



Ma Kôté Mangrove



Saint Lucia

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Background

- ▶ At approximately 40 acres, Ma Kôté is the largest mangrove forest located on the southeastern coast of Saint Lucia
- ▶ Ma Kôté is home to four species of mangroves (Red, Black, White and Button wood)
- ▶ In 2002, Ma Kôté was declared a wetland of international importance by the RAMSAR Convention





The Importance of Ma Kôté

- ▶ Ma Kôté was the primary source of charcoal for Vieux Fort, and has a rich history of community management under the Aupicon Charcoal Producers Group
- ▶ Support livelihoods: Ma Kôté provides opportunities for ecotourism businesses, charcoal and food production, bee keeping and sea moss farming





Mangrove Die-Back

- ▶ Satellite images showed that a die-back was present from as far back as 2010
- ▶ Ground-truthing exercise in 2015 confirmed a severe case of die-back





Mangrove Die-Back 2017





Ma Kote Mangrove 2021





Restoration Efforts

- ▶ Through the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN project) SLNT was able to facilitate rehabilitation of Ma Kôtè
- ▶ 4000 Red mangrove seeds were collected and planted in a nursery on site
- ▶ Government agencies and community groups joined SLNT in a week long replanting activity





Other Threats

- ▶ Illegal dumping of garbage and industrial waste
- ▶ Pesticide and herbicide use by farmers upstream
- ▶ Unsustainable cutting of mangrove trees for wood and charcoal
- ▶ Tourism based developments (e.g hotels & Marina construction)





Ecosystem Based Adaptation Project

- ▶ Recognising that the die-back persisted, the SLNT under the a Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) Facility continued restoration works.
- ▶ The first collection of seeds and propagules under this initiative took place in January 2021 with a total of 500 seeds and propagules being collected
- ▶ Approximately 2000 propagules of Red, White and Black mangrove have been germinated in the nursery on site so far.





Mangrove Assessment

- ▶ The SLNT is also conducting a Mangrove Assessment and consultants from Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad) have been collecting the relevant data to determine the cause of the die-back.
- ▶ The Assessment will provide :
- ▶ Comprehensive information on the state of health of the mangrove;
- ▶ An inventory of the living and non-living resources within the site;
- ▶ The causes of the level of die-back and degradation of other areas within the mangrove;
- ▶ Soil and water testing and analyses ;
- ▶ Which would feed into the development of a rehabilitation and monitoring plan with concrete recommendations for restoring affected areas.





Stakeholder Consultations

- ▶ As part of the Assessment, the SLNT and IMA conducted two stakeholder consultations with management agencies and resources users, including seamoss farmers, beekeepers and sustainable mangrove charcoal producers.
- ▶ The purpose of the consultations was to present some of the preliminary observations made thus far, as well as to obtain historical information from stakeholders which would assist in identifying changes that have taken place in the area and to establish correlations.





THANK YOU!



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