



# Briefing Module 4: Summary of REDD+ National Situation, Stakeholder Engagement Process & Next Steps



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## Acronyms

REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stock
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## Introduction

Jamaica is an Annex 2 party to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and its 2015 Paris Agreement. Annex 2 countries may earn results-based payments for maintaining or improving carbon stocks in standing tropical forests through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Plus (REDD+) programmes. REDD+ involves reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation as well as conservation, sustainable management of standing forests, and enhancements of forest carbon stock through initiatives such as agroforestry, reforestation, and afforestation. REDD+ creates an incentive for protecting and restoring forests ecosystems by creating market value for the carbon they sequester.

The Government of Jamaica is desirous of developing a national REDD+ programme to earn results-based payments from forest protection. The International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) is assisting the government with the development of the National REDD+ Strategy in what is known as Phase 1 of REDD+ programme development.

REDD+ offers Jamaica an opportunity to attract non-official development assistance finance not only for forest protection but also national development goals. Through participation in UN REDD+, Jamaica may have the opportunity to enrich carbon stocks by promoting agroforestry and sustainable timber production on unused agricultural land in a manner that addresses chronic development challenges such as providing greater access to lands for small farmers, especially youth and women, reducing the outflow of foreign currency by lowering the food import bill and producing timber for the construction sector where imports now fill the demand, and increasing economic activity in rural areas through community-based management of REDD+, agroforestry, value-added processing, and ecotourism linked to REDD+ and collaborative forest management. REDD+ also offers the country the opportunity to go beyond forests to brand Jamaica as a climate responsible destination with potential spin offs in tourism and to leverage its REDD+ efforts to attract finance for integrated national sustainable development.

In the last two years, research and analyses were conducted to help craft a REDD+ strategy that responds to international requirements and local social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs. These analyses were done in participatory manner with key stakeholder groups across Jamaica. The draft strategy is now ready for broader multi-stakeholder scrutiny and feedback and the conduct of a participatory Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the strategy to ensure that potential positive impacts are amplified, and negative impacts addressed.

This stakeholder information packet provides essential background information on REDD+ to help stakeholders understand the requirements of a REDD+ programme, situation in Jamaica, and how the proposed REDD+ strategy responds to requirements and local situational needs. During the last two years, essential information on REDD+ was provided on a rolling basis in all stakeholder engagements conducted. Feedback on findings were also shared in this manner. This packet documents that information and provides a background for stakeholders that are newly engaged. All planned engagement sessions will also provide explanations to reinforce the information provided here and give stakeholders an opportunity to clarify any matters.

The packet is organised into five Briefing Modules. Four of these are contained in this document, and the fifth on the is contained in a stand-alone accompanying document.

The modules herein are: The modules herein are:

- (1) Briefing Module 1: UN REDD+ and how it is governed at the international and national levels
- (2) Briefing Module 2: Required REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards
- (3) Briefing Module 3. Components of a REDD+ Strategy; and
- (4) Briefing Module 4: Summary of National Situation, Stakeholder Engagement Process and Next steps, and summary of Work in Progress REDD+ strategy

This is the fourth in the sequence of the modules. It provides information on the overall participatory approach to assessing the situation with respect to REDD+ in Jamaica, provides an overview of the findings and implications for the REDD+ strategy and outlines the stakeholder engagement process covering assessments through next steps to the final national validation workshop. It then summaries the main elements of the Work in Progress REDD+ strategy being discussed with stakeholders for input and refinement.

## Country situation

- Jamaica is a heavily indebted middle-income country that has been struggling for a long time with its balance of payments and debt servicing, there is very little finance available for social and economic development aspirations and forest management.
- Main industries impact heavily on environment – bauxite, tourism, agriculture.
- Downturn in large scale monoculture agriculture – sugar, citrus, dairy – has resulted in large swaths of idle land.
- Small scale farmers produce most of country's food but have a long-standing problem of needing land and greater business support.
- Best agricultural lands with gentle slopes and irrigation owned by the Crown or large-scale private entities, small farmers can only have access by rental and many cannot afford the rates, especially females.
- High national food import bill (around 900 mil USD to 1 bil) that is a drain on foreign currency.
- High unemployment, especially among women and youth, though this has come down in recent years, considerable employment is low paying.
- Country is a net timber importer (foreign currency drain) when there is scope for increased local production to meet local demand and save on foreign currency outflows.
- Tourism model is sun and sea, enclave development – not well ecologically or economically integrated with forest objectives, not a lot of direct economic benefits to rural communities, including those working on watershed protection and slope protection to keep roadways open that are a benefit to tour operators.
- Stagnation in rural/forest communities has been a long-term problem.

## Strong national economic and policy interest intersecting with REDD+

- Agroforestry / “food forests”.
- Rural economic development and opportunities, especially for rural youth.
- Reducing foreign currency outflows (balance of payments).
- Making idle Crown-owned farmlands productive again.
- ‘Sustainable Development’ – achievement of Vision 2030, which requires a consistent approach across sectors and landscape approach to land and resource management.

- Potential for Jamaica to attract substantial finance for conservation-based development as a co-benefit of REDD+.

## Strong local community interest intersecting with REDD+

- Hundreds of self-mobilized community groups in need of support for local sustainable land management and economic projects.
- Local Forest Management Committees can have a greater impact on conservation and local economic development through better co-management arrangements, benefit sharing arrangements, and access to support for ecotourism, agroforestry, sustainable timber production, and value-added products.
- Existing forest products commodity chains (timber, medicinal herbs, yam sticks, fish sticks, charcoal) which are informal but are well integrated into the formal sectors of construction, restaurants etc. need business development and sustainable forest management support to regularize and improve their business prospects.

## Forest governance needs

- Forestry Department's capacity is strong in technical forest management, private planting, and outreach but needs strengthening in social forestry - forest products and community-based, gender transformative resource management essential for REDD+ & forest management support to other sectors.
- Legislation to manage forests on private land not well developed or effective.
- No carbon legislation, and it is unclear as to the value of such legislation given the small size of Jamaica's forests, there may be more rewards in co-benefits of REDD+ rather than direct carbon payments for participants – benefit sharing mechanisms must be determined.
- Forestry Department will need to develop working relationships and active sustainable resource management and harvesting plans with stakeholders in forestry commodity chains – agroforestry, timber for construction and other uses, yam sticks, charcoal, non-timber forest products etc. Most of these activities are informal and understudied. There is insufficient information currently to support robust detailed REDD+ approach with this group of stakeholders, but financing and supporting this work is central to REDD+.
- Absence of functional co-management mechanisms and benefit sharing agreements with forest communities represented through Local Forest Management Committees, also there is no budget support for these Committees to discharge their functions as laid out in the Forest Policy



- Activities beyond the forestry sector greatly impact the country's forests – clearance of coastal forests for tourism infrastructure, road building, mining etc. Therefore, agencies and stakeholders responsible for governance in these areas must be engaged within the REDD+ framework.

## National Forest Situational Analysis

- Geospatial study shows 52% of island is under tree cover. Much of this is secondary forests or (passive regrowth on idle farmland).
- Only 24.5 percent of the land under tree cover is managed as forests (11% of the island) – Forestry Reserves and Forest Management Areas.
- Over the last twenty years there have been losses and gains flux in areas, mostly outside Forest Reserve.
- Even though there has been an overall gain in trees since the 1990s, the country continues to see losses in broadleaf, dry forests, and mangroves indicating that much must be done to protect these existing forests.

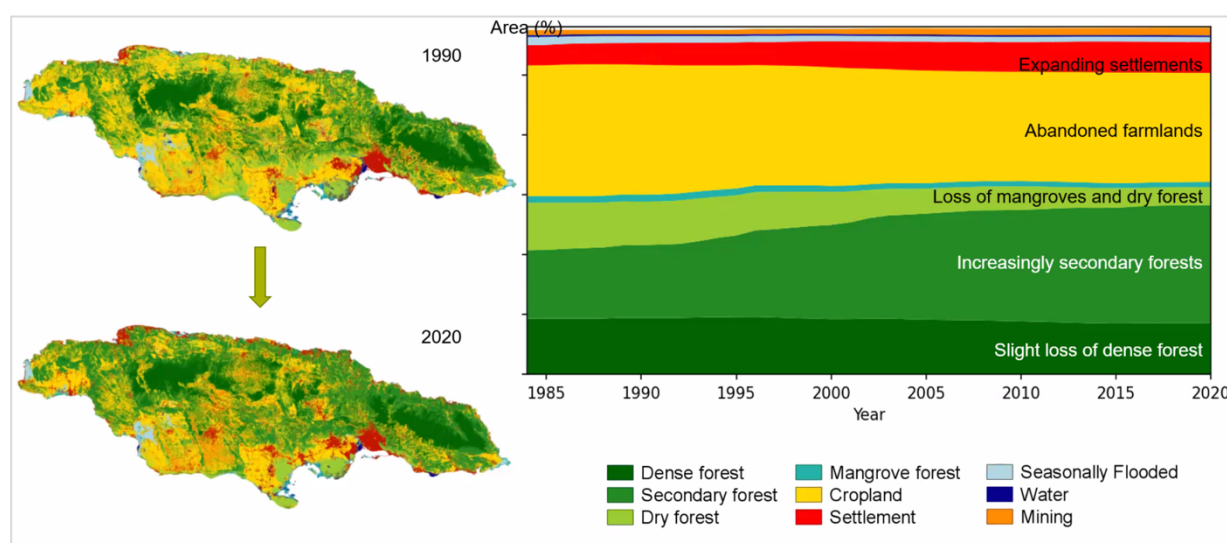


Figure 1" (Source: Sam Bowers, IIED-Led Team, University of Edinburgh)

- Most forests are found in discontinuous patches making them accessible and vulnerable at their edges to microclimate alterations that are not supportive of biodiversity conservation, also there is no N-S, E-W island ecosystem corridor system to support biodiversity linkages.
- There are multiple competing land uses and given Jamaica's small area, a "no net loss" policy is limited as a mechanism for compensating for deforestation. Also,



some forests that are being removed, such as mangroves, have high ecological value where they are located. Planting compensatory forests elsewhere cannot restore the lost ecosystem functions.

- Jamaica has lost more than 95% of its coral reefs which sheltered the land, including mangrove forests from wave damage. Mangroves are now even more important for protection in the context of increasing risk with climate change.

## Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

- The geospatial study shows that the major causes of deforestation (complete removal of forests and replacing with other permanent land use) over the last twenty years were: (1) The construction of middle- and upper-income settlements, coastal hotel and resorts and luxury developments, with the construction of formal low-income settlements also contributing, but to a lesser degree; (2) Bauxite mining; (3) Infrastructure development (mostly roads); and (4) Wildfires. Losses to informal settlements were not as significant as these other causes.
- Forest degradation is less visible from satellite analysis, but assessments with frontline stakeholders indicate that there is localized degradation associated with timber harvesting, wood harvesting for charcoal, yam and fish stick harvesting, animal grazing, and to some extent farming in forested areas. These effects have been greatly reduced through the combined effort of the Forestry Department and Local Forest Management Committees in the past twenty years. There has also been considerable restoration of areas that were degraded in the 1990s and community cooperation to conserve and protect existing forests.
- Farming generally results in a flux of clearance and regrowth.
- Jamaica's REDD+ strategy must address the causes of both deforestation and degradation to succeed in maintaining the national reference level for results-based payments.

## National forestland ownership

- Forest ownership is critical, as REDD+ programmes are for a 25–30-year horizon, requiring both the legal right and long-term commitment to land uses that meet the REDD+ objectives.
- Government is the most powerful and influential single bloc landowner and stakeholder in REDD+, 31 percent of all forested land plus extensive unforested lands.
- However, management of crown lands is spread between many agencies/bodies (e.g., Forestry Department, Urban Development Corporation, Sugar Holdings of Jamaica Ltd. etc.) – the different agencies need to work as a team if Jamaica is to develop a successful REDD+ programme.

- The Forestry Department has been working to determine holdings and potential for REDD+ protection and economic stimulus use such as agroforestry.
- Private land ownership is the biggest category of ownership (more than crown lands) but these lands are owned by many different owners.
- Lands owned in large portions (large scale) represent very high risk of reversals and failure in REDD+ (76%), as they fetch very high market price when sold for settlement and subdivision. Landowners do not have a natural economic incentive to commit these lands to protection. Market instruments (agroforestry, timber production) and instruments for protection of high ecological locations (e.g., extended forest law to certain private forests, buy backs and protection) will likely be needed to protect private forests.
- Private companies hold a substantial amount of land, though not all are forested and the prospect for inclusion into REDD+ would have to be explored on a case by case basis.
- There are often numerous owners for small areas of forests (less than 2 Ha), making management very complex.
- Small holders account for approx. 86% of private landowners in private tree planting – they have invested the most but have small lands, they need co-benefits and appropriate benefit sharing compensatory mechanisms

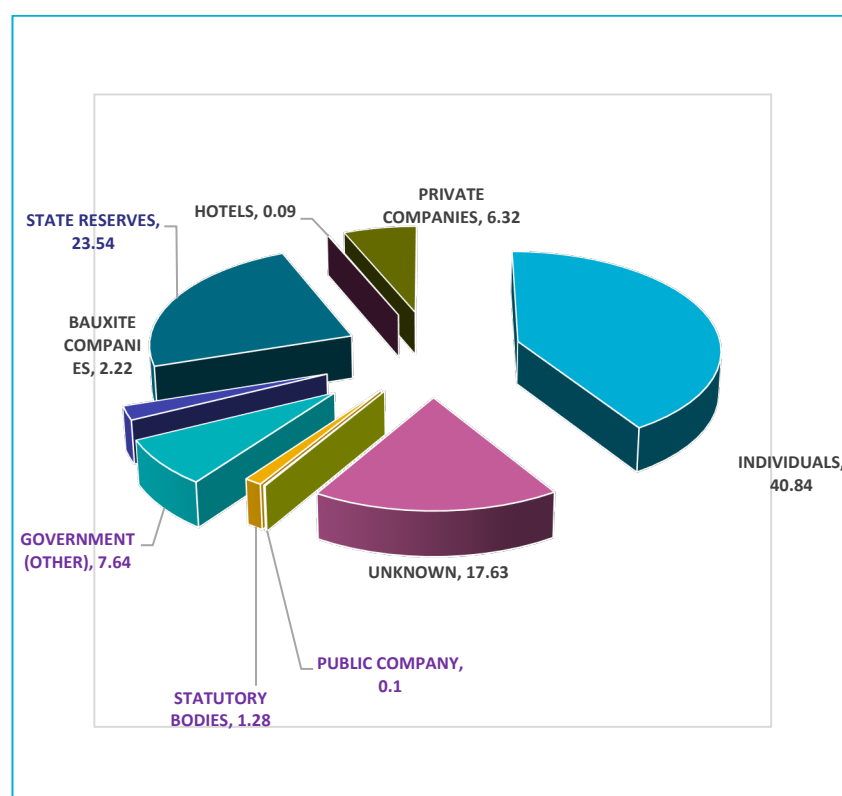


Figure 2: Chart of data provided by Forestry Department on forest ownership (Source: Forestry Department statistics, work in progress - being updated)



Figure 3: Example of multiple parcels of forest land belonging to different landowners in a small area of forests (Source: Sam Bowers, IIED-Led Team, University of Edinburg)

**JAMAICA**  
79.3 acres of land for sale Braco / Rio Bueno in Trelc approval for 180 lots.  
\$3,500,000

**Westmoreland**  
Old Hope, Westmoreland, Little London  
Development Land (Residential) For Sale  
Approximately 102 acres of prime development land featuring 2225 running feet of white sand beach, relatively flat land, rolling pastures and unspoilt...

**GREEN ISLAND, Green Island, Hanover Parish**  
Description  
In the heart of Green Island is this 1.3 acres beach front land, ideal for the construction of a small townhouse or an exclusive residential development. The property lot is situated between Mangrove Bay and Trelc, being 20 minutes from Mangrove Bay and 10 minutes from Trelc. The property has direct beach access at various points, and offers panoramic views of the North Coast. Contact us via email to get full details on this property.

**Westmoreland**  
Carawina, Petersfield, Petersfield  
Development Land (Residential) For Sale  
Fifty-two (52) acres of vast and beautiful land located in close proximity to Savanna-La-Mar, Westmoreland suitable for commercial or residential purposes....  
JMD \$100,000,000

**MLS-49663**  
USD \$6,500,000

**MLS-47438**

**PART OF GREAT VALLEY 41, Great Valley, Hanover Parish**

**USD \$330,807**  
JMD 285,000,000

Figure 4: Examples of land value sales of large areas of forests (Source: Simone Mangal-Joly, IIED-Led team)

## REDD+ stakeholder groupings

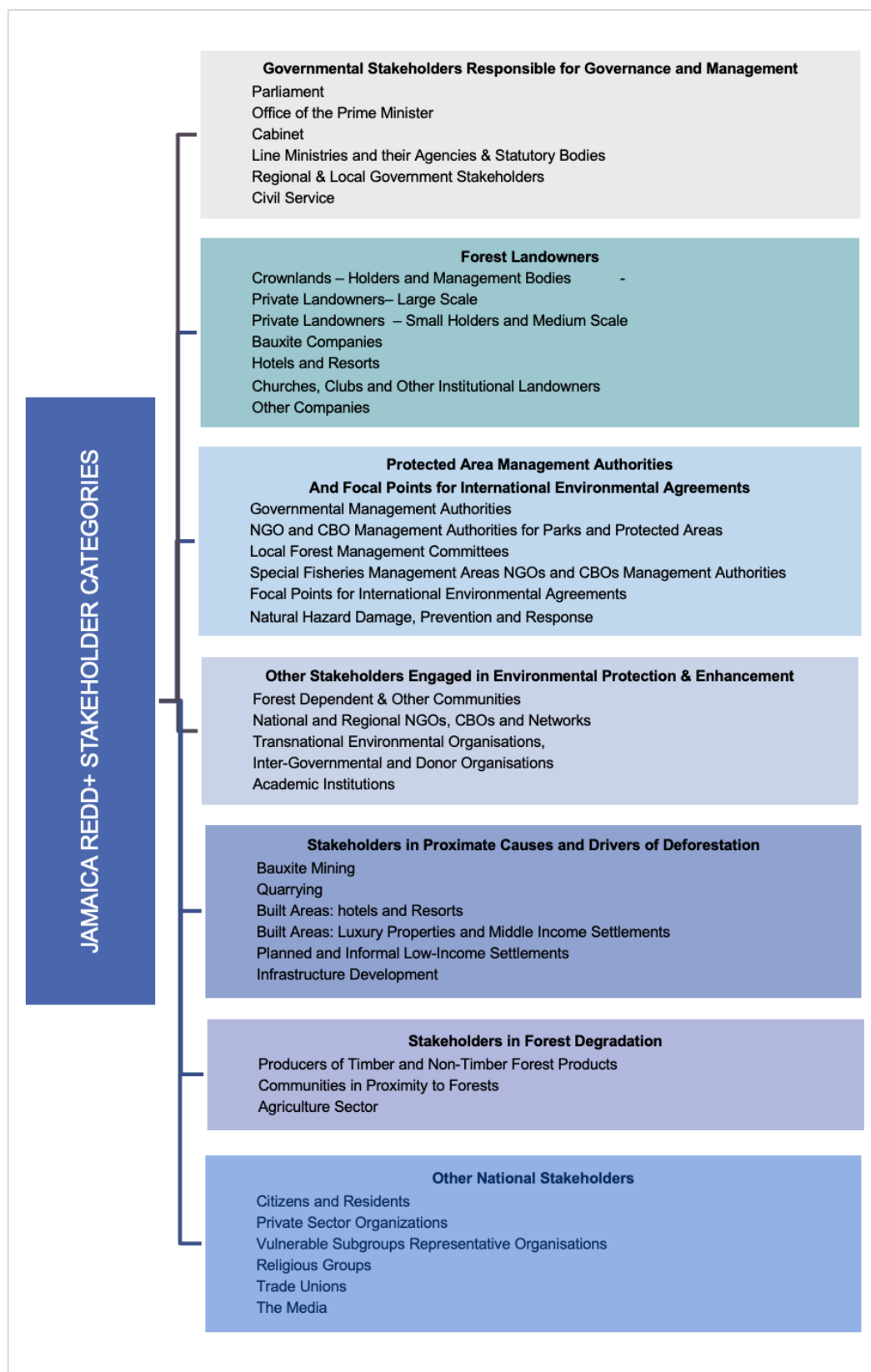


Figure 5: Categories and sub-types of REDD+ stakeholders (Source: Simone Mangal-Joly, IIED-Led Team)

## REDD+ stakeholder engagement process for developing the REDD+ Strategy

- The overall strategy is iterative, drawing on successive engagements with stakeholders to build a picture of the national forest situation, needs, and issues and gain feedback at all stages on potential areas of REDD+ intervention, risks, social and environmental impacts, and ways to address these in the design of the REDD+ strategy.
- Multiple sources of data for analysis that are cross-checked against other sources to improve accuracy (published peer review literature, technical reports, website, data from national agencies, rapid assessment through interviews, focus groups, workshops with stakeholders carried out commencing August 2021 to present.
- Engagements allows for stakeholders to contribute among their peers as well as through multi-stakeholder processes involving a range of stakeholders.
- The process allows for multiple reviews and scrutiny of information gathered by stakeholders as the strategy is built.
- Information sharing, training, and preparation for stakeholders before review of the national draft strategy and multi stakeholder social and environmental assessment component.
- All stakeholders will have the opportunity to scrutinize and provide feedback on final draft product at National Validation Workshop.

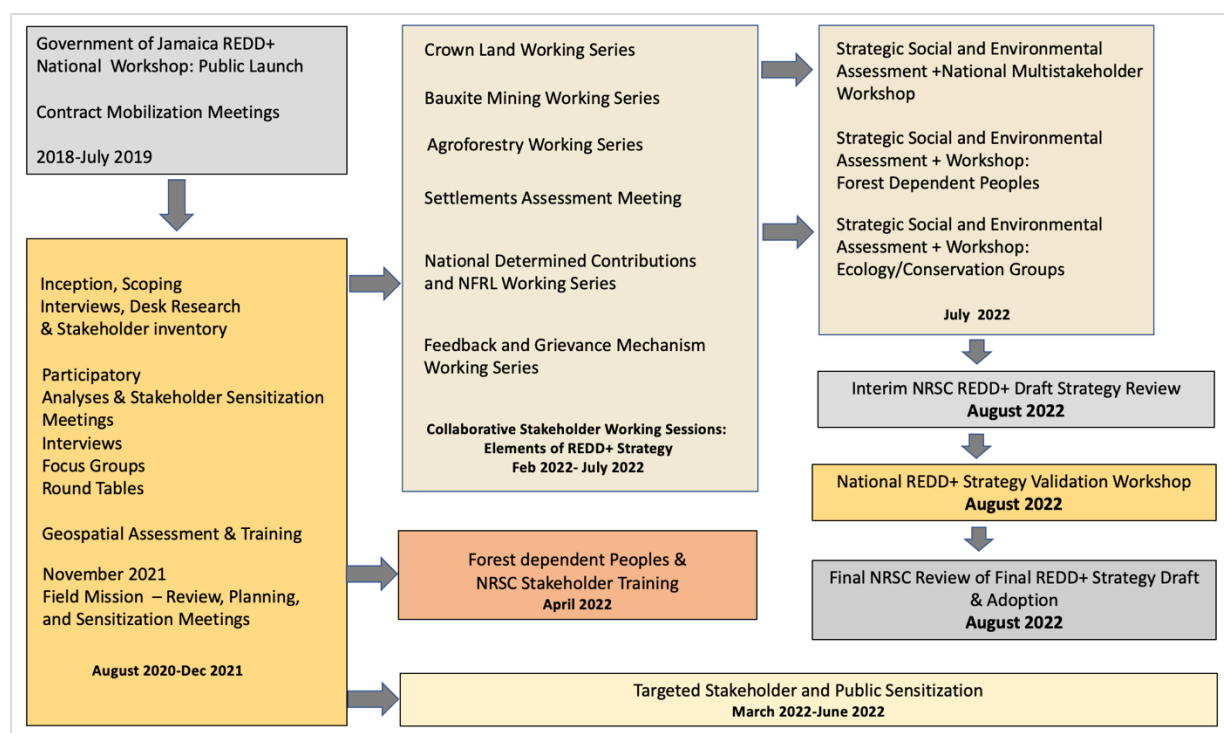


Figure 6: Indicative stakeholder process (Source: Simone Mangal-Joly, IIED-Led Team)



## Next steps for multi-stakeholder input

### **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment Workshops**

- Review and discuss pros and cons of the draft REDD+ strategy, gaps, and areas for improvement, specifically as it concerns local forest communities.
- Assess likely positive and negative social and environmental impacts of the policies and measures of the strategy (PAMs).
- Discuss measures to refine the draft strategy to address both positive and negative impacts and/or develop activities in an Environmental and Social Framework to avoid, monitor and/or minimize negative impacts and support potential positive impacts.
- Discuss strategy for integrating gender equity goals into the REDD+ strategy and additional supportive measures to enhance gender transformation, monitor, and evaluate outcomes.
- Discuss likely conflicts that could arise and what is the most suitable grievance procedures for communities.

### **Final National REDD+ Validation Workshop**

- This national multi-stakeholder workshop will present all the final REDD+ Readiness Phase 1 products for national scrutiny and validation and will be open to representatives of all stakeholder groups.



# Overview of Work in Progress REDD+ Strategy




**Jamaica REDD+**  
Support for REDD+ readiness preparation in Jamaica





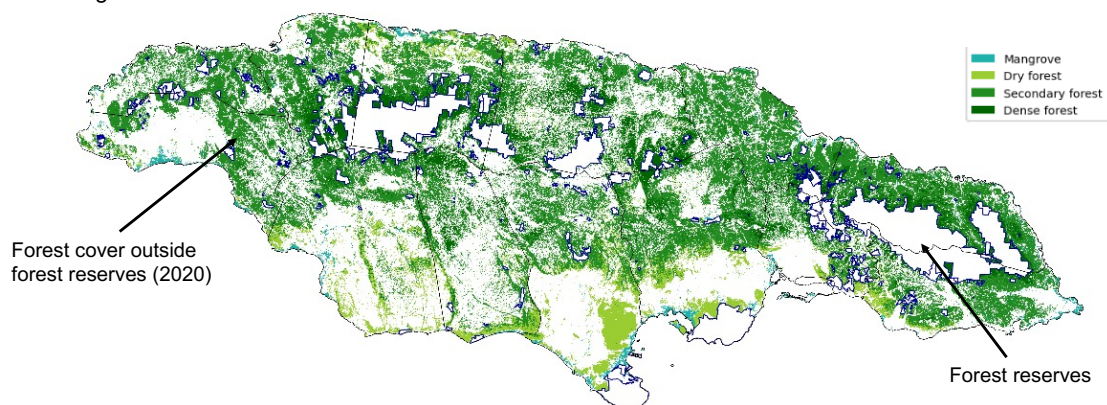
## REDD+ strategy discussion

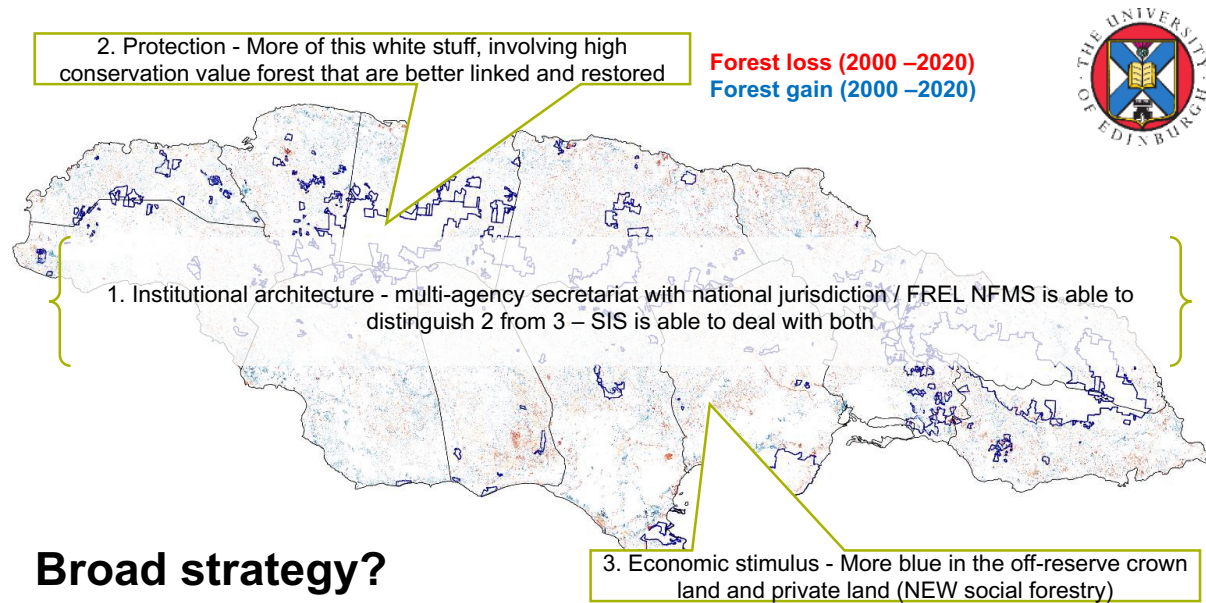
Preliminary thoughts for further elaboration

Duncan Macqueen, IIED Led Team

## The backdrop

- The majority of forest cover is not under the management of the Forestry Department
- Changes in forest cover, and therefore many of the opportunities for REDD+, are concentrated outside of existing forest reserves





## Objective 1. Establish REDD+ institutional architecture...and capability?

### Status – Broadly agreed but questions remain

This option requires the establishment of agreed:

1. Institutional structure - inter-agency management secretariat (who?) – NRSC (who?) – that can also drive more enabling policy and legislation
2. Unit to develop FREL, NRMS and MRV (FD Same as below?)
3. Unit to develop 'social forestry' (FD/RADA?) on non-reserve lands?
4. Unit to implement ESMP (Who? Same as above? Or same as social forestry unit?)
5. Unit to operationalise SIS (which incorporates the MRVs for the FREL – same as above?)
6. To what extent is capacity building separate objective or integral to the above?

## Objective 2. Crown lands – expanding forest on state land

### Status – Broadly agreed

This option requires the lead REDD+ agency to work with the agencies controlling crown lands to agree a commitment to more forest area on crown lands permanently under either

- (i) shifting forested crown lands outside forest reserves which have high ecological value into the category of forest reserves, including biodiversity-critical mangroves – TASK A steps to identify as laid out by Simone
- (ii) Redesignating underutilized crown lands to commercial forestry leases (?) to commercial timber growers, smallholder 'food forest' agroforestry? – TASK B steps as laid out by Simone

## Objective 3. SOCIAL FORESTRY A - Private land smallholders (<10Ha) – 'food forests' 'agroforestry' 'community forestry'

### Status – Broadly agreed but objectives, terms, approach need clarification

- How much land do smallholders occupy?
- To what extent are we making new land available for smallholders?
- To what extent does this require land reform / regularisation?
- To what extent is this restricted to LFMCs or goes beyond them?
- To what extent does this include Indigenous Peoples?
- To what extent is this value-chain work on problem products (charcoal, yam sticks, construction) and to what extent is it new value chains such as fruits, spices, timbers?
- To what extent is this about poverty reduction / versus large scale commerce?

## Objective 4. SOCIAL FORESTRY B - Private land - largescale owners (>10Ha) incentivising more permanent forest commitments

Status – Less agreed and requires thought

- Property tax remission for SFM – only 4 takers
- Private planting programme – forestry broaden to agroforestry? Reduce size threshold?
- Ecotourism incentive for conservation forests?
- Broader size-related tax incentives for land divestment?

## Objective 5. Mining lands – protection of ‘non-mined lands’ and community restored mined-out land

Status – Broadly agreed

- Non-mined lands – better conservation – community involvement?
- Forest restoration on mined out lands – community involvement?
- Resettlement planning?

## Objective 6. Settlement and infrastructure planning – strengthen a zero-net forest loss system

**Status – Not really agreed and highly political**

- Negotiate with the relevant planning authorities (NEPA, NHT, HAJ, UDC etc) an agreed process for ensuring zero-net-loss of forests in settlement and infrastructure developments
- Absolute limits on deforestation for settlement and infrastructure must protect critical forest categories (e.g., mangroves?).

## Objective 7. Tourism partnerships – agro- / ecotourism options

**Status – Not agreed and suggested merge with Social Forestry A B**

Unlikely to drive afforestation in any meaningful way. Best rolled into an option for income generation with social forestry

end