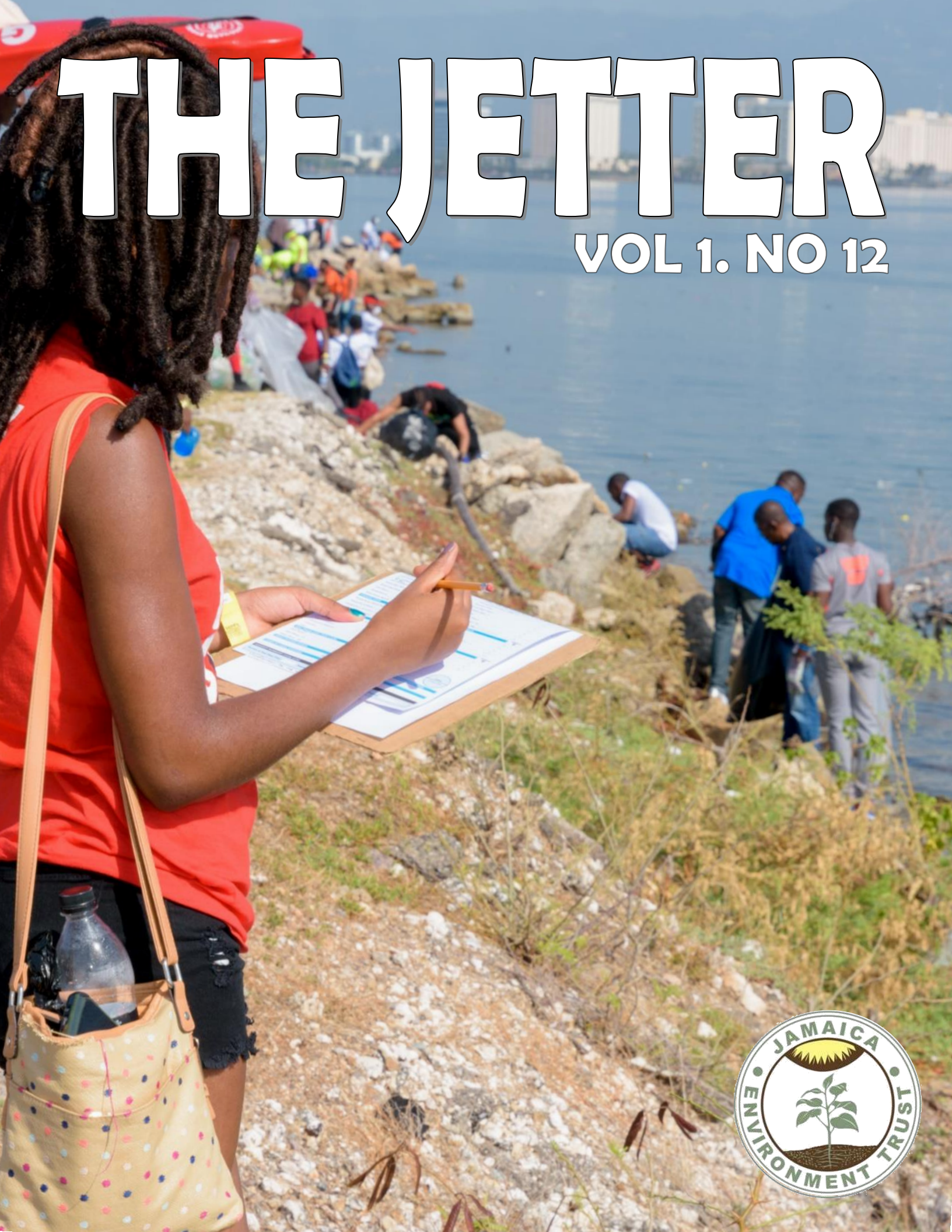


# THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 12





# EDITORIAL



**December 31, 2018, 11:00am - New Year's Eve.** *Diana and I are attending a press conference at the Office of the Prime Minister. This is one of those moments she (Diana) was talking about when she said being JET's CEO isn't a job "it's a life". Calls from journalists before 8:00am (or after 8:00pm) are the norm and government press conferences on New Year's Eve no longer catch me off guard.*

The New Year's Eve press conference has been called to address concerns from the public and other stakeholders, including JET, about the implementation and enforcement of the ban on single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam food and beverage containers in Jamaica starting January 1, 2019. Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with responsibility for Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investment, Hon. Daryl Vaz, announces at the press conference that there will be no backing down on the ban by the government. The ban represents a significant victory for JET in 2018, coming after years of advocating to have Jamaica's plastic pollution addressed by the government – we are pleased.

At the press conference, Tanny Shirley, head of the enterprise team charged with leading the divestment of the Riverton Dump, also announced the Government of Jamaica's (GOJ's) intention to wind down operations at the waste disposal site. In 2018 there were multiple fires in and around the Riverton; the major incident taking place over several days during the "Emancipendence" holiday in July/August which affected air quality in large sections of Kingston, St Andrew and South-East St Catherine. Most of JET's advocacy in 2018, has been on the environmental and public health hazards associated with the Riverton Dump. Now finally, and again after decades of activism by JET on Riverton, another victory on the horizon.

Notwithstanding these two major victories, JET has also had its fair share of challenges in 2018. Within the first three months of the year we received the news that major sources of GOJ funding would not be renewed for two of our largest environmental education projects – Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica and the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP). But all was not lost. Thanks to the hard work of the

Jetters, our Board of Directors, and our long-standing sponsors and supporters, after six months we were able to re-confirm GOJ funding for both SEP and Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica, and both projects are back on track for 2019! We are so grateful for everyone who helped to make that possible. Although JET as an organization is small, we have a large group of friends and family - our members and sponsors – invaluable support which we couldn't do without. We also secured international funding for two other JET projects in 2018, which you can read about in this issue.

**January 1, 2019, 12:30pm - New Year's Day;** *the first day of the plastic ban. An interview I did that morning with Public Radio International on the ban is broadcast across the US. As word of Jamaica's new ban on plastic bags goes global, an interview with JET is also featured on the BBC World News. What a great way to start the New Year – a ban on single-use plastic and the voice of JET's CEO being heard around the world!*

**January 3, 2019, 9:00am – JET reopens after the holidays.** *The government has done a poor job at educating the public about the plastic ban, and the Jetters are trying their best to fill in gaps in information. The office phones are ringing off the hook. Even with recent GOJ announcements on plastic bags, and closing Riverton, we can't let our guard down. This small team of Jetters, and thankfully supported by so many others, will continue to raise environmental awareness, hold the government accountable to its promises, and advocate for the protection of Jamaica, land we love.*

**Suzanne Stanley, Chief Executive Officer  
January 2019**

*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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*Cover Photo: JET's 25<sup>th</sup> annual beach cleanup on the Palisadoes*





## JET CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF BEACH CLEANUPS

On International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day 2018 - Saturday, September 15, JET staged its 25th annual beach cleanup at the Palisadoes Go-Kart Track in Kingston - our first time hosting a cleanup at that site. Over 1,700 volunteers participated in the flagship ICC event, collecting over 1,000 bags of garbage weighing an estimated 15,488 pounds from the Palisadoes/Kingston Harbour coastline. At the end of the 2018 JET beach cleanup, seven truckloads of garbage were carted away from the site.

JET also continued to coordinate ICC activities on a national scale in 2018; with the help of 101 local cleanup coordinators and over 9,300 volunteers, 6940 bags of garbage weighing over 102,000 pounds, were collected at 150 ICC Jamaica sites. The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) continued its long-standing support of ICC Jamaica; TEF was also joined by Recycling Partners of Jamaica Limited, Jamaica Energy Partners, and the Norman Manley International Airport as major ICC sponsors of the event in 2018. The 2018 ICC Jamaica National Summary Report will be released in January 2019.



*Top to Bottom: Volunteers at JET's cleanup of the Palisadoes Go-Kart Track marking ICC 2018*







## SEP AT 20!

JET's flagship environmental education project, the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP), celebrated its 20th year of delivering environmental education in Jamaican schools in the 2017/18 academic year. SEP is the longest running programme of its kind in Jamaica, having been delivered in over 350 Jamaican schools, with an estimated reach of over 300,000 students and 600 teachers during its lifetime.

To mark the occasion, JET launched a short video on SEP and the monthly 'Feature the Teacher' post on social media in 2018. The SEP 20th anniversary social media campaign highlighted the work of exceptional SEP teachers and schools. Anniversary celebrations culminated on Monday June 18, 2018 at the SEP Research Day and Awards Ceremony which was held at the Spanish Court Hotel in Kingston. The research day showcased the environmental projects of 17 top performing SEP schools from the 2017/8 academic year. Guest speakers at the awards ceremony were two of our outstanding SEP teachers, Ms. Yvonne Hill of Carroll Western Prep and Ms. Elley-Mae Walker of St. Michael's Primary. Both teachers spoke of the positive impact the programme has had on their schools and personal lives over the years. Suzanne Stanley, JET CEO, took members of the audience down memory lane with a look at SEP over the last 20 years, with special recognition of the schools and sponsors who have supported the programme from its inception in 1997.

SEP was implemented in 39 across 14 parishes in the 2017/18 academic year. The annual SEP professional development workshop series for teachers took place in December 2017 under the theme *Big Up Wi Beach: Why Beaches are Important*. Forty SEP teachers representing 31 schools attended the workshops in Kingston and Trelawny.

The workshops included a field trip to a nearby beach to study the importance of a healthy beach environment.

In May 2018, a student workshop was hosted by JET for core SEP schools under the theme *Big Up Wi Beach: Garbage Talk*, at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab in St. Ann and the Port Royal Marine Lab in Kingston. Fifty-seven student leaders and 31 teachers representing 19 schools attended the workshop. Students learned the importance of beaches and the impact of garbage on the beach environment. A beach cleanup at a nearby beach was followed by a garbage audit which tallied 1081 items of garbage collected by the students.

Despite funding uncertainties at the beginning of 2018, JET was successful in recovering the main SEP grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) for the 2018/19 academic year. SEP is currently being delivered in 30 schools across the island, thanks to the support of the NRCA and several other longstanding corporate sponsors.



Top to bottom: SEP teachers at the 2017 professional development workshop in Kingston under the theme *Big Up Wi Beach*; Students participate in a garbage audit following their beach cleanup at the May 2018 workshop



Top to Bottom: Students of Negril All Age with SEP judges Ava Tomlinson (Senior Public Education Community Outreach Officer at NEPA) and Suzanne Stanley (JET); (L-R) Nazli Williams (Junior Project Coordinator, JET), SEP teachers Yvonne Hill and Elley-Mae Walker, Tamoy Singh Clarke (Programme Director, JET); Toni-Ann Reid of Total Jamaica presents to Vista Prep; SEP Champion School 2018 Holland Primary celebrate their award

2018 SEP AWARDEES	
<b>Champion SEP School</b>	Holland Primary, St. Elizabeth
<b>First Place Best Display</b>	Vista Prep, St. Ann
<b>Second Place Best Display</b>	Holland Primary, St. Elizabeth
<b>Third Place Best Display</b>	Mar-Jam Prep, St. Ann
SECTIONAL AWARDS	
<b>Best Spokesperson</b>	Khaheera Blake and Janelle Stewart, Holland Primary
<b>Most Creative Display</b>	Vista Prep, St. Ann
<b>Best New School</b>	Carrol Western Prep, St. James
<b>Most Knowledgeable Students</b>	Sanguinetti Primary, Clarendon
<b>Best Solid Waste Research</b>	Mar-Jam Prep, St. Ann
CAMPUS BASED AWARDS	
<b>Garbage Management</b>	St. Michael's Primary, Kingston
<b>Greening Your School</b>	Holland Primary, St. Elizabeth
<b>Greening Your School</b>	Vista Prep, St. Ann
<b>Environment Club</b>	Holland Primary, St. Elizabeth
<b>Environment Club</b>	Negril All Age, Westmoreland

## THANKS TO OUR SEP SPONSORS







On January 25, 2018 JET received word from the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) that they would no longer be in a position to support our largest environmental education initiative - the Clean Coasts Project (CCP). This meant that for much of 2018, the CCP public education campaign, Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica dropped off the air waves.

Thankfully it was not long before the JET team, along with the help of our die hard Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica supporters, were able to re-confirm the GOJ's support of the campaign. In June, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Daryl Vaz, pledged J\$75 million in GOJ funding towards the implementation of Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica over the next three years (2018 – 2021). We were also able to re-confirm the support of Wisynco, and another private donor, to assist with the implementation of the campaign in 2018 and 2019. Unfortunately, the larger CCP project has not

been renewed, although JET is still actively seeking funding for some elements of that programme.

Following a lengthy delay in receiving the pledged GOJ funding, a new phase of Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica kicked off with a Christmas campaign in December 2018. On December 11 JET hosted a Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Christmas Bring A Bag A Bokkle event at the Mall Plaza in Half Way Tree, St Andrew. The event highlighted the impending single-use plastic bag ban (effective January 1, 2019) while promoting plastic bottle recycling. Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica branded reusable ChicoBags were given away to members of the public who brought in 30 or more plastic bottles for recycling; the equivalent of 25 large garbage bags full of plastic bottles were collected. The Christmas campaign also featured a Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Christmas jingle remix, 12 tips for a Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Christmas on social media, and the sale of the Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica ChicoBags as a campaign fundraiser.

Next on the agenda for Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica will be a focus on the plastic bag ban. In 2019 Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica will also feature a mini campaign on composting, a Nuh Dutty Up Di Road carnival campaign, the third annual Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Cleanup Network, and a Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica road tour.



*Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Reusable ChicoBags*





Scenes from the Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica Christmas Bring-A-Bag-A-Bokkle Event at the Mall Plaza in Half Way Tree in December 2018



# LAW & ADVOCACY

## UPDATE 2018

### *Better Beaches for Jamaicans*

In 2018, JET successfully secured funding from the Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation for a second three-year phase of the Better Beaches for Jamaicans (BBFJ) project (2018 – 2021). BBFJ Phase II will build on the successes of phase I, which was delivered between June 2016 and June 2017.

The relaunch of BBFJ has come at an opportune time, as beach access, policy and management issues featured heavily in the media in 2018. Several newspaper articles by Prof. Carolyn Cooper have revived the dialogue on beach access issues and highlighted the poor management of many Jamaican beaches. The re-opening of the Puerto Seco Beach as a high-end beach park tourist attraction in 2018, and subsequent approval of a new Dolphin Cove facility at that location by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), have inspired much community-led advocacy in Discovery Bay, St Ann, which has been supported by JET. Under BBFJ Phase II, JET will continue its advocacy on improved access and management for Jamaican beaches, whilst urging the GOJ's approval of the National Beach Access and Management Policy, which has been languishing in draft for over 20 years.

Since 2017, community beaches targeted by BBFJ Phase I - Alligator Pond, Manchester; Duncans Bay, Trelawny and Winnifred Beach, Portland - have continued to actively advocate for improvements in the management of their beaches. In 2017 Duncans Bay actively advocated against permits being issued by NEPA for sand mining at their beach, and Winnifred Beach successfully advocated for the repair of their beach access road. JET will continue to work with BBFJ Phase I participating beaches in Phase II and will add another five community managed beaches to the BBFJ network. The new BBFJ Phase II community beach managers/management groups will benefit from JET training in beach management best practice, environmental advocacy and beach laws and regulations. These new beaches will be identified during BBFJ's islandwide beach survey, which is already underway.

The BBFJ islandwide beach survey is being conducted by JET and 11 local partners at over 130 Jamaican beaches which are open to the public. In November 2018, local partners were trained by JET in administration of the beach survey and beach photography. The results of the

BBFJ Phase II islandwide beach survey will be shared via a dedicated Big Up Wi Beach JA website which will be launched in June 2019. The launch of the website will kick off an expanded Big Up Wi Beach public education campaign targeted at Jamaican beach users and managers and looking at beach access and better beach behaviour.



*Top to bottom: Beach survey training in (1) Discovery Bay, St Ann and (2) Bluefields, Westmoreland in November 2018; Site visit to BBFJ Phase I partner beach Alligator Pond in Manchester in November 2018*





## Jamaicans for Clean Air & Water

The Jamaicans for Clean Air and Water (JCAW) project drew to a close last year. The project, which was funded by a two-year grant from the Commonwealth Foundation (2016 – 2018), continued to deliver public education and advocacy on Jamaica's air and water quality issues between January and September 2018.

JET's [Review of the Legal and Policy Framework for Air and Water Quality in the Island of Jamaica](#) report (released in October 2017) kicked off a well-received public education campaign in 2018, which attracted millions of impressions through social and traditional media - an unprecedented level of media exposure. Testimonials produced for the campaign featured Jamaican communities being directly impacted by air and water pollution and gave community members the opportunity to publicly voice their concerns and advocate on these issues.

In July 2018 JET also staged environmental advocacy training workshops for over 100 community members from four communities targeted by JCAW: Pleasant Farm/Ewarton, St Catherine; Cooreville Gardens and Seaview Gardens in Kingston; and Port Morant, St Thomas. This training improved participants' capacity to advocate on their own behalf on environmental and public health issues affecting their quality of life.

JET also hosted two JCAW stakeholders' meetings in May and September 2018. These meetings brought together government agencies with responsibility for air and water quality, industry representatives and communities which are directly impacted by air and water pollution. Community members used stakeholders' meetings to air their grievances to the government and industry representatives. Stakeholders' meetings facilitated meaningful discourse on the challenges JET and Jamaican communities experienced accessing and interpreting air and water quality data and resulted in follow up meetings between JET and the government agencies involved.

A recent update from NEPA on the current status of Jamaican air and water quality standards indicated that revised standards for both air and water quality are being developed and new air quality regulations have been tabled as a priority by the agency. An Air Quality Index for Jamaica is also in development, and NEPA has indicated that air quality monitoring data is to be published online quarterly for five major Jamaican towns/cities by March 2019. While JET cannot claim that these developments are entirely because of JCAW, we believe the project has resulted in greater attention to air and water quality issues

on the national agenda, and a greater sense of urgency to improve the associated regulatory processes by the GOJ. JET will continue to monitor progress towards these promised improvements in Jamaica's regulatory framework for air and water quality 2019.



*Top to bottom: Filming for the JCAW testimonials in (1) Cooreville Gardens, Kingston and (2) Ewarton, St Catherine; May 2018 JCAW stakeholders meeting in Kingston; JCAW environmental advocacy training in Port Morant, St Thomas*





Following the submission of over 34,000 signatures in support of JET's Save Cockpit Country petition in October 2017, Jamaica's Prime Minister, The Most. Hon. Andrew Holness made an announcement significantly advancing the protection of the Cockpit Country under law. On November 21, 2017, Prime Minister Holness announced the designation

of 74,726 hectares of land as the Cockpit Country Protected Area (CCPA) due its ecological, cultural, and hydrological importance. The main external threat to the Cockpit Country is bauxite exploration and mining, although there are also threats from limestone mining and inappropriate land use practices. In his November 2017 announcement, Prime Minister Holness also stated that the CCPA would be closed to mining.

In May 2018, JET secured funding to deliver the *Advancing the Protection of Jamaica's Cockpit Country* project in partnership with the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). Under the project JET has been following the progress towards the Cockpit Country being declared protected and closed to mining under Jamaican law. This includes monitoring the on-the-ground verification and survey (or "ground-truthing") of the designated CCPA boundary by the Forestry Department. Ground-truthing of the CCPA boundary must be completed before the CCPA can be protected under law and closed to mining. JET and other Cockpit Country stakeholders have also been advocating for buffer zones to be established around the CCPA, to ensure that mining and any other potentially harmful activities are not allowed near the boundary.

Since the start of the project in May 2018, JET has strengthened its existing relationships with Cockpit Country communities in and around the designated CCPA. These key community stakeholders have been invaluable in assisting JET with setting up meetings and leading advocacy at the local level. In 2018 Cockpit Country community meetings were hosted by JET in Gibraltar, St Ann on June 28, 2018 and Elderslie, St Elizabeth on July 5, 2018. In October 2018, a CCPA stakeholder's meeting was hosted by JET in Kingston. Seven Cockpit Country communities were represented at the meeting as well as several GOJ agencies and civil society groups.



*Community meeting hosted by JET in Elderslie, St Elizabeth on July 5, 2018*

Following the community meetings in St Ann and St Elizabeth and the stakeholder meeting in Kingston, joint statements outlining the major concerns of the communities and JET were drafted and circulated to the media. These concerns included the slow pace at which the CCPA boundary ground-truthing has been taking place and lack of transparency surrounding the ground-truthing process. The GOJ has indicated that ground-truthing of the CCPA boundary is slated to be completed in early 2020; however as of late-November 2018 only 75km of the estimated 250km of boundary had been verified by the Forestry Department's field staff. JET and Cockpit Country communities are also gravely concerned about bauxite mining which continues to take place close to the designated boundary in St Ann.



*Open bauxite pit seen near Caledonia in St Ann following the June 28, 2018 community meeting in Gibraltar*

In 2019 JET will roll out a public education campaign under the project, highlighting where the designated CCPA boundary will fall, the importance of buffer zones, and how ongoing bauxite mining near the CCPA boundary is threatening local livelihoods and important water resources. In 2019 JET will also host more community meetings and stakeholder consultations and will continue to advocate for the Cockpit Country's protection.







# MEET THE JETTERS

**In 2018, Suzanne and Tamoy recruited a new team of Jetters to support JET's projects and administration. This vibrant group of young women have settled into their roles seamlessly and we are happy to welcome them to the JET team!**



**ASHLEY CODNER** joined JET in September 2018 as a Project Coordinator.

Ashley has an MSc in Environmental Monitoring, & Assessment from the University of Southampton and a BSc in Marine Biology, with a minor in Conservation

Biology from UWI Mona where she worked as a Research Assistant following her first degree. Her interests include football, fitness, and going to the beach.

## **What is the one thing/view that has changed since you have started working at JET?**

Since I've started working at JET I have a better understanding of Jamaica's plastic bottle problem. In November we were en route to Montego Bay to conduct a JET workshop when it began to rain, and the main road became a gushing river. The field trip we did the following day revealed the culprit - the town's major gully was choked with plastic bottles. I now think twice before I purchase anything that comes in a plastic bottle and bring all my PET bottles to JET's recycling depot.

## **What have you have enjoyed the most about working with JET so far?**

I enjoy JET's public education campaigns and workshops. I get a real sense of accomplishment when we do a workshop or presentation with a group who may not be very familiar with environmental matters and they get it! When the light bulb goes off in their brains and their faces light up, it's the best feeling. That's when I know our efforts are making a positive contribution to the society.

## **What environmental issue are you most passionate about?**

It pains me to see the garbage on our beaches. The disposal of garbage into gullies that wash down to our beautiful world-renowned beaches is 100% preventable.

Jamaica needs a solid waste state of emergency. Poor solid waste management has reached epidemic proportions. We need to reduce the volume of garbage we generate and dispose of this waste properly. I want to see Jamaica achieve zero waste to landfills and gullies.

## **One weird/ fun fact about you**

I dance to the rhythm of my own drum despite the background music that everyone else follows. I love to dance and go to YahSuh (Jamaican Zumba) but I have ZERO coordination. I was blessed with two left feet.



**LAUREN CREARY** joined JET as a Project Coordinator in September 2018.

Lauren has a BSc in Tourism Management, UWI, Mona, Jamaica, and prior to JET she worked in the hotel industry and events management.

She enjoys, taking trips to the country, singing and playing tennis.

## **What is the one thing/view that has changed since you have started working at JET?**

Since working at JET I have realized just how bad solid waste management is in Jamaica and it has heightened my awareness for the importance of reducing waste and recycling. I recently took a trip to the Riverton Disposal Site which was very eye-opening.

## **What have you enjoyed the most about working with JET so far?**

Working at JET has given me a host of new experiences and allowed me to explore the island. Since starting, I have been to Mocho in St. James and Bluefields in Westmoreland. Places I probably would have never gone to otherwise. I'm learning more about environmental



issues in Jamaica. I am also being pushed outside my comfort zone doing more public speaking and interviews.

**What environmental issue are you most passionate about?**

I am very passionate about the issue of solid waste management in Jamaica. Even before coming to JET I would always do what I could to reduce my garbage and encourage others around me to do the same.

**A fun/weird fact about yourself.**

I can play the violin and piano.



**SHAUNA WILLIAMS** joined JET in April 2018 as our Administrative Assistant and was promoted to JET's Administrator in September. Shauna has a BEd in Business Studies, from the Mico University College, Jamaica. She is a trained teacher and also has

professional experience in sales. Her interests include reading, travelling, football and watching documentaries.

**What is the one thing/view that has changed since you have started working at JET?**

It is more evident that Jamaicans have a culture that doesn't care for the environment as they should.

**What you have enjoyed the most about working with JET so far?**

I have enjoyed meeting some lovely people and educating the public on the importance of taking care of the environment.

**What environmental issue are you most passionate about?**

I am passionately against littering. Many people take for granted the importance of proper garbage disposal and recycling. Yet, the same people complain about the state of the streets, gullies and other environs.

**One weird/ fun fact about you**

I like riding dirt bikes



JET is pleased to have secured funding for a second phase of our Better Beaches for Jamaicans project. Here's a few snippets from [Big Up Wi Beach: An Introduction to Better Beach Management for Jamaican Communities](#), which was produced under phase I of the project.

★ **Beaches are:**

- Created by waves, currents, storms, tides and the shape of the coast
- Constantly changing, sometimes wide, sometimes narrow, sometimes steep, sometimes shallow
- Affected by storms, global climate change and rising sea levels
- Moved around by wind and waves

★ **Most beaches have the same basic structure:**

- **Sand Dunes** – piles of sand which has collected at the back of the beach, protecting the land behind them
- **Backshore** – part of the beach above the high tide mark with dunes and vegetation
- **Foreshore** – part of the beach between the high and low tide marks (the wet part of the beach)
- **Nearshore** – the area where the waves break just offshore, where the water is shallow enough to allow for sunlight to shine through and seagrass to grow

★ **All parts of a beach have a purpose.** Some important parts of a healthy beach include: sand dunes, vegetation, seagrass, coral reefs and animals

★ **Jamaica is suffering from beach erosion** in many places because of the action of humans

★ **Jamaica's Beach Control Act does not give a general right of public access to beaches**, and there is no right to access any beach for free

