



***Towards 100% sustainable energy  
on the Caribbean island of Saba***



*Saba island*

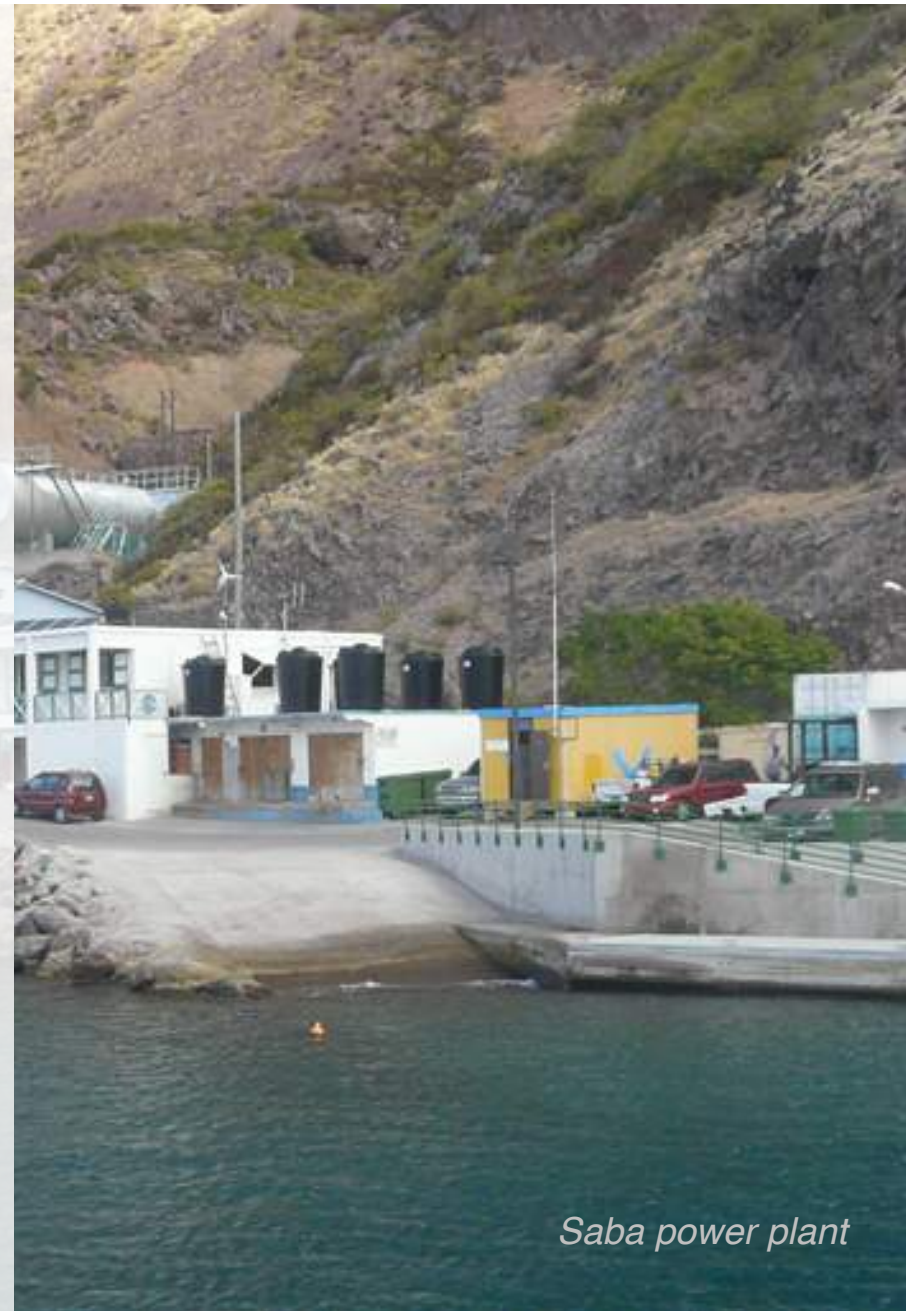
**On Saba, challenges to sustainable, environmentally resilient development include:**

- **an over-dependency on food and fuel imports**
- **insecurity of energy supply.**

Electricity supply depends entirely on **one diesel power plant** located close to sea level by the harbour.

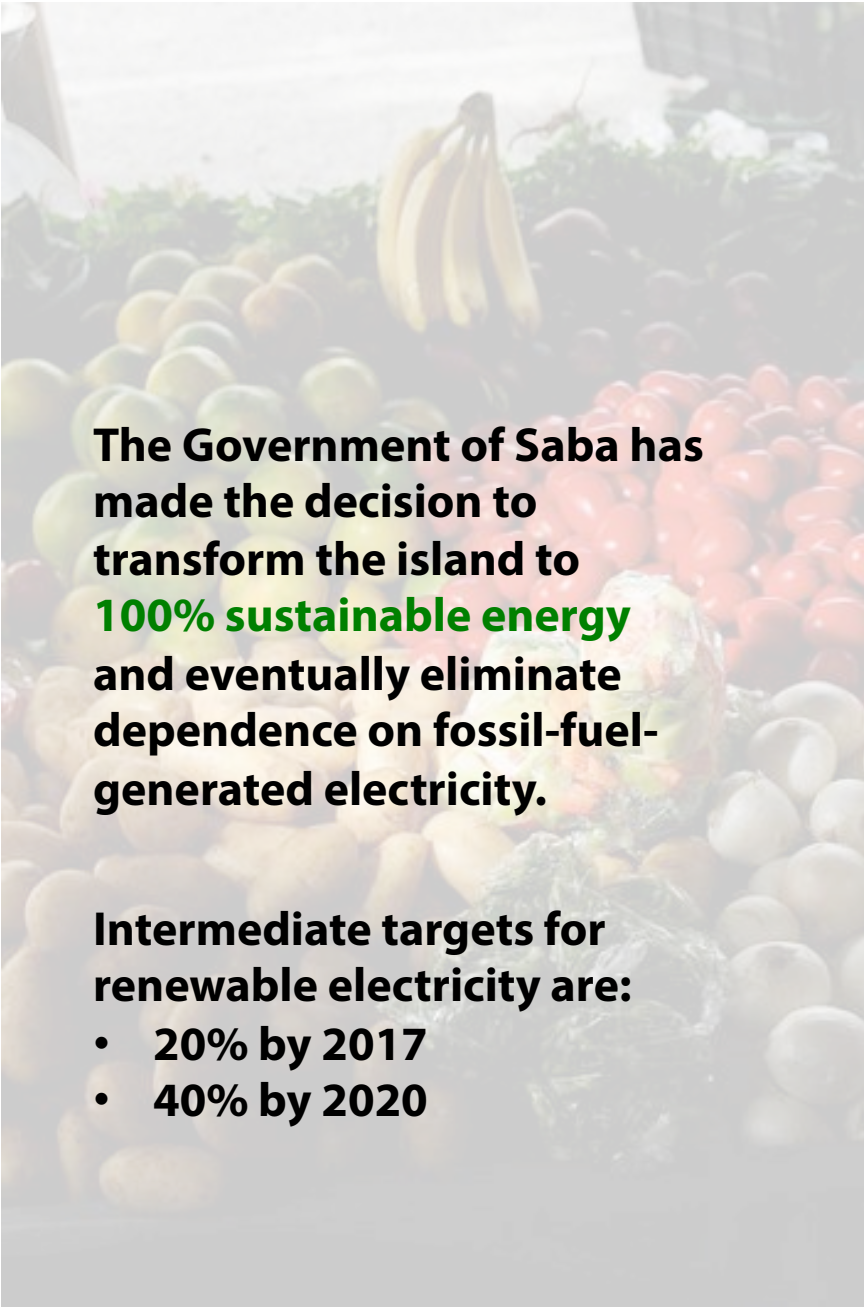
**50% of the cost of electricity is related to the volatile price of fossil fuels and lubricants.**

**Consumers pay a subsidised rate 35% below the cost of production.**



*Saba power plant*



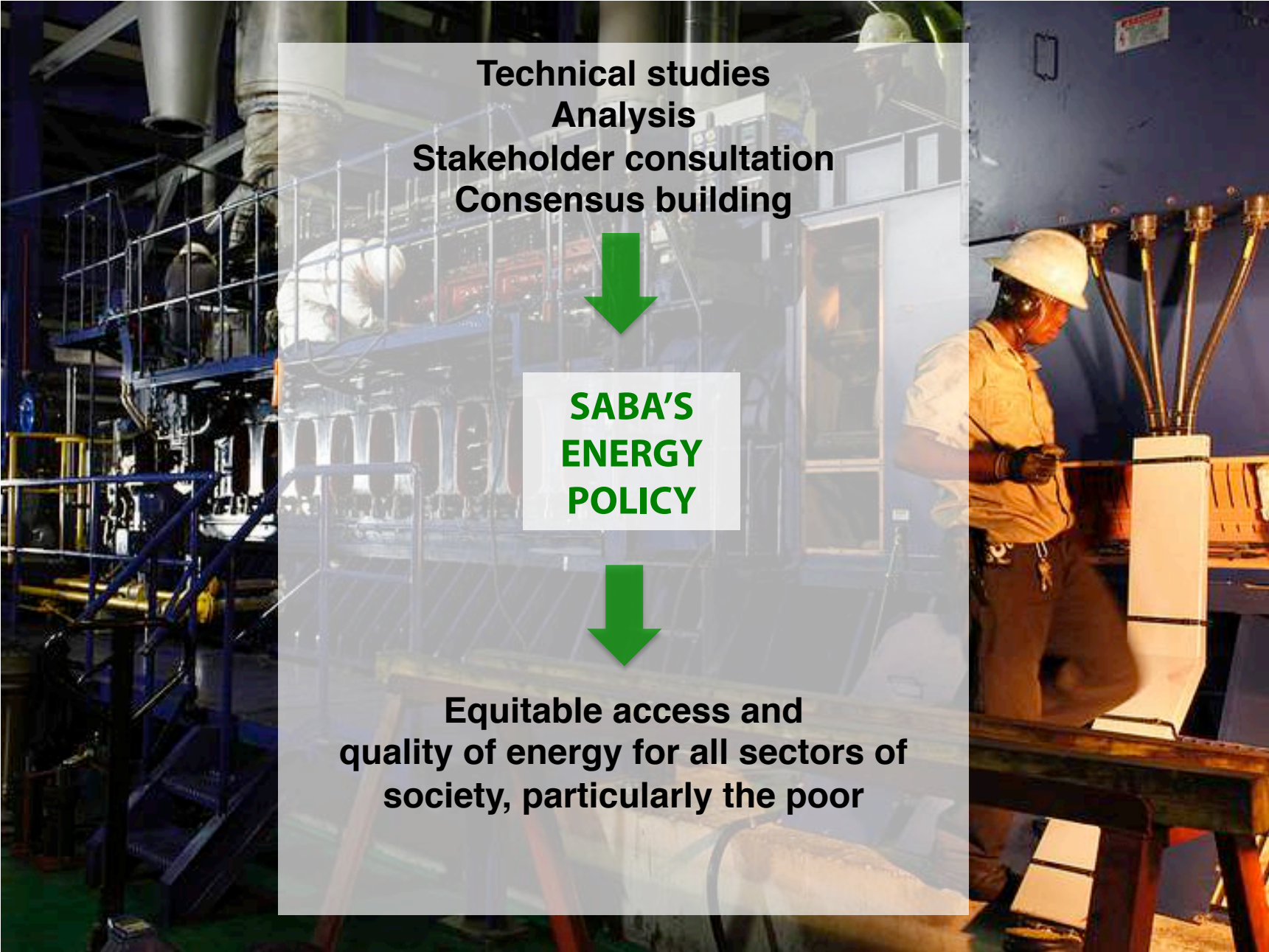


**The Government of Saba has made the decision to transform the island to **100% sustainable energy** and eventually eliminate dependence on fossil-fuel-generated electricity.**

**Intermediate targets for renewable electricity are:**

- **20% by 2017**
- **40% by 2020**





**Technical studies  
Analysis  
Stakeholder consultation  
Consensus building**




**SABA'S  
ENERGY  
POLICY**



**Equitable access and  
quality of energy for all sectors of  
society, particularly the poor**





**The implementation of Saba's energy policy has been considered a success.**

**Two energy projects are being implemented thanks to a **private—public partnership** between the Dutch Government and the local Saba Electric Company NV (SEC).**



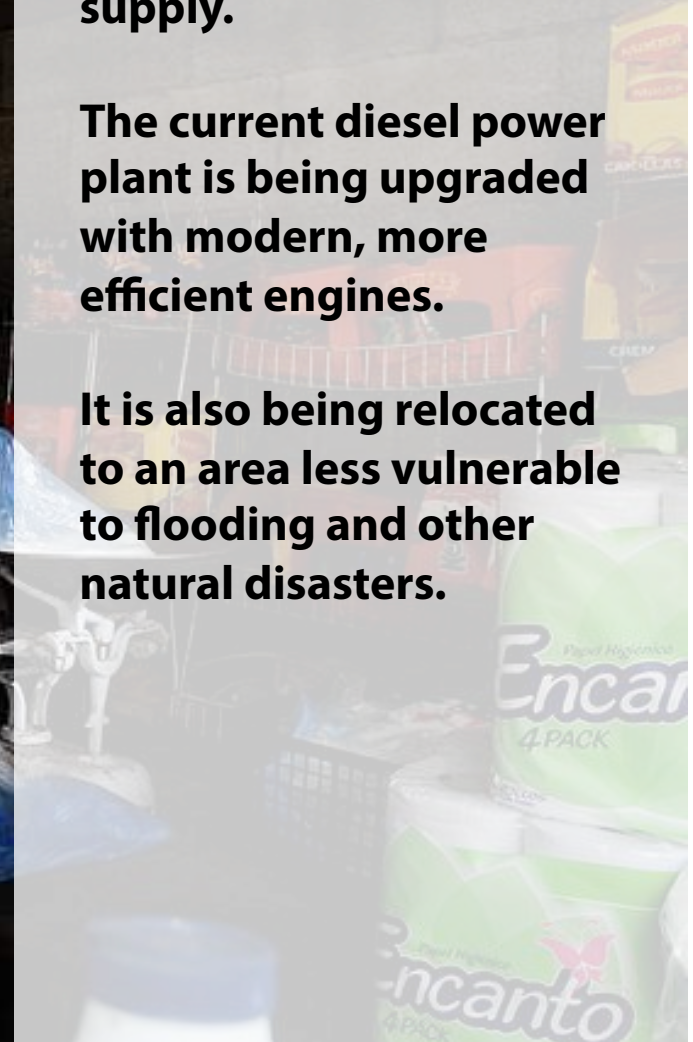




The **first investment** is related to security of supply.

The current diesel power plant is being upgraded with modern, more efficient engines.

It is also being relocated to an area less vulnerable to flooding and other natural disasters.



The **second investment** is the construction of the first 1 MW photovoltaic solar system on the island.

This renewable energy system will be operating by the end of 2016 and will provide Saba with 20% of its energy needs.







**Between 2013 and 2015, the energy sector reform received Dutch grants to reduce the risks of SEC losing money in its operations.**

**Technical guidance** in the form of analysis and studies have been provided by the Dutch Government to facilitate implementation of the policy.

The successful implementation of Saba's energy policy provides **four lessons** to other islands:

1. **Public—private partnerships are a viable financing mechanism** for the transition from a fossil-fuel-based system to renewable energy sources.
2. **Low-risk off-the-shelf technology solutions are available**, rather than taking the risk of using untested new technologies.

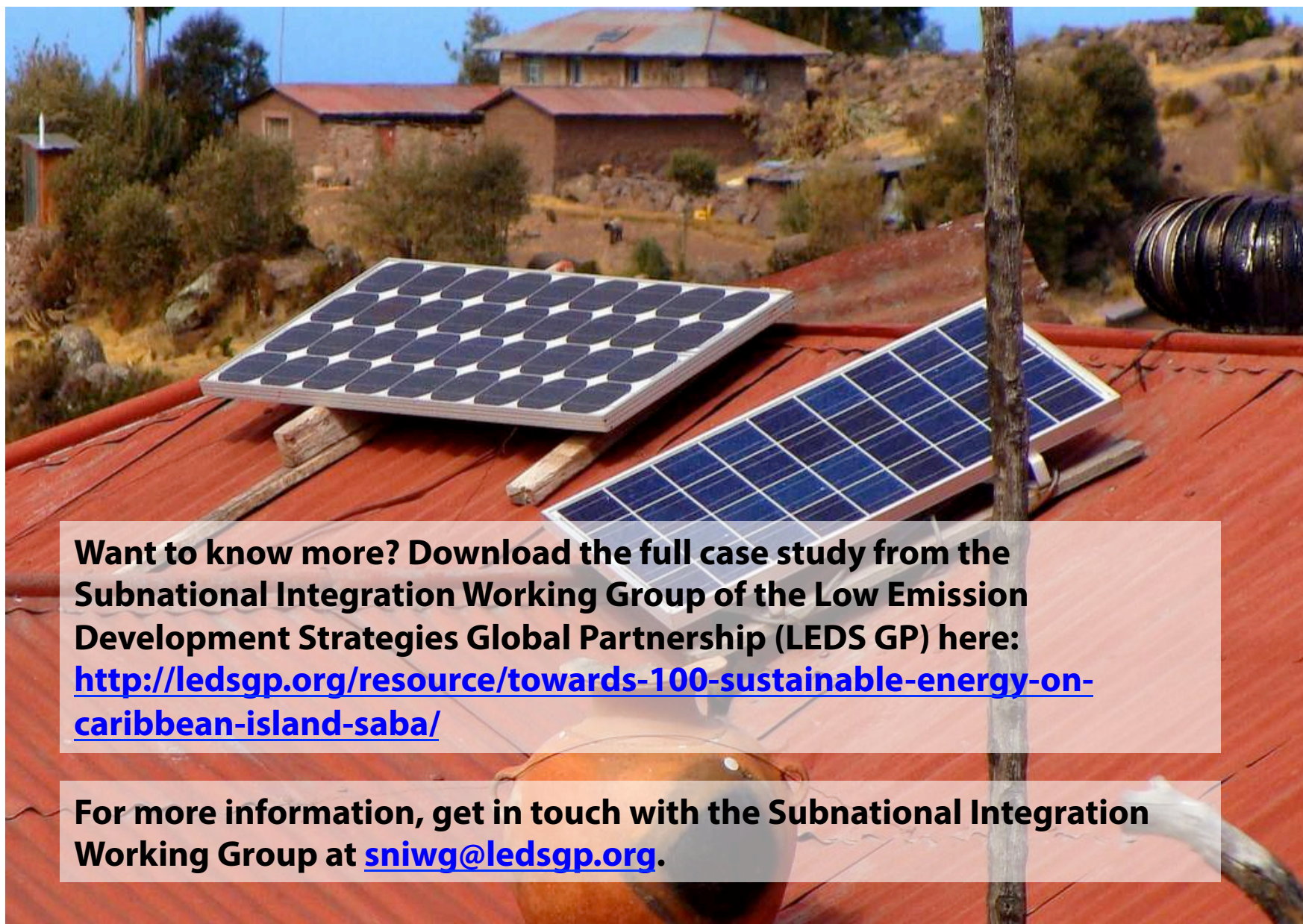




**3. Analyze best practices:** Photovoltaic systems are currently preferred in the absence of technologies to protect wind energy equipment from hurricane damage.

**4. Choose a business model:** A prosumers model (businesses/households both produce and consume electricity) is too high risk for Saba's small size. The more conventional business model adopted offers firmer guarantees.





**Want to know more? Download the full case study from the Subnational Integration Working Group of the Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) here:**  
<http://ledsgp.org/resource/towards-100-sustainable-energy-on-caribbean-island-saba/>

**For more information, get in touch with the Subnational Integration Working Group at [sniwg@ledsgp.org](mailto:sniwg@ledsgp.org).**





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- Mother and child on a farm. Photo: Maria Fleischmann / World Bank
- Produce market. Photo: Maria Fleischmann / World Bank
- Saba
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