



Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

Preserving the Future... Today!

2019 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 and conservation, as well as child survival and development.

Major Achievements in 2019

This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019 and highlights the major activities for the period.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The EFJ still has open projects under all three USG funding sources (PL480, USAID and TFCA). For the fiscal year thirteen (13) projects were active under the TFCA: one (1) project was originally approved in 2015 and twelve (12) were approved under the 2016 Call for Proposals.

The EFJ continued 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. Two (2) grants were awarded under this facility from the TFCA.

For this 2018/2019 report we highlight four (4) of the active projects below:

Implementing Organization: Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM)

Project Title: Sustainable Agroforestry Systems Supporting Organic Beekeeping and Alternative Livelihoods

Priority Area/Site: Blue and John Crow Mountains

Objectives:

- (a) To increase the forest density in the buffer communities of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park by planting 3,000 trees in Somerset, Hayfield, Beacon Hill and Airy Castle in St. Thomas and Windsor in Portland.
- (b) To strengthen the honey production capacity of bee farmers in buffer communities in Portland and St. Thomas.
- (c) To provide sustainable capacity building training that will introduce and reinforce requisite skills farmers need to protect their farmsteads, improve their economic well-being and correctly craft mitigation strategies against climate change.

Achievements:

- ✓ A shade house of approximately 500 sq. ft. has been constructed for use as a nursery. The nursery has produced 1500 seedlings which have been distributed to 26 beneficiaries including 2 schools.
- ✓ A composting bin of approximately 400 sq. ft. has been constructed from bamboo and is currently maintained by three (3) persons. 5 persons contributed chicken and goat manure (about 250 bags weighing approximately 30 lbs. each). 200 persons were trained to compost (118 males and 82 females) waste and 45 (34 males and 11 females) are still utilizing the training. 46 persons benefitted directly (received compost or plants with compost in bags).

- ✓ A 10 colony apiary was established and 57 hives have been distributed from it to assist 13 farmers and 4 schools with the establishment of apiaries .



Training in composting techniques



Hives delivered to farmer



Planting of seedlings

Implementing Organization: Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society (CPDCBS)

Project Title: CPDCBS Turmeric Processing Enterprise

Priority Area/Site: Mocho and Bull Head Mountains Forest Reserve

Objectives:

- (a) To expand the production of medicinal plants by 80%
- (b) To establish a customer base for the medicinal plants and their by-products

Achievements:

- ✓ Three 40 ft. metal shipping containers were retrofitted to house an office space, storage room, work/turmeric processing area, bathroom with fixtures, small kitchenette with dining area, sick room, solar control room, a sewage system, solar system, lighting, security cameras with electrical fixtures, connection to water, 2 hand sinks and 1 domestic sink and shelves in the production room. 270 persons worked on the construction: 230 males and 40 females.
- ✓ Material, equipment and appliances were purchased: table top heat and bag sealers, 2 turmeric grinding machines, 1 labelling machine, 2 stands for the grinders, cleaning and maintenance items, 1 printer, storage cabinet, shelves, 1 kitchen cupboard, 1 storage tank, 2 metal tables, 6 lab coats and 1 hot plate.

- ✓ Training session and field demonstration for 118 participants. The areas covered were: Health Safety and Sanitation Training, Greenhouse Technology, Open Field Farming, Tumeric Soap Making, How to operate the Tumeric Machine, Grinding of Tumeric into powder, and Use and Care of the Solar System.
- ✓ Tumeric powder is the primary product with most of the product being used to develop samples for testing by potential consumers. During the period, J\$8,000.00 was received from sales which was used to assist with building maintenance. The group is also experimenting with turmeric and other soaps. Seven (7) volunteers are currently involved in the turmeric processing activities.



The foundation and base of the processing facility during construction



Roofing of the tumeric processing facility



Completed processing facility affixed with solar panels



Sample products from the facility

Implementing Organization: Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee (CCLFMC)

Project Title: Ensuring Rehabilitation and Sustainability in Cockpit Country through Reforestation, Agro-forestry, Public Education and Renewable Energy

Priority Area/Site: Cockpit Country Forest Reserves

Objectives:

1. To restore 5 hectares of Cockpit Country forest reserves.
2. To establish 4 hectares of agro-forestry plots on private holdings of farms within the work area.
3. To facilitate 8 public education meetings to impact at least 400 persons within the project area on the importance of reforestation.
4. To introduce renewable energy by installing six (6) 6,000 watt solar panels at the LFMC office.

Achievements: The following achievements are applicable to year one of the project:

- ✓ 1,857 native species of timber seedlings have been planted on four (4) hectares of established reforestation plots
- ✓ Land preparation for agroforestry plot is being conducted
- ✓ Installation of eight 6,000 watts solar panels at the LFMC office has surpassed the objective of installing 6 solar panels



Farmer undertaking reforestation activities with pegging and planting of seedlings



Installation of solar panels



Installation process completed

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:

Mangrove Nurseries

In August 2018, the mangrove nurseries located at the UWI-Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory were at the 90% capacity mark which was maintained until June 2019 when the capacity fell to 80% due to the sale of some of the seedlings. During the 12 month period (August 2018-July 2019), the troughs were routinely cleaned and maintained by students and interns who were given stipends.

Restoration Sites

Airport Runway

The solid waste fence which was installed in July 2018 did not perform as anticipated. To address this challenge, a more rigid screening material was identified. The material, made from durable weather resistant hard plastic, was installed and is currently performing well along the runway site. Additional shoreline stabilization in the form of coir logs were prescribed, having seen this material successfully used in Florida. In April 2019, the coir logs procured from the United States of America were installed and have been performing well ever since.

Malcolm's Bay

The 36 month monitoring was conducted at the site during the month of November 2018. Plant growth targets have remained optimum throughout the 12 month period (August 2018-July 2019).

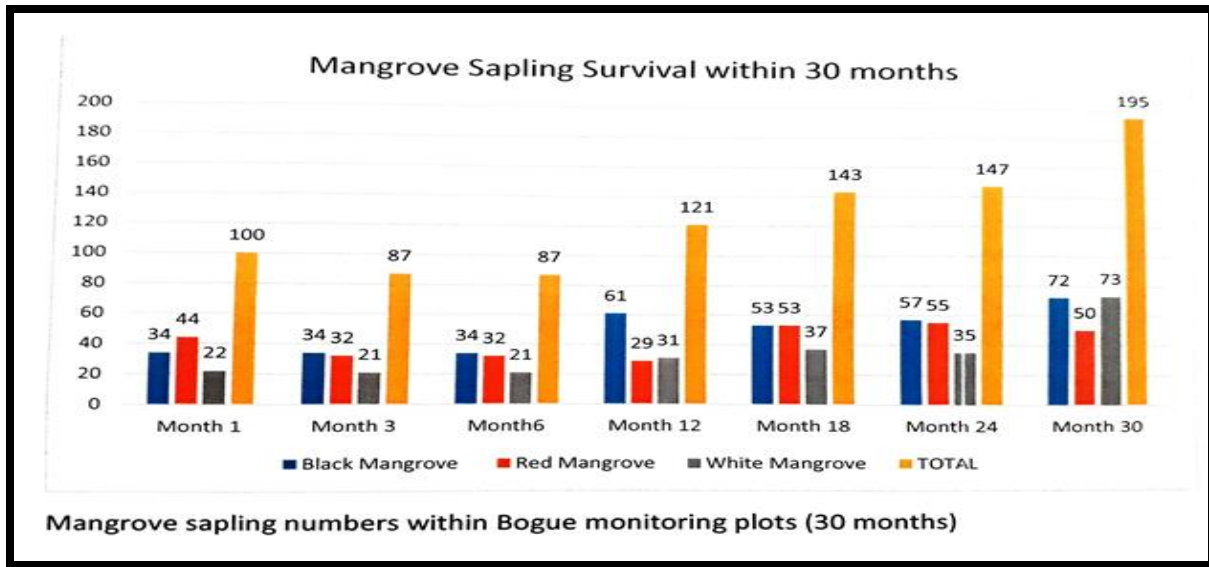
Bogue

Rehabilitation of 825 m² section was completed in partnership with Sandals Foundation whilst the monitoring is ongoing. The newly graded area does not contain monitoring plots, but the majority of the transplants were observed to be surviving in August 2018. The plants were affected by an influx of sewage in December 2018; however, it has been observed in March 2019 that the plant numbers have doubled and there are natural recruits occurring around the created pond area. The general area has seen an increase on bird recruitment associated with a newly created standing water body. Migratory ducks were observed at the site in December 2018.

Lilliput

Rehabilitation works were completed in 2018. Mangrove saplings are showing good early results. Seedling survivals from natural recruitment are good. 24 month monitoring was conducted in April 2019.

All planned restoration inputs have been implemented. The sites now require minor interventions (e.g. more sand needed at the airport runway site) and follow up monitoring of the plants. The results from restoration activities will be used as data in the PhD thesis of Mr. Camilo Trench: "HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION APPROACHES FOR DEGRADED MANGROVE FOREST IN JAMAICA". Thesis write up commenced during the reporting period (August 2018- July 2019).



Mangrove sapling numbers within Bogue monitoring plots (30 months: July 2016- December 2018)



Bogue Plot #2, facing West showing 1 month of mangrove growth (July 2016)



Bogue Plot #2, facing West showing 30 months of mangrove growth (June 2016-December 2018)



Aerial photograph of Bogue location showing 30 months (June 2016-December 2018) of mangrove growth (left in red circle) and standing water pool (middle - black arrow).



Lilliput (prior to the start of the project on the left (April 2017) and 2 years later on the right (April 2019) showing naturally recruited seedlings.

Stakeholder training

All stages of the project development involved stakeholders at each site. Hands-on training of community members (Lilliput and Port Royal) and of NGOs (Bogue and Malcolm's Bay) occurred when they assisted with the project planning and designing as well as implementation of works (i.e. provided manual labour). They also assisted with the deployment and use of equipment, monitoring and were of great assistance in conducting any adaptive corrections. In most cases, members based near the project sites were used to monitor and report any issues which arose, and reported to UWI team for corrective actions.

NGO groups in particular, have since used the sites as a part of their educational outreach and/or tours e.g. Montego Bay Marine Park Trust continues to add nursery grown seedlings to the Bogue site, and has used the site twice for World Wetlands Day replanting; BREDS uses the Malcolm's Bay site as part of their Sanctuary tours for tourists.

FCF Strategic Planning for future Calls for Proposals

There was no Call for Proposals under the TFCA funds during the August 2018-July 2019 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 three (3) of this programme and during the fiscal year 29 new grants valued at J\$133.61 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.

EFJ as Fund Administrator for the FD EU

The European Union (EU) and the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) have agreed on a programme of action geared towards Improved Forest Management for Jamaica (IFMJ) which will see the EU assisting the GOJ/ Forestry Department by way of Budgetary Support in implementing components of the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP 2016-2026). The aim of the NFMCP is the sustainable management and utilization of Jamaica's forest resources in order to enhance social and economic development and contribute to building the country's climate change resiliency programme.

In implementing a component of the action for IFMJ, a Specific Objective (SO) is geared towards enhancing the economic, social and environmental benefits of forests through the sustainable utilization of forest resources.

An expected result (ER) of this SO requires that forest communities, the general public as well as targeted groups of professionals have increased knowledge / capacity and participate in sustainable forest practices.

An activity under this ER is the provision of assistance to forest communities through the up-scaling of alternative livelihood projects to encourage the establishment of sustainable income generating project options.

The EFJ was appointed Fund Administrator of the monies disbursed pursuant to the IFMJ and a Fund Administrator Agreement (FAA) which commenced on February 1, 2019 will continue until May 31, 2022.

The first (1st) Forestry Department EU Budgetary Support Programme Call for Proposals opened on February 13, 2019 and closed on March 29, 2019. When the Call for Proposals closed, 93 proposals were received by the 3:30 pm deadline on March 29, 2019. A total of J\$486,282,967.45 in grant funding was requested. The EFJ team therefore conducted a total of 55 due diligence site visits during June 2019. Of the 55 proposals for which due diligence site visits were conducted, and the 28 projects that were recommended to the Review Committee for consideration, 27 proposals valued at **J\$133,041,469.48** were approved.

The second (2nd) Forestry Department EU Budgetary Support Programme Call for Proposals opened on July 22, 2019.

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
	1993-2017	2018	2019	1993 - 2019
No. of proposals submitted	3,699	3	2	3,704
No. of proposals approved	1,321	3	2	1,326
Total approved funding for grants *	49,157,991.55	6,378.42	4,458.23	49,168,828.20
Total disbursed funding for grants *	43,926,772.20	229,891.70	204,325.45	44,360,989.35
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	41,120,443.55	-	-	41,120,443.55
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-finance)**	3,818,887.75	-	-	3,818,887.75
Total matching funds as % of approved	91%			91%
Amount spent on administrative costs	15,991,390.52	349,162.33	343,642.36	16,684,195.21
Interest and capital gained on investments	19,779,592.86	104,606.12	295,488.38	20,179,687.36
Fund balance at the end of the year	5,752,615.85	7,192,992.96	9,093,627.93	n/a

Exchange rate J\$134.58 to US\$1.00 (2019); J\$133.26 to US\$1.00 (2018); J\$126.99 to US\$1.00 (2017)