



NCTFJ
National Conservation
Trust Fund of Jamaica

Fact Sheet:

Preserving Jamaica's Protected Areas

Defining Protected Areas

- * A protected area is a clearly defined geographical area of land or water singled out for long-term conservation and sustainable management because of its recognized natural, ecological and cultural value to a country, region, or to the world.
- * Jamaica's policy framework explicitly defines a protected area as "an area of land or water that is managed for the protection and maintenance of its ecological systems, biodiversity and/or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources."
- * The principal national laws which govern protected areas in Jamaica include:
 - The Wildlife Protection Act (1945), designed to protect designated species of wild animals,
 - The National Resources Conservation Authority Act (1991), designed to provide for the management, conservation and protection of Jamaica's natural resources,
 - The Watersheds Protection Act (1963) designed to provide for the protection of watersheds and promote the conservation of water resources, and
 - The Forest Act (1996) which allows landowners to apply for forested lands to be declared as forest reserves.

Jamaica's Protected Areas System Master Plan

- * The Government of Jamaica, through its environment and cultural agencies, has identified more than 350 National Protected Areas (NPAs) as the centrepiece of a comprehensive Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP). These National Protected Areas vary in scope and purpose, and include terrestrial parks, marine parks, forest and game reserves, fish sanctuaries, heritage sites and cultural landmarks.
- * Some of these National Protected Areas include the Montego Bay Marine Park, the Cockpit Country Forest Reserve, the Rio Nuevo Taino Site, the Palisadoes and Port Royal Protected Areas and the Blue and John Crow Mountains – a recently declared UNESCO Natural World Heritage site.
- * The Protected Areas System Master Plan outlines clear strategies and guidelines for establishing and managing the network of protected areas in Jamaica. The dedicated maintenance of these protected areas helps sustain Jamaica's intricate balance of ecological processes, helps preserve Jamaica's singular biodiversity and unique cultural heritage, and contributes to the country's long-term economic viability.

The Funding Gap

- * A central purpose of the PASMP is to ensure that protected areas are sustainably financed. With varying economic and fiscal limitations as well as competing priorities for government spending, Jamaica is challenged to adequately provide the financial and resource infrastructure to effectively manage its National Protected Areas.

Jamaica's National Protected Areas System requires US\$8.4 million per annum for basic Protected Areas management. Currently, the approximate annual inflows for protected areas management, including revenues from Government of Jamaica, are US\$6.4M, leaving a shortfall of US\$2 Million required per annum.

Threats to Protected Areas in Jamaica

- * Apart from the lack of sustainable financing mechanisms, threats to protected areas in Jamaica include unsustainable agricultural, tourism and mining practices, squatting, deforestation and pollution. These, as well as the accelerated loss of vulnerable habitats and associated species, undermine the ecological integrity of government-identified Protected Areas.

The NCTFJ's Role

The National Conservation Trust of Jamaica (NCTFJ) was established to fill the funding gap that currently exists in the National Protected Areas System by being the principal provider of sustainable funding for Protected Areas in Jamaica, thereby helping to mitigate some of the threats to biodiversity conservation and overall sustainable development.

