

FOREST CONSERVATION FUND (FCF)

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

*CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES
2009*

**FOREST CONSERVATION FUND
SUITE 201 72B HOPE RD.
KINGSTON 6**

August 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The Oversight Committee of the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) is inviting interested local or regional NGOs, CBOs, and non-profit organizations involved in environmental, forestry or conservation activities in Jamaica to submit proposals for grant funding for projects to be implemented island-wide.

The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) was created in Jamaica in September 2004 after the signing of three (3) agreements/contracts between the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), the Government of the United States of America (USG), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT) respectively.

The central vision of the Fund is to achieve measurable reforestation of target areas within the seven selected priority sites as shown in *Map 1* below. The key objectives of the Fund are:

1. Promote reforestation activities in denuded areas in the priority sites;
2. Develop a program that has a long-term Promote the protection, conservation and maintenance of parks, protected areas and reserves;
3. orientation and focuses on sustainability;
4. Develop and support the livelihoods of persons living in or near a tropical forest in a manner that is consistent with protecting such areas;
5. Establish partnerships with stakeholders both at the governmental and local levels in efforts for environmental conservation and protection;
6. Promote the development and implementation of scientifically sound systems of management including land and ecosystems management;
7. Strengthen the capacity of organizations at the national and local levels for managing natural resources and those involved in conservation activities;
8. Develop and implement an effective information and communication system that reaches the wider stakeholder population.

2. WHAT ARE THE THEMES FOR THIS YEAR'S CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES?

Three (3) Thematic Areas have been selected for the 2009 Call. These include:

A. MANAGEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN ORDER TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been recognized as one of the greatest challenges facing the world today, and it has been scientifically documented that anthropogenic influences have served to accelerate the changes being experienced. The release of Green House Gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels and the increase in deforestation are major contributory factors. Forest ecosystems play a major role in the balance of atmospheric gases in that they sequester (trap and store) Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), which is one of the major GHGs. Deforestation releases the stored CO₂, thereby contributing to the imbalance in the atmospheric system. Forests are therefore important to the efforts to mitigate climate change.

Forest ecosystems are also complete ecological communities comprising living organisms (plants, animals and micro-organisms) and non-living materials (soil, rocks, and water). Their importance also lies in their ability to provide a number of other services such as biologically diverse habitats, sustained yield of quality water, food production, timber for construction and

fuel, flood control, slope stability and soil protection to name a few. Through these services, forest ecosystems can also play a significant role in adaptation to the impact of climate change.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like Jamaica are already experiencing the impacts of climate change, which include sea level rise, increased temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, more extended drought periods and a noticeable increase in intensification of extreme weather systems. Forested areas are directly affected through extended dry periods which have led to forest fires, increases in pests and pathogens, changes in growth patterns and timber quality.

It is therefore critical to protect and restore forested areas, in an effort to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Some of the adaptive strategies include the maintenance and enrichment of forested areas, establishment of new forested areas, reforestation of areas that have been deforested including inland and coastal forests (mangroves etc.). These activities will not only enhance our adaptive capacities, but will also increase the resilience of Jamaica's forest ecosystems to climate change and its effects.

B. ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

Over time, overexploitation and unsustainable use of forest resources have reduced, and in some instances, eliminated available forest resources in certain areas. Activities such as illegal logging, charcoal burning and unsustainable farming practices have contributed to the reduction of these resources. The alternative livelihoods approach aims to encourage individuals to abandon harmful unsustainable practices in their use of forest resources by offering them alternate options of economic support for themselves, their families and the wider community.

It is therefore critical that profitable and sustainable legal alternatives be developed and offered to community groups living in close proximity to these areas, in order to reduce the impact of their activities on the forests. Some examples of alternative livelihood activities include sustainable use of non-timber forest resources such as medicinal plants, promotion of and training in sustainable farming practices, promotion of and implementation of agroforestry activities, use of natural resources as a tourism product, empowering communities to undertake community businesses and entrepreneurship projects etc.

C. SLOPE/HILLSIDE STABILITY

More than 75% of Jamaica's elevated land has a slope of 10 degrees or more. Several areas are deemed unsustainable for most agricultural practices especially where there is removal and/or significant reduction of vegetation from the hillsides. Loss of vegetation when coupled with high rainfall has resulted in soil erosion and landslides across the island. During periods of heavy rainfall, landslides have resulted in property loss for the public sector, private sector and individuals living within vulnerable communities. Millions of dollars are required to effect repairs after each instance, and in some communities there have been injuries and loss of life. Vegetation, especially trees, plays an important role in reducing the effects of landslides and soil erosion in a variety of ways. Root systems help stabilize slopes by binding soil particles together, while leaves of trees and other types of vegetation absorb rainfall. This therefore decreases the level of impact and saturation on slopes that would otherwise lead to landslides and flooding and therefore retards run-off, soil erosion and slope failure. It is therefore important that hillside areas prone to landslides be stabilized in order to reduce the effects of

these activities. Some examples of slope stabilization activities include combinations of the following methods:

- Reforestation of hillside areas prone to/affected by landslides;
- Installation of slope stabilization/erosion control mechanisms such as terracing, check dams, gabion baskets, grasses; and
- Controlled desilting and river training.

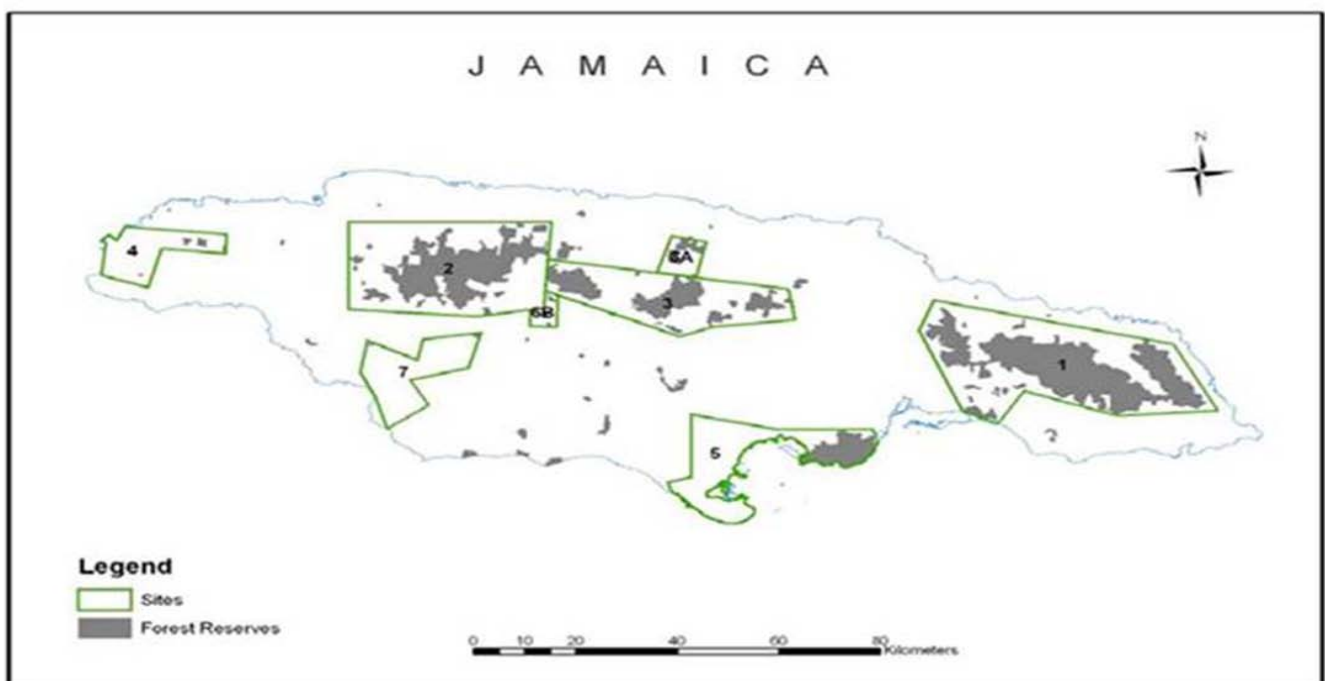
3. WHAT ARE THE PRIORITY SITES?

Projects **must** be located in one of the Forest Conservation Fund's seven (7) Priority Sites. Specific areas were identified as priority sites for intervention by the FCF. The seven (7) priority sites are:

1. Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (Blue Mountain Forest Reserve);
2. Cockpit Country Forest Reserve, plus outlying Forest Reserves;
3. Litchfield Matheson's Run and Stepheney-John's Vale Forest Reserves;
4. Inland portion of Negril Protected Area, plus the forested area in and around Dolphin Head Mountains;
5. Portland Bight Protected Area;
6. Other forest reserves and Crown lands managed by the Forestry Department;
7. Spring Vale and Bogue Forest Reserves plus the Upper and Lower Black River Morasses.

Please see **Map 1** below.

Map 1: Map showing the Seven Priority Sites designated by the Forest Conservation Fund



Special consideration will be given to projects located in any of the following **three (3)** Priority Sites:

- Blue and John Crow Mountains including the Hope and Yallahs Watersheds;
- Cockpit Country; and
- Upper Rio Minho.

4. WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS WILL BE AWARDED?

Funding will be awarded for:

- **Short – Term** Projects (up to three years) and
- **Long – Term** Projects (more than 3 years)

5. WHEN AND HOW LONG IS THE CALL PERIOD FOR CONCEPT NOTES?

The call for Concept Notes will remain open for a period of **six (6) weeks**. It opens on Sunday, **August 16, 2009** and the deadline for submission of completed and signed Concept Notes is **3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009**.

6. WHERE CAN I GET CONCEPT NOTE FORMS?

Concept Note Forms are available online at the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust's website www.jpat-jm.net or the Forestry Department's website at www.forestry.gov.jm. Hard copies of these Forms may also be collected at the offices of the Forest Conservation Fund/Jamaica Protected Areas Trust, Suite 201, 72B Hope Road, Kingston 6; The Nature Conservancy, Unit 27, Devon House East, 2½ Kings Way, Kingston 10, and all Forestry Department Offices islandwide.

7. HOW DO I COMPLETE CONCEPT NOTE FORMS?

Applicants must complete **ALL** sections of the Concept Note Form. All Forms must be signed by the authorised person, as forms which are not signed, will not be accepted for review.

8. WHERE DO I SUBMIT CONCEPT NOTE FORMS?

All **signed** Concept Note Forms are to be submitted on or before the deadline to:

**Forest Conservation Fund
Suite 201, 72B Hope Rd.
Kingston 6**

Signed forms may also be submitted via email to fcf@infochan.com, or forestconservationfund@gmail.com, or sent by fax to (876) 978-9080.

Acknowledgment letters will be sent to Applicants within **seven (7)** working days of the receipt of the Concept Notes.

9. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE CONCEPT NOTE?

Concept Notes that are not submitted by the stipulated deadline will not be considered within the Call Period.

10. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CONCEPT NOTES ARE SUBMITTED?

(a) REVIEW OF CONCEPT NOTES

Concept Notes will be screened using a two tiered system by the FCF Secretariat and by a Technical Review Committee. The recommendations from these reviews will be presented to the Oversight Committee (OC) of the Forest Conservation Fund for its review. Brief site visits may be carried out during this period. All applicants will be informed of the status of the application within **six (6) weeks after** the close of the Call.

(b) ELIGIBLE CONCEPT NOTES

If a Concept Note is deemed eligible and short-listed by the OC, then the Applicant will be required to develop and submit a Project Proposal. Unlike the Concept Note, the Project Proposal is a detailed explanation of the concept and objectives of the project. *Please note that the request for the development of a Project Proposal does not guarantee that the applicant will receive grant funding.*

(c) UNSUCCESSFUL CONCEPT NOTE APPLICATIONS

Letters will be sent to applicants whose Concept Notes were not short listed. These applicants are however encouraged to remain interested in the programme, as their Concept Note may be suitable for review within another Call Period.

11. HOW LONG IS THE REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSAL PERIOD?

Applicants will be given **four (4) weeks** to prepare the requested project proposals.

12. WHERE CAN I GET PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMS?

Project Proposal Forms will be available online at the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust's website www.jpat-jm.net or the Forestry Department's website: www.forestry.gov.jm Copies of these Forms may also be collected at the offices of the Forest Conservation Fund/Jamaica Protected Areas Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and all Forestry Department Offices islandwide.

13. IS THERE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS?

Applicants will be afforded the option of utilising a Help Desk, for a minimal fee. This Help Desk aims to provide guidance and assistance to applicants in developing the required Project Proposals. This Help Desk will be operated on an appointment-only basis and will be open during this four- week period. *The use of the Help Desk does not guarantee that the applicant will receive grant funding.* Site assessments may be conducted during this period.

14. WHERE DO I SUBMIT PROJECT PROPOSALS?

All **signed** Project Proposals Forms are to be submitted on or before the deadline to:

**Forest Conservation Fund
Suite 201, 72B Hope Rd.
Kingston 6**

Forms may also be submitted via email to fcf@infochan.com, or forestconservationfund@gmail.com, or sent by fax to (876) 978-9080.

15. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROJECT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

Applicants will receive an acknowledgment of receipt letter within **seven (7)** days of receipt of the Project Proposals. These Project Proposals will be reviewed by the FCF Secretariat and the Technical Review Committee and the recommendations from these reviews presented to the Oversight Committee (OC) for a decision to be taken. This review process should be completed within **six (6) weeks** after the deadline for the submission of Project Proposals.

Grant award letters will be sent to successful applicants. Letters will be sent to unsuccessful candidates informing them of the status of their application.

16. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED?

Successful applicants will be invited by the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT) to sign a Grant Recipient Agreement (GRA) prior to the disbursement of Funds. This is a legally binding agreement between the Grantee and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT). All conditions outlined in the Agreement must be adhered to by the Grantee.

**** An overview of the entire application procedure is outlined in the figure below.*

**OVERVIEW OF FCF GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION PROCEDURE:
*CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES***

