

THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 5





Likkl' but wi Tallawah

We often get calls at the office asking for the:

- Human Resources Department
- Public Relations Manager
- Accountant
- Office of the CEO
- CEO's Assistant
- Legal Department
- Fleet Manager
- Technical IT Support
- Public Health Specialist
- Recycling Depot Supervisor
- Graphic Artist/Social Media Officer
- Webmaster

This is what we say in response: "Well, we don't have a (fill in the blank), but you can talk to me." The truth is JET is small – we have only five full-time employees, including the CEO. But those five employees, all women, often seem like a team of 50. One example of this is International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day held in September each year, for which JET is Jamaica's national coordinator. The event grows bigger every year, and in 2012 JET not only organized, trained and supported site coordinators at 55 locations across Jamaica, we also hosted a cleanup event at Fort Rocky on the Palisadoes in Kingston with over 1300 registered volunteers. Regardless of our primary job responsibilities, we all come together to manage ICC Day.

Our "legal department" consists of one person – our Legal Director, Danielle Andrade. In any given week, Danielle will handle complaints from the public on various environmental issues, research the legal implications of developments, attend a range of meetings including public consultations as well as organising interns, writing project proposals, and coordinating the review of Environmental Impact Assessments.

Our education arm is staffed by two people – me, as Programme Director, and Tamoy Singh, our Project Coordinator – and each year we operate the Schools' Environment Programme, the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards, Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk, International Coastal Cleanup Day, JET's Beach Cleanup and various other smaller projects including expos, workshops, and events surrounding environmental days. We also write proposals as they relate to environmental education projects, and coordinate volunteers and the management of the JET office. Tamoy also handles a range of administrative functions, including data entry, investment management, and producing JET's in-house accounts. The CEO is supported by the Administrative Assistant, Latoya Pinnock-Wilson, who also makes sure everyone who calls and visits JET receives a friendly and helpful response, and helps visitors to our recycling collection depot.

Then there are the dedicated JET volunteers, who we know we can call on when we need help. Some of these volunteers have been supporters of JET for years; some are even former staff members!

Yes, the numbers are limited, but not the commitment by the Jetters and volunteers. Together we achieve much more than our numbers would suggest was possible. Take this magazine, which you are about to read – there's no dedicated graphic artist, editor or production team at JET. It's just the five of us, each writing an article about work we have done, gathering photographs, and helping each other to read and format, using basic word processing software.

Wi likkl' but tallawah fi true, and we hope you enjoy this edition of The Jetter.

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

Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
January 2013
JOC





Morning hike with the ELAW group in the Swapnagandha Valley, Goa, India

WORTH FIGHTING FOR!

LEGAL DIRECTOR ATTENDS ELAW MEETING IN GOA, INDIA



After more than a day of travelling over 8,000 miles, JET's Legal Director, Danielle Andrade, arrived in India on November 26, 2012 to attend the Annual Meeting of the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). Danielle joined over 40 public interest environmental lawyers from 22 countries in the small Indian state of Goa to share

litigation and advocacy strategies at the yearly annual meeting.

JET has been attending the ELAW annual meetings since 2005 but this year was different. The group of lawyers were taken into a wildlife sanctuary for a few days where tigers, bison and elephants were known to roam. In this case, hearing things go bump in the night fed into their imagination of what might lay outside. Yet even in the midst of such wonder, we were told that less than 100 miles away was the proposed site for a nuclear power plant, and surrounding the sanctuary were dozens of bauxite mining operations. While standing on a mountain overlooking the great expanse of Indian forest, it was easy to see that like our own Cockpit Country, this majestic place was worth fighting for.

Danielle learned about advancements in the practice of environmental law like the creation of a National Green Tribunal in India which heard complaints from any Indian

citizen who wished to challenge projects that violated their right to a healthy environment. With easier access to justice, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in India have already filed over 300 cases on behalf of citizens to combat the devastation wrought by widespread mining activities and obtain compensation for victims of pollution. In Belize, another NGO had conducted their own people's referendum in response to the public outcry against the approval of offshore oil drilling and then took the government to court to recognize the referendum. Remarkably in a country of

less than 350,000 people, they had received over 8,000 referendum signatures. In a country like Jamaica, where JET

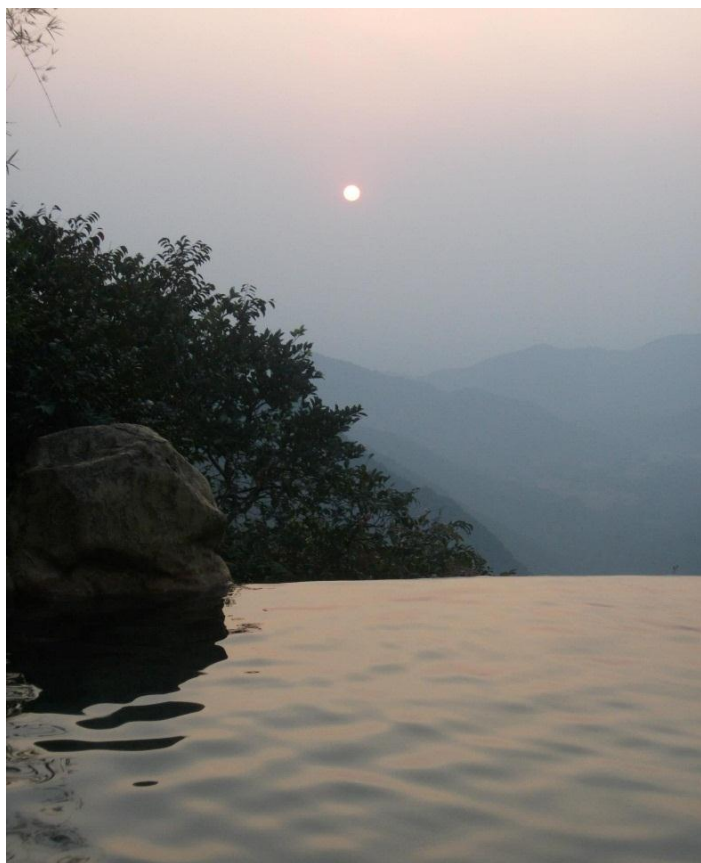
is the only public interest environmental law group, Danielle says, "it was amazing to hear how other lawyers were using the law and advocacy to help citizens in other countries and humbling to know that JET was not alone, that there were people who understood that some things are worth fighting for, even when the challenges seem insurmountable."

Jamaica joins Latin America and the Caribbean in Improving Access Rights in the Region

In 2012, Jamaica joined The Access Initiative (TAI), a global network of civil society organisations working to promote procedural access rights, access to information, public participation and justice in environmental decision-making. As a part of this initiative, JET will be conducting an assessment of the state of procedural rights in Jamaica. JET is also working with the TAI network to promote these rights in the region. Jamaica and nine other Caribbean and Latin American countries have already signed a declaration to pursue the feasibility of establishing a regional instrument to improve access rights in environmental matters. The countries supporting the declaration are Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

In a follow up from the Rio+20 Earth Summit held in June in Brazil, a meeting of the signatories was held in Chile in November 2012 organized by the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and The Caribbean (ECLAC). JET's Legal Director attended the meeting as a civil society expert along with other experts in the region. A road map was adopted at the meeting with the intention to an action plan in April 2013.

Jamaica is the only English speaking Caribbean country that has signed on to the Declaration. Of the 15 Caribbean ECLAC member states, 12 of these countries have English as their official language. This process presents the opportunity for Caribbean countries to receive technical and financial support to improve the public's right to information, participate in environmental decisions and obtain justice in environmental matters. It is hoped that by the time of the April 2013 meeting, more English-speaking Caribbean countries will have signed on to the declaration.



View from Wildernest Lodge, Goa, India



The ELAW Group at the 2012 meeting in Goa, India

NEW DONORS COME ON BOARD TO DELIVER PHASE III OF BANCAR



The GraceKennedy Foundation (GKF) and Wisynco joined the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) in their support of phase III of the Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk (BANCAR) project.

The project was launched in partnership with RISE Life Management Services in 2010, and delivers environmental workshops and field trips to inner city children. Phase III involved another group of children from RISE Life Management Service's after-school programme. "It is always great working with the RISE kids," said Tamoy Singh, JET's project coordinator. "This is the second time since the start of the project that we have worked with the Parade Gardens community, but this was a totally new group of kids."

In total, JET has delivered 21 workshops and 21 field trips to 300 children from the Parade Gardens, Allman Town, Fletchers Land, Drewsland, Majesty Gardens and Tower Hill communities in Kingston. As with previous phases, phase III workshops focused on three themes: our urban environment, wetlands and birds and forests. The 40 children from RISE's after-school GSAT programme were taken on field trips to Holywell, where they went on a nature walk with Jamaica Conservation Development Trust park rangers, to the Port Royal Marine Lab, where they toured the Port Royal mangroves, and to Hope Gardens where they were led on a bird watch by representatives of Birdlife Jamaica.

Funding has now run out for the project, but JET hopes to attract new donors for the beginning of the 2013/14 school year. "Everyone who has been involved with the BANCAR project has enjoyed it," says Suzanne Stanley, JET's Programme Director. "It would be a shame if more children were not able to benefit from such a great initiative." JET would like to thank RISE for being a wonderful partner, and to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the EFJ, GKF and Wisynco for their support.



Scenes from phase III of the Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk project



**OVER 4,000 VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT FOR
INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2012**

Saturday, September 15, marked the 27th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day. For the fifth year, ICC activities in Jamaica were spearheaded by the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), national coordinators of the event, which took place at 64 sites across the island. JET's own cleanup saw over 1,300 volunteers helping to clean the Fort Rocky Beach on the Palisadoes Strip, breaking its own 2011 record for the largest ever turn out to a single site.

As early as 7:30am, volunteers began arriving at Fort Rocky to clean the beach. 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. "The response this year to JET's beach cleanup and ICC overall has been overwhelming," said Suzanne Stanley, JET's Programme Director. "We hope that this means more Jamaicans are starting to take environmental conservation and proper waste management more seriously." For the second year, JET encouraged volunteers to bring reusable water bottles to the cleanup, rather than using bottled water. A water station at the JET Beach Cleanup, sponsored by Culligan, dispensed 55 gallons of water at the event, avoiding the waste associated with the equivalent of approximately 352 600ml plastic bottles. In congratulating JET on another successful beach cleanup, Kirk Bridgewater of Culligan said, "The event looked to be larger than last year's effort and we continue to wish for JET growth and success."

Across the island, the response was the same, ICC was a huge success, with over 4,000 volunteers turning out to help clean the island's beaches. Islandwide ICC activities were funded for the fifth consecutive year by the Tourism Enhancement Fund, and were coordinated by 51 community groups, NGOs, government agencies and private sector organizations with the guidance of JET. "Undoubtedly, there is tremendous power in unity," said Dwayne Gayle, President of Junior Chamber International St Andrew. "JCI Members are already looking forward to International Coastal Cleanup Day 2013". Meanwhile in Treasure Beach, the Treasure Beach Women's Group had more than a hundred persons turn out to pick up what they estimate was less garbage than in previous cleanups. Denise Wedderburn of the Women's Group commented, "We hope this means the message is getting through to the community about littering and the effects on our marine life and environment."

Over 500 bags of garbage were removed from Fort Rocky beach in Kingston. Meanwhile, the cleanup of the Half Moon Beach in Hellshire, St Catherine hosted by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) collected over 400 bags of garbage. On the North Coast in Montego Bay,

the Rotary Club of Montego Bay reported collecting nearly 200 bags of garbage at their cleanup in Freeport. "It takes a couple months to compile the data from all the different sites," said Tamoy Singh, JET's Project Coordinator. "Each year we have several volunteers who assist us in tabulating everything after ICC Day." This year ICC in Jamaica attracted 4087 registered volunteers, who collected 55,212 pounds of garbage from 46.78 miles of coastline.

International Coastal Cleanup Day in Jamaica is funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund, with sponsorship of JET's cleanup also coming from the private sector: Airpack/Mailpac, Airports Authority of Jamaica, Culligan Water Conditioning, General Accident Insurance Company, HD Hopwood, ICWI Insurance Company, Jamaica Biscuit Company, Jamaica Broilers, Jamaica Energy Partners, Jamaica Producers, Jamaica Public Service Company, JN General Insurance Company, Juici Beef, KPMG, LIME, Mega Mart, National Outdoor Advertising, Nestle Jamaica, PBS Jamaica, Protect the Environment Trust, Proven Wealth, Rainbow Awnings, Rentalot Equipment, Spanish Court Hotel, Sun Island, Wyndham Hotel, Trade Winds Citrus, Tropishades, Vanguard Security and Wisynco.

International Coastal Cleanup Day was started in 1985 by the Ocean Conservancy and is the largest volunteer event in the world, taking place in over 100 countries annually.

*International Coastal Cleanup Day
2012 Jamaica attracted 4087
registered volunteers, who collected
55,212 pounds of garbage from 46.78
miles of Jamaican coastline which
filled 3,689 bags!*



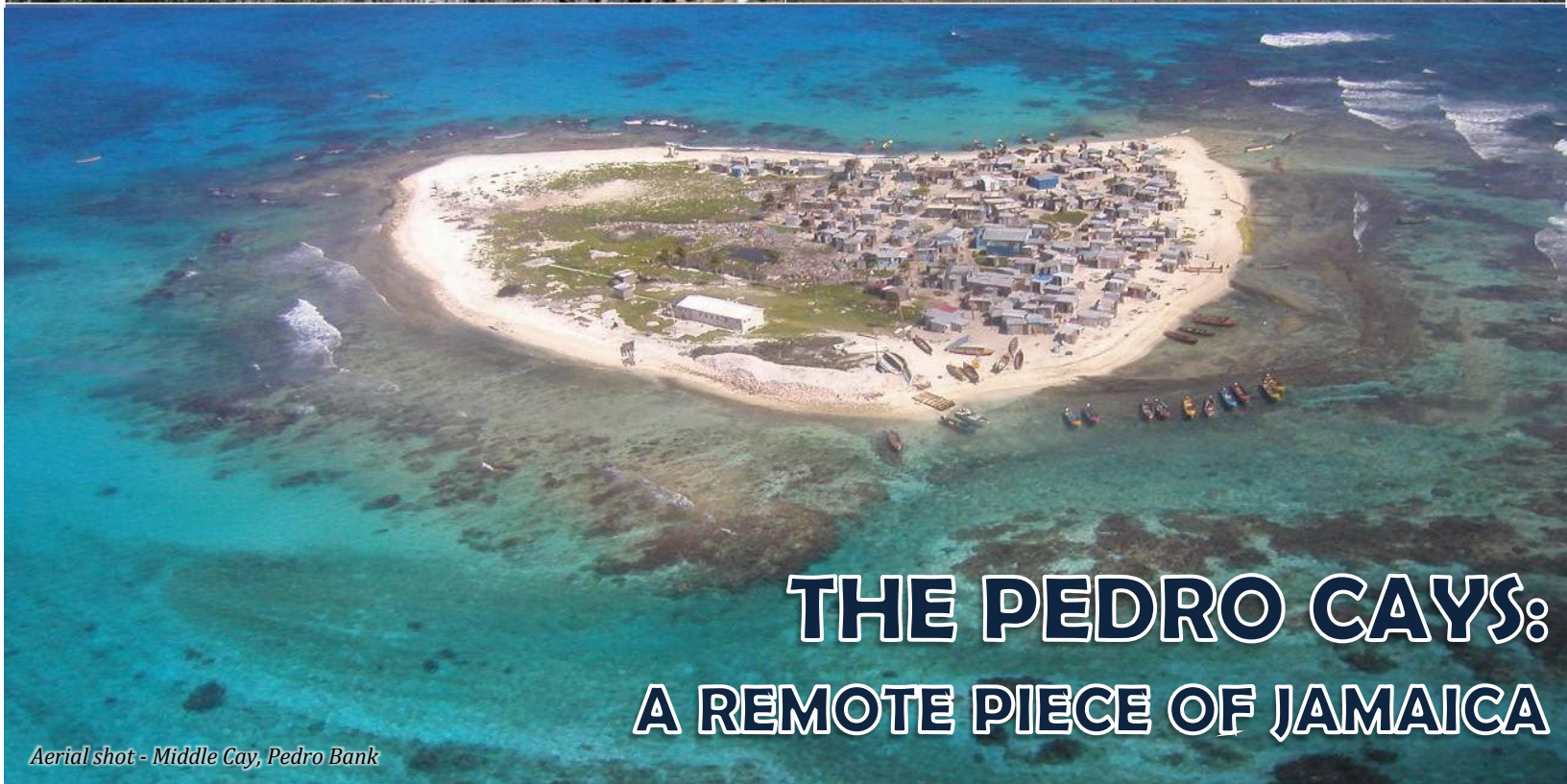
ICC activities at Discovery Bay, St Ann



Middle Cay, Pedro Bank – before the cleanup



Middle Cay, Pedro Bank – after the cleanup



THE PEDRO CAYS: A REMOTE PIECE OF JAMAICA

Aerial shot - Middle Cay, Pedro Bank



Fishermen at Middle Cay, Pedro Bank



South-West (Bird) Cay

• Pedro cays

The Pedro Bank is a large submarine plateau – almost $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of Jamaica, about 8,000 sq km in area – roughly 100 miles south west of Kingston. The Bank and Cays (small islands) contain important marine resources for Jamaica. The bank breaks the surface in eight places – four are rocks and the other four are the Pedro Cays – NE Cay (Top Cay), Middle Cay, SE Cay, SW Cay (Bird Cay) and Portland Rock. Two of the small cays – Top Cay and Middle Cay – are inhabited, mostly by fishers. Population is estimated at between 400-600 persons, depending on the time of year. The biggest Cay is South-West (Bird) Cay – 37.5 acres – and the smallest Cay is South Cay – only half an acre and often submerged.

The word “cay” comes from the Taino word “kairi” which means island, so Jamaica’s cays have been used by people for a very long time. Archaeologists estimate there are over 300 shipwrecks on the Bank, dating from as far back as the 16th century.

The Cays are owned by the Commissioner of Lands, and under the Morant and Pedro Cays Act of 1907, they are deemed to be part of Kingston, although political representation for those who live on the Cays is unclear. Ministerial responsibility for the Pedro Bank and Cays is spread across several ministries – Agriculture and Fisheries, Environment, Health and Local Government.

For many decades, there has been a serious solid waste problem at the Pedro Cays. When JET was planning International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) day in September 2012, we decided to see if we could encourage a cleanup at the Cays. We contacted The Nature Conservancy (TNC), an international NGO which has been doing important conservation work on the Cays for six years, including extensive social and ecological research and the development of management plans. We asked if TNC would like to be site coordinators for a cleanup of Middle Cay, and they enthusiastically agreed. As JET continued to plan the cleanup, we realized how serious the situation was and eventually took a media crew to Middle Cay. The ensuing public attention has been helpful in getting the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) to begin to improve the situation on the Cays.

The fishing community and TNC carried out a major cleanup of Middle Cay in September 2012 as part of ICC activities. Another cleanup was done by Fisheries Division and the National Solid Waste Management Agency in December 2012, but unfortunately a large number of the bags of garbage were left on the beach at Middle Cay. JET is working to ensure the GOJ has these removed and establishes a proper waste management system.

The JDF Coast Guard and the Marine Police maintain a permanent base on the Cays. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) also has a field station for use by partners in

conservation efforts. Water for drinking and washing is brought to the Cays by fishers and the JDF Coast Guard. Electricity is provided by generators – fuel also has to be transported – which allows for sound systems, lighting and refrigeration.

The Pedro Bank contains healthy coral reefs and significant fisheries – finfish, lobster and conch. It is a major economic resource for both artisanal and commercial fishers. In past years Jamaica has earned US \$24 million in foreign exchange from conch and other seafood exports from Pedro Bank.

The Cays are nesting grounds for a range of marine turtles and seabirds. Have a look at the film *Connecting the Caribbean through Seabird Conservation*, done by Esther Figueroa for TNC on the Vagabond Media YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/mediavagabond. Thanks to the work of TNC with the GOJ, there is now a new fish sanctuary at the Pedro Cays – the South West Cay Special Fishery Conservation Area – where no fishing can take place. A second film *Protecting Pedro, Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary* by Esther Figueroa for TNC on the establishment of this sanctuary can also be seen on the Vagabond Media YouTube channel.

There are several environmental and public health problems at the Cays – poaching of marine resources by vessels of other nations, illegal harvesting of bird and turtle eggs, predation of bird eggs by feral cats – although this recently has been solved by removal of the cats. The Pedro Cays are vulnerable to storms and storm surges. On the two inhabited Cays – Middle and Top Cays – there are no working toilets for the general population, no running water, very poor waste disposal practices, disease vectors (flies, mosquitoes, rats, bedbugs), and inadequate housing conditions. Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) birds nest on the ground near where waste is frequently discarded and burned. Following the press attention, a major cleanup was done, but a sustainable waste management system (including for human waste) is yet to be identified.

JET will continue its advocacy to ensure better management of this important natural resource.



Fishing boats at Middle Cay, Pedro Bank



SCHOOLS' ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

JET hosted two professional development workshops for teachers participating in SEP in the 2012/2013 academic year with the funding received from the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA). The workshop theme 'Garbage: Whose problem?' looked at the ways in which solid waste is managed in Jamaica and the ways Jamaicans can improve personal habits, such as littering and burning. Held at the Alhambra Inn in Kingston (November 20) and at the Altamont West Hotel in Montego Bay (November 23), 40 participants attended from 27 schools as well as two representatives from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). Participants engaged in discussions and role play surrounding three case studies on solid waste management: Pedro Cays, Riverton Dump and waste management in Jamaican schools. One teacher commented: "Good workshop as usual, caused participants to leave with something to think about".

Thirty-two schools registered to participate in the 2012/13 SEP programme. In the Christmas term, JET project staff paid visits to 30 of the registered schools. Unfortunately the passage of Hurricane Sandy and subsequent bad weather in St Mary, meant schools in that parish could not be visited.

SEP activities which are in the works for the rest of the academic year, include a workshop for SEP teachers on birds which has been funded by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) (more about this project can be found on page 11), an Earth Day activity in April for students participating in SEP, the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards and the SEP judging and awards ceremony in June.

SEP 2012/13 has got off to a great start, and JET is grateful to the NRCA for supporting environmental education.



Teachers discuss case studies at the Kingston SEP Teacher Training Workshop at the Alhambra Inn in November 2012

CRS

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS SET TO LAUNCH IN MARCH

JET is pleased to announce the launch of the fourth annual Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs). Nominations for the 2013 awards are set to open on March 22nd, celebrated globally as World Water Day.

JEAA awardees will have demonstrated innovative and effective efforts aimed at protecting and preserving Jamaica's natural environment. The JEAAs award outstanding efforts in energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, environmental awareness in schools and communities, tree planting, among other environmentally themed categories. Nominations for the JEAAs are open to individuals and groups, from both the private and public sector. Nominees can be self-nominated, or nominated by a third party. Nomination forms will be made available on the JET website (www.jamentrust.org) and at the JET offices, 11 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10. All nominations will be reviewed by an independent panel of judges including representatives from the conservation community. Last year 10 categories of awards were presented to individuals and groups from across the island.

Total Jamaica has already confirmed its support of the awards for the fourth consecutive year, and they are expected to be joined by several other corporate sponsors.



CARIBBEAN BIRDSLEUTH, BAHAMAS

From November 29th to December 1st, 2012, the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) in partnership with the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) hosted the Caribbean Birdsleuth International Training workshop in Nassau, Bahamas. JET staffers, Tamoy Singh and Suzanne Stanley attended the workshop, the aim of which was to train environmental educators to deliver a new programme focusing on birds. The new Caribbean Birdsleuth initiative was been designed by Cornell University in association with SCSCB and is adapted for the Caribbean region. Workshop participants will in turn train other educators in their home territories in the bird curriculum. The workshop reviewed the Caribbean curriculum Birdsleuth which includes lessons on bird anatomy, bird identification and ecology targeted at grade levels 4 - 9.

The workshop also included bird watching at two sites on New Providence and Paradise Island, and gave participants the opportunity to share birding knowledge and activities from each territory. Participants in the workshop came from the USA, Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Antigua. The exercise was informative and fun, and JET looks forward to training Jamaican teachers in this programme through SEP.



Scenes from Caribbean Birdsleuth Workshop in Nassau



JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST
A voice for Jamaica's natural resources

**Make a great start to 2013 by becoming a member of JET,
or if you're an existing member – renew your membership fee!**
Individual Membership starts at \$1,000JMD

YOU CAN NOW MAKE DONATIONS TO JET ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:



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or at Paymaster online!

Cash or cheque payment by mail or in person to 11 Waterloo Road, Kingston 10,
Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 4.30 pm

We'll pick it up! (Kingston only, for fees/donations >\$1000JMD)
Tuesdays and Fridays between 11am and 2pm

QUEEN CONCH: DID YOU KNOW?



From top to bottom: Fisherman with Conch on Pedro Banks (conserveonline.org), Fisher holding conch – Turks and Caicos, Conch shell

Jamaica's industrial fishery for queen conch is one of the most valuable components of commercial marine fisheries. The industry, which is largely centred on the Pedro Banks, may be at risk due to overfishing, poor enforcement, poaching and under-reporting. Here are a few facts about this interesting species and how it is managed.

1. The Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) is a large, marine, gastropod mollusk. The majority of mollusks, including queen conch, are of the Class Gastropoda, whose name translates from Latin as "stomach foot."
2. Queen Conch are full grown at about 3-5 years of age, growing to a maximum of about 12 inches long and weighing about 5 pounds. They usually live to 20-30 years; however, lifespan has been estimated up to 40 years.
3. Queen Conch are valuable for both their edible meat and attractive shell, and live in sand, seagrass beds, and coral reefs in warm, shallow water.
4. The main Queen Conch fishing ground in Jamaica is the large adjacent oceanic plateau – Pedro Bank.
5. Jamaica was the largest exporter of Queen Conch meat between 1993 and 1999. The major destination for export was the USA.
6. Industrial fishing methods remove conch meat and leave shells on the sea floor. This makes it difficult for inspectors to determine maturity of the conch when harvested. Under-reporting of catch is also a major problem.
7. Empty conch shells are also believed to drive away remaining conch, and large portions of the Pedro Bank are covered with broken conch shells from the fishery.
8. Monitoring and enforcement of the conch is weak, and subject to poaching by foreign vessels.
9. Better monitoring of Pedro Bank and further biological studies of the resource are needed to improve management.

Source: Aiken, K., et al 2006, Managing Jamaica's Queen Conch Resources. NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources 2012. Queen Conch.



THE JETTERS

LATOYA PINNOCK-WILSON

Latoya Pinnock-Wilson is JET's new administrative assistant. She is often the first point of contact for members of the public when they visit or call JET.

Where were you born?

Kingston, Jamaica.

Tell me about your work experience.

My first job was in 2000 at the Kingston YMCA where I was an Assistant Counsellor. I was responsible for planning lessons for young boys below the literacy level, as well as provide counselling for the students and their families. After leaving YMCA I completed two internships focused on social work totalling 10 months with the SOS Children's Village Child Development Agency in 2004 and 2011 respectively. Between 2005 and 2009 I continued working in the field of social work with Homestead Place of Safety, Best Care Foundation and Whole Life Ministries. Between 2009 and 2011 I worked with the Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights where I was responsible for the integration of refugees into Jamaican society.

I realise you have worked primarily in social work. Why is that?

I chose social work because of my past experiences and I wanted to help persons in similar situations.

How did you learn about JET?

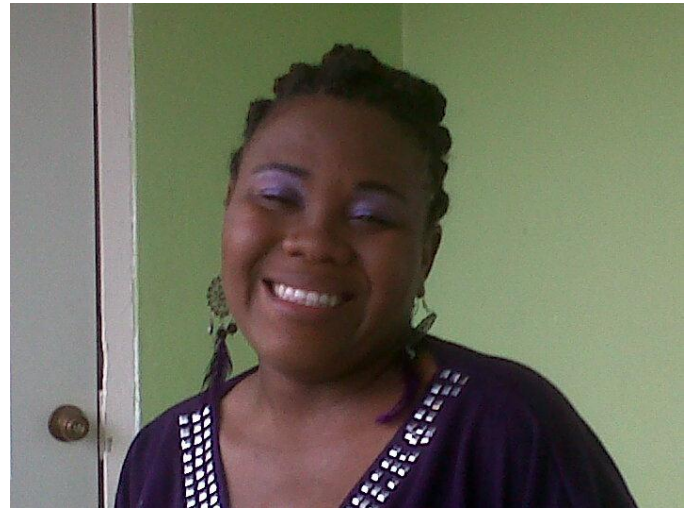
I learnt about JET from a friend. I was enlightened about the advocacy work that was done here and how much I could learn about improving my environment and teaching others about taking care of their surroundings.

How different is working in environmental organization as opposed to social work?

Working in an environmental organization is a part of social work that deals with the holistic approach so it was an easy option for me.

What was something you did not know before coming to work at JET?

I did not know that it was illegal to burn garbage. Now I discourage persons from taking part in this practice.



Latoya Pinnock-Wilson, JET's Administrative Assistant

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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