

## *A Charter for the Pitons*

We, the People of Saint Lucia, recognise that the Pitons:

- were sacred in the world of our Amerindian ancestors, that they possess high symbolic and cultural value, and must be treated with reverence;
- offer a record and an expression of the country's history, from its pre-Columbian roots to modern times;
- reflect and shape collective national identity;
- Exemplify excellence, and stimulate the aspirations and potentials of Saint Lucians, far beyond their current limits;
- serve as a source of inspiration, and symbolize the individual and collective challenges that Saint Lucians face;
- express strength and permanence, thus offering comfort and protection to us all; and
- are priceless, majestic, and unique.

We further understand that the values and significance of the Pitons are many:

- to the local community, the twin peaks are a navigational landmark for fishers, an indicator of the weather, a brand name, an almanac for farmers and a source of income to farmers and tour guides;
- to the nation, the site is a component of identity, a part of the St. Lucian spirit, a source of renewal and creativity, and the indirect provider of significant economic benefits;
- to our visitors, they provide a unique spiritual and recreational experience, and they exemplify this nation's commitment to environmental quality and sustainable development; and
- to the world, they give a unique international brand, an easily identified icon, with peculiar and spectacular physical features.

The Pitons Management Area and the nearby Sulphur Springs derive their universal value and their potential as a World Heritage Site from the visual impact and aesthetic quality of the Pitons, and from the unique geological features of the area.

The Pitons Management Area is a unique assemblage of natural and cultural assets, and we pledge to preserve and manage it for the benefit of Saint Lucia, and of the whole of humanity. In order to achieve this, we commit ourselves to:

- maintaining the integrity of the natural and cultural resources contained within the Pitons Management Area; and

- optimising the contribution of the Pitons to the spiritual, cultural, social and economic development of Soufriere (and particularly of the communities located at the immediate vicinity of the Area) and of Saint Lucia as a whole.

The following principles guide the use and management of the Pitons Management Area:

- **equity**: there should be opportunities for all, in a controlled and managed fashion;
- **appreciation and pride**: cultivation of a profound admiration and respect for this site and its meaning in all that is done;
- **sustainability**: optimal use of the benefit for present and future generations respect of the site in all its diversity; and
- **participation**: full participation of all sectors of society, in a manner that engenders a profound sense of responsibility and identity.

The management of the Pitons Management Area is guided by the following policy directions:

- full representation of stakeholders in management;
- efficient and effective management arrangements;
- adaptability and responsiveness to change;
- fair and equitable distribution of benefits and sharing of responsibilities shared;
- support for management through adequate legislative instruments;
- appropriate use of incentives and other economic instruments;
- continuous efforts at public education and awareness; and
- advancement of management objectives through a detailed and specific management plan for each major component of the Pitons Management Area.

The Pitons Management Area, once officially declared, will be managed under the auspices of a co-ordinating body bringing together all governmental, community-based and other non-governmental agencies that have direct management responsibility over the area. These agencies will otherwise retain their management authority over specific sections or sectors.

The people and the Government of Saint Lucia pledge to adhere to this Charter, respect its principles, and work towards the realisation of its vision.

Development and management agencies in Saint Lucia, both governmental and non-governmental, commit themselves to the establishment and implementation of effective, efficient and participatory management regimes and instruments that serve the Charter's objectives.

The Government pledges to establish and maintain a flexible and effective institutional arrangement that will provide a mechanism for co-ordination of management activities, and for compliance with standards and requirements of World Heritage Site designation.

Approved by Cabinet Conclusion No: 1216 of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2003  
Signed at Soufriere on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003, by Her Excellency Dame Pearlette Louisy.