PITONS MANAGEMENT AREA (PMA)
BRIEF HISTORY & GEOLOGY
HISTORY

THE FIRST PEOPLE

- 400 BC to 850AD The So-Called Arawaks

600 AD – 850 AD
(Troumassiod)
The So-Called Caribs

1150AD onwards

Beau Estate, Ravine Chute d’Eau and Stonefield Estate;
Midden and rock basins at Anse l’Ivrogne,
Fond Gens Libres, Gros Piton point, La Pointe,
Jalousie, Malgretoute and Sauzay
LIFEWAYS OF THE FIRST PEOPLE

CROPS

cassava, yams, sweet potato, corn,

ANIMALS

Agouti, iguana, birds, fish, shellfish (conch, welks)

PLANTS

Guava, pine apples, star apple
The Economy & Slavery

Soufriere began to grow with the rise of sugar in the 1700s. While sugar dominated Saint Lucia in Soufriere, the topography supported other crops such as cocoa, coffee, bananas, cotton, and food crops. Slave labour was used to work the plantations. In 1784, Soufriere had 30 plantations enslaving 2000 Africans. By 1838, Soufriere had 72 plantations enslaving 2664 Africans, the largest number of any district in Saint Lucia. Soufriere became the second-largest town in Saint Lucia.
HISTORY OF THE PMA

REVOLUTION AND RESISTANCE

Enslaved Africans resisted slavery by running away, disrupting plantation work and other methods.

On 1st Jan, 1791 enslaved Africans in Soufriere under the influence of the French Revolution revolted demanding their liberty believing that all enslaved people in Martinique had been freed.

The leaders were captured and beheaded to prevent rebellion from spreading.

On 23rd 1791 there was a second rebellion. It was put down but soon enslaved people began to leave the estates and escape into the forests. They became the Brigands.
APRIL 18TH 1795
BATTLE OF RABOT

APRIL 18TH IS ALSO
OBSERVED BY
UNESCO AS “WORLD
HERITAGE DAY”

1000 English troops left Vieux Fort to
attack Soufriere which was controlled by the
French and Brigands

They were attacked by Brigands from a
Camp on Gros Piton (Fond Gens Libres).

Many English soldiers were killed and they
retreated from the area back to Vieux Fort

The Brigand attack saved Soufriere
HISTORY OF THE PMA

HISTORICAL SITES

Old plantations

Brigand sites: camp and cave sites at Fond Gens Libres, Beau Estate and Gros Piton

Anse l’Ivrogne and Beau Estate
GEOLOGY OF THE PMA, SOUFRIERE, SAINT LUCIA

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, ENERGY OFFICER, RENEWABLE ENERGY DIVISION, DOSD
OVERVIEW

- Soufriere is the youngest part of Saint Lucia
- Most of Soufriere’s visible geological features formed within the past 200,000 years (very recently)
- Soufriere and environs continue to be studied for their Geothermal potential
- Soufriere’s black sand beaches provide further evidence of recent volcanic activity
- The coastline is controlled by usual coastal processes as well as the unique geologic features e.g. the Gros and Petit Piton
- Soufriere’s most striking fluvial features are its Waterfalls and Hot springs but rivers played an important role in shaping the area’s terrain