



**2014 Congressional Report on Jamaica's
Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Fund**

February 2, 2015

Jamaica

Debt Agreement signed	September 21, 2004
Type of Agreement	Subsidized debt swap
US budgetary costs	\$6.5 million
Conservation funds generated	\$16 million (over 19 years)
Private funds contributed	\$1.3 million

Schedule of Deposits to TFCA Accounts through 12/31/14 (US\$)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Forest Conservation Grant Fund (US\$)</u>	<u>Grant Disbursements</u>	<u>Trust Fund (endowment)</u>
<u>2004-2012</u>	<u>\$7,747,956.80</u>	<u>\$3,295,100.79</u>	<u>\$3,668,680.46¹</u>
<u>2013²</u>	<u>\$ 850,408.05</u>	<u>\$407,806.10</u>	<u>\$3,521,794.47</u>
<u>2014³</u>	<u>\$ 831,162.28</u>	<u>\$ 272,701.38</u>	<u>\$4,109,811.49</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$9,429,527.13</u>	<u>\$ 3,975,608.27</u>	

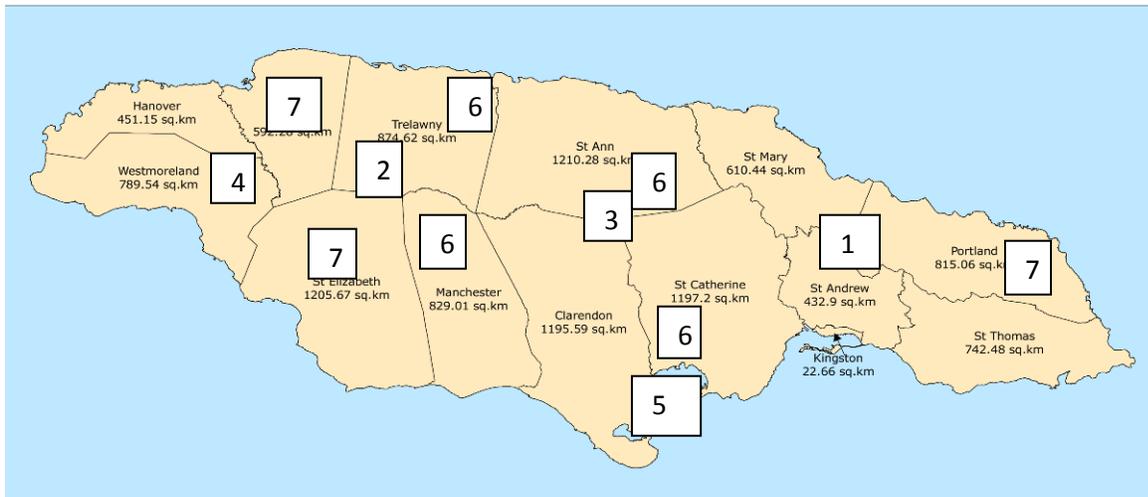


Figure 1: Map of Jamaica showing the location of the Forest Conservation Fund's seven (7) priority areas.

Jamaica has unique flora and fauna composed of a high percentage of endemic species, including 28 percent of its flowering plants and 25 breeding bird species. A growing number of plant and animal species are identified as vulnerable to extinction, critically imperiled or rare. The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, endemic orchids and the Jamaican iguana are

¹ The rate of exchange used for the 2004-2012 figure is J \$ 88.99: US \$ 1.

² The rate of exchange used for 2013 figures is J \$ 105.7165: US \$ 1.

³ The rate of exchange used for 2014 calculations is J\$114.1193: US\$1.

examples. The aim of this debt-for-nature swap is to help Jamaica in its fight to safeguard the valuable forests and rich biodiversity in several areas.

Seven (7) geographic regions (shown in Figure 1 above) were considered “priority areas” by the TFCA agreements, these include:

1. Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve),
2. Cockpit Country Forest Reserve,
3. Litchfield Matheson’s Run and Stephney-John’s Vale Forest Reserves,
4. Inland portion of Negril Protected Area, plus the forested area in and around Dolphin Head Mountains,
5. Portland Bight Protected Area,
6. Spring Vale and Bogue Forest Reserves plus the Upper and lower Black River Morasses, and
7. Other forest reserves and Crown lands managed by the Forestry Department.

Major Achievements in 2014

Project Impacts

The Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT)/Forest Conservation Fund (FCF), in collaboration with the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), continued its effort to monitor the performance of all its projects and grantees. In 2014 considerable progress was made in this regard. The FCF now has a database with information pertaining to the impact of all its projects from inception to the present (Figure 2 shows raw data that can be gleaned from our data base).

FCF Impact Data 2014

2 February 2015

Organization	Project Title	Trained	Employed	Livelihoods	Indirectly Benefiting	Total Number of Trees Planted
Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust	Forest Conservation in the Blue Mountains.	3	50	50	0	0
Council of Voluntary Social Services	Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building of NGOs/CBOs in Environment and Development Projects	127	10	0	0	0
Bowden Pen Farmers Association	Preserving the Natural Resource for sustainable Development in the Upper Rio Grande Valley	27	50	27	0	1,700

Figure 2: A snapshot of project Impact Data retrieved from FCF/EFJ database.

Figure 3 below shows how data retrieved from the database can then be collated, analyzed and converted into applicable forms for problem solving to make decisions.

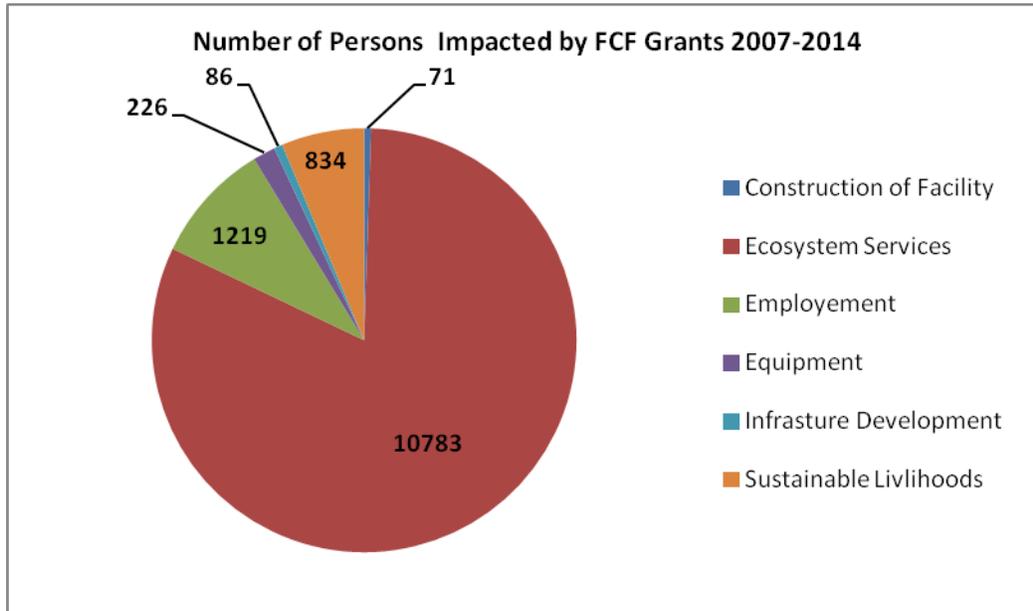


Figure 3: Pie Chart illustrating Impact Data retrieved from the FCF Database.

Project Highlights

Implementing Organization: Lions Club of Mona

Project Title: Planting of 12 Hectares of new Seedlings on and Maintenance of a Total of 48 Hectares of Forest Reserve

Priority Area: Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve)

Target: To establish 12 additional hectares of seedlings on degraded areas of the forest reserve and to maintain a total of 48 hectares inclusive of the newly established 12 hectares. 36 of the 48 hectares were planted in a prior EFJ project.

Achievements: 12 additional hectares were planted. Seedlings such as Blue Mahoe (*Hibiscus elatus*), Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*), Caribbean Pine (*Pinus caribaea*) and other timber species were planted. All 48 hectares had a series of maintenance activities carried out prior to and during 2014. Bush fires and persistent drought in 2014, however, caused some seedlings to perish; hence work will therefore continue to replant these seedlings.



Photos1 and 2: Seedlings planted on a degraded area of the Blue Mountains.

Implementing Organization: St. Thomas Environment Protection Association

Project Title: Morant Watershed Restoration, Conservation and Community Development Project

Priority Area: Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve)

Target: To plant and maintain 25 hectares of seedlings in the Spring Dunrobin Forest Reserve, to construct and maintain 28 kilometers of fireline, train and educate over 200 persons from communities adjacent the forest reserve via six (6) workshops, convene two (2) stakeholder conferences in the parish of St. Thomas, and five (5) consultative community meetings.

Achievements: 25 hectares of seedlings including Jamaican Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni*), Caribbean Pine (*Pinus caribaea*), and West Indian Cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) were planted in the Spring Dunrobin Forest Reserve. A total of 19,513 seedlings were planted. 28 kilometers of fireline were constructed and maintained, 6 forest management workshops were held in the 6 target communities and 2 stakeholder conferences were held to sensitize members of the public and other groups to the work carried out. 200 community members participated in the workshops and 100 participated in the stakeholder conferences. Also a further 8 community consultative meetings were held specifically targeting the communities directly benefiting from the forest reserve.



Photos 3 and 4: Spring Dunrobin site where Caribbean Pines were planted.

Implementing Organization: St. Thomas Bee Farmers Association

Project Title: St. Thomas Bee Farmers Association Reforestation and Alternative Livelihood Project

Priority Area: Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve)

Target: To plant 12 hectares of forest reserve with a variety of seedlings, to establish 9 hectares of fruit trees on private holdings, to start 40 new bee keeping enterprises and to expand 15 existing bee keeping enterprises.

Achievements: 9.5 hectares of forest reserve were planted with seedlings to include Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Cacia (*Acacia mangium*) and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*). 37 new bee-keeping enterprises were established, during which 46 persons were trained and 15 existing enterprises expanded.



Photos 5 and 6: Bee-keeping enterprise established, and seedling planted under the project.

Summary of Achievements

There were 36 active projects during the year. The process has begun to formally close 12 projects which were completed.

Grant-Making Activities

There was no call in the period under review due to the anticipated merger between the JPAT/FCF and the EFJ. However, the Secretariat with the guidance of the FCF Oversight Committee (OC) decided to proceed with the review of proposals from organizations which had submitted large proposals in previous calls but for which approval was granted only for a first phase. It was agreed that approval for the second phase of the projects would be granted on condition of how well the first phase was completed and if the results of the first phase indicated that the second phase is feasible. After careful consideration during 2014, in January 2015, two (2) such projects were selected to receive funding for phase two:

Organization: Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT)

Title of Project: Capacity Building for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Blue Mountains.

Phase 1: The JCDDT started its capacity building project by educating 3,062 students in the buffer zone communities of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP) about the importance of conserving the forests and the natural resources provided by the Blue and John Crow Mountains (BJCM). Educational presentations were made at 58 basic and primary schools in approximately 40 communities which benefit directly or indirectly from the environmental and economic services provided by the BJCM.



Photos 7 and 8: Schools that participated in the JCDDT awareness campaign.

Community members also participated in a series of communities meetings in 10 buffer zone communities of the BJCM. 20 such meetings were held and information on the benefits of preserving the natural environment presented to a total of 432 persons, approximately 72% of the people targeted.

Additionally, training sessions and workshops in business planning, CPR and teaching students about the impact of climate change and the BJCMNP were held. These sessions were attended by kindergarten teachers and residents of the buffer zone communities. 21 persons participated in the business planning workshops, 9 persons participated in the CPR training and 36 early childhood teachers participated in the teacher training workshops. Teaching aids were produced, equipment and office furniture were purchased to help build JCDT's capacity to carry out their mandate to manage and protect the BJCMNP.



Photo 9: Office furniture purchased for a community office to which JCDT personnel can have access.

Phase 2: The JCDT will continue to increase the knowledge of residents and their capacity to manage the BJCMNP by educating 4 new schools, making additional presentations in schools previously visited and conducting 2 additional teacher training workshops and 3 skills training workshops. Two (2) agro-forestry school plots will be revitalized, and improvements will be made to cabins and the visitor center at Holywell, St Andrew. The cabins at Holywell are managed by JCDT and help provide revenue for their operations.

Organization: Port Royal Marine Laboratory (PRML)/Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (DBML)

Title of Project: Critical Coastal Forest Restoration

Phase 1: In phase 1 of this project, the Port Royal Marine Laboratory (PRML) audited and evaluated four (4) locations for the coastal forest restoration project, expanded the mangrove

nursery at the laboratory, and trained stakeholders in mangrove/coastal forest field restoration and the even more challenging aspect of doing the actual restoration/enhancement.

Twelve (12) sites across Jamaica were surveyed and five (5) were selected for mangrove/coastal restoration or enhancement based on certain criteria. The sites selected included Long Bay/Lilliput in St. James, Bogue Lagoons also in St. James, Malcolm's Bay (Galleon Beach) mangroves in St. Elizabeth, Airport Runway Lagoon in Kingston and Falmouth-West in Trelawny. Physico-chemical data was collected at all sites to guide the restoration effort at each particular site. The capacity of the PML nursery was increased to accommodate 2,000 plants and another wet nursery was constructed at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (DBML) which can hold 3,000 plants.



Photo 10: Nursery at Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory with mangrove seedlings.

Training facilitated by the project included:

1. Pre-restoration visits to NEPA restoration sites for initial planning about hydrological modifications.
2. Follow up visits to restoration sites to address arising problems and to apply flexible management techniques.
3. Formal presentations to non-governmental organizations (NGO) groups about best practices and considerations in mangrove restoration with 26 NGO representatives trained.

4. Presentations regarding mangrove restoration to community residents (13 fishermen and women).



Photo 11: Volunteers participating in a trial planting of mangrove saplings at the Falmouth-West site.

Phase 2: The PRML will design, execute and manage restoration plans in six (6) project sites. The PRML will also be working to increase the number of seedlings in the nurseries at both laboratories. The aim is to increase the total numbers of seedlings that can be accommodated to 15,000. Stakeholder training will continue and the information garnered from the project will be documented and disseminated. 50 persons will be sensitized in the value of the wetlands and the proposed restoration activities at each location. They will also be trained in restoration techniques including transplantation techniques, monitoring, care and use of equipment.

Partnerships

National Policy Consultations

During the period under review the FCF continued its participation in various national and regional policy consultations, including the:

- ✓ The National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented under UNDP.
- ✓ The GOJ/IDB Caribbean Conference on Solid Waste Management Conference.

- ✓ 2014 Consultation on the Review and Update of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies.

Joint Strategic Plan with EFJ

The consolidation process for JPAT/FCF and the EFJ continued throughout the review period and the EFJ/JPAT/FCF team worked jointly to execute the Strategic Plan for the new EFJ.

Financial Status

Grant and General Information are presented in the two (2) Summary Tables below. During 2014, the Fund deposits were principally invested in medium to short-term Notes. Total interest earned in 2014 on the FCA deposits as calculated in the General Information Summary Table below does not include the sum retained by the Bank in the form of withholding tax prior to receipt of the taxation exemption order. Claims were made to the Taxpayer Audit and Assessment Unit (GOJ) throughout 2014 for the reimbursement of withholding tax deducted prior to receipt of the taxation exemption order.

Table 1: Grant Information Summary Table (US\$)

Fund Data	2007 - 2012	2013	2014	Total
No. of proposals submitted	131	10**	2	143
No of proposals approved	48	5**	2	55
Total approved funding for grants	4,938,079	407,806.10	228,668.60	5,574,553.70
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	1,620,475		130,468.73	
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	610,146		62,522.29	610,146
Total matching fund as a % of approved grants	45%		84.4%	45%

** These are all Discretionary Grants.

Table 2: General Information Summary Table (US\$)

Fund Data	2007 - 2012	2013	2014	Total
Amount spent on Administrative costs	959,244	146,456	233,752	1,339,452
Investment Income on Operational accounts	1,789,363	94,293	54,391	1,938,047
Fund value at year end	4,992,184	4,397,584	4,771,328	