



*Environmental Foundation  
of Jamaica*

*Preserving the Future... Today!*

**2024 Congressional Report on Jamaica's  
Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) & Tropical  
Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Funds**

*Prepared: January 2025*

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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 US\$311 million. The interest on these debts provided the EFJ with approximately US\$21.50 million over a nineteen (19) year period (which ended in 2012). Operations at 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 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 re-engineered EFJ emerged following the signing of new governing documents on June 29, 2015. 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 and conservation, as well as child survival and development.**

The EFJ's years of experience in doing grant making, its systems and procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of grants have attracted the interest of partner entities. Some of these partners have asked the EFJ to administer grant funding on their behalf. Since 2016 EFJ has signed three (3) Fund Administrator Agreements (FAA) with agencies of the Government of Jamaica; utilizing funding from international partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union (EU). These FAAs have provided approximately US\$7.50 million in grant funding to the NGO sector.

## **2023/2024 HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONS (DEBT SWAP FUNDING)**

During financial year 2023/2024 the EFJ was scheduled to receive the final two debt swap payments from the Government of Jamaica under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). At year end there was still one payment outstanding and it is expected to be received in the ensuing financial year.

The final debt swap payment means that for the ensuing years the EFJ will have to find other sources of funding and, or, rely on payments from the Endowment Fund for its continued operations. (The EFJ Endowment Fund is currently valued at approximately J\$1.3 billion or US\$9.67 million.) While fundraising has been a keen focus of the EFJ it has found that the donor landscape and their requirements are very dynamic. Accordingly, varying strategies have to be employed to meet the organisation's goals. Whilst these activities are on-going, the Foundation had other targets for 2023/2024 that it hoped to successfully execute.

Included among them were actions to:

- ✓ conclude the deliberations on a project with Global Affairs Canada. This project focuses on the use of nature-based climate solutions in urban areas in Jamaica.
- ✓ strengthen our partnership with ITACA; a firm for which we have a service agreement. ITACA will assist the EFJ in identifying and preparing concept notes/proposals to funders
- ✓ finalise all the preliminary requirements to be an executing entity for the Green Climate Fund
- ✓ write more proposals to multi-lateral and private foundations to continue our work in the environment and child sectors.

We were successful in:

- concluding a Contribution Agreement with Global Affairs Canada; valued at Cdn\$5.4 million
- create more organisational policy documents to meet the requirements of the Green Climate Fund evaluation that was done in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.
- submitting two proposals for donor funding.

Below we provide details on more of the organisational activities for the fiscal year.

### **A. Strategic Plan 2024 – 2026**

Recall in our prior reports that Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024 was intended to provide direction for the repositioning, continued growth and sustainability of the EFJ - in the context of the burgeoning sustainable development and child health /development issues facing Jamaica and the Caribbean. That Plan sought to build on the previous 2019-21 Plan (which addressed Grant-making and Fund administration; Influencing policy and capacity building for sustainability; Fundraising for sustainability, and public awareness; and continued streamlining of operational activities). Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024 centred on three (3) main pillars:

- 1. Secure new funding and maintain the sustainability of the EFJ,**
- 2. Improve and modernize the EFJ's operational systems**
- 3. Strengthen existing partnerships, create new partnerships, and enhance the quality of membership.**

A review of the Plan was done in July 2023. The initial review and assessment of the accomplishments up to that date were done by the Executive (Secretariat) and presented to the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee recognised that the EFJ had deviated from its overall mandate and it was agreed to refocus the efforts of the EFJ on its core mission; Environment conservation and Child Survival & Child Development. A new plan Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025 was then drafted and had the following focal areas:

1. Organisational Development. The strategic objectives of Plan 2022 – 2024 were rolled into this one strategic objective. Areas 2 and 3 below were added for the emphasis on core mandate.
2. Environmental Conservation
3. Increased involvement and impact on the child sector

Now, Strategic Plan 2024 – 2026 has emerged from the December 2023 semi-annual review. There was consensus that the Strategic focal areas listed in the draft 2023 – 2025 Plan should not be changed and the action items / activities that were outstanding will be implemented. Provision was made for including new ideas into Plan 2024 – 2026.

As has been done, to contextualise the work of the EFJ, the focal areas have all been linked to some of the Vision 2030 goals advocated by the Government of Jamaica. In making the decisions, the potential impact of the work to be done on two successfully written project proposals to (i) Global Affairs Canada and (ii) USAID Dominican Republic were incorporated. Additionally, the actions were also under girded by the looming financial issues to be faced by EFJ; the ending of the debt swap payments and the need to utilise funding from the Endowment Trust Fund.

### **Focal Area A: Organisational development**

The continuous updating and modernising of the EFJ’s systems, policies and procedures will be captured in this focal area. To be responsive to the increasing needs of partners, potential donors and other stakeholders requires dynamism to how the day to day operations of the EFJ take place.

**Table 1** below lists the goals and principal actions in the Plan.

*Table 1- Focal Area A*

<b>Strategy:</b> Continuous Organisational development	
<b>Objective:</b> To make the EFJ more responsive to the changing needs of the sectors in which it operates as well as to be more responsive to donor needs	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
To create new policies / procedures / systems to respond to (potential) donor needs	To create new policy / documents e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Sustainability Matrix</li> <li>• Post grant award impact assessments matrix</li> </ul>

<b>Strategy:</b> Continuous Organisational development	
<b>Objective:</b> To make the EFJ more responsive to the changing needs of the sectors in which it operates as well as to be more responsive to donor needs	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations Manual</li> <li>• Risk Management Strategy</li> <li>• Environmental, Social and Governance policy</li> <li>• Evaluation of Internal Audit Function</li> </ul>
To create partnerships with potential funders and leverage other benefits for the EFJ	EFJ meets with the Government re negotiations on new Debt Swap
	EFJ engages government entities on the potential for collaborative efforts on projects and raising new funds
	EFJ engages/contracts organisations that do fundraising as a business to bolster its efforts at raising new funds
	Updated Funders Database
	EFJ writes proposals to potential funding entities
To increase EFJ Membership and provide benefits for members	Assessment done on the relevance of Members in the EFJ structure
	EFJ's current Membership is reviewed to determine existence/ registration/ operational activities of organisations
	EFJ reviews its Membership policy to determine appropriateness and or new terms for members
	EFJ conducts a review of the CSO sector to determine available organisations
	EFJ shortlists organisations to be considered for Membership
	EFJ adds new Membership
	EFJ adds a benefits component for its Members (nb. no guarantee of project funding for Members)
Increased public awareness of the EFJ's work	EFJ sponsors/hosts Public Education Activities
	EFJ publishes articles / videos / images of its work to increase visibility
	EFJ updates / upgrades its social media and website presence to increase visibility
	EFJ updates is publicity policy (in grant agreements) to mandate/ensure it is appropriately credited for projects funded

<b>Strategy:</b> Continuous Organisational development	
<b>Objective:</b> To make the EFJ more responsive to the changing needs of the sectors in which it operates as well as to be more responsive to donor needs	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
To increase the EFJ's cadre of Resource personnel to improve Board Sub-Committee effectiveness	A resource panel for co-opting to Board Sub-Committees (based on the specificities of the Fundraising efforts) developed
	Terms of References for the Sub Committees updated as appropriate
To appropriately manage EFJ's financial resources as Debt swaps payments draw to an end	New basis to evaluate effectiveness of EFJ performance developed
	Resources allocated based on EFJ commitments vs potential expenses to be incurred
To assess the Human Resources needs of the EFJ	Design of new organizational chart given strategic focus
	Assessment of existing EFJ human resources
	Adjust human resource complement to match strategic focus

### **Focal Area B: Environmental Conservation**

In keeping with the decision to focus on the core mandate of the EFJ, the following activities will be undertaken during the next two years in the area of environmental conservation.

*Table 2- Focal Area B*

<b>Strategy:</b> Environmental Conservation	
<b>Objective:</b> To foster sustainable environmental activities that have the greatest sector impact	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
EFJ identifies areas of greatest need in the environmental sector	Thematic Areas identified
	GAP Assessment done to identify organisational needs and challenges of potential grant beneficiaries
EFJ identifies donors in the Environmental Sector with significant amount of funding available	Resources and donors in the Environmental Sector identified
	Proposals written to potential donors
	Grants made in Environmental sector from successful proposal
Existing resources are channelled into areas for which significant impact will be had	FCF funds grants in targeted areas
	PL480 Funds used in grant awards

<b>Strategy:</b> Environmental Conservation	
<b>Objective:</b> To foster sustainable environmental activities that have the greatest sector impact	
Climate Change funding possibilities explored	Meetings held with actors in Climate Change
Novel Funding Mechanisms explored	EFJ uses consultants engaged on existing projects to help develop novel funding mechanism
More regional partnerships on environmental matters explored	Resources / lessons learnt from regional partners shared

### **Focal Area C: Increased involvement and impact on the Child Sector**

Though the needs of the Child Sector cannot be over emphasized, the reality is that the EFJ has very little funding for this sector. Efforts will have to be redoubled to raise funding to undertake the activities necessary to have a significant sector impact. Below we highlight our planned activities for the next two years.

*Table 3 - Focal Area C*

<b>Strategy:</b> Increased Involvement and Impact on the Child Sector	
<b>Goal:</b> Child survival and development activities have resumed and there is increased integration with the Environmental sector Stakeholders in the Child Development and Survival sector has seen increased activities and impact from EFJ's involvement	
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
To engage a wide cross section of stakeholders in the Child Sector	Convene a meeting of the various stakeholders to get their views on
	Prepare a list of next steps following the meetings
	Execute the action items and reconvene to provide an update to stakeholders
To provide access to increased resources in the Child Sector	EFJ facilitates the Child Sector's ability to access resources through its partnerships with local and international actors
To fundraise on behalf of the Child Sector in specific thematic areas	The EFJ writes proposals to potential donors
	The EFJ partners with sectors interests to raise funds by being the Fund Administrator.
Analyse and identify areas of overlap - e.g. mental and environmental health and education by research and meetings with sector players - to determine an appropriate way the EFJ can assist the Sector	List of areas potential areas of overlap developed and advertised in any Call for Proposals developed by the EFJ going forward

*At year end the draft Plan has been circulated by the Sub-Committee to the Board for its review and feedback.*



## B. Project Highlights – Forest Conservation Fund

A Call for Proposals, which was opened in February and closed on March 29, 2024, was carried out under two funding sources. For the Forest Conservation Fund, organisations were invited to submit proposals under the following broad thematic areas:

- a) Alternative Livelihoods
- b) Climate Change Resilience
- c) Community Based Conservation
- d) Eco-tourism development
- e) Education and Awareness
- f) Invasive Species Control
- g) Research and Monitoring
- h) Water Resources Protection

A total of **33** project proposals were received and after the desk review and pre-site visit scoring, 10 projects were shortlisted for further due diligence reviews.

The following bits of data were gleaned from the Call.

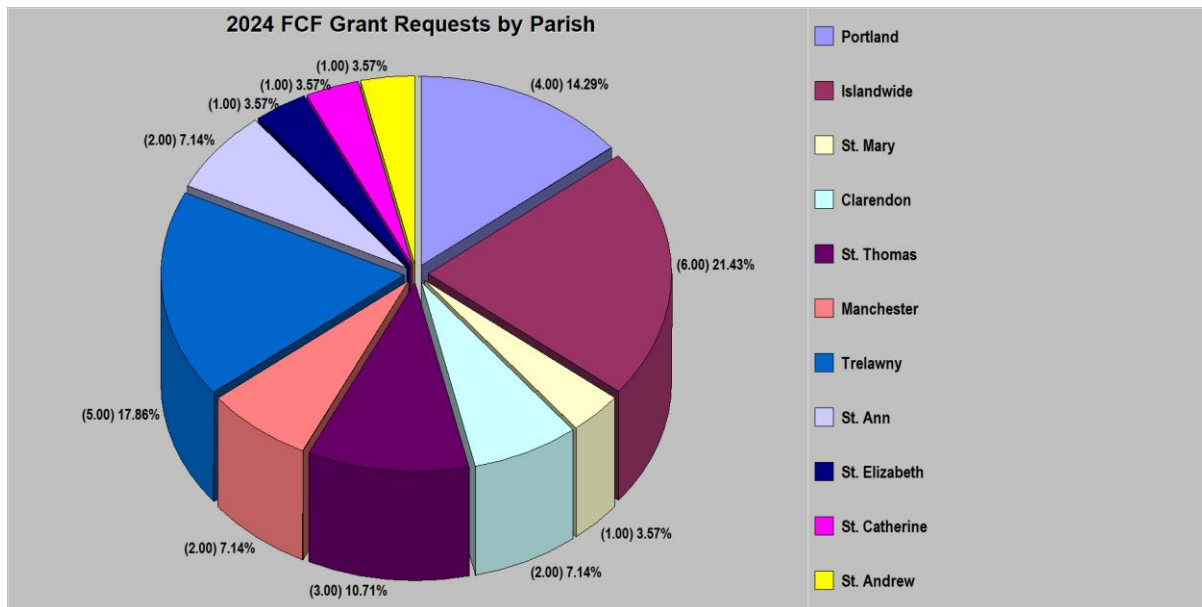


Fig. 1- The percentage of FCF project proposals submitted for parishes

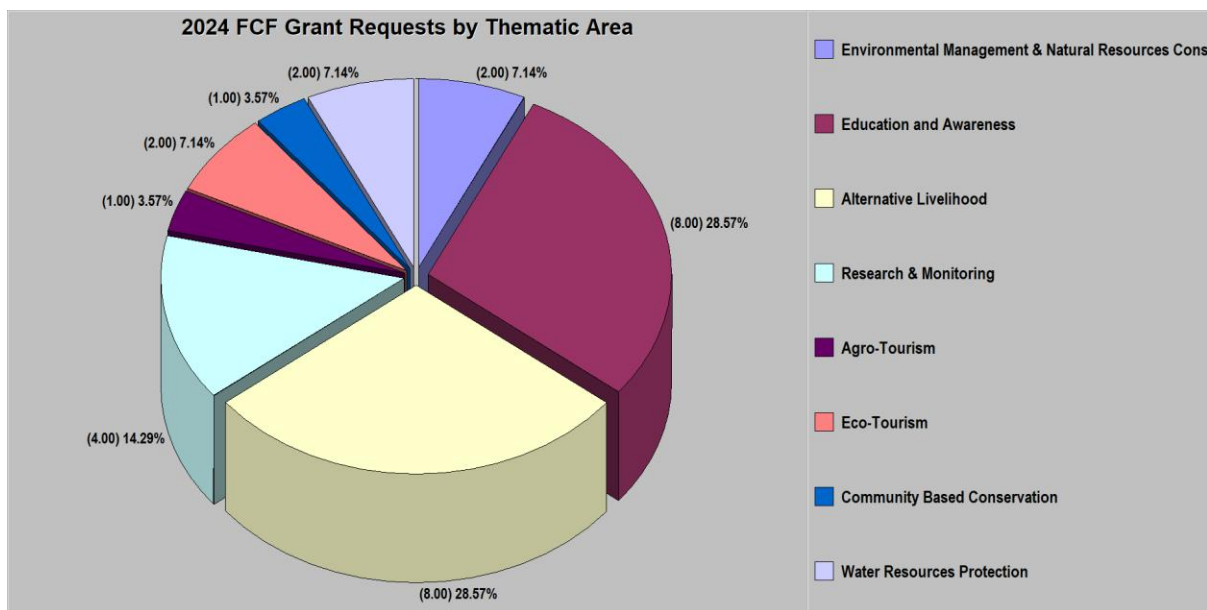


Fig. 2 - The percentage of proposals that applied under the FCF thematic areas.

There was good representation from all parishes in the response to the Call and while Alternative Livelihoods had the majority of responses there was a fair number of proposals from Education & Awareness and Research and Monitoring – two of the thematic areas where emphasis was placed in the Proposal writing sessions.

At the conclusion of the review process the following projects were recommended for funding:

Organisation	Project Title	Amount
The Source Farm Community Development Institute	Friends of the Forest - Children's Book, Animation & video Jamaican Forestry Education Series	6,342,750.00
Jamaica Environment Trust	The Rio Cobre Guardians - empowering communities for the protection of the Rio Cobre and its watershed	7,652,628.00
Development Beyond Horizons	Promoting Forestry conservation pathways for youth through education and innovation	7,180,466.00
		<b>21,175,844.00</b>

**Existing grant commitments**

The EFJ continued to actively manage grants under the Forest Conservation Fund and for the majority of the year the Secretariat focused on the wrap up of the existing grants and the return of unused funding. All unused funds were put into the pool of funds to make additional grants.

The following organisations received grant disbursements:

- Northern Cockpit Country LFMC J\$720,000.00,
- UWI Department of Life Sciences J\$5,348,880.44 and

- Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust J\$1,492,504.11.

There were grant refunds of J\$103,780.62.

Below we highlight the project undertaken by the UWI Department of Life Sciences.

**FUNDING SOURCE: Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA; Forest Conservation Fund, FCF)**

**GRANTEE RESPONSIBLE:** Port Royal Marine Laboratory, UWI Department of Life Sciences

**PROJECT TITLE:** Procurement of Boat Engines for Environmental Outreach Tours

**Thematic Area:** Capacity Building

**Purpose of the project:** The mission of the Port Royal Marine Laboratory is to engage in education, research and community outreach so that all who are served will understand and value marine systems, and work to develop effective methods for marine conservation and restoration to the benefit of the nation, its people and the environment.

The purpose of the project is to continue its educational tours and outreach programmes through acquisition of two new Yamaha engines for the main outreach boat “Monacanthus”. Not only does the Centre educate the future scientists/ researchers, but it also brings in revenue through their summer camps and other outreach tours.

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE	IMPACT TO DATE
To facilitate environmental tours with the acquisition of the new engines for the boat	Successful installation of 2 Yamaha engines	The Port Royal Marine Laboratory was able to resume full tour bookings for schools and other educational institutions. A total of 1,453 persons directly impacted through the utilization of the boat for the tours and outreach activities. This includes 10 Primary; 17 secondary Schools and 3 Tertiary institutions. (A total of 29 bookings for outreach activities using the boat thus far)



Original boat engines that need to be replaced



Monacanthus boat



Boat engines being prepared for installation



Fully installed engines on the “Monacanthus” boat

## **C. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The EFJ’s years of experience in doing grant making under its various funding sources has seen other entities utilizing our experience and grant management skills to assist them with implementing project activities. The EFJ has been the administrator for three (3) different tranches of funding for entities associated with the Jamaican Government. For 2023/2024 only one source was still active; the Special Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

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

#### **Background**

The EFJ was selected to be Fund Administrator for the SCCAF in June 2016. The SCCAF has its genesis in the Adaptation Programme and Financing Mechanism (AP&FM) for the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Jamaica (the Programme) which 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) program.

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 program 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 MSMEs, non-government organizations (NGOs) and CBOs, particularly in the agriculture and tourism sectors.

### What happened in 2023/2024?

There was a Call for Proposals which was opened in February and closed on March 29, 2024. Organisations were invited to submit proposals under the following broad thematic areas:

- a) Climate Smart Building – sustainable building practices and facilities
- b) Climate Smart Agro-businesses
- c) Climate Resilient Cropping Systems
- d) Renewable Energy Systems for increasing resilience to Climate Change
- e) Water Management

The above thematic areas also had sub-themes that the organisations could respond under. A total of **31** project proposals were received.

After the desk review and pre-site visit scoring, 10 projects were shortlisted for further due diligence reviews. All parishes submitted proposals as the pie chart below depicts and there was great dispersion of proposal under the various thematic areas.

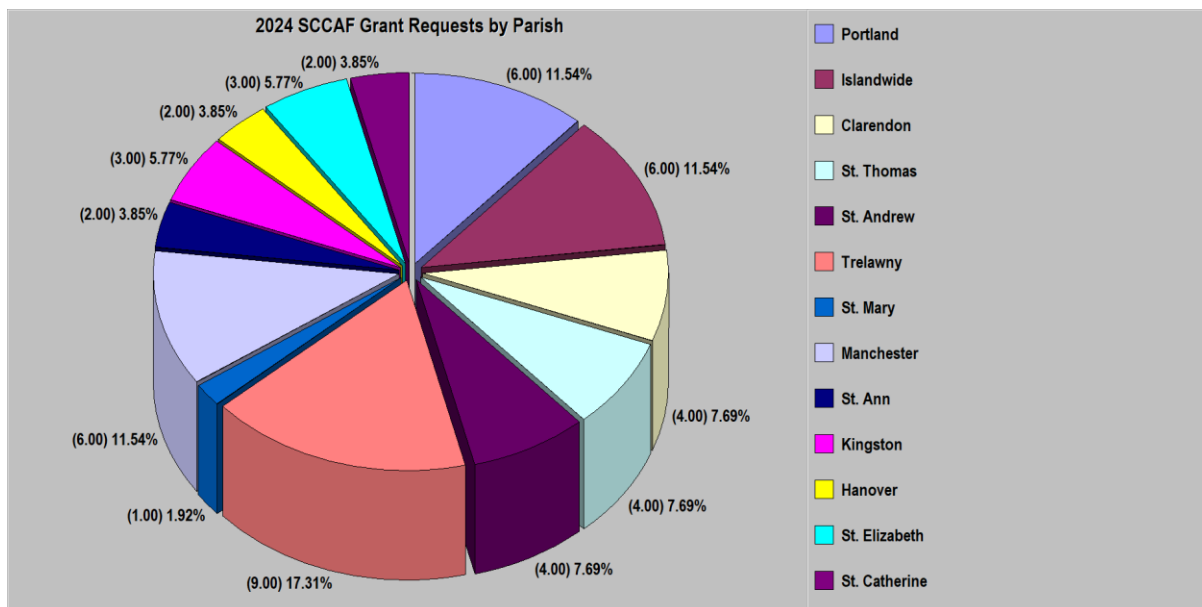


Fig. 3 - The percentage of SCCAF project proposals submitted for parishes

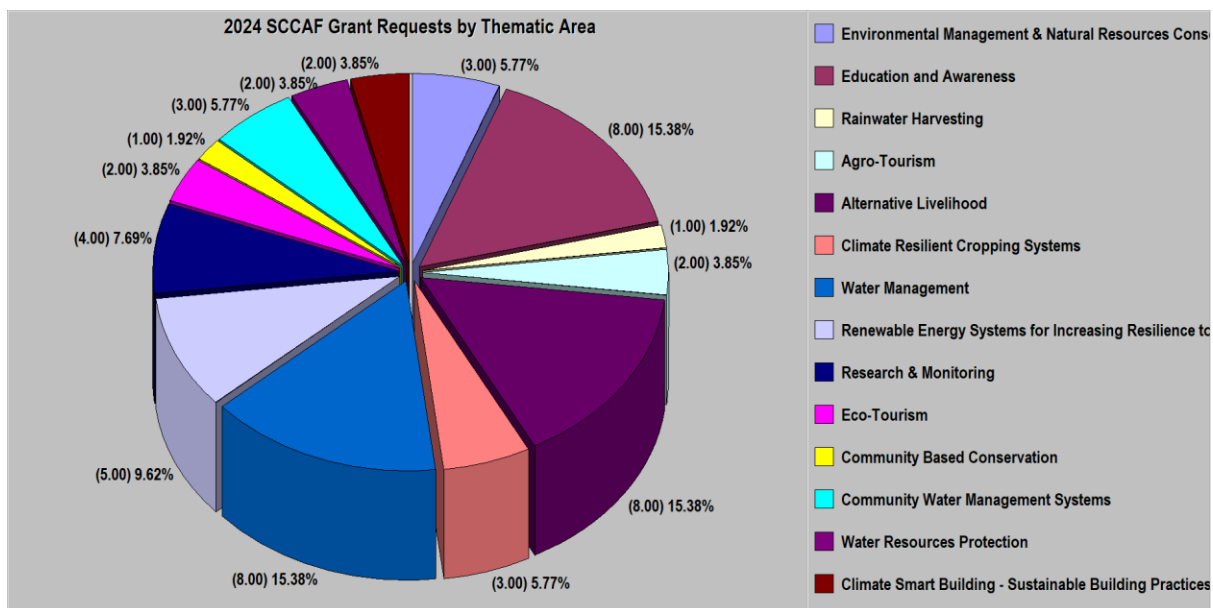


Fig. 4 - The percentage of proposals that applied under the SCCAF thematic areas.

After careful due diligence and internal review, the Grant Management Committee conducted its evaluation of the requests and the following projects have been recommended to the Board for funding.

Organisation	Project Title	Amount
Windsor Research Centre	Windsor Research Centre: Strengthening Capacity to meet the evolving needs of researchers and other visitors	754,376.00
Spring Vale Farmers Association	Developing small water system to combat harsh climatic conditions in the deprived community of Spring Vale St. Elizabeth	5,000,000.00
The University of the West Indies - Port Royal Marine Laboratory and Biodiversity Centre	PRML Renewable energy and energy efficiency project	5,000,000.00
Danny Williams School for the Deaf	Structural repairs to existing swale	5,000,000.00
Council of Voluntary Social Services	The National Volunteer Centre Energy efficiency and renewable energy project	4,165,007.27
Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society	Improving Grantham's community water system for resilient agriculture	5,000,000.00
Church of the Open Bible, Kingston	Water harvesting at Warwick Retreat Centre in South Manchester	5,000,000.00
		<b>29,919,383.27</b>

## **EFJ – PARTNERING TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE & IMPACTFUL PROJECTS**

The EFJ successfully received funding for the implementation of two projects that will have lasting impact on the environmental sector in Jamaica and the Caribbean by extension. Details on these projects are outlined below.

### **Jamaican Urban Solutions for the Environment - J-USE**

The Jamaican Urban Solutions for the Environment (J-USE) Project aims to improve the climate resilience of urban communities across Jamaica. J-USE is a strategic initiative designed to address these challenges by fostering resilience and sustainability in urban environments, focusing on marginalized and vulnerable populations across Jamaica.

More than half of Jamaica's population (of approximately 2.9 million people) is living in urban areas. The data reveal that of this number at least 70% reside in urban coastal communities, where the impact of climate change is becoming more acute and frequent, leading to increased risks to climate-related vulnerability and hazards such as flooding, storms and extreme weather events that bring about destruction to these areas and economic and productivity loss (IPCC, 2014a, b, c, 2022).

The impacts of climate change are more pronounced for the marginalized and vulnerable living in urban communities, who become more susceptible and incapable of coping with numerous uncertainties and shocks due to its effects. This necessitates innovation in the systems to tackle effectively the complex impact of climate change and other calamities. Through locally and nationally driven actions and strategies utilizing inclusive and participatory approaches to build resilience for the vulnerable and marginalized in urban communities in Jamaica we are promoting the implementation of gender-responsive Nature based Climate Solutions (NbCS).

The Project has a clear methodology built around a phased approach that includes preparation, planning, execution and monitoring.

The first phase focuses on needs assessments and baseline data collection, gathering critical information on climate vulnerabilities and the socio-economic conditions of urban communities. This data forms the foundation for inclusive and participatory planning, where community members, local leaders and stakeholders are actively engaged to ensure the project reflects their needs and priorities. This participatory process results in community action plans that guide the development of tailored climate resilience measures.

As the project moves into implementation, it will prioritize tangible climate adaptation measures, such as climate-resilient nature-based solutions (flood protection- green gardens, drainage systems- bioswales, permeable pavements, green spaces) and community-based adaptation initiatives (disaster preparedness, sustainable livelihoods programs). A key aspect of implementation will be a gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach, ensuring that women, youth (vulnerable) and marginalized groups have equal access to project benefits and opportunities. This approach also includes capacity building to empower local communities,



government officials and other stakeholders to sustain the project's outcomes long after its completion.

### **What the Project will do:**

The J-USE project has set targets aimed at enhancing the resilience of Jamaica's urban areas to climate change through the implementation of gender-responsive resilience interventions. It ensures that the marginalized and vulnerable urban groups have equal access to resources, decision-making and leadership opportunities within resilience-building urban nature-based solutions (NBS). The funding mechanism, catalyzed from private and public resources, will support urban NBS activities towards long-term financial viability and/or utilization of NbCS at scale. Additionally, the funding mechanism can provide for the equitable mobilization of technical and financial resources, the building of adaptive capacity and resilience of urban communities, education and awareness and increased integration of gender-responsive NbCS in policies, legislative, regulatory and organizational arrangements.

J-USE aligns with the Government of Jamaica's climate and development priorities, particularly with Vision 2030, the Medium Term Framework Socio- Economic Framework (2021- 2024) and the National Policy for Gender Equality (2011). It aligns with international priorities, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Canada's G7 2021 climate. Further, in line with Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, the J-USE project emphasizes gender equality by ensuring that women, particularly in marginalized communities, are central to decision making processes and benefit equally from resilience building efforts.

By integrating gender sensitive approaches, the project also seeks to empower women and girls, enhancing their role in climate adaptation strategies and leadership. The long term outcome of this initiative will contribute to areas of social equity and support Jamaica's commitment of protecting 40% of its land mass and coastal marine ecosystems by 2030, LTS target of increasing mangrove cover by 4,000 hectares and increasing forest cover by 150 hectares per year. Additionally, international commitments to promoting gender equality and inclusivity for sustainable development.

### **Who the Project is for:**

The J-USE project aims to implement NbCS in urban areas, including vulnerable and marginalized communities. This approach ensures that the project prioritizes the inclusion of a section of the populace that often experiences exclusion and unequal access to resources and services. Inclusion of this cohort, which comprises women, men, children, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and those of low-income households, in the design, implementation and monitoring of urban resilience projects prioritizes marginalized and vulnerable urban communities. In addition to enhancing resilience, these solutions can create livelihood opportunities, particularly for persons living in vulnerable urban areas.

### **Expected Change and Intended Results:**

The project aims to improve urban resilience to climate change, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen governance and policy frameworks for NBCS. The expected results include:

1. A sustainable funding mechanism that leverages financing for gender-responsive urban NBS resources of urban communities including marginalized and vulnerable populations across Jamaica.
2. Increased integration of NBS in climate change, gender and urban development policies and regulations in Jamaica.
3. Increased implementation of gender-responsive urban NbCS initiatives of urban communities including marginalized and vulnerable populations across Jamaica.

**When the Project will take place:** The project is set to run for a 5 year period from 2024- 2028, with phased interventions over the four (4) years.

### **Partners:**

J-USE will build strategic partnerships to advance the project's activities, guided by a comprehensive stakeholder analysis. The partners include:

- Jamaican government ministries, departments, and agencies involved in the management and governance of Jamaica's natural capital.
- government bodies overseeing critical economic sectors; such as planning, development and agriculture and who play a key role in promoting high-quality NbCS infrastructure and integrating NbCS into government policies and laws that govern project planning, development and implementation.
- other key stakeholders such as NGOs, academia, private sector entities, community-based organizations, civil society organizations and multilaterals.

### **CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY FUND'S USAID Sustainable Financing for Caribbean Regional Conservation PROGRAM**

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and in partnership with the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), are embarking on a project to enhance environmental grant making mechanisms in the Caribbean. The Project, titled *USAID Sustainable Financing for Caribbean Regional Conservation* and receiving approximately US\$4 million dollars in funding from USAID (Dominican Republic), aims to strengthen and enhance technical and institutional capacities to increase innovation and achieve sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean. Spanning a 5-year period, the project will benefit eleven (11) Caribbean countries namely: The Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

To achieve its objective the project has 4 key components:

- 1) Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) and CBF (who will form the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture (CSFA)) will be assessed and Action Plans developed to facilitate and catalyse their consolidation and support their sustainability (CBF expertise);
- 2) Institutional and regional capacity support will be provided to support the continued capacity and institutional development of CBF beneficiaries - which includes CBF grantees, CTFs and CTF potential grantees - in the area of grant making (utilising the expertise from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ));
- 3) Assessment and mapping of the Caribbean Conservation and Climate Change Funding Landscape to support the practical design of financial mechanisms for Conservation (CBF expertise and consultants);
- 4) Implementation of Caribbean climate resilient grants to provide practical application of capacity support (bullet 2) as well as to support USAID efforts under their Caribbean vision. Grant making, particularly in financing solutions for biodiversity conservation/climate resilient initiatives, is critical to the continued growth and development of the CTFs.

### **EFJ'S role in the project**

To enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of nature-based solutions being implemented by Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs) the EFJ developed a Capacity Building Action Plan (CBAP) to assist the CTFs mentioned above. Through the provision of effective institutional and regional capacity support for CTFs and by focusing on sustainable and impactful grant making through the use of tailor-made tools kits and the execution of grant making by CTFs, the project goals can be achieved.

Specifically, Components 2 (*that facilitates the provision of institutional and regional capacity support for CTFs by focussing on sustainable and impactful grant making through the use of tailor-made tool kits*) and 4 (*seeing the CTFs conduct Grant making for nature-based national actions*) of the Sustainable Financing for Caribbean Regional Conservation Program will be led by the EFJ.

The EFJ, by focusing on helping CTFs to implement a strong grant management system - ensuring sustainable projects - and by providing advice on other key areas such as leadership and governance, human resources, financial management, and communication, will support the CBF in the overall program success. EFJ has over 30 years of experience in managing, monitoring and conducting grant making activities. In the three plus decades it has utilized various mechanisms to conduct its work. The experiences, policies and procedures developed over several years and many permutations will be used to teach the 'young' CTFs how to manage their grant making. The CTFs will be able to choose systems most suitable for their unique context after being exposed to a wide range of systems.

## Program Purpose and Activities

The long-term aim of the EFJ, CBF and USAID is the creation of robust civil society actors who will ensure that the region can be effective in its response to prioritising biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean.

To enable effective grant making and programmatic excellence amongst CTFs, the following activities will be undertaken:

- a) Conducting of a Baseline Assessment/Evaluation;
- b) Presentation of a Grant Management “Tool Box” via general workshops for CTFs and their potential Grantees;
- c) Designing of “Tailor-made” Actions for eleven (11) CTFs via focused workshops;
- d) Evaluation of the practical application of the implementation of climate resilient grants by CTFs;
- e) Presentation of a monitoring and evaluation framework template/tool for CTFs in keeping with the CBF’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework; and
- f) Establishment of a learning culture that encourages idea sharing, innovation and adaptation based on overall capacity building program evaluation results.

## What have we done thus far?

The EFJ implemented baseline assessments of the NCTFs from March to July 2024. The aim of the assessment was to understand the current capacity of the 11 CTFs regarding their ability to award effective and sustainable conservation projects. To facilitate this, the assessment focused on gaps related to the granting of awards for conservation projects. The specific objectives were to: a) acquire a general understanding of the grant management process of each CTF; b) determine gaps in the grant management process; c) establish baselines for their operational capacity; and d) customize specific actions for each CTF based on needs and gaps identified.

The findings from the assessments were used to design and influence the creation of the CBAP. The CBAP includes a detailed description of the specific objectives, activities and timelines for implementation based on the baseline data collected, as well as a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of the capacity building initiatives.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED (Per CBF/USAID Agreement)	ACTIVITIES ACTUALLY UNDERTAKEN
Activity 1.2: Participatory process of development of Gap Assessment and Action Plan for each of the 11 NCTFs and CBF towards consolidation – <b>The EFJ was to conduct a baseline survey while this activity was being done by CBF.</b>	The baseline survey topics was presented in the Organizational Capacity Strengthening Plan and the actual survey completed by the Trust Funds in May/June 2024.  The Capacity Building Action Plan was

	prepared and submitted at the end of June 2024.
<p>Activity 2.1 Design and Develop Regional Workshops for 6 countries - general workshops</p> <p>Major tasks:</p> <p>A. Design of Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct needs assessment surveys with stakeholders</li> <li>- Research existing capacity building programs and initiatives in the region</li> <li>- Develop draft agenda and curriculum for general workshops</li> </ul> <p>B. Selection of the 6 countries for the workshops</p> <p>C. Selection of the organizations / entities to attend the Workshops</p> <p>D. Preparation (including logistics &amp; travelling) and Facilitation of Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalize agenda and curriculum for general workshops</li> <li>- Organize logistics for workshops (venue, dates, participants, materials, travelling, accommodation etc.)</li> <li>- Deliver pilot workshop to test content and gather feedback and evaluation results</li> <li>- Implement improvements and deliver workshops</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected results / Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Detailed workshop template, resource materials and activities</li> <li>- 1 report per country on the Regional Workshops</li> <li>- Regional workshops presented in at least 6 countries.</li> </ul>	<p>The EFJ developed the curriculum for the General Workshops. The venues, participants and host countries for the six workshops were also decided on.</p> <p>Workshop materials were also being prepared. (Each workshop is intended to be conducted over two days)</p>
<p>Activity 2.2: Design and Facilitate individual CTF Workshops in response to the results from the baseline studies and the workshop evaluations</p> <p>Major tasks:</p> <p>Design and Prepare CTF Workshops</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze results from Component 1 (results</li> </ol>	<p>11 (individual) Draft Action Plans were prepared and circulated to all the participating CTFs for their feedback.</p> <p>All other activities will be done between September and December 2024</p>

<p>from EFJ's baseline assessment survey) for each CTF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Consult with CTF representatives to identify specific capacity building needs given their participation in the general workshops</li><li>3. Design 11 customized workshop agendas and curricula (i.e. proposal evaluation and proposals M &amp; E etc.) tailored to CTF needs to include:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Development of policies and procedures unique to each CTF</li><li>b. Development of detailed thematic and sector impact guidelines and criteria for CTF grant funding opportunities</li><li>c. Customized design of specific methods for receiving and evaluating grants</li><li>d. Impact measurement and data gathering exercise</li><li>e. Integration of appropriate grant management software support</li></ol></li></ol> <p><b>Expected results / Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 11 Workshops conducted</li><li>- 11 Organizational Capacity Development reports</li><li>- Copies of CTF Grant Management policies / processes developed / improved for each CTF</li></ul>	
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## Financial Report:

The summary table below reflects the merged data on all three USG funds.

### Summary Data (US\$)

Fund Data	EFJ - EAI Funds				JPAT - TFCA Funds				Merged - EFJ Funds			
	1993-2022	2023	2024	Total 1993-2024	2007-2022	2023	2024	Total 2007-2024	Total 1993-2022	2023	2024	Total 1993 - 2024
No. of proposals submitted	3564	0	0	3,564	210	0	1	211	3,774	0	1	3,775
No. of proposals approved	1256	0	0	1,256	78	0	1	79	1,334	0	1	1,335
Total approved funding for grants *	42,541,143	-	-	42,541,143	6,866,874	-	34,397	6,901,271	49,408,017	-	34,397	49,442,414
Total disbursed funding for grants *	39,823,183	-	-	39,823,183	4,947,393	13,176	47,957	5,008,527	44,770,576	13,176	47,957	44,831,709
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	38,953,505	-	-	38,953,505	2,166,939	-	-	2,166,939	41,120,444	-	-	41,120,444
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-finance)**	3,097,278	-	-	3,097,278	721,610	-	-	721,610	3,818,888	-	-	3,818,888
Total matching funds as % of approved	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	0	1	-	-	1
Amount spent on administrative costs	16,457,690	374,684	-	16,832,374	1,284,310	-	-	1,284,310	17,742,000	374,684	-	18,116,684
Interest and capital gained on investments	55,200,796	(60,252)	36,861	55,177,405	2,624,650	28,750	27,967	2,681,367	57,825,446	(31,502)	64,828	57,858,772
Fund balance year end - grants	700,619	632,176	655,665	n/a	642,291	615,366	414,058	n/a	1,342,910	1,247,542	1,069,723	n/a
Fund balance year end - Endowment	959,877	956,924	947,046	n/a	6,600,013	6,965,043	7,651,954	n/a	7,559,890	7,921,967	8,599,000	n/a
<b>Total Fund balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>1,661,885</b>	<b>1,589,100</b>	<b>1,602,711</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<b>7,399,936</b>	<b>7,580,409</b>	<b>8,066,012</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<b>9,061,821</b>	<b>9,169,509</b>	<b>9,668,723</b>	<i>n/a</i>

Three points are worth noting for the financial year.

- The J\$ to the US\$ exchange rate has depreciated year on year
- US\$220,620.12 is the outstanding balance on the TFCA debt swap at financial year end.