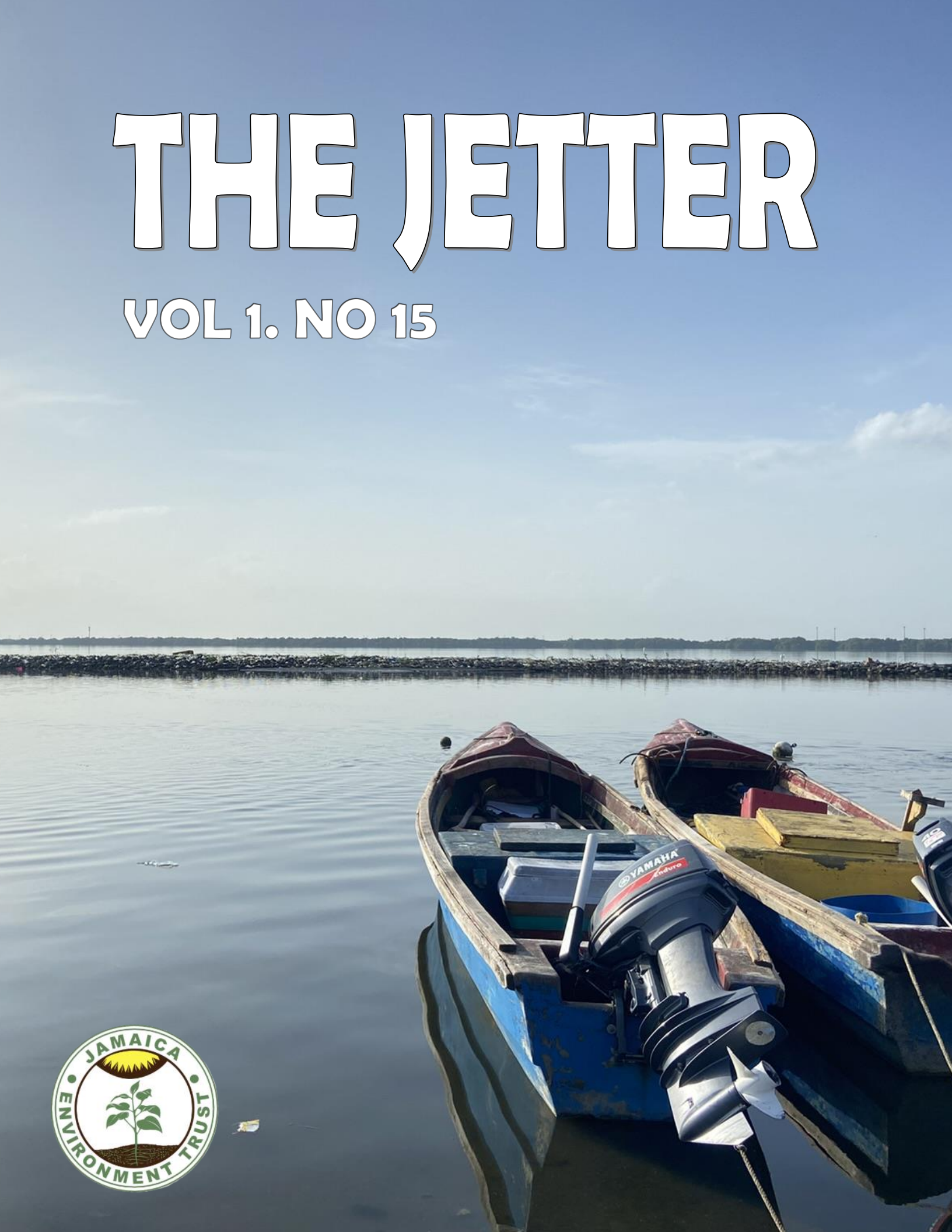


THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 15



EDITORIAL

"Captain Planet, he's our hero; Gonna take pollution down to zero; He's our powers magnified; And he's fighting on the planet's side." That is a verse from the theme song of the popular cartoon, Captain Planet, which I loved as a child. Captain Planet was sent to save Earth from peril and advocate for the environment. He worked with 'The Planeteers' who were tasked with helping to defend the planet from environmental degradation and disasters and educate humankind to prevent disasters. I am no Captain Planet, but we at JET are certainly 'fighting on the planet's side.'

As you can imagine, this fight comes with many challenges. There are those who don't always agree with the things we say. Generally, however, from the feedback, I know we are doing good work. This past year, we received both positive and negative feedback, but most were positive and encouraging. With a small team, JET's work is significant and, at times, overwhelming; but we remain committed to protecting Jamaica's natural resources.



Commendations such as: "JET, thank you for the work you do; we need more groups like you protecting our environment" motivate the JET team to keep trying, even when our efforts meet strong resistance.

We are grateful for our committed members with your advice and encouraging messages. We appreciate our benefactors; without your financial support, our work would be impossible. We laud our local and international partners (including the media) who help to keep us visible.

As we emerge from the grips of the pandemic and look back at the past two years, we are proud that despite going through major transitions, the JET team was able, by and large, to fulfil its six strategic objectives outlined in its two-year strategic plan. As we enter 2023, we must now carve out a new strategic plan and undertake an innovative communications plan.

We look forward to continued support from you all as we grow and expand our reach and impact in Jamaica, land we love. 'One one cocoa full basket!'

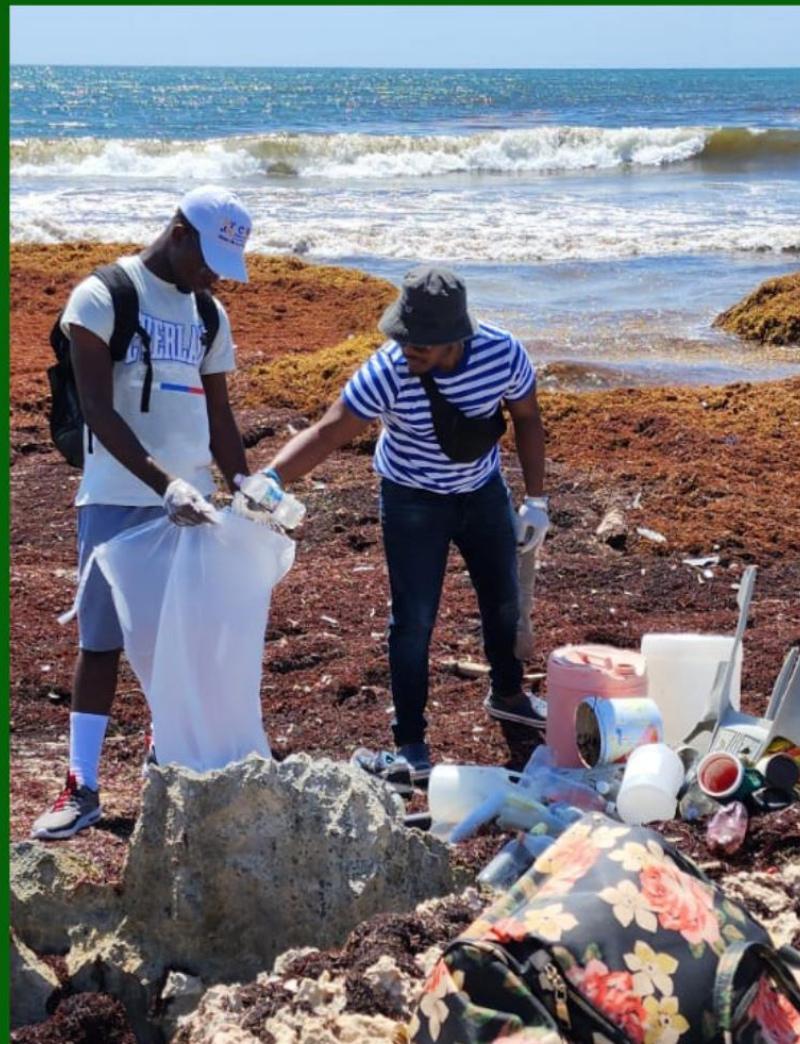
Theresa Rodriguez-Moodie, PhD.

Chief Executive Officer

January 2023

Formed in 1991, the Jamaica Environment Trust is a non-profit nongovernmental environmental organization in the island of Jamaica. We are a membership organization and anyone who supports protection of the environment can join. Our activities are focused on education and advocacy.

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INCREASED VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2022



On Saturday, September 17, 2022, JET attracted approximately 5,000 volunteers to International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day activities across the island - three times the number of volunteers who participated in 2021. Over 100 site coordinators, including schools, church and community groups, and private and public sector entities, hosted cleanup activities at on-land and underwater cleanup sites. The pandemic reduced the scale of ICC activities significantly in 2020 and 2021; however, the support shown in 2022 indicates sustained interest and increased public awareness.

2022 also marked JET's 15th year as national coordinator of ICC in Jamaica and our 27th year conducting cleanups along the Palisadoes Strip in Kingston. JET's flagship cleanup was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions on gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022 however, a total of 1,171 volunteers participated in JET's cleanup at the Palisadoes Go-Kart Track in Kingston, collecting a total of 479 bags weighing 6,390 pounds.

Single-use plastic packaging continues to dominate the garbage collected on ICC Day in Jamaica in 2022. Plastic beverage bottles remained the number one item collected. Since the implementation of the phased ban on certain single-use plastic packaging in 2019, JET has been using the data collected during ICC cleanup activities to give an indication of its impact.

ICC in Jamaica has been funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) since 2008. Ocean Conservancy, TeamSeas, Nestle Jamaica, International Ingredients, and VersaChem Limited also joined TEF as sponsors of ICC Jamaica activities in 2022. JET is grateful to our ICC Jamaica sponsors for their continued support.



MOST IMPACTFUL SOCIAL GOOD PROJECT FOR 2022

In November 2022, the Project Management Institute (PMI) Jamaica Chapter recognised the project International Coastal Cleanup Day 2021 as Most Impactful Social Good Project for 2022. Special recognition was given to project professional Lauren Creary for her outstanding contribution in the category of "Life Below Water" (SDG 14).

JET TACKLES GHOST GEAR IN THE KINGSTON HARBOUR

In November 2021, JET received funding from the Joanna Toole GloLitter Grant to deliver the project “Addressing the issue of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and plastics within the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area (P-PRPA) and Kingston Harbour Beaches.” The project took place over 11 months, with the primary objectives of removing ALDFG and plastics from rim beaches of Kingston Harbour and the P-PRPA, identifying the main types and sources of waste and ALDFG found in the target area, and determining possible solutions with fishers and other key stakeholders for reducing ALDFG in the Kingston Harbour area. Ghost gear can create navigation hazards, entangle and injure wildlife, damage habitats, interfere with other fishing activities, and act as a marine debris source.



Project activities included underwater and on-land beach cleanups, stakeholder consultations



and the creation of educational materials for fishers and use on social media.

In January 2022, JET began with a stakeholder consultation to gain an understanding of previous work undertaken and to determine target beaches and cleanup sites for the project.

During April and May, four underwater cleanups were conducted by our project partners Yardie Environmental Conservationists Limited, at Maiden Cay, Lime Cay, World War II Shipwreck, and Don Quarry. On land beach cleanups were conducted in May, June and July 2022 at two sites, New Causeway Fishing Beach and New Forum Fishing Beach in St. Catherine.

Cleanups were carried out with the assistance of JET volunteers and fishers. Through the combined efforts of 108 volunteers, a total of 32,779 items weighing 6,104 pounds were collected from the six cleanup sites.

In April and August 2022, stakeholder meetings focused on the leading causes of ALDFG within the P-PRPA, possible solutions to manage or limit this issue, and the possible solutions that can be put in place to limit plastic litter on fishing beaches. Stakeholders from National Environment and Planning Agency, National Fisheries Authority, Jamaica Fisherman's Cooperative Union, several fishing beaches and private sector companies within the industry were represented at these consultations.

One of the primary solutions to the ADLFG problem suggested by stakeholders was to

create and disseminate educational material in the form of [posters](#) and short animated videos to be shared with fishers and the general public. Fishers also requested a series of education and awareness sessions to discuss proper waste management and the impacts of the improper disposal of waste on public health and the environment.



THE JAMAICAN IGUANA A HIT WITH SEP STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



In June 2020, JET was approached by the International Iguana Foundation (IIF) to partner for the delivery of workshops on the Jamaican Iguana. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the provision of funding was put on hold; however, plans were confirmed in February 2022 to facilitate two workshops with students and teachers from the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) in May and June 2022. These sessions focused on the importance of the endemic and endangered Jamaican Iguana and why we should protect it. Students were also

brought face-to-face with the reptile at the Iguana Sanctuary located at the Hope Zoo in Kingston.

The SEP student summer workshops on the Jamaican Iguana were held under the theme 'The Jamaican Iguana – More than just two likkle lizard.' Sixty-seven people participated in the first workshop and 75 people were present for the second session. A total of 109 students from Liberty Learning Centre in St. Mary, Sanguinetti in Clarendon, Mar-Jam Prep School in St. Ann, Gregory Park Primary in St. Catherine, Boys Town All Age and St. Michaels Primary in Kingston

benefitted from the workshops. JET volunteers also provided the team with much-needed support to ensure the days ran smoothly.



Joseph Brown, General Curator at the Hope Zoo Preservation Foundation, assisted JET in the delivery of the workshops. Mr. Brown is a Conservation Biologist with over 15 years of experience working with various animals, including iguanas. In May, Mr. Brown's presentation included a brief history of the Jamaican Iguana, the importance of the iguana to Jamaica and the threats to the iguana. He also spoke about conservation efforts to save the Jamaican Iguana. Ms. Shanique Lewis, Animal Care Supervisor at the Hope Zoo Preservation Foundation, gave a similar presentation at the workshop in June.



DID YOU KNOW?



Photo Credit: Zero Extinction Alliance

COMMON NAME: Jamaican iguana

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cyclura collei*

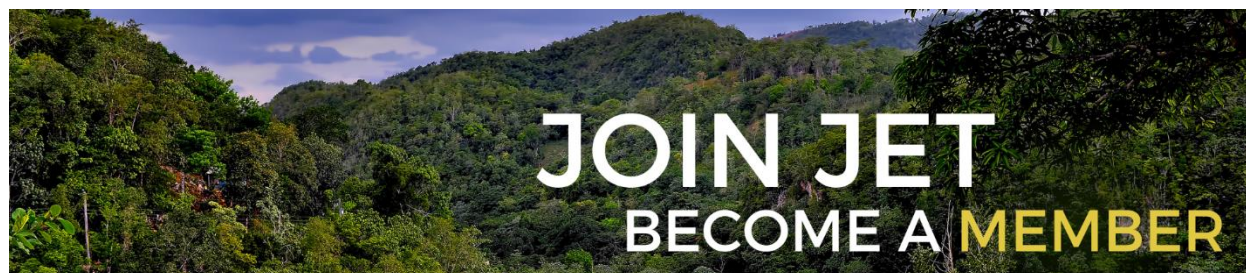
TYPE: Reptiles

HABITAT: Hellshire Hills

DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: One to two feet

- Largest living land animal in Jamaica
- Critically Endangered, less than 500 animals left in the wild
- At one point we thought they had gone extinct
- Endemic to Jamaica (only found in Jamaica)



2022 LAW AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

JET's Law and Advocacy Programme utilizes the law and the media to advocate for good management of Jamaica's natural resources. The programme also seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities to protect their own rights in relation to how their environment is managed.

2022 was a busy year as JET tried to support several communities who reached out for help. We reviewed and provided comments on one Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and several draft documents prepared by various government agencies. We also engaged multiple government entities on a range of matters arising largely from community complaints. Importantly, we used the opportunity to educate the public on the significance of a healthy environment.

We received twelve environmental complaints. The complainants, on many occasions, had previously reached out to the relevant authorities but received no meaningful response. Our involvement included site visits, extensive document research, letter and article writing, community meetings, social media messaging and multiple media interviews. At times, our intervention led to a quick, positive response from the authorities. At other times,

our advocacy extended over many months, with slow response and action from the authorities.

Highlighted below are the results of three of JET's advocacy interventions in 2022:

- After several years of advocacy by JET and others, the Cockpit Country Protected Area was finally legally protected and gazetted. Additionally, the environmental permit granted to Discovery Bauxite (formerly Noranda Bauxite Partners II) was for only ~1,330 hectares instead of the originally requested ~6,000 hectares.
- JET's efforts to protect the coastal sand dunes that were being illegally removed in St. Elizabeth following a complaint from the community led to the prosecution of the perpetrator under the NRCA Act.
- Following a massive fish kill in the Rio Cobre, St. Catherine caused by an effluent discharge from Windalco's holding pond, JET joined with other civil society groups to educate the community about their legal rights and is now assisting in the filing of a constitutional case.

We would not be able to do this work without funding from Jamaica Conservation Partners and technical support from Environmental Law Worldwide Alliance (ELAW). We are grateful for these partnerships.



JAMAICA
CONSERVATION
PARTNERS

A PROJECT OF THE
C.B. FACET FOUNDATION



2022 saw the continuation of JET's delivery of the project, *Finishing the Race: Securing the Protection of Jamaica's Cockpit Country*, with continued funding from an anonymous donor via the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). This year's activities under the project continued to meet the general objective of seeking to guarantee Cockpit Country's protection by closing it to mining under Jamaican law. Progress towards this goal was made through continued stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and public education campaigning.

Early in January 2022, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) announced it had approved an environmental permit for Special Mining Lease (SML) 173. The area permitted was smaller than what was applied by Discovery Bauxite (formerly Noranda Bauxite Partners II). The permit was later issued in February 2022 and in March the Cockpit Country Protected Area became legally protected.

To support increased awareness of what the granting of the environmental permit meant for the communities slated for mining, JET produced and distributed a brochure simplifying the permit conditions for SML 173.

In an effort to continue the dissemination of JET's multidisciplinary review of the bauxite industry in Jamaica, RED DIRT, six articles, written by the original authors were published by The Sunday Gleaner between March and April. These articles highlighted the main findings of the original review. The first article in the series was by JET's founder Diana McCaulay, entitled "On choosing not to know: the bauxite-alumina industry in Jamaica." A seventh article written by JET's CEO, Dr. Rodriguez- Moodie, was published in May, summarizing and contextualizing the previous articles. It was entitled, "The bauxite-alumina industry legacy & lessons to be learnt."



During years of advocacy to protect Cockpit Country from mining, JET noted the inadequacy of data about the impacts of the industry. To provide evidence of these impacts, in July JET began training community members of Gibraltar, St. Ann on how to collect air quality data with equipment provided by JET. This

study will feature the impacts of mining on the quality of air and in turn, the health of people living in and around Cockpit Country.

The first community to be mined under SML 173 is Industry Pen, St. Ann. The area comprises mostly fertile farmlands and provides livelihoods for farmers and their families. JET created a mini-documentary style PSA called "[Industry Pen, St. Ann – A sacrifice zone](#)" to capture this area before mining began, and what would be lost.



In October 2022, the short film highlighting the concern of farmers in the area was released on

JET's Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube pages.

On November 22 and 23, sensitization workshops for schools close to Cockpit Country were held. The workshops sought to highlight the ecological importance of Cockpit Country. Three schools with a total of fourteen students were in attendance on day one, while six schools with a total of twenty-nine students were present on day two. An educational [poster](#) was created and shared with the students.

Finally, in a continued effort to gather more information about the industry, JET commissioned a study focused on compensation within the bauxite industry in Jamaica. The study will include research on compensation mechanisms provided for by local law, in particular under the Mining Act of 1947 and will examine their adequacy in ensuring appropriate, timely and accessible compensation for vulnerable communities.



JET CONGRATULATES MUSGRAVE MEDALISTS



The Jamaica Environment Trust would like to congratulate our Founder, Diana McCaulay, and two of our longstanding partners Kevin Jackson and Dr. Susan Koenig, on their recognition during the 125th Musgrave Medal Award Ceremony held in November 2022.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA FOR 2023?

Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation Plan for Cockpit Country, Jamaica

This project is being funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) which is implemented regionally by CANARI.

Cockpit Country is an important area in Jamaica for several reasons. Climate change, however, is a threat to its biological diversity, ecosystem services and freshwater supply. No studies have yet been done to assess and understand the impact of climate change in this important area so that an adaptation plan can be prepared. The project has three components and will be implemented in the communities of Troy, Wilson's Run, New Hope, Warsop, Litchfield, Wait-a-bit and Wire fence:

1. Climate Change Assessment
2. Stakeholder Consultations- Consultations with community groups will be held during and after the climate change assessment is completed.
3. Adaptation Plan - This component includes the preparation of the adaptation plan which will be codeveloped and shared with the target communities.

The project will be for 13 months, from January 2023 to January 2024.



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND

Increasing Awareness of the Impacts of Improper Solid Waste Disposal on Public Health, Livelihoods, and the Marine Environment

In 2022, JET received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) to deliver the project. The project seeks to

improve citizens' knowledge about the impact of poorly handled waste on public health and the environment while encouraging personal responsibility for the generation and disposal of waste, with a specific focus on plastic waste. It will focus on several components of JET's previous Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica project, namely the Public Education campaign, the Cleanup Network and Model Communities. A new component focusing on advocacy surrounding updating the solid waste management policy has been added. This project began in late 2022 and will end in November 2023.



Improving attitudes and practices towards solid waste management through community activities and awareness-building sessions.

This project will also focus on one component of the broader Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica campaign –Model Communities. The communities of Brown's Town and Runaway Bay in St. Ann have been selected to be a part of the project. Both communities have strong Community Development Committees (CDCs) who will assist with the implementation of the project. They also have issues with solid waste management and have identified it as a priority issue for the community to address.

Through the project, the communities will receive assistance with starting and maintaining a community recycling programme, and training in proper solid waste management – the programme will also consider the specific needs of the community.



MEET THE JETTERS

Theresa

Rodriguez-

Moodie joined JET as Chief Executive Officer in July 2021. She is a Geographer with a BSc, and PhD from the University of the



West Indies. Her interest in the environment began as a child and her interests were further nurtured by her parents and geography teachers in high school. During her career over the last 12 years, she has worked as an Environmental Scientist and Climate Change Vulnerability Specialist, locally and regionally for private sector, government and multilateral agencies. She loves reading, travelling and being outdoors, especially with family.

What is your philosophy?

"What we do in life, echoes in eternity", a quote from The Gladiator. I wouldn't say it's a philosophy, but it is of significant meaning for me.

What do you enjoy most about working at JET?

JET is a small organization that does a lot of work, so I am always busy. But I enjoy the work; it has meaning. I like knowing that everything we do at JET positively impacts the environment or people's lives.

What is a fun/weird fact about yourself?

I have always loved acting and have dreamed of acting in a drama Hollywood film 😊

Lauren Creary

joined JET as Project Coordinator in September 2018 and was promoted to Programme Director in September 2020. She



currently holds an MSc. in Development Studies and a BSc. in Tourism Management from UWI, Mona. She began her career in the Hotel and Tourism Management industry in The Bahamas and with doing event management with various companies in Jamaica. Lauren is purpose-driven and passionate about making a change and giving back to her community. She has responsibility for overseeing all of JET's environmental education and advocacy programmes.

What is your philosophy?

"What is fi yu, cya un-fi yu!" Everything always works out.

What do you enjoy most about working at JET?

I enjoy the fact that I have gained experience in many different areas. One day I'm social media manager or PSA production coordinator, the next, I am an account or helping develop JET's new website. Since we are a small team, we are involved in all aspects of each project, providing valuable experience.

What is a fun/weird fact about yourself?

I am very interested in researching my family history.

CORPORATE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

JET is a membership organization and has a number of corporate and individual members. **CB Group Limited** is currently JET's largest corporate sponsor and has been supporting JET's work since **2015**.



**Dominique
Graham**

joined the team in September 2022 as JET's Project Coordinator. After completing



her Bachelor's in Marine Biology at the University of the West Indies Mona, she spent one year as a Research Assistant before starting at JET. She enjoys being in touch with her creative side whenever the opportunity arises, and she is convinced she's made up of 60% coffee.

What is your philosophy?

Good things come to those who wait. Everything in life happens for a reason.

What do you enjoy most about working at JET?

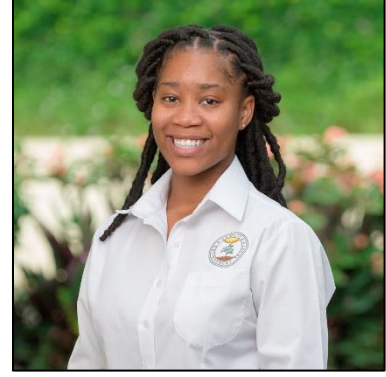
I enjoy the small size of the JET staff and am particularly impressed to see women exclusively running the organization.

What is a fun/weird fact about yourself?

Humility aside, I am an excellent badminton player.

Yonique

Taylor joined JET as Office Administrator in November 2021. She is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona,



where she pursued a BSc. in Economics and Banking and Finance. She is passionate about youth development and leadership, with several years of experience mentoring and working closely with the youths in her community.

What is your philosophy?

"Personal Development - the never-ending chance to improve not only yourself, but also to attract opportunities and affect others." Jim Rohn

What do you enjoy most about working at JET?

My job has allowed me to learn and be challenged in ways that promote personal and professional development.

What is a fun/weird fact about yourself?

I am an old soul; my best friend is my old grandma.

