

Portland Bight Protected Area - PBPA

What is the PBPA?

The Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) is one of the largest protected areas in Jamaica, located in south central Jamaica and covering 187,615 ha of both terrestrial and marine areas. The PBPA was designated under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act on 22 April 1999 and encompasses a diverse range of areas of conservation interest: forest reserves, Special Fishery Conservation Areas, national monuments and protected national heritage sites including Taino traditional villages. The PBPA's legal management authority is the Natural Resources Conservation Authority/National Environment and Planning Agency. However, as co-management is a fundamental principle underlying the management of the PBPA, 17 agencies including Government and statutory bodies, gun clubs and NGOs lead by the C-CAM are collaborating to manage the area.

How is the C-CAM engaged?

Through participatory management, the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) leads and promotes community and stakeholder involvement in the PBPA, with the aim to develop sustainable livelihoods, encourage wise use of natural resources while protecting the cultural heritage and biodiversity of the area. C-CAM activities also include education (1), general public awareness, including with the famous "Annual Green Run" (2), tourism promotion and conservation (e.g. mangrove restoration, turtles monitoring) (3).



1

Did you know?

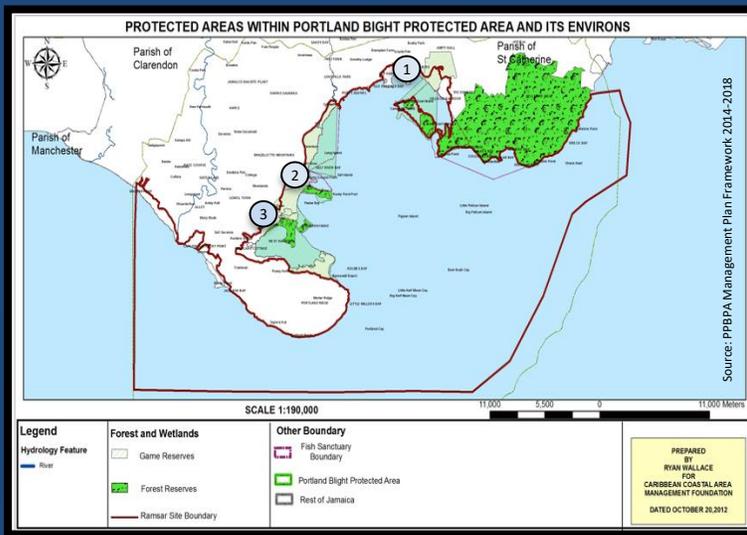
The PBPA is one of the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean region but also one of the most threatened protected areas in Jamaica.



2



3



Source: PPBPA Management Plan Framework 2014-2018

#	Name of Community	Main types of natural resources based Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
1	Old Harbour Bay	Artisanal fisheries, Small scale farming
2	Salt River	Artisanal fisheries
3	Mitchell Town	Artisanal fisheries, Livestock farming, Apiculture

Socio-economic Snapshot of the PBPA

The PBPA encompasses 49 communities, with a total population of about 50,000. Its three main coastal communities, which are around Special Fishery Conservation Areas, are the Old Harbour Bay, Salt River and Mitchell Town. The main economic activities of the PBPA are fishing and aquaculture, small scale farming (crops and livestock), tourism and sugar industry. Many of the residents depend on the natural resources for their livelihoods, especially the fishers. The PBPA has more fishers within its boundaries than anywhere else in Jamaica.

Poverty and unemployment rates: Poverty and unemployment rates in the communities within the PBPA are high (e.g. 39% unemployment rate across the three coastal communities and 70% for females).

Vulnerable groups: Youth (38% of the population under 20 years old), women and other marginalised groups, including fisherfolk and their organisations, have been recognised as vulnerable groups which would require capacity building to improve their involvement in community level decision making and access to employment and income generating activities. The development and strengthening of small and micro enterprises (SMEs) has been identified as a key need within the communities.

Tourism opportunities: There is a significant potential for the development of ecotourism, with beach excursions and picnicking already popular in the offshore islands. Training of local stakeholders for activities such as boat tours (including for the observation of emblematic marine species: dolphins, sharks, manatees, crocodiles), but also for the development of artisanal art is needed. A new Centre for Ecotourism Education opened in September 2018.



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Ecosystems & Species of interest

Key Threats

Critical ecosystems

- Dry forests (Jamaica's largest block of dry limestone forest: 21,025 ha)
- Mangrove wetlands (longest intact mangrove coastline in Jamaica: 8,200 ha -1 Ramsar site)
- Freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity
- Coral reefs
- Seagrass beds
- Sandy beaches and cays

Some species of conservation concern

- Reptiles, amphibians and birds endemic to Portland Bight, including the Jamaican Iguana *Cyclura collei*, American Crocodile, Jamaican Slider, critically endangered Jamaican Pauraque, Bahama Mockingbird
- Mammals: vulnerable and endemic Jamaican Hutia, Endangered West Indian Manatee
- Plants: Endemic *Opuntia jamaicensis*

- Poor management of natural resources (including water, fisheries, charcoal burning, timber harvest, illegal hunting and harvest).
- Climate change and natural disasters (including hurricanes, storms and flooding)
- Unsustainable development (including expansion of housing and urban areas and industrial development, fish and shrimp farming, quarry zones and infrastructure, poor agricultural practices, expansion of unsustainable tourism and recreation).
- Pollution of water and soils by sewage, chemicals, garbage and solid wastes.
- Air pollution from industrial operations and power stations.
- Alien invasive species