

March 2018 – OAS Department of Sustainable Development and St. Lucia National Trust support marine protected areas, sea turtle monitoring, renewable energy, composting, and rainwater collection.

Under the OAS project *Supporting more effective Marine-Turtle Conservation within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA)* in southern Saint Lucia in collaboration with St. Lucia National Trust and the Fisheries Division, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA), Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), WIDECAST, and MPACONnect, a growing network of Caribbean marine protected area managers conducted a Marine Turtle Management Consultation Meeting to help build local capacity for effective marine protected areas (MPA) management.

Earlier community consultations in Vieux Fort indicated that there are a number of high priority needs associated with the management of the Anse de Sable and Bois Chadon beach areas of PSEPA. Concern about the status of sea turtle nesting on these beaches has peaked, and concerns raised about coastal zone management practices and patterns of recreational use that are detrimental to the successful nesting of sea turtles. The beaches of PSEPA are known to be used for nesting by two species of critically endangered sea turtle - the hawksbill sea turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, and the leatherback sea turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*. (see Infographic below with three years of data that indicates that there is 15% annual loss of turtle nests/year in the protected area from beach erosion linked from sand mining, 10-20% loss of nests from sargassum beach cleaning with tractors, and 80% of the nesting of the critically endangered hawksbill that is not fully protected (e.g. meaning no hunting at all))

Sea Turtle Nesting Activity 2015 - 2017

Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area, Saint Lucia

More than **7000** successful hatchlings

6610 Hawksbills and 551 Leatherbacks were counted during the first three years of the sea turtle nesting monitoring program in PSEPA (2015-2017).

Nests by species

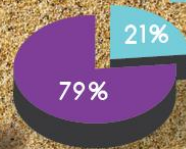
N=70 Nests



Hawksbill

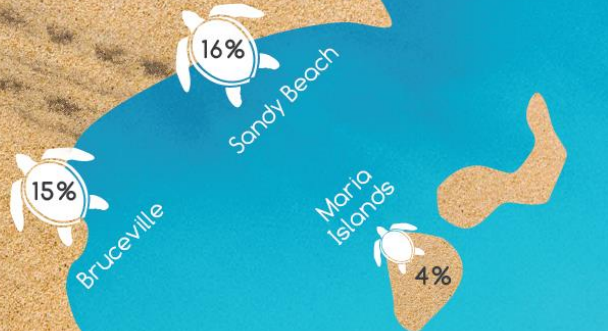


Leatherback



70 Nests

How are they distributed?



Unfortunately...

An estimated **840** possible hatchlings were lost due to impacts of beach cleaning and gardening.

An additional estimated **694** hatchlings were lost due to coastal erosion.

At least **1** female was poached

When were sea turtles most actively nesting in 2015-2017?



In partnership with:



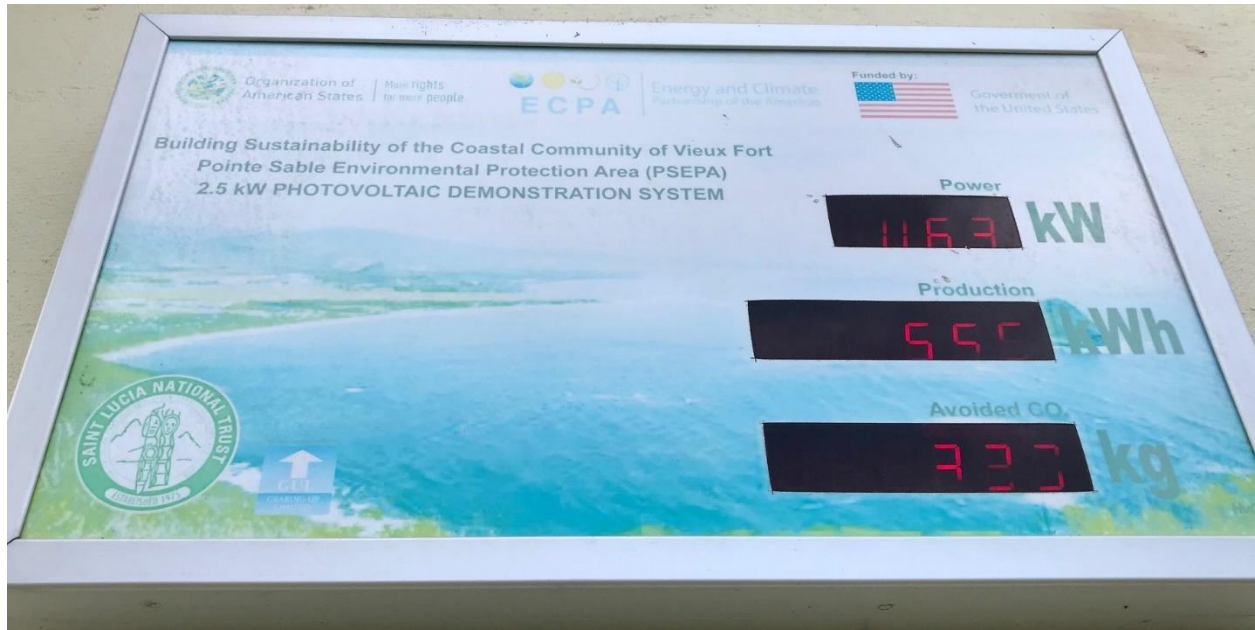
Infographic design by: © 2018 Deviate Design
 Hawksbill turtle photo by: CC2.0 Becky Skiba, USFWS
 Data Source: PSEPA Sea Turtle Nesting Monitoring Programme, 2018

This program builds on multiple activities such as the re-activation and training of a nesting beach patrol team comprised of local community members, with funding for training, equipment and patrol activities through the OAS and German-funded CATS Programs. Public sentiment for enhanced conservation of Saint Lucia's sea turtles also came from residents of Vieux Fort, and especially prompted interest among local young people in assisting with the sea turtle monitoring and protection within PSEPA.

This effort merged with the OAS Sustainable Cities Program that completed multiple projects for the integrated coastal zone management of Southern St Lucia that included better management of 2 RAMSAR and marine protected area sites, waste minimization, drainage improvement, and biodiversity management.



Caption: OAS/ECPA solarized the St Lucia National Trust Building in Vieux Fort, as well as supported composting of both Sargassum seaweed and solid waste, and demonstrated technologies for rainwater harvesting.



Caption: OAS ECPA installed 2.5 kW PhotoVolatic Panels on the St Lucia National Trust building in Vieux Fort that illustrated at this moment the generation of 1163 Kw and 555 kWh while avoiding 333 kilograms of carbon emitted into the atmosphere.