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UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL, SHAPE OUR NATION – Entrepreneurs of 2025



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Saint Lucia gets XCD\$18.4m from CDF to upgrade water infrastructure



(l-r) **Mr. Rodinald Soomer**, CEO CARICOM Development Fund, Prime Minister **Pierre** and Senior Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. **Stephenson King**

The Government of Saint Lucia has signed two significant financing agreements with the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) to support national water infrastructure and expand access to clean, reliable water.

The first agreement provides US\$4.2 million in concessional financing for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Theobalds Water Supply System. This investment will restore full treatment capacity, introduce solar-powered energy systems, and modernize key operational components to improve service delivery.

The second agreement secures supplementary financing of US\$781,000 for the Patience Water Supply Project, targeting long-standing water challenges in underserved communities in the southeast of the island.

The Patience Water System services 10 communities, and, when completed, this improved water system is expected to satisfy an increase in daily consumption demand from 60 gallons to 80 gallons per person.

In addition to these loan instruments, Saint Lucia has secured US\$670,000 in grant support, which will fund rainwater harvesting systems, renewable energy installations at the Theobalds Water Treatment Plant, and public education campaigns focused on climate adaptation and water use.

Taken all together, with the financing for the Theobalds Water Treatment Plant, which is a newly approved project, this brings the total of CDF's financing for water infrastructure in St. Lucia to almost US\$7 million. These initiatives will improve water security for over 45,000 people in communities including Mon Repos, Patience, Praslin, La Pointe, Malgretoute, Millet, Vanard, Babonneau, Dennery, Castries, Gros Islet, and Cap Estate.

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New British High Commissioner presents credentials



 Mr Simon Mustard - British High Commissioner
Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean

The Government of the United Kingdom has announced the appointment of Simon Mustard as the new non-resident British High Commissioner to Saint Lucia and the wider Eastern Caribbean network.

Mr. Mustard officially presented his credentials during a ceremony in Castries on 24 July 2025.

High Commissioner Mustard, who is resident in Barbados, brings a wealth of diplomatic experience and a commitment to strengthening the UK's relations in the Eastern Caribbean. "Building on our historical ties, I aim to work collaboratively on shared priorities such as climate resilience, economic growth, and regional security," he stated.

During his visit, High Commissioner Mustard met with the Honourable Prime Minister, Philip J. Pierre, and the Castries team, including the Resident British Commissioner, Ms Amy Quant-
rill, to discuss ongoing cooperation and mutual interests. These discussions were focused on

enhancing partnerships in areas such as sustainable development, security, and climate action.

A key highlight of the visit was a trip to the Millennium Highway Road, a UK-funded project that aims to improve infrastructure and connectivity in the region. The road underscores the UK's commitment to supporting climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable development initiatives in Saint Lucia.

Caribbean Export exploring trade and partnerships with Africa



Caribbean Export participated in the inaugural ITC SME Ministerial Meeting and Global TPO Leadership Dialogue, hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa, by the International Trade Centre (ITC).

It was held in collaboration with the African Continental Free Trade Area [AfCFTA] Secretariat and Afreximbank.

Caribbean Export's Executive Director, Dr Damie Sinanan joined trade promotion leaders and ministers from across the globe for three days of dynamic

discussions aimed at enhancing the role of SMEs in intra-African trade.

This historic gathering placed special emphasis on shaping recommendations for Ministers responsible for SME development — ensuring that the voices and realities of small businesses are embedded in regional integration strategies.

A key highlight of the visit was our Executive Director's keynote intervention at the High-Level Awareness Raising Roundtable session on 'Trade Promotion Organizations – Gateways to Facilitating Private Sector Gains from the AfCFTA'.

This session explored the transformative role of Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOs) as drivers of SME competitiveness and integration into Africa's continental market.

CTO appoints new Deputy Director of Sustainable Tourism



The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has announced the appointment of Trinidadian Narendra Ramgulam as Deputy Director, Sustainable Tourism — a newly created position aligned with the CTO's strategic focus on sustainable and regenerative tourism development.

Ramgulam, who joined CTO last year as a Sustainable Tourism Consultant, has played an integral role in supporting the organization's vision for a more resilient and inclusive tourism sector. His appointment was formally approved by the CTO Board of Directors and marks a significant milestone in advancing the CTO's Reimagine Plan.

In his new capacity, Ramgulum will lead the strategic development and implementation of initiatives aimed at promoting and enhancing sustainable and regenerative tourism across CTO member countries. His portfolio will include developing regional strategies and policies, strengthening stakeholder capacity, showcasing success stories and best practices, and monitoring the effectiveness of sustainability programs.

Ramgulum, a prolific researcher with 13 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, previously served as Director of Tourism Product Development & Destination Management at the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited, where his work led to prestigious sustainability awards and a strengthened reputation for safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also served as a Postgraduate Coordinator and Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus.

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Leveraging drone technology in determining population estimates



Saint Lucia has recently hosted a workshop entitled which sought to used Unmanned Aerial Vehicle [UAV] imagery to produce official statistics in Saint Lucia.

The workshop took place under the auspices of the World Bank-funded OECS Data for Decision Making project, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and with the support of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich),

Mr. Sean Mathurin, Director of Statistics, Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Saint Lucia, noted “This innovative approach

is being applied by other ministries, departments, agencies, and sectors, including agriculture, urban planning, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and infrastructure development.”

Ms. Valrie Grant, Strategic Advisor on Geospatial Matters to the OECS Commission, emphasised how the lack of geospatial data affects small island states noting “if we do it right—this work will help us target services more effectively, respond to disasters more quickly, and design climate adaptation plans that are actually grounded in the reality of people’s lives.”

Caribbean Ports must prepare for digital revolution



Darwin Telemaque, Port Manager at
the Antigua Port Authority

Darwin Telemaque, Port Manager at the Antigua Port Authority, has issued a strong call for regional port authorities to come together to advance the modernization and digitization of Caribbean ports.

According to Telemaque, only through collective effort can ports across the region be uniformly elevated to meet the demands of the digital age.

Although several ports are implementing initiatives such as Single Windows for Foreign Trade (VUCEs) and Port Community Systems (PCS) to improve efficiency and facilitate trade, others continue to lag behind.

“Not all Caribbean ports are at the same level of digital maturity, with some still grappling with outdated infrastructure and processes. While some ports are investing in advanced technologies, others may lack the necessary infrastructure and skilled work force to fully leverage digital solutions,” Telemaque said.

He also noted that many Caribbean ports are not equipped to handle modern vessels. “Berth congestion, limited draft, and antiquated handling equipment result in longer turn around times and lower service reliability,” he said.

The region also trails in adopting digital port management systems. “Manual documentation and insufficient real-time cargo tracking increase processing times and limit transparency,” Telemaque said.



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CIBC Caribbean donates musical instruments to Sir Ira Simmons choir



The Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School Choir, three-time champion of the National Schools Choir Competition, is set to amplify its sound and sharpen its performance edge thanks to a timely donation of musical instruments from CIBC Caribbean.

The donation — comprising two djembes, two microphones, two microphone stands, and a trumpet — will support the choir's vibrant music program as it continues to command national attention for its discipline, creativity, and vocal excellence.

This latest boost comes on the heels of the choir's selection by the Department of Sustainable Development to perform "Adapt", a calypso jingle created to raise awareness of climate resilience and sustainability. The collaboration marks another milestone in the choir's growing legacy of artistic and civic engagement.

Country Head Nigel Ollivierre represented CIBC Caribbean Saint Lucia at the official handover ceremony. Speaking at the event, he noted, "We are proud to support the incredible talent and commitment of these young performers. Investments in youth, education, and the arts are investments in our country's future."

Through initiatives like this, CIBC Caribbean continues to champion youth empowerment, education, and the arts — investing in talent that will positively shape Saint Lucia's creative future and fuel the growth of the orange economy.

Over 300 St. Lucians complete CVQ training



Dr. Madgerie Jameson-Charles -
Principal SALCC

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology, and Vocational Training, proudly celebrated the graduation of approximately 300 participants from the Human Capital Resilience Programme on Thursday July 17, 2025.

This milestone event marks the culmination of a program launched in 2024 with funding from the World Bank under the Saint Lucia Human Capital Resilience Project (HCRP). The initiative was designed to equip learners with practical and technical competencies aligned with industry standards across the Caribbean.

Graduates were trained and assessed in multiple occupational areas, including:

- Level 1: Food Preparation, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Carpentry, Wall and Floor Tiling
- Level 2: Plumbing, Painting and Decorating



While some students await the completion of portfolio assessments for full CVQ certification, all were recognized for reaching an important stage in their educational and professional journeys with certificates of completion or participation.

Dr. Madgerie Jameson-Charles, Principal of SALCC, addressed the audience with heartfelt congratulations: "Excellence is not the final destination; it is an ongoing journey. This is a journey of learning, perseverance, and growth. You have demonstrated the pursuit of excellence that Sir Arthur Lewis Community College is known for."

Aquila Centre's commitment to sustainable growth through education



Ambra Attus and **Beth Hatt** at the Caribbean Tourism Organization's 2024 State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIO) in the Cayman Islands

With a mission rooted in education and excellence, the Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence is expanding its global footprint, using high-profile speaking engagements and strategic partnerships to champion sustainable growth and elevate cruise tourism standards across the Caribbean and North America.

As a leader in cruise tourism training, Aquila has contributed to vital conversations shaping the future of the industry through conversations on cross-border collaboration, economic growth and regional resilience people-centered training and its role in building leadership, fostering transformation, and creating long-term community impact.

"These platforms allow us to amplify our mission of excellence through education," said Beth Hatt, Founder of the Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence. "We're proud of our team's contributions and honored to support the ongoing growth and success of cruise destinations around the world."

The Aquila team will deliver a presentation at the annual FCCA Cruise Conference & Trade Show in Puerto Rico in October.

As the exclusive training partner of the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), Aquila will lead important conversations around building cruise-ready communities, enhancing guest experiences, and strengthening partnerships between cruise lines and destinations.

Additionally, Aquila will participate at the upcoming Ports Canada Conference in Halifax, taking place September 16-18

SLUNCF in Dennery today to focus on the future of the seamoss sector



The Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF) is meeting in Dennery today July 28, 2025, at Bethel's Blessings Events & Conference Center, Dennery from 10:00 am for a roundtable discussion on critical issues impacting the seamoss sector.

This is part of an initiative to conduct a series of meetings with key stakeholders including government agencies, community members, and industry partners on the future of the sea moss sector.

This forum aims to discuss the current landscape and future direction of the seamoss sector in Saint Lucia.

The meetings will focus on

- Industry standards and regulatory requirements
- Trade and export potential
- Environmental concerns such as seabed use, water quality, and the growing impact of sargassum

Each participating agency will present for 15 minutes, sharing their mandate and perspectives on seamoss development.

Following this will be a general stakeholder discussion for all participants to share developments, opportunities, and challenges, fostering collaboration across sectors.



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Third Caribbean Conservation Finance congress starts tomorrow



The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund will from tomorrow host the Third Caribbean Conservation Finance Congress (CCFC 2025) on July 30 – 31, 2025.

The event will bring together a cadre of experts and key stakeholders to highlight the critical role of conservation trust funds in driving measurable impact toward global biodiversity targets at national and regional levels.

This year’s focus is especially timely

as the global community intensifies efforts to meet the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets by 2030.

Conservation trust funds across the Caribbean have emerged as powerful vehicles for translating international commitments into tangible conservation outcomes.

The Congress will showcase innovative financing mechanisms, governance structures, and impact measurement frameworks that enable conservation trust funds to effectively support national governments in meeting their biodiversity commitments while ensuring sustainable development.

There will be focus on building capacity and fostering collaboration among trust funds, government agencies, and partners on blue economy finance, gender-responsive conservation, circular economy models, and climate adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Meet the Speakers



Karolin Troubetzkoy
Chair, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund



James Ellsmoor
Chief Executive Officer, Island Innovation



Karen McDonald Gayle
Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund



Cheryl Senhouse
Finance Innovation Director, Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator



Craig Henry
Chief Executive Officer, Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund



Hon. Kerryne James
Minister of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy, Government of Grenada

The CDB needs your help in developing its strategic plan



The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is currently developing a new 10-Year Strategic Plan that will guide its work across the region from 2026 to 2035.

This Plan will define the Bank’s strategic direction, inform our investment priorities, and provide a framework for how we partner with countries, institutions, and communities to accelerate sustainable development.

It is being designed to make CDB more responsive and adaptable to a rapidly changing external environment, ensuring it functions effectively even in an unpredictable climate marked by uncertainty and emerging challenges.

All stakeholders are invited to share their perspectives on the way forward for the bank.

[Click here to participate in this survey](#)

Please respond by Thursday July 31, 2025.

SLDB to provide details of Green Climate Fund accreditation



The Saint Lucia Development Bank is set to announce its historic accreditation to the Green Climate Fund through a press conference on August 5th, 2025.

The SLDB says this significant achievement marks a major milestone for Saint Lucia, positioning the SLDB as a direct access entity capable of mobilizing critical climate finance for national adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

It adds that this accreditation will unlock unprecedented opportunities for Saint Lucia to access substantial funding to address the impacts of climate change, foster sustainable development, and build a more resilient future for all Saint Lucians.

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The advertisement features a man, Josh Peters, wearing a grey suit and glasses, standing against a background of a world map with various colored squares. To his right is the "1st National Bank Notes" logo, which includes a blue globe icon and the text "1st National Bank Notes" in a stylized font. Below this is the "ctv" logo with a green leaf-like shape, and the text "Calabash TV GREEN FOR A REASON". To the right of these logos, the broadcast schedule is listed: "Mondays 8:00pm" and "Tuesdays 6:00am & 5:00pm". At the bottom left, there is a small "1st National Bank" logo and the text "Josh Peters Host 1st National Bank Notes".

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