



# SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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**Patron: Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The People Have Spoken** **The Result Are In!**

Four youngsters, who participated in the World Wide Views (WWViews) on Biodiversity meeting in Saint Lucia have presented the official WWViews **Results Report** to a few stakeholders. The presentation was held on Monday, December 17, 2012 at the Palmville Meeting Room at Coco Resorts in Rodney Bay. Saint Lucia was one of two countries in the Eastern Caribbean to stage the all day consultation aimed at raising the level of awareness about biodiversity issues, and involving ordinary citizens in the policy making process.

On September 15, 2012, eighty-six (86) citizens and residents from across Saint Lucia joined thousands of people around the world in 24 other countries to take part in WWViews on Biodiversity. At the meeting they watched thematic videos and deliberated on what causes biodiversity loss and the solutions to these global problems. Subsequently the results from the voting sessions were uploaded on a global web tool. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the **Results Report** which provides a summary and comparative data on all the meetings held globally. This report was collated by the main organizers, the Danish Board of Technology who also presented the report to the Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as at two side events at the United Nations 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in India in October.



Left to right: Jazzy Smith, Lyndon John & Laurie-Ann Antoine.

Ashkel Montoute, Leanna Alexander, Laurie-Ann Antoine and Jazzy Smith, who all fell within the 16 to 24 age group at WWViews, presented the **Results Report** to Mr. Lyndon John, the Assistant Chief Forest Officer and Saint Lucia's lone delegate at the COP 11; Ms. Anita James, the Biodiversity Coordinator in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology; Ms. Angel St. Denis, National Advisor to the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (Saint Lucia) and Mrs. Afua Sanders Kim, US Peace Corps Volunteer at RISE (St. Lucia) Inc.

Mr. John shared his experience at the COP meeting and he told the gathering that the WWViews consultation was a useful exercise because “It provides us with a baseline on public views on the importance placed on biodiversity and awareness of its values to the St. Lucian society. It also allows us to compare (results) with other countries”.

Below are a few of the most important results of the consultation:

- Citizens worldwide are very concerned about the loss of biodiversity
- The establishment of new protected areas should be given higher priority than economic aims
- Efforts should be made to protect nature areas
- Eat less meat and intensify agricultural production
- Incentives and subsidies leading to overfishing should be phased out
- Protection of coral reefs is a shared responsibility
- More protected areas should be established in the High Seas
- All countries should pay for protecting biodiversity in developing countries
- Benefit sharing should apply to genetic resources already collected
- Use of genetic resources from the High Seas should benefit biodiversity

Bjørn Bedsted, Global Coordinator of WWViews at the Danish Board of Technology explains that, “*The results show that there is strong public support worldwide for taking political action in order to stop the decline of biodiversity*”.

Another successful outcome is that the decision makers at COP 11 recognized the WWViews initiative and the draft decision text reads: “*The Conference of Parties (COP) encourages Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to support and contribute to communication initiatives, such as the World Wide Views on Biodiversity, which combine the implementation of Strategic Goals A and E regarding mainstreaming of biodiversity, participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building*”.

WWViews on Biodiversity was organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) and was made possible through the generosity of the Japan Biodiversity Fund (JBF) and the CBD; the Biodiversity Unit in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology; Bank of Saint Lucia; Bank of Nova Scotia; Coco Resorts; Helen Television System; The BodyHoliday LeSport; and Sunshine Bookstore. Special thanks to all partners and members who served as a facilitators at the consultation.

The SLNT hopes that the presentation of the **Results Report** would have helped to keep the issue of the conservation of our unique yet fragile biodiversity on the forefront of everyone’s minds. Anyone who is interested in obtaining a copy of the thematic videos, informational booklet or the Results Report may contact the SLNT’s Communications and Advocacy Officer at 452-5005 or email [advocacy@slunatrust.org](mailto:advocacy@slunatrust.org).

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