

Jamaica



The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) was created through two bilateral debt reduction agreements with the United States signed in August 1991 and January 1993. The two funds reduced Jamaica's debt to USAID and PL480 by \$311 million. The interest and leverage on the remaining \$95 million is projected to provide the Fund a total of \$21.5 million over a 19 year period to 2012. Operations of the EFJ began in May 1993 and, as a sinking fund, are scheduled to end in 2012.

As scheduled, the EFJ is in the *final year* of capitalization under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) agreements (a total of US\$21.26 million has been received up to the end of fiscal year 2009-10). Jamaican stakeholders are now lobbying to identify new sources of funds for the EFJ as it is considered one of the most responsive and effective local sources of grant funding.

The EFJ has a strong record of efficient funds management, meeting its administrative ratio of 25% of grant disbursements as well as generating US\$17.94 million in interest on the funds received to extend the life of the organization. In its 18 years of operation, the Foundation has managed over 1220 grant projects across the length and breadth of Jamaica valued at over US\$37.6 million. At least 75% of these grants have been successfully closed and a recent review of just 50 of those projects (completed between 2007 and 2009), demonstrates the significant impact of the Foundation across Jamaica.

The Vision of the organization as stated in the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan was "to be the national leader in the Child Development and Environment sectors by the year 2012, with effective partnerships to ensure sustainable development in the programs, policies and practices of the public sector, private sector and civil society." EFJ is certainly recognized as the national leader in the sector and it continues to work on partnerships for sustainability.

Mission

The principal objectives of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) are (i) to promote and implement activities designed to conserve and manage the natural resources and environment of Jamaica; and (ii) to encourage the improvement of child survival and child development in Jamaica. The EFJ achieves its objectives through grants to eligible non-government institutions.

The core business of the EFJ is to use the mechanism of grant-making in creative ways, both responsive and proactive, to assist civil society to find solutions to problems, and exploit opportunities in the environment and child development. These funds are expected to provide sustainable responses that together contribute to sustainable national development.

Each year the Board of Directors approves a budget providing resources to the Secretariat for work in the following areas:

- *Grantmaking*: Response to requests/proposals from the community.
- *Programs*: Initiating action to address issues of national importance. EFJ collaborates with several stakeholders to plan and implement these programs.
- *Members*: The EFJ provides support to members in areas of their own development as institutions and in those areas in which their work reflects the mandate of the EFJ.
- *Fundraising*: The EFJ recognizes the need to raise funds in order to continue to support the environment and child sectors in Jamaica beyond the life of the current agreement.

Major Achievements in 2011

(*This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, August 1, 2010 – July 31, 2011*)

One of the successes of this year was the seeding of the previously established endowment fund and the revitalization of the EFJ Board of Trustees. The Foundation's endowment now stands at US\$1million.

Sustainable Livelihoods

EFJ has focused on greenhouse farming as a sustainable livelihood under the Watershed and Coastal Zone Management themes. Greenhouse farming reduces the damage to watersheds through protection of soil relative to open field farming practices and consequently reduces the incidence of soil erosion. In addition, it promotes protection of biodiversity and lessens the incidence of deforestation while at the same time increasing production yields. EFJ has supported these programs through its regular Call for Proposals and through its Memorandum of Understanding with the GEF Small Grants Program.



Mafoota Agricultural Society Limited- One of two greenhouses which have resulted in 5 hectares of land protected in the Great River Watershed area in St. James and a 40% increase in household income due to increase yields in production.



Mile Gully Producers Marketing Organization greenhouse farming project resulted in the installation of a 3000 square foot greenhouse with accompanying irrigation system including a catchment pond and two water tanks. Thus far at least 25 farmers have benefited directly through training in greenhouse farming as well as from increased crop production in the greenhouse.

Environmental Education

EFJ continues to pay special attention to environmental education whether through stand-alone or integrated projects addressing themes such as biodiversity conservation, recycling, climate change adaptation among others.

The **Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT)** and the **Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals (JIEP)** are two organizations who over the past year have promoted environment education through a national level Exposition and Conference under the theme Balancing National Development and Environmental Protection. “Green Expo 2011” was attended by over 2000 persons (including 1323 children) and had over 51 public and private sector exhibitors showcase environmental work and environmental products. The JIEP 5th Biennial Conference provided an additional forum for discussion of Environmental Issues Affecting National Development and featured presentations from a diverse number of stakeholders.

Children at Risk

EFJ continues its support of programs for children-at-risk through counselling, intervention and educational programs. An example would be the Children First Agency which trained over 279 children and young persons in mediation, dispute resolution and violence prevention skills, 32 of which were trained as peer educators. Another example would be the Agency for Inner-City Renewal (AIR) which is working with children from four Basic Schools to prevent and mitigate against crime induced violence in children. AIR provided counselling sessions with both parents and children, trained teachers to recognize the signs of traumatization in children, and is establishing a permanent centre for child evaluation and treatment.

Another grantee, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, hosted its 6th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference under the theme “Promoting Child Rights with Equity: Our Children in Post-Independence Times”. The two-day Conference was attended by over 800 persons (mostly students) and included participants from other Caribbean countries including Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname. The Conference allowed for presentation of research papers by students at the Secondary level and an essay competition for students at

primary level. Prior to the conference workshops were held with students and teachers across the island to sensitize them on issues related to child rights and research methodology.

During the past year the Child and Environment sectors benefited from the publication of two manuals made possible through partnership with EFJ. The first book was produced through the Dudley Grant Memorial Trust and the grant supported the illustration and printing of the Children's CD story book entitled "The Reggae Band Rescues Mama Edda Leatherback". It is geared towards creating awareness among children 0 – 8 years on the importance of effective waste management practices. The second book, produced through the Jamaica Baptist Union, is an Environmental Stewardship Series Manual which addresses the importance of the environment from a faith-based perspective, and highlights how environmental factors impact on the quality of human life.

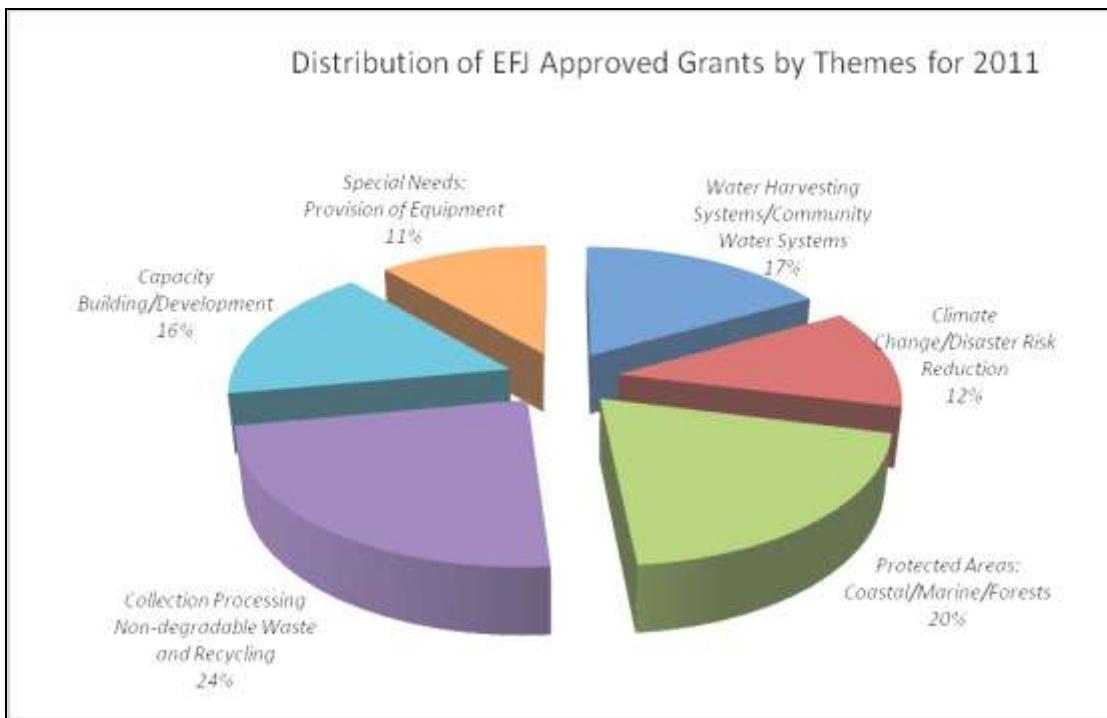


The EFJ supported the production of the latest In the Early Childhood "Shaggy Parrot" Books. The book was designed and tested for Children through a grant to the **Dudley Grant Memorial Trust**

The EFJ supported the **Jamaica Baptist Union's** Environmental development and production of Stewardship Series Manual which highlights the many synergies between the Christian Faith and Sound Environmental Management.

Grant-Making Activities

At the beginning of the new Financial Year on August 1, 2011, the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) had 229 active grants, including old on-going grants from previous years and newly approved 2011 grants. The Grant Management sub-committee (GMC) met two (2) times in the financial year and recommended the award of 24 grants from the 78 applications received in the 2011 EFJ Call for Proposals.



The *Discretionary Grants Committee* also approved 25 grants totaling US\$56,000. The Foundation continues to utilize these grants to accommodate critical out-of-call and low-budget requests that fit within the EFJ's thematic areas of focus for the relevant financial year. The Discretionary Grants were approved in two thematic areas: a) Children in Challenging Circumstances (special needs and disabilities and early childhood) received 14 grants, and, b) Public Education and Environmental Awareness in Biodiversity and Climate Change received 11 grants.

Partnerships and Leverage EAI Resources

In 2010-2011, the EFJ's ratio of leveraged funds continued to exceed 100% and, in fact, achieved a ratio of 115%. In other words, for every dollar of EFJ grant funds awarded, the EFJ could identify \$1.15 of counterpart support either from other donors or from the applicants themselves.

The EFJ was awarded a 2-year, US\$400,000 grant for sub-award from the **Inter-American Foundation** (IAF) to provide funding for grassroots groups undertaking projects in environmental and natural resource conservation and child survival and development. At least 14 sub-grantees will receive up to US\$25,000 in IAF funding and between US\$25,000 and US\$75,000 in EFJ funding. This collaboration is expected to benefit 5,000 Jamaicans.

The EFJ has also been playing an ambassadorial role for its members and grantees in national and regional policy-making discussions and fora. EFJ serves as the Vice-Chair of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Committee of the **International Union on Conservation of Nature** (IUCN). EFJ is also an active member of the **Network of Environmental Funds for Latin America and the Caribbean** (RedLAC), the Government of Jamaica's Partnership for Transformation team, the Civil Society Consulting Group (ConSOC) for the **Inter-American Development Bank** (IDB) in Jamaica, and a

representative on the Jamaican “National Vision 2030” Thematic Working Groups on (i) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience and (ii) Environment and Natural Resources Management/Sustainable Urban and Rural Development.

EFJ serves three major roles with the **UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme** (SGP) in Jamaica. Firstly, the SGP is implemented by the UNDP but the EFJ is contracted to serve as their National Hosting Institution (NHI) so they are housed in EFJ’s offices. This has facilitated the exchange of information and networking. EFJ’s second role is as a member of the National Steering Committee that oversees the local activities and grant awards of the Programme. Participation on the National Steering Committee has supported the success in EFJ’s third area of partnership – that of co-funder of SGP grants. For the review period, the EFJ provided co-funding support to a Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) project of the SGP. The project title is “Climate Change Adaptation in the Communities of Moore Town & Bellevue, Rio Grande Watershed” and its implementer is the Portland Environmental Protection Association (PEPA).

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) has awarded the JMITF US\$40,000, with an additional US\$10,000 in EFJ co-funding, to establish the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI) as a learning centre for renewable energy in producing wind energy and potable drinking water. Simple slow speed wind generators that produce 1 to 2 KW of power will be used to run the reverse-osmosis (RO) system that will be used to convert sea water to fresh water. The wind generator will be constructed using locally obtained materials, some of which are recycled. These include used 45-gallon metal drums and PVC pipes that will be used to construct the wind turbines. Batteries will also be provided to increase potable water supplies if necessary.



Benefits of the Project: The system is designed to produce fresh water from normally unused sources of water for potable supply. Rainwater, brackish water and sea water will be treated and purified on-site to minimize distribution losses and increase the efficiency of the water resource system. Additionally, renewable energy sources will be used to run reverse-osmosis devices for producing the potable water. Alternative energy education is a distinct part of the school’s plan and this project will help to build the capacities of the community and particularly the Engineering students. The system is intended to be scalable for easy replication in other schools, households and communities.

Source: UNDP Jamaica website
(<http://www.jm.undp.org/node/393>)

List of Grants Awarded through the EFJ's Call for Proposals in 2011

PL 480 GRANTS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

Theme: Water Harvesting Systems/Community Water Systems

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved
Action Vibes Youth Club	Water Solution System for Sustainable Farming- Catchment Reservoir	J\$410,000
Christiana Potato Growers Co-op Association	The Utilization of Rainwater Harvesting for the Irrigation of Potatoes	J\$3,132,000
Jamaica Conservation & Development Trust	Water Harvesting and Supply System at Holywell	J\$1,348,973
Mafoota Agricultural Cooperative Society Limited	Mafoota Water Harvesting /Irrigation Project	J\$1,900,800
St. Ann Hi-Tech Farmers Group Ltd.	St. Ann Hi-Tech Farmers Group Water Harvesting Conservation Project	J\$1,764,488
Trinityville Area Development Benevolent Society	Rehabilitation of Mount Vernon Water Supply System	J\$1,981,250
Total		J\$10,537,511

Theme: Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved
Annotto Bay Health & Env. Assn.	Annotto Bay Disaster Risk Reduction/ Climate Change Adaptation Project (2011)	J\$1,305,000
Jamaica Conservation & Development Trust	Hazard Mapping and Reforestation for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Blue Mountains	J\$2,420,000
Jeffrey Town Farmers Association Limited	Reducing the Disaster Risk Potential in Jeffrey Town through Soil Retention Techniques	J\$1,882,000
St. Ann Parish Dev. Committee	Runaway Bay Disaster Risk Mapping and Assessment	J\$1,795,000
Total		J\$7,402,000

Theme: Protected Areas: Coastal/Marine Forests

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation Limited	Jamaica Fish Sanctuaries Monitoring and Baseline Surveys	J\$3,955,900
Port Royal Marine Laboratory, UWI Department of Life Sciences	Baseline Surveys of Vulnerable and Impacted Mangrove Forest around Jamaica	J\$5,471,550
UWI, Department of Geography and Geology (MGU)	A Historical Air Photo Database for the Jamaican Coastline	J\$2,861,000
Total		J\$12,288,450

Theme: Collection Processing Non-degradable Waste and Recycling

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
Grupo Cativeiro Capoeira Ja./Capoeira Alafia	Diffusing the Time Trash Bomb Project (DTB): Solid Waste Recycling and Product Development in Jamaica	J\$4,738,300
Protect the Environment Trust	Plastic Recovery and Recycling Programme in Montego Bay	J\$2,400,000
Rise Life Management Services Generation Project	Inner-city Youth Recycling for Income	J\$1,799,435
St. Mary Parish Development Committee	Plastic Bottle Recovery in Select Schools in St. Mary	J\$2,046,000
St. Patrick's Foundation/St. Patrick's Rangers	St. Patrick's Rangers Empowering Youth to Create Healthy Communities through Recycling & Proper Waste Disposal	J\$3,630,000
Total		J\$14,613,735

Theme: Capacity Building/Development

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Amount Approved</u>
CARIMAC	EFJ Documentary "EFJ: Impact"	J\$3,200,000
United Way of Jamaica	Technical Assistance Support Fund for Project Development and Implementation	J\$6,000,000
Total		J\$9,200,000

AID GRANTS CHILD SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Theme: Special Needs and Disabilities: Provision of Equipment

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved
Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities	Provision of Specialized Equipment and Disability Accessible infrastructure for Children with Disabilities	J\$900,000
The S.T.E.P. Centre	Empowering Movement for Children with Disabilities Through The Design of Affordable Assistive Devices	J\$4,000,000
UWI, Centre for Disability Studies	Creating Greater Access for Children with Disabilities in Primary Schools	J\$2,250,000
Total		J\$7,150,000

Theme: Capacity Building/Development

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved
U.W.I., Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies	Caribbean Child Research Conference through Research	J\$1,000,000
Total		J\$1,000,000

SUMMARY

Environmental Conservation & Management (20)	J\$54,041,696
Child Survival and Development (4)	J\$8,150,000
TOTAL (24 Projects)	J\$62,191,696

Summary Data (US\$)¹

Fund Data	2009	2010	2011	Total 1993-2011
No. of proposals submitted	200	149	78	3,521
No. of proposals approved	43	36	24	1,238
Total approved funding for grants	\$1,537,562	\$1,531,877	\$725,883	\$42,087,403
Total disbursed funding for grants	\$2,235,876	\$2,172,009	\$1,783,134	\$38,797,283
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost share)	\$1,541,301	\$1,355,870	\$419,545	n/a
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	\$735,776	\$1,121,380	\$416,639	n/a
Total matching funds as % of approved	148%	114%	115%	n/a
Amount spent on administrative costs	\$593,208	\$540,726	\$467,476	\$12,726,853
Interest and capital gained on investments	\$801,964	\$705,476	\$348,246	\$18,285,686
Year-end Fund balance	\$6,089,110	\$4,811,929	\$3,121,506	n/a

¹ All figures in the above table are stated in U.S. Dollars (US\$), converted from the Jamaican equivalent using the following average rates of exchange: J\$88.61: US\$1.00 (2009); J\$85.67 : US\$1.00 (2010); J\$85.67 : US\$1.00 (2011)

