

Forest News

Partners' Edition



**Private sector makes
pledges towards 3
million trees
initiative**

**Building cabins,
building lives**

**Industry News: Chile
forests to get
USD 63 million boost
from GCF**

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Corporate entities make pledges towards 3 million trees initiative

Several public sector organizations have made pledges to contribute to the Government of Jamaica's National Tree Planting Initiative which is being implemented under the theme, "Three Million Trees in Three Years ... Plant a Tree Today, for a Prosperous Tomorrow".

The initiative, which was launched during the annual observance of National Tree Planting Day on Friday, October 4 at Jamaica House, has seen GraceKennedy Limited pledging to plant 2,000 trees, Wisynco Group Limited pledging to plant 12,000 and Noranda Bauxite has committed to plant 100,000 trees initially with plans to increase to 300,000. The Jamaica 4-H Clubs has also made a pledge and other companies are currently discussing what their roles will be in the initiative.

CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ms. Marilyn Headley, says she is heartened by the pledges and is urging other entities to make it their corporate social responsibility to contribute to securing a safe and healthy future for our country and people.

"I applaud GraceKennedy, Noranda, Wisynco and Jamaica 4-H Clubs for recognizing their role in this national project. Often times, we leave these initiatives for government alone to implement which cannot work. Three million trees in three years will not be an easy feat and so it will take every single Jamaican to not just plant but to ensure that they are maintained and that at the end forests of all types are established across the island," Ms. Headley said.

The sentiment was also echoed by Prime Minister, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness who stated during the launch of the initiative that the success and longevity of this programme can only be achieved with the meaningful inclusion of every sector and every individual.

"The planting of the three million trees, though significant, will only be a small part of the programme. The critical part will be the medium to long-term maintenance of the seedlings planted and ensuring that they remain alive and transition into healthy forests. I am therefore urging the public to play their part in caring for the seedlings that will be planted, as once

established, they will play a critical role in the reforestation of denuded lands and the establishment of different types of forest ecosystems including urban forest in Jamaica," Prime Minister Holness stated.

The initiative, which will be led by the Forestry Department, will see the planting of two million timber/forest seedlings on approximately 3000 hectares of land while the remaining one million timber and ornamental seedlings will be distributed to the public and planted in urban spaces including roadways, parks and along major thoroughfares in towns across the island.

Under the programme, approximately 1,000 interns under the Housing, Opportunity, Productivity and Employment (HOPE) programme will be trained and certified in basic core elements of forest management which includes seedling production, tree establishment & maintenance and forest law.

In addition to the HOPE interns that will benefit under the project, employment opportunities will be provided for persons from communities adjacent to areas to be planted.

Meanwhile, Ms. Headley is commending all the individuals and organizations that continue to support National Tree Planting Day and who have been contributing to a sustainable future for our country through tree planting activities.

National Tree Planting Day 2019 was observed under the theme, "Plant yuh own tree & some fi di res' a we: Give back to yuh community".

The Seeds Collection Unit – fueling seedling production



Mrs. Mason-Beckford standing next to the equipment that is used to get seeds from cones such as Caribbean Pine seeds from the pine cones.

When you collect seedlings to plant at home or for use in the Agency’s reforestation programmes and various planting projects, do you think about the process in growing those seedlings so you can get them to plant?

More importantly, do you think about how the seeds are collected to facilitate the whole process?

Forest News sat down with Mrs. Patria Mason-Beckford, Seeds Programme Coordinator and we have the scoop for you.

Before the seeds are collected for sowing, the Forest Operations Division and other relevant personnel decide on the species and the quantities that are needed for all the various planting activities. Based on that list, the seeds Collection Unit then works out how many seeds are needed to meet the demand.

“After I do the calculations, I set up a seed collection schedule. This schedule has a lot to do with the phenology of the trees in the area that seeds are generally collected from as it informs when the trees are flowering and ‘fruiting’ so I would know when to collect and where to collect the different species”, Mrs. Mason-Beckford noted.

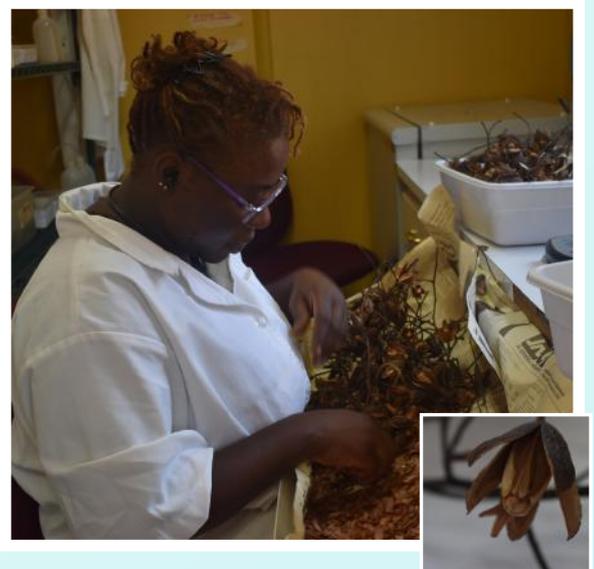
She says the seed collection activity is a collaborative effort between persons who are contracted to collect the seeds as well Forest Technicians and Forest Rangers in the four forest regions. Sometimes Mrs. Mason-Beckford goes in the field to collect seeds herself. When the seeds get to the Seed Collection Unit at the Head Office, batches of the same species are assigned a lot number. This number has the species code, the forest estates where it was collected and the week of collection.

“The batches are weighed and then processed. Processing varies depending on the species as some just need to be extracted from pods, cones or fruit; some need to be de-pulped, that is washed, rinsed and squeezed from fruit; while some need to just be dried. Some take a long time to open so they have to go through a lot of pre-drying and then extraction and cleaning and there are some that need no processing,” Mrs. Mason-Beckford explained.

After the seedlings are processed, a sample of the entire batch of seeds goes through four unique tests:

- **Seed weight test-** to determine how many single seeds are in a kilogram
- **Purity test-** to determine how many pure seed as against trash or bad seeds
- **Moisture test-** to determine the water content
- **Germination test-** to determine the percentage of viable seeds

“All these tests inform the germination result in the nursery. When I dispatch seeds to the nursery, I am able to tell them how many seedlings they are likely to get from the batch based on the results of the tests,” Mrs. Mason-Beckford said.



Partia Mason-Beckford taking cedar seeds from their pods

When seeds are not dispatched immediately, they are stored in the cold room facility and are dispatched from there. However, if after six months a particular seed batch is still in cold storage, the germination test has to be repeated to see if they are still viable.

Sometimes when seeds are in short supply, wildings are used.



Seeds undergoing germination test.



The appliance used to dry the seeds.



Partia Mason-Beckford using the fan to separate the seeds from the trash. The fan blows away the trash.

Building Cabins, Building Lives



Pictures showing the work that is still ongoing in the construction of a cabin and bar by the Dolphin Head LFMC. (Top centre) Ms. Tamara Nicholson, Rural Sociologist, Western Zone helps to load cement in a bucket and below, (bottom left) Mr. Ian Wallace, Forest Manager carries a bucket of mortar.

The Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee continues to make strides in protecting our local environment while showcasing the ingenuity of community members in generating income within the Kingsvale community.

The LFMC continues to prove that at the heart of rural development, is the endless possibility for community members to benefit from sustainable development initiatives, which are community centered, driven and managed.

Recently the Committee undertook the construction of a wooden cabin which is a welcomed addition to its community ecotourism offerings for locals and foreigners.

The construction was funded by LFMC members who pooled their salaries to buy building material and to hire a contractor for the project. The work has been aided by members of the LFMC and the Forestry Department's western team.

The team recently finished a concrete pavement at the bottom of the stairs leading to the cabin and work continues to finish up a bar area which is at the base of the cabin. Work is also being done to clean up the area around the cabin. The cabin is expected to be opened to the public by mid to late 2020.

In building this cabin, the Committee has been seeking to increase its impact in the community by expanding the livelihood opportunities available to community members through the creation of jobs from the provision of massage services and the production and sale of homemade oils for the massage therapy.



Facts about the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve

Jamaica's forests comprise precious resources that preserve lives. A way in which you can demonstrate appreciation for our forests is by appreciating their benefits and sharing interesting facts about them.

Upon mentioning the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve, you might be wondering what are some of the features that make it different from the others. This forest reserve is unique and stands out in ways such as its mountain range, support from community groups and a special dedication that it received from the Government of Jamaica.

If someone asks you to tell them about the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve, here are four interesting facts that you may share:

- 1)** The Dolphin Head mountain range is recorded to have a higher density of local endemic plant species and rare or threatened plants per unit area than anywhere else in Jamaica.
- 2)** The forest reserve covers approximately 1167 hectares and includes six forest estates. These are Quasheba Mountain, Raglan Mountain, Geneva Mountain, Bath Mountain, Baulk Pen and George's Plain Mountain.
- 3)** This Forest Reserve is managed by the Forestry Department with support from the Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee (LFMC). The Agency created the Dolphin Head LFMC to help in establishing and developing conservation-based activities to support sustainable forest management.
- 4)** Jamaica officially dedicated the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve to the Queen Elizabeth's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) project on July 8, 2017 during a ceremony at the reserve in Hanover. The QCC was designed to highlight the best examples of forest management throughout the Commonwealth.

The Dolphin Head Forest Reserve is unique in its mountain range, strong community support and its recognition in history.

Let's share this information with our family and friends as we appreciate our country's forests.



An overhead shot of a section of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve



The monument marking the dedication of the Dolphin Head Forest Reserve to the QCC.

Chile forests to get USD 63 million boost from GCF



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Chile will receive USD 63 million from the Green Climate Fund for having successfully reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from forests. Emissions were reduced by 18.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂eq) between 2014 and 2016 by the implementation of REDD+ activities.

REDD+ is a mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which assigns a financial value to results per tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent of reduced emissions or enhanced removals in forests. It also offers incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions while investing in low-carbon, sustainable development.

The funds will support an ambitious project designed to implement Chile's National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources that will clear the way for activities involving more than 57,000 people, including indigenous communities, in afforestation, restoration and sustainable forest management.

The project, designed by FAO and the Government of Chile, will restore and conserve about 25,000 hectares of native forest in five regions of the country with direct interventions on both public and private properties, and focusing on small forestland owners. It is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.1 million tons of CO₂e by 2025 and 2 m tons of CO₂e by 2030, through afforestation in more than 7,000 hectares and the sustainable management and conservation of over 17,000 hectares of forest.

Strengthened control and law enforcement, extension services, education and technology transfer are expected to lead to additional mitigation results.

Eve Crowley, FAO Representative in Chile, noted that the targeted areas include more than 4 000 hectares affected by fires. "These will be restored with evergreen species including oak as well as Rauli beech and the coihue, which are both native Chilean species," she said.

Chile has roughly 14.3 million hectares of native forests, in which unsustainable logging and agricultural practices, climate change and forest fires all have contributed to the degradation of the country's forests. The project aims to further reverse this trend.

Other benefits

Other project highlights include improved forest management and environmental enforcement, introduction of forest residue technologies; acceleration of public-private partnerships; a focus on the rural-urban interface and strengthening cooperation among institutions.

Benefits are expected to include the improvement of livelihoods in some of the country's most vulnerable areas, while reducing some of the negative impact of climate change. It will take into consideration the role of gender in forest use and management, as well as indigenous and vulnerable populations, with an eye to heightening the social and environmental impact.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY MEETING

A community meeting was held in Swift River, Portland on November 14. Residents of Swift River and surrounding communities learned about the Forestry Department, what it does, activities that are illegal within a forest estate and they also used the opportunity to share their concerns and to provide feedback on how we can improve our relations with them.



On November 26, the Agency conducted a technical transfer training session at the regional office in Montego Bay. Private planters who participated learned how to match species to site, how to identify and treat pests, land preparation techniques and how to prune and calculate the growth and yield of their trees.



GIS DAY 2019

On November 13, the Agency participated in GIS DAY 2019 at the University of the West Indies, Mona, under the theme, 'Geospatial Technologies: Enhancing Food Security and Climate Resilience'. The Agency won the map competition at the expo.



4-H EXPO

Students flocked to the Agency's booth at a 4-H expo on November 22 at 4-H office on Old Hope Road in Kingston and Public Education Officer, Daniel Dunkley was there to engage them.



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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