Information on National CHM

Jamaica

(Updated on 2013-09-21 by Ms. Suzanne Davis)

National CHM	
Web address (URL)	www.jamaicachm.org.jm
Title	Jamaica Clearing-House Mechanism
Brief description	A national network of organizations, groups and resource persons collecting, exchanging and distributing biodiversity and conservation data and information.
Responsible organization	Institute of Jamaica (IOJ) – specific division: Natural History Museum of Jamaica
Web Content Manager /Webmaster name	Suzanne Davis / Nigel Neil
Content Manager /Webmaster email	sdavis @ nhmj-ioj.org.jm / nneil @ instituteofjamaica.org.jm
Content management system (CMS)	WordPress 3.6
Database system	MySQL
Search engine	Google custom search module
Available human resources for maintenance and development	1 dedicated content manager and 1 shared IT officer for website maintenance
Other comments	Database administration and programming support from IOJ programmer. The Jamaica CHM programme also includes public education and outreach, information request services, database management, expansion of the NHMJ Science Library, projects, facilitating technological capacity, and participation in technical or policy related groups or committees.

Other national websites on biodiversity		
There are several national websites both government and non-government available www.jamaicachm.org.jm/ioj_wp/directory-environmental-organizations-and-networks . Some examples are given below.		
Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
National Environment and Planning Agency www.nepa.gov.jm	Wide range of policy-related, regulatory, public awareness and other biodiversity-related information	National Environment and Planning Agency (government)

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Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
Natural History Museum of Jamaica http://instituteofjamaica.org.jm/?page_id=26	Biodiversity and taxonomic information from the five departments the national museum for plants and animals.	Institute of Jamaica

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity (A few examples given below)		
Acronym	Full name	Role
NEPA	National Environment and Planning Agency	Major national environmental policy and regulatory agency
IOJ	Institute of Jamaica	National cultural organization involved in preservation of natural heritage and traditional environmental knowledge
FD	Forestry Department	National agency for the management and conservation of Jamaica's forest resources
FID	Fisheries Department	National agency for management of Jamaica's shell and fin fish resources
JCDT	Jamaica Conservation & Development Trust	Manage the Blue & John Crow Mtns. National Park

Comments on national situation
The Jamaica CHM is fully operational with a good website. However, future expansion will be limited by understaffing of the Jamaica CHM which is in need of a second full-time Information Officer. The reliance on the NHMJ budget allocation shared with 4 other departments and on project grants means that funding availability is also another critical factor that will influence the CHM programme. Some of these challenges have been occasionally alleviated through partnerships and collaborations.

Strategic Vision
To be Jamaica's key information network for locating and sharing data and information on, and connecting people with resource persons and entities for Jamaican biodiversity and its conservation.

Roadmap				
Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements

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Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
1	Utilize the open source version of the national invasive alien species (IAS) database	Host IAS database on NSDMD server. Facilitate 2 content management workshops with island-wide stakeholders.	Jamaica CHM/ National Spatial Data Management Division (NSDMD)	Collaboration and funding required
2	Repatriate information and links to information on Jamaican biodiversity	Continue identifying overseas institutions and researchers with scientific data and information on Jamaican biodiversity and its conservation. Create links/mechanisms to share data and information.	Jamaica CHM and wider NHMJ	Collaboration and funding required
2	Promote development of metadatabase for biodiversity data	Source trainers for in-island training in biodiversity metadata standards e.g. Dublin Core. Encourage the incorporation of metadata into database management in biodiversity agencies and NGOs.	Jamaica CHM/ CHM Steering Committee?	Collaboration and funding required

Notes:

- Priority: 1=urgent, 2=high, 3=medium, 4=low; 5=very low
- Objective: challenge, issue, problem to resolve
- Responsible: organization or person in charge
- Requirements: Code + text
  - OK: Can be done with existing resources
  - DR: Decision required
  - CR: Collaboration required
  - ARR: Additional resources required (support, cooperation)

Comments on roadmap
The IAS database priority is currently being addressed. The Jamaica CHM has been asked in Jamaica's draft Aichi Biodiversity Targets to coordinate the IAS database management. The repatriation of information priority activities have started. A project proposal was previously written to acquire funding for IAS metadatabase training including Dublin Core. Funding is still being sought for the project.

Cooperation opportunities / Type of support needed
COOPERATION: Sharing of experiences with WordPress and other open source technologies; sharing of different information exchange mechanisms in the Caribbean. Further assistance from SCBD for Caribbean countries in identifying options for web hosting and accessing additional web space. SUPPORT NEEDED: More regional workshops and half-yearly online forum for Caribbean CHM capacity building.

Thank you!