

Summary of Achievements and Activities during the implementation of the project supported by CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program

Project Title: “Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia”.

**Implementing Agency: Saint Lucia National Trust
Focal Agency: Department Of Fisheries**

The ECMMAN SGP Saint Lucia project was implemented during the period 2014 to 2017 and included input from several government and local agencies. The many accomplishments attained throughout the life of this project are owed in part to the efforts of individuals from these local agencies who volunteered time and effort; offered personal and professional advice whenever they could. The CaMPAM and TNC teams also provided critical support and must be commended for their commitment and hard work throughout. The project came in at an opportune moment and represents one of the most significant investments to be made to strengthen the institutional and management capacity of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA) as management agencies sought to re-engage the public on the value of this protection area (PA).

The following are major accomplishments of the project:

Strengthening and capacity building for more effective Monitoring and Enforcement within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA)

Building Human Resource Capacity

Through ECMMAN funding, the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) was able to recruit two sets of rangers to support monitoring and enforcement (M&E) work within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA). Project funds also made it possible to procure field monitoring equipment and personal gear some of which included mountain bikes; a 15hp powered dinghy, scoping lens, binoculars, water testing kits and turtle data and monitoring kits.

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

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 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 through funding support.

The project also funded training sessions for SLNT staff and representatives of other agencies which have management oversight of resources within the PSEPA in order to strengthen monitoring and enforcement capacity.

These included:

- i. Turtle species identification and data collection methodology
- ii. Protected Areas protected species relevant legislation in Saint Lucia
- iii. First Aid response
- iv. Marine buoy construction, maintenance and deployment training for locals
- v. GPS technology application and use within Protected Areas
- vi. Funding for participation in international training events (buoy demarcation training in the Bahamas (2016) and Fisher Exchange programme in Belize (2016))

Supporting Research and Data collection for more effective MPA management

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

With project funding, a consultant created a catalogue summary of research work undertaken within or about the PSEPA over the past five years. This work compiled the data from relevant reports into one summary report which will serve as a reference tool to guide further research, ensuring that all existing relevant information of the site is readily available to researchers, project planners and managers.

Biophysical assessment

Water quality sampling and testing were initiated at five sites previously identified as pollution hotspots within the PSEPA. The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) was contracted to undertake the water quality testing. A final report was submitted to SLNT in 2016. The SLNT used water sampling kits to conduct water quality testing at some other sites within the PSEPA.

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 undertook the mapping exercise. Habitat maps can be accessed from the following links:

1. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5PRMlaIY7V1TE40UIZBZXB2RWc/view?usp=sharing>
2. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5PRMlaIY7V1OVFqa0dFNkQ3MTA/view?usp=sharing>

Turtle monitoring

For the first time, a well-structured turtle monitoring programme was implemented for two consecutive years beginning in 2016 and into 2017. The monitoring programme focused on data collection of marine turtle nesting and hatching activities.

Public Awareness, Education and Outreach for improved awareness of the protected area and their value

'This Is Who We Are' Saint Lucia

With the contribution of resources from other ECMMAN project components, a successful OECS wide environmental campaign which promoted the value of marine managed areas (MMAs). Various activities were implemented to reach as wide an audience as possible. That included radio interviews, bin art painting competition; presentations at schools; school exhibition; innovative comic strips and animations; and a fantastic family fun day. See link to one of two animations produced under this campaign:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5PRMlaly7V1TIBmWnBUWnFZazA/view?usp=sharing>

Youth conservation programme

The ECMMAN project funded a conservation programme for a total of 90 young people between the ages of 8 to 16 who reside in communities adjacent to the PSEPA. Focus was 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.



Youth Conservation Summer Programme (2016)

In addition to the above, other communications and awareness tools were used in order to raise the profile of the PA. These included:

- I. The design and installation of informational signs featuring PSEPA resources
- II. Printing of informational maps, brochures, posters and exercise notebooks for distribution in schools and other settings
- III. Procurement of promotional paraphernalia (tattoos, mugs, sling bags, pens, pencils and totes, tee shirts)

- IV. Hosting public events (2 clean-up and family fun days, design and creation of animations and comic strips that promote the conservation of mangroves and our marine protected areas).
- V. Hosting stakeholder meetings to update resource use locations within the PA and identify areas of potential conflict
- VI. Manufacturing and installation of 8 'No-Fishing' demarcation buoys on the boundaries of the Maria Islands Marine Reserve
- VII. Two day (in-class and field trip) MPA awareness building workshop for media personnel

Supporting Fishers

The project provided support to fishers within the Savannes Bay area making a significant contribution to ongoing improvements to the fish landing site in that area. Two – one thousand gallon tanks; an electronic water pump and relevant fixtures were procured in order to install a rainwater harvesting system at the site.

Sustainable Financing for the PSEPA

A rapid assessment was undertaken by a consultant to identify realistic income sources for the sustainable financing of PSEPA management activities given that grant funding was one of the main sources of funds. The assessment proposed both short term and long term activities or arrangements which could be explored by SLNT and other management agencies of the PSEPA. At least two eco-tourism base short term options identified by the report are being considered by the SLNT with initial steps being undertaken to explore them.

Other Spillover Benefits

Although the PSEPA was the main focal area for ECMMAN SGP, its benefits spillover outside PSEPA boundaries. Important networks and partnerships 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.

The Saint Lucia National Trust expresses its deep gratitude to all project partners and donors whose efforts, guidance and support made all these activities successful. For more information on any activity outlined in the foregoing summary please contact Mr. Craig Henry on (758-454-50140 or email southofficer@slunatrust.org).