

WHV – Protégeons la biodiversité de la zone de gestion des pitons

Pitons Management Area, Saint Lucia


 Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2004

15/07/2016 – 31/07/2016



The 2,909-ha site near the town of Soufriere includes the Pitons, two volcanic spires rising side by side from the sea (770 m and 743 m high respectively), linked by the Piton Mitan ridge. The volcanic complex includes a geothermal field with sulphurous fumeroles and hot springs. Coral reefs cover almost 60% of the site's marine area. A survey has revealed 168 species of finfish, 60 species of cnidaria, including corals, eight molluscs, 14 sponges, 11 echinoderms, 15 arthropods and eight annelid worms. At least 148 plant species have been recorded on Gros Piton, 97 on Petit Piton and the intervening ridge, among them eight rare tree species. The Gros Piton is home to some 27 bird species (five of them endemic), three indigenous rodents, one opossum, three bats, eight reptiles and three amphibians.



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Project objectives: The World Heritage site of Pitons Management Area is currently under considerable stress due to increased climate variability and occurrence of severe events such as cyclones, droughts, rising temperature, storms and hurricanes during the last several decades. As this climate change is emerging as a menace for the site, the project aims to create a collaborative tool for the biodiversity protection of the site. It also aims to contribute to develop a sustainable management guidance of the site and promote the visit as well as protecting the site.

Project activities: The volunteers will create a map of the site under the supervision of experts and mark each zone on the map which is facing the risk due to climate change in order to a method which can be used for the site management. They will also be involved in IT management tool development which is focused on climate change and the preservation of biodiversity of the site. On the other hand, the volunteers will make a short documentary about their activities on the site and conduct awareness raising events towards the tourists, local inhabitants, site



managers, and schools in order to promote the site and encourage them to preserve the natural reserve and biodiversity.

Partners: Youth club school, local associations, private companies, and public structures.