



FOREST NEWS

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Forestry as a business took centre stage at Inaugural National Forestry Conference

3,000 Trees to be Planted Along Lady Musgrave and East King's House Roads

**An encounter in the Cockpit Country
(Pt. 2)**

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GROW WITH ME/BABY TREE CAMPAIGN

Congratulations!



You are a parent/guardian!
Give your baby a gift that keeps on giving by planting a *Baby Tree* today!



Why should I plant a Baby Tree?

The benefits of planting a tree are endless. Not only will this tree be a special symbol shared between you and your child, but you will also be making a significant contribution to the environment. Here's how:

1. Trees help to clean the air we breathe. They produce pure oxygen and disperse and remove pollutants.
2. Trees play a key role in fighting global warming. They remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the major contributor to global warming.
3. Trees cool the air, land, and water with leafy shade and moisture
4. Trees make your home and community more beautiful.

What is a Baby Tree?

It was once a common tradition here in Jamaica to commemorate the birth of a child by planting the baby's umbilical cord (navel string) at the root of a seedling symbolizing the growth that the child will go through throughout its life. Let us revive this age-old tradition by planting your child's "Baby Tree".



"Let us revive this age-old tradition by planting your child's "Baby Tree". "

How to plant a Baby Tree?

Planting a baby tree is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. After identifying a suitable site for your tree, dig a hole slightly wider and deeper than the root plug or bag containing the seedling to be planted.
2. Place the root plug or potted/bagged seedling and the child's umbilical cord (Navel String) at the bottom of the hole. The root collar should be in line with the soil surface. Seedlings should be planted with a straight rooting system without compromise (no bending/twisting). The umbilical cord can also be buried at the root of the tree after the tree has already been planted.
3. Fill the hole with the soil that was initially removed. Press around the roots with the soil. Make sure to water the seedling daily.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



FORESTRY AS A BUSINESS TOOK CENTRE STAGE AT INAUGURAL NATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE



Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, addresses the inaugural staging of the Forestry Department's National Forestry Conference held at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on Wednesday, December 7.

The business of forestry took centre stage on December 7-8, 2022, when foresters, public and private sector investors, representatives of academia, civil society, Local Forest Management Committees (LFMCs) and other key players in the local forestry sector met at the inaugural National Forestry Conference at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Honourable

Matthew Samuda said the Conference formed part of a European Union-funded project to support productivity in the forest sector and to identify opportunities for increasing the economic benefits of forests without compromising their social and environmental benefits.

He commended the Forestry Department on the staging, noting that "it is absolutely crucial that Jamaicans understand the value of forests and attach the value in a way that create sustainability and this [Conference] lays the pitch for that to

happen," Senator Samuda stated.

The Minister said as a small island developing state, Jamaica has made progress in managing its forest resources, noting that the island's forest cover has increased in recent years. He also noted that recent projects to plant trees are having positive environmental benefits.

"Three years ago, the Prime Minister launched the National Tree Planting Initiative and as at November 1, more than 2.2 million trees have been planted and distributed. It is estimated that these trees have already translated into roughly 14,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide being absorbed, 49.2 tonnes of pollutants removed from the atmosphere and some 574 million gallons of water filtered," Minister Samuda shared.

Meanwhile, CEO & Conservator of Forests, Mr. Ainsley Henry was pleased by the start of the conference, which he noted is facilitating important and timely discussions about increasing the impact of the forest sector and determining its contribution to economic growth and job creation.

"This Conference represents a key step towards having dialogue and increased transparency in the forest sector as we seek to unlock the potential

of the local forest sector. It is essential that we all understand and realise that trees and forests are valuable, not just for the environmental functions but also for the economic benefits they provide," Mr. Henry shared.

The staging of the National Forestry Conference featured an exhibition, a field trip and an awards banquet. The exhibition featured products and services from the local forest industry including community enterprises, manufacturers of non-timber and timber forest products as well as eco-tourism ventures.

The field trip took participants to nearby forest industries in St. Catherine on Friday, December 9 and activities wrapped up in the evening with an awards banquet which coincided with the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the Forestry Department.

Awards were presented to forest heroes in the categories of local forest management committees, private forestry, non-government organisations, corporate, and media and public education with special awards to forest champions, lifetime achievement, youth in forestry and forestry business leader.



CEO & Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry, (left) presenting his remarks on Day One of National Forestry Conference





3,000 TREES TO BE PLANTED ALONG LADY MUSGRAVE AND EAST KING'S HOUSE ROADS



Attendees give a round of applause as they participate in the National Forestry Conference on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

Three thousand trees will be planted on lands along Lady Musgrave and East King's House roads in St. Andrew as the Government ramps up measures to increase the country's forest cover under the National Tree Planting initiative.

The roadways are among three corridors slated for major road expansion works over the next 12 to 18 months. The other corridor is Arthur Wint Drive.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, said that the planting will commence before Christmas.

He said that an assessment of the areas showed that "there were numerous Government-owned lands that were not sufficiently covered with trees. Also, along those corridors are several privately held pieces of land that could also do with some more trees".

He said that from the assessment, "it was estimated that the areas along Lady Musgrave and East King's House roads, in particular, could take some 3,000 trees within a kilometre of where the road expansion will take place".

"Before Christmas, we will be out in the field and [we will] start to plant these 3,000 trees, which will

significantly increase the tree cover in the upper St. Andrew area".

Minister Samuda was addressing the inaugural staging of the Forestry Department's National Forestry Conference at the Jamaica Conference Centre in downtown Kingston on Wednesday (December 7).

The National Tree Planting initiative, launched by Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness in October 2019, targets the planting of three million trees over three years.

Minister Samuda said that as of November 1, more than 2.2 million trees have been planted and distributed under the initiative.

"It is estimated that these trees have translated into roughly 14,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide being absorbed, 49.2 tonnes of pollutants being removed from the atmosphere and some 574 million gallons of water being filtered," he reported, noting that the intention is to close out the financial year by achieving the target of planting three million trees.

The two-day National Forestry Conference is part of a European Union (EU)-funded project to support productivity and growth in the forestry sector in Jamaica.

It aims to identify opportunities to increase the economic benefits of forests without compromising their social and environmental value, under the theme 'Forestry as a Business: Unlocking the Economic Potential of Jamaica's Forests'.

Minister Samuda pointed out that Jamaica, as a small island developing State, has made significant strides in managing its forests, noting that "our forest cover has increased in recent years".

He commended the Forestry Department for its continued efforts in bringing matters relating to Jamaica's forests to the forefront.

"It is absolutely crucial that we understand the value of our forests and attach the value in a way that creates sustainability," he said, noting that the first staging of the conference is expected to lay the groundwork for that to happen.



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT HONOURS 15 AT FOREST HEROES AWARDS



Awardees and various representatives pose for a photo following the staging of the Forest Heroes Awards in December 2022. Front row From left: Jerome Smith, Principal Director, Forest Operations, is with Forest Heroes awardees, Marilyn Headley, Herbert Foster and Sharon McLean (Lifetime Achievement awardees) Arlette Fullerton, Vice President of the South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee (LFMC), which received the Forest hero award for LFMC, Lacey-Ann Bartley, Forestry Business leader awardee and Nakhle Hado, Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, who accepted a Certificate of Recognition for Food for the Poor.

The significant development work taking place in the local forest sector and the individuals guiding it were celebrated by the Forestry Department (FD) on December 9, 2022 at the third Forest Heroes Awards Banquet at the Terra Nova Hotel in Kingston.

Senator the Honourable Matthew Samuda, Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation lauded “the great and inspiring work and contributions through time, efforts and accomplishments of community leaders, business enterprises, corporate entities, tree planters and youth for their achievements,” while speaking at the Banquet.

Noting that the Awards Banquet was the final

event of the inaugural two-day National Forestry Conference hosted by the Forestry Department in association with the European Union, Minister Samuda said “these awards not only acknowledge that good work is being done but that it is appreciated.”

Mr. Ainsley Henry, CEO and Conservator of Forest, concurred noting that “the theme of the conference ‘Forestry as a Business’, as articulated and demonstrated by presenters, participants and exhibitors, prove that critical growth is taking place in the sector and the Forestry Department is proud to be both facilitator and actor”.

Among the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Banquet were:

- Mr. Lorrel Smith- Chair of the Dallas Castle Local Forest Management Committee
- Ms. Sharon McLean- Chair of the Northern Rio Minho Local Forest Management Committee

- Mr. Phillip Thompson- Project Manager for the Buff Bay Local Forest Management Committee
- Mr. Herbert Foster- Chair of the South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee
- Ms. Marilyn Headley- Former CEO and Conservator of Forests.

Hero in the NGO Category; the South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee, which was recognised as a forest hero in the LFMC category; and for Private Forestry, Mr. Ricky Jackson.

The Jamaica Public Service Company was awarded the forest hero award in the corporate category, Mrs Petre Williams-Raynor in the Media and Public Education category and Ms Jamila Falak James received the Youth in Forestry Award.

Certificates of Recognition were awarded to Food for the Poor, Jamaica and the Hon. Robert Morgan, MP, for outstanding contributions to the forest sector.

The “Forest Champion Award” was won by Dr. Parvataneni Satyanarayana for exceptional contributions to the National Tree Planting Initiative through trees planted. At the same time, Bartley’s All In Wood captured the “Forestry Business Leader Award” for exceptional performance as a forest-based business.

Several Non-Governmental Organizations were also honoured, including the Trees that Feed Foundation, which was recognised as a Forest

The Forest Heroes Award recognises individuals and organisations for outstanding contributions to the development of the forest sector in Jamaica and support for achieving the Forestry Department’s (FD) mandate. The awards were first held in 2013 when the Agency celebrated its 75th anniversary, it was again held in 2018 when the Agency celebrated its 80th anniversary. This third staging is among activities to celebrate the Agency’s 85th anniversary.



(L-R) Søren Dalgaard, Senior Forest Economist & Team Leader at NIRAS International Consulting, Ainsely Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests, Antonello Esposito, Team Leader (Facility Framework Contracts) at NIRAS International Consulting, Jerome Smith, Principal Director, Forest Operations and Andre Fache, Programme Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Islands pause for a photo at the Forest Awards Banquet held at the Terra Nova Hotel on Friday, December 9, 2022.



NATIONAL TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE PUSHES PAST TWO MILLION TREES MARK



The Forestry Department's Principal Director of Forest Operations, Jerome Smith, tends to seedlings at the Forestry Department Head Office nursery

Despite the crippling effects of the Coronavirus pandemic that reached the island's shores in March 2020 and which critically restricted movement, the Forestry Department is reporting that it has passed the two million trees planted mark as the country heads toward planting three million trees under the National Tree Planting Initiative. The Agency is reporting that 2,229,527 trees have been distributed and/or planted across the island since

October 2019.

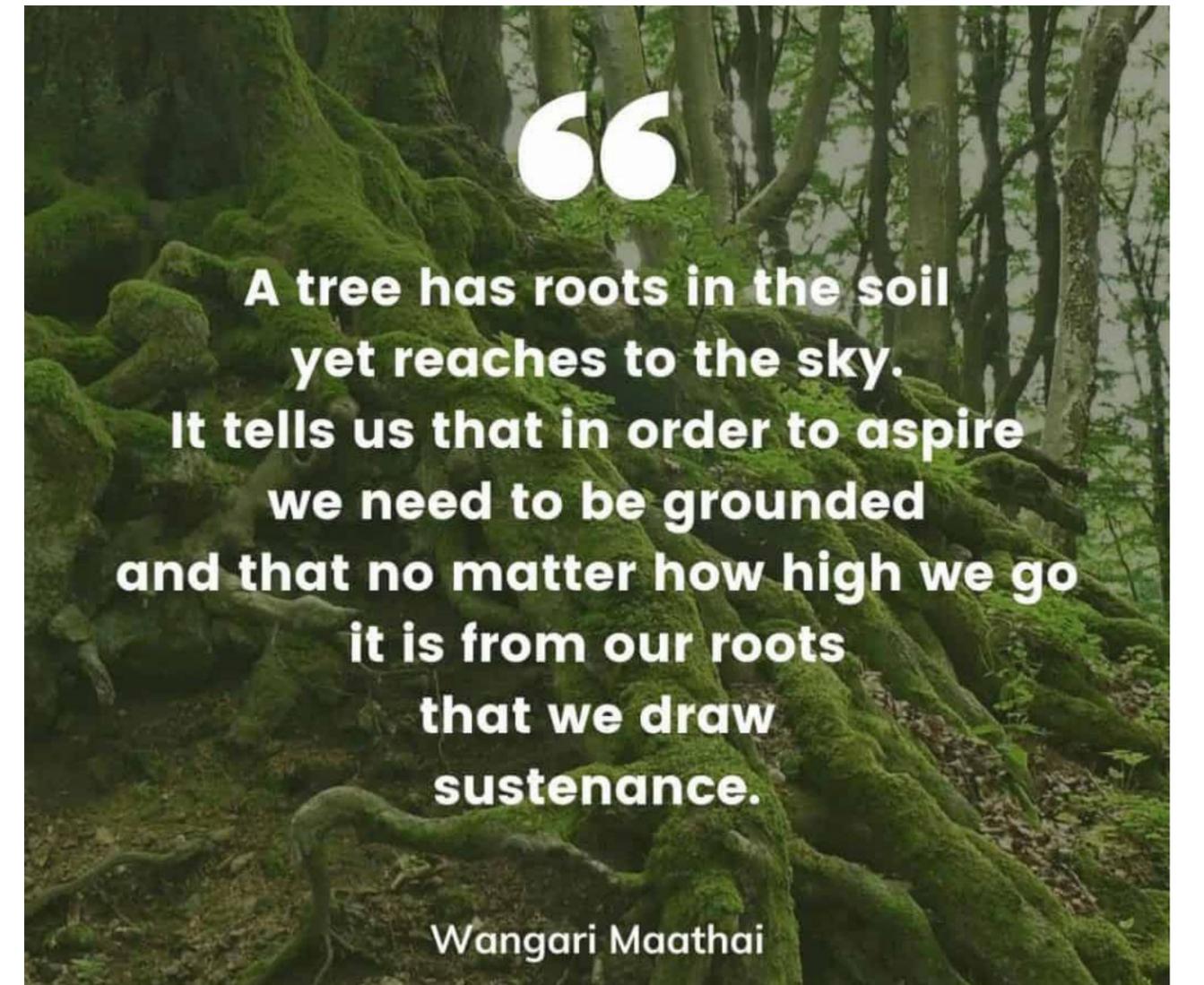
"This is a significant development," said Jerome Smith, Principal Director of Forest Operations at the Forestry Department. "While the pandemic has slowed the progress of the initiative, we are confident that the target will be reached by the end of the 2022/23 financial year. With more than two million trees already recorded, the intense push by the Agency and with the continued support of

our partners who have come on board through our various programmes, the target is now well within reach."

Programmes and promotions offered by the Forestry Department and that attract public participation include the My Tree Legacy programme which invites past students and past students' associations to return to their alma maters to engage in tree planting to create a legacy as well as the recently launched Grow with Me campaign which provides free seedlings to parents and guardians to plant the umbilical cord of their newborns, a tradition that was once very popular in Jamaica. The Forestry Department is also engaging with the island's youths through the National School Tree Planting Competition that began in September this year.

"Environmental degradation has and continues to have far-reaching impacts on our society and will require the participation of every Jamaican to help rebuild our defences. So far, almost 200 partner entities and thousands of individuals have come on board to do their part. Partner entities range from private and public sector agencies to schools and community groups," Smith said.

The National Tree Planting Initiative was launched by Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, in October 2019 and is aimed at planting three million trees in three years. Groups or individuals who are interested in receiving and planting trees under the initiative are invited to contact the Forestry Department at fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm or 876-618-3205.



“

A tree has roots in the soil
yet reaches to the sky.
It tells us that in order to aspire
we need to be grounded
and that no matter how high we go
it is from our roots
that we draw
sustenance.

Wangari Maathai

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO ‘BABY TREE’ TRADITION

For generations, it's been a tradition in Jamaican communities to commemorate the birth of babies by planting the newborn's umbilical cord at the root of a tree seedling. This tradition became known in some communities as planting a "Baby Tree".

As Jamaica celebrates its 60th anniversary of Independence, The Forestry Department, with the support of the Ministry of Health and Wellness, is looking to breathe new life into this cultural tradition and support the achievement of planting three million trees under the National Tree Planting Initiative with the launch of its "Grow With Me" Campaign.

"The goal of the National Tree Planting Initiative is to plant a tree for every single Jamaican and with over 34,000 babies born in Jamaica every year, this is the perfect opportunity to revive this age-old tradition as well as to plant trees for the future of our new Jamaicans," said Conservator of Forests and Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Department, Ainsley A. Henry. Through this campaign, the Forestry Department and Ministry of Health and

Wellness will be providing a free seedling to the parents or guardians of every baby born in the public health system.

Henry continued, "This Jamaican tradition has always served multiple critical purposes. The act of planting a Baby Tree creates opportunities for special moments between the parent/guardian and the child through storytelling, it provides the child with a tangible reminder that their roots are here in Jamaica and is the first investment in the future on behalf of the child. With this tradition and through the act of caring for and reaping benefits from the trees, we will also be raising generations of environmentally conscious Jamaicans who will hopefully have a greater appreciation for trees and nature."

Forestry Department's nurseries located in Kingston, Williamsfield and Moneague or contact the Agency via email at fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm or telephone at (876) 618-3205 to arrange the collection of a free fruit, ornamental or timber seedling. The Forestry Department will also be making routine deliveries of seedlings to maternity clinics across the island over the next few months.

TREES THAT FEED FOUNDATION DONATES 8000 FRUIT/FOOD TREES TO NTPI



The Trees That Feed Foundation has donated 8,000 fruit/food trees seedlings in support of the National Tree Planting Initiative (NTPI), becoming the latest partner to join the Government of Jamaica's thrust to plant Three Million Trees in Three Years.

Principal Director of Forest Operations at the Forestry Department, Mr. Jerome Smith, says the Agency welcomes the donation, noting that it will go towards satisfying the increased demand for fruit seedlings under the programme.

"Many of the requests that we have been receiving under the programme are for fruit seedlings and the Agency could not satisfy the demand. This partnership has given us the ability to increase the offerings of fruit seedlings under the initiative, which include species that we do not currently produce such as mango and breadfruit", Mr. Smith said.

Co-founder of Trees That Feed Foundation, Mr Mike McLaughlin, says the partnership was a natural progression following a meeting with the

CEO & Conservator of Forests, Mr. Ainsley Henry, as the goals of the two entities aligned well.

“Initially, we were under the impression that the Forestry Department only plants timber trees. At Trees That Feed Foundation, we’re passionate about fruit trees, but when Bindley Sangster with the Ministry of Agriculture suggested that we meet with Ainsley Henry, we did. It is important to us that the Forestry Department has a capable staff who can follow up on the trees planted and ensure survivability and we were pleased with the discussions,” he shared.

He says the Foundation will continue to give the Forestry Department as many fruit trees as they can. Towards that goal the two entities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to facilitate increased partnership in various activities and to allow the Agency to become a distribution partner for the Trees That Feed Foundation.

“The Foundation distributes seedlings through partner nurseries and the Forestry Department will become one of those partners. How it works is that persons get a certificate from the Trees That Feed Foundation to go to partner nurseries for collection and very soon, persons with certificates from the Foundation will be able to visit our three nurseries in St. Andrew, St. Ann, and Manchester

“We wanted to inspire the children to love trees and thought it would be best accomplished if they helped create a book and owned it.

-Mary McLaughlin, co-founder of Trees That Feed Foundation

to collect,” Mr. Smith shared.

The Trees That Feed Foundation is not only bolstering the Agency’s distribution efforts but has donated 2,500 copies of its children’s colouring book, ‘Plant A Tree and Good Things Happen’, to be distributed as part of the public education programme of the Agency. The publication, which is an educational colouring book highlights how planting trees affects the air, the environment, animals, people, and jobs.

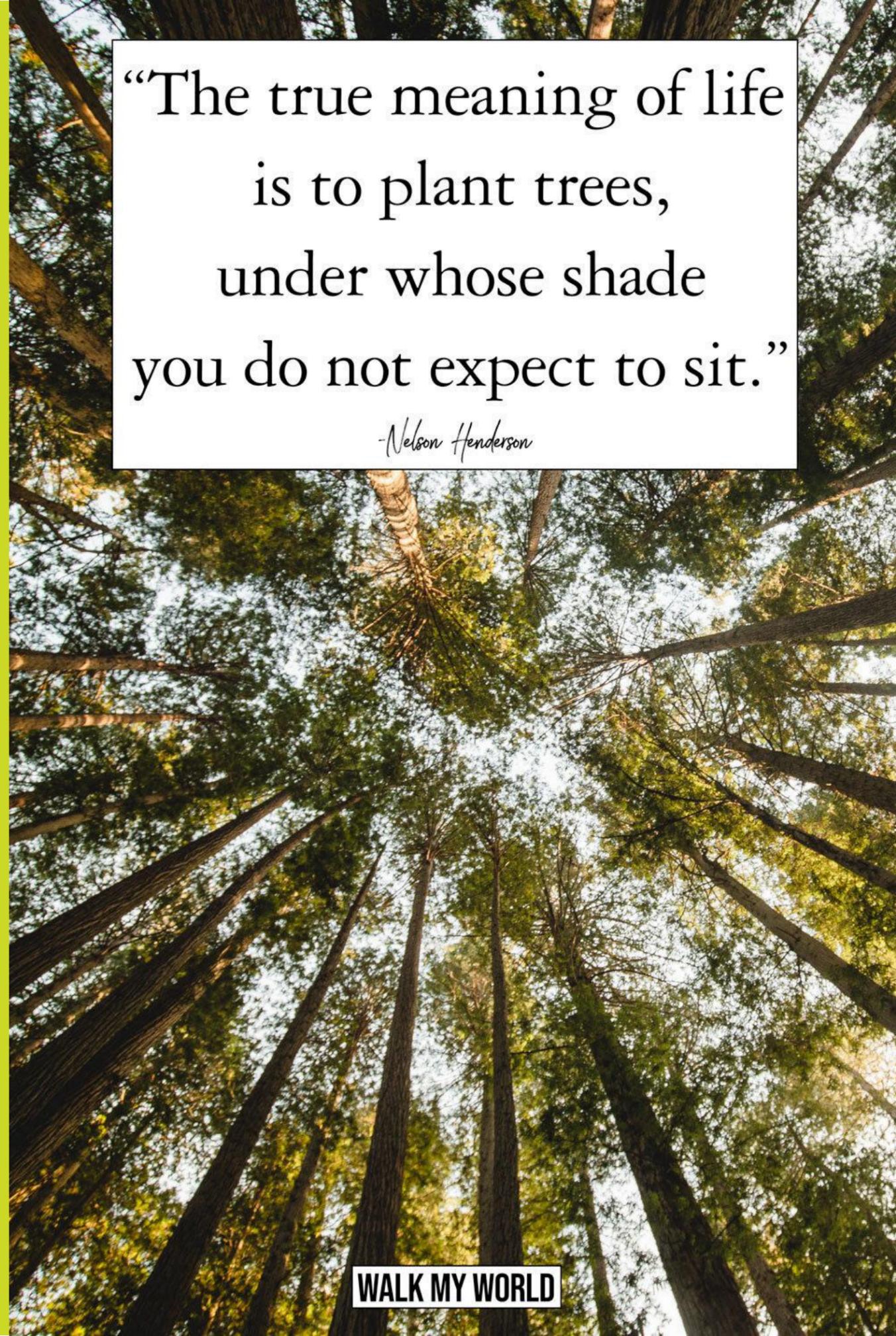
Mrs. Mary McLaughlin, co-founder of Trees That Feed Foundation, says the inspiration for the book came when the group was planting fruit trees at schools in Haiti, and they realized that the students only had books that stayed at school but nothing to take home. “We wanted to inspire the children to love trees and thought it would be best accomplished if they helped create a book and owned it. Once they take the activity book home to their parents, we’re influencing the adults too. When people learn the value of trees, they become dedicated caretakers of them,” she said.

To bolster efforts under the NTPI, the Agency has also set up two temporary satellite distribution points at its offices in Folly, Portland and Catherine Hall, St. James to make seedlings more accessible to the public. However, because there are no shade houses at these locations, the Agency is asking people who wish to collect seedlings from these locations to send orders to fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm and allow time for the seedlings to be transported before visiting for collection.

For more information, call 876-618-3205 or visit www.forestry.gov.jm for seedling availability.

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Nelson Henderson





INDUSTRY NEWS

Former Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. (right), and Head, Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Vincent Sweeney (left), participate in mangrove replanting activities along the Palisadoes strip within the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area (P-PRPA) in June, 2021. Observing is Chief Executive Officer, and Government Town Planner, National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Peter Knight.

JAMAICA'S MANGROVES WORTH MILLIONS

Mangroves, the groups of trees and shrubs that line Jamaica's coastlines, hold significant value not only in protecting and sustaining the lives and livelihoods of citizens along the coasts but also in real economic terms.

It is estimated that these wetland forests are worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

A report on Jamaica's mangroves, launched in 2019, estimate that they provide approximately US\$32.7 million in protection to Jamaica's heavily settled coastline areas.

The study, funded by the Program on Forests (PROFOR) through the World Bank, found that without mangroves, the estimated damage from flooding would be US\$169 million annually.

When the protection of approximately US\$2.4

billion in assets (people and infrastructure) during storms is factored in, the value of mangroves is more than US\$186 million per hectare.

Director for the Centre of Marine Sciences at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus, Professor Mona Kay Webber, tells JIS News that the value of mangroves is directly related to what they protect.

With these areas worth up to about US\$900,000 per hectare, per year in 2006, it is evident that the value of mangroves continues to increase over time.

"A mangrove could protect part of the coastal road as well as the hotel. This adds to the actual value of the mangrove ecosystem itself," Professor Webber says.

"Mangroves protect shorelines, so they stop

erosion and reduce sediment flow into the water. All the turbidity and dirty water that flows from the land, mangrove forests intercept those and reduce the amount of sediments flowing in the marine environment," she points out further.

But, the benefits of mangroves go beyond storm and flood protection.

According to the PROFOR study, which also involved the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA); the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM); the University of California, Santa Cruz and UWI, approximately 3.7 million tons of carbon are sequestered annually by Jamaica's mangroves.

They also contribute between US\$5,218 (at Salt Marsh, Trelawny) and US\$54,145 (at Portland Cottage, Clarendon) in mixed fisheries per hectare, per year.

The mangroves, which are normally found along shores and rivers, are home to more than 220 species of fish, including grunt, parrot and snapper.

They serve as a nursery with several fish species migrating to the safety of the dangling root-system to lay their eggs.

Professor Webber notes that more than 80 per cent of commercial fish begin in mangroves as juveniles or young fish.

Jamaica's mangroves are also home to 24 reptile and amphibian species, 18 mammal species and 200 bird species.

These include the Jamaican Woodpecker; the West Indian Whistling Duck and Brown Pelican; crocodiles and lizards; lobster, shrimp and crab; oysters and various species of algae, sponges and invertebrates such as starfish.

The mangroves offer untapped benefits, including the potential for high-end recreational fishing, low-impact mari-culture and ecotourism.

"Nowadays for recreation, there are parts of the world where mangrove tours are a big sell for bird watchers and others," Professor Webber says, noting that this adds to the overall value of the forests.

In addition, she says that where mangroves occur in healthy forests, persons can sustainably reap mangrove wood. They are also valuable sources of colour-producing tannins, bioactive compounds and other chemicals that can be extracted for medicinal purposes.

An aerial view of a mangrove forest in Trelawny.

Given the environmental, ecological and economic benefits of mangroves, Jamaicans are being urged to do more to protect these valuable assets.

NEPA reports that Jamaica lost more than 2,000 hectares of mangroves between 1989 and 2010, and measures are being taken to restore them.

Some £5 million has been secured from the United Kingdom (UK) Blue Carbon Fund to invest in the 3,800 hectares of mangroves in Southern Clarendon and reforest the depleted areas.

The region has the largest area of mangrove degradation in the island due to, among other things, unsustainable land use activities such as the cutting down of trees to burn coal.

The Forestry Department and partners continue to restore Jamaica's mangroves in sections of Kingston under the Government's Mangrove Restoration Programme. This initiative is expected to build resilience for the country's coastal safety, while reducing Jamaica's carbon footprint.

To read more, visit www.jis.gov.jm

During the quarter, the Agency celebration celebrated National Tree Planting Day with a ceremony at the Ebony Park Agro-Park in St. Catherine where seedlings were planted in furtherance of the Agency's partnership with the Agro-Investment Corporation and in support of the National Tree Planting Initiative.

The planting of seedlings by the Agency's male employees in observance of International Men's Day and the launch of the Grow With Me campaign are two activities executed during the period which have moved the Agency closer to its target to plant 3 million trees in three years under the National Tree Planting Initiative. As at November, an impressive sum of 2.2 million seedlings have been distributed and/or planted.

Also in this quarter, the Agency, with the sponsorship of the European Union, also staged the inaugural National Forestry Conference which culminated in a field trip to forest industries in St. Catherine and the Forest Heroes Awards Banquet, celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the Forestry Department.



PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

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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