



Point Sable Environmental Protection Area

Biophysical features

Physical features

Beaches, rocky shores, rocky shores, river and stream freshwater drainage

Terrestrial habitats

The Maria Islands consist of xeric scrubland, with five species of endemic reptiles. The remnants of dry forest vegetation are found on the peninsulas, along the NW edge of the Mankote Mangroves, and on Maria Major. They are not in good health. Although recreational activities take place on all beaches in the area (being Anse de Sable the most used) they are as turtle nesting sites. Beach recreational activities include bathing, snorkeling, wind and kite surfing, swimming, horseback riding, beach parties, kayaking, walking, and running.

Terrestrial flora and fauna species

The endemic species are the Saint Lucia whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus vanzoi*), the Saint Lucia worm snake (*Leptotyphlops breuli*), the Saint Lucia racer (*Liophis ornatus*), a tree lizard (*Anolis luciae*), and the dwarf gecko (*Sphaerodactylus microlepis*).

Marine habitats

Coral reefs exist as a narrow band of patch reefs extending from Saltibus Pointe to Maria Islands. The status of the reefs is unknown. The area is fished extensively by pot fishers and skin divers.

Marine flora Mangroves- The Mankote mangroves are the largest mangrove forest on the island, and the Savannes Bay & Scorpion Island mangroves are said to be some of the most productive in St. Lucia.

Marine invertebrates and fishes

Fishery resources in the area consist of a variety of finfish, conch, sea urchin, lobster, crab, and sea moss. Sea moss farming (mariculture) takes place mainly along the northern portion of Bois Chadon Beach.

Endangered species

Leatherback turtle; St. Lucia whiptail lizard.

Management

Primary management institution

St. Lucia National Trust

Other institutions that participate in management

Physical Planning and Development Division; Saint Lucia National Trust; Department of Fisheries; Department of Forestry; National Conservation Authority; National Development Corporation; Ministry of Social Transformation; Saint Lucia Royal Police Force; Southern Tourism Development Corporation; St Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority; Aupicon Charcoal Producers Association

Management objectives

Species protection, ecosystem protection, user conflict resolution, recreational tourism use

Other management objectives

To promote an integrated approach to management of areas within and outside the boundaries of the PSEPA so as to reconcile human needs and conservation

objectives and fisheries in the fishery waters of Saint Lucia. The Act also provides for the declaration of marine reserves for a range of purposes, including (i) protection of breeding grounds for aquatic life, (ii) providing special protection for flora and fauna in danger of extinction, (iii) allowing for regeneration of depleted species, (iv) promotion of scientific study and research, and (v) preservation of areas of natural beauty. The Mankote Mangrove Marine Reserve and Savannes Bay Marine Reserve were declared in 1986 under this Act.

Coastal development

Physical Planning and Development Act, 2001-This Act is one of the most critical legal instruments for the management of the PSEPA, not only because the site was designated using its provisions, but more so because it provides the basis for land-use planning and development control throughout the entire watershed that has the potential to generate threats to the PSEPA resources. Specifically, the Fourth Schedule of the Act requires environmental impact assessments for development activities in EPAs. The Act will also apply to other matters in the management of the PSEPA, such as the size and placement of commercial signs.

Issues or threats for accomplishing management objectives

Inappropriate agricultural practices; feral livestock; pollution; inappropriate fishing practices; inappropriate development practices; inadequate enforcement; inappropriate extractive practices.

General information

The Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA) is a coastal strip in the south of Saint Lucia which extends from Moule-a-Chique to Pointe de Caille, just north of Savannes Bay. This 10.38km² site was designated an environmental protection area under the Physical Planning and Development Act of 2001 in August 2007. The PSEPA was also a demonstration site for Saint Lucia under the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL) which officially ended in July 2011.