

Ms LaVerne Walker (St. Lucia)
2005 United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellow



Bio-sketch

Ms. LaVerne Walker is the Coastal Zone Unit Co-ordinator (Sustainable Development and Environment Section) of the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing. Previously, she has worked as a fisheries biologist in the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Ms. Walker is responsible for, among other things, the design and co-ordination of all the various components of the coastal zone management programme. She has a Masters in Marine Management (MMM), with a concentration in international environmental policy, and a BSc in Marine Biology both obtained from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors

1. Center for Marine Policy, University of Delaware (Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain)
2. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations

Research Abstract

Towards the Development of Medium-to-Long Term Strategic Plans to Guide Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Saint Lucia, West Indies

Being a small island developing State, Saint Lucia's economy has historically depended and continues to depend heavily on its coastal resources, especially for human settlements, communications, food and more recently, tourism. However, in the last few years, many of the island's economically important coastal resources are showing signs of degradation and over exploitation. Poor land use and agricultural practices in the interior of the island have also contributed to deteriorating water quality within river and coastal systems. There has also been increasing competition amongst resource users for use of the island's coastal resources. The Government of Saint Lucia, being committed to the sustainable development of the island's coastal zone through an integrated approach, in accordance with the concept of Island Systems Management, adopted, in 2004, a Coastal Zone Management Policy (*Coastal Zone Management in Saint Lucia: Policy, Guidelines and Selected Projects*) to regulate development on the island's coast. The CZM Policy seeks to maintain the integrity and productivity of Saint Lucia's coastal zone and resources through the sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. Such a vision, though, can only be achieved through the development and implementation of strategic development plans which seek to set broad, long-term and holistic objectives in managing development within the island's coastal zone. By adopting a consultative, integrative and island systems approach towards coastal zone management, Ms. Walker will develop a draft medium-to-long term regional strategic plan for the island of Saint Lucia taking into consideration the environmental, cultural, economic and social importance of the island's coast to the overall sustainable development of the country.

Fellow Contact Information

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