

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, PORTS AND TRANSPORT

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REVIEW





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REVIEW

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Social Development & Safeguards

Project ARAP Upgraded to RAP

In late May, a decision was taken by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP) to upgrade the project's Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) to a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). This was necessary because it had recently been determined that more than 300 people would be impacted by the project's activities.

The purpose of the RAP is to mitigate the negative social and economic impacts of involuntary resettlement due to the RESDP. The RAP outlines procedures and actions to properly resettle and compensate affected people, ensuring they can improve or at least restore their livelihoods. The RAP also establishes eligibility criteria, compensation rates, and assistance for relocation.



Figure 1: Project Affected Household in RAP

During the week of June 11-17, the PIU hosted World Bank (WB), Senior Social Safeguards Specialist, Sanjay Argarwal. Mr. Argarwal joined the PIU team to assist in the development of RAP, including undertaking several due diligence exercises such as meeting project affected persons and reviewing stakeholder files.



RESDP PROGRESS REPORT

Presently, PIU personnel are actively working on completing the document by the end of June. In July, a crop production and farm income loss verification exercise and census and socio-economic study of landowners will be conducted. Both exercises will provide vital information necessary for completing the RAP.

On completion, the RAP will be sent to the World Bank (WB) for its approval and publicly disclosed for comments thereafter. The RAP ensures compliance with relevant legal and regulatory frameworks, including international standards like the World Bank's (WB's) Operational Policy 4.12. After the comments from the public disclosure have been addressed and approved final changes made, the contents of the RAP will be implemented by the staff of the PIU.

Successful Negotiations Held for Open Market Purchases of Land for the RESDP

During the months of February and March, successful negotiations were held with several landowners in Belvedere, Fond St. Jacques and Belle Plaine, Soufriere, for the open market sale of their lands to the Government of St. Lucia. Negotiations were led by the Chief Surveyor of the Survey and Mapping Division of the Department of Physical Planning and Urban Renewal with the participation of a Negotiations Team from the RESDP. Several other landowners whose lands were being purchased opted not to participate in the negotiation process, deciding instead to accept the Government's price offer.

The lands are being purchased for the construction of well pads at the two named drilling sites. A well pad is a leveled, stable area where drilling rigs and other equipment are set up to extract geothermal fluids from the subsurface. The location of the well pad is determined through a combination of geological, geochemical and geophysical analysis. The results of these studies conducted in southwest St. Lucia point to the existence of a geothermal resource in the area of the drilling locations.

Land is also being purchased to facilitate expansion of the temporary access road at Belvedere from its present 2 to 3.5 metres. The expansion is required to facilitate the movement of the drilling equipment and auxiliary components through the road to the drilling site at Belvedere. Besides the 1.5 metres to be purchased, landowners will also be paid for lands they contributed previously to expanding the private pedestrian passageway to a vehicular access road. The new access road will provide a fully motorable access into the community thus making entry and exit into and out of the community relatively easy. On completion, the road will be classified as public and placed under the care of the Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Transport.



Figure 3: Road to Drilling Site at Belvedere

Environmental Safeguards

Public Disclosure of the ESIA/ESMP Ended on 30th of May 2025

The public disclosure (PD) process for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) ended on the 30th of May 2025. Public disclosure commenced on the 10th of February and lasted for 108 days. It started with public consultations in the four main communities (Belle Plaine, Parc Estate, Belvedere/Fond St. Jacques and Saltibus). It continued with consultations with key stakeholders in the north and south of the island.

In addition to the above, the ESIA and ESMP documents were made available to the public in libraries, the Innovation, Career, Development Centres' island wide, the Piton Management Area office, the Saltibus Post Office, the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and the Fond St. Jacques Resource and Interpretative Centre, and on the RESDP and Government of Saint Lucia websites. The two documents were also shared with the project's international partners, including: (i) Electroconsultant (ELC) the project's Exploration Management Consultant, (ii) the WB and (iii) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), for review and comments.

During the period of public disclosure, the RESDP-PIU received comments from the following:

- Belle Plaine community,
- Water Resources Management Agency,



Figure 2: Drilling Site at Belvedere

- The Regional Scientific Authority of the WB,
- ELC,
- UNESCO.

The comments, concerns and issues raised by the various sources were passed on to the ESIA/ESMP Consulting Firm, Panorama Environmental Inc., who will collate and address all remarks of the ESIA and ESMP's public disclosure activity.

The next steps will include:

- Panorama Environmental Inc. submitting the revised ESIA and ESMP to the RESDP-PIU for its final review.
- RESDP-PIU forwarding the documents to the WB and the Development Control Authority for their final review.
- If there are no more comments from all parties, the documents will be accepted as final.
- The final ESIA and ESMP will then be published as official documents.



Figure 4: Key Stakeholders at Consultation

Technical Coordination

Pitons Management Area and Green Buffer Zone Demarcation Advances with Strong Community Focus

Significant progress has been made in the critical boundary demarcation efforts within Saint Lucia's Pitons Management Area (PMA) and the Green Buffer Zone (GBZ). All required boundary monuments for the PMA have now been successfully installed, repaired, or replaced,

marking a crucial step in safeguarding this vital UNESCO World Heritage Site.

For the GBZ, a collaborative approach has ensured a smoother process. Consensus was reached among key stakeholders to erect informative signs for the community, a decision that facilitates the survey's recommencement by removing the need to serve individual notices to landowners. This approach, coupled with ongoing public information campaigns and recent radio interviews, underscores the project's commitment to transparent communication and community engagement throughout these essential demarcation activities.



Figure 5: PMA/GBZ Monument

Contractors Participate in Civil Work Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visits

On Wednesday 21 May, personnel from nine (9) civil works companies convened at the conference room of the Leisure Inn, Soufriere, to participate in the non-mandatory pre-bid meeting for bidders for the civil works contract under the RESDP. The RESDP is a Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Transport implemented initiative which seeks to explore the island's potential for geothermal power generation.

The pre-bid meeting was organized by the staff of the project's PIU to ensure that bidders became familiar with the process requirements for bidders interested in undertaking small projects with WB funding thus assisting them in preparing responsive bids; inform them of the scope of works, works requirement and tender deadline, and allow potential bidders the opportunity to clarify details and ask questions before submitting their bids. Presentations were made by PIU staff on the bidding procedures and technical requirements including environmental and social safeguards, bid proposal form and the evaluation criteria, inter alia. The project's EMC, Italian firm, ElectroConsult, who joined the meeting via Teams, was on hand to answer any technical questions related to the project.

Commenting on the success of the day's proceedings, RESDP's Procurement Specialist, Kensly Promesse, remarked, "We are very happy with today's attendance and the conduct of the proceedings. The exercise ensured clarity and transparency and hopefully will result in a more competitive procurement process." He added, "We would like to encourage bidders to submit any new questions they may have after the meeting in written form through the Government of Saint Lucia portal".

The Request for Bid notices for Civil Works for Exploration Drilling Program were issued from May 06, 2025 and details on the Specific Procurement Notice can be found on the Government of Saint Lucia E-Procurement portal via the <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/goslprocurement/> (registration is required). The deadline for Submission of Bids is (UTC-4:00) 9:30 a.m. on August 6, 2025.

COMMUNITY PULSE

Under this activity, civil works includes construction of three (3) well pads and associated infrastructure, rehabilitation of access roads to the well pads and supply of adequate water, inter alia, at the proposed drilling locations at Belvedere, Belle Plaine and La Claye, Saltibus, and construction of a materials storage area at Parc Estate, Saltibus.

After the presentations, site visits to the above four locations were conducted to provide firsthand view of the well pads locations and topography, the locations of the approved water sources for extraction and supply to the well pads.

Bidders expressed their satisfaction with the day's proceedings. According to one bidder, "The information from today's session will assist my team tremendously in preparing a responsive bid."

The RESDP remains committed to ensuring that it receives as many responsive bids as possible and that the procurement process is fair, transparent and highly competitive thus leading to the selection of the most advantageous bid.



Figure 7: Civil Works Contractors Visit La Clay, Saltibus



GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Grievance Redress Mechanism Performance Update: April-June 2025

During the reporting period from April to June 2025, the GRM recorded one new grievance, while two previously open grievances were successfully resolved and closed.

The newly recorded grievance related to a request for clarification and information regarding the Government of Saint Lucia's acquisition of land at Fond St. Jacques for the project. The grievant requested details on the financial sums involved in the acquisition of a property, clarifications on how legal title of land is transferred and on the official communication process with heirs in situations where an executor has been appointed via a will. Responses to the above queries were shared with the grievant and the matter was closed.

In addition to the new grievance, the GRM successfully closed two existing grievances that had been under active management. The first grievance involved a request for the finalized layout of water infrastructure and the proposed location of streetlights along the Belle Plaine access road. A site visit by the Electrical Division Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Transport (DIPT) and PIU was subsequently conducted to determine streetlight placements, and the final update was delivered to the grievant. The grievance is now officially closed.

The second grievance related to concerns about the impact of drilling vibrations on nearby homes. While the grievant initially remained unconvinced despite detailed engagement, the PIU maintained communication and will provide monthly updates on the project to the grievant. This grievance has also been closed.

The PIU remains committed to addressing community concerns promptly and transparently, ensuring that all voices are heard and acted upon as the project moves forward. Grievances can be recorded via the RESDP's google form <https://forms.gle/GMVWNrRefZGbdxf> and the multiple uptake channels below.



FUTURE ENERGY EXPERTS

CREATE YOUR FUTURE



DIPT Hosts Women in Energy Webinar to Empower the Next Generation of Females in STEM

On April 30th, 2025, the DIPT, implementer of the RESDP, hosted its first Women in Energy Webinar under the theme: “Sisters in STEM: Educating Girls for a Future in Renewable Energy.”



Figure 8: Guest Speakers along with RESDP's Team

Held virtually from the Ministry of Infrastructure Conference Room in Union, Castries, the event aimed to promote gender inclusivity in science, technology, engineering and



mathematics (STEM) by encouraging female students from forms 3-5 at twenty-six secondary schools on island, to pursue careers in the renewable energy sector. The session brought together the DIPT-RESDP Scholarship Apprenticeship Program awardees, students and educators, and professionals for an engaging and empowering discussion on bridging the gender gap in science and technology.

The webinar featured three prominent women leaders in the energy sector who shared their experiences, insights, and advice:

- Judith Ephraim-Programme Director for Sustainable Energy at the OECS Commission
- Benise Joseph- Leader on the Modelling and Projections Programme at the Caribbean Cooperative Measurement, Reporting, and Verification Hub, and
- Charlin Bodley-Manager with RMI's Global Energy Transition Academy

These professionals highlighted opportunities for young women in renewable energy, discussed the importance of mentorship, and addressed challenges commonly faced by women in STEM fields.

According to the event's organizer, RESDP Community Liaison Officer, Windia Jaunai, “This event marked a significant step forward in ensuring that girls and young women are not only encouraged but also supported in becoming future leaders in the fast-growing renewable energy sector. I look forward to seeing some of today's participants become leaders and players in the island's drive towards a sustainable energy future.”

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY NAME & DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY PROCUREMENT REFERENCE	PROPOSED LAUNCHED DATE	DEADLINE
Civil Works for the Exploration Drilling Program – Request for Bids Selection method is to be utilized to engage a Contractor to prepare three drilling sites and construction of drill pads.	LC-MIPPDUR-426960-CW-RFB	April 1, 2025 (Date Launched)	September 3, 2025
Integrated Drilling Services– Request for Bids Selection method is to be utilized to engage a Contractor to drilling of 3 exploratory wells.	LC-MIPPDUR-255364-CW-RFB	August 25, 2025	November 5, 2025
Drafting Instructions for ESIA Regulations - Engagement of a Consultant to prepare the Drafting Instructions and to consolidate existing policies, for submission to legal counsel for the establishment of the legislative and regulatory framework.	LC-MIPPDUR-467282-CS-CQS	October 1, 2025	October 22, 2025
Drafting Instructions for Legislation to Support Energy Efficiency Regulation - Engagement of a Consultant to prepare the Drafting Instructions and to consolidate existing policies, for submission to legal counsel for the establishment of the legislative and regulatory framework.	LC-MIPPDUR-467281-CS-CQS	October 1, 2025	October 22, 2025
House Construction for Project Affected Persons - Request for Quotation Selection method is utilized to engage a Contractor to construct two reinforced concrete houses.	LC-MIPPDUR-467302-CW-RFQ	August 25, 2025	October 8, 2025

LET'S DO OUR PART FOR A GOOD START.

