



**2015 Congressional Report on Jamaica's  
Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) Fund**

*February 1, 2016*

## Jamaica

<b>Debt Agreement signed</b>	September 21, 2004
<b>Type of Agreement</b>	Subsidized debt swap
<b>US budgetary costs</b>	\$6.5 million
<b>Conservation funds generated</b>	\$16 million (over 19 years)
<b>Private funds contributed</b>	\$1.3 million

### Schedule of Deposits to TFCA Accounts through 12/31/15 (US\$)

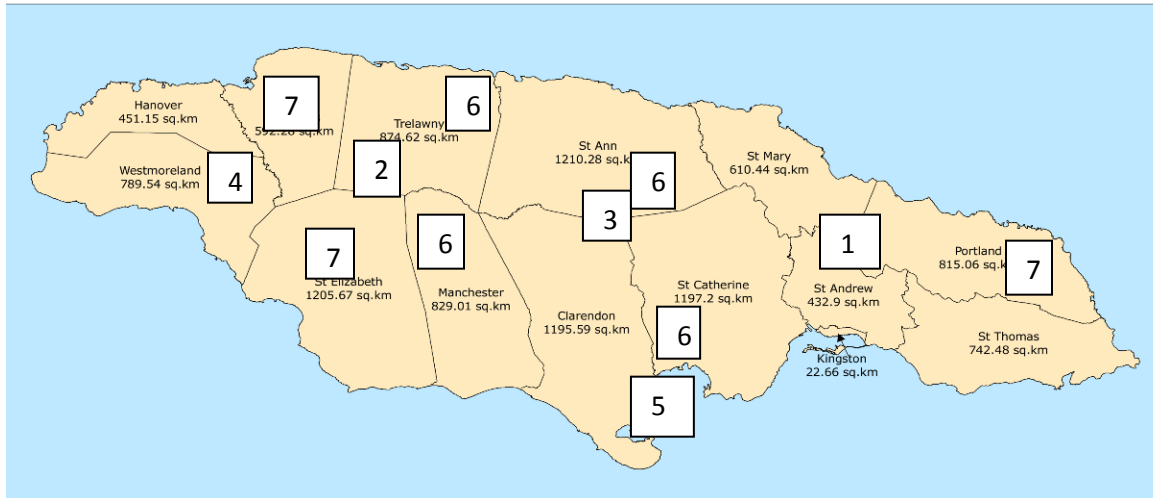
<u>Date</u>	<u>Forest Conservation Grant Fund (US\$)</u>	<u>Grant Disbursements</u>	<u>Trust Fund (endowment)</u>
<u>2004-2012</u>	<u>\$7,747,956.80</u>	<u>\$3,295,100.79</u>	<u>\$3,668,680.46<sup>1</sup></u>
<u>2013<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>\$ 850,408.05</u>	<u>\$ 407,806.10</u>	<u>\$3,521,794.47</u>
<u>2014</u>	<u>\$ 831,162.28</u>	<u>\$ 272,701.38</u>	<u>\$4,109,811.49</u>
<u>2015</u>	<u>\$ 811,916.52</u>	<u>\$ 183,507.37</u>	<u>\$4,229,880.36</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$10,241,443.65</u>	<u>\$ 4,159,115.64</u>	

<sup>1</sup> The rate of exchange used for the 2004-2012 figure is J \$ 88.99: US \$ 1.

<sup>2</sup> The rate of exchange used for 2013 figures is J \$ 105.7165: US \$ 1.

The rate of exchange used for 2014 calculations is J\$114.1193: US\$1.

The rate of exchange used for 2015 calculations is J\$119.6419: US\$1



Jamaica has unique flora and fauna composed of a high percentage of endemic species, including 28 percent of its flowering plants and 25 breeding bird species. A growing number of plant and animal species are identified as vulnerable to extinction, critically imperiled or rare. The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, endemic orchids and the Jamaican Iguana are examples. The aim of this debt-for-nature swap is to help Jamaica in its fight to safeguard the valuable forests and rich biodiversity in several areas.

Seven (7) geographic regions were considered “priority areas” by the TFCA agreements. These include:

1. Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve),
2. Cockpit Country Forest Reserve
3. Litchfield Matheson’s Run and Stephaney-John’s Vale Forest Reserves
4. Inland portion of Negril Protected Area, plus the forested area in and around Dolphin Head Mountains
5. Portland Bight Protected Area
6. Spring Vale and Bogue Forest Reserves plus the Upper and lower Black River Morasses.
7. Other forest reserves and Crown lands managed by the Forestry Department

## Major Achievements in 2015

### **Consolidation of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT)/Forest Conservation Fund (FCF)**

JPAT/FCF and EFJ moved one step further toward consolidation on June 26, 2015 where the governing documents for the consolidation of the JPAT/FCF and EFJ were signed at EFJ's Annual General Meeting. In attendance were the Honourable Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change; His Excellency Luis Moreno, United States Ambassador to Jamaica; Ms. Denise Herbol, USAID Mission Director; Mrs. Donna Blake, Country Representative for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), EFJ members, grantees and other distinguished guests.



**Picture 1:** The signing of the governing documents necessary for consolidation of EFJ and JPAT/FCF.

**Picture 2:** The Honourable Robert Pickersgill, Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, addressing the attendees at EFJ's Annual General Meeting.

**Pictures 3&4:** Attendees observing the proceedings at the head table where the governing documents were being signed.

### **National Policy Consultations**

During the period under review the FCF continued its participation in various national policy consultations, including the:

- ✓ United Nations Jamaica National Consultations on the Caribbean Multi-Country Assessment, and
- ✓ The National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented under UNDP.

### **Joint Strategic Plan with EFJ**

The consolidation process for the JPAT/FCF and the EFJ continued throughout the review period and the EFJ/JPAT/FCF team worked jointly to execute the Strategic Plan for the new EFJ.

### **Project Impact**

The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) continued to develop their impact data system during the course of 2015. The MicroEdge GIFTS programme is not able to disaggregate data according to year but instead generates information based on the total data collected and entered in the database at specific points in time. We are worked to improve the system during this calendar year, and in the table below we present additional data sets that have been entered in MicroEdge GIFTS since we have embarked on a renewed focus on impact data measurement, collection and storage.

<b>Data Fields/Indicators</b>	<b>Measurement in Numbers</b>
People Obtaining Sustainable Livelihoods	910
People Trained	216
People Employed	1352
People Indirectly Benefitting from FCF Grants	181,606
Number of Seedlings Planted	31,312
Hectares Planted	4674
CBO's Strengthened	27
Academic Institutions Strengthened	73
Business Plans Created	10
Feasibility Studies Undertaken	16
Management Plans Created	4
Research Papers Produced	33

## **Project Highlights**

**Implementing Organization:** *Knockalva Agricultural School*

**Project Title:** Knockalva Agro-forestry and Apiculture Project

**Priority Area:** Inland portion of Negril Protected Area, plus the forested area in and around Dolphin Head Mountains

**Target:** To establish 6 hectares of agro and timber forest that will enhance biodiversity and demonstrate best practice in tree crop farming. To construct one greenhouse, establish a 15 colony bee apiary to offer training in greenhouse and bee keeping management and also to expand training students and local farmers in sustainable agriculture.

**Achievements:** 6 hectares of agro and timber seedlings have been planted. A 30ft by 150ft greenhouse was constructed and is in full operation as a nursery for seedlings used in the agro-forestry plots. An apiary of 15 colonies of bees was started and is being used to train students in apiculture. Over 100 Knockalva High School students have been trained in apiculture, greenhouse technology and nursery management. 85 persons from the surrounding communities have been trained in apiculture and an additional 50 students from neighboring high schools have been trained in apiculture as part of a work experience programme at their high school.



**Picture 5:** The greenhouse/nursery constructed with FCF support being used to propagate seedlings used in the agro-forestry component of the project.

**Picture 6:** The apiary on the Knockalva High School grounds created with FCF support for alternative livelihoods.



**Implementing Organization:** Bowden Pen Farmers Association

**Project Title:** Preserving the natural resource for sustainable development in the Upper Rio Grande Valley

**Priority Area:** Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve and World Heritage Site)

**Target:** To increase the livelihood potential of 15 persons through restoration of the Famous Maroon Heritage Trail – Corn Puss Gap, establish a new trail to the Bernard Spring Waterfall and by conducting training sessions in trail guiding. To construct buildings at Ambassabeth Cabins, to replace a building destroyed by termites and to meet the criteria of the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) for licensing of the attraction. To reforest 10 acres denuded lands on the Forest Reserve to increase habitats for endemic species of plant and animal life.

**Achievements:** Corn Puss Gap trail has been restored and retrofitted with bridges and a clear walkway to facilitate guided tours along the path. Also a new trail was created for the Bernard Spring Waterfall and 15 persons were trained in trail guiding. 10 acres of forest around the trails were reforested, although 3 acres were damaged by forest fires, the grantee replanted the seedlings. The cabins at Ambassabeth were constructed and are in full use as accommodation for visitors. For the period January to December 2015 it was reported that 156 locals and 93 foreigners stayed at the cabins and hiked in the Blue and John Crow Mountains.



**Picture 7:** A seedling on a reforestation site which Bowden Pen farmers planted.

**Picture 8:** A section of the Corn Puss Gap Trail maintained through FCF support.

**Implementing Organization:** Local Initiative Facility for the Environment

**Project Title:** Reforestation and Development of Alternative Livelihood Activities in the Good Hope Region

**Priority Area:** Foothills of the Blue Mountain Range

**Target:** To reforest 12 hectares of degraded slopes, to develop and implement a robust awareness programme about the importance of forests, to train a minimum of 25 persons in the development and operation of bee keeping enterprises, to train a minimum of 30 persons in rearing goats under the intensive management system where the animals are housed and to document the eco-tourism possibilities in the project area.

**Achievements:** 16 hectares of land has been planted with seedlings, the community and members of the public are reminded about the important functions that forests play via brochures and weekly newsletters. 15 persons have received training and certification in bee keeping and enterprise development. The 15 persons who were trained have helped other members of the community to develop the skill and about 50% of the participants have continued to pursue bee-keeping as an alternative livelihood. 7 goat houses were constructed and served as training sites for over 30 persons.



**Picture 9:** A seedling newly planted on the reforestation site in the Good Hope region.

**Picture 10:** Seedlings planted, pegged and surrounded with mesh as a protective mechanism against small ruminants such as goats.



## Summary of Achievements

- There were 36 active projects in the year. Of these, the process of officially closing 21 completed projects continued.

<b>PROJECT TITLE (Project Approval Year)</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<b>PROJECT BUDGET (J\$)</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED TO DATE (J\$)</b>
<b>Phase 2 Critical Coastal Forest Restoration (2015)</b>	<b>Port Royal Marine Laboratory University of the West Indies</b>		4YRS Feb 2, 2015- Feb 1, 2019	<b>13,162,500</b>	<b>7,244,875</b>
<b>Capacity Building for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods-Phase 2 (2015)</b>	<b>Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust</b>	Blue Mountains	2YRS Jan 23, 2015- Jan 22, 2017	<b>12,933,000</b>	<b>4,364,700</b>
<b>2015 Grantees Sub-Total</b>				<b>26,095,500</b>	<b>11,609,575</b>
<b>Pinkey Piece Watershed Reforestation Project (2011)</b>	<b>Hampstead Citizens Association Benevolent Society</b>	Pinkey Piece Watershed	3 YRS Nov 14, 2011- Nov 14, 2014	<b>6,203,700</b>	<b>2,817,500</b>
<b>Conservation Management Plan and Boundary Survey for the Ocho Rios Nature Preserve (2011)</b>	<b>Ocho Rios Nature Preserve Trust</b>	Ocho Rios Nature Preserve	3 YRS (Extended 2 YEARS) Nov 14, 2011- Feb 29,2016	<b>7,768,600</b>	<b>5,690,400</b>
<b>Reforestation and Sustainable Agriculture for Soil Stabilization in the Blue Mountains (2011)</b>	<b>Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust</b>	Blue Mountains	4 YRS (Extended 2 YEARS) Nov 14, 2011- Nov 14, 2017	<b>22,083,156</b>	<b>14,319,775.76</b>

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> (Project Approval Year)	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<b>PROJECT BUDGET (J\$)</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED TO DATE (J\$)</b>
Preserving the natural resource for sustainable development in the Upper Rio Grande Valley (2011)	Bowden Pen Farmers Association	Blue and John Crow Mountains	3 YRS (Extended 2 YEARS) Nov 14, 2014- Feb 14, 2016	22,754,100	18,171,185
Knockalva Agro-forestry /Apiculture Project (2011)	Knockalva Agricultural School	Great River Watershed	3 YRS (Extended 1 YEAR) Nov 14, 2011- Nov 14, 2015	9,244,000	7,950,000
Smithfield Reforestation Community Awareness Agro forestry and Livelihood Project (2011)	Smithfield Survivors Club		3 YRS (Extended 1YEAR) Nov 14, 2011- Nov 14, 2015	9,500,559	4,540,110
Sustainable Development using Alternative Management Strategies for Coastal Habitats in Jamaica's North Shore Tourism Corridor (2011)	Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, University of the West Indies	Discovery Bay, Coastal Dry Limestone Forest	3 YRS (Extended 1 YEAR) Nov 14, 2011- Nov 14, 2015	21,635,530	14,122,000
Community-based Integrated Forest Resource Management in the Yallahs River Watershed: A Pilot Project (2011)	Western St. Thomas Education and Development Consortium	Yallahs Watershed	3 YRS (Extended 1 YEAR) Nov 14, 2011- May 14, 2015	7,154,613	5,695,287

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Reforestation and Installation of slope stabilizing mechanisms to mitigate the effects of landslides in the communities of Hillside and Mount Vernon in the parish of St. Thomas (2011)	Trinityville Area Development Committee Benevolent Society		3 YRS Nov 14, 2011- Nov 13, 2014	12,723,420	11,376,200
Cockpit Country Experience (2011)	Windsor Research Centre	Cockpit Country	6 Mths Nov 14, 2011- May 5, 2012	4,178,790	1,850,000
2011 Grantees Sub-Total				123,246,468	86,532,458
Reforestation of Pleasant Valley Mined-out Bauxite Lands (2009/10)	Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society		3 YRS (Extended 3 YRS) July 5, 2010- Dec 31, 2015	8,296,117.50	7,301,925
Dolphin Head Reforestation, Agro forestry and Livelihood Development Project (2009/10)	Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee	Dolphin Head Mountains	3 YRS (Extended 3 YRS) July 5, 2010- Feb 29, 2016	17,851,764	16,173,111

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<b>Status and Restorative Potential of Jamaica Tree Species (2009/10)</b>	<b>University of the West Indies Department of Life Sciences</b>	John Crow Mountains, Cockpit Country, Portland Bight Protected Area and Black River Morass	3 YRS (Extended YR1) July 5, 2010- July 4 2014	<b>14,372,000</b>	<b>14,012,000</b>
<b>Reforestation and Development of Alternative Livelihood Activities in the Good Hope Region (2009/10)</b>	<b>Local Initiative Facility for the Environment</b>	Foothills of the Blue Mountain Range	3 YRS (Extended 2 YRS) July 5, 2010- Nov 12, 2014	<b>12,941,390</b>	<b>12,159,660</b>
<b>Orange Bay Black Hill Nature Preservation Project-Phase 1 (2009/10)</b>	<b>Orange Bay/ Black Hill Community Development Committee</b>	Buffer areas of unprotected closed broadleaf forest in the Rio Grande, Swift River, Buff Bay, Morant, Hope and Wag Water Watersheds	6 MTHS July 5, 2011- Jan 4, 2011	<b>1,364,000</b>	<b>1,120,000</b>
<b>2009/10 Grantees Sub-Total</b>				<b>54,825,272</b>	<b>50,766,696</b>

Table showing FCF Projects that are under review for closure

<b>PROJECT TITLE (Project Approval Year)</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<b>PROJECT BUDGET (J\$)</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED TO DATE</b>
<b>Critical Coastal Forest Restoration (2011)</b>	<b>Port Royal Marine Laboratory, University of the West Indies</b>	Port Royal, Portland Bight Protected Area, Bogue, Greenwood/Lilliput	1 YR	<b>4,626,000</b>	<b>4,103,000</b>
<b>Consultations on Defining the Boundaries of the Cockpit Country (2011)</b>	<b>Environmental Management Unit, University of the West Indies</b>	Cockpit Country	1 YR	<b>3,309,000</b>	<b>3,209,000</b>
<b>Expanding STEA's ecotourism programme to support alternative livelihoods for residents in Cockpit Country (2011)</b>	<b>Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency</b>	Cockpit Country	18 MTHS	<b>8,012,600</b>	<b>7,696,814</b>
<b>Content Gap Forest Conservation (2009/10)</b>	<b>Content Gap JAS Farmers Group</b>	Blue Mountain	3 YRS	<b>2,203,022</b>	<b>1,357,691</b>
<b>Morant Watershed Restoration, Conservation and Community Development Project (2009/10)</b>	<b>St. Thomas Environment Protection Association Benevolent Society</b>	Blue Mountains	3 YRS	<b>15,167,317</b>	<b>14,532,247</b>
<b>St Thomas Bee Farmers Association Reforestation and Alternative Livelihood Project (2009/10)</b>	<b>St. Thomas Bee Farmers Association</b>	Blue Mountains	3 YRS	<b>16,440,768</b>	<b>13,865,105</b>
<b>Reforestation and Promotion of Best Farming Practices to mitigate the effects of landslides in Somerset, St. Thomas (2009/10)</b>	<b>Women's Resource and Outreach Centre</b>	Blue Mountain	3 YRS	<b>20,440,760</b>	<b>17,985,195</b>
<b>Expansion Buff Bay Agro Forestry Project (2009/10)</b>	<b>Buff Bay Local Forestry Management Committee</b>	Buff Bay/Pencar Watershed	4 YRS	<b>17,848,808</b>	<b>14,799,707</b>



<b>PROJECT TITLE (Project Approval Year)</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<b>PROJECT BUDGET (J\$)</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED TO DATE</b>
<b>Capacity Building for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Blue Mountains (2009/10)</b>	<b>Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust</b>	Blue Mountain	2 YRS	<b>13,115,900</b>	<b>12,875,895</b>
<b>Planting of 12 Hectares of new Seedlings on and Maintenance of a Total of 48 Hectares of Forest Reserve (2009/10)</b>	<b>Lions Club of Mona</b>	Blue Mountain	3 YRS (Extended 2 YRS)	<b>24,308,336</b>	<b>23,309,460</b>
<b>Bio-prospecting Forest Medicinal plants for the Development of a Nutraceutical Industry: aiding Alternative Livelihoods (2009/10)</b>	<b>University of the West Indies Natural Products Institute, and Department of Biochemistry</b>	Blue and John Crow Mountains and Cockpit Country	3 YRS (Extended 1 YRS)	<b>11,946,004</b>	<b>11,586,004</b>
<b>Participatory Planning for Management of the Portland Bight Protected Area (2009/10)</b>	<b>Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation</b>	Portland Bight Protected Area	18 MTHS	<b>9,641,500</b>	<b>9,521,500</b>
<b>Mixed Agro-Forestry to Achieve Slope Stability (2009)</b>	<b>Portland Environmental Protection Association</b>	Buffer areas of unprotected closed broadleaf forest in the Rio Grande, Swift River, Buff Bay, Morant, Hope and Wag Water Watersheds	3 YRS	<b>7,352,400</b>	<b>5,795,000</b>
<b>The Quick Step Trail: A Product Development and Marketing Strategy for Ecotourism Development in the Cockpit Country (2008)</b>	<b>The Accompong Maroon Council</b>	Cockpit Country	3 YRS	<b>6,492,840</b>	<b>6,306,440</b>

<b>PROJECT TITLE (Project Approval Year)</b>	<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIORITY AREA</b>	<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	<b>PROJECT BUDGET (J\$)</b>	<b>AMOUNT DISBURSED TO DATE</b>
Identification, Propagation and Dissemination of Native Forest Species (2008)	The Biotechnology Centre, University of the West Indies	Rio Cobre/ Cockpit Country	2 YRS	14,772,000	12,926,848
Propagation Research for Sustainable Management of Bitterwood (2008)	Natural Products Institute, University of the West Indies	Hope River Watershed	2 YRS	2,275,749	2,255,622
Nursery Propagation of Coastal Forests Plants (2008)	Port Royal Marine Laboratory University of the West Indies	Port Royal, Kingston	3 YRS (Extended 1 YEAR)	5,229,006	4,825,396
Buff Bay Agro forestry Project (2007)	Buff Bay Local Forest Management Committee	Buff Bay Watershed	3 YRS	6,620,704	6,266,869
Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) (2007)	Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals	Island wide	1 YR	9,720,000	9,250,000
Reforestation of 25 Hectares of Degraded Forest Reserve at Cinchona in the Yallahs Watershed (2007)	Lions Club of Mona	Upper Yallahs	3 YRS	13,465,080	11,670,903
Forest Conservation in the Blue Mountain (2007)	Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust	Blue Mountain	4YRS	12,496,009	10,974,341

### **Financial Status**

Grant and General Information are presented in the two (2) Summary Tables below. During 2015, the Fund deposits were principally invested in medium to short-term Notes.

**Table 1: Grant Information Summary Table (US\$)**

<b>Fund Data</b>	<b>2007 - 2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of proposals submitted	141	2	2**	145
No of proposals approved	53	2	0	55
Total approved funding for grants	5,345,885.1	228,668.60	218,113.39	5,574,553.70
Total of counterpart match (grantee cost-share)	1,620,475	130,468.73	117,766.43	1,750,943.73
Other leveraged matches (e.g. co-financing)	610,146	62,522.29	1,741.86	672,668.29
Total matching fund as a % of approved grants	42%	84.4%	54.79%	43%

\*\* These are all Discretionary Grants.

**Table 2: General Information Summary Table (US\$)**

<b>Fund Data</b>	<b>2007 - 2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amount spent on Administrative costs	1,105,700	233,752	290,745	1,630,197
Investment Income on Operational accounts	1,888,656	54,391	72,866	2,015,913
Fund value at year end	4,992,184	4,771,328	5,200,194	