

Preliminary Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica

Convention on Biological Diversity
Regional Capacity Development Workshop for the Caribbean on National Biodiversity
Strategies and Action Plans, Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Integration of Climate
held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
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Background: Convention on Biological Diversity

- ◆ January 6, 1995: Jamaica became a Party to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- ◆ December 1998: the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) commenced development of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- ◆ Funding: Global Environment Facility, through the United Nations Development Programme (implementing agency) and GOJ through the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (executing agency).
- ◆ Steering Committee (government agencies, non-governmental organisations and private sector) established to review all aspects of the document.



Public Education Material

- ◆ During the development of the NBSAP, public education activities were conducted. Outputs included:-
 - Fact Sheets on the project
 - Brochure
 - Media tour to two Parishes
 - Cartoon
 - Biodiversity video



What is Biological Diversity?

Biological diversity, or biodiversity is a collective term that encompasses the variety of all plants, animals and micro-organisms existing within a particular area (habitat or ecosystem) on earth.

Jamaica has an amazing variety of ecosystems which accounts for over 3200 species of flowering plants, of which 900 are endemic (found only here), and approximately 600 species of ferns, 14% of which are endemic. Our coral reefs, wetlands, mountains, dry and wet limestone forests, rainforests and elfin woodlands are examples of ecosystems that support a rich variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms.



The Indian Coney /Jamaican Hutia (*Geocapromys brownii*) (an endangered species)



Why is Biodiversity so important?



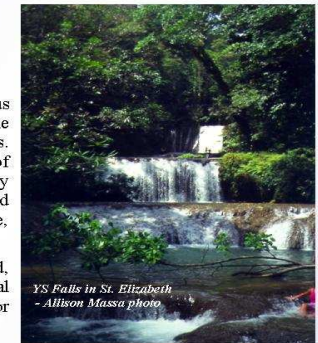
Jamaica's unique flora and fauna are precious national treasures, and rank fifth amongst the islands of the world with respect to endemic species. Though it may not always be obvious, each type of living organism plays a vital role in the preservation and continuity of life. We should not only do our best to preserve the species and varieties of plants, animals and micro-organisms that are in existence, but also protect as many of their habitats as is realistically possible.

Every day we depend on this diversity to provide us with food, medicine, shelter and clothing. Vast economic, social and cultural potential lie beyond these everyday benefits which we often take for granted.



Riverine Forest in Black River, St. Elizabeth (Endangered)

All agriculture is derived from biodiversity, as it provides the basis for improvements to domesticated plants and animals, which makes it of critical economic importance. If we can maintain agricultural biodiversity we may be able to approach food security in the future. Biodiversity loss may not only hamper our ability to sustain or improve on our present way of life, but could also rob us of an opportunity to shape our future.



YS Falls in St. Elizabeth - Allison Massa photo

several new species of plants and animals discovered each year present possible opportunities in the areas of medicine, food, tourism, and energy. Yet many of our species face serious threat of extinction caused by habitat destruction, over-harvesting, pollution, and climate change. Recent reports list up to 511 of our plant species as being vulnerable to extinction, critically imperiled or rare. The Destruction of

"Despite ongoing conservation and sustainable development programmes in Jamaica, serious threat remains to our biological resources."



Tube Worm (Sabellidae)

As a small developing country with limited resources, biodiversity conservation becomes even more important to Jamaica. The

The Biodiversity Convention

Jamaica made a commitment to conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity by ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on January 6, 1995. This Convention was opened for signature during the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The objectives of this Convention are:

- ◆ Conservation of biological diversity
- ◆ Sustainable use of its components
- ◆ Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

This "sharing of benefits" includes access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies.

Jamaica is mandated to fulfill its obligations to the CBD and the international community, and is currently preparing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan from which a National Report will be submitted to the Conference of Parties at the next meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, May 15 - 26, 2000.

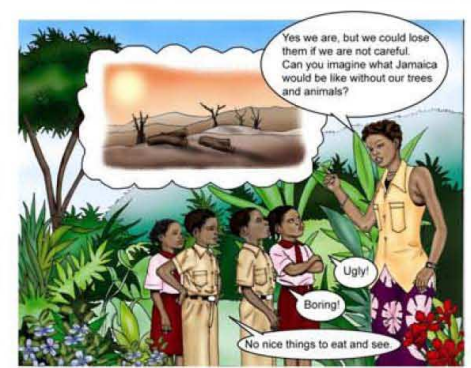
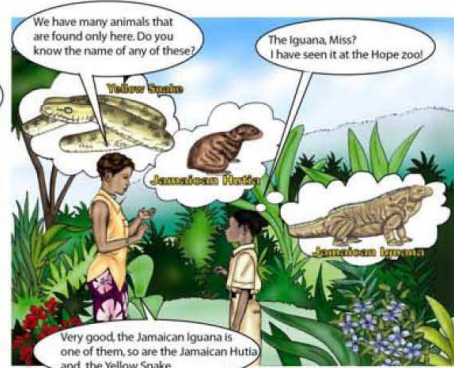
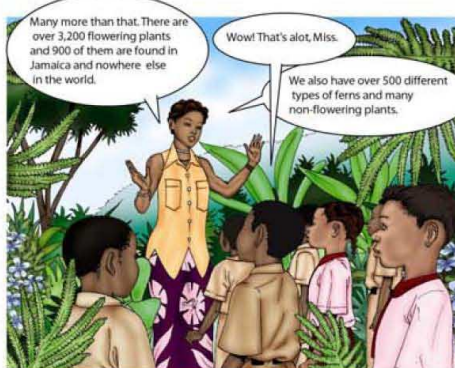
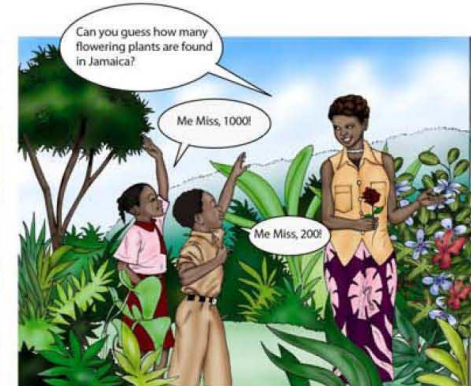
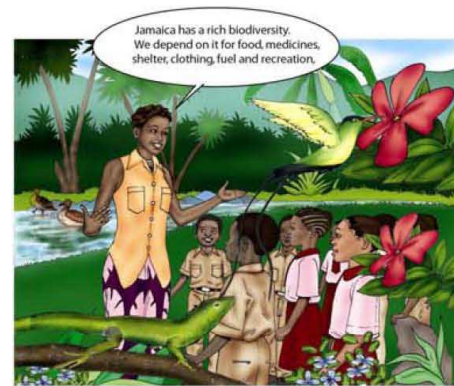
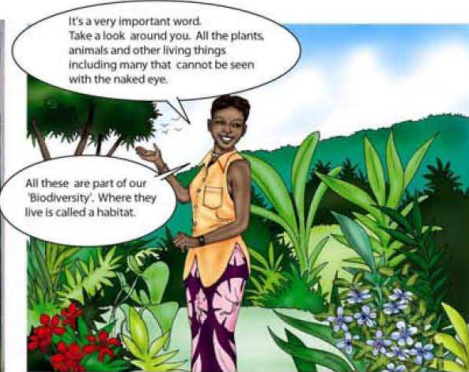


Biodiversity Conservation is the Preservation of Life Itself



Public Education Material

A Nature Walk



Convention on Biological Diversity



National Environment & Planning Agency

Public Education Material

WHAT IS BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY?



Biological Diversity (Biodiversity):
“Life on Earth”; the variety of
all plants, animals and
micro-organisms



Public Education Material

A BIODIVERSITY VISION FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA

Mindful of the importance of our natural heritage to the well-being of present and future generations,

Recognizing that sustainable use of biodiversity is the only way to secure its availability to future generations,

We accept our responsibility to conserve and protect Jamaica's biodiversity through sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from this biodiversity.

LAUNCH OF NBSAP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
(Scientific Community, NGOs, Private Sector, Government Dept., Donor Agencies)

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Sector Workshops
(5)

Cross-Sectoral
Workshops (2)

Sector Specific
Assessments (6)

(Draft NBS)

WORKSHOP
(Steering Committee & other conservation interest stakeholders to review draft NBS)

(Document distribution to stakeholders)

LAUNCH OF NBS

(Document distribution to stakeholders)

LOCAL CONSULTATIONS
(6 Parishes)
(Transfer of ownership to community by advocating community management)

Action plan developed

(Document distribution to stakeholders)

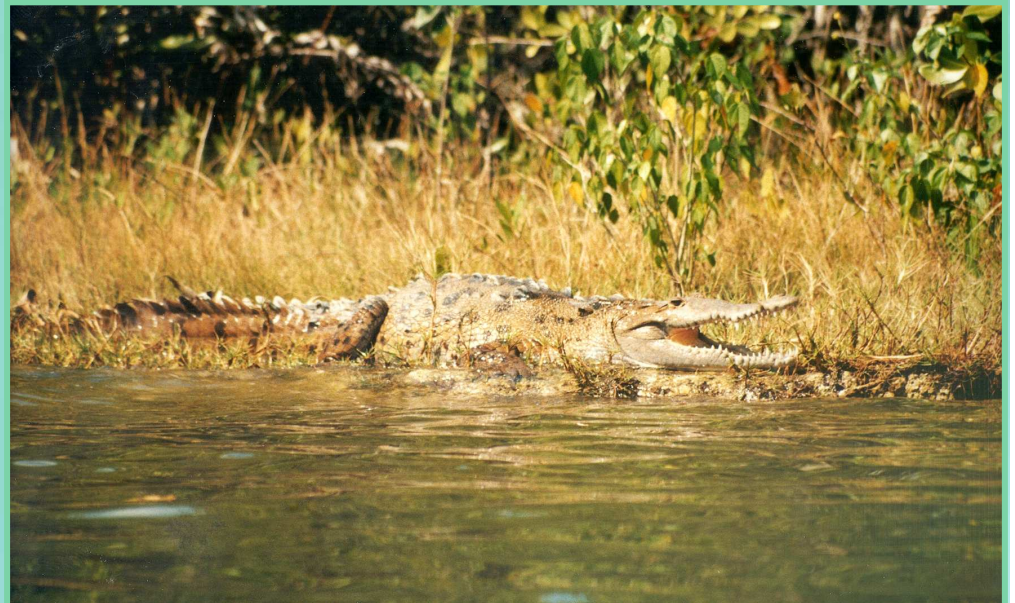
NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS
(Persons from Local Consultations plus key interest groups and stakeholders)

(Revised NBSAP)

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS)

- ◆ Sectoral workshops focused on agriculture, tourism, mining, fisheries and marine, and forestry.
- ◆ Cross-sectoral workshops included agriculture, social security, public utilities, mining and energy, marine and fisheries, tourism, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.
- ◆ Sectoral specific assessments reports used to prepare the Strategy.



The Biodiversity Action Plan

- ◆ Action Plan drafted after completion of the NBS.
- ◆ 37 project profiles developed using the consultative process to address the seven goals outlined in the NBS.
- ◆ 8 profiles designated as highest priority to be implemented within 2 years and 17 identified as priority to be implemented within the next 5-7 years and 8.
- ◆ The draft policy Government Green Paper Number 3/01 entitled “Towards a National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica” was prepared.



Draft Policy

- ◆ Draft government policy presented to public through local and national consultations.
- ◆ August to November 2001: Local and national consultations held.
- ◆ Copies distributed to NGOs and community based organisations, government agencies and National and Parish libraries and on Jamaica's CHM for review by the general public.
- ◆ Comments received were incorporated into the document.



Draft Cont'd

- ◆ Draft policy approved by Cabinet and in 2003 policy approved as a policy of the Government of Jamaica.
- ◆ Copies of policy distributed to Steering Committee, national and parish libraries, environmental NGOs, tertiary institutions, UNDP, UNEP and other international agencies and donors Policy also placed on Jamaica's CHM.



Implementation

- ◆ March 2003: Implementation commenced with formation of National Biodiversity Secretariat as a supporting mechanism to implement and monitor the NBSAP.
- ◆ Secretariat over its tenure (one and a half years):
 - developed 15 projects and sought funding. Only six projects were funded.
 - reviewed the closure of gaps or challenges identified in the NBSAP



National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Implementation

Element	Gaps/Challenges	Status
National Biosafety Policy and Legislation	Developing risk assessment and management capabilities	Development of the Biosafety Policy and Biosafety legislation is hoped to close this gap.
Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing	Establish a sound legal framework for governing access to Jamaica's genetic resources.	Collection of plants and animals for research is regulated by NEPA who requires a non-commercial material transfer agreement for endemic species and a commercial material transfer agreement (MTA) for use of species for profit
Water Pollution Control	Licensing of existing facilities that discharge municipal and industrial effluents into rivers and streams	Drafting instructions for the preparation of a Waste Water and Sludge Regulations has been prepared and hoped to be enacted soon. Permit and Licences are issued to facilities which discharge municipal and industrial effluents with conditions on how the facility is to operate

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Implementation

Element	Gaps/Challenges	Status
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Jamaica's Wild Flora and Fauna	Continuing to establish protected areas to conserve species and their habitat	Through the Protected Areas System Master Plan project a National Ecological Gap Assessment Report is being prepared which will identify those areas to close the gap in protected areas and achieve the 2010 target.
Forest Biodiversity	Securing financial resources to overcome gaps in knowledge of forest resource base and ensure the sound management of forest resources, especially to be able to determine sustainable harvest rates and to enforce them	Forest Conservation Fund: established in September 2004 by an agreement between the GOJ, United States % The Nature Conservancy. These resources fund projects to conserve and restore important tropical forest resources throughout Jamaica. Tourism Enhancement Fund: established to assist in implementing Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development (2002). Conservation projects can be funded once enhance tourism product. Source-tax on airline and cruise ship passengers.

Integration of Biodiversity Concerns

- ◆ Integration is occurring in the form of established committees and sharing between environment agencies and others e.g.:
 - Government agencies consult with the National Environment and Planning Agency re biodiversity issues to be included into their policies/programmes (e.g. Mineral Policy)
 - Establishment of an Information Sharing Mechanism on Plant Genetic Resources by the Ministry of Agriculture to share information on plant genetic resources and in particular the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Jamaica.
 - Increased collaboration in review of legislation in order to ensure biodiversity conservation issues are included.



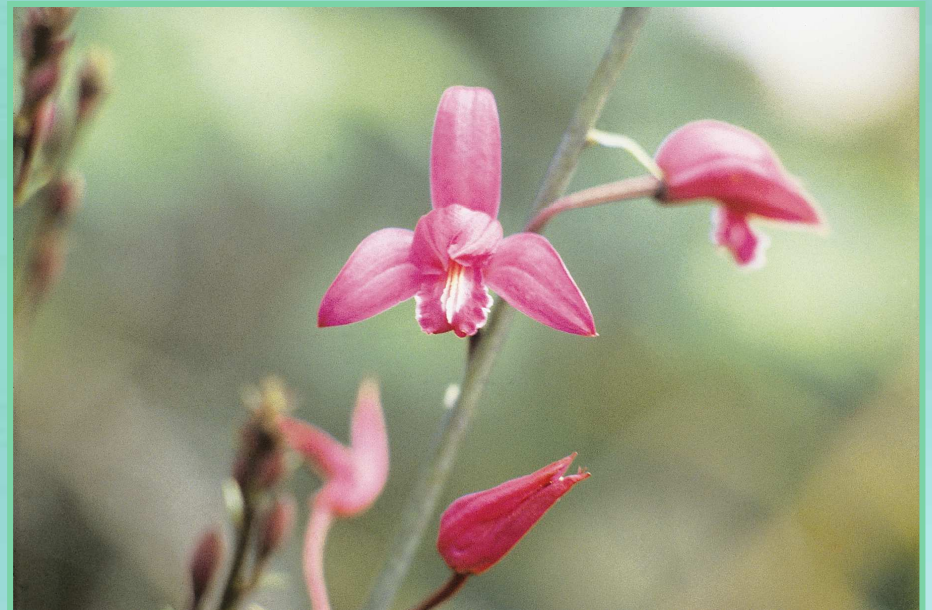
Integration of Biodiversity Concerns Cont'd

- Continued preparation of development orders for Jamaica to ensure orderly development and identify areas for conservation for either limited or no development
- Establishment of committees/working group with representatives from various organisations/agencies which impact biodiversity conservation e.g. Ocean and Coastal Zone Council (e.g. Ministry of Finance & Port Authority) and Alien Invasive Species Working Group (e.g. Veterinary Services and Plant Quarantine Divisions, University of the West Indies-Mona, Port Authority)
- Training of farmers in watershed areas to ensure the continuation of their livelihood and the protection of the watershed.



Integration of Biodiversity Concerns Cont'd

- Implementation of conventions such as UNFCCC through project *Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change* where NEPA conducts monitoring activity of selected coral reef sites, a survey on knowledge, attitude and practice/behaviour has been conducted and media campaign including a documentary for schools have been implemented..



THANK YOU

