



The Convention's CEPA Programme: News from Jamaica

2 November 2004



Jamaica's new stamps feature Ramsar sites

In celebration of World Environment Day this year, the Government of Jamaica, with the assistance of the National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA, the Ramsar Administrative Authority), launched a series of stamps to celebrate the beauty and diversity of Jamaica's coastal wetlands. Two of the stamps featured Parrotree and Salt Spring Ponds, both wetlands that are part of the Black River Lower Morass, a 5,700-hectare Ramsar site made up of both inland freshwater and mangrove ecosystems.



The sheetlet of eight stamps released in Jamaica on June 4, World Environment Day, 2004

The stamps also featured several marine species that occur in Jamaica's coastal waters including the Hawksbill turtle, Tube sponge, Vase sponge and Star coral, Sea fan and White crinoid, Glassy sweeper and Giant sea anemone. The NEPA has, among its many functions, to "promote public awareness of the ecological systems of Jamaica and their importance to the social and economic life of the island" and these stamps certainly provide a great opportunity to raise awareness of the need to conserve Jamaica's natural resources and protected areas.

Our thanks to Marsha Mason, from NEPA for providing the Secretariat with the stamps and the Postal News sheet released with the first day cover.

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