

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM - Jamaica

Title	“Enviro-Kids Programme – Kids Discovery Zone” at Holywell Recreational Grounds	
Origin	Yanique POWELL (876)944-8379 Youthpath@jcdt.org (876)944-8379/960-2848	
Beneficiaries	<p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>The 78,000 hectares (200,000 acres) of tropical mist forests of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park in Jamaica is a site of particularly high biological diversity and is an important center for plant endemism. Almost half of the island’s 530 ferns can be found in these mountains and it is estimated that up to 40% of flowering plants in the area are found nowhere else in the world. About 80 of the island’s 300 bird species can be found in the area, including all 30 of the endemic species, and numerous migratory birds. The forest also serves as a habitat for many of the island’s endemic animals such as the Jamaican Hutia (Indian Coney), the Jamaican Yellow Snake (Jamaican Boa), the Black-billed Parrot and the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly, the second largest butterfly in the world. The forests function as important watershed areas and provide water to both rural and urban communities on the eastern end of the island including Kingston. Ten of the island’s watershed units are found within the Park including the Rio Grande, Wag Water, Hope and Yallahs rivers and these provide nearly 40% of the island’s population (close to 1 million persons) with water. The Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT) has been involved in the management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP) since 1989.</p> <p>Holywell is the most accessible family recreational area within the National Park. In January 2003, JCDT launched the UNESCO Youth PATH (Poverty Alleviation through Tourism and Heritage) Project which seeks to train youths from communities around Holywell in the skills to develop and document cultural and heritage sites within the park and surrounding communities to enhance their eco-tourism potential. From January 2003 to the present, youth have received training in tour guiding, natural resource awareness, cultural resource awareness, and sustainable development of crafts</p>	
Partners	Lead organization	<i>Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust</i> <i>UNESCO</i> <i>Jamaica International Insurance Company</i> <i>Ministry of Education Youth and Culture</i> <i>National Environment and Planning Agency</i> <i>Youth from the YouthPATH Programme</i>
	Youth organizations	
	Other organizations	
Duration	March 1, 2005 Implementation ends August 2005 Activities ongoing	
Theme	My Island Home	
Priority Issue	All the Basic to Primary School children within the parishes of close proximity to the Park (St. Andrew, Portland, and Kingston) will be made environmentally aware by their Holywell “Enviro-Kids” experience.	
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	Park (St. Andrew, Portland, and Kingston) will be made environmentally aware by their Holywell “Enviro-Kids” experience.
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fill the need for recreational and educational activities for children in Jamaica • Raise awareness about the BJMNP in young children through play • Develop in children an early appreciation for nature • Contribute methodology and resource to early childhood education • Add value to the heritage and tourism product of Holywell • Provide income to YouthPATH trainee rangers through employment • To engage YouthPATH participants in the project
Activities	<p>– The KDZ consist of a club house and playground area that in cooperate several elements of play – climbing, digging, jumping, burrowing – through areas which are ‘zoned’ according to age categories</p> <p>– Games facilitate cognitive development as they require thinking and use of knowledge</p> <p>– Children can learn through play by using sight, sound and touch as well as by carrying out role play</p> <p>– Ideal as a teaching resource: KDZ teaches children about the flora and fauna of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and its watersheds</p> <p>TODY CLUB HOUSE</p> <p>– Lower deck designed for the children aged 2-12. Can hold up to 20 children seated for activities and story telling. Mural on the floor depicts a mountain ecosystem and is a game that can facilitate 10 children. Jamaica’s 28 endemic birds and some endemic plants painted on columns facilitates several games</p> <p>– Upper Deck designed to carry only 10 children ages 6-12. Access by climbing. Its called the bird airport because of the paintings of migratory birds on columns. Functions as a lookout point and canopy interpretation</p> <p>– BRIDGE connects Upper Deck to LIZARD LANDING and can only hold 5 children crossing. They climb down via rings or slide down on the fireman pole</p> <p>– CONEY MOUND designed for children aged 2-6 and involves activities in digging as it features a sand mound and splash zone</p> <p>– FROGGY FARM designed for children aged 4-12 incorporates jumping and consists of balance beams Lily pad run and tire swing</p> <p>– MILLIPEDE CRAWL is designed for children aged 2-10 and features a tunnel and trench dive</p> <p>GAMES</p> <p>– Climb and Slide: This game is superimposed on a mural of our forest ecosystem. The objective is to reach the peak along a nature trail without doing anything unfriendly to the forest like setting fires</p> <p>– Birdidentification Parade: This is a game of bird identification. Children get cards with the description of birds. These are to be hung under the corresponding paintings on the columns</p> <p><i>An entrance fee is charged for the use of the park. A special package exists for groups with an included costing for tour guiding and supervision in the game zone. Youth PATH participants who are trainee rangers will be employed as “kiddy rangers” and with responsibility for the KDZ.</i></p> <p><i>All games and activities are an interpretation of the biodiversity of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park</i></p> <p>EXPECTED RESULTS</p> <p>– Increase visitor arrivals especial families with young children and school groups to</p>

	Holywell – Increase income potential among YP trainee rangers – Raise awareness among young people about the BJCMNP – Improve the image of the recreational ground
Action Needed	