

FOREST NEWS

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Forestry Department records Significant Increase in Jamaica's Forest Cover

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One of the assessment's significant findings is the net increase in Jamaica's forest cover, which moved from 40 to 47.9 per cent...



EARTH DAY



Fighting Deforestation as a nation: A Labour Day Seedling Distribution

SUNRISE
7:15:10 AM

NOW: FORESTRY DEPARTMENT LABOUR DAY
GROWING THE NATION THROUGH SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION

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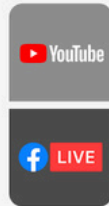
MINISTRY OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING

ON JAMAICA'S PROTECTED AREAS POLICY
(GREEN PAPER)

TUE
JUL
16
2024

2
00
UNTIL
4:00
PM



WATCH IT LIVE ON
JIS & MEGJC YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK
@jis and @megjc_jm

▶ JIS | ▶ MEGJC | f JIS | f MEGJC

Read the Overarching Protected Areas Policy Green Paper at www.megjc.gov.jm. Written comments may be submitted via email to erm@megjc.gov.jm. Comments sent via email should read "*Overarching Protected Areas Policy for Jamaica*". Written comments in hard copy should be sent to the **Environment and Risk Management Branch**, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, 16A Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 5, no later than **July 30, 2024**.

What's your take on how Jamaica's protected areas should be managed?



[Click to read the policy.](#)

Let your voice be heard at the town hall meeting.



Forestry Department records Significant Increase in Jamaica's Forest Cover

Ahead of the public release of groundbreaking findings on the state of Jamaica's forests, the scientific arm of the Forestry Department met key stakeholders to share these findings and receive feedback in a validation meeting at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, on June 26, 2024.

The Land Use-Land Cover Change Assessment (LULCA), which is conducted every ten years, was concluded last year to identify changes in Jamaica's forest cover between 2013 and 2023.

One of the assessment's significant findings is the net increase in Jamaica's forest cover, which moved from 40 to 47.9 per cent. Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Principal Director of Corporate Services, who represented Mr. Ainsley A. Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests, who is away on duty travel at the 26th IUFRO World Congress, said,

"This surge in forest cover not only underscores our commitment to safeguarding and expanding our natural resources but also validates the efficacy of our strategic initiatives and policies, such as the National Forest Management & Conservation Plan and the Forest Policy for Jamaica, 2017."

When asked whether the advanced technology employed revealed existing forest cover or an actual increase, Ms. Sashel Bennett, the Agency's spatial analyst...

[Click to read full article](#)

Earth Today | Deforestation a threat to climate stability, economies

Report urges countries to ramp up efforts to save forests

WITH FORESTS and their wide-ranging offerings to humanity, including as an enabler for climate security, in jeopardy, a new report has called for scaled-up actions to halt deforestation.

Failure to do so, the report predicted, will lead not only to an unstable climate, but also livelihoods loss and impaired economies.

“Intact forests are extraordinary resources whose role in supporting flourishing economies and societies is often overlooked. They regulate water supply. They provide essential resources for people. They are home to pollinators that food systems depend upon,” reads a section of the new Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) report titled Raising ambition, accelerating action: Towards enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions for forests.

“They are also vital for storing carbon, which contributes to mitigating climate change. Yet deforestation threatens the provision of these benefits, endangering the economies and societies that need them,” it added.

As things stand, the report revealed, country pledges to reduce deforestation in REDD+ countries, as well as to financially support this transition from developed countries, are “insufficient to halt deforestation by 2030”.

Source: The Gleaner

Written by: Petre Williams-Raynor

[Click to read full article](#)

Fighting Deforestation as a nation: A Labour Day Seedling Distribution



“Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking.”
— Wangari Maathai




(Above) Patrons gather to collect seedlings for planting ahead of Labour Day during the Forestry Department's Labour Day Seedling Distribution (May 14-24, 2024), which offers up to 10 free seedlings to each citizen at the Agency's three nurseries. (Below) Sophia Gooden-Morris, Forest Technician at the Forestry Department, gives a customer seedlings during the seedling distribution at the Moneague Nursery in St. Ann.


EARTH DAY HIGHLIGHTS

We celebrated Earth Day and Earth Week by diving into some muddy adventures to restore tree cover and forest ecosystems. Click the thumbnails to catch a glimpse of our eco-warrior escapades!




 The Great Mangrove Cleanup
Buccaneer Beach, Kingston



 Sandals Foundation x Forestry
Department x Jamaica Fire Brigade
Bogue II Forest Reserve



 Earth Day Plant Sale
Portmore Municipality,
St. Catherine



 Aubyn Foundation x Forestry
Department
Black River Primary School



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY



BE PART OF THE PLAN
International Day
for Biodiversity
2024



BE PART OF THE PLAN.

Plant trees.



Dispose of your garbage properly.



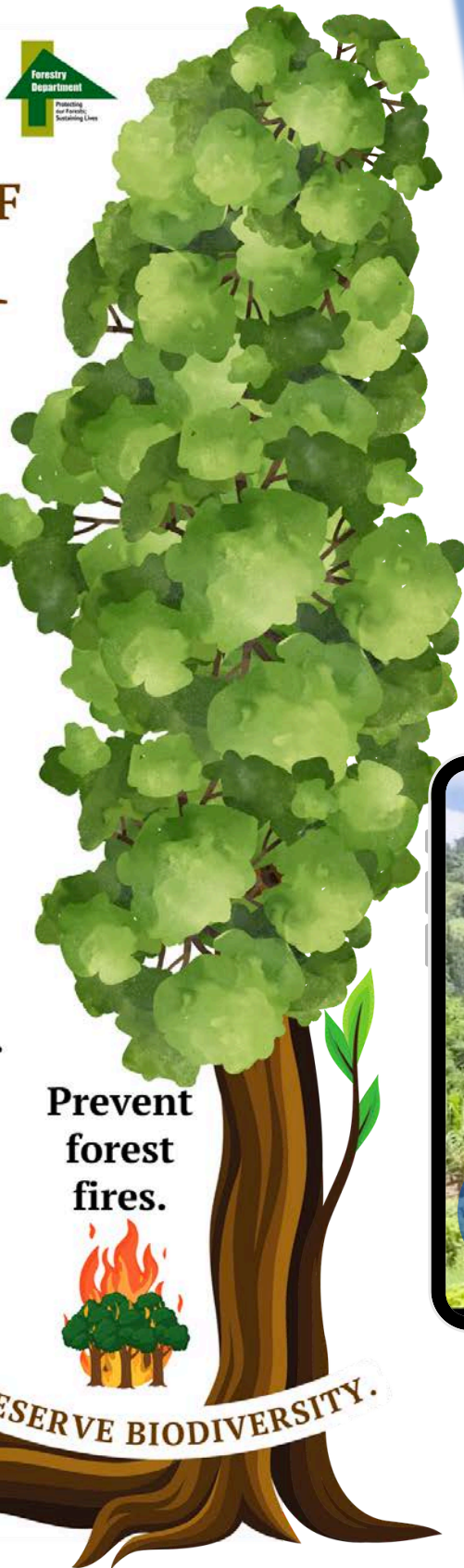
Protect fauna.



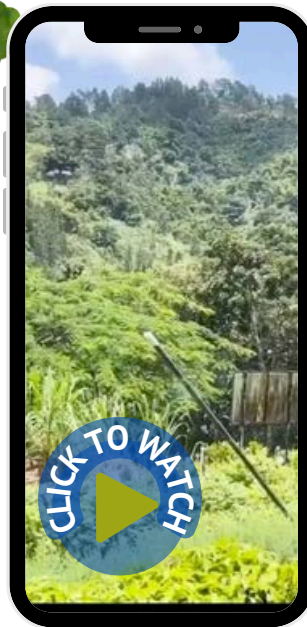
Prevent forest fires.



PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY.



Customers and staff show their support for tree planting on International Day for Biodiversity, May 22, 2024, during the Forestry Department's Labour Day Seedling Distribution at the head office.

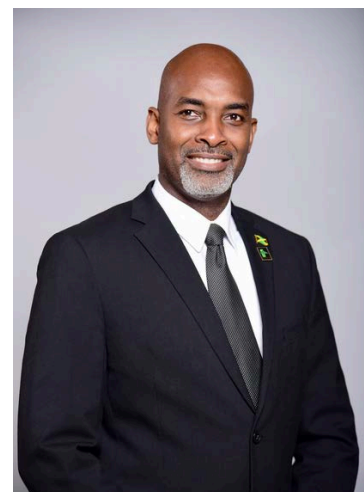


WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



“As this year’s World Environment Day theme focuses on Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience, the Forestry Department encourages everyone to recognise the value of our forests and to act in a manner that protects them. Plant trees to increase our tree/forest cover; don’t encroach on protected areas to farm and raise animals; don’t illegally harvest timber and forest produce. Remember, the loss of tree cover can lead to soil erosion, reduction in biodiversity, more intense floods, and longer droughts. Land restoration, preventing desertification and building drought resilience in Jamaica requires all of us to do our part. Our changing climate demands positive action now to secure our future.

Ainsley A. Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests, Forestry Department





TREES IN THE CITY Tips & Tools for Pruning

Tree Pruning:

WHERE TO START

On one hand, trees are remarkable protectors during storms and hurricanes. On the other hand, they can cause severe damage to homes and property, especially if they are not properly maintained. Whether in urban or rural areas, tree pruning is an effective practice that helps to keep trees healthy to protect your family and property throughout the hurricane season.

Nevertheless, there is more to pruning than simply removing branches. A haphazard approach is the wrong approach. But, where do you start? Click the video thumbnail above, and watch as Marco Shaw, Forest Technician in the Silviculture Branch at the Forestry Department, guides you through tips and tools for pruning your trees.



Hurricane Tips



[Pruning your trees](#)



[Handling trees after a hurricane](#)

Photo Highlights



Labour Day Tree planting with St. Mary High



Alligator Head Open Day



Earth Day Tree Planting



The Great Mangrove Cleanup



Labour Day Seedling Distribution



Labour Day Plant Sale, Portland



World Oceans Day



World Environment Day Tree Planting



Apiculture Training



See highlights of some of FD's forest stewards in action.

For more information:



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