



Forest News

PARTNERS' EDITION

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Food for the Poor
to Plant One
Million Trees

Mangrove Forests,
A Lesson on
Resilience

It's beginning to
Look a lot like
Christmas!



what's inside

- 04** Food for the Poor to Plant One Million Fruit and Timber Trees

- 06** Mangrove Forests, A Lesson on Resilience

- 08** Forestry Department Clamps Down on Illegal Activities

- 09** Industry News

- 10** Know Your Forests

- 11** It's beginning to Look a lot like Christmas!

- 12** How to use pine cones in your Christmas décor

- 13** Photography Highlight

We wish for you a

Merry Christmas

and a new year filled with
love, joy, peace and the
best of health!



Food for the Poor to Plant One Million Fruit and Timber Trees

Hon. Parnel Charles Jr., Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change (2nd right) planting a Lignum Vitae Seedling alongside our CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ainsley A. Henry (right) and representatives of the Jamaica Millennium Vision for Youth organization at the Boulevard Baptist Church in observance of Youth Month last Wednesday.

The Forestry Department has secured a commitment to plant one million fruit and timber trees over the next three years from Food for the Poor Jamaica in support of the National Tree Planting Initiative “Three Million Trees in Three Years”, under a programme dubbed, “Fruits for the Poor”.

The announcement was made by Director of Agriculture & Fisheries at Food for the Poor, Mr. Nakhle Hado during a tree planting event organized by the Forestry Department in observance of Youth Month, under the theme, ‘ReThinkYOUth’, at the Boulevard Baptist Church on Wednesday, November 25.

“Food for the Poor is pleased to embark on this initiative to be involved in the restoration of our environment and are extremely happy to be planting the first set of trees at two homes that involve youth empowerment,” he said.

About 25 trees were planted at the Homestead Place of Safety and the Wortley Home for Girls as part of the Fruits for the Poor Programme on Wednesday.

Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Parnel Charles Jr. in commending Food for the Poor for partnering with the Forestry Department in support of the 3 in 3 initiative, noted that he will be seeking to expand the ‘fruit for the poor’ initiative to other corporate entities.

In providing an update on the National Tree Planting Programme, Minister Charles said that the Forestry Department had taken practical steps to ensure the programme’s success by ramping up the production of seedlings. He also said that 250,000 seedlings, a mixture of timber, ornamental and fruit, have been planted and distributed and another 70,000 are scheduled to be distributed and planted before the end of 2020.

"I want to also give special commendations to the corporate entities that are working with us to help advance the National Tree Planting Initiative; GraceKennedy Limited, Wisynco Group Limited, Noranda Bauxite and the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica which will collectively facilitate the planting and care of more than 700,000 trees," he said.

He further noted that the commitments of these organizations should serve as motivation for other corporate entities to also make their pledges towards to a healthy natural environment.

Meanwhile, the Minister is making a special appeal to young people to start rethinking their role in environmental management and the impact of their actions as well environmental policies and programmes that are implemented and their far reaching impact across the country.

"It is for you to be the agitators, to be coordinators and the instigators of tree planting in your school and to teach them, lead them in understanding the importance of the initiative. Not only is it a matter of beautification, but it is a matter of our own existence as our lives depend on the capacity of trees to help in sustaining lives," Minister Charles said.

Minister Charles says he envisions a future generation of leaders who have inherent in their contemplation and thinking, the importance, the awareness and understanding of why planting trees is important.

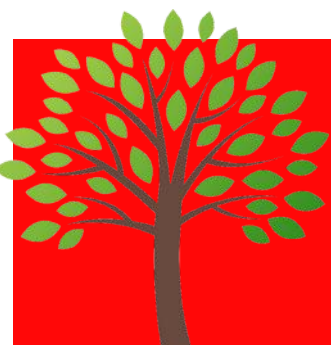


Director of Agriculture & Fisheries at Food for the Poor, Mr. Nakhle Hado (left) planting a fruit seedling at the Homestead Place of Safety last Wednesday with a representative of the organization and Project Officer at the Forestry Department, Alexander Beckford.



CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ainsley A. Henry (left), planting a fruit seedling alongside representatives of the Wortley Home for Girls and the Director of Agriculture & Fisheries at Food for the Poor, Mr. Nakhle Hado (right) last Wednesday.

NTPI 3-in-3 Tracker



255,600+
Number of seedlings distributed

250+
Number of hectares planted

1,700,000+
Pledges from Private Sector entities

Mangrove Forests A Lesson on Resilience

Short red mangrove saplings growing in coastal waters

Inland mangroves are proving more likely to recover and survive changes in their environment once anthropogenic threats are low.

This observation is one of the findings that has emerged as the Biophysical Inventory Unit of the Forest Science and Technology Services' Division conducts a national assessment of mangrove and swamp forests.

For, the period June- October of this financial year, the Agency assessed mangrove and swamp forests in Portland Cottage and Manatee Bay in Clarendon. These areas represent one of the largest remaining Mangrove ecosystems on the island, with vibrant biodiversity. These ecosystems cater for many endangered species; serve as fish sanctuaries and shelters for crabs and shrimps.



One of the many faunal species found in Portland Cottage



Wild Hog bedding (holes dug in the ground)

Based on the findings of the Agency's Land Use/Cover Change Assessment of Jamaica, 2015, most of the mangrove sub-blocks in these areas are vulnerable to anthropogenic disturbances such as increased residential land use, charcoal burning and agriculture. Coupled with animal grazing, hydrological alterations and the passing of natural hazards; the footprints of mangroves in these areas have been significantly reduced.

From field interpretations, most of these activities create breakages in the natural tidal exchange, causing flooding in some areas and dryness in other parts of the mangrove forests.

From field interpretations, most of these activities create breakages in the natural tidal exchange, causing flooding in some areas and dryness in other parts of the mangrove forests. A preliminary assessment suggests that waterways/channels, internal and external to these sub-blocks that once facilitated a fair exchange of salt and fresh water are now blocked with silt, debris and solid waste from human settlements. This blockage has caused hypersaline conditions to exist in the mangrove sub-blocks, killing plants and other faunal life.

However, the mangrove forests observed in Portland Cottage and Manatee Bay sub-blocks have developed a high level of resilience. While the records show that mangrove forest regeneration is being negatively affected, we have discovered that this is mainly related to the adverse effects of human disturbances as mangroves recover quite rapidly from hurricanes, storm surges and flooding. Changes in mangrove forest cover in the sub-blocks showed regeneration in a matter of years depending on the intensity, size and duration of disturbances. Yet, despite the impact, the damage is not permanent. Nonetheless efforts to replant mangroves in some areas is underway as the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), has started replanting exercises in Portland Cottage and the saplings are in good health.



Significant die back in Manatee Bay due to stagnant water and low tidal exchange

As a result, the Government of Jamaica, with funding from the European Union, is seeking to increase protection of these critical resources through the development of a National Mangrove Management Plan. This national initiative is being led by the Forestry Department, which is currently conducting an assessment of mangrove and swamp forests across the island which will support the transfer of all mangroves on crown lands to the Agency for management. Up to October 2020, the Forestry Department has sampled over 9,138 hectares of mangrove and swamp forests.

“The mangrove ecosystem has taught us that mangroves with more room to grow inland are more likely to recover and survive changes in their environmental conditions once anthropogenic threats are minimal.”

Forestry Department Clamps Down on Illegal Activities



The tractor that was seized with logs that were illegally cut in a section of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve in Westmoreland.

Two men have been found guilty of breaches of the Forest Act (1996), and Forest Regulations (2001), as the Forestry Department continues to clamp down on illegal activities in forest estates across the island.

Andre Salabi, 31 years old of Town Head District in Westmoreland was found guilty of felling trees and carrying a power saw in a forest reserve and removing forest produce while his accomplice, Alexander Cahoon, 63 years old also of Town Head District has been found guilty of removing forest produce.

The men were fined a cumulative sum of \$60,000 when they appeared in the Westmoreland Parish Court in Savanna-La-Mar on October 20, 2020.

Miss Tanika Stewart, Senior Director, of the Forest Enforcement Services Branch at the Forestry Department, said the prosecutions resulted from Forest Rangers acting on information received about illegal

logging in a section of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve.

The Agency's officers with the aid of the Grange Hill Police investigated and apprehended the accused men. This swift action resulted in the successful prosecution of the perpetrators.

"The incident resulted in the seizure of approximately 60 pieces of logs that had been cut in the forest reserve, a tractor, and a power saw. However, the power saw and tractor were returned by the Court to the two men upon the payment of the fines," Ms. Stewart said.

In the meantime, persons are being reminded that it is illegal to remove timber and forest produce from a forest estate without the proper permits and licences.

Under the Forest Act (1996), persons found in breach could face a maximum fine of \$500,000 and / or imprisonment not exceeding two years. Under the Forest Regulations (2001), perpetrators could be fined up to \$50,000 or face imprisonment of up to one year.

"We are encouraging everyone to go the legal route by obtaining a permit or licence so we can better manage and conserve our forest resources for the benefit of present and future generations," Ms. Stewart.

Citizens are also being encouraged to call the Forestry Department at 876-618-3205 to report any illegal activity that may be observed in any forest estate. All information provided will be handled with the strictest of confidence, and persons are not required to provide their names or contact information when making reports.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Climate change: Temperature analysis shows UN goals 'within reach'

A new analysis, seen by the BBC, suggests the goals of the UN Paris climate agreement are getting "within reach."

The Climate Action Tracker group looked at new climate promises from China and other nations, along with the carbon plans of US President-elect Joe Biden.

These commitments would mean the rise in world temperatures could be held to 2.1C by the end of this century. Previous estimates indicated up to 3C of heating, with disastrous impacts. But the experts are worried the long-term optimism is not matched by short-term plans to cut CO₂.

For more than a decade, researchers from the Climate Action Tracker have kept a close eye on what countries' collective carbon-cutting pledges mean for our warming world. After the failed Copenhagen summit in 2009, the group estimated that global temperatures would rise by 3.5C by the end of this century.

But the creation in 2015 of the Paris climate agreement, which was designed to avoid dangerous warming of the Earth, made a considerable impact. As a result of the international deal, countries slowly started to switch away from fossil fuels. In September this year, the group concluded that the world was heading for warming of around 2.7C by 2100. This figure was still far above the 2C goal contained in the wording of the Paris pact, and nowhere near the more challenging 1.5C target that scientists endorsed as the threshold to destructive warming in 2018.

Their new "optimistic analysis" now suggests a rise of 2.1C by 2100.

So what's really changed? The past three months have seen some key developments. In September, China's President Xi Jinping told the UN that his country will reach net zero emissions by 2060, and that its emissions will peak before 2030. According to the CAT researchers, this could reduce warming by 0.2 to 0.3C by the end of the century. Japan and South Korea have both followed suit, pledging to reach net zero by 2050. South Africa and Canada have also announced their own net zero targets. The other significant change is the election of Joe Biden in the US.

Tackling climate change is a major part of his agenda. He has promised to bring the US to net zero emissions by 2050. That move would reduce global temperatures by 0.1C by 2100. "We now have north of 50% of global emissions covered by big countries with a zero emissions by mid-century goal," said Bill Hare from Climate Analytics, who helped lead the Climate Action Tracker analysis.

"When you add all that up, along with what a whole bunch of other countries are doing, then you move the temperature dial from around 2.7C to really quite close to two degrees."

"It's still a fair way off from the Paris Agreement target, but it is a really major development," he told BBC News.

Source BBC. Read more at bit.ly/BBCClimate.

5 Know Your Forest: Facts about Stephney-John's Vale Forest Reserve

Did you know that the Stephney-John's Vale Forest Reserve is one of the largest forest reserves in Jamaica. It covers 6,675 hectares, stretching across the parishes of St. Ann and Clarendon.

Stephney and surrounding communities are heavily dependent on agriculture and the area is renowned for the cultivation of vegetables, ground tubers, legumes and to a limited extent pastoral farming (ruminants - cows and goats).

Here are five quick facts about this forest reserve:

1

The Stephney-John's Vale Forest Reserve has a high species-count with species richness of 148. *Pinus caribaea* (Caribbean Pine), an introduced species, is the dominant species in the reserve followed by *Swietenia macrophylla* (Honduras Mahogany), another introduced species. The other three (3) species in the top five (5) species found in the reserve are native to the island.

2

This forest reserve is part of Forest Management Unit # 3. The Greenock forest reserve, Kellits-Camperdown forest reserve and Camperdown forest estate also forms part of the FMU.

3

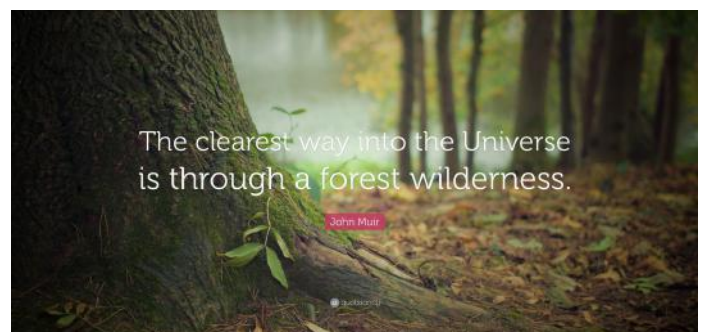
The Stephney-John's Vale Forest Reserve is an upland catchment for the rivers of the Rio Bueno-White River watershed in St. Ann and makes minor contributions to the Rio Minho watershed in Clarendon. It is important that this catchment is preserved since 28.16 % of households in Clarendon and 2.8 % of households in St. Ann use springs and rivers as a source of water.

5

There are three Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) that exist within the communities across the forest reserve. These communities facilitate the participation of residents and community-based organizations in the management of the forest reserve. They are Stephney, Hessen Castle and Grants Mountain LFMCs.

4

The Mason River Protected Area Bird Sanctuary and Ramsar Site, a wetland which hosts Jamaica's only inland bog, is located in the vicinity of the forest reserve. The property was designated as Jamaica's fourth Wetland of International importance in 2011 under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



It's beginning to Look a lot like Christmas!

It's Christmas time and while the yuletide season will be different as we continue to observe the Covid-19 guidelines to stay safe, we can still keep the Christmas Spirit in our homes by decorating our spaces.

What says Christmas more than a Christmas Trees and pine cones? Whether it's your home, or offices, Christmas trees are a must have and pine cones are perfect for adding the Christmas spirit to your spaces.

Choose a Natural Christmas Tree

As you consider whether to get an artificial tree or a natural Christmas tree, consider these reasons why a natural Christmas tree is a better option:



1

Aroma – It provides a wonderful fresh pine aroma that will waft through your nostrils when you enter the space. The wonderful aroma is a pleasant representation of the Christmas season.

2

Cleans the Air – While growing, a natural Christmas tree helps to clean the air. Trees breathe in pollutants like carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. So you can consider getting a potted tree which will keep giving even when it's not Christmas.

3

Easy to recycle – Yes, an artificial tree is reusable, but a natural Christmas tree can be recycled as compost or mulch and can be disposed of without harming the environment.

4

Contribute to the local economy – By purchasing a natural Christmas tree grown in Jamaica, you contribute to the local economy. You support small farmers who spend several months preparing for the season.

5

Grow your own – You could also experience the joy of growing your own tree (a tree will take 15 months to mature). You can grow it in a pot if you do not have yard space and continue to enjoy its beauty for several seasons to come.

How to use pine cones in your Christmas décor

Pine cones add a rustic look to your Christmas décor. They are also inexpensive and will spruce up your décor in a variety of ways. Here are five ways you may use pine cones to spruce up your décor.

- 1** Use them as Christmas trees decorations –coloured pine cones such as red, gold and silver pine cones stand out on green trees and will pleasantly complement other decor.
- 2** Use them to create fascinating and rustic Christmas wreaths to hang on your front door.
- 3** Make it bling- Add some bling to your décor by using glitter pine cones as decorations. Making them is quite easy as it requires adding glue to the pine cone and then dipping them in a combination of fine and micro-bead glitter. This will give the pine cones a sparkly unique appearance and texture.
- 4** Pine cones can be used to enhance space. For example, you can display the coloured and natural pine cones in a clear glass vase to make an interesting table centerpiece or accents for a room.
- 5** They are perfect for decorating potted plants. Add some coloured/ natural pine cones in your flower pots of your indoor and outdoor plants.

Where do you get Christmas Trees and Pine Cones?

The Forestry Department sells natural cut and potted trees, however, we are sold out for 2020.

In the meantime, you may also purchase a pack of natural pine cones (10 per pack) or a pack of coloured pine cones (5 per pack) from the Forestry Department's Head Office for only \$300 per pack.

Using these natural forest products (Christmas trees and pine cones) as part of your Christmas décor this season will enhance your space with naturally beautiful and environmentally friendly décor during the festive season. Try it!



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

On October 2 National Tree Planting Day was observed under the theme, "Healthy Trees, Healthy You; Plant a Tree Today". The day saw the Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Parnell Charles Jr., planting a Sweetwood seedling at the Agency's Head Office as well as conducting a tour of the plant nursery and compound.

On the day, the Agency also partnered with several organizations including The Golden Age Home, Portsmouth Primary School and the Noranda Bauxite Company to plant seedlings.

During the quarter, the Agency also observed National Youth Month and lead the planting of ornamental and fruit seedlings at the Boulevard Baptist Church, Homestead Place of Safety and the Wortley Home for Girls on November 25, under the theme, "RethinkYOUTH".





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

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