

# Forest News

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**Let's plant 300,000 trees**  
TOWARDS THE NATIONAL TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

**NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY** celebrated **Oct. 6**

**SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION**

**THEME: Keep the Heat Away... Plant a Tree Today!**

**DISTRIBUTION PERIOD**  
September 25 - October 13, 2023  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. daily **NO DISTRIBUTION ON OCTOBER 6**

**DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS**

- ✓ Head Office, 175 Constant Spring Road, Kgn. 8
- ✓ Moneague, St. Ann (adjacent the JDF Camp)
- ✓ Williamsfield Nursery, Manchester

Register your Tree Planting Project at [www.forestry.gov.jm](http://www.forestry.gov.jm) starting September 25

For more information: [www.forestry.gov.jm](http://www.forestry.gov.jm) (876) 618-3205 [fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm](mailto:fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm) [f](#) [i](#) [x](#)

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## Industry News

# Rainwater Harvesting and Upgraded Irrigation Systems Commissioned at Forestry Department Nurseries



Photo: Donald De La Haye

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda (second left); State Minister in the Ministry of National Security and St. Andrew West Rural Member of Parliament, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert Flynn (centre); and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Forestry Department and Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry (second right), cut the ribbon symbolising the commissioning of the upgraded irrigation systems at the agency's Mount Airy nursery on Tuesday (August 29). Sharing the moment are CEO and Co-Founder of Instant Save Conservation Solutions Limited, Leanne Spence (left), and the National Water Commission Actin Vice president of Operations, Dr. Phillipa Campbell- Francis.

**C**ost savings and efficient water use will abound for the Forestry Department following the commissioning of a rainwater harvesting system at the agency's Constant Spring Road Nursery and upgraded irrigation systems at its Mount Airy Nursery in St. Andrew.

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda, led the commissioning ceremony at the entity's Constant Spring Road headquarters on Tuesday (August 29), which was followed by a tour of the systems at Mount Airy in St. Andrew West Rural.

The Minister noted that the mechanisms represent a milestone for the Department, particularly as "we cannot be stewards of the environment in the way that we are and not lead by

example".

"I'm happy that the first step has been taken for us to lead by example," he further stated.

Both systems are expected to increase the entity's production of seedlings and restore seedling beds.

"This investment in the irrigation system of over \$3 million, will also protect [the National] Water Commission (NWC)... [and] optimise our use of that resource and ensure that we are turning out the volume of plants that we need from our nursery," Minister Samuda said

In his remarks, Forestry Department Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry, noted that from the systems, "our savings will be profound".

”

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*Senator the Hon. Matthew Samuda,  
Ministry of Economic Growth and  
Job Creation*

Written by: Mickella Anderson-Gordon, Jamaica Information Service

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## 2.7 Million Trees Already Planted Under National Initiative

Speaking on Nationwide 90 FM's 'Ask the Minister' segment on Tuesday (September 12), Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry, said the remaining 300,000 trees are to be planted by year-end.

The three million trees initiative was announced by Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, in 2019 with an initial target of three years.

Mr. Henry informed that "with a severe drought in the middle of the year, it's been a little challenging, and it didn't help that when we got started it was the beginning of COVID".

He, nonetheless, encourages Jamaicans to play their part in reaching the new deadline set by the Prime Minister.

Pointing out that trees are recognised as one of the most important elements in combatting climate change and noting that the initiative is one that "every single person has the ability or opportunity to do", Mr. Henry said "If you haven't planted a tree, I encourage you to plant a tree.

"There are three million of us on this little rock. So if every single Jamaican goes out tomorrow and plants a tree, not only will we hit the target but we will surpass it... double it in fact. So that's what we are encouraging," he stated.

Mr. Henry also encourages persons to plant the varieties of trees that are suitable for their space, which can also be acquired at the Forestry Department.

On the matter of how the trees planted are being accounted for, Mr. Henry told programme host Nora-Gay Banton that, "we would have recorded that we gave it to you".

— ” —

There are three million of us on this little rock. So if every single Jamaican goes out tomorrow and plants a tree, not only will we hit the target but we will surpass it...

*Ainsley Henry, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Department and Conservator of Forests*



Photo: Donald De La Haye

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Department and Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry.

"But we also have an app, it's called the 876 Trees app, that you can download and you can report and record the trees that you've planted, how they're doing, [and] you can get advice on tree planting and so on," he further informed.

Additionally, there is a form on the Forestry Department's website where persons can enter the relevant information.

"All of these mechanisms are there to help you to tell us what you have done so that we can record and tell the world how well this little nation is doing in terms of environmental protection, in terms of our stewardship and in terms of our efforts to combat climate change," Mr. Henry said.

With National Tree Planting Day coming up in October, the CEO advised that there will be a mass distribution of trees at the Department's facilities with an aim of planting 100,000 .

He also offered words of advice to Jamaicans who will participate in the exercise.

"It's important to note that just like any other child, any other young thing, when they are planted as seedlings, they need to be cared for in order for them to become strong, healthy and productive trees," Mr. Henry said.

"So, that's one of the things that we're encouraging people to do too... not simply take seedlings and plant them and then forget them, especially in a drought and in dry times," he added.

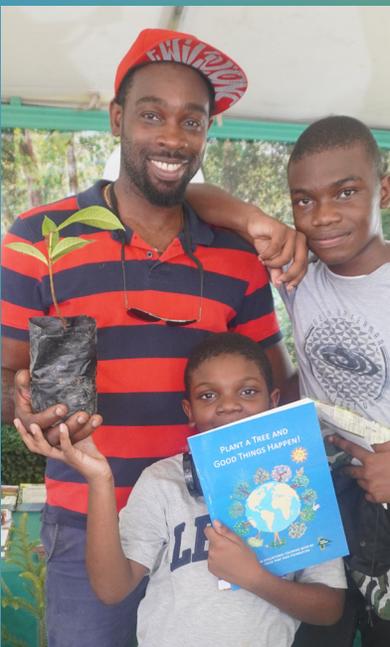
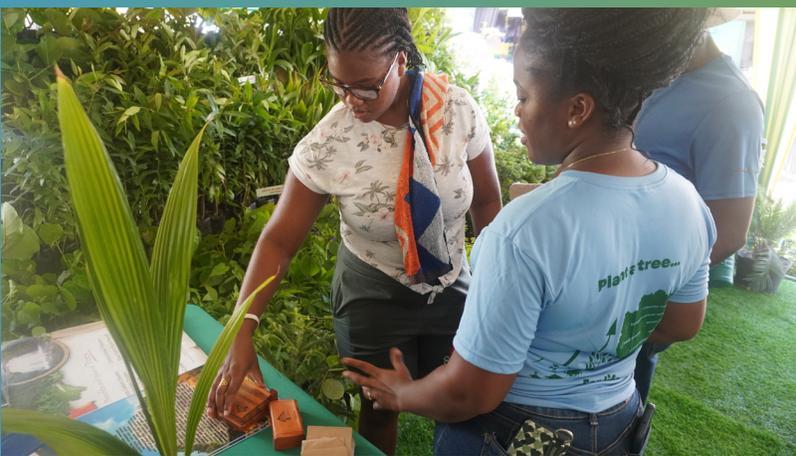
Written by: Mickella Anderson-Gordon, Jamaica Information Service



# Highlights of Forestry Department at Denbigh Agricultural Industrial & Food Show 2023

# 1,284

## seedlings distributed



# The Forestry Department connects hillsides and seashores through coastal clean-up activities

As the Forestry Department widens its mandate to include the management of wetland forests, it coordinated its first coastal cleanup at the Rocking Point Fishing Beach, Clarendon, at the most recent observance of International Coastal Cleanup Day observed on September 16, 2023.

Forty (40) volunteers from the Agency were joined by family, friends and members of the Jamaica Red Cross and Heart Trust NTA as well as members of the community in cleaning up the fishing beach. Approximately 900 pounds of solid waste, including plastic bottles, were removed.

Plastic bottles were the most predominant form of solid waste collected during the cleanup, re-emphasizing the prevalent problem of improper waste disposal and the widespread use of plastics. “There is a connectivity between the land and the sea...whatever happens on the land affects the sea because once persons throw their [garbage]... in the gullies, in the drains, in the rivers, [it] eventually ends up in the sea and affect coastal life,” Ms. Ann-Marie Bromfield, Forest

Manger, South West Region and one of the volunteers said.

Initiatives like International Coastal Cleanup Day raise awareness about the prevalence of solid waste pollution while actively reducing the quantity in our mangrove forests, beaches and other coastal areas. Mr. Jerome Smith, Principal Director of Forest Operations, said, “We’ve noted that in the last ten years, we’ve lost over 90% of our mangroves in some areas, and simple activities like these, moving solid waste from the coast will help to improve the conditions [along our] coastlines and help regeneration of mangrove forests”.

Jamaica’s mangroves – the island’s primary “shore-keepers”...

“We’ve noted that in the last ten years, we’ve lost over 90% of our mangroves in some areas, and simple activities like these, moving solid waste from the coast will help to improve the conditions [along our] coastlines and help regeneration of mangrove forests.”

*Jerome Smith, Principal Director of Forest Operations*

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Ainsley Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests (left), and his team of volunteers from the Forestry Department recording solid waste collected.



Forestry Department volunteers sorting plastic bottles and other solid waste during the Agency's International Coastal Cleanup activity at the Rocky Point Fishing Beach, Clarendon on September 16, 2023.



Omar Bennett, Forest Technician (left) and Nasheji-Gaye Elliot, Public Relations and Communications Officer (right) at the Forestry Department, present seagrass seedlings to a representative of the White Sand Beach Seafood Restaurant nearby



Volunteers from the Forestry Department, Heart Trust NTA and Jamaica Red Cross pause for a photo during the coastal cleanup



**Forestry Department**  
Protecting our Forests, Sustaining Lives

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**SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION**

celebrated **Oct. 6**

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## Forestry Department distributes seedlings to encourage tree planting

The Forestry Department's annual National Tree Planting Day seedling distribution is in full swing, days before National Tree Planting Day.

To encourage tree planting, the Agency is distributing seedlings Mondays to Fridays from September 25 to October 13, 2023, at its three nurseries. The seedling distribution supports tree planting leading up to National Tree Planting Day (NTPD),

which is observed annually on the first Friday in October.

National Tree Planting Day (NTPD) was introduced in 2003 as part of activities to celebrate the Forestry Department's then 65th year of service to Jamaica.

The Day's observance aims to promote the value of forests and trees while providing an opportunity for everyone to contribute to increasing the island's forest cover and beautifying the

surroundings through tree planting.

This year, National Tree Planting Day will be observed on Friday, October 6, 2023. The theme for this year's observance highlights the importance of trees planting as climate change mitigation strategy. The theme is: *Keep the Heat Away...Plant A Tree Today!*

*All trees planted will contribute to the National Tree Planting Initiative to plant three million trees.*

**Forestry Department**  
Protecting our Forests, Sustaining Lives

# BOOK DRIVE

Collection period: September 1 to November 30, 2023

Books should be in good condition.

**Adult books**  
Primary **Textbooks**  
Tertiary Early Childhood  
Secondary  
**Children books**

**DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:**  
Head Office, 173 Constant Spring Road, Kgn 8  
Litchfield, Trelawny  
Williamsfield Nursery, Manchester  
Moneague Office, St. Ann (adjacent JDF Camp)  
Catherine Hall Office (RADA Complex),  
Montego Bay

A Forestry Department & **DI CAWNA LIBRARY** partnership.

For more information: ☎ (876) 618-3205 ✉ [fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm](mailto:fdinfo@forestry.gov.jm) 📷 📘 ✕

## CEO of Forestry Department launches Book Drive to support literacy

**A**insley Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests at the Forestry Department has launched a book drive encouraging staff to donate books that will support literacy in low-income communities.

Books donated will be contributed to Di

Cawna Library, a charity organisation that repurposes old refrigerators into bookshelves for residents to access a range of literature easily.

The Agency is proud to endorse and be a part of this initiative, which we envision will foster national development,

starting with individual empowerment. Di Cawna Library has been an active partner in planting and distributing trees towards the National Tree Planting Initiative, launched by in 2019 to plant three million trees.

## Forestry Department removes scores of plastic bottles from communities in house competition

A three-week long bottle drive which started as a mere house competition at the Forestry Department turned out to be a massive clean-up that removed numerous bags of plastic bottles from the urban and rural communities across Jamaica.

The drive was an impressive display of competitiveness, team spirit and determination among the four houses – Jamaican Mahogany, Blue Mahoe, Cedar and Lignum Vitae – which endured throughout the drive.

In the end, the Agency turned over 3,134 kilograms of plastic bottles to the local recycling company, Recycling Partners of Jamaica.

While the bottle drive was primarily aimed at advancing the objective of the Agency's Welfare and Social Affairs Committee to strengthen staff morale and camaraderie within the Agency, Ainsley Henry, CEO & Conservator of Forests was most proud of his team's efforts "To ensure that Jamaica is clean and that we all benefit from a clean environment".

Recycling is not novel to the Agency, as several receptacles, positioned across its compounds island wide, are used by the staff. Nevertheless, the bottle drive has increased awareness among the staff about plastic pollution and inspired some to start or continue recycling beyond the competition. Ann-Marie Medder, Administrative Support Officer, expressed that during her collection for her house, she was "alarmed at the amount of plastic bottles and other garbage that littered the Riverton community" in Kingston. She has since committed to continue recycling to do her part to reduce plastic pollution.



## Portland resident fined for Operating a Sawmill without a Licence

**A** Portland man caught operating a chainsaw in a forest estate without a sawmill licence has been found guilty. The accused, David Taylor, appeared before the Portland Parish Court, on June 14, 2023, for the unlawful use of a sawmill in the Lennox Forest Estate in Portland. Acting Senior Parish Judge Patricia Lopez presided over the matter and fined Mr. Taylor \$20,000 for operating a sawmill without a licence.

The conviction follows an investigation by the Forestry Department. On March 23, 2022, Mr. Taylor was caught operating the chainsaw (sawmill) during a routine patrol of the forest estate. After questioning, Mr. Taylor was found to be operating a sawmill without a licence. A Notice of Seizure was also served for twenty-five (25) pieces of Spanish Elm lumber that were recovered during this operation.

Mrs. Kadian Cruickshank, Senior Director of the Legal Services Branch at the Forestry Department, says the conviction is welcomed and hopes it will dissuade others from operating illegally. She encourages others to regularise themselves; otherwise, they risk a similar fate. Sawmill licences are valid for the calendar year in which they are granted, and as such, persons are encouraged to commence the application process before January of each year so they will have the full 12 months to use their licences", said Mrs. Cruickshank.

The Forestry Department issues licences to operate sawmills and to cut or extract timber or forest produce. Permits are needed for the use of the forest road, to remove timber or forest produce, to use and/or transport a power saw, and to use or light an open fire or charcoal kiln in forest estates.

Mr. Taylor breached Regulation 25(1)



(a) of the Forest Regulations, which states:

"No person shall without a valid licence or permit for the licence and purpose approved by the Conservator pursuant to section 28 of the permit Act and to this Regulation -

(a) drive, transport or use in any place a sawmill of any type or make..."

A person who contravenes any of the provisions of Regulation 24, 25... commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year (Regulation 39).

Mr. Taylor was advised by the Agency to obtain a sawmill licence for his chainsaw to prevent future prosecution.

In the meantime, the Forestry Department encourages the public to report suspicious activity in forested

areas to the Forestry Department by calling (876) 618-3205 or the nearest police station.



Lumber of fell tree by the accused, David Taylor, in the Lennox Forest Estate, Portland

# Forestry Department hosts first sports day in 10 years

**J**amaican Mahogany emerged winners of the Forestry Department's first Sports Day in a decade held on July 28, 2023.

The event which was held at the Noranda Sports Complex in Discovery Bay, St. Ann was the grand finale of a series of competitions held among staff placed in four houses— Jamaican Mahogany, Blue Mahoe, Cedar and Lignum Vitae. Lignum Vitae arrived in second place; Blue Mahoe in fourth and Cedar in fourth.

Leading up to sports day the houses were engaged in a series of competitions including a plastic bottle drive, rep-your-house-colour, domino and quizzes. On the day, the teams were kept busy with various activities including tree planting, a banner competition, track races, football, netball, volleyball, netball, bun-eating, needle-and-thread, potato sack and more. CEO and Conservator of Forests, Ainsley Henry, who was unable to attend the event congratulated the winning team, Jamaica Mahogany and expressed, "I am buoyed by the reports of active participation that I have received".

The preceding vigour and anticipation among the houses was maintained to the end as the teams fought feverishly to the finish. Team captain of Jamaica Mahogany stated proudly, "Slow and steady, the Mighty Mahoganites triumphed as the true champions. With teamwork at our core, we managed to stay together and build on each other's strength!"



Winners of the Forestry Department's Sports Day, Jamaican Mahogany, claim their first place trophy, presented by Damart Williams, Chairman of the Welfare & Socila Affairs Committe and Senior Director, Zonal Operations (Eastern) amidst spirited celebration.



Runners-up collecting their trophies: second place - Lignum Vitae (left), third place - Blue Mahoe (centre), fourth place - Cedar



*Congratulations*  
**Jamaican Mahogany**  
**#More-Agony**





### **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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