



*Environmental Foundation
of Jamaica*

Preserving the Future... Today!

**2018 Congressional Report on Jamaica's
Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) & Tropical
Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Funds**

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Jamaica

Background and History

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) was created through two bilateral debt reduction agreements signed in August 1991 and January 1993 with the United States of America under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI). The two agreements reduced Jamaica’s debt to USAID and PL480 by \$311 million. The interest on these debts provided the EFJ with approximately US\$21.5 million over a nineteen (19) year period (which ended in 2012). Operations of the EFJ began in May 1993.

The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) was established pursuant to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) of 1998 which was enacted to offer to eligible developing countries relief on identified official debt owed to the United States of America, while at the same time generating funds to support local tropical forest conservation activities. The Forest Conservation, Debt Swap and Swap Fee Contractual Agreements were signed on September 21, 2004 by the Governments of Jamaica (GOJ) and the United States of America (USG), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT). This paved the way for the creation of the FCF. The GOJ will deposit US\$16 million into the FCF over a period of nineteen (19) years (ending in 2024). These monies are to be used solely for the purposes delineated in the Forest Conservation Agreement (FCA).

In 2012 a decision was taken to consolidate both entities EFJ and JPAT/FCF to create a “new” EFJ. The new Board of Directors, referred to as the Inception Board, of the new EFJ was empowered in December 2015 following signing of the new governing documents on June 29, 2015.

Given the aforementioned history the following mission and vision statements encapsulate the spirit of both documents and ultimately the mandate of the EFJ.

Mission:

To be a major funder of environmental protection and child survival initiatives in the interest of sustainable development.

Vision:

To be the regional leader in funding and influencing policy for environmental management & conservation, as well as child survival and development.

Major Achievements in 2018

This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018 and highlights the major activities for the period.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The EFJ still has open projects under all three USG funding sources. For the fiscal year sixteen (16) projects were active under the TFCA; three (3) projects which were originally approved in 2015 and thirteen (13) projects approved under the 2016 Call for Proposals.

The EFJ reactivated its discretionary grant facility during the year. In utilizing this facility organisations could apply for grants valued at no more than J\$300,000.00 (approximately US\$2,250.00) outside of a formal Call for Proposals. Three (3) grants were awarded under the AID Debt funding source.

For ease of reporting, we highlight four (4) of the projects from Call 2016 below:

Implementing Organization: Alligator Head Foundation

Project Title: Disaster Management through Mangrove Rehabilitation, Portland

Priority Area/Site: Other Forest Reserves and Crown Lands managed by the Forestry Department

Objectives:

- (a) To increase the appreciation of wetlands through the implementation of a public education campaign in four (4) communities.
- (b) Populating a mangrove nursery to produce seedlings for planting in selected locations.
- (c) Conducting a natural resource valuation and impact assessment of the Turtle Crawl wetlands.
- (d) Partnering with state agencies, private sector groups and community organizations to zone and protect critical areas of mangrove forest.
- (e) Creating jobs with mangrove replanting and the populating of the nursery to sell mangroves to assist others with disaster mitigation.

Achievements:

- A 2,500 seedling capacity nursery has been constructed using plastic tanks.
- 2,075 red mangrove seedlings have been planted out from the nursery.
- An agreement is in place for contractors to do zonal mapping of the area being replanted with mangroves.
- 11 persons have been trained in how to plant mangrove seedlings.

This project is approximately 25% complete (July 2018) and has trained 7 persons so far, employed 6 and has directly impacted 101 people from the community.



Chief Operations Officer at Alligator Head Foundation observing the mangrove nursery

Implementing Organization: Hanover Bee Farmer’s Cooperative Society Limited (HBFCSL)

Project Title: HBFCSL Building Climate Resilience of the Forest Reserve through Beekeeping

Priority Area/Site: Dolphin Head Forest Reserve

Objectives:

- (a) Members of the Buffer Zone communities of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve will plant 1,500 seedlings of flowering plants in the vicinity of their homes and farms by June 30, 2018.
- (b) Increase HBFCSL’s honey production capacity by 750 gallons by the contribution of 150 additional colonies of bees to members by June 2018.
- (c) Increase members’ awareness of climate change.

Achievements:

- Approximately 2,000 seedlings (600 lumber and 1,400 fruit trees) were planted. Seedlings were planted by 30 members of the cooperative, 30 members of a church, and approximately 300 students from 6 high schools and 3 primary schools.

- Each of the 30 members of the cooperative was issued with 5 colonies of bees (150 additional colonies in total), 10 additional boxes and 90 plastic frames.
- 45 people attended a workshop where they explored the effects of climate change and how farmers can adapt to the effects.

This project was completed and has trained 30 persons, all of whom are utilizing the training received, and employed 185 people. The project directly impacted 250 people through training, employment and improved livelihoods whilst 920 persons from the community have indirectly benefited through ecosystem services.



Seedlings for distribution to farmers



Apiculture equipment for distribution to farmers

Implementing Organization: Dolphin Head Cooperative Local Forest Management Committee

Project Title: Dolphin Head Cooperative Agro-forestry, Apiculture, Eco-Tourism and Alternative Livelihoods Initiative

Priority Area/Site: Dolphin Head Mountains

Objectives:

- (a) To select farmers to be trained in apiculture production.
- (b) To replant farm lands and create long- and short-term income; promote climate smart farming.
- (c) To build environmental awareness and education within the schools and communities.

Achievements:

- ✓ Fifteen (15) people were trained to operate an apiary and to earn from this venture whilst preserving the environment and more specifically the mangroves in and around the community.
- ✓ Three (3) apiaries (with a total of 50 colonies of bees and equipment) benefited the 15 persons who were trained. Five (5) of the trainees are responsible for each apiary. Two (2) community groups received 14 hives along with equipment.

- ✓ To date twelve (12) farmers have been supplied with fruit seedlings and three (3) hectares have been planted in the forest.
- ✓ So far 100 farmers have been trained in agro smart technology, disease control and greenhouse technology.
- ✓ Four (4) community meetings were held and environmental education and awareness sessions held with schools in Hanover with tree planting activities hosted by the Forestry Department.



Agroforestry activities: planting pineapple suckers and terracing the hillside of a farm plot



Tree planting activities at the Maryland Primary School



Forestry program at Maryland Primary School



Hive boxes distributed to participating farmers

Implementing Organization: Lions Club of Mona

Project Title: Supporting Sustainable Forest Management and Climate Change Mitigation through Reforestation and Forest Research in the Blue and John Crow Mountains Forest Reserve

Priority Area/Site: Blue and John Crow Mountains Forest Reserve (BJCMFR)

Objectives:

- (a) Replant ten (10) hectares of forests with local species by June 2018.
- (b) Maintain 35 hectares of forests for three (3) annual cycles.
- (c) Determine the barriers to forest regeneration of deforested and abandoned land in the project site.

Achievements:

- ✓ Eight (8) hectares have been planted with 5,276 seedlings, at a survival rate of 90%. Ten (10) native species and ten (10) lumber species were planted.
- ✓ Forest research has started and the research team has reported that eight (8) experimental plots have been established and trenches dug as a means of control to prevent “red bush” rhizomes from spreading across into the plots.
- ✓ To date the project has employed twelve (12) persons.



Pictures of growth and progress of surviving seedlings in the BJCMFR



Land clearing activities and removal of “red bush” for planting of seedlings

FCF Strategic Planning for future Calls for Proposals

There was no Call for Proposals under the TFCA funds during the August 2017-July 2018 fiscal year. The decision was taken to more carefully assess specific thematic areas that have the potential for significant impact. Arising from discussions, Alternative Livelihoods and Coastal Forests were identified as the thematic areas to be explored. Meetings were scheduled with various stakeholders to collate the most up-to-date information which would guide future Calls for Proposals under the FCF mechanism.

EFJ as Fund Administrator for the Special Climate Change Adaptation Fund (SCCAF)

The Adaptation Programme and Financing Mechanism (AP&FM) for the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Jamaica (the Programme) is being executed by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) which has been assigned thematic responsibility for climate change. The MEGJC is implementing the Programme through its Project Executing Unit (PEU) – a division in the Ministry. The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) is responsible for the overall coordination, in accordance with its role as focal point for the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) programme.

The general objective of the AP&FM Project for PPCR Jamaica is to generate information on approaches to address climate challenges and help mainstream climate change in development planning and processes, and disseminate results across sectors.

The programme is structured in three (3) components:

Component I: Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation Measures. The objective of this component is to assist the mainstreaming of climate change into development plans and planning processes and demonstrate adaptation measures in a vulnerable watershed.

Component II: Creation of Financial Mechanisms. The objective of this component is to create innovative climate financing mechanisms to help support implementation of climate resilience within Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (MSMEs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Component III: Knowledge Management. The objective of this component is to develop a knowledge management programme for the entire Jamaica PPCR.

It is **Component II** that is the primary focus of the EFJ's involvement. Component II involves the setting up and operation of (i) a Line of Credit, and (ii) a Special Climate Change Adaptation Fund (SCCAF) where loans and/or small grants, respectively, will be made available to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and community based organizations (CBOs), particularly in the agriculture and tourism sectors.

The EFJ was selected to be the Fund Administrator for the SCCAF and a Fund Administrator Agreement (FAA) was signed with the EFJ on July 28, 2016. We are now in year two (2) of this programme and during the fiscal year 33 new grants valued at J\$156.32 million (US\$1.17) million were awarded. A total of 113 projects totaling J\$515.77 million (US\$3.87 million) have been awarded and are being actively managed by the EFJ.

Financial Reports:

Due to the merger of the operations of the EAI and the TFCA funds the EFJ has merged its financial reporting. The table below shows consolidated figures.

Summary Data (US\$)¹

Fund Data	Merged - EFJ Funds			
	Total			Total
	1993-2016	2017	2018	1993 - 2018
No. of proposals submitted	3,666	30	3	3,699
No. of proposals approved	1,308	13	3	1,324
Total approved funding for grants *	48,480,524.70	677,466.85	6,378.42	49,164,369.97
Total disbursed funding for grants *	43,824,167.16	102,605.04	229,891.70	44,156,663.90
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	40,822,215.00	298,228.55	-	41,120,443.55
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-finance)**	3,771,688.00	47,199.75	-	3,818,887.75
Total matching funds as % of approved	11%			11%
Amount spent on administrative costs	15,671,320.23	320,070.29	349,162.33	16,340,552.85
Interest and capital gained on investments	19,554,220.23	161,836.71	104,606.12	19,820,663.06
Fund balance at the end of the year	5,628,311.00	7,192,992.96	8,014,104.57	n/a

Exchange rate J\$133.26 to US\$1.00 (2018); J\$126.99 to US\$1.00 (2017)