



Overarching Policy for Jamaica's Protected Areas System

Government of Jamaica

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MESSAGE

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
FCF	Forest Conservation Fund
FD	Forestry Department
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
LDUC	Land Development and Utilization 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	Ministry responsible for Local Government

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 Organization
NPAS	National Protected Areas System
NRCA	Natural Resources Conservation Authority
NRCDC	Natural Resources Conservation Department
OECS	Organization 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
SFCA	Special Fishery Conservation Area
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (Protocol)
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Authority
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TPD	Town Planning Department
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

In accordance with national plans and global commitments, a system of protected areas has been established to ensure that Jamaica’s diverse ecological areas, culture and heritage are under effective protection and management. The National Outcomes of Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan includes Authentic and Transformational Culture and Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources. As a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Jamaica is implementing the 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, which will inform the promulgation of the Overarching Protected Areas legislation, to address the institutional arrangements for the protected areas system including the roles of the main entities responsible for protected areas as well as that of the public, the establishment of the system, and to re-define the scope of the system. This Policy will replace the Policy for the National System of Protected Areas, 1997 in which the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), as the organization charged by the Government with responsibility for effective management of Jamaica’s physical environment, was identified as the lead entity with responsibility for the protected areas system 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 are 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) several significant changes within the institutional framework have taken place since the 1990s: for example, the NRCA was merged with the Town Planning Department and the Land Development and Utilization Commission to form the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), an Executive Agency. Additionally, the National Fisheries Authority was established under the Fisheries Act, 2018³. There have also been changes in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) community: for example, the “umbrella group which provides training technical and organizational 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, in terms of climate change and invasive alien species, which need to be taken into account in the policy on protected areas.

The entities responsible for protected areas management in Jamaica, namely the National Fisheries Authority, the Forestry Department, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the NRCA/NEPA will continue to operate based on their respective legal mandates and within the framework of the Protected Areas Committee (PAC), which is responsible for overseeing the implementation and review of protected areas system plans and policies. The head of each of these entities will have an opportunity to chair the PAC as the chairmanship will be rotated, according to a schedule to be agreed among the entities. Other partners in the PAC will be the NGOs involved in the management of declared protected/designated sites and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Representatives of the private sector, academia, and funding agencies may be co-opted to serve on the PAC or support its work as needed. The Ministry responsible for the environment will have the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the System, in collaboration with the other ministries which have protected area management entities. The PAC will determine its operations and guidelines. The members of the PAC will be appointed by the Minister responsible for the environment.

The new comprehensive protected areas system law is intended to regulate a protected areas system and should include provisions relating to the establishment of an enabling administrative structure to ensure effective protected areas management, the role of the public in the declaration/designation of

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

protected areas, procedures for proposals to change the designation or boundaries of protected areas, protection of private lands as well as provision of incentives for biodiversity conservation.

The existing protected areas will be reviewed and recommendations made for additions and deletions to the System resulting in a newly defined portfolio of protected area types, with definitions and selection criteria, and the natural protected areas further categorized 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 national 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 fourteen types of protected areas (including 3 new designations). Six equivalent management categories of the IUCN are also indicated as appropriate.

The types of protected areas within the System will be included in the overarching legislation on protected areas which are being developed and amendments made as required to the principal legislation governing protected area management entities to include new categories. The term ‘protected area’ will not be used as a category and related legislation, namely, the Beach Control Act, the NRCA Act and the Forest Act, will be amended accordingly. Related regulations will also be promulgated under these pieces of legislation, as appropriate. There will be reviews of the existing areas which may lead to the reclassification of some protected areas. For example, some of the existing forest reserves may need to be reclassified as forest management areas, and vice versa, in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Act⁵ and extensive areas will undergo reassessment for harmonization with the IUCN management criteria. In the 1997 Policy for the National System of Protected Areas, the category of ‘environmental protection area’ as prescribed in the NRCA Act (section 33) is not included in the System as the purpose of such designation is more associated with land use and planning concerns. In this regard, the Negril Environmental Protection Area should also be assessed as to which sections could be designated within an appropriate category in the protected areas system based on natural or cultural heritage significance.

⁴ In 2004, when the Programme of Work on Protected Areas was being adopted, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) formally recognized 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 Draft dated 26 October 2023

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 needs, 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 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 sets out a vision statement, guiding principles including intergenerational equity, a goal and related policy statements. The vision is:

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

The following are the goal and objectives of the Policy:

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 a National System of Protected Areas

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

The objectives are as follows:

- To develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system;
- To build and maintain a representative, inter-connected, resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes and systems, promotes human well-being and conserves, protects and preserves the country's natural and cultural heritage;
- To improve protected area management effectiveness;
- To strengthen communication, education and public awareness and enhance and secure the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system;
- To provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the national protected area system; and
- To ensure that scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system.

There will be a review of the existing protected sites in order to rationalize the System, including the reclassification of the sites based on the agreed categories of protected areas, the actual state of the sites and the proposed management arrangements. This means that there may be changes in the boundaries, zoning and designation of some protected areas. The Forest Policy for Jamaica (2016) addresses the streamlining of forest classifications under the Forest Act and the intended development of legislation to reflect these changes. The process will be based on consultation as well as scientific, cultural and other assessments, as appropriate, to inform the declaration/designation of new protected areas. An important provision that will be considered for inclusion in the amendment of the 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. 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 organizations (NGOs).

Protected areas are established to protect Jamaica’s biodiversity and cultural values. Indeed, protected areas which are appropriately governed and effectively managed have benefits which include: safeguarding biodiversity¹¹, providing ecosystem services¹², providing genetic resources for food and agriculture¹³; conserving water resources; mitigating the impacts of natural hazards as well as climate regulation acting as natural carbon sinks¹⁴, contributing to poverty alleviation by providing employment opportunities and livelihoods to people living in and around them 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/>

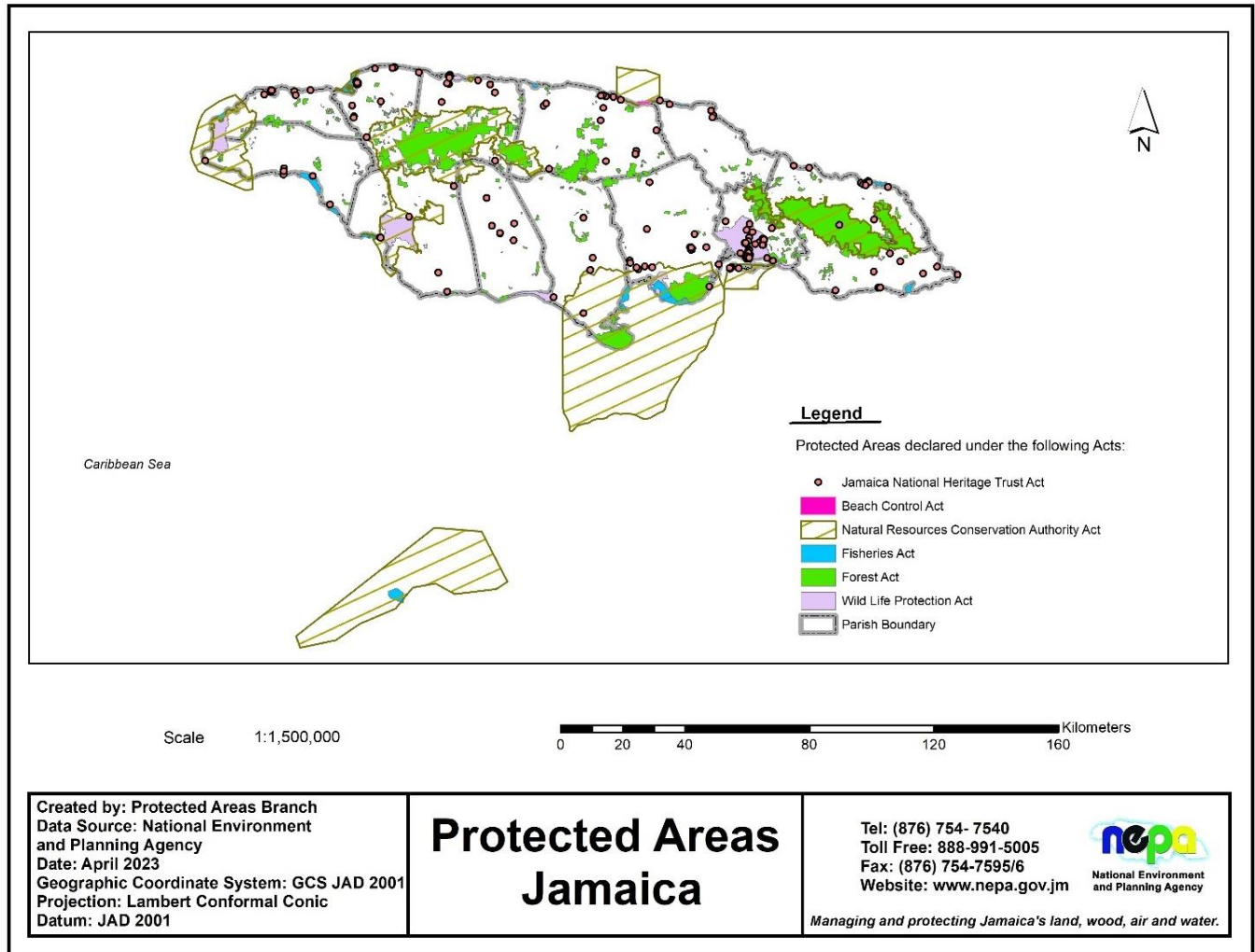


Figure 1: Protected Areas in Jamaica

In 1997, the Policy for the National 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 realized as there are still areas for improvement.

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

¹⁷ Policy for the National System of Protected Areas (1997)

There have been fundamental changes in the institutional arrangements related to protected areas management since 1997 for example, the merger of the NRCA, Town Planning Department and the Land Development and Utilization Commission to form NEPA and the establishment of the Protected Areas Committee (PAC)¹⁸. Other developments include the establishment of the NFA under the Fisheries Act, 2018, NEPA and the Forestry Department becoming Executive Agencies (under the Executive Agencies Act) as well as the approval of the Forest Policy (2016), the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan and the Protected Areas Regulations under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority 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 Policy stated that in order to facilitate the further development of the System, a protected areas system plan would follow, outlining the steps and actions to be taken. Following reviews of the Policy and its implementation, and a re-statement in 2001¹⁹ of the need for a plan for the protected areas system, between 2004 and 2005 a project funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) prepared some elements of a system plan. In order to meet obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), other elements 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 were prepared starting in 2005, for 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 (UNDP). The project's goal which was to “safeguard Jamaica's globally significant biodiversity”, also supported the implementation of the PASMP. Among the outputs of the NPAS Project were

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

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) which was established to provide financial support for the operation of the protected areas system.

The 1997 Policy for the National System of Protected Areas is being replaced by a new updated policy which will incorporate some of the provisions of the previous policy, include elements of the PASMP and guide 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 waters²⁰ are protected under several designations in existing legislation. There are more than 350 declared protected areas²¹ 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 Station²². In recent years, the following areas have received designation as protected areas under the NRCA Act, namely the Pedro Cays and Surrounding Waters Protected Area in 2023, Cockpit Country Protected Area in 2022, and Black River Landscape and Seascape Protected Area in 2021 (Appendix I).

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 sterilized or that there will be negative social and economic impacts: on the contrary, protected areas, designated based on scientific and socio-cultural evaluations and 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

²⁰ National Environment and Planning Agency (2023) – Jamaica Protected Areas Coverage

²¹ Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013-2017 (approved 2015) - List at Appendix 3

²² http://jnht.com/documents/Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf

remaining 7.7% of the closed broadleaf forest in trust for the people of Jamaica.²³ The Forestry Department is conducting a Land-Use/Land Cover Assessment which is anticipated to be completed in 2024. This Assessment will provide updated information and data on the island's forest cover.

Under the NPAS Project, recommendations have been made for the harmonization 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 recognize that all protected areas should aim to:²⁴

- “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 program that supports adaptive management;
- Possess a clear and equitable governance system”.

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);

²³ Forest Policy for Jamaica (2016)

²⁴ IUCN, Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories 2008, pg. 12

- 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 wellbeing 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 this ecological connectivity among the CBC countries is maintained since doing so will allow for the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services. These include: the provision of food, fuel, and water; the storage of carbon and regulation of the climate; the preservation of heritage and culture; and the recycling of water and nutrients, which support a number of key economic sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, health, and tourism.

1.2.2 Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

In March 2023, fifteen (15) Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) were declared 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 ESAs declared 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
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. The Negril Great Morass, Hanover – Westmoreland

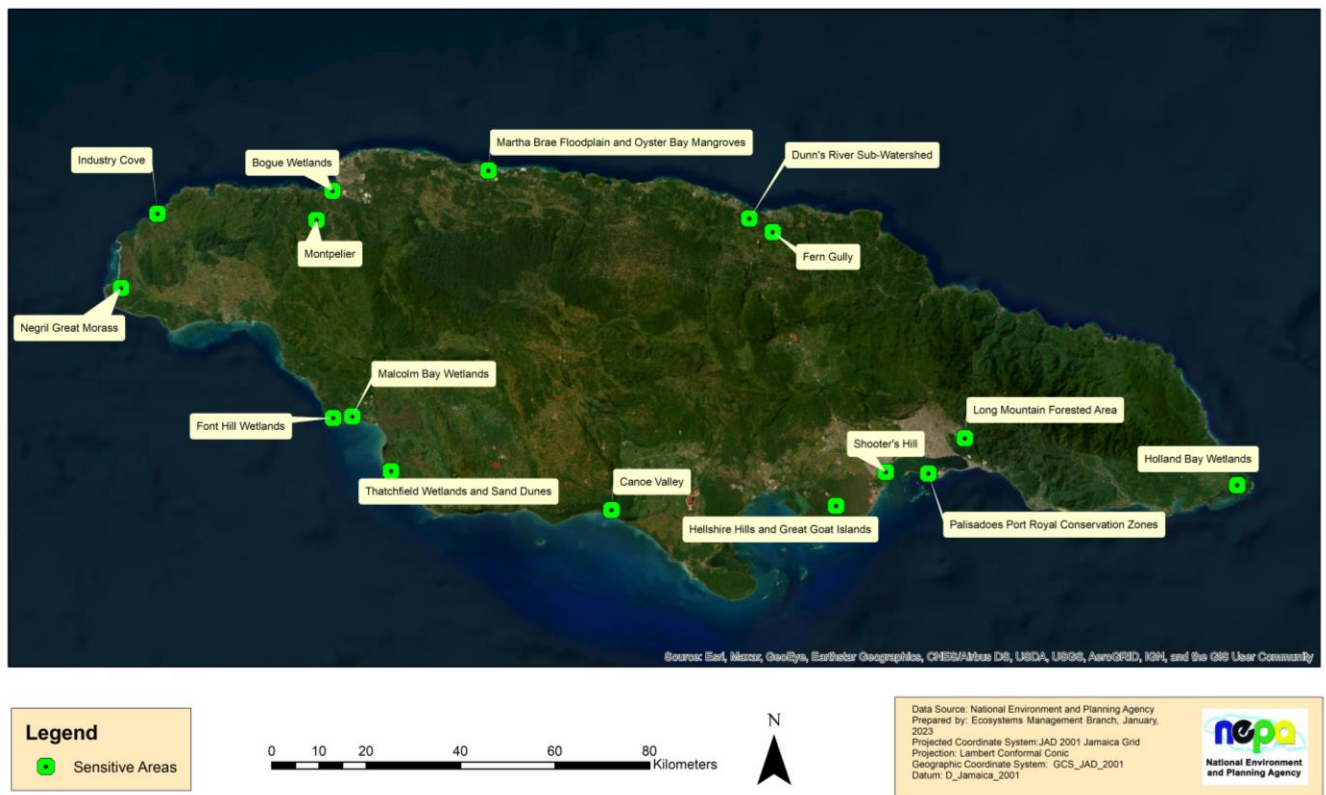


Figure 2: Areas Declared as ESAs in Jamaica

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.

1.2.3 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 assets within a protected area” (CBD 2014). Threats may be direct²⁵ or indirect²⁶ (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).

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 as well as conflicts over land use (Hayman, 2007)²⁷. In addition, the lack of management plans or current plans, and research and monitoring data were noted as significant weaknesses.²⁸ The major threats to the country’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; hunting and harvesting; legal and illegal timber harvesting; legal and illegal encroachment; destructive fishing practices; overfishing; (human-induced) fires; tourism and climate change (Hayman, 2007).²⁹

1.3 Protected Areas System

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

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ Indirect threats “arise from outside protected areas, but which affect values within protected areas and jeopardise their conservation goals”

²⁷ National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas – page 58

²⁸ National Report on Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas– page 58

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

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;
- regionalization 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.³⁰

1.4 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 development”. The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity (NBSAP), 2016-2020³¹, 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

³⁰ National System Planning for Protected Areas – Main Author: Adrian G. Davey; Series Editor: Adrian Phillips - <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/7394>

³¹ The period for Implementation of the NBSAP (2016-2020) was extended by a year

include taking “action to promote and protect the rights of women...to include the principle of equality in legislation and ensure it is operationalized”. 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 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.³² 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.³³ 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.

1.5 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 climate change and to mainstream climate change considerations into national policies and all types and levels of development planning.³⁴ Climate change considerations must be a feature of 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)³⁵ notes that “Jamaica continues the warming trend seen in the historical data through to the end of

³² 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...’

³³ Voluntary National Review, 2022 https://www.pioj.gov.jm/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/VNR_Goal_5.pdf

³⁴ Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan, 2009 – page 246; Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica, 2023

³⁵ Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM), 2020: State of the Jamaican Climate 2019: Information for Resilience Building (Second draft).

the century” (Climate Studies Group, Mona (CSGM), 2020). It is recognized 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 sea grasses” (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 benefits”. NbS are recognized 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.

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 NFA, the Forestry Department, the JNHT and the NRCA/NEPA. Arrangements for the co-management of protected areas have been made with local communities, NGOs, the private sector as well as other government entities. It is intended that in the establishment of the protected areas system, each protected area entity will continue to carry out its mandate and that coordination of actions will be done through the Protected Areas Committee (PAC).

2.1.1 Main Regulatory Entities

The NFA, as indicated in section 5 of the Fisheries Act, 2018, is responsible for, *inter alia*, the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture. Specific functions of the NFA include the conservation of fisheries; assessment of aquaculture and fisheries; ensuring the viability of coastal, marine and other aquatic environments; preparation and periodic review of fishery management plans; granting, suspension, cancellation and revocation of permits, licences and authorization; and the management, development, designation and zoning of fisheries waters. Most fish sanctuaries are managed through cooperative arrangements between the government and community-based and non-governmental organizations; at least one arrangement is with a private foundation (Alligator Head Foundation). Each partnership is formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Ministry responsible for fisheries and the collaborating organization. Under the MoA, the Government provides financial resources for the partners to undertake the day-to-day operations of the fish sanctuaries³⁶.

The Forestry Department was declared an Executive Agency in 2010 as per section 4 of the Executive Agency Act.³⁷ The Department is responsible for, *inter alia*, the sustainable management and effective conservation of forests on Crown lands and in forest reserves, the

³⁶ https://www.moa.gov.jm/sites/default/files/Special_Fisheries_Conservation_areas.pdf

³⁷ 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.

development and implementation of a national forest management and conservation plan and forest management plans as well as watershed protection in forest reserves, protected areas and forest management areas.

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 bauxite companies); and the public sector (National Water Commission and NEPA).

The JNHT is a statutory body responsible for promoting the preservation of national monuments and protected national heritage³⁸, conducting development for their preservation as well as identifying and recording any species of plant or animal life 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.

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.

³⁸ '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.

In 2001, the NEPA was established as an Executive Agency under the Executive Agencies Act, incorporating the NRCA, the Town Planning Department (TPD) and the Land Development and Utilization Commission (LDUC). NEPA and the Town and Country Planning Authority (TCPA) are responsible for planning, with the TCPA as the decision-making body as regards physical planning matters. The LDUC's duties include ensuring that "occupiers of agricultural units fulfil their responsibilities under this Act³⁹ to farm the agricultural land in such units" and "that such agricultural land is, as far as possible, properly developed and utilized".

Overlapping Responsibilities

Enhanced collaboration through overlapping responsibilities usually facilitates the efficient sharing of resources, expertise and best practices. 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.

There are some aspects in which the agencies share responsibility for the same matter: 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. Regarding mangroves, 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 others⁴⁰.

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. Operating in a functional protected areas system, the entities will need close collaboration and mutual support to reduce or eliminate duplication of effort.

A review conducted under the NPAS Project of the protected area types in use in Jamaica

³⁹ The Land Development and Utilization Act, 1966

⁴⁰ Forest Policy for Jamaica – Green Paper No. 2/2015 – page 45

concluded that there is need for a clear definition of categories, as well as legislative and policy direction⁴¹. 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

The Ministers responsible for culture, fisheries, forestry and the environment signed the PASMP, indicating their support and commitment 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 mobilizing funding from various sources including the Global Environment Facility.

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 this time, given the economic constraints and the complexities involved in what would be a major restructuring exercise and requirement for amendments to relevant laws.

⁴¹ A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica – page 57

2.1.4 Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector

Since the 1990s, NGOs and community-based organizations (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 projects⁴². The Forestry Department also has a private planting programme. Additionally, the Forest Act 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.⁴³

The NRCA has delegated responsibility to environmental NGOs and one government agency for the management of national parks, marine parks and protected areas designated under the NRCA Act. NGOs 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, categorization 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 communities⁴⁴, supports among other bodies, 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

⁴² Section 13 of the Forest Act

⁴³ Forest Act – Section 25

⁴⁴ Social Development Commission. Retrieved on 21 November 2022 from <https://sdc.gov.jm/>

sustainable practices as well as public education and outreach activities including meetings and workshops.

The Parish Development Committee (PDC) consists of stakeholders including businesses, civil society, elected officials and state agencies “which coordinates and monitors the development processes at the local level”⁴⁵. 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.

Public participation has been a fundamental element in the operations of the protected area entities and Ministries, as may be seen in the public consultations island-wide, management arrangements and inclusion of NGOs in the decision-making processes.

2.2 Existing Policies and Plans

Section 13(3)(1) of the Charter for Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2011, 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 and promulgation of this Policy in Jamaica. Healthy and functional protected areas will assist with ensuring that this right is fulfilled.

Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan 2009–2030: This is Jamaica’s first long-term National Development Plan and 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

⁴⁵ Parish Development Committees. Retrieved on 21 November 2022 from <https://localauthorities.gov.jm/parish-development-committees>

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 the National 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 utilization 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 LMOs⁴⁶ on human health and biodiversity are effectively mitigated and managed. This policy was developed by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (Draft) (2015): The draft policy makes reference to the Protected Areas System Master Plan and the proposed role of the Fisheries Division (NFA) 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 closed broadleaf forest will be held in public trust for the people of Jamaica.

National Cultural Policy (2003): The JNHT does not have a separate policy, however, there is a National Cultural Policy⁴⁷ which seeks to among other things, foster and promote activities for the natural cultural heritage protection and development “through the coordinated work of the

⁴⁶ LMOs-Living Modified Organisms

⁴⁷ National Cultural Policy, 2003 page 33 <https://www.nlj.gov.jm/files/u8/national-cultural-policy.pdf>

agencies catering to its care and maintaining the link 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 public lands of environmental importance including protected areas will “remain vested in Government or could be leased for approved uses/management with relevant conditions”⁴⁸. 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 minimizing 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 recognizes forest reserves declared under the Forest Act, 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. The plan also states that “Protection and conservation of Jamaica’s forests will be most effectively achieved through co-management agreements between the Conservator of Forests and other agencies”.

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

⁴⁸ <http://www.licj.org.jm/index.php/national-land-policy-of-jamaica/>

obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Article 6 and CBD COP 10 Decision X/2) and is considered as the main instrument for implementation of the CBD at the national level (NEPA 2016). The Plan recognizes 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 finalization 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 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 outcomes⁴⁹ are:

⁴⁹ Ibid – page 40

- 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.⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

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 2023 (Green Paper): The policy's vision is "Jamaica has healthy and optimally functional watersheds that are efficient and effective in the provision of ecosystem services for the benefit of all." The policy statement is that "The Government of Jamaica will support the responsible entities to enable them to manage effectively and protect critical areas within the island's Watershed Management Units, including through partnerships at the national

⁵⁰ 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).

⁵¹ 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.

and local levels with community-based and non-government organisations, academia, the private sector and multilateral agencies.” Objective 2 of the policy which pertains to financing for watershed management, identifies as a funding option applying to the NCTFJ for projects for the management of 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 utilize 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 adaption to climate change, respectively.

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)(1) on the right to a healthy environment.

Development Orders: Section 5 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1958) provides for the preparation of development orders. These Orders include provisions for amenities including:

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.

A Development Order is prepared for each parish as well as the country's only municipality (Portmore). These are usually updated every five years. As of October 2, 2023, the most recent Development Order is Kingston & St. Andrew and the Pedro Cays Confirmed Development Order, 2023.

Local Sustainable Development Plans (LSDPs): These are strategic plans usually developed by Parish Development Committees in collaboration with local authorities and other stakeholders (such as community-based organizations 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 localizing, establishing and monitoring protected areas.

2.3 Legislation

Current 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 Regulations⁵². Also relevant are the Wild Life Protection Act, 1945⁵³ 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, 1958 (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.

⁵² The Forest Act and Regulations are being amended.

⁵³ 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 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. Eighteen (18) special fishery conservation areas (fish sanctuaries) have been declared under the Fishing Industry Act (Special Fishery Conservation Area) Regulations, 2012 (Appendix V)⁵⁴.

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 twelve (112) forest reserves and one (1) forest management area have been gazetted as at February 2018. 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

⁵⁴ It is expected that the special fishery conservation areas (SFCAs) will be renamed fish sanctuaries.

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 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)⁵⁵. Approximately 16 are natural sites, this includes the Pedro Bank. The JNHT Act is currently being amended.

Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act, 1991: The NRCA is responsible for the effective management of the physical environment of Jamaica to ensure the conservation,

⁵⁵[www.jnht.com/documents/ Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf](http://www.jnht.com/documents/Protected_Sites_11-2019.pdf)

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 *inter alia* the following:

- “to manage such national parks, marine parks, protected areas and public recreational facilities as may be prescribed”.
- “to carry out or cause to be carried out such improvements as it thinks fit” and
- “provide 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 (seven protected areas, two marine parks and one national park) and under section 33, one environmental protection area (Appendix I). The NRCA Act will be amended, where appropriate, for more modern provisions.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1958: 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.” 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) Provisional Development Order, 2017; Town and Country Planning (Saint James Parish) Development Order, 2018 and the Town and Country Planning (Trelawny Parish) Provisional Development Order, 2013.

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 Wild Life Protection Act to allow for provisions related to flora, some endemic species and an increase in fines and penalties. It is anticipated once the Act is finalized, Jamaica will seek to ratify the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol.

Common Factors of the Laws

Some of the common factors identified in the reviews carried out in preparation for the PASMP were inadequate legislation, weak enforcement and limited compliance. There are some cross-jurisdictional issues in the legislation of the 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 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 standardization 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 purposes⁵⁶." 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.

⁵⁶ Development of Incentives for Private Sector Investment in Improved Watershed Management in Jamaica, 2003, Ridge to Reef Watersheds Project, USAID

Proposed amendments and new legislation

The process for amending the Forest Act and Regulations commenced in the 2020/21 Financial Year. 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.

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 agencies⁵⁷. 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.”⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Recommendations for a Comprehensive Protected Area Legislation Framework based on International Practice – page 6

⁵⁸ Ibid– page 7

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

- a. Defining and classifying protected area categories
- b. Preparing management plans based on the best available scientific information and with the participation of stakeholders
- c. Identifying procedures for amending protected area boundaries
- d. Providing for the protection of private land by consent of landowners and incentives.

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 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.⁵⁹

The Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas (JPAS) 2010–2020 identified three major resource mobilization 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 (GBF) Fund has been established to support the implementation of the GBF. Other funding sources include private sector (non-government organizations, 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

⁵⁹ PASMP – Appendix 9 – Financial Sustainability Summary

exclusive task would be to take advantage of funding opportunities and to design and implement sustainable financial mechanisms for protected areas.

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.

Table 1: International Treaties/Agreements and Responsible Entities

International Treaties/Agreements	Responsible Entity
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992	Ministry responsible for the environment
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
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
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 – recognizes 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 utilization 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 are 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.⁶⁰

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 minimizing the possible risks to the environment and to human health”⁶¹.

⁶⁰A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica, page 57

⁶¹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000). Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity: text and annexes.

The objective of the Nagoya Protocol is “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization 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 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”⁶² (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. The plan 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...’⁶³. 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).

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

⁶² 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

⁶³ Excerpt of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

of the HAC promoted the inclusion of this commitment as a target in the GBF⁶⁴. 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 recognizes 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 and the Forestry Department is reviewing the requirements for Jamaica to become a Party to the UN Forest Instrument, 2016.

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) 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

⁶⁴ <https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org/hac-launch-hub-page#fact>

(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 recognize 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 2019⁶⁵. 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, CARICOM is preparing a Policy Framework on Environment and Natural Resource Management which includes the protection and management of natural and cultural heritage.

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:

⁶⁵ https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-18&chapter=27&clang=_en accessed 7 April 2022

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 committed to strengthening “Jamaica's policy and legislative frameworks governing protected areas, including marine protected areas” through the promulgation of the Cays Management Policy as well as protected areas policy and overarching 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 surrounding waters and the Black River protected landscape/seascape”.⁶⁶

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”⁶⁷.

The CCI was endorsed at the 30th Caribbean Community (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' goal⁶⁸. 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

⁶⁶ <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>

⁶⁷ CCI_Timeline_2018.pdf (caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org)

⁶⁸ PHASE I (caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org)

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 over-arching 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 Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) by 2030”⁶⁹.

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 actions⁷⁰ 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 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”.

⁶⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-ocean-alliance-30by30-initiative/about>

⁷⁰ [Leaders_Pledge_for_Nature_27.09.20-ENGLISH.pdf](#) (leaderspledgefornature.org) accessed 8 April 2022

Jamaica has also made commitments as one of fourteen heads of state and government⁷¹ 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* states 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” recognizing 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”.

⁷¹ 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.⁷²”

While recreational areas and areas of scenic beauty require special attention, they will generally not be categorized as part of the national 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 Policy for the Protected Areas System of Jamaica is:

Jamaica’s protected areas system is ecologically representative and sustainably managed, preserving its ecological functions and services and conserving its rich biological diversity and 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.⁷³

⁷² International Union for Conservation of Nature, 2008

⁷³ Policy for Jamaica’s National 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 cultural heritage as well as for social and economic benefits.

3.3 Guiding principles

The development and enhancement of protected areas in Jamaica is guided by a holistic ecosystem-based approach, which recognizes 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, the cultural and natural heritage, social dynamics and economic imperatives. The following principles will guide the implementation of the protected areas system⁷⁴:

- **Representativeness, comprehensiveness and balance**

Include representative samples of all species and ecosystems within the protected areas system, at a sufficient scale to ensure their long-term persistence.

- **Adequacy**

The integrity, size, arrangement and management of protected areas support viable environmental processes and/or species, populations and communities⁷⁵.

- **Redundancy**

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

⁷⁴ 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>

⁷⁵ Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

- **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 objectives⁷⁶.

- **Cost effectiveness, efficiency and equity**

Costs and benefits are appropriately balanced and equitably distributed and the number and coverage of protected areas is sufficient for the achievement of system objectives⁷⁷.

- **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.

- **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 organization recognizing humans as an essential component of many ecosystems.

⁷⁶ Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

⁷⁷ Adapted from Davey, A.G. (1998). National System Planning for Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

- **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.

- **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, and user groups, particularly those directly affected by the creation or reclassification of such areas, taking into account gender equity. The process should be transparent and inclusive supporting sound decision-making and providing 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.

3.4 Policies

3.4.1 Governance and Management Arrangements

Coordination, collaboration and communication are among the main requirements to deal effectively with 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 members of the PAC include the heads, or their designates, of the four GOJ entities that have a legal mandate to manage protected areas, representatives at a senior level of parent Ministries, representatives of other Ministries and agencies which provide or can leverage funding for protected areas, or which are involved with critical sectors, representatives of local and community groups and NGOs including protected area co-managers, local authorities, the private sector and academia. Other organizations or individuals not specifically named may be co-opted to sit on the PAC or support its work as needed, for example, through expert working groups or sub-committees that will facilitate stakeholder collaboration on crosscutting themes of special relevance to their mandates.

The Chairperson is selected from the four government entities with responsibility for protected areas which will be rotated. Representatives from co-management partners will also be rotated based on nominations from the respective government entities. The Terms of Reference for the PAC will specify the purpose, functions, composition, selection of members and secretariat as well as meeting procedures and will be reviewed periodically.

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) regarding existing and proposed protected areas will be shared with and discussed by the PAC and other relevant stakeholders.

Role of Ministries

The parent Ministries will continue to relate to the protected area entities and will be represented at a senior level on the PAC. The Ministers will be the point of referral for any matter to the PAC, with Cabinet as the ultimate decision-making body.

Joint Cabinet Submissions and statements will be made by the Ministers responsible for fisheries, heritage and culture, forestry and the environment regarding the protected areas system, as

necessary and appropriate. Individual Submissions will also continue to be made on protected areas and related matters under the remit of each Ministry.

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, shall after consultation with the other Ministers responsible for protected areas, table legislation regarding the protected areas system, for example, the Overarching Protected Areas legislation. Other legislation on protected areas will be addressed by the other relevant Ministers responsible for forestry, fisheries and culture.

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

Role of protected area entities

The NFA, Forestry Department, JNHT and the NRCA/NEPA will continue to operate according to their respective mandates on protected areas and in keeping with the direction of the authorities appointed under applicable legislation. A separate entity responsible for the management of protected areas will not be created. The institutional arrangements are as set out in Figure 3.

A variety of arrangements will be used in the management of protected areas to provide for the contribution as well as the effective and equitable participation of stakeholders including local communities, NGOs, CBOs, private sector, youth and seniors taking into consideration gender equity. Management arrangements will include governance by government; shared governance; governance by private individuals or organizations as well as governance by local communities⁷⁸.

⁷⁸ **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)

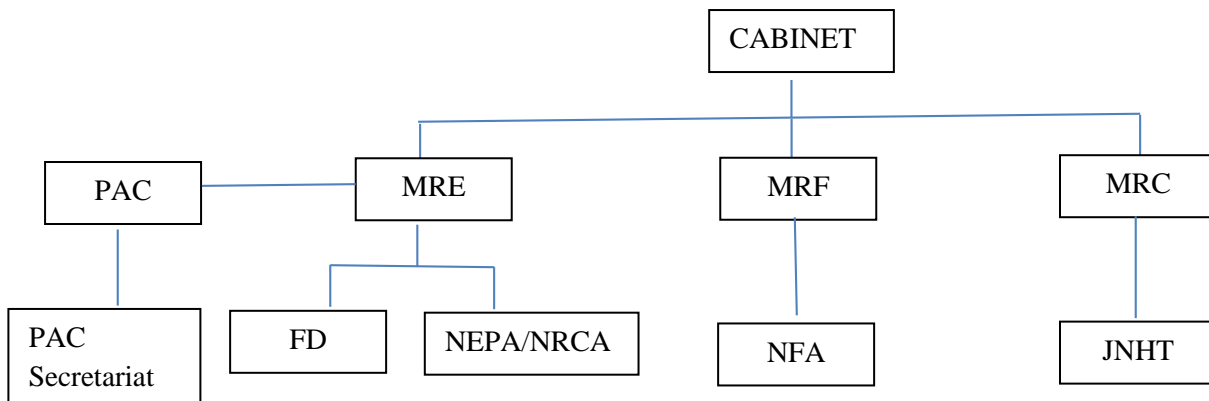


Figure 3: Institutional Arrangements-Protected Areas System

JNHT-Jamaica National Heritage Trust;
 MRC-Ministry responsible for Culture; MRE-Ministry responsible for the Environment
 MRF-Ministry responsible for Fisheries; NFA-National Fisheries Authority
 NEPA/NRCA - National Environment and Planning Agency/ Natural Resources Conservation Authority
 (Secretariat to the PAC)

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 entities will foster and promote inter-agency collaboration and coordination of actions to ensure that policies are harmonized 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 entities should include relevant provisions related to the PAS as set out in this Policy.

The comprehensive Overarching Protected Areas legislation should include provisions for:

- a PAS that is representative of Jamaica’s biodiversity, natural resources and cultural heritage;
- integration of protected areas into national, sector and local planning frameworks;
- a definition of the term protected area, the types of protected areas within the protected areas system, criteria for designation as well as the IUCN equivalents of the types of protected areas;
- requirement for affirmative resolution with respect to the removal of protected area status from any site included in the protected areas system;
- an outline of minimum requirements for management plans;
- zoning requirements, including the possible use of buffer zones;
- public participation and gender considerations in the planning, establishment and management of protected areas;
- mechanisms for financial sustainability of the protected areas system;
- recognition that scientific knowledge contributes to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system and the promotion of research through the protection of these areas;
- mechanisms to evaluate, monitor and improve protected areas management, status and trends at the system level;
- recognition of the potential for the establishment of private protected areas⁷⁹ essential for a comprehensive national protected areas system, including the provision of incentives for

⁷⁹ “a privately protected area is a protected area, as defined by IUCN, under private governance (i.e., individuals and groups of individuals; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); corporations both existing commercial companies and sometimes corporations set up by groups of private owners to manage groups of PPAs; for-profit owners; research

the conservation of private land having ecological or cultural significance (such as conservation easements) and acquisition of and compensation for private lands or a portion thereof within core ecological sites in protected areas to ensure their protection in perpetuity;

- promotion of the use of traditional and local communities' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in cooperation with, the owners of the knowledge with the necessary prior informed consent; and
- interim protection of a site prior to declaration/designation.

The legislation governing protected areas, regulated by the relevant public sector entities should include an expanded range of enforcement options including seizures, fines, suspension of permits and licences, involvement of communities in patrolling, enforcement and compliance as well as options such as involving persons who breach the law in providing community service in protected areas.

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 designation of the areas will continue to be done by the individual protected area entities under the amended or new legislation as required.

For the purpose of the protected areas system, the term 'national monument' will apply to immovable cultural heritage only, in keeping with the definition of protected area for the protected areas system.

The protected area management categories of the IUCN will be applied as appropriate to the types of natural protected areas in the protected areas system (Appendix IV) through a structured process

entities (e.g., universities, field stations) or religious entities)" Sue Stolton, Kent H. Redford and Nigel Dudley (2014). *The Futures of Privately Protected Areas*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

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 naturalness.⁸⁰

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

Table 2: IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories⁸¹

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.
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,

⁸⁰ A Proposed Refinement of Protected Area Categories for Jamaica – page 84

⁸¹ 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
	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	Current 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/Seascape (new)	NRCA Act	V	Protected Landscape/Seascape
12. Managed Resource 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. Fisheries Management Areas/Zones and Aquaculture Management Areas/Zones	Fisheries Act	IV	Habitat/Species Management Areas

Rationalization 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 over-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 relevant entities will be coordinated by the PAC to formalize co-management and reporting arrangements.

In cases where multiple designations 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 rationalization of the protected areas system.

Reclassification

A protected area designation may be amended under special circumstances and reclassified. A process of reclassification of the protected areas based on the IUCN protected area management categories according to management objectives, taking into account other considerations as appropriate, must be carried out by the protected area entities in consultation with the PAC. The PAC and the relevant protected area entities must bear in mind that reclassification of a protected area may have implications for Jamaica's meeting conservation targets.

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

3.4.4 Establishment of New Protected Areas

Increase the coverage, representativeness and if appropriate connectivity of protected areas based on scientific and cultural assessments and other considerations, such as management capacity. The sites to be declared should be based on priorities identified by protected area entities or in system reports and plans.

Protected area entities proposing to declare/designate a new protected area, must consult other protected area entities, the PAC, and other key stakeholders, as necessary and appropriate, on the proposal including recommended boundaries. The Minister with responsibility for the category of protected areas would make the declaration by Order.

Before a new protected area is designated/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 national protected areas system;
- preparation of proposals including site boundary map, accompanying geographical description, justification, proposed management authority, preliminary management plan including zones and the inclusion of stakeholders⁸² in the review of proposals for new protected areas;
- consultations with the Ministers and agencies with responsibility for key sectors including agriculture, mining, physical planning and local government as well as the relevant municipalities, as appropriate.

Another consideration may be the potential for the area to be nominated to various UN organizations, for example, UNESCO, for international recognition.

Protected areas⁸³ should be integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes and relevant sectors for the maintenance of ecological integrity and functions by applying the ecosystem approach⁸⁴ taking into consideration ecological connectivity⁸⁵.

Public notification of the proposed declaration and consultations (to be done by the relevant Ministry and Agency) are essential for the process.

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

⁸² “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)

⁸³ 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*.

⁸⁴ 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*)

⁸⁵ Programme of Work on Protected Areas

recommended duration of management plans shall not exceed ten years and will be reviewed and revised as necessary.

As soon as is practically possible, the management authorities 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 adaptation⁸⁶ 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 establish participatory mechanisms for the public and stakeholders including local communities, men, women and youth; collect relevant data and identify and assess issues, broad goals, conservation objectives, zoning needs, and management actions. These analyses become the basis for preparing the draft management plan.

Once a draft plan has been prepared, the process involves further public consultation, revision of the draft plan, production of a final plan, formal approval of the plan⁸⁷, implementation, monitoring as well as review and updating after a given period of time.⁸⁸

⁸⁶ 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*)

⁸⁷ The level for decision-making will be determined within each organization

⁸⁸ 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.

Each protected area entity should include in its legislation provisions on management plans or preservation schemes⁸⁹ as relevant.

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

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 included as part of the process of developing management plans or preservation schemes, including demarcation of the areas, where feasible; a description of the key conservation and cultural values, functions that such areas provide for the protected areas system or site as well as conservation measures and compatible land uses recommended for preserving those functions and should take into account traditional uses. Where applicable, zoning plans should be included in management plans. These 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), 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,

⁸⁹ 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”.

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 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 generate funds 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 carried out 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...”⁹⁰

3.4.6 Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Recognize, increase understanding of and communicate the natural and cultural values and benefits of protected areas in the provision of ecosystem services, sustaining local livelihoods and

⁹⁰ 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>)

mitigating the risks from natural disasters as well as how to conserve, protect and sustainably use natural resources therein.

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

Mechanisms for meaningful participation should 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 designation 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 during all planning activities, to identify, *inter alia*, community issues and interests and to take into account their views and knowledge and provide forums for review of plans before finalization
- 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 mechanisms and includes multiple sources such as GOJ budgetary allocations; tourism fees; user fees; debt

swaps; personal donations/sponsorship programmes, including the Jamaican diaspora; corporate social responsibility programmes/sponsorship; dedicated fundraising from special events and funds raised by NGOs and GOJ entities from local and international development partners and donor agencies as well as payments for ecosystem services⁹¹. These options should be actively explored and, where viable, 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, regulations may be promulgated to prescribe fees to be paid for the use of parks, roads and trails, camp grounds, picnic sites and such other facilities as the Conservator may determine.

There is need for further capitalization of the NCTFJ to support protected areas management and the identification of other funding sources, including through foundations at the national level, and the development of innovative financing mechanisms.

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 government as well as new or non-traditional funding partners, especially from the private sector.

3.4.8 Contribution of Science and Technology

The best available science and technology, such as Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing, should be utilized in the establishment and effective management of the protected areas system.

Collaborate with academia and other entities in the collection and analysis of data and information based on research needs taking into account the following recommendations⁹²:

⁹¹ Sustainable Financing Plan for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas 2010-2020 (2009) and Protected Areas System Master Plan: Jamaica 2013 – 2017 (2013)

⁹² 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 ecosystem disturbance on the health of stakeholders and for 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 biodiversity⁹³.
- **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 large extent to which many ecosystems have been degraded, restoration strategies should be devised for critical habitats incorporating cost-benefit 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

⁹³ 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.

Encourage the sharing of, and access to, information on protected areas among academia, government, private sector, NGOs, communities and the public.

Resources should be provided to support scientific studies and research conducted on the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

3.5 Policy Objectives

The six main objectives regarding the protected areas system are:

- To develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system;
- To build and maintain a representative, inter-connected, resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes and systems, promotes human well-being and conserves, protects and preserves the country’s natural and cultural heritage;
- To improve protected area management effectiveness;
- To strengthen communication, education and public awareness and enhance and secure the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system;
- To provide adequate and sustainable financing for protected areas within the national protected area system; and
- To ensure that scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system.

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

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

Implementation Strategies:

1.1 Implement mechanisms for improved governance of the protected areas system

- a. The PAC will coordinate the protected areas system including providing support to the MRE 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 and shall comprise the relevant MDAs, representatives of the protected area entities, academia, non-governmental and community-based organizations to account for accountability, transparency and effective coordination among the key stakeholders related to protected area management.
- c. The number of established Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) will be increased and their capacity for the management of the protected areas built.
- d. The NGOs and CBOs who manage/have delegated authority for PAs will have regularly scheduled meetings to share best practices.
- e. 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.
- f. Protected area entities will share current information regarding the protected areas designated/declared under the acts they administer.
- g. Protected area entities will use a variety of governance types and arrangements for the management of protected areas.
- h. Protected area entities and partners will conduct periodic capacity assessments which will be used to guide programme development.
- i. Public sector entities with responsibility for the management of protected areas will pursue delegation of authority to more NGOs and CBOs to increase their involvement in protected area planning and management.
- j. The Protected Areas System Master Plan will be revised to guide management and planning, including decision-making, at the site level.

- k. An engagement plan for the engagement of the private sector will be developed and implemented.

1.2 Develop, review and strengthen existing legislation and policies related to the management of the protected areas system

- a. Protected area entities and their respective Ministries, in consultation with the PAC and co-management partners will, as appropriate, develop new and/or revise the relevant policies and legislation.
- b. The Ministries, Departments and Agencies responsible for forestry, tourism, land use, natural resources, culture, planning and mining will ensure policy coherence and remove or reduce conflicts in policy positions and land-use and ensure that protected areas and the protected areas system are streamlined in the decision-making process.
- c. The protected area entities and their respective Ministries will explore the amendment of legislation related to protected areas to include provisions on conservation easements.

Objective 2: To build and maintain a representative, inter-connected, resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes and systems, promotes human well-being and conserves, protects and preserves the country's natural and cultural heritage

Implementation Strategies:

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

- a. Ministries, on the recommendation of their respective protected area entities, will declare or designate new areas for inclusion in the protected areas system.
- b. The Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning will incorporate protected areas in local sustainable development plans, disaster risk reduction strategies, and development orders.
- c. Protected area entities will establish and maintain 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, *inter alia*, by 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 and a covenant placed on the title indicating 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 of Jamaica 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 the development orders and taken into account by the regulatory authorities in granting development approvals.
- g. Protected area entities will continue to include climate change adaptation measures in protected area planning, management strategies, and the design of the protected areas system.
- h. Protected area entities 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.

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

- a. Review Parish Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plans to ensure nature-based solutions are considered
- b. Capacity building efforts should be undertaken to include training at the local and community levels
- c. Introduce disaster risk reduction considerations into protected areas management

Objective 3: To improve protected area management effectiveness

Implementation Strategies:

3.1 Improve protected areas system and site-based planning and management

- a. Protected area entities 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. Protected area entities will include ecosystem restoration activities (inclusive of buffer zones) as part of their management plans. They will also include *in situ* conservation of genetic resources, to protect and enhance ecosystem services, as part of their management plans.
- b. Protected area entities will prepare or cause to be prepared business plans and promote same.
- c. Protected area entities and partners will conduct management effectiveness evaluations.

3.2 Periodically assess the status of keystone⁹⁴, threatened, endangered and rare species to identify appropriate management strategies to ensure their conservation

- a. Protected area entities 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 entities and partners will increase patrol efforts.
- b. Protected area entities and partners will evaluate current monitoring and enforcement strategies, identify gaps and areas for improvement as well as assess and implement new

⁹⁴ 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>

methods for surveillance and enforcement including the application of modern technologies.

- c. Protected area entities 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.

Objective 4: To strengthen communication, education and public awareness and enhance and secure the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system

Implementation Strategies:

4.1 Increase public education and awareness regarding the protected areas system

- a. Protected area entities will employ a variety of materials, strategies and techniques to share accurate, relevant, concise and understandable information on protected areas and the protected areas system.
- b. Research will be conducted to determine the most effective marketing strategies to continuously engage and “market” the benefits of protected areas to the wider public in order to elicit a sense of ownership and to effect behaviour change.

4.2 Involvement of stakeholders in protected areas management

- a. Protected area entities will use a variety of mechanisms to involve stakeholders including local communities in protected area planning and management.
- b. Protected area entities will include programmes regarding public education, awareness and outreach in management plans for the engagement of the public taking into consideration youth and gender equity.
- c. Develop and implement legislation for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation).
- d. A database of all protected areas including, *inter alia*, their boundaries and size will be established and maintained by the National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB) and will be made accessible to protected area entities as well as the the National Land Agency.

Objective 5: To provide adequate and sustainable financing for the protected areas within the national protected area system

Implementation Strategy:

5.1 Identify and generate funds from diverse sources and enhance the effective and efficient use of funds

- a. Protected area entities will implement sustainable finance plans.
- b. Ministries and their respective protected area entities will seek to identify and generate additional funds for management of the protected areas system from a variety of sources.
- c. The NCTFJ Board will identify potential sources to increase contributions to the Fund.
- d. A percentage of revenue generated per annum from the Environmental Protection Levy⁹⁵ will be utilized to provide dedicated financing for protected areas management.
- e. The Forestry Department will continue its implementation of REDD+ leading to results-based payments.
- f. A strategy for resource mobilization 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 general public. 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
 - institution of debt-for-climate/nature swaps
 - carbon trading to maximize the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas
 - opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Objective 6: To ensure that scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system

⁹⁵ Provisional Collection of Tax (Environmental Protection Levy) Order, 2015

Implementation strategy:

6.1 To utilize scientific and traditional knowledge for protected area management

- a. Protected area entities will continue to enter into formal agreements for partnerships in research with academic institutions.
- b. The PAC will develop and implement a national research agenda for the protected areas system.
- c. Protected area entities will develop a scientific database on the status of the island's flora, fauna and cultural resources to inform decision-making and information in the dataset should be made accessible to the public with restrictive access for sensitive species and cultural heritage.
- d. Scientific research in protected areas will be promoted and the appropriate framework (including, free prior and informed consent and mutually agreed terms) for access and benefit sharing from the utilization of the genetic resources will be developed and implemented. The framework will take into consideration synthetic biology and digital sequencing information of genetic resources and their implications.

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 JNHT, NFA, Forestry Department (FD) 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 be the mechanism through which information reporting on activities in the implementation plan is collected from the entities responsible to inform the preparation of annual progress reports on policy implementation which will be prepared by the PAC. The PAC will report through the Ministry with responsibility for the environment on its work to the Cabinet.

Table 4: Overarching Protected Areas Policy Implementation Plan

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
Objective 1: To develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system	1.1 Implement mechanisms for improved governance of the protected areas system	1.1.1 Monitor implementation of the protected areas system-related policies and plans	Number of annual progress reports prepared per annum	1-10	PAC, NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD	Staff time
		1.1.2 Enshrine the PAC in the Overarching Protected Areas legislation	PAC enshrined in the legislation	1	Ministry with responsibility for the environment in collaboration with NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD	Staff time
		1.1.3 Increase the number of established Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) and enhance their capacity for the management of the protected areas	Number of LFMCs formed/appointed and /or capacity built to assist in the management of protected areas	1-10	Forestry Department	Staff time
		1.1.4 Amend Regulation 34 of the Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations, 1993 and the 1992 Marine Parks Regulations	Regulations amended to remove the Council and Marine Advisory Board, respectively	1	Ministry responsible for the environment in collaboration with NEPA/NRCA	Staff Time

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		1.1.5 Share current and accurate data and information among protected area entities in relation to new and existing declared/designated protected areas	National Protected Areas Database established, including datasets and shapefiles created and accessible to protected area entities	1-10	NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD	Staff Time
		1.1.6 Employ a variety of management arrangements/approaches to support effective protected area management	Different types of management arrangements/approaches employed	1-10	NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD and other relevant stakeholders	Staff Time
		1.1.7 Conduct periodic capacity assessments (protected area entities, protected area managers) to inform National PA programme development	Number of capacity assessments conducted	1-10	NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD	Staff Time
		1.1.8 Increase active involvement of NGOs and CBOs in the planning and management of protected areas	Public sector entities with responsibility for the management of protected areas pursue delegation of authority to more NGOs and CBOs to increase their involvement	1-10	NEPA/NRCA, JNHT, NFA, FD, PAC, MRLG and other relevant stakeholders	Staff Time and \$5 million

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			<p>Create guidelines outlining the roles and responsibilities of NGOs/CBOs</p> <p>Training sessions and capacity-building programmes provided for members</p>			
		1.1.9 Revise the Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP)	PASMP revised	1	NEPA and PAC in collaboration with other protected area entities	Consultant and Staff time (\$10 million)
		1.1.10 Create a comprehensive strategy for actively involving and collaborating with the private sector in initiatives related to protected area management	<p>Stakeholder analysis conducted to identify relevant private sector stakeholders</p> <p>Engagement plan developed and implemented</p>	1-3	Protected area entities and relevant stakeholders	Consultant (\$1 million)
	1.2 Develop, review and strengthen existing legislation and policies related to the management of the protected areas system	1.2.1 Develop new and revise relevant policies and legislation	<p>Number of new and revised policies and legislation</p> <p>Overarching Protected Areas legislation promulgated</p>	1-10	Ministry with responsibility for the environment in collaboration with other relevant Ministries, protected area	Staff time

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
					entities and other key stakeholders	
		1.2.2 Review sector policies relevant to finance, agriculture, forestry, tourism, land use, cultural, physical planning and mining sectors to ensure biodiversity conservation and protected areas management are mainstreamed	Biodiversity conservation and protected area management mainstreamed into sector plans and programmes	1	Ministry responsible for the environment in collaboration with other members of the PAC and with the relevant sectors	Staff time
		1.2.3 Exploration and development of legislative amendments to incorporate provisions for conservation easements within existing legislation related to protected areas	Review of existing legislation related to protected areas conducted to identify gaps and opportunities for incorporating conservation easements	5-10	Protected area entities and their respective ministries	Staff Time

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
Objective 2: To build and maintain a representative, inter-connected, resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes and systems, promotes human well-being and conserves, protects and preserves the country'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 national protected areas system and integrate them into broader landscapes and seascapes	2.1.1 Declare/designate new protected areas for inclusion in the protected area system	Number of protected areas and protected area coverage (terrestrial and marine and other important ecological areas) increased	1-10	Protected area entities and responsible Ministries	Staff time and government allocation
		2.1.2 Incorporate protected areas in Development Orders, local sustainable development plans and strategies	Protected areas integrated into local sustainable development plans and Development Orders	1-10	Ministries responsible for local government and physical planning	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	2-10	Protected area entities, responsible ministries and other relevant stakeholders locally and regionally	Staff time, consultant (\$5 million), government allocation
			Regional, national, and sub-national			

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			<p>systems of protected areas integrated into broader landscapes and seascapes by establishing and managing ecological networks, corridors, and buffer zones</p> <p>Local and regional collaborations and partnerships continued and/or established</p>			
		<p>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 Jamaica National Heritage Trust and any other relevant MDAs, the Trust deems appropriate</p>	<p>Restrictive covenants placed on registered titles where lands have been identified with possessing cultural assets</p>	<p>4-10</p>	<p>National Land Agency, Jamaica National Heritage Trust and any other relevant MDA</p>	<p>Staff time</p>

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		2.1.5 Identification and inclusion of national biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas in Jamaica's revised and updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	Jamaica's revised and updated NBSAP, including biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas, finalized and submitted to the CBD Secretariat by 2026	1	Protected area entities and responsible parent Ministries	Consultants and Staff time (\$10 million)
		2.1.6 Government of Jamaica continues to pursue the designation of ecologically sensitive areas	Ecologically sensitive areas 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	NEPA in collaboration with Parish Councils	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	Protected area entities	Consultant and Staff time (\$20 million)

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		2.1.8 Risks associated with invasive alien species (IAS) in protected areas reduced	IAS species eliminated, controlled and/or reduced	1-10	Protected area entities, Invasive Alien Species Working Group (IASWG) and any other relevant stakeholder	Staff Time and Consultancy (\$6 million annually)
		2.1.9 Development and Implementation of the National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan	Conduct a thorough baseline assessment of the current state of mangrove ecosystems National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan finalized and implemented	1-10	Forestry Department	Consultant (\$4.5 million) and 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 taken into account, as appropriate	Number of parish-level DRM Plans that have been reviewed to ensure integration of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches	1-10	MRLG, MRE and other relevant entities	Staff time
		2.2.2 Develop and execute capacity building programmes, including training at the local and	Number of training sessions conducted Number of NGOs and CBOs trained	1-10	MRLG, SDC and other relevant entities	\$10 million

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		community levels, to support effective PA management				
		2.2.3 Mainstream disaster risk reduction strategies in protected areas	Number of protected areas with disaster risk reduction strategies implemented	1-10	Entities with responsibility for disaster risk reduction	Staff time
Objective 3: To improve protected area management effectiveness	3.1 Improve protected area site-based planning and management	3.1.1 Prepare, revise and implement management plans and preservation schemes to include ecosystem restoration activities (inclusive of buffer zones) and <i>in situ</i> conservation of genetic resources	Number of management plans and preservation schemes developed and implemented	1-10	Protected area entities and partners	Staff time and government allocation
		3.1.2 Prepare and implement business plans for protected areas	Number of business plans developed for protected areas and implemented	3-10	Protected area entities and partners	Staff time and government allocation
		3.1.3 Conduct management effectiveness evaluations of PA management plans	Number of evaluations undertaken	4, 7 and 10	Protected area entities and other key stakeholders	Staff time and government allocation

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
	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 updated	1-10	NEPA, FD, NFA, other relevant MDAs and protected area managers	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	Protected area entities, other relevant MDAs and protected area managers	Staff time and government allocation
	3.3 Improve monitoring and enforcement	3.3.1 Increase monitoring activities of protected area entities and partners within protected areas	Increased monitoring activities (patrols, etc.) undertaken within protected areas	1-10	Protected area entities and protected area managers	Staff time
		3.3.2 Evaluate current monitoring and enforcement strategies, identify gaps and areas for improvement as well as assess new methods for surveillance and enforcement including the effective use of technology	Current monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated, gaps and areas for improvement identified and new methods included	1-5	Protected area entities and partners	Staff time and support from development entities/partners

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		3.3.3 Develop and implement monitoring and enforcement plans for each protected area based on the evaluations carried out	Monitoring and enforcement plans developed and implemented	1-5	Protected area entities	Staff time
Objective 4: To strengthen communication, education and public awareness and enhance and secure the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system	4.1 Increase public education and awareness regarding the protected areas system	4.1.1 Develop and implement strategies, programmes and plans to increase awareness and understanding of the values and benefits of protected areas and the protected areas system	Public education and awareness strategies and programmes developed and implemented	1-5	Protected area entities, SDC	\$20 million
		4.1.2 Conduct research to determine the most effective marketing strategies to continuously engage and “market” the benefits of protected areas to the wider public in order to elicit a sense of ownership and to effect behaviour change	Market research conducted and strategies determined	2-3	Protected area entities	\$3 million
	4.2 Involve stakeholders in protected areas management	4.2.1 Utilize a variety of mechanisms and programmes to facilitate involvement	Multi-stakeholder management, co-management and advisory committees	1-5	Protected area entities, MRLG, SDC	Staff time and government allocation (\$15 million)

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		of stakeholders including local communities taking into consideration youth and gender equity	established and operational			
		4.2.2 Develop and implement legislation for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation)	ABS legislation developed	1-5	Lead: Ministry with responsibility for the environment Support: NEPA, JIPO, Institute of Jamaica, Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and Legal Reform Department	Staff time
		4.2.3 National PA Database including information on, <i>inter alia</i> , boundaries and size established and maintained	Gather new and existing data on protected areas from various sources Geospatial technology utilized to accurately map the boundaries of each protected area	1-5	National Spatial Data Management Branch (MEGJC) in collaboration with NLA and NEPA	Staff time and \$25 million

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
			National PA Database established and maintained			
Objective 5: To provide adequate and sustainable financing for the protected areas within the national system	5.1 Identify and generate funds from diverse sources and enhance the effective and efficient use of funds	5.1.1 Develop and implement sustainable finance plans	Number of sustainable finance plans developed and implemented	1-5	Ministries and protected area entities	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 mobilized from different sources Number of partnership agreements for sustained financing of protected areas established	1-5	Ministries and protected area entities	Staff time
		5.1.3 Assist in the identification of potential sources of funding to increase contributions to the NCTFJ	Sources of funding identified and where feasible actively pursued by the NCTFJ	1-5	NCTFJ with support from protected area entities and relevant MDAs	Staff time
		5.1.4 Secure a percentage of annual revenue generated from the Environmental Levy to establish dedicated financing for	Percentage of revenue generated utilized to provide financing for protected areas management	1-5	Protected area entities	Staff time

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
		the management of protected areas				
		5.1.5 Ongoing implementation of REDD+ by the Forestry Department leading to results-based payments	Implementation of the REDD+ Prepare and submit documentation and reports to international funding mechanisms to secure results-based payments for achieved emissions reductions	1-5	FD	Staff time
		5.1.6 Development and implementation of a protected areas resource mobilization strategy	A comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for protected areas developed and executed The feasibility of the potential sources of financing will be examined in the strategy ⁹⁶	1-5	Protected area entities, PAC	Consultant (\$10 million)

⁹⁶ 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; institution of debt-for-climate/nature swaps; carbon trading to maximize the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas; and opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Objectives	Strategy	Key Activities	Indicators	Timelines (Year)	Responsible entities	Indicative Cost (JMD)
Objective 6: To ensure that scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to the establishment and effectiveness of protected areas and the protected areas system	6.1 To utilize scientific and traditional knowledge for protected area management	6.1.1 Continue to pursue formal agreements for partnerships in scientific research with research and academic institutions	Number of research partnerships for established and executed	1-5	Protected area entities and research and academic institutions	Staff time
		6.1.2 Develop and implement a national research agenda for the protected areas system	Research agenda for protected area system developed and implemented	3-5	PAC	Staff time
		6.1.3 Develop a scientific database on the status of the island's flora, fauna and cultural resources to inform decision-making	Scientific database developed and operational	2-5	Protected area entities	Staff time
		6.1.4 Promotion of scientific research in protected areas and appropriate framework developed and implemented	Framework developed and implemented	1-10	Protected area entities and Ministry with responsibility for the environment	Staff time and support from development entities /partners

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 Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 1: To develop enabling policies and legislation and strengthen the governance arrangements for the effective management of a comprehensive protected areas system	1.1.1 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
	1.1.2 PAC enshrined in the Overarching Protected Area Legislation	PAC enshrined in the legislation PAC re-established and fully operational	PAC established under the Overarching Protected Areas legislation	Legislation PAC records	Records	Promulgation of Overarching Protected Areas legislation will be undertaken without significant delays or obstacles
	1.1.3 LFMCs numbers increased and their capacity built for the management of the protected areas	Number 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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	1.1.4 Regulation 34 of the Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations, 1993 and the 1992 Marine Parks Regulations amended	Regulations amended to remove the Council and Marine Advisory Board, respectively	Regulations amended within 1 year	Amended Regulations enacted and gazetted posted on relevant MDA websites, Technical Reports	Observation/ Records	GOJ approves the proposal to amend the Regulations
	1.1.5 Current data and information shared among protected area entities regarding protected areas declared/ designated	Datasets and shapefiles created and shared # of interagency meetings held Information exchange platform developed	Shapefiles created by year 3 At least 2 meetings held per year Data and information related to protected areas shared	Minutes, Shapefiles, Reports, Shared Documents, Records	Observation/ Secondary data	Willingness and commitment among protected area entities to collaborate and share information to support effective protected areas management
	1.1.6 A variety of management arrangements utilized in protected area management	Different types of arrangements utilized 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 management of protected areas

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	1.1.7 Capacity assessments conducted periodically to guide 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	<p>Adequate resources (financial, human and logistical) will be available to conduct the assessments</p> <p>Capacity assessments will lead to actionable recommendations for program development</p>
	1.1.8 Increased involvement of NGOs and CBOs in the planning and management of protected areas	<p>At least 2 NGOs and CBOs actively involved in protected area planning and management by year 3</p> <p>Public sector entities with responsibility for the management of protected areas have pursued delegation of authority to more NGOs and CBOs to increase their involvement</p>	Active involvement of NGOs and CBOs increased by year 4	Reports, Records, Minutes, Signed agreements/ Partnership documents	Surveys/ Observation/ Secondary data	<p>Willingness among NGOs and CBOs to actively engage in protected area planning and management</p> <p>Sufficient resources (financial and human) available to support their involvement</p>

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		<p>Guidelines created outlining the roles and responsibilities of NGOs/CBOs</p> <p>Training sessions and capacity-building programmes provided for members</p> <p>Best practices and lessons learnt shared between NGOs (for which the Regulator has delegated management authority for protected areas) and CBOs</p>				
	1.1.9 Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) revised	PASMP revised	PASMP revised within 1 year	Revised Document, Records, Reports	Primary data, Secondary data	Adequate funding and resources will be available to support the revision of the PASMP

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	1.1.10 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
	1.2.1 Legislation and policies developed, revised and strengthened	# of new and revised policies and legislation Overarching Protected Area Legislation developed and published in Jamaica Gazette	Ensure issues related to protected areas are included in policies and legislation Overarching Protected Area 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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	1.2.2 Sector policies relevant to the forestry, tourism, land use, natural, cultural, planning and mining sectors reviewed	Sector policies reviewed with recommendations for amendments	Issues related to protected areas are included in sector policies	Documented records of policy reviews, policies	Consultation sessions, Reports	Cooperation and willingness from stakeholders to participate in consultations
	1.2.3 Legislative amendments to incorporate provisions for conservation easements within existing legislation related to protected areas explored and developed	Review of existing legislation related to protected areas conducted to identify gaps and opportunities for incorporating conservation easements	Legislation reviewed and recommendations made for legislative amendments within 3 months	Copies of proposed legislative amendments	Records/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Legal experts are available for consultation and support in developing the amendments The legislative process allows for the incorporation of new provision
Objective 2: To build and maintain a representative, inter-connected, resilient protected areas system that maintains ecological processes and systems, promotes human well-being and conserves, protects and	2.1.1 New protected areas declared/ designated for inclusion in the system	# of protected areas and protected area coverage (terrestrial and 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, Records, Gazette	Ecological Surveys, GIS data, legal documents for the declaration/designation of new protected areas	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/designa

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
preserves the country's natural and cultural heritage						tion of new protected areas.
	2.1.2 Protected areas incorporated in Development Orders, local sustainable development plans and strategies	Protected areas integrated into local sustainable development plans and Development Orders	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 ecologically appropriate and beneficial	Specific locations and pathways for establishing ecological corridors or connectivity zones are determined Regional, national, and sub-national systems of protected areas integrated into broader landscapes and seascapes by establishing and	Ecological connectivity corridors established within the protected area network by year 10 Projects and/or programmes undertaken to identify, maintain and assess the	Maps showing connected protected areas, Reports, MOUs, Meetings	Observation/ Primary data/s Secondary Data/ GIS Mapping/ Species Tracking	Adequate funding is available to support the establishment and maintenance of connectivity corridors There are ecologically suitable areas for establishing connectivity corridors

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		<p>managing ecological networks, corridors, and buffer zones</p> <p>Local and regional collaborations and partnerships continued and/or established</p>	biology within the corridors			
	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	Registered Titles, Records	Observation/ Primary Data/ Secondary Data	<p>Effective collaboration between the Commissioner of Lands, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, and other relevant authorities</p> <p>Landowners will comply</p>
	2.1.5 Measurable biodiversity conservation targets for protected areas identified for inclusion in the revision of Jamaica's National Biodiversity	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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)					Adequate funding and resources will be available
	2.1.6 Ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) designated by the Government of Jamaica	# of ESAs designated Ecologically sensitive areas 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/ Primary data	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 year period 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 eliminated, controlled and/or reduced	IAS management plans for protected areas developed	IAS Management Plans, Incident Reports, Other Reports	Reporting System, IAS Database, Records	Adequate resources (financial and human) are available for IAS management efforts

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			Reduction in reported IAS within 10 years			
	2.1.9 National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan implemented	National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan implemented	National Mangrove Management Plan implemented by year 10	Reports, Records	Remote sensing and GIS data/ Observation/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Sufficient funding for implementation
	2.2.1 Parish DRM Plans reviewed to ensure nature-based solutions are considered	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	Observation/ Surveys/ Secondary data	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 level	Records, Reports	Observation/ Records/ Secondary Data	Willingness and participation of the local and community members in training activities
	2.2.3 Disaster risk reduction introduced in 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 Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 3: To improve protected area management effectiveness	3.1.1 Management plans and preservation schemes prepared, revised and implemented to include ecosystem restoration activities (inclusive of buffer zones) and <i>in situ</i> conservation of genetic resources	# of management plans and preservation schemes developed and implemented	Management plans and preservation schemes developed, revised 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 Business plans prepared, implemented and promoted	# of business plans developed for protected areas and implemented Increased revenue as a result of implementing business plans	3 business plans developed for protected areas by year 7 Increase revenue generated within 2 years of implementing business plans	Business Plans, Documents, Reports	Primary data/ Secondary data	Access to expertise in business planning and financial management
	3.1.3 Management effectiveness evaluations conducted	Management effectiveness evaluations conducted	Effectiveness of management practices assessed using the Management Effectiveness	Records, Reports, METT Score Card	Surveys/ Field Assessments, METT for Protected Areas	Access to experts in conservation management for conducting evaluations

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			Tracking Tool (METT) for Protected Areas			
	3.2.1 Assess the status of keystone, threatened, endangered and rare species	Species status assessed	<p>Conservation status of species determined based on IUCN Red List categories by year 5</p> <p>Improve the health and integrity of critical habitats by year 6</p> <p>Implement measures to mitigate key threats to these species within 5 years</p>	Habitat assessment, Threat Assessment (where relevant), IUCN Red List	Field Surveys/ Camera Traps/ Records	<p>Historical and current data on species populations and habitat conditions are available</p> <p>Adequate funding for surveys, assessments, and conservation efforts</p>
	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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
	3.3.1 Patrol efforts 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 surveillance and enforcement identified and implemented	Current monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated, gaps and areas for improvement identified and new methods included	Monitoring and enforcement strategies evaluated by year 2 Gaps and areas for improvement identified by year 2 Include new strategies by 5	Reports	Surveys/ Observations/ Secondary data	Availability of personnel, and technology for assessment and implementation
	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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 4: To strengthen communication, education and public awareness and enhance and secure the involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the conservation and protection of the protected areas system	4.1.1 Strategies, programmes and plans developed and implemented to increase awareness and understanding of the values and benefits of protected areas and the protected areas system	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 2 Conduct a minimum of 2 programmes annually	Surveys, records, Media Tracking	Reports/Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Survey / Other Surveys	Availability of resources for organizing educational programmes and media campaigns
	4.1.2 Market research conducted to determine the most effective strategies	Market research conducted	Market research completed within 3 months Stakeholders engaged during the research process	Records, Reports	Surveys/ Focus Groups/ Primary data	Availability of funding and personnel for market research
	4.2.1 A variety of mechanisms and programmes utilized 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	Increase stakeholder participation in protected area management within three years Increased youth participation Increased gender equity in	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

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
		# of co-management or similar agreements in place	protected areas management			
	4.2.2 Legislation developed and implemented for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge (ABS legislation)	Legislation developed for access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits	Drafting instructions completed in year 1 for the ABS legislation ABS legislation implemented by year 10	Reports, Records, Drafting Instructions, Consultation Reports	Documentation/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Active interest and engagement from relevant stakeholders Availability of human resources for the drafting of the ABS Bill
	4.2.3 Database of all protected areas including, <i>inter alia</i> , their boundaries and size established and maintained by the National Spatial Data Management Branch (NSDMB) and will be made accessible to protected area entities as well as the the National Land Agency	New and existing data on protected areas gathered from various sources Geospatial technology utilized to accurately map the boundaries of each protected area Database established and maintained	Establishment of the protected area database completed by year 7 Boundaries of each protected area accurately mapped Database accessible for relevant stakeholders	Records, Reports	Observation/ GIS Mapping/ Surveys/ Primary data/ Secondary data	Availability of resources, including GIS technology and skilled personnel

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
Objective 5: To provide adequate and sustainable financing for the protected areas within the national 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	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 mobilized from different sources Partnership agreements for sustained financing of protected areas 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 Potential sources identified to increase contributions to the NCTFJ	Increased contributions to the NCTFJ	Assist the NCTFJ to identify at least 2 potential sources for contribution	Financial Records, Reports	Documentation/ Reporting	There are available sources for contributions
	5.1.4 Percentage of annual revenue secured from the Environmental Levy to establish dedicated financing for the management of protected areas	Percentage of revenue generated utilized to provide financing for protected areas management	Percentage of annual revenue secured from the Environmental Levy for	Records, Reports	Documentation/ Reporting	The relevant authorities are supportive of dedicating a portion of the levy to this purpose

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			protected area management			
	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	Ensure that REDD+ is implemented	Records, Reports	Progress Tracking/ Reporting	REDD+ activities are implemented effectively, leading to results-based payments
	5.1.6 Protected areas resource mobilization strategy developed and implemented	A comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for protected areas created and executed ⁹⁷	Resource mobilization strategy completed and executed within 2 years Areas for possible tax waivers or reductions identified within 1 year	Documents, Reports	Documentation Review/ Reporting/ Secondary data	Availability of human and financial resources for strategy development and execution

⁹⁷ These include: • the tax regime to identify areas for possible waivers/reductions to further incentivise private sector stakeholders, • the feasibility of pursuing green and blue bonds, • the feasibility of debt for climate/nature swaps, • carbon trading to maximize the benefits to Jamaica in the management of protected areas and • opportunities for public-private partnerships

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			Feasibility studies completed for green and blue bonds, debt-for-climate/nature swaps, and carbon trading within 1 year Opportunities for public-private partnerships identified			
Objective 6: To ensure that scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to the establishment 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	Research Agenda Document, Reports	Primary data/ Secondary data	Stakeholders, including experts and institutions, will actively

Objectives	Expected Result	Proposed Indicators	Proposed Targets	Means of Verification	Methods of Data Collection	Key Assumptions
			addresses major research priorities is developed within 2 years			participate in the development of the research agenda
	6.1.3 A scientific database on the status of the island's flora, fauna and cultural resources is developed to inform decision-making	Scientific database developed and operationalized	Scientific database of the island's flora, fauna, and cultural resources established by year 6 Database used to inform decision-making processes	Documents, Database	Data Gathering/ Records	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	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 as well as 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
Inadequate support to 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 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 area Identification of priority activities for protected area policy implementation
Inadequate mainstreaming of protected areas considerations in key	Conflicting policies negatively impact the	Medium	High	Engage leadership, including Ministers, directly responsible for key economic

Risks	Impact	Probability	Risk Score	Risk Response
economic and social sector policies as well as relevant policies not harmonized	effective management of protected areas			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	GPS	Location	Size (km²)
Montego Bay Marine Park	June 5, 1992	NRCA	77°15'45.38"W 18°11'51.701"N	St. James	14.32
Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park	February 26, 1993	NRCA	76°35'29.827"W 18°4'43.975"N	St. Andrew/ St. Mary/ Portland/ St. Thomas	411.74
Black River Protected Area	December 27, 2021	NRCA	77°48'18.678"W 18°2'43.918"N	St. Elizabeth	204.82
Cockpit Country Protected Area	March 18, 2022	NRCA	77°40'54.593"W 18°18'13.39"N	St. James/ Trelawny/ St. Ann/ St. Elizabeth/ Manchester	780.24
Negril Environmental Protection Area	November 28, 1997	NRCA	78°18'31.812"W 18°18'56.702"N	Hanover/ Westmoreland	406.70
Negril Marine Park	March 4, 1998	NRCA	78°21'43.099"W 18°18'1.131"N	Hanover/ Westmoreland	185.39
Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area	September 18, 1998	NRCA	76°48'12.811"W 17°54'55.301"N	Kingston	86.43
Coral Spring – Mountain Spring Protected Area	September 18, 1998	NRCA	77°35'32.028"W 18°29'2.384"N	Trelawny	1.58
Pedro Cays Protected Area	May 17, 2023	NRCA	77°49'16.99"W 17°1'12.8"N	Kingston	880.54
Portland Bight Protected Area	April 22, 1999	NRCA	77°6'48.927"W 17°44'54.871"N	Clarendon/ St. Catherine	1973.24
Ocho Rios Marine Park Protected Area	August 16, 1999	NRCA	77°6'30.199"W 18°27'36.035"N	St. Ann/ St. Mary	133.18

PROTECTED AREA	DECLARATION DATE	ACT	GPS	Location	Size (km²)
Mason River Protected Area	November 14, 2002	NRCA	77°15'45.38"W 18°11'51.701"N	St. Ann/ Clarendon	0.88
Ocho Rios Protected Area	April 7, 1966	BCA	77°5'35.822"W 18°24'48.469"N	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	77°56'22.57"W 18°27'16.128"N	St. James	7.99
Kingston and St. Andrew Game Reserve	April 15, 1971	WLPA	76°47'40.779"W 18°0'56.854"N	Kingston/ St. Andrew	~142.05
Knapdale Game Reserve, St. Ann	January 1963	WLPA		St. Ann	
Reigate Game Reserve, Manchester	June 6, 1968	WLPA	77°30'11.844"W 17°59'1.462"N	Manchester	0.07
Stanmore Hill Game Reserve, St. Elizabeth	July 19, 1988	WLPA	77°43'25.561"W 18°0'3.293"N	St. Elizabeth	0.84
Alligator Pond, Gut River and Canoe Valley Game Reserve, Manchester/Clarendon	August 22, 1997	WLPA	77°23'58.259"W 17°52'12.413"N	Manchester / Clarendon	16.81
Amity Hall Game Reserve, St. Catherine	August 22, 1997, amended July 28, 2004	WLPA	77°3'4.546"W 17°53'31.326"N	St. Catherine	20.51
Bogue Lagoon Creek Game Reserve, Montego Bay, St. James	August 22, 1997	WLPA	77°56'22.57"W 18°27'16.128"N	St. James	7.99
Glistening Waters Game Reserve, Falmouth, Trelawny	August 22, 1997	WLPA	77°37'56.366"W 18°29'13.761"N	Trelawny	3.18
The Great Morass Game Reserve, Holland Bay, St. Thomas	August 22, 1997, amended July 28, 2004	WLPA	77°37'56.366"W 18°29'13.761"N	St. Thomas	29.42
The Black River Lower Morass Game Reserve, Black River, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997, amended in 1998	WLPA	77°48'19.704"W 18°3'3.118"N	St. Elizabeth	77.14

PROTECTED AREA	DECLARATION DATE	ACT	GPS	Location	Size (km²)
Great Morass Game Reserve, Negril, Westmoreland/Hanover	August 22, 1997	WLPA	78°19'6.113"W 18°19'16.487"N	Hanover	43.63
The Great Morass Parottee Game Reserve, Parottee, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997	WLPA	77°49'37.758"W 17°57'43.206"N	St. Elizabeth	13.33
The Black River Upper Morass Game Reserve, Black River, St. Elizabeth	August 22, 1997	WLPA	77°42'3.859"W 18°5'51.977"N	St. Elizabeth	31.50
Cabarita Point Game Reserve, St. Catherine	August 21, 1998	WLPA	77°1'54.398"W 17°51'20.833"N	St. Catherine	3.42
Long Island Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998	WLPA	78°19'6.113"W 18°19'16.487"N	Clarendon	14.88
Mason River Savanna Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998	WLPA	77°15'45.38"W 18°11'51.701"N	Clarendon	0.88
West Harbour-Peake Bay, Game Reserve, Clarendon	August 21, 1998, amended in 1999 and July 28, 2004	WLPA	77°10'56.279"W 17°46'59.93"N	Clarendon	29.95
Portmore and Greater Portmore Game Reserve, St. Catherine	July 28, 2004	WLPA	76°53'8.309"W 17°57'58.16"N	St. Catherine	24.58
Fairy Hill-Port Antonio Game Reserve, Portland	July 28, 2004	WLPA	76°25'38.97"W 18°10'14.15"N	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 utilization 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.⁹⁸ 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. 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 species⁹⁹

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

⁹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/protected/pacbd/default.shtml>

⁹⁹ <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 recognized practical rules for the treatment and research of underwater cultural heritage¹⁰⁰

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 1997.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/2001-convention/>

¹⁰¹ <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”¹⁰². 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”¹⁰³. 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 stabilize 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.”¹⁰⁴ 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 “operationalized” the convention. It committed industrialized countries to stabilize 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

¹⁰² <https://www2.unccd.int/convention/about-convention>

¹⁰³ https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-02/cop21add1_SF_EN.pdf

¹⁰⁴ 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 states¹⁰⁵. 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 1983¹⁰⁶

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.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ [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)

¹⁰⁶ http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/pamphlet_unclos_at_30.pdf

¹⁰⁷ <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)**¹⁰⁸, 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 utilizing an ecosystem approach to conservation. The protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global CBD.¹⁰⁹ 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

¹⁰⁸ The SPAW Protocol to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, 1989 (Cartagena Convention)

¹⁰⁹ <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 recognizes 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....”¹¹⁰

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 urbanization 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

¹¹⁰ <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 utilizing 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 utilization 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 mobilize and increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- Commitment to mobilize 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

Proposed Legislative Amendments (*not an exhaustive list*)

LEGISLATION	PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act	<p>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></p>
Forest Act	<p>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></p> <p>2. Remove all references to “protected areas” in the Forest Act</p>
Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations and the Marine Parks Regulations	<p>1. Amend the Natural Resources (National Parks) Regulations, 1993 and the 1992 Marine Parks Regulations <i>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.</i></p>

APPENDIX IV

Types of Protected Areas in the Protected Areas System

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.

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.

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

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

Fish Sanctuary¹¹¹ – 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.

¹¹¹ Special fishery conservation areas were declared under section 25 of the Fishing Industry Act, 1976 and the Special Fishery Conservation Area Regulations, 2012 under the Act (section 3) which has now been replaced by the Fisheries Act, 2018.

Game Reserve – Equivalent to IUCN Category IV – Habitat/Species Management Area

Created on Crown land or on private land, game 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 game sanctuary (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.

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

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.

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

Protected National Heritage – No IUCN equivalent

Protected National Heritage (natural site) – IUCN equivalent – 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

Forest Management Area - IUCN equivalent – Category VI

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

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

Managed Resource 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: New category to be included in amended NRCA Act or new legislation

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 Special Fishery Conservation Areas/Fish Sanctuaries in Jamaica

	Names	Regions/Parishes	Date Declared	Approximate sizes (ha)
1	Three Bays Fish Sanctuary	Hellshire, St. Catherine	July 28, 2009	1261.3
2	Galleon Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Old Harbour, St Catherine	July 28, 2009	1872.7
3	Salt Harbour Fish Sanctuary	Salt River, Clarendon	July 28, 2009	1022.1
4	Galleon St. Elizabeth Fish Sanctuary	Crawford, St Elizabeth	July 28, 2009	260.6
5	Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary	Belmont, Westmoreland	July 28, 2009	1359.409
6	Orange Bay Fish Sanctuary	Orange Bay, Hanover	July 28, 2009	535.514
7	Montego Point SFCA	Montego Bay, St James	July 31, 2009	302.796
8	Discovery Bay Fish Sanctuary	Discovery Bay, St Ann	July 28, 2009	168.385
9	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary	Boscobel, St Mary	February 23, 2010	99.115
10	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary East	Boscobel, St Mary	July 15, 2016	18.7

	Names	Regions/Parishes	Date Declared	Approximate sizes (ha)
11	Sandals Boscobel Fish Sanctuary West	Boscobel, St Mary	July 15, 2016	21
12	Port Morant Harbour Lagoon (Bowden)	Bowden, St Thomas	May 13, 1986	57.9
13	Bogue Island Lagoon Fish Sanctuary	Bogue, St. James	July 25, 1979	450
14	Sandals Whitehouse	Whitehouse Westmoreland	May 2012	294
15	East Portland Fish Sanctuary	Alligator Head, Portland	July 15, 2016	538
16	Bird Cay	Pedro Banks (Off-shore)	May 2012	1515
17	Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary	Oracabessa Bay, St Mary	February 23, 2010	83.7
18	White River	White River Ocho Rios St Ann	2017	150
Total (using Google Earth)				10,010.22

Source: National Fisheries Authority, 2023

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).

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, organizations and society as a whole, unleash, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time to achieve positive biodiversity results.”¹¹²

Climate Change¹¹³: 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.

¹¹² 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.

¹¹³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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 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 material¹¹⁴: Any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity.

Genetic resources¹¹⁵: Genetic material of actual or potential value.

¹¹⁴ Convention Text (cbd.int)

¹¹⁵ Convention Text (cbd.int)

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. 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 (UNEA Resolution 5/5).

Payments for Ecosystem Services: Schemes in which the beneficiaries, or users ('buyers'), of ecosystem services provide payment to the stewards, or providers ('sellers'), of ecosystem services

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 masterplan 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 land¹¹⁶.

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.

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 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.

¹¹⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/14/8 Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Traditional knowledge¹¹⁷: The knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous people and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity¹¹⁸.

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).

Utilization 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.

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 “organizing 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”¹¹⁹.

¹¹⁷ CBD COP CBD/COP/DEC/14/13 Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions

¹¹⁸ Derived from Article 8(j) and endorsed in paragraph 6(h) of the annex to decision VII/16 on the Akwe: Kon Guidelines.

¹¹⁹ Thomas, Lee and Middleton, Julie, (2003). Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ix + 79pp.