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This exercise aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality and consistency of the reported data, to ensure that the best possible data and information are provided, in terms of completeness, consistency and transparency.



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BRAIN TEASER

Unscramble the words below to reveal the aim of an environmental day acknowledged annually.

forest types. raises awareness of the importance of all International Day of Forests celebrates and :19W8RA

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Industry News

Caribbean countries to kick off the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 data collection



Participants in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2023

Representatives from 14 Caribbean countries and forestry experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the US Forest Service met this week for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025 sub-regional workshop for the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados, at the premises of the United Nations House.

The FAO sub-regional office supported the organization of the meeting and Ms Renata Clarke, Sub regional coordinator for the Caribbean FAO, opened the workshop, which is the first of a series of regional and sub-regional workshops organized as part of the FRA data collection and review 2025 process.

During these meetings, FAO experts focus on providing technical assistance and guidance to the officially nominated national correspondents on how to compile the FRA 2025 country reports with national data and information on national forest resources. This exercise aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality and consistency of the reported data, to ensure that the best possible data and information are provided, in terms of completeness, consistency and transparency.

FAO has been conducting global forest resources

assessments since 1948 and its content has evolved over time to adapt to changing needs of society. To learn more about the FRA process watch this video.

Forests in the Caribbean play an important role in soil conservation and provision of potable water, carbon sequestration, conservation of biodiversity and supporting livelihood with wood and non-wood products and ecotourism opportunities. Yet, despite their importance, forest stakeholders feel that forests are not sufficiently recognized by policy makers, their existence is taken for granted but little is done to preserve them. "Governments should see forests as a priority", said Mr Anthony Jeremiah, National Correspondent for Grenada.

For this 3-day technical session, FRA National Correspondents gathered from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,



Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.

They had the opportunity to review pre-filled FRA 2020 data and update the FRA 2025 reports to ensure that data and metadata are as complete, consistent and transparent as possible and to improve the quality and reliability of the FRA 2025 estimates. There was also the opportunity to discuss in working groups any problems and country-specific issues related to the use of the online platform and preparing the FRA 2025 country reports. Every country discussed the status of its report, pointing out questions regarding the data submission.

On the second day, participants visited an area with evident land use change and natural regeneration of forests caused by the sugar industry decline.

The workshop has been funded by the European Union, which has been supporting the development of FRAs since 2010.

Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation

Claus Eckelmann (right) Regional Forestry Officer for the Caribbean, Food and Agriculture Organization explaining the topography of the island to trainees, including Joel Harrison (middle), Forest Technician in the Plantation Assessment Unit at the Forestry Department. The trainees were taken to the only bridge in the island.

International Day of Forests



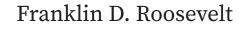
Healthy Forests for a Healthy You

When we enjoy clean, fresh air, meditate among the to treat various maladies and to fight different viruses trees and enjoy a glass of water, we seldom make the and infections. Some pharmaceutical products are connection that these benefits result from our forests. also produced from these plants, such as malaria Healthy forests and trees contribute directly and medication quinine, made from cinchona trees. indirectly to our overall health and wellness.

Healthy forests also promote good health by boosting Forests are a vital source of food and nutrition. Forest our mental and physical health. Spending time in plants provide a significant proportion of our daily forests increases positive emotions and decreases fruits and food. This helps to build our immune systems stress, blood pressure, depression, fatigue, anxiety and to nourish our bodies. According to the Food and and tension. Healthy trees and forests contribute to Agriculture Organisation (FAO), nearly one billion our health by trapping airborne pollutants, removing people globally depend on forests for harvesting wild them from the atmosphere and keeping our lungs food such as herbs, fruits, nuts, meat and insects for healthy. Urban forests or trees in our cities also absorb nutritious diets. pollutant gases from traffic and industrial activities and filter fine particulates such as dust, dirt and smoke, which help reduce respiratory diseases among reports that approximately 50,000 plant species urban populations.

Forests are also vital sources of medicine. The FAO many of which grow in forests - have medicinal Forests and trees help to secure water availability by value. Some of these trees and plants provide healing benefits. Many have been used in traditional medicine preventing it from rushing off our hills ides and allowing

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."



Section of Dolphin Head, Forest Reserve, Hanov

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it to seep through the soil to recharge groundwater resources. During this process, tree roots help to filter the water making it easier and less costly to be treated.

Another major role of forests is their critical role in combating climate change. This is said to be one of the biggest health threats facing humanity. According to the FAO, healthy forests help to manage global warming and contain 662 billion tonnes of carbon, which is more than half the global carbon stock in soils and vegetation. Forests and trees also help reduce exposure to heat and extreme weather events caused by climate change, which poses

a major global health challenge. For example, trees properly placed around buildings cool the air and can cut air conditioning needs by up to 30 per cent, also saving energy.

Overhanging trees along Mona Road, St. Andrew

Despite all the benefits provided by our forests, they are under threat. The FAO reports that ten million hectares - roughly the equivalent of 14 million football pitches - of forest were lost yearly to deforestation between 2015 and 2020.

When we enjoy clean, fresh air, meditate among the trees and enjoy a glass of water, we seldom make the connection that these benefits result from our forests. Healthy forests and trees contribute directly and indirectly to our overall health and wellness.

Forests are a vital source of food and nutrition.



sources of medicine. The FAO reports that 50,000 approximately plant species - many of which grow in forests have medicinal value. Some of these trees and plants provide healing benefits. Many have been used in traditional medicine to

treat various maladies and to fight different viruses and infections. Some pharmaceutical products are also produced from these plants, such as malaria medication quinine, made from cinchona trees.

Healthy forests also promote good health by boosting our mental and physical health. Spending time in forests increases positive emotions and decreases stress, blood pressure, depression, fatigue, anxiety and tension. Healthy trees and forests contribute to our health by trapping airborne pollutants, removing them from the atmosphere and keeping our lungs healthy. Urban forests or trees in our cities also absorb pollutant gases from traffic and industrial activities and filter fine particulates such as dust, dirt and smoke, which help reduce respiratory diseases among urban populations.

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Forest Trek trail devastated by Forest Fire

The Forestry Department's annual hike, Forest Trek, returned on March 25th on a predominantly charred 10 km trail in the Bull Head Forest Reserve, Clarendon, Jamaica.

On March 3, just three weeks before the highly anticipated hike, the Agency was alerted to several blazes in sections of the Bull Head Forest Reserve, including the delineated hiking trail, which burned for almost a week until it extinguished naturally. Due to limited road access, the Jamaica Fire Brigade could not reach the affected areas to extinguish the fire.

An assessment by the the Agency's Forest Operations Division revealed that the fire started at an adjacent private property and spread to the Reserve. "As a result of the fire, there was disruption in biodiversity due to loss of high-value native species", said Damart Williams, Senior Director, Zonal Operations (Eastern). Approximately 40 hectares were burnt and over 3000 recently planted seedlings were ruined. Several tree species were destroyed in the forest fire, including Blue mahoe, Acacia Mangium, West Indian Cedar, Bitter Damsel, Wild Ackee and Fiddlewood.

The native species were among those planted in partnership with the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) under the Adopt-a-Hillside programme to improve biodiversity in the plantation forest where there is mostly Caribbean Pine.

The massive forest fire transformed a forest of green to brown patches with oases of green in some parts. Revenue loss is estimated to be over half a million dollars.

Forest Trek, which commemorates International Day of Forests (March 21) annually, aims to increase public awareness of forests across Jamaica and encourage greater appreciation for their various benefits. While this year's theme, "Forests and Health", seeks to remind the world of the connection between forests and people's health, the recent forest fire in Bull Head demonstrates how unsustainable agricultural practices among local populations sabotage forest ecosystems and by extension their health. Days after the fire, the air wreaked of smoke and burnt vegetation pointing to a temoporary decline in air quality in the area. Mr. Williams also commented that farmers reported loss of crops due to the fire. Damage to the reserve and private properties affected will take months to years to recover.



Eucalyptus tree sprouting new leaves after forest fire along the Bull Head trail

"...the Agency plans to replant the area with native species, increase the implementation of fire retardation measures such as the establishment of firelines as well as heighten community sensitisation..."

Jerome Smith, Principal Director, Forest Operations

"As a result of the fire, there was disruption in biodiversity due to loss of high-value native species"

Damart Williams, Senior Director, Zonal Operations (Eastern

Aftermath of a section of the hiking trail in the Bull Head Forest Reserve

Jerome Smith, Principal Director, Forest Operations Division commented, "As part of the recovery process, the Agency plans to replant the area with native species, increase the implementation of fire retardation measures such as the establishment of firelines as well as heighten community sensitisation. These among other procedures will be put in place to aid regeneration". Evidence of regeneration was observed along the trail which can be attributed to the incidences of rain days after the fire.

On the day of the hike, trekkers were exposed to the harsh impacts of fires on the forest. Storyboards were also installed along the trail to begin the sensitisation of citizens to the threat of fires to this Reserve and forests across the island. The unsightly damage was stark and it is hoped that the hikers developed a greater appreciation for the beauty and other benefits that healthy forests offer for day to day activities.



Sign informing hikers about forest fires



Over 52 hectares of forest burned in the fires

Empowering Private Landowners with Training

The Forestry Department held its fifth Private Forestry Programme (PFP) Technical Transfer on February 15, 2023 in the North East Region in Annotto Bay, St. Mary. The training made its debut in the 2016/2017 financial year and is usually held once annually in one of the Agency's regions of operations.

Mrs. Shawnette Russell-Clennon, the Private Forestry Coordinator, gave a background on PFP transfer, commented on the session held recently in the North East Region and briefly commented on the way forward.

10.1

Who is the target audience of the PFP transfer?

The target audience for this session is registered PFP planters who plant on a small or large scale, and are willing to participate in the session.

What is the objective of the Private Forestry **Programme Technical Transfer?**

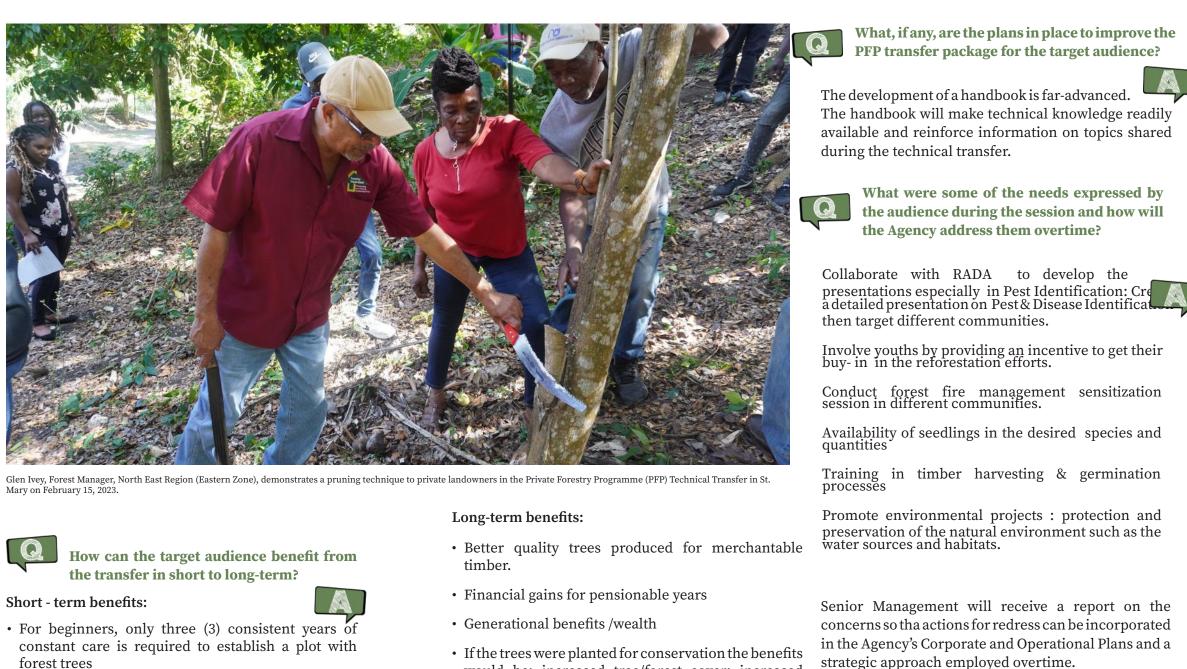
The main objective of the PFP Technical Transfer session is to share knowledge and transfer technical skills to registered planters who are beginners and those with established plots. The planters will also get the opportunity to share their knowledge with each other based on their individual experiences. This approach will allow each planter to practise information shared and enhance their technical skills to maintain the PFP plots effectively for commercial or conservation purposes.





The focus topics were:

- Land Preparation
- Pest Identification
- Matching Species to Site
- Pruning & Thinning
- Weed Control







- forest trees
- An opportunity to correct practices that are not aligned with the recommended silvicultural practices.
- · Enhanced ability to care for the trees.
- Increased knowledge to maintain trees for a longterm benefit.

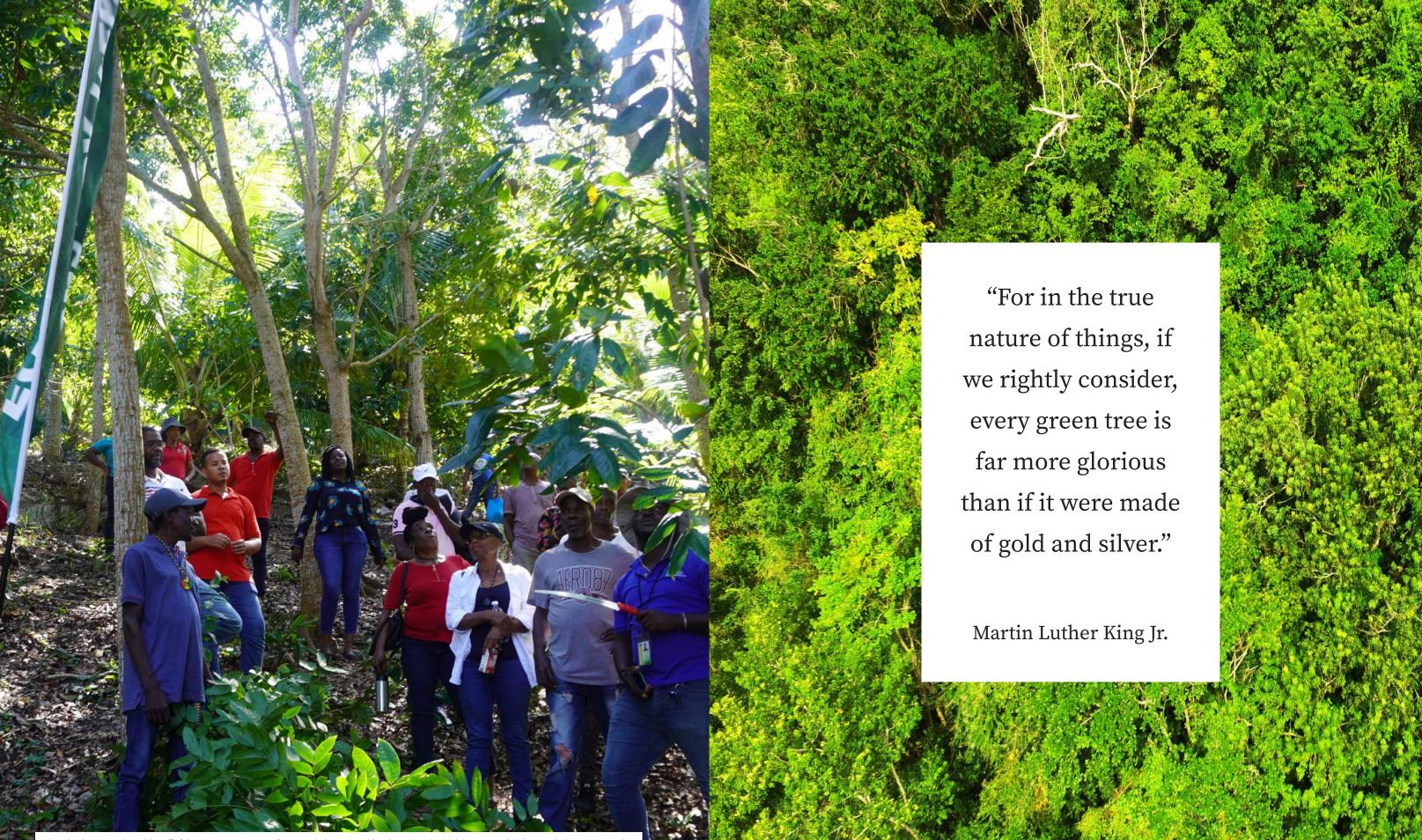
- would be: increased tree/forest cover; increased property value; increased environmental benefits, e.g. climate change mitigation, soil conservation.
- Land declaration if the planter owns large parcels of land inclusive of natural forest.
- If the planter does agroforestry, he or she can benefit from duty concession through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), once they meet the specified requirements, that is the possession of farm equipment and vehicle.

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When and where will the next transfer be held?

The next session will be held in the 2023/2024 financial year in the South West Region (Western Zone).





Private landowners gather with staff of the Forestry Department for a practical exercise with Oshane Trupaire (right), Forest Technician, Applied Forest Research at the Private Forestry Programme (PFP) Technical Transfer in St. Mary on February 15, 2023.

Celebrating Excellence and Resilience at the Forestry Department

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The Forestry Department had a grand time celebrating the excellence and resilience of its diligent staff at its Biennial Staff Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

The awards ceremony followed the annual general staff meeting and picked up the pace to merriment and palpable anticipation which lingered until the end of the day's activities.

Although it was clear that only some would receive awards, guest speaker, Sharon Williams, Head - Group

Client Experience at the National Commercial Bank (NCB) delivered an inspiring presentation that left the staff feeling more than capable of excellence.

She declared that Aristotle's quote that "excellence is not an act but a habit" and charged everyone to acknowledge the strengths of their colleagues while developing their human capital. Ms. Williams, in her speech which encouraged personal excellence, granted intangible awards to everyone in the room by inciting affirmations of self-worth.

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Presentation of Awards

The staff was either ready to accept an award or cheer on their colleagues for the hard work invested over the years.

Retirees were also celebrated for The Long Service Award was presented years of service at the function. The to former and current employees who awardees were: have served at least twenty (20) years of service. The awardees were:

- Sophia Gooden Morris (21 years)
- Hugh Fairweather (20 years)
- Winston Harris (22 years)
- Georgia Henry (20 years)
- Glen Ivey (27 years)
- Dexter Lewis (21 years)
- Donna Lowe (23 years)
- Sangie Minott (21 years)
- Lloyd Smith (24 years)
- Nimshi Kenlock (27 years)
- Donald Watson (27 years)
- Lemuel Williams (25 years)
- Lawrence Nelson (25 years)

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- D'Owen Grant (21 years)
- Linford Thompson (33 years)
- Berris Forrester (22 years)
- Lemuel Williams (25 years)
- Patrick Reynolds (16 years)
- Bethune Williams (30 years)
- Claudette Matthews (34 years)
- Churton Douglas (23 years)
- Lascelles Fearon (31 years)
- Albert Carter (24 years)
- Noel Bennett (23 years)
- Upton Edwards (39 years)
- Lawrence Nelson (25 years)
- Elon Daniels (10 years)
- Dorothy Hansel (26 years)
- Donald Watson (27 years)
- Lawrence Nelson (24 years)
- Marilyn Headley (23 years)

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Long Service & Retiree Awards



The awards were presented by principal directors, Donna Lowe (left), Forest Science & Technology Services and Stephanie Cameron, Corporate Services.



Georgia Henry (left), Forest Technician, Client Services (North East Region)



Nimshi Kenlock (right), Watchman, North East Region





Dexter Lewis (right), Forest Ranger, South East Region



Lloyd Smith (right), Forest Ranger, South West Region



Sophia Gooden-Morris (right), Forest Technician, Client Services (North West Region)



Hugh Fairweather (right), Senior Facilities & Property Officer



Linford Thompson (left), retired Forest Technician, Western Zone



Claudette Matthews (right), retired Accounts Receivable Officer



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Albert Carter (left), retired Watchman, Western Zone



Upton Edwards (right), retired Senior Surveyor

Lemuel Williams (right), retired Forest Manager, South East Region

Sectional Awards

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DIVISION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Division of the Year award was granted to:

- Corporate Services (FY2020/2021)
- Forest Science & Technology Services (FY2021/2022).



Members of Corporate Services with Ainsely Henry (second right), CEO & Conservator of Forests poses with the Division of the Award for FY2020/2021.

Sectional awards were pre-selected by staff according to the revised Forestry Department Award Guidelines.

BEST FIELD OFFICER (FEMALE AND MALE)

The awards for Best Field Officer (female and male) were presented to:

- Kiesha Clarke-Williams, Forest Technician, Forest Management in the North East Region (Eastern Zone)
- Stephen Williams, Forester, Client Services, South East Region in the Forest Operations Division.



Ainsely Henry (far right), CEO & Conservator of Forests presenting the presenting the Division of the Year award for FY2021/2022 to Forest Science & Technology Services.



Kiesha Clarke-Williams accepting award for Best Field Officer (female) from Jerome Smith, Principal Director, Forest Operations.

MVP AWARDS

MVP Awards were presented to a team member in each division. The recipients were as follows:

- Oliver Samuels, Driver, in the Corporate Services Division
- Melecia Wright, Forest Ranger, in the Legal & Forest **Enforcement Services Division**
- Michelle Needham-Graham, Administrative Support Officer, in the Forest Science & Technology Services Division
- Kristen Green, Marketing Officer in the Corporate Communications & Marketing Division
- Sharlene Gowdie-Reid, Senior Administrative Support Officer in the Executive Management Office
- · Marsha-Lee Johnson-Goodwin, Forest Technician, Client Services, South East Region in the Forest **Operations Division.**

The MVP awards were presented by Alicia Edwards (bottom left), Senior Director, Forest Resource Information Management (FRIM) and Francine Black Richards, Corporate Communications & Marketing Division.













Acceptance of MVP awards from top:

Oliver Samuels, Melecia Wright, Michelle Needham-Graham, Kristen Green, Sharlene owdie-Reid





SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD (FEMALE AND MALE)

The award for Supervisor of the Year (male and female) was granted to:

- · Michelle-lee Bowine-Clarke, Forester, Client Services, South West Region, in the Forest Operations Division,
- Andrew Hinds, Forest Manager, North East Region, assigned in the Forest Operations Division.



Ann-Marie Bromfield, Forest Manager, South West Region (left) presenting the Supervisor of the Year award to Michelle-lee Bowine-Clarke



Andrew Hinds (left) accepting award for Supervisor of the Year from Damart Williams, Senior Director, Zonal Operations (Eastern).

SECTIONAL

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

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The Employee of the Year award was presented to Jermaine Warren, Systems and Network Administrator assigned to the Information & Communication Technology Division.

CEO & CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AWARD (FEMALE AND MALE)

The CEO & Conservator of Forests award was conferred to:

- Francine Black Richards, Senior Director, Corporate Communications & Marketing
- Stephen Williams, Forester, South East Region in the Forest Operations Division



Francine Black Richards (left) accepting the CEO & Conservator of Forests award from Ainsley Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests.



Stephen Williams is all smiles with his CEO & Conservator of Forests award and Best Field Officer award.

Awards

SPOT PRIZES

Spot Prizes were also awarded to the:

- Best Dressed Male Dexter Lewis, Forest Ranger in the Legal & Forest Enforcement Services Division
- · Best Dressed Female Karen Atkinson, Secretary, South East Region in the Forest Operations Division.
- First (staff member) to Register Nichola Bryan-Dixon, Office Services Officer in the Corporate Services Division
- · Vibesiest Table Kristen Green, Clovin Daniels, Beyonce Radcliffe, Jarvis Cameron, Sharon Boyd, Tiphany LaBeach, Natrce Newsome, Joan Arnold



Dexter Lewis (left) accepting award for Best Dressed Male from guest speaker, Sharon Williams, Head - Group Client Experience at the National Commercial Bank (NCB).



Master of ceremonies, Jermaine Young (left) presenting award for Best Dressed Female to Karen Atkinson



Nichola Bryan-Dixon accepting award for First to Register from master of ceremonies, Jermaine Young.



Recipients of award for Vibesiest table (from left): Clovin Daniels, Beyonce Radcliffe, Kristen Green, Jarvis Cameron, Sharon Boyd, Tiphany LaBeach, Natrece Newsome, Joan Arnold.





Celebrating Excellence and Resilience at the Forestry Department

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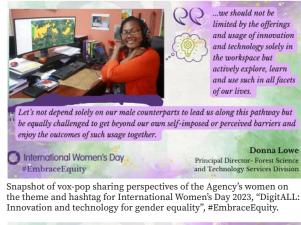


OREST NEWS

Decked in purple to celebrate International Women's Day, members of the Forest Science & Technology Services division at the Forestry Department, Sashel Bennett (left) and Abigail Jones (right), Forest Technicians, Geographic Information Systems and Dannielle Haye, Forest Biologist demonstrate the "#EmbraceEquity" pose promoted across the world on March 8.

Approximately 250 staff members were in attendance in addition to specially invited guests. The specially invited guests included Senator the Honourable Matthew Samuda, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC), Gillian Guthrie, Chief Technical Director (Acting) at MEGJC, Andrea Jones Bennett, Director at the Environment and Risk Management Division, MEGIC, Claire Bernard, Director at Planning Institute of Jamaica and Cheriese Walcott, CEO/Commissioner of Lands for the National Land Agency. The ceremony was hosted by the spirited Jermaine Young and rousing entertainment in saxophone and song was delivered by Dwight Richards.

The awards ceremony, which ended on a high note, also featured the observance of International Women's Day. Purple was incorporated in the decor and the women were presented with Forestry Department branded tote bags by men within the Agency. The segment also featured the display of a video vox-pop which highlighted the perspectives of the Agency's women on this year's theme and hashtag, "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", #EmbraceEquity.







"We are what we repeatedly do. is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle

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Excellence, therefore,



News Briefs

Big Crowds flock seedling distribution in Barbican

The highlights of this quarter started off with the Tree Planting and Seedling Distribution at the Jamaica House and Barbican Beach/Shopping Complex respectively in January. The tree planting activity, led by CEO & Conservator of Forests at the Forestry Department, Ainsley Henry, was supported by Senator Matthew Samuda, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) who also planted tree seedlings. Seedlings were also planted at National Insurance Fund locations. A dedicated Forestry Department team showed up on Saturday to facilitate the tree planting and distribution at the Barbican locations.

FD Assembles its largest team for Sigma 25th Legacy Run

The Sigma 25th Legacy Run in February brought out the Agency's 68 staff and friends, making this our largest team since our first participation in the Run.

Customers Flock Nurseries on Saturday opening

The long-awaited Saturday-opening of the Agency's nurseries on February 25 was well-received by customers who visited to support the National Tree Planting Initiative (NTPI) distribution and sale of seedlings. Across the island, customers are piping for another Saturday-opening.

Trekkers celebrate International Day of Forests with 10km hike

Forest Trek 2023 was a grand finale to the highlights of this quarter and the 2022/2023 financial year. Although met with challenges along the way, including the forest fire that wreaked havoc on the Bull Head hiking trail weeks before and the disabled truck that delayed the arrival of staff and trekkers to the startline, the event was attended by over 400 trekkers and staff who enjoyed the 10km walk through the reserve.

"The reward for good work is more work."

Tom Sachs



Mission Manage our forests in an effective and responsible manner for the benefit of current and future generations.

Vision Jamaica: a country where we value our forest ecosystem and use its resources in a responsible manner.

Core Values Commitment Confidentiality Teamwork Integrity Professionalism

> Forestry Department 173 Constant Spring Road Kingston 8 Phone: 876-618-3205 E-mail: fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm www.forestry.gov.jm

> > Find us on:

