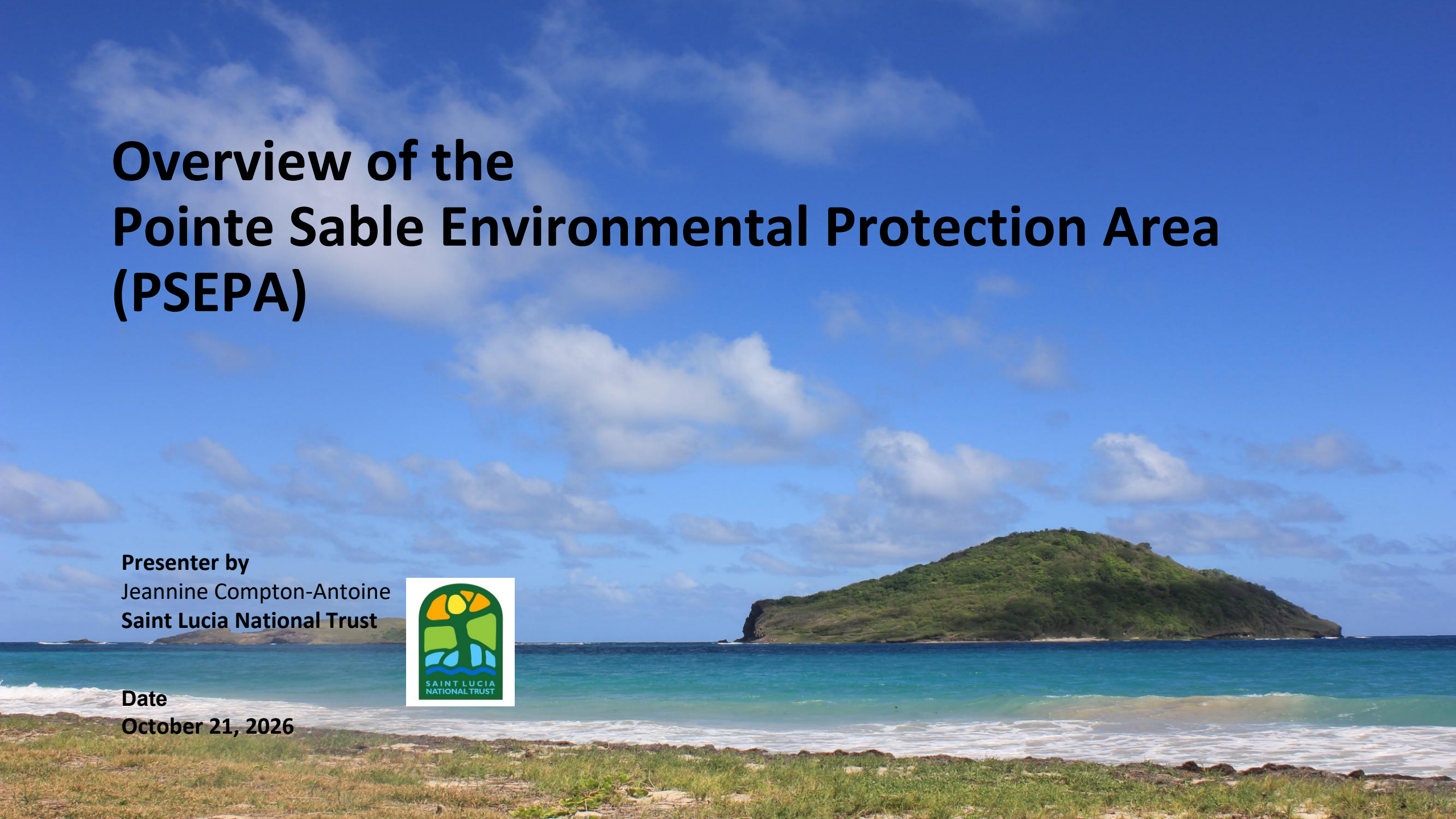
Overview of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA)



Presenter by
Jeannine Compton-Antoine
Saint Lucia National Trust

Date
October 21, 2026

Who are we?

The Saint Lucia National Trust is a Non profit Statutory Body created in 1975 by an Act of Parliament for the preservation of buildings and objects of historic and architectural interest and areas of natural beauty with their animal and plant life.

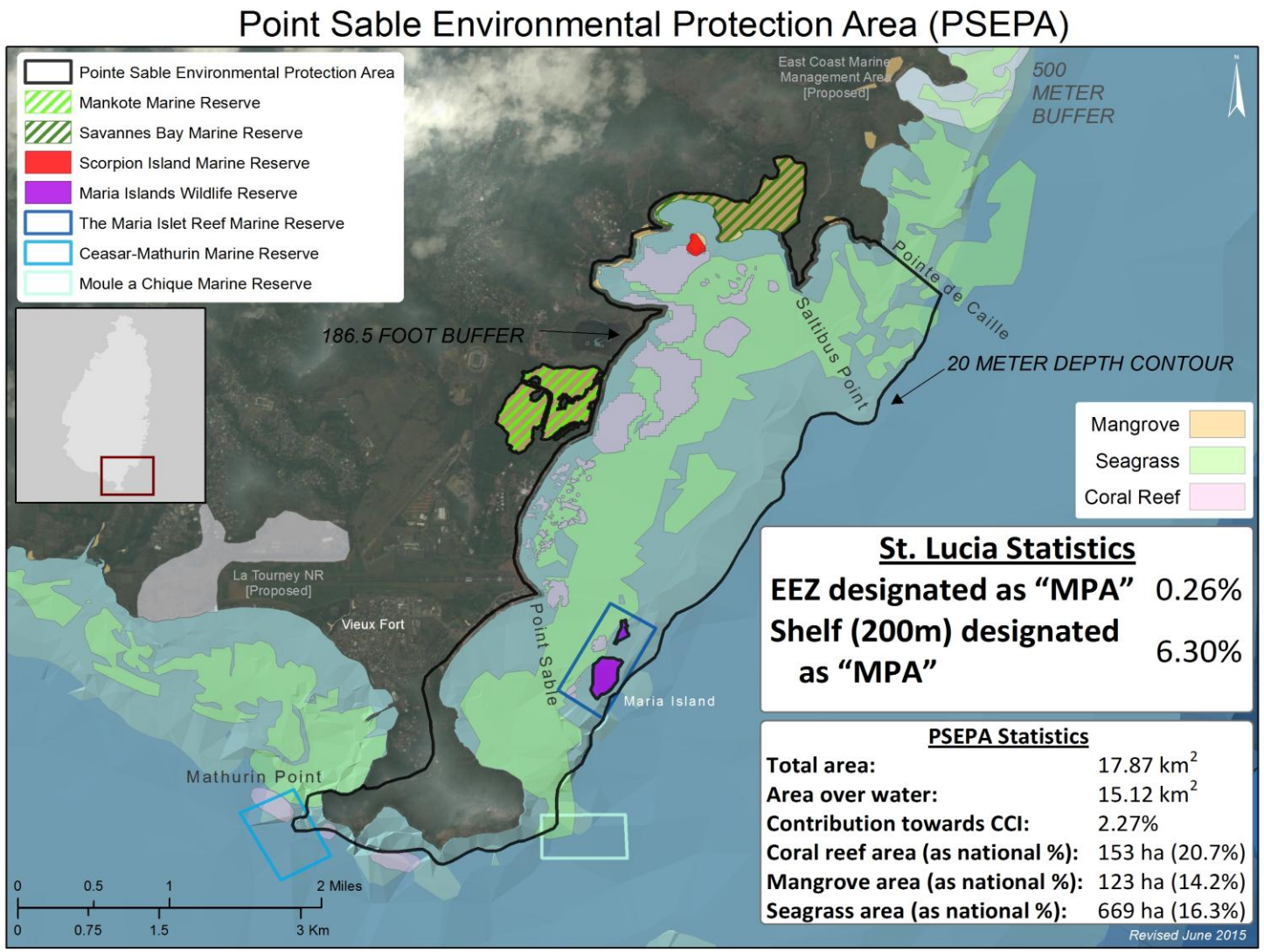
The vision of the Trust, is to assist in the building of a society in which the value of the collective natural and cultural heritage is known to and appreciated by all.

Scope of Trust Work - Sites

- The Trust maintain and manage over **thirty (30)** sites island-wide which have been vested or donated and two (2) sites that are leased. Out of these thirty (30) sites, **twenty (20)** sites require extensive investment (capital and human resources) and management.

- The sites are both marine and terrestrial with two of them falling within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area.

PSEPA LOCATION





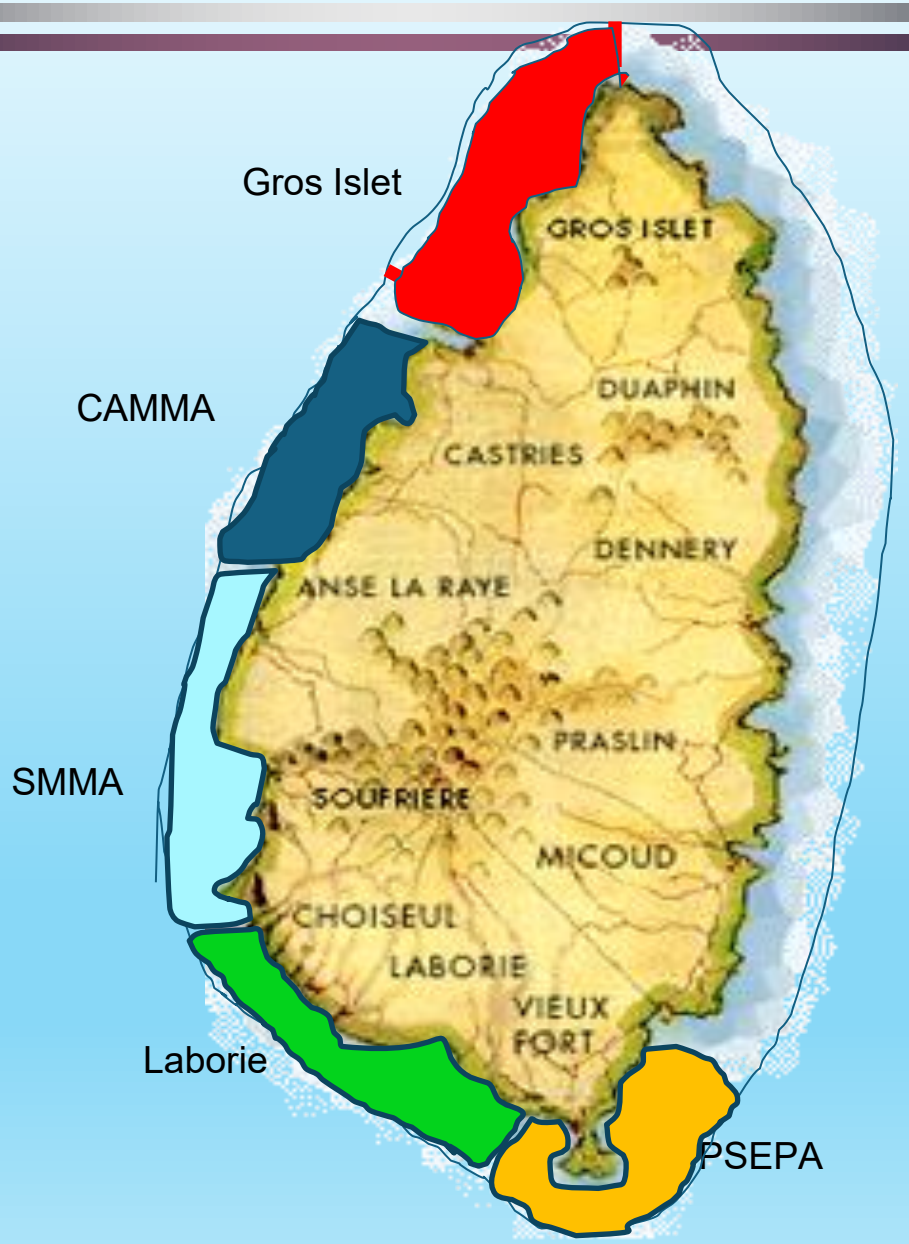
Coastal zone management

- The Trust only has legislative authority to manage for two areas within the PSEPA. These include Savannes Bay and the Maria Islands. Although a Government and Community agencies/organisations Management committee, forms part of the Management plan, the Management committee has never been formally constituted. Therefore, the Trust undertakes most of the management.
- The Trust does work collaboratively with other national agencies responsible for the management of the PSEPA. However, legislative gray areas and gaps coupled with manpower challenges continue to affect the cohesive management of the area.

- The Trust has also made recommendations to the Department of Sustainable Development, the Cabinet of Ministers and to the OECS, through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund consultations, to establish a national Marine Management Area.
- Given that the acronym SMMA is already branded internationally, it is recommended that this national MPA be called the Saint Lucia Marine Management Area.

- This national marine management area will use the 1km seaward distance established for Saint Lucia's world heritage site, the Piton Management Area. However, the exiting SMMA management framework will be used, but on a national level.
- Although this recommendation has not been formally adopted, the 1 km distance is being used to demarcate the maritime boundaries of the PSEPA

Existing and Proposed MMAs



Tourism Management

- Although the majority of stayover visitors arrive via the international airport, which is adjacent to the PSEPA, the tourism visitation to the PSEPA is limited. The PSEPA is not within the main Tourism zones and there is only one major 250 room hotel within the protection area.

- Most of the visitors from the Coconut bay hotel plant participate in tours outside of the PSEPA, primarily within the SMMA.

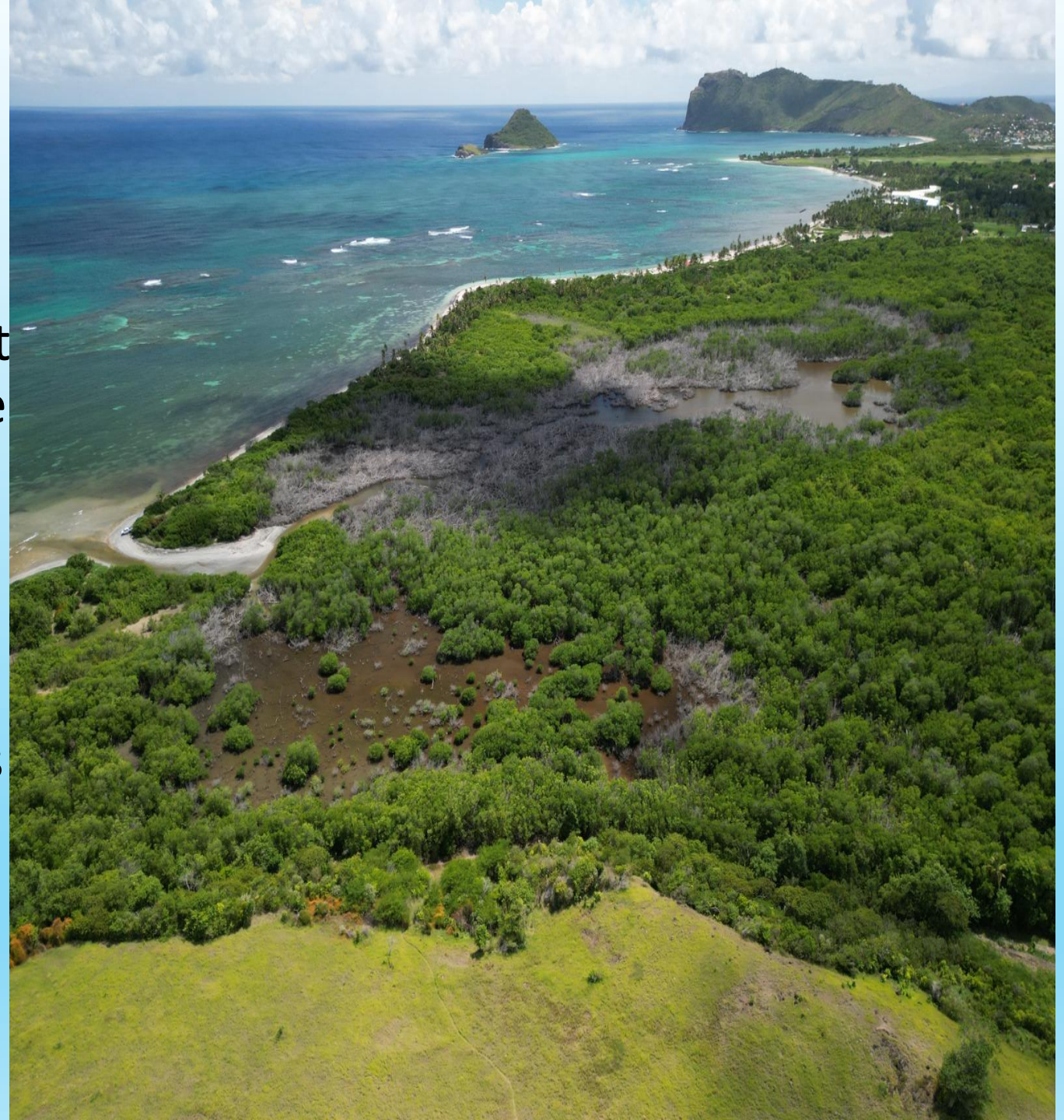


Marine tours

- Marine Based tours to the Maria Islands have been stopped indefinitely because of the environmental sensitivity of the islands.
- Additionally, a recently discovered pentastome parasite in the endangered endemic Saint Lucia Racer snakes on Maria Major, has lead to increased biosecurity requirements for those islands.
- The pentastome parasite has not been identified on Mainland Saint Lucia.
-



- Other marine tourism related activities are limited and include kite surfing and mini –catamaran tours. Additionally, there is only one certified and licensed day boat charter vessel operating within the PSEPA.
- The Trust has recently received Kayaking proposals and these are presently being reviewed.
- A small number of mangrove tours are conducted annually but are primary undertaken by Saint Lucian residents



Local communities

- The Trust has been collaborating with other agencies including the Department of Sustainable Development, through its GEF Southeast Coast project, the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund and Fauna and Flora, through their Seamoss focused projects, to undertake community engagement and public awareness programming. However, these engagements have been primarily focused on specific marine economic drives, like the Seamoss industry.



- The Trust is also developing a education engagement programme, aptly named ***Trust in Kids***. This programmatic content is still being developed, but the draft workbook has endorsed by the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Unit (CAMDU).
- This programme is to be rolled out in Primary schools in 2027 and includes educational components pertaining to the PSEPA and other related marine resources.



Sustainable financing

- A review of the PSEPA management plan was undertaken and a draft completed in 2025. However, the revised management plan has not be approved by the relevant agencies.

- A sustainable financing strategy for the PSEPA has also been developed and it is envisaged that once implemented, it will strengthen the income generating capacity of The Trust and other stakeholder organisations within the PSEPA. Until the PSEPA management committee is operational and the both the Management and Financial plan implemented, the PSEPA will continue to depend on budgetary allocations from the Trust and other national agencies.

- By managing our marine resources in a sustainable manner, we not only ensure that these resources are there for perpetuity, but that also we gain economic and social benefits for our coastal communities and our nation.

- I do hope that this presentation was useful and not to lengthy and that you look favorably at what is being proposed.

- **Thank you**