



Debra Kay Palmer

Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport
4-6 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica
Email: dkpalmer@mces.gov.jm

EDUCATION

- Certificate in International Cultural Heritage Law **2020**
University of Geneva - Geneva Summer School
- Master in Cultural Projects for Development, **2008 – 2009**
International Labor Organization/University of Turin, Italy
- Diploma in Business Administration **2003 - 2004**
University College of the Caribbean, Jamaica
- M. Sc. Principles of Conservation **1999 – 2000**
University College London, Institute of Archaeology, England
- B. Sc. Biochemistry **1991 – 1995**
University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Director, World Heritage and Cultural Conventions

Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & Sport, Jamaica

April 1, 2016 – Present

Technical Project Coordinator, World Heritage

Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

June 2014 – March 2016

Manager, Heritage Preservation and Planning

Jamaica National Heritage Trust

January 2010 – May 2016

LOCAL, REGIONAL, and INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

- Chairperson of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and World Heritage Site Co-Management Committee
- National Focal Point for key issues such as climate change and natural hazards impacts on cultural heritage.
- National Focal Point for Culture on the National Climate Change Division Advisory Board, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
- Expert on UNESCO panel for the revision of World Heritage Convention Operational guidelines for the period
- National Coordinator. Organisation of American States Regional project: *Enhancing the Framework for the Development of a Heritage Economy in the Caribbean* (2018-2020)
- National Focal Point for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise,
- Member and Delegation Lead to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee meetings and General Assemblies for Conventions for world heritage, intangible cultural heritage and underwater cultural heritage
 - **2015-2017:** Technical Support for Culture Representative on the World Heritage Committee
 - **2018 – 2021:** Member of Technical team for the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
 - **2018 – present:** Delegation Lead for Jamaica at the sessions of the World Heritage Committee
 - **2023 –** Delegation Lead for Jamaica at the Ninth session of the Meeting of States Parties to the 2001 Convention
- Culture Lead for Damage and Loss Core Team, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- National Lead for Technical Working Committee for the development of nomination dossiers for Jamaican sites and elements – Blue and John Crow Mountains World Heritage site and the Reggae Music of Jamaica

- National Lead for Jamaica’s successful candidature to UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Committee for the Convention on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO Executive Board
- National Lead for regional conferences for World Heritage and climate change in the Caribbean, underwater cultural heritage and Illicit trafficking of cultural property
 - 2021 – UNESCO Sensitisation on cultural heritage with a focus on border control agencies
 - 2020 – UNESCO Regional Workshop on the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects
 - 2017 - World Heritage and Climate Change regional workshop “*Rallying for the protection of Culture and Heritage in SIDS under a sustainable 21st century climate change agenda*”
 - 2016 – Incorporating World Heritage into Education
 - 2011 and 2012 - UNESCO Caribbean meeting and training on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

PUBLICATIONS

- Richards, A. and Palmer, D. (2023) ‘*Valuing Jamaica’s Archaeological Heritage*’ in Local Voices, Global Debates: The uses of archaeological heritage in the Caribbean. The Early Americas: History and Culture series, edited by Dr. Joseph Sony Jean and Dr. Eduardo Herrera Malatesta. Brill.
- Palmer, D. (2022). Jamaica’s Pre-Colombian Heritage: The Path to Protection’. Journal of Caribbean Archaeology, 22 (SPECIAL PUBLICATION NUMBER 5) Yamaye: Current Trends, Issues and Challenges in Jamaican Prehistory and Contact). <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/jca>
- Palmer, D. (2016). Blue and John Crow Mountains World Heritage for World Heritage Review, April 2016. World Heritage Review, No.79.

CURRICULUM VITAE



TRACY M. COMMOCK

**Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica
10-16 East Street, Kingston, Jamaica
Email tcommock@nhmj-ioj.org.jm**

EDUCATION

Universities of Reading & Birmingham, United Kingdom 2001

- M. Phil. (Botanical Diversity)

Jamaica Institute of Management, 1995

- Diploma in Management Studies

University of the West Indies, 1988

- Bachelor of Science Degree (Hons.) (Botany)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Colleges of Jamaica 2002 – 2007 (External Examiner)

Institute of Jamaica 1988-present in the following posts:

- Assistant Botanist (1988- 1989)
- Botanist (1990- 2001).
- Acting Head, Natural History Museum of Jamaica (formerly the Natural History Division) (1993-1999)
- Director, Natural History Museum of Jamaica (2001- present)

REGIONAL and INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Member of Jamaica's Delegation and Jamaica's Natural Heritage Specialist at the following sessions of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee (2014-2017)

Member of Jamaica's Delegation

13th Conference of the Parties

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Bangkok, Thailand, October 1-15, 2004

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) CITES

Training Workshop for Scientific Authorities in the Central and South America and the Caribbean

Region, Nicaragua, September 2002

Jamaica's representative at the First Meeting of the Clearing House Mechanism Regional Workshop

of the Convention on Biological Diversity for Latin America and the Caribbean

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, October 1997

Jamaica's representative at Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Biological Diversity

Madrid, Spain, November 1997

COMMITTEES/SOCIETIES

Local

Member - Scientific Authority CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Jamaica. (2001 – present); Vice -Chair since 2020

Member of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and World Heritage Site

CoManagement Committee

Co-Chair – Ecological Gap Assessment Working Group responsible for the preparation of the

National Ecological Gap Assessment Report (NEGAR) 2009

Past Vice President and Executive Member - Natural History Society of Jamaica (NHSJ) 2005-2010

Chair of Jamaica Terrestrial Working Group for the regional project "Mitigating the Threat of

Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean (2011-2012)

Chair – Institute of Jamaica Researchers and Curators Committee (2009- 2012)

International

Past Member- International Association of Plant Taxonomists

Organizational Member- Natural Sciences Collections Association (NatSCA)

Organizational Member- Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

PUBLICATIONS

Commock, Tracy, and Dionne Newell. "Connecting Museums through Citizen Science: Jamaica/US partnership in environmental preservation." In *Communities and Museums in the 21st Century*, pp. 137-159. Routledge, 2023.

Campbell, Keron C. St E., Pedro Acevedo-Rodriguez, Zenia Acosta, **Tracy Commock**, Ana Raquel Lima Lourenco, Brigido Peguero, Kate Samra, and Eve J. Lucas. "New combinations and new names in *Myrcia* for West Indian species previously included in *Calyptanthus* (Myrtaceae)." *Phytotaxa* 406, no. 3 (2019): 143-156.

Commock, Tracy, Rose, P. E., Campbell, K. C. S. E., Jestrow, B., & Francisco-Ortega, J. (2018). Jamaica's endemic plant genera: updates in research, taxonomic knowledge, phylogeography and conservation. *Webbia*, 73(2), 247–268.

Commock, Tracy, Rose, P. E., Gandhi, K. N., Campbell, K. C. S. E., Wurdack, K. J., Francisco-Ortega, J., & Jestrow, B. (2017). Typification and Nomenclature of Five Taxa Endemic to Jamaica. *Harvard Papers in Botany*, 22(2), 137–140.

Rose, P. E., St. E. Campbell, K. C., **Commock**, T., Korber, N., Mosely Latham, J., Swan, M., Francisco-Ortega, J. (2017). David Fairchild's Expedition to Jamaica on Board *Utowana* 1. *The Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*, 144(2), 139–152. doi:10.3159/torrey-d-16-00010

Commock, Tracy, Keron Campbell, Judeen Meikle, Javier Francisco-Ortega and Brett Jestrow (2015) Conservation and taxonomic updates for the Jamaican endemic genus *Dendrocousinsia* (Euphorbiaceae), *Brittonia*, 67, pp.87-95.

Veisaga Maria-Luisa, Christopher Chin, Horacio Priestap, Javier Francisco-Ortega, Brett Jestrow, Tracy **Commock**, Keron Campbell and M. Alejandro Barbieri (2014) From the Garden to the Laboratory, The Search for Natural Compounds, *Tropical Garden*, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Horacio A. Priestap, Christopher Chin, María L. Veisaga, Tracy **Commock**, Keron Campbell, Brett Jestrow, Javier Francisco-Ortega & Manuel A. Barbieri (2014) Volatile constituents of five species of *Portlandia* (Rubiaceae), *Journal of Essential Oil Research*, 26:2, 125-129.

Commock Tracy and Keron C. St. E Campbell (2013) *Portlandia harrisii*. *Jamaica Journal* 34 (3)

Commock, Tracy (2012) Logwood. *Aliens of Xaymaca* 5 (2)