
The Forestry Department: Protector or Developer?

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SNAPSHOTS OF OUR PAST



1937 - 1965

- **1937** - Forestry Department was created and the Forest Act promulgated
- **1950's – 1960's** - Public lands were identified, surveyed and declared as Forest Reserves under the Act
- **1960's** - Large-scale reforestation initiatives introduced

1965 - 2010

- **1970's – 1990's** Forest Industry Company formed, operationalized and closed.
- **1996 Forest Act amended**
- **2001** Forest Regulations promulgated and National Forest Management and Conservation Plan developed
- **Executive Agency status** acquired on **May 1, 2010**

OUR RAISON D'ETRE



- Establish and maintain publicly owned forest reserves
- Encourage the use of sound forest management practices on privately held land
- Management of the reserves using conservation and development practices for multiple uses
- Development of uses for native timbers and other forest products to provide the highest proportion of the island's requirements.



“WHAT DO WE MANAGE?”

- 109 514 hectares of land with varied level of forest are managed by the Agency
- The lands are state-owned lands and are vested in the person of the Commissioner of Lands though managed by the Agency
- Approximately 99 000 hectares are declared forest reserves and 11 000 hectares can loosely be defined as forest estates
- The Agency derives its authority to act from the Forest Act 1996 and the Forest Regulations 2001

FD: EXECUTIVE AGENCY



- Main characteristics of an EA
 - Emphasis on delegation of authority with a shift from process to results in control and accountability mechanisms
 - *Focus on performance management*
 - *Consumerist bias expressed in a new focus on quality services*

Daily Gleaner September 29, 2008 - "... while the Forestry Department, as an Executive Agency, would generate some income for services offered, it would be **more service centred, rather than revenue centred**".



EA ACT - FUNDING

- 12 (1) The funds and resources of each Executive Agency shall consist of-
- (a) such sums as may be provided by Parliament annually for the purpose in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure;
- (b) such sums as may be allocated from time to time to the Executive Agency from loan funds;
- (c) ***..... moneys earned by the Agency from charges imposed by it in respect of the goods or services provided by it in its options;*** and
- (d) all other sums or property which may become payable to or vested in the Agency in respect of any matter incidental to its functions.

EA ACT – FUND RAISING

13. (1) Subject to subsection (2), an Executive Agency may, , ***impose fees or charges in respect of the services rendered by it.***

15.-(1) Every Chief Executive Officer shall prepare and submit to the responsible Minister-

- (a) a corporate plan; and
- (b) ***an annual business plan*** containing such particulars as may be prescribed.

RECREATION

Clydesdale – Saint Andrew

- Extensive renovation of the Site required
- Facilities
 - Camping and Hiking
 - Cabins
 - Guided Tours
 - Bird watching
- Natural attraction
 - Spring
 - Heritage site
 - Trails



TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Generation of Maps
- GIS analysis & mapping
- Volumetric assessment of forest plantations
- Carbon inventory based on IPCC standards
- Valuation of forest resources



SALE OF FOREST PRODUCE

- Stumpage
 - Legitimate sale of forest produce using the licensing and permit mechanism
- Seizures
 - Establishment of the Enforcement Branch has resulted in more offences being detected before the forest produce is stolen
 - Sale of these items, has increased the revenue intake of the Agency and provides a positive outcome to a negative activity



OTHER OPTIONS

- Payment for protection – Not extortion money
 - Portion of the fines imposed for convictions under the Act or Regulations diverted from the Consolidated Fund to the coffers of the Agency to support sustainable forest management initiatives
- Licences
 - Eco-tourism ventures
 - Use of trails and roads

Next Steps

CEO & Conservator
of Forests – “The
Agency’s focus is on
the modernization
of the organisation’s
“corporate, technical
and enforcement
services”.





Conclusions

Q: Can the Forestry Department serve Jamaica as both a **PROTECTOR** and **CONSUMER** of the services provided by its forest resources?

A: **YES**, once the paramount consideration for the management of these resources is based on sustainable forest management principles.

Thank you.

