



The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund Newsletter

September 2022

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund Announces Major New Partnership



Left: Founder & CEO of Wayaj, Nelly Gedeon. Center: CEO of SLUNCF, Craig Henry. Right: Chairwoman of SLUNCF, Karolin Troubetzkoy

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund has entered into a major new private sector partnership to advance funding support for some of Saint Lucia's national conservation priorities including the creation of sustainable livelihoods and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Through a partnership agreement with Wayaj Inc, a private entity that provides innovative and effective solutions to the hospitality industry to reduce its impact on the environment, the SLUNCF has made significant progress towards implementing two dynamic and exciting initiatives, a Carbon Offset Project and a Sustainability Actions Projects (SAP) program.

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Maturing and still growing.

The St. Lucia Divers Association-Anbaglo is maturing and still growing. We have taken on the challenge of coral restoration, artificial reefs creation, and educating St. Lucians specifically the youth. Our big emphasis is the North of the island, we would like to restore the corals, nurture the existing reefs, and revitalize the ones that appear to be dying. Ultimately we want to ease the pressure off the natural reefs where our divers, snorkelers, and fishers frequent the south of the island.



We are presently caring for our nurseries, one in Anse Jambette that was established 5 years ago as a part of a 5Cs project, the other established in Cuty Cove over a year ago, some of the corals that were planted then are now ready to be out planted on the substrate, this will be our first out planting exercise from the Cuty Cove nursery in celebration of World Ocean Day/PADI Coral Out planting event on the 8th of June 2022.

On that day we will be conducting and participating in two ocean-based activities; an underwater clean-up event will take place on the morning of the 8th, at Pigeon Island, and on the afternoon, we will be out planting corals at Cuty Cove.



Anbaglo is maturing into its role as an organization that not only talks about what should be done for the marine environment, it goes out and makes a difference by its activities.

We have a dream to not only rejuvenate Cuty Cove but to one day make it an example of what combined efforts can do to positively affect our marine environment. More coral restoration activities, the introduction of different methods of restoration, like Biorock and ultimately an underwater sculpture park.

We are growing and one day we may mature into a Coral Foundation. As a part of our efforts in the North we will move to Trouya



In conjunction with the St. Lucia National Trust, we will be out planting some *Acropora palmata* (Elk horn corals) from a source colony located on the northern side of Pigeon Island to the southern end. Some of the fragments from this source will be placed directly on the substrate and some will be placed on trees and after maturity will be placed on the substrate.

The St. Lucia National Conservation Fund has continued to play an important role in our development, specifically with funding and guidance with our projects. We are looking forward to their continued participation in Anbaglo's conservation efforts, together we can overcome.

That Iyanola....Iguana



This somewhat elusive creature (St Lucia Iguana) though rare to many, has unfortunately been the victim of unsuspecting drivers on the busy Dennery/Castries highway. On too many occasions iguanas and boa constrictors have had to suffer from interactions with vehicular traffic. Every year we witness the carnage of the species along the highway as our valuable reptilian wildlife seem to 'shock' our drivers who unexpectedly come across these critters attempting to cross the road. The workers from various sites along the Dennery part of the highway will tell tales of even pairs of iguanas getting slaughtered as they attempt to cross this busy roadway.



The scenic east coast highway which serves as the main thoroughfare for moving people and goods between the north and south of the island meander through some lush vegetation. Attempting to move from one side of the highway to the next is a constant challenge for St Lucia's largest lizard, the endemic St Lucia Iguana, as well as the St Lucia boa.

It is for this reason that the St Lucia National Conservation Fund with funding from the Tourism Enhancement Fund agreed to support efforts by community-based organization InPhinity to raise awareness and change attitudes of drivers, especially toward the plight of our iguana. InPhinity embarked on this project aimed at reaching persons who traverse the Dennery East Coast highway.

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Love Letter to the Environment



On January 31, 2022, the Department of Sustainable Development launched a Poetry and Letter writing Contest entitled; 'Love Letter to the Environment', inviting the general public to, in no more than 200 words, write, type, or recite a love letter to the environment, using a natural resource and environment-related matter as inspiration. Possible themes suggested included Climate Change, Ozone Layer, Pollution, Oceans, Forests, Rivers, and many more.

The top three winners came from the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School. Their submissions are presented below. The Department commends all entrants and especially congratulates the winning student and school!

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Local CBOs undergo institutional strengthening training through an Inter-American Foundation grant.

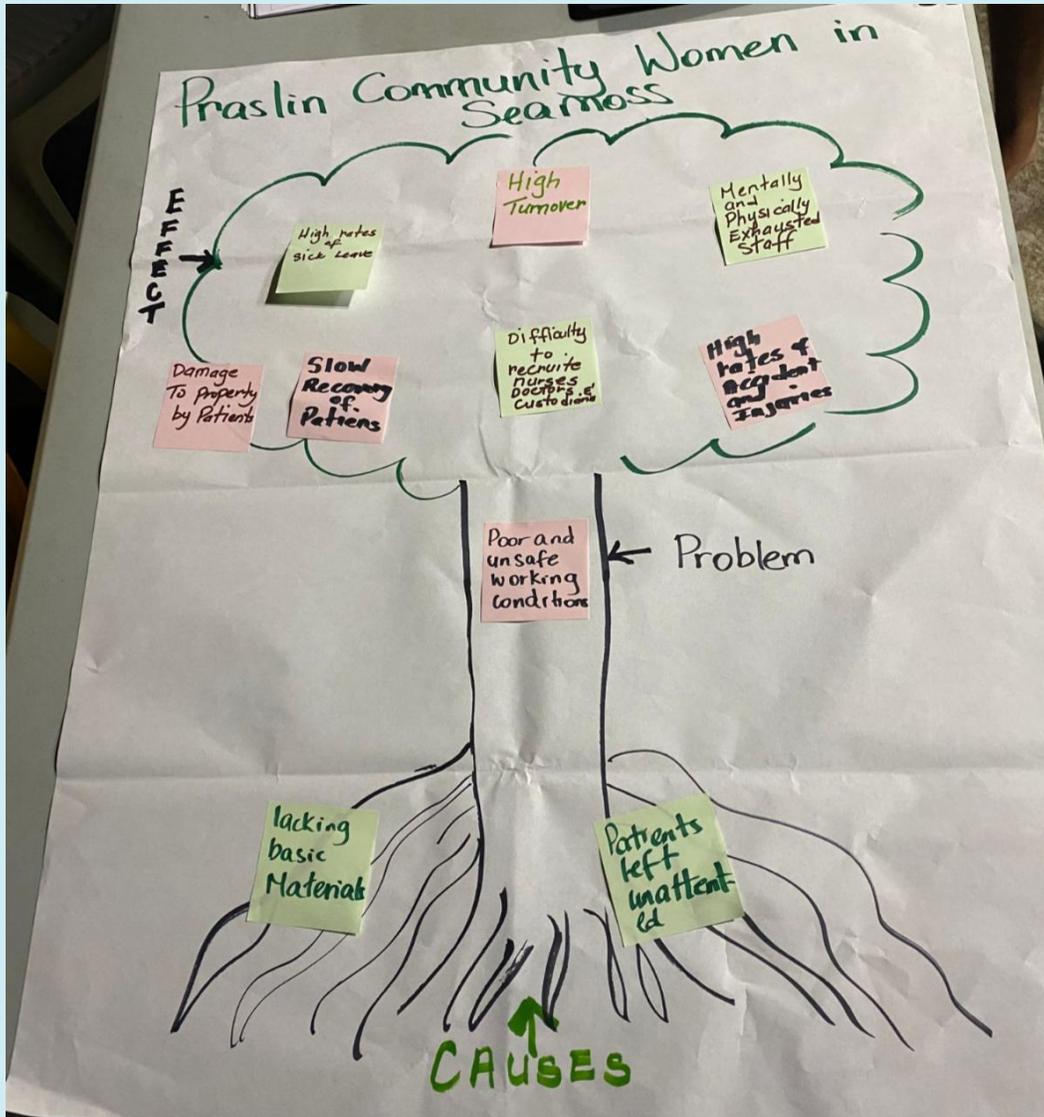
Pursuant to this broad goal, in 2020 the SLUNCF signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) for a three-year project aimed at enhancing the capacity of CBOs working in the areas of livelihood enhancement, environmental conservation, and climate resilience – 10 local Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in February began a 5-month training program aimed at enhancing their capacity to manage their organizations and as develop and implement projects. This training is a pre-cursor to the subgrant phase of the IAF project which will provide the opportunity for the select CBOs to apply for grants to fund project proposals in the aforementioned thematic areas.



Adjusting to the realities imposed by the Covid pandemic, the training sessions were conducted virtually with participants attending classes on evenings in communities across the length and breadth of Saint Lucia. 'The training is timely and very informative with practical application for us as CBO leaders. The downside is the lack of face-to-face interaction with facilitators, opines Makeva Anthony from the group Country Strikers of Banse la Grace, Laborie.

This month (June) marks the culmination of the training phase and CBOs are in the process of

developing their Concept Notes for funding consideration. Among the interesting ideas being considered by groups include; the development and revitalization of eco-tourism trails, utilizing and re-use of waste materials for crop and vegetable production, documenting the traditional production process of essential oils such as castor and coconut oil, and experimenting with new approaches to minimize the loss in the seamoss cultivation-harvesting chain.



As part of the facilitation and support process for CBOs in implementing their projects is a mentorship program. This national Mentorship Network seeks to bring together a cadre of mainly volunteer retirees to harness the wealth of knowledge and expertise that they have garnered over the years. According to the Project Coordinator, Mr Felix Finisterre, 'this is a major contribution towards achieving a long-sought-after goal of a strong non-governmental organization/civil society movement in Saint Lucia'.

We wish to thank all the many actors who contributed to this innovative and important initiative as we gear our communities to contribute to the post-Covid recovery effort.

SLHTA AGM



The SLUNCF CEO Mr. Craig Henry was a guest presenter at the recently held SLHTA AGM. Mr. Henry shared what the organization was currently undertaking and pipeline projects which are in support of the SLUNCFs vision and mission. His message was well received by the audience which included members of the SLHTA and its Board, specially invited guests including the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia Mr. Phillip J. Pierre some Cabinet Ministers, and Senators. A highlight of course was the benefits of a partnership between the SLUNCF and the SLHTA Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF). Congratulations to Mr. Noorani Azeez and his team for executing a very successful AGM-themed Building Forward Better ..Together.

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund Vacancy



PROGRAMME OFFICER VACANCY

The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) is seeking to fill the post of Programme Officer. Applications will be accepted from only suitably qualified candidates. The successful applicant must be in a position to assume duties in October 2022. The deadline date for applications is 30th September 2022. No late or incomplete applications will be considered.

The detailed Terms of Reference for this position can be obtained on the SLUNCF website at www.sluncf.org or from the offices of the SLUNCF by sending an email to admin@sluncf.org with the subject "Vacancy-Programme Officer". Please apply using the email admin@sluncf.org.

SLUNCF
Phone: (758) 285-8137

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Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund Inc | Crick Road, Sans Soucis, Castries, St. Lucia

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