



# National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP): Annual Progress Report 2022-2023 and Draft Implementation Plan 2023-2024



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National Forest Management and Conservation Plan - Annual Progress Report 2022-2023 & Draft Implementation Plan 2023-2024.

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#### Vision for the Forest Sector:

The National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP) forms part of the policy tools to facilitate the implementation of the Forest Policy (2017) and guides the work of the Forestry Department, and as such its vision statement is the same as presented in the Forest Policy for Jamaica 2017:

"By 2062, Jamaica's forests and its biodiversity are sufficiently restored and sustainably managed, so once again the island can adequately be described as "the land of wood and water", capable of meeting the social, economic and ecological needs of current and future generations."

#### Goal and Strategic Objectives NFMCP:

Guided by its planning processes, the obligations under the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) and the Jamaica's National Development Plan-Vision 2030, the Forestry Department has articulated the goal of NFMCP as:

"Sustainably manage and utilise Jamaica's forest resources to enhance social and economic development and contribute to building the country's climate resilience."

The NFMCP seeks to achieve this goal through four (4) Strategic Objectives (SOs):

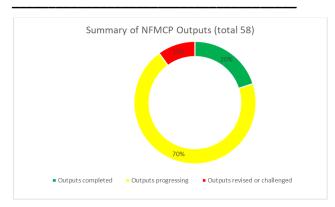
**SO1:** Reverse forest degradation, deforestation and the loss of forest biodiversity, through conservation and sustainable forest management, as well as strengthening the legislative, policy and institutional framework of the sector.

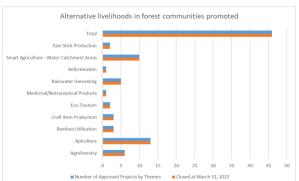
**SO2:** Enhance economic, social and environmental benefits of forests through the sustainable utilisation of forest resources.

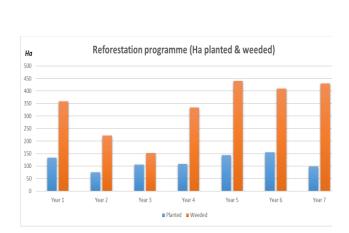
**SO3:** Build the capacity within the Forestry Department, its partners and forest communities to manage, protect and conserve the forest resources.

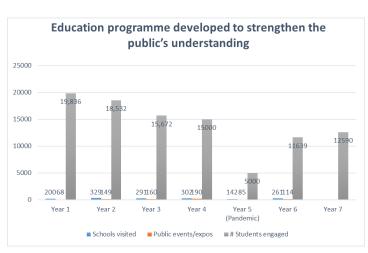
**SO4:** Increase public education and awareness to protect, conserve, restore and manage Jamaica's forests.

#### Dashboard on Status of the NFMCP and some key Outputs as at 31 March 2023:









#### **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AF	Adaptation Fund	IUCN	International Union for Conservation
AGC	Attorney General Chambers		of Nature
BSJ	Bureau of Standards Jamaica	JAMPRO	Jamaica Promotions Corporation
BJCM	Blue & John Crow Mountains	JBDC	Jamaica Business Development
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and		Corporation
	Higher Education Center	JCDT	Jamaica Conservation and
CBO	Community-based Organisation		Development Trust
CCD	Climate Change Division (MEGJC)	JCF	Jamaica Constabulary Force
CDC	Community Development Committee	JET	Jamaica Environment Trust
CMS	Centre for Marine Sciences (UWI)	JFB	Jamaica Fire Brigade
CPC	Chief Parliamentary Counsel	JNHT	Jamaica National Heritage Trust
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	JSIF	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
ERMB	Environment and Risk Management	LFMC	Local Forest Management Committee
	Branch (MEGJC)	LUCA	Land Use Cover Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ESSJ	Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica	MC	Municipal Corporation
EU	European Union	MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
EDF	European Development Fund	MEGJC	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation		Creation
	(UN)	MGD	Mines and Geology Division (MTM)
FY	Financial Year	MHURECC	Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal,
FD	Forestry Department		Environment & Climate Change
FMA	Forest Management Area	MICAF	Ministry of Industry, Commerce,
FMP	Forest Management Plan		Agriculture and Fisheries
FMU	Forest Management Unit	MLGCD	Ministry of Local Government and
FRA	Forest Resource Assessment		Community Development
FSE	Forward Spending Estimates	MOE	Ministry of Education
FTE	Full-Time Effort	MOFPS	Ministry of Finance and the Public
GCF	Green Climate Fund		Service
GEF	Global Environment Facility	MOJ	Ministry of Justice
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation	MOT	Ministry of Tourism
	Network	MSET	Ministry of Science and Technology
GHG	Greenhouse gases	MSJ	Meteorological Service of Jamaica
GIS	Geographic Information System	MTF	Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy
GOJ	Government of Jamaica		Framework of Vision 2030
IFMJ	Improved Forest Management for	MTM	Ministry of Transport and Mining
11 1415	Jamaica	MTRBB	Medium Term Results Based
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank	WWW	Budgeting
IIF	International Iguana Foundation	MRPA	Mason River Protected Area
IIED	International Institute for Environment	NAO	National Authorising Officer (PIOJ)
HLD	& Development	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and
IOJ	Institute of Jamaica	HUSAI	Action Plan
.03	moderate of Juliulou		ACCOUNT MAIL

NCU	Northern Caribbean University	NLA	National Land Agency
NDA	National Designated Authority	NMSFMP	National Mangrove & Swamp Forest
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions		Management Plan
NEPA	National Environment and Planning	NRV	Natural Resource Valuation
	Agency	NSWMA	National Solid Waste Management
NERGIS	National Emergency Response GIS		Authority
NFFS	National Forest Finance Strategy	NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NFEL	National Forest Emission Level	NWC	National Water Commission
NFMCP	National Forest Management and	ODPEM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and
	Conservation Plan		Emergency Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation	PAC	Protected Areas Committee
NHT	National Housing Trust	PASMP	Protected Areas System Master Plan
NHMJ	Natural History Museum of Jamaica	PDC	Parish Development Committee
NISSAP	National Invasive Species Strategy and	PES	Payment for Ecosystems Services
	Action Plan	PFP	Private Forestry Programme
PIE	Primary Implementing Entity	TEF	Tourism Enhancement Fund
PIF	Project Identification Form	TOR	Terms of Reference
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica	TWG	Thematic Working Group (Vision 2030)
PMER	Performance Monitoring, Evaluation	UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
	and Reporting	UDC	Urban Development Corporation
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme	UN	United Nations
PSOJ	Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica	UNCBD	United Nations Convention on
PSP	Permanent Sample Plot		Biological Diversity
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development	UNDP	United Nations Development
	Authority		Programme
REA	Rapid Ecological Assessment	UNEP	United Nations Environment
REDD	Reducing Emissions from		Programme
	Deforestation and Forest Degradation	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific
SCPU	Strategic Corporate Planning Unit		and Cultural Organisation
	(Forestry Department)	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework
SDC	Social Development Commission	0 000	Convention on Climate Change
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
SES	Socioeconomic Survey	USFS	United States Forest Service
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management	UTech	University of Technology
SIDS	Small Island Developing State	UWI	University of the West Indies
SIS	Safeguards Information Systems	UWI/CSG	UWI– Climate Studies Group
SRC	Scientific Research Council	UWI/DLS	UWI– Department of Life Sciences
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica	WRA	Water Resources Authority
TA	Technical Area / Technical Assistance	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee	VV VV I	world whalle raild
IAC	(NFMCP)		
TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility (EU)		
TPDCo	Tourism Product Development		
11 000	Company		
	Company		

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an overview of the progress achieved in the implementation of the "Forest Policy for Jamaica 2017" through its implementation tool - the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP) 2016-2026, during its seventh year of execution (Financial Year 2022-2023). The Forest Policy for Jamaica 2017 outlines eight (8) principles recognised by the Government of Jamaica as critical to the sustainable management of Jamaica's forests. These include: transparency and accountability, the utilisation of sustainable development and inter-generational considerations, best science, participatory and collaborative approaches in forest management planning, and implementation processes. The policy also establishes three (3) overarching goals, which support ten (10) objectives. The three (3) goals relate to Governance, Forest Ecological System Conservation and Socio-Economic Considerations. The goal and objectives of the policy are linked to the NFMCP through its five (5) Thematic Areas, thirteen (13) Outcomes and initial fifty-eight (58) Outputs. The first four (4) Thematic Areas of the NFMCP can be considered as the foundation of the NFMCP, while the fifth Thematic Area seeks to build capacity for the sector and facilitates monitoring, data and knowledge management activities. With revisions done to Outputs following year five of the Plan a total of fifty-six (56) Outputs are now being tracked. Notably, one new Output- Output 3.1.9: Implementation of the Three Million Trees in Three Years Initiative (National Tree Planting Initiative - NTPI), was added to reflect progress of this activity which plays a key role in achievement of global commitments of the sector and the country.

The NFMCP was developed as a collaborative sector plan to ensure alignment to various key international and national frameworks and policies geared at achieving sustainable forest management & development objectives. The implementation of the NFMCP is being led by the Forestry Department (FD) and supported by six (6) partner organisations, referred to as the Primary Implementing Entities (PIE). Other actors, from a range of sectors also participated in the implementation of the NFMCP, including government entities, private landowners, NGOs, community groups, international development partners, private sector and research institutions.

Following a mid-term evaluation conducted during the sixth year of the sector plan which assessed the performance of implementation of the Forest Policy through the NFMCP as *Moderately Satisfactory*, work focused during year seven of the plan (FY 2022/2023) on revising the Performance Monitoring and Reporting (PMER) Strategic Framework and Plan for the remaining period of the NFMCP in order to have better alignment of activities, outputs and outcomes. Key results from this action included the revision of several outputs and targets to reflect current realities, the modification of the plan's Theory of Change to ensure better strategic alignment as well as the identification and engagement of new stakeholders/PIEs for collaboration. The report also details several Outputs which have been completed.

Information on financing and budgeted amounts expended towards activity implementation continues to be a key challenge and remains under-reported. Despite the challenges with collecting expenditure information, work is ongoing to identify additional financing sources to support the continued implementation and sustainability of the plan. With the four-year EU Budget support programme (started

in 2019) ended during the period, new funding sources through the NDC Partnership Action Fund and 11<sup>th</sup> EDF funding as well as existing sources like GEF, and the GCF, are the primary sources being pursued.

#### Summary progress per Thematic Areas, Outcomes & Outputs is as follows:

At the end of year 7, activity/implementation progress of outputs for the NFMCP increased with fifty-four (54) of the now fifty-six (56) outputs reporting either having been completed or in progress/progressing. This represents an estimated 96% activity implementation/progress rate, compared to the 86% reported last FY with 58 outputs<sup>1</sup>. Four (4) of these outputs were revised to address challenges that were previously experienced and affecting progress. Currently, a total of 20% or eleven (11) outputs have been considered achieved/completed, while 70% are considered to be progressing. As compared with last FY, two (2) outputs: Output 2.1.3: Programme developed for payment of ecosystem services within forested areas., and Output 5.3.5: Targeted species (giant swallowtail, yellow-and-black-billed parrot, water mahoe and bitter wood) surveyed, mapped, remain 'in the red',- having not started or requiring intervention due to challenges that have not yet been addressed. At the level of the Thematic areas, Thematic Area 5 with its associated Outcomes and Outputs which seeks to drive scientific data and collaboration for the sector, continues to represent the most challenged area, with more outputs not reporting consistent progress. The remaining thematic areas with associated Outcomes and Outputs have all seen fair progressing for the period, albeit with a few challenges. Notably for this reporting period, challenges were experienced with timely update of information due to technical glitches with the M&E platform utilised for data collection.

Key to the improvements in activity/implementation progress across thematic areas is the review and revision of several outputs, targets and indicators based on the findings of the MTE and issues reported previously. This review, conducted as part of the work to revise the performance framework and plan for the NFMCP, aimed to ensure better strategic alignment of activities with targets and outputs. (See <u>Table</u> <u>1 below for a graphical representation</u>).

Highlights of achievements in Year 7 include:

- Continued operation of the cross-sectoral mechanism for the sector with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the NFMCP meeting twice during the period. (Output 1.1.1);
- Preparation of draft Portland Parish Development Order, and the gazetting of the Development
  Order for Kingston & St Andrew and Pedro Cays to reflect considerations for forested areas
  (Output 1.1.3);
- Completion of boundary verification for five (5) forest estates (approximately 16km) supporting boundary programme for forest estates. (Output 1.1.7);
- The updating of the Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) based on stakeholders' comments for submission to the Invasive Alien Species Working Group. (Output 1.2.2);

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While initially detailing fifty-six (56) outputs in its logframe, two outputs were removed at the mid-year review as it was recognized they were duplicated activities.

- Completion of implementation and close out of remaining alternative livelihoods projects in forest communities. (Output 2.1.4);
- Reforestation of over 90 ha of denuded lands island wide (Output 3.1.1);
- Completion of the National Mangrove and Swamp Forests Management Plan and the successful award of US 1.65 million GEF project to support implementation. Two (2) Stakeholder validation workshops were held. (Output 3.1.5);
- Execution of several urban tree planting activities resulting in the planting of over 1,000 seedlings (including Mangroves) in urban areas. (Output 3.1.7);
- Finalisation of a National REDD+ Strategy for Jamaica. A validation workshop for the strategy was held on August 10, 2022. (Output 3.2.2);
- Reconstitution of National executive meeting of the LFMC as part of activities geared at strengthening Governance and decision-making processes of the LFMCs. (Output 3.3.2);
- Continued implementation of school awareness and public education/awareness programmes.
   Completion of a Public Awareness & Public Perception Survey. Execution of a PAPP Strategy.
   Engagement of over 12,000 students from over 200 school visits conducted, and participation in over 100 public awareness events (including expositions). (Output 4.1.1);
- Airing of over 300 radio adverts on the radio for Forest Fire Awareness. Erection of six (6) Forest fire promotional signs in fire-prone forest areas as part of Forest Fore Awareness campaign. (Output 4.1.2);
- Continued mapping of private forestry programme landowners to support data on contribution to forest cover (Output 5.1.4);
- Establishment of over 200 Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) island wide as part of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) using PSPs to investigate and determine climate change impacts (Output 5.3.4);
- Revision of the Performance Monitoring & Evaluation Frameworks (PMER) of the NFMCP as part
  of continued efforts to improve knowledge management and strategic planning. Execution of
  National Forestry Conference as part of efforts to engage the sector. (Output 5.3.6);

#### **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

#### **RATIONALE OF THIS REPORT:**

This progress report seeks to present a summary of achievements per Output as well as a synopsis of the Outcomes as detailed in the logic model for the NFMCP. Using the logic model, <a href="Chapter 2">Chapter 2</a> presents templates with information for each output of the NFMCP. It highlights the key performance Indicators, baselines, targets for the year and status. It also outlines the major challenges and lessons learned, partnership/stakeholder information and the major targets.

<u>Chapter 3</u> presents a summary of the major risks reported overall (since year 1 of the plan) representing a risk register for the plan. Risks are described, levels indicated, and risk statements with mitigation

strategies detailed. For the review several risks previously rank high in the matrix have been lowered due to successful mitigation action & strategies.

<u>Chapter 4</u> summarises the financing available/identified for implementing the NFMCP.

<u>Chapter 5</u> provides updates on governance and oversight for the NFMCP.

Chapter 6 summarises the lessons learned, challenges, conclusions and recommendations.

The implementation plan for the upcoming Year 7 of the NFMCP (FY 2023-2024), presenting the latest updates on annual targets for the remainder of the implementation period of the NFMCP is detailed in **Chapter 7**.

NB: <u>Hyperlinks</u> are utilised throughout the report to facilitate ease of reference to key tables/information.

#### APPROACH & METHODOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT:

To facilitate preparation of the report, the data collection process began in June 2023 with requests to PIE representative as well as designated activity leaders within the FD for updates on their respective outputs to be uploaded directly to the online M&E system- BMES using the unique username & password provided. Data verification/validation of information reported, was done using annual reports and available information between mid-July to September 2023. Paper based templates were used to support data collection owing to delays experienced due to technical glitches with the BMES during the period.

For several of the Outputs, information was not available on the financial progress, as such a wholesome financial report could not be presented. Additionally, information related to Stakeholder/Partnership, Challenges & Lessons Learned, as well as Risks was not provided for all Outputs. To present the data in a clear and succinct format, colour schemes were used to identify Outputs and their status throughout the report. **GREEN** used to indicate Outputs which are progressing with annual targets either partially achieved/ in progress or achieved. **RED** used to reflect Outputs that have not started/no progress. Outputs shaded in **BLACK/GREY** have been completed or revised. This is visually presented in <u>Table 2</u> below.

## CHAPTER 2: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION PLAN (NFMCP)

#### **OVER-ALL STATUS**

The NFMCP when initially drafted contained fifty-eight (58) outputs, as at year 7 (FY 2022-2023), following a critical review at mid-year, fifty-six (56) outputs are detailed as two (2) were merged.

Of the 56 outputs being reported:

- *Eleven (11) outputs or 20%* have been considered completed.
- Thirty-nine (39) outputs or 70% are progressing/in progress.
- Four (4) outputs or 7% were revised at the mid-year point and are now reporting progress.
- Two (2) outputs or 3% are challenged with no real activity started or progress.

The NFMCP Logic Model is presented below in *Table 1*, with the status of implementation of the fifty-six (56) outputs colour coded as previously indicated.

TABLE 1: Logic Model of NFMCP 2016-2026, highlighting the status of implementation of the 56 Outputs at end of Year 7:

Alignment	UNFF SDGs	UNFCCC L	JNCBD Ramsar	UNESCO World Herita	ge Sites
	Jamaica Vision 2030 F	Forest Policy Climate	Change Policy Framework	PASMP NB	SAP
Thematic Areas	Forest Governance &     Conservation	2. Forest Utilisation	Capacity for Sustainable     Forest Management	4. Education, Training and Awareness	5. Monitoring and Information Management
Outcomes	Outcome 1.1: Strengthened governance, policy and legislative framework to ensure sustainable development of the forest sector.  Outcome 1.2: Forest biodiversity protected.	Outcome 2.1: Innovative mechanisms established for financing sustainable forest management and obtaining benefits from forest use.  Outcome 2.2: Sustainable harvesting and use of timber products from forests.  Outcome 2.3: Sustainable use of non-timber products and services of forests.	Outcome 3.1: Improved participatory planning to manage, protect and conserve Jamaica's forests.  Outcome 3.2: Strengthened institutional capacity for REDD+ readiness.  Outcome 3.3: Strengthened capacity of Local Forest Management Committees and other community groups.	Outcome 4.1: Forest communities, the general public as well as targeted groups have increased capacity regarding sustainable forest practices.  Outcome 4.2: Strengthened capacity for natural resource valuations, Carbon Stock Monitoring and silviculture.	Outcome 5.1: Improved availability of spatial data for sustainable forest management practices, promoting investment, and assessing vulnerabilities and risks in the forest sector.  Outcome 5.2: Strengthened capacity for impact and vulnerability assessments and for management of research and knowledge systems.  Outcome 5.3: Improved collaborative monitoring of forest resources.
Status of Implement- ation of Outputs	Output 1.1.1: Cross sectoral mechanism established for integrating the forest sector into relevant national decision-making processes.  Output 1.1.2: Forest Act 1996 and Regulations 2001amended and promulgated	Output 2.1.1: Incentives programme evaluated. (COMPLETED- Data will inform 2.1.2))  Output 2.1.2: Exploration of additional incentives to promote sustainable forest management, their launch and promotion.	Output 3.1.1: Reforestation in targeted areas (mangroves, urban areas and forest estates).  Output 3.1.2: Forest Management Plans (FMP) for forest estates in Forest Management Units (FMU) developed.  Output 3.1.3: Forest restoration	Output 4.1.1: Education programme developed to strengthen the public's understanding on the benefits of forests and its resources, the importance of sustainable forest management and conservation practices.	Output 5.1.1: Spatial representation of disturbance within broad leaf forests developed  Output 5.1.2: Mangrove and swamp forests mapped and assessed. (COMPLETED data informed 3.1.5)
	Output 1.1.3: Support for the preparation of Development	Output 2.1.3: Programme developed for payment of	activities included and implemented within Watershed Management Plans.	Output 4.1.2: Forest fire- related public awareness	Output 5.1.3: Gap analysis conducted identifying spatial data and other information to better

Orders provided, to include forest estates and their management priorities.

Output 1.1.4: Crown lands (mangroves, swamps and terrestrial) transferred by Commissioner of Lands to the Forestry Department for sustainable management under various programmes (e.g., mangrove management plan, REDD+ implementation).

Output 1.1.5: Enforcement capacity of FD increased.

Output 1.1.6: Regulations developed for special recreational use permits, research permits, licence programmes. (Timeline for Output revised to year 8)

<u>Output 1.1.7</u>: Boundary verification programme implemented.

Output 1.2.1: List of invasive plant and animal species in forested areas developed, maintained. (COMPLETED)

Output 1.2.2: Invasive species management within forest areas addressed

ecosystem services within forested areas.

<u>Output 2.1.4</u>: Alternative livelihoods in forest communities promoted.

<u>Output 2.2.1:</u> Identification of three to five wood product species, to be assessed for economic viability.

<u>Output 2.2.2</u>: Sustainable harvesting programme developed for commercial/merchantable plantations within forest estates.(COMPLETED)

<u>Output 2.3.1:</u> Research programme on non-timber forest resources developed and pertinent marketing efforts established to follow the programme's recommendations.

Output 2.3.2: Potential identified of non-timber materials that can be extracted for processing or sale.

Output 2.3.3: Economically viable non<u>Output 3.1.4</u>: Nursery programme implemented & expanded.

Output 3.1.5: Mangrove forests management plan developed and implemented.

Output 3.1.6: Guidelines developed for establishing management practices for riparian forests within forest estates

<u>Output 3.1.7</u>: Appropriate guidelines developed and implemented for the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings (There are other maintenance standards for forest estates).

Output 3.1.8: Database of private forest land owners created and maintained. (COMPLETED)

Output 3.1.9: Implementation of the Three Million Trees in Three Years Initiative (National Tree Planting Initiative - NTPI) (Added in year 6)

Output 3.2.1: Existing forest inventory approach reviewed and revised to support Carbon Stock Monitoring (CSM) and potential carbon trading agreements.
(COMPLETED)

and education programme designed, implemented.

Output 4.1.3: Outreach programme for private forest owners developed and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Output 4.2.1: Training programmes for natural resource/ecosystem valuations (NRVs) for all types of forests conducted.

Output 4.2.2: Training in silviculture conducted (COMPLETED).

Output 4.2.3: Training in Carbon Stock Monitoring conducted.
(COMPLETED)

map the risks and vulnerabilities of forests and communities to climate change and related hazards (e.g., fire, floods, landslides).

Output 5.1.4: Lands verified and mapped in the private forestry programme (PFP) showing contribution to forest cover; database of private forest owners maintained. (Output revised)

<u>Output 5.1.5</u>: Recreational, cultural and heritage sites identified and mapped. (COMPLETED)

Output 5.2.1: Research outputs related to sustainable forest management and the impact of climate change on all forest types in Jamaica collected and circulated. (Output revised)

<u>Output 5.2.2</u>: Forest fire assessments conducted.

Output 5.2.3: The engagement of the Forestry Department in consultations on impact assessments regarding mining and quarrying proposed activities in forest lands strengthened (Output revised)

	through the implementation of	timber market opportunities	Output 3.2.2: REDD+ readiness	Output 5.3.1: Improved
	the Strategy and Action plan	developed.	Strategy completed.	availability of data for driving the
				growth and investment in the
	Output 1.2.3: Species (pilot)	Output 2.3.4: Recreational	Output 3.2.3: Analytical Report on	forest sector (both timber & non
	management or recovery	facilities established.	the drivers for deforestation/forest	timber).
	plans developed.		degradation produced (REDD+	
	0 1 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Output 2.3.5: Guidelines	readiness). (COMPLETED)	<u>Output 5.3.2</u> : REDD+
	Output 1.2.4: Identification of	for the use of cultural and	Outrot 2.2 to National format	preparedness – Strengthened
	target species most relevant	heritage sites on Forest	Output 3.2.4: National forest	forest monitoring systems.
	to the forest sector for future conservation efforts.	Reserves and FMAs	reference emission level established   (calculated) (REDD+ readiness).	(COMPLETED)
	conservation enorts.	developed.	(Calculated) (REDD+ Teadifiess).  (Output revised-incorporated in	Output 5.3.3: Weather stations
			Output 3.2.2)	placed in strategic locations with
			<del>Output 0.2.2)</del>	forested areas to garner addition
			Output 3.2.5: Safeguards	data to support sustainable fores
			Information System (REDD+	management practices.
			readiness). (Output revised-	management practices.
			incorporated in Output 3.2.2)	Output 5.3.4: National Forest
			,	Monitoring System (NFMS) using
			Output 3.3.1: Strengthened	Permanent Sampling Plots
			capacity of LFMCs and other	(PSPs) to investigate and
			community groups in project	determine climate change
			development and management	impacts.
			Output 3.3.2: Governance and	Output 5.3.5: Targeted species
			decision-making processes related	(giant swallowtail, yellow-and-
			to LFMCs strengthened.	black-billed parrot, water mahoe
				and bitter wood) surveyed,
			Output 3.3.3: Fire suppression	mapped.
			teams established and trained within	
			community groups in high	Output 5.3.6: Knowledge
			priority/high risk areas.	Management and Strategic
Cross-cutting	Climate cha		and harmonisation among stakeholders	Planning of the NFMCP achieve

#### THEMATIC AREA 1: FOREST GOVERNANCE AND CONSERVATION

The first thematic area of the NFMCP seeks to address issues that have over the last twenty years, contributed to the loss of quality forest in Jamaica. The two (2) Outcomes under this area focus on the development and maintenance of comprehensive national governance, legislative and policy frameworks to govern the forest sector, as well as afford protection to, and strengthen forest biodiversity. Outputs for this area relate to the amendment of the Forest Act, the development of Parish Development Orders which prioritise forest resources, increased boundary verification & forest enforcement capacities, development of species management and control plans and the identification & targeting of relevant species for conservation efforts.

Under **Outcome 1.1**, at the end of year 7 the NFMCP TAC/EUBSP PSC was maintained as a consistent cross-sectoral mechanism /framework for engagement of the sector as five (5) Government agencies continue to consistently represent at meetings.

Despite ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, intended progress towards the amendment of the Forest Act was not achieved during the period. Efforts continue to have the Bill for the Amendment of the Forest Act tabled in the upcoming FY.

Further areas of achievement under Outcome 1.1. included the preparation draft Portland the Development Order, the gazetting of the Development Order for Kingston & St Andrew and Pedro Cays and continued strengthening Enforcement capacity. Additionally, with a refined boundary verification procedure, work progressed during the year to verify over 200ha of forest estate boundaries (approximately 16km). Supporting ongoing works under the verification Agency's boundary While no areas were programme.

**Outcome 1.1:** Strengthened governance, policy and legislative framework to ensure sustainable development of the forest sector. *KPI – Extent to which the framework is utilised to ensure integration of the interests and concerns of the forest sector into national decision-making processes.* 

- Output 1.1.1: Cross sectoral mechanism established for integrating the Forest Sector into relevant national decisionmaking processes.
- Output 1.1.2: Forest Act 1996 and Regulations 2001 amended and promulgated.
- Output 1.1.3: Support for the preparation of Development Orders provided, to include forest estates and their management priorities.
- Output 1.1.4: Crown lands (mangroves, swamps and terrestrial) transferred by Commissioner of Lands to the Forestry Department for sustainable management under various programmes (e.g. mangrove management plan, REDD+ implementation).
- Output 1.1.5: Enforcement capacity of FD increased.
- Output 1.1.6: Regulations developed for special recreational use permits, research permits, licence programmes (Target date to be revised)
- Output 1.1.7: Boundary verification programme implemented.

#### **Outcome 1.2:** Forest biodiversity protected.

- Output 1.2.1: List of invasive plant and animal species in forested areas developed, maintained. (Output achieved. List now incorporated in Output 5.3.4)
- Output 1.2.2: Invasive species management within forest areas addressed through the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.
- Output 1.2.3: Species (pilot) management or recovery plans developed.

transferred by the Commissioner of Lands to the Agency for management during the period, discussions are ongoing on areas identified.

For **Outcome 1.2**, progress continued in invasive species control management with notable efforts by the NEPA to control invasive fern in the Mason River Protected Area. The rescoping of Output 1.2.1 will see no further activities completed under this output as activities will now be a part of Output 5.3.4.

For the reporting period only one (1) output reported little to no information in relation to target and is to be determined.

#### Progress towards targets for the year for nine (9) outputs under Outcomes 1 & 2 are detailed below:

<u>Output 1.1.1:</u> Cross sectoral mechanism established for integrating the Forest Sector into relevant national decision-making processes.

Primary Implementing Entity: MEGJC & FD

KPI	(Yes/No) National multi-stakeholder policy coordination mechanism in place, including regarding mangrove management, to ensure that the forest sector is integrated into decision making processes			
BASELINE	At least 5 agencies actively involved in Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), chaired by MEGJC and PIOJ.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	Additional working relationships between the TAC and other coordinating bodies.  Agreement on EIAs in forested	□Completed		
	areas between FD and NEPA.			

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Two (2) meetings of the TAC (chaired by the PIOJ with the MEGJC as co-chair) were held during the period on July 26, 2022 & December 14, 2022 as efforts continue to support interlinkages and synergies within the sector. Working relationships were established during the period with the newly formed Urban Renewal Branch.

While no updates were provided on EIAs in forested areas, the Agency and NEPA continues to work together to ensure projection of forested areas.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

The TAC mechanism engages the Parent Ministry, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, NEPA, MOFPS, and other key Agencies in the execution of this output. While not formally added to the TAC, stakeholders were engages and relationships established with key agencies. During the period the Urban renewal branch of the Ministry was engaged as a new and key stakeholder for the sector. Additional engagement of key stakeholders of the sector was achieved through the hosting of the National Forestry Conference in December 2022 which convened over 180 key stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, investors, academia, and civil society for sectoral discussions identifying challenges, solutions, and future opportunities for forestry business development.

Additional working relationships were established with National Road Operating and Constructing Company Limited (NROCC) through an MOU for reforestation.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:** The TAC mechanism continues to demonstrate a level of synergy within the forest sector by simultaneously serving as the Steering Committee for the Budget Support Programme currently funding two (2) strategic objectives of the NFMCP. With the Budget Support programme ended, refocus of the TAC to steer the sector plan will be done.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Mangrove management addressed by a cross-sectoral mechanism, including private landowners. Nursery established for mangroves.

Output 1.1.2: Forest Act 1996 and Regulations 2001 amended and promulgated

#### Primary Implementing Entity: MEGJC & FD

КРІ	(Yes/No) Amended Forest Act as well as revised Forest Regulations approved and promulgated by 2025.		
BASELINE	Drafting Instructions exist to support revision of the Forest Act 1996	STATUS of OUTPUT	per on tank
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	- All inputs provided by FD and OPC to finalise amendments to the Forest ActFinal Bill for Forest Act tabled in Parliament	□Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY not achieved.

The request for an extension of time from June 2022 to February 2023 was granted under the EU Budget Support Programme to facilitate proposed improvements to the draft legislation. A brief of proposed changes to the scope of the draft legislation was prepared on July 31, 2022 and finalised following consultations with the Ministry on August 19, 2022. Revised drafting instructions were submitted to the Ministry on December 30 2022. The document was revised through ongoing consultations with the Ministry and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel in March 2023.

Unfortunately, all inputs to finalise amendments were not submitted to facilitate the Draft Bill being tabled in Parliament during the period. Work to complete this activity will continue in the new FY. Overall progress of target remains at 80% (as previous FY).

#### **CHALLENGES:**

The time required for achieving stakeholder consensus was underestimated.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** Significantly more time is required to ensure stakeholder consensus.

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

The major risks identified for this programme surrounded Drafting Instructions not being properly prepared with several gaps identified. Request for additional time to table bill proposed as mitigation measure however target still not met.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Despite the challenges experienced, it is recommended that steps should be taken to achieving the best possible outcome on the legislation.

Work with the Agency, the Ministry and the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC)/ Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) will continue in the new FY to complete this activity. Related activities (including the revision of the Forest Regulations) will be delayed/affected.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/2024:

• TBD - The Agency awaits a further draft of the Bill and instructions from the Parent Ministry on next steps. (Future targets likely to be affected due to delays with Forest Act amendment)

### <u>Output 1.1.3:</u> Support for the preparation of Development Orders provided, to include forest estates and their management priorities. Primary Implementing Entity: NEPA

КРІ	Number of Development Orders drafted and updated which include forest estates management priorities			
BASELINE	No Parish Development Orders	STATUS of	DEVELOPMENT ORDER AREAS MAP	
	which prioritise forest	OUTPUT:	CARRIERON NA N	
	resources			
TARGETS/MAJOR	6 Development Orders	□Not started		
ACTIVITIES FOR	prepared and updated			
FY 2022/2023	regarding forest management	nt 🛮 🖾 In progress		
	priorities	□Completed		

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

While the target for the year was for the development of six (6) Development Orders, a total of three (3) were completed as follows:

- Draft Portland Parish Development Order prepared.
- Confirmation Notification (Gazette Notice) for the Kingston and St. Andrew and the Pedro Cays Provisional Development Order prepared and signed by Minister with responsibility and is being gazetted as Confirmed.
- Draft master plan for the Constant Spring Corridor Local Planning Area completed.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Local Municipal Corporations, Parish Development Committee, MDAs, and Community groups, continue to be engaged in this process.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

• Getting up-to-date data on forest reserve, e.g demarcation of forest reserve

- The format data is received in
- Timeliness of required data.
- Constant changes to the Development Orders

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

- Timeline to get development orders confirmed.
- Implementation of policies.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

No targeted activity.

<u>Output 1.1.4:</u> Crown lands (mangroves, swamps and terrestrial) transferred by Commissioner of Lands to the Forestry Department for sustainable management under various programmes (e.g. mangrove management plan, REDD+ implementation). **Primary Implementing entity:** NLA

КРІ	Area (Hectares) of mangrove / swamp forests, as well as terrestrial lands transferred by the Commissioner of Lands for Forestry Department's management			
BASELINE	2,267 ha of mangroves managed as forest estates	STATUS of OUTPUT:		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	Set up inventory application and start off database (funding needed).  Research possibility of contributing terrestrial and swamp lands (e.g. returned from bauxite, SCJ lands) for REDD+ implementation.  Agreement with SCJ needed.	□Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 203): Target for FY not achieved.

No database established and no areas transferred. Dialogue ongoing with Agency and NLA.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

The phase of this process that is currently being undertaken is the identification and inspection of parcels, which is primarily done by the Forestry Department. The phases that the NLA will lead in (valuation, spatial representation, and transfer) will come after.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Transfer of Management Responsibility for Mangroves Completed.

Update NLA Property inventory.

<u>Output 1.1.5:</u> Enforcement capacity of FD increased. <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Quality and applicability of approaches for detection of offences regarding encroachment and illegal activities				
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Protection and enforcement approaches in place. Mechanisms to detect encroachment on forest estates include patrol plans and rangers reports. Surveillance solutions being introduced.  Data system on incidents in protected areas (held by NEPA) and particular breaches are shared with FD. Co-management partners (NEPA, FD, MAF, JNHT, NLA) meet quarterly.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	No hunting is allowed within forest reserves and forest management areas or within 50 meters of rote to management areas or within 50 meters of rieir boundaries.  Person for all management areas or within 50 meters of rieir boundaries.  Person for all management areas or within 50 meters of rieir boundaries.		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	Capacity increased to address specific offences (e.g. land tenure issues). Legal support within stakeholders increased. Share "lease monitoring system". More signage				

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

As of March 2023, a total of four (4) trail cameras (piloted by the FD in FY 2018) remain in the field in three (3) forest estates. The outstanding eight (8) cameras are accounted for as follows, two (2) were stolen and six (6) have become defective. The malfunctioning cameras seem to have been affected by moisture content in the areas of deployment as well as weathering caused by environmental factors.

Additionally, as of the end of the period, the Forest Enforcement Services (FES) Branch of the FD commenced exploring other technological interventions to increase enforcement capacity with support from the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme and international NGO, Rainforest Connection. Through these engagements, the Agency hopes to seek funding to launch a pilot Rapid Response Team which will incorporate the use of Unmanned Vehicular Aircraft (UVA) and a pilot Acoustic Monitoring System respectively. Both are expected to enhance the effectiveness of forest monitoring and capacity to address specific offences. The use of patrol plans remains an integral component of forest monitoring and joint patrols with other co-management partners are also still utilized.

Signage (six signs) supporting forest management and enforcement were installed in forest estates in the Yallahs-Hope Watershed during the period with funding under the UNEP funded City Adapt project.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

 The Agency continues to engage partnering entities such as NLA, NEPA, and UDC among other stakeholders by means of Joint Patrols. This is an ongoing initiative. • The Agency has initiated partnerships with international entities BIOPAMA and Rainforest Connection in an effort to obtain funding for technological intervention in forest monitoring.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

The appropriate use of technology offers the possibility of improved forest management. Increased vehicular support is also required to effect timely response as well as improve access to some of the areas managed.

**LESSONS LEARNED**: The trail cameras, based on limitations in staff capacity as well as the static nature of the cameras hampered the effectiveness of the technology. The use of the cameras has however allowed for indirect benefits derived from increased presence in the areas of deployment as well as the capturing of information which has been useful in informing patrol plans and investigating offences detected.

#### **COMMENTS ON OTHER INPUTS: (resources):**

Greater support is needed from the Agency's fleet.

Provision of safety gear and equipment

Great support from JCF to enhance officer's safety.

Internal and external support for boundary verification

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

- Risk of harm to officers' in areas where offenders are hostile towards forest rangers.
- Limited access to forest estate due to inadequate fleet support
- Health, Safety and security risks to officers
- Inability to take appropriate actions due to boundary uncertainties.
- Inability to identify offenders

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

The FES Branch continues to monitor forest estate using various patrol measures while it explores the use of technology to enhance the effectiveness and the results obtained. However, to support these initiatives and increase the chance of improved results other supporting resources must be made available. Nonetheless, the Branch will continue to take actions aimed at protecting and conserving forest resources to improve the collective benefits obtained from ecosystem services as well as contribute to the Agency's goal to achieve no net loss by 2030.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Community meetings to share information, engage stakeholders and encourage compliance.

In FY 2023/24, it is expected that the pilot projects for the Acoustic Monitoring System will be implemented. Also, the engagement with BIOPAMA should be finalised and ready for implementation.

There will also be continued partnerships with other MDAs by means of joint patrols conducted.

The use of patrol plans to guide monitoring activities will continue to not only maintain a presence but also detect and deter the perpetration of offences.

<u>Output 1.1.6</u>: Regulations developed for special recreational use permits, research permits, licence programmes (Output revised)

**Primary Implementing Entity:** MEGJC

KPI	(Yes/No) Regulations for special recreational use permit, research permits, license programmes developed and introduced.		
BASELINE	Existing Forest Regulations 2001 and Forest Act 1996	STATUS of OUTPUT:  ☑Not started  ☐Challenges. ☐In progress ☐Completed	OUTPUT NEEDED TIMELINE FOR OUTPUT REVISED TO START YEAR 8 (2023/2024)

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023):** No work has started on this due to the effects of other activities. Output 1.1.2 (Forest Act amended) has to be completed before initiating this output.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Commencement of this activity is tied to the completion of the revision of the Forest Act (Output 1.1.2) Timeline for Output revised to start YEAR 8 (2023/2024)

(Delays with amendment of Forest Act could affect start of this activity)

<u>Output 1.1.7</u>: Boundary verification programme implemented. Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department

KPI	Km of parcel boundary transversed and verified (Proxy indicator).		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	6-8 parcels per annum	STATUS of OUTPUT:	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	-Bring the FD approach in alignment with NLA, have it approved and subsequently apply it  Boundary verification SOP updated  Boundary verification completed for 5 estates.	□Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as of March 31, 2023): Target for FY achieved.

Boundary verification exercises were completed during the FY for five (5) forest estates totalling approximately 257.93 hectares. These parcels estimated combined linear length (perimeter) is approximately  $^{\sim}16$  km. \* NB: As boundaries are not perfect squares, this calculation assumes the linear distance of each parcel is 30% longer than that of a square with the same area. This 30% (irregularity) is a hypothetical estimate.

The estates completed are: Millbank-Portland, Edgars Rio Grande-St. Thomas, Kenilworth - Hanover, Seville 'A'-St. Ann and Montpelier – St. James.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

The Agency continues to partner with several key stakeholders including the National Land Agency

#### **CHALLENGES:**

Considerable delay when receiving data from internal stakeholders for SOP.

Delays in the timely release of funding for work activities.

Adverse weather conditions

**LESSONS LEARNED**: Implementation of forward procurement planning. Better implementation of stakeholder management.

**MAJOR RISKS:** This activity is a project in itself and is resource-intensive; the performing team also has other operational obligations.

Failure to complete targets in agreed time due to underestimation of the application of new SOP

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

This activity utilises Temporary Survey Field- Assistants. This approach reduces the heavy reliance on steady/ongoing recruitment of casual workers.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Regular operation of the boundary verification programme. Boundary verification of five (5) forest estates and a minimum of 2 KM of estate boundary verified.

<u>Output 1.2.2</u>: Invasive species management within forest areas addressed through the implementation of the Strategy and Action plan.

Primary Implementing entity: NEPA

KPI	Number of invasive flora & fau	na species managed thi	rough various methodologies.
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Invasive species not managed within forest areas.  However, invasive species removal combined with forest restoration activities in parts of BJCM PA.  Also, IOJ manages Mason River Protected Area	STATUS of OUTPUT:  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress ☑Completed	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	- National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020 updated. At least management of three or four invasive species is addressed within CBL forest cover class, as part of the Strategy and Action Plan.		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

The National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) was updated based on stakeholders' comments and submitted to the Invasive Alien Species Working Group by end of March 2023. The Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ) has two projects being conducted at the Mason River Protected Area (MRPA) that focus on the control of a

native invasive fern (Dicranopteris pectinata) and the rehabilitation of areas from which the fern has been removed. One project that is funded by Jamaica Conservation Partners in technically complete and the second project that is funded by NEPA is ongoing with a MOU to be signed for the period 2023-2025. The methodology is simply manual removal and replanting cleared plots with native species common to the MRPA. To date, of the approximately 20 acres covered by the invasive we have managed to clear approximately 40 percent.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

Inability to undertake release of animals due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Continuous dialogue between NEPA and the FD needed.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

A Risk Based Analysis needs to be undertaken for the Iguana programme so as to identify possible risk associated with the execution of the project and map the possible solutions to mitigate these risks.

The programme has associated risk such as:

- Emergency evacuation of the field staff
- Contingencies for forced or mandated stay in place orders as experienced during the early part of covid-19. This has major implications for food rations, water and sanitation.
- Funding requirement for the full staff complement.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

- Secured funding at the start of the programme.
- Undertake risk analysis of the programme

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Continuation of the implementation of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, with regard to forest types.

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#### <u>Output 1.2.3</u>: Species (pilot) management or recovery plans developed. Primary Implementing Entity: NEPA

KPI	Number of species management or recovery plans developed.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Management/ recovery plans species for specific species about 8 major fauna.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges.	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	Species management plan developed for Juniper Cedar (Juniper Barbedensis var. lucayana)	⊠In progress  □Completed	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): TBD

While no information was reported on the species management plan for Juniper Cedar. The recovery plan for the Swallowtail butterfly was updated during the period.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

- NHMJ/IOJ is collaborating with NEPA and other stakeholders to collect and propagate several endemic species in the Blue and John Crow Mountain area. This is an ongoing effort from past year which will restart in August 2023. A checklist of 18 species have been collated so far to be collected.
- NHMJ had preliminary meetings with the FD team in an effort to conduct activities which will positively
  impact and contribute to conservation of endemic and economic flora. A shortlist of these were proposed
  by the FD for consideration.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

• Lack of financial support for people housing protected species including the American crocodile.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

• Species management plan developed for Bitterwood (Picasma excelsa),

#### **THEMATIC AREA 2: FOREST UTILISATION**

Thematic Area 2 of the NFMCP acknowledges that forests provide many more benefits and services than the traditional focus of timber production. It recognises that a diversification of the scope of forest utilisation activities within forest estates needs to be undertaken by engaging many other sectors of society. Outcomes and activities under this area seek to address gaps related to market data on the economic viability of local timber and non-timber forest products and support ecotourism and forest recreational activities. The activities also seek to build capacity and mobilise resources to promote sustainable alternative livelihood in forest dependent communities, as well the development and promotion of incentives.

While work to support Alternative livelihoods continued with the completion of over twenty (20) projects

in or close to, forest communities, work to explore additional incentives to promote sustainable forest management amongst private landowners and develop a programme for PES, stalled under **Outcome 2.1**. with little to no progress reported.

For Outcome 2.2 and Outcome 2.3, the execution of a Market study on Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products (finalised in Year 6), which provided valuable information to the sector, has allowed for progress assessments of the economic viability of wood species, and informed the development of sustainable harvesting plans. It has also allowed for the identification of potential non-timber materials that can be extracted for processing or sale, thereby completing Output 2.3.2, as well as supporting the exploration of economically viable nontimber market opportunities.

While some progress has been seen, lack of resources to support development of recreational facilities as well as clear guidelines to support operationalisation **Outcome 2.1:** Innovative mechanisms established for financing sustainable forest management and obtaining benefits from forest use.

- Output 2.1.2: Exploration of additional incentives to promote sustainable forest management, their launch and promotion.
- Output 2.1.3: Programme developed for payment of ecosystem services within forested areas
- Output 2.1.4: Alternative livelihoods in forest communities promoted.

**Outcome 2.2:** Sustainable harvesting and use of timber products from forests.

- Output 2.2.1: Identification of three to five wood product species, to be assessed for economic viability.
- Output 2.2.2: Sustainable harvesting programme developed for commercial/merchantable plantations within forest estates (COMPLETED. No further activity under this Output.)

**Outcome 2.3:** Sustainable use of non-timber products and services of forests.

- <u>Output 2.3.1</u>: Research programme on non-timber forest resources developed and pertinent marketing efforts established to follow the programme's recommendations.
- Output 2.3.2: Potential identified of non-timber materials that can be extracted for the processing or sale. (COMPLETED. Identified products processed or sold as part of market opportunities will be reported under Output 2.3.3)
- Output 2.3.3: Economically viable non-timber market opportunities developed.
- Output 2.3.4: Recreational facilities established.
- Output 2.3.5: Guidelines for the use of cultural and heritage sites on

of recreational facilities has also affected timely execution of targets related to recreational activities. Focus for the period therefore was on development of a concept document to support one recreational activity- Adopt a Trail.

For the reporting period, one (1) output reported no information/little progress. Further work is needed to better align annual targets with Outputs.

#### Progress towards targets for the year for eight (8) Outputs are detailed below:

<u>Output 2.1.2:</u> Exploration of additional incentives to promote sustainable forest management, their launch and promotion.

Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department

KPI	Number of incentives (new or revised) available to private landowners.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Three incentives: Technical assistance, free seedlings under PFP & Land Declaration programme	STATUS of OUTPUT  ☐Not started ☐Challenges. ☑In progress	NCENTRY AND THE REAL PROPERTY AND THE REAL P
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FROR FY 2022/23	- In-depth discussion of additional incentives with private landowners and other stakeholders.	□ Completed	and the second s

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023) - Target for FY partially achieved.

The July 31 2022 Brief on Proposed changes to the Forest Bill identified possible incentives to enhance the conservation of private lands. However these were not accepted as feasible due to the policy position regarding the Forest Fund created by virtue of r.45 of the Forest Regulations, 2001.

It should be noted that several stakeholder discussions informed various recommendations in the proposed Forest Bill.

#### CHALLENGES:

Misunderstandings regarding the nature of incentives; process of seeking consensus; compatibility of policy position with incentives.

#### LESSONS LEARNED:

Greater research on incentives and better sensitization at the Government level is necessary to develop an effective incentive programme suitable to the Jamaican context

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS**: (resources)

An evaluation on current incentives and gaps is currently underway and needs to be completed before new or revised incentives become available. A consultant to guide this activity would also need to be engaged.

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

Lack of consensus; lack of financial support for incentives proposed via the forest fund.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

More research is necessary on the types of incentives that would be effective in encouraging conservation and sustainable use of forested lands.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: One additional incentive designed.

<u>Output 2.1.3</u>: Programme developed for payment of ecosystem services within forested areas. <u>Primary Implementing Entity</u>: Forestry Department

KPI	(Yes/No) Programme for paymen	t of ecosystem services in forest	ed areas in place	
BASELINE	In FYs 18-2020, NEPA explored the development of a PES for water. A management plan was also developed to support this initiative. FD was a key partner in this process. FD is not aware of any advancement since.	STATUS of OUTPUT:  Not started  Challenges.  □In progress □Completed		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Based on response MEGJC and cabinet to position paper, establish working group on PES.  Consultancy on incentives for PES pilot programme implemented. Link it to the			
As of March 31, 2023	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY not achieved. No progress  As of March 31, 2023, The Agency has not executed any activity/ progress addressing this output.  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: PES within forested areas programme development started.			

<u>Output 2.1.4</u>: Alternative livelihoods in forest communities promoted. <u>Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department</u>

KPI	Number of alternative livelihoods projects supported			
TARGETS/ MAJOR	Forty-six (46) alternative livelihood projects selected and awarded to forest community groups and NGOs (Project themes included: Agroforestry, Apiculture, Bamboo Utilization, Craft Item Production, Eco-Tourism, Medicinal/Nutraceutical Products, Rainwater Harvesting, Reforestation, Smart Agriculture - Water Catchment Areas, &Yam Stick Production.) Lessons learned and results from livelihood activities (sustainable tourism, agroforestry) in BJCM PA.  -21 projects completed and close out reports submitted.	STATUS of OUTPUT:  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed		

ACTIVITIES FOR	Use learnings of the projects to	
FY 2022/23	provide guidelines for social enterprise development.	
	At least one social forestry project supported.	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

During the FY, the Agency successfully wrapped up the Alternative Livelihoods program supported by the EUBSP with the close out of the remaining twenty-one (21) projects. Project themes included: *Agroforestry, Apiculture, Bamboo Utilization, Craft Item Production, Eco-Tourism, Medicinal/Nutraceutical Products, Rainwater Harvesting, Reforestation, Smart Agriculture - Water Catchment Areas, &Yam Stick Production.* These projects supported several social forestry initiatives.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

EFJ continues to administer the execution of grants under Indicator 4. Work continued with our LFMCs, PFP, Social Forestry and schools programmes.

**CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**: With the COVID 19 and the protocols put in place by GOJ we had to shift focus especially as it relates to our social programmes. Increase dependence on technology is needed if we are to carry out our social mandate going forward.

**MAJOR RISKS**: Low commitment of people in the PFP as well as the LFMCs programmes. Capacity of community groups to take on EUBSP grants is limited.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Agro-foresters have roadmap/business case document to support social forestry/alternate livelihood process

<u>Output 2.2.1:</u> Identification of three to five wood product species, to be assessed for economic viability. <u>Primary Implementing Entity</u>: Forestry Department

КРІ	Number of identified wood species assessed		
BASELINE (as at 2021)  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	List of economic wood species in Jamaica relevant to timber harvesting.  - Selection of priority wood species for assessment done through collection of information on economic viability and pertinent processing methods.  -Forest plantation assessment and harvesting plans for FMU# 4, 8, 13, 17, & 23	STATUS of OUTPUT  □ Not started □ Challenges. ☑ In progress □ Completed	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Based on the market research/study completed under (Output 2.3.2) previously, a priority list of identified wood species of economic value developed, forest plantation assessments have commenced, and harvest plans developed for forest estates in FMU#4 (Western Blue Mountain) and FMU#17 (Eastern Hanover). The economical viable tree species being assessed include Caribbean Pine, Jamaican & Honduran Mahoganies, and Blue Mahoe.

Harvesting plans for FMU # 8 (Eastern Blue Mountain), 13 (Ballintoy, St Ann) & 23 (Gourie, Manchester) will be completed in subsequent years.

**CHALLENGES:** Currently tree volume assessment for the remaining FMUs is ongoing. The information is critical to identify the economical valuable wood species and to determine the best processing methods.

**LESSONS LEARNED**: Providing the output (baseline data) from plantation assessment not forthcoming on schedule, then the resulting plans is going to be deficient in its recommendations.

#### **COMMENTS ON OTHER INPUTS: (resources)**

Increase human capacity to collect much needed data – or at best, better scheduling of human capacity so as to facilitate the timely collection of the critical data.

Make use of drone and or other technology to acquire baseline data

MAJOR RISKS: Risk of formulating unsound recommendations due to the absence of critical tree volume data.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:** Use Drone technology to increase data collection, interpretation and analysis of baseline tree volume data.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Detailed assessments done. Harvesting plans for forest estates in forest management unit completed.

<u>Output 2.3.1:</u> Research programme on non-timber forest resources developed and pertinent marketing efforts established to follow the programme's recommendations. **Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

KPI	(Yes/No) Research programme for non-timber forest resources established		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	No research programme for non-timber forest resources.	STATUS of OUTPUT  ☐Not started ☐Challenges.	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Research programme developed.	☑ <b>In progress</b> ☐Completed	#carbonstockmonitoring

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Work began during the FY on the development of research priorities to inform programme. Report on Annual Research Programme FY 2022/2023 drafted and will be submitted to Parent Ministry in upcoming FY.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITES FOR FY 2023/24**: Pertinent marketing efforts established following the programme's recommendations.

<u>Output 2.3.3:</u> Economically viable non-timber market opportunities developed. <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Volume produced and sales of selected non-timber products (Christmas trees, pine cones, potted plants/trees and NFIs)		
BASELINE (as at 2020/2021)	Two investments profiles (for Christmas trees and Bitterwood wood chips) were completed on March 29, 2021.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress	Ovristmas productout
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Inventories implemented. Increased distribution of bitterwood in planting programmes.	□Completed	SOLD OUT

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Bamboo charcoal, Christmas Trees, Wicker, Rattan, Bitterwood chips and bark, and medicinal plants were identified as non-timber products by the Business Development consultant procured under the Technical Assistance component of the Budget Support Programme for the Forest Sector. An investment profile was created for Bitterwood chips and Christmas Trees. However, no direction on the intended use has been provided. The other non-timber products have not received further development and require a decision of the Agency on what it will pursue and when.

In December 2022, the Agency staged its first National Forestry Conference, which explored *'Forestry as a Business'*. Mushroom production and bamboo by-products are two of the non-timber products that were explored at the event. However, no decision was made on the next steps regarding the further exploration and development of these products.

Work is ongoing to utilise data from current investment profiles to drive /promote non-timber market opportunities and sales.

Opportunities for revenue realised during the period:

- Over 90 packs of pinecones were sold generating approximately \$27,900.00 for the period.
- 13 Christmas trees were produced to the required standard and were sold generating revenue of approximately \$66,000.00.
- All available potted Christmas trees were sold during the reporting period generating approximately \$282,600 in revenue.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

European Union (EU) funded the market research and the execution of the National Forestry Conference as part of the business development technical assistance provided to the Forestry Department. The relationship with the EU is strong and continues to grow even as the Budget Support comes to an end.

#### **CHALLENGE:**

No clear goal for the development of these products by the Agency despite the research and resource personnel identified. The Business Development consultant contract ended in January 2023 and there is no dedicated resource personnel or resources focused on actioning the production of the non-timber products identified in his research and proposal. This activity needs dedicated resource personnel and resources to be executed successfully.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** Need a clear goal for the non-timber products, and the approved ones must be incorporated into the workflow of the Agency to ensure the items are produced, and the industry is encouraged to grow and develop.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS:** (resources) Information and accurate costings for the species identified and funding to undertake the promotion of the investment profiles. Results of the market research activity on non-timber forest products is providing valuable information/data for this Output. The Business Development consultant contract ended in January 2023 and there is no dedicated resource personnel or resources focused on actioning the production of the non-timber products identified in his research and proposal. This activity needs dedicated resource personnel and resources to be executed successfully.

**MAJOR RISKS:** Limited internal knowledge to develop the products; limited product development focus within the Agency.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Clarity needed on direction/plan of action for the non-timber forest products.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITES FOR FY 2023/24:

Developing quality standards for Christmas Trees and seedlings. This is intended to improve the quality of products produced by making them more suited to customer expectations.

<u>Output 2.3.4</u>: Recreational facilities established. (Output revised)

<u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Number of recreational facilities established on forest estates.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	One business strategy developed, which includes recreation.  JCDT manages Portland Gap and Holywell.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges ☑In progress □Completed	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	- Opportunities to expand recreational facilities/ opportunities in forested areas explored- at least one concept document developed.		

Preparation plan for establishing recreational	
activities in forested areas.	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

Opportunities to expand recreational facilities/opportunities were explored during the FY with the development of a concept document for an Adopt a Trail programme within recreational areas. The concept document was developed during the period as a strategy to support expansion and further development of recreational facilities/areas. Work to operationalize this concept will be pursued in upcoming FY.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

None

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources)**

The Technical assistance with trail development and funding to build out recreational facilities is needed to support progress of activity/ output.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Additional resources (human, technical and financial) are needed to drive activity progress.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Advice on the recreational use of forest estates provided to guide development of recreational facilities.

<u>Output 2.3.5:</u> Guidelines for the use of cultural and heritage sites on Forest Reserves and FMAs developed.

**Primary Implementing Entity:** JNHT

KPI	Number of guideline for use of cultural/heritage sites developed		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Two sites identified as cultural sites: Blue and John Crow Mnts and Cockpit Country. No guidelines have been developed and therefore none in use.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed/ Achieved	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Guidelines BJCM completed and gazetted by JNHT. Promotional activities on trails (eg Cuna-Cuna) and sites (eg Ladysfield Great House in Hayfield) implemented. Sensitive list for UNESCO WHS regarding Cockpit Country. Forest reserves information to be included. Trails and sites in		

Cockpit Country to be	
researched.	

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partly met.

The following guidelines exits developed for cultural/heritage site: (1) A person shall not deface any rock art, burial, cave, or any natural feature associated with a significant historical event or personality in Jamaica's history. (2) A person shall not deface any national monument, historic building or structure associated with a significant historical event or personality in Jamaica's history. (3) A person shall not, except with the written permission or permit from the Jamaica National Heritage Trust: (a) excavate and uncover any archaeological feature; (b) remove and transport any surficial or excavated artefacts or ecofacts; (c) conduct extrusive or intrusive archaeological survey or study; and (d) camp on any archaeological site. (4) The removal of endemic fauna, flora, and any other natural resources from forest reserve/forest management areas without a permit from the relevant Authorities is prohibited. (5) The removal of flora for medicinal, traditional, and religious purposes/use by the local Maroon Groups are allowed.

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

• Greater collaboration is needed between the JNHT and the FD to conduct joint surveys to minimize the cost to both agencies.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

The resources of the JNHT are limited and therefore the team was hampered by lack of updated equipment and resources in conducting the surveys. One of the major challenges the Archaeology team faced while conducting the surveys was the lack of use of a 4-wheel drive vehicle to traverse the rugged terrain of the area. Outdated Geographic Positions Systems (GPS) also posed a challenge as the team was not able to identify the FR or FMAs while in the field. Furthermore, the vast area to be surveyed also proved challenging. Access to drones would have been useful in some of the areas surveyed.

Additional, funding was sought to complete the activities for the 2019-2020 period however, these were unsuccessful.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Updated and modern GPS (with software JAD 2001 map data) should be used while conducting surveys in the FR and FMAs.
- Having a tablet or laptop with ArcGIS is necessary while in the field as it allows you to plot the coordinates and assess the area.
- Proper vehicle needed to survey these areas.

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

Risk of falling into sink holes, trapped in caves, bad weather conditions, attack by animals, insect infestation and diseases, hostility of property owners and extortions. Occupational hazards - broken limbs and stranded in wilderness as a result of malfunctioned vehicle.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Draft Guidelines for cultural sites, monuments, trails and other sites in Cockpit Country.

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#### **THEMATIC AREA 3**: CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Recognising the need to strengthen the capacity for sustainable forest management in Jamaica at all levels, Thematic area 3 which is supported by three (3) outcomes, focusses on planning for the management and conservation of Jamaica's forests involving a wide range of stakeholders and collaborative partnerships. The activities under this area seek to enhance the country's capacity to manage, protect, & conserve forests, through the development and implementation of several planning

These include the initiatives. development and implementation of forest management plans for forest estates in clusters, a national mangrove and swamp forest management plan to address rehabilitation of these critical areas as well as watershed restoration plans, an ongoing reforestation programme, and guidelines for the establishment & maintenance of trees in urban settings.

Under **Outcome 3.1** notably achievements include close to 100ha of denuded lands reforested, tree seedlings planted in urban and peri-urban areas and over 400ha of plantations maintained island

**Outcome 3.1:** Improved participatory planning to manage, protect and conserve Jamaica's forests.

- Output 3.1.1: Reforestation in targeted areas (mangroves, urban areas and forest estates).
- Output 3.1.2: Forest Management Plans (FMP) for forest estates in Forest Management Units (FMU) developed.
- Output 3.1.3: Forest restoration activities included and implemented within Watershed Management Plans.
- Output 3.1.4: Nursery programme implemented & expanded.
- Output 3.1.5: Mangrove forests management plan developed & implemented
- Output 3.1.6: Guidelines developed for establishing management practices for riparian forests within forest estates.
- Output 3.1.7: Appropriate guidelines developed and implemented for the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings (There are other maintenance standards for forest estates).
- Output 3.1.8: Database of private forest land owners created and maintained. (Completed)
- Output 3.1.9: Implementation of the Three Million Trees in Three Years Initiative (National Tree Planting Initiative - NTPI)

wide. Several of these activities also supported newly added Output 3.1.9 which focuses on the implementation of the Three Million Trees in Three Years Initiative (National Tree Planting Initiative -NTPI) which started in 2018/2019. This output was added to the sector plan following the mid-year review, recognising its importance to the sector and targets related to nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Rehabilitation of 2ha of wetlands during the period was also supported through the UNDP funded CityAdapt project. These reforestation efforts were further supported by the implementation of watershed management and restoration plan activities in Swift River, Drivers River and Black River watershed management units (WMUs). The National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan (NMSFMP) was completed and approved during the period following several rounds of stakeholder engagement and validation. The plan's implementation, though started on a small scale during the period with various mangrove restoration activities, is anticipated to accelerate in the upcoming years owing to funding secured through the GEF to support its implementation. Challenges with global supply chains unfortunately continue to plague the expansion of the nursery programme resulting in targeted

production figures not being achieved. Work was also completed during the period on <u>Output 3.1.6</u> with the development/finalisation of guidelines/ Best management practices for Riparian forests. With these guidelines now in hand, it is expected they will be utilised by the sector to support sustainable forest management activities.

Under Outcome 3.2, the completion during the period of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded 'Support

for REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Jamaica' project (executed by the CCD and implemented by the FD) resulted in the successful development of a National REDD+ Readiness strategy with safeguards information systems. With a supplemental (phase II) project for Jamaica's REDD+ Readiness being pursued, new outputs to further support strengthening capacity for REDD+ are envisioned.

For **Outcome 3.3**, significant strides were seen during the period with respect to strengthened capacity and governance in decision -making processes related to LFMCs with continued training and the election of a National executive.

Forest fire management/suppression training sessions continued during the period with four sessions engaging over 100 community people held. These sessions were executed in partnership with the FD, RADA, and JFB. The establishment of fire suppression teams however has not been reported on.

For the reporting period, no outputs reported no information/little progress.

**Outcome 3.2:** Strengthened institutional capacity for REDD+ readiness.

- Output 3.2.1: Existing forest inventory approach reviewed and revised to support Carbon Stock Monitoring (CSM) and potential carbon trading agreements. (Completed)
- Output 3.2.2: REDD+ readiness Strategy completed.
- Output 3.2.3: Analytical Report on the drivers for deforestation/forest degradation produced (REDD+ readiness). (Completed)
- Output 3.2.4: National forest reference emission level established (calculated) (REDD+ readiness). (Output revisedincorporated in Output 3.2.2)
- Output 3.2.5: Safeguards information system (REDD+ readiness). (Output revised- incorporated in Output 3.2.2)

**Outcome 3.3:** Strengthened capacity of Local Forest Management Committees and other community groups.

- Output 3.3.1: Strengthened capacity of LFMCs and other community group in project development and management.
- Output 3.3.2: Governance and decision-making processes related to LFMCs strengthened.
- Output 3.3.3: Fire suppression teams established and trained within community groups in high priority/ high risk areas.

Progress towards targets for the year for twelve (12) Outputs are detailed below:

<u>Output 3.1.1:</u> Reforestation in targeted areas (mangroves, urban areas and forest estates). <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Area (hectares) reforested		
BASELINE (as at 2021)  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	600 ha for 2016-2021 planted. 526 ha maintained.  Minimum 100 ha reforested/170,000 seedlings planted to support urban forestry & other reforestation initiatives.  Minimum 370 ha of forest plantations maintained.  Mangrove rehabilitation-	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	
	minimum 2ha rehabilitated (min 2,000 mangrove seedlings planted).		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Targets for FY partially achieved.

Reforestation programme activities around reforestation and forest maintenance continued during the period achieving targets set:

- 98ha of denuded lands reforested. 99,800 tree seedlings planted (including seedlings planted in urban and peri-urban areas in Kingston, St Andrew and St Catherine.
- 429 ha of forest plantations maintained.

During the year work was also completed on the rehabilitation of 2ha of mangroves in Gallows Point Port Royal under the UNEP EBA CityAdapt project. Under the project executed through partnership with the Forestry Department and the UWI-CMS a total of 2,582 hardened seedlings were planted throughout the 2-ha area along the northern shore of Gallows Point.

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

Several partnerships with government and non-governmental organisations support reforestation initiatives. Private sector entities such as Carreras Limited, Jamaica Energy Partners, JPS and VMBS joined government entities such as the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, NROCC in the reforestation initiatives such as the Adopt a Hillside and Urban/Highway planting.

**CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:** Availability and access to plantable lands remain an issue. Presently the search for land commences the middle of the preceding financial year.

Finding labour for planting is always a challenge. Community awareness programme continue to be undertaken in the areas to be planted prior to execution of activities. Forest fires and animal trespass continue to be major threats to newly planted areas as well as those under maintenance.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources)** A formalized comprehensive reforestation programme has not been developed.

MAJOR RISKS: Insufficient data. Inaccuracy of data. Other risks reported on during the assessment:

- Unable to attract able labour force for employment. Low pay scale for casual labour leads to the inability to attract able labour force for employment. This also creates a problem for work schedule
- Inaccessibility of lands

- Conflict with landowners due to unclear boundaries and existing lease agreements
- Low survival rate and low growth rate of newly planted seedlings
- Unavailability of seedlings to meet demands
- Presence of offences such as the kindling of fires and animal trespass
- Social encumbrances (squatting etc)

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS**: Search for plantable lands at least one year before commencement of planting activity. Development of a comprehensive reforestation programme to be undertaken.

#### **TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:**

- Minimum 70,000 seedlings planted to support urban forestry & other reforestation initiatives.
- Minimum 200ha of forest plantations maintained.
- Mangrove rehabilitation- TBD.

<u>Output 3.1.2:</u> Forest Management Plans (FMP) for forest estates in Forest Management Units (FMU) developed.

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

KPI	Number of FMPs developed	l for forest estates in FMUs	;.
BASELINE (updated as at 2021)	As at March 31, 2021, a total of twelve (12) forest management plans (8 for forest estates, 1 for a watershed and 3 for private areas) have been approved covering 60 756.19 ha (approximately ninety-four (94) or 41% of the island's 228 forest estates).	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	TO SERVICE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Cluster 17 FMP (Hanover) developed. (Revised to FMU 2 (Bullhead)  Management Plan and economic valuation for Stepney-John Vale Forest Reserve (GEF-6).  One FMP Framework document for outstanding FMUs developed by Yr 7.		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

For the financial year 22/23, internal directives led to changes on areas for FMP development. While initially targeted for this year, the FMP for forest estates in FMU # 17 (Eastern Hanover) will be developed in subsequent years. For the period, the FMP for FMU #2 (Bullhead, Clarendon) was submitted to the Ministry on March 9, 2023. In addition, the Minister with portfolio responsibility approved the Forest Management Plan for forest estates in

FMU # 4 (Western Blue Mountain) which was submitted a year prior and went through extensive revision and improvement, on June 11, 2023. The plan covers an area of 8459.38 ha in eastern Jamaica in the parishes of St. Mary, St. Andrew, and Portland. This forest management plan represents a revision/update of Buff Bay Pencar to include other forest estates in FMU #4.

To date, the Agency has developed a total of twelve (12) forest management plans (9 for FMU and 3 for private areas) covering 48,957.57 ha (approximately ninety-four (94) FEs or ~38% total acreage of the Agency's management portfolio). Two (2) (Stephney John's Vale and Dolphin Head) of the Plans have been revised to date. Stephney John's Vale was initially approved on 17/02/2015 and revised on 02/04/2020. Dolphin Head was first approved in 2017 and was later revised in 2019.

Plans have been approved for the following areas:

- 1) FMU #4 Blue Mountain-Western (Approved June 16, 2022)
- 2) FMU #3 Stephney-John's Vale (Approved April 2, 2020)
- 3) FMU # 18 Dolphin Head (Approved on February 7, 2019)
- 4) FMU #5 Orchard and environs (Approved on April 4, 2018)
- 5) FMU #6 Windsor Castle (Approved April 6, 2017)
- 6) FMU #23 Gourie (Approved February 17, 2016)
- 7) FMU #15 Cockpit Country Forest Reserve and Surrounding Forest Estates (Approved on June 26, 2013)
- 8) Croydon Mountain Forest Reserve (Private) (Approved on July 16, 2014)
- 9) Tulloch Estate (Private) (Approved on July 16, 2014)
- 10) Hampton Estate (Private) (Approved on July 16, 2014)
- 11) Bull Head Forest Reserve (Approved January 2, 2011) 12) Tryall Estate (Private)

During the period the FMP for FMU #4 which was submitted a year prior and went through extensive revision and improvement, was approved by the Minister with portfolio responsibility for implementation on July 11, 2022. This FMP represents a revision/update of the Buff Bay Pencar FMP (dated 2014) to include other forest estates in FMU #4. Additionally, for the financial year 22/23, the FMP for FMU #2 was submitted to the Minister for approval on March 9, 2023.

With official notification received during the period that the GEF 6 project has stalled, no activity related to the project was conducted during the period.

Framework/Outline document (with chapters 1 & 2) for remaining FMUs drafted during the period to guide accelerated development of FMPS.

**PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:** External stakeholders continue to collaborate with the Agency in the development of the FMPs. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic challenge staging of stakeholder consultations as people are apprehensive with gatherings.

**CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**: Timely submission of information from internal stakeholders and the absence of relevant data. For this financial year, the absence of the SES for the development of the FMP highlighted possible deficiencies in the plan which is needed for proper implementation as it will guide the strategies implemented in this plan area.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** FMPs were not incorporated as part of the FD planning process and as such the challenges experienced alluded to this fact. The FD has since agreed that in order to plan for the development and monitoring of these plans properly, they should be included in the FD overall planning process.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS:** (resources) The resources to undertake the consultations with stakeholders were provided and deemed adequate.

**MAJOR RISKS:** 

The risk of potential for delay or non-completion due to untimely submission of information from stakeholders continues. FMPs in previous years have been prepared for submission without the socio-economic study (SES) data. This information to be included once it becomes available.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Review of the SOP for FMPs commenced and will be finalized in the new FY. The SOP will take into consideration the FD planning process flow and communication channels with relevant internal stakeholders. Sustainable harvesting information will now be detailed in all FMPs.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Three (3) FMPs for forest estates within FMUs developed.

### <u>Output 3.1.3</u>: Forest restoration activities included and implemented within Watershed Management Plans.

**Primary Implementing Entity: NEPA** 

КРІ	Number of forest restoration activities implemented through Watershed Management Plans.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Four (4) Watershed Management plans developed and implementation underway - Rio Cobre , Rio Minho, Rio Grande & Driver's River	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	Watershee Management Civis
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Another watershed management plan added, which includes forest restoration activities.  With MEGJC, work being done on watershed policy.		Types stated and the state of t

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

Two (2) Restoration Plans detailing watershed management plans and activities were developed:

Plantain Garden River- Restoration plan finalized as of 08 February 2023. Swift River - Draft restoration plan not completed. Drivers River- Restoration activities occurred on 30 March 2023. A total of 182 fruit trees were planted out in the lower section of Reach District on Mr. Harry Wilson's farm.

Two Farmer Field Schools (FFS) conducted in two WMUs (Black River and Swift River) and report prepared by March 2023: (1) Swift River WMU - FFS activity completed on 17 February 2023 in the community of Mount Herman. A total of 12 farmers were engaged. (2) Black River WMU - Farmer Field School activity held in the Middlesex community on 19 January 2023. 26 farmers were engaged and provided with an overview of Sustainable Land Management with specific emphasis on contour planting and composting.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

The absence of community-based organizations with the capacity to receive funding from donors for the implementation of watershed management activities.

MAJOR RISKS: Lack of financial support for the implementation of follow-up activities in target WMUs.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Watershed Protection Act to be amended with collaboration of MEGJC/ERMB.

<u>Output 3.1.4</u>: Nursery programme implemented & expanded. <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Number of seedlings produced and revenue generated		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	212,914 seedlings produced (March 2021), J\$5million in revenue generated	STATUS OF OUTPUT:  □Not started	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	500,000 seedlings produced. (Target revised mid-year due to effects of other activities). Seedling production offerings expanded - eight (8) new seedling species added to nursery production.(achieved in previous FY)	□Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

For the period only 63% (313,135) of the targeted 500,000 seedlings were produced by the Agency's nurseries for the period. Unfortunately, production capacity in the post-pandemic period continued to be plagued by global supply chain & logistics challenges which continued to affect the timely sourcing of critical inputs and equipment.

With the roll out of eight (8) new seedling species last FY, no new seedling species were added during the period. Work continued to promote and diversify (expanded potted plant options) existing production offerings.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Significant partnerships forged to support nursery production and offering with *Food for the Poor, Trees that Feed Organisation and the Maia Foundation* 

**CHALLENGES:** A thorough evaluation of the nursery programme is still ongoing. Steps have been taken and some realignment of operations done to help streamline production with demand of the various programmes. Improvements being made to Data availability, accuracy and efficiency. Other challenges identified for the period include issues brought on by the pandemic relating to global supply chains & logistics for critical inputs and equipment, as well as human resources and the viability of stored seeds.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** To plan (at least 8 months ahead in the previous year) for execution as several risks can materialize which affect the scope, quality and schedule as initially planned.

Development and adherence to the Production and Sowing Schedules is important and should aid the timely delivery of required seedlings. Improvement of infrastructure and adequate staffing will improve productivity

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS:** (resources) Poor infrastructure and availability of seeds can also be an issue affecting production.

#### **MAJOR RISKS**:

The unavailability of seeds for key species is still an issue and at times can affect the production demands.

Several strategies were implemented to mitigate the risks of **seedling loss due to pests**, such as weekly updates of the inventory, weekly inspection of seedlings and culling of infested seedlings. These actions mitigated the impact of the risks to some extent.

The FD has reinstituted the collection of wildings and regular pesticide spraying have been implemented as mitigation strategies. Nonetheless, the challenge of **inadequate staff and poor infrastructure** remains.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

Under a Technical Assistance programme for the FD, the Nursery operations will be transformed into a business unit with more efficient production to improve the revenue generation capacity within the FD. This process is ongoing and at the stage where accepted recommendations for improvements are now being implemented. Revision of several nursery operating manuals and operating procedures are underway.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: 500,000 seedlings produced.

<u>Output 3.1.5</u>: Mangrove forests management plan developed & implemented <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Rate of implementation of mangrove forest management plan		
BASELINE (as at 2021)  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Mangrove Policy in place, Cays Policy Implementation of Plan started. Mangrove seedlings nursery established as well as support for restoration seagrass beds.	STATUS OF OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges ⊠In progress □Completed	Mangrove forests protect coastal areas.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Report on the implementation of the management programmes for Winns Morass, Falmouth prepared. Signage erected at Winns Morass.

The National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan (NMSFMP) was developed and approved in January 2023. Implementation will be accelerated as of 2023-2024 FY due to funding identified under the GEF 7 Mangrove Plus project.

Work to establish mangrove seedlings nursery (through tissue culture), did not materialise during the FY.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

NEPA and UWI/CMS identified as key/primary stakeholders. The NMSFMP has been shared with all the key stakeholders.

**MAJOR RISKS**: Lack of capacity of the entity tasked with implementation to execute the activity. Delays with procurement of consultant.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

The Agency through a consultancy is collaborating with the NEPA in the development of the plan.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Plan implemented by 25%

<u>Output 3.1.6</u>: Guidelines developed for establishing management practices for riparian forests within forest estates. (Now Completed)

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

KPI	(Yes/No) Best management practices developed for riparian forests within forest estates.			
BASELINE (as at 2021)	No guidelines for management practices for riparian forests exist.	STATUS OF OUTPUT  Not started		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FROR FY 2022/23	5% Implementation of research and collection management practices. Best Management practices (BMP) and special Regulations developed for Riparian Forests	☐ Challenges☐ In progress☐ Completed☐		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved. Output achieved.

Best Management practices (BMP) developed for Riparian Forests with a definition of riparian forests and the overview and status of riparian forests. Furthermore, the complete spatial delineation of riparian forests landscapes and the best management approach and guidelines developed for riparian forests.

No information on reported on % implementation of research. Implementation will be ongoing as part of forest management activities.

**CHALLENGES:** Getting access to reliable and accurate data/ information to formulate best practices and management of riparian forests.

LESSONS LEARNED: Agile in approach to get information needed to complete document on time.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Output and KPI achieved (No further activity will be reported.)

<u>Output 3.1.7</u>: Appropriate guidelines developed and implemented for the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings (There are other maintenance standards for forest estates). **Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

КРІ	(Yes/No) Guidelines developed for the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings.			
BASELINE (as at 2021)	No guidelines for the establishment and maintenance of trees in urban settings.  MEGJC/URB works on green corridors programme.	STATUS OF OUTPUT  ☐ Not started ☐ Challenges ☑ In progress ☐ Completed		
TARGET/ MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Implementation of guidelines. An Urban Renewal and Action Plan is being prepared by MEGJC. Also, MEGJC/URB works on green corridors programme.			

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Targets for the FY achieved.

The guidelines document continues to be refined and reviewed by key stakeholders. Implementation has however commenced with urban and peri-urban planting activities executed during the period.

Urban Renewal Policy and Action plan drafted by MEGJC.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Stakeholder partnerships with UNDP-City Adapt Project, GB Energy Texaco Jamaica, Jamaica Energy Partners (JEP), NWC, Noranda Bauxite, Trees that Feed, PSOJ & New Fortress Energy were realised during the period for seed distribution & tree planting activities. Engagement with Food for the Poor – Fruits for the Poor initiative as well as the Ministry of Agriculture Fruit Tree programme continued with the push towards planting in urban spaces.

Urban Renewal Branch within MEGJC established.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS**: The plan to buttress the implementation of these guidelines to upscale urban tree planting initiatives in communities may be adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its resultant restriction on gatherings.

#### TARGETS/ MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

Implementing guidelines. Review and revise guidelines.

<u>Output 3.1.9:</u> Implementation of the Three Million Trees in Three Years Initiative (National Tree Planting Initiative -NTPI).

KPI	Number of seedlings distributed and planted		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Initiative started in 2019. Design underway for GPS enabled tree tracking application-876 trees.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Three million seedlings planted and distributed (Y7).	□Completed	Trees Planted Distributed

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31, March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

During the period the National Tree Planting Initiative (NTPI)- Three Million Trees in Three Years, accelerated promotion of the initiative continued to be a major activity for the FY as the Agency worked to achieve the national target. The implementation of the promotional campaign and visibility plan for the NTPI continued with several partnerships leveraged and promotions executed including seedling distribution events/tours at various locations island-wide, tree planting activities and hikes with social media influencers and targeted observance of key days such as Earth Day and World Environment Day.

The #MyTreeLegacy promotion executed planting activities at five (5) schools: Ewarton Primary, Campion College, Ardenne High, Edwin Allen High and Dinthill Technical High during the period. (Launched on March 2021, as at March 31, 2023 a total of 17 schools were engaged under the #MyTreeLegacy programme).

Two (2) new initiatives - the National Schools Tree Planting competition which partnered with the Ministry of Education and the private sector to target early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary students to propagate and plant trees and the Grown with Me Campaign which through a partnership with the Ministry of Health & Wellness provided free seedlings to new parents encouraging them to plant "baby trees", were launched during the period.

The mobile tree tracker application dubbed '876Trees' which was launched in the last FY also underwent several revisions and upgrades to improve its efficacy during the period. Though anticipated to provide an interactive user interface where members of the public can receive technical advice on the care and maintenance of seedlings as well as report on seedlings received and planted under the initiative, this remains a work in progress. Enumeration of seedlings distributed and planted remained a key challenge the Agency sought to overcome with increased efforts to engage stakeholders to report.

As of March 31, 2023, approximately 2.5 million seedlings (83% of the target) were reported as distributed and planted under the initiative.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Agency partnered with GB Texaco, FLOW, Trees that Feed, Food for the Poor, Maia Foundation, JPS Foundation, Xsomo, Fraser, Fontaine & Kong Insurance Brokers, VMBS, and Barita Foundation, Jamaica Star, PSOJ & New

Fortress Energy, NWC, Noranda Bauxite were realised during the period to support for seedling distribution & tree planting activities.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

While FY 2022/2023 represents the final official year of the initiative, commitments to achievement of 3 million trees planted/distributed will see activities going into FY 23/24.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Completion of NTPI.

#### <u>Output 3.2.2</u>: REDD+ readiness Strategy completed. <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	(Yes/No) REDD+ readiness Strategy approved		
BASELINE	No REDD+ readiness Strategy Analytical report on DFDD produced. (2019)	STATUS OF OUTPUT:  Not started	C
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	National REDD+ strategy developed and approved. National validation workshop held. New analytical report completed. The conclusion of each land use study is followed by the analytical report to understand the changes being observed.	☐ Challenges ☑ In progress ☐ Completed	RED D-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

As the national focal point for the UN-REDD programme, the Agency continued to work with key stakeholders to build institutional capacity to execute REDD+ readiness strategies through the implementation of the GCF funded 'Support for REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Jamaica' project which wrapped up during the period. Key documents completed as part of the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy were the Gender Strategy, Strategic Environmental & Social safeguards document, and the Environmental & Social Management Framework. Three (3) workshops on the Strategic Environment Safeguards Assessment (SESA) were held on July 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

During the FY the National REDD+ Strategy was finalized and one validation workshop for the strategy held on August 10, 2022.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Climate Change Division-MEGJC – the executing entity since. The Principal Director – CCD is the NDA to the GCF. The annual funding from GCF for Capacity and climate change readiness programmes come directly to this entity. The FD works closely with the MEGJCC and the CCD.

**CHALLENGES:** The recruitment process for the consultants was protracted and onerous in part due to missed deadlines which required repeat requests for extensions from the interested applicants. The circuitous process was a frustrating one and raised questions as to the level of priority assigned to it by the executing entity. There was a further delay due to the restrictions under COVID-19.

Additionally, the FD lost its REDD point person (this person had received all the training and sensitisation in relation to REDD) and is yet to successfully fill this position capacity gap.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** From the outset, REDD capacity and training should be afforded to more than one person in the entity to avoid and / or minimise risks associated with capacity deficit.

The role of the executive and the implementing partners of this Project must be clearly documented from the outset as expectations on either side may be different. In the end, it is the implementing entity who is agitating for this REDD readiness and the aim is to ensure that this initiative does not conflict with the CCD and the national climate change agenda.

The implementing entity should manage procurement of goods and services to mitigate the risk of not meeting scheduled timelines and to reduce the numerous iterations of project documents, activities, and output.

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources)**

Novel opportunity for FD and the CCD and the country by extension, as such, the need for resources (human and physical) is critical.

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

- Inability to secure a consulting entity with sufficient REDD experience to develop the REDD framework.
- Insufficient financial resources to pay consulting entity to effect project components
- Time- COVID -19 will have major impacts on the stakeholder consultations which are pivotal to the development of all the components of the REDD strategy framework.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

FD should increase its efforts to ensure that CCD's involvement in the execution aspects of this project is more visible. FD should work closely with the consulting entity to ensure that the outcome of this REDD capacity project is in keeping with the stated vision and objectives.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Phase 2 of REDD + readiness initiated.

Carbon stocks and emission levels calculated.

<u>Output 3.3.1:</u> Strengthened capacity of LFMCs and other community groups in project development and management

**Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department** 

KPI	Number of community groups trained			
BASELINE(as at 2021)	Minimum of 30 groups trained / 250 persons sensitized through EUBSP Indicator 4 activities. In 2019/2020 Proposal writing workshops held island wide targeting community groups- More than 20 community groups successfully secured project funding under EUBSP	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	THO VA AND	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Additional 2 groups per zone.			

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (**as at 31 March 2023) – **Target for FY achieved.** 

For the FY the Agency engaged with members at over 100 LFMC meetings across the island. Agroforestry training sessions were also executed, and support was provided for the development of several project proposals

supporting various social forestry and livelihood initiatives. Reportedly six (6) community groups were trained during the period.

CHALLENGES: Ability to conduct surveys and input data was negatively affected due to limited staff capacity.

LESSONS LEARNED: Contracting of labour to assist with data collection.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS:** (resources) People were contracted to assist with the collection, inputting and analysis of the data.

MAJOR RISKS: Data not captured or analysed properly.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS**: LFMC Road Map and Agroforestry Business Case document anticipated to guide LFMC training and engagement activities.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Additional 2 groups per zone.

<u>Output 3.3.2</u>: Governance and decision-making processes related to LFMCs strengthened. <u>Primary Implementing Entity</u>: Forestry Department

KPI	Number of recommendations from LFMC study implemented		
BASELINE	Training on governance and decision-making started.  Recommendations from LFMC study compiled/drafted	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started  □Challenges.  ⊠In progress	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	Roadmap for sustained engagement of LFMC developed and finalised.  Continuation Governance training/capacity building	□Completed	

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023). Target for FY achieved.

One recommendation from LFMC study – Development of Roadmap and reconstitution of Executive body-implemented during the period. Six (6) groups received training. National Executive meeting of LFMCs held.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: Inability to get consultant to commit to set deadlines

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS:** (resources):

A preliminary report was submitted on September 26, 2016, by the contracted consultant, entitled "The Status of the Local Forest Management Committees, Jamaica - Findings from a Snapshot Survey." A preliminary draft of the final report was submitted in January 2017. These inputs were used to inform the final recommendations.

**MAJOR RISKS:** Slow pace of progress towards this Output and its associated activities resulted in feeling of disengagement for the community groups /LFMCs

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:** Continued engagement and training to build capacity of the LFMC is needed to sustain the structures.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** One (1) Annual meeting of the National LFMC Executive Committee held to address Governance issues. Continuation Governance training/capacity building

<u>Output 3.3.3</u>: Fire suppression teams established and trained within community groups in high priority/high risk areas.

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

KPI	Number of community groups trained in Forest Fire Management		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	FD-Total of 25 community groups (over 500 persons) across forest fire hotspot areas trained in Forest Fires Management  JCDT-Fire management training also conducted and equipment provided in BJCM PA.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. □In progress ☑Completed	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	5 additional groups trained. Bushe fire warning index to be streamlined.		

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Targets for the FY achieved.

Four (4) Forest fire management/suppression training sessions were conducted with over 100 members of communities close to high risk/fire prone forest reserves during the period as follows:

- Bull Head FR area, Clarendon- July 19, 2022 Approximately 26 people (17 men, 8 women, & 1 person who did not indicate) from the Bullhead, Crofts Hill, Kellits & Marant communities participated in the session.
- **Shantamee, FR area, Portland- July 19, 2022-** Approximately 39 people (15 men & 24 women) from the Shantamee, White River & Mullet Hall communities participated in the session.
- Cooks Bottom FR area, St Elizabeth- August 23, 2022- Approximately 34 people (16 men & 18 women), from the Cooks Bottom and Elderslie communities participated in the session.
- *Kellits-Camperdown FR area, St Ann August 24, 2022* Approximately 29 people (20 men & 9 women) from the Kellits Camperdown & New Hall communities participated in the session.

Bush Fire Warning Index launched by the Meteorological Services Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation last FY, is reported to be utilised by key stakeholders like the JFB and the FD.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

• The FD continues to work with the JFB in the execution of this output. Synergies with JCDT and MSJ now identified.

MAJOR RISKS: Poor knowledge retention of community groups

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:

5 additional groups trained.

#### THEMATIC AREA 4: EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS

The conservation and sustainable management of the island's forest resources is dependent on all

stakeholders (public and private sector interests that own or manage forest involved in its areas) becoming protection, conservation, sustainable use and restoration. The NFMCP seeks to nurture continuously, the knowledge and awareness of all parts of Jamaican society of the value of forests and trees as part of cultural, Jamaica's economic ecological heritage as well as the importance of forests to climate resilience. The two (2) Outcomes under this thematic area seek to address gaps identified in relation to public education awareness and training for the forest sectors.

Highlights for the period include the engagement of over 12,000 students across 261 schools island wide, increased promotion of the National Tree Planting

**Outcome 4.1:** Forest communities, the general public as well as targeted groups have increased capacity regarding sustainable forest practices.

- Output 4.1.1: Education programme developed to strengthen the public's understanding on the benefits of forests and its resources, the importance of sustainable forest management and conservation practices.
- Output 4.1.2: Forest fire-related public awareness and education programme designed, implemented.
- Output 4.1.3: Outreach programme for private forest owners developed and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

**Outcome 4.2:** Strengthened capacity for natural resource valuations, carbon stock monitoring and silviculture.

- Output 4.2.1: Training programmes for natural resource/ecosystem valuations (NRVs) for all types of forests conducted.
- Output 4.2.2: Training in silviculture conducted (Completed)
- Output 4.2.3: Training in Carbon Stock Monitoring conducted. (Completed)

Initiative- 3 million trees in 3 years, the finalization of a national public perception survey, and ongoing work to finalise the outreach programme for the PFP. With outputs related to training in Carbon Stock Monitoring and Silviculture completed in previous years, focus for the period was on incorporation of skills and training in execution of ongoing forest related areas.

For the reporting period, one (1) Output reported no information/little progress. Further work is needed to better align annual targets with Outputs.

Progress towards targets for the year for all four (4) Outputs are detailed below:

<u>Output 4.1.1</u>: Education programme developed to strengthen the public's understanding on the benefits of forests and its resources, the importance of sustainable forest management and conservation practices.

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

KPI	Number of communities where public education/awareness sessions and school awareness programmes have been delivered (by type and stakeholder)		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Cumulatively, 1,400 schools (in 14 parishes) visited and 675 public education/ awareness sessions implemented.  Forest Trek implemented.	STATUS of OUTPUT:  □Not started □Challenges. ⊠In progress	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Public awareness and perception survey completed, and final report submitted.  100% of year -one strategies from updated 2022-2025 PAPP plan implemented.	. □Completed	Invite us to your School  The Forestry Department engages schools at all levels across Jamaica, including those in communities close to Forests. This is done through our schools programme which provides forest document
	Targeted participation of the Agency in school visits, expos, public awareness events island wide:  • 290 school visits (revised to 260),  • 150 (revised to 100) public awareness events.  • One (1) Forest Trek executed.  • 10 Community/stakeholder sensitisation/engagement activities		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Targets for FY partially achieved.

In May 2023, the FD completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> National Public Awareness & Public Perception (PAPP) survey. Based on its findings, a revision of the Public Education and Awareness Strategy was explored. Further review and discussion of the Agency's strategic direction concluded that a Knowledge, Attitudes, Awareness, and Practices (KAAP) survey's findings, would be more helpful in achieving the expected outcomes. Therefore, a KAAP has been identified for completion in the 2023/2024 financial year. Nonetheless, most of the activities from the Strategy (70 %) identified for year one were fully completed, while the remaining three activities were completed by more than 60 per cent. See table below for summary of activities completed.

Regarding school visits, following revision of the target, just over the targeted number of schools were visited during the financial year. A total of 261 schools were visited, reaching 12,590 students (6,187 females & 6,403 males) for the year.

109 public awareness events were participated in by the Agency, and eight (8) community meetings and six (6) stakeholder consultations were held for the period.

No	PAPP Strategy- Year One activities	Progress %
1	Awareness Campaign for MDAs	60
2	Stage National Forest Conference	100
3	Social Media Strategy	100

4	Draft Trees in the City Awareness Plan	95
5	Proposal for AR/VR Tech	100
6	Proposal for comic/cartoon series	70
7	Day/Summer Camp proposal	100
8	School Competition	100
9	Marketing Communications Plan	100
10	FD Communication Plan	100

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

The relationship with the National Environment and Planning Agency, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Industry, Agriculture and Fisheries is fairly good but could do with some strengthening. The FD continues to work on strengthening this relationship to increase support from these entities in the implementation of the Forestry Department's public education and awareness programmes.

**CHALLENGES:** The implementing officers must fully complete and submit the school visit forms in a timely manner.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** Use more real-time reporting tools to ensure reports are timely and accurate.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS**: (resources) Multimedia (videos, photographs, interactive online content) is required to reach target audiences via online platforms. Funding is also required to support other activities such as Forest Trek, which require a lot more resources to execute. Also, resources are required to print and distribute other public education material as well as to carryout video production and distribution of this material as well.

MAJOR RISKS: Competing messages and land-use interests for forest lands.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS**: Online and virtual platforms will continue to be utilised as much as possible. Promotional & educational material will also be targeted for distribution to key stakeholder groups, especially communities adjoining forest estates, who often have challenges accessing online resources.

#### TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITES FOR FY 2023/24:

- Implementation of Wetland forests educational campaign; Implementation of urban forestry awareness campaign.
- School visits-290 verified for FY.
- Public awareness events- 100
- Execution of a KAAP study about forests and forest-related issues.

<u>Output 4.1.2</u>: Forest fire-related public awareness and education programme designed, implemented. Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department

KPI	Number of fire awareness and edu	cation programmes cond	ducted (and number of participants)
BASELINE (as at 2021)	One forest fire public awareness campaign executed. Between 2016-2021- A total of 360 forest fire awareness advertisements were aired. One new forest fire brochure designed and promoted.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	FOREST FIRES BURN MORE THAN TREES
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	5 Localised public education campaigns, connected to training.  300 Forest fire adverts aired/published by March 31, 2023.  Six (6) Forest fire promotional signs erected in fire-prone areas		Forests are so much more than a collection of trees. They are home to 80% of the world's terrestrial bindiversity.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

315 radio adverts aired on the radio for Forest Fire Awareness.

Six (6) Forest fire promotional signs were erected in fire-prone areas by September 30, 2022 (under the UNEPCity Adapt project) Forest fire awareness signs were designed, procured, manufactured, and installed by Magnetik Signs in three fire-prone forest estates (Good Hope, Petersfield and Newton) under the CityAdapt project.

The signs were completed in June 2022 and installation completed in October 2022.

A Forest Fire Awareness campaign was conducted on the Agency's social media during the dry seasons of July-August 2022 and January-March 2023.

Four (4) forest fire management training sessions were organised and supported in its execution by the CCM Division of the FD (Output 3.3.3) .

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

• FD relationship with the Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) is quite strong and continues to grow. The JFB has consistently lent its assistance to the FD to execute the training. In 2019/2020 we also sought the assistance of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) in executing the training activities. Synergies with MSJ identified for this Output.

**MAJOR RISKS:** Covid-19 restrictions may impact messaging around forest fires. Competing with messaging related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITES FOR FY 2023/24: Implement forest fire awareness campaign.

<u>Output 4.1.3</u>: Outreach programme for private forest owners developed and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department

KPI	Number of private forest land owners participating in outreach programme		
BASELINE	Baseline exists based on Technical Transfer Meeting with private farmers held in FY 16/17. Approximately 30 persons trained. Baseline of total registered farmers in private forestry programme as at FY 2016- just under 6000 persons registered.	STATUS of OUTPUT:  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	PRUNING YOUR TREES #hurricanetip
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	<ul> <li>Outreach programme document finalised. One (1) technical transfer meeting held.</li> <li>100 per cent of scheduled year one activities for the PFP Outreach Programme implemented by March 11, 2023.</li> </ul>		Dispose of all tree cuttings properly as branches and stumps can become projectiles during a storm.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

The Private Forestry Technical Transfer Session was held on February 15, 2023, in Annotto Bay, St. Mary. 18 people attended the session; however, only 15 signed the register. The practical component was done on a nearby private planter's property. The feedback was positive, and the planters look forward to further sessions.

The PFP Outreach document was completed, submitted to the CEO & Conservator of Forests and approved.

A draft private forestry manual for new participants was also completed.

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

Not much engagement has been done with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) in executing this target. This activity has primarily focused on the training requested by the planters.

**CHALLENGES:** Timing and Location were not convenient for many of the planters; the database provided by the PFP Coordinator needs updating as the names and addresses of the participants are not recorded properly. Some of the people's names are aliases, and the addresses are non-existent. The location of the session was not convenient for other people in the North East region.

**LESSONS LEARNED**: Look at smaller sessions targeting five or more planters at a time who are located in close proximity to each other. Utilise a more up-to-date listing of planters to send invitations.

**MAJOR RISKS:** The inconvenient time and location of sessions limit the number of planters reached and trained through the sessions.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

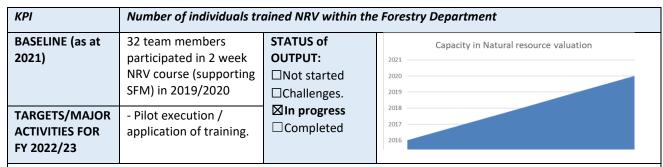
It has been recognised that there is a need for the development of a monitoring framework for the programme in an effort to have clearly stated and measurable goals and objectives, as well as an evaluation criterion which also shows the clear linkage between the training and the overall goal of the PF programme.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITES FOR FY 2023/24: Outreach programme implemented.

One (1) technical transfer meeting held.

<u>Output 4.2.1</u>: Training programmes for natural resource/ecosystem valuations (NRVs) for all types of forests conducted.

<u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department



SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): TBD. No new information provided/update provided.

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

 CATIE – Costa Rica- willing to assist in the development and solidification of competency in undertaking credible forested NREVs. (Output 3.2.4)

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

The course is rather intensive, so participants must have at least a first degree in natural resources management /environmental science/ forestry or related subject area to be able to fully grasp and process the constituent parts.

Individuals must be able to process large quantity of quantitative data and conduct some statistical analysis. Advance competency in Excel is useful.

Much more pre-study/assessments which would generate the quality data for the computations is needed. Additionally, data for non-tangible assets must also be available.

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources)**

Detailed data (qualitative and quantitative) must be available beforehand. As much information about the estate for which the NREV is being done is needed to compute credible values and future costs for the ecosystem functions and services within the forested areas of interests.

MAJOR RISKS: Insufficient data coupled with inadequate time needed to facilitate the computation of the NRE values.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

In the near future the FD with its technical team needs to determine which areas NREV will be required and plan in advance (one year minimum) to collect and/or generate the data which will serve as inputs to the computations. Additionally, as some inputs are outside the remit of the FD, through collaborative partnership, stakeholders must be made aware of what would be expected of them. Critical stakeholders would include WRA, NWC, NEPA+/ TPDCo and the relevant private sector entities – e.g. Hotels, the Jerk industry etc.

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**COMMENTS**: While NRV training was conducted in 2021 capacity has not been built to support exécution of a pilot NRV. Additional training needed.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Training course CSM for 6 FD staff implemented.

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#### **THEMATIC AREA 5:** MONITORING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The three (3) associated Outcomes of this thematic area, (Outcome 5.1, Outcome 5.2 and Outcome 5.3) seek to dismantle the barriers to forest research and promote collaboration with and between academia

and other interested parties, through the execution of various assessments and the establishment of research working groups in areas deemed critical to the sector. These areas include: (i) management of mangrove forests, swamp forests and short limestone forests; (ii) improving knowledge on the impact of climate change on all forest types; and (iii) non-timber forest products. Additionally, the outputs and associated activities seek to ensure that several interinstitutional joint forest monitoring and biodiversity initiatives will be supported, and that decision making by policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders involved in the sustainable management of Jamaica's forests is informed by evidence.

**Outcome 5.1:** Improved availability of spatial data for sustainable forest management practices, promoting investment and assessing vulnerabilities and risks in the forest sector.

- Output 5.1.1: Spatial representation of disturbance within Broad Leaf forests developed.
- Output 5.1.3: Gap analysis conducted identifying spatial data and other information to better map the risks and vulnerabilities of forests and communities to climate change and related hazards (e.g, fire, floods and landslides
- Output 5.1.4: Lands verified and mapped in the private forestry programme (PFP) showing contribution to forest cover; database of private forest owners maintained. (Output revised)

Unfortunately, while significant work took place during the period to streamline activities and push progress of outputs under this outcome, more outputs under this thematic area are experiencing challenges or have not progressed, when compared to the other thematic areas. At present greater

support and collaboration is needed to drive progress in this thematic area.

For the reporting period, fair progress was seen under Outcome 5.1 as preparations for the execution of a national land use land cover survey saw the completion of a pilot analysis on spatial representation of forest areas. Additionally, ongoing work to verify and map private lands also saw progress with over 4ha of surveved and mapped determine contribution to reforestation. Challenges continue to be experienced however with analysis and information on risks and vulnerabilities of forests and communities.

For **Outcome 5.2** progress to identify/engage the IOJ as a new lead for Output 5.2.1, in order

**Outcome 5.2:** Strengthened capacity for impact and vulnerability assessments and for management of research and knowledge systems.

- Output 5.2.1: Research outputs related to sustainable forest management and the impact of climate change on all forest types in Jamaica collected and circulated. (Output revised)
- Output 5.2.2: Forest fire assessments conducted.
- Output 5.2.3: The engagement of the Forestry Department in consultations on impact assessments regarding mining and quarrying proposed activities in forest lands strengthened.

to strengthen collaboration and use of the existing clearing house mechanism as a portal for research outputs, though started during the period, was not positively concluded at the end of the period. Additionally, information with respect to collaborations with the Agency for input on impact assessments regarding mining or quarrying was not reported for the period.

For Outcome 5.3, progress was seen with the completion of the REDD+ readiness project through the capacity gains which are supporting the phased establishment of a National Forest Monitoring system supported by a National Forest Inventory. Under this output over 200 PSPs were established. Significant work with models for growth and yield curves were also initiated during the period to better inform economic opportunities. Work to support the good knowledge management and strategic planning of the NFMCP also continued during the period, with the preparation of one (1) annual progress report and the revision of the Performance Monitoring Reporting & Evaluation Strategic frameworks of the plan. The hosting of one national conference to share information and experiences of the sector was also a

**Outcome 5.3**: Improved collaborative monitoring of forest resources. **KPI** - *Evidence of increased institutional capacities for Measuring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) deforestation and forest degradation.* 

- Output 5.3.1: Improved availability of data for driving the growth and investment in the forest sector (both timber & non timber).
- **Output 5.3.2:** REDD+ preparedness Strengthened forest monitoring systems **(Completed)**
- <u>Output 5.3.3</u>: Weather stations placed in strategic locations within forested areas to garner additional data to support sustainable forest management practices.
- Output 5.3.4: National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)
  using Permanent Sampling Plots (PSPs) to investigate and
  determine climate change impacts.
- Output 5.3.5: Targeted species (giant swallowtail, yellowand-black-billed parrot, water mahoe and bitter wood) surveyed, mapped.
- Output 5.3.6: Knowledge Management and Strategic Planning of the NFMCP achieved.

significant achievement that took place during the period under this outcome.

For the reporting period, two (2) outputs reported no information/little progress. Further work is also needed to better align annual targets with Outputs.

#### Progress towards targets for the year for eleven (11) Outputs are detailed below:

<u>Output 5.1.1</u>: Spatial representation of disturbance within broad leaf forests developed <u>Primary Implementing Entity</u>: Forestry Department

KPI	Level of disturbance in spatial representation of disturbed broadleaf used to develop protection efforts		
BASELINE	Aggregated spatial representations	STATUS of OUTPUT:	conscion 75 days
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	- Assessment of level of disturbance in spatial representation of disturbed broadleaf forests.  Approved LULCA methodology executed for Northern Falmouth and Cockpit Country Forest Reserve  2023 Land Use/Land Cover Pilot Report draft submitted	□ Not started □ Challenges ☑ In progress □ Completed	In the second se

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at March 31, 2023): Target for FY achieved.

The upcoming 2024 Land Use Land Cover (LULC) assessment aims to enhance LULC classification precision and accuracy for a more comprehensive representation of disturbances within the broadleaf category. A pilot study evaluated three methodologies for LULC changes between 2013 and 2022 in differing areas: high-change Northern Trelawny and low-change Cockpit Country Forest Reserve. Methodology one used ArcGIS's Feature Analyst extension's predictive model with extensive LULC editing for the high change area, while methodology two used the same model without LULC class editing. Methodology three is aligned with the REDD+ framework. To gauge effectiveness of each approach, statistical assessments, including confusion matrix and kappa coefficient analyses, were utilized to evaluate the first two methodologies. Based on these findings, the 2023/2024 LULC assessment will use the first methodology for high-change regions and the second for low change areas with the proviso that minimal editing is required to improve accuracy of results.

During the period a draft Pilot LULCA report was submitted.

**CHALLENGES:** Up-to-date aerial imagery is required to determine more recent disturbance levels within the broadleaf category. As such, conducting the same analyses on images present in the FD imagery database will yield results which are not current.

As the UAV solution is a novel procurement for FD, more research and consultations with current UAV users were carried to develop our proposal. However, internally, several processes are still being finalized to facilitate this procurement.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** The activity of feature extraction and editing of Urban Forest Cover class is extensive and requires dedicated staff. Approval of acceptable accuracy coefficient range by stakeholders for low-change and high-change areas. A comprehensive report detailing the lessons learned to provide valuable insights into the most effective practices for upcoming Land Use Land Cover (LULC) change assessment.

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources):** Limited staff availability brought on by competing operational responsibilities, coupled with the demand for better IT resources.

**MAJOR RISKS:** Inclement weather which may prevent planned UAV flights or delay aerial imagery collection timelines. Inability to secure a full UAV solution provider that provides a proposal suitable for the FD use-case scenario.

Procurement delays in 50cm resolution imagery for Jamaica, corruption and loss of data and conflicting operational obligations of staff.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

This 2023/24 LULCA will require dedicated staff and the recruiting of interns/ casual employees for feature class editing in high change areas. Extensive engagement and partnership with ICT to mitigate the risk of network delays and data loss or corruption.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24**: Land use land cover change assessment of Jamaica completed and statistically validated. The dataset and report have been peer reviewed and published.

<u>Output 5.1.3:</u> Gap analysis conducted identifying spatial data and other information to better map the risks and vulnerabilities of forests and communities to climate change and related hazards (e.g, fire, floods and landslides)

#### **Primary Implementing Entity:** MEGJC/CCD

КРІ	Number of analyses conducted to describe risks & vulnerabilities of forest and communities to climate change and related hazards.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Between 2019 and 2021 several gap analyses and vulnerability assessments were completed for four (4) sectors (Transport, Energy, Agriculture, Forestry & Land use) as part of climate change adaptation & mitigation planning.  For the forest sector, vulnerability assessments were completed to support the enhanced/revised NDC for the country which was submitted in June 2020	STATUS OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges ☑In progress □Completed	ASSESSMENT OF JAMAICA'S CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION Potential and Implications for its Quidated NDC  MODELLING AND ANALYSIS
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	First risks and vulnerability assessments, as they relate to carbon stocks and carbon emissions in forests and forest communities, produced and validated.		

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): TBD. No information reported.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

CCD and FD partnered with consultants. Land Use data provided to support assessments. Consultancies with the World Bank and IIED/GCF has supported this output.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED: No information reported.

**COMMENTS ON OTHER INPUTS: (resources)** 

Acquisition of data to complete assessments. Capacity (technical) to complete assessments.

MAJOR RISKS:

No information reported

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/2024:** Risk and vulnerability assessment will contribute to next NDC. This will include the forest sector.

<u>Output 5.1.4</u>: Lands verified and mapped in the private forestry programme (PFP) showing contribution to forest cover; database of private forest owners maintained. (Output revised)

Primary Implementing Entity: Forestry Department

KPI	Area (Hectares) of PFP participants' lands verified and mapped to support contribution to forest cover/reforestation efforts.		
BASELINE (as at 2021)	700 established sites - 164 sites surveyed and mapped representing 106 ha.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges.	Plant many trees and  build your own business  Use trees to enhance or create a
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	40 sites under PFP programme surveyed and mapped.	<b>⊠In progress</b>   □Completed	Create various food products from fulls  Create products using wood  Establish a private plantation of filmber trees  Establish a fruit orchard  Include timber and fruit trees on your property to diversify your livelihood  Let's Plant 3 Million Trees for the National Tree Planting Initiative  Fight Resource of the Re

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (March 31, 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Using Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies, the Agency continued to survey areas planted by registered participants to determine the contribution of tree's planted to forest cover. A total of 37 plots, covering approximately 4.40 hectares of land, planted by 34 registered participants have been successfully surveyed and mapped. This brings the cumulative count of surveyed and mapped plots over the past four years to 222 sites, encompassing a total area of 52.4 hectares.

PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE: Agency works with private landowners in this activity

**COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources):** None

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:** 

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/2024: 40 sites under PFP programme surveyed and mapped.

<u>Output 5.2.1:</u> Research outputs related to sustainable forest management and the impact of climate change on all forest types in Jamaica collected and circulated. (**Output to be revised**)

<u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)

KPI	Number of research outputs (by type) collected and made accessible through Clearing	
	House Mechanism.	

BASELINE (as at 2021)	Few research outputs available. Clearing House Mechanism not established.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started  ⊠Challenges.  ⊠In progress/under	Notice that the second of the	
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	REVIEW OF OUTPUT	revision.  □Completed.	BIODIVERSITY NEWS Newsletter of the Jamuica Clearing-House Mechanism	
SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Review of Output & targets started during the period.  Discussions with IOJ to assume new lead for activity stalled during the period.				
CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:  Revision of target underway. Year 5 sector target- 8 research outputs delivered by working group not met.  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: TBD.				

<u>Output 5.2.2:</u> Forest fire assessments conducted. <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> Forestry Department

KPI	Number of forest fire assess	sments (by type) conducted.	
BASELINE (as at 2021)	Seven (7) forest fire assessment were conducted and reports submitted between April 2020 to February 2021 estimating a total of 8 ha lost	STATUS of OUTPUT:  □Not started □Challenges. ☑In progress □Completed	EFFECTS OF FOREST FIRES  Mortality of young plantation  Erosion  Landslides
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Two (2) assessments per year.		Altered watersheds  Overgrowth of invasive alien species and pests
SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at 31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.  Three (3) forest fire assessments reportedly completed during the period.  TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Two (2) assessments per year.			

<u>Output 5.2.3:</u> The engagement of the Forestry Department in consultations on impact assessments regarding mining and quarrying proposed activities in forest lands strengthened. (Output revised) <u>Primary Implementing Entity:</u> National Environment and Planning Agency

	KPI	(Yes/No) Pertinent impact assessments reviewed by the Forestry Department.
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TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	FD is not engaged in consultations on impact assessments regarding mining and quarrying proposed activities in forest lands.  Interagency agreement on EIAs in forested areas concluded.	STATUS of OUTPUT  ☐ Not started ☐ Challenges. ☑ In progress/under revision ☐ Completed.	Environmental Impact Assessment		
SUMMARY OF PRO	GRESS: (31 March 2023): TBD. No i	nformation reported.			
	OLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE: Divironmental impact assessments to		the lead Agency with		
	ear ownership/lead for output is af Focused stakeholder engagement	-	implementation of the NFMCP		
MAJOR RISKS: Inab	ility to identify lead for Output lead	ing to failure to execute activities	in support of the Output.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS</b> : Review of Output underway to determine a way forward.					
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Report produced on Impact of mining and quarrying on forest goods, services and values.					

<u>Output 5.3.1:</u> Improved availability of data for driving the growth and investment in the forest sector (both timber & non timber).

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

КРІ	Number of Growth & Yield curves for primary commercial species developed				
BASELINE	Growth & Investment data for 2 species (Caribbean Pine & Blue Mahoe) exist	STATUS OF OUTPUT  Not started Challenges.	Growth and Yield: Overview  Correct and main annual growth curves.		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Two (2) more species examined for growth & yield data to be developed.	<b>⊠In progress</b> □Completed.	Growth Age		

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY Partially achieved.

Growth and yield curves /models for two species-Jamaican Mahogany and West Indian Cedar drafted during the period:

Five Yield models describing height developed for each species

Five Yield models describing DBH developed for each species

Assessment completed of 1,837 trees for the Yield Model

Rainfall data & Ecological parameters collected & collated for each site

#### **PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:**

Forestry Academic institution/ forest statistician or consultant with these skills set.

**CHALLENGES:** The growth data needed by species as far back as possible may be very challenging to source and or generate due to the limited data gathering from plantations and the poor archiving of such information.

Insufficient representation of specific age range of target species

Limited capacity to develop & analyze Yield/growth models

**LESSONS LEARNED**: Resources needed to facilitate core training is rather challenging to source therefore lead time for pre planning and procurement should factor into the timelines. Include best-fit generic growth models

Seek stronger collaboration through networking/working groups.

#### **COMMENTS ON INPUTS: (resources)**

Growth yield data by species as far back as possible is needed.

#### CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:

Build capacity to develop models for all species; enhance timber production and plantation management.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVTIES FOR FY 2023/24: Four more species examined.

<u>Output 5.3.3</u>: Weather stations placed in strategic locations within/close to forested areas to garner additional data to support sustainable forest management practices. **Primary Implementing Entity:** MSJ

KPI	Yes/No- climate/weather data/information from AWS strategically placed within/close to forested areas, provided to support SFM planning				
BASELINE (as at 2021)	One station established in forested area (Bull Head Mountain).	STATUS of OUTPUT:  ☐Not started ☐Challenges			
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/22	Climate and weather data/Information provided to FD as requested.  Development of models by MSJ. Link to bush fire index.				

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY partially achieved.

Climate/weather data/information provided by MSJ on request of Agency. Bush fire index developed and utilised by sector. No information reported on specific models developed.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Discussions ongoing with MSJ to improve stakeholder partnership/collaborations

CHALLENGES: The need to improve the levels of communication between both entities.

Depending on the locations selected there may be challenges with having real-time access to data.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** From previous experiences there were challenges with finding suitable locations in forested areas, which would make the use of the data comparable for input into MSJ's statistical analyses.

#### FINANCIAL PROGRESS REPORT:

Installation of AWS ongoing work of the MSJ funded through projects and ongoing programmes.

#### **COMMENTS ON OTHER INPUTS: (resources)**

**MAJOR RISKS:** Once the weather stations are installed, they will be exposed to severe weather conditions, as well as to the risk of bush/forest fires. There is also the risk of vandalism to the instruments after installation.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

It is anticipated that with the revision of the output, indicator and targets will allow for better synergies and progress of the activities.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Climate and weather data/Information provided to FD as requested.

<u>Output 5.3.4:</u> National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) using Permanent Sampling Plots (PSPs) to investigate and determine climate change impacts.

**Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department

КРІ	Number of Permanent Sample Plots established to measure emission from deforestation and forest degradation.			
BASELINE	No PSPs have been established with the aim to investigate and determine climate change impacts.	STATUS of OUTPUT  ☐Not started ☐Challenges  ☑In progress		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Additional 53 PSPs established.	□Completed		

#### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023): Target for FY achieved.

Target for FY surpassed as a total of 271 PSPs were established across the island during the period. The establishment of PSPs is done on two scales- National forest inventory parish level (175 PSPs), and Forest Management Unit level (96 PSPs).

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Technical capacity and support is received from USFS, FAO

The National Forestry inventories are critical for forest management, planning, and reporting in many countries and come with common challenges and lessons:

#### **CHALLENGES:**

- Inaccessible areas can pose significant challenges for data collection.
- Poor Data Management: Handling, analyzing, and managing a large volume of data is a significant challenge.

• Stakeholder Engagement: Achieving consensus among stakeholders (e.g., local communities, NGOs, government agencies) can be challenging.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- Adopt Technology: drones can make the process more efficient and accurate.
- Clear and transparent reporting mechanisms can build trust among stakeholders and support decision-making processes.
- Standardization through the LAC-NFI network facilitated by FAO has allowed reporting and better comparative analysis with other countries.

**MAJOR RISKS:** Capacity to undertake a national PSP programme without competition from other priorities for the limited resources.

Access to private estates may be challenging but can be mitigated

The loss of PSPs plots and the subsequent inability to generate data from these areas is quite likely.

#### **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:**

A progressive and persistent stakeholder participation and sensitisation programme will be needed to be executed alongside the field activities.

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: Additional 50 PSPs established.

Forest monitoring systems strengthened

<u>Output 5.3.5:</u> Targeted species (giant swallowtail, yellow-and-black-billed parrot, water mahoe, and bitter wood) surveyed, mapped

#### **Primary Implementing Entity:** Forestry Department/NEPA

KPI	Number of Population of targeted flora and fauna species by type			
BASELINE	None	STATUS of OUTPUT		
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/2023	(No Target detailed for FY)	□Not started  ☑Challenges.  ☑In progress  □Completed		

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (31 March 2023):** While no target was detailed for the FY, during the period NEPA the report on the quantitative assessment of tree ferns (targeted flora) in the parish of Portland was prepared. (One (1) species found in Seamans Valley and four (4) in Hollywell).

**PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:** Collaboration of NEPA, Forestry Department and IOJ needed for output

**CHALLENGES:** Clarity needed on lead Agency for output.

**LESSONS LEARNED**: Greater stakeholder engagement and dialogue needed to support implementation of the NFMCP

MAJOR RISKS: Inability to achieve Output

TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24: TBD

<u>Output 5.3.6</u>: Knowledge Management and Strategic Planning of the NFMCP achieved <u>Primary Implementing Entity</u>: Forestry Department

KPI	Number of evaluations, planning documents and annual reports produced.						
BASELINE (a at 2021)	One (1) process evaluation conducted (2018). One (1) Mid Term Review planned (2021-2022), Four Annual Progress Reports completed.  M&E technical working group formed. Online M& E system (BMES) introduced.	STATUS of OUTPUT  □Not started □Challenges. ⊠In progress □Completed	National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP): Annual Progress Report 2019-2020 and Draft Implementation Plan 2020-2021				
TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2022/23	Complete NFMCP Annual progress report 2021/2022.  Revise PMER frameworks for 2021-2026.  Execute/ host one (1) Forestry conference- 'Forestry as a Business'.		Arraguet. 2010				

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS: (as at March 31, 2023): Targets for the FY achieved.

The Annual Progress report for FY 2021/2022 was completed and disseminated on September 30, 2022.

The Performance Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (PMER) Plan and Strategic framework PMER frameworks were revised and circulated during the period.

Seven (7) meetings held with PIEs to support revision of frameworks and overall execution of the plan for the period:

- NLA- June 16, 202
- JNHT-June 20, 202
- NEPA- June 28, 202
- MSJ July 1, 2022
- MEGJC (ERMD, & CCD Urban renewal portfolios) -July 7, 2022, July 20,2022 & July 22,2022 respectively. Engagement/planning sessions with two key stakeholders (not currently PIEs) held as follows:
- JCDT- July 25, 2022
- IOJ -July 27, 2022
- -One (1) PIE/Stakeholder session held in Q2- Validation of the revised PMERs held virtually on Aug 29, 2022.
- One National Forestry Conference under the theme 'Forestry as a Business' held December 7-8, 2022. Over 100 participants attended.

The online monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, (launched in 2020) continues to be utilised to support data collection and analysis on progress on the plan, while strengthening monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

#### PARTNER / STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP UPDATE:

Collaborative implementation of the sector plan continues. Meetings held to discuss and work through challenges that have been experienced. Provision of funding to support implementation of Outputs and activities as well as lack of formal agreements (MOUs) in place with partners continues to be issues to be resolved with key partners.

#### **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED:**

Stakeholder engagement/involvement continues to be a significant challenge with implementation of the NFMCP. While increased progress has been seen over the last FY, in particular, the incorporation of activities from the NFMCP into the Operational & Corporate plans /annual implementation of the respective entities, challenges remain with getting update on activities and amounts expended. A formal medium for engaging implementing entities in particular, as well as other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the plan should have been established before the final approval of the NFMCP.

One lesson learned is that a stakeholder analysis should have been completed during the development of the NFMCP with a core team of primary stakeholders identified from the start. These individuals would lead/champion engagement of NFMCP activities within the operations of their respective entities to ensure activities make their way into the operational plans of the Agencies. While efforts started early to have an M&E framework for the plan – which was a significant achievement from the past 2010 NFMCP, more needed to have been done to identify and engage key people in implementing entities from the start of the process which would then flow into implementation.

#### **COMMENTS ON OTHER INPUTS: (resources)**

Staff costs as well as consultancy services are critical inputs to this activity as with the current capacity within the FD in this area external support will be needed to complete the relevant planning documents, progress reports and evaluations.

#### **MAJOR RISKS:**

- -Instability in the macroeconomic environment- this could affect the execution of the EU budget support programme which would affect the implementation of the NFMCP.
- -Wavering levels of commitment by partner entities in implementation
- -Contract risks exist with consultancy services.
- -COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions

#### CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS / OTHER COMMENTS:

Overall, the FD is making good progress in ensuring that necessary frameworks are in place for the knowledge management & strategic planning of the NFMCP which is a significant step from the previous NFMCP. The meetings of the TAC, the development of an Online M&E software which support the initial PMER Plan & SF, as well as the establishment of a technical M&E working group continue to be significant steps.

**TARGETS/MAJOR ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2023/24:** Progress report 2023 produced. Produce minimum one (1) knowledge management product.

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### **CHAPTER 3: RISK MANAGEMENT**

With the country now in what has been described as the 'Post COVID era', execution of work programmes for this FY were less challenged by the pandemic when compared to previous financial years. Major risks experienced support lengthy timeframe and delays due to disruptions to global supply chains. For this reporting period risks related to stakeholder buy-in were realised as the Draft Bill for the Forest Act was not tabled in parliament as anticipated, nor were any new

**Table 3** below summarises major risks identified for the NFMCP and its associated outputs. As the lead agency for the NFMCP, the FD seeks to monitor risks through its Enterprise Risk Management Framework.

TABLE 2: Statements for the ten major Identified risks and mitigation strategies

IDENTIFIED RISK STATEMENT	OUTPUT#	RISK	RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY	ADDITIONAL
		LEVEL		COMMENTS
members of the broad group of stakeholders involved in the TAC re-prioritise their interest to other fields or structures, the NFMCP may lose its momentum and become less effective as a joint management and planning instrument and generator of substantive results.  Failure of assigned lead entity to execute/support activity  Low commitment and/or capacity, particularly of community groups, to take on project funding reduces opportunities for improved alternative livelihoods.	1.1.1 1.1.2 1.1.3 2.1.4 3.1.5 3.1.7 4.1.2 5.1.3 5.2.3 5.3.5	HIGH	Ensure that the participation in the TAC is useful day-to-day work in the institutions.  Establish efficient structures for sharing information.  When appropriate, ensure buy in from stakeholders in day-to-day management planning and the inclusion of these new forest sector areas in development orders.  Address capacity needs of groups.	The need for greater engagement by the lead entity for implementation of the plan with other implementing entities and stakeholders continues to be seen. Mechanisms for formal engagement of key stakeholders/partners (MOUs, MOAs etc) need to be explored.
HIGH STAFF TURN-OVER/ LIMITED HUMAN CAPACITY/ PROTRACTED DELAYS: Due to staff turn-over and re-allocation of staff within various agencies (to take up new tasks), the capacity of individuals working on specialised outputs (such as the list of invasive plant and animal species) is insufficient, which decreases the quality of the output. There is also	1.1.2 1.2.1 3.1.6 2.3.1 5.2.1 5.2.2 5.3.1 5.3.5	High	Timely recruitment of specialised staff.  Training of a sufficient number of staff in specialised fields.  Use of consultants/external capacity	Loss of key technical capacity, lengthy timeframes to recruit positions and limited pool of technical skillsets remain realities threatening implementation of the plan. continue to plague implementation of outputs. Loss of

IDENTIFIED DICK CTATEMENT OUTDUT # DICK DICK MITICATION CTRATECY ADDITIONAL				
IDENTIFIED RISK STATEMENT	OUTPUT#	RISK LEVEL	RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
an associated risk when the staff turnover is in respect to a technical/specialised area.  MISSING SKILLS SETS IN TECHNICAL AREAS: Several PIEs have gaps in staff skills for	1.2.1 1.2.2 1.2.3	High	Continuous training and staff rotations should be done in specialised areas (for	technical capacity in research areas has delayed implementation of several outputs/activities.  While significant progress was again made during the FY with the
instance in species identification, silviculture, payment for ecosystem services & ecosystem management areas. Additionally, instances of turn-over of qualified and specialised staff.	1.2.4 4.2.1 5.3.2 5.3.4 5.3.5		applicable PIEs), resulting in other personnel gaining solid knowledge in technical areas. Succession planning should be in place.	training of over 30 Forestry Department field personnel in Silviculture (adding to capacity built with training last FY in Natural Resource Valuation & Carbon Stock Monitoring), this threat remains high as technical gaps exist in the sector owing to high staff turnover and these training interventions are not currently being sustained.
INSECURITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES: For outputs where significant financing is needed for their implementation, fund sourcing is essential, since the output is at risk if funding is not identified.	1.1.5 2.3.4 3.3.1 4.1.3	High	A number of specific outputs can be a focus for fundraising, including (for 2.3.4) because of its social value. When support sourced for the output is not sufficient, the output will need to be redesigned, to assess useful elements which can be delivered cheaper.	With the findings of the Mid-term Evaluation noting the urgent need for financing to be identified to support continued implementation of the plan.
POOR DATA MANAGEMENT: Due to inadequate capacity (human and technical) in relation to data and information management, outputs could suffer from poor data management, which would jeopardize their usefulness within NFMCP.	2.2.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.2.1 3.2.2 3.3.3	High	Synergies within the PIEs (and other key agencies with capacity for data management) needed.  Regular training and capacity development for information management.	
LONG LAG TIMES TO GET WORK UNDERWAY: Long lag time in getting work underway may jeopardize the proper	ALL	Medium	Regular monitoring of progress by the PIEs and TAC.	While previously ranked high, deliberate engagement over the last FY, use of the TAC &

IDENTIFIED RISK STATEMENT	OUTPUT#	RISK LEVEL	RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
implementation of outputs, causing a less than expected quality outcome.			Early mobilisation of inputs and resources.  Improved planning / projectization of activities.	M&E technical working group has resulted in the risk level dropping to medium.
MISSION CREEP WITHIN OUTPUTS & POOR SCHEDULING OF RELATED OUTPUTS: The scope of some outputs has grown tremendously over the first years of NFMCP; however the outputs have not been transformed into proper projects, causing great risk to their successful completion. Additionally linkages between Outputs have not been sufficiently scheduled in terms of what is needed from one output to execute another.	1.1.4 1.1.6 3.1.1 3.1.2	Medium	Prioritise Outputs and resource needs.  Organise all inputs and resources in a timely manner-Significant attention must be paid to procurement as it is a key resource process.  Appoint a coordinator for each of these outputs, with day-to-day management responsibilities.	While this risk was initially stated as Low in previous reports, its continued manifestation across several outputs resulted in its ranking rising.
UNAVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED SPECIES/ SEEDS: At times there are limited variety of seeds available, which results in the nursery being unable to meet the production demands for all species requested.  If the nursery programme is not expanded, FD may experience the unavailability of seedlings to meet demands.	3.1.1	Medium	FD has reinstituted the collection of wildings and will ramp up collection of seeds for desired species by field staff. The inhouse phenological chart will also be utilised as a reference point to identify flowering trees.	Revamping of nursery operations under EU_BSP Business Development technical assistance has resulted in lowering of risk which was initially high. Several strategies were implemented to mitigate the risks, such as regular updates of the inventory, weekly inspection of seedlings, wider collection of seed and wildings, improved processing of seeds.

## CHAPTER 4: UPDATE ON FINANCING THE NFMCP

#### Overview:

The Forest Policy for Jamaica 2017 identifies that a long-term solution for financing forestry management and conservation programmes is needed, with several policy-level recommendations for developing funding mechanisms for the sector. Costings for implementing key outcomes of the policy through the NFMCP estimated that a total of over USD 85 million (J\$13 billion) would be required for implementing the NFMCP over ten years. In 2019 just a little over J\$11 billion or 84.7% of the funding needed to implement the plan had been identified with this funding at various levels of commitment. While estimates of additional funding commitments (including proposed and approved projects and budgetary allocations) have been identified, challenges experienced with reconciling expenditure to date hinder the reporting/reflection of the current state of financing of the plan. Work to address this major gap is ongoing through direct engagement of stakeholders to impress upon them the importance of reporting on financial expenditures per output. Work through the revision of the PMER plan in the upcoming FY will also seek to collect financial data to address this gap. A key finding of the MTE also noted that while efforts to finance implementation of the NFMCP have progressed, critical work to identify financing to sustain the benefits and interventions from the plan must be prioritised.

#### Specific work during the FY to support Financing:

During the FY 2022/2023, following support from the FAO to complete and submit a project document for the Mangrove Plus project to the GEF (STAR 7 allocation), the Agency received successful approval of the project for implementation starting 2023. The four (4) year project, valued at USD 1.65 million, will support the implementation of the National Mangrove & Swamp Forest management plan supporting the implementation of activities related to mangrove management, forest ecosystems and forest biodiversity, which supports the goals of the Forest Policy for Jamaica. Additional funding through the GCF for a Phase 2 of the REDD+ Readiness for Jamaica project was also secured during the period. The supplemental request for the further enhancing of REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Jamaica valued at USD 369,334.00 will seek to build on the work of the current REDD+ Readiness project, which already supports overall work by Jamaica in building readiness capacity and establishing the relevant pillars needed for successful implementation of REDD+ in the country.

While limited programme work was executed under the approved GEF project-'Conserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation using an integrated approach' (funding of USD 6,200,000.00) being implemented by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), which is designed to support

capacity building for sustainable land management owing to several delays, the project remains as one to be executed and supports financing for the sector plan.

For the FY, the Agency as the lead for the sector continued to receive strong budgetary support in accordance with the terms of the EUBSP and as the lead for the sector. The budgetary expenditure of the Agency for the period totaled JMD 1,452,663,000. Challenges continue to be experienced with reporting and reconciling budgetary expenditure per output and entity.

TABLE 3: Costing of the NFMCP.

COSTING OF THE NFMCP	TOTAL 10 Y	EARS: 2016-17 to	2025-26
Results	Total costs (in J\$'000)	Consolid. fund	Other sources
Thematic Area 1: Forest Governance and Conservation	1,721,163	1,599,921	121,242
Thematic Area 2: Forest Utilisation	3,004,176	2,202,592	801,584
Thematic Area 3: Capacity for Sustainable Forest Management	4,174,613	3,813,704	360,909
Thematic Area 4: Education, Training and Awareness	718,531	695,541	22,990
Thematic Area 5: Monitoring and Information Management	3,395,661	2,626,867	768,794
GRAND TOTAL	13,014,144	10,938,625	2,075,519 <sup>2</sup>

Work under the technical assistance component valued at Euro 1.25 million of the EUBSP were completed this FY:

- Business Development consultancy to support productivity and growth for the Forest Sector of Jamaica. The results from this consultancy support several outputs under Outcome 2 and Outcome 5 of the NFMCP.
- Visibility consultancy for Addressing Environmental and Climate Change challenges through Improved Forest Management in Jamaica. The deliverables from this consultancy support several outputs under Outcome 4 of the NFMCP.

A key activity relating to the financing of the plan and by extension the sector that was executed during the period, was the staging of a national forestry conference under the theme – 'Forestry as a Business', which brought key stakeholders in the forest and climate change sector together to brainstorm and discuss sustainable financing potentials and opportunities for the sector.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> J\$90,027,000 committed and J\$1,985,492,000 to be raised.

## **CHAPTER 5:** PROGRESS RELATING TO GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the NFMCP - the primary governance framework providing oversight to the implementation of the plan, continues to engage its stakeholders to support the overall governance frameworks/mechanisms for the NFMCP, though it is challenged with consistent representation from key entities.

For the reporting period, two (2) meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (which also serves as the Project Steering Committee for the Budget support programme and is chaired by the PIOJ) were held on July 26, 2022 & December 14, 2022. While three were anticipated, competing priorities (especially in light of ongoing work during the year to revise the PMER frameworks) resulted in this not happening. As part of the revision of the PMER seven meeting with TAC representatives, as well as representatives of the PIEs and M&E working groups were held between June and August 2022, further supporting governance and oversight of the plan.

## CHAPTER 6: LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

With seven years of implementation of the NFMCP passed, valuable opportunities not just for the Forestry Department, but for the forest sector and by extension the country have been seen. With the revision of the Performance Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation Plan and Framework, progress of outputs and associated targets appear to be moving forward in the right direction to achieving the goals and outcomes of the NFMCP. Work remains however to streamline collaborations and partnerships to address gaps and challenges identified.

As focus continues on sharing the experiences of the plans, the lessons learned from output implementation detailed in this report should be reflected on by stakeholders of the sector. At the sector level the following lessons learned reported should be noted:

- the cross-cutting nature of the sector, the number of entities involved, and the demonstrated value of forests, require effective collaboration for successful implementation and must remain a priority. The use of the cross sectorial mechanism must be better leveraged.

- the NFMCP must be properly resourced with key attention paid to scheduling and alignment between resources (financial and human), and outputs if the desired outcomes are to be achieved.
- -Key recommendations to strengthen stakeholder engagement at the level of implementation must be followed. While the TAC serves at the governance/oversight level to guide the overall progress of the plan, it has been recognized that more can be done to engage stakeholders directly involved in implementation. Additionally, owing to the collaborative nature of the plan, frameworks must be in place to support the identification and sharing of resources between the Agency and its implementing partners.
- -Capacity building and use of technology must be prioritized for the remainder of the plan to drive results and efficiencies in the sector.

# **CHAPTER 7:** Draft NFMCP Implementation Plan with targets for remaining years

Table 4 below presents the main results/ targets to be achieved in Year 8 (FY 2023/2024) of the plan.

#### **TABLE 4: Draft NFMCP Implementation Plan and targets for remaining years**

Output	2023-2024 YEAR 8	2024-2025 YEAR 9	2025-2026 YEAR 10
1.1.1			Full integration of the forest sector in relevant national decision-making processes.
<u>1.1.2</u>			
1.1.3		8 Dev. Orders prepared and updated regarding forest management priorities.	9 Development Orders prepared and updated regarding forest management priorities. Completed.
1.1.4	Transfer of Management Responsibility Completed.  Update NLA Property inventory.	Further research of other areas with potential for transfer to FD (North Negril Morass, Lands east N/S Highway, Canoe valley, etc.)	Transfers of terrestrial lands (1000 ha) for REDD+ completed and of mangroves and swamplands initiated.  Updates NLA Property inventory done.
1.1.5	Community meetings to share information, engage stakeholders and encourage compliance.		Package of approaches introduced and operational, documented and assessed on quality and applicability. Relationships for enforcement established with comanagers and stakeholders.
1.1.6	Special regulation starts.  Media promotions of regulations.	Media promotions of regulations.	Completed.

Output	2023-2024 YEAR 8	2024-2025 YEAR 9	2025-2026 YEAR 10
1.1.7			
1.2.2	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined
1.2.3			4 species conservation plans produced.
1.2.4	Conservation approach develop for 2 additional new species.		5 new species for conservation identified and conservation approach developed.
<u>2.1.1</u>			
2.1.2			
2.1.3	Pilot project operational.		Pilot project conducted and completed.
2.1.4			
2.2.1	50 % of list completed.		Assessment and recommendations completed.
2.2.2	Twelve harvesting plans completed.		Sixteen (16) harvesting plans completed, for 16 of the 26 clusters.
2.3.1			
2.3.2			
2.3.3			To be determined.
2.3.4		Clydesdale rehablitated.	Feasibiliy study for third site done.
2.3.5			
3.1.1	100 ha planted additionally.	100 ha planted additionally.	Total 1,100 hectares planted.
	Search for plantable lands to be done for next year.	Search for plantable lands to be done for next year.	1,200 ha maintained.
3.1.2	Buff Bay Pencar FMP revised.		One FMP revised or developed per year.
3.1.3			5 watershed management plans completed, which include restoration plans.

Output	2023-2024 YEAR 8	2024-2025 YEAR 9	2025-2026 YEAR 10
3.1.4	120,000 seedlings produced.	120,000 seedlings produced.	Completed: 1,540,000 seedlings accumulated
3.1.5	Implementation of Plans started	Plans implemented by 25%	Plans implemented 50%.
3.1.6	80% Implementation of research and collection best practices.	Guidelines for best management practices published.	
3.1.7	Review and revise guidelines.	More planting done and lessons learned collected	Guidelines Completed.
3.1.8			All forest land owners included and updated
3.2.1			
3.2.2			
3.2.3	Land use revision completed; a new analytical report of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation done.  Consultations, training sessions, workshops.		New analytical report completed. The conclusion of each land use study is followed by the analytical report to understand the changes being observed.
3.2.4			Forest emission level calculated.
3.2.5			All 7 Cancun principles adhered to.
3.3.1			Minimum of 45 groups trained / 375 people sensitised.
3.3.2	Continuation training programme.	Continuation training programme.	Continuation training programme.
3.3.3			To be determined.
4.1.1	290 school visits, 150 public awareness events.  Forest Trek implemented.	290 school visits, 150 public awareness events.  Forest Trek implemented.	Cumulatively, 2,850 school visits (in 14 parishes) and 1,425 public awareness events implemented.
4.1.2			To be determined
4.1.3	Registration of planters continues.		Full registration of planters.

Output	2023-2024 YEAR 8	2024-2025 YEAR 9	2025-2026 YEAR 10
<u>4.2.1</u>			To be determined.
4.2.2	Regional technical meeting on Forestry training conducted.		To be determined.
4.2.3			To be determined.
5.1.1.			Use of Dis-aggregated spatial representation (defined levels of disturbance between 5% and 15%).
<u>5.1.2</u>		9,000 ha assessed and mapped.	
5.1.3			Completed.
<u>5.1.4</u>			To be determined
<u>5.1.5</u>			To be determined
5.2.1			To be determined
5.2.2			To be determined
5.2.3			To be determined
5.3.1			Growth & Investment data for 6 species (Cedar, Spanish Elm, Santa Maria Teak, British Honduras Mahogany and WI Mahogany completed.
5.3.2	Forest monitoring systems strengthened.		To be determined
5.3.3	Data collection and analysis.	Data collection and analysis.	Data collection and analysis supporting sustainable forest management practices.

Output	2023-2024 YEAR 8	2024-2025 YEAR 9	2025-2026 YEAR 10
<u>5.3.4</u>	Additional 18 series of 3 PSPs.	Additional 18 series of 3 PSPs.	360 PSPs established.
<u>5.3.5</u>	Artificial propagation and reintroduction.	Artificial propagation and reintroduction.	8 species surveyed and mapped. Artificial propagation and reintroduction.
<u>5.3.6</u>	Progress report 2023. Update Knowledge Management Database.	Progress report 2024. Development of next NFMCP (stakeholder workshops)	Progress report 2025. Final Evaluation. Next NFMCP finalised.