



*For Immediate Release*

## **Enhancing environmental management and climate change legislation in Saint Lucia**

***Port of Spain, January 18, 2018*** – Practitioners, policy makers and civil society groups in Saint Lucia participated in a national workshop on December 6-7, 2017 to develop legislation to enhance environmental management and action on climate change.

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) facilitated the national workshop in collaboration with the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development in Saint Lucia. The aim of the consultation was to gain input from government and civil society to design a new legislative framework on environmental management and climate change.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Ms. Debra Charlery, noted the critical environmental and climate challenges facing Saint Lucia and other Caribbean islands, including the devastation in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. She welcomed the collaboration between the Ministry and CANARI and the support of the OECS Commission to develop new legislation that will operationalise key policies in Saint Lucia, including the National Environmental Policy and National Climate Change Adaptation Policy, and ensure sustainable and resilient development. In particular, she highlighted the coordinating and facilitating role of the DSD and the need to ensure that duplication in mandates is avoided in developing new legislation, while addressing any grey areas due to emerging issues at national, regional and international levels.

Stakeholders worked together at the workshop to identify key needs and priorities for legislation that enables effective coordination, implementation and resource mobilisation to address the environment and climate change. Two pieces of legislation were the focus of discussion. The proposed environmental management legislation addresses critical issues, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, coastal zone management, pollution control and environmental monitoring and information systems. The proposed climate change legislation aims to build resilience and undertake innovative measures for adaptation and mitigation and the resulting loss and damage that occurs when adaptation and mitigation efforts are inadequate.

CANARI and DSD will continue to work over the next year with stakeholders in Saint Lucia to develop this new legislation and enable effective uptake and implementation.



Figure 1: The Pitons, Saint Lucia.

This initiative is being implemented under the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Global Climate Change Alliance Project, iLAND Resilience – Promoting a Climate for Change, funded by the European Union (EU). CANARI is also providing co-financing through its EU-funded project on Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES). The overall aim of the iLAND Resilience project is to support the implementation of the OECS St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability, namely the protection and sustained productivity of the OECS countries’ natural resources.

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**About iLAND Resilience - Promoting a Climate of Change:** *iLAND Resilience - Promoting a Climate of Change* is the brand for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Global Climate Change Alliance project on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management in the Eastern Caribbean. This project is funded by the European Union (EU). One component of this project focuses on *Technical Assistance for the Development of Frameworks aimed at Enhancing Environmental Management*. This technical assistance component seeks to develop institutional frameworks towards improved environmental management and resilience to climate change in four OECS Member States, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. CANARI is implementing this component on behalf of the OECS and providing co-financing through its EU funded project, *Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES)*. See here for more information on the *iLand Resilience* project: <http://iland.oecs.org/>.

**About CANARI:** The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 25 years. Our

mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on capacity building, policy planning and development, research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, and fostering regional partnerships. See here for more information on CANARI: <http://www.canari.org/>.

**Connect with us:**



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