

SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL CONSERVATION FUND IMPACT REPORT

2025

This report provides an overview of the SLUNCF's progress through strategic alignment, and a transparent view on its impact through local projects.



ABOUT THE SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL CONSERVATION FUND

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is a conservation trust fund established in 2012 to create reliable, long-term funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean region.

In partnership with CBF, The World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, the Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) was founded in 2016 to accommodate a diverse range of funding flows that will catalyse and support the conservation, restoration, and effective management of Saint Lucia's biodiversity and natural resources.

The partnership has campaigned for conservation finance through events and fostered discussion. These initiatives have been supported by CBF and Republic Bank, who chose SLUNCF as one of the regional partners for its TT\$200M climate finance target in 2022. To ensure tangible local results, SLUNCF convenes local CSOs and government agencies to expand community outreach and secure policy alignment.

This report provides an overview of the Fund's progress through strategic alignment, and a transparent view on its impact through local projects.

ALIGNMENT

SLUNCF's funding priorities and program implementation are guided by various frameworks. Nationally, the Saint Lucia's Climate Change Adaptation Policy and its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) are the main goals structuring the Fund's impact. To ensure long-term alignment and scalability, the Fund has set its key impact around the following SDGs:

SDG

13

Taking action on climate change by supporting community resilience projects, coral reef rehabilitation, and sustainable livelihoods.

14

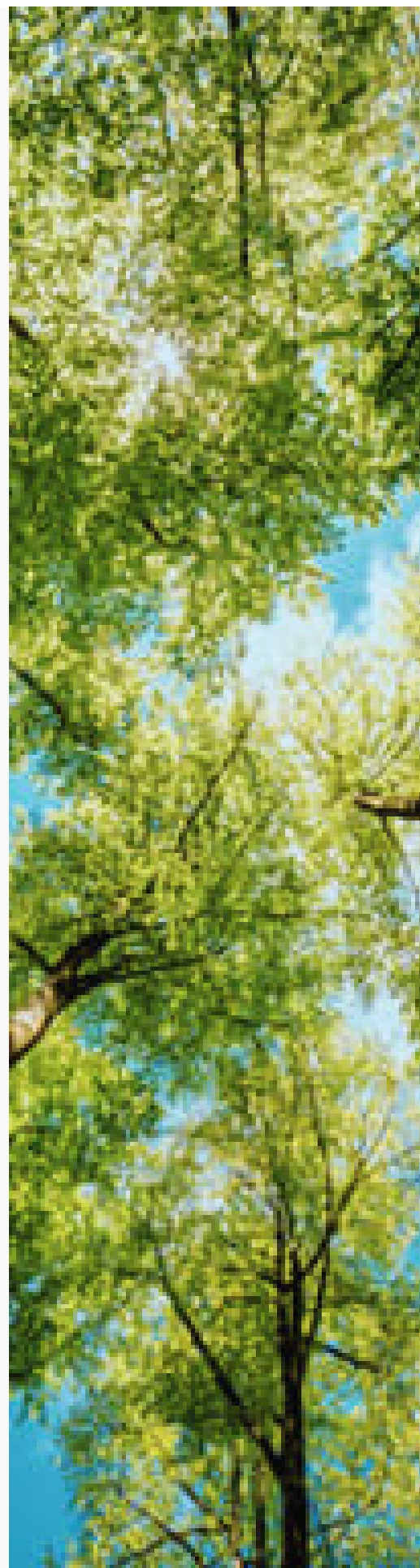
Protecting life below water and on land through mangrove restoration, coastal monitoring, and ecosystem assessments.

15

Protecting life on land through coastal monitoring and ecosystem assessments

17

Building strong partnerships with local communities, government agencies, and financial institutions.



NATIONAL GOALS

These priorities are reflected in SLUNCF's evolving strategy, as summarized in its updated strategic alignment available at [SLUNCF Key Strategies & Partnerships](#). The organization emphasizes resilience through nature-based solutions, community ownership of conservation, and the development of biodiversity-based local economies.

For local implementation, these frameworks are translated within the context of the NBSAP's goals:



Goal 2: Enhancing citizen well-being through ecosystem services

- Target 2.1: Restoring critical ecosystems that support water, sanitation, livelihoods, and vulnerable groups (e.g., women and youth).
- Target 2.2: Strengthening ecosystem resilience via collaboration on MEAs and reform of harmful fiscal incentives.



Goal 3: Promoting sustainable use of biodiversity

- Target 3.2: Minimizing overfishing through sustainable management practices.
- Target 3.4: Formalizing a Protected Areas system, conserving 15% of terrestrial/inland waters and 10% of coastal/marine zones.
- Target 3.5: Ensuring agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry resources are sustainably managed, and LMOs/GMOs are regulated.



Goal 4: Strengthening knowledge, capacity and financial stability

- Target 4.4: Documenting and protecting traditional knowledge linked to biological resources.
- Target 4.5: Mobilizing sustainable financial resources for biodiversity management and NBSAP implementation.

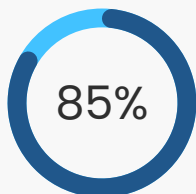
PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS



USD 1.8 million

were disbursed from combined funders (such as CBF, Republic Bank EC Ltd and the Saint Lucia Hospitality & Tourism Association) to catalyse SLUNCF impact. Since inception, 27 projects have been supported across Saint Lucia.

The funding areas of these USD 1.8 million include coral reef rehabilitation, coastal erosion control, sustainable fisheries, agro-processing, environmental education, and co-management of protected areas. There has also been an improved focus on gender and social inclusion to structure support in the local community.



of grantees reported improved capacity and outcomes



Community-based organizations strengthened



Total grants awarded
27



Average grant value
USD 30,000

Young men and women benefited from personal development and skills acquisition training in sustainable agriculture, beekeeping, mushroom production, and aquaponics



Students trained in agro-food processing

38

Farmers trained in pest management and yam propagation

30

IMPACT STORIES

To illustrate the figures from above, we have highlighted three recent, high-impact initiatives achieved by the SLUNCF.

Sustainable Sea Moss

Sea Moss is a natural resource of great importance for the health and wellness supplement markets both domestically and internationally. While benefitting from a large market, the practice could benefit from increased visibility and strategic support.

Results

- 10 local Sea Moss farmers obtained certification
- Cultivation areas were clearly demarcated, and best practices were developed to ensure harmony with the surrounding ecosystems
- Educational audio-visual tools were developed promoting sustainable farming practices
- A short documentary captured the rich history, cultural relevance, and ecological significance of the sea moss industry in Saint Lucia

In collaboration with the IUCN's BIOPAMA Project, the SLUNCF led ground-based discussions to foster the sustainable development of sea moss. A **USD 50,000 investment** targeted three key areas: certification, zoning, and marketing. The results were astounding and have contributed to the positive growth of Saint Lucia's sea moss industry.



RESOURCES

[Savannes Bay Documentary.](#)

[SLUNCF Website - Sea Moss](#)



IMPACT STORIES

This section highlights three recent, high-impact initiatives achieved by the fund.

The Mushroom Collective

In pursuit of a circular economy, zero-waste agriculture is being placed at the forefront of sustainability. Mushrooms are nutritious, versatile, and can grow without rivaling other agricultural land. The SLUNCF has supported the Mushroom Collective in developing a more climate smart mushroom production system in Saint Lucia. The system incorporates digital & environmental monitoring systems, for the conversion of biological waste into growth medium for mushrooms.

With the initial USD 15,000 from CBF, the mushroom collective has since gained international recognition, and received further funding support from organizations like the UNDP and the Taiwanese Technical Mission. With the project's initial objective of zero-waste achieved, the mushroom collective has become a stepping stone to further women's entrepreneurship on the ground.

This closed-loop cycle is a model of a small market that has immense impact on island livelihoods by reducing waste and strengthening food security.



RESOURCES

[The Mushroom Collective Website](#)

IMPACT STORIES

This section highlights three recent, high-impact initiatives achieved by the fund.

Tea Garden & Babonneau Secondary School

These youth-led initiatives focused on promoting climate-smart practices in agriculture through training. The main focuses were beekeeping and aquaponics, two unique skills that are key to sustainable agriculture. Tea Garden 758 focuses on growing Saint Lucia's bee industry through the establishment of a sustainable and profitable beekeeping apiary. The Babonneau Secondary School will utilize the funding to expand its sustainable agriculture education, through the extension of its aquaponics farm.

By raising biodiversity awareness and incentivising conservation, the youth's part of the project grew a deeper appreciation for the practice and saw the fruits of their efforts. CBF funding as well as the training's deep involvement in the community provided the structure needed for the projects to continue to scale.



RESOURCES

[Project Video](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

The SLUNCF seeks to build upon its success, and enters a phase of strategic growth.

Key focus areas for the next cycle include:



Coastal Resilience



Gender participation



Blue Economy finance



Conservation awareness

Scaling green infrastructure for coastal resilience against hurricanes will provide the security needed for communities to develop sustainable projects. Future projects aim to bring in more youth participation, as well as empowering women's entrepreneurship.

Innovative funding mechanisms will be explored, such as carbon offsetting schemes, in their capacity to scale sustainable development. More evidence-based reporting can be informed through data, thus requiring an enhancement of current MRV (monitoring, reporting, verification) systems. Appropriate records of grant tracking and long-term impact measurement will be improved, further addressing internal gaps in technical support.

With strong partners and a clear roadmap, SLUNCF remains committed to delivering high-impact, community-centered results for Saint Lucia.

With these structures in place, the fund can better mobilise information and communicate the fund's results. An Impact Video Series will be an engaging way to raise awareness for conservation finance while promoting the fund's work.