

# Forest News

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Partners' Edition



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## Forestry Department encourages Jamaicans to 'plant yuh ownna tree'

As is customary, the Forestry Department is distributing an assortment of timber and ornamental seedlings for persons to engage in tree planting exercises. Distribution started on Monday, September 23, and will continue until Friday, October 11, 2019.

Persons are invited to visit the Agency's nurseries at its Head Office, 173 Constant Spring Road; Moneague, St. Ann, adjacent the JDF Camp and Williamsfield, Manchester to collect seedlings for tree planting projects. Distribution runs from Mondays to Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meanwhile, the main ceremony and national project for this year's observance will be at Jamaica House in Kingston. Other ceremonies and projects will be held at the Upper Rock Spring All Age & Infant School in Hanover; Victor Dixon High School in Manchester and the Port Antonio High School in Portland.

The Forestry Department is encouraging all Jamaicans to give back to their communities by planting trees on National Tree Planting Day, Friday, October 4.

The day, which is observed annually on the first Friday in October is this year being celebrated under the theme, **"Plant yuh ownna tree an' some fi di res' a we: Give back to yuh community"**.

CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilyn Headley says the theme is a call to action for every Jamaican to recognize that they have a role to play and they cannot continue to rely on the efforts of the few organizations and individuals who are planting trees.

"Trees provide a myriad of benefits that we cannot begin to quantify and without which, life as we know it would be impossible. When we think of the clean air that we breathe, the water we drink, food, medicine and the role trees play in climate change mitigation, we should not need anyone to tell us to plant trees," Ms. Headley stated.

She noted that a number of countries are implementing wide scale tree planting programmes but if each citizen was playing his or her role since the initiation of National Tree Planting Day in 2003, Jamaica would've have been far ahead of the game.

"It is now time for every citizen, old and young, every organization whether public or private as well as our churches and schools to give back to our country, to give back to our communities and to leave a rich environmental legacy for generations to come," Ms. Headley said.

**Distribution of select ornamental and timber seedlings runs until Friday, October 11, 2019.**

**We also have potted plants and other seedlings for sale.**

Forestry Department, 173 Constant Spring Rd | (876) 618-3205 | [www.forestry.gov.jm](http://www.forestry.gov.jm)



# 5 Facts about the Gourie Forest Management Area

1. The Gourie Forest Management Area (FMA) is situated in the central plateau at an average elevation of 840 metres (2,750 feet) and is located about 3.2 km (2 miles) to the north of Christiana.

2. The present block of 107 hectares (now owned by Government), formed a part of a property owned by the Webb family of Christiana.

3. The site was severely degraded, when the Forestry Department took over its management. The Agency first began reforestation in 1942, and the plantation forests were established mainly by trial and error using a wide variety of tree species.

4. In the 1970s, the Forestry Department established a forest camp at Gourie with the construction of three cabins; these cabins were made available to the general public for overnight rentals and longer stays.

5. The Gourie cave runs from east to west and is situated at the eastern boundary of the forest management area. There are three entrances located on the forest management area. The cave is at an altitude of 825 metres (2,700 feet) and is 3,505 metres (2.18 miles) long at a depth of 90 metres (295 feet); it is said to be the longest cave in Jamaica. The river that runs through the cave over its bed of yellow limestone is said to be the overflow from an underground lake about 70 metres away in Succeed District near Christiana.



Trekkers hiking through the Gourie FMA during a Forest Trek hosted by the Forestry Department in 2017.



One of two cabins recently refurbished. They are among 3 of the cabins that were initially constructed in the 70s.



One of the Trekkers during Forest Trek 2017 posed for a picture in the Gourie Cave.

# PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

For the second quarter (July–September), the Agency hosted as well as participated in a number of public education and awareness events, including community meetings, fire training, summer camps and one charity run.

The Agency also had three stakeholder consultations for the development of forest management plans for clusters 3 and 4.

Here are a few highlights from the various activities and events!

## FIRE TRAINING

The following communities benefited from forest fire management and prevention training: Newton, St. Andrew; Chepstowe, Portland; and Constitution Hill, St. Andrew.

The sessions were held in partnership with the Jamaica Fire Brigade.



# COMMUNITY MEETINGS & STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Community meetings were held in Denham Farm, Manchester; Hagley Gap, St. Thomas; Newton, St. Andrew; Free Town, St. Andrew; Three Hills, St. Mary; and Constitution Hill, St. Andrew. Three stakeholder consultations were held in Mt. James, St. Andrew; Calderwood, St. Ann; and Wakefield, Portland.



Our CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilyn Headley represented Jamaica at the 31st Meeting of the Latin America & Caribbean Forestry Commission in Montevideo, Uruguay from September 2-6.



# MULTI-CARE SUMMER CAMP 2019

Community meetings were held in Denham Farm, Manchester; Hagley Gap, St. Thomas; Newton, St. Andrew; Free Town, St. Andrew; Three Hills, St. Mary; and Constitution Hill, St. Andrew. Three stakeholder consultations were held in Mt. James, St. Andrew; Calderwood, St. Ann; and Wakefield, Portland.



# COLOUR ME HAPPY CHARITY RUN

The Agency participated in the annual Colour me Happy 5k Charity Run/Walk at Hope Gardens on Saturday, September 14. Proceeds from the event goes to the Kind Hearts- Richard and Diana Stewart Foundation which helps to build homes and basic schools in rural Jamaica.

The Agency won the prize for best team costume.



### 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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