The Government of Saint Lucia signed a co-management agreement in 1995 with Soufriere Marine Management Area Association Inc [SMMA Inc] to manage the SMMA. The Association is mandated to conserve the natural marine environment and ensure sustainable use and development of the areas particularly within the fishing and tourism sectors.

The SMMA Board of Director is composed of fishers and community organizations, NGOs, and hotel and tourism associations as well as Government representatives. A Stakeholder Committee serves as a broad-based advisory body, which provides a forum for all stakeholders to express their needs, views, and concerns. Matters arising out of Stakeholder Committees are brought to the Board to address.

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Revenue Mechanisms
The operational budget of SMMA is primarily sourced from the collection of fees - entrance, diving, and mooring. SMMA Inc charges US$1 for entrance fee, US$15 for annual diving fee and for $20-$500 for mooring fee. In 2017, SMMA welcomed over 300,000 foreign tourists. After about 3 years of operation, the SMMA became self-sufficient in terms of finances for its day-to-day operations. In 2001, user fees [snorkeling, diving, mooring fees] accounted for approximately 98% of its revenue, while other sources [provision of resources to researchers, mooring/buoy installation projects, donations, souvenir sales, and grants] accounted for about 2%. In 2012, the park generated US$637,000 in revenue.

Success Descriptors
With the onset of SMMA and its benefit-sharing arrangement model, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits have allowed sustainable use and conservation of resources and prevented a case of ‘tragedy of the commons’. It was able to eliminate the conflicts between Soufriere fishers and the growing tourism sector, which previously took a toll on the critical marine resources.

The experience of SMMA has now been used to establish similar systems in the country and in the region.

Co-management Approach
The Co-management Establishment is active for 24 years [since 1995]. The Area is 18.13 km². The IUCN Category is V [Protected Landscape and Seascapes]. The Financial Status is Close to Financial Sustainability.