



# **National Development Planning Framework of St. Kitts and Nevis 2023-2037**

**Shaping The Next 15 Years**  
Abridged Version





## Minister's Message

St. Kitts and Nevis is at the beginning of yet another momentous change that will lay the foundation for its economic, social, and environmental development throughout this century and beyond. We have successfully adapted our economy from the closure of the sugar industry, and now we are making a critical step forward in charting a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for our nation. In a time of global uncertainty and rapid transformation, we must strengthen our capacity to plan deliberately, align national priorities, and mobilize resources effectively to benefit all our citizens. The National Development Planning Framework (NDPF) 2023-2037, delineates our endeavour to establish this future and guide us through the transformation over the forthcoming decade.

The NDPF recognizes that we have made significant strides in our advancement by reshaping the antiquated plantation-based economy and diversifying beyond sugar but goes beyond to highlight the importance of including climate resilience in our planning framework and emphasizes the need for broad-based participation, evidence-informed planning, and inter-sectoral collaboration. It is designed to be adaptable, supporting long term visioning while remaining responsive to one of our greatest challenges, climate change. This is why the framework highlights - Climate Resilience as the anchor to all development. The framework also addresses key components to development such as Green Energy Transformation, Economic Development, Inclusivity and Social Protection, Human Capital Development, Institutional Strengthening and Partnership, all contributing to the Sustainable Island State Agenda.

We are privileged that the National Development Policy Framework (NDPF), similar to the preceding National Adaptation Strategy, can leverage the increasing opportunities present today to facilitate its advancement. The prevailing demand for climate resilience and accountability has fostered additional financing avenues. Nevertheless, substantial obstacles continue to obstruct access to this critical funding. In spite of this challenge, we remain resolute in our commitment to securing both technical and financial resources from international partners to support our future expansion. Furthermore, we are more dedicated than ever to enhancing the education of our populace, enabling them to adapt and capitalize on our developmental trajectory by effectively utilizing their creative talents to address the developmental challenges posed by forthcoming climate and technological advancements. This framework transcends mere technical documentation—it epitomizes our collective aspiration to translate national ambitions into actionable and quantifiable results. It offers the foundation through which we will coordinate development policies, direct public investment, and guarantee that the government's objectives align with the needs and aspirations of the populace.

St. Kitts and Nevis has encountered and overcome significant challenges due to the resilience and resourcefulness of our populace. As we implement the National Development Policy Framework (NDPF), may this framework serve as both a guiding principle and a call to action for policymakers, institutions, the private sector, civil society, and all citizens. The future we aspire to is one in which every individual can flourish, and where national development is assessed not solely by economic growth, but by the wellbeing of our people and the sustainability of our environment. Let us adopt this tool with intention, unity, and determination as we strive to construct a better tomorrow for future generations.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas

Senior Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Investment et al  
St. Kitts and Nevis



# The Table of Content

<p><b>01</b> Minister's Message</p> <p><b>02</b> Table Content</p> <p><b>03</b> Six Pillars Highlights</p> <p><b>04</b> Executive Summary</p> <p><b>05</b> Background &amp; Context</p> <p><b>06</b> Vision &amp; Mission</p> <p><b>07</b> Core Values</p> <p><b>08</b> St. Kitts &amp; Nevis Economy SWOT Matrix</p> <p><b>09</b> Climate Action</p> <p><b>10</b> Development Focus 1</p> <p><b>11</b> Summary</p> <p><b>12</b> Climate Mitigation and Adoption</p> <p><b>13</b> Preserving Biodiversity</p>	<p><b>14</b> Biodiversity Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>15</b> Life below Water</p> <p><b>16</b> Marine Ecology Management</p> <p><b>17</b> Marine Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>18</b> Water Management</p> <p><b>19</b> Life on Land</p> <p><b>20</b> Land Management</p> <p><b>21</b> Disaster Management</p> <p><b>22</b> Affordable and Clean Energy</p> <p><b>23</b> Development Focus 2</p> <p><b>24</b> Green Energy</p> <p><b>25</b> Decent Work and Economic Growth</p> <p><b>26</b> Development Focus 3</p>	<p><b>27</b> Summary</p> <p><b>28</b> Priority One</p> <p><b>29</b> The Macro Economy</p> <p><b>30</b> Priority Two (Focus Tourism)</p> <p><b>31</b> Refocusing the Tourism Sector</p> <p><b>32</b> Tourism Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>33</b> Priority Three (Economic Diversification)</p> <p><b>34</b> Summary</p> <p><b>35</b> Transforming the Manufacturing Sector</p> <p><b>36</b> Transforming the Agriculture Sector</p> <p><b>37</b> Crop Sub-Sector</p> <p><b>38</b> Livestock Sub-Sector</p> <p><b>39</b> Fisheries Sub-Sector</p>
<p><b>40</b> Strategies To Achieve Agriculture Transformation</p> <p><b>41</b> Financial Services Sector Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>42</b> Priority Four (Focus Tourism)</p> <p><b>43</b> Summary</p> <p><b>44</b> The Digital Economy</p> <p><b>45</b> The Blue Economy</p> <p><b>46</b> The Creative Economy</p> <p><b>47</b> Creative Economy Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>48</b> Development Focus 4</p> <p><b>49</b> Summary</p> <p><b>50</b> Good Health &amp; well-being SDG 3</p> <p><b>51</b> Sports</p> <p><b>52</b> Health - Investing in Universal Health Care</p>	<p><b>53</b> Health Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>54</b> Quality Education SDG 4</p> <p><b>55</b> Education- Investing in People</p> <p><b>56</b> Education Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>57</b> Reduced Inequality SDG 10</p> <p><b>58</b> Development Focus 5</p> <p><b>59</b> Summary</p> <p><b>60</b> Summary con't.</p> <p><b>61</b> Social Protection</p> <p><b>62</b> Social Protection Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>63</b> Youth - Securing our Future</p> <p><b>64</b> Youth Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>65</b> Gender Equality SDG 5</p>	<p><b>66</b> Maintaining Gender Equality</p> <p><b>67</b> Gender Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>68</b> Peace, Justice &amp; Strong Institution SDG 16</p> <p><b>69</b> Human &amp; National Security</p> <p><b>70</b> Human Security Strategic Priorities</p> <p><b>71</b> Partnership for the Goals SDG 17</p> <p><b>72</b> Development Focus 6</p> <p><b>73</b> Summary</p> <p><b>74</b> Public Administration</p> <p><b>75</b> Private Sector</p>



# The Six Pillars



**09** Development Focus 1  
Climate Resilience

**22** Development Focus 2  
Green Energy Transformation

**25** Development Focus 3  
Economic Development

**47** Development Focus 4  
Developing our Human Capital

**57** Development Focus 5  
Inclusivity and Social Protection

**71** Development Focus 6  
Institutional Strengthening  
and Partnership





## *Executive Summary*

People are the wealth of a nation. The fundamental objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy a long, healthy creative life anchored in peace and security, thriving in strong communities and ensured in environmental sustainability. This is particularly true for a small open two-island country like St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis with a landmass of 270 square kilometers (104 square miles) and with a population of a little more than 53,000. St. Kitts and Nevis is located in the Leeward Islands group of the Lesser Antillean segment of the Caribbean Archipelago, which is known as the Eastern Caribbean. It is a Federation consisting of two islands – St. Kitts and Nevis, which are volcanic in origin with central mountain ranges that dominate the landscape and radiate down to the coasts. St. Kitts is 23 miles (37 km) long and 5 miles (8 km) wide, and has an area of (68 square miles) 176 square kilometers. Nevis is 7.64 miles (12.3km) long and 5.96 miles (9.6km) wide and has an area of 36 square miles (93 sqkm), lies 2 miles (3 km) southeast of St Kitts across a channel known as The Narrows.

In 2020, the population of the country was a little more than 53,000. The official language is English. The gender distribution in St. Kitts and Nevis is almost equal, 51 percent women and 49 percent men. The population of St. Kitts and Nevis is approximately 95 percent black, with 5 percent mixed, white, and Indo-Pakistani. More than two-thirds of the population live in rural areas. The main religious denominations are Anglican and Methodist, with a smaller number of Roman Catholics. Both Saint Kitts and Nevis have traditionally had high levels of emigration, offsetting natural increases and enabling the islands to maintain a fairly stable population. Historically, St Kitts and Nevis have had a tradition of monoculture and primary production. However, over the years, diseconomies of scale in production, coupled with the openness of the economy have resulted in economic vulnerability and a lack of sustained economic growth. By 2005, St. Kitts and Nevis closed the sugar industry due to major changes in the European Union Sugar Protocols. This changed the development landscape of St. Kitts and Nevis and led to a major economic strategy reassessment. Over the years following the closure of the industry, St. Kitts and Nevis made significant development strides. Its GDP per capita was recorded at US\$18,231 in 2021 which is among the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, in 2021, St. Kitts and Nevis was in the high human development category with a Human Development Index (HDI) rank of 51 among 189 countries. In terms of the Human Capital Index (HCI), a child born in St. Kitts and Nevis in 2020 will be 59 percent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. In 2021 the Federation recorded a decline in annual growth of 3 percent mainly based on the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic however it rebounded 14 percent in 2022.





## *Background & Context*

The primary source of revenue for St. Kitts and Nevis is tourism. However, sectors such as transport, storage and communication, construction, wholesale and retail, and financial services have also significantly contributed to the country's sustained growth over the years. Another significant factor driving growth in the Federation is the Citizenship By Investment (CBI) programme, which has generated considerable revenue for development. St. Kitts and Nevis faces climate change as both an environmental and developmental challenge.

The impact of climate change is evident through rising sea levels, higher temperatures, changes in weather patterns, and drought. These factors have significant effects on the socio-economic development of St. Kitts and Nevis, particularly on sectors such as agriculture, energy, water, and tourism.

To address these challenges, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has put forth various initiatives to adapt and to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. In line with this, the country has embarked on formulating a National Development Planning Framework (NDPF) 2023-2037 that prioritizes environmental sustainability and climate resilience, aiming to position St. Kitts and Nevis as a sustainable island developing state.







## *Vision*

St. Kitts and Nevis envisions developing itself as a sustainable island developing state. The vision is to seize the opportunities that are emerging to push forward in creating a thriving, resilient, and sustainable economy. A core element of this vision is to create a society that is equitable, information driven, and poised to capture the opportunities while overcoming the challenges of the 21st century.



## *Mission*

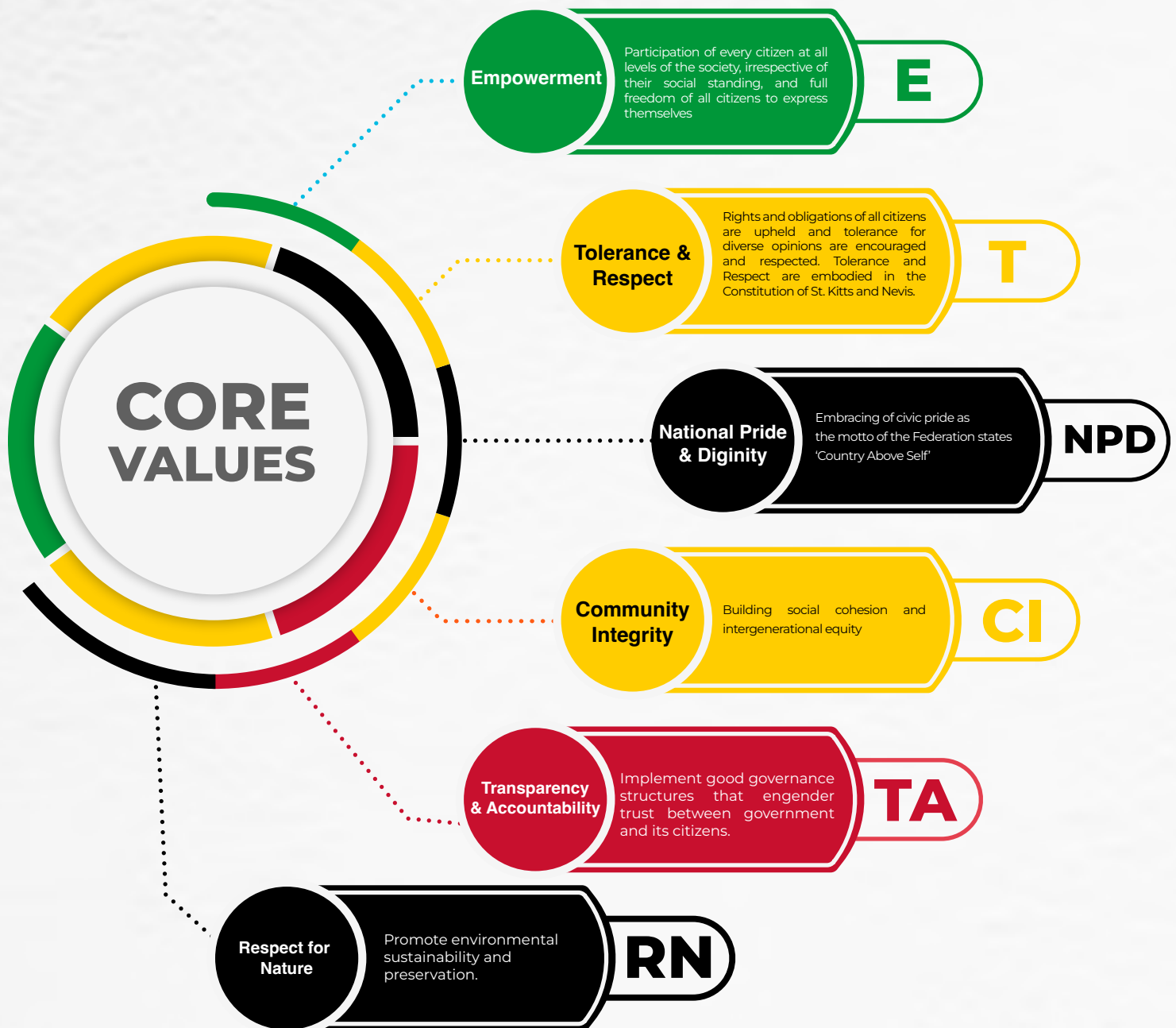
The mission is two-fold:

- To reflect the needs of various groups that make up the society of St. Kitts and Nevis and ensure that no one is left behind.
- To create more opportunities for Kittitians and Nevisians so that they can seize such opportunities in areas like the digital economy, the blue economy, and the orange economy.





# CORE VALUES ANCHORING THE NDPF





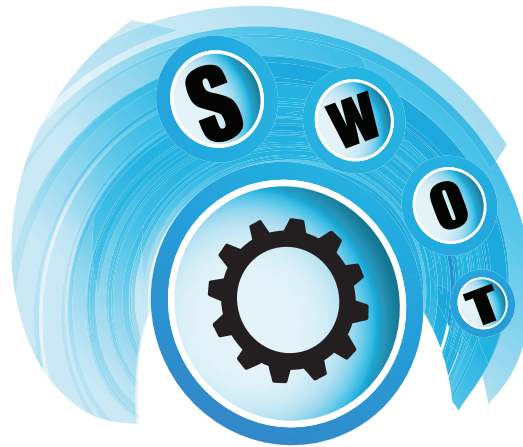
## St. Kitts & Nevis Economy SWOT Matrix

### Strengths

- Strong linkages with regional institutions
- Enviaible scenic beauty, impressive biodiversity heritage and unique touristic destination
- Solid governance structures, institutions and strong social cohesion
- A good development record with solid sectoral strategies for various sectors
- A solid foundation of the economy with vibrant sectors and a strong international financial service sector.

### Weaknesses

- Overdependence on mono-activity
- Small economy
- Weak coordination
- Susceptibility to shocks and vulnerabilities
- Inadequate capacities



### Opportunities

- Diversification of productive sectors
- Innovative economic frontiers
- Developing human resources
- Strategic niche markets of the tourism sectors
- Seizing regional opportunities

### Threats

- Climate Change
- Natural and man-made hazards



# CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent combat action to  
Climate change and its Impacts

**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT** **GOALS**



# *Development Focus 1:*

## *Climate Resilience- The Anchor for all Development*



## Summary

Although St. Kitts and Nevis produces minimal greenhouse gas emissions, like any other Small Island Developing State, St. Kitts and Nevis is most vulnerable to the projected impacts of climate change. Extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts, changes in temperature, and precipitation patterns continue to significantly affect its economy.

Climate change is a major threat to the Federation overall development, particularly because its key economic sectors are highly dependent on its natural resources. Critical sectors such as water, health, tourism, and agriculture; and the coastal infrastructure will continue to be affected if these impacts water availability are not minimized.

The state of the environment has directly impacted the leading income-earners, and job-creating industries in the Federation such as tourism, agriculture, and the fisheries sectors. Agriculture, including crops and livestock, provides a major supply of food and is an important source of income for St. Kitts and Nevis.

The agricultural sector is highly climate- sensitive and climate change could threaten food security and impact agriculture-based livelihoods in the country. Greater rainfall variability impacts water availability for crop and livestock production as well as for human sustenance.

The increased incidence of droughts has led to water stress, while the occurrence of torrential rains has accelerated flooding and soil erosion. Rising sea levels have exacerbated soil aridity due to saltwater intrusion into groundwater.

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). Climate change and related disasters have impacted significantly tourism infrastructure and the public health of both residents and visitors to St. Kitts and Nevis, affecting economic productivity, livelihoods, and well-being. Changing rainfall patterns and increases in temperature and humidity are likely to provide favorable conditions for water-borne and vector-borne diseases and the rise in surface temperature will have an impact on human tolerance, especially among the vulnerable populations.

The nexus of climate resilience cannot be complete without addressing land use and management. The land is a critical input for various sectors of the economy and different productive activities - such as agriculture, and tourism and also for such sectors as housing, and urban developments.





# Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

## Vision

The vision for climate change adaptation and mitigation in St. Kitts and Nevis is a resilient St. Kitts and Nevis that is capable of effectively adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change to ensure the well-being and prosperity of its population and the health of its natural resources.

## Goals

- Reduce the vulnerability of St. Kitts and Nevis to the adverse impacts of climate variability and climate change through cross-sectoral and multi-faceted measures that build adaptive capacity and resilience over the long term
- Mainstream climate change adaptation into the national development agenda, including the planning, budgeting and implementation of new and existing policies, programmes and projects
- Ensure mitigation co-benefits, where possible, through prioritising adaptation measures that minimise greenhouse gas emissions and enhance natural ecosystems functioning as carbon sinks
- Mobilise external climate finance to support effective adaptation planning and implementation

## Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategic Priorities

- Ensuring national readiness through the enactment of legislation
- Improving water resource efficiency
- Protecting, preserving and restoring forests and terrestrial ecosystems
- Enhancing agricultural practices
- Managing wastes more sustainably
- Conserving fisheries, coastal and marine ecosystems
- Safeguarding human health
- Pursuing intersectoral coordination
- Pursuing investment and economic planning
- Rolling out vulnerable groups and community based initiatives
- Maintaining infrastructure and physical development
- Reorienting tourism





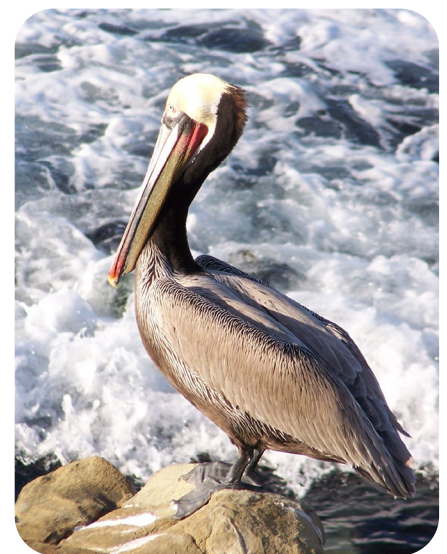
## Preserving Biodiversity

### Vision

The overall vision of the biological diversity strategy in St. Kitts and Nevis is to integrate biodiversity issues into climate change concerns as well as all other environmental and all other developmental issues.

### Goals

- Make an increased percentage of Kittitians and Nevisians aware of the values of biodiversity, and understand the steps they can take to conserve and use biodiversity sustainably
- Complete an assessment of biodiversity resources of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Capitalize on valuable synergies between national and global initiatives
- Provide an increased role to the Ministry of Sustainable Development in granting incentives to activities based on biodiversity-related sustainability principles
- Provide an increased role to the Ministry of Sustainable Development in granting of incentives to activities based on biodiversity-related sustainability principles
- Manage fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants and harvesting sustainably and working in the Marine Management Area
- Manage areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry sustainably, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity
- Bring pollution, including from excess nutrients, to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity and developing appropriate waste management plans
- Identify and prioritize invasive alien species and pathways and take measures to manage pathways to prevent their introduction
- Minimize the anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable coastal ecosystems impacted by climate change



# BIODIVERSITY

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES





**Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

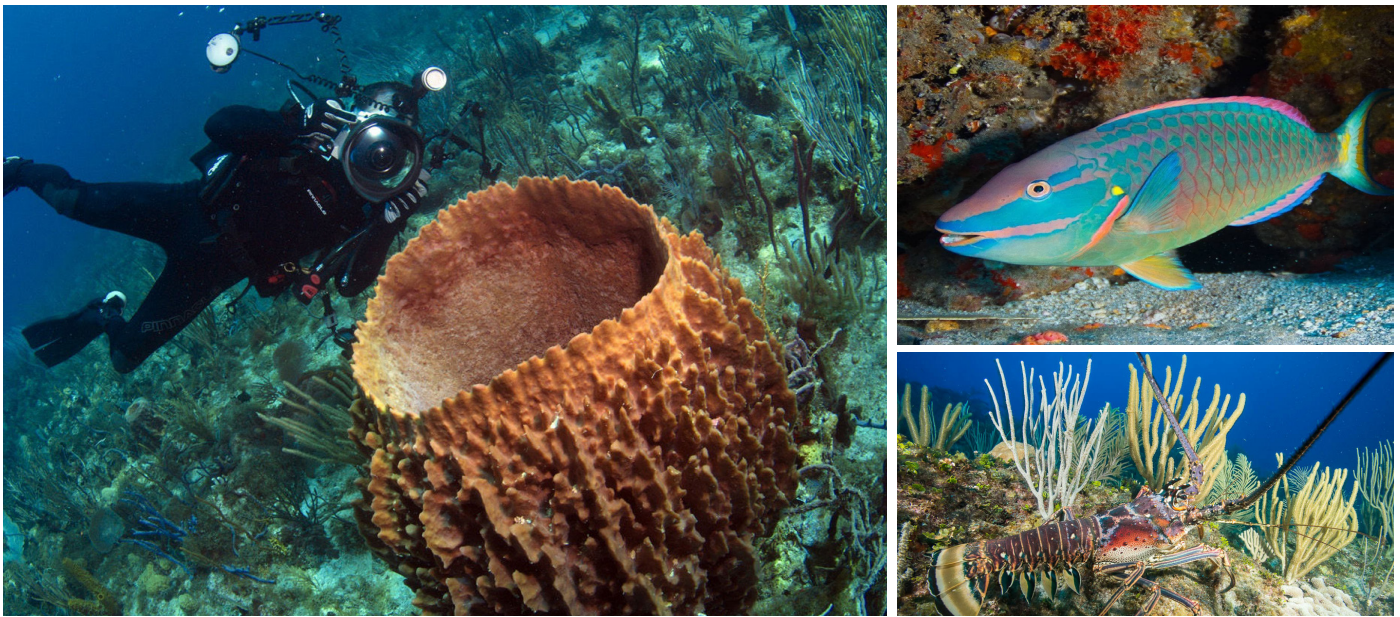
**GOALS**



## Marine Ecology Management

### Vision

The vision for the marine management in St. Kitts and Nevis is to provide for a well- managed marine area contributing to food security, sustainable livelihoods and the overall social and economic advancement of the people of St. Kitts and Nevis while ensuring the conservation and diversity of the marine resources.



### Goal

The goal of marine management is to enable the effective management, conservation, development and maintenance of marine biodiversity of the nearshore and the coastal marine areas consistent with national priorities and needs, while adhering to the necessary international requirements.



# MARINE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

01

Strengthening the legislation of the marine managed areas

02

Building up a dedicated management regime

03

Focusing on coastal and marine ecosystems

04

Improving productivity & sustainability of aquatic resources

05

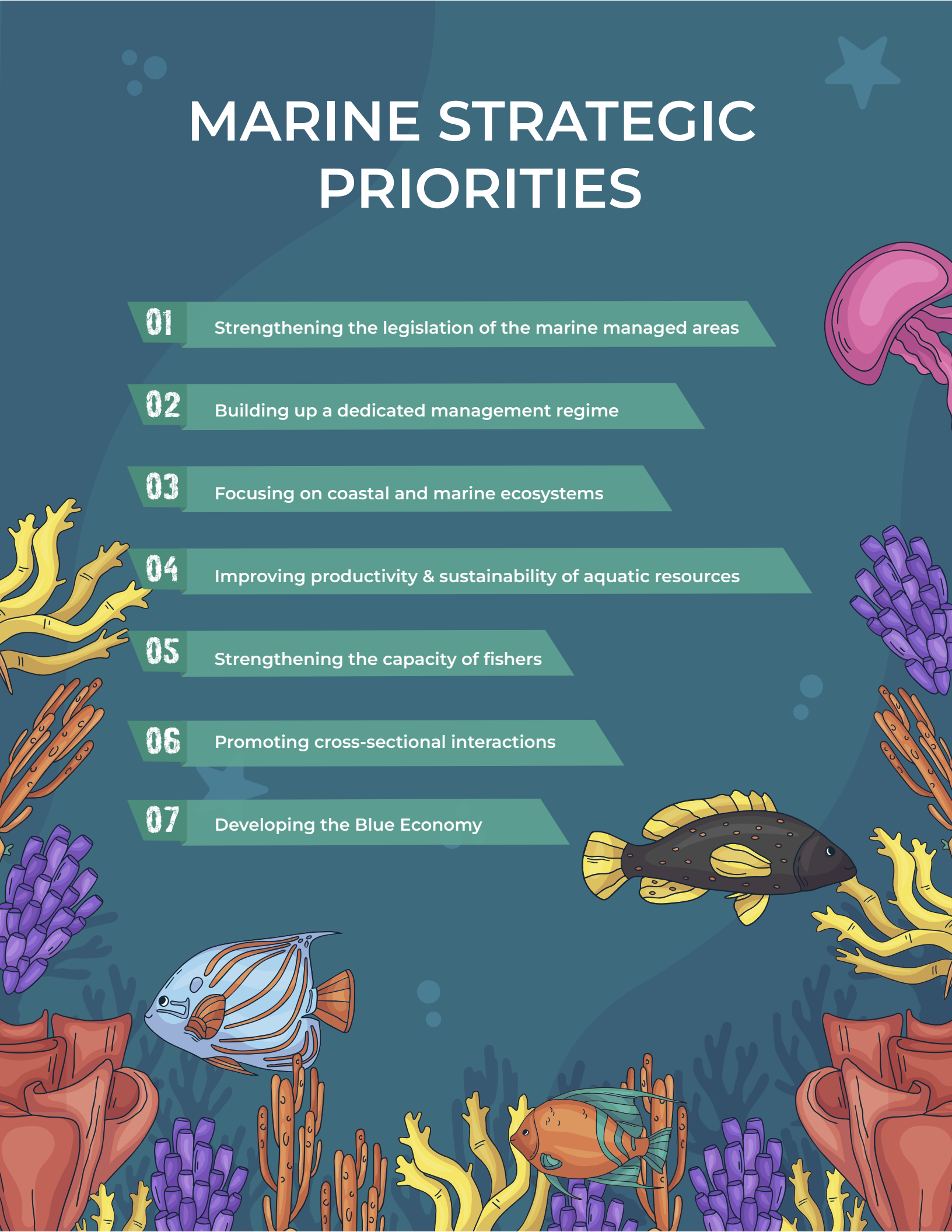
Strengthening the capacity of fishers

06

Promoting cross-sectional interactions

07

Developing the Blue Economy





# Water Management

## Vision

The vision for the water sector of St. Kitts and Nevis is to prioritise access to safe, reliable, and resilient water supply services and to reduce operational risks associated with climate variability and change.

## Goals

- Develop policy, legislation and build capacity in the water sector
- Ensure that raw water supplies are sustainable and resilient
- Ensure climate-resilient water supply infrastructure
- Ensure that water distribution and use is effective and efficient
- Maintain an energy efficient and low carbon water sector
- Build water services which are resilient to the effects of extreme weather hazards
- Pursue an integrated water resource management plan



## Water Management Strategic Priorities

- Undertaking water legislation and institutional reform in St. Kitts
- Implementing legislative and institutional reforms recommended in the strategic framework for water resource management in Nevis
- Ensuring water data collection and management
- Evaluating the catchment land cover and sources of pollution
- Ensuring that farmers use appropriate agricultural techniques
- Engaging communities in the protection and conservation of water resource
- Developing new water sources to mitigate short-term water shortage and drought risks
- Undertaking a water resources strategic master plan
- Pursuing feasibility and develop alternative water sources
- Increasing treated water storage volume
- Undertaking water audits and pursue revenue enhancement
- Prioritizing works to improve the resilience of water distribution infrastructure to disasters and extreme weather events
- Prioritizing works to improve the disaster resilience of wells and pumping stations
- Improving water storage at strategic institutions such as medical facilities
- Reviewing and updating emergency response plans
- Pursuing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach



# 15 LIFE ON LAND



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Land Management

### Vision

The vision of St. Kitts and Nevis is to create a land management system that will effectively manage the use of land resources to preserve the environment, increase access, promote social mobility, and enhance economic development.

### Goals

- Optimize the use of the Federation land resources to achieve the social and economic development objectives of all its citizens in an environmentally sustainable, and disaster-resilient manner.
- Maximize the benefits of the State's land resources to all citizens by its active management, and utilization in a transparent, accountable, and environmentally sustainable manner
- Improve the technical and institutional capacity and tools of the agencies involved in the planning, regulating, and management of land and its development
- Align sustainable land management with national development programmes.
- Populate the digital land registry with all kinds of entries, updating it regularly, and ensure access of the public to the registry
- Make land-use climate- sensitive



## Land Use and Management Strategic Priorities

- Rationalizing agricultural land use
- Using land properly for urbanization
- Mainstreaming sustainable land management in national development programmes
- Developing public education and raising awareness
- Adhering to country's global and regional commitments
- Utilising the best available information to ensure evidence- based land use policy
- Improving the technical basis for land use proposals, development and utilisation
- Ensuring high levels of compliance with the objectives of the land use policy
- Integrating land and water management
- Ensuring the overall sustainable management of the total state land resources
- Utilizing the land resources of the state for welfare of all citizens
- Ensuring that all state land transfers are done in a transparent and accountable manner
- Ensuring that there is proper knowledge of valuation of the state lands
- Developing appropriate tools and techniques to analyse data



# Disaster Management

## Vision

- The vision of St. Kitts and Nevis with respect to disaster management is to develop a culture of comprehensive disaster management among all sectors of the society within St. Kitts and Nevis in order to save lives and protect property from natural and human-caused hazards and the effects of climate change.

## Goals

- Create and continually improve a disaster-resistant environment by the reduction of vulnerability to all hazards
- Improve the national preparedness and response risk management framework to manage the impact of all hazards
- Expand and enhance public awareness of all hazards and climate risks and their potential impact
- Increase, encourage, and promote effective mitigation practices
- Ensure essential services are available pre, during, and post disaster
- Reduce the impact of all hazards on life and property

## Disaster Management Strategic Priorities

- Increasing, encouraging, and promoting effective disaster mitigation practices
- Creating and continually improving a disaster resistant environment by reduction of vulnerability to all hazards
- Developing public awareness of all hazards and their potential impacts
- Improving the national preparedness to manage the impact of all hazards
- Ensuring basic services pre, during and after disasters and hazards
- Reducing the impact of all hazards on life and property



# 07

## AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





# DEVELOPMENT FOCUS 2



## GREEN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION



## Green Energy

### Vision

The vision of the Government is to become the smallest green nation in the Western Hemisphere that provides energy that is reliable, renewable, clean, and affordable to all its citizens.

### Goals

- Reducing CO2 emission by 2030, compared to 2010
- Transitioning renewable generation to 100 percent energy for power
- Switching to at least 2 percent of the vehicles on the islands to electric vehicles by 2030
- Reducing energy consumption by 5 percent by 2030
- Reducing transmission and distribution losses to 10 percent in St. Kitts and to 6 percent in Nevis by 2030



## Green Energy Strategic Priorities

- Transition renewable generation to 100 percent energy for power
- Switch to at least 2 percent of the vehicles on the islands to electric vehicles by 2030
- Reduce energy consumption by 5 percent by 2030
- Reduce transmission and distribution losses to 10 percent in St. Kitts and to 6 percent in Nevis by 2030
- Ensuring safe, efficient, reliable, affordable and environmentally- friendly electricity
- Facilitating the transition to renewable energy
- Making sure supplies of reliable and affordable fuels and their clean handle
- Ensuring an efficient and well-coordinated planning and management system
- Ensuring efficient, environmentally clean, and cost-effective transportation
- Achieving energy efficiency by ensuring the lowest possible energy intensity
- Rationalizing the electricity tariff structure and rate
- Promoting of e-mobility - moving towards electrical vehicles
- Monitoring, gathering, analyzing and reporting data and information
- Ensuring effective coordination and developing capacity
- Exploring funding opportunities
- Identifying and implementing energy-efficient and renewable energy initiatives



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

8

Decent Work  
and Economic Growth



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# DEVELOPMENT FOCUS 3:

*Economic Development: Seizing the  
Growth Dynamism for Sustainable Growth*



## Summary

Sustained growth is essential for long-term development. More than 2 billion (EC\$) economy of St. Kitts and Nevis has shown variability over time (table 2.1). The economy has registered a growth rate of about 4 percent annually (2016 and 2019), but on other occasions, it remained stagnant (e.g. 2017). Covid-19 has had a significant negative impact on the country's economic performance, with particularly severe impacts on its major growth-inducing sector, tourism. This resulted in significant job losses and lay-offs which had multiplier effects. The significantly reduced tourism activities also adversely impacted other sectors including agriculture, restaurant, transportation, entertainment, and construction.

Yet, there is significant growth dynamism in the economy. Even with the uncertainties in the global economy, the economic outlook for St. Kitts and Nevis is that of rebounding. For the next five years, the projected growth rate is estimated to be about 4 percent and more. Activities in the tourism industry are expected to pick up, as global travel protocols and requirements for entry into the Federation ease. Construction activity is projected to pick up in both the public and the private sectors. Resumption of in-person classes at all medical schools on the islands is projected to have a large multiplier effect on the economy.

Agricultural output is also likely to continue to expand owing to further investment in food security. In addition, activity in the construction sector is expected to accelerate as infrastructural and housing projects in the public and private sectors continue. Implementation of key capital projects (refurbishment of the Joseph N France General Hospital, renovating Basseterre High School) would further stimulate growth and domestic employment.

The new growth frontiers like the digital economy, the blue economy, and the emerging entertainment sector all provide new growth potentials for the economy. The economy has huge potential for expanding the digital economy, not only for the domestic market but also for becoming a hub for the digital economy for the region. Call centers are a possibility. With the managed marine area of St. Kitts and Nevis managed, the scope for a blue economy in the country is quite big. There are opportunities for creative work in such areas as printing and publication. One of the innovative socio-economic frontiers that is emerging in St. Kitts and Nevis is the entertainment sector. All these provide new economic growth-inducing frontiers for St. Kitts and Nevis to explore. The country should seize all these opportunities.



## PRIORITY ONE:

---

Economic Growth: Getting the Macroeconomic Framework Right





# The Macro Economy

## Goals

- Realise a consistent annual economic growth of at least 4 percent, which is achievable given the growth rate record of St. Kitts and Nevis. The organization of such growth and the distribution of its benefits should ensure climate-sensitivity, inclusiveness, and equitable distribution
- Restructure the economy with economic diversification, expansion of the manufacturing sector, commercialization of agriculture and penetration of ICT in all sectoral activities
- Eradicate poverty by 2037 and reduction of inequalities at a socially tolerable and economically rationalized level, as determined by the society, ensuring both equalities in terms of opportunities as well as equalities in terms of outcomes. Gender equality should be ensured in all economic and social walks of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Provide employment opportunities for all and keeping the unemployment rate between 3 percent to and 5 percent, and making economic growth employment-led
- Ensure macroeconomic stability in terms of inflation, fiscal balance and balance of payments -, keeping the inflation rate less than 2 percent, current account fiscal surplus of 4 percent of GDP, overall fiscal deficit not to exceed 3 percent of GDP, and debt to GDP ratio not to exceed 60 percent, a threshold set by ECCU
- Build fiscal buffers for resilience to shocks
- Encourage more rational integration with the regional and global economies on the basis of the competitive advantage of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis, so that the country can maximize the benefits of globalization, but minimize its risks

## Economic Growth Strategic Priorities

- Formulating macroeconomic strategies for sustained climate-sensitive inclusive growth
- Creating a conducive environment for promoting sustained climate-sensitive intensive growth
- Achieving and maintain macroeconomic stability
- Developing macroeconomic policies to reduce vulnerabilities
- Adopting a national employment strategy
- Developing strategies for overcoming poverty
- Maintaining a sizeable fiscal buffer
- Improving competitiveness in the production and export of goods and services
- Promoting enhanced CBI revenues
- Ensuring fiscal sustainability
- Making debt sustainable
- Making macroeconomic data consistent

## PRIORITY TWO:

### *Focus Tourism*





# Refocusing the Tourism Sector

## Vision

Tourism is a major economic driver globally and has become a key sector for stimulating growth and development for the citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis. After the cessation of sugar production in 2005, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis signalled its importance through the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) 2006– 2013. The Sector has contributed significantly to promoting many areas in the economy such as Financial Services, Wholesale and Retail, Construction, Entertainment and Offshore Education. However, the sector is highly impacted by external and internal shocks therefore it is important to refocus the sector to maintain its relevance.

## Pro-Opportunity Goals

- Further develop the yacht tourism, which has lots of scopes for expanding
- Enhance education, medical and well- being tours
- Develop romantic tourism, for example, wedding, honeymoon, observance of anniversaries
- Expand sport tourism, eg. as diving, golfing

## Pro-Digital Goals

- Incentivize digitization
- Make digital skills a pillar of entrepreneurial development in tourism
- Develop flexible and targeted programmes
- Improve access



## Economic Goals

- Maintain at least a 1million cruise passengers
- Double the earnings from the tourism sector
- Increase frequency of flights from key source markets and double the room accommodation by 2037
- Revise and improve quality and sustainability standards by 2037

## Pro-People Goals

- Increase 1000 additional direct and 2000 indirect tourism jobs by 2037
- Develop human resources to meet international standards and ascertained skilled labour needed in the sector



- Establish linkages between tourism and other sectors, for example, agriculture, fisheries and entertainment
- Expand community-based tourism linking it with local cuisine and local attractions
- Develop culture, history and heritage tourism
- Enhance inter-island tourism between St.Kitts and Nevis with formulating a tourism strategy for Nevis

## Pro-Planet Goals

- Ensure environmental management systems (including management of energy, waste, water, environment, etc.) adopted and promoted in the sector by 2030
- Restore and enhance at least 10 natural and historical sites by 2037
- Develop marine parks and environmental standards to govern beaches
- Enhance training guides and adopt visitor codes of conduct and sustainability standards
- Develop eco-tourism

## Tourism Strategic Priorities

- Formulating a national tourism strategy and action plan
- Improving tourism infrastructures
- Monitoring and enforce legislations, regulations and policies
- Elevating the cruise tourism
- Assessing the key impacts of climate change on tourism
- Rationalizing the coastal development
- Developing environmental policies for marine tourism
- Instituting measures to address solid waste management
- Developing digital marketing strategies for tourism
- Making digital skills a pillar of entrepreneurial development
- Developing tourism satellite accounts
- Undertaking flexible and targeted programmes (education, gender, digital)
- Focusing on value over volume, packaging, and inclusivity (creating authentic visitor experiences)
- Developing capacity and funding mechanisms for MSMEs in tourism
- Developing community-based tourism
- Promoting culture and heritage tourism
- Ensuring quality and standards
- Taking advantage of the tourism market niche
- Enhancing institutional arrangement
- Developing human resources
- Develop the yachting industry
- Forge links between tourism strategies with other sectors.



## PRIORITY THREE: Economic Diversification



## Summary

Economic diversification is imperative for St. Kitts and Nevis for three reasons. First, it would shield the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis from shocks and vulnerabilities. Second, it would diversify employment and create new skills and third, it may help the economy to reap the benefits of scale. Diversification is also an opportunity to enhance competition, thus an opportunity for being creative and innovative. Diversification also increases backward and forward linkages among other sectors of the economy.

St. Kitts and Nevis was a hostage to King Sugar. The history of sugar plantations has been one of exploitation, uncertainty of revenues and vulnerabilities. Thus, even though the sugar plantations brought in some environmental benefits, in the ultimate analysis, there was a strong rationale for moving away from it. In recent times, the overdependence of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis on one sector – the tourism sector – as the life line of the country's economy is rather disturbing. The volatility of the economy due to its overdependence on a mono- sector became clear as the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country. In tomorrow's world, external shocks may be the norm, rather than the exception. Thus for a small island country, diversification of the economy is a good development stimulant and protection as well.

St. Kitts and Nevis should, therefore, move away from dependence on one sector for there are ample opportunities for diversifying the economy. The agriculture sector can be diversified with agro-processing and horticulture. Aquaculture can be a diversification component in fisheries. Manufacturing can be diversified with electronics. With the diversification of productive sector, the services sectors will also diversify, with mutual synergies among the sectors. In the process, new domestic markets can be created, and there may be exportable. With the diversification of economic activities, the skill sets of the workers can also be diversified. This would not only contribute to the overall human resources of the country, but also to the targeted needs of the labour markets. The educational systems and the training institutions can be geared to this end. Diversification may create enough dynamism in society for creativity, innovation and start-ups.

## Transforming the Manufacturing Sector

The manufacturing sector is a major pillar of the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis. Over the past 30 years, it has been a consistent contributor to the domestic economy and the overall development of the country. In fact, manufacturing in the broadest sense has emerged as an important component of the overall economic activities of St. Kitts and Nevis. The closure of the sugar industry in 2005 – which contributed to more than 85 per cent of the country's GDP – paved the way for the manufacturing sector in St. Kitts. Today, even though in the GDP structure, manufacturing lags behind real estate, financial services or construction, it is a major revenue generator, employment provider and export earner for the country (table 4.1). Yet, it must be recognized that in order to compete in a globalized world, the manufacturing sector of St. Kitts and Nevis must transform by developing its human resources, facilitating research, pro-growth and pro-business fiscal reforms, and incorporating global standards in manufacturing innovations.



## Goals

- To realize growth of 2.5 percent in the manufacturing sector's contribution to the GDP by the year 2027
- To create 150 new jobs in the manufacturing sector by 2026, and another 500 additional jobs by 2030
- To improve the quality of manufacturing and its value added
- To increase the global manufacturing competitiveness of the Federation
- To steadily attract, encourage and facilitate environmentally sustainable manufacturing in St. Kitts and Nevis
- To promote the best practices and cutting-edge manufacturing industry standards



## Manufacturing Strategic Priorities

- Promoting the best practices and cutting-edge manufacturing industry standards
- Increasing the number of new businesses
- Providing pro-business equitable fiscal incentives
- Accelerating the graduation of the manufacturing sector
- Developing a highly trained workforce
- Developing a marketing strategy
- Encouraging manufacturing to adhere to sound environmental practices
- Ensuring equitable access to working capital
- Upgrading facilities at the Bureau of Standards
- Promoting collaboration among manufacturers
- Enhancing productivity through adaptation of alternative energy sources

# Transforming the Agriculture Sector

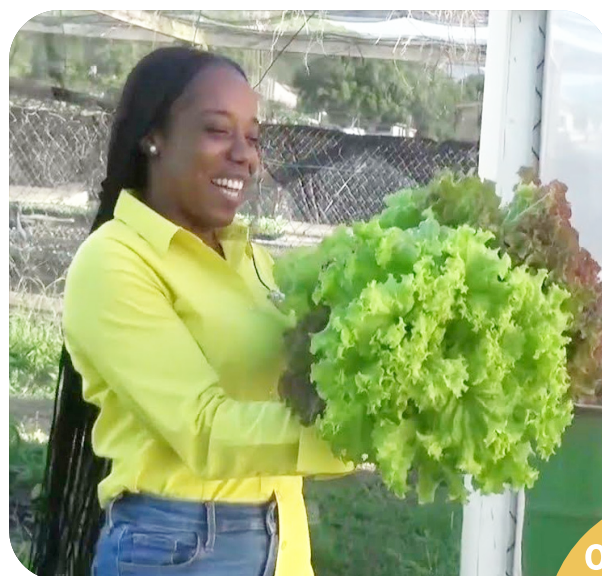
## Vision

The vision of the agriculture sector is to establish resilient and productive agri-food systems that contribute to economic growth and improve livelihoods, food security, and nutritional health by harnessing agricultural knowledge and innovation systems through sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity.



## Goals

- Enhance agricultural productivity and accelerate economic growth
- Reduce food imports
- Ensure food and nutritional security
- Ensure decent employment and livelihoods
- Protect sustainable ecosystems
- Attract new manufacture investment with a track record in best practices
- Eliminate complications of doing business





## Crop Sub-Sector

### Goals

- Transform new and existing farms to be innovative and profitable agri-businesses
- Re-design training at all levels of the school curriculum and to new and existing farmers to increase the adoption of new technologies and increase efficiency
- Provide safe, affordable and stable food supplies for food and nutritional security
- Create sustainable and resilient farming systems capable of adapting to hazards and changing climate

### Crop Sub-Sector Strategic Priorities

- Create an environment for agri-businesses to be more productive and profitable via capacity building and innovation
- Enhance national food security with emphasis on food safety
- Assist in development of value-added chains, both domestic and export
- Develop and strengthen appropriate institutional structures mechanisms and human resource capacities
- Create an environment to attract and retain youth and women involvement in agriculture
- Adopt an integrated water resource management approach
- Reduce crop and livestock losses
- Adopt and develop profitable measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change

## Livestock Sub-Sector

Climate change and livestock development are interrelated – and that linkage is quite strong in a climate-vulnerable country like St. Kitts and Nevis. Climate-induced disasters like droughts, or natural disasters like floods and hurricanes do lots of harm to the livestock populations and their owners. Climate change is a threat to livestock production because of the impact on the quality of feed crops and forage, water availability, animal and milk production, livestock diseases, animal reproduction, and biodiversity. In St. Kitts and Nevis, livestock production will be limited by climate variability, as animal water consumption is expected to increase, competition for land and water, demand for agricultural lands increase due to the need for growth in production, and food security concerns since cereal harvest is used for livestock feed.





## Goals

- Move towards self-sufficiency in livestock production of the country and thereby reduce the import dependency of livestock products
- Contribute to the food and nutritional security of the citizens of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Strengthen synergetic relationships with other sectors, for example, agriculture, tourism, and fisheries
- Raise better quality livestock through pursuing better breeding programmes, based on research in such institutions as the Bayford Livestock Centre of Excellence, which has been relaunched
- Make livestock sector and sectoral development climate smart



## Fisheries Sub-Sector

### Goals

- Become self-sufficient in fish production with minimum importation by adapting Aquaculture
- Modernize the fishing sub-sector with infrastructural development, improving fishing methods
- Make fishing activities climate smart by growing fish in their natural environment in a highly sustainable and environmentally responsible way
- Ensure the food and nutritional security of the country



## Strategies To Achieve Agricultural Transformation

CROP	LIVESTOCK	FISHERIES
Pursue diversification in Agriculture	Make livestock production climate smart	Pursue Aquaculture
Enhance national food security by emphasising food safety	Conduct surveys of the livestock sector	Ensure Climate Smart fisheries
Develop export markets	Support livestock farmers to boost production	Diversifying livelihoods of fishermen
Reduce crop losses	Transition to sustainable livestock development	Integrating fisheries with agriculture and livestock
Adapt integrated water resource management		Map fisheries resources



## Strategies to Achieve the Transformation cont'd

CROP	LIVESTOCK	FISHERIES
Assist the development of value chain - domestic and export	Develop the capacities of fishers	Develop the capacities of fishers
Develop integrated sustainable agriculture	Pursue better breeding	Develop fishing infrastructure
Pursue diversification	Support livestock farmers to boost production	Diversifying livelihoods of fishermen
Develop agro-businesses		Integrating fisheries with agriculture and livestock
Build climate resilience in the agriculture process		Map fisheries resources
Enhance the role of women in agriculture		
Promote the involvement of youth in agriculture		
Improve support services in agriculture		
Establish forward linkages with other sectors		





# Transforming the Financial Services Sector

## Goals

- Utilize ICT more extensively to enhance the breadth and the depth of international financial services
- Strengthen the regulatory framework for financial services for increased efficiency and efficacy
- Undertake constant market research and foster innovative product development
- Develop capacities to enable the country to offer more complex financial services

## Financial Services Sector Strategic Priorities

- Collaborating with regional partners to provide a consolidated package for financial service
- Improving customer care and services at every level of operation
- Using ICT more extensively to enhance the breadth and the depth of international financial services
- Strengthening the regulatory framework for financial services for increased efficiency and efficacy
- Undertaking constant market research and foster innovative product development
- Developing capacities to enable the country to offer more complex financial services
- Collaborating with regional partners to provide a consolidated package for financial services





# PRIORITY FOUR:

Capitalising On Emerging Opportunities





## Summary

The St. Kitts and Nevis economy does not only provide growth dynamism in traditional sectors, but also presents with emerging opportunities. A forward-looking development trajectory must capture and seize such emerging opportunities in areas like the digital economy, blue economy and creative and entertainment sectors. The ICT Sector can come up with new products, the government E-services can be further strengthened and modernized, the ICT services can be more integrated with learning through E-learning. St. Kitts and Nevis can also provide ICT-based services to its neighbours.

The tourism and hospitality industry has long been transformed by Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). The industry continues to use innovative ICT tools along the tourism value chain from the Online Travel Agencies (OTAs), to pre- and in-trip virtual tourism experiences, to artificial intelligence, to geo-tagging, to social media, and contactless transactions. The use and adoption of digital technologies provide new opportunities to improve productivity and expand the market access of the tourism sector. In the tourism industry itself, there are many unexplored options that may attract tourists from different destinations of the world.

The Blue economy provides a new opportunity to St. Kitts and Nevis. Successful execution of the Blue Economy strategy requires a long-term strategic approach to physical and economic planning, which recognizes the integrated nature of coastal and marine environments. In the context of the Blue Economy of St. Kitts and Nevis, three actions are necessary: first, identifying hot spots: areas where human activities most extensively interact with ecosystems; second, prioritizing and enabling investments; and third, avoiding sub-optimal investments.

Creative and Entertainment Sectors also present emerging economic options that the country can take advantage of. Publishing and printing outsourced orders from others can be a new business. Call Centres and ICT technical service centres are options that can be explored. In recent times, St. Kitts and Nevis has successfully hosted a number of events such as music concerts and premier cricket league. A number of movies has also been filmed in St. Kitts and Nevis. The scenic beauty of the islands and other logistic facilities (e.g. top-class hotels) provide incentives to the film industry in countries like India, UK and the USA to do their work in St. Kitts and Nevis. In the tourism industry itself, there are many unexplored options that may attract tourists from different destinations of the world.



# The Digital Economy

## Vision

The government of St Kitts and Nevis established a strategic path to accelerate plans toward an innovative digital economy through the implementation of its Digital Transformation Strategy (2020-2022). The vision is to make Saint Kitts and Nevis a world leader in digital services delivery for citizens, residents, the private sector, and investors. The government believes that its continued path will help grow the economy and contribute to national development.

## Goals

- Create an enabling environment for ICT and ICT-related expansion
- Modernize the information and communication infrastructure
- Develop human resources for the digital economy
- Leverage ICT with the activities of various productive sectors
- Ensure equitable participation of every citizen in the information society



## The Digital Economy Strategic Priorities

- Providing support to small businesses
- Updating and implementing the Digital Transformation Strategy
- Modernizing the information and communication infrastructure
- Leveraging ICT with the activities of various productive sector
- Improving the Government's e- platform for better citizens' services
- Creating an enabling environment for ICT and ICT- related expansion
- Developing human resources for the digital economy
- Ensuring equitable participation of every citizen in the information society

# The Blue Economy

## Vision

The marine zoning and the wide-ranging Blue Economy are designed to work in tandem, enabling an integrated coastal zone management system that supports the development of the Blue Economy. The successful execution of the Blue Economy strategy requires a long-term strategic approach to physical and economic planning, which recognizes the integrated nature of the coastal and marine environment. In the context of the Blue Economy of St. Kitts and Nevis.

## Goals

- Identify hot spots, areas where human activities most extensively interact with ecosystems to mitigate the effects.
- Prioritize investments in ecosystem-friendly services
- Avoid sub-optimal investments

## The Blue Economy Strategic Priorities

- Developing initiatives for waste management in the marine and coastal environment
- Improving access to potable water (desalination)
- Strengthening land-based sources of pollution
- Supporting the development of land-based food sources in the agricultural sector;
- Improving the management of used water discharges (residential and commercial grey and black water)
- Creating awareness of the factors causing issues related to marine food security
- Promoting marine aquaculture
- Improving maritime transportation
- Installing of submarines cables and pipelines





# THE CREATIVE & ENTERTAINMENT ECONOMY



## ***VISION***

Our vision is to create a world-class creative economy that is recognized for its innovation, unique talents, and cultural diversity. Through collaboration, engagement, and design thinking, we aim to build a dynamic, sustainable, and resilient creative ecosystem that enriches the lives of all creatives. We envision a future where our community is a hub of creativity, where artists and creative entrepreneurs can flourish, and where our cultural organizations are vibrant and viable.

## ***GOALS***

- Encourage entrepreneurship through the promotion of the arts
- Develop a thriving entertainment industry
- Export entertainment





## Creative Economy Strategic Priorities

- Rebranding and Restructuring of Ministry
- Professionalizing and standardization of creative and culture industries
- Developing of National Creative/Cultural Policies and relevant legislature
- Revamping of National Creatives Registry
- Establishing of proper stakeholder relationships and partnerships
- Advancing of the skillset and professional development of human resources
- Enhancing of the existing and initiation of new art-education programs in primary, secondary and tertiary schools
- Preserving and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Undertaking digitization and creation of a Virtual Library of Cultural Archives
- Developing of thriving and sustainable creative arts programs
- Enhancing of cultural festivals (host & participatory), locally, regionally, & internationally
- Fostering growth and innovation in the creative economy sector
- Generating employment opportunities and increase the contribution of the creatives
- Campaigning for a Cultural Shift: Increase public awareness and understanding of the orange economy
- Promoting global expansion and market access for creative enterprises
- Generating accurate and insightful statistics through research and studies to inform evidence-based decision-making and facilitate the development of the creative economy
- Promoting integration and collaboration across sectors



## DEVELOPMENT FOCUS FOUR:

### HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT:

Investing in the Human for  
the 21st Century World



---

## Summary

People are the wealth of a nation – a country's prime asset. Development is all about people – expanding their choices in every sphere of human life. That expansion can be achieved through enhancing their capabilities and creating opportunities to use those enhanced capabilities. It is not so much of the richness of economies, but the richness of human lives that is of prime importance. Human resources and development represent a two-way street – human resources contribute to development and development also enhances human capital.

In the context of St. Kitts and Nevis, like many other developing countries, absence of capabilities, weaker human resources and lack of skilled workers have been identified as major development constraints in every sphere of the economy. In this context, the relevance of the education imparted, the need for training and the mismatch between skills demanded in markets versus the skilled supplied have been raised. Therefore, it is no wonder that capacity development, building human resources and formation of skills have been highlighted as priority areas for St. Kitts and Nevis.

Building human resources require a focus on health concerns with emphasis on nutrition and on educational services. But human resources for St. Kitts and Nevis need to be developed not with a traditional view, but with a dynamic view of the future. On one hand, it would require universal modern and quality health services to all citizens of the country, focusing on the wellness and well-being of the people. At the same time, it would require education and skills for the 21st century. It has to be developed in the context of globalization of labour markets, the digital revolution and the emerging jobs (e.g. green jobs). The 21 century skill needs will be characterized by five Cs: Creativity, Critical thinking, Cognitive skills, Collaboration, and Communication.

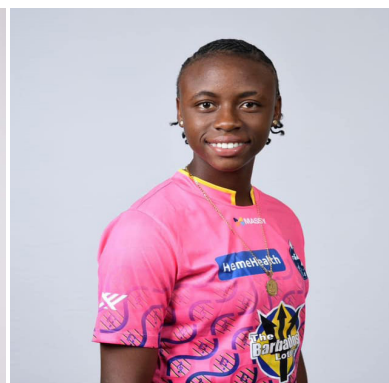




# Sports

## Vision

This vision of the Government is to invest in a healthy, active population benefitting from physical education and enjoying quality sport, physical activity and recreation in a thriving sport sector.



## Goals

- Promote health through physical activities
- Establish pathways to excellence
- Utilize sport as a tool for development
- Establish governance body for Sports
- Strengthen collaboration between public and private stakeholders in the Federation in support of strategic investments in the sport sector
- Build Capacity
- Maintain fully functional facilities





## Health - Investing in Universal Health Care

### Vision

The super-arching vision of the national health system is to safeguard the health of the people of the Federation through the core principles of equity, good governance, evidence-based decision-making, and shared responsibility.



### Goals

- Empower individuals and families to manage their own health
- Recognize, reorient and strengthen the building blocks on the national health system to improve health outcomes





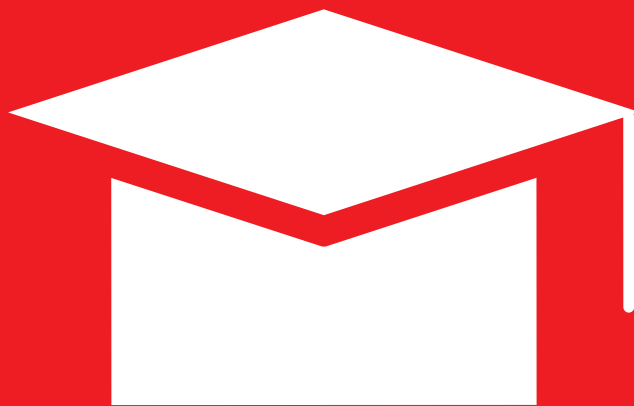
## Health Strategic Priorities

- Reducing mortality from CNCD by 10 percent
- Establishing national HIV prevalence and related indicators for St. Kitts and Nevis
- Reducing overweight and obesity of adults by 20 percent and of adolescents by 25 percent
- Addressing the needs of health challenged children
- Reducing the national aedes aegypti mosquito household index
- Improving the scope and quality of health and social services provided to the elderly
- Maintaining 100 percent immunization coverage among children 0- 11 month olds
- Improving the management, coordination and delivery of mental health services
- Reducing levels of drug and alcohol use and abuse among young adults
- Refining the national health policy and regulatory framework to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the health sector
- Establishing the essential human resources for health needs of the public health sector
- Developing core capacities to ensure effective public health in response to the global spread of diseases
- Establishing a national health information system
- Establishing and implementing National Health Insurance(NHI) as an essential component of the public health sector
- Institutionalizing epidemiological research as a core function of the health sector
- Strengthening policy and planning framework for health emergency management
- Expanding strategic partnerships



# 04

## QUALITY EDUCATION



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

## Education- Investing in People

### Vision

The vision is to provide all citizens and residents, with a comprehensive course of quality lifelong education that would enable individuals to develop and achieve their full potential, thus allowing them to make meaningful contribution to national development.

### Goals

- Improve equitable access to and participation in education at all levels
- Strengthen the quality and relevance of education at all levels to improve learning outcomes
- Enhance governance, planning, and management to improve efficiency and effectiveness throughout this sector





## Education Strategic Priorities

- Developing a new the current education Sector Plan to make it more climate responsive
- Reducing the dropout rate in secondary school, especially at the Form 4 level
- Including TVET competencies in the national curriculum at primary and secondary level and implementing a strategic plan
- Expanding access to postsecondary and tertiary level training and lifelong learning opportunities
- Strengthening the regulatory framework and upgrading institutional infrastructure to support special education needs
- Developing and improving to support vulnerable groups in accessing quality education
- Developing a National Curriculum Framework and related policy documents for ECD to post-secondary
- Providing adequate space for children 0-5, including those with exceptional needs
- Building human resource capacity to manage curriculum development, monitoring, and assessment reducing the dropout rate in secondary school, especially at the Form 4 level
- Developing and enforcing compliance with existing quality standards for education and training programmes at all levels
- Developing and implementing a proactive recruitment strategy
- Implementing a continuous professional development framework: Assessing the system capacities



- Implementing medium- to long-term human, material, and financial resource planning
- Establishing a National Teaching Council to assist with the management of the teaching profession
- Implementing equitable deployment of qualified teachers to and within
- Building the capacity of system leaders and teachers in using ICTs to manage data for decision making
- Developing systems and capacity within the Ministry of Education for supporting improved policy development and implementation.
- Revising the organizational structures of the Ministry of Education
- Enhancing leadership skills of system leaders and establishing functioning entities at the institutional and ministry levels
- Implementing policies to strengthen equity and resource management at all levels
- Providing adequate space for children 0-5, including those with special need
- Implementing early stimulation and education programmes for children aged 0–2



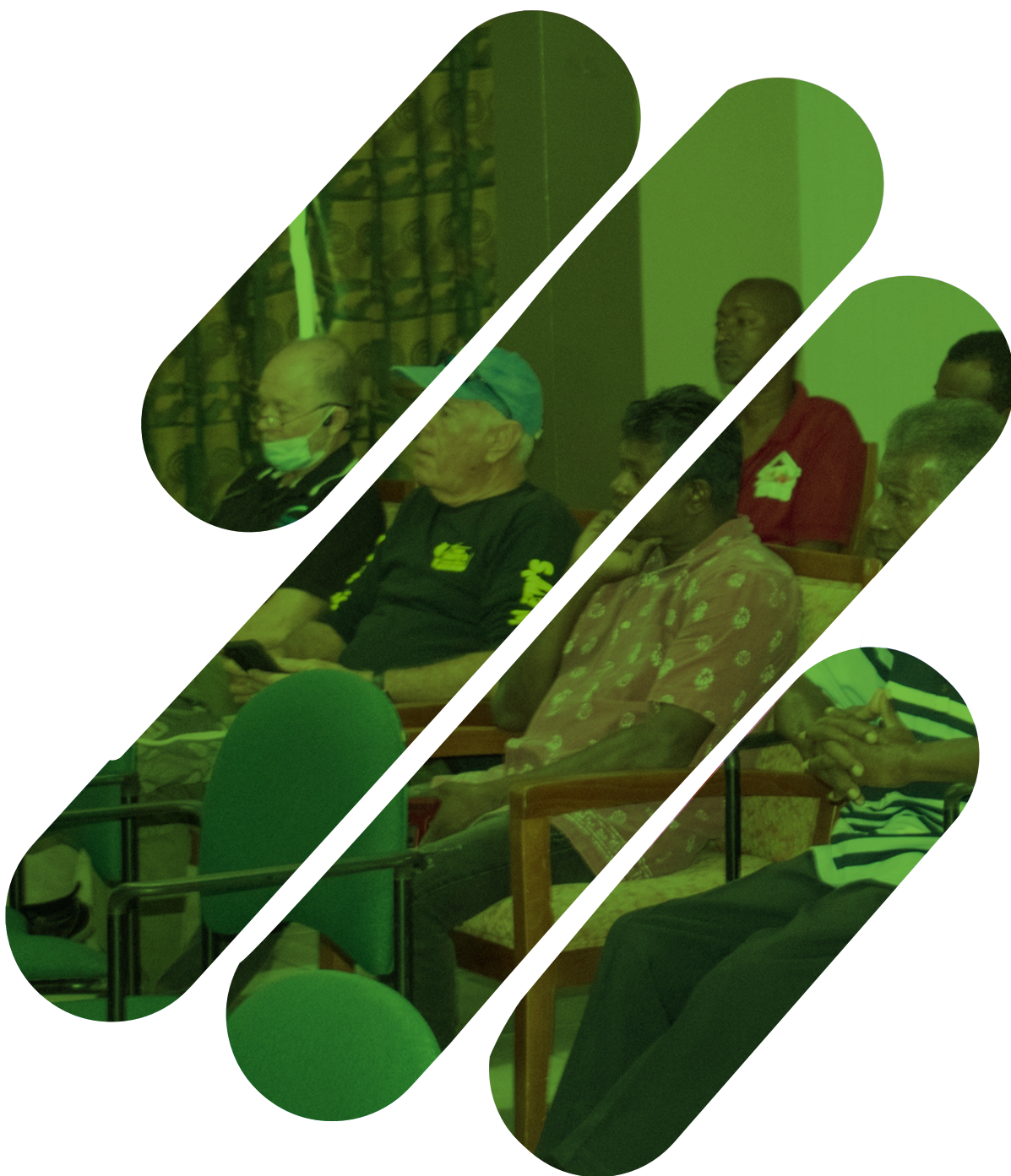
# Reduce inequality within and among countries



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# DEVELOPMENT FOCUS FIVE:

*Inclusivity And Social Protection*





## Summary

Gender issues are of paramount importance to St. Kitts and Nevis. It is also a complex issue, as it is not limited only to the concern of equality between men and women, or women's empowerment, but in the context of the Kittitian and Nevisian society, it also refers to the concerns of adolescent boys and men. The Saint Kitts and Nevis Gender Equality Policy and the accompanying Action Plan of 2021 are the Government's commitment to mainstreaming gender issues. The twin island Federation has a rich and storied history of the advancement of women's rights and gender equality. Consistent with so many other positive international developmental indicators.

However, men and women often have different experiences in society. As it relates to poverty and its impacts, females are more likely than males to be among the indigent. While lack of employment places a greater dependence upon men for financial support and women report that their unemployment compromises power relationships with men and heightens their vulnerability.

St. Kitts and Nevis recognizes young people as assets to society and a critical ingredient to human development. Youth development in St. Kitts and Nevis is not concentrated on nor located in any single sector of the country. The allocation of investments in information, products, programmes, opportunities, and services for young people in St Kitts and Nevis takes place across a range of sectors with diverse strategies, languages, understanding of young people, and appeals to their development. The challenge is to combine these sectoral efforts within an integrated national ecosystem that optimizes how the country manages and uses youth data to propel national development; how programmes are accessed and by whom and how resources are allocated and used.

The protection of men, women, boys, girls, and youth cannot occur without a sound social protection system. Thus, St. Kitts and Nevis put a high priority on social protection in the country. The country is committed to ensuring that public resources are directed toward addressing the challenges of poverty, vulnerability, risk, and deprivation across the Federation to promote human development.

It goes without saying that the security of a nation is tantamount to good living environment. In St. Kitts and Nevis human security encompasses both 'territorial security' and 'national security' as well as security of the people in terms of jobs and income, food security, health security, water security, personal security, and so on – which has important and relevant in human lives. A state has a duty to protect its people from conflicts, terrorism, and human trafficking, and also to ensure that its citizens are safe from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression and environmental hazards. For most people, a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from the dread of a cataclysmic world event.

Therefore the objective of the country is to address all vulnerabilities in a comprehensive way. Looking at crime and violence, as a symptom of deeper social protection issues such as lack of education and productive employment and addressing those issues. There are external factors that impact the nation's security such as illegal arms and ammunition trafficking; the illegal drug trade; organized crime; transnational organized crime and financial crimes all of which will be addressed through the institutional strengthening of the armed and financial agencies.

Social Protection also cannot be achieved if the basic need for housing is not addressed. Over the years, housing has been used by St. Kitts and Nevis as a tool to elevate its people out of poverty. The country has implemented several housing solutions starting as early as 2005 to address this issue. However, as the population grew the need for housing has remained on the agenda. Given the shift in climate conditions and the impact of climate change, the Federation is approaching housing solutions in a way by pledging to build climate-smart homes. This no doubt will bring about climate resilience and address their green energy agenda.

## Social Protection

### Vision

It is the vision of St. Kitts and Nevis to develop social protection systems that will protect the population of St. Kitts and Nevis against chronic poverty and hunger, shocks, destitution, and social exclusion, through programmes designed to ensure equitable human capital development and enhanced capacity of the population to better manage their livelihoods and welfare.



### Goals

- Develop a streamlined, effective and efficient social safety net for those most at risk of deprivation and who cannot help themselves;
- Strengthen the resilience of the poor and vulnerable by enabling them to benefit from investments in human capital developments;
- Protect the basic livelihood of the entire population and promoting safeguards against shocks and disasters that may occur
- Enhance the capacity of all persons to better manage their livelihoods and welfare in an effort to impact national development
- Enhance the evidence-based decision- making practice across the social protection sector
- Adjust and further develop the current institutional arrangements, systems and legislative frameworks for a more coordinated, efficient and effective social protection service delivery Restructuring and modernising the social safety net system



## *Social Protection Strategic Priorities*

- Improving quality of life and living standards for targeted groups Pursuing transparent and unified beneficiary selection and registration mechanisms for the social safety nets
- Monitoring and evaluating systems and research plans for the social safety net
- Ensuring that data collection efforts are systematically analysed and data are disaggregated
- Developing job training and employment services for the poor and vulnerable
- Building an enhanced child protection system
- Developing capacities for the social sector reform process
- Ensuring social assistance legal reform
- Undertaking production and use of social protection data
- Linking welfare to work
- Focusing on persons with disabilities and the elderly and persons



## Youth - Securing our Future



### Vision

The vision of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is to ensure that every young person is respected and valued and is equipped with the tools to make informed choices to improve their well-being, and is supported and connected to an integrated system that allows them to excel and make valuable contributions to a safe and prosperous Federation.

### Goals

- Economic participation- to ensure young women and men equitable access to decent environment and livelihood opportunities
- Safety, security and protection-to build resilience and protective factors and reduce youth involvement in violence and crime
- Education and lifelong learning- to make equitable and inclusive quality education and learning reality for young people, consistent with their life stage, needs, aspirations
- Health and Well-being- to empower young people to pursue healthy lifestyle and behaviours and preserve their emotional, physical and mental health and well-being
- Youths as agents of democracy, development and national building- to integrate and empower young people fully for genuine youth led-action as a trusted partner in community national development and decision-making
- Youth and sustainable development to engage young people to manage the environment, nature resources and climate change impact to benefit present and future generations
- Youth development work and youth mainstreaming- to strengthen national capacity and systems for mainstreaming youth development and for the management of professional youth work, consistent with industrial standards and practice





## *Youth Strategic Priorities*

- Developing and sustaining youth entrepreneurship
- Supporting the creative initiatives and start-up endeavours of the young people
- Stimulating employment creation and employability
- Ensuring equal opportunities for everyone
- Ensuring the protection and rights of young people
- Providing second chances to distressed and and troubled youths
- Strengthening families and communities
- Encouraging STEM subjects
- Ensuring life-long learning
- Reorienting the formal education
- Improving youth health outcomes
- Encouraging sports and leisure for the well-being of the youth
- Stimulating youth's participation and representation
- Encouraging volunteerism
- Promoting environmental sustainability
- Strengthening national capacity for mainstreaming youth development





5

# GENDER EQUALITY



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

GOALS

## Gender - Maintaining Equality

### Vision



The vision is to provide a framework that will facilitate gender equality and empowerment by promoting gender mainstreaming and gender setting. Gender mainstreaming will ensure that gender issues are addressed within the existing development strategies and programmes. Gender setting will seek to transform the existing agenda through the systematic application of a gender perspective.

### Goals

- Guarantee protection for boys, men, girls and women through a comprehensive enabling environment and associated structures that tackle gender violence and discrimination
- Address economic, social, political, and environmental opportunities for women and men as an integral component of sustainable development
- Engender system wide attention to mainstreaming gender in all public and private spheres of the society to meet the strategic needs and aspirations of boys and men, girl and women and special populations at all stages of their development
- Promote gender equality consistent with the human-rights-based approach and applicable national and international legislation and treaties. Human-Rights based approach
- Accelerate efforts and commitments for women's economic, political and social autonomy

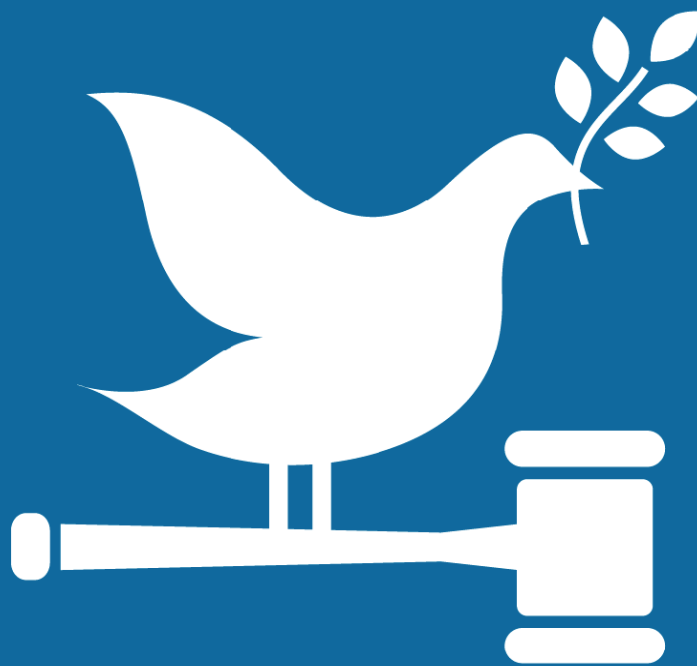


## *Gender Strategic Priorities*

- Pursuing gender sensitization and public and policy advocacy
- Developing and applying gender- responsive cultural policy and strategies that empower all members of society
- Strengthening the family as a healthy and cohesive unit to promote and uphold gender equality for all and eliminating discrimination
- Developing gender- inclusive approaches to communications and messaging that promote gender- transformative norms and behaviours in society
- Mainstreaming gender in the sector for men's and women's equal access to productive resources for economic growth and empowerment
- Promoting a gender- responsive approach to climate change, the environment and sustainable development
- Fostering equality for men and women in labour force participation and access to social protections and labour rights
- Enabling men and women to benefit from sustainable livelihood strategies, economic growth, and productive resources
- Enabling girls and boys, women and men to have equal access to the internet.
- Protecting the rights of older persons and provide measures adequate to meet the current and evolving needs
- Ensuring that all planning and development in tourism and related services fully integrate the gender perspective
- Growing a sustainable and resilient blue economy in which men and women participate and benefit equally
- Developing mechanisms to manage and monitor gendered dimensions in education delivery.
- Implementing a multi-sectoral public health approach to prevent gender- based violence and discrimination and ensure protections and recourse
- Fostering equal access to gender- aware, gender-inclusive, quality health care and services appropriate to the life stages and lived circumstances of boys and men and girls and women
- Achieving women's access to and participation in leadership and decision-making equal to men in political governance, peace, and security
- Ensuring social assistance for vulnerable women
- Reducing discrimination and stopping violence against juveniles
- Ensuring gender is fully integrated into all policies and development work targeting young people
- Protecting the human rights of LGBTQIA+ people in the Federation to access opportunities consistent with the priority goals and strategic actions of the National Gender Equality Policy



# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

## Human and National Security



### Vision

The vision is to clearly determine those threats that impact or could impact the Federation and people of St. Kitts and Nevis, inform the citizenry, provide for and take those actions that are necessary to ensure the safety, security and stability of the nation, its people and its interests.

### Goals

- Eradicate corruption in the public and private sectors
- Properly equip law enforcement agencies and providing the necessary legislation for them to conduct their tasks
- Incorporate private security guard companies in the national security architecture
- Improve border security by land, air, and sea
- Develop and maintain an effective national intelligence infrastructure
- Develop counter terrorism resilience
- Strengthen the criminal justice system
- Fully utilize community policing and social intervention tools and mechanisms in dealing with crime
- Eradicate human trafficking and smuggling
- Develop and maintain a natural and manmade disaster resilience
- Improve health security
- Take actions to negate the impact of climate change and developing alternative energy sources
- Improve food and water security
- Engage continuously with regional and international partners in the fight against crime
- Make plans for the continuous improvement of the nation's human capital
- Modernize facilities for the incarceration of individuals in the care of the state and providing proper bilitation, reorientation and reintegration opportunities





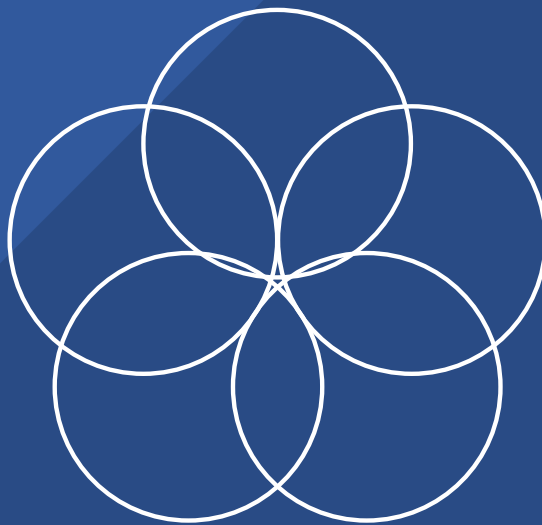
## *Human Security Strategic Priorities*

- Continuing commitments to the Regional Security System (RSS) of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and other regional and international treaties, protocols, agreements and memorandum of understanding
- Supporting the requirements of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (2013)
- Addressing trafficking – arms and ammunition, drug and human
- Tackling money laundering and cybercrime
- Reducing domestic crimes
- Tackling terrorism
- Focusing on the potential for crime amongst the at-risk youth and adult populations
- Eliminating hazardous labour practices at workplaces
- Enhancing health security
- Guaranteeing food security
- Highlighting water and energy security
- Tackling property degradation that harbours criminals
- Developing human resources and adequately fund national security system
- Reforming and modernizing the national security system
- Empowering at-risk communities



# 17

# PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

# DEVELOPMENT FOCUS SIX 6:

Institutional Strengthening and Partnership



## Summary

Development and development planning have two aspects – policies as well as institutions. Institutions are as important as strategies. In development planning, strategies may be brilliant, but there may not be efficient institutions to implement those strategies. Looking at the public administration of St. Kitts and Nevis, it appears that it is driven not by traditional development administration, but by public value management. Public officials in St. Kitts and Nevis are constantly working to bring public value to populace. Persons engaged in the front line of the government make time and effort to deliver services to the people.

There is an issue of inadequate human resources in various ministries and agencies. Sometimes, there is a mismatch between the needed skills and what is available. All these create a constraint in deriving the optimal results from public services. Pursuing public sector reform to make it more efficient, effective, people-centered, and development-anchored is required. The private sector is a major contributor to the development of the country. Private investments are crucial for sustained growth thus the private sector must also be a major actor in ensuring climate-resilient development in the country. Public-private partnerships are an effective mechanism for service delivery. Therefore, public policy should be geared towards making a conducive environment where the private sector can thrive.

At a functional level, St. Kitts and Nevis is engaged with a number of Caribbean regional institutions. As a member of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the country strives for increasing its regional and international trade and sustainable production of goods and services. Caribbean Regional Negotiating machinery assists Caribbean countries, including St. Kitts and Nevis, in the coordination and trade policy with the aim of facilitating the formulation of a unified negotiating strategy among members. Being part of the Caribbean Export Development Agency, St. Kitts and Nevis takes advantage of this regional facility to increase its international competitiveness and export earnings. St. Kitts and Nevis benefits from the agricultural research and development of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). Strengthening these ties would be beneficial for St. Kitts and Nevis.





## Public Administration

### Vision

The vision is to transform the public sector into one that is transparent, efficacious, worker-motivated, people- centered and development driven.

### Goals

- Pursue public sector reform to make it more efficient, effective, people-centered and development- anchored
- Develop the human resources in public administration to be highly skilled, committed, and motivated
- Forge better interface between political and public officials
- Build alliances with the private sector and the civil society organizations
- Develop capacities of critical public sector institutions (The Statistical Office, Legal Affairs Office, and the Bureau of Standards)

## Public Administration Strategic Priorities

- Making public procurement efficient and transparent
- Reforming public administration
- Motivating public officials and making them accountable
- Forging better interface between political and public officials
- Making public procurement efficient and transparent
- Ensuring improved coordination among public administrative organs
- Expanding the use of ICT for public administration
- Encouraging public officials to be climate aware
- Enhancing capacities and work of the statistical system
- Improving capacities of the legal system



## *Private Sector*

### **Vision**

The vision for the private sector is to foster greater involvement by forging partnerships between public and private sector actors that promote investment and development.

### **Goals**

- Maintain a stable social, political, and macroeconomic environment
- Sustain the appropriate legal and regulatory environment
- Forge alliances with the government and public-private partnerships
- Facilitate the integration of regional and global economy
- Ensure adequate physical and social infrastructure
- Provide support to small businesses
- Integrate ICT into the private sector work and operations

## *Private Sector Strategic Priorities*

- Sustaining necessary legal and regulatory environment
- Providing institutional support for private sector development
- Ensuring access to financing for the private sector
- Supporting small businesses
- Formulating a national strategic plan for the private sector
- Developing energy and infrastructure for private sector development
- Making the private sector climate-smart

