



# Trust News

Saint Lucia National Trust

## Trust Prepares New Strategic Plan for 2008-2017

The ten year Strategic Plan for the Trust ended in 2007 and the organisation is in the midst of preparing a new strategic plan for the coming decade (2008-2017). This process started with an external review of the organisation, which was presented to, and approved by members at its last AGM. Since then, three retreats involving staff and Council were held and to date the Vision and Mission for the organisation were revisited, the Programme Areas redefined and related goals and objectives crafted. Staff is currently working on identifying initiatives, measures and performance indicators for the agreed objectives, following which a balanced scorecard will be developed, and the entire package presented to members for discussion, review and eventual acceptance. The outcome of this process will inform the development of the new strategic plan.

## Southern Membership Group appoints Interim Committee

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The Southern Membership Group of the Saint Lucia National Trust has appointed an interim committee to govern its affairs. This committee will be responsible for providing direction to the group and for developing activities aimed at promoting the protection of the natural and cultural patrimony of the South. In this vein, the group has developed a list of activities for the remainder of 2008 aimed at educating themselves and the Vieux-Fort public in matters related to the protection of our natural and cultural heritage. The main purpose of the group is to act as the 'foot soldiers' of the Trust in the south and to eventually play a role in the area of advocacy and education.

The interim committee comprises the following persons:

Coordinator: Brian Evans

Assistant Coordinator: Glenna Evans

Secretary: Maureen Louis

Treasurer and Advisor: Anthony Sammie

The group currently consists of 15 members. It is envisioned that this number will grow and will eventually result in the election of a more permanent executive.

## Trust Hosts Debating Competition



The Babonneau Secondary School and the Micoud Secondary School went head to head in a debating competition organised by the Trust in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Sports in June. This debate formed part of a week of activities to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. The topic for the debate was: “Small Island Developing States can do very little to combat Climate Change.” This topic emerged from the theme for World Environment Day 2008 which was, “CO2: Kick the habit!”

Sherwinner Eleuthere and Kerian Jorney representing the Babonneau Secondary School, who opposed the topic, emerged the winners of the hotly debated competition. The Most Outstanding speaker went to the seconder of the team, Kerian Jorney. Prizes included a trophy for the winning team and the runner up team, four book vouchers worth EC\$ 150.00 each and day passes to Coconut Bay Resort and Spa for the winning debating team. The Trust takes this opportunity to congratulate both teams for putting on a good debate.

Other activities for the celebration of World Environment Day 2008 included: the viewing of a DVD on climate change, produced by the Sustainable Development and Environment Section, called “Paradise at Risk: Facing up to Climate Change in Saint Lucia” in Soufriere, Laborie and Micoud. There were also two Walk for the Environment activities in Micoud and Soufriere as well as radio shows on various stations.

## Upcoming SLNT Activities

- 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting on September 24, 2008 at the National Cultural Centre from 5:00 pm . Come and participate in the governance of the Trust.
- Town Hall meetings in 6 zones island-wide on various environmental issues. These town hall meetings are aimed at seeking the input of resource users, key agencies and the general public in addressing various environmental problems. It will also be the beginning of a comprehensive and structured process of education, mobilisation and advocacy.
- The launching of “Operation Rescue Saint Lucia” via a press conference

## **Public awareness and Protected Area Management go hand in hand**

The Saint Lucia National Trust represented by Communications and Advocacy Officer, Anthony Sammie and Programme Officer, Lavina Alexander along with Sylvia Raymond of the Department of Forestry and Luxcius Doxerie of the Government Information Services attended a Regional Consultation on Protected Areas organised by the OECS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit. The consultation was aimed at providing the six (6) OECS member states participating in the OPAAL project with the tools required to prepare national awareness action plans for protected areas.

Among the specific objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Build the capacity of member states in communication strategy development
2. Get national input from member states on the strategy and national action plans; and
3. Arrive at consensus on the strategy and national action plans

The workshop was held over three days, the first day and a half of which focused on presentations on various aspects of communications planning. The resource persons included: Julius Gittens, a journalist from Barbados; Alleyne Regis, Technical Director, RARE Radio, Saint Lucia; Maria Fowell, Senior Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications at ECFH, Saint Lucia; Emilyn Jean, St Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and Salas Hamilton, CSME Unit, Barbados. These resource persons provided real approaches and case studies on communication campaigns undertaken by their organisations in the region. The remainder of the sessions consisted of group work where the actual strategies were prepared and presented for review and comment.

At the end of the process, member states prepared the outline of six awareness action plans under the guidance of the OECS secretariat. The facilitators of the workshop included: Tecla Fontenard, Communications Specialist, OECS Secretariat and Dr. Maria Protz, Communications for Development Consultant, Jamaica.

## **Ecological Gap Assessment being undertaken in Saint Lucia**

Experts from the Nature Conservancy, a US-based non-profit environmental organization, were in Saint Lucia in July to assist natural resource management agencies in undertaking an ecological gap assessment for biodiversity conservation. The exercise identified the extent to which species, natural communities and ecological systems are represented in the system of protected areas, and will further determine where and how the design of the protected area network can be strengthened to represent the full range of biodiversity in Saint Lucia.

This exercise was undertaken as part of the revision of the System of Protected Areas for Saint Lucia, which is ongoing. The Systems Plan, as it is commonly known, was published in 1992 by the Saint Lucia National Trust. The plan resulted from extensive collaboration with natural, cultural and historical resource management agencies, and proposed 27 areas for the management of the country's biological and cultural diversity.

The Systems Plan is currently being revised with support from the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project, which is being executed in 6 member states of the OECS. Similar exercises have been undertaken in St. Vincent and Grenada.

According to the National Trust, this initiative will be a major step in providing protection to significant natural and historical components of Saint Lucia's patrimony.

## Teachers from District 6 prepare for SAVE Projects

Teachers from District six (6) in Vieux-Fort participated in a one day training workshop in June facilitated by the SAVE committee and the Trust. The main aim of the workshop was to prepare two teachers from each school in District 6 to begin developing and executing projects in their respective schools using the Pointe Sables Environmental Protection Area as a 'living laboratory'.

The training workshop consisted of presentations on Pointe Sables and the SAVE environmental education programme. The teachers were given an opportunity to outline the potential projects which they can commence in September. Following this, the teachers broke out into groups to begin developing possible projects using an established template. The teachers came back to a plenary session where each group made a presentation on their respective plans. It is envisioned that these plans will be further developed and refined in the new school year.

The SAVE programme is an environmental education programme aimed at engaging the students of District six (6) in Vieux-Fort in undertaking projects related to the Pointe Sables Environmental Protection Area. A SAVE committee has been established for the purpose of overseeing this programme and providing necessary guidance. It is made up largely of teachers and relevant referral agencies.

### Trust participates in Clean Up

The Trust teamed up with business houses, schools and organizations from the North of the island to undertake a clean up of the Castries Gros Islet Highway from the Rodney Bay Mall to Cap Estate. Organized by the Landing Resort (St. Lucia) as part of activities to commemorate International Earth Day, over 300 participants armed with gloves and



*Members of the SLNT Clean up team*

large garbage bags began the task of clearing the area of litter indiscriminately disposed of along the highway. The event turned out to be quite a success. At the end it all, over 170 large garbage bags of trash weighing over 1½ tons were collected. It is hoped that the interest which the activity generated would somehow change the mindset of Saint Lucians and hopefully see a change in the manner in which garbage is disposed of in our communities. The organizers plan to make this a regular event with more participation from persons in the community.

## Advocacy Table

Advocacy Area	Problem	Potential solutions	General Advocacy Strategy	Cost
PMA	<p>Potential de-listing</p> <p>Poor land Management</p> <p>Threat to biodiversity</p>	<p>Preparation of a Limits of Acceptable Change study.</p> <p>Development and execution of a comprehensive social marketing plan targeting various publics.</p> <p><b>“Save the PMA Campaign”</b></p>	<p>Prepare a project concept form for GEF (<i>done</i>).</p> <p>Prepare a planning grant from GEF. (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Seek the approval of Cabinet</p> <p>Plan and execute project.</p> <p>Statement on issue to be made via press conference.</p> <p>Presentation to Senate by Giles Romulus of UNDP Barbados to discuss merits of maintaining and sustaining PMA.</p>	<p>US\$ 60,000.</p> <p>Funding being sought from GEF.</p>
Mankote Mangrove	<p>Possible establishment of a gated development in the mangrove.</p>	<p>Encourage and pressure policy makers to desist from this action and engage in education drive.</p>	<p>Write letter to Minister for Economic Affairs for copy of plans (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Obtained commitment from Minister to halt further consideration of the project (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Prepare a map revealing critical habitat areas of Mankote Mangrove</p> <p>Meeting of all relevant referral agencies to discuss project and obtain all relevant literature on Mankote (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Collation and analysis of data</p> <p>Community meetings to obtain feedback</p> <p>Seek court injunction if project still goes ahead.</p>	<p>EC\$ 2000</p>

## Advocacy Table

Le Paradis Beach and Golf Resort	Sedimentation issues Destruction to Marine Environment	Meetings with Physical Planning and DCG to determine best possible approaches for conservation measures.	<p>Meeting with Physical Planning (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Meeting with DCG involving referral agencies to discuss meeting of conditions (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Press Release on meeting and to be addressed in press conference.</p> <p>Site Visits to Le Paradis with monitoring officers involving referral agencies</p> <p>Production of a statement on Le Paradis and general development ethos and encourage DCA to follow this statement.</p> <p>Continued work with Le Paradis on issue of monitoring and control</p>	EC\$ 1500
Ritz Carlton	Potential threat to historical heritage of site	Engagement with developers and planning	<p>Site Visit to proposed site (<i>done</i>)</p> <p>Persuade Ritz to undertake an excavation to determine important historical finds (in train).</p> <p>Issuance of a statement and to be addressed in press conference</p>	EC\$ 1500
Grande Anse	Destructive developments	<p>Influence development in area</p> <p>Meeting with Senators</p> <p>Presentation developed for senators</p> <p>Meeting with surrounding populations and general public</p> <p>Statement to be made</p>	<p>Preparation of presentation</p> <p>Make presentation to Senators and small caucus of minister</p> <p>Make presentation to surrounding communities and groups</p> <p>Production of Video documentary on importance of Grande Anse</p> <p>Articles and appearance on television discussions</p>	<p>EC\$ 4000</p> <p>EC\$ 1400</p>

# Advocacy Table

Beach Management	Education and influence of policies  Meeting with relevant agencies  Lobbying to senators	Develop a “ <b>Save the Beaches</b> ” campaign  Development of a specific policy on beaches.	EC \$ 3000
Whaling and Turtle poaching		Policy statement to be ratified by membership  Launch of statement via a press conference  Engage Fisheries in discussion on development of a public education programme	
Environmental Education	Comprehensive sensitization and education plan	SAVE programme in South of island  Trust Youth Arm: Various youth activities and development of other chapters  Invite youth to contribute to the Yo! Magazine	EC \$5000
<b>Other Advocacy Issues</b>  Environmental Impact Assessment Lobbying  Generic statements on development and lobbying for a policy on touristic and hotel developments  Lobbying for zoned management to St. Lucia’s development	Development of community pressure groups  Lobbying  Presentations and meetings  Email blasts  Petitions	Membership groups in Vieux-Fort and Soufriere  Lobbying of senators and ministers through presentation to senators  Membership meetings  Regular releases and statements  Video Documentary on Sustainable use of natural resources  Regular meetings with appropriate referral agencies such as Physical Planning, SLHTA, etc.	EC\$ 4000
Architectural Heritage		Develop and execute a project on the listing of buildings of architectural merit	
			Total: EC\$ 30,000