



Youth corner



Beyond the Surface

Tannisha Scarlett

"Did you know that we should all be friends of the sea?" asked Jerome.

"And what does that mean?" asked Shaun.

"Well, Jerome replied, "I am just sitting here looking at the water and I noticed that there are so many wonderful things under the sea that we never try to understand and appreciate, instead, we destroy them."

The day was a very hot one, Jerome and Shaun got very sweaty after a full day of chores so they decided to go for a swim at Frenchman's Cove in Portland, which is very near to their homes. Swimming was one of Jerome's favourite past-times and it is something he had been doing ever since he was six years old.

"Why is it that every time we are out here you start talking to yourself?" asked Shaun, "I am really worried about you. I think you are going mad."

"No I'm not going mad," replied Jerome. "It's just that I have been learning so much about the environment, especially the coastal areas and how we should take care of it but sometimes we who should be the protectors are not doing our jobs, instead, we are selfish and don't really care about anything or anyone else."

"So tell me, what are coastal areas and what do you mean by 'we are selfish'?" asked Shaun.

"Coastal areas are places that relate to water or the sea, to be specific, as for the answer to the second question, you would have to come and dive with me so we can both experience all the things beyond the surface."

Shaun was very scared at first because it was the very first time that he was underwater for such a long time and he realized that his breathing had changed. After a while he got used to it and started to enjoy the wonderful but different world without gravity, a very colorful and different world from the one in which he lived. He thought it was great. The sounds were different, in a way that he could not explain.

After being under water for a while, Shaun started to mentally put all the things he saw into groups. First he grouped things that moved... these were all the fishes, crabs and reptiles. Some examples of the fishes were, parrot, surgeon, snapper, jellyfish, jack fish, damselfish, wrasse and turtles. The second category was made up of stationary things; these were corals, algae and sea grass.

After all the fun under water, the guys returned to the surface and Jerome began to explain the importance of all they had seen.

"Everything in the underwater environment has a role to play in the ecosystem," he said

"The echo what?" asked Shaun.

Jerome laughed and said. "The ecosystem... and I will tell you



what that is before you ask".

"An ecosystem is an environment where plants and animals live, together and

benefit from each others way of life. All these plants and animals make up our biodiversity.

"What is biodiversity?" asked Shaun

Jerome explained that biodiversity is the short term for biological diversity, which means all forms of life on earth or all of the plants and animals that we have.

He continued, "Algae grow and provide shelter and food for fish. Fishes on the other hand help to provide nutrients for the growth of algae. The corals provide sand for the beaches and they are also the main builders of coral reefs, which protect our beaches from high-energy waves".

Jerome then started to talk about the turtles.

He said, "Turtles are some of the oldest animals on earth. They spend most of their lives in the sea. However, they do come ashore to lay their eggs and also feed among the coral reefs and sea grass beds.



"They do, I didn't know that", replied Shaun, "go on".

"By feeding in this area, they keep the wetland ecosystems healthy as they eat sick fishes that would otherwise pass on diseases to healthy fishes and cause a decline in the fish stock. Also, because of their beauty and relatively gentle nature they can be approached quite easily when diving and are interesting to watch".

"Wow, that's true, I really enjoy watching them". Shaun added.

"I also heard we get our foreign exchange from the use of the coastal areas of Jamaica. Is that so?"

"Yes it. Is there anything else you would like to ask me?"

"Believe me Jerome, I have learnt so much today. I can't begin to explain, but one thing is for sure, I am going to pass the information on to someone else because things like this you just cannot keep to yourself. By the way, I did not know that you were this bright, but thanks anyway!"

"Go away Shaun," Jerome said jokingly, "but you are welcome,"

With that they went their separate ways.



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National Environment and Planning Agency



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Celebrating
World Water Day 2005
March 22
Theme: Water for Life

Mauritius, Mauritius



NEPA's CEO Pat Sinclair McCalla was amongst Jamaica's representatives, at the Ten Year Review for the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (SIDS)

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ).

Background and Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was held to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The sequence of events follows the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, to address issues pertaining to the world's environment and the socio-economic development of countries. The UN convened a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States to address pertinent issues impacting these states in Barbados in 1994. The outcome of that meeting was the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) with a focus on environmental and economic issues affecting island states. The BPOA highlighted fourteen agreed priority areas and articulated policies and actions related to the environment and development planning which need to be addressed by SIDS and supported by the international community.

Outcomes

The fourteen agreed priority areas arising from the meeting are:

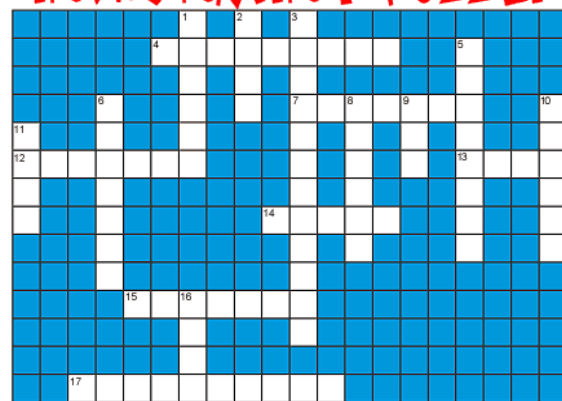
1. Climate change and sea-level rise
2. Natural and environmental disasters
3. Management of wastes
4. Coastal and marine resources
5. Freshwater resources
6. Land resources
7. Energy resources
8. Trade resources
9. Biodiversity resources
10. National institutions and administrative capacity
11. Regional institutions and technical co-operations
12. Transport and communication
13. Science and technology
14. Human resource development

Cont'd on page 3



Opening Ceremony of the high-level segment at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Mauritius

ENVIRONMENT PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 4 Many of our _____ come from rain forest plants and animals.
- 7 An extreme shortage of water is called a _____.
- 12 _____ is the ordinary pattern of weather in a region.
- 13 Putting meat leftovers in a compost heap can attract _____.
- 14 Recycling paper helps save _____.
- 15 An animal's natural home is its _____.
- 17 Too much heat trapped in the atmosphere is a result of the _____ effect.

DOWN

- 1 The animal with the largest number of species on Earth is the _____.
- 2 More than 1,000 species of _____ may soon be extinct.
- 3 A word for the variety of life on Earth: _____.
- 5 Americans use the most water in this room: _____.
- 6 Tree experts hope to save _____ forests from alien bugs.
- 8 Plants give off _____, which helps people and animals breathe.
- 9 Both nitrogen and oxygen are a kind of _____ in the air.
- 10 Oil, gas, and coal are _____ fuels.
- 11 _____ rain damages lakes and trees.
- 16 Incinerators _____ trash.

2005 ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING CALENDER

World Water Day	March 22*
World Meteorological Day	March 23*
Caribbean Spiny Lobster Closed Season	April 01 – June 30*
World Health Day	April 07*
Earth Day	April 22
International Day for Biological Diversity	May 22*
Labour Day	May 23
Disaster Preparedness Month	June 01 – 30*
Atlantic/Caribbean Hurricane Season	June 01– November 30*
National Environmental Awareness Week	June 01 - 07
World Environment Day	June 05*
World Oceans Day	June 08*
World Population Day	July 11*
International Ozone Day	September 16*
International Coastal Clean-up Day	September 17
Maritime Week	September 25 – October 01
World Tourism Day	September 27*
National Wood & Water Day	October 01
World Habitat Day	October 03
International Day for Disaster Reduction	October 13
World Food Day	October 16*
Fire Safety Awareness Week	October 23 - 29
Science and Technology Month	November 01 – 30*
World Town Planning Day	November 08*
GIS Day	November 16
International Mountain Day	December 11*

*Denotes set dates every year

Editorial

The Editorial Committee is delighted to present our second edition of **NEPSETTER**. Thanks to all our readers for their patience and continued subscription! Best wishes for 2005!

Down To Earth, Radio Drama Series:

In this edition, **NEPSETTER** looks ahead to the soon-to-be broadcast radio drama series, recently renamed "**Down to Earth**". Our Profile: "**Applications Secretariat Nabs Award...**" on page two highlights the Branch and the drama series. Congratulations to the Applications Secretariat Branch, winners of the **Rename the NEPA Radio Drama Series Competition**. Special thanks to those who field tested the name and our other subscribers

who entered the competition.

SIDS Conference, Mauritius:

January 10 – 14, marked the **Ten Year Review for the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (SIDS)**, which was held in Port Louis, Mauritius. Our front page report is dedicated to that story.

Hailed as a success by our own Permanent Secretary, Donovan Stanberry, the Jamaican delegation comprised a range of professionals from the environment, planning and sustainable development sectors. Our CEO Pat Sinclair McCalla was in attendance to ensure that the findings and concerns of Jamaica, were included in the discussions and so take back valuable lessons learned

on environmental and planning issues.

Valentine's Day:

And, finally, this issue could be complete without a look at this unique anniversary. We invite you to indulge in our **Valentine's Review Special**.

Feedback:

Please forward all comments and queries to: gturner@nepa.gov.jm or, apinnock@nepa.gov.jm.

Applications Secretariat Nabs Award... "Down to Earth", New Name for Radio Drama Series!

The old adage "three time's a charm" seemed to have been fast-tracked a-la Applications style, recently when the persevering team of "*down to earth*" professionals won the "**Rename the NEPA Radio Drama Series**" Competition on their *second* try. They beat out all-comers and, according to the judges, walked away the unanimous winners.

The Applications Secretariat Branch left nothing to chance. They submitted the most entries (over 10) in the recently held Agency-wide competition and, in the process, established a new precedence. Theirs was the only group entry which underlined their determination to win!

"Down to Earth", the winning entry, clearly refers to the environment. However, according to Frances Blair, Manager of the Branch, it also captures her team's view of the Agency's processes and systems which she said were, "practical, user-friendly and professional." She pointed to the 'one-window' system for the submission of applications as a clear example of this.

In reference to other areas of her Branch's work which evoked this message, Ms Blair expressed confidence that her team was "making every effort to attain the ninety-day turn around time goal for reviewing and processing applications, as stipulated by Government." In her view, "**Down to Earth**", with its connotations of simplicity directness and being straightforward was exactly how the applications process works at NEPA. "It

was an obvious choice for our radio drama series," she added.

Ms Blair said that: "this is the spirit with which we conduct our transactions with the diverse range of clients with whom we interact." She is supported in this view by Michelle Grant, Customer Service Officer and Stacy Swaby, Assistant Customer Service Officer, both of whom ardently

campaigns. It is also a reference to the applicability and practicality of the messages to be disseminated throughout the life of the programme." Dr. Turner explained that the radio drama series, which is the story of an urban working-class family, with connections in rural Jamaica, chronicles their efforts to negotiate environment and planning issues in Jamaica and is scheduled to come on stream in April.

"Down to Earth" will, occasionally, make references to its sister programme "**Treat Wi Rock Right**", which preceded it. According to Dr. Turner, "this is being done to ensure continuity." A training workshop to be conducted by a professional actor will be implemented to train the actors, who will be drawn from the Agency. The plots will be episodic which will ensure that specific programmes, though part of a series, can be repeated, occasionally.

"We intend to build on the strengths of the **Treat Wi Rock Right** brand. We had no doubts

that an appropriate name change which would effectively capture this vision. **Down to Earth**, does this seamlessly," she said

Down to Earth will run, initially, for three months at the end of which an evaluation will be undertaken before the next season premieres. Dr. Turner noted however, that "delays between each period would be kept to a minimum."

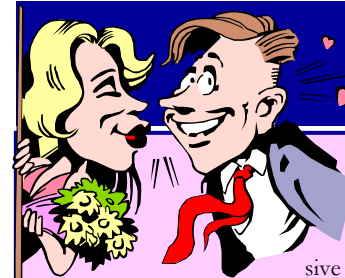


Winning Team: Top row From left: Roland Thompson, Stacy Swaby, Michelle Grant, Denise Tulloch, Frances Blair & Dellmonthy Clarke (Inset) Kevin Reid Seated: Crystal Gregory, Marjorie Brown and Sophia Gayle.

maintain that working in the Applications Branch is a rewarding though challenging experience. According to them, "a simple, '*down to earth*' way, as we say in Jamaica, is always the most effective!"

According to Dr. Grace Turner, Manager of the Public Education and Corporate Communications (PECC) Branch, senior judge and **NEPSETTER's** Editor-in-Chief, "the choice of **Down to Earth** was easy. It is a creative play on the pro-environmental and planning messages of our

Remembering Valentine's Day cont'd



Some Dating Advice

Here are some inexpensive dating ideas for you and that special someone either for Valentine's Day, or any other day used to commemorate your love for one another.

For many, dating and saving don't equate. There's an automatic reaction that the person paying is trying to be "cheap". Contrary to popular belief, however, dating doesn't have to be expensive to be fun, entertaining and memorable. A little imagination and breaking from the typical date routine – dinner and a movie – can be a recipe for an interesting change.

Here are 10 inexpensive ideas: 7 for everyone plus 3 for the adventurous.

1. Natural Scenery: The beauty of nature is all around us and it doesn't cost a dime. Whether it's a trip to the beach, a walk in the forest or a search into a cave, it can be done together for practically nothing. Take the time to find the natural scenic spots in your area and utilize them for your dates.
2. Sports: If you and your date are both athletic, sport activities together can be a great way to spend your time. Play a set of tennis, go jogging, play catch with a football or shoot some baskets. Whichever you choose, you can spend quality time at minimal cost and get some exercise in, too.
3. Picnics: Are great for dates because they can be taken along wherever you plan to go

for the day. They cost a fraction of going out for a meal and can also be made as casual or as romantic as you want. Take a casual picnic meal, add some cheese and wine along with a red rose and the picnic instantly takes on a romantic feel.

4. Historic places and buildings: It seems the only time people go looking at the historic landmarks near where they live is when visitors come from out of town. Many of these historic or culturally significant spots have no or small entrances fees and are great places to go on a date. You also get to learn more about the area in which you live.
5. Meal/evening at home: Cook up a meal at home and spend the evening watching movies or playing a board game. The meal most likely will be better than at a restaurant and the evening will cost a fraction of going out to dinner and a movie. Better still, cook the meal together or do it yourself as a special surprise.
6. Memory Album: Take your camera or purchase an inexpensive disposable camera and make a day of taking photos together. Make a theme for the day if you want or just take any crazy photo that comes to mind. Once finished, get the photos one-hour processed and create a memory album together for the day that will live on forever.
7. Learn a New Skill: Gather some information on a skill you always

wanted to learn and spend a day practicing it together. It could be a day of learning card tricks, learning how to juggle or learning to make bird calls. Any skill you have always wanted to try can make a fun and interesting date.

For those who are looking for an inexpensive date with some adventure involved, here are three more options that are sure to make the evening memorable:

1. Scavenger Hunt Date: When your date arrives, have him or her make a list of what he or she considers to be 20 unusual items. Once the list is made, the date will be to try and find as many of those items as possible.
2. Truth or Dare Date: Pick some spots in your area to visit, but play truth or dare along the way. It doesn't really matter where you go since the entertainment is doing the various dares that the other gives in addition to telling all the truths.
3. Bag of Dates: Put each of the dates just mentioned, plus any others that you come up with, onto a separate sheet of paper and place them in a bag. When your date comes to the door, have him or her reach inside and choose a piece of paper. Whichever one is chosen is your date for the day/evening (Taken from www.SavingAdvice.com)



From the Doc Centre

The following documents have recently been added to the collection of the Documentation Centre. Some of these EIA's are also on our (NEPA's) website. These documents maybe consulted in the Centre.

Environmental Impact Assessments

- Bahia Hotel Development, St Ann, Jamaica (Terms of Reference) - Nov 2004
- Oyster Bay Resort Development, Fal-mouth, Trelawny, Jamaica – Jan 2005
- Proposed Luxury Villas at White Bay, Trelawny – Jan 2005 (Final Draft)
- Proposed Residential Development at Richmond Hill, St Ann – Sept 2004 (Final

Report)

- Rose Hall Beach Club Shoreline Enhancement Stage I Report – September 2004
- Siting Study for Waste Reception Facilities for the Port of Kingston (Final Report) - Nov 24, 2004
- Soapberry Wastewater Treatment Plant, St Catherine, Jamaica – Dec 2004

Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (Series)

This series is published by the World Health Organization(WHO) and provides useful information on the chemicals including their

effects on the environment and on organisms.

- Asphalt (Bitumen)
- Chlorobenzenes other than Hexachlorobenzene: environmental aspects
- Chloroform
- Glyoxal
- Hydrogen Cyanide and Cyanides: human health aspects
- Manganese and its Compounds: environmental aspects

Remembering Valentine's Day

Though February 14, otherwise known as Valentine's Day, is gone **NEPSETTER** was nonetheless interested in some of the ways this popular anniversary was celebrated, both here and abroad. Our **Valentine's Day Section** features a collage of stories, poetry, anecdotes, remembrances and other tidbits and activities surrounding Valentine's Day. Andrea Jones, Environmental Officer, Regulations, Standards & Guidelines Branch heads our list of **Contributing Writers** in this edition. Do, read and enjoy!

Folk Legend
In Jamaica, it is said that if you throw the "Love Bush", "Dodder", or "Love Vine", onto the fences or houses of those we either love, desire, or are just plainly lust after and it catches then our feelings will be reciprocated and grow. If not, well...the reverse will happen - our love will die!



Love Shots

Han' kyaat bowy- Mr. Perfect

Shi get hol heep ah love an joy from di han' kyaat bowy, di same lickle bobbo youte whe name Fitzroy, dung a ma akit mi juggle peppa an papchay, shi neva kno shi udda di wid I.

Ready and Waiting - Cynthia Schloss

Love me forever, that we may never part
Your love forever
we make one less broken heart we'll be together
Like a star in the night

Jah Cure

Only you
Only you can make me feel, just like a king
Love you give to me so real
Makes me give in

Tanya Stephens

It's a pity you already have a wife
And mi done have a man inna mi life
Rudeboy it is a pity

Third World

Cause I'm committed, to keeping this love alive,
I'm committed to staying in love with you

She Loves Me Now - Berres Hammond

She Loves Me Now and that just means
I can't complain
She Loves Me Now and I must admit
I feel the same

When a man loves a woman - Percy Sledge

When a man loves a woman
Can't keep his mind on nothing else
He'll trade the world
For the good thing he's found
If she's bad he can't see it
She can do no wrong
Turn his back on his best friend
If he put her down

Famous English poet, Elizabeth Barrette Browning's poem "How Do I Love Thee?" is a very popular choice of poetry for lovers either on or before Valentine's Day, because of its fluency in expressing love as desire, destiny and joy. Here it is for your reading pleasure:

How Do I Love Thee?

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints,-I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life !--and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

While we are on the subject of love, here is an affirmation from National Hero, the Rt. Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey. He reminds us that above all else the greatest love of all is love of self.

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return.
Let no voice but your own speak to you from the depths.
Let no influence but your own rouse you in time of peace and time of war.
Hear all, but attend only to that which concerns you.
Your allegiance shall be to Your God then to family, race and country."
- Marcus M. Garvey



The 'Language of Flowers'...
...the Signs and Symbols of Love!
-Andrea Jones, NEPSETTER Contributor
Flowers are often given as gifts on Valentines Day or used as pictures and logos on cards. Some of you may not be aware of the various meanings behind some of these. However, below is a listing of flowers of various origins and species; accompanying insights and their symbolism. Not all flowers indicate the blossoming of love but some, unfortunately, also symbolize the end of the affair or romance. Sorry to burst your bubble!

Almond Blossom	Hope, sweetness, delicacy.
Anemone	Withered hopes, a dying love.
Forget-me-not	True love
Lily	Purity (white), gaiety or falsehood (yellow).
Periwinkle	Early friendship (blue), happy memories (white).
Poppy	Fantastic extravagance (scarlet), consolation (red). If the love is faithful placing a petal in the palm of the hand and hitting it with a fist should produce a popping
Rose	Love, pure and lovely (red rose buds), jealousy (yellow). This flower is dedicated to love.
Snowdrop	Hope, consolation. Thought, according to myth, to have been a snowflake which was transformed to comfort Adam and Eve after they had been expelled from the Garden of Eden.
Sunflower	The sun, haughtiness.
Tulip	The declaration of powerful love (red), hopeless love (yellow), the heart burning symbolically like a flame.

HR Update



From resignations, study/ conference-leave, permanent appointments and, unfortunately, obituaries, time certainly marches on in NEPA.

Since the start of the New Year, we have experienced a number of changes of various kinds and complement. There are new faces, a familiar one left us and others have become more permanent members the Agency.

Below is a listing of some of these developments:

Resignation

Tanya Hay, Former Manager of the newly created Map Registry and Data Management Branch

Conference/Study

Janet Hyde- Manager, Planning Branch
Participation in a US State Department International Visitor (IV) Program re Urban Environmental Issues, from February 3 - 24 (Washington D.C.)

Marsha Mason - Environmental Officer, Protected Areas Branch

Training on Sustainable Development & Environment from January 24 - February 4 (Singapore)

Laleta Davis-Mattis-Director Legal, Standards & Enforcement Division
Conference on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefits Sharing, from February 14 - 18 (Thailand)

Dillard Knight-Manager Pollution Prevention & Assessment Branch
Training on Ambient Air Quality Programme, from February 3-4 (Canada)

Awards (Degrees, Diplomas, Short-term Assignments)

Grace Turner - Manager, Public Education & Corporate Communication Branch

We are pleased to announce that our very own Editor-in-Chief and Manager of the Public Education and Corporate Communications (PECC) Branch was recently awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Communications Studies, from the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communications (CARIMAC), at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus with high commendation. Congratulations Dr. Turner!

Onyje Chigozili - Community Animator, Public Education & Corporate Communication Branch

Invited, recently, to assist the Hills United Development Organisation (HUDO), in St. Ann. She has been conducting skills-based and capacity development training with the group.

New Employees

Kadian Senior - Accounting Clerk, Finance and Accounting Branch

Everol Anderson - Temporarily Contracted Web Master, Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch

Lancelot McCalla - Temporarily assigned to the Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch

Permanent Appointments

Cecil Freeman - Caretaker, Facilities & Operations Management Branch

Kapleton Hall - Conservation Technician, Protected Areas Branch

Deaths

Unfortunately, for some of our colleagues, there have been personal and other tragedies which, even though we are not directly connected to these important persons whose losses have impacted their lives, we are nonetheless concerned for their welfare. The **Editorial Committee's** very own Phillippa Mills, Graphics Artist, heads the list. We are indeed saddened by their grief and can only continue to wish them well and all the very best in the period ensuing. It is with deepest regrets that we publish the following names:

Phillippa Mills-Graphic Artist, Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch - Grandmother, Mrs. Mathilda Campbell

Samantha Ducasse- Enforcement Branch - Fiancé, Michael Williams

Michael Johnson, Enforcement Branch - Sister, Mrs. Beatrice Nelson

Richard Nelson, Biodiversity Branch - Mother, Mrs. Beatrice Nelson

National Youth Service (NYS)

National Youth Service (NYS) volunteers were assigned to the Agency in January. Their tenure will end in June. The volunteers, who may be seen attending to various responsibilities, daily, are in the process of acquiring necessary professional skills and experiences.

We are all urged to make their stay as comfortable, useful and productive as possible as they seek to develop the track record required for more permanent employment, in the future.

Mauritius, Mauritius cont'd. from page 1

Since then, there have been a number of conferences to examine the progress being made with two notable accomplishments:

1. The Five-year review of the BPOA in 1999, resulting in the adoption of a Declaration and the endorsement of a Programme of Action. The review highlighted the challenges confronting SIDS, mainly, resource mobilization that affected implementation at the national and regional levels.

2. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the Johannesburg Plan of Action (JPoA), where commitment was made on issues to include: poverty eradication, protecting and managing the natural

resource base for economic and social development, trade issues, health and sustainable development, and in general, regional issues of importance to Africa and SIDS.

After intense negotiations, all major groups including the Group of 77 (developing countries), China, the European Union (EU) and the United States adopted a strategy for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of SIDS. The international community was called on to support SIDS efforts towards sustainable development. There was also a call for the support of the particular issues of climate change and sea level rise, as well as natural and environmental disasters. Two key docu-

ments were adopted and ratified - the Mauritius Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States - with a focus on an action-oriented and nationally driven implementation approach.

Follow up for Jamaica will include the promotion of integrated planning as a solution towards sustainable development with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MOFP) as major players in the process.

World Wetlands Day 2005



World Wetlands Day (WWD) was celebrated on Wednesday Feb 2, under the theme: “**There is wealth in wetlands diversity – don’t lose it!**”. Celebrations began on January 30 with church services held at branches of the Faith Tabernacle Church, located in Kingston and Mandeville, our Minister’s WWD message was read. World Wetlands Day is celebrated across the world each year to highlight the importance of wetlands and to focus attention on the crucial links between biological diversity and wetland communities. The celebration of February 2 as World Wetlands Day marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and each year government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and groups of citizens from around the world continue to mark the day by engaging in actions that aimed at raising public awareness the values and benefits of wetlands and about the Ramsar Convention. Other activities included weeklong exhibitions in Kingston at the UWI Main Library, the Bethlehem Teachers’ College in St. Elizabeth and at the Montego Bay Marine Park, the Monymusk Gun Club in Clarendon, the Negril Royal Palms Reserve and at the UWI Marine Lab in Port Royal. Over 120 school children and their teachers participated in a tour of the Palisadoes and Port Royal mangrove area courtesy of NEPA, the UWI Marine Lab and the JDF Coast Guard. Members of staff from NEPA also joined representatives from other agencies on a tour of the Portland Bight wetlands, in Clarendon. The tour was organised by Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAMF). This year’s celebrations were particularly important as the Ramsar Convention is scheduled to host the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in November. This year also marks the start of the International Decade of Water, to be launched on World Water Day on March 22, 2005.

Here are scenes of some activities which are important to our work. The pictures range from the **NEPA Quarterly Birthday Celebration** held in January, in the Red Room to the annual **Hague Agricultural Show**, in Trelawny and the **Bob Marley 60th Anniversary Celebrations Exhibitions**, in Kinston.

Bob Marley Exhibition



Quarterly Birthday Bash, NEPA



Hague Agricultural Show



Help Save Energy, Protect the Environment

On February 16, 2005, the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change also known as the Kyoto Protocol came into force, setting targets for countries to cut their emissions and reduce global warming. While the pact was made some ten years ago, powerful countries like the United States have pulled out of the agreement. In 2001, President Bush declared that the U.S. would not ratify the treaty because it would damage the U.S. economy and major developing nations like China and India were not covered by its provisions.

Reducing greenhouse gases means using more fuel-efficient cars, fewer coal-fired power plants, and an overall reduction in the use of fossil fuels like petroleum. Jamaica signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1999 and in doing so, agreed to limit emissions into the atmosphere. This means we must all become more energy efficient.

While we are not large producers of carbon dioxide (the gas scientists blame most for global warming) protecting the environment is a premium. All can make a difference by becoming aware of or paying closer attention to ways to save energy. Here are a few tips you may add to your resolutions for 2005.

Save Energy

Saving energy reduces air pollution and cuts down on the use of fossil fuels. Here are some ways you can save money and protect the environment by reducing your consumption of electricity and all forms of fuel.

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones.
- Buy energy-saving appliances.
- Use a fan instead of an AC.
- Dry clothes on a clothesline.
- Check door seals on your freezers and refrigerators - these should be able to grip a piece of paper tightly.
- Keep your fridge away from the stove and other heat sources.
- Defrost your refrigerator or freezer regularly.
- Save energy by stuffing an empty freezer with old newspaper.
- When your television sets and other appliances are on stand-by, energy is still being used. Turn them off at the mains. (Unplug when not in use)
- Turn your computer completely off when not in use.
- Turn off monitor if you will be gone for

15 minutes or more.

- Check with your utility company for energy conservation tips.

If you drive:

- Use 87 Octane instead of 90 if your car is able to use the lower grade fuel.
- Ensure your tires are properly inflated.
- Keep your cars properly tuned.
- Try car-pooling and reduce driving time.
- Use public transportation where possible.

When Cooking:

- Heat only the amount of water you need.
- Use boiled water immediately and avoid re-boiling.
- Ensure your pots and pans have well-fitted lids.

The size of your pot should match the flame.

Waste Not, Want Not!

Reducing waste also cuts down on the use of energy since most of the products we buy utilise energy in the manufacturing process. Remember Jamaica imports oil to generate its electricity. Reducing your energy use also reduces Jamaica’s energy bill.

- Stay away from disposable products. Switching to reusable food and beverage containers, cups, plates, pens, razors, diapers, towels, shopping bags can save you lots of money.
- Whenever you shop, choose products with recyclable or biodegradable packaging.
- Try a reusable canvas bag for shopping
- Use paper bags or reuse your plastic shopping bags.
- Print and photocopy on both sides of the paper.
- Create and use note pads from paper that has been used on one side.
- Use a reusable message board to leave messages for family members and or roommates

Save Water

Conserve energy by reducing the amounts of electricity the National Water Commission (NWC) uses to pump water to your home.

- Check for and fix dripping taps.
- Install low flow showerheads.
- Each time you turn on the tap, use the lowest pressure necessary and remember, turn of the water until you need it.

- If possible, switch to low-flow toilets. If you can’t then flush only when necessary. You may also put a brick in your toilet tank. This helps to limit the volume of water used per flush.
- Always run a full load of laundry. If you must wash small loads, reduce your water level and use a short wash cycle.
- Using native plants will reduce the need to water your garden. Native plants are also more tolerant to strong sunlight and droughts.
- Try using the rinse water from washing clothes to water plants and flush toilets.

Reduce Air Pollution

- Dust and other airborne particles can make us sick. Air pollution is a problem both indoors and outdoors. Here are a few tips to ensure you and your family have cleaner air to breathe:
- Don’t burn your waste.
- Try composting or bag it and wait for the garbage collectors.
- Use a rake or broom instead of leaf blowers.
- Drive slowly on unpaved roads.
- Don’t smoke and if you do, try to give it up. If you think you must, smoke outside and take other smokers with you.
- Minimise the effect of cleaners, paints and other chemicals by using them only in properly ventilated areas.
- Use baking soda instead of harsh chemical cleaners.
- Dust and clean surfaces regularly and when dusting, don’t forget to clean your-books.
- Don’t forget to take your new practices with you to work.

