



SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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**Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy
Governor General of St. Lucia**

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PRESS RELEASE

Moving the Conservation Thrust Forward with our Members



An impressive turn out by members at the Saint Lucia National Trust's (SLNT) 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was evident on the weekend. Approximately 128 members and 15 staff attended the AGM on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the Coco Resorts Conference Room in Rodney Bay. The SLNT's patron, Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy was on hand to declare the meeting officially open. Dame Pearlette encouraged the Trust to choose a few significant conservation projects to undertake, especially those areas which are on the brink of misuse in order to avoid the regret of losing them in

the future. The Governor General also emphasized that the real work of the Trust must be carried out by its members. A plaque was presented to Dame Pearlette by Laurie-Ann Antoine, a member of the Trust.

In his report, Chairman Sylvester Clauzel pointed out that the last year unfolded a combination of significant challenges but significant strides in key areas. He said Council explored an agro-forestry project focusing on the production of essential oils, while not ruling out integrating this concept with the original nature tourism experience at our Anse la Liberte site. This initiative is being explored with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Essential Oils Cooperative.

Mr. Clauzel also told the gathering that the Trust also collaborated with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology to have included in its GEF 5 programming, the production of development guidelines for the North East Coast of Saint Lucia, with a focus on biodiversity and natural resource conservation. He said although this activity is among the deliverables under our Strategic Plan, it was proving to be a challenge to fund, but with this strategic alliance, we expect progress to achieve a major part of the Trust's work programme over the next three years.

Another development is that Council approved a Wedding Strategy for Growth which includes plans for strengthening the Trust's wedding product and marketing Pigeon Island as a wedding venue. The Strategy is already being implemented and by next year the Trust should begin to realize the benefits. Presentations were also made by the Director and the Presidents of the Southern Chapter and the Youth Chapter on other projects undertaken for the period under review and upcoming initiatives aimed at fulfilling our conservation mandate. Based on the members' contributions it was evident that more volunteer opportunities are necessary in order to foster greater involvement by members in the work of the Trust.

The culmination of the various presentations heralded the beginning of the election process which the members eagerly awaited. After the elections were completed, the seven persons elected to Council are; Calixte George Jr., Simone Mondesir, Dr. Vasantha Chase, Maureen Louis, Makeddah John, Lavina Alexander and Lyndale James. The two Government representatives on Council are Crispin d'Auvergne and Dunley Auguste, while the two representatives from the Saint Lucia Archeological and Historical Society must be confirmed in order to have the full complement of Councillors.