

**INCENTIVE MEASURES USED IN PROTECTED AREAS  
BY THE ST. LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST**  
*(Prepared for the Biodiversity Secretariat)*

**The Concept:** Incentive measures can be of several kinds, positive and negative kinds. Positive measures reward people for certain desired or predetermined actions while negative incentives are deterrents and are punitive. The St. Lucia National Trust has used both kinds at various sites. The following examples will help to illustrate the differences.

**Praslin Protected Landscape (proposed):** At the PPL which is located on the east coast of St. Lucia, we have used positive incentives to meet desired goals. In order to keep a large portion of the site which is in private ownership protected, we have entered into a partnership arrangement with one private landowner and the community development group in the village. For each paying visitor who enters the PPL we share the proceeds with the community development group and the landowner based on an agreed formula. This form of remuneration is intended to demonstrate that conservation can bring revenue to communities and to persuade members of the community that the economic benefits of conservation can contribute to community development. We have also used project funds to develop the capacity and capability of community groups to manage resources in a sustainable manner and in so doing develop a good-neighbour culture between the protected area and the community. It is also the policy of the Trust to give first priority to nearby communities when it comes to employment, both at the project development stage (trail engineering etc.) and during the management phase (Tour Guides; Maintenance Staff; Site Management; Boatmen etc.). Other forms of positive incentives emerge out of Environmental Education Programmes and frequent community meetings.

We have not reached the stage of implementing negative incentives as we cannot develop Bye-laws for private lands, for lands we do not manage, or for sites which have not been vested in the Trust.

**Pigeon Island National Landmark (PINL):** The PINL is leased to the Trust for 99 years. We have in place Bye Laws for the park which are used as a last resort to ensure the protection of the site. As a result of these laws, we from time to time have used the services of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force, which is the exception rather than the rule.

We encourage people through our Customer Service Officers to refrain from littering and we provide the desired receptacles in strategic locations. We also from time to time carry on education programmes in the park for visitors. Another positive incentive we use is to use signage and to talk to visitors on the significance of the site to St. Lucia and how it should be protected for posterity. In other words we appeal to the higher values in people.

**Conclusion:** We have not actively experimented with various incentives as the problems have not been unmanageable. We have learnt that the more successful a site is and the stronger the links to the community the less negative incentives are required. We are of the opinion that in the near future we will have to more actively evaluate the impacts of these incentives as our protected areas are used by more and more people. We also need to develop a more systematic approach to incentive creation for biodiversity conservation.