



# FOREST NEWS

PARTNER'S EDITION



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HEROES**

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**CONTRIBUTE TO UN  
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## Upcoming 80th Anniversary Activities

**Denbigh Agricultural Show**  
*August 4-6*

**National Tree Planting Day**  
*October 5*

**Forest Trek II**  
*November 17*

# FORESTRY DEPARTMENT AWARDS NINE FOREST HEROES



Some of the Forest Heroes awardees pose with their awards, citations and certificates of recognition along with CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilyn Headley, and other members of the senior management team following the 80th Anniversary Forest Heroes Awards Luncheon at the Jamaica Pegasus on June 26, 2018.

The Forestry Department has awarded nine (9) recipients for their outstanding contributions to the development of the forest sector in Jamaica and their work in helping the Agency to fulfill its mandate at a recently held 80th Anniversary Forest Heroes Awards Luncheon.

Awardees were recognised in eight categories with each recipient receiving an award and citation in recognition of their efforts at the Luncheon held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on June 26, 2018. In the category of private forestry, Mr. Roger Turner was recognized for his contributions under the Forestry Department's Land Declaration Programme and Mr. William Masterton for his contributions under the Agency's Private Forestry Programme. At the community level, the Sawyers Local Forest Management Committee in Trelawny was awarded in the category of Community-Based organisation.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were among the awardees, as the Windsor Research Centre (WRC) was recognized in the category of environmental NGO and the MultiCare Youth Foundation for its contributions to the sector as an NGO. The Lasco sponsored Releaf Environmental Awareness Programme (REAP) was recognized in the public education category while Miss Kimone Thompson, an Associate Editor at the Jamaica Observer was awarded in the media category.

The final two forest heroes recognized at the function were the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) which was recognized as a state partner and the Jamaica Money Market Brokers (JMJB) which was recognized in the corporate category.

Four additional entities were also acknowledged through the presentation of certificates of recognition for their contributions to the forest sector. They are the Constitution Hill Local Forest Management Committee, the National Land Agency (NLA), Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) and Scotiabank Jamaica.

Ms. Marilyn Headley, CEO & Conservator of Forests, praised the awardees for their impactful work in the sector, noting that she hopes the awards will serve as motivation for them to continue to lobby for and take care of the island's precious forest resources.

"We want this event to serve as encouragement to everyone here today to play a greater part in helping to protect our forests and safeguarding our future; and to show the rest of Jamaica, that it can be done!" she said.

Responding on behalf of the awardees, Mr. Masterton thanked the Agency for the work that it has been doing, noting that it is the true hero of the forest.

The Forest Heroes Awards was held under the Agency's 80th Anniversary theme, "80 Years of GROWTH; Safeguarding our Future". The event is another in a series of activities being done as part of the Agency's year-long celebration of its 80th anniversary. The celebrations run from December 2017 to December 2018.

The Forest Heroes Awards is the second staging of its kind with the first held in 2013 on the occasion of the Agency's 75th anniversary. At that staging, two individuals and two entities were recognised across four categories for their contributions to the forest sector.



Mr. Walter Welsh, Chairman of the Constitution Hill Local Forest Management Committee collecting certificate of recognition for the LMFC's outstanding work in the forest sector from our Director, Zonal Operations (Eastern), Mr. Damart Williams.



Mr. Roger Tuner collects his award from Ambassador Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica.



Winsome Callum of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited poses with the certificate of recognition for the company's outstanding contributions to the forest sector.



Ms. Kimone Thompson (left), of the Jamaica Observer collects her award from Marcia Erskine, Managing Director of Marcia Erskine and Associates Limited.



Mr. Stephen Newland, conceptualizer of the Lasco Releaf Environmental Awareness Programme (REAP), collects his award from Ms. Allison Ramgolan, Chief Technical Director, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica.



Mr. William Masterton poses with his award and citation alongside Ms. Headley, CEO & Conservator of Forests.



Ms. Ann Astwood of the MultiCare Youth Foundation collects an award from Una May Gordon, Principal Director, Climate Change Division.



Mrs. Dorothy Hansel, Principal Director, Corporate Services Division, presents Ms. Kim Mair of the Jamaica Money Market Brokers Group with a citation and award for the organization's outstanding contributions to the forest sector.



Ms. Donna Lowe, Senior Director, Forest Science and Technology Services Division presents a citation to Dr. Susan Koenig of the Windsor Research Centre.



Ms. Donna Lowe, presents a certificate of recognition to Mr. Peter Baker for the outstanding contributions of the National Land Agency to the forest sector.



Dr. Wayne Henry and Ms. Claire Bernard of the Planning Institute of Jamaica pose with their citation and award alongside Ms. Headley.

# TOP STUDENTS AWARDED IN 80TH ANNIVERSARY MURAL COMPETITION

The maxim, "the heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight..." could have well been coined by April Sherwood and Sabrina Johnson, winners of the Forestry Department's 80th Anniversary Mural Competition.

Sabrina Johnson, sixth form student at the St. Hugh's High School who won in the secondary school category, said the journey to the prize was paved with many challenges and there were points that she almost gave up.

"I started over many times because I couldn't decide on a concept and they just weren't coming together well. At one point I remember my mom asking me why I was wasting time on it instead of studying for exams but once I started, I knew I had to finish. I had no idea I would've won; I was just expecting a certificate of participation," Sabrina recounted.

Sabrina said she was overwhelmed with emotions when her name was called as the winner. She said the win really lifted her spirits and she went into her exam, just a little over an hour after the ceremony, on a high note. "Now, I look at the piece almost every day and I am still wondering how I won. I am still so elated and ecstatic!" she said.

For April Sherwood, winner of the tertiary school category, it was also a challenging process. Having not done art since high school, the business student at the College of Arts, Science and Education (CASE) in Portland, said it took quite a while to put design on paper.

"I love anything creative and innovation so despite the challenges, I enjoyed the process. The win is a surprise, I couldn't quite get up out of my seat because I was in shock but I am still really excited and it has boosted my confidence," Ms. Sherwood said.

Both Sabrina's and April's pieces will be installed on the perimeter wall at the entrance to the Agency's offices at 173 Constant Spring Road which will not only serve for aesthetic but educational purposes. Sponsors BH Paints and The Paint Shop will be providing paints for the installation of the murals.

Additionally, they both walked away with cash prizes of US \$250 each courtesy of BH Paints as well as HP Laptops with stereo headsets from the Universal Service Fund, Lasco gift baskets, trophies and certificates.



(Top) April Sherwood and Sabrina Johnson (below) winners of the Agency's 80th Anniversary Mural Competition in the tertiary and secondary school categories, respectively, collect their 1st place trophies from CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilynn Headley.

For the second place winners in both categories respectively, J’Nelle Bailey of the Immaculate Conception High School and Nia Scarlett of the University of Technology received Alcatel tablets with detachable keyboards, Lasco gift baskets, and certificates. Meanwhile the third place winners, Tajani Scott of Campion College and Davia Morris of the Garmex Institute received Samsung J5 smartphones, Lasco gift baskets and certificates.

Meanwhile, speaking at the award’s ceremony on May 22 at the Agency’s head office, CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilyn Headley, commended the awardees and have applauded them for their interpretation of the various themes, which she says demonstrates that they understand the importance of our forests and their role in safeguarding them.

“We are encouraged by the level of knowledge that you have demonstrated through your pieces because we know that once you are able to understand the importance of our forests and your individual role in the care and protection, as you grow and become adults, that appreciation will also grow and the threats against the health and existence of these valuable forest resources will be lessened and or eliminated,” she said.

The Mural Competition was organized by the Agency as part of activities to commemorate its eight decades of service to the island. It also formed part of the organization’s vibrant public education programme.

The competition featured two categories, one targeting secondary students with the theme, “80 Years of Growth; Safeguarding the future”, and the other targeting tertiary students, with the theme, “Closed Broadleaf Forest; Precious but Threatened”.

The Agency thanks all the sponsors who made the competition possible, namely the Universal Service Fund, BH Paints, The Paint Shop and Lasco Distributors.

# Pictorial Highlights



# JAMAICA COMMITS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS

Jamaica announced four (4) Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs), to support the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF), 2017- 2030, at the recently held 13th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

The goals and targets under the UNSPF, which are to be achieved by 2030, support the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests and aim to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The four VNCs are:

- to improve watershed management planning (adaptation to climate change) within targeted forest estates to support sustainable forest management;
- upscale gender sensitive alternative livelihoods to support the sustainable utilization of forest resources by local communities;
- increase the areas of mangroves under protection and develop a Mangrove Management and Conservation Plan to support this initiative;
- and strengthen the policy and legislative framework for the forest sector.

Speaking on the opening day of the 13th Session of the UNFF which was held in New York from May 7-11, Ms. Marilyn Headley, CEO & Conservator of Forests at the Forestry Department, and head of delegation, said that the foundation has already been laid for Jamaica to achieve the targets associated with each stated contribution.

“In the last year we have been able to finalise the Forest Policy (for Jamaica) and complete the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan.

The Forest Plan which was approved by Parliament in February 2018 that provided the necessary foundation for our Voluntary National Contributions,” Ms. Headley said.

In support of Global goal one, Ms. Headley noted that the country commits to verifying at least 10,000 hectares of forest land to support national level efforts to sustainably manage forest cover. Additionally, reforestation activities will result in 300 hectares of denuded land being replanted and 1000 hectares of previously established plantations being maintained. In addition the management responsibility for 7000 hectares of state owned mangrove forests will be transferred to the Forestry Department.

Jamaica also committed to improving the livelihood options for community members who live in close proximity to our forests. In that vein, a minimum of \$2 million Euros has been identified under the European Union’s Budget Support Programme for Jamaica’s Forest Sector over the next four years.

“It is anticipated that the benefits from this intervention will result in multiple opportunities for not just the direct beneficiaries of the programme, but the country at large. This will serve to highlight the role that forests play in supporting social, economic and environmental development,” Ms. Headley highlighted.

In determining Jamaica’s VNCs, consideration was given to the tenets of the recently developed National Action Plan/National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (2016-2026), which among other things supports the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument. This ten-year plan has been developed to ensure alignment with Jamaica’s international obligations and is at the local level geared towards achieving national sustainable development objectives.

# FORESTRY ...80

Forestry ah 80, yes me fren'!  
 Suh yuh neva kno'? Well, mek mi tell yuh den,  
 From 1937, yes long time dem deh bout  
 Still nuff people nuh kno', but dis year dem plan fi get di  
 word out.

One year-long celebration an' everybody ah fi come on  
 board...

Staff...Schools...Businesses...Churches..all a unnu  
 Out ah road,  
 Suh look out ina di paypah, pan dem website,  
 Facebok an' Twitta  
 An' ina August, Denbigh sho' grung, Forestry bigga dan  
 eva.

Dem a hav' two Forest Trek; one ah east an' one ah west  
 Plus mural and staff competition but dem only  
 Awardin' di best.

Di usual planting activities fi Labour Day an'  
 National Tree Planting Day still a gwaan'  
 Suh yuh can get yuh free seedlings dem fi yuh  
 Schools, parks, yaad an' farm.

Suh Forestry a 80, yes fi tru'!  
 Now dat yuh kno' gwan guh tell yuh crew,  
 Di Forestry team deh all bout working along with nature  
 Yes, "80 Years of Growth; Safeguarding our Future".

**PATRIA MASON BECKFORD**  
**FOREST TECHNICIAN, FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**

# FORESTRY DEPARTMENT HOSTS COMMUNITY MEETINGS TO BOOST AWARENESS

The Forestry Department is hosting a series of community meetings aimed at increasing awareness of the agency and the role of its supporting stakeholders in sustainably managing forested areas across the island.

The meetings are being held under the theme, "Sustainable Forestry and Livelihoods".

Three meetings were held in the month of June, two in Clarendon and one in St Andrew. At least nine additional meetings are slated to be held before the end of the 2018/2019 Financial Year (FY).

The presentations covered a number of areas including an overview of the Agency, compliance with forest legislation, alternative livelihoods, the European Union Budget Support Programme for the forest sector and forest management activities within the various areas.

Meanwhile, five forest fire management training sessions will be conducted in the next quarter in the parishes of Clarendon, St. Thomas and St. Mary. The sessions are aimed at raising awareness about forest fires and equipping communities to be better able to prevent and suppress forest fires.



*Photos from the meetings held in British, Clarendon on June 12 at the First Holiness Church of God in Wardhill and Woodford, St. Andrew at the Woodford Homework Centre on June 13.*



## INDUSTRY NEWS

# HALTING DEFORESTATION: FROM ASPIRATION TO ACTION

**BY ADRIAN CALLOWAYEVA MÜLLER**

*Director, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
20 February 2018*

Imagine an area the size of Belgium, blanketed by forests and trees which provide food, fuel, medicine, shelter, and income for local inhabitants while conserving soil and water for farms and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.

Now, imagine that area stripped entirely of its trees. This is the amount of forest area lost to the world each year. The total cost of this deforestation is immeasurable, with impacts extending far beyond the forest itself.

Once forests and trees have disappeared, so too will the integrity of the soil and water systems they supported — often permanently. Approximately 75% of all freshwater for farms, industry and homes comes from forests and wetlands. Forests also sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem, and when they are burnt, this carbon is released back into the atmosphere, impacting adversely on the global climate.

Deforestation's negative impacts for people and the environment are thus far-reaching and serious. Increased forest loss also means that, without major corrections in land use, the world will fail to meet crucial global targets, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Deforestation threatens achievement of forestry targets under the Goals, as well as SDGs on eradicating hunger and poverty, preserving health and fighting climate change — which rely heavily on the goods and services that forests provide.

To put this degree of interdependence into perspective, we need to look at SDG 15 on 'Life on Land.'

In July, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) will review progress towards this Goal, which calls for, by 2020, promoting the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and substantially increasing afforestation and reforestation globally. These are highly ambitious targets. SDG 15 requires the world to ensure that through the sustainable management of forests, we also protect biodiversity; restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; and halt and reverse land degradation.

None of these measures can be achieved if forests are not at the heart of policies, development strategies, and actions that go far beyond the forest sector.

This is because many drivers of deforestation lie outside the forest sector and are rooted in wider social and economic issues, including challenges related to reducing poverty, and policies that favor land uses that produce higher and more rapid financial returns, including energy, mining, transportation, and agriculture.

Further, a growing world population projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050 makes it critically important to find ways to feed people while maintaining and expanding forests to meet other human needs.

Read more at: <http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/halting-deforestation-from-aspiration-to-action/>

## NEW WEBSITE FOR FAO REPRESENTATION FOR JAMAICA, THE BAHAMAS AND BELIZE

The FAO Representation for Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize has introduced its first website. The launch of the website is a timely accomplishment for the FAO office, which is currently celebrating 40 years of representation in Jamaica.

The website provide more targeted content on FAO's work with the Governments of Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize and offers regular updates of news, success stories, publications, audio-visual resources and project information. Quarterly newsletters will also be available on the website along as well as direct access to the FAO Twitter page for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, the establishment of an FAO Office in Jamaica in 1978 ushered in the dawn of more targeted technical support to promote the development of the country's food and agriculture sector. In its 40th year as a Representative Office in Jamaica, FAO continues to work with the Government of Jamaica to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development primarily through its Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCPs).

Throughout the years, FAO's work in the country has spanned policy development, technical skills mobilization, institutional strengthening, the promotion of women in agriculture, resilience building, resource mobilization, youth engagement, advocacy, community empowerment, participatory learning approaches and the investment in rural and agricultural development.

Shaped by the FAO Country Programming Framework for 2016-2019, FAO's work will focus on value chain development for strengthening food systems, food and nutrition security and building resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Eight TCPs, a South to South Cooperation Project with Chile, and a joint United Nations Project, targeted at promoting food and security nutrition and building resilience of rural, peri-urban and urban communities are programmed for 2018. Another major highlight for the celebratory year is the convening of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in March 2018, held in Jamaica for the second time in 50 years.

**Source: FAO Newsletter Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize Newsletter; March 2018**

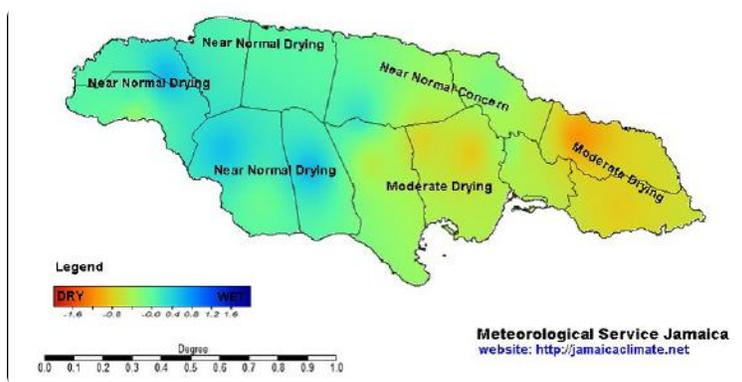
**For more information, visit FAO's website: <http://www.fao.org/jamaica-bahamas-and-belize/en/>.**

## HIGHER-THAN-NORMAL TEMPERATURES AND REDUCED RAINFALL EXPECTED FOR JUNE-AUGUST

During the period June to August the forecasts are indicating warmer-than-normal temperatures with a chance of below-normal rainfall. During the period the models continue to predict a decline in rainfall amounts across most areas as we transition into the mid-summer drought.

With current projections now indicating a decline in rainfall over most stations over the next three months, there is a possibility that this could lead to occurrence of drought conditions in some areas.

### SPI Analysis for Forecast Drought Conditions Through to August 2018



#### What Is Likely

##### + Impacts

- Fewer Flash flood events.
- Replenished dams and reservoirs over western parishes.

##### - Impacts

- Increased chance of heat stress related events.
- Increased chance of drought events over eastern parishes.

**Source: Climate Impact Newsletter, Vol 24 Issue 1; June 2018**

# Pictorial Highlights

During the quarter, colleagues from the Western Zone participated in a number of events, namely, the Sherwood Content Development Committee's 5k Walk/Run in Trelawny on May 23; the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Conference and Expo 2018 on May 18 in Manchester; and the Sustainable Development Goals' Western Consultation and Exhibition on May 29 in St. James.

Below are pictorial highlights from the events.



The Western team distributes seedlings following the Sherwood Content Development's Committee 5k Walk/Run.



The Western team interacts with visitors to our booth at the Sustainable Development Goals' Western Consultation and Exhibition.



The Western team representing at the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Conference.

## **Mission**

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

## **Vision**

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

## **Core Values**

Commitment   Confidentiality   Teamwork   Integrity  
Professionalism

Forestry Department  
173 Constant Spring Road  
Kingston 8  
Phone: 876-924-2667-8  
Fax: 876-924-2626  
E-mail: [fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm](mailto:fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm)  
[www.forestry.gov.jm](http://www.forestry.gov.jm)

Find us on:

