

JAMAICA PROTECTED AREAS TRUST

FOREST CONSERVATION FUND

The Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) was established to provide financial support for local tropical forest conservation activities as well as for the protection and management of the island's forest reserves and national parks. The Fund was formed as a result of an Agreement between the Government of Jamaica, the Government of the United States and The Nature Conservancy.

The Oversight Committee (OC) of the FCF is hereby inviting interested local or regional Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other non-profit organizations involved in environmental, forest or natural resource conservation activities in Jamaica, to submit Concept Notes and / or Expressions of Interest for any of the thematic areas outlined below.

1. 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 of 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.

TYPES OF GRANTS

Funding will be awarded for:

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

PRIORITY AREAS

Projects **must** be located in one of the Forest Conservation Fund's seven (7) Priority Sites. **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.

Concept Note Application forms and Application Guidelines may be collected at the offices of the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust / Forest Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy or any office of the Forestry Department island-wide. These forms are also available online at www.jpat-jm.net or www.forestry.gov.jm. Please visit these websites for more information.

2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Oversight Committee (OC) of the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) is inviting interested qualified entities to submit **Expressions of Interest** for any of the following projects/programmes:

1. Project/Programme geared at forest establishment, restoration and conservation within the seven (7) priority sites of the Forest Conservation Fund;
2. Development of an information sharing website for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) involved in the establishment and conservation of forests island-wide;
3. Compilation of recommendations from relevant policy documents related to forest conservation and management; and
4. Development of a capacity building programme for NGOs/CBOs to enhance the capacities of these groups in:
 - a. Project management and implementation
 - b. Proposal writing
 - c. Financial management and sustainability.

Further information on these Expressions of Interest and the process for applying for funding can be viewed and downloaded from the following websites:

- www.jpat-jm.net
- www.forestry.gov.jm

WHERE AND HOW TO SEND APPLICATIONS:

All enquiries can be made via e-mail at fcf@infochan.com or forestconservationfund@gmail.com.

Completed and signed application forms as well as Expressions of Interest submissions will be accepted by hand delivery, facsimile or email no later than **3:00 p.m. on Friday September 25, 2009** at the address, fax number or e-mail addresses listed below.

Forest Conservation Fund
Suite 201, 72B Hope Rd.
Kingston 6
Fax: (876) 978-9080
Email: fcf@infochan.com OR forestconservationfund@gmail.com