



FOREST NEWS

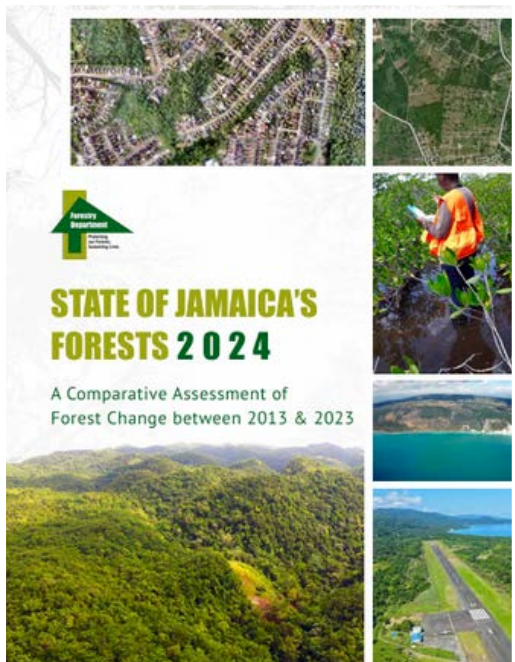
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 [Click to view Forest Trek II Photo highlights](#)

 [Click to read: State of Jamaica's Forests](#)

JPS kicks off New Adopt-a-Trail Programme



CONTENTS

3

Trees all around for National Tree Planting Day

Boosting Health and Wellness with Forest Recreation

6

Inspiring Place Feature: Bogue 2 Forest Reserve

Revolutionizing Forest Management: The Power of Genetics and Traceability

Jamaica REDD+ Mission to Porto Seguro, Brazil

7

GIS Day Expo

8

**Christmas Tree Plant Fair
Christmas Tree Sale in the Forest**



Revolutionizing Forest Management: The Power of Genetics and Traceability **P. 6**

9

National Meeting of the Local Forest Management Committees

The Forestry Department builds the investigative capacity of the Enforcement Team

10

Forestry Department disrupts illegal harvesting operation in St. Mary

11

Understanding the Forestry Department's Citizen's Charter

14

Staff Awards



Understanding the Forestry Department's Citizen's Charter **P. 11**

Trees all around for National Tree Planting Day



[Click to read more](#)

Forestry Department Restores our Roots, Partners to Plant Over 600 Trees on National Tree Planting Day

● ● ● the Agency collaborated with several entities to plant over six hundred (600) trees through various NTPD projects.

View social media highlights you might have missed.



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[North East Region and Partners](#)



Boosting Health and Wellness with Forest Recreation

The Forestry Department is stepping up its support for the health and wellness movement by making forests more accessible for public recreation.

Among the Agency's recent initiatives are small-scale hikes in the Gourie Forest Management Area in Manchester and the new Adopt-a-Trail Programme to encourage more people to enjoy the natural beauty and benefits of our forests.

Since September, corporate groups such as Kingston Freeport Terminal, the Tourism Enhancement Fund, the Bureau of Gender Affairs, and Rubis Energy Jamaica have been retreating to the Gourie Forest Management Area for team-building activities. These groups not only enjoy hiking, guided tours and exciting trails but also participated in tree planting to enhance the forest cover in the area.

In the long term, the Agency will reopen the Gourie Recreational Site for rental to offer a complete getaway package.



Boosting Health and Wellness with Forest Recreation (Cont'd.)

Tree Planting Initiative: A Partnership for Education and Wellness



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUBiS Energy Jamaica, Michel Malatino (centre), hands over a cheque to CEO and Conservator of Forests at the Forestry Department, Ainsley A. Henry (second right), at a brief ceremony at our head office on November 27. Others from the left are RUBiS' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes Lead, Kimberly Roach and Marketing Programmes Manager, Nicole McCalla. On the right is Senior Director of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Francine Black-Richards.

Rubis Energy Jamaica is reaffirming its commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement, and education with the launch of its Tree Planting Initiative. As part of its 2021–2025 Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, the company has partnered with the Forestry Department to plant over 600 in the Denham Farm Forest Reserve in Manchester which they kicked off with a hike in the Gourie Foest Management Area on December 11.

To signal its partnership with the Agency, representatives of RUBiS Energy Jamaica, including CEO Michel Malatino, visited the head office on December 2 for a ceremonial cheque presentation towards the tree

planting activity.

RUBiS said, “this initiative goes beyond tree planting— fostering environmental sustainability with education and community involvement by involving students from Dunoon Technical High School in Rockfort to actively participated in the effort, gaining hands-on experience while learning about the importance of biodiversity. This marks the beginning of Rubis Energy Jamaica’s long-term commitment to fostering Jamaica’s environmental sustainability and contributing to a more virtuous society.” Throughout the year, the company will implement additional initiatives, including educational programmes and awareness campaigns, to further promote environmental consciousness and inspire action.

View social media highlights you might have missed.



[RUBiS Tree Planting Initiative](#)

JPS kicks off New Adopt-a-Trail Programme



Azalee Lawson (left), Environmental Affairs Manager and colleague from the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited plant a coconut tree in the Bogue 2 Forest Reserve with Ainsley A. Henry (right) CEO and Conservator of Forests and Nasheji-Gaye Elliot, Public Relations & Communications Officer at the Forestry Department to mark the start of the Adopt-a-Trail Programme on December 5.

The Jamaica Public Service Company kicked off the Forestry Department's new Adopt-a-Trail Programme by planting over 500 trees in the Bogue 2 Forest Reserve on Thursday, December 4.

This effort will significantly enhance the forest's recreational value. Among the species planted are Coconut, Yellow Poui, and Queen Flower, adding vibrant colours and fruits to the landscape.

The Jamaica Public Service continues to lead the way in environmental sustainability within the corporate sector.

As the first entity to join the Agency's Adopt-a-Trail Programme, the Jamaica Public Service sets a powerful example of corporate responsibility.

The Adopt-a-Trail Programme was designed by the Forestry Department to build out a forest trail network across the country, which will support the Ministry of Health and Wellness' movement for health and wellness.



Jerome Smith (right), Principal Director of Forest Operations plants a coconut tree with members of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited Volts team during tree planting for the Adopt-a-Trail Programme on December 5.

View social media highlights you might have missed.



Adopt-a-Trail Programme Launch



Inspiring Place Feature: Bogue 2 Forest Reserve

The [Adopt-a-Trail] programme will facilitate the establishment of a Forest Trail Network/System. Trails will be developed using appropriate design and development standards based on applicable international and national best practices, desired uses and determined trail and infrastructure categories.

To improve the Agency's monitoring of the forest reserve, sections of it are being fenced with funding provided under a one-year project valued at EURO \$100,000 (\$24 million), which is being funded with the support of the European Union and the ACP Group of States through the BIOPAMA Programme.



[Click to read more: Inspiring](#)

Revolutionizing Forest Management: The Power of Genetics and Traceability



Adrian Watson, Technical Officer for REDD+ Climate Change at Jamaica's Forestry Department, recently embarked on an enlightening mission to Porte Seguro, Brazil. This field trip provided valuable insights and innovative ideas that could significantly enhance Jamaica's forestry practices and REDD+ programme.



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Jamaica REDD+ Mission to Porto Seguro, Brazil



Adrian Watson, Technical Officer for REDD+ Climate Change at Jamaica's Forestry Department, recently embarked on an enlightening mission to Porte Seguro, Brazil. This field trip provided valuable insights and innovative ideas that could significantly enhance Jamaica's forestry practices and REDD+ programme.



[Click to read more: REDD+ Mission...](#)

GIS Day Expo



Rajae Daley (right) Forest Technician, GIS, at the Forestry Department explains the use of GIS technologies to participants at the GIS Expo on November 21 at the UWI, Mona.

The Forestry Department continued as one of the major sponsors of the annual GIS Day Expo held at the UWI, Mona Assembly Hall on November 21.

The team of representatives led by the Forest Resource Information Management (FRIM) Branch engaged scores of students on the use of GIS technologies in forest protection and conservation.

Rajae Daley, Forest Technician in the Surveying Unit delivered outstanding knowledge of the Agency's drone equipment, highlighting the uses in forest enforcement, data gathering and analytics and forest management.

Jumaine Remikie, Senior Director of FRIM, who was interviewed by FYAH105 on location emphasized for listeners island-wide, the importance of GIS technologies in the execution of the Agency's mandate.

GISSEP Field Trip

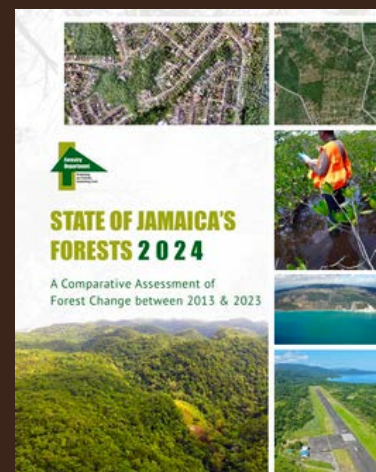
In support of the GIS Awareness Week, the Forestry Department also partnered with the National Spatial Data Management Division to stage the Geographic Information Systems in Schools Education Programme (GISSEP) field trip on November 1, at the Bogue Two forest reserve. Students from five schools in St. Ann participated and were exposed to GIS technology and its use in various environmental assessments.

View social media highlights you might have missed.



Click to read: [State of Jamaica's Forests](#)

The recently concluded *State of Jamaica's Forests* report which reveals changes in forest cover over a ten-year period was significantly supported by GIS technologies. The report is now available in the Resource Documents section of the Forestry Department's website.



Christmas Tree Plant Fair



A customer secures their cut Christmas tree to their vehicle for departure during the Forestry Department's Christmas Plant Fair at its head office on December 7.

The Forestry Department's head office on Constant Spring Road in St. Andrew was bustling with activity during its second annual Christmas Plant Fair, as customers flocked to purchase Christmas trees and other festive products for the holiday season.

Returning on Saturday, December 7, the Plant Fair showcased a variety of Christmas products to cater to different needs.

In addition to traditional cut Christmas trees, the Agency offered potted Christmas trees, ideal for urban dwellings, and quirky Christmas trees at discounted prices.

Natural pine cones were also available to enhance holiday decorations and the newly introduced gift-wrapping service, which allowed customers to create the perfect package for their holiday gifts.

The Forestry Department's Christmas Plant Fair continues to grow in popularity, spreading holiday cheer with its a competitive range of products and services.



Potted Christmas trees on display at the Christmas Plant Fair held at the Forestry Department's Christmas Plant Fair at its head office on December 7.

Christmas Tree Sale in the Forest

The Christmas Plant Fair was followed by the Christmas Tree Sale in the Forest on Saturday December 14 in the Gourie Forest Management Area in Manchester.

Members of the public could walk in, choose a Christmas tree between 4 and 10 feet, priced at \$1200 per foot, and have it cut to go.



National Meeting of the Local Forest Management Committees



A representative of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica addresses the LFMCs and representatives of the Forestry Department during the National Meeting of the Local Forest Management Committees held in the Agency's Training Facility at the head office on December 10.

Local Forest Management Committees across the island joined the Forestry Department in the annual National Meeting of the Local Forest Management Committees (LFMC) at the Agency's Head Office on December 9.

The Agency and community groups met to discuss successes, ideas and lessons learnt since the last meeting in December 2023.

The Agency revived the national meeting in December 2021 after a period of dormancy to offer stronger support to the LFMCs and collaborate with the groups for more impactful forest conservation efforts. The Scientific Research Council, Bureau of Standards and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority were in attendance to present technical advice on developing products at quality standards.



The Forestry Department builds the investigative capacity of the Enforcement Team



Members of the Forest Enforcement Services branch at the forestry Department in training at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in August.

The Forestry Department has moved to improve the case preparation and management capacity of its forest enforcement team as the Agency seeks to step up its protection of forests under its management.

The training is being completed under a one-year project valued at EURO \$100,000 (\$24 million), which is being funded with the support of the European Union and the ACP Group of States through the BIOPAMA Programme.

See photos below for activities and support under the programme.



[Click to read more: Forestry Department](#)

Forestry Department disrupts illegal harvesting operation in St. Mary

The pieces of wood which were sawn into planks were discovered during a routine patrol of the forest estate. The team of Forest Rangers discovered the sizeable illegal logging operation on October 15, 2024. “Upon discovery, the team proceeded to affix Notices of Seizure and mark the items. The officers also made a report to the Richmond Police Station, to ensure the police are aware in the event of attempts to remove the lumber before the Agency commenced said process,” said Tanika Stewart, Senior Director, Forest Enforcement Services at the Forestry Department.



Illegally harvested lumber identified in the Cape Clear forest estate in St. Mary on October 15, 2024.



[Click to read more: .. illegal harvesting](#)



Understanding the Forestry Department's Citizen's Charter

The Citizen's Charter is our promise to be effective, efficient and innovative in our commitment to delivering world-class service to our customers. The aims of our Citizen's Charter are to establish clear expectations between the Forestry Department and its customers, ensuring transparency, accountability, and high standards of service. It outlines the Agency's commitment to delivering quality services while also providing a framework for customers' rights and responsibilities.

How the Citizen's Charter Impacts Our Work

The Citizen's Charter plays a central role in shaping our daily operations in several key ways:

1 Guided Service Delivery



Each team member is empowered to understand and meet the commitments laid out in the Charter, ensuring that we deliver consistent, high-quality service to the public.

2 Enhanced Communication



The Charter facilitates clearer communication with customers, helping them understand what to expect when they seek assistance or information.

3 Feedback and Improvement

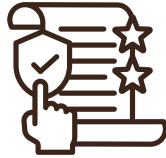


Encouraging customer feedback enables us to identify areas for growth, ensuring that we continue to adapt and improve based on the public's needs.

Understanding the Forestry Department's Citizen's Charter (Cont'd.)

The Level of Service Customers Can Expect from Us

1 Service Standards



We have set clear commitments regarding response times and service availability. For instance, all inquiries will be acknowledged within 24 hours, ensuring that our customers' expectations are managed.

2 Telephone Protocol



To maintain excellent customer service, all calls should be answered by the third ring, with staff introducing themselves and offering assistance. If a call is placed on hold, we should provide an update within three minutes or take contact details for follow-up within 24 hours. For inquiries requiring further research, we should provide progress updates within two business days and direct media inquiries to the Corporate Communications and Marketing Division.

3 Access to Information Act (ATI)



The Agency is committed to complying with the Access to Information Act, responding to all requests in accordance with the required timelines.

4 Written and Verbal Correspondence



Correspondence received via mail, email, facsimile, or hand delivery should be acknowledged within three working days, with a response provided within ten working days. If delays occur, the Agency should inform customers and provide an updated timeline. Information will be communicated through multiple channels, including the Agency's website, annual reports, public presentations, and offices island-wide.

5 Visiting Our Offices



Visitors to our offices should be greeted warmly by our Receptionist or Representative within two minutes of arrival. If the visitor has an appointment, any delays should be promptly communicated, and efforts should be made to reschedule if necessary. For walk-in visitors, the Receptionist should assess if an appointment is required and inform the visitor within 10 minutes if service can be provided immediately or if another appointment is needed. In the event of a large crowd, regular updates should be provided on waiting times and the status of their transaction.

Understanding the Forestry Department's Citizen's Charter (Cont'd.)

Feedback Mechanisms

The Citizen's Charter encourages our customers to provide feedback and lodge complaints, reinforcing our openness to input. We view feedback as an essential part of our commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that we remain responsive to the public's needs and maintain trust in our services.

The Citizen's Charter is a tool for improving service delivery, promoting trust, and encouraging continuous improvement within the Forestry Department. As we move forward, let us ensure that our work reflects our dedication to customer service excellence when performing our duties for the benefit of the current and future generations.



STAFF AWARDS *Ceremony*

*Congratulations to our
outstanding Awardees!*

Keep up the incredible work as
you serve our country with pride
and commitment.

Congratulations!

CEO & Conservator of Forests

Courtney Mullings
Kadeon Crighton Mullings

Employee of the Year Award:

Otway Elliott
Nasheji-Gaye Elliot

Supervisor of the Year Award

Nigel Jackson
Ann-Marie Bromfield

Long Service Awards

20 years of service

Kevin Brown
Mitchell Harris Burke

17 years of service

Cynthia Williams

15 years of service

Sharlene Gowdie-Reid
Andrea Morris
Damart Williams
Natrece Newsome
Kerriana Palmer
Ann-Marie Medder

Best Field Officer Award

Otway Elliott
Melecia Wright

Most Valuable Person (MVP) Award

Melecia Wright- LFESD
Sophia Gooden-Morris- FOD
Michelle Graham-Needham- FSTSD
Nasheji-Gaye Elliot -CCMD
David Hall- CSD
Andrei Stephenson- ICTD
Alexander Beckford- Executive Office

For the Division of the year 2023/24

Legal & Forest Enforcement Services Division

&

Corporate Communications & Marketing Division



Kudos Award

Michelle Graham-Needham

Roushell Swaby
Sasandra Williams
Jaheem Walters
Annique Heslop
Oshane Trupaire
Clayon Campbell
Andrei Stephenson

Retiree Awards

Marcus Gordon
Clifton Lewis
Patrick Barrett
Maxine Edwards
Gloria Heywood
Sigismund Bailey

View social media
highlights you might have
missed.



Staff Awards



CEO & Conservator of Forests Award

Kadeon Crighton Mullings Courtney Mullings

Employee of the Year Award

Otway Elliott

Nasheji-Gaye Elliot





Award for Best Field Officers

Melecia Wright



Otway Elliott





Award for Supervisor of the Year

Ann-Marie Bromfield

Nigel Jackson





Long Service Award

Damart Williams



Cynthia Williams



Sharlene Gowdie-Reid



Mitchell Harris Burke



Andrea Morris



Ann-Marie Medder



Kerriana Palmer





Award for Most Valuable Players (MVPs)

Andrei Stephenson



Sophia Gooden-Morris



Michelle Graham-Needham



Nasheji-Gaye Elliot



Melecia Wright





Award for Division of the Year

Legal & Forest Enforcement Services Division



Corporate Communications & Marketing Division



STAFF AWARDS Ceremony



We thank Rear Admiral (Rtd) Hardley Lewin (top left) for an interesting keynote address and Mr. Clehan Williams (bottom left), advisor to Hon. Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation, for bringing greetings on behalf of Min. Samuda. The words of encouragement and charge from Ainsley A. Henry (top right) our CEO and Conservator of Forests were uplifting for the terrains ahead. (Bottom right) Tasha Crooks, Administrative Support Officer presents a token from the Agency to Mr. Lewin.

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