

Quarterly Newsletter | July 2025

Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund



Welcome

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we continue to protect our natural heritage, this quarter's newsletter highlights an urgent environmental issue and exciting new opportunities.

Thank you for your dedication to conservation—together, we make a difference!

Feature Story: Tackling the Sargassum Surge



The rising tide of Sargassum seaweed has become a pressing challenge for our coastal ecosystems and economies in the region. This year, the Caribbean Islands have experienced a significant increase in Sargassum deposits along their shores with experts warning that this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Since 2011, Saint Lucia has experienced Sargassum influxes along its coastlines. However, it is worrying as these invasive seaweeds have become increasingly pervasive, reaching coastal areas that normally would not have been impacted, such as Vigie, Soufriere and Savannes Bay and even the Castries harbour.

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Chairperson Spotlight: Congratulations Karolin



Chairperson: Karolin Troubetzkoy

We are elated to share that our illustrious Chairperson Mrs. Karolin Troubetzkoy, has been bestowed the honour of another international award, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation Secretary General's Distinguished Service Award.

Mrs. Troubetzkoy received the award in-person at the CTO's flagship event, Caribbean Week, held in New York from June 1 – 6, 2025. While Mrs. Troubetzkoy has made Saint Lucia her home for over four decades, she is a global icon in the hospitality and tourism sector.

Mrs. Troubetzkoy has a diverse portfolio of interests, but her passion for environmental sustainability remains in the forefront as she devotes more of her time, energy and vigour to promoting and advocating for these principles. This is highlighted by her accession to the chairmanship of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Board; appearances and participation at various regional and international environment sustainability conferences and much more. We wish her well and hope that we continue to benefit from her faithful and dedicated leadership.

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Fostering Community Engagement in Disaster Resilience and Mitigation in Castries East District



‘Team reliability and flexible systems are key.’

Challenges taught us the value of risk planning, building morale, and adapting to what works for small organisations. — Alistair Phillip on the SLUNCF Grantee experience.

The SLUNCF is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of the Castries East District Disaster Management Committee (CEDDMC) who sought to improve community resilience in disaster risk management and mitigation. Despite facing the challenges of being a small team, learning and adapting along the way, the CEDDMC has fully implemented and closed out their project with the SLUNCF.

While discussing lessons learnt, Alistair Phillip, project lead, stated, ‘A strong, reliable team is crucial—when key members weren’t available, the strain was real. Emergencies impacted our time and progress, highlighting the need for ongoing risk assessment. Celebrating our team’s efforts built morale, and finding flexible financial systems made all the difference for a small organisation like ours.’

Through the lifecycle of their project, the CEDDMC prioritised capacity development and strategic planning, key areas that would enable the community to build resilience and proactivity to mitigate disaster. As the threat of climate change continues to ramp up, the need for preparation becomes ever important. Therefore, the CEDDMC engaged in project activities such as the development and circulation of a community hazard intervention plan, conducting comprehensive training for emergency response skills, including first aid, and community training for fire prevention and effective waste management. These training programs reached 1500 people throughout the community and local schools while providing robust interventions to ensure the Castries East community is well prepared to safely navigate future events.

SLUNCF Strengthens ESMS Capacity through Regional Training Workshop



From June 17th to June 19th, Mr. Craig Henry (CEO) and Ms. Diana Joseph (Programme Officer) of the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) participated in a regional capacity-building workshop focused on enhancing Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) among National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs) in the Caribbean.

Mr. Henry and Ms. Joseph joined their NCTF colleagues from Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Dominica and Belize and officers from [the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund \(CBF\)](#) Conservation Finance Programme. This workshop was supported by the CBF under its **Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB)** project, as part of a broader initiative to strengthen the region’s Conservation Trust Funds.

Participants explored both theoretical and practical aspects of Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS), including risk assessment, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring processes. These sessions aimed to equip NCTFs with the tools to integrate environmental and social considerations into their funding decisions and project oversight.

A strong ESMS helps ensure that conservation projects are not only environmentally sound, but socially responsible and aligned with international standards. The workshop emphasised the importance of these systems in promoting sustainable development and biodiversity protection.

For more on the principles of environmental and social safeguards, refer to the [World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework \(ESF\)](#).



SLUNCF’s participation reflects its ongoing commitment to advancing sustainable finance that safeguards biodiversity and promotes resilient development. In pursuit of this goal, continued regional collaboration and capacity-building is essential to ensure funds will effectively contribute to environmental and social-well being across the Caribbean.

GRANT FUNDING



New Marine Health Alliance Call for Proposal is Open!

We are excited to announce the launch of our inaugural funding opportunity under the Marine Health Alliance grant programme. This initiative is aimed at supporting innovative marine conservation and restoration projects in Saint Lucia. If you have a project that aligns with our mission to preserve biodiversity and promotes sustainable practices, we want to hear from you!

Application Deadline: July 31, 2025

Upcoming Call: Gender Smart Facility

Promoting equity in conservation, the Gender Smart Facility, an initiative in partnership with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, is designed to fund projects that integrate gender-responsive approaches into environmentally-focused interventions. This program aims to empower women and marginalized groups as key agents of change to address climate resilience.

Stay tuned for the official launch in
August 2025!

[Learn More](#)



Thank You for Your Support

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