

Voluntary National Contributions for Jamaica:

The Forestry Department, is the lead Government Agency for the management and conservation of Jamaica’s forest resources. Approximately 439,937.8 hectares or 40 percent of the island is classified as forest. The country currently has an annual net gain in cover of approximately 0.41% and the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to increase this rate by aggressively pursuing programmes, projects and policies aimed at preserving and protecting our forest cover, in particular our closed broadleaf/ primary forests.

As a member state of the UNFF the country supports the announcing of Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) which represent a political commitment by Member states to contribute to the GFGs and targets. In determining our VNCs, consideration was given to the tenets of the recently developed National Action Plan/National Forest Management & Conservation Plan (NAP/NFMCP 2016-2026) for the forest sector of Jamaica, which among other things supports the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument. This ten-year plan has been developed to ensure alignment to various key national policies geared at achieving national sustainable development objectives. In addition, its development comes against the background of Jamaica’s international obligations for which the forest sector plays a significant role.

Four actions with associated targets have been identified as the country’s Voluntary National Contributions, these are as follows:

Voluntary National Contributions (VNC)	Link to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development & Global Forest Goal and targets	Link with Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<p>1. Action: Improve watershed management planning (adaptation to climate change) within targeted forest estates to support sustainable forest management</p> <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2022 verify 10,000 ha of forest lands to support protection efforts • By 2022 reforest 300ha of denuded lands and maintain 1000ha of forest plantations. 	<p>This action will support:</p> <p>Global forest goal 1: Target 1.1</p> <p>Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change</p> <p>Target: 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide</p>	<p>This action will support:</p> <p>Aichi Biodiversity Goal B, Target 5: Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2022 transfer Management responsibility for 7000 ha of mangrove forest to the Forestry Department 		
<p>2. Action: Upscale gender sensitive alternative livelihoods to support the sustainable utilization of forest resources by local communities</p> <p>Target: By 2022 secure funding of US \$2million to support alternative forest livelihood activities including training on alternative forest livelihood areas aimed at communities in proximity to forests.</p>	<p>This action will support:</p> <p>Global forest goal 2: Target 2.4</p> <p>Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people</p> <p>Target: 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased.</p>	
<p>3. Action: Increase areas of Mangroves under protection and develop a Mangrove management and conservation plan to support this initiative.</p> <p>Target: By 2030 increase by 10%, the number of hectares legally protected as forests and having sustainable management plans islandwide.</p>	<p>This action will support:</p> <p>Global forest goal 3 and targets 3.1 & 3.2: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests</p> <p>Targets: 3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased</p>	<p>This action will support:</p> <p>Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.</p> <p>Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-</p>

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		based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
<p>4. Action: Strengthen the policy and legislative framework for the forest sector</p> <p>Target: By 2022 revise the Forest Act (1996) and Forest Regulations 2001 to support better governance and protection of forested areas.</p>	<p>This action will support: Global forest Goal 5 and target 5.2:</p> <p>Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Target: 5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide</p>	