

THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 4





A season for reflection and recommitment

April 6th, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's independence from Great Britain, an important milestone for our small Caribbean nation. There is an atmosphere of celebration and reminiscence in Jamaica this summer, and the capital city of Kingston is being decorated with Jamaican colours. Jamaicans are also excited about the Olympic Games taking place in London, especially the track and field competitions which coincidentally take place around the same dates as Jamaican Independence; we are proud of our athletes. Meanwhile Tropical Storm Ernesto threatens our independence celebrations, with an expected arrival date of August 5th.

Like 2012, 1962 was a hot summer; temperatures rose to 31°C that year, but every Jamaican summer is hot, especially in Kingston. In the early 1960s the population of the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) was under 500,000 inhabitants, compared to the over 1.2 million persons estimated to live here today. With fewer people, buildings and cars, it must have felt much cooler.

While researching this piece, I spoke to a few older people, including our CEO Diana McCaulay, asking for their memories of Kingston during 1960s (not having been around at the time myself). "We always had a problem with litter," she said. She recalled her family's littering rules – it could be thrown through the car window if it could be eaten by a goat, and also that littering created employment. "But in the 1960s," Diana said, "waste was entirely different. Soft drinks came in glass bottles which could be returned to be reused, and there was much less fast food. People would go home for lunch, bring lunch to work or school, or for special occasions, eat off plates at restaurants."

And other aspects of the Kingston Metropolitan Area environment have changed since Independence; the city of Portmore was yet to be built, and that area was a healthy wetland; Palisadoes was a recreational area where families would go to fish, walk and watch the sunset. The cross harbour race was still an annual event, and fishers made a reasonable living from Kingston Harbour. Meanwhile outside of Kingston, there were few built up areas, and Negril was a sleepy coastal town with a wide, stable beach.

An article appearing on July 25th in the Jamaica Observer's EnviroWatch listed environmental progress since independence as follows: the NRCA Act, Fishing Industry Act and Watershed Protection Act have been passed, national parks and protected areas declared, Environmental Impact Assessments are now mandatory

for large scale developments, the National Environment and Planning Agency established, lead removed from gasoline and ethanol introduced, and the Access to Information Act passed, making it possible for every Jamaican, including environmental NGOs, to access government documents - in this case those relevant to environmental health and development. But it is undeniable that much remains undone – many environmental laws are not enforced, important environmental policy remains in draft for decades, unsuitable development is allowed in protected areas. Still, at the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's independence, one thing is for certain: the state of the environment is actually being talked about in Jamaican society, which was not the case 50 years or maybe even 20 years ago. Most recently the government agency responsible for the environment, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) brought legal action against the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) for failing to adequately manage the Riverton City dump. This is a significant step.

Increased awareness of and appreciation for nature by Jamaicans, especially those in positions of influence, is the only thing that can give us hope for improvements in the state of Jamaica's natural environment over the next 50 years. In the age of disposable packaging, mass consumerism and far too many examples of unsustainable development, the fate of Jamaica's unique natural resources is uncertain. At this milestone in Jamaica's history, JET challenges each and every Jamaican to become a voice for our island's natural assets.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Stanley".

*Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
July 2012*



Kingston, view from the Harbour (top) 1905 (credit: The Caribbean Photo Archive), (bottom) 1990s (credit: NEPA)



Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collie*) (photo credit: Jan Pael)

JAMAICA 50: 50 JAMAICAN SPECIES

Jamaica's biodiversity is phenomenal. Our small island is credited with being rated 5th in the world's islands for plant biodiversity, and has over 200 indigenous plant species. Our animals are equally unique and range from aquatic to terrestrials species.

As Jamaica celebrates 50 years of independence we look at 50 of Jamaica's endemic and indigenous species. An endemic species is one which is found only in one particular region, so these plants and animals are really true Jamaicans to be celebrated. Indigenous species are those that are commonly found in a region, but are not necessarily only there. The listing also shows animals and plants that are endangered and some of those which are protected by law. We must preserve these species so that Jamaica's biodiversity can be enjoyed by future generations.

(*-protected under Wildlife Protection Act 1945 or Endangered Species Act 2000, *e*-endemic, *i*-indigenous)

Birds

1. Jamaican Woodpecker (*Melanerpes radiolatu*) **e*
2. Jamaican Mango (*Anthracothonax mango*) **e*
3. Jamaican Owl/Patoo (*Pseudoscops grammicus*) **e*
4. Yellow-Billed Parrot (*Amazona collaria*) **e*
5. Jamaican Tody (*Todus todus*) **e*
6. Red-Billed Streamertail/Doctor Bird (*Trochilus polytmus*) - Jamaica's National Bird **e*
7. Jamaican Becard (*Pachyramphus niger*) **e*
8. Arrow-headed Warbler (*Dendroica pharetra*) **e*
9. Black-billed Parrot (*Amazona agilis*) **e*
10. Sad Flycatcher (*Myiarchus barbirostris*) **e*
11. White-eyed Thrush (*Turdus jamaicensis*) **e*
12. Jamaican Lizard-Cuckoo (*Saurothera vetula*) **e*
13. Jamaican Crow (*Corvus jamaicensis*) **e*
14. Jamaican Pewee (*Contopus pallidus*) **e*
15. Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo (*Hyetornis pluvialis*) **e*
16. Jamaican Spindalis (*Spindalis nigricephala*) **e*
17. Black-billed Streamertail (*Trochilus scitulus*) **e*
18. Jamaican Elaenia (*Myiopagis cotta*) **e*
19. Rufous-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiarchus validus*) **e*

Insects

- 20. Giant Swallowtail Butterfly (*Pterourus homerus*) *e
- this butterfly is the largest in the western hemisphere
- 21. Jamaican Kite Butterfly (*Protographium marcellinus*) *e

Plants

- 22. Blue Mahoe (*Talipariti elatum*)- This is the national tree of Jamaica i
- 23. Ferns- Jamaica has 82 endemic species of ferns
- 24. Orchids- There are 33 species of orchids endemic to Jamaica
- 25. Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) i
- 26. Lignum Vitae (*Guaiaicum officinale*/*Guaiaicum sanctum*) - This blue flower is the national flower of Jamaica *i

Reptiles/Amphibians

- 27. Jamaican Laughing Treefrog (*Osteopilus brunneus*) e
- 28. Blue-tailed Galliwasp (*Celestus duquesneyi*) *e
- 29. American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) *i
- 30. Jamaican Boa/Yellow Snake (*Epicrates subflavus*) *e
- 31. Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*) *e
- 32. Jamaican Giant Galliwasp (*Celestus occiduus*) (possibly extinct) *e
- 33. Blue Mountain Rock Frog (*Eleutherodactylus glaucoreius*) e

- 34. Jamaican Grey Anole (*Anolis grahami*) e
- 35. Green Bromeliad Treefrog (*Osteopilus wilder*) e
- 36. Bromeliad Galliwasp (*Celestus fowleri*) *e
- 37. Jamaican Blind Snake (*Typhlops jamaicensis*) e
- 38. Jamaican Snoring Frog (*Osteopilus crucialis*) e
- 39. Montego Banded Dwarf Gecko (*Sphaerodactylus richardsonii*) *e
- 40. Jamaican Ameiva (*Ameiva dorsalis*) e
- 41. Spiny Forest Frog (*Osteopilus crombie*) e
- 42. Jamaican Slider Turtle (*Trachemys terrapen*) i
- 43. Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) *i

Mammals

- 44. West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) *i
- 45. Jamaican Hutia/Coney (*Geocapromys brownii*) *e
- 46. Jamaican Flower Bat (*Phyllonycteris aphylla*) *e
- 47. Jamaican Red Bat (*Lasiurus degelidus*) e

Aquatic/Marine

- 48. Blackbelly Limia (*Limia melanogaster*) e
- 49. Black Coral (*Antipatharia*) *i
- 50. Jamaican Killifish (*Cubanichthys pengelleyi*) e

Below: (clockwise from top left) Jamaican Boa, Jamaican Spindalis, Fern Gully, Blackbelly Limia





THE OUTCOME OF RIO+20: A RAY OF HOPE



Danielle Andrade at Rio+20, June 2012

In 1992, more than 100 heads of state met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the first international Earth Summit, convened to address urgent problems of environmental protection and socio-economic development. The assembled leaders signed the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles, and adopted Agenda 21, a 300 page plan for achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. This year

marked the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit, and accordingly the Rio+20 Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 20 -22, 2012.

Through the support of the World Resources Institute (WRI), JET's Legal Director, Danielle Andrade attended the three-day Rio+20 United Nations Conference. "The conference was huge, with many different events taking place all over Rio," says Danielle, "there were also many different side events and exhibits organised by interest groups – I attended a full schedule of events organised by the WRI which touched on many issues."

The Conference came to a close with the ratification of 'The Future We Want', a 53 page document outlining the commitments of Member States towards achieving sustainable development. While many civil society organisations expressed disappointment with the outcome of the Conference, there was a ray of hope. During the conference, Jamaica and eight other Caribbean and Latin American countries supported a declaration led by the Chilean government to pursue the feasibility of establishing a regional convention on Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. Principle 10 recognizes that "environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level" and seeks to ensure access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making processes and effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings for all citizens at the national level. The countries supporting the declaration are Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. These countries have committed to continuing the process of consultation with the 33 members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on a Regional Convention on Principle 10.

There was also some glimmer of hope in the achievements of Caribbean countries. Countries like Guyana and Aruba were the highlight of side events, which showcased their innovative strategies to achieve low carbon development in partnership with other countries and entrepreneurs such as Sir Richard Branson.

The Jamaican delegation at Rio+20 included government officials, including Jamaican Prime Minister, Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller and Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill, as well as representatives of the NGO community and media.



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MOSS-SOLOMON LAMENTS STATE OF KINGSTON HARBOUR AT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

On Wednesday, June 27, the 2012 the Jamaica Environment Trust staged the third Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs) at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston. For the second year the JEAAs were held in conjunction with the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) Awards Ceremony. Over 20 awards were handed out for various categories under both programmes at the event, which also featured an exhibit from some of SEP's top performing schools, who showcased the work of their environmental clubs from the past year.

Guest Speaker at the ceremony, James Moss-Solomon, Chairman of the Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation captivated the audience with a tale from his childhood, the day in which he became the youngest person to swim the cross-harbour race in the Kingston harbour at 10 years old. While lamenting the unlikelihood of anyone breaking his record, given the current deplorable state of Kingston Harbour Mr Moss-Solomon commended the work of the SEP participants, saying "it is gratifying to come here today and have the opportunity to meet some of the teachers and students that make up the foundation of the people who care."

JET's CEO Diana McCaulay, commented on the morning's proceedings, "I was heartened by the displays from our SEP schools, the work being done by the JEAA nominees, and the support from our donors and the private sector" said the JET CEO, "at the same time I am saddened that the Schools' Environment Programme again faces an uncertain future, and hope that we can find some way to continue our work in schools."

JET is most grateful to the sponsors of the JEAAs and SEP Awards who made the event possible: Total Jamaica, CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Jamaica Energy Partners, NCB Foundation, Nestle, Bigga, Patagonia, Jamaica Producers and Industrial Gases Limited.

The winners of **JAMAICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS:**

- ★ The Total Trees for the Future Award: **Mount St Joseph Prep**
- ★ Energy Conservation (Sponsored by Jamaica Energy Partners): **Norman Manley International Airport**
- ★ Water Conservation (Sponsored by Nestle Jamaica): **Ewarton Community Development Action Committee**
- ★ Sustainable Agriculture (Sponsored by Jamaica Producers): **Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement**
- ★ Biodiversity Conservation (Sponsored by NCB Foundation): **The Treasure Beach Turtle Group**
- ★ Waste Management (Sponsored by Wata): **Browns Town Community College**
- ★ Youth Environmental Leadership (Under 16) (Sponsored by Patagonia): **Ikel Grant**
- ★ The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica Champion Environment Teacher (2 awardees): **Pansy Murphy, Port Morant Primary & Junior High; Heaven Brown, Port Antonio High**
- ★ Best Environmental Community (Sponsored by IGL): **Jeffrey Town Farmers Association**
- ★ The CIBC FirstCaribbean Most Environmentally Aware School: **Port Antonio High**

Winners in the **SCHOOLS' ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME:**

- ★ Best Community Outreach: **Port Morant Primary & Junior High, St Thomas**
- ★ Best Spokespersons: **Westwood High, Trelawny**
- ★ Best Curriculum Infusion: **West Indies College Prep, Manchester**
- ★ Most Resilient Environmental Club: **Mount St Joseph Prep**
- ★ Champion (Junior) SEP School: **Maryland All Age**
- ★ Champion (Senior) SEP School: **Port Antonio High**



**2012 JAMAICA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS
AND SEP AWARDS, JUNE 27**



NRCA SUPPORTS SCHOOLS' ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

JET recently received a welcome commitment from the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) to fund the Schools' Environment Programme for the 2012/3 academic year. SEP was facing an uncertain future at the end of the 2011/2 school year, as a two-year grant from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica came to an end. JET is very grateful for this vote of confidence from the NRCA and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). We hope staff at NEPA will also benefit from some of the training activities delivered under SEP.

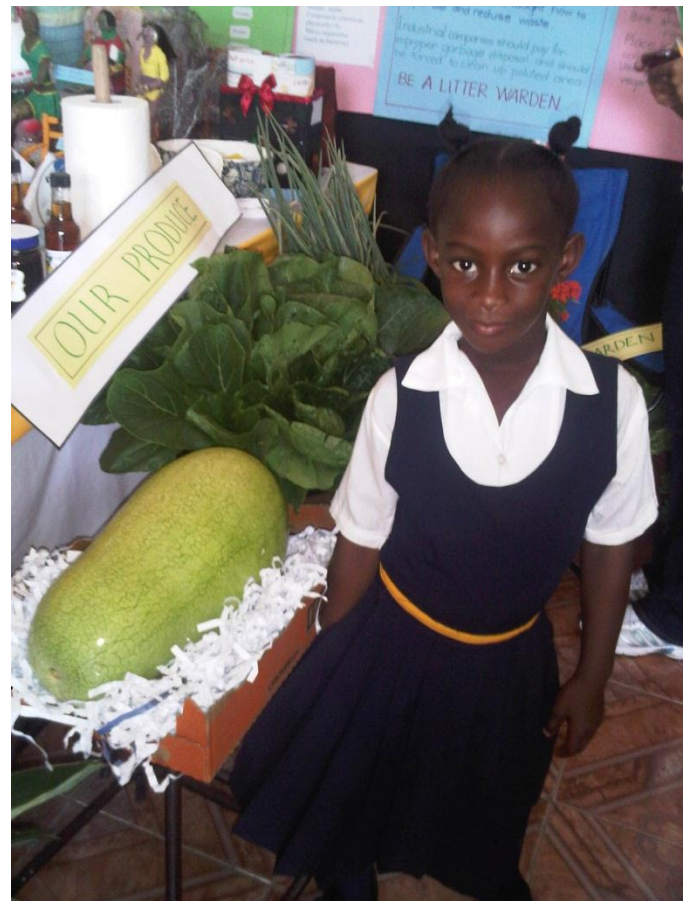
SEP is 15 years old this year, and was delivered in 30 schools in 13 parishes. Activities continued to focus on improving waste management, greening, strengthening environmental clubs and encouraging schools to carry out environmental research projects. 60 teachers received a professional development workshop in November 2011 on Climate Change and Energy. The usual judging exercise took place in May 2012 and 14 schools attained the required standard to be judged. This year, our judging panel included Maureen Milbourn and Carlette Falloon as external judges and Suzanne Stanley and Tamoy Singh from JET.

The SEP Awards ceremony was held along with the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards on June 27th at the Knutsford Court Hotel. More on the SEP and JEAA awards can be found in the article *Moss-Solomon laments state of Kingston Harbour at Environmental Awards*. "The 2012 awards ceremony was a great way to celebrate the end of another successful year of SEP," say Suzanne Stanley, JET

Programme Director, "we have seen the participating schools produce some great work over the year."

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) has been funding SEP since 2010, under a two year grant agreement. "EFJ has been a proud supporter and promoter of the Schools for Environment Programme from Day 1 and we have the results to show that it is money well spent!" says Karen McDonald-Gayle, EFJ CEO, "Many of the young persons in the field of Environmental Science today credit that spark and interest and enthusiasm to the SEP. We hope that it will continue for years to come and to influence many more children and leaders of the future."

At the end of the EFJ funded SEP project, JET turned to the Government of Jamaica for support to continue its education work in schools. Interest was expressed by both the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) and the Ministry of Education. "We hope this means a commitment from the Government of Jamaica to keep SEP going," said JET CEO, Diana McCaulay. "We believe we can raise some funding from the private sector each year, but we really need a long-term commitment from the GOJ for environmental education. We're really happy the NRCA came through for us."



A student from Port Morant Primary & Junior High poses with a watermelon grown on the school's farm during the 2012 SEP judging exercise



Pansy Murphy (left) and Tamoy Singh (right) at JEAAs 2011

AN INTERVIEW WITH PANSY MURPHY

The community Port Morant in St Thomas was recently awarded in the National Best Community Competition (NBCC). Pansy Murphy, teacher at the Port Morant Primary and Junior High, a top performing SEP school, was instrumental in Port Morant's success in the competition.

Here she tells us a little bit more about the NBCC competition and how her work with SEP guided the community's success.

TJ: Tell us a bit more about the competition you recently won

PM: The competition was the National Best Community Competition which consists of eight (8) categories 1. Built Environment, 2. Natural Environment, 3a. Economic, 3b. Social, 4. Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness, 5. Education, 6. Health and Waste Management, 7. Heritage and Culture, 8. Youth Development. We had to set up a display and walk the community on the day of judging, and were questioned on all the sub-topics in each category. We have so far won the community award of \$300,000 dollars and won all 8 categories in the competition giving us another \$400,000 dollars. Thirteen (13) communities in St. Thomas entered the competition and Port Morant came out as the winner.

TJ: How did your participation in SEP contribute your success and the success of the school and community?

PM: As the President of the Port Morant Community Development Committee and the Social and Environmental Association I used all the experience and the exceptional knowledge gained through the School Environmental Program to tackle social and environmental issues, educate members of the community, secure a working community, make things from waste materials, preserve beaches and mangroves, erect environmental signs, schedule regular meetings and plan. SEP is extraordinary because I have taken it out into the community full time. The same topics that are included the SEP programme are those in the National Best Community Competition; the only difference is that NBCC has a few more topics to cover.

I am indeed grateful for your training and will continue to be an environmental steward.



Total Jamaica has announced that they will be funding a second phase of JET's sea turtle monitoring project. The sea turtle monitoring season began in May 2012 with two turtle sightings in Bluefields, Westmoreland and three nests reported in Winnifred Beach Portland. The new project plans to add two new sites at Malcolm Bay in St. Elizabeth and Portland Bight, Clarendon and will begin at a date to be announced. Total Jamaica has been funding JET's projects since 2009 and we are happy for the continued partnership and look forward to another successful project.



PHASE II OF PROJECT WITH RISE CELEBRATED ON EARTH DAY

Earth Day 2012 marked the completion of the second phase of the Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk (BANCAR) project, implemented by the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) and RISE Life Management Services (RISE) and funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) for a second year. The project ended with a fun filled day for participants, nearly 100 8 - 14 year olds from RISE Kidz Clubs in communities of Majestic Gardens, Tower Hill and Drewsland in Kingston.

The open day included displays of the children's artwork from the project, as well as environmental games for the children such as the 'Mangrove Food Chain Relay', 'Build a Tree' and making 'Bird Masks'. One of the highlights of the open day programme was the story telling corner which featured readings by Jana Bent of the *Shaggy Parrot* and

the Reggae Band series, and a reading of *Ryan and the Rain*, a children's book written by JET's CEO Diana McCaulay, read by JET member Emma Lewis. A lunchtime concert showcased the talents of the Kidz Clubbers, who performed several original poems about nature.

The BANCAR project has involved JET delivering environmental workshops to participants in the RISE Kidz Club in Parade Gardens, Fletcher's Land and Allman Town since October 2010. The project also involved taking each community group on field trips to natural settings and training selected RISE staff on environmental issues. "We are very pleased with how the project and the open day have turned out, we enjoyed delivering the project and the participants all seem to have had fun while learning about the environment" said Suzanne Stanley, JET's Programme Director, "we hope that we will have the opportunity to continue the project into subsequent phases to the benefit of more children and additional communities."

BEING A JET VOLUNTEER

Chloe McConnell



Chloe at Green Expo 2011

Coming back to Jamaica for the summer in 2011 and being told I had to get a summer job almost seemed daunting, I didn't want to be stuck in an office all day. Especially with studying environmental science at university, I wasn't even sure what Jamaica had to offer. However I was presented with the opportunity to volunteer at Jamaica Environment Trust so immediately I took it. I figured if I had to do something I might as well gain some experience while doing it.

This is now my second summer volunteering with JET and it has been both an interesting and inspirational experience. Before coming here I was unaware of the efforts made towards environmental welfare in Jamaica. Seeing all the work that Diana and her team do to try and increase people's understanding of the environment, through various programmes and workshops, and being able to be a part of that was truly motivating. Even at times when I had to glue, what seemed like hundreds of empty plastic bottles to a piece of cardboard to make a beach for the 2011 Green Expo volunteering here has made me realize that this is my passion and what I want to do in life. The fact that everyone at JET was so friendly and welcoming also contributed to my time there being as enjoyable as it was. Even though it is only for a short time I am so happy that I was able to help by volunteering at JET.

Thanks Diana and the JET team for giving me this opportunity I am truly appreciative.



THE JETTERS

DANIELLE ANDRADE

AN INTERVIEW

Danielle Andrade is JET's Legal Director. Danielle oversees JET's law and advocacy programme, offering legal advice and representation to the Jamaican public relating to environmental matters

Where were you born?

I was born in Kingston, Jamaica

Where did you go to school?

I went to Campion College, then University of the West Indies for my Bachelor in Law (LLB), Norman Manley Law School for my Legal Education Certificate and Queen Mary University of London for my Masters Degree in Environmental Law (LLM).

Why did you choose to do environmental law?

From a very early age my mother exposed me to nature. Every summer we would take frequent trips around the island and I fell in love with Jamaica and its beaches. I knew I wanted to use law to help people and I felt that environmental law was the perfect opportunity to do that while working in a field that I enjoy.

Tell me more about your work experience before JET

Before coming to JET I worked with a law firm practising civil litigation mostly. This was a good learning experience for me which gave me some of the skills needed in my current job at JET.

How did you learn about JET?

While I was studying at Norman Manley Law School, I heard about a fellowship programme being offered by JET to study International Environmental Law at the University of Costa Rica. I applied for the programme and was awarded the fellowship. During the fellowship I worked on a project looking at the legal grounds for judicial review of the grant of a permit for a development.

What made you interested in working here?

Being able to do what I love (environmental law) with people who also care about the environment.

How long have you been at JET?

6 years

What has been your greatest achievement while working at JET?

Working on successful cases to protect the environment and people's rights to a healthy environment.

Most rewarding moment...

Being part of the lawsuit that led to the rehabilitation of a malfunctioning sewage treatment plant which had been polluting the Harbour View community for over 30 years



Danielle Andrade

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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