

Summary of Achievements and Activities in 2015 by the project supported by CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program “Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia”.

Supporting Monitoring and Enforcement within PSEPA

Through ECMMAN funding, the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) was able to recruit two new rangers to support monitoring and enforcement (M&E) work within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA). M&E challenges are a major issue within the PSEPA as government agencies struggle with tight budgets and staff constraints. The rangers will complement the work being undertaken by partner government agencies which have cooperated with the SLNT in the management of the PSEPA; these include but not limited to the Forestry Department; Department of Fisheries; Marine Police and the National Conservation Authority (NCA). Project funds also made it possible to procure much needed office equipment, field monitoring and personal gear which would help SLNT staff to function more effectively.

Enforcement Training

The ECMMAN project also facilitated enforcement training for the new rangers in early March 2015. Mr. Jayson Horadam of MPA Enforcement International, a natural resources law enforcement expert, coordinated the training sessions with input by public officers from local government agencies. Rangers from the Soufriere Marine Management Association (SMMA) were also in attendance. The training workshop was designed to provide agencies with responsibility for monitoring and enforcement within the Point Sable Environmental Protection Area PSEPA (both marine and terrestrial protected areas) the opportunity to review pertinent legislation and become more oriented with best practices in protected areas enforcement. Prior to this on-site training activity, an evaluation and assessment of enforcement needs to enhance protection of PSEPA was conducted with support from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program.



MPA management capacity building

The 11th edition of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management (CaMPAM) 'Training of Trainers on Marine Protected Area Management' region course took place from February 16th – the 27th, 2015, in Grenada. Mr. Craig Henry, Programme Officer of the SLNT working within the PSEPA and Ms. Shanna Emmanuel, Fisheries Officer attached to the Department of Fisheries in Saint Lucia, were both able to benefit from this comprehensive training course which was developed by the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) as part of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol activities to build MPA capacity will be held in Grenada for the English-speaking Caribbean. This training programme was developed to help equip Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Officers with useful knowledge and skills aimed at improving the range of management tools available to them to carry out their management functions more effectively. The course encompasses a series of modules which focus on improving MPA planning, research, monitoring, communications, teaching, stakeholder participation and awareness of regional guidelines.

In addition to this, TNC support also brought MPA experts, practitioners and managers together at the **Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Coral Reef Monitoring Program Workshop** which took place in Nevis from September 14 - 19, 2015. This training workshop provided both theoretical and hands on training to participants from 6 eastern Caribbean countries in various components of coral reef management and monitoring. There were opportunities to share and work on common areas of interest. Specifically, participants contributed to formulating country specific Coral Reef Report Cards; they were introduced to innovative database sharing platforms and effective visual tools (SocMon Spatial) and communication methods for more effective conservation management and monitoring. The project successfully highlighted the integrated nature of coral reef management, social well-being and MPA management.

Compilation of research information on the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA)

The PSEPA has been the site for multiple biodiversity, socio-economic and environmental protection studies. Over the past 10 years, numerous local, regional and international agencies have funded research in order to increase the knowledge base on the area and on the various activities, processes and projects that impact the site. With the project resources, a consultant compiled the existing information to create a picture of the work that has been done with the view to improving the knowledge base, identifying any gaps and avoid duplication as the SLNT and its partners advance resource management in the PSEPA. This work compiled the information of all relevant reports and data into one summary report which will serve as a toolkit to guide further research, ensuring that all existing relevant information of the site is readily available to researchers, project planners and managers. The report was formatted as a reader-friendly report and included biophysical data, environmental health issues and, to an extent possible (i.e. depending on the availability of studies in the last decade), a brief socio-economic assessment. The report summarized what is known to date and highlight knowledge,

monitoring and management gaps. These will be used to produce a succinct list of prioritized recommendation how these gaps should be addressed. A draft report has been submitted to the SLNT for review.

'This Is Who We Are' Saint Lucia

With the contribution of resources from other ECMMAN project components, a successful OECS wide environmental campaign was conducted which promoted, in the main, the value of marine managed areas (MMAs). For Saint Lucia, this created the opportunity to focus on the usefulness of MMAs through by targeting various sectors. Various activities were implemented to reach as wide an audience as possible. That included radio interviews, bin art painting competition; presentations at schools and during youth summer workshops; school expo; innovative comic strips and animations; and a fantastic family fun day. Telecommunications companies also made it possible to spread the word on marine conservation. Note that Saint Lucia won second place in the overall competition organized by TNC with institutional partners, which featured very inspiring MMA related public awareness work by participating OECS countries. The campaign ended in November of 2015.





Youth Environment Forum

Forty (40) youngsters enjoyed a five day summer programme in July, 2015 organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust themed 'Health Oceans- Healthy People'. These were young people between the ages of 8 to 16 all of whom reside in communities adjacent to the PSEPA. They participated in presentations on a range of MMA related topics including understanding the value of marine reserves; mangrove systems; impacts of pollution; turtle nesting within the PSEPA and the importance of the PSEPA itself. The young participants also created their own craft items and went on field trips to some of the protected areas within the PSEPA. The highlight for them all were the snorkeling sessions. Although many of them may have been to the beach, or swam along the PSEPA coastline; the majority had never snorkeled in the area. The objective was to introduce them to the underwater world in person which proved to be a hit for them. The experience was both educational and enjoyable. A few local partners also supported the summer programme- these included the Sandals Foundation, Consolidated Foods Ltd and Eastern Caribbean Financial Holding. More youth oriented activities are planned for 2016!



Biophysical assessment

Water quality sampling and testing were initiated at two of five sites previously identified as pollution hotspots within the PSEPA. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) was contracted to undertake the water quality testing. In the interest of building internal capacity, PSEPA rangers (also funded by the project) were trained by CARPHA on sampling collection and this was their responsibility throughout the testing cycle. The first round of testing was completed in December of 2015 but it is planned that testing will be expanded to the remaining sites in 2016. The SLNT also purchased two water sampling kits which will be used to conduct water quality sampling at some other sites within the PSEPA. This will be undertaken by Trust with the support of the rangers.



Habitat Mapping for PSEPA

PSEPA management received major technical support from TNC to facilitate mapping of the prominent habitats within the PSEPA through interventions by Dr. Georgina Bustamante, CaMPAM Coordinator and Dr. Sherry Constantine, TNC Eastern Caribbean Program Manager. Dr. Steve Schill, a senior TNC scientist and Professor George Raber from the University of Southern Mississippi were already contracted by TNC to conduct some mangrove and coral reef habitat mapping in the Caribbean and so a request was made to assist in the doing the same within the PSEPA during their Saint Lucia leg. More interestingly is that for the first time, drones were used to capture aerial images of the various habitats. Over the course of five days the men proceeded to various coastal marine spaces to map both mangroves and coral reefs using a combination of drone photography and in water drop camera sessions retrieve both terrestrial and underwater images. They also measured other aspects such as mangrove height and density. In terms of coral reefs, they observed for coral cover, and species diversity at various depths. The two experts were assisted by officers from the Forestry Department' Department of Fisheries, the Saint Lucia National and other local stakeholders.

Combating solid waste pollution

On Decemeber 19th, 2015 a small clean up exercise was executed on Scorpion Island within Savannes Bay, located within the north central region of the PSEPA. Members of the SLNT volunteered to undertake an initial clean up exercise on the small mangrove islet which is used by locals as a picnic area. A more aggressive campaign will be organised for the first quarter of 2016. This will include a warning sign being installed at the islet to promote sensitivity to area and encourage proper garbage disposal practices.



Other Spillover Benefits

Although the PSEPA was the main focal area for ECMMAN SGP, its benefits spillover outside PSEPA boundaries. Important networks and friendships have been strengthened or created. In addition, opportunities for sharing of best practice and expertise have multiplied which will extend beyond the life cycle of the project. This is crucial to maintaining the momentum and dividends accrued from project funding.

In-country visit by the CaMPAM-ECMMAN SGP Coordinator – Dr. Georgina Bustamante

Dr. Georgina Bustamante made a regular project monitoring visit to Saint Lucia on December 7 – 11th, 2015. The visit allowed Dr. Bustamante to meet with the ECMMAN project implementing agencies, mainly the SLNT and the Department of Fisheries, in order to get a better sense of how project execution was progressing and to provide guidance and support for the continued implementation of project activities. Dr. Bustamante also took the opportunity to tour various sites within the PSEPA, which is the focal area for the ECMMAN small grants component. It was indeed a pleasure to benefit from her vast experience and pragmatism during her visit. Saint Lucia is tremendously grateful.



The Saint Lucia National Trust expresses its deep gratitude to all project partners and donor whose efforts, guidance and support made all these activities successful. We look forward to continued collaborations to even greater accomplishments and success in 2016 and beyond. All the best for New Year!

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