

DRY FORESTS

ST. LUCIA

Florida-Caribbean Fire & Invasives Learning Network

12,000 acres



Numerous endemic species in St. Lucia rely on the absence of fire

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DRY FORESTS are found in small pockets on several of the Caribbean's Windward Islands—Curacao, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Characterized by steep topography and found between the rugged interior mountains and flatter, xeric coastal areas, these fire-sensitive areas are under increasing pressure from agriculture and other development. More frequent fires and invasion by non-native species are two of the threats associated with this development. In 2006, the government of St. Lucia began work on a Wildfire Management Plan, but little work has yet been done in the management of invasive species.

Partners are now working to win endorsement of the Wildfire Management plan by cabinet ministers, and to review and revise a Systems Plan for Protected Areas that considers both fire and invasive species threats. Other necessary tasks include developing a database of invasive species for the island, drafting a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forestry Department and Fire Service, increasing local awareness of fire and invasive species risks, training landowners in prescribed fire techniques and increasing coordination among institutions. Participation in the network will support many of these tasks, through the sharing of information, tools and expertise.

LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

Crown Lands Department
Fire departments
National Emergency
Management Organisation
Police departments
St. Lucia Meteorological
Services
St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
St. Lucia Ministry of Education
St. Lucia Ministry of Finance
St. Lucia Ministry of Health
St. Lucia Ministry of Planning, Development, Environment and Housing
St. Lucia Ministry of Social Transformation
St. Lucia National Biodiversity Programme
St. Lucia National Trust
Town councils

LANDSCAPE GOALS

Partners wish to reduce the negative effects of wildfires on natural ecosystems and socioeconomic development, particularly in the most vulnerable dry scrub woodlands and savanna and grazing lands of the coastal zone.

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