



## State of Conservation of the Pitons Management Area (PMA) Saint Lucia

(Saint Lucia) (N1161)



**Year of Inscription: 2004**

**Criteria (vii), (viii)**





## Executive Summary

After consideration of the State of Conservation (SOC) Report for the Piton Management Area (PMA) in June 2014; the World Heritage Committee (WHC) granted an extension from the usual reporting period of one year to twenty-two months. The extended time period allowed the State Party to concentrate its efforts on the implementation of the recommendations of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Study 2013.

Consequently, this year's report outlines actions taken by the State Party in pursuance of this goal. Completion of the LAC Study (2013) has certainly created the enabling environment for strengthening PMA conservation and management. Monitoring protocols recommended by the LAC Study (2013) have been either partially or fully developed and implemented; and in some instances are producing the desired results. This extended grace period has also allowed for greater conformity with **paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Committee (WHC)**. Noteworthy outputs of the period under review include:

1. Adoption of the Limits of Acceptable Study (2013) for the PMA into the policy framework by the State Party;
2. Continuation of the Process of integrating the Recommendations of the LAC Study (2013) into legal and regulatory frameworks for development management;
3. Design and implementation of a Mechanism for Monitoring of PMA Outstanding Landscape Views and production of a Video Documentary of these Views to be aired on local television; and
4. Design and implementation of public education and awareness and constituency building activities.

Consistent with LAC Study (2013) Recommendations, property owners and prospective developers are currently being engaged with the ultimate aim of achieving compliance with the LAC Study. The non-invasive exploratory activities in pursuit of the State Party's Geothermal Energy Development agenda continue to point to sources of energy away from the PMA and possibly beyond the buffer zone for the property. Challenges with Invasive Alien [plant] Species (IAS) on the Gros Piton Nature Trail were addressed to some extent; and the State Party can report initial success with a volunteer programme for eradication of the IAS plants *Callisia fragrans* and *Tradescantia zebrina* from the trail. This exercise has also served as a catalyst for sensitising the local community about the need for protecting the resources within the PMA.

Finally, because of its exquisite natural beauty, the PMA continues to attract the attention of potential investors and developers. However, the State Party is pleased that the advent of the LAC Study has established a framework for the fair and transparent enforcement of the measures and guidelines necessary for ensuring the preservation of the World Heritage Status. In an effort to build on these achievements, the State Party



plans to be resolute in its approach to monitoring and implementing the recommendations of the LAC Study (2013) throughout and beyond the next reporting cycle.