



# THE ALDET CENTRE

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Secretariat of:  
Indigenous People (Bethechilokono) of Saint Lucia Governing Council, BGC  
Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora, CAIPCD  
International Indigenous Peoples Think Tank, IIPTT

## TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN HEALTH SERVICES IN SAINT LUCIA WITHIN THE CAIPCD GROUPING

Presented at the Third Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Headquarters, New York, USA 10-21 May 2004

Mandated area: Health 4(c)

For and on behalf of the Indigenous People (Bethechilokono) of Saint Lucia Governing Council, BGC, and the Caribbean Antilles Indigenous Peoples Caucus & the Diaspora, CAIPCD

During the past decade, conventional health services and facilities have improved comparatively with the rest of the population. Six Health Centers and one Hospital serve the predominantly Indigenous People's Districts of Choiseul (Yukahu) and Soufriere (Atabeyra). Yet it should be noted that the Indigenous People (Bethechilokono) of Saint Lucia suffer from a high and alarming rate of (31.77 percent of) long standing illness or disability, and are unable to undertake the unbearable high cost of conventional health care.

### 2001 Population by District

Choiseul	Soufriere	Total
5995	7338	13333

2001 Voluntary Registration of Indigenous People = 751

### Indigenous People Population by Sex

Male	Percent	Female	Percent
345	45.9	406	54.1

### Indigenous People Population by Age Group

0-14	Percent	15-34	Percent	35-64	Percent	65+	Percent
170	22.7	230	30.7	231	30.8	120	15.9

Since there is no national policy on traditional medicine, and having regard to the fact that the laws of the state neither encourages nor discourages its use thereof, the Indigenous People (Bethechilokono) of Saint Lucia, have for many decade been discriminated against by archaic laws, prohibiting the public use and application of their traditional medicines and associated traditional knowledge.

### Long standing illness/disability

Yes	No	Total
68	146	214

*Albert DeTerVil*

Signed:

Dr. Albert DeTERVILLE

Executive Chairperson/Head-of-Delegation/Representative to the UN

*[Signature]*

Signed:

Deanne D. DeTERVILLE

Deputy Chairperson/Alternate Representative to the UN

*Recommendations:*

(4) The establishment of a panel of Indigenous Experts to study and make recommendations on the appropriate and effective use of traditional knowledge associated with traditional medicine.

*E/2003/43 4/C.19/2003/22 par. 63(a) and 69.*

PF III Mandated area: Health

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Dr. Albert DeTERVILLE, Chairperson  
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