



GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA



OVERARCHING POLICY FOR JAMAICA'S PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM

2026



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MESSAGE BY

DR. THE MOST HONOURABLE ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, PC, MP



Protected areas are essential to safeguarding Jamaica's biodiversity and cultural heritage while delivering important environmental, social, and economic benefits. When effectively managed, they conserve biodiversity, provide ecosystem goods and services such as the provision of water and food, coastal defences, serve as carbon sinks for climate regulation, reduce the impacts of natural hazards, as well as support livelihoods and create opportunities for research.

Approximately 22.71 per cent of Jamaica's terrestrial area and 15.47 per cent of its archipelagic waters are protected under

existing legislation, through more than 350 legally declared protected areas. These include a national park, the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, forest reserves, game reserves, marine parks, fish sanctuaries, and protected national heritage sites. Recent declarations include the Black River Protected Area (2021), Cockpit Country Protected Area (2022), and the Pedro Cays Protected Area (2023), along with two new fish sanctuaries in 2024, 16 forest management areas in 2025, and 17 forest reserves in 2026. The Government is working assiduously on the further expansion of the country's protected areas network in support of, *inter alia*, the achievement of the '30x30' target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, that is, the global commitment to effectively conserve and manage of 30 per cent of the world's terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas by the year 2030.

The goal of the Overarching Protected Areas Policy is to ensure the effective and equitable management of protected areas. This is supported by significant progress in strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks, including the 2023 Natural Resources Conservation (Protected Areas) Regulations and the 2025 amendments to the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act and the Wild Life Protection Act fines and custodial sentences.

Following approval of the Policy, the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change will advance the development of the Overarching Protected Areas legislation in keeping with the Policy prescriptions. Key elements will include the legal establishment of the Protected Areas Committee as the national coordinating body for the island's protected areas network, definition of key terms such as protected area, designation criteria, and the updating of the types of protected areas, in alignment with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) protected areas categories.

The Policy will complement existing national policies such as the Watersheds Policy for Jamaica (2024), the Climate Change Policy Framework (2023), Forest Policy (2016), National Cultural Policy (2003), National Land Policy (1997) which is being updated, and key strategies and plans, including the National Ecosystem Restoration Plan and the National Mangrove and Swamp Management Plan, while strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, including the general public.

Jamaica's protected areas are mainly managed by four public sector entities, namely the Natural Resources Conservation Authority/National Environment and Planning Agency, Forestry Department, Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the National Fisheries Authority. In addition, co-management arrangements have been established with local communities, environmental non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and other government entities to support the effective and inclusive management of protected areas.

I wish to thank the Environment and Risk Management Branch of the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change for the critical role it played in the development of this Policy. I encourage all stakeholders to remain actively engaged in the management of the island's protected areas and to proactively support the Policy's effective implementation.

Dr. The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP
Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Growth and
Infrastructure Development

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	Climate Change Division
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
EPA	Environmental Protection Area
FCF	Forest Conservation Fund
FD	Forestry Department
FMA	Forest Management Area
FR	Forest Reserve
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
IOJ	Institute of Jamaica
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JIPO	Jamaica Intellectual Property Office
JNHT	Jamaica National Heritage Trust
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LDUC	Land Development and Utilisation Commission
LFMC	Local Forest Management Committee
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEGJC	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MP	Member of Parliament
MRC	Ministry responsible for Culture
MRE	Ministry responsible for the Environment
MRF	Ministry responsible for Fisheries
MRLG&CD	Ministry responsible for Local Government & Community Development
NAPDEC	National Association of Parish Development Committees
NBSAP	National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity
NCTFJ	National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica
NEPA	National Environment and Planning Agency
NFA	National Fisheries Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPAS	National Protected Areas System
NRCA	Natural Resources Conservation Authority
NRCD	Natural Resources Conservation Department
NSDMB	National Spatial Data Management Branch
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PA	Protected Area
PAC	Protected Areas Committee
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PAS	Protected Areas System
PASMP	Protected Areas System Master Plan
PDC	Parish Development Committees
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
RAPPAM	Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDC	Social Development Commission
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIDS	Small Island Developing States

SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (Protocol)
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Authority
TEF	Tourism Enhancement Fund
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TPD	Town Planning Department
TPDCo	Tourism Product Development Company
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A protected area is “a clearly defined geographical area of land and or water that is dedicated to and managed for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of its ecological systems, biodiversity and/or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources.”¹ A protected areas system has been established to ensure the effective protection and management of Jamaica’s diverse ecological areas, cultural assets, and natural heritage. This Policy aligns with the goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, particularly Goal 4: Jamaica has a healthy natural environment.

As a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Jamaica is implementing the Convention’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas, which requires Parties to:

“develop comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas... to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention, to help reduce biodiversity loss and contribute to poverty reduction and the pursuit of sustainable development.”²

Jamaica’s Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) 2013-2017 was prepared in keeping with this requirement.

Cabinet by Decision No. 11/18, dated March 26, 2018, approved the preparation of an Overarching Policy on Protected Areas, which will inform the promulgation of the Overarching Protected Areas legislation, to address, *inter alia*, the institutional arrangements for the protected areas system (PAS) including the roles of the main public sector entities responsible for protected areas and that of the public, the establishment of the system, and the redefinition of the scope of the System. This Policy will replace the Policy for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas, 1997 in which the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), as the organisation charged by the Government with responsibility for effective management of Jamaica’s physical environment, was identified as the lead entity with responsibility for the PAS including “ensuring that all protected areas meet their various objectives to the greatest extent feasible”. Other factors taken into account in the decision to prepare a new Policy include the fact that -

¹ Protected Areas System Master Plan, 2013-2017, Page 21

² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2004. Programme of Work on Protected Areas. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/pa-text-en.pdf>

- a) There have been several significant changes within the institutional framework since the 1990s: for example, the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), an Executive Agency under the Executive Agencies Act, 2002, was established in 2001 to provide technical and administrative support to three statutory bodies, including the NRCA. Additionally, in this period, the Forestry Department was designated as an Executive Agency in 2010. The National Fisheries Authority (NFA) was established under the Fisheries Act, 2018,³ as a statutory body to replace the Fisheries Division. There have also been changes in the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) community: for example, the “umbrella group which provides training, technical and organisational development support and lobbying to local NGOs” – the National Environmental Societies Trust – no longer exists.
- b) There are heightened concerns, especially for small island developing states such as Jamaica, of key substantive issues that impact the management of protected areas, including climate change and invasive alien species.

The entities responsible for protected areas management in Jamaica, namely the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), the Forestry Department, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the NRCA/NEPA will, *inter alia*, continue to implement the Protected Area System Master Plan (PASMP) based on their respective legal mandates. Additionally, the Protected Areas Committee (PAC), a multi-agency, multi-sectoral body which includes the entities responsible for protected areas as well as other key local stakeholders, will coordinate the implementation and review of the protected areas system and make recommendations accordingly. The members of the PAC will be appointed by the Minister responsible for the environment. The Ministry responsible for the environment will have the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the Overarching Protected Areas Policy, in collaboration with the relevant ministries, which have protected area management entities.

The Overarching Protected Areas legislation is intended to regulate the protected areas system and will include: (i) provisions to enshrine the PAC in law which will serve as a coordinating body for the management of protected areas; (ii) requirements for the preparation of management plans based on the best available scientific data and information, and with the participation of stakeholders,

³ The Fisheries Act, 2018 repealed the Fishing Industry Act.

particularly those who are directly affected; and (iii) procedures for modification and amendment of boundaries of protected areas within the system.

The existing network of protected areas will be reviewed and recommendations made for additions and deletions to the System, as necessary and appropriate, based on a new classification of protected area types, with definitions and selection criteria, and protected areas further categorised into management categories in line with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)⁴. In this way, there will be a more realistic and balanced protected areas system and facilitation of evaluation and reporting on how Jamaica is meeting its commitments for protected areas management.

The protected areas system will consist of three new designations, that is, strict nature reserve, protected landscape and seascape, and managed resource protected area. These additions will increase the types of protected areas in the System to fourteen. The types of PAs will be aligned to the six equivalent management categories of the IUCN.

The types of protected areas within the System will be reflected in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation, which will be developed once the Overarching Protected Areas Policy is approved. The term ‘protected area’ will not be used as a category in the legislation, and as such, the Beach Control Act, the NRCA Act and the Forest Act (1996) will be amended accordingly. There will be reviews of the existing protected areas, which may lead to the reclassification of some of these areas. For example, some of the existing forest reserves may be reclassified as forest management areas, and vice versa, in accordance with the provisions of the new Forest Act⁵, and areas will be reassessed for harmonisation with the IUCN management criteria. In the 1997 Policy for the National System of Protected Areas, the category ‘environmental protection area’ as prescribed in the NRCA Act (section 33) is not included in the System, as the purpose of this designation was primarily associated with land use and planning concerns. In this regard, the terrestrial component of the Negril Environmental Protection Area will be redesignated as a protected area.

⁴ In 2004, when the Programme of Work on Protected Areas was being adopted, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) formally recognised the value of the IUCN category system as a single international classification system for protected areas which countries could use as a tool in reporting progress on establishing and maintaining protected area system - IUCN Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation – Barbara Lausche

⁵ Forest Bill updated 2026

The protected areas system will not include recreational parks, urban parks, areas of scenic beauty, or watershed areas in general, which do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the IUCN protected areas categories. Other areas not included in the System are those in which the main purpose of management is the harvesting of natural resources⁶ or those in which the focus is on environmental management, including pollution control, rather than conservation of biodiversity, such as endangered species and habitats. The classification of major resources and types of protected areas reflects their importance to Jamaica, their management and protection requirements, and international protected area categories, particularly those of the IUCN. If a national protected area within the protected areas system qualifies for inclusion in an international system such as the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)⁷, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or the World Heritage Convention (WHC), it may receive an additional designation, such as a Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar site, or World Heritage site. Such a designation would provide a link to international networks and funding and give special prominence to particularly important areas in Jamaica.⁸ Where wetlands, designated as Ramsar sites, fall within sites in the protected areas system, they would be covered by the legislation appropriate to the protected area category. Jamaica currently does not have any biosphere reserves declared, but the possibility of declaring biosphere reserves is being pursued by the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

This Policy includes a vision statement, guiding principles, a goal and related objectives. The vision of the Policy is:

Jamaica's protected areas system is ecologically representative and sustainably managed, preserving its ecological functions and services while conserving its rich biological diversity and related cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

The main goal of the Policy is:

⁶ In some protected areas, limited harvesting may be permitted if included in regulations and under specific conditions e.g., those areas equivalent to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category VI. Additionally, marine park regulations allow for fishing with written permission.

⁷ The MAB is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. www.unesco.org

⁸ Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas

To effectively and equitably manage protected areas for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and related cultural heritage as well as for social and economic benefits.

The objectives are as follows:

1. Develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system;
2. Build and sustain a representative, interconnected, and resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes, enhances human well-being, and conserves, protects and preserves Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage;
3. Enhance the effectiveness of protected areas management and conservation;
4. Strengthen communication, increase public education and awareness, and enhance the active involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system;
5. Provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the protected area system; and
6. Integrate scientific research and traditional knowledge to strengthen the establishment, management, and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system.

There will be a review of the existing protected areas network in order to rationalise the System, including the reclassification of some areas based on the agreed categories of protected areas, the actual state of the area and the proposed management arrangements. Therefore, based on the reclassification exercise, there may be changes in the boundaries, zoning and designation of some protected areas (PAs). The Forest Policy for Jamaica (2016) addresses, *inter alia*, the streamlining of forest classifications under the Forest Act (1996) and the amendment of the Act to reflect these changes. An important provision that will be considered for inclusion in the amended Forest Act will be the requirement for removal of protected area status from a site to be subject to affirmative resolution by the Parliament.

The monitoring and evaluation of this Policy will be led by the Ministry with responsibility for the environment, in consultation with the PAC, to ensure its effective and timely implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

A protected area is a clearly defined geographical area of land and or water that is dedicated to and managed for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of its ecological systems, biodiversity and/or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources⁹. Additionally, a protected areas system may be defined as a “set of protected areas, comprising a combination of two or more protected area categories, whose activities are coordinated to achieve the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources”.¹⁰ Jamaica’s protected areas are managed under law by four public entities, namely the National Fisheries Authority (NFA) formerly the Fisheries Division, the Forestry Department, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA)/National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). Management of protected areas is also undertaken in collaboration with other government entities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Protected areas are established to protect Jamaica’s biodiversity and cultural values (Figure 1). Indeed, protected areas which are appropriately governed and effectively managed have benefits which include: safeguarding biodiversity¹¹, providing ecosystem services¹², reservoir of genetic resources for food and agriculture¹³, conserving water resources, mitigating the impacts of natural hazards as well as climate regulation acting, that is, as natural carbon sinks¹⁴, contributing to poverty alleviation by providing employment opportunities and livelihoods for people living in and within their environs and providing opportunities for research¹⁵.

⁹ Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013-2017

¹⁰ Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton (eds) (2008). Defining protected areas: an international conference in Almeria, Spain. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 220 pp (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/10127>)

¹¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2008). Protected Areas in Today’s World: Their Values and Benefits for the Welfare of the Planet. Montreal, Technical Series no. 36, i-vii + 96 pages.

¹² Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). Programme of Work on Protected Area (CBD Programmes of Work) Montreal: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 31 p.

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/protected/pow/learnmore/intro/>

¹⁴ National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica 2016-2021

¹⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/protected/pow/learnmore/intro/>

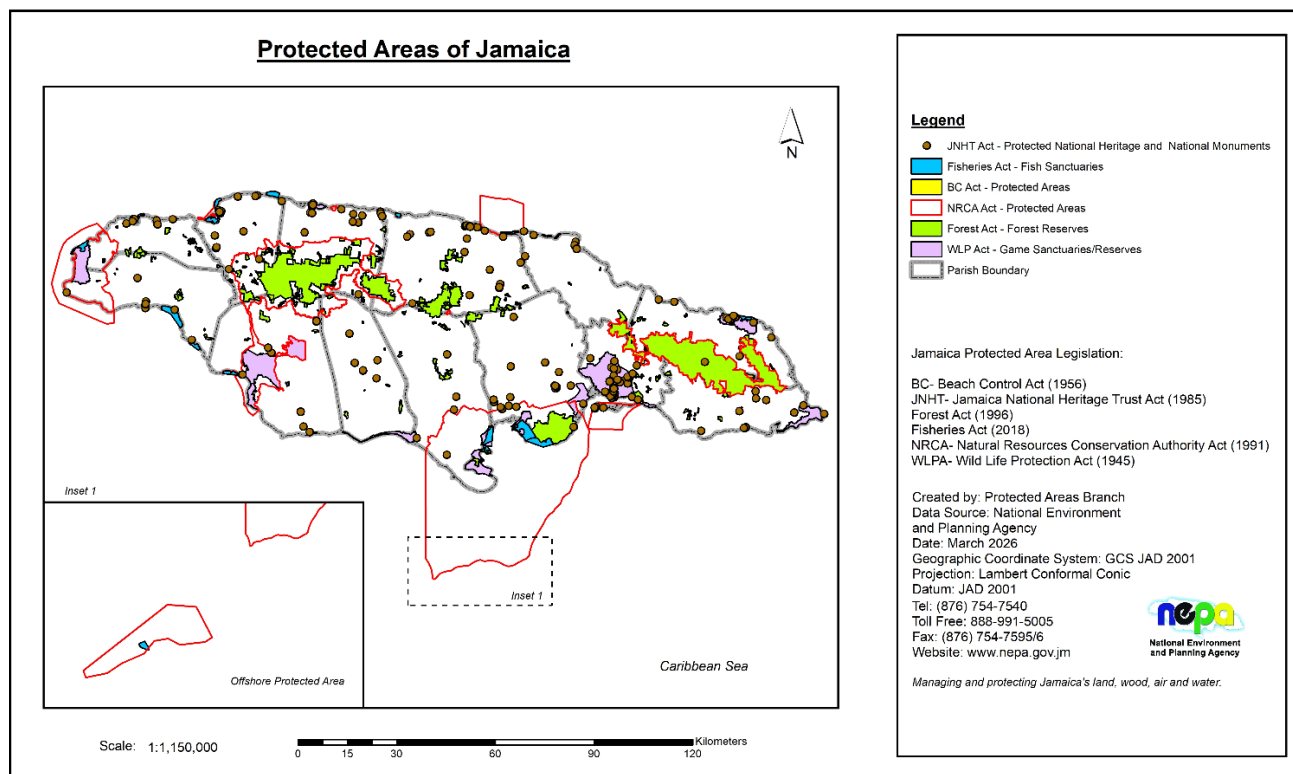


Figure 1: Protected Areas of Jamaica, 2026

In 1997, the Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas was approved by Parliament. The Policy envisaged the core of the System as being the areas established under the mandate of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), which would be the lead entity with responsibility for the protected areas system. The roles of the JNHT, the Fisheries Division¹⁶, the Forestry Department, the Institute of Jamaica, the Water Resources Authority, local government agencies and NGOs were also addressed in the Policy. It was anticipated that the Policy would result in "enhanced cooperation and coordination of management activities among the many stakeholders in proposing, planning and managing protected areas across the country"¹⁷. It is considered that this goal was not fully realised, as there are still areas for improvement.

There have been fundamental changes in the institutional arrangements related to protected areas management since 1997, for example, NEPA, an Executive Agency under the Executive Agencies

¹⁶ The Fisheries Division was replaced by the National Fisheries Authority established under the Fisheries Act, 2018

¹⁷ Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (1997)

Act, 2002, was established in 2001 to provide technical (functional) and administrative support to three statutory bodies, the NRCA, the Town Planning Department and the Land Development and Utilisation Commission. Additionally, in this period, the Protected Areas Committee (PAC)¹⁸ was established in 2006 and the Forestry Department was designated as an Executive Agency in 2010. Other key developments included the establishment of the NFA under the Fisheries Act, 2018, as well as the approval of the Forest Policy (2016), the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (2016-2026)¹⁹ and the 2023 Protected Areas Regulations under the NRCA Act. At the time the 1997 Policy was approved, many parts of the System were only in the early stages of formation, while others were still being planned. The 1997 Policy specified that the further development of the System would involve the development of a protected areas system plan and outlined the steps and actions to be taken in this regard.

Following reviews of the 1997 Policy and lessons learnt during its implementation, as well as a restatement in 2001²⁰ of the need for a protected areas system plan, a project funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) developed some elements of a system plan in the 2004/05FY. In order to meet Jamaica's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), other elements were prepared, including Jamaica's National Ecological Gap Assessment Report (NEGAR), Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (JPAS) 2010 - 2020, and the National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas. These elements contributed to the development of a protected areas system master plan, which was funded by the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF). The Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013-2017 (PASMP) was prepared in 2013 and approved by Cabinet in 2015.

A project entitled "Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Areas System" (NPAS) was approved and implemented over the period 2010-2017 with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Programme

¹⁸ The establishment of the Protected Areas Committee (PAC) is included as part of the institutional arrangements in the Protected Areas System Master Plan.

¹⁹ The Forestry Department commenced work in the 2025/26FY on the updating of this Plan.

²⁰ Including the Review of Jamaica's Protected Areas System and Recommendations on the Way Forward, CANARI December 2001

(UNDP). The Project's goal, which was to "safeguard Jamaica's globally significant biodiversity", also supported the implementation of the PASMP. Among the main outputs of the NPAS Project were an enabling policy for the protected areas system (draft Overarching Policy for Jamaica's Protected Areas System), preliminary drafting instructions for Overarching Protected Areas legislation (Protected Areas Act for Jamaica) and the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ). The latter was established to provide sustainable financial support for the operation of the protected areas system.

In the 1997 Policy for the National System of Protected Areas, the category 'environmental protection area' as prescribed in the NRCA Act (section 33) is not included in the System, as the purpose of this designation was primarily associated with land use and planning concerns. In this regard, NEPA has commenced work to redesignate the terrestrial component of the Negril Environmental Protection Area to a protected area. The marine component, Negril Marine Park, is already designated as a protected area under section 5(1)(c) of the NRCA Act.

The 1997 Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas is being replaced by the Overarching Protected Areas Policy, which will include elements of the PASMP and inform the enactment of new legislation related to the protected areas system.

1.2 Status of Protected Areas

Approximately 22.71 per cent of Jamaica's land and 15.47 per cent of the country's archipelagic waters²¹ are protected under several designations in existing legislation. There are more than 350 legally declared protected areas²² including a national park, that is, the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park; forest reserves such as the Cockpit Country Forest Reserve; game reserves such as the Glistening Waters Game Reserve; marine parks such as the Montego Bay Marine Park; fish sanctuaries such as the Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary; and protected national heritage sites, for example, the Mason River Botanical Station²³. In recent years, the following areas have received designation as protected areas under the NRCA Act, namely the Pedro Cays

²¹ National Environment and Planning Agency (2023) – Jamaica Protected Areas Coverage

²² Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013-2017 (approved 2015) - List at Appendix 3

²³ http://jnht.com/documents/Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf

Protected Area in 2023, the Cockpit Country Protected Area in 2022, and the Black River Protected Area in 2021 (Appendices I and V).

The level of protection afforded to an area will vary according to the type of management required, ranging from strict nature reserves to areas which include sustainable use. Designation of a protected area does not necessarily mean that it will be sterilised or that there will be negative social and economic impacts: on the contrary, protected areas designated based on scientific and socio-cultural evaluations and are properly managed can contribute to environmental protection, economic development and social well-being. Where a forest reserve or a strict nature reserve is declared, it will be on the basis of scientific evaluation and the need to protect important biodiversity: for example, as in the case of the Government's commitment to retaining the remaining 7.7% of the Closed Broadleaf Forest in trust for the people of Jamaica.²⁴ According to the Forestry Department's 2023 Land-Use/Land Cover Change Assessment, Closed Broadleaf Forest is found primarily within protected zones (Forestry Department 2024).

Under the NPAS Project, recommendations have been made for the harmonisation of the existing and proposed categories of natural protected areas with the management categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The IUCN management categories recognise that all protected areas should aim to:²⁵

- “Conserve the composition, structure, function and evolutionary potential of biodiversity;
- Contribute to regional conservation strategies (as core reserves, buffer zones, corridors, stepping-stones for migratory species, etc.);
- Maintain diversity of landscape or habitat and of associated species and ecosystems;
- Be of sufficient size to ensure the integrity and long-term maintenance of the specified conservation targets or be capable of being increased to achieve this end;
- Maintain the values for which it was assigned in perpetuity;
- Be operating under the guidance of a management plan, and a monitoring and evaluation programme that supports adaptive management; and
- Possess a clear and equitable governance system”.

²⁴ Forest Policy for Jamaica (2016)

²⁵ IUCN, Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories 2008, pg. 12

1.2.1 Values and Benefits

Protected areas provide a variety of ecosystem services and associated goods. These include the following:

- supporting services (e.g., maintenance of ecosystem processes such as soil formation, nutrient cycling, as well as life cycles (e.g., nursery habitats, seed dispersal, species interactions) and the maintenance and protection of biodiversity (genetic, species and habitat diversity);
- provisioning services (food, water, raw materials, medicinal and genetic resources);
- regulating services (e.g., regulating climate change, natural hazards, water or water flow, erosion and soil fertility as well as purifying water, air and soil and pollination); and
- cultural services (e.g., “opportunities for recreation and tourism, aesthetic values, information for education and research... cultural identity and heritage” as well as “mental well-being and health” (Stolton *et al*, 2015).

In May 2022, Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to be a member of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) Initiative. The Initiative aims to improve the long-term conservation of biodiversity based on ecosystem connectivity across countries within the Greater Antilles. It is crucial that the ecological connectivity among the CBC participating countries (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Puerto Rico) is maintained as a ‘framework for biodiversity conservation, environment restoration and development of sources of livelihood in the CBC participating countries’²⁶.

1.2.2 Threats

Globally, protected areas “are beset by a host of threats that undermine the aims of conservation” (Mathur *et al* 2015). A threat to a protected area may be defined as “any human activity or related process that has a negative impact on key biodiversity features, ecological processes or cultural

²⁶ United Nations Environment Programme: <https://www.unep.org/regions/latin-america-and-caribbean/regional-initiatives/strengthening-environmental-governance-5>

assets within a protected area” (CBD 2014). Threats may be direct²⁷ or indirect²⁸ (Mathur *et al* 2015); “human-induced or natural” and originate within or beyond protected boundaries (Thomas and Middleton 2003). “Often they will manifest themselves in the form of social or economic demands upon the protected area” (Thomas and Middleton 2003).

The major threats to Jamaica’s protected areas were identified as point and non-point sources of pollution; invasive alien species; clearing of vegetation/forests for agriculture; mining and quarrying; habitat conversion; illegal hunting; overharvesting; illegal timber harvesting; encroachment; destructive fishing practices; overfishing; human-induced fires; damage to marine ecosystem resulting from certain tourism activities; and climate change (Hayman, 2007).²⁹ Protected areas in Jamaica continue to be impacted by various human-induced pressures. Many protected areas are surrounded or bordered by either housing, mining or agricultural activities, which often exert pressure on these areas as a result of squatting, deforestation, and pollution from agricultural run-off, mining activities, and improper waste disposal (NEPA, 2013)³⁰.

1.2.3 Challenges for the management of protected areas

Challenges for the management of protected areas in Jamaica include limited zoning and boundary demarcation; inadequate regulation of surrounding land use, especially by buffer communities and private landowners; insufficient law enforcement at the site level; employment conditions that are generally inadequate to retain staff; inadequate staff and financial resources; and conflicts over land use (Hayman, 2007)³¹. In addition, the lack of management plans or current plans, and research and monitoring data were noted as significant weaknesses.³²

²⁷ Direct threats result from proximate (in general, within the protected area) human activities or processes that cause the degradation of protected area values and hinder progress towards meeting its conservation goals.

²⁸ Indirect threats “arise from outside protected areas, but which affect values within protected areas and jeopardise their conservation goals”

²⁹ National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas – Executive Summary and page 46

³⁰ NEPA, 2013. Managing Protected Areas in Jamaica.

https://websitearchive2020.nepa.gov.jm/new/services_products/publications/newsletters/docs/fact_sheet/Fact-Sheet-3-Managing-Protected-Areas-in-Jamaica-January-14-2013.pdf

³¹ National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas – page 58

³² National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas – page 58

1.3 Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

In March 2023, fifteen (15) Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) were designated across Jamaica. These geographic areas play a crucial role in maintaining hydrological and ecological functions and services that benefit the environment and people, particularly communities located within their environs.

The designated ESAs³³ were:

1. Industry Cove, Hanover
2. Bogue, St. James
3. Montpelier, St. James
4. Winns Morass and Oyster Bay, Trelawny
5. Bengal, St. Ann
6. Dunn's River, St. Ann
7. Fern Gully, St. Ann
8. Holland Bay, St. Thomas
9. Long Mountain, St. Andrew
10. Palisadoes - Port Royal Protected Area Conservation Zones, Kingston
11. Shooter's Hill, St. Catherine
12. Hellshire Hills and Goat Islands, St. Catherine
13. Canoe Valley, Manchester – Clarendon
14. Great Bay, St. Elizabeth
15. Negril Great Morass, Hanover – Westmoreland

³³ The boundary descriptions of each ESA may be obtained from NEPA.

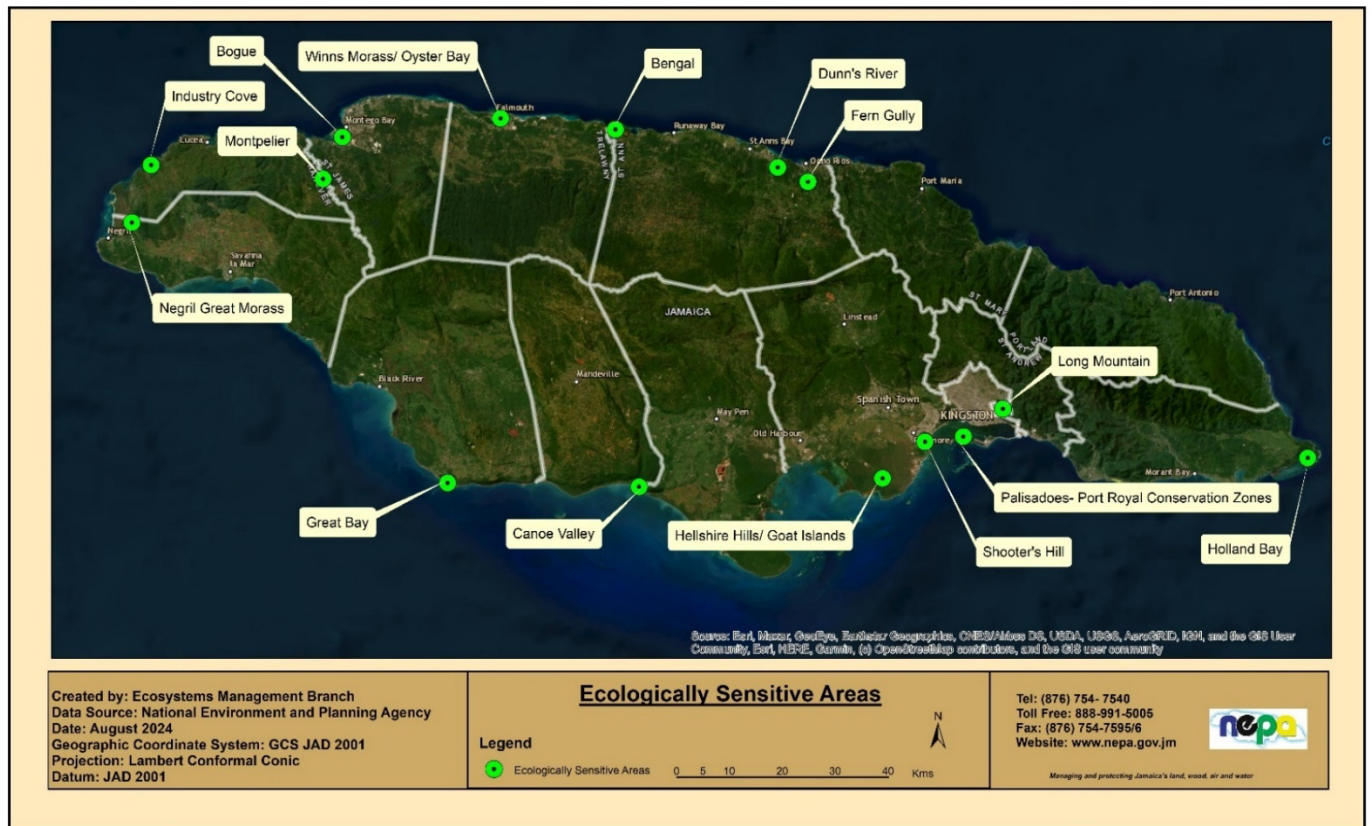


Figure 2: Areas Designated as ESAs in Jamaica

There are specific restrictions within these ESAs on the types of activities that will be permitted by the regulatory authorities. These restrictions will allow for the conservation of the rich and sensitive ecologies of these areas. In these areas, only low-impact development, such as ecotourism, under carefully regulated conditions, will be considered.

ESAs will be protected under the law using existing protected areas classifications, for example, forest reserves, forest management areas, etc. Additionally, ESAs will be reflected in confirmed parish development orders under the Town and Country Planning Act. It should be noted that some of the designated ESAs were previously identified for protection in Jamaica's National Ecological Gap Assessment Report (2009) and the Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (1997) or have been zoned as conservation areas within parish development orders.

1.4 Protected Areas System

As stated in the 1997 Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas, Jamaica "...with its extraordinary diversity of flora and fauna, land and water habitats, wild and human landscapes, needs a system of protected areas as a key part of its national development strategy."

There are several reasons for adopting a system approach to protected areas management including:

- providing a structured framework for a system of protected areas, ranging from areas managed for strict conservation to areas managed for a range of conservation and appropriate ecologically-sound activities;
- enabling countries to be more proactive in conservation management and to develop effective protected area systems;
- facilitating the fulfilment of obligations under international treaties;
- taking a systematic, holistic approach to resource management decision-making;
- facilitating integration with other relevant planning strategies, such as those for tourism, national biodiversity conservation or sustainable development;
- assisting in the resolution of conflicts, decision-making regarding trade-offs, clarifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and facilitating the involvement of a variety of stakeholders;
- regionalisation of protected area activities;
- fostering transboundary collaboration;
- facilitating access to international (grant funding) and national funding, by increasing the level of confidence in the efficient use of funds and resources.³⁴

1.5 Gender and Biodiversity

Equity is one of the Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan's guiding principles, which is intended to facilitate and ensure equal opportunity and rights for all citizens as well as identify and address gender biases. The National Policy for Gender Equality's vision is "A society in which women and men have equal access to socially valued goods and are able to contribute to national

³⁴ National System Planning for Protected Areas – Main Author: Adrian G. Davey; Series Editor: Adrian Phillips - <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/7394>

development”. The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity (NBSAP), 2016-2020³⁵, makes reference to this policy and Jamaica’s ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), but notes that gender mainstreaming is, however, “generally weak” throughout sectors. Obligations under CEDAW include taking “action to promote and protect the rights of women...to include the principle of equality in legislation and ensure it is operationalised”.

The NBSAP identifies gender as a sector/cross-cutting theme and includes strategies and related actions for the inclusion of gender considerations in key sectors pertaining to biodiversity conservation and protected areas management as well as promoting the involvement of women in consultations pertaining to the environment and biodiversity. The CBD, to which Jamaica is a Party, adopted a Gender Plan of Action at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD.³⁶ This Plan includes strategic objectives relating to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the CBD, promotion of gender equality in achieving CBD’s objectives, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Jamaica’s National Policy for Gender Equality, 2010 (NPGE), seeks to safeguard the principle of equality between women and men. It sets out the framework for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to fully integrating gender in every area of national life.³⁷ The NPGE identified gender and the environment as an emerging issue. In this regard, the Policy recommended, *inter alia*, the establishment and strengthening of mechanisms at the national level to assess the differential impact of environmental policies on women and men.

1.6 Climate Change and Protected Areas

Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan and the 2023 Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica point to the need to develop measures to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and to mainstream climate change considerations into national policies and all types and levels of development planning.³⁸ Climate change considerations must be a feature of

³⁵ The period for Implementation of the NBSAP (2016-2020) was extended by a year

³⁶ CBD Decision 15/11 – Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030). The purpose of the Plan is ‘..to support and promote gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework...’

³⁷ Voluntary National Review, 2022 https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR_Goal_5.pdf

³⁸ Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, 2009 – page 246; Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica, 2023

the protected areas system for all the entities and partners involved in the establishment and management of protected areas.

The State of the Jamaican Climate 2019: Information for Resilience Building (Second draft)³⁹ notes that “Jamaica continues the warming trend seen in the historical data through to the end of the century” (Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM), 2020). It is recognised that national development can be threatened and derailed by the enormous risks associated with climate change (CSGM, 2020). The report states that “Jamaica as a small island developing state is very vulnerable to climate extremes including very warm temperatures, floods and droughts, intense hurricanes, and rising sea levels. In the future, the vulnerability increases due to the projected changes in both the magnitude and frequency of recurrence of these threats”. “Climate change in conjunction with poor environmental practices threatens biodiversity. Increasing temperature, sea level rise and heavy rainfall events will impact coral reefs, sea turtle nesting and seagrasses” (CSGM, 2020).

Protected areas can help in the mitigation of climate change, for example, through the role of forests as carbon sinks, and also in adaptation to climate change through the conservation of ecosystems, which can provide resilience to some of the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise and severe storms. Hence, protected areas serve as a low-cost option to mitigate disasters. In terms of the vulnerability of water supply in relation to climate change impacts, as previously noted, forest reserves and forest management areas in the upper watersheds around water sources must be protected and preserved. The Forest Policy (2016) states that: “As one of the countries projected to be severely impacted by the effects of climate change, Jamaica has a vested interest in investing in the forestry sector which can contribute to the country’s efforts to mitigate and/or adapt to the effects of climate change.”

The 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted Resolution 5/5 which defines the concept of nature-based solutions (NbS) as “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity

³⁹ Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM), 2020: State of the Jamaican Climate 2019: Information for Resilience Building (Second draft).

benefits”. NbS are recognised as approaches which may significantly contribute to climate change mitigation. For example, mangrove forests within protected areas provide many of these solutions, including reducing the impact of storms and acting as a carbon sink. In this regard, Jamaica is undertaking work in restoring the island’s mangrove forests. One such example is the mangrove restoration being undertaken by NRCA/NEPA in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (Mona) in the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area.

1.7 Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

The definition of OECMs was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD/COP decision 14/8 - “a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity,⁴⁰ with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values”.

Currently, Jamaica has no designated OECMs, but potential areas are being considered for future designations. Examples of fisheries management measures that may meet OECM criteria include fisheries closures/Fisheries Restricted Areas and locally marine managed areas.⁴¹ While many marine sanctuaries are already declared as protected areas and cannot be classified as OECMs, their surrounding buffer zones however hold potential. Recognition of OECMs is expected to increase as Jamaica’s new biodiversity targets are aligned with international targets, such as Target 3 (commonly referred to as “30x30” conservation goal) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

⁴⁰ As defined by Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in line with the provisions of the Convention – CBD/COP decision 14/8.

⁴¹ Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) national workshop report for Jamaica on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the marine fishery sector, May 2023

2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Institutional Arrangements

Currently, the management of protected areas is regulated under various pieces of legislation by the entities responsible for protected areas as a part of their overall mandate namely, the Forestry Department, JNHT, NFA and the NRCA/NEPA. Arrangements for the co-management of protected areas have been made with other government entities, local communities, environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOS), and the private sector. Under the protected areas system, each protected area manager will continue to carry out its mandate and coordination of actions will be done through the PAC.

2.1.1 Main Regulatory Entities

(i) The National Fisheries Authority

The NFA, in accordance with section 5 of the Fisheries Act, 2018, is responsible for, *inter alia*, the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. Its specific functions include the conservation and assessment of fisheries and aquaculture; ensuring the viability of coastal, marine and other aquatic environments; preparing and periodically reviewing fishery management plans; granting, suspending, cancelling and revoking permits, licences and authorisations; and managing, developing, designating and zoning fisheries waters.

Most fish sanctuaries are managed through cooperative arrangements between the NFA and fishermen's cooperatives or non-governmental organisations; at least one partnership is with a private foundation, that is, the Alligator Head Foundation. Each partnership is formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NFA and the collaborating organisation.

(ii) The Forestry Department

The Forestry Department is established under section 3 of the Forest Act and was declared an Executive Agency in 2010 as per section 4 of the Executive Agency Act.⁴² The Department is

⁴² Under the Executive Agencies Act, the requirements for Executive Agencies are: prudent and efficient management, with accountable and transparent operations as well as enhanced delivery of goods and services to the public.

responsible for, *inter alia*, the sustainable management and effective conservation of forests on Crown lands and in forest reserves; the development and implementation of national forest management and conservation plans; and watershed protection in forest reserves, protected areas and forest management areas.

Under section 12 of the Forest Act, Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) are established by the Minister in consultation with the Conservator. Under section 13 of the Act LFMCs are tasked with functions such as monitoring natural resources in the relevant forest reserve, forest management area, or protected area; holding public meetings; advising on matters related to the development of forest management plan and making regulations; proposing incentives for conservation; assisting in conservation projects; and carrying out any other functions as provided for under the Act.

The Department has active partnerships with NGOs (environmental NGOs and service clubs), community groups (Local Forest Management Committees), the private sector (private planters partnerships), and the public sector (National Water Commission and NEPA).

(iii) The Jamaica National Heritage Trust

The JNHT is a statutory body responsible for promoting the preservation of national monuments and protected national heritage,⁴³ conducting development for their preservation as well as identifying and recording any species of plant or animal to be protected (section 4 (1) of the JNHT Act). The JNHT may declare national monuments and designate protected national heritage as well as advise the Minister regarding serving preservation notices on owners or occupiers of structures which may be declared national monuments or may be threatened and prepare preservation schemes for protected national heritage. The JNHT has a co-management agreement with public sector entities (e.g. NEPA and the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)) for on-the-ground management of some Protected National Heritage.

⁴³ 'Protected National Heritage' means: (a) any place name; (b) and species of animal or plant life; (c) any place or object (not declared by the Trust to be a monument), designated by the Trust to be a protected national heritage.

(iv) The Natural Resources Conservation Authority

The NRCA was established under the NRCA Act, 1991, with a mandate to, *inter alia*, take steps for the effective management of Jamaica's physical environment for the "conservation, protection and proper use of its natural resources" and manage, improve and zone national parks, marine parks and protected areas designated by the Minister. The Authority may also delegate any of its functions, except the power to make regulations, to any member, officer or agent of the Authority (section 6 (1) of the NRCA Act). The Authority may also recommend the declaration of environmental protection areas and prepare environmental protection plans for these areas (section 33 (1) of the NRCA Act). NEPA administers the NRCA Act as well as the Beach Control and Wild Life Protection Acts under which protected areas, game reserves and sanctuaries respectively are declared.

NEPA was established to carry out the technical (functional) and administrative mandate of NRCA, the Town Planning Department (TPD) and the Land Development and Utilisation Commission (LDUC). NEPA and the Town and Country Planning Authority (TCPA) are responsible for planning, with the TCPA as the decision-making body regarding physical planning matters. The LDUC's duties include ensuring that "occupiers of agricultural units fulfil their responsibilities under this Act⁴⁴ to farm the agricultural land in such units" and "that such agricultural land is, as far as possible, properly developed and utilised."

Overlapping Responsibilities

Though in some instances the regulatory agencies which manage PAs may have overlapping responsibilities, this is usually not a challenge as this facilitates enhanced coordination of actions (e.g., monitoring and enforcement), efficient sharing of resources (human, technical and financial), expertise and best practices in the management of the island's protected area network. This approach encourages the pooling of resources, leading to increased overall capacity. It enables entities to work together on crucial aspects such as enforcement, monitoring and research. However, uncoordinated actions can lead to duplication of efforts.

⁴⁴ The Land Development and Utilization Act, 1966

There are some areas in which PA agencies may share responsibility: for example, both the Forestry Department and the NRCA/NEPA are responsible for biodiversity: the Forestry Department, for biodiversity within forested areas and the NRCA/NEPA, for biodiversity generally. In relation to mangrove forests, the Forestry Department states in the Forest Policy (2016) that, while retaining jurisdiction over mangrove forests within forest reserves and forest management areas, it will take a more active role in the replanting of mangrove forests in collaboration with NEPA (as the lead entity) and the Fisheries Division (now NFA), academia and others⁴⁵.

There are also instances in which some protected areas are located within others; for example, fish sanctuaries are located within marine parks, as well as forest reserves and protected national heritage within NRCA-declared protected areas.

A review conducted under the NPAS Project of the protected area types in use in Jamaica concluded that there was need for a clear definition of categories, as well as legislative and policy direction⁴⁶. It was noted that weaknesses in the current classifications had the effect of precluding proper accounting of Jamaica's protected areas to the IUCN and the World Database on Protected Areas. It was therefore recommended that there be a reclassification of Jamaica's protected areas based on the IUCN's protected area management categories according to management objectives.

2.1.2 Ministries

It should be noted that the Ministers responsible for culture, fisheries, forestry and the environment signed the PASMP, indicating the support and commitment of their respective Ministries, departments and agencies to the establishment of a protected areas system and the implementation of the plan. Thereafter, the PASMP was approved by Cabinet in 2015.

The Ministry responsible for the environment has been the main institution working with the agencies on policy and administrative matters and mobilising funding from various sources, including the Global Environment Facility for PA management.

⁴⁵ Forest Policy for Jamaica – Green Paper No. 2/2015 – page 45

⁴⁶ A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica – page 57

2.1.3 Protected Areas Committee

The PAC, under the chairmanship of the Conservator of Forests, was first convened in 2006 to oversee the development of the PASMP. The PAC comprised the four entities with a mandate for protected areas management as well as the Ministry responsible for the environment and an expert on biodiversity, with technical support from The Nature Conservancy and NEPA. Although there have been other committees which also deal with biodiversity, the PAC was the first to bring together the entities to work collaboratively on matters related to protected areas.

The coordination mechanism proposed for the implementation of the PASMP is the strengthening and expansion of the PAC. Due consideration was given to the option of establishing a single entity responsible for all protected areas, but the conclusion was that this would not be feasible at the time, given the economic constraints and the complexities involved in what would be a major restructuring exercise and requirement for amendments to relevant laws.

2.1.4 Non-Governmental Organisations and the Private Sector

Since the 1990s, NGOs and CBOs have played a key role in the development and management of protected areas. NGOs have been involved through such instruments as co-management agreements and memoranda of understanding (MOUs)/memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with NRCA/NEPA, Forestry Department, NFA and the JNHT. The Forestry Department has been working with LFMCS and other community groups near critical watersheds, forest reserves, forest management areas and protected areas to assist the Department to, *inter alia*, design and execute conservation projects⁴⁷. The Forestry Department also has a private planting programme. Additionally, the Forest Act (1996) provides for, *inter alia*, property tax remission for those private landowners who have lands in protected areas, forest management areas or forest reserves, once such landowners comply with the regulations or directions in accordance with the Act in relation to those lands.⁴⁸

Though there are no distinctions made in law regarding land ownership for the declaration of protected areas, for effective management and transparency, there are several incentive, partnership and acquisition options that are available to the Government. These include

⁴⁷ Section 13 of the Forest Act, 1996

⁴⁸ Forest Act, 1996 – Section 25

compulsory acquisition, tax incentive, and exchange of land. These options are operationalised to ensure that these sites are effectively managed and protected. Where possible, landowners will be compensated for the restrictions placed on their lands to reduce opposition and encourage the sustainable use of the area.

The NRCA has co-management agreements with three ENGOs⁴⁹ and an MoU with one government agency (IOJ)⁵⁰. ENGOs have also participated in reviews and studies relating to the management of protected areas as part of joint public sector/civil society working groups, which include recommendations on management effectiveness, the ecological gaps of areas that require protection, categorisation of protected areas and other matters.

The JNHT Act has provisions for extensive consultation with the private sector and community groups in the declaration of national monuments and protected national heritage.

As it relates to community governance, the Social Development Commission, the primary community development agency working with communities⁵¹, provides support to Community Development Committees (CDCs). CDCs are comprised of individual community-based organisations, such as youth, citizens and women's groups. These are combined into one umbrella group to discuss development issues, make plans and advocate for positive changes within the community. CDCs provide support in areas such as the implementation of training in sustainable practices, as well as public education and outreach activities, including meetings and workshops.

Parish Development Committees (PDCs) comprise stakeholders including businesses, civil society, elected officials and state agencies, who coordinate and monitor the development processes at the local level⁵².

The effective engagement of local communities and other stakeholders in the management of protected areas is facilitated by collaboration with bodies such as the Social Development Commission (SDC), PDCs and CDCs.

⁴⁹ Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (Portland Bight Protected Area), Montego Bay Marine Park Trust (Montego Bay Marine Park) and Jamaica Conservation And Development Trust (Blue and John Crow Mountains)

⁵⁰ Mason River Protected Area in Clarendon

⁵¹ Social Development Commission. Retrieved on 21 November 2022 from <https://sdc.gov.jm/>

⁵² Parish Development Committees. Retrieved on 21 November 2022 from <https://localauthorities.gov.jm/parish-development-committees>

2.2 Existing Policies and Plans

Section 13(3)(1) of the Charter for Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2011, which specifies the right of all Jamaicans "to enjoy a healthy and productive environment free from the threat of injury...", serves as the foundation for the development of this Policy in Jamaica. Healthy and functional protected areas will assist in ensuring that this right is fulfilled.

Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan 2009–2030: This is Jamaica's first long-term National Development Plan. Its vision is "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business". The Plan includes four national goals and fifteen national outcomes which contribute to the achievement of this vision. This policy is directly related to Goal 4: Jamaica has a healthy natural environment, although protected areas can and do contribute to other national goals as well. Goal 4 has three National Outcomes: Outcome 13 (Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources), Outcome 14 (Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change), and Outcome 15 (Sustainable Urban and Rural Development). Goal 4 recognises that quality of life is dependent upon the quality of the natural environment and that "healthy, productive and protective environments, social systems and economies are the bases of development, sustainability and human welfare". This goal considers, among other things, the effective management of Jamaica's natural resources for the sustained supply of essential environmental services.

There are several policies which are relevant to protected areas in Jamaica. The Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (1997) is the principal policy on protected areas, with no other policies focusing exclusively on the management of protected areas. Some of the related policies of other agencies, especially the more recent ones, include reference to environmental considerations or intention to comply with environmental requirements.

Biosafety Policy for Jamaica (2021): The policy's vision is "Jamaica has an enabling environment for the safe development and utilisation of modern biotechnology, resulting in minimal risks to human health and biodiversity while providing benefits to health, agriculture and

industry.” One of the policy’s objectives is to “ensure that the possible adverse effects of LMOs⁵³ on human health and biodiversity are effectively mitigated and managed. This policy was developed by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (Draft) (2015): The draft policy will provide a framework for the formulation of strategies designed to address the important issues and challenges and opportunities facing the industry. It makes reference to the Protected Areas System Master Plan and the proposed role of the National Fisheries Authority in ecosystem management as well as proposed amendments to other legislation, such as the Wild Life Protection Act.

Forest Policy for Jamaica (2016): The policy covers the entire mandate of the Forestry Department and includes the aspect of protected areas and makes specific reference to the PAC and the PASMP. The policy also states that no mining would be allowed in forest reserves and that the remaining 7.7% of the Closed Broadleaf Forest will be held in public trust for the people of Jamaica.

National Cultural Policy (2003): The JNHT does not have its own standalone policy; however, the National Cultural Policy⁵⁴ provides overarching guidance. It seeks, among other objectives, to foster and promote the protection and development of Jamaica’s natural and cultural heritage through coordinated efforts among the responsible agencies, while maintaining strong linkages with environmental agencies and the Scientific Research Council.

National Minerals Policy 2017-2030: Goal 3 of the policy states that land-use should take into account watersheds, forests and ecological protection. The policy states that there will be an emphasis on the preservation of Jamaica’s cultural and heritage resources located in mining communities. Reference is also made to the exclusion of protected areas equivalent to the IUCN categories I and II from mineral exploitation unless mandated by Cabinet.

National Land Policy of Jamaica (1997): The policy refers to the Protected Areas Policy and System Plan and notes that lands owned by the Government that are of environmental importance, including protected areas, will “remain vested in Government or could be leased for approved

⁵³ LMOs-Living Modified Organisms

⁵⁴ National Cultural Policy, 2003 page 33 <https://www.nlj.gov.jm/files/u8/national-cultural-policy.pdf>

uses/management with relevant conditions”⁵⁵. Revisions made to the policy in 2017 noted the lack of plans and a coordinated approach to the management of watersheds, forests, protected areas, coastal areas and waste. The policy also states that the “use of natural resources, including land for the greatest social and economic benefit of the nation, while minimising harmful environmental impact will be encouraged”. This Policy is being updated.

National Forest Management and Conservation Plan 2016–2026: The main purpose of the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP) is to ensure the conservation and sustainable development of Jamaica’s forest resources. The NFMCP recognises forest reserves declared under the Forest Act, 1996, national parks and other protected areas declared and designated under the NRCA Act and game reserves and sanctuaries declared under the WLPA. One of the general guidelines identified for forest land use is that timber harvesting will not be permitted where there is closed broadleaf forest or mangrove in forest reserves, parks or protected areas.

National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica 2016-2021: The development of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity (NBSAP) is an obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 6 and CBD COP 10 Decision X/2) and is considered the main instrument for implementation of the CBD at the national level (NEPA 2016). The Plan recognises protected areas as an “important tool for the conservation of biodiversity and other services” and identifies national targets pertaining to protected areas which are aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Strategic Goal C – “Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity” includes targets regarding the finalisation of the protected area policy and legislation, declaration of new protected areas and improved management effectiveness. A new NBSAP will be prepared to take into account the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Protected Areas System Master Plan 2013 - 2017: The PASMP, submitted jointly by the Ministers responsible for the NFA, the Forestry Department, the JNHT and the NRCA/NEPA was approved by the Cabinet in November 2015 and tabled in Parliament on 2 February 2016. The

⁵⁵<https://observatorioplanificacion.cepal.org/sites/default/files/instrument/files/1997.%20National%20Land%20Policy.pdf>

main objective of the PASMP is to develop a network/system of protected areas that is representative, effectively managed, and sustainably financed that supports national development by contributing to long-term ecological viability; maintaining ecological processes and systems; and protecting the country's natural and cultural heritage. It provides a framework for the management of natural protected areas that are the responsibility of the NFA, the Forestry Department and NRCA/NEPA and areas designated by the JNHT. The PASMP outlines the role of the PAC, composed of the four Government entities responsible for protected areas management, other Government entities and representatives of NGOs, the private sector and academia. The PASMP identifies 13 long-term goals for the country, based on the CBD's PoWPA and 15 short-term, time-bound national targets and supporting actions for the first five-year period 2013-2017.

The PASMP has five crosscutting strategic outcomes that relate to improved representativeness of Jamaica's protected areas, increased stakeholder participation in protected area planning, management and decision-making, improved management capacity and effectiveness and greater financial sustainability. These outcomes⁵⁶ are:

- a. A protected areas system that is representative of Jamaica's biological and cultural heritage, integrated into national, sector or local planning frameworks, with increased capacity for site management and mechanisms/strategies in place to address key threats.
- b. Plans and initiatives that facilitate the effective participation/involvement of local communities and other stakeholders at all levels of protected areas planning, establishment, governance and management.
- c. The process of establishment and management of protected areas enhanced and financial sustainability of the system improved to ensure adequate funding to achieve and maintain the basic management scenario.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Ibid – page 40

⁵⁷ The basic management scenario outlined in the *Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas 2010-2020* sets out the minimum requirements to ensure protected area management. This scenario confirms the Government of Jamaica's presence, guarantees the integrity of protected areas; and facilitates stakeholder participation. It focuses efforts and interventions on administration and planning, patrolling and enforcement and environmental education (Galindo, 2009).

- d. Professional standards raised through capacity-building programmes for the planning, establishment and management of protected areas and understanding and appreciation of benefits of protected areas significantly increased.
- e. Management effectiveness and capacity of the national system of protected areas and of relevant joint regime areas between States improved and contribute to the effective conservation of biological and cultural elements.⁵⁸

The PASMP includes several policy statements related to management of the system in a coordinated manner by the four main entities responsible for protected areas, namely the JNHT, Forestry Department, NFA and NEPA.

Watersheds Policy for Jamaica (2024): The policy’s vision is “Jamaica has healthy and optimally functional watersheds that provide sustained ecosystem services for the benefit of all in society.” The policy statement is that “The Government of Jamaica will provide the enabling framework to support the effective management and protection of critical areas within the island’s watershed management units, including through partnerships at the national and local levels with community-based and non-government organisations, academia, the private sector and multilateral agencies...”. The Policy highlights activities for sustainably managing watersheds within protected areas.

Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica (2023): The vision for the Policy Framework is that “Jamaica achieves its goals of sustained growth and prosperity for its people with enhanced resilience and capacity to adapt to the impacts and to mitigate the causes of climate change.” The Policy Framework describes the objectives, principles and methods that the Government will utilise in order to successfully respond to the impacts and challenges of climate change. It is intended to support the goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan, specifically, Goal 4 ‘Jamaica has a healthy natural environment’ and National Outcomes 13 and 14 on sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources, and hazard risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, respectively.

⁵⁸ A joint regime area is an area of joint jurisdiction between sovereign States. For example, the Joint Regime Area of Jamaica and the Republic of Colombia was established by the Maritime Delimitation Treaty of 1993. The Treaty provides for the joint management and exploitation of both living and non-living resources in the approximately 52,036 square kilometer area, which is located to the southwest of the Pedro Bank.

National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan (2019): The policy’s goal is to ensure that Jamaica’s water resources are effectively managed to provide for our nation’s social, economic, and environmental well-being, now and in the future. The policy focuses on protecting watershed areas, ecosystems, catchments and networks, and promoting effective programmes for water conservation and protection. Protected areas often serve as critical watersheds and natural water reservoirs. The policy looks at safeguarding these resources, and the management of water bodies within or adjacent to protected areas can help prevent contamination and ensure sustainable water supply.

Jamaica’s Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategy (2020-2040) (Green Paper): The purpose of this Policy and Strategy is to ensure that by the year 2040, Jamaica will have strengthened its social and economic resilience and significantly reduced the negative effects of national disasters caused by natural hazards, climate change, man-made disasters and biological hazards.

Jamaica is highly vulnerable to hazards, which have a negative impact on the economy, social sectors, physical and social infrastructure, property including housing stocks, people and their well-being, ecosystems and other aspects of the natural environment. The development of the Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy is rooted in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, including paragraph 13(3)(l) on the right to a healthy environment.

Development Orders: Part II of the Town and Country Planning Act (1957) provides for the preparation, confirmation and modification of development orders. These Orders include provisions for amenities such as:

1. Reservation of lands –
 - a. for communal parks;
 - b. for game and bird sanctuaries;
 - c. for the protection of marine life.
2. Preservation of buildings, caves, sites and objects of artistic, architectural, archaeological or historical interest.
3. Preservation or protection of forest, woods, trees, shrubs, plants and flowers.

Development Orders are prepared for each parish, the country's only municipality - Portmore, and the only special planning area, which is located between the parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland and is known as the Negril and Green Island Local Planning Area. They are usually updated every five (5) years. The most recent confirmed Development Orders are for the Municipality of Portmore (March 2024) and for the parishes of St. Elizabeth (June 2024) and St. Thomas Parish Development Order (March 2025). Other Development Orders scheduled for confirmation are St. James and the Hanover Area.

Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs): These are strategic plans usually developed by Parish Development Committees in collaboration with local planning authorities and other stakeholders (such as community-based organisations and other government agencies). LSDPs align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and seek to integrate the principles of sustainability into local development initiatives. They focus on economic, social, and environmental aspects of development. Local authorities can serve as the point of contact for individuals as well as aid in localising, establishing and monitoring protected areas.

2.3 Legislation

Main pieces of legislation and gaps

The main pieces of legislation directly related to protected areas are the Fisheries Act, 2018; the JNHT Act, 1985; the NRCA Act, 1991; and the Forest Act, 1996, and Regulations, 2001⁵⁹. Also relevant are the Wild Life Protection Act, 1945⁶⁰ and the Beach Control Act, 1956 which include different categories of protected areas. Other critical pieces of legislation are the Town and Country Planning Act, 1957 (Development Orders) and the Local Governance Act, 2015 (local sustainable development plans). There are currently twelve different types of areas under a protective regime as set out in policies and laws related to the management of protected areas in Jamaica. An issue is the term 'protected area' which has different meanings in the three laws in which the term is referenced, that is, the Beach Control Act, Forest Act and Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act.

⁵⁹ The Forest Act, 1996 and Regulations are being amended.

⁶⁰ The Wild Life Protection Act is being amended.

Beach Control Act, 1956: The Act provides for the declaration by Order of any part of the foreshore and floor of the sea and overlying water as a protected area by the responsible Minister, upon the recommendation of the NRCA. The Order may:

- specify prohibited activities relating to for example fishing, solid waste disposal, dredging or the disturbance of the sea floor, the “destruction or removal of coral, sea fans and sedentary marine animals” as well as “searching for or removal of any treasure or artefact from the floor of the sea”;
- include provisions relating to the establishment of a Board or the appointment of persons to conserve, protect or rehabilitate protected areas (section 7 (2) of the Beach Control Act).

Two protected areas have been declared under the Beach Control Act, that is, the Beach Control (Protected Area) (Port Royal) Order and the Beach Control (Protected Area) (Ocho Rios) Order.

Fisheries Act, 2018: The Act provides for and promotes the “effective management and sustainable development of fisheries... in accordance with”, among other things, an ecosystem approach. It establishes the NFA as responsible for fisheries management and development and specifies its functions (section 5). Section 17 of the Act also allows the responsible Minister to declare fish sanctuaries and buffer zones for reasons including the protection of the ecosystem and fisheries resources. Twenty (20) fish sanctuaries have been declared under the Fisheries Act, 2018 (Appendix V).

Forest Act, 1996: The Act outlines the functions of the Forestry Department and gives the Minister the authority to declare forest reserves, forest management areas and protected areas, provide interim measures for their protection as well as the appointment of local forest management committees (sections 4, 5, 7 and 23 of the Forest Act). One hundred and eighteen (118) forest reserves (102,906.129 hectares) have been declared from 1950 to 2016. Twenty-eight (28) forest management areas have been declared (3,166.271 hectares), including 16 new declarations in 2025. The process for the declaration of forest reserves involves the preparation of an Order by the Minister, which is subject to affirmative resolution in Parliament (section 5 of the Forest Act). Forest reserves and forest management areas are declared for purposes which include the conservation of forests, soil and water resources as well as the protection and conservation of

endemic flora and fauna. Under the Act, protected areas may also be declared for purposes such as protection against storms, winds, floods, landslides, erosion, forest fires, soil preservation and the protection of flora and fauna.

Proposals for the amendment and updating of the Forest Act (1996) are included in the Forest Policy, 2016, and the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan 2016–2026. Some of the proposed amendments of the Forest Act include: (i) expansion of key definitions, (ii) streamlining of the Forestry Department's functions to eliminate overlap with other agencies and an extended regulatory role in forest management and protection, including, *inter alia*, regulation of certain activities in privately owned forests, stricter controls on activities allowed in forest reserves, (iii) strengthening the capacities of Local Forest Management Committees to co-manage forested areas, (iv) increase the monetary penalty limits and (v) inclusion of a provision requiring that regulations be subject to Parliamentary oversight by affirmative resolution. Furthermore, the Act will require Parliamentary oversight of regulations through affirmative resolution. The proposed amendments also include provisions for different categories of incentives to discourage the removal of forest cover.

Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, 1985: Section 4 of the Act states the functions of the JNHT which include promoting the “preservation of national monuments and anything designated as protected national heritage for the benefit of the Island”. The Act also provides for the declaration of national monuments, designation of protected national heritage, compensation of owners who may suffer financial loss due to such designation or declaration, serving of preservation notices by the Minister on owners or occupiers of structures which may be declared national monuments, or which may be damaged, removed or destroyed, and the preparation of preservation schemes by the JNHT to preserve protected national heritage (sections 12, 13, 14, 19 and 21). By October 2019, 248 sites had been declared under the JNHT Act (223 national monuments and 25 protected national heritage sites)⁶¹. Approximately 16 are natural sites, this includes the Pedro Bank.

The JNHT has proposed the amendment of section 4 of the Act to, *inter alia*, to protect and promote the preservation of anything declared or designated national monuments, protected

⁶¹[www.jnht.com/documents/ Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf](http://www.jnht.com/documents/Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf)

national heritage, historic districts, sites of memory, sites of interest, cultural objects, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and cultural property or any other protection granted for the benefit of the island (Appendix III).

Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act, 1991: The NRCA is responsible for the effective management of the physical environment of Jamaica to ensure the conservation, protection and proper use of its natural resources and promoting public awareness of the ecological systems of Jamaica and their importance to the social and economic life of the island. The function of NRCA as it relates to protected areas includes:

- the management of national parks, marine parks, protected areas and public recreational facilities as may be prescribed.
- the carrying out or cause to be carried out such improvements as it thinks fit and
- provision for the zoning thereof for specified purposes and for the licensing of persons carrying on any trade or business therein (section 4 of the NRCA Act).

Section 5 and 33 of the NRCA Act provide for the declaration of national parks, marine parks, environmental protection areas and “protected areas”. Under the Act, eleven areas have been declared under section 5 (eight protected areas, two marine parks and one national park) and under section 33, one environmental protection area (Appendix I).

Town and Country Planning Act, 1957: The Act addresses the orderly development of land primarily through development orders which are the primary means of control of land use in Jamaica. Section 5 (1) provides that “the Authority may after consultation with any local authority concerned prepare so many or such provisional development orders as the Authority may consider necessary in relation to any land, in any urban or rural area, whether there are or are not buildings thereon, with the general object of controlling the development of the land comprised in the area to which the respective order applies, and with a view to securing proper sanitary conditions and conveniences and the coordination of roads and public services, protecting and extending the amenities, and conserving and developing the resources, of such area.” The development orders also include objectives and sector policies pertaining to the protection of the built and natural environment and make reference to, for example, national monuments, protected national heritage declared and designated under the JNHT Act; protected areas and national parks under the NRCA

Act; game reserves under the WLPA and forest reserves under the Forest Act. Examples include the Town and Country Planning (Kingston and Saint Andrew and the Pedro Cays) (Confirmed) Development Order, 2023; Town and Country Planning (Saint James Parish) Development Order, 2018; and the Town and Country Planning (Trelawny Parish) (Confirmed) Provisional Development Order, 2015.

The Town and Country Planning Act allows a local authority to provide for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area; referred to as a tree preservation order. Section 25(1) of the Act states “If it appears to a local authority that it is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area, they may for that purpose make an order (in this Act referred to as a “tree preservation order”) with respect to such trees, groups of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order...”.

Efforts are currently underway in the 2025/26 FY to amend the Town and Country Planning Act.

Wild Life Protection Act, 1945: The Act provides for the declaration of game sanctuaries and reserves and prohibits hunting and taking of birds’ nests or eggs in them (sections 3 and 4 of the Act). The Act also provides protection for protected animals, immature fish, sea turtle eggs and waters (harbour, river, stream, canal, lagoon or estuary) containing fish from “trade effluent or industrial waste or sewage or any noxious or polluting matter” (sections 6, 8, 9 and 11). Twenty-two areas – one game reserve (declared on private lands) and twenty game sanctuaries (declared on Crown lands) have been declared under the Act. Work has commenced on the amendment of the Wild Life Protection Act to allow for provisions related to the management of flora and some endemic species. It is anticipated that once the Act is finalised, Jamaica will seek to ratify the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol.

Other legislation relevant to protected areas includes:

- Endangered Species (Protection, Conservation, and Regulation of Trade) Act, 2000;
- Maritime Areas Act, 1996;
- Watersheds Protection Act, 1963;
- Water Resources Act, 1995;
- National Solid Waste Management Act, 2001; and
- Land Development and Utilisation Act, 1966.

Common Factors of the Laws

Some of the common factors identified in the reviews carried out in preparation for the PASMP were inadequate legislation and limited compliance. Additionally, there are some legislative overlaps among various entities: the NRCA Act has language similar to that in the JNHT Act in regard to the designation of protected areas, and consequently, there is a requirement for the Authority to consult with the JNHT before recommending the designation of any protected area (section 5 of the NRCA Act). The Forest Act (1996) gives the Forestry Department responsibility for forest biodiversity, while the NRCA Act covers responsibility for all natural resources.

Among the matters for attention, in addition to those related to mechanisms for coordination and standardisation of definitions, is the provision of incentives for the conservation of land by private landowners. In this regard, proposals have been made for the use of the conservation easement “an instrument which allows landowners to retain ownership of land and to use it for limited purposes while permanently or for a defined period of time removing their right to use it for non-conservation purposes⁶².” Proposals for other forms of incentives may be made for consideration by the Ministry with responsibility for finance on the basis of a cost/benefit analysis.

Proposed amendments and new legislation

The Forest Act, 1996 is currently being repealed and replaced. The Fisheries Act replaced the Fishing Industry Act and includes definition of terms such as ‘fish sanctuary’ as well as references to the issuance of fish habitat protection orders and the development of fishery management plans. Drafting instructions were developed for regulations under the NRCA Act for two additional types of protected areas. It is essential that the provisions in the NRCA Act be updated as soon as possible, or a new law enacted regarding protected areas for which the NRCA would be responsible, and where necessary, legislation prepared for accession to international agreements related to protected areas, such as the Protocol on the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) to the Cartagena Convention on the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Other legislative amendments are outlined in Appendix III.

⁶² Development of Incentives for Private Sector Investment in Improved Watershed Management in Jamaica, 2003, Ridge to Reef Watersheds Project, USAID

Recommendations for legislation to govern the protected areas system

In the *Recommendations for a Comprehensive Protected Areas Legislation Framework based on International Practice*, prepared under the GEF/UNDP NPAS project, it is noted that “the current legal framework does not recognise a system of inter-connected protected areas nor the need for coordination amongst government agencies⁶³. This does not allow for joint strategic management processes needed to ensure the effective management of protected areas within one system and results in duplication of effort, lack of coordination of human resources and lack of strategic capacity-building opportunities for staff. To change this paradigm, protected area planning needs to be facilitated by new legislation”. Furthermore, “Lack of an effective legal framework also reduces the effective generation of financial resources through failure to provide fee generation schemes to support the protected area network especially those with tourism potential. This limits the role of the public, private sector, local communities and tourism interests in protected areas management. A modern legislative framework will provide specially for the creation and management of protected areas within a system.”⁶⁴

The preliminary drafting instructions for Overarching Protected Areas legislation, which will be revised, propose provisions related to, *inter alia*:

- a. Defining and classifying protected area categories
- b. Protected areas managers in preparing management plans should do so based on the best available scientific data and information, and with the participation of stakeholders, particularly those who are directly affected
- c. Identifying procedures for amending protected area boundaries

2.4 Funding

The Vision 2030 Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework (MTF) 2018 – 2021 identifies “improving the financing mechanisms for biodiversity and ecosystem management” as one of its priorities. There are other policies and plans that highlight funding as a major gap and priority for the conservation of biodiversity in various protected areas, including Jamaica’s NBSAP and the

⁶³ Recommendations for a Comprehensive Protected Area Legislation Framework based on International Practice – page 6

⁶⁴ Ibid– page 7

Protected Areas System Master Plan. The financing of protected areas, despite being a fundamental requirement in the development of a country's protected areas management system, continues to be a challenge worldwide. Sustainable financing has been identified in many assessment reports of Jamaica's protected areas as a critical enabling condition which needs to be established but can only be supported by a coherent and effective policy, institutional and planning framework.⁶⁵

The Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (JPAS) 2010–2020 identified three major resource mobilisation mechanisms for the management of protected areas: governmental resources (e.g., Consolidated Fund), international cooperation (e.g., bilateral and multilateral agreements) and self-generated funds (e.g., entrance and user fees, and sale of merchandise). In addition, it should be noted that the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) has been established to support the implementation of the GBF. Other funding sources include the private sector (non-government organisations, businesses, philanthropic foundations), trust funds (e.g., NCTFJ), debt-for-nature swaps, debt-for-climate swaps, payments for ecosystem services, and public-private partnerships. According to the financial sustainability report, there is at present no comprehensive database providing information on funding for protected areas in Jamaica. It was also recommended that consideration be given to a full-time team of professionals whose exclusive task would be to take advantage of funding opportunities and to design and implement sustainable financial mechanisms for protected areas.

Jamaica has received financing to support its biodiversity agenda, including protected areas management, from several international financing entities, including the GBFF, the GEF, and the Climate Investment Fund. The support from the entities is for projects and enabling activities and does not represent sustainable financing mechanisms for PA management.

2.5 International and Regional Commitments

Jamaica is a Party to several international and regional treaties related to environmental and cultural resources. The main treaties related to the protection of natural and cultural heritage (Appendix II) are outlined in Table 1.

⁶⁵ PASMP – Appendix 9 – Financial Sustainability Summary

Table 1: International Treaties/Agreements and Responsible Entities

International Treaties/Agreements	Responsible Entity
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992	Ministry responsible for the environment (Environment and Risk Management Branch)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973	NRCA/NEPA
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), 1994	NRCA/NEPA
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, 1972)	JNHT
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001	JNHT
Forest Principles, 1992	Forestry Department
UN Forum on Forests, 2000	Forestry Department
UN Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994	Ministry responsible for local government and rural development
Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995	National Fisheries Authority
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992	Ministry responsible for the environment (Climate Change Branch)
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982	Ministry responsible for foreign affairs and foreign trade
Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, 1983	Ministry responsible for the environment (Environment and Risk Management Branch)
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Ministry responsible for local government

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – the main global instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity – recognises protected areas as ‘the cornerstones of biodiversity conservation’. The CBD’s objectives “are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by

appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.” Article 2 defines “protected area” as a “geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives”. Jamaica as a Party to the CBD, is required to, *inter alia*, “as far as possible and as appropriate”:

- “(a) Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;
- (b) Develop, where necessary, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;
- (c) Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use”.

The COP has established programmes of work, one of which is dedicated to protected areas, namely the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). There are also others which include provisions pertaining to protected areas such as the Programmes of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Inland Water Ecosystems, Forest Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge as well as Tourism and Biodiversity.

The PoWPA adopted by the Parties to the Convention in February 2004, required Parties to develop comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of terrestrial and marine protected areas by 2010 and 2012, respectively, to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention, to help reduce biodiversity loss and contribute to poverty reduction and the pursuit of sustainable development. The Aichi Targets of the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 established in 2010 aimed to achieve, *inter alia*, “by 2020, the conservation of at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water and, 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures” (Aichi Target 11).

In keeping with the requirements of the CBD for reporting on protected areas at national and regional levels as well as at the site level, there is a growing number of protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments that address protected areas at the system level. Examples of such assessments are the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) methodology and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scoring technique, which can be adopted to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the management effectiveness of the protected area system and its institutional structures.⁶⁶

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization ("The Nagoya Protocol") are supplementary agreements to the CBD which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol both entered into force on 11 September 2003 and 12 October 2014, respectively. Jamaica is, however, not a Party to the Nagoya Protocol. The objective of the Cartagena Protocol is "to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements". The Protocol has been described as creating "an enabling environment for the environmentally sound application of biotechnology, making it possible to derive maximum benefit from the potential that biotechnology has to offer while minimising the possible risks to the environment and to human health"⁶⁷.

The objective of the Nagoya Protocol is "the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components". "By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and

⁶⁶A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica, page 57

⁶⁷ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000). Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity: text and annexes.

equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biological diversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biological diversity to sustainable development and human well-being”⁶⁸ (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2011).

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

By Decision 15/4, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022. The GBF aims to, *inter alia*, halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to achieve the outcomes of its vision, goals and targets. It sets out an ambitious plan including the implementation of broad-based actions to bring about a transformation in societies’ relationship with biodiversity by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. It also includes concrete measures to conserve and protect biodiversity, including putting ‘...by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services...’⁶⁹. It also contains proposals to increase financing for developing countries. This framework is a “stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision “Living in harmony with nature” (CBD/COP/DEC/14/34).

The GBF has 23 global targets for urgent action. Target 3 of the GBF focuses on protected areas, ensuring that areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services are effectively conserved and managed through equitably governed systems of protected areas. Jamaica is developing national targets in support of these global targets. The national target, aligned with Target 3 of the GBF, is that “By 2030, at least 25% of Jamaica’s terrestrial and 20% of wetland and marine areas within protected areas, private lands or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) will be effectively conserved and sustainably and equitably managed.”

⁶⁸ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2011 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising From their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity Text and Annex

⁶⁹ Excerpt of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

Jamaica, as a member of the intergovernmental High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, has committed to protecting at least 30% of land and ocean by 2030 (the “30x30 target”). Members of the HAC promoted the inclusion of this commitment as a target in the GBF⁷⁰. Promoting “nature-based solutions within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change” is another HAC goal.

World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention (WHC), 1972, links the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The WHC recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. Among the principles related to the Convention is: “The cultural and natural heritage represents wealth, the protection, conservation and presentation of which impose responsibilities on the States in whose territory it is situated, both vis-a-vis their own nationals and vis-a-vis the international community as a whole; Member States should take such action as may be necessary to meet these responsibilities.” In 1983, Jamaica became a Party to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the General Conference in 1972. The Blue and John Crow Mountains became Jamaica’s first World Heritage site in July 2015, listed as a mixed (natural and cultural heritage) site.

United Nations Forum on Forests

Jamaica also participates in the United Nations (UN) Forum on Forests, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Forestry Committee on Forestry and the World Forestry Congress. It is through this participation that Jamaica has declared its commitment to the Global Forest Goals and regularly updates its Voluntary National Contributions (VNC).

In addition to the environmental treaties, there are new agreements which are relevant to protected areas management such as *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which is composed of 17 goals and 169 targets (the Sustainable Development Goals)

⁷⁰ <https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org/hac-launch-hub-page#fact>

to eliminate poverty, fight inequality and tackle climate change over 15 years. The 2030 Agenda follows up on major agreements and goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015), the proposals on the *Future We Want* from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012, and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway from the Third International Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), 2014. The Heads of State and Government and High Representatives meeting at the United Nations in September 2015 to discuss the post-2015 agenda declared that:

“We recognise that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of our planet’s natural resources. We are therefore determined to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and dry lands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife.”

Of particular relevance to the protection of natural and cultural heritage is Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and resilient and sustainable” which includes target 11.4 to “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”; Goal 14 which is to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”; and Goal 15, to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.”

Other matters to which much attention is being paid at the international level include sustainable financing, climate change and the role of civil society. Regarding public participation, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”). The agreement was adopted on 4 March 2018 and signed by Jamaica on 26 September 2019⁷¹. The proposal was to launch a process for exploring the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument on Principle 10 in the form of guidelines or a treaty. At the regional level, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has prepared a Policy Framework on Environment and Natural Resource Management which includes the protection and management of natural and cultural heritage. Additionally, a CARICOM Ocean Policy and Governance Framework is currently being prepared.

⁷¹ https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-18&chapter=27&clang=_en accessed 7 April 2022

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14)

The UN General Assembly in December 2015 adopted a resolution to convene a “high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” in 2017. It was decided that the theme would be “Our Oceans, Our Future: Partnering for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14” and that the conference would identify ways and means and build on “existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and new partnerships” to support the implementation of SDG 14 as well as involve all relevant stakeholders in assessing “challenges and opportunities” and actions taken regarding the implementation of SDG 14 as well as share experiences in implementation at the national, regional and international levels. At the first UN Ocean Conference, outcomes included, among others, a declaration - Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action - which was adopted as well as a list of voluntary commitments regarding the implementation of SDG14. The Government of Jamaica is committed to strengthening “Jamaica's policy and legislative frameworks governing protected areas, including marine protected areas” through, *inter alia*, the finalisation of the National Cays Management Policy for Jamaica, this Policy (the Overarching Policy for Jamaica's Protected Areas System) and Overarching Protected Areas legislation. Additionally, there was a commitment at the 2017 Ocean Conference to “increase Jamaica's maritime area declared as marine protected areas under national legislation by an estimated two per cent (2%) by the year 2019” through the declaration of the Pedro Cays and the Black River protected landscape/seascape”.⁷² These areas have been declared.

Caribbean Challenge Initiative

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) was launched in 2008 by the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines during the COP 9 Meeting of the CBD in Germany. It is a coalition of governments, companies and partners (e.g., funding agencies and NGOs) collaborating to “safeguard the region's valuable marine and coastal resources, helping ensure prosperous economies and a sustainable future for the Caribbean”⁷³.

⁷² <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>

⁷³ CCI_Timeline_2018.pdf (caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org)

The CCI was endorsed at the 30th CARICOM Heads of Government Summit in June 2009. In September 2012, initial financial commitments of US\$42 million were made by Germany (BMU - KfW), GEF and The Nature Conservancy towards the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) which is intended to provide financing in support of the CCI '20 by 20' goal⁷⁴. The CBF is intended to provide a sustainable source of funds for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean. CCI governments and other stakeholders collaborate with the CBF secretariat to establish National Conservation Trust Funds to which CBF channels funds annually. The establishment of the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica is Jamaica's response to the CBF.

Eight Caribbean governments, including Jamaica, signed a CCI Initiative Leaders Declaration on Marine and Coastal Resources (May 2013) and fifteen companies signed a Corporate Compact to support the CCI. The Leaders Declaration includes the CCI Framework for Action which is comprised of overarching goals, principles, and actions regarding “marine and coastal protected areas, ecosystem restoration, sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, and marine pollution” and government priorities.

Global Ocean Alliance

Jamaica is also a member of the complementary Global Ocean Alliance 30by30 which seeks to “protect at least 30% of the global ocean as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and OECMs by 2030”⁷⁵.

Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Jamaica endorsed the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, launched in September 2020, to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 for sustainable development. Political leaders committed to implementing ten urgent actions⁷⁶ such as ensuring a green and just response to the health and economic crisis; “development and full implementation of an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework” at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the CBD, an integrated approach to addressing challenges such as “biodiversity loss, land, freshwater and

⁷⁴ PHASE I (caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org)

⁷⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-ocean-alliance-30by30-initiative/about>

⁷⁶ Leaders' _Pledge_for_Nature_27.09.20-ENGLISH.pdf (leaderspledgefornature.org) accessed 8 April 2022

ocean degradation, deforestation, desertification, pollution and climate change”; transition to sustainable patterns of production and consumption and sustainable food systems; aligning “domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement”; “ending environmental crimes” and “mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies”.

Jamaica has also made commitments as one of fourteen heads of state and government⁷⁷ which are members of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (Ocean Panel), an initiative that was established in September 2018. The Ocean Panel’s *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy - A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity* outlines its commitment to “sustainably manage 100% of the ocean area under national jurisdiction, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans, by 2025”. Additionally, the document notes that the “vision for protection, production and prosperity requires mutually reinforcing transformations in five critical areas: ocean wealth, ocean health, ocean equity, ocean knowledge and ocean finance” and identifies outcomes and priority actions to achieve them. The Ocean Panel supports “a global target to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030”, recognising that this would not be binding on individual states. One of the priority actions identified is the establishment and effective management of “marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures that conserve biodiversity while also delivering climate, food, socioeconomic and cultural benefits”.

⁷⁷ The Ocean Panel currently consists of two co-chairs Norway and Palau, with other members being Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia and Portugal

3. POLICY

For the purposes of the Policy, the definition of the term ‘protected area’ is:

“a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”⁷⁸

While recreational areas and areas of scenic beauty require special attention, they will generally not be categorised as part of the protected areas system, nor will areas that have an international designation only.

The establishment of protected areas and their strengthening as part of a protected areas system can serve to protect ecosystems which provide goods and services, conserve Jamaica's heritage as represented by its biodiversity and cultural resources, promote sustainable resource use and provide recreational and educational opportunities to improve the quality of life for all Jamaicans and visitors.

3.1 Vision

The vision of the Overarching Policy for Jamaica’s Protected Areas System is:

Jamaica’s protected areas system is ecologically representative and sustainably managed, preserving its ecological functions and services while conserving its rich biological diversity and related cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

The various types of protected areas in Jamaica should, individually and as part of a comprehensive system, contribute to achieving common environmental, economic, cultural and social goals. A protected areas system (PAS) is essential for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural heritage, conserving essential resources for sustainable use, helping to expand and diversify economic development, and contributing to public recreation and education.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2008

⁷⁹ Policy for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas, 1997– page 6

3.2 Goal

The overall goal of the Policy is:

To effectively and equitably manage protected areas for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and related cultural heritage as well as for social and economic benefits.

3.3 Guiding Principles

The further development of Jamaica's protected areas network is guided by an integrated ecosystem-based approach, which recognises that there are multiple sub-systems with complex interlinkages, including between nature and society. The management of protected areas must therefore employ an integrated approach which takes into consideration the natural resource base, cultural and natural heritage, social dynamics and economic imperatives. The following principles will guide the implementation of the protected areas system⁸⁰:

- **Representativeness, comprehensiveness and balance**

Incorporate representative samples of all species and ecosystems within the protected areas system, at a scale that ensures their long-term survival and preserves the health, resilience and functionality of the entire ecosystem.

- **Adequacy**

The integrity, size, arrangement and management of protected areas support viable environmental processes and/or species, populations and communities⁸¹.

⁸⁰ Sources include Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN.

Dudley, N. and J. Parish. (2006). Closing the Gap. Creating Ecologically Representative Protected Area Systems: A Guide to Conducting the Gap Assessments of Protected Area Systems for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Technical Series No. 24. Montreal: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Websites: IUCN <http://www.iucn.org>

Convention on Biological Diversity Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Development <http://www.cbd.int/sustainable/addis.shtml>

⁸¹ Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

- **Redundancy**

Include sufficient examples of species and ecosystems within a protected areas system to capture genetic variation and protect against unexpected losses.

- **Coherence and complementarity**

Ensure each protected area adds value/makes a positive contribution, in terms of quality and quantity, to the system as a whole.

- **Resilience**

Design the protected areas system to withstand stresses and changes. Resilience involves maintaining or recreating viable ecosystems by enlarging or connecting protected areas. Small, protected areas surrounded by radically altered habitats are often of limited value. In addition, the need for resilience is increased because major changes in the climate now seem inevitable and will have serious impacts on terrestrial and aquatic protected areas.

- **Consistency**

Apply protected area management objectives, policies and classifications under similar conditions in standard ways, in order for clarity regarding each protected area's purpose and increase the likelihood of management and use supporting objectives⁸².

- **Cost effectiveness, efficiency and equity**

Costs and benefits are appropriately balanced and equitably distributed and the number and coverage of protected areas are sufficient for the achievement of system objectives⁸³.

- **Adaptive management**

Improve resource management by learning from management outcomes based on scientific, traditional and local knowledge; feedback from monitoring, use, impacts and status of resources which is iterative, timely and transparent.

⁸² Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

⁸³ Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

- **Ecosystem-based Approach**

Ensure that the integrated management of land, water and living resources supports conservation and sustainable use and is based on appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organisation, recognising humans, with their cultural diversity, as an essential component of many ecosystems.⁸⁴

- **Precautionary Approach**

In instances of threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

- **Cultural and Heritage Preservation**

Preserve the cultural and heritage significance of protected areas by ensuring that management practices integrate historical and cultural connections of local communities and national heritage while maintaining Jamaica's obligations under associated cultural Conventions. Protected areas will serve not only as biodiversity reserves but also as preservers of traditional knowledge, practices, and historic sites, safeguarding them for present and future generations.

- **Respect local and traditional knowledge**

Local and traditional knowledge and customary practices relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity should be respected, preserved, maintained and taken into account when developing and implementing policies, programmes and plans related to biodiversity.

- **Public Participation**

There should be effective consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders in the establishment and management of protected areas, including communities, youth, persons with disabilities, the elderly and user groups, particularly those directly affected by the creation or reclassification of such areas, taking into account gender equity. The process

⁸⁴ CBD Secretariat, 2024. <https://www.cbd.int/credits>

should be transparent, inclusive and support sound decision-making and provide opportunities to share knowledge and expertise.

- **Achieve and maintain financial sustainability**

The necessary legal and institutional frameworks are developed to ensure the financial sustainability of the protected areas system.

- **Inter- and Intragenerational equity**

Ensure fairness and justice among individuals within the current generation and across generations by distributing the benefits from protected areas equitably.

- **Interdisciplinary collaboration**

To foster collaboration across disciplines such as ecology, economics, sociology and policy to address complex ecological and social challenges.

3.4 Policies

3.4.1 Governance and Management Arrangements

Coordination, collaboration and communication are among the main requirements to effectively address the complexities of a protected areas system involving differing mandates, institutions, partners, laws and changes in priorities.

Protected Areas Committee

The main element of the institutional arrangements for the coordination of the protected areas system is the Protected Areas Committee (PAC). The PAC is a multistakeholder and multisectoral grouping with representatives from entities which have a legal mandate to manage protected areas or vested interests in the management of these areas. The PAC will serve as a coordinating body for the protected areas system, which includes providing recommendations for the declaration and management of protected areas and facilitating the implementation of the Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP).

In order to facilitate effective management of the PAS, information and data (at a minimum, the size, boundaries, location (including maps), management arrangements and the legislation under which these sites were declared/designated as well as zoning and management plans) relating to

existing and proposed protected areas will be shared with and discussed by the PAC and other relevant stakeholders. The PAC will aid in resolving any conflicts related to protected areas management if they arise.

Role of Ministries

The parent Ministries of the respective protected area managers (FD, JNHT, NFA and NRCA/NEPA) will be represented at a senior technical level on the PAC. The Ministers will be the point of referral for cross-jurisdictional and/or highly complex matters with respect to PA management presented to the PAC, with Cabinet as the ultimate decision-making body.

The Minister responsible for the environment shall appoint PAC members following consultation with the Ministers responsible for forestry, fisheries and culture.

The Minister responsible for the environment, after consulting with the other Ministers with responsibility for protected areas, shall table legislation to govern the protected areas system, referred to as the Overarching Protected Areas legislation. The governance structure, composition, functions, and other matters related to the Protected Areas Committee (PAC) will be detailed in this legislation.

The Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning will continue to integrate protected areas into local sustainable development plans and development orders, respectively.

Role of protected area managers (NFA, FD, JNHT and NRCA/NEPA)

The NFA, FD, JNHT and the NRCA/NEPA will continue to operate in accordance with their respective mandates on protected areas. The institutional arrangements with respect to protected areas management are as set out in Figure 3.

A variety of management arrangements will be employed for protected areas to encourage contributions and ensure the effective and equitable participation of stakeholders – including local communities⁸⁵, NGOs, CBOs, the private sector, youth, and the elderly – while taking into

⁸⁵ This term applies to specific recognised groupings

consideration gender equity. Management arrangements will include governance by government, shared governance, governance by private individuals or organisations, and governance by local communities⁸⁶.

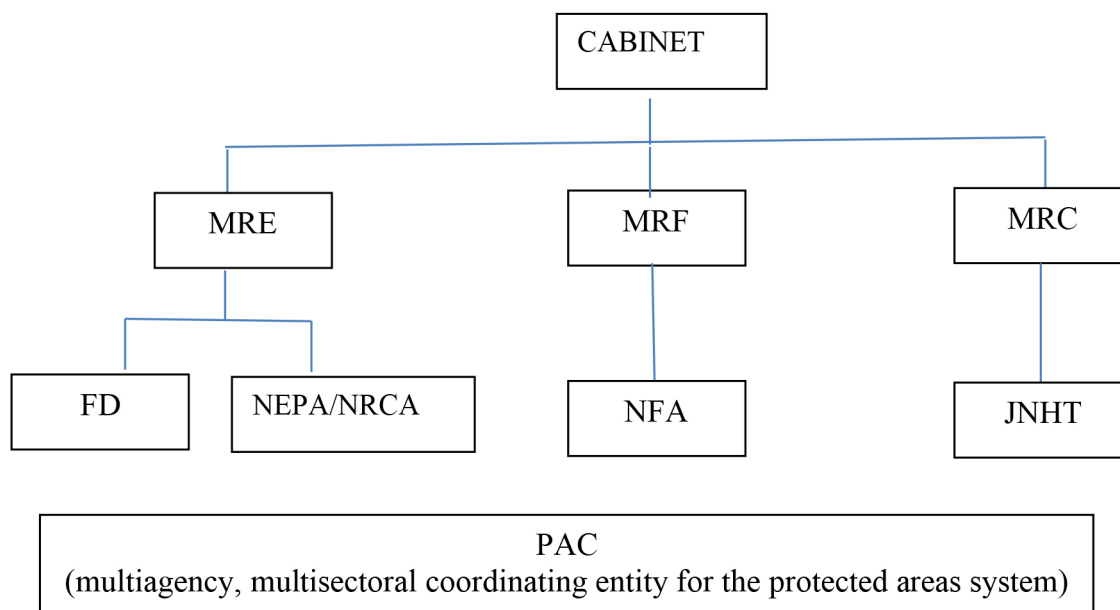


Figure 3: Institutional Arrangements for the Protected Areas System

MRE - Ministry responsible for the Environment;
 MRF - Ministry responsible for Fisheries;
 MRC - Ministry responsible for Culture
 FD - Forestry Department;
 NEPA/NRCA - National Environment and Planning Agency/ Natural Resources Conservation Authority
 NFA - National Fisheries Authority;
 JNHT - Jamaica National Heritage Trust;
 PAC - Protected Areas Committee

⁸⁶ **Governance by government:** National ministry/agency in charge; sub-national ministry/agency in charge; government-delegated management (e.g. to NGO)

Shared governance: Collaborative management (various degrees of influence); joint management

Private governance: By individual owner; by non-profit organisations (NGOs, universities);

Governance by local communities: community conserved areas; run by local communities (Dudley, N. 2008. IUCN)

3.4.2 Policy Coherence

For coherence, sector policies relevant to the forestry, tourism, land use, natural resources, cultural heritage as well as the planning and mining sectors will be reviewed by the Ministry responsible for the environment in collaboration with other members of the PAC and with the relevant sectors (e.g., tourism, mining, agriculture and water) to eliminate or reduce conflicts in the policy positions and to ensure that appropriate reference is made to the protected areas system. There is a special need for coherence in policies where there may be land-use conflicts, and these will be addressed as priorities.

The Ministries responsible for the protected area managers (NFA, FD, JNHT and NRCA/NEPA) will foster and promote inter-agency collaboration and coordination of actions to ensure that policies are harmonised in relation to the PAS. New policies will be developed, and existing ones revised where appropriate, to provide an enabling environment for the establishment and effective management of protected areas and the PAS.

3.4.3 Legislative Requirements

Relevant legislation will be developed, reviewed and revised as appropriate, taking into account social and economic considerations and incentives, to provide a supportive environment for the establishment and effective management of protected areas and the PAS.

Proposals for amendment to existing legislation or enactment of new laws by the protected area managers (NFA, FD, JNHT and NRCA/NEPA) should include relevant provisions related to the PAS as set out in this Policy.

Some of the main provisions which are proposed to be included in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation are:

- Provisions to enshrine the PAC in law, which will serve as a coordinating body for the management of protected areas;
- Definition of the term protected area, the types of protected areas within the PAS, criteria for designation, and the IUCN equivalents of the types of protected areas;

- Requirements for the preparation of management plans for protected areas based on the best available scientific data and information, and with the participation of stakeholders, particularly those who are directly affected;
- Process and criteria for approving delegation of management authority;
- Provisions requiring agency coordination in the integration of protected area management plans with development plans;
- Enforcement mechanisms in particular, to allow the appointment of authorised officers for protected areas, which is particularly important for co-management entities that have staff with no or minimal enforcement powers;
- Provisions to facilitate the consistency of the legislation with Jamaica's obligations under international agreements;
- Procedures for modification and amendment of boundaries of protected areas within the system;
- Authorisation for governmental entities to enter into legally binding co-management agreements; and
- Provisions for the application of the legislation to the territorial sea and the continental shelf as defined in the Maritime Areas Act; the exclusive economic zone as established under the Exclusive Economic Zone Act; and fisheries waters as defined in the Fisheries Act.

The proposed Overarching Protected Areas legislation will provide for an expanded range of enforcement options, including seizures, fines, suspension of permits and licences, community involvement in monitoring (including patrolling) and enforcement, as well as options such as mandating persons who breach the law to provide community service in protected areas in lieu of jail time.

Classification and Categories of Protected Areas in the Protected Areas System

The protected areas system should encompass and provide the appropriate level of protection for the country's coastal, marine, inland waters and terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity and tangible cultural heritage.

While the new legislation on the protected areas system will include the types of protected areas within the system, the declaration of the areas will continue to be undertaken by the regulatory agencies under amended or new legislation as required.

For the purpose of the PAS, the term ‘national monument’ will apply to immovable cultural heritage only, in keeping with the definition of protected area for the PAS.

The protected area management categories of the IUCN will be applied as appropriate to the types of natural protected areas in the PAS through a structured process involving reviews by the relevant entities and the PAC. Reference to the IUCN equivalent of the types of natural protected areas will be made in the legislation related to the protected areas system, while the generic term ‘protected area’ will not be used as a category. The fundamental principle is that the IUCN category is assigned based on the primary management objective(s) of the protected area, and this can be influenced by both size and the degree of naturalness⁸⁷ (Appendix IV).

The PAS will consist of the fourteen types of protected areas as outlined in Table 3, which includes three new designations. Six equivalent IUCN management categories together with their descriptions are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories⁸⁸

Management Categories	Descriptions
Ia. Strict nature reserve	Strictly protected for biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features, where human visitation, use and impacts are controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values.
Ib. Wilderness area	Usually large unmodified or slightly modified areas, retaining their natural character and influence, without permanent or significant human habitation, protected and managed to preserve their natural condition.
II. National park	Large natural or near-natural areas protecting large-scale ecological processes with characteristic species and ecosystems, which also have environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.
III. Natural monument or feature	Areas set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, marine cavern, geological feature such as a cave, or a living feature such as an ancient grove.

⁸⁷ A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica – page 84

⁸⁸ Craig Groves (editor) 2018, IUCN Guidelines for privately protected areas
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/pag-029-en.pdf>

Management Categories	Descriptions
IV. Habitat/species management area	Areas to protect particular species or habitats, where management reflects this priority. Many will need regular, active interventions to meet the needs of particular species or habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.
V. Protected landscape and seascape	Where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced a distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.
VI. Protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources	Areas which conserve ecosystems, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems. Generally large, mainly in a natural condition, with a proportion under sustainable natural resource management and where low-level non-industrial natural resource use compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims

Table 3: Types of Protected Areas in the Protected Areas System

Types of Protected Areas	Existing Legislation	Equivalent IUCN Categories	
1. Strict Nature Reserve (new)	NRCA Act	Ia	Strict Nature Reserve
2. Forest Reserve	Forest Act	Ia	Strict Nature Reserve
3. National Park	NRCA Act	II	National Park
4. Marine Park	NRCA Act	II	National Park
5. National Monument	JNHT Act		-
6. National Monument (natural site)	JNHT Act	III	Natural Monument
7. Protected National Heritage	JNHT Act		-
8. Protected National Heritage (natural site)	JNHT Act	III	Natural Monument
9. Fish Sanctuary	Fisheries Act	IV	Habitat/Species Management Area
10. Game Reserve	Wild Life Protection Act	IV	Habitat/Species Management Area
11. Protected Landscape and Seascape (new)	NRCA Act	V	Protected Landscape/Seascape
12. Managed Resource Protected Area (new)	NRCA Act	VI	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources
13. Forest Management Area	Forest Act	VI	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources
14. Fishery Management Areas/Zones and Aquaculture Management Areas/Zones	Fisheries Act	IV	Habitat/Species Management Area

Rationalisation of the Protected Areas System

In the context of reporting on protected areas with overlapping or 'nested' boundaries, it is crucial to prevent duplication and double counting, particularly in relation to the land and/or sea area under protection. This can be accomplished through mechanisms such as collaborative reviews and reporting by the involved entities. The protected areas managers may consult, as necessary and appropriate, the PAC to obtain data and information to inform the preparation of national reports.

In cases where multiple declarations exist or are proposed for a protected area, the entities involved should review the matter with a view to resolving any conflicts and determining how best the site may be managed to avoid duplication and build on synergies. A cooperative agreement is one option which would specify, *inter alia*, the management arrangements between or among the parties. On an ongoing basis, the relevant entities will be required to monitor and review any such agreements and make amendments, as necessary and appropriate. The PAC should be informed of the proposed approach in its rationalisation of the protected areas system.

Reclassification

A protected area declaration may be amended under special circumstances and reclassified. The process of reclassification of the protected areas will be based on the IUCN protected area management categories, according to management objectives, taking into account other considerations as appropriate, will be undertaken by protected area managers (NFA, FD, JNHT and NRCA/NEPA) in consultation with the PAC. The PAC and the relevant protected area managers must take into account any implications that may arise from the reclassification of a protected area, particularly in relation to Jamaica's achievement of established conservation targets.

Reclassification of a protected area in the PAS will be subject to affirmative resolution in the Houses of Parliament.

3.4.4 Establishment of New Protected Areas

There is an urgent need to increase coverage, representativeness and where appropriate, the connectivity of protected areas based on scientific and cultural assessments and other considerations, such as management capacity. The areas to be declared should be based on

priorities identified by, *inter alia*, protected area managers as well as those reflected in System reports and plans.

A protected area manager proposing to declare a new protected area must consult other protected area managers, the PAC, and other key stakeholders on the proposal, including recommended boundaries. The relevant Minister will make the declaration by Order.

Before a new protected area is declared, the following must be undertaken:

- an integrated assessment of the ecological, social, cultural and economic status of the area, potential impacts and contribution to the protected areas system;
- preparation of proposals, including site boundary map, accompanying geographical description, justification, proposed management arrangement, preliminary management plan including zones and the inclusion of stakeholders⁸⁹ in the review of proposals for new protected areas;
- consultations with the stakeholders, including MDAs with responsibility for key sectors, including agriculture, mining, tourism, physical planning and local government as well as the relevant municipalities, private sector, NGOs and communities, as appropriate.

Another consideration is the submission of areas with high biodiversity, heritage, and/or unique geological character to be nominated to UN organisations, such as UNESCO, for international recognition.

Protected areas⁹⁰ should be integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes and relevant sectors for the maintenance of ecological integrity and functions by applying the ecosystem approach⁹¹, taking into consideration ecological connectivity⁹².

⁸⁹ “Stakeholders” “possess direct or indirect interests and concerns about those, but do not necessarily enjoy a legally or socially recognised entitlement to them” (Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith (2013). Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 20, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, p. 15)

⁹⁰ This may be defined as “the process of ensuring that the design and management of protected areas, corridors and the surrounding matrix fosters a connected, functional ecological network.” Ervin, J., K. J. Mulongoy, K. Lawrence, E. Game, D. Sheppard, P. Bridgewater, G. Bennett, S.B. Gidda and P. Bos. 2010. Making Protected Areas Relevant: A guide to integrating protected areas into wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies.

⁹¹ The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. (*Convention on Biological Diversity*)

⁹² Programme of Work on Protected Areas

Public notification of any proposed declarations, as well as the associated stakeholder and public consultations to be carried out by the relevant Ministry and/or Agency, are critical elements of the process.

Work has commenced by the Ministry with responsibility for the environment and NEPA for the declaration of the following sites as protected areas under the NRCA Act: Bengal (St. Ann); Canoe Valley (Manchester and Clarendon); Long Mountain (St. Andrew); Montpelier (St. James); and the Negril Environmental Protection Area (Westmoreland and Hanover). Four of these sites have not previously been declared as protected areas. The Negril EPA was declared under section 33(1) of the NRCA Act; however, it is recommended that the terrestrial component of the Negril EPA, which includes the Industry Cove and Negril Great Morass ESAs, be “re-designated” as a protected area under section 5(1)(b) of the Act. The marine component is already designated as a marine park under section 5(1)(c).

3.4.5 Site and System Level Management

Management planning

Every management authority or co-management partner shall manage the protected area in accordance with the management plan for the area and any applicable enactment. The recommended duration of management plans shall not exceed ten years and will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

The PA management authorities, including ENGOs, that have been delegated authority by NRCA/NEPA, will prepare or cause to be prepared management plans for protected areas, which consider the ecological, social, cultural, geographical and economic context of the protected area including the traditional uses by communities as well as issues related to gender and youth. Additionally, management plans should take into account current and projected needs (technical, technological, financial and human) and risks as well as responses to same. Plans must be periodically updated and flexible to respond to changing circumstances and emerging issues. Formal approval of management plans will take place at the appropriate level, according to the relevant legislation. To support transparency and accountability, management plans should be made accessible to the public. Management plans should also incorporate a broad range of

ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation⁹³ and disaster risk reduction, including interventions such as ecosystem conservation and restoration (e.g., coral reefs and mangroves), and restoration of cultural sites.

At the pre-drafting stage, it is necessary to: (i) establish participatory mechanisms for the public and stakeholders, including local communities, men, women and youth; (ii) collect relevant data and information, and (iii) identify and assess issues, broad goals, conservation objectives, zoning needs, and management actions. These analyses will inform the preparation of the draft management plan.

Once a draft plan has been prepared, the process involves further stakeholder and public consultations, revision of the draft plan based on comments received, production of a final plan, formal approval of the plan⁹⁴, implementation, monitoring as well as review and updating after a given period of time.⁹⁵

Each protected area manager should ensure that provisions related to management plans or preservation schemes⁹⁶ are reflected in their respective legislation.

Where protected area managers have delegated authority for the co-management of protected areas, formal agreements such as MOUs should be signed.

Where arrangements are in place for the management of an area by a co-management partner on behalf of or in collaboration with a protected area manager, management plans or preservation schemes approved by the protected area manager should be in place.

⁹³ Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation are the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. (*Convention on Biological Diversity*)

⁹⁴ The level for decision-making will be determined within each organisation

⁹⁵ IUCN Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation, Barbara Lausche, Author; Francoise Burhenne, Project Director. The 'highest policy level' refers to the highest level within an agency or within a Ministry as appropriate.

⁹⁶ Section 21(1) Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act "For the purpose of preserving the amenities of any national monument, or any place designated to be a protected national heritage, the Trust may, subject to the provisions of this section, prepare and confirm a scheme (hereafter in this Act referred to as a "preservation scheme") for any area comprising or adjacent to the site of the monument or the place aforesaid, being an area to which, in the opinion of the Trust, it is necessary or expedient for that purpose that the scheme should apply".

A management plan is normally supported by other plans covering finance and annual operational plans as appropriate.

Zoning

Zoning is “a management tool that is used to protect sensitive protected area resources and to separate conflicting human activities in these areas. It is a system by which specific geographical areas within a protected area are classified based on preservation requirements, as well as the site’s ability to accommodate various types of uses/activities” (NEPA, 2012). Zoning will be the primary management tool for guiding protection and sustainable use within any protected area. However, zoning may not be applicable for all types of protected areas.

Where applicable, zoning should be incorporated into management plans or preservation schemes to define boundaries, identify key conservation and cultural values, outline necessary conservation measures and compatible land uses, and take into account traditional uses. Zoning plans should be approved by Cabinet and published in the *Jamaica Gazette*.

The current legislative framework supports the zoning of protected areas. These legislative instruments include the NRCA Act (1991) and its Protected Areas Regulations (2023), the Fisheries Act (2018) and the TCPA Act (1958). Section (4)(2) of the NRCA Act states that the NRCA may “in relation to prescribed national parks, marine parks, protected areas and public recreational facilities provide for the zoning thereof for specified purposes and for the licensing of persons carrying on any trade or business therein”. The Fisheries Act outlines the use of fishery management areas, fishery management zones, buffer zones and sanctuaries for the protection and conservation of fish species. The Second Schedule of the TCPA Act outlines matters to be dealt with by development orders. Development orders may include areas zoned for conservation.

Business plans

Business plans, linked to management plans and preservation schemes, should be developed for protected areas with the potential for earning revenue. Business plans or other planning tools should be used across the protected areas system to ensure that funds are managed and administered in a way that promotes cost efficiency and management effectiveness, allows for long-term planning and security, and provides incentives and opportunities for managers to generate and retain funds at the protected area level.

Business plans should have a comprehensive plan of action for the protected area to mobilise financial and technical resources to assist with its management. A marketing plan/strategy, strategic management plan, financial plan and specific areas (goods and services) that can be established as income generators for the area should be included. This will support sustainable financing of the protected area.

Management effectiveness

Management effectiveness evaluation at the protected areas system level should be undertaken using an appropriate methodology which assesses the design of protected areas and the system, including context and planning; “adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes; and delivery of protected area objectives...”⁹⁷. Jamaica utilises the IUCN Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) as part of its strategy to assess and improve the management of its protected areas. The METT is a globally recognised tool that provides a standardised way to evaluate how effectively protected areas are being managed, with particular focus on resources, capacity, planning, and conservation impact.

3.4.6 Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Understanding of and communication about the natural and cultural values of protected areas should be enhanced, highlighting their role in providing ecosystem services, sustaining local livelihoods, mitigating natural disaster risks, and promoting the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of natural resources.

Public Participation - There should be specific plans and initiatives for effective involvement of the public, as well as stakeholders, including local communities, women, men, and youth at all levels of protected areas planning and management, with particular emphasis on identifying and removing barriers that may prevent adequate participation. The decision-making process regarding

⁹⁷ Hockings, M., Stolton, S., Leverington, F., Dudley, N. and Courrau, J. (2006). Evaluating Effectiveness: A framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas. 2nd edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xiv + 105 pp. (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-014.pdf>)

the protected areas system will be guided by transparency in operations and inclusiveness through consultations and sharing information via appropriate means.

Mechanisms for meaningful participation must include:

- providing timely access to accurate, relevant, concise and understandable information on protected areas and the protected areas system and engagement of local communities, taking into account gender equity and youth in discussions on protected area policies and plans
- providing opportunities for public comment where decisions on substantive matters are being contemplated, such as the declaration or modification of a protected area, including when environmental and socio-economic assessments are being done or reviewed
- informing the public, particularly those directly affected, about proposals for the establishment of specific protected areas
- convening of community meetings and workshops throughout the planning process, to identify, *inter alia*, community issues and interests and to take into account their views and knowledge and provide fora for review of plans before finalisation
- disseminating consultation reports, including responses to the queries/comments of the public on the proposals.
- establishing multi-stakeholder management, co-management and/or advisory committees at the local and national levels comprising representatives from government entities, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, CBOs and other local stakeholders to secure their involvement in planning for and management of protected areas.

3.4.7 Sustainable Financing

It is important to build a diverse financing portfolio that goes beyond conventional resource mobilisation mechanisms and includes multiple sources such as GOJ budgetary allocations; tourism fees; user fees; debt swaps; personal donations/sponsorship programmes, including from the Jamaican diaspora; promotion of corporate social responsibility programmes; as well as payments for ecosystem services⁹⁸. These options should be actively explored and, where viable,

⁹⁸ Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas 2010-2020 (2009) and Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013 – 2017 (2013)

implemented to ensure that the priority areas identified for attention at the system and site levels are addressed.

Work has commenced on the promulgation of Marine Parks Regulations under the NRCA Act to implement a user fee structure for marine parks. Under section 20 (2) of the Forest Act (1996), Regulations may be promulgated to prescribe fees to be paid for the use of parks, roads and trails, campgrounds, picnic sites and such other facilities as the Conservator may determine.

Funds must also be managed and administered efficiently to achieve cost-effectiveness in site management operations. Improved financial planning throughout the protected areas system is important to attract and retain funding from donors and the Government, as well as new or non-traditional funding partners, especially from the private sector.

It should be noted that the NCTFJ, an NGO-led not-for-profit organisation, was established to provide financial support to complement funding provided by the Government of Jamaica for protected areas management.

3.4.8 Contribution of Science and Technology

Scientific methods and technology, such as Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing, will be utilised in the establishment and effective management of the PAS. Additionally, artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including generative design software, can be utilised to enhance scientific research and improve protected areas management by, *inter alia*, offering multiple design solutions. These tools can also provide predictive models to assess and address the potential impacts of climate change, supporting long-term conservation efforts and informed decision-making.

The Government, through the relevant MDAs, will collaborate with academic institutions or other key stakeholders, including civil society and community-based organisations, to collect and analyse data and information on matters related to protected areas, taking into account the following recommendations⁹⁹:

⁹⁹ Jamaica's National Ecological Gap Assessment Report, 2009

- **coastal and marine, inland waters and terrestrial ecosystem connectivity in protected areas** – in order to effectively conserve protected areas, it is critical to comprehend how ecological connectivity can be incorporated into conservation strategies such as zonation and restoration.
- **status of critical flora and fauna in protected areas** targeted for national and international consumer markets – this includes improving the knowledge base on critical resource populations of fauna and flora.
- **ecological needs of biodiversity resources** – rapid ecological assessments should be conducted to identify ecological needs using, for example, satellite imagery, underwater images and drones.
- **natural resources accounting (economic and monetary value of ecological services provided by ecosystems)** – methods can be developed through research, to quantify the impact of the disturbance on the ecosystem and for the valuation of the ecosystem services provided by protected areas. There are existing software/tools such as InVEST (Integrated Valuation of Environmental Services and Tradeoffs) that could aid this process. For example, “trade-off curves” can reveal how much timber can be harvested before causing major profit loss to hydropower, flood damage, or loss of biodiversity¹⁰⁰.
- **research on plant families** – few fine-filter targets for flora were identified; therefore, further studies need to be undertaken in addition to local knowledge and unpublished information being incorporated into the research.
- **restoration strategies for critical habitats** – given the extent to which many ecosystems have been degraded, restoration strategies should be devised for critical habitats, incorporating cost-benefit analyses and ecological considerations.
- **cultural heritage** – a multi-stakeholder approach will be taken, involving partnership with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust to conduct assessments to determine the status of the tangible cultural elements of the protected areas. Subsequently, a preservation scheme will be developed to address any issues relating to the degradation

¹⁰⁰ Information was retrieved from the article, “Accounting for Nature's Benefits: The Dollar Value of Ecosystem Services,” which is available on the website: <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/ehp.120-a152>.

of these elements. As it relates to intangible cultural heritage, the focus will be placed on exploring the potential for sustainable income generation from traditional practices.

- **development of a list of threatened species**— a ‘Red List’ of Jamaica's species should be compiled and made accessible to the public.

Additionally, the Government will encourage the sharing of, and access to, data and information on protected areas among MDAs, academia, government, private sector, NGOs, and the public.

Where possible, financial, technical and technological resources will be identified to support scientific research to protect and conserve the island’s natural and cultural heritage.

3.5 Policy Objectives

There are six objectives of the Policy:

1. Develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system;
2. Build and sustain a representative, interconnected, and resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes, enhances human well-being, and conserves, protects and preserves Jamaica’s natural and cultural heritage;
3. Enhance the effectiveness of protected areas management and conservation;
4. Strengthen communication, increase public education and awareness, and enhance the active involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system;
5. Provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the protected area system; and
6. Integrate scientific research and traditional knowledge to strengthen the establishment, management, and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system.

The implementation strategies and key actions required to achieve the stated objectives are as follows:

Objective 1: Develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system

Implementation Strategies & Key Actions:

1.1 Review and strengthen existing legislation and policies related to the management of the protected areas system

- a. Protected area managers (NFA, FD, JNHT and NRCA/NEPA) and their respective parent Ministries, in consultation with the PAC and co-management partners, will, as appropriate, develop new and/or revise policies and legislation.
- b. The Ministries, Departments and Agencies responsible for forestry, tourism, land use, natural resources, culture, planning, housing, agriculture, fisheries and mining will ensure policy coherence and remove or reduce conflicts in policy positions and land use, as well as ensure that protected areas are mainstreamed in the decision-making process, in order to preserve Jamaica's protected areas system.
- c. The protected area managers and their respective Ministries will explore the amendment of legislation related to protected areas to include provisions related to conservation easements.
- d. Enhance the knowledge, skills, and overall competence of technical staff and regulatory agencies involved in the management of protected areas, ensuring they are equipped with the necessary tools and exposed to methodologies and best practices in conservation and sustainable resource management.

1.2 Implement mechanisms for improved governance of the protected areas system

- a. The PAC will coordinate the PAS, including providing support to the Ministry responsible for the Environment, in monitoring the implementation of the protected areas system policy and plans.
- b. The PAC will be enshrined in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation. The members of the PAC will be appointed by the Minister. It will be a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral group with representatives from entities which have a legal mandate or vested interests in the management of protected areas. This structure supports accountability,

transparency and effective coordination among the key stakeholders involved in managing the protected areas.

- c. The number of established Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) will be increased and their capacity built to support the management of the island's protected areas, particularly forest reserves and forest management areas.
- d. The NGOs and CBOs that manage/have delegated authority for PAs will hold regularly scheduled meetings to share best practices and expertise. The documentation and incorporation of these best practices are important for sustained knowledge transfer and enhanced management of PAs.
- e. Protected area managers will share historical and current information regarding the protected areas designated/declared under the legislation they administer.
- f. Protected area managers will use a variety of governance types and arrangements for the management of protected areas.
- g. Protected area managers and partners will conduct periodic capacity assessments and ensure that same is reflected in the protected area system programme development.
- h. Public sector entities with responsibility for the management of protected areas will delegate authority to more NGOs and CBOs in an effort to increase their involvement in protected area planning and management.
- i. The Protected Areas System Master Plan will be revised to guide management and planning, including decision-making, at the site level.
- j. An engagement strategy will be developed and implemented to foster active collaboration and partnership with the private sector in protected area management initiatives.

Objective 2: Build and sustain a representative, interconnected, and resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes, enhances human well-being, and conserves, protects and preserves Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage

Implementation Strategies & Key Actions:

2.1 Declare/designate protected areas to address under-represented coastal and marine, inland waters and terrestrial ecosystems in the protected areas system and integrate them into broader landscapes and seascapes

- a. Ministries, on the recommendation of their respective protected area managers, will declare or designate new areas for inclusion in the PAS.
- b. The Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning will continue to incorporate protected areas into development orders, local sustainable development plans, as well as disaster risk reduction strategies.
- c. Protected area managers will establish and maintain ecological connectivity between protected areas where appropriate. This will include the integration of regional, national and sub-national systems of protected areas into broader landscapes and seascapes, by *inter alia*, establishing and managing ecological networks, ecological and biological corridors and/or buffer zones, where appropriate, to maintain the integrity, health and function of ecosystems, taking into account the needs of migratory species and the issue of habitat fragmentation.
- d. Where lands contain cultural assets, the Commissioner of Lands will include an endorsement on the title indicating same as well as a covenant specifying that any development of the land should be done in consultation with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and any other MDA, the Trust deems appropriate.
- e. Appropriate, measurable biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas will be identified for inclusion in the revision of Jamaica's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This will include a national target for marine protected areas to support the achievement of the "30x30" target.
- f. The Government will continue to pursue the designation of ecologically sensitive areas to allow for the application of special protection and conservation measures for sensitive species and habitats. These areas are to be reflected in development orders and are to be taken into account by the regulatory authorities in granting development approvals.
- g. Protected area managers will continue to include climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning and management strategies, as well as the design of the PAS.
- h. Protected area managers will take appropriate measures to reduce the risks associated with invasive alien species in protected areas.
- i. The Forestry Department will implement the National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan and the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. These documents will be updated as necessary and appropriate.

2.2 Integrate nature-based solutions into disaster risk reduction efforts, strengthening disaster resilience at the local and community levels

- a. Conduct a comprehensive review of parish Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans to ensure the effective integration of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches.
- b. Implement capacity building initiatives at the local and community levels to encourage knowledge exchange and peer learning among diverse communities and stakeholders, thereby fostering a shared understanding and strengthening capacity in implementing nature-based approaches.
- c. Integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into protected areas management by assessing risks, developing specific plans with nature-based solutions, collaborating with relevant stakeholders, and evaluating effectiveness to enhance resilience, adjusting strategies as needed.
- d. Nature-based solutions will be utilised as one approach to mitigate climate change-related impacts on protected areas.
- e. Each protected area manager, in collaboration with key stakeholders including the relevant NGOs/CBOs and the private sector, will develop and implement a comprehensive disaster mitigation and restoration plan for the protected areas under their jurisdiction. This plan will outline specific actions for the rapid recovery and restoration of protected areas impacted by natural disasters, including habitat restoration, species recovery, and infrastructure repair.

Objective 3: Enhance the effectiveness of protected areas management and conservation

Implementation Strategies & Key Actions:

3.1 Improve the protected areas system's site-based planning and management

- a. Protected area managers will prepare or cause to be prepared management plans for protected areas at the site level. This will be guided by a master plan for the protected areas system. Entities with responsibility for protected areas will include ecosystem restoration activities (inclusive of buffer zones) and *in situ* conservation of genetic resources as part of their management plans to protect and enhance ecosystem services.

- b. Protected area managers and their partners will conduct management effectiveness evaluations, which include the use of the METT, to assess and improve the effectiveness of management practices in protected areas.

3.2 Periodically assess the status of keystone¹⁰¹, threatened, endangered and rare species to identify appropriate management strategies to ensure their conservation

- a. Protected area managers and their partners, with the support of academia, will periodically assess the status of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species.
- b. Where measures are required to be implemented for the effective conservation of these keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species, management strategies will be developed and implemented.

3.3 Improve monitoring and enforcement

- a. Protected area managers and partners will increase monitoring activities, including patrols.
- b. Strengthen the monitoring and enforcement capabilities of relevant regulatory agencies to enhance the management of PAs and reduce illegal activities, including encroachment, squatting, deforestation, and pollution from point, non-point, and land-based sources. Protected area managers and partners will evaluate the current monitoring and enforcement strategies, identify gaps and areas for improvement, and implement improved surveillance methods. Tools such as GIS, remote sensing, satellite imagery and drones will be utilised to support efficient monitoring and management of protected areas.
- c. Protected area managers and partners will develop and implement monitoring and enforcement plans for each protected area based on the outcomes of the evaluations outlined in item b above.

¹⁰¹ Keystone species are species that are key in maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems they belong to. Without keystone species, ecosystems and all species living in them would experience drastic changes that could threaten their existence – Convention on Biological Diversity, 2022 <https://www.cbd.int/article/saving-endangered-keystone-species>

Objective 4: Strengthen communication, increase public education and awareness, and enhance the active involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system

Implementation Strategy & Key Actions:

4.1 Increase public education and awareness and promote stakeholder involvement in the protected areas system

- a. Protected area managers will employ a variety of strategies and techniques to facilitate the sharing of accurate and relevant data and information on protected areas and the PAS.
- b. Research will be conducted to identify the most effective marketing and outreach strategies to continuously engage the public and communicate the benefits of protected areas.
- c. Informative signs will be erected to improve public awareness of the PAs and discourage unwanted activities.
- d. Protected area managers will employ various mechanisms to actively involve stakeholders, including local communities, academia and conservation institutions, in protected area planning and management.
- e. Protected area managers will incorporate public education, awareness and outreach programmes into management plans, ensuring engagement of diverse groups, including youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, while promoting gender equity.
- f. Legislation will be developed and implemented to regulate access to genetic resources and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use and associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation).
- g. Community-based conservation efforts will be supported to foster local ownership, environmental stewardship, and active participation in protected area management.

Objective 5: Provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the protected area system

Implementation Strategy & Key Actions:

5.1 Identify and mobilise funds from diverse sources and enhance the effective and efficient use of funds for protected area management

- a. Protected area managers will implement sustainable finance plans and ensure the efficient and effective use of financial resources.
- b. Ministries and their respective protected area managers will seek to identify and generate additional funds for the management of the PAS.
- c. The NCTFJ will build on its existing initiatives while identifying new sources of private capital. For example, the Changemaker Initiative for protected areas could be expanded to attract individual donors (locally, regionally, and internationally). The NCTFJ will identify areas that are aligned with the conservation and management of protected areas, which present additional opportunities to access funds and pursue synergistic relationships, where appropriate, to increase the pool of funds available.
- d. NEPA, NFA, JNHT and the Forestry Department will be provided with dedicated annual budgetary allocations from the Consolidated Fund for protected areas.
- e. The Forestry Department will continue its implementation of REDD+, leading to results-based payments. Participation in international climate change mitigation mechanisms like REDD+ provides financial compensation for reducing deforestation and managing forests.
- f. Protected area managers will develop and implement business plans, including marketing strategies, to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and sustainability of protected areas. These plans will focus on promoting conservation efforts, engaging local communities and stakeholders, and attracting sustainable funding through various marketing channels. The marketing strategy will include targeted outreach, branding, and partnerships, ensuring that the value of protected areas is effectively communicated to both local and international audiences.
- g. Encourage partnerships between the government and private sector to jointly fund conservation activities, for example, Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Hillside.
- h. Establish or strengthen user fees for eco-tourism and other activities within protected areas. Encourage eco-tourism as a revenue-generating tool for protected areas. This will include implementing or increasing entrance fees for national parks, marine parks and fish sanctuaries. Also, implementing or increasing fees for research activities or commercial use (such as filming) within protected areas.

- i. Collaborate with private tour operators and eco-tourism businesses to create sustainable and profitable tourism experiences that contribute a portion of proceeds to conservation efforts.
- j. Explore international and regional funding mechanisms. Entities with responsibility for protected areas will partner and/or collaborate with international organisations and donor organisations. Jamaica will continue to access available funding from international or regional organisations' funds, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), for PA management.
- k. Enhance local stakeholder involvement and investment through community-led conservation and investment initiatives. Actively engage local communities in conservation activities, making them beneficiaries of conservation-related income, such as eco-tourism and sustainable resource management. This approach will strengthen the case for funding and foster long-term commitment from local stakeholders.
- l. A percentage of fees charged for bioprospecting, whether for research and/or commercialisation, will be used for protected areas management.
- m. The Government should establish a dedicated environmental tax for tourists, applied through the existing tourism tax mechanism. This separate tax should be earmarked exclusively for the conservation and management of protected areas in Jamaica, ensuring that revenue is directly allocated to critical environmental initiatives.
- n. A strategy for resource mobilisation for protected areas will be developed and implemented. This strategy will take into consideration new and emerging potential sources of funding and identify additional incentives for the private sector and the general public. The following potential sources of financing will be explored and implemented (where feasible) in the strategy:
 - the tax regime to identify areas for possible waivers/reductions to further incentivise the private sector stakeholders;
 - issuance of green and blue bonds, blended finance and blue carbon initiatives – as tools to leverage to gain financial resources from the private sector;
 - execute new debt-for-nature swaps as well as other options, such as the institution of debt-for-climate;

- carbon trading to maximise the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas;
- opportunities for public-private partnerships; and
- payments for ecosystem services.

Objective 6: Integrate scientific research and traditional knowledge to strengthen the establishment, management, and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system

Implementation Strategy & Key Actions:

6.1 Utilise scientific research and traditional knowledge for protected area management

- Protected area managers will continue to pursue formal agreements for partnerships in research with national and international academic institutions.
- The PAC will develop and implement a national research agenda for the protected areas system.
- Protected area managers will collaborate with the National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB) to establish and maintain a unified national database – a comprehensive scientific repository with spatial and graphic data of PAs and details of the status of Jamaica's flora, fauna and cultural resources within PAs to support informed decision-making and conservation efforts. Public access will be provided, with restricted access to sensitive information on species and cultural heritage where necessary. The management of the database will be a collaborative effort between protected area managers and the NSDMB to ensure it is consistently updated and remains accessible.
- Scientific research in protected areas will be promoted to provide evidence-based knowledge for effective management, supported by scientific data and information. An appropriate framework—including free, prior, and informed consent as well as mutually agreed terms—for access and benefit-sharing from the utilisation of genetic resources will be developed and implemented. This framework will also account for synthetic biology, digital sequencing information of genetic resources, and their implications.
- Incorporate traditional knowledge with free prior and informed consent from the knowledge holder into programmes focused on sharing information about species, sustainable practices, and historical land use. This knowledge can be integrated into

conservation planning and education. Where knowledge is commercialised or used for research, any benefits derived from its utilisation should be equitably shared with the knowledge holder.

4. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The PAC will be the main element of the institutional arrangements for the coordination of the protected areas system and ensuring the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the protected areas system policy and plans. This will be undertaken in collaboration with the Ministries responsible for the government entities with a mandate for protected areas which include the FD, JNHT, NFA and NEPA/NRCA.

Policy implementation will require commitments of human and financial resources. The implementation plan for the policy outlines the objectives, implementation strategies, actions, indicators, timelines and responsible entities (Table 4). The implementing entities will be expected, where appropriate, to include activities identified in the implementation plan in their annual operational plans. The PAC will serve as the mechanism for collecting information on activities in the implementation plan from responsible entities to support the preparation of annual progress reports on policy implementation. These reports will be prepared by the PAC. The PAC will report on its work to the Cabinet through the Ministry with responsibility for the environment.

Table 4: Overarching Policy for Jamaica's Protected Areas System Implementation Plan

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
Objective 1: Develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive PAS	1.1 Review and strengthen existing legislation and policies related to the management of the PAS	1.1.1 Develop new and/or revise relevant policies and legislation related to PAs	Number of new and/or revised PA-related policies developed and new legislation promulgated Overarching Protected Areas legislation promulgated	1-10 1-3	Lead: MRE Support: Protected area managers ¹⁰² and other key stakeholders	Staff time
		1.1.2 The MDAs responsible for forestry, tourism, land use, natural resources, culture, planning, housing, agriculture, fisheries and mining will ensure policy coherence and remove or reduce conflicts in policy positions and land use, as well as ensure that PAs are mainstreamed in the decision-making process	Biodiversity conservation and PA management mainstreamed into sector plans and programmes	1-10	Lead: Ministries responsible for the environment, land, planning, tourism, housing, agriculture, fisheries and mining Support: PAC and related agencies relevant to each sector	Staff time

¹⁰² Protected area managers: FD, JNHT, NFA and NRCA/NEPA

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		1.1.3 Explore the amendment of legislation related to protected areas to include provisions on conservation easements	Review of existing legislation related to PAs conducted to identify gaps and opportunities for incorporating conservation easements	2-3	Lead: MRE Support: Protected area managers	Staff time
		1.1.4 Enhance the knowledge, skills, and overall competence of technical staff and regulatory agencies involved in the management of PAs	Number of training sessions Number of technical staff and regulatory agency personnel trained in conservation, sustainable resource management, and/or modern methodologies (e.g., tools, technologies, and best practices)	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: NGOs	Staff time and \$5 million per year
	1.2 Implement mechanisms for improved governance of the protected areas system	1.2.1 Monitor implementation of the PAS-related policies and plans	Number of annual progress reports prepared per annum	1-10	Lead: MRE in collaboration with the PAC Support: Protected area managers	Staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		1.2.2 Enshrine the PAC in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation	PAC legislated	1-2	Lead: MRE Support: Protected area managers	Staff time
		1.2.3 Increase the number of established LFMCs and their capacity built to support the management of protected areas (FRs and FMAs)	Number of LFMCs established/appointed and capacity built to assist in the management of protected areas	1-10	Lead: Forestry Department	Staff time
		1.2.4 NGOs and CBOs that manage/have delegated authority for PAs will document and incorporate best practices for enhanced management of PAs	Number of reports Improved PA management	1-10	Lead: NGOs and CBOs	Staff time
		1.2.5 Protected area managers will share historical and current information regarding the protected areas designated/declared under the legislation they administer	Percentage of protected areas with historical and current data available or accessible to stakeholders	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and NSDMB Support: IOJ	Staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		1.2.6 Employ a variety of management arrangements/approaches to support effective protected area management	Different types of management arrangements/approaches employed	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers, PAC Support: Protected area partners	Staff time
		1.2.7 Conduct periodic capacity assessments to inform the national PAS programme development	Number of capacity assessments conducted	5 & 10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: Protected area partners	Staff time
		1.2.8 Increase active involvement of NGOs and CBOs in the planning and management of protected areas	Increase in the number of NGOs and CBOs that have delegated management authority/co-management agreements from public sector entities Guidelines outlining the roles and responsibilities of NGOs/CBOs created Training sessions and capacity-building programmes provided for NGOs and CBOs	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: PAC, MRLG&CD, NGOs, CBOs	Staff time and \$5 million per year

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			involved in PA management			
		1.2.9 Revise the Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP)	PASMP revised	2-4	Lead: Protected area managers Support: PAC	Consultant (\$10 million) and staff time
		1.2.10 Develop and implement an engagement strategy to foster active collaboration and partnership with the private sector in PA management initiatives	Stakeholder analysis conducted to identify relevant private sector stakeholders Engagement plan developed and implemented	1-3	Lead: Protected area managers Support: PAC, Private sector	Consultant (\$4 million) and staff time
Objective 2: Build and sustain a representative, interconnected, and resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes, enhances human well-being, and conserves, protects and preserves Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage	2.1 Declare/ designate protected areas to address under-represented coastal and marine, inland waters and terrestrial ecosystems in the protected areas system and integrate them into broader landscapes and seascapes	2.1.1 New PAs declared/designated	Number of PAs and PA coverage (terrestrial, marine and other important ecological areas) increased Inland waters and coastal areas are aligned with Target 3 of the KMGBF	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: MRE, PAC	Staff time and government allocation

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		2.1.2 Incorporate protected areas into development orders, local sustainable development plans and disaster risk reduction strategies	PAs integrated into development orders, local sustainable development plans and disaster risk reduction strategies	1-10	Lead: Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning Support: NEPA and Municipal Corporations	Staff time
		2.1.3 Establish and maintain ecological connectivity between protected areas where appropriate and beneficial	Specific locations and pathways for establishing ecological corridors or connectivity zones are identified based on scientific assessments and stakeholder input Regional, national, and sub-national systems of PAs integrated into broader landscapes and seascapes by establishing and managing ecological networks, corridors, and buffer zones Local and regional collaborations and	2-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: MRE, PAC and relevant local and regional stakeholders	Staff time, Consultant (\$10 million), government allocation

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			partnerships continued and/or established			
		2.1.4 Where lands contain cultural assets the Commissioner of Lands will include an endorsement on the title indicating same and a covenant placed on the title indicating that any development of the land should be done in consultation with the JNHT and any other relevant MDAs, the Trust deems appropriate	Restrictive covenants placed on registered titles where lands have been identified as possessing cultural assets	4-10	Lead: National Land Agency, JNHT Support: MRC	Staff time
		2.1.5 Identification and inclusion of national biodiversity conservation targets for PAs in Jamaica's revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Jamaica's revised and updated NBSAP, including biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas, finalised and submitted to the CBD Secretariat by 2026	1-2	Lead: NEPA Support: FD, NFA, MRE	Consultant (\$10 million) and staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		2.1.6 Government of Jamaica continues to pursue the designation of ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) to allow for the application of special protection and conservation measures for sensitive species and habitats	ESAs reflected in the development orders and taken into account by the regulatory authorities in processing development applications Number of ESAs increased (as necessary and appropriate)	1-10	Lead: NEPA Support: Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning, Municipal Corporations	Staff time
		2.1.7 Integration of climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning, management strategies, and the design of the protected areas system	Climate change adaptation measures integrated into protected area planning and management strategies	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: CCD, PAC	Consultant (\$20 million) and staff time
		2.1.8 Risks associated with invasive alien species (IAS) in protected areas reduced	IAS species controlled and/or reduced	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers, Invasive Alien Species Working Group (IASWG) Support: PAC	Consultancy and staff time (\$6 million annually)

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		2.1.9 Implementation of the National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan and the National Forest Management & Conservation Plan	National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan implemented National Forest Management and Conservation Plan implemented	1-10	Lead: FD	Staff time
	2.2 Integrate nature-based solutions into disaster risk reduction efforts, strengthening disaster resilience at the local and community levels	2.2.1 Review parish Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans to ensure nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches are integrated	Number of parish-level DRM Plans that have been reviewed to ensure integration of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches	1-10	Lead: MRLG&CD Support: MRE	Staff time
		2.2.2 Implement capacity building initiatives at the local and community levels to encourage knowledge exchange and peer learning among diverse communities and stakeholders, thereby fostering a shared understanding and strengthening capacity in implementing	Number of training sessions conducted Number of individuals from NGOs and CBOs trained	1-10	Lead: MRLG&CD, SDC Support: Protected area managers	\$10 million

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		nature-based approaches				
		2.2.3 Mainstream disaster risk reduction strategies in protected areas	Number of PAs with disaster risk reduction strategies implemented	1-10	Lead: Entities with responsibility for disaster risk reduction	Staff time
		2.2.4 Develop and implement a comprehensive disaster mitigation and restoration plan for the PAs - plan will outline specific actions for the rapid recovery and restoration of PAs impacted by natural disasters, including habitat restoration, species recovery, and infrastructure repair	Plan developed and implemented for each PA	4-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: NGOs/CBOs, private sector entities that manage PAs	\$30 million
Objective 3: Enhance the effectiveness of protected areas management and conservation	3.1 Improve the protected areas system's site-based planning and management	3.1.1 Prepare and implement management plans for PAs	Number of management plans developed and implemented Public education, awareness and outreach programmes incorporated into management plans,	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time and government allocation

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			ensuring the engagement of diverse groups, including youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, while promoting gender equity			
		3.1.2 Conduct management effectiveness evaluations	Number of evaluations undertaken METT scores reported	4, 7 and 10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time and government allocation
	3.2 Periodically assess the status of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species to identify appropriate management strategies to ensure their conservation	3.2.1 Assess the status of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species in protected areas	Species status assessed	1-10	Lead: NEPA Support: FD, NFA	Staff time
		3.2.2 Develop and implement management strategies for effective conservation of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species, where required	Management strategies developed and implemented	1-5	Lead: Protected area managers Support: Protected area partners	Staff time and government allocation
	3.3 Improve monitoring and enforcement	3.3.1 Protected area managers and partners will increase monitoring activities, including patrols	Increased patrols undertaken within protected areas	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time and government allocation

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		3.3.2 Strengthen the monitoring and enforcement capabilities of relevant regulatory agencies to enhance the management of PAs and reduce illegal activities	Current monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated, gaps and areas for improvement identified and new methods included Number of illegal activities in PAs reduced Number of clean-up initiatives involving community members in PAs National Squatter Management Policy finalised and implemented	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners Support: NSWMA, Ministry responsible for agriculture and fisheries, Squatter Management Unit	Staff time and support from development entities/partners
		3.3.3 Develop and implement monitoring and enforcement plans for each protected area based on evaluations carried out in 3.3.2	Monitoring and enforcement plans developed and implemented	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time
Objective 4: Strengthen communication, increase public education and awareness, and enhance the active involvement of	4.1 Increase public education and awareness and promote stakeholder involvement in the	4.1.1 Employ a variety of materials, strategies and techniques to facilitate the sharing of accurate and relevant	Public education and awareness strategies and programmes developed and implemented	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers	\$30 million

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system	protected areas system	data and information on PAs and PAS			Support: Protected area partners, SDC	
		4.1.2 Conduct research to determine the most effective marketing and outreach strategies to continuously engage the public and communicate the benefits of PAs	Market research conducted and strategies determined and implemented	2-3	Lead: Protected area managers	\$3 million
		4.1.3 Erect informative signs to improve public awareness of the PAs and discourage unwanted activities	Number of signs erected	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: Protected area partners	Government allocation
		4.1.4 Utilise a variety of mechanisms to involve stakeholders including local communities, academic and conservation institutions in protected area planning and management	Multi-stakeholder management, co-management and advisory committees established and operational	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers Support: Protected area partners, MRLG&CD, SDC	Staff time and government allocation (\$20 million)
		4.1.5 Develop and implement legislation for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of	ABS legislation developed	1-5	Lead: MRE Support: NEPA, FD, JNHT, JIPO, Institute	Staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		benefits from their utilisation and associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation)			of Jamaica, Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, Legal Reform Department	
Objective 5: Provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the protected area system	5.1 Identify and mobilise funds from diverse sources and enhance the effective and efficient use of funds for PA management	5.1.1 Develop and implement sustainable finance plans	Number of sustainable finance plans developed and implemented	1-5	Lead: Protected area managers Support: Ministry responsible for finance	Staff time, government allocation and support from development entities/partners
		5.1.2 Identify and generate additional funds for management of the protected areas system from a variety of sources	Level of financial resources mobilised from different sources Number of partnership agreements for sustained financing of protected areas established	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers	Staff time
		5.1.3 NCTFJ will build on its existing initiatives while identifying new sources of private capital	Sources of funding identified and where feasible, actively pursued by the NCTFJ	1-10	Lead: NCTFJ	Staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		5.1.4 NEPA, NFA, JNHT and FD will be provided with dedicated annual budgetary allocations from the Consolidated Fund for protected areas	Increased budgetary allocations for PA management	1-10	Lead: Ministry responsible for finance	Staff time
		5.1.5 Ongoing implementation of REDD+ by the Forestry Department leading to results-based payments	Implementation of the REDD+ Documentation and reports prepared and submitted to international funding mechanisms to secure results-based payments for achieved emissions reductions	1-10	Lead: FD	Staff time
		5.1.6 Develop and implement business plans, including marketing strategies, to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and sustainability of protected areas	Number of business plans developed for PAs and implemented	3-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time and government allocation
		5.1.7 Establish or strengthen user fees for eco-tourism and other	User fees implemented or increased	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners	Staff time

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		activities within protected areas	Fees charged for bioprospecting		Support: Ministries responsible for finance and tourism, TEF, TPDCo	
		5.1.8 Dedicated environmental tax for tourists, applied through the existing tourism tax mechanism, for PA conservation and management	Environmental tax collected	1-10	Lead: Ministry responsible for finance	Staff time
		5.1.9 Development and implementation of a protected areas resource mobilisation strategy	A comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy for protected areas developed and executed The feasibility of the potential sources of financing will be examined in the strategy ¹⁰³	1-5	Lead: Protected area managers, PAC Support: Ministry responsible for finance	Consultant (\$10 million)

¹⁰³ The feasibility of the following potential sources of financing will be examined in the strategy: the tax regime to identify areas for possible waivers/reductions to further incentivise private sector stakeholders; issuance of green and blue bonds, blended finance and blue carbon initiatives – as tools leverage to gain financial resources from the private sector; execute new debt-for-nature swaps as well as other options such as the institution of debt-for-climate; carbon trading to maximize the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas; opportunities for public-private partnerships; and payments for ecosystem services.

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
Objective 6: Integrate scientific research and traditional knowledge to strengthen the establishment, management, and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system	6.1 Utilise scientific research and traditional knowledge for protected area management	6.1.1 Continue to pursue formal agreements for partnerships in research with national and international academic institutions	Number of research partnerships established and executed	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and partners Support: Research and academic institutions	Staff time
		6.1.2 Develop and implement a national research agenda for the protected areas system	Research agenda for PAS developed and implemented	3-5	Lead: PAC Support: Protected area managers	Staff time
		6.1.3 Establish and maintain a unified national database – a comprehensive scientific repository with spatial and graphic data of PAs and details of the status of Jamaica's flora, fauna, and cultural resources within PAs to support informed decision-making and conservation efforts	Catalogue of available datasets and information available for the development of the Protected Areas Database Geospatial technology utilised to accurately map the boundaries of each PA National Protected Areas Database established, including datasets and shapefiles, and accessible to PA	3-10	Lead: Protected area managers, NSDMB Support: NLA, IOJ	Staff time and \$25 million

Objectives	Strategies	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			entities to inform decision-making Database accessible online			
		6.1.4 Promotion of scientific research in protected areas and appropriate framework developed and implemented	Scientific research conducted in PAs Framework developed and implemented	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers and MRE	Staff time and support from development entities /partners
		6.1.5 Incorporate traditional knowledge with free prior and informed consent from the knowledge holder into programmes focused on sharing information about species, sustainable practices, and historical land use	Traditional knowledge incorporated into programmes	1-10	Lead: Protected area managers	Staff time

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The monitoring and evaluation of this Policy will be led by the Ministry with responsibility for the environment, in consultation with the PAC, to ensure its effective implementation.

Table 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 1: Develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system	1.1.1 Legislation and policies developed, revised and strengthened	# of new and/or revised policies and legislation Overarching Protected Areas legislation developed and published in the Jamaica Gazette	Ensure issues related to protected areas are included in policies and legislation (Year 1-10) Overarching Protected Areas legislation developed by year 3	Drafting, Instructions developed, Gazette, Documents	Meetings/Consultations / Records	Sufficient resources (financial, human, and technical) are available to support the development and revision of policies and legislation
	1.1.2 Sector policies relevant to the forestry, tourism, land use, natural resources, culture, planning, housing, agriculture, fisheries and mining sectors reviewed	Sector policies reviewed with recommendations for amendments	Issues related to protected areas are included in sector policies	Policies, documented records of policy reviews	Consultation sessions, Reports	Cooperation and willingness from stakeholders to participate in consultations
	1.1.3 Explore the amendment of legislation related to protected areas to include provisions on conservation easements	Review of existing legislation related to protected areas conducted to identify gaps and opportunities for	Legislation reviewed and recommendations made for legislative	Copies of proposed legislative amendments	Records/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Legal experts are available for consultation and support in developing the amendments

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		incorporating conservation easements	amendments within 1 year			The legislative process allows for the incorporation of new provision
	1.2.1 Implementation of the protected areas system policy and plans monitored	# of annual progress reports prepared	Reports prepared annually	Reports	Observation/ Secondary data	Adequate resources and capacity for monitoring and stakeholder cooperation
	1.2.2 PAC enshrined in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation	PAC enshrined in the Legislation PAC re-established and fully operational	PAC established under the Overarching Protected Areas legislation	Legislation PAC Meeting Reports	Meetings/ Records	Promulgation of Overarching Protected Areas legislation will be undertaken without significant delays or obstacles
	1.2.3 LFMCs' numbers increased and their capacity built to support the management of protected areas	Number of LFMCs formed/appointed and /or capacity built to assist in the management of protected areas over the 10 years	Number of LFMCs formed/appointed and /or capacity built to assist in the management of protected areas	Records, Minutes, Technical and Training Reports	Observation/ Meetings/ Secondary data	Persons are willing and motivated to participate
	1.2.4 Historical and current data and information shared regarding protected areas declared/ designated	Percentage of protected areas with historical and current data available or	Data and information related to protected areas	Documents, Records	Database, Reports	Willingness and commitment among protected area managers to

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		accessible to stakeholders	accessible to stakeholders			collaborate and share information
	1.2.5 A variety of management arrangements utilised in protected area management	Different types of arrangements utilised for the management of protected areas	Different types of management implemented for protected areas by year 5	Management Plans, MOU, TOR, Reports, Meetings, Minutes, Partnership/ Technical Cooperation Agreements	Observation/ Secondary data/Audited Financial Statements/ Registration records with relevant public or private entity	Willingness among stakeholders, including government entities, local communities, NGOs, and private sector entities, to engage in various types of arrangements for the effective management of protected areas
	1.2.6 Capacity assessments conducted periodically to inform the national PAS programme development	# of capacity assessments conducted	Capacity assessment conducted in protected areas at least once every 5 years	Documentation of completed capacity assessments, including reports and records	On-site evaluations/primary data/secondary data	Adequate resources (financial, human and logistical) will be available to conduct the assessments Capacity assessments will lead to actionable recommendations for programme development

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	1.2.7 Increased involvement of NGOs and CBOs in the planning and management of protected areas	At least 2 NGOs and CBOs actively involved in protected area planning and management by year 3 Public sector entities with responsibility for the management of protected areas have pursued delegation of authority/co-management agreements to more NGOs and CBOs to increase their involvement Guidelines created outlining the roles and responsibilities of NGOs/CBOs Training sessions and capacity-building programmes provided for members	Active involvement of NGOs and CBOs increased by year 4	Reports, Records, Minutes, Signed agreements/ Partnership documents	Surveys/ Observation/ Secondary data	Willingness among NGOs and CBOs to actively engage in protected area planning and management Sufficient resources (financial and human) available to support their involvement

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		Best practices and lessons learnt shared between NGOs (for which the Regulator has delegated management authority for protected areas) and CBOs				
	1.2.8 Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) revised	PASMP revised	PASMP revised within 2 years	Revised Document, Records, Reports	Primary data, Secondary data	Adequate funding and resources will be available to support the revision of the PASMP
	1.2.9 Comprehensive strategy created for actively involving and collaborating with the private sector in initiatives related to protected area management	Stakeholder analysis conducted to identify relevant private sector stakeholders Initiatives and partnership arrangements developed with the private sector for the management of protected areas	Private sector participation increased within the first 3 years Engagement Plan developed by year 1	Documents, Records, Reports	Primary data, Secondary data	Private sector entities are willing to participate in initiatives related to protected area management

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 2: Build and sustain a representative, interconnected, and resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes, enhances human well-being, and conserves, protects and preserves Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage	2.1.1 New protected areas declared/ designated for inclusion in the system	# of protected areas and protected area coverage (terrestrial, marine and other important ecological areas) increased	30% of marine and terrestrial areas declared/ designated as PA by 2030	Geographic Information System (GIS) data indicating the extent and boundaries of newly designated areas, Gazette, Records, Reports	Ecological Surveys, GIS data, Groundtruthing, legal documents for the declaration/designation of new protected areas, Consultation Reports	Thorough environmental assessments will be conducted to ensure the ecological importance of the designated areas Legal framework is in place that allows for the declaration/designation of new protected areas.
	2.1.2 Protected areas incorporated into development orders, local sustainable development plans and disaster risk reduction strategies	Protected areas integrated into development orders, local sustainable development plans and disaster risk reduction strategies	Orders, plans and strategies updated to incorporate protected areas by year 10	Official documentation of updated local development plans that include protected areas	Consultations/ Observation/ Secondary Data	Local government authorities are supportive of integrating protected areas into their development plans Relevant data, including GIS data for protected areas, is readily available for planning purposes
	2.1.3 Ecological connectivity between protected areas is established and maintained where it is	Specific locations and pathways for establishing ecological corridors or connectivity	Ecological connectivity corridors established within the	Maps showing connected protected areas, Reports,	Observation/ Primary data/ Secondary Data/ GIS Mapping/ Species Tracking	Adequate funding is available to support the establishment and maintenance of

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	ecologically appropriate and beneficial	zones are determined Regional, national, and sub-national systems of protected areas integrated into broader landscapes and seascapes by establishing and managing ecological networks, corridors, and buffer zones Local and regional collaborations and partnerships continued and/or established	protected area network by year 10 Projects and/or programmes undertaken to identify, maintain and assess the biology within the corridors	MOUs, Meetings		connectivity corridors There are ecologically suitable areas for establishing connectivity corridors

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	2.1.4 Lands that contain cultural assets include an endorsement on the title indicating same and a covenant placed on the title indicating that any development of the land be done in consultation with the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and any other MDA, the Trust deems appropriate	# of titles indicating lands with cultural assets and a restrictive covenant placed on titles	Restrictive covenant included on registered titles for lands with cultural assets	Land Titles, Records	Observation/ Primary Data/ Secondary Data	Effective collaboration between the Commissioner of Lands, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, and other relevant authorities Landowners will comply
	2.1.5 Measurable biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas identified for inclusion in the revision of Jamaica's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	NBSAP revised	NBSAP revised by 2026	Documents, Reports	Workshops/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Effective engagement with stakeholders to assist in the development of national targets Adequate funding and resources will be available

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	2.1.6 Ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) designated by the Government of Jamaica	# of ESAs designated ESAs reflected in the development orders and taken into account by the regulatory authorities in granting development approvals	Number of ESAs increased as necessary and appropriate ESAs incorporated in development orders	Records, Reports	Site assessments/ Stakeholder Consultations/ Development Orders	GOJ remains committed to pursuing the designation of ecologically sensitive areas
	2.1.7 Ongoing inclusion of climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning, management strategies, and the design of the protected areas system	Climate change adaptation measures incorporated	Climate change adaptation measures incorporated in protected areas over the 10 years of the Policy	Management Plans, Reports (including climate resilience assessment reports)	Climate Resilience Assessments/ Observation/ Primary Data/ Secondary Data	Adequate funding and resources will be available
	2.1.8 Risks associated with invasive alien species (IAS) in protected areas reduced	IAS species controlled and/or reduced	IAS management plans for protected areas developed Plans implemented throughout the 10 years	IAS Management Plans, Incident Reports, Other Reports	Reporting System, IAS Database, Records	Adequate resources (financial and human) are available for IAS management

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	2.1.9 National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan and the National Forest Management & Conservation Plan are implemented	Plans implemented	Plan implemented by year 10	Plans, Reports, Records	Remote sensing and GIS data/ Reports	Sufficient funding for implementation
	2.2.1 Parish DRM Plans reviewed to ensure nature-based solutions are taken into account	Number of parish-level Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans reviewed to ensure integration of nature-based solutions	Parish DRM plans reviewed and assessed by year 10	Reports, Minutes	Plans, Reports	Availability of resources, including personnel and time, to conduct the reviews
	2.2.2 Capacity building efforts undertaken to include training at the local and community levels	Number of Training Sessions Conducted Number of Participants Trained	Training session conducted annually at the local and community levels	Records, Reports	Observation/ Records/ Secondary Data	Willingness and participation of the local and community members in training activities
	2.2.3 Disaster risk reduction strategies integrated into protected areas	Number of protected areas with disaster risk reduction plans implemented	Disaster risk reduction plans developed and implemented in protected areas by year 10	Records, Reports	Field assessments/ Surveys/ Reports	Adequate funding and resources are allocated for the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction plans

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 3: Enhance the effectiveness of protected areas management and conservation	3.1.1 Management plans prepared and implemented to include ecosystem restoration activities (inclusive of buffer zones) and <i>in situ</i> conservation of genetic resources	# of management plans prepared and implemented	Management plans prepared and implemented by year 10	Documents, Records, Reports	Field surveys/ Observation/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Access to expertise in ecology, restoration, and genetic resource management Adequate funding for the development, revision, and implementation of management plans and restoration activities
	3.1.2 Management effectiveness evaluations conducted for PAs	Management effectiveness evaluations conducted	Effectiveness of management practices assessed using tools such as the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for Protected Areas	Records, Reports, METT Score Cards	Surveys/ Field Assessments, METT Score Reports	Access to experts in conservation management for conducting evaluations
	3.2.1 Assess the status of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species	Species status assessed	Conservation status of species determined based on IUCN Red List	Habitat assessment, Threat Assessment (where relevant), IUCN Red List	Field Surveys/ Camera Traps/ Records	Historical and current data on species populations and habitat conditions are available

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			categories by year 4 Improve the health and integrity of critical habitats by year 7 Implement measures to mitigate key threats to these species within 7 years			Adequate funding for surveys, assessments, and conservation efforts
	3.2.2 Management strategies developed and implemented for the effective conservation of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species, where required	Management strategies developed and implemented	Management strategies developed and implemented by year 5	Documents, Records	Surveys/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Cooperation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders
	3.3.1 Monitoring activities increased in protected areas	Increased monitoring of protected areas	Patrol frequency increased	Records (including patrol records), Incident reports	Observations/ Reports	Sufficient personnel and equipment for increased patrols
	3.3.2 Current monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated, gaps and areas for improvement as well as new methods for	Current monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated, gaps and areas for improvement	Monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated by year 2	Reports	Surveys/ Observations/ Secondary data	Availability of personnel, and technology for assessment and implementation

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	surveillance and enforcement, identified and implemented	identified and new methods included	Gaps and areas for improvement identified by year 2 New strategies included by year 5			
	3.3.3 Monitoring and enforcement plans developed and implemented for each protected area based on the outcomes of the evaluations carried out	Monitoring and enforcement plans developed and implemented	Monitoring and enforcement plans developed by year 3 and implemented throughout the remaining 7 years	Records, Reports	Documentation/ Reports	Availability of sufficient resources, including personnel and equipment, for plan development and implementation
Objective 4: Strengthen communication, increase public education and awareness, and enhance the active involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system	4.1.1 Strategies, programmes and techniques developed and implemented to facilitate the sharing of accurate and relevant data and information on PAs and PAS	Public education and awareness strategies and programmes developed and implemented Public awareness about the protected areas system increased	Public awareness about protected areas increased system by year 4 Conduct a minimum of 2 programmes annually	Surveys, records, Media Tracking	Reports/Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Survey / Other Surveys	Availability of resources for organising educational programmes and media campaigns
	4.1.2 Market research conducted	Market research conducted to determine the most	Market research completed	Records, Reports	Surveys/ Focus Groups/ Primary data	Availability of funding and

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		effective marketing and outreach strategies	within 6 months Stakeholders engaged during the market research process			personnel for market research
	4.1.3 A variety of mechanisms and programmes utilised to facilitate the involvement of stakeholders including local communities taking into consideration youth and gender equity	Multi-stakeholder management, co-management and advisory committees established and operational Stakeholder participation in protected area management increased # of co-management or similar agreements in place	Stakeholder participation in protected area management increased within 3 years Increased youth participation Increased gender equity in protected areas management	Gender Assessment (to ensure gender equity), Records (including participation records), Co-management Agreements	Meeting Attendance/ Surveys/ Reports/ Observation	Youth are interested in participating in protected area initiatives Active engagement and interest from local communities
	4.1.4 Legislation developed and implemented for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilisation and	Legislation developed for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits	Drafting instructions completed by year 2 for the ABS legislation	Reports, Records, Drafting Instructions, Consultation Reports	Documentation/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Active interest and engagement from relevant stakeholders Availability of human resources

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation)		ABS legislation developed by year 5			for the drafting of the ABS Bill
Objective 5: Provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the protected area system	5.1.1 Sustainable finance plans developed and implemented	# of sustainable finance plans developed and implemented	Sustainable finance plans developed by year 5 Planned strategies within finance plans successfully implemented	Documents/ Reports/ Plans	Documentation/ Primary data/ Secondary Data	Availability of resources (personnel and tools) for plan development and implementation
	5.1.2 Additional funds identified and generated for the management of the protected areas system from a variety of sources	# of financial resources mobilised from different sources Partnership agreements for sustained financing of PAs enacted	Additional funds generated for the management of protected areas by year 5	Financial Records, MOU, Reports	Documentation/ Reporting	There are additional funding opportunities available
	5.1.3 NCTFJ has built on its existing initiatives while identifying new sources of private capital	Increased contributions to the NCTFJ	NCTFJ has identified at least 2 new funding sources	Financial Records, Reports	Documentation/ Reporting	There are available sources for contributions

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	5.1.4 NEPA, NFA, JNHT and FD receive dedicated government budgetary allocations for the management of protected areas through the Consolidated Fund	Increased budgetary allocations	Amount received for protected areas management increased	Budget, Records, Reports	Documentation/ Reporting	Protected area managers will receive increased funding
	5.1.5 REDD+ implemented by the Forestry Department leading to results-based payments	REDD+ implemented Documentation and reports prepared and submitted to international funding mechanisms or donors to secure results-based payments for achieved emissions reductions	REDD+ is implemented	Records, Reports	Progress Tracking/ Reporting	REDD+ activities are implemented effectively, leading to results-based payments
	5.1.6 Business plans prepared, implemented and promoted	# of business plans developed for protected areas and implemented Increased revenue as a result of implementing business plans	At least 3 business plans developed for protected areas by year 6 Increase revenue generated within 2 years of	Business Plans, Documents, Reports	Primary data/ Secondary data	Access to expertise in business planning and financial management

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			implementing business plans			
	5.1.7 Protected areas resource mobilisation strategy developed and implemented	A comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy for protected areas created and executed ¹⁰⁴	Resource mobilisation strategy completed and executed within 5 years Areas for possible tax waivers or reductions identified within 2 years Feasibility studies completed for green and blue bonds, debt-for-climate/nature swaps, and carbon trading within 2 years	Documents, Reports	Documentation Review/ Reporting/ Secondary data	Availability of human and financial resources for strategy development and execution

¹⁰⁴ These include: the tax regime to identify areas for possible waivers/reductions to further incentivise private sector stakeholders; issuance of green and blue bonds, blended finance and blue carbon initiatives – as tools leverage to gain financial resources from the private sector; execute new debt-for-nature swaps as well as other options such as the institution of debt-for-climate; carbon trading to maximize the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas; opportunities for public-private partnerships; and payments for ecosystem services.

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			Opportunities for public-private partnerships identified			
Objective 6: Integrate scientific research and traditional knowledge to strengthen the establishment, management, and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system	6.1.1 Formal agreements for partnerships in research established with academic institutions	Partnerships for research established	Scope and scale of research collaborations expanded when compared to the previous year	Formal Agreements, Research Collaboration Reports	Documents/ Records/ Secondary Data	Academic institutions are interested in and available for research partnerships There is alignment between the goals and interests of the PA management entities and academic institutions
	6.1.2 A national research agenda for the protected areas system is developed and implemented	Research agenda developed and implemented	Comprehensive national research agenda that addresses major research priorities is developed within 2 years	Research Agenda Document, Reports	Primary data/ Secondary data	Stakeholders, including experts and institutions, will actively participate in the development of the research agenda

Objectives	Expected Results	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	6.1.3 A national database for protected areas is developed and maintained	Scientific database developed and operationalised	Establishment of the protected area database completed by year 7 Database is accessible online by year 10 Database used to inform decision-making processes	Documents, Database, Records, Reports	Observation/ GIS Mapping/ Surveys/ Groundtruthing/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Availability of resources, including GIS technology and skilled personnel Sufficient data on flora, fauna, and cultural resources is available or can be collected
	6.1.4 Scientific research promoted in protected areas and appropriate framework developed and implemented	Framework developed and implemented Scientific research projects conducted within protected areas	Scientific research framework implemented by year 10 Scientific research projects are conducted in PAs by year 10	Records, Documents, Research Publications	Primary data/ Secondary data	Availability of funding to support scientific research projects Research findings and data will be shared for informed decision-making

6. RISK MATRIX

The potential risks associated with the implementation of elements of the policy and recommended mitigation measures are highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6: Potential Risks Associated with the Development and Implementation of the Policy

Risks	Impact	Probability	Risk Score	Risk Response
Inadequate policy and legal instruments	Potential impact on the effective management of the protected areas system	Medium	High	Engagement of Ministries responsible for protected areas and other sectors in support of protected area policies and legislation
Lack of coordination among key stakeholders	Delays in decision-making and implementation due to conflicting priorities and unclear responsibilities among stakeholders	Medium	High	Strengthen communication channels among relevant MDAs, NGOs and community organisations. Regular meetings and reporting mechanisms to enhance accountability and transparency.
Lack of proactive engagement	Low stakeholder participation Delays in decision-making	Medium	Medium	Engage stakeholders early in planning and decision-making processes. Regular consultations and feedback mechanisms

Risks	Impact	Probability	Risk Score	Risk Response
Inadequate support and participation by PAC members in the implementation of the protected areas system policy and plans	Implementation of policy and plans may not be integrated, effective and timely	Medium	Medium	Engagement of PAC members at a high level to solicit active involvement and support in policy implementation Inclusion of actions in entities' operational plans
Inadequate funds to support the full and effective implementation of the protected areas policy	Policy implementation may not be adequate and effective management of the system may be negatively impacted	High	High	Leveraging of additional funds to support protected areas Identification of priority activities for protected area policy implementation
Inadequate mainstreaming of protected areas considerations in key economic and social sector policies as well as relevant policies not harmonised	Conflicting policies negatively impact the effective management of protected areas	Medium	High	Engage leadership, including Ministers, directly responsible for key economic and social sectors to facilitate the integration of protected areas in policies
Inadequate protection of marine, inland waters and terrestrial ecosystems	Potential degradation and loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage	Medium	High	Engagement of stakeholders in support of proposals for protected area declaration and in the management of protected areas
Insufficient awareness and education regarding the values and benefits of protected areas	Inadequate support for protected areas and degradation and destruction of resources within them	Medium	Medium	Enhance awareness and education programmes, targeting audiences including local communities and resource users

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APPENDIX I
PROTECTED AREAS DECLARED UNDER THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY ACT (NRCA), BEACH CONTROL ACT (BCA) AND WILD LIFE PROTECTION
ACTS (WLPA)

PROTECTED AREA	DECLARATION DATE	ACT	Location	Size (km²)
Montego Bay Marine Park	June 5, 1992	NRCA	St. James	14.32
Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park	February 26, 1993	NRCA	St. Andrew/ St. Mary/ Portland/ St. Thomas	411.74
Black River Protected Area	December 27, 2021	NRCA	St. Elizabeth	204.82
Cockpit Country Protected Area	March 18, 2022	NRCA	St. James/ Trelawny/ St. Ann/ St. Elizabeth/ Manchester	780.24
Negril Environmental Protection Area	November 28, 1997	NRCA	Hanover/ Westmoreland	406.70
Negril Marine Park	March 4, 1998	NRCA	Hanover/ Westmoreland	185.39
Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area	September 18, 1998	NRCA	Kingston	86.43
Coral Spring – Mountain Spring Protected Area	September 18, 1998	NRCA	Trelawny	1.58
Pedro Cays Protected Area	May 17, 2023	NRCA	Kingston	880.54
Portland Bight Protected Area	April 22, 1999	NRCA	Clarendon/ St. Catherine	1973.24
Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area	August 16, 1999	NRCA	St. Ann/ St. Mary	133.18
Mason River Protected Area	November 14, 2002	NRCA	St. Ann/ Clarendon	0.88
Ocho Rios Protected Area	April 7, 1966	BCA	St. Ann	2.14
Port Royal Protected Area	May 8, 1967	BCA	Kingston	
Bogue Lagoon Creek Game Reserve, Montego Bay, St. James	December 12, 1963	WLPA	St. James	7.99

PROTECTED AREA	DECLARATION DATE	ACT	Location	Size (km²)
Kingston and St. Andrew Game Reserve	April 15, 1971	WLPA	Kingston/ St. Andrew	~142.05
Knapdale Game Reserve, St. Ann	January 1963	WLPA	St. Ann	
Reigate Game Reserve, Manchester	June 6, 1968	WLPA	Manchester	0.07
Stanmore Hill Game Reserve, St. Elizabeth	July 19, 1988	WLPA	St. Elizabeth	0.84
Alligator Pond, Gut River and Canoe Valley Game Reserve, Manchester/Clarendon	August 22, 1997	WLPA	Manchester/ Clarendon	16.81
Amity Hall Game Reserve, St. Catherine	August 22, 1997, amended July 28, 2004	WLPA	St. Catherine	20.51
Bogue Lagoon Creek Game Reserve, Montego Bay, St. James	August 22, 1997	WLPA	St. James	7.99
Glistening Waters Game Reserve, Falmouth, Trelawny	August 22, 1997	WLPA	Trelawny	3.18
The Great Morass Game Reserve, Holland Bay, St. Thomas	August 22, 1997, amended July 28, 2004	WLPA	St. Thomas	29.42
The Black River Lower Morass Game Reserve, Black River, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997, amended in 1998	WLPA	St. Elizabeth	77.14
Great Morass Game Reserve, Negril, Westmoreland/Hanover	August 22, 1997	WLPA	Hanover	43.63
The Great Morass Parottee Game Reserve, Parottee, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997	WLPA	St. Elizabeth	13.33
The Black River Upper Morass Game Reserve, Black River, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997	WLPA	St. Elizabeth	31.50
Cabarita Point Game Reserve, St. Catherine	August 21, 1998	WLPA	St. Catherine	3.42

PROTECTED AREA	DECLARATION DATE	ACT	Location	Size (km²)
Long Island Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998	WLPA	Clarendon	14.88
Mason River Savanna Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998	WLPA	Clarendon	0.88
West Harbour-Peake Bay, Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998, amended in 1999 and July 28, 2004	WLPA	Clarendon	29.95
Portmore and Greater Portmore Game Reserve, St. Catherine	July 28, 2004	WLPA	St. Catherine	24.58
Fairy Hill-Port Antonio Game Reserve, Portland	July 28, 2004	WLPA	Portland	35.9

Source: National Environment & Planning Agency, 2023

APPENDIX II

Treaties and Agreements Related to Natural and Cultural Heritage

Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992

The three main goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are: (i) the conservation of biodiversity; (ii) sustainable use of the components of biodiversity; and (iii) sharing the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilisation of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. The agreement covers all ecosystems, species, and genetic resources. It links traditional conservation efforts to the economic goal of using biological resources sustainably. The CBD is legally binding; countries that join it are obliged to implement its provisions. The CBD is the most important international legal instrument addressing protected areas.¹⁰⁵ Jamaica deposited its instrument of ratification on 6 January 1995, effective on 6 April 1995.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), 1971

This intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:

- work towards the wise use of all their wetlands
- designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management
- cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species¹⁰⁶

Jamaica became a Party to the Convention on 7 February 1998. Four Ramsar sites have been designated.

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/protected/pacbd/default.shtml>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.ramsar.org/about/the-ramsar-convention-and-its-mission>

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), (UNESCO) 1972

This agreement is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind. The convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. The convention sets out the duties of Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage.

Jamaica deposited its instrument of acceptance of this treaty on 14 June 1983.

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2001

This convention is intended to enable States to better protect their submerged cultural heritage.

The convention

- sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage
- provides a detailed State cooperation system
- provides widely recognised practical rules for the treatment and research of underwater cultural heritage¹⁰⁷

Jamaica ratified the Convention on 9 August 2011.

Other international treaties of relevance to the protection of the environment and biodiversity are:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, 1973

The aim of this agreement is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Jamaica acceded to the Convention on 22 July 1997.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/2001-convention/>

¹⁰⁸ <https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 1994

Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. “Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found”¹⁰⁹. In the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework that was adopted in 2017 (ICCD/COP (13)/21/Add.1), Parties to the convention specified their vision: “A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention”¹¹⁰. Jamaica became a Party to the Convention on 10 March 1998.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992

The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system.” It states that “such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”¹¹¹ In the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, the COP encouraged developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+). The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 “operationalised” the convention. It committed industrialised countries to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions based on the principles of the convention over the five-year period 2008 to 2012 (the first commitment period). The convention itself only *encourages* countries to do so. For the next commitment, negotiations have been underway to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of

¹⁰⁹ <https://www2.unccd.int/convention/about-convention>

¹¹⁰ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-02/cop21add1_SF_EN.pdf

¹¹¹ http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/6036.php

keeping global warming below 2°C. Jamaica became a Party to the convention on 6 January 2005, and to the Protocol on 16 February 2005.

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay, 1982

Among the main features of the convention are provisions related to limits of maritime zones, legal status of resources on the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, rights of passage and navigation, conservation and management of marine living resources, protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine scientific research and a binding procedure for settlement of disputes between states¹¹². The convention requires all States to protect and preserve the marine environment, including rare or fragile ecosystems and the habitat of endangered species. They are also required to take all measures consistent with the convention to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the oceans. Jamaica ratified the convention on 21 March 1983¹¹³

The Forest Principles were agreed upon at the Rio Summit in 1992. Matters related to forestry are mainly addressed by the **UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)**, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, established in October 2000 to promote “... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...” The Forum agreed on four shared Global Objectives on Forests (GOF) for significant progress by 2015, namely, to reverse forest loss through sustainable forest management; enhance forest-based benefits including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people; increase sustainably managed forests, including protected forests; and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests. The UNFF, which is part of the International Arrangement on Forests, has resolved to strengthen and extend the Arrangement until 2030, with a mid-term review in 2024 and a final review in 2030. The UNFF also agreed to extend to 2030, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests which was renamed as the **United Nations Forest Instrument** in January 2016 and also the timeline of the GOF, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹¹⁴

¹¹² [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_historical_perspective.htm#Key provisions](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_historical_perspective.htm#Key%20provisions)

¹¹³ http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/pamphlet_unclos_at_30.pdf

¹¹⁴ <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>

At the regional level, Jamaica is a party to the:

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, 1983 (Cartagena Convention)

The Cartagena Convention is a comprehensive agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region and also provides the legal framework for cooperative regional and national actions in the Region. The convention covers various aspects of marine pollution for which the Contracting Parties must adopt measures aimed at preventing, reducing and controlling pollution from ships, dumping, land-based sources and activities, sea-bed activities and also from air-borne pollution. In addition, the Parties are required to take measures to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems, habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species; and to develop technical and other guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects in order to prevent or reduce harmful impacts within the Region.

The convention supports other related UNEP-administered global conventions and agreements such as the CBD, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, chemicals conventions as well as those of the International Maritime Organization. Jamaica acceded to the Convention and its Oil Spills Protocol in April 1987, and the Protocol on Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution, 2010, in 2015.

The third of the Protocols to the Convention is the **Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)**¹¹⁵, to which Jamaica is not yet a party. Adopted in Kingston, Jamaica by the member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) on 18 January 1990, the SPAW Protocol preceded other international environmental agreements in utilising an ecosystem approach to conservation. The protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global CBD.¹¹⁶ The Protocol requires Parties to “take the necessary measures to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable way:

- a) areas that require protection to safeguard their special value; and

¹¹⁵ The SPAW Protocol to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, 1989 (Cartagena Convention)

¹¹⁶ <http://www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention/spaw-protocol/overview-of-the-spaw-protocol>

b) threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.”

The protocol recognises that “the establishment and management of such protected areas, and the protection of threatened and endangered species will enhance the cultural heritage and values of the countries and territories in the Wider Caribbean Region and bring increased economic and ecological benefits to them...”¹¹⁷

SAMOA Pathway

Among the targets of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action is to conserve by 2020 at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas in SIDS, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and for ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in the marine environment.

The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, 17 global goals were agreed upon for the achievement of sustainable development by 2030, following the Millennium Development Goals. Among the goals include ending extreme poverty, combating climate change, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. Among the goals are specific references to protecting natural and cultural heritage.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets

- Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
- Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- Increase resilience / reduce risks of communities impacted by disasters

¹¹⁷ <http://www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention/spaw-protocol/overview-of-the-spaw-protocol>

- Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and waste management
- Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces
- Commitment to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas
- Commitment to increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters
- Commitment to support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets

- Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds
- Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems
- Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification
- Regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices
- Conserve at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas
- Prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing,
- Increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources
- Commitment to increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity
- Commitment to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- Commitment to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets

- Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services
- Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil
- Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity
- Reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources
- End poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- Commitment to mobilise and increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- Commitment to mobilise significant resources to finance sustainable forest management
- Commitment to enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species.

Sendai Framework

In 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan. Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework, Jamaica has continued to develop a contemporary, functional and evolving disaster management and mitigation infrastructure to fulfil its commitments as a signatory to the framework. The framework aims to:

- “Protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;
- Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks”;

APPENDIX III
Some Proposed Legislative Amendments

LEGISLATION	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act	1. Amend the Act to include types of protected areas <i>Amend the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act section 5(1) (b) to incorporate new categories such as strict nature reserve and protected landscape/seascape</i>
Forest Act, 1996	1. Delete sections 23 <i>To date, no area has been declared as a protected area under the Forest Act and this amendment can be done by merely repealing section 23 of the Forest Act.</i> 2. Remove all references to “protected areas” in the Forest Act
Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations, 1993 and the Marine Parks Regulations, 1992	Regulation 34 of the Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations, 1993 and the 1992 Marine Parks Regulations will be amended to remove the Council and Marine Advisory Board, respectively. The matters which are to be dealt with by the Council and the Board will be placed under PAC with sub-committees to deal with these matters.
Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, 1985	The JNHT has proposed the following amendments to: 1. section 4(1)(a) - to protect and promote the preservation of anything declared or designated national monuments, protected national heritage, historic districts, sites of memory, sites of interest, cultural objects, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and cultural property or any other protection granted for the benefit of the island; 2. section 4(1)(b) - to conduct such research as it thinks necessary or desirable for the purposes of the performance of its functions under this Act; 3. section 4(1)(c) - to carry out and/ or approve or authorise such development or other activities as it considers necessary for the preservation of any national monument, or anything designated as protected national heritage or any other category of protection under the Act; and 4. section 4(1)(d) - to identify, record and research any species of botanical or animal life, natural heritage or formations, and any other tangible cultural heritage associated with a national monument, protected national heritage, site of interest or historic district for protection.

APPENDIX IV

Types of Protected Areas in the Protected Areas System

1. Strict Nature Reserve – *Equivalent to IUCN Category Ia – Strict Nature Reserve*

Strictly protected areas established to protect biodiversity and preserve natural features where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values. Such protected areas can serve as indispensable reference areas for scientific research and monitoring. Extractive activities would not be allowed.

Nature reserves can be established in either terrestrial or marine environments.

Primary Objective: Strict protection of regionally, nationally or globally significant ecosystems including species.

Relevant legislation: New category - this could possibly be included in an amended Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act or new law under NRCA/NEPA's mandate.

2. Forest Reserve – *Equivalent to IUCN Category Ia – Strict Nature Reserve*

Areas managed to conserve the remaining natural forests and biodiversity while providing opportunities for highly regulated eco-tourism and recreational activities, and scientific research.

Forest Reserves may only be used for the following purposes:

- Conservation of natural forests and biodiversity;
- Use for highly regulated eco-tourism and recreational activities; and
- Scientific research including sustainable management of forest resources.

Primary Objective: Protection of natural forests.

Relevant legislation: The definition under the Forest Act (1996) would have to be amended.

3. National Park – *Equivalent to IUCN Category II – National Park*

Large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale landscapes/seascapes and their ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible, spiritual,

scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities. Extractive activities would not be allowed.

Primary Objective: Protection of natural biodiversity (species and ecosystems) along with associated ecological structure, environmental processes and cultural values and provide for carefully managed educational and recreational activities.

Relevant legislation: NRCA Act, 1991, Section 5

4. Marine Park – *Equivalent to IUCN Category II – National Park*

All marine flora and fauna, their marine habitats and the water column are protected from human use, including dredging, development and polluting discharge and where limited, strictly identified and regulated fishing may be permitted. Extractive activities would not be allowed.

Primary Objective: To protect natural biodiversity (species and ecosystems) along with associated ecological structure, environmental processes and cultural values and provide for carefully managed educational and recreational activities.

Relevant legislation: NRCA Act, 1991, Section 5

5. National Monument – No IUCN equivalent

Any building, structure, object or, other "work of man or of nature or any part or remains thereof whether above or below the surface of the land or the floor of the sea within" the territorial waters of the Island or within an area declared in an order made, under subsection (2) to be within the maritime resource jurisdiction of the Island.

6. National Monument (natural site) – *IUCN Equivalent Category III – Natural Monument*

Any site, cave or excavation, or any part or remains thereof, declared by the Trust to be a national monument”.

Area set aside to protect a specific natural monument, which can be a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature such as a cave or even a living feature such as an ancient grove. They are generally quite small, protected areas and often have high visitor value.

Primary Objective: Protection of specific natural or cultural features or items.

Relevant legislation: Section 12 - Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) Act

7. Protected National Heritage – No IUCN equivalent

8. Protected National Heritage (natural site) – *Equivalent to IUCN Category III – Natural Monument*

Any place name, thing or any species of animal or plant life, or any place or object which has not been declared a national monument.

Primary Objective: Protection of the tangible cultural heritage and associated natural heritage of relatively large properties.

Relevant legislation: Section 13- JNHT Act

9. Fish Sanctuary – *Equivalent to IUCN Category IV – Habitat/Species Management Area*

Areas that aim to protect particular species or habitats and management reflect this priority. Many Category IV protected areas will need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category.

Primary Objective: Conservation of fishery and habitats.

Relevant legislation: Fish sanctuaries are declared under section 17 of the Fisheries Act, 2018.

10. Wildlife Reserve (formerly Game Reserve) – *Equivalent to IUCN Category IV – Habitat/Species Management Area*

Created on Crown land or on private land, wildlife reserves protect fauna (any bird or animal) by prohibiting hunting, the taking of nests or eggs and any form of habitat disturbance.

Primary Objective: Protection of specific wildlife (fauna) and their habitat and restore populations.

Relevant legislation: Section 3 of the Wild Life Protection Act

The category of game reserve will be amended to incorporate the provisions related to wildlife reserve (i.e., it will relate to both privately and publicly owned lands). The term game sanctuary of the Wild Life Protection Act (Section 5) will no longer be used.

11. Protected Landscape/Seascape – *Equivalent to IUCN Category V – Protected Landscape/Seascape*

An area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant, ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value: and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values.

Primary Objective: To protect and sustain important landscapes and seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices.

Relevant legislation: New category – possibly the NRCA Act as amended or new law/regulations under the NRCA/NEPA

12. Managed Resource Protected Area - *IUCN equivalent – Category VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources*

A large area in its natural state which is also under direct use for sustainable natural resource management and low-level non-industrial purposes compatible with biodiversity conservation

Primary Objective: To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.

Relevant legislation: NRCA Act and its Protected Areas Regulations

13. Forest Management Area - *IUCN equivalent – Category VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources*

Primary Objective: To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.

Relevant legislation: Forest Act, 1996 (definition to be amended according to the proposed Forest Policy)

14. Fishery Management Areas/Zones and Aquaculture Management Areas/Zones - *IUCN equivalent – Category IV – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources*

Primary Objective: To conserve and restore critical fish habitats and species populations through active fisheries and aquaculture management measures, while enabling sustainable use of the resource.

Relevant legislation: Fisheries Act

PROTECTED AREA SELECTION CRITERIA

Ecological Considerations:

- *Representativeness* - the degree to which an area is representative of a habitat type, ecological process, biological community, physiographic feature, or other natural characteristics.
- *Diversity* - the extent to which an area under consideration is significant for the variety and number of life forms and communities that occur within the specified habitat type or within the biogeographic region.
- *Ecological Importance* - the degree to which an area contributes to maintenance of particular species, species groups, and essential ecological processes. These areas include critical habitats, such as breeding or juvenile areas, feeding, and rest areas.
- *Ecological Sensitivity* - the degree to which an area contains habitats for endangered, threatened, rare, or sensitive species or biological assemblages.
- *Uniqueness* - the degree to which an area contains rare or unique species, habitats, or features.
- *Naturalness* - the extent to which an area has been protected from or has not been subjected to human-induced change.
- *Integrity* - the extent to which an area encompasses a complete system or is an effective self-sustaining ecological entity.

- *Biological Productivity* - the degree of primary and/or secondary production within an area that benefits species or humans.

Economic Considerations:

- *Importance to commercially valuable Species* - the degree to which commercially valuable species depend on the area (especially for settlement and nursery) and form the basis of a resource for humans.
- *Importance for Tourism and Recreation* - the potential of an area (or parts of it) to be appreciated by tourists and others.

Social Considerations:

- *Value to Research and Monitoring* - the degree to which an area exhibits significant opportunities for implementing long-term research and monitoring programmes.
- *Value to Education on and Interpretation of the Ecosystems* - the degree to which an area under consideration provides an opportunity to demonstrate and interpret the importance of the particular ecosystems, habitats and species to enhance understanding, appreciation and sustainable use of the environment.
- *Historical, Archaeological, or Cultural Value* - the area under consideration contains features that are of special historical, cultural, and archaeological significance. The area could also be important for the traditional subsistence or cultural uses of Indigenous human communities.
- *Importance to Conflict Resolution*- the degree to which an area may help to resolve conflicts between natural resource values and human activities.

(Adapted from: Salm and Clark, 2000; Brody, 1998; Roberts et al, 2003).

APPENDIX V
Declared Fish Sanctuaries in Jamaica

	Names of Declared Fish Sanctuaries	Regions/Parishes	Year Declared	Managed by	Approximate sizes (Ha)
1	Three Bays Fish Sanctuary	Hellshire, St. Catherine	July 28, 2009	C_CAM Foundation	1261.3
2	Galleon Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Old Harbour, St Catherine	July 28, 2009	C-CAM Foundation	1872.7
3	Salt Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Salt River, Clarendon	July 28, 2009	C-CAM Foundation	1022.1
4	Galleon St. Elizabeth Fish Sanctuary	Crawford, St Elizabeth	July 28, 2009	The Breds Foundation	260.6
5	Sandals Whitehouse Fish Sanctuary	Whitehouse Westmoreland	May 2012	Sandals Foundation	294
6	Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary	Belmont, Westmoreland	July 28, 2009	Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society (BBFFS)	1359.409
7	Orange Bay Fish Sanctuary	Orange Bay, Hanover	July 28, 2009	Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust	535.514
8	Montego Point Fish Sanctuary	Montego Bay, St James.	July 31, 2009	Montego Bay Marine Park Trust (MBMPT)	302.796
9	Discovery Bay Fish Sanctuary	Discovery Bay, St Ann	July 28, 2009	Alloa Fisherman's Cooperative	168.385
10	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary	Boscobel, St Mary	Feb. 23, 2010	Sandals Foundation	99.115
11	Sandals Boscobel East Fish Sanctuary	Boscobel, St Mary July 15, 2016	July 15, 2016	Sandals Foundation	18.7
12	Sandals Boscobel West Fish Sanctuary	Boscobel, St Mary July 15, 2016	July 15, 2016	Sandals Foundation	21
13	Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary	Oracabessa Bay, St Mary	Feb.23, 2010	Oracabessa Bay Foundation/ Oracabessa Bay Fishermen's Group	83.7
14	Port Morant Harbour (Bowden) Fish Sanctuary	Bowden, St Thomas	May 13, 1986	National Fisheries Authority	455

15	Bogue Islands Lagoon Fish Sanctuary	Bogue, St. James	July 25, 1979	(MBMPT)	450
16	East Portland Fish Sanctuary	Turtle Crawl	July 15, 2016	Alligator Head Foundation	538
17	Bird Cay	Pedro Banks (Offshore)	May 2012	C-CAM Foundation	1515
18	White River Fish Sanctuary	White River Ocho Rios St Ann	2017	White River Marine Foundation	150
19	Lucea Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Lucea, Hanover	2024	Grand Palladium Hotel and Lucea Fishers in partnership	341
20	Grange Pen Fish Sanctuary	Lilliput, St James	2024	Iberostar Hotel and Grange Pen Fishers in partnership	147
Total (Using Google Earth)					11020.719 (ha)
1	Salt Marsh	Trelawny	Habitat Assessment Completed	TBD	TBD
2	Alligator Pond	Alligator Pond Manchester	Habitat Assessment Completed	TBD	TBD
3	Folly	Folly, St Thomas	Habitat Assessment to be conducted	TBD	TBD
4	Pedro Cays	Pedro Bank	Habitat Assessment to be conducted	TBD	TBD

Source: National Fisheries Authority, 2026

APPENDIX VI

Declared Forest Reserves (FRs) and Forest Management Areas (FMAs) in Jamaica

Forest Reserves/ Forest Management Areas	Gazetted/ Declaration Date	Act	Location (Parish)	Area (Square Kilometre)
Allsides	1962-06-28	The Forest Law	Trelawny	0.640277
Amity Mountain	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Westmoreland	0.348200
Armada	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. Ann	0.291380
Ballintoy	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. Ann	8.150546
Baron Hill	1968-10-24	The Forest Law	Trelawny	1.497369
Belfont	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. James	0.627276
Belfont 2	2025-04-14	The Forest Act	St. James	1.105090
Belmont	1964-02-04	The Forest Law	Trelawny	0.370574
Blenheim	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Hanover	0.205737
Blue Mountain	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Portland/St Thomas/St Andrew/ St Mary	419.392958
Blue Mountain 2	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	St. Thomas	1.335100
Bog	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	0.119618
Bogue	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	1.119838
Bogue 2	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	St Ann	4.746970
Bottom Hampden	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	1.187905
Bowden Pen	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	St Thomas	1.858000
Bull Head	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	2.200526
Burnt Ground	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	1.226900
Burnt Savannah	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	0.392554
Cacoon Castle	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	2.143667
Caenwood	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.512925
Cambridge Back Lands	1959-03-26	The Forest Law	Portland	4.300478
Camelot Village	2025-09-19	The Forest Act	St. Ann	0.365249
Camp Savannah	1971-05-06	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	0.190206
Cedar Valley	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	2.428110
Chatsworth	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. James	3.747471
Chepstowe	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Portland	1.497369
Chesterfield	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St. James	0.059133
Chesterfield 2	1971-05-06	The Forest Law	St Thomas	1.966815
Citron Valley	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St Thomas	0.049737
Cockpit Country	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny/St. James	223.269931
Cockpit Country (Peru Mountain Addition)	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Trelawny	2.697676
Cocoa Walk 1	2025-09-23	The Forest Act	St Catherine	0.271145
Cocoa Walk 2	2025-09-23	The Forest Act	St. Thomas	0.563040
Content 2	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Hanover	0.562943
Cooks Bottom	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	1.974909

Forest Reserves/ Forest Management Areas	Gazetted/ Declaration Date	Act	Location (Parish)	Area (Square Kilometre)
Dallas Mountain (Elleston Run)	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Andrew	0.607042
Deans Valley	1954-12-02	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	4.451639
Denham Farm	1956-09-27	The Forest Law	Manchester	0.228098
Discovery	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	1.489276
Dolphin Head	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Hanover/Westmoreland	2.288547
Dover	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland/St Mary	0.252934
Dromily	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	0.578308
Ecclesdown	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Portland	0.360305
Equity and York	2025-09-22	The Forest Act	St. James	0.577170
Fellowship	1961-01-13	The Forest Law	Portland	0.198700
Fergis Ramsay	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	1.201943
Fern Hill	2025-05-08	The Forest Act	Manchester	0.063314
Fishbrook	2014-05-06	The Forest Act	Portland	2.699500
Flamstead	1963-04-18	The Forest Law	St Andrew	0.250169
Forest Mountain	1967-04-13	The Forest Law	Trelawny	1.346378
Fort George	1959-06-25	The Forest Law	St Mary	5.552588
Fort Stewart	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.715459
Fort Stewart	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.066046
Fyffe & Rankine	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. James	9.663092
Garlands	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St. James	1.389731
Geneva Mountain	1961-11-03	The Forest Law	Hanover/Westmoreland	1.392149
Georges Plain Mountain	1965-09-23	The Forest Law	Hanover/Westmoreland	0.123533
Georges Valley Mountain	2014-05-06	The Forest Act	St. James	0.202347
Good Hope	1963-04-18	The Forest Law	St Andrew	0.226593
Gourie	2014-05-05	The Forest Act	Manchester	1.094223
Grange Hill	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.009060
Grantsfield	2025-03-24	The Forest Act	Portland	0.080940
Green Castle (Section B)	2025-09-19	The Forest Act	St. Thomas	1.432588
Greenock	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	0.493727
Greenvale	2025-03-24	The Forest Act	Manchester	0.059190
Hall Head and Coley	2025-05-08	The Forest Act	St. Thomas	0.379600
Harkers Hall	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Catherine	0.068216
Haycock Hill	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Portland	1.469041
Hazelymph	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	0.471874
Healthshire Hills	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. Catherine	48.563335
Hermitage	1951-01-11	The Forest Law	St, Andrew	9.340051
Hope River Stream	1951-01-11	The Forest Law	St, Andrew	0.234697
Horseguard	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	St. James	1.007689
Hyde	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	5.070822
Hyde Hall Mountain	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	6.620660

Forest Reserves/ Forest Management Areas	Gazetted/ Declaration Date	Act	Location (Parish)	Area (Square Kilometre)
Industry Field - Rowkamp	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	0.959075
Jericho	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. James	3.609875
Jerusalem and Belisle Estate	2014-05-05	The Forest Act	Hanover/Westmoreland	2.041773
Kellits Stream	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	0.099150
Kellits-Camperdown	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Catherine/Clarendon	14.977742
Kenilworth	2025-09-22	The Forest Act	Hanover	2.026785
Kildare 2	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.085348
Litchfield	2014-05-06	The Forest Act	Trelawny	0.521400
Litchfield (FD Office)	2025-09-18	The Forest Act	Trelawny	0.041945
Litchfield-Matheson's Run	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	44.848240
Llandaff	1964-02-04	The Forest Law	Trelawny	1.267275
Lloyds	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Thomas	0.601452
Lovers Leap	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	1.756374
Mocho	2014-04-30	The Forest Act	St. James	2.432214
Mount Airy	1951-01-11	The Forest Law	St. Andrew	5.629177
Mount Diablo	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. Ann/St Catherine	13.461367
Muirhead	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	1.210100
New Canaan	2014-05-05	The Forest Act	St. James	0.404694
New Forest	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Manchester	1.607725
Newfound River	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	0.797600
Newton	1951-01-11	The Forest Law	St. Andrew	1.331420
Norris	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. Thomas	2.442331
Nutfield	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St.Mary	0.100030
Orchard	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Andrew	1.417189
Oxford	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Manchester/St Elizabeth	1.348823
Peace River	1959-06-25	The Forest Law	Clarendon	1.167038
Peak Bay	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	5.159854
Peckham	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	0.708848
Pennants	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	2.284601
Pennants (Douces)	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	0.320392
Petersfield	1951-01-11	The Forest Law	St Andrew	1.215095
Petersville	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	1.707811
Pike & Ravens	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Trelawny	0.817033
Quasheba Mountain	1965-09-23	The Forest Law	Hanover/Westmoreland	2.994739
Raglan Mountain	1961-07-27	The Forest Law	Hanover/Westmoreland	1.011736
Ramble	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Manchester	0.481814
Retirement	2014-04-29	The Forest Act	Hanover	3.926009

Forest Reserves/ Forest Management Areas	Gazetted/ Declaration Date	Act	Location (Parish)	Area (Square Kilometre)
Retrieve and Drummond Mountain	2014-04-24	The Forest Act	Hanover/Westmoreland	1.568173
Richmond Pen	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Trelawny	0.857937
Rockfort	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Kingston/St Andrew	7.333064
Rose Hall (FD Moneague)	2025-09-18	The Forest Act	St Ann	0.056590
Ruthven	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	1.914205
Schwallenburgh	2025-09-19	The Forest Act	St. Ann	4.935845
Seville	2025-09-22	The Forest Act	St Ann	1.101330
Shentamee	2014-04-30	The Forest Act	Portland	0.606994
Shuna	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	4.581141
Spring Estate	1959-10-12	The Forest Law	St Thomas	0.606920
Spring Garden	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Westmoreland	0.190206
Spring Pen	1969-10-09	The Forest Law	St Thomas	1.671388
Spring Vale	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Elizabeth	0.573022
St. Faith's	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	0.604816
St. Jago	1969-10-09	The Forest Law	Manchester	2.302962
Stephney John's Vale	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Ann	67.126669
Stettin	2025-05-08	The Forest Act	Trelawny	0.061443
Stonehenge	1964-02-04	The Forest Law	Trelawny	3.984571
Tangle River	2014-04-29	The Forest Act	St. James	0.165300
Teak Pen	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Clarendon	6.827195
The Hope	1963-04-18	The Forest Law	St, Andrew	0.293053
Treadways	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St Catherine	0.263861
Tremolesworth	1974-07-18	The Forest Law	St.Mary	0.420882
Troja	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	St.Catherine	0.188577
Troy	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Trelawny	5.181989
Trumpet Tree	1962-03-15	The Forest Law	St Andrew	1.618778
Tryall Estate	2016-04-08	The Forest Act	Hanover	2.145200
Virginia	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	Manchester	0.130033
Wallenford & Cedar Valley	1964-11-26	The Forest Law	Portland	1.502651
Windsor	1964-02-04	The Forest Law	Trelawny	5.296186
Windsor and Seaman's Valley	1955-07-21	The Forest Law	Portland	0.359599
Windsor Lodge	1950-12-01	The Forest Law	St. James	0.368272

Source: Forestry Department, 2026

APPENDIX VII

National Monuments and Protected National Heritage Sites in Jamaica

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

CLARENDON

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Halse Hall Great House	(Declared 28/11/2002)
Suttons Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Chapelton	(Declared 17/03/2016)
St. Peter's Church, Alley	(Declared 30/03/2000)

Clock Towers

Chapelton Clock Tower	(Declared 28/03/2017)
May Pen Clock Tower	(Declared 15/03/2001)

Natural Sites

Milk River Spa	(Declared 13/09/1990)
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Statues and Other Memorials

Bust of Cudjoe, Chapelton	(Declared 28/03/2017)
Claude McKay Marker, James Hill	(Declared 05/03/2019)

HANOVER

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Barbican Estate	(Declared 16/12/1993)
Browne Building, Lucea	(Declared 28/04/2023)
Lucea Town Hall & Clock Tower	(Declared 19/03/2013)
Old Hanover Gaol/Old Police Barracks, Lucea	(Declared 19/03/1992)
Tamarind Lodge	(Declared 15/07/1993)
Tryall Great House and Ruins of Sugar Works	(Declared 13/09/1990)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Hanover Parish Church	(Declared 28/03/2013)
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Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Charlotte, Lucea

(Declared 19/03/1992)

Historic Sites

Blenheim – Birthplace of National Hero –
The Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante

(Declared 05/11/1992)

Sugar & Coffee Works

Kenilworth Ruins

(Declared 19/04/2018)

KINGSTON

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

40 Harbour Street

(Declared 10/12/1998)

150 East Street

(Declared 28/03/2017)

Headquarters House, Duke Street

(Declared 07/01/2000)

Kingston Railway Station, Barry Street

(Declared 04/03/2003)

Malabre House, 11 North Street

(Declared 19/03/2020)

The Admiralty Houses, Port Royal

(Declared 05/11/1992)

Old Mico Building, Hanover Street

(Declared 07/04/2016)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Coke Methodist Church, East Parade

(Declared 07/01/2000)

East Queen Street Baptist Church, East Queen Street

(Declared 29/10/2009)

Holy Trinity Cathedral, North Street

(Declared 07/01/2000)

Kingston Parish Church, South Parade

(Declared 04/03/2003)

Wesley Methodist Church, Tower Street

(Declared 10/12/1998)

Old Jewish Cemetery, Hunts Bay

(Declared 15/07/1993)

St. Andrew's Scots Kirk United Church, Duke Street

(Declared 07/04/2016)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Charles, Port Royal

(Declared 31/12/1992)

Historic Sites

Liberty Hall, 76 King Street

(Declared 05/11/1992)

St. William Grant Park

(Declared 23/12/2021)

Public Buildings

Public Buildings East and West, King Street

(Declared 19/04/2018)

Ward Theatre, North Parade

(Declared 07/01/2000)

Statues and Other Memorials

Bust of General Antonio Maceo, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Cenotaph, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Negro Aroused, Ocean Boulevard	(Declared 13/04/1995)
Monument to Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Monument to Rt. Excellencies George William Gordon and Paul Bogle, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Monument to Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Monument to Rt. Excellent Norman Manley, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Monument to Rt. Excellent Nanny of the Maroons, National Heroes Park	(Declared 29/03/2001)
Monument to the Rt. Excellent Sam Sharpe, National Heroes Park	(Declared 29/03/2001)
Monument to the Most Honourable Sir Donald Sangster, National Heroes Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of Edward Jordan, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of Father Joseph Dupont, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of Queen Victoria with Bust of Prince Consort, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of Sir Charles Metcalfe, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 04/07/2002)
Statue of the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante, St. William Grant Park	(Declared 07/01/2000)
Statue of Simón Bolívar, Bolívar Place	(Declared 19/04/2018)
Monument to the Workers of the 1938 Labour Riots, Ocean Boulevard	(Declared 05/03/2019)

MANCHESTER

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Greenvale Railway Station	(Declared 06/01/2005)
Albion Great House Ruin	(Declared 28/02/2022)
Marlborough Great House, Spur Tree	(Declared 08/04/1999)
Marshall's Pen Great House	(Declared 30/05/2000)
Williamsfield Railway Station	(Declared 03/04/2003)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Fairfield Moravian Church	(Declared 13/08/2020)
Mandeville Parish Church	(Declared 19/07/2007)
Porus Methodist Church	(Declared 03/10/2019)
St. George's Anglican Church (ruin), Mile Gully	(Declared 16/09/2021)
Trinity Baptist Church, Porus	(Declared 19/03/2020)
Whitefield United Church, Porus	(Declared 16/09/2021)

Historic Sites

Roxborough Castle Plantation – birthplace of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley	(Declared 01/10/1992)
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Public Buildings

Mandeville Court House	(Declared 15/03/2001)
Porus Community Centre	(Declared 03/10/2019)

Statues and Other Memorials

Rowe's Corner Monument	(Declared 11/03/2021)
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PORTLAND***Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest***

DeMontevin Lodge, Port Antonio	(Declared 02/05/1996)
Folly Mansion - ruin	(Declared 07/04/2016)
Folly Manager's Cottage	(Declared 21/12/2023)
Orange Bay Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)
Port Antonio Railway Station	(Declared 02/05/1996)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Christ Church Anglican, Port Antonio	(Declared 02/05/1996)
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Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort George, Titchfield	(Declared 02/05/1996)
The Old Military Barracks, Titchfield	(Declared 02/05/1996)

Historic Sites

Bump Grave, Moore Town	(Declared 10/05/2007)
Nanny Town	(Declared 22/12/2011)

Lighthouses

Folly Point Lighthouse (Declared 28/03/2017)

Public Buildings

Buff Bay Court House (Declared 08/04/2004)

Port Antonio Court House (Declared 02/05/1996)

Natural Sites

Blue Lagoon (Declared 16/08/2018)

Statues and Other Memorials

The Cenotaph, Port Antonio (Declared 03/04/2003)

Sugar & Coffee Works

Fair Prospect Windmill Tower, Fair Prospect High School (Declared 29/09/2022)

ST. ANDREW***Aqueducts, Bridges and Dams***

Hope Aqueduct (Declared 06/01/2005)

Long Lane Aqueduct, Constant Spring (Declared 06/01/2005)

Old Alberga Bridge (Declared 19/01/2023)

Papine-Mona Aqueduct, UWI Mona Campus (Declared 31/05/2001)

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Admiral's Mountain Great House, Cooper's Hill (Declared 29/03/2001)

Cherry Garden Great House, 46 Russell Heights (Declared 19/09/2002)

Craighton House, Irish Town (Declared 17/03/2005)

Devon House, Hope Road (Declared 13/09/1990)

Langley Great House & Coffee Works (Declared 19/03/2020)

Mona Great House, off Mona Road (Declared 10/02/1994)

Oakton House, Maxfield Avenue (Declared 04/04/1991)

"Regardless", 4 Washington Drive (Declared 29/03/2001)

24 Tucker Avenue, former residence of National Hero,
the Rt. Excellent Alexander Bustamante (Declared 04/04/1991)

Eight Buildings on the University of Technology, Jamaica Campus representing the relics of the Boy's Industrial and/Hope Farm School, now known as Lillian's Restaurant	(Declared 08/07/2010)
The Drawing Room, Bryan's Bookstore, The Chapel, UTECH Jamaica Centre for the Arts Building, Victoria Mutual Building Society, The Cynthia Shako Early Childhood Education & Day Care Centre and the Students' Activity Centre/The Barn	(Declared 05/03/2019)
Vale Royal, Montrose Road	(Declared 19/01/2023)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Church of the Good Shepherd (Anglican), Constant Spring Road)	Declared 17/03/2005)
Jamaica Free Baptist Church, August Town Road	(Declared 13/05/1999)
St. Andrew Parish Church, Hagley Park Road	(Declared 03/04/2003)
St. Joseph's the Grove Anglican Church, Gordon Town Road	(Declared 28/04/2023)
University of the West Indies Chapel, UWI Mona Campus	(Declared 29/03/2001)

Clock Towers

Cross Roads Clock Tower	(Declared 06/01/2005)
Half Way Tree Clock Tower	(Declared 07/01/2000)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Martello Tower	(Declared 19/04/2018)
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Public Building

Buxton House, Mico College Campus	(Declared 19/03/1992)
Old Half Way Tree Court House	(Declared 07/04/2016)

Miscellaneous

Former Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation Transmission Tower	(Declared 03/10/2019)
Ruins of Three Concrete Silos, Old Hope Road, (UTECH)	(Declared 08/07/2010)

Natural Sites

Hope Botanic Gardens, Old Hope Road	(Declared 04/04/1991)
Rockfort Mineral Bath and Spa, Sir Florizel Glasspole Boulevard	(Declared 06/02/1992)

Statues and Other Memorials

1907 Earthquake Monument	(Declared 28/03/2017)
Statue of the Most Hon. Robert Nesta Marley, Arthur Wint Drive	(Declared 05/03/2019)

ST. ANN***Aqueducts, Bridges and Dams***

Spanish Bridge	(Declared 28/04/2023)
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Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Bellevue Great House, Orange Hall	(Declared 29/03/2001)
Crescent Park House & Site	(Declared 10/05/2023)
Edinburgh Castle – ruins, main road from Harmony Vale to Pedro	(Declared 04/04/1991)
Eltham House	(Declared 28/02/2022)
Geddes Great House, near Brittonville	(Declared 28/02/2022)
Liberty Hill Great House, off Lime Hall Main Road	(Declared 02/07/2009)
Iolaus	(Declared 13/07/1993)
Minard Great House – ruin, Brown's Town	(Declared 31/07/2014)
Mount Plenty Great House, Orange Hall	(Declared 29/03/2001)
New Hope Great House, Brown's Town	(Declared 31/07/2014)
Seville Great House, St. Ann's Bay	(Declared 13/05/1999)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Old Priory Church Ruin	(Declared 13/08/2020)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Ann's Bay	(Declared 22/03/2001)
St. Ann's Bay Baptist Church	(Declared 29/09/2022)
St. Ann's Bay Methodist Church	(Declared 12/05/2023)
St. Peter Martyr Site (ruins of old Church), St. Ann's Bay	(Declared 22/03/2001)
Sturge Town Baptist Church	(Declared 12/05/2023)
Sturge Town Tabernacle	(Declared 12/05/2023)
The Parish Church of St. Ann, St. Ann's Bay	(Declared 29/09/2022)

Clock Towers

St. Ann's Bay Clock Tower, Main Street	(Declared 19/04/2018)
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Historic Sites

32 Market Street, St. Ann's Bay – birthplace of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey	(Declared 31/12/1992)
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Hotels and Taverns

Moneague Hotel, Moneague College Campus	(Declared 23/03/2000)
Moneague Inn	(Declared 13/05/1999)

Public Buildings

Ocho Rios Court House	(Declared 28/04/2023)
St. Ann's Bay Court House	(Declared 19/03/2020)

Miscellaneous

Cave Valley Chimney	(Declared 19/06/2000)
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Statues and Other Memorials

Statue of the Rt. Excellent Marcus Garvey	(Declared 05/03/2019)
Statue of Christopher Columbus, St. Ann's Bay	(Declared 03/10/2019)

Sugar & Coffee Works

Drax Hall Waterwheel	(Declared 30/03/2006)
Roaring River Waterwheel & Aqueduct	(Declared 25/12/2008)

ST. CATHERINE***Aqueducts, Bridges and Dams***

Bushy Park Aqueduct	(Declared 31/01/2002)
Flat Bridge	(Declared 19/01/2023)

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Altenheim House, 24 King Street, Spanish Town	(Declared 04/04/1991)
Colbeck Castle – ruin, near Old Harbour	(Declared 13/09/1990)
Hayfield House, near Linstead	(Declared 08/07/2010)
Highgate House, Sligoville	(Declared 10/12/1998)
Old Harbour Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)
Spanish Town Railway Station	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Thetford Great House, near Old Harbour	(Declared 12/05/2023)

Caves and Middens

Mountain River Cave, Cudjoe Hill	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Two Sisters Caves, Hellshire	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Whitemarl Arawak Museum	(Declared 31/12/1992)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega (Anglican), Spanish Town	(Declared 31/12/1992)
Phillippo Baptist Church, Spanish Town	(Declared 05/11/1992)
St. Dorothy's Anglican, Spanish Town to Old Harbour main road	(Declared 30/03/2000)

Clock Towers

Old Harbour Clock Tower	(Declared 25/12/2008)
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Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Augusta	(Declared 16/09/2021)
Fort Johnston, Hellshire	(Declared 19/03/2020)
Fort Clarence	(Declared 16/09/2021)
Fort Small	(Declared 16/09/2021)

Historic Sites

Port Henderson	(Declared 13/04/1995)
Pinnacle	(Declared 12/09/2013)
Spanish Town Historic District	(Declared 29/12/1994)

Public Buildings

Guy's Hill Community Centre	(Declared 03/10/2019)
Guy's Hill Town Hall	(Declared 03/10/2019)

Statues and Other Memorials

Juan de Bolas Marker	(Declared 28/03/2017)
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Sugar & Coffee Works

Ruins of Colbeck Aqueduct & Works Yard	(Declared 28/02/2022)
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ST. ELIZABETH

Aqueducts, Bridges and Dams

Old Public Tank, Lititz	(Declared 11/03/2021)
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Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Appleton Railway Station	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Balaclava Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)
Golmont View House, Reading	(Declared 04/07/2002)
Invercauld House, Black River	(Declared 13/09/1990)

Lititz All Age School	(Declared 11/03/2021)
Magdala House, Black River	(Declared 13/09/1990)
Three Munro College Buildings – Coke Farquharson Dining Room, Chapel and Terman Calder Building	(Declared 01/07/2004)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Lacovia Tombstones	(Declared 25/12/2008)
Lititz Moravian Church	(Declared 11/03/2021)
St. Luke's Anglican Church, Balaclava	(Declared 21/12/2023)
Southfield Seventh-Day Adventist Church	(Declared 06/12/2023)

Historic Site

Balaclava Memorial Cross Site	(Declared 21/12/2023)
Boyhood Home of the Most Hon Sir Donald Sangster	(Declared 23/12/2021)

Lighthouses

Lovers' Leap Lighthouse	(Declared 09/05/2002)
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ST. JAMES

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Anchovy Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)
Barnett Street Police Station, Montego Bay	(Declared 23/03/2000)
Cambridge Railway Station	(Declared 02/10/2003)
Catadupa Railway Station	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Cinnamon Hill Great House	(Declared 13/05/1999)
Dome House, Montego Bay	(Declared 04/04/1991)
Greenwood Great House	(Declared 15/03/2001)
Grove Hill House, Montego Bay	(Declared 13/05/1999)
Harrison House, Montego Bay	(Declared 13/05/1999)
Montpelier Railway Station	(Declared 03/04/2003)
No. 1 King Street, Montego Bay	(Declared 15/07/1993)
No. 2 Orange Street and No. 6 Corner Lane, Montego Bay (The Georgian & Round Houses)	(Declared 17/02/1994)
Roehampton Great House	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Rose Hall Great House	(Declared 13/05/1999)
Town House, Montego Bay	(Declared 15/03/2001)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Burchell Baptist Church, Montego Bay	(Declared 02/07/2009)
Maldon Baptist Church	(Declared 19/01/2023)
Salter's Hill Baptist Church – ruin	(Declared 13/05/1999)
St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay	(Declared 16/09/2021)
St. Mary's Anglican Church, Montpelier	(Declared 23/03/2000)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Montego Bay Old Fort	(Declared 01/12/2005)
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Public Buildings

Old Court House (Montego Bay Civic Centre)	(Declared 30/05/1996)
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Statues and Other Memorials

Sam Sharpe Monument	(Declared 03/04/2003)
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Sugar and Coffee Works

Ironshore Windmill Tower	(Declared 03/04/2003)
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Miscellaneous

Old Albert Market, Montego Bay	(Declared 30/05/1996)
Old Slave Ring, Montego Bay	(Declared 08/04/2004)
The Dome, Montego Bay	(Declared 30/03/2000)

ST. MARY***Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest***

Firefly Hill (Noel Coward's House)	(Declared 31/12/1992)
Harmony Hall Great House	(Declared 03/04/2003)
Quebec Estate	(Declared 01/12/2005)
Wentworth Estate	(Declared 11/02/1993)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Annotto Bay Baptist Church	(Declared 13/08/2020)
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Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Haldane	(Declared 19/06/2000)
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Historic Sites

Rio Nuevo Battle Site	(Declared 13/05/1999)
Rio Nuevo Taino Site	(Declared 01/12/2005)

Lighthouses

Galina Point Lighthouse (Declared 28/03/2017)

Public Buildings

Old Court House (Port Maria Civic Centre) (Declared 02/05/1996)

Statues and Other Memorials

Claude Stuart Park (Declared 02/05/1996)

ST. THOMAS***Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest***

Holland Estate Ruins (Declared 28/02/2022)

Ladyfield Great House Ruin (Declared 29/09/2022)

Orange Park (Declared 04/07/2002)

Stokes Hall Great House - ruin (Declared 07/04/2016)

Churches, Cemeteries and Tombs

Christ Church, Morant Bay (Declared 04/07/2002)

Lyssons Cemetery (Declared 03/10/2019)

Ruin of Old Anglican Church, Church Corner (Declared 13/08/2020)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Morant, Morant Bay (Declared 05/11/1992)

Historic Sites

Easington Civic Square (Declared 23/12/2021)

Judgement Cliff (Declared 23/12/2021)

Stony Gut – home of National Hero the Rt. Excellent Paul Bogle
(Declared 05/11/1992)

Martyr's Burial Ground, Morant Bay (Declared 05/11/1992)

Cunha Cunha Pass (Declared 22/12/2011)

Lighthouses

Morant Point Lighthouse (Declared 17/03/2016)

Miscellaneous

Easington Suspension Bridge Piers (Declared 16/09/2021)

Natural Sites

Bath Fountain Spa (Declared 13/09/1990)

Public Buildings

Morant Bay Court House (Declared 05/11/1992)

Statues and Other Memorials

Statue of the Rt. Excellent Paul Bogle, Morant Bay (Declared 03/04/2003)

Sugar and Coffee Works

Albion Aqueduct & Sugar Mill (Declared 19/03/2020)

Greenwall Sugar Works (Declared 13/08/2020)

TRELAWNY

Aqueducts, Bridges and Dams

Bengal Bridge (Declared 19/01/2023)

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Barrett House – ruin, 1 Market Street Falmouth (Declared 04/04/1991)

Carlton House (Declared 20/07/1990)

Georgia Great House (Declared 29/09/2022)

Good Hope Great House & Ancillary Buildings (Declared 19/04/2012)

Hyde Hall Great House (Declared 08/04/2004)

Orange Valley Slave Hospital (Declared 21/12/2006)

Stewart Castle – ruin (Declared 04/04/1991)

The Old Tavern at Rio Bueno (Declared 19/01/2023)

Vale Royal Great House (Declared 08/04/2004)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Rio Bueno Baptist Church (Declared 19/01/2023)

St. Mark's Anglican Church, Rio Bueno (Declared 19/01/2023)

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Falmouth (Declared 01/10/1992)

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Stewart Town (Declared 16/09/2021)

Stewart Town Methodist Church (Declared 16/09/2021)

Webb Memorial Baptist Church, Stewart Town (Declared 16/09/2021)

Clock Towers

Duncans Clock Tower (Declared 03/04/2003)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Fort Balcarres, Falmouth (Declared 20/05/1993)

Fort Dundas, Rio Bueno (Declared 21/12/2024)

Historic Site

Birthplace of the Most Hon Hugh Lawson Shearer (Declared 19/04/2012)

Falmouth Historic District (Declared 05/09/1996)

Miscellaneous

Persian Water Wheel (Declared 17/03/2016)

Public Buildings

Falmouth Courthouse (Declared 01/10/1992)

Falmouth Post Office (Declared 01/10/1992)

Sugar and Coffee Works

Harmony Hall Estate Ruins, Harmony Cove (Declared 25/06/2024)

WESTMORELAND

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Ackendown Castle Ruins (Declared 21/12/2006)

Chebuctoo Great House, Cave (Declared 25/12/2008)

Thomas Manning Building, Savanna-la-mar (Declared 19/06/2000)

Churches, Cemeteries, Tombs

Savanna-la-mar Baptist Church (Declared 09/05/2002)

St. George's Anglican Church, Savanna-la-mar (Declared 25/12/2008)

Forts and Naval and Military Monuments

Savanna-la-mar Fort (Declared 19/06/2000)

Lighthouses

Negril Point Lighthouse (Declared 17/03/2016)

Miscellaneous

Cast Iron Fountain (Declared 19/06/2000)

Public Buildings

Savanna-la-mar Court House

(Declared 19/04/2012)

Statues and Other Memorials

Labour Monument at Frome

(Declared 25/06/2024)

UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Pedro Bank

(Declared 01/07/2004)

PROTECTED NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES

CLARENDON

Natural Sites

Mason River Botanical Station

(Designated 28/11/2002)

KINGSTON

Historic Sites

Port Royal and the Palisadoes

(Designated 22/07/1999)

Public Buildings

George William Gordon House, Duke Street

(Designated 31/05/2001)

MANCHESTER

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Four Buildings on the compound of the Northern
Caribbean University Campus, Mandeville –
The Chapel, Rose Cottage, Siberia and the
President's Cottage

(Designated 29/03/2001)

Historic Sites

Manchester Club Golf Course, Mandeville

(Designated 19/07/2007)

PORTLAND

Historic Sites

Titchfield Peninsula

(Designated 16/04/1998)

Charles Town Maroon Site

(Designated 23/04/2015)

ST. ANDREW

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Bob Marley Museum, Hope Road	(Designated 31/05/2001)
Charlottenburgh House, Guava Ridge	(Designated 19/06/2000)
Four Jamaica College Buildings – The Simms Hall, The Scotland Building, The Assembly Hall, The Chapel	(Designated 19/06/2000)
Four Mico College Buildings – The Kelvin Lodge, The Cottage, The Porter’s Lodge, The Chapel	(Designated 10/12/1998)
Four Shortwood Teachers’ College Buildings – The Administrative Building, “The Stables”, Courtyard Building East, Courtyard Building West	(Designated 06/12/2023)
Trench Town Culture Yard	(Designated 10/05/2007)
No. 19 Second Street, Trench Town	(Designated 26/07/2018)

Natural Sites

Cinchona Botanic Gardens	(Designated 31/12/2009)
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ST. ELIZABETH

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Five Hampton High School Buildings – Calder Hall, Administrative Office Building, Wesley Gammon Building, The Chapel, Val Halla	(Designated 21/12/2006)
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Historic Sites

Black River Historic District	(Designated 08/04/1999)
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Natural Sites

Black River Spa	(Designated 28/11/2002)
Lovers’ Leap	(Designated 09/05/2002)

ST. JAMES

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Two Montego High School Buildings – The Former Principal’s Cottage and the Old Kitchen	(Designated 06/12/2023)
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ST. MARY

Historic Sites

Four Sites at Woodside – One/Long Bubby Susan,
St. Gabriel’s Anglican Church (Old Anglican Church),
“Arawak” (Taino) Steps and Daddy Rock (Designated 23/04/2015)
Scotts Hall Maroon Site (Designated 23/04/2015)

Natural Sites

Castleton Botanic Gardens (Designated 31/12/2009)

ST. THOMAS

Natural Sites

Bath Botanical Gardens (Designated 03/04/2003)

WESTMORELAND

Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest

Three Seaford Town Buildings - Sacred Heart Catholic
Church, Sacred Heart Rectory and Seaford Town
Training Villa (former Sacred Heart Convent) (Designated 25/09/2008)

ST. THOMAS/ST. MARY/ PORTLAND/ST. ANDREW

Natural and Cultural Site

Blue & John Crow Mountains Cultural Heritage Site (Designated 09/01/2014)

UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

St. Ann’s Bay Shipwreck Site (Designated 23/11/2010)

Source: Jamaica National Heritage Trust, June 2024

GLOSSARY

Accession (to a treaty): "Accession" is the act whereby a state accepts the offer or the opportunity to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states. It has the same legal effect as ratification. Accession usually occurs after the treaty has entered into force (Arts.2 (1) (b) and 15, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969).

Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). "*Ecosystem-based Adaptation*" uses biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people and communities adapt to the negative effects of climate change at local, national, regional and global levels. <http://unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/EcosystemBasedAdaptation/tabid/29583/Default.aspx>

Alien species: A species occurring in an area outside of its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities (also known as an exotic or introduced species). (*See invasive alien species*).

Biological Diversity or Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms - animals, plants, their habitats and their genes - from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems (CBD).

Bioprospecting: the exploration of plant and animal species for the utilisation of their genetic resources in pharmaceutical and biochemical industries, and in the production of a wide array of commercially viable products (United Nations Development Programme).

Biotechnology: As defined in Article 2 of the Convention means any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms, or derivatives thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific use.

Capacity development: Understood as “the process whereby people, organisations and society as a whole, unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results.”¹¹⁸

Climate Change¹¹⁹: Distinct changes in measures of climate lasting for a long period of time. It is therefore not ‘weather’ which is a day-to-day phenomenon.

Climate departure: The point at which even a cold year will be warmer than any warm year from 1860 to 2005 if nations continue to emit carbon dioxide the way they do now. It marks the point at which the earth’s climate begins to cease resembling what has come before and moves into a new state, one where heat records are routinely shattered and what once was considered extreme will become the norm.

<http://www.soc.hawaii.edu/mora/PublicationsCopyRighted/Cities%20Timing.html>

Conservation: The management of human use of nature so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to current generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

Conservation of biodiversity

The management of human interactions with genes, species, and ecosystems to provide the maximum benefit to the present generation while maintaining their potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations; encompasses elements of saving, studying, and using biodiversity.

Conservation target

Conservation targets are a sub-set of species and communities, and ecological systems, which are selected to comprehensively represent an element of biological diversity identified for protective action. A conservation target is often a surrogate for regional or species diversity.

Convention on Biological Diversity: A legally binding intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for developing national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological

¹¹⁸ Adapted from the definition given in “UNDAF Companion Guidance: Capacity Development” in CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1 Draft Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity Development to Support Implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹¹⁹ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

diversity. Members are committed to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The CBD entered into force in 1993 and Jamaica became a Party in 1995. (*See Programme of Work on Protected Areas*).

Cultural diversity: Variety or multi-formity of human social structures, belief systems, and strategies for adapting to situations in different parts of the world. Language is a good indicator of cultural diversity, with over 6,000 languages currently being spoken.

Cultural heritage: The term cultural heritage encompasses several main categories of heritage:

- Tangible cultural heritage: movable cultural heritage (artefacts, paintings, sculptures, coins, manuscripts); immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, and so on); underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins and cities); and
- Intangible cultural heritage: oral traditions, performing arts, rituals.

Economic valuation: Assigning monetary value to environmental factors (such as the quality of air and water and damage caused by pollution) that are normally not taken into account in financial valuation.

Ecosystem: A community of plants, animals and smaller organisms that live, feed, reproduce and interact in the same area or environment. Ecosystems have no fixed boundaries; a single lake, a watershed, or an entire region could be considered an ecosystem. Ecosystems are vulnerable to interference as pressure on one component can upset the whole balance.

Ecosystem services: the benefits people obtain from the environment. Ecosystem services are the transformation of natural assets (soil, plants and animals, air and water) into things that we value. They can be viewed as provisioning such as food and water; regulating, for example, flood and disease control; cultural such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; or supporting like nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth. Ecosystem ‘goods’ include food, medicinal plants, construction materials, tourism and recreation, and wild genes for domestic plants and animals. The human species, while buffered against environmental changes by culture and technology, is fundamentally dependent on the flow of ecosystem services. (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report - Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing)

Endemic: Restricted to a particular area. Used to describe a species or organism that is confined to a particular geographical region, for example, an island or river basin.

Forest Principles: The Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests is one of the agreements reached at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992. The guiding objective of these principles is to contribute to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and to provide for their multiple and complementary functions and uses.

Gaps:

Conservation – Specific areas and targets that fall outside of areas currently under protection.

Ecological – biodiversity representation within protected areas that are of insufficient quality to ensure their functionality and therefore their long-term survival.

Management – ineffective management regimes governing protected areas that perpetuate their vulnerability to further degradation.

Representation – species, ecosystems or habitats that are not included within areas currently under protection or do not occur in sufficient quantities to ensure long-term viability.

Genetic material¹²⁰: Any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

Genetic resources¹²¹: Genetic material of actual or potential value.

Gender: refers to roles and responsibilities that have been socially constructed and imposed on women and men as a result of the biological differences between them as females and males (Jamaica Gender Policy).

Habitat: A place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Heritage assets: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.

¹²⁰ Convention Text (cbd.int)

¹²¹ Convention Text (cbd.int)

Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Human well-being: Human well-being is the extent to which individuals have the ability and the opportunity to live the kinds of lives they have reason to value. People's ability to pursue the lives that they value is shaped by a wide range of instrumental freedoms. Human well-being encompasses personal and environmental security, access to materials for a good life, good health and good social relations, all of which are closely related to each other, and underlie the freedom to make choices and take action.

Intangible cultural heritage: An intangible heritage is that which exists intellectually in the culture. It is not a physical or tangible item. Intangible heritage includes songs, myths, beliefs, superstitions, oral poetry, as well as various forms of traditional knowledge such as ethnobotanical knowledge.

Invasive alien species

Invasive alien species are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threaten biological diversity.

Joint regime area: A joint regime area is an area of joint jurisdiction between sovereign States. For example, the Joint Regime Area of Jamaica and the Republic of Colombia was established by the Maritime Delimitation Treaty of 1993. The Treaty provides for the joint management and exploitation of both living and non-living resources in the approximately 52,036 square kilometre area, which is located to the southwest of the Pedro Bank.

Man and the Biosphere: Under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, countries designate biosphere reserves which are areas comprising terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each reserve promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use.

Mitigation: In the context of climate change, a human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases. Examples include using fossil fuels more efficiently for industrial processes or electricity generation, switching to solar energy or wind power, improving

the insulation of buildings, and expanding forests and other "sinks" to remove greater amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Nature-Based Solutions (NbS): Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits (United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 5/5).

Payments for Ecosystems Services: “PES is used to describe schemes in which the beneficiaries, or users, of ecosystem services provide payment to the stewards, or providers, of ecosystem services. In practice, PES often involves a series of payments to land or other natural resource managers in return for a guaranteed flow of ecosystem services (or, more commonly, for management actions likely to enhance their provision) over and above what would otherwise be provided in the absence of payment” (UK Department for Environment, 2013).

Programme of Work on Protected Areas: The Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), enshrines development of participatory, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional systems of protected areas, where necessary stretching across national boundaries. From designation to management, the PoWPA can be considered as a defining framework or “blueprint” for protected areas for the coming decades. It is a framework for cooperation between Governments, donors, NGOs and local communities, for without such collaboration, programmes cannot be successful and sustainable over the long-term (CBD).

Precautionary approach: Lack of scientific certainty is no reason to postpone action to avoid potentially serious or irreversible harm to the environment (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: Principle 15).

Privately protected area: A protected area, as defined by IUCN, under private governance (i.e., individuals and groups of individuals; NGOs; corporations both existing commercial companies and sometimes corporations set up by groups of private owners to manage groups of privately protected areas; for-profit owners; research entities (e.g., universities, field stations) or religious entities).

Protected area: It is a clearly defined geographical area of land and or water that is dedicated to and managed for the long-term conservation and sustainable use of its ecological systems, biodiversity and/or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources.

Protected Areas System Master Plan: A protected areas system master plan is a comprehensive summary of the activities and strategies needed to ensure a fully representative and functional network of well managed and sustainably financed protected areas.

Public participation: involvement of the public in the protection of natural and cultural resources through consultation and engagement in the establishment, modification, planning and management of protected areas as well as building awareness and capacity to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage.

Ratification (of a treaty): States which signed a treaty when it was open for signature can proceed to ratify it. Signature of itself does not establish consent to be bound, hence the further act of ratification. The institution of ratification grants states the necessary timeframe to seek the required approval for the treaty on the domestic level and to enact the necessary legislation to give domestic effect to that treaty (Arts.2 (1) (b), 14 (1) and 16, Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969).

Revocation: De-reservation of protected area status from a site within the protected areas system.

Spawning aggregations: A fish spawning aggregation is a grouping of a single species of fish that has gathered together in greater densities than normal with the specific purpose of reproducing. Typically, such aggregations form at the same place at approximately the same times each year (<http://www.scrfa.org/about-fsa/about-spawning-aggregations.html>).

Stakeholders are actors with interest and concerns over natural resources and land¹²².

Strategic Environmental Assessment: A systematic, proactive process for evaluating the environmental consequences of policies, plans and programme proposals in order to ensure that these environmental consequences are fully included and adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making, on par with economic and social considerations.

¹²² CBD/COP/DEC/14/8 Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

Sustainable Finance: The process of taking due account of environmental, social and governance considerations when making investment decisions in the financial sector, leading to increased long-term investments into sustainable economic activities and projects (World Bank, 2021).

Sustainable use: means the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations (CBD 1992, Article 2).

Tangible heritage: A tangible heritage is one that can be stored and physically touched. This includes items produced by the cultural group such as traditional clothing, utensils (such as beadwork, water vessels), or vehicles (such as the ox wagon). Tangible heritages include great monuments such as temples, pyramids, and public monuments. Though a tangible heritage can perish, it is generally more obvious how it can be conserved than intangible heritages that are at greater risk and can be lost for all time.

Traditional knowledge¹²³: The knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous people and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity¹²⁴.

Treaty: An international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation (Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties).

Utilisation of genetic resources: Means to conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology as defined in Article 2 of the CBD.

¹²³ CBD COP CBD/COP/DEC/14/13 Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions

¹²⁴ Derived from Article 8(j) and endorsed in paragraph 6(h) of the annex to decision VII/16 on the Akwe: Kon Guidelines.

Vision 2030 Jamaica– National Development Plan: The 'roadmap' for making "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business” by 2030. The plan includes four national goals – Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential; Jamaica’s society is secure, cohesive, and just; Jamaica’s economy is prosperous; and Jamaica has a healthy natural environment.

Zoning: This is a tool which is used for “organising resource information and guiding management tasks. Zones provide “protection for critical or representative habitats, ecosystems and ecological processes”; “separate conflicting human activities”; “protect the natural and/or cultural qualities while allowing a spectrum of reasonable human uses”; and “enable damaged areas to be set aside to recover or be restored”¹²⁵.

¹²⁵ Thomas, Lee and Middleton, Julie, (2003). Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ix + 79pp.

