensuring alignment with Saint Lucia's international obligations and reporting requirements under the WTO Fish Fund.</p> <p>The Department of Fisheries will provide technical support, particularly in relation to stakeholder engagement, data collection, and the validation of fisheries-related outputs.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for this project is designed to align with the Fish Fund's Logical Framework, while recognizing that a Category 1 needs assessment project is an intermediate step towards implementation of the AFS with outputs but limited immediate impact on outcomes. The approach to monitoring and evaluation therefore focuses on timeliness and quality of the required outputs, while maintaining a simple and transparent approach to ensure accountability by all participants.</p> <p>Consistent with the log frame, the Monitoring and Evaluation framework will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall evaluation: The Ministry will submit an End-of-Project (EOP) report within 1 month of completion. • Clear terms of reference (TOR) for retained consultants and specific timeframes for delivery against the TOR. Indicators: each required element completed on time and to required quality level. Indicators: (i) completion date; (ii) on-time delivery (Y/N; reasons for delay if any); (iii) quality met per TOR (satisfactory/unsatisfactory). • Project outputs: Improved understanding of AFS implementation gaps and next steps. Indicators: (i) clarity on gaps; (ii) clarity on sequencing/next steps; (iii) planned financing route(s): self-financing, Category 2, co-funding, or external; (iv) gap typology recorded (e.g., legislative, skills, data/systems, infrastructure, data collection, political). <p>The Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements, in accordance with the Fish Fund's management and learning purpose, will underline the lessons learnt from each step of the program and the Ministry's future plan. In line with the Fish Fund's Log Frame, the EOP report will also capture stakeholder feedback and lessons learned, including gender and small-scale fisheries participation (where relevant)."</p>

11. Communication & Outreach	<p><i>The Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of External Affairs with technical support from the Department of Fisheries, will ensure clear and transparent communication about the project and the support provided by the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Fish Fund. Official acknowledgment of the Fund's support will be made in all public documents, presentations, and communication materials related to the project.</i></p> <p><i>Project results, including the needs assessment report and roadmap for implementation, will be disseminated through multiple channels:</i></p> <p><i>National level: presentations to Cabinet and relevant ministries; stakeholder validation workshops; and direct engagement with fisherfolk organizations, cooperatives, and private sector actors.</i></p> <p><i>Regional/international level: sharing findings through CARICOM fisheries networks and regional bodies, as well as with WTO Secretariat as part of transparency and reporting commitments.</i></p> <p><i>Public communication and visibility: publication of a summary report on the Government of Saint Lucia and Department of Fisheries websites, press releases to local media, and social media updates. All project workshops, reports, and outreach materials will carry appropriate acknowledgment and visibility (e.g., WTO/Fish Fund logo placement on reports, banners, and presentations) to highlight the role of the Fund in supporting the initiative.</i></p> <p><i>This approach will ensure that both the national community and regional/international partners are fully informed of project achievements, while also demonstrating the contribution of the Fish Fund to advancing Saint Lucia's compliance with the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies..</i></p>