

# THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 9





# EDITORIAL

## Save Jamaica's Sea Turtles

Sea turtles are some of the oldest creatures on Earth; they pre-date dinosaurs (and of course humans), and endure in a world where many other species have gone extinct. After surviving 150 million years, sea turtles are in trouble, and humans pose their biggest threat. There are currently seven species of sea turtles; six of these are threatened or endangered. Entanglement in abandoned fishing gear, habitat loss, and human consumption of their eggs and meat are threatening their survival as a species.

On Sunday, September 20, 2015, the Jetters were all in high spirits after pulling off another successful International Coastal Cleanup Day. The turnout for the event the day before had been record breaking, and we were feeling positive about the level of environmental awareness displayed by those who participated. Then JET received a disturbing report about a sea turtle killed in Alligator Pond, which was followed by pictures and a video showing the brutal slaughtering of a Hawksbill sea turtle in broad daylight, witnessed by several adults and children. Our optimism about increased environmental awareness seemed unfounded.

The video of the Hawksbill slaughter, captured on a smart phone, started to make its rounds on social media. We are not sure what was more heart-breaking – the gruesome massacre of the defenceless creature, still alive as it was being butchered, or the ignorant comments from so many Jamaicans on why they could see nothing wrong with this barbaric act: "People have to eat!" "When the population get too large yes it's ok to eat 1 and 2. Plus the meat healthy." "Do we take pictures of all the chickens that get slaughtered for jerk?"

*Cover photo: Bella Blair and Dutty Berry at JET's 2015 Beach Cleanup of Fort Rocky © Zomian Thompson*

Sea turtles are not chickens. Nor are their populations healthy. They are protected under Jamaican and International law. Anyone found in possession of a sea turtle or any part thereof (shell, meat, eggs) is liable for prosecution under Jamaican law. Once we received word of the Alligator Pond incident we immediately reported it to the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), who, although initially slow to react, has subsequently brought charges against the main perpetrator. Good job, NEPA!

Throughout their lifecycle sea turtles help to keep seagrass beds and beaches healthy, and some species even eat huge quantities of the pesky *Sargassum* seaweed which has been washing up on our shores. A sea turtle hatchling typically has a 1 in 1000 chance of surviving to adulthood, and human impacts are ever decreasing those odds. A breeding adult sea turtle is the very embodiment of a longshot, it is the exception, not the rule – a sea turtle is a genuine miracle and should be treated with the utmost respect.



*Suzanne Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
October 2015*

*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**

123 CONSTANT SPRING RD, KINGSTON 8

T| (876) 960-3693 F| (876) 926-0212

E| [jamentrust@cwjamaica.com](mailto:jamentrust@cwjamaica.com)

W| [www.jamentrust.org](http://www.jamentrust.org)



**Call NEPA (754-7540) if you have information about sea turtles being captured, harassed and harmed or the meat being sold. Reports may also be made to 119 or the nearest police station. For more information about Jamaica's sea turtles, JET has a Facebook page dedicated to the subject, please spread the word - [Save Jamaica's Sea Turtles](#)**

*Hawksbill hatchlings in Bluefields, Westmoreland (2012)*







*Earth Cottage, JET's new home on Constant Spring Road*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It was a daunting prospect – moving JET from 11 Waterloo Road, where we had been for 14 years in almost 3,000 sq. ft. of space to new rented premises at 123 Constant Spring Road, one-third the size. In the months leading up to our move in early July, a new JET rule was put in place: *Throw something away every day*. We were forced to confront how much paper in an office is wasted – printed, put on a file, stored in a cabinet, and thrown away seven years later. Nor is the answer relying entirely on electronic storage – a week before moving date, our server crashed. For months we asked ourselves – do we really need this or that? Often the answer was no. We went through piles of scrapbooks containing environmental stories and it seemed only the dates changed. We found outdated technology – transparencies, slides, slide projectors, floppy discs. I told stories of early JET presentations when the audio visuals were very large photographs which the presenter had to carry with them. We went through JET's photo albums – so many young people, so many workshops, tree plantings, beach clean ups, field trips, protests. Less positively, we had to do battle with a rat colony, which had moved into one of our cupboards and were not giving up their territory without a fight.

Then we had to plan where we were going to put everything we were taking with us. Our Chairman,

architect Douglas Stiebel helped with designing shelves and cupboards. We realized that all but one of our desks would not fit in Earth Cottage, as we named our new home. We needed a long list of things – from LED light bulbs to a shipping container for our recycling depot. Fortunately, we were able to raise the money to cover these costs and we want to thank everyone who donated cash and kind towards our move. For weeks before moving day, we travelled between old JET and new JET, meeting electricians, plumbers, carpenters, computer technicians. We haunted hardware and furniture stores looking for small desks. By the time moving day arrived, we were ready, except for the transfer of the phone lines which had to be done on the last day.

We moved in early July. It was very hot, but we had lots of help. Within a week, every box was unpacked, although we still forget where things are. We had to adjust to a much more restricted water supply – now we have tank monitoring detail – and we still miss the big trees and open windows of Earth House. Now that the rains have started, we have planted a small garden and trees.

Change is good. We are smaller, but stronger. Come by and visit us at Earth Cottage!

*Diana McCaulay*

*Diana McCaulay, Chief Executive Officer  
October 2015*



# THOUSANDS VOLUNTEER FOR ICC JAMAICA 2015

On Saturday, September 19, JET led 53 groups to stage over 120 beach cleanups across the island marking International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day 2015. An estimated 9,000 Jamaicans volunteered their time and effort to clean beaches and waterways across the island on ICC Day this year.

The turnout fell short of the target 10,000 volunteers set by JET at their launch of ICC Jamaica 2015 in August this year. "Despite not reaching our goal, the number of Jamaicans who volunteered for ICC this year is still record breaking," said Suzanne Stanley, JET's Deputy CEO. "We continue to receive reports from our ICC site coordinators across the island, and aim to have the final report ready at the beginning of November."

The two largest cleanups were coordinated by JET on the Palisadoes Strip in Kingston, and by NEPA, who partnered with the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) to clean up the Hellshire coastline in St Catherine. Over 2,200 volunteers helped JET at their flagship cleanup of Fort Rocky Beach and the nearby wetlands on the Palisadoes strip, and over 1,000 volunteers attended the NEPA/UDC cleanup. Statistics on the amount and types of garbage collected on ICC Day 2015 will be released with the final report.

The theme for ICC Jamaica 2015 was Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica. Site coordinators and volunteers were encouraged to incorporate this theme into their cleanup activities. At the JET beach cleanup, volunteers received Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica branded reusable water bottles and hats. Corporate teams, such as Caribbean Broilers, Respect Jamaica and Red Stripe, supported the campaign by including the logo on their team t-shirts. Volunteers also enjoyed posing for photographs in front of the inflatable branded garbage bag, which was placed at Fort Rocky and interacting with the Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica brand ambassadors and promotional team.

Started in 1985 by the US-based NGO the Ocean Conservancy, International Coastal Cleanup Day celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015. It is the largest one day volunteer event in the world, taking place in over 100 countries annually. JET is the National Coordinator for ICC activities in Jamaica, which are funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund. Last year Jamaica ranked as the 12th largest ICC volunteer turnout in the world.



Top to bottom: Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica brand ambassadors Bella Blair (far left) and Dutty Berry (far right) and their team were on hand at JET's Fort Rocky cleanup to promote the campaign; Spot Valley High teamed up with TPDCo in St James to clean Scarlette Hall Beach; Flavours Beach in Runaway Bay, St Ann was cleaned up by volunteers from the Cardiff Hotel & Spa (land) and the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (underwater)

## DEVELOPMENT ALERT!

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JET's new Development Alert! Website continues to make information on major projects in Jamaica accessible to the public. The website is being managed in partnership with the World Resources Institute and is funded by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund. A total of 121 projects and 150 documents have been uploaded. The website gives the name of the developer, precise location, description, associated permit/license applications, status and approvals for each project. Users are also encouraged to report any potentially illegal projects by utilizing the *Report a Development* feature which allows them to upload pictures and concerns according to the category of development.

JET has demonstrated the website to various government agencies including NEPA, the Forestry Department, Water Resources Authority and the Mines and Geology Division of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining. A demonstration was also given to the Jamaica Institute of Architects.

Feedback from the various bodies has been positive, particularly in relation to reporting of potentially illegal developments by the public. Some government agencies have shown support for the site by agreeing that ATI requests can be made *en bloc* on a bi-annual basis, instead of monthly.



For more information, visit the site at:  
<http://www.developmentalert.org>

## ADVOCACY UPDATES

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### *Riverton Fire*

In March 2015, the Riverton City Dump was set on fire and burned for approximately 11 days. The fire was considered the worst ever recorded, causing the closure of over 50 schools and 30-odd businesses, postponement of the GSAT examination and disruptions at the Port of Kingston. The problems at Riverton are by no means new and have been exhaustively described in many reports and studies over decades. Indeed, in February 2015, a month before the fire, NEPA reported on the failure of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to comply with their environmental

permits to the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA). JET obtained a copy of this report using the Access to Information Act and it is on our website at <http://www.jamentrust.org/advocacy-law/campaigns/riverton-city-dump.html>

The report outlines a series of breaches, followed by several breach notices and a few warning letters from NEPA to NSWMA. The issues of non-compliance were: an inadequate buffer zone, inadequate security and fencing, presence of unauthorized personnel on the dump, lack of protective gear being worn, failure to cover dumped material, failure to compact dumped material, absence of signage, failure to bale and stack tyres, failure to properly demarcate tyre cells, and failure to advise onsite staff members of safety procedures. It is sobering to realize that these breaches ensured that the March 2015 fire was very likely to take hold and spread.

"Given the low level of compliance with the softer enforcement instruments (on site Breach notices and warning letters) and based on the recent site visit," the report concludes, "it is recommended that a Notice of Intention to suspend both permits be issued on the NSWMA."

It does not appear this was done at the time, because on March 13, 2015, two days after the fire started, NEPA issued the Notice of Intention to suspend both permits for the Riverton Dump to NSWMA. This particular fire resulted in most of the dump being covered by dirt, construction waste and other cover material – it now looks like a small, brown hill from afar – and for awhile, this will make fires less likely to occur as well as less likely to spread. This by itself, however, does not mean the dump is being properly managed. JET sought information on the current status at Riverton and received the following information from NEPA.



*Riverton Dump ablaze in March 2015*



Suspension Notices were issued by NEPA on April 28, 2015 due to non-compliance with the Notice of Intention to Suspend, but the dump has continued to operate. NEPA says they "thought it prudent to go the route of mediation and opted to have further discussions on the compliance issues with the NSWMA Board". The Riverton Dump, therefore, continues to operate without the permits required by law.

Some improvements have been made. NSWMA is now working on a much more controlled area of the dump – approximately three acres. Fire wardens are in place and private security are helping to prevent unauthorized access. Police and JDF patrols are being carried out daily.

Compacting is still not occurring. There has been no agreement as to the frequency of compaction – NSWMA says it is not economically feasible for the dump to be compacted as frequently as NEPA requires. Repairs to the tyre baler are to be completed by the end of October and the plan is to remove the tyres to an identified facility – no time frame was given for this to occur. Safety equipment is being supplied for workers and training is being provided on safety, emergency response and vector control.

A raw water storage water tank has been installed, which is filled with water from the Duhaney River. A pump and distribution pipeline network is being installed and expected to be completed by the end of October. This network will be able to take water to all areas of the facility in the event of a fire.

A new management plan, proposal and layout is to be submitted to NEPA for review by their technical team, with a view to reinstatement of the environmental permits. NEPA further advises that a follow-up site visit to Riverton will be done "shortly" in order to see if sufficient progress has been made for the permits to be re issued.

JET will continue to monitor the situation at the Riverton Waste Disposal site.

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## Goat Islands

The Final Framework Agreement between the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and Chinese investors to construct a transshipment port or logistics hub near the Goat Islands in the Portland Bight Protected Area was extended in October 2015 for one year in order to gather more information and conduct analyses. The precise terms of this Agreement are still unknown. JET's Access to Information case for the Framework Agreement between the GOJ and the investors was adjourned in June 2015, on the advice of our lawyers. The earlier court decision awarding costs to JET because the Certificates of Exemption had been issued by the

wrong minister has not been settled due to a backlog. Jamaica's Letter of Intent to the International Monetary Fund dated 1st June 2015 states: *Regarding the development of a transshipment port and industrial and commercial zones in the Portland Bight area by China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), technical feasibility studies have commenced. This is a prerequisite for determining the construction methodology and for obtaining the terms of reference from NEPA for the Environmental Impact Assessment. The project will be executed in phases with the first phase projected to be completed in the last quarter of 2016, pending the necessary approvals in each stage.*

At the time of writing, NEPA has not received an application for this port.

## SAVE GOAT ISLANDS TAKE A STAND FOR OUR ISLAND



*Kabaka Pyramid and Jamaican Iguana. The local musician will be featured in an upcoming film by Thad Films about the fate of Goat Islands and the rarest lizard in the world © Robin Moore*



## TOURISM ACTION CLUBS AWARDED FOR RESEARCH ON GULLIES

On Earth Day April 22, 2015, JET hosted the annual Tourism Action Club Research Day Competition as a part of the Clean Coasts Project, funded by the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF). This competition targeted select Tourism Action Clubs in secondary and tertiary institutions managed by the Jamaica Tourist Board's Tourism Awareness Unit.

The Tourism Action Club students were given the task of researching the topic "Where the Waste Goes", focusing on where Jamaica's waste ends up after it is thrown away. Seven schools presented on solid waste management issues in gullies, drains and coastlines in both urban and rural areas. Presentations included fashionable garments made from recycled materials, elaborate 3D models, multimedia presentations, original songs and skits.

Westwood High School emerged the winners of the Best Display by a Secondary School with their research project on the garbage management issues being experienced at Half Moon Bay Beach in Trelawny. Their project included water and soil pollution testing at the site, beach cleanups and the establishment of an ongoing public education campaign focused on garbage management with the Half Moon Bay fishermen and wider community. Moneague College received the award for Best Display by a Tertiary institution for their outstanding research and display exploring garbage impacts on a storm drain which empties into the Moneague Lake. Most Creative Display was awarded to Oberlin High who had spent weeks working on a detailed model made out of recycled materials depicting the Cassava Piece Gully and surrounding communities.

Mr. Paul Pennicook, Director of Tourism, was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony and commended the students on their presentations. He was very impressed with the hard work that the students put into their research projects. "Your work is a manifestation of the reason the Jamaica Tourist Board initiated the Tourism Action Clubs, to empower young minds to continue the industry's rich and successful legacy," he said.

"Our environment and our tourist industry are inextricably linked as the quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to the survival of the sector," said Mr. Pennicook, highlighting the significance and connection of the research theme to the tourism industry.

The Clean Coasts Project was launched in August 2014. The programme is being spearheaded by JET with \$34.5 million in funding from TEF for the pilot year. The project brings together stakeholders from across Jamaica – schools, citizens, government, and tourism industry players – with the aim of tackling poor solid waste management and marine debris in Jamaica. Other components of the Clean Coasts Project include the Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica public education campaign and underwater cleanups in major resort areas around the island.



*Top to bottom: Judges of the Where the Waste Goes Competition Eleanor Jones (ESL), Diana McCaulay (JET) and Sharille Pink (JTB) speak with a Oberlin High student. Oberlin High won the Most Creative Display award; Clyde Harrison (TEF) (left) presents Westwood High with the award for Best Display (Secondary Institution); Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica brand ambassador, Russhaine "Dutty" Berry (left) chats with keynote speaker Paul Pennicook, Director of Tourism*





## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF JAMAICAN COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

JET has continued to work with the communities of Bull Bay and Hayes/New Town to carry out pollution testing, with funding from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF). New Town Phase 2 Citizens Association also received additional assistance from Dr Anthony Greenaway, Retired Environmental Pollution and Industrial Chemistry Professor of the University of the West Indies who helped design a water quality testing regime. He also helped the communities of Hayes/New Town and Bull Bay to identify appropriate water and air quality testing sites and accompanied JET on site visits to Hayes/New Town in May, June and July.

Between April and September, Hayes/New Town performed water quality analysis from five locations once every month. A total of five sample rounds resulting in 27 water samples have been collected so far and sent to a local laboratory for analysis. Results from these rounds of testing have revealed high levels of sodium, chloride and conductivity. However, Dr Greenaway recommends that more data be collected before conclusions are drawn as to the reasons for these results.

Regarding air quality testing, both Hayes/New Town and Bull Bay continued to collect air quality samples at ten day intervals. Hayes/New Town collected 12 air quality samples and Bull Bay collected 13 air quality samples between April and July using a Particle Monitor. The samples were then sent overseas for PM10 (particulate matter, 10 micrometers or less in size) analysis. All samples have shown PM 10 measurements below the Jamaica 24 hr standard (standard PM10: 150µg/m<sup>3</sup>). The communities will continue to collect samples until November 2015.

### Meetings with Regulators

Two more stakeholder meetings were held under the project; one in May and one in September 2015. Representatives from Caribbean Cement Company;

Mines and Geology Division; Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining; National Environment and Planning Agency; National Water Commission, Water Resources Authority and National Works Agency attended thereby providing residents of Bull Bay, Hayes/New Town and Nine Miles with a forum to raise concerns about the impacts of mining and quarrying in their communities. The meetings also gave regulators an opportunity to update participants on remedial steps being undertaken.

Stemming from the meeting held in May, a joint community tour of Bull Bay including community members and regulators took place on June 24, 2015. The second meeting held in September was successful in that the reports from communities were more positive. Bull Bay and Nine Miles in particular, reported that many of their concerns were in the process of being addressed and/or they had received information requested via the Access to Information Act. Such improvements included the construction of a sidewalk in the Upper Jack's Vale community in Bull Bay (pictured). Both meetings also served to help build relationships between community members and government officials



*Errol Josephs from Hayes/New Town and Dr. Anthony Greenaway collecting water samples*



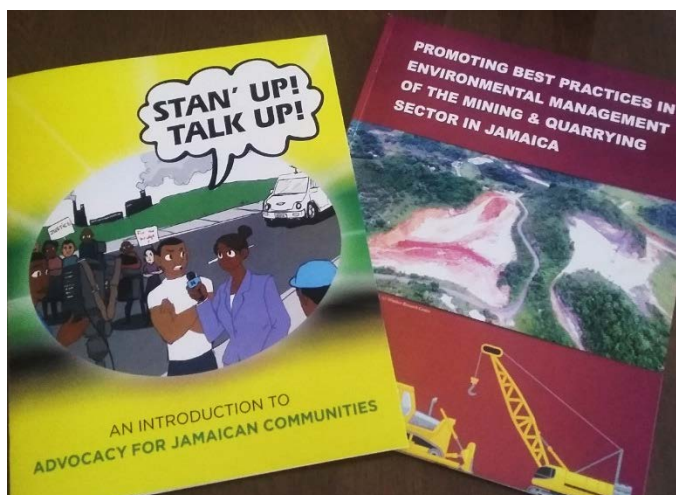


*IAF Stakeholders Meeting - September 25, 2015*

## New Publications

At the request of community members who expressed a desire to increase community initiated advocacy campaigns by engaging with the media, JET prepared an advocacy guidebook entitled *Stan' Up! Talk Up!: An Introduction to Advocacy for Jamaican Communities*. Fifteen copies of the guidebook were distributed to community representatives who attended the Stakeholder Meeting on September 25, 2015 and an additional six copies were distributed to members of Cockpit Country communities who organized and attended a community press briefing in Kingston on September 23, 2015 with regard to the threat of bauxite mining in Cockpit Country.

A publication entitled *Promoting Best Practices in Environmental Management of the Mining & Quarrying Sector in Jamaica* was also produced by JET in mid-September. An initial ten copies were printed to facilitate review and input from regulators and industry representatives. The document was introduced to those who attended the Stakeholder Meeting on September 25 and copies were circulated to key industry players including regulatory bodies, operators and community members for feedback. An updated version with amendments will be printed in November and circulated to stakeholders.



In June 2015, JET held the second staging of WeCycle and the WeCycle Sealed Bid Auction, a weeklong fitness fundraising event. Running from June 7 to June 14, the event came on the heels of World Environment Day (June 5) and encompassed World Ocean's Day (June 8).

Thirteen fitness organizations partnered with JET to host a wide range of activities in Kingston and Ocho Rios, including body sculpt, spinning, yoga, meditation and zumba classes, boot camps and running events. The activities were facilitated by the Art of Living Foundation, Chai Studios, Core Fitness Studios, Fit Farm Fitness Club, Gymkhana Ltd, Island Outpost, Jamaica Yoga Association, Spartan Health Club, True Self Centre of Being, True Form Fitness, We Got the Runs and Pacers Running Group.

During the week of Wecycle, JET also hosted a sealed bid auction with prizes including a weekend for two at Jamaica Inn in Ocho Rios and Jakes Resort in Treasure Beach, *You're Royal Massage* at Strawberry Hill Spa, one month gym membership to Gymkhana and a three month membership to Spartan Health Club.

All proceeds from the fitness activities and auction were donated to JET. The next WeCycle event will be held in June 2016. Following on the success of the WeCycle Auction, JET will be holding a special Christmas Come Again Sealed Bid Auction during the first week in December 2015.



*Yoga at the shell bandstand in Hope Gardens, hosted by the Jamaica Yoga Association*





## SEP JUDGING & AWARDS 2015

2014/2015 was the 18th year of the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP), JET's longest running environmental education project. Thirty-two schools participated in the programme and 14 were selected for the judging exercise based on their implementation of programme elements.

Of the 14 schools selected for judging, 12 chose to participate in the exercise which took place in May 2015. Judges were impressed with the greening that the schools undertook in the academic year. Schools had healthy and well maintained organic vegetable gardens, compost heaps and had even planted trees in their communities as well as on the school grounds. Research projects were practical and relevant – such as the building of a rainwater tank at a school which was experiencing water problems due to the drought, and a study on the medicinal benefits of plants. Students also participated in advocacy campaigns within their local communities one of which involved speaking to fishermen about the importance of the parrot fish.

Judging culminated with the Awards ceremony which was held on June 23rd at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston. The Guest Speaker was Dionne Jackson-Miller, President of the Press Association of Jamaica. Mrs. Jackson-Miller commended students on their work and encouraged them to continue their environmental advocacy. Two schools were awarded the top prize, Mount St. Joseph Prep School in Manchester and Holland Primary in St. Elizabeth. Sectional prizes were also awarded for Best Research to Pimento Hall Primary in St. Ann, Best Community Outreach/Advocacy to Vista Prep in St. Ann and Sandy Bay Primary in Hanover and Best Greening to Maryland Age in Hanover.

JET looks forward to new projects and ideas from participating schools in the 2015/16 academic year. SEP is funded by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), administered by NEPA. Several private sector sponsors also contributed to the success of the programme in the 2014/15 academic year: Total Jamaica, CIBC First Caribbean, Wisynco, Jamaica Energy Partners, Industrial Gases Limited, Jamaica Producers, the NCB Foundation and the Tourism Enhancement Fund.



*Top to bottom: Tamoy Singh (right) chats with a student from the Sandy Bay Primary & Junior High during SEP judging; Peter Knight (NEPA) (left) with a student from West Indies College Prep while Diana McCaulay (JET) looks on at the 2015 SEP Awards Ceremony; Students and teachers of Mount St Joseph Prep and Holland Primary pose with representatives of NEPA and Total Jamaica showing off their Champion School plaques and prizes.*





# MEET THE JETTERS

## SUZANNE STANLEY

*In September 2015, the JET Board of Directors announced the promotion of Suzanne Stanley to the post of Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Suzanne Stanley has been Programme Director at JET since 2010, with overall responsibility for JET's education projects. She has worked extensively on JET's Schools Environment Programme, International Coastal Cleanup Day and most recently, the Clean Coasts Project.*

### **Where were you born?**

London, England

### **How do you end up living in Jamaica?**

My father is British and my mother is Jamaican. When I was two years old they decided to move to Jamaica to be closer to my mother's family. Jamaica has always been the place I call home. My nationality is British-Jamaican, but I have always identified myself as Jamaican more than anything else.

### **Where did you go to school and what did you study?**

I went to Immaculate Conception High School and then did my undergraduate degree at the University of the West Indies, Mona, where I received a BSc in Geography (major) and Geology (minor). In 2008 I completed an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University in the UK.

### **How did you learn about JET?**

When completing my undergraduate dissertation I referenced quite a few articles written by Diana. I had also heard about JET in the media, and passed the office on Waterloo Road nearly every day going home.

### **How did you become interested in working at JET?**

After completing my MSc, I decided to come home to Jamaica. I was working part-time as an environmental consultant, but I wanted to stay busy on my free days. I volunteered at JET on the advice of a family friend, Emma Lewis, who is also a JET Member. I really liked the vibe and vision of JET, so when the Programme Director position opened up I applied immediately.

### **What have you found to be the most interesting part of your job so far?**

It is so hard to put my finger on one thing. The work we do at JET is so diverse, from meeting heads of Government and corporate donors, to delivering environmental workshops to the very young and the

young at heart. I have trekked through the Hellshire Hills to look at the natural habitat of the Jamaican Iguana, sailed to Goat Islands, and hiked in the Blue Mountains, all because of JET. Working with JET keeps me engaged, busy and it has only served to strengthen my appreciation for nature and my love for Jamaica.

### **What environmental issue in Jamaica is of greatest concern to you?**

The apparent disconnect many people have between their actions and the effect they are having on the environment is sometimes frightening. It doesn't seem to matter whether they are a head of government or an ordinary citizen, so many seem to be unaware or uncaring that their poor environmental practices are likely to result in serious consequences in the not too distant future. From more complex global issues like global warming and water scarcity, to poorly planned local developments, to a man throwing a plastic bottle out of his car window into the street, it sometimes seems as if we think the planet is ours to use and abuse without consequence.

### **What do you hope to achieve in your new position?**

JET has become such a part of me. The Jetters past and present are friends and the JET cause has become my personal cause. I hope to continue delivering effective and meaningful projects while providing support to all aspects of the organisation. Translating sometimes complicated environmental concepts into formats that can be easily understood and appreciated by anyone is something I love doing. Seeing the 'Aha!' moment on someone's face as we explain how amazing our environment is, gives me a great feeling. I am glad JET allows me to continue doing that.



*Suzanne presents a plaque to students from West Indies College Prep at the 2015 SEP awards ceremony*