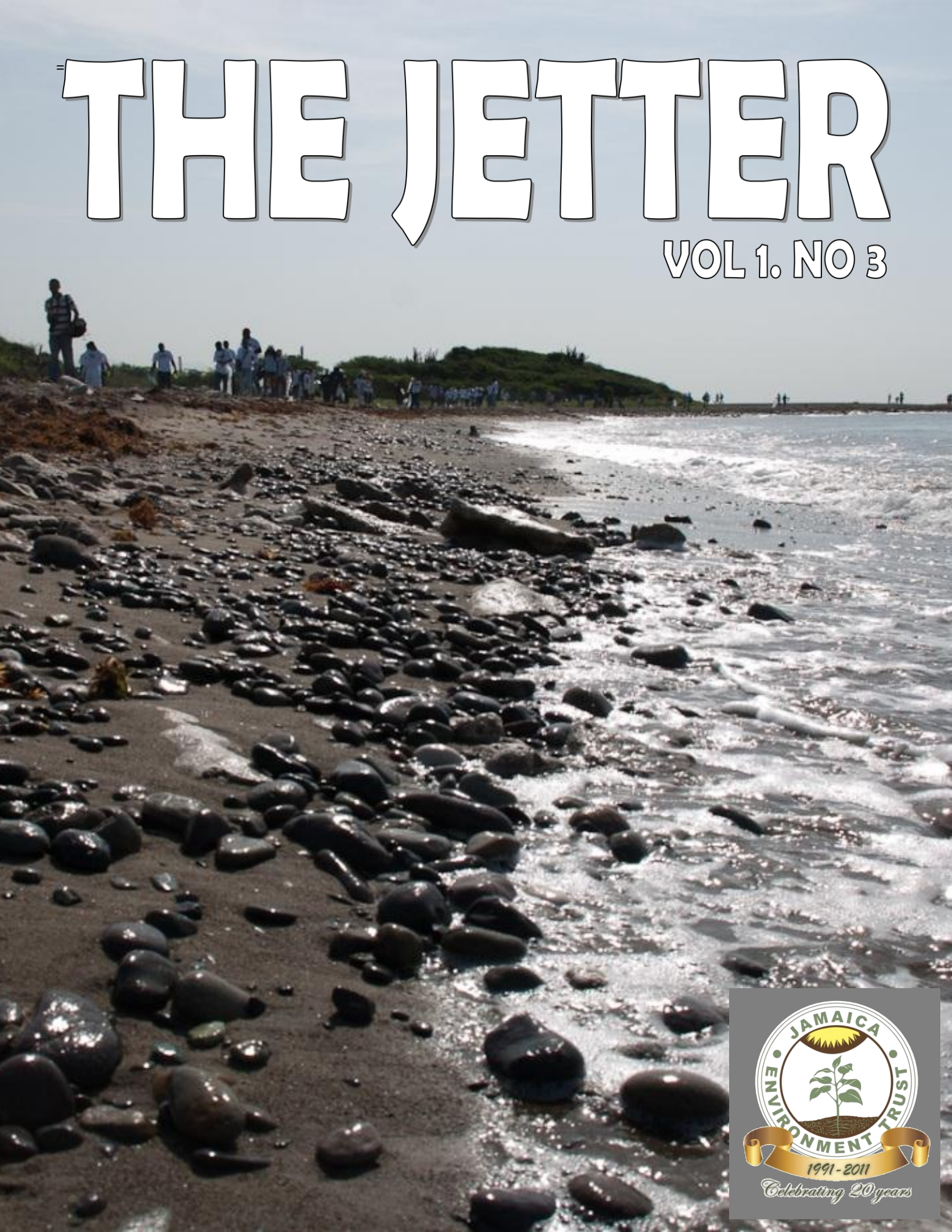
THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 3



JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST

1991-2011

Celebrating 20 years

Editorial

On to the next 20...

For an environmental NGO in a country like Jamaica it is an amazing milestone to celebrate 20 years in operation. The JET team's hard work and dedication has battled against the odds and thankfully persevered, able to celebrate two decades of operations in July 2011. Our 20th year was an action packed one, with several projects and events being pulled off by our small staff of five young (and young at heart) women. But what next? More of the same? Or will new developments in the global and local environment change JET's focus?

2012, JET's 21st year in operation, is quite likely to see significant changes in the programmes we deliver. For almost 15 of the 20 years JET has been in operation, the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) has been our flagship environmental education initiative. SEP has encountered quite a few speed bumps over its long run, the largest being its closure in January 2010. At the beginning of a new decade for JET, the future of SEP is again uncertain, with funding for the current scaled down programme ending in August 2012. So too is the future of the Building Appreciation for Nature project with RISE Life Management Services, funding for which also ends in August. There are also talks amongst the JET team about revamping the SEP programme for a new generation of teachers and students (and Jetters), once we do secure funding. Perhaps JET will slowly move towards more biodiversity conservation type environmental education initiatives, like the hugely successful 2011 Sea Turtle project. But this too is an uncertainty, as funding for that programme has also run out for the time being. A big part of our current activities involve actively seek funding to continue all three environmental educations programmes (SEP, BANCAR and Turtles). Our law and advocacy programme, often the hardest sell to donors, is actually in the best position right now in terms of continuity, with modest but secured funding until 2013.

Although a certain level of uncertainty continues to hover over JET, we continue to face any hurdles with a level head and positive attitude. JET's biggest challenge over the past 20 years, has been paying our bills and keeping the doors open; but sound financial management (often from our volunteer accountants), 'green living' - which has helped cut costs, and the benevolence of Jamaicans (both individuals and the corporate community) has greatly aided this cause.

Our goal for the next 20 years? Number 1 - become more self-sustaining. With a renewed focus on fundraising (we now have a development consultant on staff, produced a new promotional brochure, and reviewed our individual and corporate membership structure) our aim is to create a self-sustaining organisation, so that we can better focus on delivering our environmental education and advocacy programmes. With the support of the Jamaican community both here and abroad, we JET will continue its vital work as a voice for Jamaica's natural resources.

Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
January 2012

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.

For more information contact:
JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST
11 WATERLOO ROAD, KINGSTON 10
T| (876) 470-7580 F| (876) 926-0212
E| jamentrust@cwjamaica.com
W| www.jamentrust.org
facebook.com/jamentrust
@jamentrust
/outube.com/jamentrust

1991-2011
Celebrating 20 years

TURTLE! TURTLE! TURTLE!

Community members from Treasure Beach in St. Elizabeth, Bluefields in Westmoreland, Hope Bay and Winnifred Beach in Portland came together to learn about the importance of sea turtles and monitor the 2011 nesting season. Funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), the Canadian International Development Agency and the Treasure Beach Turtle Group, the main objective of the project was to change public perceptions with regard to sea turtles and thus reduce poaching. The Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) delivered awareness workshops in the communities and also trained a smaller group to monitor eight turtle nesting beaches around the island. Over 140 people were trained on sea turtle biology and monitoring techniques, including teachers, members of the ISCF, community members, and employees of various government entities. During the monitoring exercise, which has so far returned data for the six month period May to October 2011, 95 hawksbill nests were recorded with over 12,500 turtle eggs counted in the hatched nests producing an estimated 7,500 hatchlings.

"It was a very good experience for me mainly because I did not know much about the turtles," said Barbara Blythe from Bluefields and representative of the Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society. "Especially when I see the hatchlings coming up, it makes me feel good that I am doing something to protect them."

JET partnered with NGOs and CBOs in each parish, the Portland Environment Protection Association (PEPA) in Portland, the Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society in Westmoreland and the Treasure Beach Turtle Group in St Elizabeth. Each community had its success stories. In Treasure Beach, community members helped to stop the poaching of turtles on one of their beaches while in Portland a man who used to poach turtles now refuses to take turtles and even prevented poachers from harvesting a nest this year. "The project has significantly raised the awareness of the need to preserve turtles in Portland," said Machel Donegan, PEPA's Executive Director. "We have seen an increase in the reports of poaching as a result of the activities implemented during the project."

JET also collected data from other sites being monitored. For example, on one beach in St Mary, over 126 nests were recorded during 2011, with an estimated 10,800 hatchlings. "This may sound like a lot of baby turtles," said Christine O'Sullivan, consultant on the sea

turtle project "but you have to remember only one in 1,000 survive to adulthood."

The sea turtle monitoring project was conducted with the approval of the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) who welcomed the data as helpful in guiding good development decisions.

JET is currently in the process of seeking additional funding to extend this sea turtle education and monitoring project to other communities across the island, as well as identifying new partners.

The sea turtle nesting season runs from May to December each year. Sea turtles are protected under the Natural Resources and Conservation Authority's Wildlife Protection Act. It is illegal to hunt, have in your possession, take or try to take sea turtles, any of their parts or their eggs. The penalty is a maximum fine of $100,000 or up to 12 months imprisonment and any weapons or vehicles used can be confiscated. JET encourages everyone to contact the National Environment and Planning Agency's hotline at 1-888-991-5005 to report any breaches related to sea turtles.

Scenes from JET turtle monitoring (Clockwise from top left): Bluefield Fishermen's Friendly Society members count eggs as a turtle lays on Farm Beach, Westmoreland; GPS mapping a turtle nest; Turtle hatchling, Treasure Beach, St. Elizabeth; Turtle Monitoring Groups from across the island meet for an exchange in Treasure Beach, St Elizabeth (November 2011)

RECORD NUMBERS FOR INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 2011

September 17, 2011 marked the 26th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day. For the fourth year, ICC activities in Jamaica were spearheaded by the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), national coordinators of the event. Across the island, a record number of fifty-five cleanups took place to mark the day with over 4,000 volunteers turning out to clean more than 35,000 pounds of garbage from over 70 miles of beach.

JET's own cleanup saw about 1,600 volunteers helping to clean the Fort Rocky Beach on the Palisadoes Strip, making it the largest ever turn out to the flagship ICC Day event. As early as 7:30am, volunteers began arriving at Fort Rocky to assist JET in their annual beach cleanup efforts. Corporate area schools, service clubs and corporate teams joined forces with JET members to not only clean the coastline, but to collect data on the types and quantity of trash found on the beach. "ICC is not only about cleaning beaches, it is a way to gather data about what garbage is finding its way onto our beaches, and raise awareness about the problem of marine litter," said Suzanne Stanley, JET's Programme Director, "580 bags of garbage were collected from the Fort Rocky Beach alone." The garbage collected was been separated into two parts: plastics which were taken by Protect the Environment Trust to be recycled and all other waste, which was taken by the National Solid Waste Management Authority.

"2011 was definitely the biggest JET beach cleanup since we began this activity in 1993," said Diana McCaulay, JET CEO, "the sponsors have been a huge help, refreshing our volunteers who year after year work tirelessly in the hot sun to support this great cause." A big hit this year was the Culligan water station, which volunteers used to refill the reusable water bottles donated by Tru Juice, LIME and Camcorp Industries. The water station at Fort Rocky dispensed 136 gallons of drinking water to the JET volunteers, saving the equivalent of 1,560 330ml plastic bottles.

At the JET cleanup, 19 corporate teams helped with the cleanup, including: Airports Authority, Camcorp Industries, Digicel, HD Hopwood, ICWI, Jamaica Biscuit Company, Jamaica Broilers, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, KPMG, LIME, NEM Insurance, Nestle, Red Stripe, Scotiabank, Spanish Court, Tru Juice, Wisynco and Wyndham Kingston.

Islandwide ICC activities were funded for the fourth consecutive year by the Tourism Enhancement Fund, and JET was assisted by 36 community groups, NGOs, government agencies and private sector organizations in the coordination of 55 beach cleanups. Cleanups were staged in 13 out of 14 parishes, with the most beach cleanups taking place in Westmoreland this year.

Other sponsors of JET's Beach Cleanup were Grace Kennedy, Juici Patties, Tastee, Consolidated Bakeries, Hot-off-the-press, National Outdoor Advertising, Island Ice, Jamaica Energy Partners, Jamaica Producers, Jamaica Public Service Company, Megamart, Peak Bottling, Rainbow Awnings, Tropishades, Rentalot and Vanguard Security.

International Coastal Cleanup Day was started 26 years ago by the Ocean's Conservancy in the US, and is the largest volunteer event in the world, taking place in 114 countries each year.

Scenes from ICC 2011: (top) Volunteers at JET's Fort Rocky Cleanup find an innovative way to transport garbage along the beach; (bottom) Volunteers at WHROMP's cleanup in St Ann pose with former Minister of Environment, Horace Chang.

JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST 1991-2011 Celebrating 20 years

JANUARY

- Application to the Supreme Court for leave to file Judicial Review of Palisadoes Roadworks
- Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk (BANCAR) project continues (workshops & field trips with Fletcher's Land)
- Write to NEPA about Blue Lagoon artificial beach
- Contribute to GOJ policy paper on a stand-alone environmental regulatory agency

START PLANNING JAMAICA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS!

Sea Turtle Project activities begin with Treasure Beach Turtle Group, Bluefields Fishermen's Friendly Society and Portland Environment Protection Association

FEBRUARY

WORLD WETLANDS DAY FEBRUARY 2

- Schools' Environment Program (SEP) visits to 30 schools islandwide
- Present on Environmental Regulatory Authority to Parliamentary sub-committee
- Court ordered site visits to the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)
- BANCAR workshops & field trips with Fletcher's Land continue
- First hearing Palisadoes Judicial Review

START DESIGNING GREEN EXPO BOOTH!

MARCH

JET Annual General Meeting

- Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs) nominations open on World Water Day–March 22
- Second hearing Palisadoes Judicial Review
- SEP visits continue to 30 schools islandwide
- BANCAR workshops & field trips with Allman Town
- Pellew Island villa development turned down– JET takes a day off to celebrate! ☺

APRIL

Earth Day—April 22!

- Earth Day Expo with EFJ @ Devon House– JET booth theme: Our Coastal Environment
- Blue Lagoon artificial beach issue hits the media
- Harbour View STP visit
- Turtle monitoring workshops begin
- SEP school visits continue

START WORKING ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY FILM WITH ESTHER FIGUEROA (VAGABOND MEDIA)

MAY

- BANCAR Open Day at JET for 110 kids
  - Nicole Mohammed volunteers with JET and assists with the Palisadoes case (skeleton submissions filed)
- Site visit to Nine Miles in Bull Bay to assess discarded mining tailings blocking a watercourse
- Volunteers Sharni Bullock & Chloe McConnell start building JET's Green Expo Booth
- JET Members meeting

JEAA NOMINATIONS CLOSE—MAY 5

JUNE

- JET CEO awarded JIEP Environmental Ripple Award
- Palisadoes case heard (judgement reserved)
- Appleton takes JET staff to lunch to say Thanks!
- Harbour View STP site visit
- JEAA ceremony and SEP Expo @ Knutsford Court

GREEN EXPO @ THE PEGASUS. JET WINS BEST ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE FOR OUR BOOTH!

BIG UP JET PARTY @ DIANA

Jamaica's Environmental Action Awards

JULY

- Dr Glenn Miller arrives to assist JET in evaluating the mining issue in Bull Bay
- Site visit to Bull Bay
- Meeting with Mining regulators
- JET staff on leave; say goodbye to volunteers

NICOLE & DANIELLE

CHLOE @ GREEN EXPO

AUGUST

- Recruit Beach Cleanup Coordinators across the island
- Canada Fund sponsors an additional community for the Sea Turtle monitoring project–Winnifred Beach Benevolent Society in Portland added to turtle partners
  - Planning begins for Judicial Training Seminar
  - Jetters hike to South Camp

START PLANNING INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2011

SEPTEMBER

- NWC meeting with Harbour View community as Phase I of STP ends

INTENATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY SEPTEMEBER 17, 2011

- ✓ 55 CLEANUP SITES
- ✓ OVER 4000 VOLUNTEERS
- ✓ OVER 70 MILES CLEANED

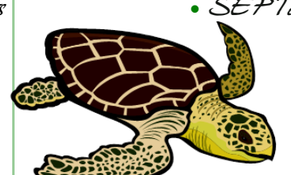
START COORDINATING STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

OCTOBER

- New Development Consultant, Mirah Lim Todd, joins JET
- Strategic Planning Retreat (JET Board & Staff)
  - JET attends IUCN Caribbean meeting
- Palisadoes judgement– JET wins on public consultation argument, loses on issue of type of permits
- BANCAR Phase II begins in Cockburn Pen
- SEP school visits resume
- Commissioning of Phase I of Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant!

NOVEMBER

- Sea Turtle Exchange Meeting in Treasure Beach with all communities involved in monitoring project
- Judicial Training Seminar on environmental law
- Solidarity demonstration with Free Winnifred Beach Benevolent Society
  - SEP Teacher Training Workshops



DECEMBER

- JET CEO pickets Regional RAMSAR meeting in protest of wetland destruction–shows film outside meeting room of Palisadoes wetland destruction
- Defamation case against JET settled out of court
  - New two year strategic plan completed
  - JET staff sell 106 MSH tickets as fundraiser
  - Christmas Holidays!!!

ELAW
Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

MacArthur
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

JET HELPS ORGANIZE JUDICIAL TRAINING SEMINAR

Nearly 50 resident magistrates and judges from Jamaica and other Caribbean countries participated in the 2011 Judicial Training Seminar in Environmental Law held November 18-20, 2011 at the Hilton Rose Hall Resort and Spa in Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica. The seminar was facilitated by The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Environmental Law Institute (ELI), and the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association (CMJA), the Court Management Services (CMS) and the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET).

The seminar built upon the wealth of experience, lessons learned and materials produced from previous environmental law seminars organized by NEPA in 2003 for members of the judiciary in Jamaica and a pilot judicial training seminar conducted by ELI in the Dominican Republic for judges in Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Two major objectives of the seminar were to increase the awareness of the judiciary about environmental law and to ensure the sustainability of judicial education in environmental law in Jamaica.

About fourteen (14) scientific and legal professionals, both local and overseas, presented at the seminar on a wide range of topics which examined the application, challenges and opportunities in the practice of environmental law in Jamaica.

"This has been a truly enlightening experience. No longer will I consider environmental issues as 'soft' and 'unsexy'... I was very impressed by the background and obvious wealth of knowledge of the various presenters, both local and non-local…What you have emphasized MUST be improved without further delay to enable a more efficient and worthwhile management of all things environmental."

- Resident Magistrate's comment

The seminar room at the Hilton Rose Hall, St James

UPDATE ON HARBOUR VIEW STP

The National Water Commission (NWC) commissioned the interim sewage treatment plant (STP) for Harbour View on October 6, 2011 after the residents suffered for nearly 30 years without a functional plant.

This follows the judicial review case filed by JET and residents of Harbour View. The Consent Order reached by agreement between NWC, JET and the residents in July 2010 requires NWC to construct an interim sewage treatment plant followed by a permanent sewage treatment plant.

Over the past year and a half JET has been continually monitoring the construction of the interim plant. JET has recently filed an application in the Supreme Court to compel NWC to comply with the Consent Order out of concern arising from the significant delay in the commencement of works for phases 2 and 3 of the permanent sewage treatment plant.

JET'S NEW FUNDRAISING DRIVE

2012 is JET's year to dream big. We want to become a self-sustaining organization in the next five years. As such we've launched a new fundraising drive to raise J$45,000,000 (approximately $500,000 US) over the next five years for our Sustainability Fund.

In order to reach our target, we've set out a detailed plan and are taking a variety of approaches, including creating an updated JET information packet with a press kit folder as well as an eight page and four page booklet with the help of Pear Tree Press; increasing our individual and corporate members and reinvigorating our existing membership; partnering with private sector companies on creative initiatives like the JET and Stocks and Securities IPO project; and joining forces with party promoters like Dream Entertainment to sell tickets with part proceeds going to JET. We are excited about all our new endeavours and have high expectations that they will bring us closer to a sustainable future.

We are particularly looking forward to increasing our membership base and improving our relationship with our existing members. With all the new happenings at JET, this year is shaping up to be a great year to become a JET member. We have created several new ways in which you can help JET preserve Jamaica's natural resources, and we've also come up with tokens to show our appreciation for your support.

Starting in January 2012, we've introduced a new membership structure:

- Representatives of a school/community group - J$250
- Individual - $1,000
- Corporate - $10,000

As a part of this new structure, we now have new membership levels, including a Special Members' Club, which recognizes members who have chosen to make donations of between J$1,500 and J$99,999; and the Honour Roll, which honours members who have made a significant annual contribution of over J$100,000. Each level of giving comes with unique rewards such a JET Membership Card for individual members with discounts to local retailers like Wendy's and Dominos Pizza; a one year printed subscription to the JETTER magazine; quarterly updates and stories from our CEO; and the opportunity to align your name with a with an award in JET's Environmental Action Awards.

To help promote an increased membership base, as of February, paying your JET membership fees is going to be easier than ever before. You can pay your fees or make a donation online with a local or US credit card by clicking on the Donate page on our website. We are also in the process of setting up a facility for our members to be able to pay their membership fees or make a donation at Paymaster outlets islandwide. If you'd prefer, you will still be able to pay your fees by check mailed or delivered to our office.

In addition to improving our membership relations, we are also offering new ways in which you can show your support for our work. We have created an option for you to symbolically adopt a Jamaican region or animal that JET is working to protect. For J$15,000, J$25,000 and $50,000, you can symbolically adopt a Dolphin, Sea Turtle, Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, Iguana, Jamaican Tody or Pellew Island, Palisadoes and the Cays, Blue Lagoon and Font Hill.

JET is working to protect Jamaica's natural resources. Our goal is to become a self-sustaining organization in the next five year so that we can focus less on daily operational requirements and more on the important work we do. We need your support. You can help us by becoming a member or renewing your existing membership; asking your friends to join; symbolically adopting a Jamaican animal or region; or making a monthly, annual or one-time donation to our Sustainability Fund. Your contribution will be used in general support of JET's many programmes and is fully tax deductable. Thank you for your interest in preserving Jamaica's environment.

Jamaican iguanas: Did you know?

The Jamaican Iguana

Recently the Jetters have developed a keen interest in the Jamaican Iguana – a species endemic to the island. This recently found fascination was likely incited by a staff visit to the Hellshire Hills with Dr Byron Wilson in August of 2011, where they were able to see these not so cuddly critters in the wild at the University of the West Indies' research station there. Even the non-lizard lovers among us recognise the importance of conserving one of Jamaica's most endangered species

1. They are harmless!
2. They can grow up to 16cm in length
3. They are endemic to Jamaica, meaning they can be found nowhere else, and are the largest native land animals in the country
4. Though they are typically green/brown in colour, they can camouflage themselves to blend in with their surroundings, and this is important in protecting them from predators
5. They usually feed on plant material (leaves, flowers and fruits), though sometimes they feed on small insects, such as grasshoppers, snails and flies.
6. They live in nests of up to 20 iguanas
7. They were once abundant in Jamaica, until the mongoose was brought in to get rid of snakes and rats on the sugar estates
8. Thought to be extinct since 1948, they were rediscovered in 1990, in the Hellshire Hills, St Catherine, which is still the only known area that they can be found
9. Research shows that there are less than 200 left on the island.
10. They are an endangered species, and are protected under the Wild Life Protection Act

THE JETTERS

MIRAH LIM TODD

AN INTERVIEW

Mirah Lim Todd is JET's new Development Consultant. Her role at JET covers everything and anything related to fundraising. She began working in her official capacity in October 2011.

Where were you born?
Kingston, Jamaica

Where did you go to school?
I went to prep and high school in Jamaica, first at St. Andrew's Prep and later at Campion College. I went to Georgetown University in Washington D.C. for my under graduate degree in English with a concentration in Creative Writing and then to City University in London for my graduate studies in Creative writing.

Why did you choose writing?
I have always loved to write and somewhere along the way someone told me I was good at it, and I believed them. When I was a young child, I kept a daily journal and I used to compose stories, poems and even songs. As I got older, I came to love writing not only as way to express myself or my imagination, but also because it was a craft. Writing can be a challenge. I think of it as a puzzle and there's no greater reward to me than finding the right pieces to fit together to create the full story.

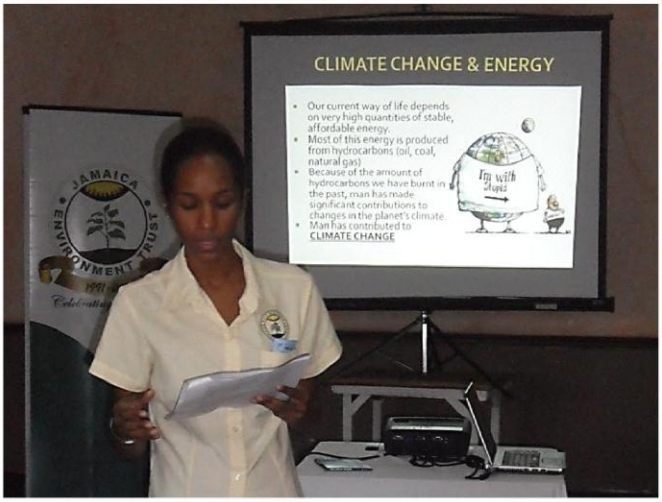
What else have you done besides writing?
It's taken me awhile to realize that writing may be my passion, but it's not the only job I can do. When I graduated from college, I thought I wanted to be a journalist. I'd worked at National Public Radio briefly during my senior year and when I came back to Jamaica I eagerly took the first job that was offered to me as a reporter for the American Associated Press. It only took a few assignments, including one in which I was given a bullet proof vest, for me to realize that hard news was not my thing. Instead, I took an opportunity to work at the Jamaica Tourist Board, working on their website. With the JTB, I traveled all over Jamaica and got to see places I had never seen before. In the years after the JTB, I worked as a freelance writer for websites and Caribbean magazines like Skywritings and Maco before going to England to do my Masters degree in Creative Writing (Novels.) When I returned to Jamaica, I continued to work as a freelance writer and also became the manager for Scotch on the Rocks villa in Ocho Rios.

How did you learn about JET?
I had heard about JET in the news and knew of Diana McCaulay. Once, I was in a writer's group with Diana and she invited us all to become members. I signed up, and started receiving emails about JET's activities.

What made you interested in working at JET?
I was searching for something to do that I felt supported a good cause. Since childhood, I have had an interest in the environment. My mother used to write articles to the newspaper about environmental issues. At one point, I dreamed of starting Jamaica's first recycling plant. When I received an email from JET advertising for a project coordinator for beach cleanup, it felt like the natural choice. I started in the summer of 2010 and worked on the beach clean up project. I enjoyed it so much that when they asked me to return in 2011 I was more than happy to. After the project ended Diana asked to come back on a part time basis as a development director/consultant so of course I accepted and I look forward to the work ahead.

Mirah Lim Todd

The EFJ funded Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk project continues into a second phase. Above participants from Cockburn Pen visit Hope Gardens for birdwatching (left) and take a nature walk in Holywell (right)



The EFJ funded Schools' Environment Programme continues. Above scenes from Teacher Training Workshops series held in Kinston (left) and Montego Bay (right) in November and December 2011 respectively. The theme for this year's workshops was Climate Change & Energy

JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST
11 WATERLOO ROAD, KINGSTON 10
TEL: (876)960-3693; FAX: (876)926-0212
EMAIL: jamentrust@cwjamaica.com

WEB: www.jamentrust.org