





Empowering Communities | Cultivating Sustainability | Safeguarding Livelihoods





The NCTFJ's 2024 Annual Report showcases an impactful chapter in our ongoing mission to safeguard the natural, cultural, and built treasures of our nation. Through strategic partnerships, community-driven projects and bold conservation investments, NCTFJ has continued to turn vision into impact- one grant, one initiative, one ecosystem at a time.

In these pages, you will find stories of resilience and innovation: communities restoring their coastlines, youth building greener futures, and protected areas thriving under sustainable management. You will also see the measurable outcomes of your support- proof that when we invest in nature, we invest in life. As we reflect on last year's growth and resilience, and look ahead to new opportunities, one truth remains clear: we cannot do this alone. Your partnership-whether as a donor, grantee, collaborator, or advocate - is vital to every success we celebrate. We invite you to journey with us through the year's achievements and to envision a future where conservation is not just a priority, but a legacy.

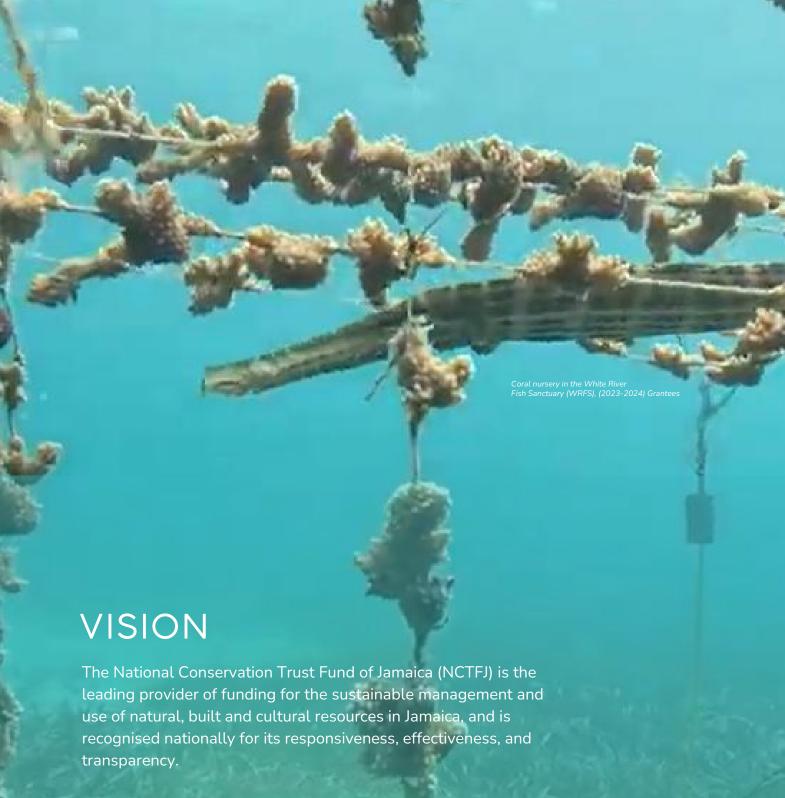
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# WHO WE ARE

The National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ) Limited is a non-profit organisation established in 2014. The organisation's purpose is to fund activities that are related to the conservation and management of protected areas or areas of environmental significance, and fund activities that contribute to the long-term sustainability of Jamaica's National Protected Areas System. The establishment of the organisation was a significant output of the Government of Jamaica/Global Environment Facility Strengthening the Operational and Financial Sustainability of the National Protected Areas System Project. The NCTFJ was established to mobilise additional resources that are sustainable and to assist in filling the funding gap for effective management of protected areas in Jamaica. NCTFJ is guided by the Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP) that was approved by Cabinet in 2017. The PASMP consists of the strategies, actions and priority areas for effectively managing protected areas.





MISSION

Fostering the effective management of Jamaica's Protected Areas and cultural assets, through the mobilisation of financial resources for the funding of projects, the building of partnerships, and the sharing of knowledge and information.





The NCTFJ implements its initiatives in collaboration with partners that contribute to ensure sustainability and enhance the impact of its actions.



#### COMMITMENT

The NCTFJ is committed to providing sustainable finance resources to consolidate the Protected Areas System of Jamaica.





# CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

In 2024 we remained steadfast in our commitment to raising and mobilizing funding for the sustainable management of Jamaica's natural, built, and cultural resources. While we faced challenges, thanks to the support of our partners, the engagement of our stakeholders, and the remarkable work of our beneficiaries, our collective efforts have led to achievements we can all be proud of.

Last year we secured an unprecedented US\$900,000, our strongest fundraising year to date. This success was not only in the amount raised but also in the diversification of our funding sources. We secured critical support from our long-term partner, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, as well as grant funding from the French development agency, AFD, and Global Affairs Canada. In addition, for the first time, NCTFJ onboarded a private sector partner, the Sandals Foundation, through our new Changemaker Initiative. This initiative highlights the vital role that businesses can play in financing the blue and green economies.

Hurricane Beryl in July presented a significant challenge to many Jamaicans, including various community-based organisations and public and private sector actors involved in conservation. NCTFJ was able to respond swiftly to support a cross-section of conservation actors during this time of crisis, awarding J\$41 million in hurricane recovery grants to key organisations, restoring livelihoods and supporting ecosystem resilience.

Our projects are not just about conservation; they are about people. Through our grants program, in 2024 NCTFJ supported innovative and climate resilient farming programs in Portland, St. Catherine, and St. Mary - these projects are serving to empower local communities and promote food security. Moreover, through various projects, to-date the NCTFJ has supported the training of 467 farmers, fishermen and community members in income generation activities in the blue-green economy; reinforced Jamaica's natural tourism assets through the planting of 19,000 corals; strengthened the resilience of our coastal areas through restoration of 650 mangrove plants; and grown its conservation footprint to span 180,000 hectares of protected areas - an area roughly equivalent in size to the parishes Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Hanover put together.

Looking ahead, our primary strategic priority is to secure more long-term, sustainable funding to enable us to scale our funding to conservation and expand the range of sectors we can support. We will be seeking to scale up our Changemaker Initiative to forge more corporate partnerships while continuing to refine our resource mobilisation strategy.

Our achievements are possible thanks to the trust you, our stakeholders, place in us. As we face escalating threats to our natural resources, your support fuels our resolve. Together, we will continue to champion a future where Jamaica's ecosystems, economies, and communities thrive in harmony.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ). Over the past year, the Fund has advanced its mandate as a trusted financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development.



Our efforts have been grounded in strong governance, accountability, and partnership. By working closely with government agencies, private sector organisations, protected areas managers, Community Based Organisation and international partners, NCTFJ has continued to support initiatives and programmes that address national conservation priorities while contributing to Jamaica's regional and international commitments.

As we look to the future, NCTFJ remains focused on strengthening its financial sustainability, expanding partnerships, and ensuring that every investment delivers measurable benefits for Jamaica's environment and people.

I extend my gratitude to our Board, staff, donors, and partners for their invaluable support. Together, we are ensuring that Jamaica's biodiversity is protected for generations to come.



# BOARD



(L-R) Claire Bernard, Ingrid Parchment, Jamin Wedderburn, Christine O'Sullivan, Suzanne Shaw, Mathew Wallace, Diane Brown-Allen

The NCTFJ has an active multi-stakeholder Board of Directors which serves as a fiduciary body. The Board of Directors comprises eleven members, including representatives from the Government of Jamaica, academia, the private sector and civil society. The Government entities are represented by one member each from the Ministry with responsibility for the Environment, the Ministry with responsibility for Finance, the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Tourism Enhancement Fund. Academia has one representative from a tertiary institution. The private sector and civil society representatives include two non-government organisations involved in protected areas management, one representative each from the tourism and financial sectors, and two citizens-at-large, (one being an attorneyat-law). The Chair of the Board is selected from those representing non-government agencies.



#### NCTFJ DIRECTORS

- Suzanne Shaw Chairperson
- Matthew Wallace Vice Chairperson
- Donna Oniss
   Company Secretary
- Diane Brown-Allen Treasurer
- Claire Bernard
- Danielle Andrade-Goffe
- Nickeshia Lindsay
- Christine O'Sullivan
- Joni Jackson
- Ingrid Parchment
- Jamin Wedderburn

# THE TRUST



The NCTFJ is staffed by: (R-L)

- Danellia Aitcheson
  Executive Director
- Chanae Dooley
   Administrator
- Kerry-Ann Curtis Programme Officer

# COMMITTEES OF THE NCTFJ

Since being established, the Trust Fund has benefitted from the appointment of several individuals across a wide range of expertise, who provide guidance to operational activities. The established committees are highlighted below.

# Grant Selection Committee Project Steering Committee

- Joni Jackson, Environmental Scientist
- Matthew Wallace, Entrepreneur (Hospitality Industry)
- Dr. Dayne Buddo, Marine Ecologist
- Michelle McNaught, Environmental Consultant
- **Dorrick Gray**, Consultant Archaeologist
- Andrea Donaldson, Environmental Professional
- Rhian Holder, Project Manager
- Faradaine Forbes, IAF Technical Assistant

- Christine O'Sullivan,
   Marine Mammal Specialist
- **Bryan Smith**, Agriculture Specialist
- **Jerome Smith**, Forest Ecologist
- Tamoy Singh-Clarke, Environ., Project Management Professional



# Technical Advisory Committee

The PAC members are from the following agencies:

- National Environment and Planning Agency
- Forestry Department
- Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries
- The Nature Conservancy
- Jamaica National Heritage Trust
- Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, and
- CITES Scientific Authority.

#### Sustainable Finance Committee

- Ms. Donna Blake, Policy Analyst
- Mrs. Diane Brown-Allen, Chartered Accountant
- Dr. Suzanne Shaw, Chair of NCTFJ Board of Directors
- Mrs. Heidi Clarke, Executive Director
- Mr. Terron Francis, Fiscal Economist

# Comm. & Public Relations Committee

- Mr. Matthew Wallace, Entrepreneur
- Ms. Kennise Watson, Communication Specialist
- Mrs. Stacia Wright, Attorney-at-Law
- Mr. Zachary Chung,
   Project Coordinator &
   Marketer
- Mrs. Kerry-Ann Anderson-Jones, *Entrepreneur*





## 2024 impact on the ground Highlighting and celebrating the amazing work that our grantees were able to accomplish with their various projects in 2024. With the help of our regional partners and stakeholders, a way is being paved for a greener, more biodiverse and resilient Jamaica 37 M 28 projects and programmes dollars in grants was concept notes were which support innovative reviewed by the Grant disbursed to the seven Selection Committee, who actions that contribute to entities, selected by our assessed the technical preserving our country's Grant Selection Comm., aspects and feasibility of biodiversity, ecological whose environmentally the projects and provided a balance, address societal based projects shortlisting for request of challenges and contribute strengthened and promoted to human well-being, were community development in full proposals. implemented during 2024. Jamaica.



3 GROUPS
ONE MISSION...

In 2024, three of our grantees took a green leap forward in farming and began cultivating sustainably within their protected areas. Their initiatives not only transformed their farming practices, but also rejuvenated their communities and ecosystems.

Two groups, (Rio Grande Maroon Heritage Preservation in Portland, and I-SEEED Youths in St.
Catherine successfully established 1500 sq feet greenhouses - ushering in a new era of ecofriendly farming in these protected spaces. Meanwhile in St. Mary, the Windsor Castle Home Economics Benevolent Society installed innovative hydroponic systems.

The projects have not only changed the way these communities farm, they have also empowered them. Both experienced and novice farmers, who previously resorted to destructive practices to supplement their income, received comprehensive training in successful greenhouse crop cultivation, basic accounting, marketing and plant care techniques.



## Windsor Castle Social Ser. Home. Eco. Society

PROJECT VALUE: \$2.414.400

30 farmers trained in hydroponics farming technology during the first year of the project. The group is continuing this programme.

15 farmers received their own hydroponics





## **I-SEEED Youths Limited**

PROJECT VALUE: \$3.920.000

151 farmers impacted

18,000

pounds of sweet peppers, okras and pak choi have been produced via the greenhouse

4.87

million dollars earned through sale of seedlings and produce.

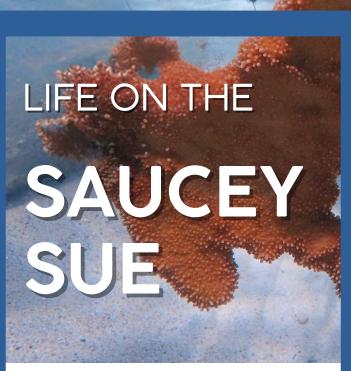
# ... EMPOWERING Communities, CHANGING Lives, Cultivating SUSTAINABLY

The crops grown in the greenhouses and hydroponic systems have not only provided better incomes for the farmers, but have also contributed to food security and community devel. The location of the Rio Grande greenhouse is unique as it was built on the grounds of Windsor Primary School. It provides practical training for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and is helping to change the traditional imagery of farmers and farming. These projects are a symbol of sustainability, innovation and motivation for persons within and outside of these communities.

## **Rio Grande Maroons Heritage Preservation** Society

PROJECT VALUE: \$3.039.000

- persons (5th and 6th grade students, women, men and youth) trained in the maintenance and use of a 1,500 sq. foot greenhouse.
- persons (youth, males and females) in the use of domestic and agricultural waste to produce compost potting soil and bamboo charcoal.



Other than protecting the Port
Royal Protected Area and its
vital mangrove system from
coastal erosion, the Port Royal
Coral Restoration and
Ecosystem Enhancement Project
is also focused on restoring coral
reefs in the Port Royal area of
Kingston, Jamaica.

Reef Construction Ltd. is a company focused on reef restoration and marine habitat enhancement. As one of the 2024 grantees, their project is building upon the already existing Port Royal Coral Restoration Project. This in turn has, expanded the scope of coral restoration and enhanced community involvement and awareness.

Under this initiative, the Saucey Sue artificial reef was introduced through the strategic sinking of the derelict vessel. This established new marine habitats. and will further stabilize the shoreline, increase biodiversity, and support sustainable livelihoods in the area.

## Reef Construction Limited.

\$9.7M project value

8,673 hectares impacted



# White River Marine Association

\$14.1 M project value

150 hectares impacted

boundary sanctuary markers installed

The NCTFJ sought to facilitate the success of the White River Special Fishery Conservation Area through protection from overfishing. Some of the project's major goals were to:

- replenish fish populations and enable sustainable fishing in the surrounding Ocho Rios area.
- conduct 3 daily patrols (18 hours) to protect the 150-hectare MPA from illegal fishing and monthly fisher meetings to foster cooperation and strengthen support.

Under the programme, five community members were trained and hired as sanctuary wardens and licensed coxswains.

# Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)

\$5.4 M

project value

187,615

hectares impacted

The dry forest areas of the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) provide a crucial habitat for many of our threatened and endemic species, including the Jamaica iguana. The health of the dry forests also directly impacts the livelihoods of the local communities, especially those dependent on fishing and tourism. By implementing C-CAM's Conservation Garden Program, important and vulnerable dry forest plant species in the PBPA are being conserved and restored. The existing Plant Conservation Nursery is also being equipped with tools and personnel to produce seedlings for three areas. These seedlings are also being sold to visitors at the PBDC, local nurseries and landscapers.



#### **Oracabessa Marine Trust**

\$5.6 M

project value

250

persons benefitted from awareness

efforts

10,000

corals out planted to improve nat. resources and livelihood opp.

97

hectares impacted

Since its establishment, the Oracabessa Marine Trust (OMT) has been focusing its efforts on leveraging the natural resources of the marine ecosystems of Oracabessa to establish a sustainable blue economy model that benefits the community.

In 2023, the OMT enlisted the help of the NCTFJ to implement the *Oracabessa Bay Marine Protected*Area Coral Reef Restoration, Marine Education and Livelihood Enhancement Project, The aims of the projects were: to bring awareness to the community on

the importance of marine conservation and fisheries best practices, increase patrols within the sanctuary, and improve the natural resources and livelihood opportunities for the people. Over the course of 36 months, illegal fishing within the boundaries of the Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary was deterred by increasing the efficiency of the fish sanctuary patrolling operation through the provision of efficient and environmentally friendly patrolling equipment.

Coral gardeners were trained, providing additional nature-based employment opportunities for the local residents of this major tourist hotspot in Jamaica.







# White River Marine **Association**

\$2.8 M

project value

2,000

acroporid corals seeded and grown

1,600

acroporid nursery grown corals outplanted on to degraded

reefs in WRFS

8

workshops conducted to train community members and volunteerss in coral gardening

150

hectares impacted

Two types of acroporid corals were successfully propogated and grown within the White River Fish Sanctuary (WRFS) to restore their abundance on coral reefs.

# **Rio Grande Maroons Heritage Preservation** Society (RGMHPS)

\$7.9 M project value

1500 sq ft greenhouse to be constructed on Comfort Castle Primary & Infant Sch.

30

persons (grades 5 and 6 students, women and youth) to be trained in the principles of organic farming, greenhouse farming technology and the manufacturing of biochar.

In this ongoing project, the RGMHPS has been addressing the problem of encroachment on the Blue and John Crow Mountain National Park (upper Rio Grande Valley). Individuals seeking to earn a livelihood by carrying out unstructured tours, destructive farming practices, hunting and gathering have been depleting the soil and removing at risk endemic plants and animals.





# CHANGEMAKER **SPOTLIGHT**



(L-R) Danellia Aitcheson, Executive Director, NCTFJ; Heidi Clarke, Executive Drector, Sandals Foundation

The NCTFJ Changemaker is an initiative bringing together companies seeking to make a positive environmental impact. After a soft launch of the initiative, in collaboration with CVM at Sunrise on Earth Day, 2024, we welcomed our first partner-Sandals Foundation. Sandals joined the Habitat Heroes team, contributing US5000 dollars to support ecological restoration and protection efforts, providing critical funding for Jamaica's protected areas management. Sandals Foundation has been a stalwart in environmental protection and sustainability, establishing and effectively managing two fish sanctuaries - Boscobel Fish Sanctuary in St. Mary and Whitehouse Marine Sanctuary in Westmoreland, Habitat Heroes status enabled Sandals Foundation to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of habitats, such as mangroves and coral reefs. Monitoring efforts were also be amplified and fisherfolk were provided with eco-friendly equipment.



Sandals Foundation is an organisation of action. It does not say it is committed to environmental conservation, but actually funds and consistently does the work to protect Jamaica's ecosystems. Their decision to join Changemaker as Habitat Heroes reflects their dedication to building a climate-resilient Jamaica and preserving our island home for our children and our children's children. We also hope that other businesses and corporate Jamaica will be inspired by Sandals Foundation to become a Changemaker.





# BETTER JAMAICA ...

## NCTFJ & BRANSON CENTER-Boosting Blue Green Enterprises for a Climate Resilient Jamaica:

Strengthened the capacity of Blue Green enterprises in Jamaica by providing grantees with the opportunity to create winning business pitch decks and gain valuable tools and insights to help them succeed as entrepreneurs.

#### **CORE Project Launch:**

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), in collaboration with NCTFJ, launched the Caribbean Organisations for a Resilient Environment (CORE) Project. The project is tackling one of the most overlooked challenges in disaster response - bridging gender-related technical and institutional capacity gaps.

#### IAF Knowledge Exchange

Brought together NCTFJ and IAF grantees across three Caribbean countries, providing an avenue for grantees to learn from each other, share best practices and capitalize on opportunities when presented.

#### CBF, NCTFJ and the PPRPA:

Members of the NCTFJ, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Mona Geoinformatics Institute and Cuso International, visited Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area (PPRPA), to highlight potential mangrove and coral reef restoration projects which will benefit the livelihood of the members of the PPRPA community.

# ASSESSING Jamaica's Environmental Health:

NCTFJ, alongside with nine (9) other agencies participated in the review of the Sustainable Development chapter of the 2023 Economic & Social Survey (ESSJ). Spearheaded by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, this exercise sought to capture the most relevant indicators for assessing Jamaica's environmental health over the past year.



# ... STRENGTHENING OUR INSTITUTION & GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors of NCTFJ participated in a governance training in July 2024, led by Conservation Trust Fund Specialist, Kathy Mikitin. The consultant supported NCTFJ's partnership with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and assessed the organisation's governance practices utilizing the 2020 Practice Standards for Conservation Trust Funds.

The standards which assess the governance of a CTF, focus on a CTF's core areas of:

- governance
- institutional effectiveness
- programmes
- administration
- asset management
- resource mobilisation
- risk management and safeguards

# Resource Mobilisation 85% Asset Management O% Administration 78%

Radial chart illustrating the NCTFJ's performance in the key areas assessed using the 2020 Practice Standard for CTFs

An organisational strengthening plan was provided for the NCTFJ - CBF End- of- Agreement Evaluation, based on the recommendations of NCTFJ Good Governance Practice Assessment 2024.



# 2024 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS: CAUGHT IN THE LENS

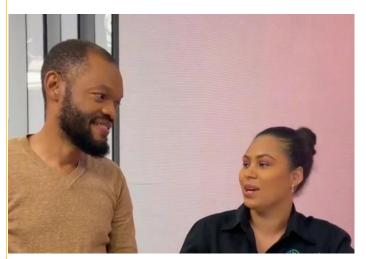
# ADVANCING Climate Conversations and BRINGING Awareness to the MARINE Space

**KEY Moments:** 

11 TV and Radio Interviews

3 Press Releases

Full Spread Feature Article







When Marine Managed Areas are healthy and are doing well, and we are doing what we are supposed to do, the private sector, for example, hotels - benefit directly and indirectly from the work we are doing. Not only keeping us safe, but keeping people in business and keeping food in our bellies.

Nickie Myers General Manager, Alligator Head Foundation









# BRING YUH BASKET ECO-PICNIC EXPERIENCE

The National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ) provided guests with a unique and memorable afternoon when it hosted its inaugural Bring Yuh Basket charity eco-picnic experience at Hope Gardens Annual Lawns in October.

This event was as a result of the vision of the entire network of fish sanctuaries and the marine parks in Jamaica. The aim was to increase funding opportunities and encourage positive behaviour change as it relates to our environment, through improved profile and awareness of the value of our marine managed areas across Jamaica. The concept showcased the environment in a boho-chic, casually elegant backdrop where MMA managers could network with corporate entities. The entire event was a solar powered by Sun Plus Ltd. As a zero waste zone, guests were encouraged to bring their picnic baskets, reusable containers and utensils to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

Bring Yuh Basket served not only as a celebration but also as a medium for immersive education. Throughout the venue, there were storyboards and infographics highlighting the work of various marine conservation groups Guests also had the chance to interact with group representatives and learn about ongoing efforts to protect the marine ecosystem in Jamaica.





Guests at the inaugural Bring Yuh Basket Charity Eco-Picnic., networking and wearing shades of blue to show their commitment to marine conservation.



# FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The NCTFJ prides itself on financial prudence. As such, we engage the services of professionals, and maintain transparency in our expenditures and income streams.

#### SERVICE PROVIDERS

#### Accountant

PAGBO Limited 9 Devon Road, Kingston 10.

#### **External Auditor**

Cornwall Campbell and Associates Shop # 8 Seymour Park, Kingston 6

#### **Commercial Bankers**

National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited Knutsford Boulevard Branch 1-7 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5

> JMMB Bank (Jamaica) Limited Grenada Way Branch 6-8 Grenada Way, Kingston 5

## **DONORS**





Special thanks also to the financial support of the IAF



# 2024 AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE	
Programme Income by Donor	
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$ 23,236,319
Inter-American Foundation	\$12,504,659
Other	
Bring Yuh Basket (Fund Raising Event)	\$ 2,962,290
Interest Income	
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$ 37,284
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund Inter-American Foundation	\$ 37,284 \$161,946
Inter-American Foundation	\$161,946
Inter-American Foundation  Total	\$161,946
Inter-American Foundation  Total  DEFFERRED INCOME	\$161,946
Inter-American Foundation  Total  DEFFERRED INCOME  Grant funding (by donor) to be used for future projects	\$161,946 \$ 38,902,498

#### **EXPENSES**

Total

Administrative Expenses by Donor	
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$10,888,019
Inter-American Foundation	\$4,144,713
Grants Distributed to Projects by Donor	
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$9,240,636
Inter-American Foundation	\$2,925,950
Expenses Related to Grant-making by Donor	
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$6,383,129
Inter-American Foundation	\$5,320,051
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	\$6,383,129
Total	\$ 38,902,498

\$ 60,215,274





## National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica

70 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10, St. Andrew Jamaica 876-620-5374| 876-620-8072







