



ST. LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

TEL: (758) 452-5005/31495 P.O. BOX 595 CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA WEST INDIES
FAX NO: (758) 453-2791 Email: natrust@candw.lc Website: www.slunatrust.org

Trust Formally Launches SAVE Programme in Vieux-Fort

The Saint Lucia National Trust formally launched an environmental educational programme in the south of the island. Known as the Schools Advocating to Value the Environment (SAVE) programme, this initiative was born out of the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project, which aims to conserve globally significant biodiversity in the OECS region by promoting effective management of protected areas. It also stems from the need to educate and engage with the students of Educational District six in Vieux-Fort on the importance of protecting the valuable resources within the Pointe Sables Environmental Protection Area, which is the OPAAL demonstration site in Saint Lucia.

The SAVE programme will be managed by an environmental education committee (the SAVE committee) whose members include teachers, public and private sector agencies and interested individuals. This group's mandate is to oversee the establishment and management of the environmental education programme targeting students of District 6. The committee has held several meetings and workshops with teachers to familiarize them with the OPAAL project in Saint Lucia and the SAVE programme. SAVE will encourage students' use of the Pointe Sables Environmental Protection Area as a means of gaining practical experience in sustainable development through the implementation of environmental projects at the school or district levels.

The formal launching of the SAVE programme marked the official commencement of this initiative. At the launch, there were student presentations, a feature address by the Minister of the Environment, Honourable Richard Frederick and remarks by the Vice Chairman of the Saint Lucia National Trust, Mr. Martin Satney and District six Education Officer, Mr. Peter Joseph. Each speaker provided their unequivocal support for the programme and pledged to provide much assistance to its development as possible.

In preparation for this launch, a competition was held among students of District 6 to design a logo for the SAVE Programme. The winning logo was created by Vitus Belmar of the Vieux-Fort Comprehensive School Campus A and was unveiled by the Honourable Richard Frederick. Vitus Belmar received a trophy and a day pass for four from the Coconut Bay Resort and a book voucher valued at EC\$ 200.

The launch of the SAVE programme took place at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort and Spa on Wednesday, November 19, 2008.