



SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL CONSERVATION FUND



Secure and provide sustainable financing to support conservation, restoration, and effective management of Saint Lucia's biodiversity and natural resources.

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) supports sustainable livelihoods and nature based activities that contribute to ecosystem resilience, food security, and economic recovery in ecologically dependent communities.

The SLUNCF held a press conference on December 6th, 2021 which was aimed at facilitating the donation of EC\$5,000 in support of the second annual GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) UNDP Knowledge Fair in partnership with several other community-based groups and local agencies.



From left to right: Karolin Troubetzkoy (SLUNCF, Chair), Giles Romulus, Craig Henry (SLUNCF, CEO)

GEF SGP UNDP Knowledge Fair the first Hewanorra National Honey Show

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Vincent 'Jeg' Clarke holding up his first place trophies including Best In Show.



From left - Dr Mason and her girls from the Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education (C.A.R.E) also won big in the 'Baking with Honey' category

The GEF SGP UNDP Knowledge Fair and inaugural Hewanorra National Honey Show took place from December 9th to the 10th, 2021, and featured exhibits from local community groups and associations which have received funding from GEF SGP. Local agencies, which partner with

The event proved to be a resounding success, particularly the Honey Show which attracted the involvement of leading apiculture experts Sue Carter, Gladstone Solomon, and our own Chef Orland who served as judges for the competitive part of the Honey

GEF SGP also participated in the knowledge fair to publicly highlight their respective program areas that could be of benefit to civil society and private and local entrepreneurship; contribute to the attainment of national sustainable development priorities and innovation.

Show. Show categories included best *Honey in Jar*; *Beeswax*; *Baking with Honey*; *Art and Photography*; and *Best in Show (Challenge Cup)*. These efforts aim to transform the apiculture industry through research, training, product diversification, and retailing of products for the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

Improved Food Security and Local Economic Recovery

At the December 6th press event, Karolin Troubetzkoy, current Chair of the SLUNCF reminded the public of the ongoing Call for Concept Notes that had been launched November 19th, 2021. She emphasized the tremendous opportunity that this ongoing presents to access funding for projects and programmes geared towards biodiversity conservation and creating sustainable livelihoods. The proposed projects and programmes should have the potential to meaningfully address local food security issues while simultaneously providing some measure of economic relief.

Craig Henry, CEO of the SLUNCF explained that “COVID-19 is having a lingering impact on key elements of our local economy and way of life – food insecurity has worsened and there is still a huge deficit in terms of jobs available and livelihoods to be sustained. Therefore, we decided to design a programme of intervention that would target the food production and nature-based livelihoods sectors by making funds available through a micro-grant programme in order to provide a much-needed boost to the local community.

The programme is intended to support new initiatives, enhance existing activities, or scale-up ongoing activities. Importantly, the activities must also be environmentally sustainable and have no adverse impact on our local biodiversity.

This Calls for Concept Notes will close on January 21st, 2022 and so eligible applicants which include government agencies; registered local NGOs; CBOs; private businesses; local community associations; local universities and colleges; and other appropriate local entities in Saint Lucia are reminded urged to take advantage of this opportunity. For additional information follow us on Instagram (@slunconf) and Facebook; visit www.slunconf.org or send an email to info@slunconf.org.

SLUNCF Chair and CEO pay courtesy visits to Government Ministers



The Chairperson of the SLUNCF Karolin Troubetzkoy and CEO Craig Henry paid courtesy visits to two Ministers of Government in late September- the Honourable Alfred Prospere, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development and Honourable Shawn Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training.

During the visits, the SLUNCF executives presented to the Ministers an overview of the

Left to right – Hon. Alfred P. Prospere, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, Chairperson Karolin Troubetzkoy and CEO Craig Henry



Left to right – Hon. Shawn A. Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Chairperson Karolin Troubetzkoy and CEO Craig Henry

organization, explaining the unique role of the SLUNCF in contributing to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainability in Saint Lucia. Furthermore, they provided insight into some current initiatives related to fundraising and grant-supported projects being implemented by local agencies and groups.

Honourable Ministers Prospere and Edward expressed their appreciation for the work of the SLUNCF and also articulated their respective ministerial priorities.

In closing, the Chair and CEO reaffirmed the organization's support for the Government's natural resource management and biodiversity protection goals through partnership, joint action and goodwill.

Keeping up with our Grantees

We take the time to recognize the important work accomplished by our Grantees. Here is an update:

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC)

"Preparing the new generation of environmental scientists"

Funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) enabled the college to procure some much-needed environmental monitoring equipment, thereby substantially improving the institution's Environmental Sciences programme. The equipment is some of the most advanced available which would be advantageous as students learn how to effectively manipulate some of the most modern technology in this field. In addition, there is an improved capacity and scope for the volume and diversity of data sources. Consequently, contributing to an increase in the quantity and quality of readily accessible data on some of our nationally critical ecosystems. The College has also informed that the Department has been asked by at least two government agencies to collaborate and lend support to national projects involving fisheries and coastal marine biophysical monitoring. This will help students to further develop their individual competencies and for the college, it raises its profile as a premier tertiary institution.



SALCC environmental science students using monitoring equipment out in the field



St Lucia Divers Association - "Anbaglo"



Scuba and coral gardening trainees



Sunken vessels already functioning as artificial habitats for local marine life

This project which is being implemented by the Saint Lucia Divers Association "Anbaglo" has accomplished the following milestones:

1. Certification of 7 young people in Emergency First Response Aid.
2. Certification of 4 out of 7 young people between the ages of 17 to 25 at the PADI Rescue diver level. These candidates will also be trained and certified as coral gardeners through a national certification programme.
3. Creation of artificial reefs. Four (4) water vessels were acquired and submerged at specific locations of interest along the northwest coast. The objectives are to create artificial habitats for local marine biodiversity and as well as new dive sites for recreational and tourism-related diving in Saint Lucia. This would ease the pressure off other dive sites and natural coral reef systems on the island.

Iyanola Crossing

"Raising awareness to reduce the incidental killing of unique and endemic reptilian species by vehicular traffic"

A project being implemented by a community group called Inphinity Inc. intended to raise public awareness to reduce the incidental killing of unique and endemic reptilian species by vehicular traffic. The hope is to stem the carnage of the species along the highway as our valuable reptilian wildlife get slaughtered as they attempt to cross this busy roadway. With colourful murals, billboards, signage, community engagement, art competitions, school engagements, stakeholder support and engagement.

Thus far visitor roadside booths have been transformed into artistic murals depicting biodiversity themes and one roadside Billboard has also been installed aimed at reminding and alerting drivers and travelers of their presence in the natural habitat of the local iguana and boa constrictor.



Roadside vending booths transformed into biodiversity murals to support public awareness efforts.



Wildlife billboard promoting safe driving tips to protect local wildlife

International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2021 observed in Saint Lucia



On Saturday 18 September, 2021, Saint Lucia commemorated International Coastal Cleanup Day, the world's largest annual preservation and protection event of beaches and waterways.

ICC was started by the Ocean Conservancy in 1986 to engage volunteers in collecting marine debris from the world's beaches and waterways. Since then, over 16 million volunteers have collected more than 340 million pounds of trash, including in Saint Lucia.



Cleanup activities in 2021 were coordinated in four areas across the island Castries (Bananes Bay), Dennery (Dennery Beach), Micoud (Anse Ger Beach), and Soufriere (Baron's Drive, Soufriere) with an estimated 1500 pounds of inappropriately discarded waste material being collected and properly disposed of at the Deglos Landfill. Plastic material featured in the waste collected, with 583 plastic bottles, 325 bottle caps, 220 plastic bags, 237 cups and plates, and 638 plastic/foam pieces recorded up to the time of publication.



The 2021 cleanup was undertaken with funding from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), and with a partnership between the Department of Sustainable Development and the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (www.sluncf.org). The Caribbean Youth Environment Network led this year's coastal exercises and the Saint Lucia Divers Association ("Abanglo") was also engaged to facilitate an underwater cleanup in Soufriere and Castries on 2 October 2021.

These cleanup activities will contribute to reducing the negative impacts of inappropriately discarded waste on Saint Lucia's environmental integrity, aesthetic and recreational values.



New CEO at the helm of the SLUNCF



The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund announced in July the appointment of its new Chief Executive Officer, Craig Henry. Mr Henry joined the organization in March of 2020 as Programme Officer and for the most part, was tasked with overseeing the SLUNCF's grant-making programme, which involves principally, reviewing proposals in response to calls for proposals; providing support to grantees implementing SLUNCF funded projects as well as undertaking effective monitoring and evaluation of these projects.

Mr Henry also assisted the then CEO, Dr Vasantha Chase in fundraising for the SLUNCF. Coincidentally, he now leads fundraising efforts on behalf of the organization which requires research, constant networking, and dialogue with potential funders and donors. Mr Henry will also be the face of the organization, acting on behalf of the Board and Secretariat, in the interest of its mission.

No stranger to the conservation landscape, Mr Henry has already immersed himself in his role as CEO having represented the SLUNCF in some major virtual events - including the CBF sponsored Conservation Finance Congress in July 2021 which was co-hosted by the SLUNCF and the recently concluded 23rd Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) Congress "Road to 2030: The role and added value of CTFs in meeting global goals" in September.

According to Mr Henry, he is excited about the future of the SLUNCF given its solid foundation and accomplishments and having the full support of the Board, the current Chair, Karolin Troubetzkoy, and his dedicated Team of the SLUNCF Secretariat. Let's wish him and the SLUNCF well.



Seasons Greetings

THE BOARD AND SECRETARIAT OF THE SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL CONSERVATION FUND EXTEND WELL WISHES AND GOOD CHEER TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. IT IS USUAL FOR US TO PONDER ON THE FORTUNES OF THE YEAR AS IT DRAWS TO A CLOSE. WHATEVER THEY MAY HAVE BEEN, LET US ALL LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE AND BE MORE DETERMINED TO TRIUMPH THROUGH COOPERATION AND COMMON PURPOSE.

MAY PROSPERITY, HEALTH, AND SUCCESS BE OURS IN 2022.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



The SLUNCF will be integral to supporting the management of Saint Lucia's biodiversity and natural resources against the need for social capital and partnership and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and use as management priorities.

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