

# *Environmental Foundation of Jamaica*



## **2016 Congressional Report on Jamaica's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) & Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Funds**

*Prepared: February 2017*

# 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 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 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 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 2016**

**This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016 and highlights the major activities for the period.**

## **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 with 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 Programme is being implemented with funding provided by the Special Climate Change Adaptation Fund (SCCAF) and has three components.

The EFJ was engaged by the GOJ as Fund Administrator (FA) via an Agreement signed on July 28, 2016 to perform the services required to implement Component II which relates to the creation and establishment of innovative climate financing mechanisms to help support implementation of climate resilience. The SCCAF will, among other things, provide US\$4.7 million - over four (4) years - in grant funding to finance community based and sector driven climate change adaptation initiatives to be implemented island-wide by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community based organisations (CBOs), et cetera. This financing is subject to allocations by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The following is a link to an article which was published following the FA Agreement signing ceremony: <http://jis.gov.jm/us-7-2-million-boost-climate-change-resilience/>.

## **PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

During the fiscal year The Forest Conservation Fund had thirty six (36) open project files. Of this 36, four (4) of the projects are still being actively implemented by the grantees. Thirty two (32) of the 36 projects are complete and the files will be closed in short order.

We highlight a few of the projects being implemented below:

**Implementing Organization:** Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, UWI (DBML)

**Project Title:** Northern Limestone Forest Conservation Project

**Priority Area/Site:** Pristine Coastal Limestone Forest Adjacent to North Coast Highway Tourism Corridor

### **Objectives:**

(a) Construction of a: (1) Coastal Forest Interpretive/Visitor Facility with gazebos, canteen and eco-friendly restroom facilities; (2) Small boat dock area to facilitate loading of glass bottom boat for visitor tours; and (3) a 2 metre wide, raised and 300 metre long boardwalk through the forest trail with labeled plants including common and scientific names and uses.

(b) To put in place suitably caged faunal displays (for recovering/displaced species) in terrestrial vivaria and marine aquaria to showcase the biodiversity of Jamaican coastal forests and marine ecosystems.

(c) Finally, to have trained and qualified staff possessing skills and a knowledge base of coastal forest and marine ecosystems.

***Achievements:***

Prior to the 2016 reporting period the DBML made significant headway in the execution of the “original” scope of the project. Architectural drawings for the interpretive visitor facility and the boardwalk were done and reviewed internally. The drawings were submitted to the relevant agencies for the necessary approvals and permits. A sewage system which was partially funded under the FCF project was installed for use as an environmentally friendly waste treatment facility and two staff members received training in geographic information systems. After achieving those milestones a decision was made in 2016 to change the scope of the project due to constraints in the budget that was previously approved. The costs for specific line items such as those associated with the architectural drawings were underestimated. To remedy the situation the project was separated into two phases: one phase for the work necessary for the terrestrial aspects and the other phase for work associated with the marine environment. Since 2016 the project has been solely focused on erecting the boardwalk, supporting structures and the associated display fittings (lights and signage). Construction of the boardwalk commenced in 2016.



Picture 1 – Artist’s impression of the FCF funded Northern Limestone Forest Interpretative centre

Picture 2 – Commencement of boardwalk construction

Picture 3 – Covering of the boardwalk track.

Picture 4 – Entrance of the FCF project boardwalk

**Implementing Organization:** Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, UWI (DBML)

**Project Title:** Phase 2: Critical Coastal Area Restoration Project

**Priority Area/Site:** Long Bay/Lilliput, Bogue Lagoons, (Galleon Beach) mangroves, Airport Runway Lagoon roadway, Falmouth-West

***Objectives:***

- (a) Design, execute and manage restoration plans in five (5) project sites which involve the continuation of mangrove nurseries in Port Royal and Discovery Bay at the Marine Laboratories with a maximum of 15,000 plants.
- (b) Train stakeholders within project locations in the value of wetlands, restoration processes and monitoring processes for the entire duration of the project.
- (c) Increase in mangrove and coastal forest area in Jamaica.
- (d) Document and disseminate best practices in restoration techniques suitable for use in Jamaica and improve coastal restoration monitoring protocols.

***Achievements:***

To date the project has completed repairs to the mangrove nursery at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory and the nursery is at 100% capacity. Restoration activities are progressing satisfactorily. At the Bogue site in Montego Bay, approximately 825 m<sup>2</sup> have been completed in partnership with the Sandals Foundation and estimates are being sought to have the remaining section completed. Additional seedlings were planted at the Falmouth site through assistance from outreach project volunteers and approximately 20 m of the land has been levelled. For the airport runway location, an estimate was received however additional quotations are still being sought, while an application for a beach license is being prepared. At the Lilliput location, additional estimates are being sought and at Malcolm’s Bay follow-up site visits have been conducted. A solid waste assessment was added to the research component for all the project sites, which will entail quantifying solid waste impacts on the sites to determine the effects of the debris on seedling survival. The baseline surveys to determine the work necessary at the sites have now been completed.





Picture 5 – Eroded road and solid waste at airport runway lagoon



Picture 6 – Workers at the Malcolm's Bay site in St. Elizabeth

**Implementing Organization:** Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT)

**Project Title:** Capacity Building for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Phase 2

**Priority Area/Site:** Southern Parts of the Blue and John Crow Mountains including the Yallahs Watershed

***Objectives:***

- (a) To increase the level of awareness and knowledge regarding forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods in 20 communities within the Buffer Zone of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP).
- (b) To strengthen JCDT's ability to sustain its management of the BJCMNP by generating income and increasing the number of community members supporting forest conservation.

***Achievements:***

In an effort to increase the level of awareness and knowledge regarding forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods in communities within the buffer zone, JCDT has hosted 7 out of 10 meetings with the communities which had an overall attendance of 165 persons. All schools targeted (50) have been visited and World Heritage Site presentation made to 1,706 students, while seven (7) community meetings were also held on the World Heritage Site theme.

In the area of First Aid/CPR training, all 6 JCDT Park Rangers were re-certified and 4 community members certified. Rangers also received training in: (i) Freshwater macro-invertebrate identification (ii) Coastal & Marine Biodiversity & Protected Area Issues at the UWI Biodiversity Centre, Port Royal and (iii) Fire Warden Training & Certification Tour Guiding.

The strengthening of JCDT to sustain its management of the BJCMNP by generating income continued with the preparation of a Marketing Plan and the hosting of the annual “Misty Bliss”

event held at Holywell Park in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. The event received publicity via radio advertisements and promotion. Approximately 1,500 persons attended the event.





Picture 7 – JCDT Rangers at CPR/First Aid Training workshop

Picture 8 – JCDT Rangers at UWI Marine Biodiversity Centre

Picture 9 – World Heritage Site presentation in school

Picture 10– Performance by Cultural group at Misty Bliss

Picture 11 – Community meeting

Picture 12 – World Heritage Site presentation at community meeting

**Implementing Organization:** Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT)

**Project Title:** Reforestation and Sustainable Agriculture for Soil Stabilization in the Blue Mountains

**Priority Area/Site:** Southern Parts of the Blue and John Crow Mountains including Yallahs Watershed

***Objectives:***

- (a) Reforestation of 17 hectares and removal of 10 hectares of invasive species.
- (b) Maintain 10 hectares of previously reforested land and 17 hectares of newly reforested lands.
- (c) Improve and increase soil conservation practices on farms in the target communities of Cascade, Woodford, Cedar Valley and Westphalia by repairing greenhouses, providing native, hardwood and fruit trees for agroforestry on farm lands and conduct training sessions on agroforestry and sustainable farming techniques. Also, to use pineapple plants to contour farmlands and locations specifically prone to soil erosion and land slippage.

***Achievements:***

During the 2015 reporting period JCDT had replanted 17 hectares in the Cinchona/Bellevue area of the Blue Mountains with five (5) tree species since the project commenced in 2011. However during the 2016 period a bush fire in the Cinchona area destroyed 13 hectares of the 17 that were planted. Approval was granted for JCDT to replant the area in 2016; however a government-led project which scoped for work in the area identified the same area for a replanting exercise and JCDT was unable to proceed with their planned replanting exercise. JCDT has since submitted a request to channel the funds in other areas of their management plan for the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and Heritage Site. An additional hectare of invasive species was removed in 2016 resulting in a total of 5.6 hectares being removed since inception. No further work was done on the greenhouse repairs in 2016; while one of the three (3) targeted greenhouses was completed, the community members were uncooperative in the other two instances. Two additional training sessions were held in 2016 where over 20 farmers participated. A total of 700 trees were distributed to farmers at those training sessions. A total of 77 farmers have been trained so far and 1,178 seedlings distributed.



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Picture 13 – Farmers participating in training session in the field

Picture 14 – Farmers at workshop training session

### **Financial Reports:**

Due to the merger of the operations of the EAI and the TFCA funds the EFJ has now merged its financial reporting. The table below shows figures prior to the 2016 consolidation and thereafter the composite 2016 figures.

## Summary Data (US\$)<sup>1</sup>

	EFJ - EAI Funds				JPAT - TFCA Funds				Merged - EFJ Funds		
Fund Data				<i>Total</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Total</i>
	1993-2013	2014	2015	1993-2015	2007-2013	2014	2015	2007-2015	1993-2015	2016	1993 - 2016
No. of proposals submitted	3521	0	0	3,521	141	2	2	145	3,666	0	3,666
No. of proposals approved	1253	0	0	1,253	53	2	0	55	1,308	0	1,308
Total approved funding for grants *	\$ 42,687,857.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$42,687,857.70	\$5,345,885.10	\$ 228,668.60	\$ 218,113.39	5,792,667	48,480,524.79	-	48,480,524.79
Total disbursed funding for grants *	\$ 39,736,077.87	\$ 80,950.91	\$ 1,592.84	\$39,818,621.62	\$3,205,186.14	\$ 403,351.50	\$ 273,280.40	3,881,818	43,700,439.66	123,727.54	43,824,167.20
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	\$ 38,953,505.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$38,953,505.00	\$1,620,475.00	\$ 130,468.73	\$ 117,766.43	1,868,710	40,822,215.16	-	40,822,215.16
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-finance)**	\$ 3,097,278.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,097,278.00	\$ 610,146.00	\$ 62,522.29	\$ 1,741.86	674,410	3,771,688.15	-	3,771,688.15
Total matching funds as % of approved	0%	0%	0%	\$ -	11%	27%	1%	12%	12%		12%
Amount spent on administrative costs	\$ 13,521,798.18	\$ 320,322.68	\$ 276,242.46	\$14,118,363.32	\$1,127,815.61	\$ 129,348.38	\$ 18,256.11	\$ 1,275,420.10	15,393,783.42	277,536.81	15,671,320.23
Interest and capital gained on investments	\$ 16,963,042.33	\$ 23,124.92	\$ 28,345.93	\$17,014,513.18	\$2,234,728.39	\$ 94,266.79	\$ 92,411.71	\$ 2,421,406.89	19,435,920.07	179,271.88	19,615,191.95
Fund balance at the end of the year	\$ 1,374,290.79	\$ 1,154,975.54	\$1,153,303.12	n/a	\$4,218,467.18	\$ 4,468,804.72	\$ 4,891,420.58	n/a	6,044,723.70	6,535,752.22	n/a

\*\* data collected 2008-2012

<sup>1</sup>Average rates of exchange: US\$1.00: J\$101.3621 (2013); US\$1.00 :J\$112.3644 (2014); J\$116.7525: US\$1.00 (2015); J\$125.8941: US\$1 (2016)