



# Successful Underwater Cleanup hosted in Saint Lucia

By the Department of Sustainable Development  
in collaboration with  
The Saint Lucia Dive Association



Cognizant of the negative impacts of inappropriately discarded waste on the country's environmental integrity, aesthetic, and recreational values, the Department of Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the St. Lucia Dive Association, several hotel establishments and certified divers undertook an Underwater Cleanup on Friday, September 18, 2020.



Ready to Set Off, Divers Equipped with Care Packages (Source: Massy Stores (SLU) Ltd.; St. Lucia Dive Association)



Victorious after land and sea cleanups (Source: St. Lucia Dive Association)

Sites in both the north and south of Saint Lucia were selected, with cleanups scheduled for both the dive sites and the adjacent land spaces, from which single-use plastics and other materials are introduced to the marine environment, to the detriment of marine ecosystems and wildlife. Hotel guests, beach goers and residents of nearby communities joined in on the land cleanups.

The activity was hosted on multiple days (given the inclement weather affecting divers' visibility in the island's north on September 18), and resulted in the collection and proper disposal (with assistance from the National Conservation Authority) of over thirty (30) bags of debris, each weighing approximately fifteen (15) pounds.

The activity aimed to promote environmental stewardship and good practices through widespread sensitization, education and on-the-ground actions, raising awareness of the negative effects of marine litter (especially single-use plastics) on the marine and coastal environment.



Materials retrieved during the Underwater Cleanup (Source: St. Lucia Dive Association)

The initiative was funded by the Massy Stores (SLU) Environmental Fund through the services of the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund Inc.