



## *Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia*

The Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), in conjunction with the Government of Saint Lucia through the Department of Fisheries, is pleased to announce the commencement of implementation of the first phase of the Project '*Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia*'. This Project is part of a wider capacity building initiative for marine protected areas management in the OECS administered by the UNEP-CEP Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Program and its Regional Activity Center (SPAW-RAC) and the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (CaMPAM). The initiative falls under the project '**Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)**' led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

The CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Programme has made available €155,950 for each country to implement projects over a four year period in two phases. The overarching goal is to provide OECS countries with financial resources and expertise to improve the capacity for creating new Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) and better manage the existing ones, as well as to meet the countries' national and international commitments. In this case, the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA) which was legally established in 2007, will benefit from this initiative under the direction of the SLNT. Specifically, the funding will assist in enhancing management capacity within the PSEPA by supporting the implementation of a suite of management activities outlined in a revised management plan for the protection area. The SLNT requested, and was awarded €78,540.00 in response to the first call under the programme.

The PSEPA was conceptualised to promote the integration of the various facets of development and associated livelihoods to encourage sustainability, employment, social development and maximized economic benefit for the surrounding community (SLNT, 2010). The PSEPA possesses diverse and important natural and cultural resources, including tropical dry forest, mangroves, sea grass beds, coral reefs, beaches, offshore islands, endemic reptiles, historic and archaeological sites, traditional technologies and oral traditions, and also supports a range of social and economic activities (SLNT, 2010). This

project submitted by SLNT seeks to address the critical threats identified through stakeholder consultations and assessments of the status of the various key natural resources within the PSEPA; identification of areas most important for the conservation of the key resources; identification, assessment and reduction in main threats to these resources (primarily pollution and inappropriate exploitation); and finally, through communication via the social media, community consultations, education and awareness publications and skills training, the creation of opportunities for community growth and social development.

The SLNT, TNC and CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Programme administrators look forward to the successful implementation of this project. The SLNT is appreciative to the aforementioned agencies for the selection of the PSEPA for this intervention programme.

Visit the Saint Lucia National Trust website at [www.slunatrust.org](http://www.slunatrust.org) for more information on the PSEPA or other details on the nature and work of the organization.