

Environmental Foundation of Jamaica



2015 Congressional Report on Jamaica's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) Fund

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Jamaica

Background and History

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) was created through two bilateral debt reduction agreements with the United States signed in August 1991 and January 1993. The two agreements reduced Jamaica's debt to USAID and PL480 by \$311 million. The interest on these debts provided the EFJ with approximately US\$21.5 million over a 19 year period (which ended in 2012). Operations of the EFJ began in May 1993.

In 2012 a decision was taken to consolidate two entities that had their genesis under debt reduction agreements - in the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI) and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) - to create a "new" EFJ. The two entities being consolidated are the EFJ and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT)/ Forest Conservation Fund (FCF).

The FCF was established pursuant to the TFCA of 1998 which was enacted to offer to eligible developing countries relief on identified official debt owed to the United States of America, while at the same time generating funds to support local tropical forest conservation activities. The Forest Conservation, Debt Swap and Swap Fee Contractual Agreements were signed on September 21, 2004 by the Governments of Jamaica (GOJ) and the United States of America (USG), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the JPAT. This paved the way for the creation of the FCF. The GOJ will deposit US\$16 million into the FCF over a period of nineteen years (ending in 2024). These monies are to be used solely for the purposes delineated in the Forest Conservation Agreement (FCA).

Given the aforementioned history the following mission and vision statements encapsulate the spirit of both documents and ultimately the mandate of the EFJ.

Mission:

To be a major funder of environmental protection and child survival initiatives in the interest of sustainable development.

Vision:

To be the regional leader in funding and influencing policy for environmental management & conservation, as well as child survival and development.

Major Achievements in 2015

This report covers EFJ's fiscal year, which is August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015 and highlights the major activities for the period.

Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) - Consolidation

The Annual General Meeting of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica was held on June 26, 2015, at which the governing documents for the consolidation of the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT)/Forest Conservation Fund and the Environmental Foundation were signed. In attendance were His Excellency Luis Moreno, United States Ambassador to Jamaica, the Honourable Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Ms. Denise Herbol, USAID Mission Director, Dr. Alwin Hales, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment, and Climate Change, Mrs. Donna Blake, Country Representative for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), EFJ members, Board Members of JPAT, EFJ grant beneficiaries and other distinguished guests.



Photo 1 – United States Ambassador His Excellency Luis Moreno signing the documents

Photo 2 – Minister Robert Pickersgill signing on behalf of the Government of Jamaica



Photo 3 – Mrs. Donna Blake, TNC; Mr. Robert Stephens, JPAT; Ms. Denise Herbol, USAID; Hon. Robert Pickersgill; Ambassador Luis Moreno; and Prof. Dale Webber, EFJ

Photo 4 - EFJ Members, grantees and other distinguished guests

EFJ's 10th Annual Public Lecture

The 10th Annual Public Lecture under the theme ‘Son of a Beach: Jamaica and the Coastal Zone’ was held in Montego Bay, on January 22, 2015 and was presented by Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr. Director of the Mona GeoInformatics Institute of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.

The lecture addressed the critical issue of Jamaica’s vulnerability to rising sea levels and the effects on Jamaica’s beaches and coastal zones by focusing on:

- (i) different perspectives on the coastal zone, with an emphasis on the Jamaican condition,
- (ii) reviewing past research and areas of emphases,
- (iii) comparing best practices and implementation elsewhere in the world,
- (iv) discussing how technology helps coastal studies, and
- (v) proposing a multi-scalar Geographic Information System (GIS) based method for typing coastlines for reference and comparisons.

Following the presentation, Dr. Lyew-Ayee Jr. was joined by panelists Dr. Ava Maxam, Deputy Director, Mona GeoInformatics Institute, UWI, Mona (and co-author of the paper presented by Dr. Lyew-Ayee Jr.); Dr. Carlton Campbell, Managing Director, CL Environmental Limited (who is known for his work in the area of environmental impact assessments (EIA)); and Mr. Wayne Cummings, Senior Director, Business Process and Administration at Sandals Resorts International (a hotelier). The audience participated in the discussion by posing questions to the panelists. This proved to be a very spirited session particularly with the group from the Negril area, many of whom were opposed to the proposed construction of breakwaters to address the issue of the disappearing beaches in Negril.

Approximately 250 persons were in attendance.



Photo 5 – Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr. making his presentation

Photo 6 – Panelists (left to right): Dr. Ava Maxam; Dr. Carlton Campbell; Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr.; and Mr. Wayne Cummings



Photo 7 – Members of the audience, panelists and staff of EFJ listen attentively to the presentation

Photo 8 – Ms. Diana McCaulay – Jamaica Environment Trust posing a question to the panel

Impact Data Extraction

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) continued to refine and input data during the course of 2015. This involved the extraction of data from projects in several areas including number of persons trained, persons employed, community members impacted and persons indirectly benefiting from the interventions. The information garnered is critical as this will enable the organisation to evaluate its achievements and measure the outputs and impact of its funding throughout the years. The data extraction process is ongoing.

Below is data extracted from PL 480 projects over a ten year period.

Table 1: Impact of Projects August 2005 to July 2015

Number of projects / grants	Persons Trained	Persons Impacted Directly	Community Members	Persons Employed	Persons Benefitting from Infrastructure	Persons Benefitting from Equipment
236	8,673	368,621	63,493	1,655	65,459	96,449

Project Highlights:

Thematic Area: Recycling – Collection and Processing of Non-degradable Waste and Recycling for Income Generation

The Sunbeam Children’s Home Waste Conversion project secured participation of 40 community members who were trained in bio-digester management and animal husbandry to volunteer their services at the Home. The 40 boys at the Home, who were previously trained in care and maintenance of the pigs, also received training in bio-digester management and animal husbandry. The breeding of pigs for the local market has been successful as the market demand for pigs is very high, especially during the holiday season. To date, the income generated from sales is J\$898,000.00. The project is being sustained by the Sunbeam Children’s Home and they are contemplating expansion of the piggery units which will enable them to have a steady supply of gas generated from the bio-digester for their kitchen as well as a steady supply of pork for the local market. The project has been successfully completed.

Highlights of the projects in pictures:



Photo 9 – Project sign at Sunbeam Children’s Home

Photo 10 – View of bio-digester and bedding chambers



Photo 11 – Mr. Desmond Whitely, Superintendent of Sunbeam Boys’ Home explains the process to Mr. Luis Duran, Representative of the Inter-American Foundation (co-funders of the project), alongside boys of the Home

Photo 12 – Pigs in piggery



Photo 13 – Piglets with sow in piggery



Photo 14 – Stove powered by gas generated from the bio-digester system which is used to prepare meals for the Home. Mr. Whitely demonstrates the process of the gas being generated.

Thematic Area: Water Harvesting Systems

The **Security and Upliftment Association of Dawkins and Surrounding Districts** constructed a water harvesting pond to serve 15 farmers in the area. The pond has a capacity of 3.3 million gallons and will impact approximately 2,000 residents in the surrounding community of Dawkins in Mocho, in the parish of Clarendon. The pond is enhanced through the installation of solar panels and a pump to channel water to the participating farmers.

The project was implemented initially with funding from EFJ/Inter-American Foundation and the UNDP Global Environment Fund. The community subsequently sought and received additional funding from other partners including CARILED, the Clarendon Parish Council, the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, and the Jamaica Alumina Company (Jamalco), from which two greenhouses were constructed and the project site fenced. The water harvesting pond will be used to irrigate the crops in the greenhouse, as well as provide irrigation for the participating farmers in the area.



Photo 15 - Project sign at Security and Upliftment
Photo 16 – Water harvesting pond



Photo 17 – Solar panels located on top of pump house and black plastic water storage tanks on stand
Photo 18 – Two greenhouses alongside the pond

Below is a summary of the financial data for fiscal year 2014/2015.

Summary Data (US\$)¹

Total Funding Amounts for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica <i>under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative</i> 1993-2015	
No. of proposals submitted	3,521
No. of proposals approved	1,253
Total approved funding for grants	US \$42,687,857.70
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	US \$38,953,505.00
Amount spent on administrative costs	US \$14,111,939.48
Interest and capital gained on investments	US \$17,014,513.18

Fund Data	2012	2013	2014	2015	<i>Total 1993-2015</i>
No. of proposals submitted	40	0	0	0	3,521
No. of proposals approved	15	0	0	0	1,253
Total approved funding for grants *	\$ 447,360.00	\$ 153,094.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$42,687,857.70
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	\$ 156,222.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$38,953,505.00
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	\$ 312,306.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
Total matching funds as % of approved	105%	0%	0%	0%	n/a
Amount spent on administrative costs	\$ 504,966.00	\$ 289,980.18	\$ 320,322.68	\$ 276,242.46	\$14,118,363.32
Interest and capital gained on investments	\$ 59,051.00	\$ 22,000.33	\$ 23,124.92	\$ 28,345.93	\$17,014,513.18
Fund balance at the end of the year	\$ 1,948,574.00	\$ 1,374,290.79	\$ 1,154,975.54	\$1,153,303.12	n/a

¹Average rates of exchange: J\$85.675 : US\$1.00 (2011) US\$1.00; J\$89.08 (2012) US\$1.00: J\$101.3621 (2013) US\$1.00 :J\$112.3644 (2014); J\$116.7525: US1.00 (2015)

