



YOUTH CORNER



Story Time



Members of the audience listen attentively to environmental stories at the Tom Redcam Library in Kingston on "Grand Story Telling Day", during National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW) 2003. Representatives from the Ministry of Land and

Environment (MLE), National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), Cable and Wireless (C&W), Jamaica Public Service Company (JPSCO) and the Auditor General's Department joined NEPA staff in reading stories at Children's Homes, Places of Safety and other public places across the Corporate Area.



PHOTOS BY: Jeffrey Carlyle, NEPA



"FROM THE DOC."

Did you know that The Island Advisory Council of Jamaica 4-H Clubs currently operates "The 4-H Environmental Challenge" programme. This has started as a pilot project in seven (7) Parishes namely:

- St Thomas
- St Mary
- St Ann
- Hanover
- St Elizabeth
- Clarendon
- St Catherine

Participating Clubs select six clubites who over a 12-month period are expected to complete six environmental "challenges". These have to be completed by June of each year.

These challenges are:

- Creative Performance
- Research Project
- Educating Others
- Service Projects
- Club Projects
- Field Trip

The teams are then judged at different levels to select an overall winner. There has been a great deal of enthusiasm among clubites and their environmental awareness has significantly increased. The programme will be extended to the remaining Parishes. We commend the Council for having conceived and implemented such a worthwhile programme. We wish for the project much success.

Diary of Events

Hurricane Season	June 1 – November 30*
World Population Day	July 11 *
Conch Closed Season	July 31
International Ozone Day	September 16 *
International Coastal Cleanup Day	September 20
Maritime Week	September 21 – 27
World Tourism Day	September 27 *
National Wood & Water Day	October 4
World Habitat Day	October 6
International Disaster Reduction Day	October 8
World Food Day	October 16 *
Fire Safety Awareness Week	October 26 – November 1
World Town Planning Day	November 8
GIS Day	November 20
Earth Science Week	2 nd Week of November

* denotes set dates every year

The NEPA Bulletin

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"It Haffi Legal" Public Education Campaign ...

...Promoting Awareness of Environmental Laws and Regulations

World Environment Day 2003 heralded the launch of a special public education campaign dubbed "It Haffi Legal" aimed at promoting awareness of Jamaica's environmental laws and regulations. The campaign which targeted a wide cross-section of the Jamaican populace was officially launched by



Mosima Jordan (left), Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) presents a framed poster to Mr. Hugh Salmon, (right) Acting Solicitor General at the official launch of the "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign at Emancipation Park, New Kingston. Leontie Barnaby, Senior Director in the Ministry of Land and Environment (middle) looks on.

general Mr. Hugh Salmon in the environmentally-friendly Emancipation Park New Kingston on June 5. The multi-media campaign encompasses a radio jin-

series of fourteen posters produced by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) under the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) jointly funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Jamaica. A Compliance and Enforcement Pocket Guide produced by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Hunters returns still outstanding

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is reminding Bird Hunters who DID NOT return their Bird Shooting Report Forms that an additional late penalty now applies.

Under the Wild Life Protection (Hunter's Returns) Regulations, everyone who has been granted a hunting licence for the season must return the completed forms to NEPA. The document details the types of birds shot, the num-



bers, when and where they were shot and the weather at the time of the shoot, among other information.

This is one of the methods used by the Agency to keep track of the number of birds taken by hunters each year. In an effort to encourage early returns, a graduated penalty or processing fee is applied to all forms returned after December 31. On June 1,

2003, the late processing fee was increased from Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000). In addition under the Wild Life Protection (Hunter's Returns) Regulations 2002, "a holder of a Hunter's Licence who refuses to submit the Hunter's Report Form by August 15 in any year shall not be granted a Hunter's Licence for the next Bird Shooting Season."

Hunters are being asked to return completed forms as soon as possible to: The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), 10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5.

First Advisory Board for NEPA Appointed

The first Advisory Board for the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) was recently appointed by the Minister of Land and Environment, Hon. Dean Peart. Members of the Board whose appointment took effect on June 2, 2003 include: Mr. Milton Weise, Chairman, Mrs. Jacqueline DaCosta, Rev. Oliver Daley, Dr. Allan Kirton, Ms. Andrea McKenzie, Mr. Earl Patterson, Mr. James Rawle and Professor Ronnie Young. The Board will serve for a period of two years.

NEPA, an executive agency of the Government of Jamaica was established in April 2001, emerging from a merger of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), Town Planning Development (TPD) and the Land Development and Utilization Commission (LDUC). Its mission is to promote sustainable development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica.

"It Haffi Legal" Public Education Campaign ...

Cont'd from pg. 1

Environmental Action (ENACT) programme in conjunction with the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project also forms part of the campaign.

The radio jingle is expected to be aired on national radio stations and also through the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) on a regular basis. It is also being produced on CD for distribution to schools, environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and community based groups. Promotion of the music video will be advanced through several media including the main national television stations, the JIS mobile communication facility and the local cable television network.

The series of fourteen (14) posters which represent a major component of the campaign will be distributed to schools, libraries, police stations, court houses, churches, government ministries and departments, business places and other sources to reach the entire target audience for which the messages are intended. Majority of the posters have a similar heading "Stop! It Nuh Legal!" A summary of the messages conveyed are as follows:

Don't wash vehicles in our rivers or streams...

Don't remove sand, stone or marl without a licence...

Don't cut trees in a Forest Estate without a licence...

Don't throw your garbage on our roads...

Don't wash clothes in our rivers or streams...

Don't build without approval from the Parish Council...

Don't wash your spray cans in our rivers or streams...

Don't catch, kill or sell any protected animal...

These messages appeal to a wide target audience inclusive of motorists, housewives, quarry operators, building contractors, squatters, sawmill operators, planners, timber cutters, farmers, bird hunters, urban/rural residents and the general public. As a result of the campaign, it is expected that many more Jamaicans will become aware of the existence of

the different environmental laws and the levels of fines associated with breaches committed under several Acts.

Most importantly, it is anticipated that the campaign will have a positive impact on the attitude and behaviour pattern of many Jamaican's whose actions impact negatively on our environment.



Crocodile Nesting Season...

...Stay away from river-courses and other nesting areas

The public is hereby advised that the period between February and August each year is the nesting season for crocodiles. All persons living in or near a river-course or wetland area are therefore, asked to take special care at this time as the animals are at their most aggressive during this period. If you must enter or work in these areas, please exercise extreme caution.

The public is further advised that killing, or maiming these animals is strictly prohibited by law. You may be fined a maximum of \$100,000 or twelve (12) months imprisonment if convicted, under the Wildlife Protection Act. **Please do not**

molest or kill crocodiles, regardless of circumstances or locations.

If crocodiles are found to be a threat to human activities, please contact the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), immediately at the following numbers: **754-7547-51 or 754-7543.**

A wetland is a swampy or marshy area of brackish water where many fishes, animals and plants are found. It usually acts as a nursery for many young animals. Crocodiles usually nest their eggs in wetlands. Crocodiles are generally docile animals that shy away from humans activities.



Countdown Begins for International Treaty on GMO Trade

Jamaica is among 103 countries preparing for when the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety comes into effect on September 11 of this year. This Protocol which focuses on the international trade of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) represents the first regulatory, international initiative in the safe handling, transport and use of GMOs which are derived from modern biotechnology.

Jamaica became a signatory to the Cartagena Protocol on 4, June 2001 and has indicated its general support for the objectives and stipulations of the Protocol. Although Jamaica has not yet ratified the Protocol, the country intends to subject its import and export of GMOs to the provisions of the agreement.

Presently Jamaica is developing its National Biosafety Framework through a project which began in November 2002 and is jointly funded by the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Government of Jamaica (GOJ) recently approved an additional J\$3 million for the project. The National Biosafety Framework is anticipated to detail legislation, regulatory and administrative systems as well as decision-making systems for the monitoring of its GMO trade and application.

The long anticipated 50th ratification triggering the 90-day countdown to the Protocol's entry into force was deposited last Friday June 13 by the North Pacific nation of Palau. In celebrating news of this event, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Hamdallah Zedan views the Protocol, which CBD member countries adopted in January 2000, as a vital tool for sustainable devel-

opment and the protection of biodiversity.

"This treaty will enable countries to derive maximum benefit from biotechnology while ensuring adequate safety measures for the environment, also taking into account human health," Zedan said.

Genetically Modified Organisms are anticipated to present a number of benefits such as increased crop yields and soil conservation. Biosafety is concerned with the need to protect the environment and human health from the possible adverse effects of GMO application. The Cartagena Protocol prescribes procedures for GMO's that are to be intentionally introduced into the environment and those that are intended for food, feed or processing. Its objective is that importing countries are provided with the necessary information for informed decision-making for their acceptance or rejection of GMOs as part of its 'Advance Informed Agreement' procedure.

Countries will exchange information through an Internet-based mechanism called the Biosafety-Clearing House. GMO shipments will be clearly identified with documentation outlining the specific identity and characteristics of each GMO being exported. These provisions will be effected immediately when the Cartagena Protocol enters into force.

A decision-making group of all the member countries of the Protocol will convene at the meeting of the parties in the first quarter of 2004 to address practical aspects of its implementation. Mr. Zedan warns that countries that have not yet ratified the agreement, such as Jamaica, will be unable "to participate as full partners" in this first meeting which he says "will shape the future of the Protocol".

New Board For NRCA



Hon. Dean Peart, Minister of Land and Environment (1st. left) meets with members of NRCA Board

A new Board has been appointed for the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) to serve for two years effective June 2, 2003. The new members are:

1. Mr. James Rawle
General Manager, Nestle – JMP
2. Mr. Milton Weise
Milton Weise & Associates
3. Mr. Franklin McDonald
Chief Executive Officer, National Environment and Planning Agency

4. Miss Leonie Barnaby
Ministry of Land and Environment

5. Ms. Diana McCaulay
Chief Executive Officer
Jamaica Environment Trust

6. Mrs. Jennifer Griffiths
Ministry of Industry and Tourism

7. Mr. Parris Lyew-Ayee
Jamaica Bauxite Institute

8. Mr. Christopher Brown
Ministry of National Security

9. Mr. William (Billy) Shagoury
Shagoury's Vibrated Block and
Crushed Stones Industry

10. Mr. Errol Ziadie
General Manager, NEM
Insurance Company

Chairman of the Board is Mr. James Rawle while Deputy Chairman is Mr. Errol Ziadie

NEPA Stages Workshop on Land-Based Activities And Sources of Marine Pollution...

...Develops National Programme of Action (NPA)

On Wednesday, June 18, 2003, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) staged a Government of Jamaica Round Table at the Knutsford Court Hotel, as part of its effort to develop a **National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources and Activities**.

The Round Table was one in a series of workshops which targeted members of the waste management, agricultural, manufacturing, shipping and tourism sectors. Government, private sector and utility companies were also targeted.

An initial National Workshop was held on April 30 at the Jamaica Conference Center which laid the foundation for other workshops. It identified sewage



Dying Coral Reef caused by Marine Pollution

treatment and disposal, solid waste management and agriculture (erosion) as the priority areas for the NPA. Future workshops are dependent on the outcomes of the Sector-specific workshops.

Experts working within the identified

sectors provided information on programmes and projects as well as existing and upcoming initiatives intended to minimize pollution of the coastal and marine environments in Jamaica.

NEPA and the Regional Co-ordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme CAR/RCU partnered on this project. The NPA is a long-term process within which short to medium term goals and the strategies including institutional arrangements will be established.

The quality of Jamaica's NPA is dependent on effective participation at the sectoral workshops. Outcomes of the workshop will be made available to the public.

NEPA Launches CITES Website



Learie Miller, (left) Director of the Conservation and Protection Division, NEPA pays close attention to an observation made by CEO, Franklin McDonald (right). Occasion was the launch of the CITES website at Albambra Inn in Kingston on June 2, 2003.

The Biodiversity Branch of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) recently launched a website for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the Albambra Inn in Kingston.

Manager of the Biodiversity Branch of NEPA Miss Yvette Strong says, that the aim is to make information pertaining to Jamaica's trade in endangered species and local legislation governing the law available to the public. Jamaica's trade in endangered species is governed by the

Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation and Regulation of Trade) Act 2002.

The Act, its Appendices and legal interpretation are present on the website as well as application forms for export, importation and re-export. The website also provides information on the application process for pet-shop owners and zoo-keepers. This will facilitate the application process for trade, collection, export and import permits by making information about the local species more readily available.

The Agency hopes to make the site a one-stop for all applications concerning research, capture and trade of endangered species. In the not too distant future, credit card payments will also become available.

CITES is an international agreement between Governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Some 5,000 species of animals and 25,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade.

The website can be reached at:
<http://www.nepa.gov.jm/cites/>

Contemporary Environmental Legislation Favours Civil Penalties – Nicholson

"The use of criminal law to address environmental infractions may only have a deterrent effect if the fines are stiff enough", Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon. A. J. Nicholson, has said. This Minister's statement was conveyed in a message delivered by Deputy Solicitor General, Mr. Hugh Salmon who deputized for the Minister at the official launch of the "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign held at Emancipation Park on World Environment Day, June 5, 2003.

The Justice Minister noted that the traditional approach to environmental management has focused on the use of criminal law which has not necessarily been the best and most effective method of preventing damage to the environment. "The fact is that criminal law's burden of proof is much higher and therefore more difficult to meet in a trial, after a prosecution is initiated", the Minister explained. He went on to point out that contemporary environmental legislations have sought to make greater use of civil penalties and where criminal law still prevails, the discretionary powers of judges have been expanded with respect to sentencing.

Minister Nicholson further stated that Government, in numerous instances, has sought to increase the fines currently being applied to environmental legislation. In addition, there are firm proposals to in-

troduce administrative mechanisms to deal with offenders while seeking to avoid the court system. "This will serve to dispose of matters more quickly and effectively", the Justice Minister said.

Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Mosina Jordan, in her remarks commented on the spirit of partnership and the collaborative effort that has emerged in managing Jamaica's environment. This year's theme for World Environment Day – "Water: Two Billion People Are Dying For It", highlights issues that are central and critical to environmental management in Jamaica, she noted. It hinges on the awareness that the earth's water resources are at risk and that there is need to increase water conservation by users. It also speaks to the need for improved hygiene and sanitation towards better water quality and preservation of the ecosystems that protect our water sources.

Ms Jordan informed the gathering that USAID in partnership with the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) has already started to address some of these challenges under the Coastal Water Quality Improvement Project (CWIP) and the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW). Activities under the CWIP programme focus on promoting sound environmental practices through integrated coastal zone resource management, targeting all sectors of society

from community to government.

Under the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project activities are concentrated in the Great River and Rio Grande Watersheds – two pilot sites for national watershed strategies. Accomplishments of the R2RW project include the formation of watershed management committees in both watersheds. These committees bring together local representatives of government institutions and community interest groups to address priority issues such as clean water, adequate toilet facilities, community education and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

Head of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Mr. Luc Frechette, who also spoke at the function, said that Jamaica has a strong tradition of legal safeguards to protect natural resources. These are continually being strengthened with the promulgation of new policies, laws and regulations. However, "all these measures are only as effective as they are known, understood and applied", Mr. Frechette said.

The "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign is aimed at promoting greater understanding of and compliance with environmental and planning laws in Jamaica.



Conclusion of Judiciary Symposia...

...NEPA's Regulatory Services Division Hails Workshops as Success

The Legal Services Branch of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is hailing the recently concluded Judiciary Symposia a success. The series of workshops which were held over the course of three weekends in Ocho Rios, St. Ann started in May and ended in July. They targeted Resident Magistrates, Appellate and Supreme Court Judges and Clerks of Court.

Environmental Judge of Vermont, USA Merideth Wright, who addressed the first two workshops spoke about the need for Judges in sentencing, to take into consideration the economic benefit that a defendant might gain from breaching environmental and planning laws. Judge Wright, who is the first Judge of a specialized Environmental Court in Vermont, encouraged the participants to consider reforming environmental and planning laws in Jamaica and encouraged the use of the civil law instead of the criminal law to address



US Environmental Court Judge Merideth Wright (Right) addresses the audience at one of the judicial workshops at the Renaissance Jamaica Grand, in Ocho Rios, recently.

activities that cause damage or adversely affect the environment.

Director of the Legal and Regulatory Services Division Laletta Davis-Mattis said in her report on the workshops which were sponsored by the Ridge to Reef (R2RW) Watershed Project and the Environment Action (ENACT) Programme, was well received by the target group. She outlined

that RM's, Clerks of Court, Appellate and Supreme Court Judges were positive in their feedback on the project. According to her, their comments will be used to shape future workshops in this area, as NEPA seeks to expand its commitment to dialogue with crucial stakeholders regarding its environmental mandate.

ENACT and R2RW pledged a total of \$3.5 million dollars to fund the workshops. R2RW and ENACT are both joint projects of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the governments of the United States and Canada, respectively.

The objective of the judicial symposia was to sensitize Appellate and Supreme Court Judges, Resident Magistrates and Clerk of Courts on the environmental and planning challenges faced daily by various agencies with the mandate to protect Jamaica's natural and built environments. A CD is being published to be distributed to participants and members of the public. It contains all the proceedings of the symposia and copies of environmental and planning laws in Jamaica.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WEEK 2003

National Environmental Awareness Week was observed from June 1-8 under the theme "Water – Two Billion People are Dying For It". The Week coincided with World Environment Day (June 5) and World Oceans Day (June 8) celebrated annually by United Nations member countries. Photographs below capture some of the activities which marked the event.



NEPA's CEO Franklin McDonald (Right) shares a light moment with USAID Mission Director Masina Jordan (left) and UNDP Resident Representative Gillian Lindsay-Nanton (centre) following the official launch of the "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign



Section of the audience at Launch of "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign



Luc Frechette (left) Consular at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) presents a copy of the newly published Compliance and Enforcement Packet Guide to Basil Forsythe, Director of NEPA's Compliance and Regional Services Division, at the Launch of the "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign at Emancipation Park, on World Environment Day, June 5.



A rendition of "Jamaica, Land of Beauty" by students of Sts. Peter and Paul Preparatory School at World Environment Day Expo



Trevor Spence of the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (left) acquainting students and teacher of Pembroke Hall High with some of the posters included in the "It Haffi Legal" public education campaign.



Thera Edwards of NEPA (seated) explains features of a watershed model to students visiting World Environment Day exhibition.



Presentation by Mines and Geology at World Environment Day Expo



River Action Boyz entertain at "It Haffi Legal" Launch



Section of the congregation participating in Church Service at Truth Tabernacle on June 8



Ushers on a break



EARTH DAY 2003



On Earth Day April 22, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) commemorated the first anniversary of its launch with the official opening of its newly refurbished Customer Service area of the Application Secretariat Branch and the hosting of several educational outreach activities aimed at increasing public participation in the process of sustainable environmental management. Representatives of the media, academia, non-governmental organizations, the religious community and the general public participated in a Prayer Ceremony, Open Day and a lunch hour concert which highlighted the day's activities.

Other activities to mark Earth Day 2003 included an exhibition hosted by the Negril Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT) at the community Centre in Negril, Westmoreland. The International School of Ja-

maica (ISJA) held a post-Earth Day exposition at Palmers Park, Port Maria on May 2. The event targeted schools participating in the Schools Environment Programme (SEP). The following photos highlight some of the Day's activities.

A. Opening of Refurbished Customer Service Area—Applications Secretariat Branch (NEPA)

B. Akwaaba Drummers in action at the Earth Day Lunch Hour Concert

D. Delegates in Prayer - Refurbished Customer Service Area

C. & E. Earth Day Prayer Ceremony

