

# Saint Lucia's Path Towards Sustainability

## Government Legislation: Phasing out of Styrofoam and selected single use plastics.

In keeping with its commitment to sustainable development, Saint Lucia has implemented a phase out of single-use food service containers made of polystyrene (PS), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE). The Act supports a ban on the importation of All Styrofoam and selected single-use plastic food service containers.

## Marine Area Planning and Management

The Soufriere Marine Management Association (SMMA) is mandated to conserve the natural marine environment and ensure sustainable use and development of the Areas particularly within the fishing and tourism sectors. Some of the ways in which it promotes includes:

- The establishment of Marine Protected Areas
- The Demarcation of zones to manage activities within the designated area (Marine Reserves, Fishing Priority Areas, Recreational Areas, Multiple Use Areas & Yacht Mooring Areas)
- Providing surveillance and control of activities within the protected area
- Monitoring water quality
- Advocacy for waste management within the protected area
- Facilitating research within the area
- Promoting activities for increased fish stock
- Management of coral reefs (coral reef nurseries)
- Advocacy for drafting legislation to control activities that may negatively impact biodiversity.
- Acting as a referral agency for activities / development taking place within the area.

<https://www.smma.org.lc/>

## Preserving Forest Reserves

The Forest and Land Resources Division in Saint Lucia is the official body responsible for the direct management of Saint Lucia's Forest reserves, for oversight of the management of all forests on Saint Lucia and for the protection and management of Saint Lucia's terrestrial wildlife. The department has redefined its strategy for Saint Lucia's forests and the image of the Division to address its changing responsibilities to management and maintenance of the terrestrial ecosystems of Saint Lucia and the services they provide.

While the protection of Saint Lucia's Forest Reserve and wildlife is always the core focus of the Forestry Division, the Division has broadened its focus in an effort to preserve all forests on Saint Lucia. ***Understanding the integral role that forests play in Climate change, the Forestry Division has, through recurrent and project work, encouraged the expansion of forests to enhance the stability of the soil, the protection of water sources and wildlife habitats, and to support adaptation and mitigation efforts.***

The mandate of the Forestry Division is guided by two pieces of legislation, the Forest, Soil and Water Conservation Act (1946) (Amended 1983) and the Wildlife Protection Act (1980). These laws provide the Forestry Division with the authority to undertake its five major activities. These activities include Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Land Management, Wildlife Conservation, Ecotourism and Environmental Education.

## **Sustainable Education and Training**

### **Saint Lucia National trust (SLNT)**

Saint Lucia National Trust has worked tirelessly to sustain biodiversity conservation initiatives and reduce unsustainable practices by collaborating with various agencies such as Department of Fisheries, Forestry Department, and International Agencies such as Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, and Fauna and Flora International. Additionally, the trust has placed strong focus in education and training for the youth by applying the following:

- Public outreach with the above-mentioned agencies and the general public
- School outreach programs are conducted.
- Organized guided tours to nature reserves/ offshore islands, before those tours get off the ground, biosecurity must be done.
- Membership field trips are also organized.
- Organized summer camps for student's island wide.

The Forestry Department has an ongoing Environmental Education program that provides education through:

- Ongoing school awareness
- Community meetings
- Commemorative days
- PSAs on various topics and issues
- Website information (moaslu.govt.lc)

## **Reforestation Program**

The Forestry department in Saint Lucia has an ongoing a reforestation programme which concentrates on:

- Reforestation of degraded and deforested lands
- Agro-forestry, working with private land owners.
- Production of germplasm (seedlings) from an established nursery. Germplasm collection is important for the maintenance of biological diversity and food security.

## **Clean Up Campaigns**

Clean up campaigns are organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust membership. They also support other agencies who conduct clean up campaigns.

Properties such as Anse Chastanet also encourage guest participation in environmental activities such as beach clean up etc.

## **Banana Museum**

East Winds is home to the island's first 'living banana museum'. Producing fruit from up to 10 different varieties – in yellow, red and green. The museum was planted as part of East Winds' efforts to help preserve varieties of bananas that are becoming rare either because they are difficult to grow or are difficult to transport and so only have a small local market.

**School Breakfast Clubs**

Green-globe certified Bay Gardens Resorts runs a thriving breakfast club for local school children, amongst many of its community initiatives supported by guest stays. Two local schools benefit from the feeding programme for students with food from the resorts. This initiative seeks to assist families by alleviating the burden of parents and guardians as well as reducing absenteeism.

**Diving to preserve coral**

This new package has been created for divers with an interest in marine conservation who want to get involved in coral restoration. Run over three days it includes dive visits to existing coral mitigation sites, hands on experience of maintaining a coral nursery and out-planting nursery reared corals. Created with the Perry Institute, the course is educational, engaging and as interactive as possible. In addition to each package, a Lionfish Experience is also available, which includes the diving, hunting, cleaning, and cooking of lionfish, an invasive species.