

The Action will contribute to the implementation of the ‘Saba’s Energy Sector Strategy 2020-2025’. The energy strategy reflects the island’s focus on transition towards sustainable, affordable and reliable energy supply. It sets out the goal and steps to achieve a 60% renewable energy share in the production mix by 2025, while the ultimate target is to achieve 100% renewable energy in a near future. Furthermore, the policy foresees measures in favour of energy efficiency and modernisation of the management of the grid.

More concretely, the Action will result in:

1. The installation of at least 1 MW additional renewable energy generation and energy storage infrastructure;
2. The upgrade and modernisation of the power system controls and the electricity grid.

This Action will also contribute to achieving EU priorities, namely the Green Deal⁴, but also its international commitments to support actions aligned with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change⁵ and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In addition, this Action will contribute to the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mainly to the Sustainable Development Goal 7 ‘Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all’.

The complementary support will be used to reinforce Saba’s energy reforms, in particular by updating its Energy Sector Strategy for the period 2025-2030.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

2.1.1 General context

Saba is a public entity/special municipality of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, having gained this status upon the dissolution of the Dutch Antilles in October 2010. Together with the public entities of Sint Eustatius and Bonaire, it forms the Caribbean Netherlands. They are supported by Dutch line ministries, coming together through the *Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland* (RCN).

EU cooperation with OCTs is framed by Part IV of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG). OCTs are constitutionally linked to a Member State, in the case of Saba to the Netherlands, but are not part of the EU territory, and therefore are not bound by the EU *acquis*.

Sustainable Energy, as key part of the island’s resilience, was jointly identified by Saba and the European Commission as the priority area of Saba’s Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027⁶ adopted in December 2021. This MIP will be implemented through one single Action, building on previous achievements.

2.1.2 Territorial context

Saba is an island situated in the northern Leeward Islands of the Caribbean, 45 km southwest of Sint Maarten. Saba has a surface area of 13 km and a population of 1,918 inhabitants (2021). The island is a dormant volcano dotted with a rocky shoreline whose slopes rise sharply from the sea to the summit of Mount Scenery (887 m), the highest point of the Netherlands.

Saba’s main infrastructures are the Fort Bay Harbour and the Juancho Yrausquin International Airport. The harbour is used as the main entry for imported goods, while the airport allows for small aircraft. There is one main road linking the harbour and the airport and, at the same time, providing access to different micro villages.

⁴ [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The European Green Deal, COM\(2019\)640 final.](#)

⁵ [Dutch OCTs, including Saba, did not sign up to the Paris Agreement.](#) However, its objectives and role are very relevant in the broader framework of international action on climate change.

⁶ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/mip-2021-c2021-9164-oct-annex-6-saba_en.pdf