

**DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, PORTS AND TRANSPORT**

**THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

# REVIEW





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## Social Development & Safeguards

### Resettlement Action Plan Publicly Disclosed

During the month of September, hundreds of residents including project affected persons (PAPs), and institutional stakeholders, turned up at consultations held within the drilling communities and in the north and south of the island, respectively, held by the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP). The purpose of this round of consultations was for stakeholders to discuss with the staff of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) the project's Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), performance of the grievance redress mechanism, potential improvements to project design, and receive updates on the project's progress.



Community Meeting

With respect to the RAP, eligibility and entitlements of PAPs and asset loss valuations and compensation were among the key issues discussed. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute to the development of the plan by submitting comments via the uptake channels available during the RAP's public disclosure period which ended on September 25, 2025. Electronic copies of the document can be found on the Government of Saint Lucia and RESDP websites at [www.govt.lc](http://www.govt.lc) and <https://www.sluresdp.com/resettlement-action-plan>.



# RESDP PROGRESS REPORT

During the month of October, the public's comments will be distilled and the RAP improved based on the comments. Thereafter, it will be submitted to the World Bank and the Attorney General's Chambers for final approval.

The project activities in Belvedere and Belle Plaine, Soufriere, and Saltibus, Laborie, are expected to physically and economically displace 122 households. Thus, after the RAP's approval, project affected persons within these communities will be compensated for their lost assets – land, housing, structures, crops, and farm income. Identified vulnerable households will also be compensated to have some resources to buffer against the sudden economic shock that sometimes accompanies resettlement. The project aims to ensure that all PAPs are able to improve, or at least restore, their incomes or livelihoods after their displacement.



Belle Plaine Community Meeting

# Environmental Safeguards

## A Focus on Community by the RESDP – Relocation Houses at Saltibus and Soufriere

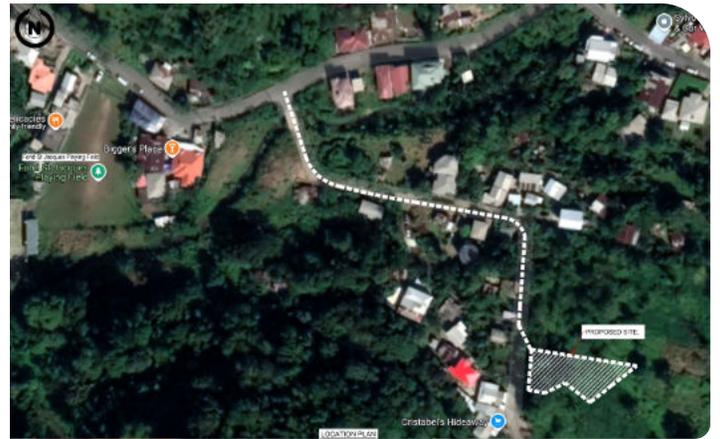
The RESDP is moving forward with its exploration programme, and a key focus is on ensuring a smooth transition for affected residents.

Recently, the PIU received Environmental Health approval letters from the Department of Environmental Health supporting the construction of two residential houses at Belvedere (Fond St. Jacques) and Parc Estate (Saltibus), respectively. These homes are intended for the relocation of two families from these areas who will be affected by upcoming project works.

Since receiving Environmental Health approval, the PIU submitted the relevant applications to the Development Control Authority (DCA) for the construction of these residential houses. Included in the submission were the site plans for both locations, the drawing plans and other necessary documents concerning land ownership, topographic maps, land registry and survey plans.

The DCA has reviewed the submitted applications and provided comments requesting additional information and documents, as well as modifications to the house plans. These modifications are being worked on, along with the compilation of the records requested.

Saltibus and Soufriere locations respectively:



## PIU Accepts Project's ESIA and ESMP

The final Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the three main project sites - Fond St. Jacques, Saltibus, and Belle Plaine - were submitted to the RESDP-PIU on 25 July 2025. These documents were accepted by the PIU and then forwarded to the World Bank for final approval. They include all comments received during the public disclosure process and consultations with key stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental agencies, and international organizations such as UNESCO.

The ESIA identified the environmental and social impacts that would result from the project. Most impacts would be temporary and focused within the drilling area during well drilling and testing. Some of the potential adverse risks and impacts, include, impact on:

- Soil Erosion and Water Quality,
- Water Supply,
- Air Quality,
- Geology and Soils,
- Noise and Vibration,
- Natural Habitats and Biodiversity,
- Archaeology and Cultural Resources,
- Landscape and Visual Quality,
- Traffic and Road Safety,
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials,
- Livelihoods and Resettlement, and
- Health and Safety.

The ESMP identified mitigation measures to reduce and avoid the above impacts and risks associated with the project.

The ESIA also identified potentially beneficial social impacts through the creation of temporary local jobs during construction and drilling operations. As a result of the project, the following positives will occur:

- Upgrading of roads in Belle Plaine and Belvedere, leading to improved access for farmers in the area,
- Creation of good working conditions with fair employment practices in accordance with all laws and policies governing labour rights and working conditions,
- Create increased economic activity, including the need for temporary worker housing, entertainment, food, and beverage services, among others.

## Technical Coordination

### Key Civil Works Related Activities

Complementing the efforts of the RESDP to accelerate geothermal exploration, the on-site inspections for the Building Condition Survey have been completed across all three project sites, namely; Fond St. Jacques, Belle-Plaine and Saltibus. This survey is vital for documenting property conditions prior to the commencement of civil works. Furthermore, plans, drawings, and bills of quantities are progressing for the necessary relocation of residents in Saltibus and Belvedere, demonstrating proactive social management as the project moves forward.

### Green Buffer Zone Demarcation Resumes

With an ongoing push for energy independence, the RESDP is making significant strides in St. Lucia. A key recent development is the collaborative effort within the Green Buffer Zone to facilitate the resumption of the official demarcation survey. By gaining consensus from key stakeholders, the project has been able to erect informative signs for the community. This strategic move streamlines the survey process with a

with a transparent approach, combined with ongoing public information campaigns and recent radio interviews, underscoring the project's commitment to community engagement and communication throughout these essential demarcation activities.



## Community Meeting Held in Soufriere to Discuss Resettlement Action Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism

On Wednesday September 17, 2025, the Department of Infrastructure, Ports and Transport (DIPT) hosted a meeting to present key details of the RAP and outline procedures for submitting and resolving concerns through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) with the 17 primary project affected persons (PPAPs) of the three drilling communities of Fond St. Jacques, Belle-Plaine and Saltibus.



*Soufriere PAPs Meeting*

PPAPs received detailed explanations on how the project will affect their assets, and their entitlements and compensation rates. They were asked to verify that their losses, captured during an asset inventory a few months earlier, were accurately reflected in the RAP. The compensation amounts due to them were thereafter discussed.

The GRM was also fully explained to participants, collectively and individually, as a mechanism for reporting grievances with the above discussed matters and general concerns and complaints about the project. Emphasis was placed on identifying all of the uptake channels and each PPAPs taught how to confidently report a grievance through the mechanism.

# COMMUNITY PULSE

Dominic Alexander, the project's Social Development Specialist, reporting on the outcome of the meeting stated that, "this meeting is a critical step in ensuring that every affected individual remains informed. The RAP, which was recently approved by the World Bank, ensures that the primary project affected persons (PPAPs) receive fair compensation for land, shelter, crops and income loss. While, the GRM is designed to provide a fair, accessible and transparent mechanism for addressing grievances as the project moves forward." He added, "the meeting went well, and the PPAPs were quite impressed with the level of engagement."



# FUTURE ENERGY EXPERTS

## DIPT Collaborates with the World Bank to Launch Women in Energy Mentorship and Role Model Programme

A new initiative is set to inspire and empower young women in the energy sector. The DIPT in collaboration with the World Bank and Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) will host a new initiative set to inspire and empower young women in Saint Lucia's renewable energy sector, namely, the PowHER Energy Mentorship Programme.

This initiative builds on the ongoing DIPT-RESDP Scholarship and Apprenticeship Programme (SAP), which since 2022 has supported young women in pursuing technical studies in electrical and mechanical fields. The scholarship program also includes apprenticeships that have already led to job placements for some graduates.

The mentorship and role model programme is designed to offer structured guidance, real-world exposure, and networking opportunities to help participants bridge the gap between education and employment.

It will support three groups of participants:

- Participants from the first and second cohorts of the DIPT-RESDP SAP,
- Participants from the third cohort, currently enrolled, and
- Past students of the Mechanical and Electrical Department of the SALCC.

# CREATE YOUR FUTURE



The six-month programme will be delivered primarily online, with one in-person networking event and a networking activity designed to raise awareness and inspire future energy professionals.

Participants will receive:

- One-on-one mentorship with experienced professionals from the public and private energy sectors, academia, civil society, the World Bank, and other multilateral partners.
- Technical training sessions covering renewable energy technologies, project development, policy frameworks, and industry trends.
- Soft skills workshops focused on communication, leadership, and teamwork.
- Job readiness training including resume building, interview preparation, and job search strategies.
- A virtual job fair connecting mentees to recruiters and hiring managers in the energy sector.
- Alumni engagement sessions where former programme participants share their career journeys and insights.

The DIPT looks forward to the success of this initiative as it unfolds.

## Hand-Over Ceremony for 22 DIPT-RESDP Scholarship Recipients Held

On September 3, 2025, the DIPT, in collaboration with the SALCC, hosted a hand-over ceremony to present toolkits to twenty-two scholars of the DIPT-RESDP SAP.



For more information and updates, visit [www.salcc.edu.lc](http://www.salcc.edu.lc) or [www.sluresdp.com/scholarships-apprenticeship-program](http://www.sluresdp.com/scholarships-apprenticeship-program)

The fully equipped toolkits presented during the ceremony, contain all the tools required for the students to continue their studies and practical training in their respective courses. “Receiving this toolkit means so much more than just getting equipment, it represents the opportunities this programme has opened for us,” said Celesse Avril, a second-year scholarship recipient. “With the support of this scholarship, I feel fully prepared to complete my studies and start a career in the energy sector, proving that young women can thrive in technical fields.” The hand-over of toolkits to the current cohort reflects the project’s ongoing commitment to reduce the gender gap in employment in technical jobs in the energy sector.

The DIPT congratulates all twenty-two scholarship recipients and commends their dedication to pursuing careers that will contribute to the island’s sustainable energy development.



# CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY NAME & DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITY PROCUREMENT REFERENCE	PROPOSED LAUNCHED DATE	DEADLINE
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	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
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	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
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	To Be Announced	To Be Announced

# LET'S DO OUR PART FOR A GOOD START.

