

National Environment and Planning Agency

Vision

That Jamaica's natural resources are being used in a sustainable way and that there is a broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance with relevant legislation.

Mission

To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard.



Managing & Protecting Jamaica's Land,
Wood and Water

The Biodiversity Branch is one of the branches in the Conservation and Protection Division, The National Environment and Planning Agency.

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Create an Environment
for Clean Living.

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collaboration with the
Biodiversity Branch of NEPA

Afforestation
Endangered species
Ecosystem
Endemic
Found
Flora
Extinct
Mangrove



Biodiversity:

terms you should know

Invasive Species
Species
Pollution
Terrestrial
Threatened Species
Wetland
WILDLIFE
Marine
Protected Area
HABITAT

Afforestation All the processes involved in the establishment of forest cover where none existed before and also the restoration of deforested areas (usually termed reforestation). This usually involves replanting.

Biological Diversity (Biodiversity):

“Life on earth”; the variety of all plants, animals and micro-organisms

Biological resources The components of biodiversity that are either used by humans or have potential for use in the production of food, medicines, manufactured goods or other essential products, e.g. the Periwinkle, which is used as a source of cancer medication

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

United Nations (UN) agreement setting out commitment for maintaining the world's ecology. Establishes three main goals:

- Conserve biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources

Ecosystem A community of living organisms, the region that they occupy their interactions with each other, with the physical environment and the flow of energy and matter through the system



A marine ecosystem

Endangered Species An organism (plant or animal) whose numbers are so low, that it is in danger of dying out, that is, becoming extinct, for example, the Jamaican Iguana, seen below



The Jamaican Iguana

Endemic Species or race native to a particular place or found only there (e.g. the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly)

Extinct Term used to describe a species or population that has been lost

Fauna The animal life occurring in an area

Flora The plant life occurring in an area

Habitat An area that supports the life and provides the food, shelter, light etc., of animals or plants. Plants and animals occur in large numbers in such areas

Invasive species An alien species that colonises natural or semi-natural ecosystems, is an agent of change and threaten native biological diversity

Mangroves Salt loving plants, (halophytes), with extensive root systems, which grow in swampy areas of sheltered tropical and sub-tropical shores. They are considered one of the most productive ecosystems in the world and serve a variety of functions. These functions include providing a habitat for wildlife, nursery grounds for fish and shellfish and protecting coastal and inland areas from waves and storms

Marine Relating to salt water

Pollution Introduction of elements, compounds or any matter, into places, resulting in living organisms being harmed



Air pollution

Protected Area An area of land or water that is managed for the protection and maintenance of its ecological systems, biodiversity and/or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources (e.g. Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and Montego Bay Marine Park)

Species Basic unit of classification consisting of population or series of populations of closely related or similar organisms

Terrestrial Living on land

Threatened Species Species of flora or fauna likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future

Wildlife Animals and plants which exist in a relatively untouched state; usually considered a natural resource of economic, scientific or cultural value

Wetland Area of land subject to flooding (inundation) and dominated by hydrophytic (adapted to life in water or water-logged soils) vegetation. The inundation may be tidal, seasonal or more permanent and may be saline, brackish or freshwater. If the vegetation consists of trees, the wetland is a **swamp**; if it is with herbaceous plants (e.g. reeds and grasses) it is a **marsh**



The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, which is endemic to Jamaica, is a threatened species