

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 provided 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, were scheduled to end in 2012.

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) is in the *final year of its initial Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) agreements*. The organization is in a process of consolidation with the second U.S. Government debt treatment agreement in Jamaica under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. The Consolidation, which has been approved by both the Governments of the United States of America and Jamaica, will be concluded in 2013. The U.S. Departments of State and Treasury, and USAID have been integrally involved in the consolidation process. The consolidated fund will be in a good position to attract additional funding from other donors as it is considered one of the most responsive and effective local sources of grant funding.

Mission Statement

The EFJ serves the public good by promoting and implementing activities designed to conserve and manage the natural resources and environment of Jamaica in the interest of sustainable development and to improve child survival and child development.

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.

One of the successes in 2012 was the seeding of the endowment fund approved by the EFJ Board of Trustees in 2011. The endowment balance now stands at approximately US\$1 million. Short and medium term growth is expected from the endowment due to EFJ's strong record of efficient funds management. The EFJ has had an excellent record of compliance with the EAI agreements. Over the last 18 years and was able to generate US\$16.94 million in interest on the funds received to extend its ability to provide additional grants. In its 18 years of operation, the Foundation has managed over 1250 grant projects across the length and breadth of Jamaica valued at over US\$42.53 million. At least 75% of these grants (~900) have been successfully closed and a recent review of just 50 of those projects implemented during the 2007-2009 period, demonstrates the significant impact of the Foundation across Jamaica.

Major Achievements in 2012

This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2011 – July 31, 2012 and highlights some of the major projects funded under the different thematic areas.

Project Highlights: Environmental Projects

Water Harvesting/Community Water Systems

Action Vibes Youth Club is a community-based organisation located in Pratville, Manchester (in Central Jamaica). It serves a population of approximately 1400 members. The group received support to construct a catchment tank to supply potable water to operate their pig rearing project employing ten persons from the community. The project also includes the construction of an abattoir, which will employ approximately 25 persons.



Construction of placement area for water tanks and adjoining abattoir

Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction

The **Jeffrey Town Farmers Association** embarked on a community disaster risk mitigation programme and has successfully constructed gabion baskets (see photos) to reduce soil erosion and protect a section of the community from major land slides. While it was a challenge for the group to give a monetary value of the savings made from the installation of the baskets, they did state that after Hurricane Sandy which severely impacted their parish of St. Mary, Jeffrey Town was able to report minimal crop loss damage and no loss of property. This is in stark contrast to past hurricanes and even heavy rains in the last 5 years.



Construction of retaining wall with gabion baskets by the Jeffrey Town Farmers Association in St. Mary, Jamaica

Recycling

Entitled “Capoeira Alafia”, this project aims to collect and re-use 10,000 used tyres. To date, the group has collected 3000 used tyres, which have been used for both retaining walls and terracing to promote soil retention and, recycled products for sale (e.g. flower pot holders, toys). Over 50 skills training workshops on the production of income generating opportunities from recycled tyres were held with approximately 312 youths from inner-city communities in Kingston and St. Andrew receiving training.



Youths at work constructing retaining wall from used tyres



Another project entitled, **RISE Life – Inner City Recycling for Income Generation** targeted three inner-city communities of Parade Gardens, Fletcher’s Land and Allman Town. A total of 127 youth benefited from the eight-month programme. The group received training in environmental awareness, recycling and environmental protection. They also participated in a community green space competition in which they showcased innovative community green spaces utilising recycled materials. A total of *10,950 plastic bottles have been recycled* by the organization.

Project Highlights: Child Survival and Development Programme

Special Needs and Disabilities

The use of Art as a means of therapy was a new programme implemented by **The Genesis Academy** and **The S.T.E.P. Centre** for children with varying disabilities. The children exposed to therapy intervention were able to express themselves through art. Parents were also exposed to this unique way of engaging their children to meet their emotional and developmental needs. Over 200 children and parents benefited from the collaboration between both organisations.



Art work created by Special Needs children from the STEP Centre as part of their Therapy Work

A grant was provided to the **Jamaican Association on Intellectual Disabilities (JAID)** to assist students at the Randolph Lopez School of Hope and the Early Stimulation Programme with specialized equipment for children with disabilities. A handover ceremony was held to formally present three students with their new wheel chairs.



Handing over of wheelchairs at the Jamaica Association for Intellectual Disabilities

Grant-Making Activities

At the beginning of the new financial year on August 1, 2011, EFJ had 229 active grants, including 15 new grants approved within the financial year. The Grant Management Committee (GMC) of the Board of Directors met twice during the year and recommended the award of fifteen (15) grants from the forty (40) applications received in the 2012 EFJ Call for Proposals.

Partnerships and Leveraged EAI Resources

The EFJ has continued to meet its own objective of leveraging at least a 1-to-1 ratio from its grant making through cost-sharing, in cash or kind, by partners. Despite the reduction in grant awards and also choice of projects, the Foundation recorded a leveraged contribution of 105% - or \$1.05 for each EFJ dollar spent – from grant beneficiaries.

With declining funding levels the EFJ was forced to limit the number of its grant awards arising from the 2012 Call for Proposals. Of the 15 grants awarded in that Call, only 4 were funded solely by the Foundation. All other grants were co-funded by the **Inter-American Foundation (IAF)** in continuation of their co-funding grant to EFJ (originally agreed upon in 2010). The agreement resulted in the cofounding of eight grants in 2011 and 11 more in 2012.

GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

The EFJ serves three major roles with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Jamaica. Firstly, the SGP is implemented by the UNDP, however, the EFJ is contracted to

serve as their National Hosting Institution (NHI). Secondly, EFJ is a member of the National Steering Committee that oversees SPG local activities and grant awards. Finally, EFJ is a partner and co-funder of SGP grants. For the review period, the EFJ provided co-funding support to 2 SGP projects aimed at *Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Farmers through the Construction of Water Harvesting Systems*. The grantees were the Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society and Security & Development Association of Dawkins and Surrounding Districts. Many past EFJ grantees have also been referred to the SGP, and the Foundation has been pleased to observe the success of these past grantees.

In addition to the J\$1,760,000.00 support that the EFJ provided in 2009 to the Glengoffe Community Development Committee, the Foundation co-funded the “Glengoffe Climate Change Adaptation” under their Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change Component.

The Glengoffe CDC was able to access grant funding of USD\$42,000 from the GEF SGP, and co-financing support from other the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, in order to implement measures to sustainably manage their natural resources.

PINEAPPLES USED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION: Sugar loaf pineapples are planted in Glengoffe, St. Catherine, for soil conservation and income generation. The plants prevent valuable topsoil from washing away during periods of heavy rain.

Sixty (60) families have benefitted directly and indirectly from project activities. Additionally, schools in the area, and twelve (12) elderly persons have been provided with produce from the farms. The project has also allowed for seasonal employment to be given to about 250 persons in the area, and has also provided an opportunity for the youth in the community to be productively engaged.

(Adapted from: <http://www.revistahumanum.org/revista/rural-community-in-jamaica-wins-global-eco-award/>)

List of Grants Awarded through the EFJ/IAF Call for Proposals in 2012

PL 480 GRANTS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT
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Theme: Water Harvesting Systems/Community Water Systems

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved*
Aboukir Dynamic Youth Club	Establishment of Water Harvesting System to Support Greenhouse Agriculture in the Remote District of Aboukir, St. Ann	\$2,201,100
Mustard Seed Communities	Water Harvesting for Sustainable Development	\$3,260,000
Old England Community Development Committee	Old England Greenhouse Water Harvesting System	\$1,486,000
St. Elizabeth Agricultural Cooperative Society Limited	St. Elizabeth Agricultural Society Seedling Project	\$850,000
Clarendon Parish Development Committee	Construction of Water Harvesting Infrastructure and Improving the Community's Adaptive Capacity to Natural Hazards	\$1,280,000
Security & Development Association of Dawkins & Surrounding Districts of Dawkins	Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Farmers through the Construction of Water Harvesting System	\$2,200,000
Total		\$11,277,100

Theme: Disaster Risk Reduction

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved*
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	Youth Taking Charge – Disaster Risk Reduction Programme	\$4,200,000
Total		\$4,200,000

Theme: Public Education on Ecosystems Management

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved*
Bluefield's Bay Fisherman's Friendly Society	Bluefield's Marine Sanctuary Sustainability Sanctuary Sustainability	\$680,000
Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust	Awareness Building for the Prevention of River Poisoning and other Forms of River Pollution in the Buff Bay Valley	\$4,240,700
Portland Environment Protection Association	Lionfish Awareness and Promotion	\$2,513,000
Total		\$7,433,700

Theme: Collection Processing Non-degradable Waste and Recycling

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved*
Hear the Children's Cry Limited	Enhancement of National Youth Help Recycling Project	\$4,000,000
Rise Life Management Services	Community Based Recycling for Social Recycling for Social Enterprise Enterprise	\$3,803,300
Sunbeam Children's Home	Sunbeam Waste Conversion Project	\$3,634,700
Total		\$11,438,000

Theme: Capacity Development

Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved*
The Nature Conservancy	Supporting the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) Summit Roadmap - Senior Officials Meeting (SOM1) in Jamaica	\$2,500,000
United Way Of Jamaica	Technical Assistance Support Fund for Project Development and Implementation 2012	\$3,000,000
Total		\$5,500,000

TOTAL 15 Projects **\$39,848,800***

*Amounts in table in [Jamaican dollars](#) as it is generated from the EFJ Local Database. The Rate of Exchange varies throughout the year, but the average for the reporting period was US\$1 = J\$89.08

Summary Data (US\$)¹

The Final column is the total funding amounts for the EFJ under the Enterprise for the America Initiative (EAI) during the life of the program 1993-2012

<u>Fund Data</u>	2010	2011	2012	Total 1993-2012
No. of proposals submitted	149	78	40	3,561
No. of proposals approved	36	24	15	1,253
Total approved funding for grants	\$ 1,531,877	\$ 725,883	\$ 447,360	\$ 42,534,763
Total disbursed funding for grants	\$2,172,009	\$1,783,134	?	?
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	\$1,355,870	\$ 419,545	\$ 156,222	\$ 38,953,505
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	\$1,121,380	\$ 416,639	\$ 312,306	\$ 3,097,278
Total matching funds as % of approved	163%	115%	105%	
Amount spent on administrative costs	\$ 540,662	\$ 467,581	\$ 504,966	\$ 13,231,818
Interest and capital gained on investments	\$ 705,476	\$ 345,562	\$ 59,051	\$ 16,941,042
Fund balance at the end of the year	\$ 4,811,801	\$ 3,121,564	\$ 1,948,574	endowment?

PREVIOUS YEAR'S TABLE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES IN EDITING ONLY

Summary Data (US\$)²

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	\$4,010,089*
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	\$735,776	\$1,121,380	\$416,639	\$2,784,972*
Total matching funds as % of approved	148%	162%	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

* matching funds calculated from 2008-2011

¹ Average rates of exchange: J\$85.67 : US\$1.00 (2010); J\$85.675 : US\$1.00 (2011) US\$1.00; J\$89.08 (2012)