



Fact Sheet #3

Managing Protected Areas in Jamaica

JANUARY 2013

JAMAICA'S PROTECTED AREAS... towards safeguarding Jamaica's globally significant biodiversity

Jamaica's policy framework for the national system of protected areas defines a protected area as *“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.”*

Jamaica has 249 protected areas. Protected areas in Jamaica are managed by the Fisheries Division, Forestry Department, Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority/National Environment and Planning Agency or through legal co-management agreements by other government entities or non-governmental organizations

Well-managed protected areas yield significant benefits far beyond their boundaries, and this can contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development including achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Protected areas in Jamaica continue to be impacted by various human-induced pressures. Many protected areas are

surrounded or bordered by either housing, mining or agricultural activities which oftentimes put pressure on them as a result of activities such as squatting, deforestation, and pollution from agricultural run-off, mining activities, and improper waste disposal.

The principal national laws which primarily govern protected areas include the following:

- The Wild Life Protection Act (1945) and its regulations which protect designated species of animals
- The NRCA Act (1991), and associated regulations for marine parks and national parks
- The Forestry Act (1996), which makes provisions for the declaration of forest reserves
- Act

Under the Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System project, the Government of Jamaica aims to consolidate the operational and financial sustainability of Jamaica's national system of protected areas.

This 6-year project supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) in collaboration with the Forestry Department, Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the Fisheries Division.

- The Fishing Industry Act (1976)
- Jamaica National Heritage Trust



Some Approaches used to Manage Protected Areas in Jamaica

Co-Management Agreements – These agreements provide for cooperation between parties in the management of protected areas, primarily through public education, law enforcement and research. Presently, NEPA, the Forestry Department, Fisheries Division and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority have co-management agreements in place with a range of entities. Examples of co-management agreements include:

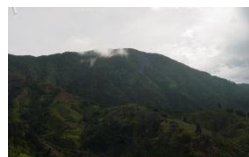
- Montego Bay Marine Park which is managed by the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust
- Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park which is managed by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust
- Negril Marine Park which is managed by the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society and the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust
- Galleon Special Fishery Conservation Area in St. Elizabeth managed by the Breds Foundation
- Salt Harbour Special Fishery Conservation Area in Salt River Clarendon managed by C-CAM Foundation

Zoning of Protected Areas - Zoning is a management tool which provides a framework for the rationalization and regulation of the use of the resources of a protected area. The main purpose of zoning is to promote the conservation of the resources in the area. Draft zoning plans have been prepared for three protected areas namely, the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area, the Negril Marine Park and the Montego Bay Marine Park.



Community-Based Resource Management - Four Local Forest Management Plans have been drafted using data from the forestry inventory. The Forestry Department facilitates improved forest governance structures through the seven Local Forest Management Committees in several watersheds, using participatory approaches and the involvement of stakeholders.

Debt-for-Nature Swaps - The Jamaica Protected Areas Trust Limited (JPAT), a public-private initiative established in 2004, is the administrator of the Forest Conservation Fund. The Trust supports the effective management of the country's protected areas by facilitating partnerships among NGOs, the Government of Jamaica, private sector entities, and other stakeholders and by monitoring the administration and distribution of conservation funds.



Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Area System Project



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