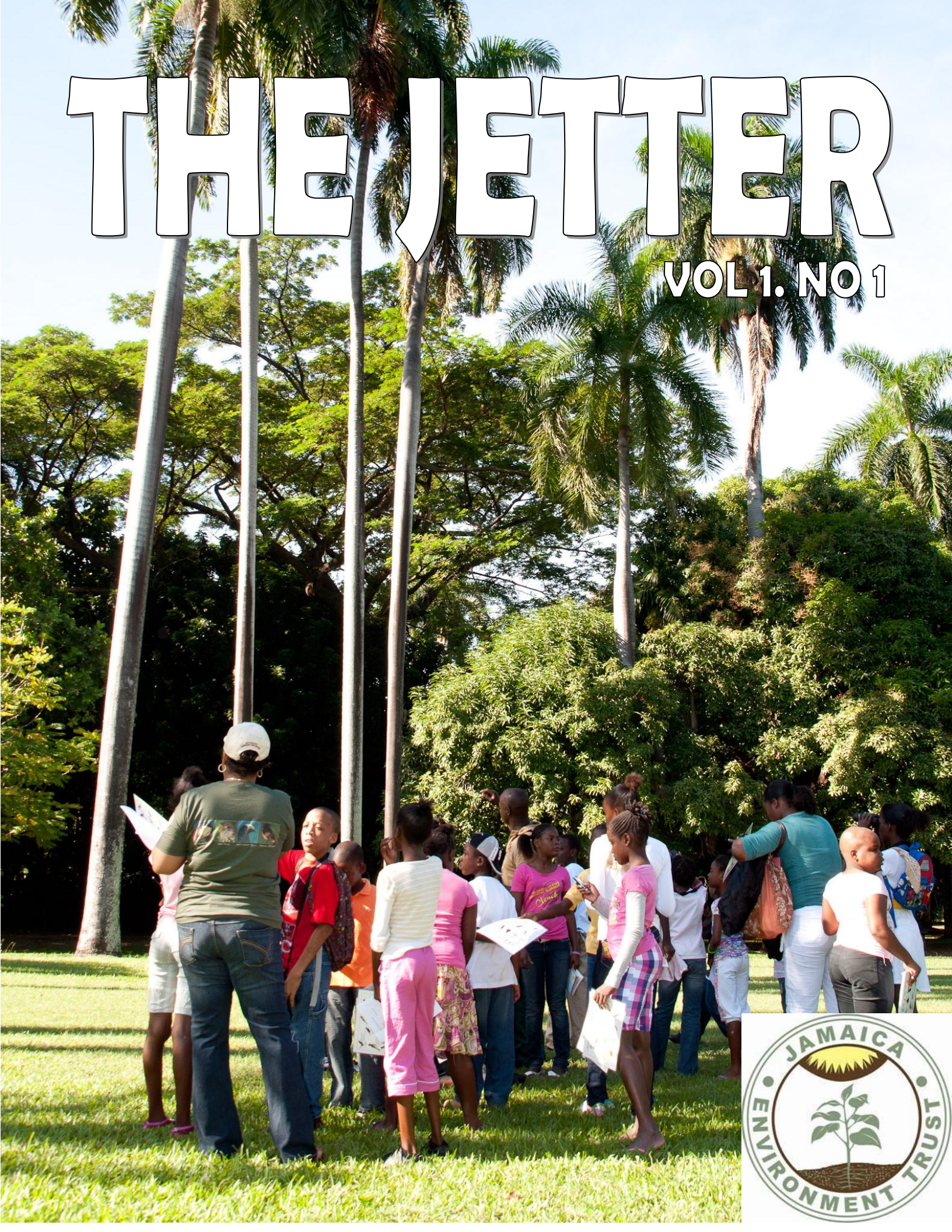


THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 1



Editorial



Pellew for now

If you have visited JET's website you will have seen the iconic image of a section of Jamaica's unspoiled coast in the banner at the top of the page. If you ask our CEO Diana McCauley she will tell you that the choice of Pellew Island was by no mere coincidence. Pellew Island represents one of few untouched vistas in Jamaica.

I started at JET in March 2010 at an uncertain time in the organisation's history. JET had begun 2010 facing the unfortunate reality that the thirteen year old flagship Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) had to be closed due to withdrawal of funding. The staff was already half the size it had been a year before, going from 8 fulltime JETters in January 2009 to only 4 in January 2010. As Carlette began her handover of the Programme Director baton to me, the case of Pellew Island became a beacon of hope for JET. After what had started out as a disappointing year, in March the Portland Parish Council had turned down the application for villas on Pellew Island due partly to the efforts of JET and others like us – strike one for the environmentalists!

The year continued, and was mixed with triumphs and disappointments. There was a big victory for JET in the Harbour View sewage treatment plant case which was settled out of court in favour of the residents of Harbour View (and the environment) (p. 2). However this was followed by the commencement of the destruction of sections the Palisadoes/Port Royal Protected Area (p. 5). In 2010 many old faces have been replaced by new ones at JET, as many of our SEP stalwarts left the organisation on the heels of its closure. But with the help of our corporate donors (special mention to Total) we were able to stay afloat. In August, the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica announced that they had funded all of our proposed projects from its March 2010 call, including a new SEP (p. 3). We have been able to end the second half of 2010 with a more optimistic outlook than we had at the onset.

When the application to develop Pellew Island was turned down in March 2010, the Jetters were in high spirits. Yet Diana warned us of the drawbacks of an environmental victory - "any win for the environment is a win just for now," she said was only a victory for a time and we must always be prepared to continue fighting for Jamaica's natural resources. This is our mission, with its triumphs and failures.

2010 was a challenging year for us all, as an organisation, as a country and as global citizens. Yet we can take pride in the victories, like Pellew, for now...

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Stanley".

*Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
January 2011*



JET would like to thank the following major donors for 2010, who made a challenging year a little less challenging...

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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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A win for JET

A win for Harbour View

Entrance to the Harbour View plant taken in October 2010 after the JET lawsuit

In January 2010, after many unsuccessful attempts over more than a decade to engage the relevant authorities, JET and several residents of Harbour View applied for judicial review of the failure of the National Water Commission to maintain the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant, and the failure of four other government agencies – the National Environment and Planning Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority, Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation and Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department- to take enforcement action against the NWC.

Following an out of court negotiation, the parties successfully agreed to a consent judgment on July 6th, 2010, which will require the NWC to construct an interim sewage treatment facility within six months, and completely rehabilitate the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant within 18 months. The judgment also requires the NWC to provide progress reports and guided tours of the construction site to the Claimants every 42 days. “There have been many promises made about the Harbour View Sewage Treatment plant over the more than 30 years during which it has not functioned,” said Diana McCaulay, JET’s CEO. “It is heartening to see the work actually begin.”

The Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant was built in the 1970s to collect and treat sewage from the Harbour View Community. The plant became defunct in the early 1980s largely due to neglect and lack of maintenance. Since then untreated sewage has continually flowed along the coastline in Harbour View and into the sea, leading to the loss of a public bathing beach and threatening public health and the marine environment.



Entrance to the Harbour View plant taken in March 2009 before the lawsuit

SEP RELAUNCHED WITH THE HELP OF THE EFJ



After months of uncertainty over the future of the Schools' Environment Programme, JET was pleased to learn in August this year that it had secured funding from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) to implement SEP in 30 Advanced Schools for two years. SEP was relaunched in September this year with a range of schools from across Jamaica. Primary, Prep and High schools are all represented in the SEP group this year, all of which were top performers in the past.

Visits for the Christmas term were conducted by the JET team in October and November to schools stretching from Port Morant Primary and Junior High in the East to Rhodes Hall High in the West. All parishes, save for St Elizabeth, are represented in SEP this year. Tamoy supervises schools in the eastern and central parishes, while Suzanne works with schools on the North Coast and in Western Jamaica.

The teacher training workshop for this academic year took place at the end of the Christmas term under the theme Jamaica's Coastal Environment. A workshop was held in Kingston on November 30th for those schools on the Eastern side of the island and in Montego Bay on December 1st for those in the West. Eastern schools enjoyed a tour of sections of the Kingston Harbour by boat and Western schools toured sections of the Montego Bay Marine Park. Teachers and JET staff braved rough seas for both tours. Suzanne reflected on the Kingston Harbour tour "We got stuck in the seagrass beds on Mammee Shoal, but it was worth it as we were there long enough to watch a huge sting ray swim around our boat, and also see our boat pilot restart the boat's engine with the help of one of the teacher's hair pins!" A total of 42 teachers from across Jamaica attended the workshops and feedback has been positive. Hanif Comrie a teacher at St James College exclaimed that the experience "left a craving" for workshops to be held more frequently.



Teachers at the Kingston teacher training workshop listen intently to a presentation by the Port Royal Marine Lab before heading out on their boat tour of the Kingston Harbour



Teachers at the Montego Bay workshop in discussion during an activity looking at conserving Jamaica's coastal environment

For the 2010/11 academic year, SEP is expected to reach approximately 23,000 students and 600 teachers across the island.



JET RISES TO THE CHALLENGE



JET partners with RISE Life Management to teach inner city kids about the environment

JET embarked on a new project in October, with funding from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, called Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk. We are working with RISE Life Management Services, an NGO operating in downtown Kingston to deliver an environmental component in their after school life skills programme the RISE Kidz Club.

(Left) Nadia and one of the RISE kids peer through binoculars at a flock of endemic yellow billed parrots on a field trip to Hope Gardens in November.

The goal of this new project is to educate children living in urban areas about environmental issues and take them on field trips to experience the natural environment. The programme involves JET working with participants in the RISE Life Management Service Kidz Club in three Downtown Kingston communities, namely Parade Gardens, Fletchers Land and Allman Town.

The project has been a great success so far. We will complete the first round of workshops and field trips for the first community, Parade Gardens, in January 2011. These initial workshops focused on Our Urban Environment, Wetlands, Birds and Forests, with each being followed by field trips to natural locations including Hollywell National Park and Hope Botanical Gardens. "The kids all love the field trips," says Danielle Kitson our new administrator who has been helping out with the project, "I still laugh when I remember one of them asking Suzanne if we were in Australia (when getting off the bus at Hollywell), or mis-hearing the JCDT park ranger, and asking if he was a power ranger."

The group will also visit the Port Royal Marine Lab in January 2011 to learn more about mangroves and

wetlands. The RISE Youth Development Officers are also being trained in environmental issues to promote sustainability of the programme. The entire project will continue until June of 2011 and be replicated in the two other communities.

Also look out for JET's Sea Turtle project to begin in January 2011. The JET team will work with communities in Portland and, St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland to educate them about sea turtle conservation and its benefits.



RISE Kidz Clubbers pose for a picture at Holywell on a field trip in October

THE CASE OF PALISADOES

JET considers legal action over road construction on protected area

JET is considering taking action to challenge the legality of the decision of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) to approve a highway development on the Palisadoes road without adequate public consultation. The Palisadoes Shoreline and Rehabilitation project involves widening the Palisadoes road from two lanes to accommodate four lanes, raising the road by 3.2 metres, the construction of a boardwalk along the Harbour side of Palisadoes, the removal of mangroves and sea grass to facilitate this, and the construction of a revetment (sea wall) along the shoreline of the Palisadoes strip.

NEPA gave approval for significant changes to be made to project without requiring an updated or new Environmental Impact Assessment. In addition, the public

meeting to discuss the modified design was held nearly a month after construction had begun.

The Palisadoes strip connects the mainland to the Norman Manley International Airport and the historic town of Port Royal. The tombolo is fringed with mangroves, sand dunes and rare, endemic terrestrial species and is also a sea turtle nesting beach. Palisadoes forms part of the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area, which was declared in 1998 under the Natural Resources Conservation (Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area) Order of 1998. In 2005, the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area was declared a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention).



(Left) Bulldozers removing vegetation from the Palisadoes strip during roadway construction September 2010, (Right) A section of the Palisadoes strip that was cleared by bulldozers in September 2010 to make way for the new highway

SAVE FONT HILL

JET and other members of the Jamaica Environmental Advocacy Network (JEAN) launched a campaign this year to protect Font Hill from unsustainable development. Font Hill is a 3000 acre property owned by the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica. There are approximately 740 acres of mangroves and the area is a wildlife sanctuary for over 148 types of birds, many of which are endemic, as well as the protected manatee, the American Crocodile and sea turtles.

In 2010, the government announced its intention to divest Font Hill to a private investor. JET is seeking to ensure that the area does not become the site for unsustainable development such as another large-scale hotel. In September 2010, JET arranged meetings with the Smithsonian Institute's Peter Marra and government ministers and officials to influence the decision making process for the impending divestment. In collaboration with Esther Figueroa of Vagabond Media, we have also made two short films on Font Hill – one which is already posted on YouTube and there is a longer film for decision makers.



Mr Clovis Metcalfe, Managing Director of FirstCaribbean International Bank presents Port Morant Primary and Junior High School with their award for Most Environmentally Aware School at Jamaica's Environmental Action Awards Ceremony on June 24th

JET ANNOUNCES JAMAICA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS

2010 marked the launch of a new programme for JET, the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs). The inaugural staging of the JEAAs was held on June 24th at the Knutsford Court Hotel. The awards ceremony kicked off with an exhibition of the work from selected nominees in the lobby of the Grand Caribbean Suite. Exhibitors included schools from both corporate and rural areas, community groups and NGOs showcasing their environmental projects. The awards were then announced in a formal ceremony, which included an address by guest speaker Peter Moses Country Officer of Citibank. Mr Moses commented on the state of the environment in his address: "I am sad and ashamed about the way we as Jamaicans have treated the environment, particularly solid waste". He called on the youth of Jamaica to step up to the challenge of being champions for Jamaica's environment.

This sentiment was reverberated in the song performed by nominees Port Morant Primary and Junior High "Jamaica's Beauty it's our duty, and we should keep it clean and not dirty".

The Jeffery Town Farmers Association (JTFA) from St Mary, and Port Morant Primary and Junior High from St Thomas were the big winners, walking away with three awards each. JTFA won in the categories of Sustainable Agriculture and Best Environmental Community, with one of their members, Orane Brown receiving the youth environmental leadership (community) award; while Port Morant won Total Jamaica's Trees for the Future award, FirstCaribbean's Most Environmentally Aware School award, and one of their students, Chavel Airey walked away with the Youth Environmental leadership (Under 16) award.

The JEAAs was thankfully made possible by donations from several corporate sponsors, with special thanks to Total Jamaica Ltd, our major sponsor for the project.



TOTAL



JEAA WINNERS 2010

- Trees for the Future (Sponsored by Total Jamaica): Port Morant Primary & Junior High
- Energy Conservation (Sponsored by Jamaica Energy Partners): National Family Planning Board
- Water Conservation (Sponsored by Nestle Jamaica): David Harrison
- Sustainable Agriculture (Sponsored by Jamaica Producers): Jeffery Town Farmers' Association
- Wildlife Conservation (Sponsored by NCB Foundation): Windsor Research Centre
- Waste Management (Sponsored by Wisynco): Protect the Environment Trust
- Champion Environment Teacher (2 awardees) (Sponsored by the US Embassy): Roslyn Bendor, May River Primary; Lorraine Brown-Knight, Mount St Joseph Prep
- Best Environmental Community (Sponsored by IGL): Jeffery Town Farmers' Association
- Youth Environmental Leadership (Community) (Sponsored by EFI): Orane Brown, Jeffery Town Farmers' Association
- Most Environmentally Aware School (Sponsored by FirstCaribbean): Port Morant Primary & Junior High

JET PARTNERS WITH TOTAL TO PLANT TREES IN SCHOOLS AGAIN

In an effort to educate the public on the importance of trees and encourage reforestation, the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) this year again joined forces with Total Jamaica Limited in March of this year to implement its 2010 "Tree for All" project.

The project followed on the successes of phase I of Tree for All which saw 1000 trees being planted in over 60 schools in May of 2009. Phase II of Tree for All began with the JET team conducting a field assessment of selected schools which had participated in Tree for All Phase I; this included collecting data on tree survival rates, while gauging successes and failures of the 2009 project. It was found that just over a third of the trees received by the schools had survived. The most popular reasons for trees not surviving were: destruction by groundsmen/caretakers/gardeners, inappropriate areas chosen for planting (playfield, not on school property), drought, lack of care and theft. Less than 10% of the schools were able to locate the scrapbooks which were to have been used to monitor the trees' survival and growth causing JET to reassess this method for monitoring.

Using the lessons learnt from this exercise, the second segment of Tree for All Phase II was undertaken in April 2010. Phase II involved the JET team distributing 800 tree seedlings to be planted in schools islandwide on Earth Day, April 22nd. The 32 schools were selected based on their

interest, the amount of available land space for tree planting, and their ability to maintain the trees once planted. Instead of schools being given a blank scrapbook it included a monitoring sheet, a sheet for recording planting activities and recommendations for tree planting and monitoring based on lessons learnt from Tree for All Phase I.

In a press release Mr. Gordon Craig, Managing Director of Total Jamaica Limited reflected on the project "The development and protection of our natural environment is paramount to the sustainability of our future. The involvement of our children in this project will help produce a generation that will appreciate and nurture Jamaica's environment now and in the future. Total Jamaica is proud to support this excellent initiative."

The Mustard Seed Communities and Jamaica Library service also received trees under this year's project.



Students from The Queen's High with their teacher Mr Hutchinson pose with some of their seedlings during the 2010 Tree for All project



JET organises workshops to educate local communities about environmental law

Winnifred Beach

The first workshop was held in the parish of Portland for the members of the Winnifred Beach Benevolent Society to educate them on the laws relating to beach management. The Winnifred Beach Benevolent Society is a community-based organisation that was formed to bring together vendors and others in the Fairy Hill community who are interested in conserving the beach for the continued benefit of the public. Winnifred Beach, located in Fairy Hill, Portland, is one of the few well-maintained and free public beaches in that parish.

The beach has traditionally been used as a recreational bathing beach for the residents of Portland and the general public for over 50 years. In 2007 the UDC announced plans to develop a resort complex at Fairy Hill and to develop the beach. Although the UDC has legal title to the beach, local vendors and members of the surrounding community have been solely maintaining the beach for over 20 years. In order to secure the right of public access to the beach, five members of the free Winnifred Beach Society filed a claim in the Resident Magistrate court seeking a declaration of the public prescriptive right to access the beach. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen their position as stakeholders and managers of the beach. 24 persons attended the workshop.

The Harbour View Case

The second workshop was held on November 23rd, 2010 for the general public and JET members on the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant court case. JET gave a presentation on the background and history of the plant as well as JET's involvement in the case. There was also a

panel discussion with specially invited guests: Clyde Williams- the Attorney who represented JET and the residents of Harbour View, Rohan Brown- Vice-President of the Harbour View Citizens Association, and Carol Lawton – resident of Harbour View and claimant.

2010 ELAW ANNUAL MEETING

JET's CEO, Diana McCaulay and JET's Legal Director, Danielle Andrade attended the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Environmental Lawyers Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) held in Costa Rica from November 27, 2010 to December 2, 2010. Danielle and Diana shared JET's work in access to information, access to justice, mining and environmental impact assessments.

Danielle Andrade, JET's Legal Director says came away from the meeting motivated with a renewed commitment to help her own fellow Jamaicans. Moved by the experiences and struggles of other environmental lawyers Danielle commended their efforts to ensure that all people in their countries could enjoy a clean and healthy environment.

Both Danielle and Diana brought back amazing stories of the Costa Rican natural environment - the cute monkeys that showed up at breakfast on the first day (which weren't so cute by day three), the Scarlet Macaws which flew overhead during their field trip into the rainforest, the poisonous frogs which they were told not to lick (although somehow they had not been tempted) and the giant cotton tree on the hotel's property which according to local folklore was a ladder to the Gods. "I was so impressed by the very knowledgeable tour guide," said Diana, "he even had equipment that allowed us to look at the animals in the forest from a great distance without disturbing them – which is often a concern of mine."



A group photograph of the participants at the 2010 ELAW Annual Meeting in Costa Rica

ELAW is a Network of public interest attorneys, scientists, and other advocates around the world funded by the MacArthur Foundation. In 2002, JET began working with ELAW to develop an environmental law programme for Jamaica.



BEACH CLEANUP 2010

September 25th, 2010 marked the 25th anniversary of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day, the 16th anniversary of JET's participation in the event, and the 3rd anniversary of JET being the national coordinator of the event in Jamaica. To mark ICC this year JET organised 43 coastal cleanups across the island, a slight increase over last year's 42.

2762 volunteers turned out to clean 43.97 miles of coastline in 12 parishes (no cleanups were held in St Mary or Manchester). Approximately 28,420 lbs of debris were removed during the course of the day. JET's cleanup was held this year at the Fort Rocky Beach on the Palisadoes Strip; we had to relocate from our usual cleanup site on the strip closer to Harbour View due to the roadworks on Palisadoes. 1103 persons were registered at JET's cleanup, and 3920 lbs of debris were removed from 1.5 miles of coastline at Fort Rocky.

The islandwide cleanup event was sponsored by the Tourism Enhancement Fund, with other major sponsors of JET's Fort Rocky Cleanup including Jamaica Energy Partners, Airports Authority, General Accident Insurance, NEM Insurance, RBTT Bank, LIME, Digicel, Jamaica Broilers, Catherine's Peak, Wisynco and Nestle.



Volunteers at jET's Beach Cleanup struggle with a tyre



A volunteer at Showjam's cleanup of One Man Beach in Montego Bay



Recording artist Tami Chynn (second from right) poses with an ICC volunteer (left) JET staff Tamoy Singh (second left) and Danielle Andrade (right) at the Fort Rocky Beach Cleanup

2762 VOLUNTEERS CLEANED 43.97 MILES OF COASTLINE IN 12 PARISHES



Tourism
Enhancement
Fund



This November, Suzanne Stanley, programme director and Tamoy Singh, project coordinator represented JET at the 3rd and final Action Research and Learning Group meeting, hosted by Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in Trinidad, November 15 - 19. The first and second meetings of the group were held in Jamaica and Hispaniola respectively. Environmental NGOs from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Haiti participated. The meeting focused on leadership training, environmental advocacy, the benefits and challenges of networking and communication. Groups shared their experiences, ideas and their plans for the future.

"It was good to see everyone together again," reflects Tamoy who attended the 2nd meeting of the group in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in 2009, "the recounts of the earthquake in January by our Haitian delegates was heart wrenching, but at the same time we were glad to know that everyone had pulled through in such a difficult time and able to attend." Overall the meeting was a productive one and JET thanks CANARI for their contribution to JET's capacity building.



BUILDING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH CANARI



JET staff Tamoy Singh and Suzanne Stanley (kneeling 4th and 2nd from left respectively) pose with participants in CANARI's Third Action Research Learning Group on the Marval turtle nesting beach, Trinidad in November



**EARTH DAY APRIL 22 &
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIODIVERSITY MAY 22**

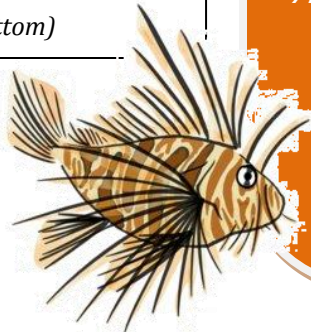
THE LIONFISH: DID YOU KNOW?



Lionfish with spines and scales (top), with scales and spines removed (middle) and fried (bottom)

At the end of November our new JET administrator Danielle Kitson attended a workshop at the UWI Discovery Bay Marine Lab (DBML) on the Invasive Alien Species – the Lionfish. The course was hosted by NEPA in association with UWI DBML. Here are some of the tidbits she picked up at the workshop:

1. The lionfish is an alien invasive species in the Atlantic USA, Bermuda, Bahamas and Caribbean - it is not endemic to the region, has no natural predators and occupies the habitats of other species.
2. The lionfish consumes important reef species in the Caribbean and is therefore a great threat to our marine ecosystem
3. The lionfish is native to the Indo-Pacific region (Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Fiji Japan, Korea etc)
4. There are 2 species of lionfish in Jamaican waters, the *Pterois miles* and *Pterois volitans*. These two are so similar that they are only distinguished by the shape of the face.
5. The lionfish is a member of the *Scorpaenidae* family, of which the scorpionfish, and stonefish are also members. It is also closely related to the common butterflyfish.
6. Lionfish are venomous, not poisonous. This means that the fish can be consumed safely, as venom only poses a threat if it enters the human bloodstream.
7. The venom glands are located at the base of the dorsal, posterior and pectoral spines, which act as hypodermic needles when pressure is applied to them. Reactions to the venom include: extreme pain, swelling and paralysis.





THE JETTERS

THE TWO DANIELLES!

After project coordinator Christine O'Sullivan's departure in August, the JET office was reduced to a staff of three – Diana, Tamoy and Suzanne. It was not to remain that way for too long thankfully, as once September rolled around the two Danielles arrived.

Back from her year in the UK where she went to read for a Masters in Environmental Law, Danielle Andrade, JET's Legal Director returned to us on September 6th. Also starting on September 6th was our new Administrator, Danielle Kitson who replaced Tamoy Singh in that role; Tamoy having moved over to projects. Ms Kitson has a BSc in Environmental Biology from UWI Mona.

"What are the odds," says Danielle Kitson in her JET Journal entry, "that in an organisation with only five persons, there are two Danielles with dreadlocks, dark complexions, who both went to Campion?" Although it is confusing at times to have two Danielles in such a small office, we are happy to have them both and wish them the best in their time with us at JET.



The two Danielles, Andrade (left) and Kitson (right)



FAREWELL TO A JET STALWART

At the end of May JET said farewell to Carlette Falloon after 14 years of service to the organisation. Carlette began working with JET as Programme Director in 1996 and was a champion of the Schools Environment Programme. Suzanne Stanley, who has been with JET since the beginning of March this year, took over the role of Programme Director from Carlette, who resumed working in the private sector as a human resources professional.



Carlette, Suzanne & Diana pose for the Observer's camera lens



The JETters pose for a photo on Earth Day in Hope Gardens in April (L-R) Suzanne Stanley, Carlette Falloon, Diana McCaulay, Tamoy Singh and Christine O'Sullivan

AT LEFT: The JET team working on the RISE project (L-R) Consultant Nadia Watson Spence, Programme Director Suzanne Stanley, Project Coordinator Tamoy Singh and Administrator Danielle Kitson

