

# National Environment and Planning Agency

## Vision

That Jamaica's natural resources are used in a sustainable way and that there is broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance with relevant legislation.

## Mission

To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard.



Managing & Protecting Jamaica's Land, Wood and Water

The Biodiversity Branch is one of the branches in the Integrated Planning and Environment Division, The National Environment and Planning Agency.

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Create an Environment  
for Clean Living.

Produced by the Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch in collaboration with the Biodiversity Branch of NEPA

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## The National Environment and Planning Agency



# The Biodiversity Branch

*Biological Diversity  
(Biodiversity):*

**“Life on earth”; the variety of all plants, animals and micro-organisms**



**To achieve a balanced co-existence between man and his natural environment by ensuring the survival of Jamaica's flora, fauna and micro-organisms and the sustainability of the island's biological resources .**



The Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, which is endemic to Jamaica

## Objectives

- Ensure the survival of Jamaica's flora, fauna and micro-organisms
- Enable users of biological resources to develop the capability to manage and use biological resources sustainably
- Recommend the protection of fragile ecosystems that are necessary for the conservation of biological resources

## What does the Branch do?

- Develops and maintains the legal framework to protect endangered and endemic species
- Formulates and implements management strategies/plans for biological resources
- Promotes the recovery of endangered and endemic species
- Assists and supports on site conservation programmes: research, rehabilitation of species and re-introduction into their natural habitats
- Prepares directories, reports and technical studies to implement international conventions and protocols namely: **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)**



Land and marine ecosystems: The Blue Mountain Range, the Negril 7-Mile strip, and a coral reef.

- Issues CITES permits/certificates, following identification and examination of animals and plants
- Liaises and co-operates with the Public Education and Community Outreach Branch
- Liaises with local and international environmental NGO's, universities and appropriate government agencies to create an efficient network of information
- Consults with Range States with a view to co-ordinating their efforts to manage and protect endangered or threatened migratory species
- Develops conceptual models for ecosystem monitoring programmes of biological resources

## Current projects

- Development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Jamaica Iguana Project
- The Sea Turtle Project
- The Game Birds Age Distribution Survey



The Jamaican Iguana. The project involves captive breeding of iguanas, monitoring iguanas released into the wild population in the Hellshire Hills of St. Catherine and eradicating mongoose in the area.