



Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

Preserving the Future... Today!

2017 Congressional Report on Jamaica's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) & Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Funds

Prepared: February 2018

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 2017

This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017 and highlights the major activities for the period.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

During the fiscal year the Forest Conservation Fund had four (4) projects continuing from the prior year. We highlight the projects being implemented below:

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:

- ✓ The troughs at the mangrove nursery at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory are at 100% capacity.
- ✓ At the Bogue site in Montego Bay, approximately 825 m² have been completed in partnership with Sandals Foundation and monitoring is ongoing. Discussions are being held with land owner regarding rehabilitation works.
- ✓ An application for a beach licence has been submitted to the National Environment and Planning Agency to install a fence at the Airport Runway site which will enable them to put a physical structure in place as well as to lay sand to prevent solid waste from damaging the mangrove seedlings.
- ✓ The Long Bay (Lilliput) site benefitted from mangrove rehabilitation works. This work was preceded by extensive scoping, baseline vegetation surveys, soil cores and a topographic survey to determine optimal substrate levels and a rehabilitation design. Based on the results from the topographic survey the slope of the majority of the raised/filled area (southern area) was calculated to be 8.08 % as compared to the natural tidal mangrove area (2-3%). An approximate value of the fill to be removed in the study area was estimated at 930m² – which is the equivalent of 45 truckloads of material. All rehabilitation works have now been completed at the Lilliput location.



Photo 1: Long Bay mangroves during rehabilitation works



Photo 2: View of Long Bay mangroves post-rehabilitation works



Photo 3: Long Bay mangroves and earthen drain with leveling and clearing works



Photo 4: Long Bay site facing during manual leveling works

Implementing Organization: Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT)

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 JCDDT's ability to sustain its management of the BJCMNP by generating income and increasing the number of community members supporting forest conservation.

Achievements:

- ✓ The level of awareness and knowledge regarding forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods has increased through
 - Town square meetings - held in 20 communities,
 - Meetings/presentations with all of the 50 targeted schools on Climate Change - impacting approximately 1,706 students.
 - A teacher training workshop - held in Port Antonio with teachers from 30 schools.
 - First Aid/CPR trainings held and all Park Rangers re-certified & 9 community members certified. In-house training was also conducted with Rangers and community youth.
- ✓ Additional cabin repairs were conducted at Holywell. Repairs were done to the Visitors' Centre and new exhibits implemented with funding from another source and the input of UTECH students under the Community Service Programme. The Ranger Station work completed with funds from the Tourism Product and Development Company project. A Marketing Plan has also been prepared.

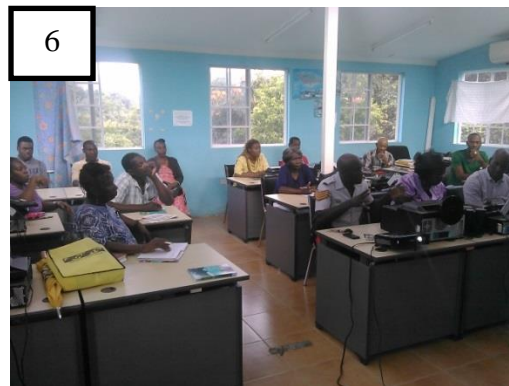


Photo 5: Presentation by JCDT representative to students at the Trinityville Primary School

Photo 6: Meeting with members from the community of Irish Town

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) To have trained and qualified staff possessing skills and a knowledge base of coastal forest and marine ecosystems.

Achievements:

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). Photos 7 to 10 show the work completed in 2016.



Photo 7: Artist's impression of the FCF funded Northern Limestone Forest Interpretative centre

Photo 8: Commencement of boardwalk construction

Photo 9: Covering of the boardwalk track.

Photo 10: Entrance of the FCF project boardwalk

The project was successfully completed in January 2017 with the boardwalk and supporting structures all in place and functioning. A subsequent launch of the project took place in June 2017. The public now has controlled access to the facilities through school and community tours.





Photo 11: EFJ's Chief Executive Officer, Barrington Lewis and Director for the Centre of Marine Sciences UWI, Prof. Mona Webber cutting the ribbon

Photo 12: Attendees participating in a tour of the forest along the boardwalk

Photo 13: Attendees viewing the specimen along the boardwalk

Implementing Organization: Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT)

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) Reforest 17 hectares and remove 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:

- ✓ Having completed 17 hectares of reforestation which was subsequently burnt by wild fire and is now being reforested by Jamaica's Forestry Department, JCDDT received approval

to increase their thrust to remove invasive species from the forest, conduct analysis of bird monitoring data and the establishment of a volunteer ranger corps.

- ✓ One (1) acre of the invasive species net fern otherwise known as umbrella fern was removed.
- ✓ 0.5 acres of *Pittosporum undulatum* (Wild Coffee) was removed (121 saplings and 40 mature trees) in 2017.

A consultant was contacted with the view of commencing work on the bird monitoring data analysis and the career placement officers from the University of Technology and University of the West Indies were contacted to initiate the internship and volunteer ranger programme.



Photo 14: JCDT representative pointing to a seedling planted in an area cleared of invasive ginger (*Allipinia Allughas*)

Photo 15: Native seedlings reemerging in an area cleared of invasive species.

FCF Call for Proposals

One significant event for the FCF was the Call for Proposals that yielded 32 requests.

The thematic areas were as follows:

<p>Alternative Livelihood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Building the climate resilience of forest reserve buffer zone communities by expanding or improving existing alternative livelihood initiatives e.g. ecotourism, beekeeping, agro-forestry, etc. <p>Watershed Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increasing ground water resources and catchment levels for drought mitigation through agro-forestry and other soil and water conservation techniques. 	<p>Natural Disaster Risk Reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In coastal communities by mangrove rehabilitation and coastal forest education. <p>Reforestation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving forest ecology through forest threat (forest fires, invasive species removal, droughts, etc.) mitigation and planting seedlings and/or direct seeding in forest reserves.
--	---

Nineteen (19) proposals totaling J\$192,373,870.45 were shortlisted. Thirteen (13) projects located in five (5) parishes - Trelawny (2), Hanover (3), Portland (2), Clarendon (5), and St. Andrew (1) - were approved for funding of US\$677,467.00 or (J\$86.03 million).

These projects will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year.

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 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. A total of 79 projects were awarded J\$359 million during the fiscal year 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 now merged its financial reporting. The table below shows figures prior to the 2016 consolidation and thereafter the composite 2016 figures.

Summary Data (US\$)¹

Fund Data	Merged - EFJ Funds			
	Total 1993-2015	2016	2017	Total 1993 - 2017
No. of proposals submitted	3,666	0	30	3,696
No. of proposals approved	1,308	0	13	1,321
Total approved funding for grants *	48,480,524.79	-	677,466.85	49,157,991.64
Total disbursed funding for grants *	43,700,439.66	123,727.54	102,605.04	43,926,772.24
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	40,822,215.16	-	298,228.55	41,120,443.71
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-finance)**	3,771,688.15	-	47,199.75	3,818,887.90
Total matching funds as % of approved	12%		44%	12%
Amount spent on administrative costs	15,393,783.42	277,536.81	320,070.29	15,991,390.52
Interest and capital gained on investments	19,435,920.07	179,271.88	161,836.71	19,777,028.66
Fund balance at the end of the year	6,044,723.70	6,535,752.22	7,192,992.96	n/a

¹Average rates of exchange: J\$125.8941: US\$1 (2016); J\$126.9922: US\$1