



JUNE 2017 Newsletter



Park Managers
**JAMAICA
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT TRUST**



Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains supplies 40% of Jamaica's fresh water supply. Ten major rivers spring from within the national park, including the Hope, Yallahs and Morant Rivers. Maintaining a healthy forest is critical to collecting and filtering rainfall; restoring the water table; and preventing soil erosion. Leading educational programmes that discourage the cutting of trees and reforestation projects are key components of the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust's park conservation programme.



VOLUNTEER CORPS – RANGERS START TRAINING

The Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT) has piloted a volunteer programme for university students to bolster conservation efforts in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. Under the programme, **Volunteer Corps - Rangers** will participate in resource monitoring as well as recreational site management. The eight-week training programme began on June 19 and is being funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. Seven students and recent graduates comprise the first cohort with educational backgrounds in Science, Business and Communications.



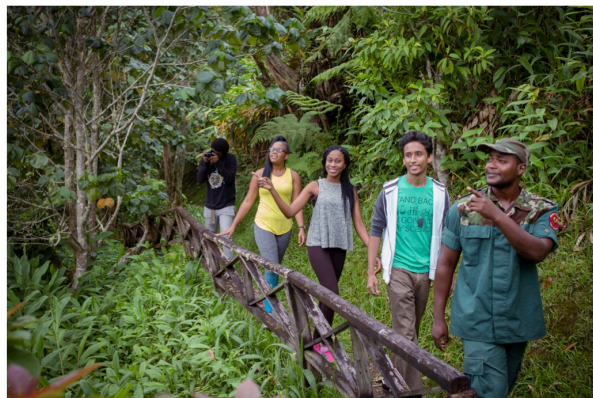
REFORESTATION AT SEAWARD MOUNTAIN –

The JCDT in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy recently coordinated a tree-planting exercise in Seaward Mountain, St. Andrew. The project was funded by the Coca Cola Foundation. An area of three acres was cleared of invasive species and replanted with native trees, such as Dovewood and Beetwood. Reforestation is a three-year activity that involves quarterly monitoring to clear competing vegetation and to ensure that the young tree roots are secure. The re-habilitated land is owned by the National Water Commission and will support water harvesting at Hermitage Dam.



CHARLES TOWN MAROON CONFERENCE

The Charles Town Maroon community hosted the 9th annual International Maroon Conference from June 22-25, 2017 in Portland. In addition to celebrating Jamaica's maroon heritage, the conference is also a platform for an examination of indigenous cultures from around the world. Maroon culture in the Blue and John Mountains is recognised under the park's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Supporting the development of maroon communities as cultural and tourist attractions is a strategy for park conservation. The economic diversification of communities in the buffer zone, reduces the need to encroach on the forest for lumber and farming.



NATURE WALKS IN THE NATIONAL PARK

The JCDT maintains over 15 kilometres of walking trails within the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. Nature-lovers can explore short trails at Holywell or challenge themselves on the seven-hour Peak Trail hike to Jamaica's highest point – The Blue Mountain Peak. With cool mountain temperatures and no dangerous wildlife, nature-walks are comfortable and safe. Walks at Holywell are free with a general admission ticket. Hiking on the Peak Trail is J\$200 for residents and US\$20 for non-residents. Revenue from trail fees goes towards site maintenance and the Blue and John Crow Mountains Conservation Programme.

**GET
INVOLVED**



The Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park is managed by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT). The JCDT is a registered charity which receives part-funding from the Government of Jamaica. The remaining 70% of the park management budget is financed by grants and donations.

The **Friends of the Blue Mountains** programme is an opportunity for individuals and companies to support conservation efforts in the national park. All contributions are tax deductible. **Friends of the Blue Mountains** support the management of the national park through annual contributions in the following tiers:

INDIVIDUAL	- J\$ 3,000
CORPORATE AGATE	- J\$ 25,000
CORPORATE MALACHITE	- J\$ 50,000
CORPORATE JADE	- J\$ 75,000
CORPORATE EMERALD	- J\$ 100,000



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