

THE JETTER

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EDITORIAL

Environmental Justice and Jamaica

It's an interesting concept – environmental justice. An abstract term really, not something we necessarily consider in our day to day operations at Jamaica Environment Trust (JET). But yet, it really underpins a lot of the work we do here. Because environmental justice is not just about the plants and animals and creepy crawly things; it's not just about the sky and sea and everything in between, it's about people. People getting involved and having a say in what happens to the environment which we all depend on to survive. It's about giving a voice not only to those things that have no voice, like plants and animals, but to those people who find it hard to be heard.

In February 2014, JET had the great pleasure of hosting Ritwick Dutta, and environmental lawyer with extensive practice before the Supreme Court of India in matters relating to access to environmental justice. In a workshop on access to information in Jamaica, Ritwick entertained Jetties and representatives from mining communities with anecdotes of tigers, forests and hunger strikes. One of the community members said jokingly "we need to import some of your countrymen to go on a hunger strike in Jamaica." To many in that meeting, it was eye opening to hear how persons living half a world away were willing to die to protect the land they lived on and loved.

After two decades in operation much of JET's work has focused not necessarily on direct environmental conservation, but on people; how we can better educate people about their environment so they can see the benefits of a healthy one, how we can empower them to speak on their own behalf. We have also become directly involved in advocating on behalf of communities seeking environmental justice.

The most common question we are asked at JET these days from members and the man on the street is "how can I help?" People want to know how they can get involved in our most recent campaign to "Save Goat Islands." Although environmental justice may be a term grounded in theory and foreign to most, many Jamaicans want it. A hunger strike might be too extreme and foreign a concept, but as Jamaicans we should all

demand environmental justice. We should all be informed about what our leaders and foreign investors would like to do in our land and what it means for our environment and health and wellbeing in the short and long term. The best thing we all as Jamaicans can do to help any cause they believe in is to ask questions of our leaders, get informed and make our opinions known. Speak up, speak out and let your voice be heard.



*Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
February, 2014*

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Old Harbour Bay, St Catherine – Max Earle/Frame by Frame ©

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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Section of the Portland Bight Protected Area, St Catherine ©Jeremy Francis

In the August 2013 issue of the Jetter, we described the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA), Jamaica's most protected area of land and sea on the south coast. We had learned that the Government of Jamaica was "seriously considering" an area near to the two Goat Islands for a large transshipment port, to be built by Chinese investors. At the time, JET called 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 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.

To date, none of the information requested has been provided.



Goat Islands, St Catherine – Max Earle/Frame by Frame © 3



Scenes from the public service announcement produced for
the Save Goat Islands Campaign
– Max Earle/Frame by Frame ©

During the last four months of 2013, the Goat Islands issue as it came to be known captured public attention. Opinions were divided – there were those who felt that Jamaica's economic situation was too desperate to turn down any large investment. But there were also those who pointed to the value of the ecosystems services of Portland Bight and expressed concern at the lack of transparency that has attended this matter.

With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), JET developed a Save Goat Islands advocacy campaign. We participated in a review of the Environmental Management Scoping Study commissioned by the GOJ, produced a briefing paper on the Portland Bight Protected Area, launched a competition for a jingle, which was won by Jeremy Ashbourne for his *Don't Mess with Goat Islands* song, commissioned an animated short to go with the jingle, designed and printed Save Goat Islands T-shirts and produced 2014 desk calendars with pictures from Portland Bight, with grateful thanks to the photographers who donated their images. We organized a tour of the Goat Islands area – 56 people in seven fishing canoes participated – called the Goatilla. We have conducted legal research into the possible avenues for a court case, if the GOJ does go ahead with the port near to the Goat Islands. We filed requests under the Access of Information Act for the Memorandum of Agreement with the Chinese investors and their technical proposal, which was denied. We have filed an appeal. We worked with international partners to create the www.savegoatlands.org website, attended many meetings and seminars on the subject, and have done our best to keep the issue in the media. With Frame by Frame Productions and music by Jon Williams, we have completed two public service announcements; the 30 second version is being aired on TVJ.

We believe the GOJ will take a decision on this matter very soon. If this port goes ahead in this special place with the lack of transparency that has so far been displayed, we believe it will compromise the integrity of Jamaica's entire protected area system.

If you are concerned about this, please click on the How you can help section of the www.savegoatlands.org website and help however you can. If you are in Jamaica, you can get your Save Goat Islands T-shirt from us. And we still have a few calendars...

TAKE A STAND FOR OUR ISLAND



Volunteers at JET's 2013 cleanup of Fort Rocky

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2013 AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

Saturday, September 21, marked the 28th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day. Started by the Ocean Conservancy, a US-based NGO, ICC is the largest one day volunteer event in the world. Since 2008 the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) has spearheaded ICC activities in Jamaica as national coordinators of the event. This year JET recruited 56 groups to assist with the staging of ICC in Jamaica and over 7,000 volunteers turned out to clean up 90 sites across the island. Sites included both land-based and underwater cleanups, taking place at beaches, rivers, wetlands and coral reefs. Community groups, NGOs, government agencies and private sector organizations all collaborated with the guidance of JET to make ICC 2013 an overwhelming success.

2013 ICC activities saw dedicated volunteers turning out in large numbers not only to collect trash off the Jamaica's coastline, but also to collect data about sources and types of trash harming our oceans and waterways. This data in turn can be used by local ICC site coordinators, JET and the Ocean Conservancy to raise awareness about solid waste management, inspire recycling efforts and shape policy decisions from the local to international level. "Each year we are encouraged to see continued increases in volunteer turnout for ICC Day" said Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director of JET, "this year we were also happy to see an increase in the number of groups wanting to coordinate their own cleanups. It is the collaboration of all these different groups and volunteers working towards a common goal that has made ICC 2013 in Jamaica such a success."

ICC has been funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) in Jamaica since 2008, and in 2013 the project also received funding through the RBC Blue Water Project Community Grant. The Wisynco Group, a longstanding supporter of JET's flagship ICC beach cleanup, also supported ICC activities at the national scale. Tourism stakeholders partnered with JET in a big way for ICC 2013. The Sandals Foundation coordinated eight cleanups across the island, collecting close to 7,800 pounds of trash from Jamaican beaches and reefs. Volunteers from RBC, Wisynco and the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment and its agencies, including TEF, also joined efforts at several cleanup sites across the island.

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), had over 1,100 volunteers turn out at their beach cleanups in Hellshire, St Catherine and on the Palisadoes Strip in Kingston - a marked increase in participants over previous years. "The increase in support of Corporate Jamaica and social groups indicates increased awareness of critical issues within the environment," said Monique Curtis, Environmental Officer at NEPA. Joyce Brown who coordinated the Parottee Citizens Association's ICC 2013 cleanup in St Elizabeth said "The experience was an eye opener for both adults and students who participated." Many other coordinators from across the island have also expressed similar sentiments about the positive impact of their ICC day activities. Meanwhile at JET's cleanup of Fort Rocky Beach in Kingston, a record 2,366 volunteers removed over 800 bags of trash weighing over 12,300 pounds.

International Coastal Cleanup Day was started in 1985 by the Ocean Conservancy and takes place in over 100 countries annually. The 2013 ICC National Report for Jamaica can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/iccreportja2013>



Palm Beach Estate Citizens Association cleaned up Salt River Mineral in Clarendon for ICC 2013



HELP THE ENVIRONMENT 15 STEPS

"What are you doing about it?" asks at least one of the many callers JET receives each week. It being one of Jamaica's many environmental issues. "You have to do something," the caller demands. Our reply is standard – we do a lot, but we need your help. JET is a small organization. We have 5 full time staff and 4 part time employees. We are a non-profit NGO with limited resources. There is only so much we can do on our own, but there are things you can do to help and together we can make a difference.

Here are 15 things that you can do to help preserve the Jamaican environment:

1. Reduce the amount of waste you generate daily by cutting down or eliminating your use of disposable products, such as plastic bags, Styrofoam, fast food containers, and plastic utensils. To reduce your waste, bring your own reusable bags when shopping, carry your reusable containers and utensils to take out restaurants; do not accept plastic utensils or anything in Styrofoam.
2. Reuse or recycle plastics, and avoid using plastics that cannot be recycled.
3. Properly dispose of all your garbage. Do not throw garbage outside carelessly. It will end up in drains and gullies and taken out to our beaches and then the sea.
4. Compost garden waste and fruits and vegetable peelings.
5. Do not waste water – some simple tips include check for leaks, spend less time in the shower, turn off

the tap while brushing your teeth or soaping up the dishes.

6. Do not burn your garbage. In the absence of regular collection and/or recycling facilities, make every effort to reduce your waste to a minimum. If there is absolutely no alternative, bury waste instead of carelessly disposing of it.
7. Conserve electricity – simple tips include turning off the lights/fans/AC units every time you leave a room, unplug devices you are not using including your television, use energy efficient light bulbs.
8. Improve your car's mileage by keeping tyres properly inflated, regular servicing, planning routes ahead of time, and driving at a moderate speed
9. Organize a tree planting day or clean up a beach
10. Eat low on the food chain - cut down on the amount of meat in your diet
11. Be an environmental activist. Learn about the issues and be vocal.
12. Write to the newspapers and government officials and agencies about your environmental concerns. If you can, send both a paper letter and an email. Note paper letters often count more.
13. Keep a record of environmental issues you witness – take photographs, record the date and time, write to the agencies and political representatives, save and print correspondence, contact JET.
14. Support JET by becoming a member, making a donation or purchasing campaign merchandise. Your membership will entitle you to newsletters and information on our activities.
15. Attend our meetings and voice your proposals for protecting the environment. You can also volunteer at JET's events as well as other environmental events by other organizations.

JET TO TRAIN MINING & QUARRYING COMMUNITIES HOW TO TEST FOR POLLUTION

The Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), in collaboration with Global Community Monitor (GCM) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) in the US, is to begin training community members living in mining and quarrying areas how to test air, water and soil for pollution. GCM trains and supports communities across the globe in the use of environmental monitoring tools, so they may better understand the impact of mining industry pollution on the environment. This new Jamaican initiative is part of a larger project being implemented by JET, funded by the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), which aims at strengthening the capacity of Jamaican mining and quarrying communities to protect their health and quality of life.

Through the IAF project, JET will provide training and legal assistance to five community organizations representing residents of five communities in Bull Bay, Clarendon, St. Ann, and Cockpit Country to improve their ability to monitor and manage the impacts of mining and quarrying in their communities. They will also be trained in the use of the Access to Information Act and how to use information to advocate for more effective regulation of the industry and an improved public consultation process. "These communities have all generally been affected and/or displaced by mining and quarrying activities," says Danielle Andrade, JET's Legal Director. "In many cases residents have been denied access to land, faced environmental degradation and experienced negative impacts to their air, soil and water quality because of mining or quarrying activities." Three of the five communities participating in the project will be trained in pollution testing – Hayes and New Town in Clarendon and Bull Bay in St Andrew. In total about 350 people will benefit directly and 16,300 will benefit indirectly from the two-year project.

Since 2001 GCM has developed and pioneered the use of "bucket brigades", a grassroots air monitoring programme, which enables communities to document and understand the impacts of industrial pollution and launch advocacy efforts against polluters. On February 25th and 27th, 2014 JET will host community training sessions in conjunction with visiting representatives from GCM, to teach residents how to test pollution levels in soil, water, and air. About 30 residents per community will participate in the training. Through JET, GCM will also provide pollution monitoring equipment to the

communities, which they will use to collect samples to be mailed to GCM for analysis. "We are very happy to host GCM" says Diana McCaulay, JET's CEO. "They will provide invaluable training and empowerment opportunities for these communities."

"I am hoping that the pollution testing will once and for all inform the authorities of the magnitude of the problems experienced and how much they have impacted our lives" says Anthony Stewart of Ten Miles Citizen Council, Bull Bay, "Also, for them [the authorities] to take steps to mitigate the pollution and improve the lives of community members."

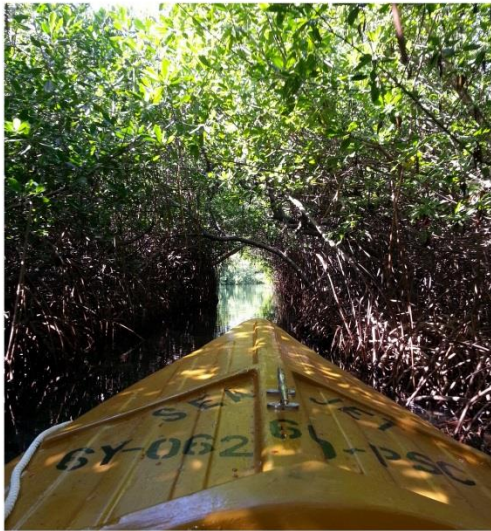


Ritwick Dutta is interviewed by a film crew during a site visit to the quarry in Bull Bay, St Andrew as part of the IAF project

RITWICK & CAROLE VISIT JET FOR IAF PROJECT

Ritwick Dutta, reknowned environmental lawyer from Legal Initiative for Forests and Environment (LIFE), India and Carole Excell, Senior Associate at the World Resources Institute, Washington, DC visited Jamaica the week of February 3 – 7, 2014. While here, they met with representatives from four mining communities (Bull Bay, Nine Miles, Hayes, New Town) affected by mining and facilitated a legal training workshop on February 4, 2014 as part of the IAF project. The workshop was aimed at equipping representatives on assessing mining and quarrying laws, access to information and regulation of air and water pollution. A tour of the Bull Bay, Hayes and New Town communities were also conducted on February 5 and 6, 2014.

The Consultants ended their stay by joining the Honourable Mr Justice Bryan Sykes and the Honourable Hugh Small, QC as panellists in a public discussion on "Environmental Justice: Public Participation and Judicial Discretion". The seminar was hosted by the University of the West Indies in partnership with JET and drew the attention of several prominent members of the legal fraternity and the environmental community.



The launch of SEAJET – January 2, 2014 at the Port Royal Marine Lab

SEAJET IS LAUNCHED!

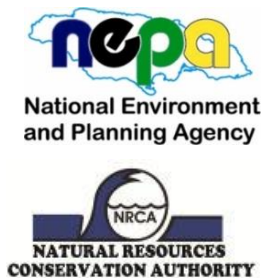
As JET's marine team continues to visit the Pedro Cays each month to work with four community wardens to monitor the South West Cay Special Fisheries Conservation Area (SFCA) – also known as the Bird Cay Fish Sanctuary – we identified the need for our own patrol boat. Over many months and with funding from Ron and Wendy Hart, Food for the Poor and in kind assistance from the Port Royal Marine Lab and Nakhle Hado, a canoe was transformed into SeaJet.

Several Jetters went to launch SeaJet on January 2nd, 2014 and as soon as the weather was good enough, our new boat was piloted to the Pedro Cays by Winston Kerr,

warden for the SFCA, where she will now be the official sanctuary patrol boat.

Llewellyn Meggs and Jaedon Lawe continue to work on testing and deploying demarcation buoys for the fish sanctuary, which frequently break away in bad weather. Buoys are of critical importance to enforcement personnel, so it is important we identify a design and method of anchoring that will hold up over time.

We would like to thank Mayberry Investments and Rainforest Seafoods for their generous support for the Pedro Bank Management Programme.



SEP UPDATE

The Schools' Environment Programme started the 2013/2014 academic year visits to each participating school and two successful teacher training workshops in Kingston and Montego Bay.

The theme of the 2013/14 SEP workshop series was 'Blueprint for a Green School'. The workshops focused on ways schools can improve the delivery of environmental education through curriculum infusion and their environmental clubs. Nadia Watson-Spence, lecturer in environmental science at the University of Technology and former SEP supervisor at JET, presented on curriculum infusion and assisted in mediation of the workshop discussions. Teachers from selected SEP schools who have been longstanding participants also made presentations on their environmental programmes. The workshops aimed at equipping SEP teachers with the knowledge and tools necessary to run a successful environment programme.

A total of 42 persons attended the workshops including SEP teachers and representatives from the National Environment and Planning Agency who administer the grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Authority which funds SEP. Of the 34 schools in the programme, 27 schools were present. Teachers were given opportunities to share their SEP experience including their successes and challenges. This fostered a lively exchange of ideas and solutions to problems and encouraged teachers to bond and network.

Feedback from teachers who attended the workshops was good one and their comments speak to the success.

"The workshop was very valuable for me. I have learnt some new information. Well done as always. You are doing a good job. Keep it up."

"I loved that the presenters were passionate, committed, thoughtful and knowledgeable about all topics presented. The activities were relevant and purposeful. I really enjoyed it. Thank you."

The JET SEP team looks forward to the rest of the school year and hope that the knowledge gained by teachers will be used to implement SEP in a more effective way.



Tamoy Singh presents at the 2013 SEP Teacher Training Workshop in Montego Bay

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS SET TO LAUNCH IN MARCH

JET is pleased to announce the launch of the fifth annual Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs). Nominations for the 2014 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 11 categories of awards were presented to individuals and groups from across the island.



SPINY LOBSTER: DID YOU KNOW?

Protection of spiny lobster, *Panulirus argus*, is a hot topic right now, mainly because the Fisheries Division is contemplating relaxing the laws that protect them. This comes at a time when enforcement is weak and laws are ignored by those that catch, sell and eat lobster. Conservationists often put most of their efforts into meetings, field work and trying to sensitize the communities that exploit the resources unsustainably, but what about the resource users, those that eat lobster year round and create the demand - YOU? What if YOU decided not to eat lobster in its closed season, or lobster that is below a certain size? If there was no demand, wouldn't supply diminish over time?

Here are a few things about the spiny lobster...

Our spiny lobster actually isn't a true lobster but a large crayfish. Notice it doesn't have the giant claws?



Caribbean spiny lobster, Panulirus argus. No claws present



American lobster, Homarus americanus, notice the large claws

They grow until they die. The largest recorded spiny lobster was over 3 feet and weighed 26 pounds! This is significant because it shows just how small we harvest this species at. Many of the lobsters we consume are barely adults, which have not had the chance to reproduce. Young lobsters need to survive to reproductive age – they ensure the future of the fishery.

Jamaica's legal size for harvesting spiny lobster is one of the smallest legal sizes in the world. Yet it is common to find undersized lobsters being sold on beaches, in restaurants and in supermarkets islandwide.

Caribbean Spiny Lobster Closed Season (Jamaica):

April 1 – June 30

Law:

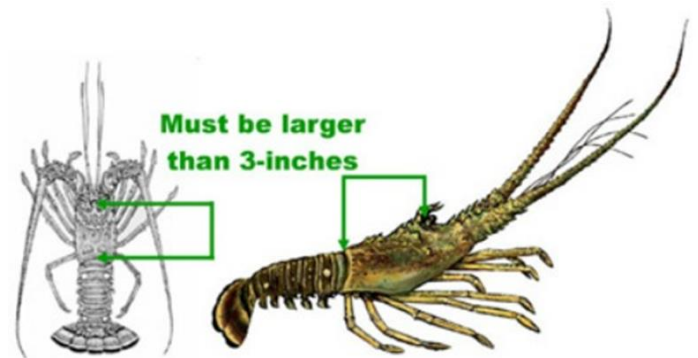
It is against the law to catch, buy or sell lobsters during the Lobster Closed Season. It is also against the law to catch berried lobsters (with eggs) or undersized lobsters (under 3.5 inches in carapace length) throughout the year.

Penalty:

Six months in prison.

Fact:

Possession of lobsters without declaration is strictly prohibited. Call the Fisheries Division (923-8811-3) and declare the amount you have in stock or to report breaches



When a fertile female lobster finds a strong, suitable male, a black "tar spot" is deposited by the male onto her abdomen. This is called a spermatophore and it contains the male's sperm. She can carry this tar spot around with her for years without having to mate again. Whenever she produces eggs, she scrapes off pieces of the spermatophore to fertilize her eggs. If she chooses to mate again, the existing tar spot is removed by the male before he deposits one of his own



A mature female can be seen on the left with a tar spot deposited by a male. The female on the right has no tar spot



A female is seen here in the "berried" state. Notice the tar spot that will be used to fertilize the eggs

Currently, lobsters with eggs (known as berried lobsters, egged lobsters or palmed lobsters) are protected by law in Jamaica. It is illegal to capture or sell these lobsters. The Fisheries Division would like to extend this protection to include lobsters bearing a tar spot. This would be a very good move but enforcement would have to be improved. Like the undersized lobster, it is common to find lobsters with eggs being sold on fishing beaches islandwide.

There is a closed season for lobsters within which it is illegal to capture any whatsoever. In Jamaica, this closed season extends from April 1 to June 30 each year. This closed season gives the animals a break from fishers during their time of peak spawning. As with the regulations having to do with legal size and berried lobsters, this too is disobeyed. It is common to see lobsters on fishing beaches, in restaurants, hotels and supermarkets during the closed season.

Another species of lobster looks similar to the spiny lobster - the chicken or spotted lobster, *Panulirus guttatus*. The chicken lobster can be differentiated from the spiny lobster by the number of spots on the back of its abdomen. The spiny lobster has four prominent large spots on the back of its abdomen, whereas the chicken lobster has many more irregular sized spots. The chicken lobster also tends to be smaller at maturity than the spiny lobster. Often when undersized spiny lobsters are caught a common excuse is that they are chicken lobsters - don't be fooled!

Do your part, ensure you are not guilty of accepting undersized, berried or out of season lobsters.



Notice the four prominent spots on the tail of the spiny lobster?



Chicken or Spotted lobsters have far more spots than the Spiny lobster



This isn't the largest recorded spiny lobster but it is still a monster



MEET THE JETTERS

LISA RUSSELL

Lisa Russell joined JET in January 2014 as our new Legal Officer.

Where are you from?

Kingston, Jamaica

What is your educational background?

I hold a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Liverpool, Diploma in International Shipping & Logistics from the Caribbean Maritime Institute, Master in Business Administration degree from the University of the West Indies and I am a Certified Mediator.

Where have you worked before coming to JET?

I've worked in the litigation and maritime departments of a major law firm, managed a private practice, lectured in the subjects of Business Law, Maritime Law & International Conventions as well as worked full-time and on a consultancy basis with a Logistics facility.

What sparked your interest in environmental law?

I am a lover of nature and have always had an interest in protecting and preserving the environment. Jamaica is such a naturally beautiful island and unfortunately, many of us are unaware of how our actions impact its sustainability. As an Attorney-at-Law, I believe it is important to play my part in showing respect for the environment generally and Jamaica specifically by ensuring that we not only have the proper laws in place but procedures for implementation and enforcement.

How did you learn about JET?

I was first introduced to JET in high school when our environmental club "ICE" was launched. Since then, I have attended several of their seminars, participated in beach clean-ups and supported their efforts through membership over the years.

What made you want to work at JET?

I enjoy helping others and many of JET's projects involve working with and empowering various communities. JET's work environment and mandate marry well with my skill set while providing an opportunity to interact with others on a more personal level.



JET's new Legal Officer - Lisa Russell



Lisa (standing) collaborates with participants during a recent workshop