



Jamaica



Jamaica's Report World Wetlands Day 2005 "There's Wealth in Wetland Diversity" – "Don't Lose It"

1. INTRODUCTION

Jamaica conducted a week of activities (January 30th- February 4th) in commemoration of World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2005. The activities included radio interviews and discussions, an open day, church services, tours, quizzes, model and essay competitions, exhibitions and publications. Activities were held along the western and southern coasts of Jamaica in the parishes of Kingston, Clarendon, Manchester and Westmoreland (Figure 1).

2. WORLD WETLANDS DAY ACTIVITIES

2.1 Kingston

In the capital city Kingston, WWD activities were held at the Fellowship Tabernacle Church, Port Royal Marine Laboratory (PRML), Institute of Jamaica (IOJ), and the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus.

2.1.1 Fellowship Tabernacle Church - Kingston Branch

On January 30, a commemorative church service was held at the Fellowship Tabernacle Church to launch the week of activities. The service included messages from the Minister of Land and Environment, Minister Dean Peart and the Chief Executive Officer of the National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica's Administrative Authority Mrs. Patricia Sinclair McCalla. Dub poetries were performed by Mr. Basil Forsythe and Miss Patrice Lawrence 6th form student of the Immaculate Conception High (Crocodile Lament and Lament of Mother Nature respectively) *see photographs below*.

2.1.2 University of the West Indies Port Royal Marine Laboratory

On February 2, the PRML, one of the marine research facilities of the University of the West Indies along with the National Ramsar Committee (NRC) and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) hosted an exhibition surrounding the day's theme "There's Wealth in Wetland Diversity – Don't Lose It". The main target audiences were schools groups within and in close proximity to the Port Royal Protected Area (Approximately 150 students and 12 teachers representing nine schools; primary and high participated). The exhibition was supported with presentations, discussions, quizzes and tours of the Palisadoes Mangroves. In addition, the students and their teachers were able to view an aquarium display of a *Rhizophora mangle* (Red Mangrove)

root community and its associated fauna, {constructed by the University of the West Indies (UWI) [Port Royal Marine Laboratory] through funding by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)}, which provided a 'hands on exposure of life below the surface'.

The day's event opened with a brief introduction to the PRML and a presentation on "The Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands" by Dr. Dale Webber, Chairman of the NRC. Dr. Webber in his presentation spoke on the ecology, functions and threats to the Palisadoes- Port Royal mangroves, its significance as a cultural and biological reserve and challenged participants to help to protect the valuable resources. Following the presentation, Mr. Marlon Hibbert, Scientific Officer PRML conducted a wetland plant identification exercise which involved participants identifying mangrove stems. At the end on the exercise participants were taken on a tour of the mangrove, they toured Refuge Cay a nesting area for marine birds and refuge for marine vessels during hurricane and storm surges. The tour continued to Fort Rocky Lagoon and mangrove forest via Goodbody's Channel *see photographs below*.

2.1.3 Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)

The Institute of Jamaica mounted an exhibition on WWD under the WWD 2005 theme in their Discovery Room (a multipurpose room, which allows visitors to the IOJ to interact with objects or some specimen on display giving hands on feel of them). The exhibition lasted for a month and was viewed by approximately four hundred (400) students and two hundred (200) adults who visited the IOJ during that period.

The exhibition featured posters on biodiversity from the following organizations:

- National Environmental Planning Agency (NEPA)
- Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT)
- The Urban Development Corporation (UDC)
- Black River Safari
- The University of the West Indies, Mona

2.1.4 University of the West Indies - Mona

The Administrative Authority NEPA mounted an exhibition focusing on WWD 2005 theme at the University of the West Indies Main, Science and Medical Libraries. The exhibits featured posters on:

- What are Wetlands
- Mangroves
- Ramsar Poster "There's Wealth in Wetland Diversity – Don't Lose It"
- Protected Wetlands of Jamaica
- World Wetlands Day 2005
- Studies, Surveys and Research Needs on Jamaica Wetlands
- From the Mountain to the Sea Wetlands at Work for Us

2.2 Portland Bight – Clarendon/ St. Catherine

The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM), a non-governmental organization hosted a forum at the Monymusk Gun Club and a tour of Bowers River, Clarendon (Portland Bight

Protected Area). Several community members and other stakeholders participated in the day's event.

In an address, Peter Espeut, Executive Director, CCAM gave an overview of the Portland Bight Protected Area. Following his address, he led participants in a vibrant discussion on 'Causes for Wetland Degradation'. The discussion set the stage for a talk on 'The functions of wetlands and why they should be conserved' by Brandon Hay, Scientific Officer, CCAM.

In Mr. Hay's talk, he highlighted the functions and diversity in wetlands, in particular Portland Bight. In sighting defense against storm surges and hurricane, Mr. Hay spoke to the recent passing of Hurricane Ivan on September 10, 2004. He added that, although severe canopy damage was done to the mangroves, they have shown positive signs of rebirth.

Following the presentation, the group was taken on a boat tour along the Salt River channel through the sea to the destination at Bowers River. Participants were exposed to the different activities (fishing along the river banks, fishermen diving within close proximity to crocodiles, church group worshipping on the river banks) wildlife (crocodiles basking in the sun) and landscapes along the river, *see photographs below*.

2.3 Fellowship Tabernacle Church - Mandeville Branch

A second church service was held on January 30, 2005 to mark WWD activities in Jamaica and notably, the western section of the Island. This was held at the Fellowship Tabernacle Church, Mandeville. The service included messages from the Minister of Land and Environment, Minister Dean Peart and the Chief Executive Officer of the National Environment and Planning Agency, Jamaica's Administrative Authority Mrs. Patricia Sinclair McCalla.

2.4 Negril - Westmoreland

The Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT), CEPA non-governmental organization focal point, celebrated WWD 2005 with an Open Day held at the Negril Royal Palm Reserve. The theme for the day was "*Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands*". The event saw over three hundred (300) participants; primarily students from the surrounding schools within the Negril Environmental Protection Area and stakeholder groups [community based organizations, hotel staff and their guests]. The day's events included interactive activities [guided board walk tours, wetland plant identification, quizzes and wetland model & essay competitions] and displays, which highlighted the importance of wetlands.

The day's events commenced with a presentation entitled "The Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands" by Mr. David Barrett of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ). His presentation incorporated useful analogies to inform the audience about the variety of life within the wetlands and the relationships between cultural and biological diversity. Following the presentation, Mrs. Dian Brown-Holgate explained the procedures associated in the successful propagation of Royal Palm (*Roystonea princeps*) seedlings. The Royal Palm Propagation Project at the Royal Palm Reserve are currently using these methods. The afternoon schedule resumed with a magic show by Neil "magic man" Goldberg; who incorporated magic tricks with illustrations and environmental awareness anecdotes. The final activities for the day included the highly contested final round of

the Wetlands Day Quiz Competition followed by the awards ceremony.

In the quiz competition, fifteen schools within the Negril Environmental Protection Area participated in this competition. Students were quizzed on aspects relating to the physiology and ecology of wetlands, as well as the diversity of flora and fauna it supports. Little London High School emerged the winner of this competition. Additionally, four schools entered the Wetland Model Competition. The objective of the model competition was for students to create a display using recyclable materials to depict ecological processes that occur within wetland ecosystems. Students from the Little London High School constructed the first place model. In the essay competition, the winning essay submitted came from Tereka Blake, a student of the Green Island Primary School.

Media coverage

The week's activities received wide coverage by a number of media houses - radio and print. The features and interviews sensitized the general public to the local and global significance of wetlands. On WWD, some media houses covered Facts and trivia throughout the day. Persons interviewed included Ainsley Henry, Environmental Officer, NEPA by Dervon Malcolm KLAS FM89 on February 1, 2005, Power 106 on February 2, 2005, Roots FM also on February 2, 2005 and Dr. Dale Webber, Chairman, National Ramsar Committee by Deon Jackson-Miller on Beyond the Headlines RJR on February 2, 2005 *see photographs below*.

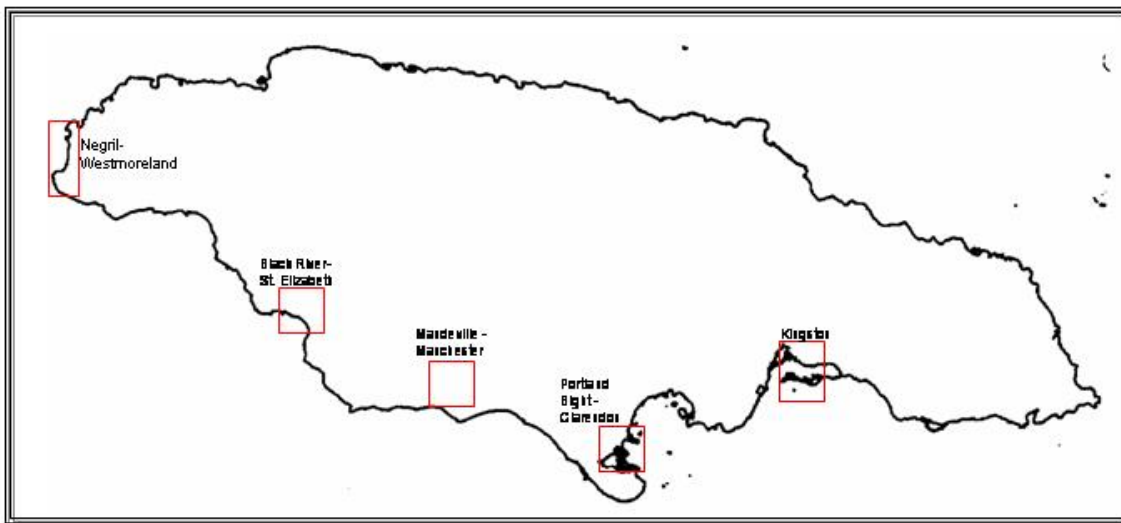


Figure 1: Map of Jamaica indicating areas where World Wetlands Day activities were held

JAMAICA
WORLD WETLANDS DAY
2005

MEMOIRE



PHOTOGRAPHS



**NOTATION
FELLOWSHIP TABERNACLE – KINGSTON BRANCH**

Ava Tomlinson, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, reading the second scripture at the Fellowship Tabernacle Kingston Branch

Basil Forsythe performing "Crocodile Lament"

Patrice Lawrence 5th form student Immaculate Conception High doing Lament of Mother Nature

PHOTOGRAPHS



NOTATION

National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) WWD 2005 welcome at Fellowship Tabernacle Kingston

Fellowship Tabernacle Kingston Praise and Worship session

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES PORT ROYAL MARINE LABORATORY



Dr. Dale Webber, Chairman of Jamaica National Ramsar Committee presentation/discussion



Students of WWR All Age



Note taking by students of the Vaz Preparatory School



Students



World Wetlands Day Banner



Students and teacher viewing display



Students viewing marine display



Marlon Hibbert Science Officer UWI Port Royal Marine Laboratory

PHOTOGRAPHS

NOTATION

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES PORT ROYAL MARINE LABORATORY CONT'D



Students of Vaz Preparatory in front row



Students of WWR All Age viewing red mangrove root display



Drs. Webber University of the West Indies (UWI) and Derrick Gayle of the Environment Foundation of Jamaica



Students taken on tour of the Port Royal Mangrove



Jamaica Coast Guard personnel assisting in the tour



Students of Windward Road (WWR) All Age during presentation



Dr. Dale Webber making presentation to students from WWR All Age



Students taking note during presentation



Students of Vaux Hall High viewing mangrove display



Students viewing mangrove model display



Marlon Hibbert quizzing students on mangrove stem



Students from St. Andrew High

LIBRARY EXHIBITION UNIVERSITY OF THE MONA



Poster from UWI exhibition From the Mountain to the Sea Wetlands at Work for Us



Students viewing UWI Main Library exhibition

PHOTOGRAPHS

NOTATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

NOTATION

LIBRARY EXHIBITION UNIVERSITY OF THE MONA CONT'D



Poster showing researches in wetlands



Students viewing UWI Main Library exhibition



Poster on what are wetlands



Ramsar WWD 2005 poster



Poster Protected Wetlands in Jamaica

PORTLAND BIGHT



Peter Espeut Caribbean Coastal Area Management (CCAM) hosting discussion Portland Bight Protected Area



Brandon Hay CCAM making presentation



On tour of the Salt River Portland Bight

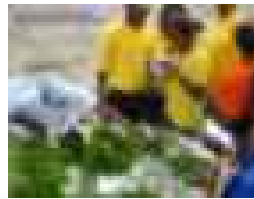


Portland Bight

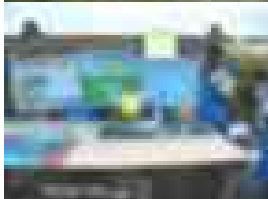
NEGRIL ROYAL PALM RESERVE



Little London High 1st place winner Wetland Model Competition



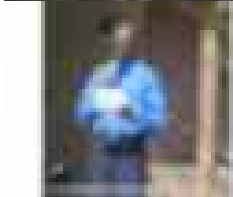
Plant identification at Royal Palm Reserve Negril



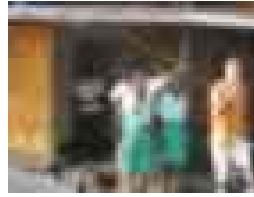
Church Hill Primary 2nd place winner Wetland Model Competition



Tereka Blake essay competition winner



David Barrett Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica keynote address



Magic Man performance

PHOTOGRAPHS

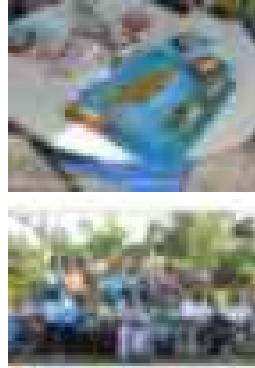


NOTATION
NEGRIL ROYAL PALM RESERVE CONT'D

NEPA display at Royal Palm Reserve Negril

Negril Environment Protection Trust quiz competition final

PHOTOGRAPHS



NOTATION

Forestry Department display at Royal Palm Reserve Negril

Little London High quiz competition winner

Partners

National Environmental and Planning Agency (NEPA)
National Ramsar Committee (NRC)
University of the West Indies (UWI)– Port Royal Marine Laboratory
Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM)
Negril Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT)
Jamaica National Heritage Trust
Jamaica Environmental Trust (JET)
Fellowship Tabernacle
University of the West Indies (UWI) Library
Jamaica Coast Guard
Ridge to Reef
Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society
Forestry Department
National Solid Waste & Management Agency
Westmoreland Public Health Department

Volunteers and Sponsors:

Peace Corp Volunteers
Community members
Negril JUTA Chapter
Jungle Night Club and the
Hutchinson's Texaco
Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP) Jamaica Demonstration
Project

Media coverage:

Jamaica Information Service (JIS)
Power 106FM
KLAS FM 89
VYBZ FM
Roots FM
RJR
The Evening STAR
The Daily Gleaner