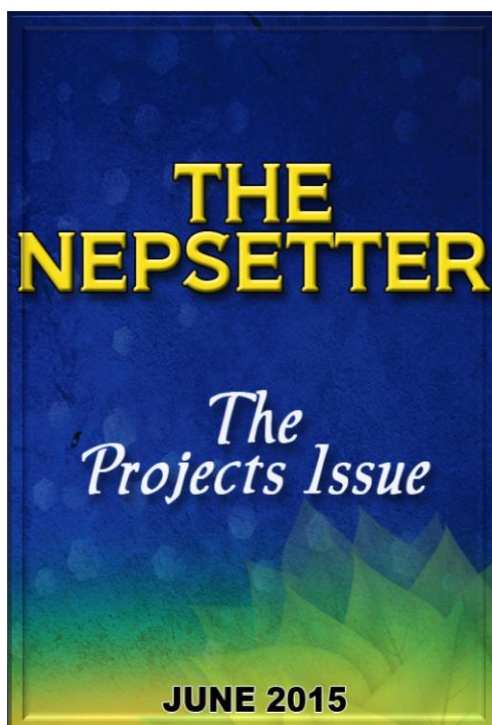




A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY



IN THIS ISSUE

Projects: Supporting the work of NEPA

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) relies on project funding to support its wide and overarching mandate and functions. Funding is received from international and national donor partners and the Government of Jamaica.

The programme of projects work includes Natural Resources Management, Protection and Conservation, Pollution Prevention, Enforcement and Urban and Spatial Planning.

Project development is an inclusive one and includes the input of technical teams both at NEPA and at partner entities. Projects are developed in line with the internal corporate management process, through research and with stakeholder involvement. Once specific needs are identified, project proposals are conceptualized with strategies to fill identified gaps.

NEPA is currently implementing 11 major projects valued at approximately US\$28 million. These projects include:

- GEF/UNDP strengthening the operational and financial sustainability of the **National Protected Area System (NPAS)**; valued at US\$2.9M, to be implemented during 2010-2016.
- GEF/UNDP **National Biodiversity**

Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) valued at US\$250,000 to be implemented during 2014-2015.

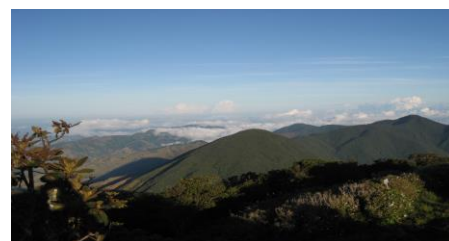
- **Adaptation Fund for Climate Change:** Increasing the Resilience of the Negril Coastline (NEPA's Component) valued at US\$5.6M to be implemented during 2012-2015
- **Integrated Management of the Yallahs-Hope River Watershed Management Areas;** valued at US\$3.9M to be implemented during 2014-2019
- **HCFC Phase out Management Plan Implementation** valued at US\$233,000 to be implemented during 2012-2016
- **Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) Increased Capacity for Improved Enforcement in Negril** valued at J\$34M to be implemented during 2013-2017
- **TEF Strengthening the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme;** valued at J\$15M to be implemented during 2014-2016
- **TEF Carrying Capacity Studies for Areas of Ecological Importance** within Jamaica valued at J\$4.5M to be implemented during 2014-2015
- **TEF Support for establishing a planning framework for development** valued at J\$39M to be implemented during 2014-2016



Phase out of HCFC use in Jamaica on track

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Financial Boost for Protected Areas



Blue and John Crow Mountains

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- **TEF national Knowledge Attitudes Practices and Behaviour Survey** valued at J\$4.48M to be implemented during 2014-2015
- **TEF Establishment of a Wildlife Sanctuary** valued at J\$41.9M to be implemented during 2014-2016

Phase out of HCFC use in Jamaica on Track- National Ozone Unit

By Patrice Gilpin

2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which acts as a framework for international efforts to protect the ozone layer.

The anniversary presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the successes of ozone protection efforts over the last 30 years. As a result of three decades of concerted international action by Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, the Ozone Layer is on track to recovery by the middle of the century.

Through ozone protection efforts, the nations of the world have prevented adverse impacts on agriculture, animals, forests,

marine life, natural ecosystems and materials. Up to 2 million cases of skin cancer may be prevented each year by 2030, through these efforts.

The National Ozone Unit, which is housed at NEPA is implementing the HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan Implementation Project as part of the worldwide Ozone protection effort.

Under the Project, the use of the Ozone Depleting Substance HCFC is being phased out. Customs officers are being trained to properly identify and prevent the introduction of these gases, refrigeration technicians are educated about the Ozone friendly alternatives and taught how to safely

transfer and store the harmful substances and legislation is being prepared and updated to guide the country's efforts.

The table below indicates the HCFC phase-out schedule developed in line with the targets set by the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.

By December 2014, through training and public education, Jamaica met the 1 January 2015 target of a 10% reduction of the baseline imports of HCFCs.

Target year	HCFC reduction target
1 Jan 2013	Starting point for reduction in importation (baseline)
1 Jan 2015	10% reduction of baseline *
1 Jan 2020	35% reduction of baseline
1 Jan 2025	67.5% reduction of baseline
1 Jan 2030	2.5% of baseline
1 Jan 2040	Zero importation



Ozone depleting refrigerant

**Baseline levels are the average of imports recorded in 2009 and 2010*

Breaking the Tide, Renewing the Land

GET THE FACTS!

The Adaptation Fund is an international body established to provide funding for tangible adaptation projects/programmes in developing countries

The GOJ Adaptation Fund Programme with its focus on livelihoods protection and improved food security was given the green light by the Adaptation Fund Board in June 2012.

What are the objectives of the GOJ/AFP?

The programme has three components:

1. Protecting livelihoods and food security in vulnerable communities by strengthening coastal protection
2. Improving land and water management of the agricultural sector
3. Building capacity for climate change adaptation

What are the issues being addressed by Component 1?

- Storm Surges
- Sea Level Rises
- Coastal Erosions

Erosion on the coast causes beach loss and contributes to damage to coastal

infrastructure. Component 1 seeks to slow the pace of erosion of the Negril coastline.

What is the focus of Component 2?

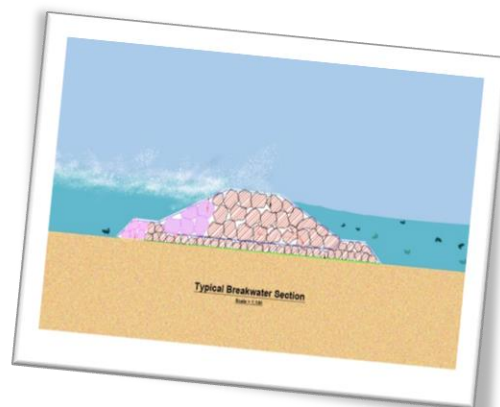
The focus of this component is to introduce climate-smart farming methods and soil erosion control techniques in order to increase agricultural production and improve food security.

What is the focus of Component 3?

Many communities and local agencies are not fully aware of the climate change risks they face and cannot respond in a sustainable way to the changing climate. Therefore, the focus of component 3 is the building of capacity for sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Who is implementing the Programme?

The National Implementing Entity is the Planning Institute of Jamaica. Several ministries and agencies are also assisting in the execution of each component. NEPA is assisting with the execution of components 1 and 3.



Component 1 includes the installation of two offshore breakwaters in Negril, Westmoreland



Component 2 focuses on climate-smart farming methods



Component 3 aims to build capacity for sustainable management of natural resources

The NBSAP Project: Balancing Biodiversity and Development

By Patrice Gilpin

Jamaica's biodiversity and ecosystem services will soon be used as key consideration in the island's development decisions and poverty reduction strategies.

This will be accomplished by a revision of the 2003 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, through a new project being spearheaded by the National Environment and Planning Agency. The project - the National Biodiversity Strategic Plan Project (NBSAP) - aims to develop new national targets in line with the Aichi Targets for biodiversity conservation as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 2011-2020 Strategic Plan.

Anthony McKenzie, Director of Environmental Management and Conservation Division at NEPA said that the National Biodiversity Strategy when updated, will serve as a strong basis for the country to achieve more of its sustainable development goals in line with Vision 2030.

"NEPA is committed to finding the balance between development demands and environmental conservation. In updating the National Biodiversity Strategy, biodiversity conservation issues will be integrated into several national planning frameworks. Emphasis will be placed on incorporating biodiversity values and services into local and national development plans which will then feed into the poverty reduction strategies of the government," he said.

Mr. McKenzie noted that the revised National Biodiversity Strategy will produce measurable targets to safeguard or restore key ecosystem services, especially for water, health and livelihoods. It will also make recommendations that could help the island's natural resources to adapt and become more resilient to climate change impacts.

The National Biodiversity Strategy will outline ways in which environmental actions can be mainstreamed into the planning and

activities of all sectors to achieve a positive impact on the island's biodiversity.

Dione Chambers, NEPA's Project Manager said that the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will build on the framework set by the 2003 version of the plan.

The update will be achieved through an extensive process of cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary stakeholders' engagement.

The US\$250,000 NBSAP Project which will last for one year, is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Jamaica.

The implementation of the NBSAP Project forms part of the island's obligations under the CBD, to which Jamaica became a Party in 1995. The project will also prepare the fifth National Report on actions related to Biodiversity Conservation as outlined in the 2003 NBSAP for submission to the CBD.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Biodiversity Strategic Plan Project is being funded by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Jamaica at a cost of US\$250,000.



Stolid Flycatcher



Broughtonia_sanguinea

NEPA BOLSTERS AIR QUALITY MONITORING WITH ASSISTANCE FROM TEF

By Deleen Powell

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) has received \$15.5 million from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) to assist the Agency in its efforts to monitor the island's air quality.

The 15-month project, dubbed "Strengthening the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme" will see to the installation of ambient air quality monitoring stations in six of the island's urban centres.

The areas to benefit are: Kingston and St. Andrew; Portmore and Spanish Town, St. Catherine; Montego Bay, St. James; May Pen, Clarendon and Mandeville, Manchester.

Air monitoring stations have already been installed in May Pen, Clarendon; Catherine Hall in St. James and Spanish Town in St. Catherine, with the remaining three stations scheduled to be installed by the end of 2015.

According to Steven Panton, Acting Manager of the Air Quality Management Branch at NEPA information from the monitoring stations will be gathered and analyzed to assess the level of air pollution in Jamaica's urban areas and the impacts on human health.

These data, Panton said would be used to prepare baseline data for the establishment of a National Health-based Air Quality Index and inform policy directives, aimed at air pollution mitigation; especially in areas where the data being collected show deterioration in air quality.

In underscoring the importance of the venture, Clyde Harrison, Executive Director of TEF, said that the project is an important initiative that will benefit every Jamaican, as well as visitors to the island.

"This endeavour forms part of our ongoing efforts to support and undertake programmes aimed at protecting and enhancing our natural environment, as it forms the basis of our world class tourism product," he said.

On completion of the project, which ends in October 2016, NEPA will assess the data generated and continue to monitor ambient air quality and implement its strategy to expand the monitoring programme to include other criteria air pollutants such as, oxides of sulphur and nitrogen.

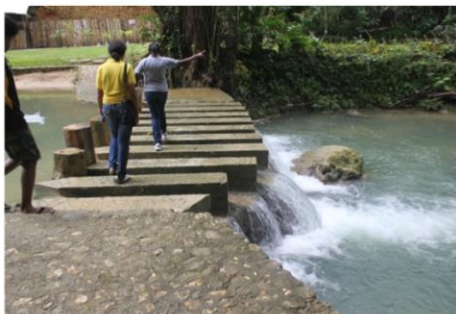


NPAS PROJECT ON THE MOVE



Spreading the Word

Fisher Folk in Rocky Point were among the first to get information regarding the funds for Protected Areas.



Eco Tourism

Funding will be provided for ventures such as nature trails and other Eco Tourism attractions.



The Jamaican Iguana

This reptile's natural habitat is the Hellshire Hills, which is located in the Portland Bight Protected Area.



Multi-million dollar boost for Protected Areas

By Patrice Gilpin

In 2016, residents within Jamaica's protected areas will be able to access a portion of an annual injection of up to US\$250,000 or just over J\$28-million, which will serve protected areas and 110,000 hectares of forest reserves in Jamaica. This is being provided under Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System (NPAS) or for short, the Protected Areas Project at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

The project is executed by NEPA with the support of the Forestry Department, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the Fisheries Division and is aimed at improving the operations and financial management of the island's protected areas.

NEPA's Project Manager, Ngozi Christian said that the money will be issued as grants and will be available to any registered group or company within any of the island's over 200 protected areas and 110 hectares of forest reserves. Registered groups will be

granted funds, once their business proposals have been submitted in writing and approved.

"We want persons to form registered groups either through the Companies Act, the Social Development Commission or become a Benevolent Society. Once this is done, they can submit a business plan indicating how they will be using the money," she said.

The business, she stressed, should not only be financially prudent but help in the conservation and protection of the area's natural resources.

The US\$250,000 grant, Mrs. Christian said, forms part of a larger endowment fund that has been created to manage the financial structure of protected areas.

"In December 2014, the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica was established to promote the conservation, protection, management and expansion of the National Protected Areas Systems of Jamaica by providing a sustainable flow of

funds to support enforcement, infrastructure, monitoring needs and other relevant activities of environmental significance”, she said.

Recently, fishers in and around the Pedro Bank and Cays were informed of the funds and guided on what they will need to do to qualify. Efforts are underway to declare sections of the Pedro Cays a protected area.

NEPA’s Protected Areas Project team recently visited 10 communities across seven parishes to share the message.



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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