

THE JETTER

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EDITORIAL

Love where you live...

JET's Earth Day event in April 2013 was a call to action for teachers and students to protect threatened Jamaican natural resources, as we began filming our new environmental campaign - *Love where you live*. Working with young film maker Randall Richards, we asked students, scientists, teachers and partners why they cared about the environment and we filmed their responses.

Love where you live was the brainchild of JET's CEO, Diana McCauley. Originally we wanted to call it the *I am an environmentalist* campaign. We hoped to get people who care about the environment (JET members, children in environmental clubs, environmental education project sponsors, celebrities) to claim the word 'environmentalist' – which seems too often to be used in a negative and dismissive way in Jamaica. Environmentalists are described as tree-huggers and anti-development – terms which suggest thoughtless extremism. But an environmentalist is simply a person who advocates for and works to protect the air, water, animals, plants, and other natural resources from harm; someone who loves their land and all the vital services provided by nature. Surely being an environmentalist is not such a radical concept? We wanted the new campaign to get people thinking and talking about why they care about the environment. So we eventually decided against using the word "environmentalist" as a central idea and came up with the message that we should love where we live. After all, our environment is our home, our island, and it is everything around us. We have a constitutional right to a healthy environment in the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If we love where we live, we will care about the environment and protect it.

As we go to press, JET faces another legal battle over Jamaica's largest protected area – the Portland Bight

It is our home

I love the sea, I love beaches

I have no choice, it is everything...

from Love Where You Live

Protected Area (PBPA), including two small islands off the coast of Old Harbour Bay, Great and Little Goat Islands. The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) recently confirmed that it is giving "very serious consideration" to the PBPA and Goat Islands as the site for a huge transshipment port to be constructed by Chinese investors. JET has called for the release of the details of this project, the due diligence that was done to identify the best site for this development and has asked why, given the GOJ's commitment to openness and transparency, there was no attempt to engage with stakeholders including the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM), who has been working in the area since 1998 prior to this announcement being made.

The debate is too frequently being framed as the environment versus development, worthless bush vs jobs in a country with high unemployment. Our island is many things to us – yes, it does have a strategic geographic position for shipping and trade, and we should certainly seek to take advantage of this, but it is also our home. The natural resources in the PBPA which are protected under three different statutes and two international conventions (see pages 3 -4 for more information) provide us with protection from storms, flood control and contain the fish stocks of that area – some 4,000 fishers depend on the mangroves and seagrass beds of the PBPA for their livelihoods. Do these resources not deserve the utmost care and careful consideration? Are we really prepared to sacrifice the beauty and rich biological resources of our home, the island where we live, for a development which could damage our land and our marine environment, for uncertain and as yet unspecified economic benefits? Is there no other site in Jamaica this port can be located?

If we all love Jamaica, we should worry about any proposed development with the potential to change it forever. We should worry about the lack of required study, due diligence and transparency that has so far attended this project.

The first three episodes of the *Love where you live* campaign are you on JET's YouTube channel. Check it out, and be encouraged to love where you live, speak up for Jamaica's protected areas, and enjoy this latest edition of the Jetter...



Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director

August 2013

SCC



Great Goat Island © Cory Enger



Great Goat Island, Portland Bight Protected Area, St Catherine © Cory Enger

Physical Features

At 1,876 km², Portland Bight is Jamaica's largest protected area stretching from the Hellshire Hills in the east up to (but not including) Milk River in the west, to just south of May Pen. The area includes the Braziletto Mountains and Portland Ridge. It also has a marine protected area including the Portland Bight cays – Pigeon Island, Big and Little Pelican cay, Great Goat Island and Little Goat Island. This marine area covers 48% of Jamaica's island shelf and 53% of Jamaica's south coast shelf.

Its main natural features include mangroves, coastal swamps, seagrass beds, coral reefs, dry limestone forests, habitats for many plant and animal species including the endangered American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and critically endangered Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*). The area is home to 22 vulnerable, threatened and critically endangered species, some of which are endemic, a few found only in the PBPA.

Heritage Resources

The Goat Islands are a Taino archaeological site. Galleon Harbour was where Columbus moored one of his ships, and the bay was the site of both Spanish and English settlements. A US naval base was also located on Little Goat Island in the early 20th century.

Population

Number of people living in the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA): 50,000

Number of fishers in the PBPA: 4,000 – 4,500

Local NGO

The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM) is currently negotiating a management agreement with the Government of Jamaica through the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). They have been working in the area since 1999.

Economic Activities

Primary economic activities taking place in the PBPA include electricity generation, fisheries, port and shipping, aquaculture, limestone mining, ethanol production, and animal feed production.

Legal Protections

Portland Bight Protected Area declared under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act in 1998

Game reserves – Goat Islands, Amity Hall and Cabarita Point, declared under the Wildlife Protection Act in 1991

Fish sanctuaries (or Special Fisheries Conservation Areas) – Galleon Harbour, Salt Harbour and Three Bays, declared under the Fishing Industries Act in 2010.

International Conventions

RAMSAR site (wetland of international importance) declared under the Ramsar Convention in 2006

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Jamaica’s CBD Action Plan includes setting aside Goat Islands as a wildlife sanctuary for endangered species.

Other Declarations

Portland Bight Biosphere Reserve was conditionally approved by UNESCO based on the recommendations of the GOJ in 2012.

Declared an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Birdlife International
Source: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM)

Recent Developments

In August 2013 the Government of Jamaica stated the Goat Island site was being “seriously considered for a large transshipment port”. The Jamaica Environment Trust is calling for:

- Full disclosure of all agreements, memoranda of understanding, review of alternative sites, criteria for site selection, rationale for selection of the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) as the best site for the port,

detailed parameters of the transshipment port project – area needed, access to deep water, roads, airports, housing, communications etc.

- Full disclosure of the potential costs and benefits for Jamaica of a Chinese owned transshipment port. It is not enough to state the cost of the investment – what is the amount that will benefit Jamaica? How many jobs will Jamaicans get? What kind of qualifications will be needed for those jobs? Modern ports are highly mechanized – there have been recent articles about loss of trained people at the Kingston port – do we have the required skills? What are the risk factors?
- Expert consultation on the alternative sites
- Public consultation before any final decision is taken on the specific site selected, particularly with those who stand to lose the most – in the case of the PBPA, the fishing community
- To cease the kind of policy incoherence practiced in Jamaica, where areas are protected by law and then later destroyed. To be a protected area must MEAN something.

JET recognizes that time is of the essence with a project of this magnitude, but this is an irreversible land use change and we must get it right. The critical preliminary steps outlined above should have been done long before any announcement of the potential site by the Government of Jamaica.



Dry Limestone Forest and Coastal Mangroves, Great Goat Island © Cory Enger

UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE FOR INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY - SEPT 21

The Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) is reporting an unprecedented response to this year's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day activities in Jamaica, to be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013. For the first time in Jamaica, there are 92 registered ICC sites island wide, including 7 waterway and 8 underwater cleanups. We are expecting over 6,000 volunteers.

ICC efforts began in Jamaica the mid-90s with small cleanups taking place in a few locations across the island. In 2008 the Jamaica Environment Trust became national coordinators of ICC activities in Jamaica and gained the support of the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) as the primary donor. That year, 27 groups coordinated 1,800 volunteers to clean up 34 beaches across the island. "ICC Day in Jamaica has grown by leaps and bounds each year," said Diana McCaulay, JET CEO, "We anticipated having more sites and volunteers this year, but 92 sites far exceeds our expectations."

International Coastal Cleanup Day is funded in Jamaica by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) and the RBC Blue Water Project, with strong support coming from corporate Jamaica, including Wisynco through their Coca Cola brand. As the National Coordinator, JET is working with local site coordinators to carry out ICC cleanups in all 14 parishes in Jamaica. Site coordinators include community based organisations, non-government organisations, government agencies, private sector organisations, hotels, tourism stakeholders, youth clubs, service clubs, and schools.

"The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) is delighted to know that a record number of sites have been registered for the 2013 (ICC) Day. It is a clear indication that we are beginning to understand and appreciate the concept of social responsibility and the importance of environmental stewardship...not only to ensure our own survival, but is also expected of us from visitors who are holding destinations to higher environmental standards," said Clyde Harrison, Executive Director of the TEF.

Also new this year is the addition of waterway cleanups thanks to the support of the RBC Royal Bank Blue Water Project Community Action Grant. "We are honoured to support efforts of this year's RBC Blue Water Project

Community Action Grant recipient, the Jamaica Environment Trust, whose coordination of the International Coastal Cleanup Day reflects our focus on urban water issues by protecting and keeping our shorelines and waterways clean," said Barrington Watson, Market Head, Business Banking, RBC Royal Bank.

This year, there has been increased involvement from government agencies. The Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment is coordinating a cleanup along the Port Royal Main Road, while other Ministry of Tourism agencies will be cleaning up beaches in Trelawny, St Mary, St Elizabeth and St Ann. The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) will be cleaning Half Moon Bay, Hellshire, and NEPA will also be cleaning up Shipwreck Beach on the Palisadoes Strip. The National Water Commission (NWC) will clean up the beach near the recently rehabilitated sewage plant at Harbour View. In other parishes, the ODPEM will be cleaning Sarah Jimmy River in Portland under the banner of their Community Based Landslide Risk Reduction Project.

There has also been enthusiastic participation from tourism stakeholders including hotels and resort boards. Sandals Foundation has come onboard as a major supporter of ICC Day in Jamaica by coordinating 8 cleanups in 3 parishes. Couples Negril, Couples Swept Away, Hedonism II, The Cardiff Hotel and Spa, and Rock House Hotel are also coordinating cleanups in their resort areas.

ICC volunteers are responsible not only for picking up trash on coastlines, but also collecting data on the type of garbage affecting the marine environment. The data is compiled and sent by JET to the Ocean Conservancy in the US, who coordinates the global event. A full list of clean ups islandwide will be published in the press in the days leading up to the event. JET encourages all Jamaicans to join a cleanup in their region - A day at the beach can make a world of difference!





Cockpit Country public consultations in 2013

Cockpit Country in west central Jamaica is a rugged natural area, rich in biological diversity and home to the Leeward Maroons. Cockpit Country contains Jamaica's largest remaining primary forest and it is a sanctuary for many endemic and rare Jamaican plants and animals. At least 66 plants are found nowhere else in the world, endemic to Cockpit Country.

In 2006, a renewed interest in bauxite mining in Cockpit Country resulted in a major Save Cockpit Country campaign. Arising from this campaign, the Cockpit Country Stakeholders Group (CCSG) was formed. Some bauxite prospecting licenses were suspended; others were surrendered, while still others remained in force. The CCSG engaged in a process of consultation among members and proposed a Cockpit Country boundary. As there were at least six boundary proposals (some historical, others recent), the Government of Jamaica commissioned a study to define the boundaries of Cockpit Country. This was carried out by the Department of Geography and Geology of the University of the West Indies (UWI) in 2007, but was not then released to the public. Finally in 2013, the GOJ announced that there would be a series of public consultations to define the boundary of Cockpit Country, led by the Centre for Environmental Management at UWI. These took place between May 20th and June 12th, 2013. Twenty consultation meetings were held in all, 17 in Cockpit Country, and three town hall meetings in Santa Cruz, Montego Bay and Kingston.

JET collaborated with our Cockpit Country partners, Windsor Research Centre (WRC), to ensure there was CCSG representation at all public meetings. JET and WRC then collaborated on a report dated July 9th, 2013 to the Ministry of Land, Water, Environment and Climate Change on the consultations.

WRC and JET's main findings were as follows: Despite several schedule changes, the meetings were, in general, well attended and communities were well informed, engaged and did not support mining in Cockpit Country. Logistics and notice were sometimes weak – some meetings started late, some communities were not adequately advised, the arrangements for note taking were inadequate in the first week and improved in subsequent weeks. There was insufficient context setting by the Principal Investigator at many of the meetings, with the result that attendees were uncertain why they were there. The presentation of proposed boundaries was inconsistent – in some cases only the CCSG boundary was presented, in others both the CCSG boundary and the UWI Boundaries were presented, there was no case where there was a full discussion of all the proposed boundaries with their associated rationales. As a methodology for seeking public feedback on the location of the boundary of Cockpit Country, JET and WRC felt these consultations failed to meet their objective.

At the time of writing, the Ministry of Land, Water, Environment and Climate Change has not yet received the final report on the consultations from the Environmental Management Unit at UWI.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

COME TO EUGENE!

JET's CEO, Diana McCaulay, says the only time she gets to feel like a hero is when she travels to Eugene, Oregon for the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) Annual meeting in spring every other year. Indeed, there is often a feature in the local newspaper with the title "Environmental Heroes come to Eugene!" Diana joined participants from more than 20 countries at a conference site on the McKenzie River in Oregon in February 2013 for five days of solidarity, inspiration, and legal and scientific work to protect natural resources all over the world. "As usual, I come away from this meeting energized and recommitted," Diana said. Apart from conference sessions on a wide range of topics, participants hiked in an ancient forest and learned about local efforts to restore the riparian zone of the McKenzie River – the latter being particularly relevant for Jamaica. "There was this moment when we were standing beside the McKenzie River and our guide asked us to tell him where the river bank was, and we realized it was a long way behind us. Humanity seems to have forgotten rivers have flood plains," Diana said. She enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and meeting the new generation of environmental activists – she was amused to realize that without her really noticing, she had become an elder of the ELAW network!



Participants in the 2013 Annual ELAW Meeting in Oregon, USA



JET ADOPTS PEDRO BANK

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

In March 2013 the Pedro Bank Management Programme experienced a setback. The scaling down of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) operations in Jamaica threatened to sideline the project and undo years of hard work including the establishment of the South West Cay Special Fisheries Conservation Area (SWCSFCA), demarcation of its boundaries, training of community personnel as wardens, provision of equipment and facilities, sensitization of the Pedro Cays community and creation of educational materials.

In April JET hired Llewelyn Meggs and Jaedon Lawe to continue their work as managers of the programme, as well as community wardens using funding from TNC, the Caribsave Partnership, along with other anonymous private donors. Patrols have resumed and the JET team's presence on the ground at the cays has improved compliance with regulations in the SWCSFCA.

The JET Pedro Team is now in the process of testing demarcation buoys to clearly define the boundaries of the SWCSFCA again (original buoys were lost during bad weather). JET has also been working with the Fisheries Division, NEPA and other local NGOs to improve the environmental awareness of the Jamaican Coast Guard (JCG) and Marine Police (MP) through funding from Caribsave. The first of two training seminars targeting JCG and MP personnel working on the ground at Pedro was held on July 31. These seminars will be enhanced by sensitization activities on the cays targeting the community of fishers living there.





JET AWARDS

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

On Tuesday, June 26th JET hosted the 2013 Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) and Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAA) Ceremony at Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston. A celebration of the work Jamaicans are doing to protect the environment, the event also featured an exhibit of the work of top performing schools in JET's flagship environmental education programme and the premiere of JET's new social media campaign – *Love Where You Live*.

Seven schools, all outstanding performers in JET's 2012/13 Schools' Environment Programme, greeted sponsors, JET members and other specially invited guests with a fantastic display of their creative environmental projects. The awards ceremony began with the premiere of two short film clips from JET's new *Love Where You Live* environmental social media campaign, produced in collaboration with young Jamaican filmmaker Randall Richards. The clips feature students from SEP schools and a few of JET's staff, environmental education partners and sponsors giving their accounts of why they care about the environment. JET's CEO Diana McCaulay explained the clips will be posted on YouTube and circulated via social networking sites. JET hopes to be able to produce more films in the series, featuring Jamaicans from all walks of life, promoting the appreciation and conservation of Jamaica's natural environment.

Greetings were brought on behalf of the main funders of SEP, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority by Peter Knight, CEO of the National Environment and Planning Agency. Mr Knight applauded the work being done by JET and the SEP schools, and pledged to continue supporting what he described as a great initiative. Guest Speaker, Minister of Education and Member of Parliament Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, inspired the audience with his keynote address, charging Jamaicans to follow in the footsteps of the young SEP participants he had encountered over the years, and encouraged the audience to offer their environmental knowledge and experience to the curriculum review currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Education.

Awards for outstanding work in SEP for the 2012/13 were announced. Certificates of Merit and Sectional Awards for Excellence in specific SEP areas were awarded to nine schools. The coveted Champion SEP School Award was awarded to Mount St Joseph Preparatory from Manchester

for the Junior category, with Westwood High from Trelawny and Port Antonio High from Portland tying for the Senior category. In her announcement of the SEP Champion School awards Diana commended Mount St Joseph Prep for their great performance after a previously challenging academic when part of that school was destroyed by fire in February 2012. Diana also commended Port Antonio High and Westwood High for their outstanding work over the years.

The Jamaica Environmental Action Awards followed. Judge Krishna Desai, conservation scientist and attorney-at-law, addressed the audience in the JEAA Judges' Report, commenting on the wide range of activities being done by this year's nominees. "This year's nominated projects ranged from individual citizen actions, to community based grass roots projects, to large scale top down approaches by the government and private sector. All scales are equally important to achieving the overall aim of conserving our environment," said Krishna.

The 2013 JEAA awardees were:

- **Ewarton Community Development Action Committee** for the categories of Best Environmental Community and Water Conservation
- **Jamaica Broilers Group** for Energy Conservation, with the Digicel Group receiving a special mention award
- **Jamaica Iguana Recovery Programme** for Biodiversity Conservation, with the Reggae Pickney book series receiving a special mention award
- **Woodford Market Garden** for Sustainable Agriculture
- **Jamaica Social Investment Fund** for Waste Management
- **Rootz Underground Re-Leaf Project** received the Total Trees for the Future Award

Port Antonio High walked away with the lion's share of JEAA awards. Students Christopher Rose and Tsuneo Davis took the Youth Environmental Leadership under 25 and under 16 awards respectively, teacher Heaven Brown took the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Champion Environmental Teacher award and the school was presented with the CIBC First Caribbean Most Environmentally Aware School award for the second consecutive year.





(Clockwise from top) Peter Knight (fourth from right), CEO of NEPA poses with Port Antonio High School and Westwood High who tied for the Champion SEP Senior School Award ; Students from Mount St Joseph Preparatory (pictured in pink) admire their award for Champion SEP Junior School; Lisa Simpson (right) from Total Jamaica, main sponsors of the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards speaks with Diana McCaulay, CEO of JET; Dionne-Sheree Smith, CRM & Public Affairs Manager at Nestle Jamaica Limited (left), admires a lamp made from recycled materials by students of the Sandy Bay Primary and Junior High; Students from St Hugh's Preparatory's Environmental Club perform an original song "The Right Way to Throw it Away"; Diana McCaulay, CEO of Jamaica Environment Trust (left) chats with Hon. Rev. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education, guest speaker at the Schools' Environment Programme and Jamaica Environmental Action Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, June 25th at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston.

The Access Initiative

JET LAUNCHES THE ACCESS INITIATIVE FOR JAMAICA

Through the World Resources Institute and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) JET has received funding to launch The Access Initiative – Jamaica. The Access Initiative (TAI) is the largest global coalition of civil society groups dedicated to ensuring that citizens have the right and ability to influence decisions that affect the environment. TAI Jamaica will be a group of local researchers and advisors who will use TAI's methodology and resources to produce a detailed assessment of the state of Jamaica's laws relating to biodiversity protection with a focus on access to information, public participation and access to justice. The research will draw on case studies from the Cockpit Country- North Coast Forest- Black River Great Morass. The results of the assessment will be used to advocate for more transparent, accountable and sustainable environmental decision-making in both policy and practice.

The assessment will begin with a three-day training workshop on August 21-23, 2013 during which TAI trainers from Washington DC and Mexico will train the researchers how to conduct the assessment.

More than 100 civil society organisation worldwide belong to the TAI network and assessments have been conducted in over 50 countries. These assessments have been used to advocate for changes in governance including improving access to courts for environmental violations in India.

For more information on TAI:

<http://www.wri.org/project/access-initiative>

UPDATE: THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DECLARATION ON PRINCIPLE 10

JET's Legal Director, Danielle Andrade, attended a meeting with government and civil society representatives from fourteen Latin American and Caribbean countries on April 16-

17, 2013 in Mexico to discuss the way forward to improve access rights (access to information, public participation and access to justice) in the region. At the meeting, the countries adopted an ambitious plan of action for 2013-2014 which seeks to implement the Latin American and Caribbean Declaration on Principle 10 under which countries agreed to work towards a regional instrument to improve access rights.

The LAC countries have committed under this Plan of Action to:

- Promote the Declaration and incorporate new signatories into the process;
- Strengthen and highlight the progress made on rights of access to information, participation and justice;
- Promote the active participation of civil society at the national level;
- Work towards the creation of a regional instrument through working groups to deliberate capacity-building and cooperation efforts, and determine the nature and scope of the regional instrument.

"This new Plan of Action shows political will to transform environmental justice and transparency in the region. It sets the pace and the agenda to tackle the challenges of negotiating a regional instrument," said Carole Excell, Senior Associate from The Access Initiative at the World Resources Institute and Board member of the Jamaica Environment Trust.

Costa Rica and Brazil were mandated to design the regional instrument on Principle 10 and Jamaica and Columbia were given the role to facilitate work on co-operation and capacity building. The first capacity building workshop for this process will be held in Trinidad and Tobago on September 16-17, 2013.



Danielle and other delegates at the LAC meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico in April 2013



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



SEP YEAR-IN-REVIEW

The 2012/2013 academic year marked the 17th year of JET's flagship environmental education programme in schools, the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP). It also heralded the introduction of a new SEP donor, the Natural Resources and Conservation Authority. With the help of the NRCA, SEP was implemented in 33 schools in 2012/13.

In November 2012 JET hosted two teacher training workshops under the theme "Garbage, whose problem?" in Montego Bay and Kingston. In April 2013, a new SEP component was added allowing JET staff to directly interact with students from the participating schools. The event was a call to action for SEP teachers and students, to protect threatened Jamaican natural resources - the Cockpit Country and the Pedro Cays. Activities included screenings of two environmental films by Esther Figueroa *Cockpit Country is Our Home* featuring the flora and fauna of the Cockpit Country, and *Massa God Fish Can Done* which examines the conservation issues on the Pedro Cays. Filming for JET's new environmental campaign also took place on Earth Day, with SEP students talking about why they care about the environment. Displays from the National Environment and Planning Agency, JET and the UWI Port Royal Marine Lab on Marine Conservation, and a display from Windsor Research Centre on the Cockpit Country were also showcased, along with arts and crafts and games to celebrate the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival which began on Earth Day. Jana Bent also was on hand to read to the students from the new Reggae Pickney Series book 'Brave Turtellini and the Reggae Band Dolphin Rescue.'

In May and June 2013 SEP judging took in 16 SEP top performing schools. Each school was judged on the four SEP theme areas: greening, garbage management, environmental club activity and environmental research. This year's champion SEP schools were Mount St. Joseph Prep in the Junior School category and Westwood High and Port Antonio High tied for Champion SEP Senior School. The 2012/13

school year was a successful one for SEP and we are happy to report that the NRCA has decided to continue funding the programme in the 2013/2014 academic year.



(Top) Students participating in the Bird Detective Game on Earth Day; (Middle) An SEP teacher poses with one of her students and the bird masks they made on Earth Day; (Below) A student is filmed for JET's new environmental campaign on Earth Day at JET

CARIBBEAN BIRDSLEUTH, JAMAICA

In May and August JET delivered two workshops to Jamaican teachers on the integration of the Caribbean Birdsleuth curriculum into their schools. The Caribbean Birdsleuth project aims at promoting the appreciation of birds amongst young people in the region and is being facilitated by the Society for the Conservation and Study for Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Suzanne Stanley and Tamoy Singh, JET's environmental education team were trained by the SCSCB and Cornell Lab in this curriculum late last year and presented it to teachers to be used in Jamaican schools and their environmental clubs.

Both workshops included bird watching in Hope Gardens with the assistance of Birdlife Jamaica and JET Member Emma Lewis.



Teachers bird watching in Hope Gardens during the August Caribbean Birdsleuth Workshop

THE INTERN



Starting a new job or internship is always an interesting experience. The first week is usually the most awkward and nerve-racking; trying to find your place in the organization and making the best impression on all the staff. It was ridiculous how nervous I was for my first day at JET - after all I was going to be working with well accomplished and experienced individuals, who were as passionate about the environment as I was and this intimidated me.

I was concerned that my knowledge about local environmental issues was lacking, that I had forgotten everything from my last resource economics class and that my understanding of public policy laws was non-existent. After my first week, all of my concerns became concrete facts. Despite this, however, I did not feel as intimidated as I had expected because JET to the simplest level is about education and awareness and as an intern I was submerged in knowledge from geographers, geologists, biologists, activists, planners and lawyers who were all concerned about the Jamaican environment.

In addition to the regular intern responsibilities (making calls, filing papers and creating excel spread sheets) I also assisted the staff with their various projects and so I learnt more about our island home. I soon realized that I was not the only one learning new things in the office. Everyday environmental videos were being sent around and there were continual discussions about things like environmental advocacy techniques or rare bird species. Having the opportunity to learn so much about different environmental issues was what made this internship so fun and dynamic and it is what seemingly makes JET successful at what it does.

Dorraine Duncan, is a Jamaican student at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, USA who interned with JET this summer

<<< Dorraine (left) bird watching with us in Hope Gardens

HELLSHIRE HILLS: DID YOU KNOW?



Hellshire Hills is part of the Portland Bight Protected Area and is home to various species of flora and fauna only found in this dry limestone forest in Jamaica. Hellshire is one of the oldest continuously settled areas in Jamaica, yet, it has traditionally been one of the most sparsely populated places on the island. Hellshire receives very little rainfall, and only a small fraction of this is retained in the highly porous soil.



From top to bottom: Hellshire Hills, St Catherine;
Manatee Bay, Hellshire; Portmore, St Catherine
© Jeremy Francis

1. The Hellshire Hills area supports the only known population of the Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*). Once thought extinct, in 1990 they were rediscovered by Mr. Edwin Dufus who was hunting pigs in the area.
2. It is strictly illegal to cut trees in the Hellshire Hills area or damage the habitat in any other manner.
3. The area is home to the endangered endemic Jamaican Coney (*Geocapromys brownii*) and endangered American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*)
4. A 1970 survey by the UWI revealed that there are 271 different species of plants found in Hellshire Hills. 53 which are only found in Jamaica.
5. The twin cave system, the Two Sisters Cave can be found in the hills. The caves were formerly a single cave but following the great earthquake of 1692 the roof of the cave collapsed, leaving two smaller open-air caves separated by a huge pile of rubble.
6. Recognising the great value of this forest, the Hellshire Hills were declared protected on April 22, 1999 along with the rest of the Portland Bight Protected Area, by Minister Easton Douglas.

Source: *Whither Hellshire Hills* by Peter Espeut,



MEET THE JETTERS

LLEWELYN MEGGS & JAEDON LAWE

Llewelyn Meggs and Jaedon Lawe joined JET in April and together have formed JET's new Marine Conservation Team.

LLEWELYN MEGGS

Where are you from?

Born and grown in Kingston

What is your educational background?

I attended the University of the West Indies where I pursued a Double Major in Botany and Zoology, Masters in Marine Sciences, with a project that looked at settlement and growth of the Caribbean spiny lobster.

Why did you choose to work in marine conservation?

I chose marine sciences because of my love for the water, the excitement, the thrill, and the different creatures. For me there is hardly anything more captivating than a healthy marine ecosystem of which there is less and less each day - that's where the conservation bit came in.

Do you have any other interests?

Sports, I am a huge fan of cricket and football now that I hardly play anymore.

What do you like about working at JET?

What I LOVE (not like) about working at JET is the fact that we are all about action - not just talking and planning but actually doing something despite significant obstacles.

JAEDON LAWE

Where are you from?

Knockpatrick District, Manchester

What is your educational background?

I studied Marine Biology at UWI

Why did you choose to work in marine conservation?

I see the marine environment as a misunderstood, unexplored part of our planet that I want to help discover and protect. Marine conservation provides that avenue.

Do you have any other interests?

Basketball, scuba diving, free diving, cooking, electronics, fishing, athletics

What do you like about working at JET?

The "get it done" mentality - The passion and will to create realities and get environmental issues addressed despite obstacles.



Llewelyn Meggs (left) and Jaedon Lawe (right) tagging a bird on the Pedro Cays

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



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