



ANNUAL REPORT

AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

2024

Report of The Auditor General on the Financial Transactions and Financial Statements of the Government of Jamaica for the Financial Year Ended March 31, 2024, and Performance Report of the Auditor General's Department.



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE
TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE AUDITOR GENERAL
AND NOT TO ANY OFFICER BY NAME
AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE
QUOTED: -

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December 30, 2024

The Honourable Speaker
House of Representatives
Gordon House
81 Duke Street
Kingston

Dear Madam,

Pursuant to the provision of Section 122 (2) of the Jamaican Constitution, I have the honour to submit my report on the results of my examination of the accounts of the Island for the year ended 31st March 2024 for tabling in the House of Representatives.

The report is a compendium of the performance of the Auditor General's Department for the period December 2023-November 2024 and all audits conducted up to November 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Pamela Monroe Ellis (Ms.), JP, F.C.A., F.C.C.A.
Auditor General

HEAD 19000: MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION – DEVELOPMENT BANK OF JAMAICA: JAMAICA ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs) PROJECT

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
<p>3.2.50. The Jamaica Access to Finance for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Project was realized out of the recognition by the Government of Jamaica of the need to improve economic growth and development in Jamaica. The overarching objective of the project is to improve access to finance for MSMEs. The project is financed by a loan of US\$15 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and had a period of execution of sixty months with effect from January 1, 2018. The Bank initially approved a 12-month extension of the final disbursement date to January 31, 2024. However, a further extension has since been granted to January 15, 2025.</p> <p>3.2.51. The audit of the accounting records and financial transactions of the project for the year ended March 31, 2024, revealed that there was general compliance with the significant terms and conditions of the loan agreement and the transactions and related records of the Special Bank Account were found to be generally satisfactory. The project achieved six of the eight planned targets for the year. To date the IBRD has disbursed a total of US\$9.4 million, which represents approximately 63% of the loan fund of US\$15 million.</p>	

HEAD 19046: FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	
<p>Weak IT Control Environment</p> <p>3.2.52. The audit of the Forestry Department revealed that the Department was exposed to an increased risk of loss due to the absence of an effective IT control environment. However, management has since taken steps to strengthen the agency's IT controls.</p>	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
<p>Outstanding Appropriation Accounts</p> <p>3.2.53. Section 24I(1)(b) of the Financial Administration and Audit (FAA) Act requires all Accounting Officers to prepare, sign and transmit to the Auditor General the statements relating to the financial activities under their control within a period of four months after the end of a financial period. The statements should in respect of each head of estimates, include an Appropriation Account for expenditure as against approved estimates and explanatory statements for major variations.</p>	

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE																						
<p>3.2.54. Though the Forestry Department has submitted its accrual financial statements up to the 2020/2021 financial year along with two of the previously reported outstanding Appropriations Accounts, the Agency's Accounting Officer did not submit 11 Appropriation Accounts².</p> <p>3.2.55. Management has since indicated that steps will be taken to submit the outstanding accounts before the end of the 2024/2025 financial year.</p> <p>Table 11: Budgetary Allocation to the Forestry Department</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="380 548 1029 974"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>Approved Budget [Gross] (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023/2024</td> <td>1,631,906,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/2023</td> <td>1,462,663,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/2022*</td> <td>1,184,168,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/2021*</td> <td>1,045,127,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/2020</td> <td>1,085,718,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/2019</td> <td>919,281,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/2018</td> <td>679,621,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/2017</td> <td>638,687,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/2016</td> <td>621,915,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>9,269,086,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Heads 19046 & 21046</i></p>	Financial Year	Approved Budget [Gross] (\$)	2023/2024	1,631,906,000	2022/2023	1,462,663,000	2021/2022*	1,184,168,000	2020/2021*	1,045,127,000	2019/2020	1,085,718,000	2018/2019	919,281,000	2017/2018	679,621,000	2016/2017	638,687,000	2015/2016	621,915,000	TOTAL	9,269,086,000	\$9.3 billion
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HEAD 19048: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY - INTEGRATED WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS (IWEco) PROJECT

ISSUE/CONCERNS	FINANCIAL EXPOSURE
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
<p>3.2.56. During the period I conducted the audit of the Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem (IWEco) Project for the four-year period ended December 31, 2022.</p> <p>3.2.57. The Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem (IWEco) Project is financed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of US\$3.114 million. The Project is also Co-financed by US\$10.343 million from various agencies and counterpart funding of US\$43.8 million provided by the Government of Jamaica. The UNEP grant of US\$3.114 million should be disbursed over a four-year period from May 31, 2018, when the agreement was signed. However, approval was granted by UNEP to extend the completion date to September 30, 2024, to facilitate the completion of the Project activities.</p>	

² The Forestry Department's accrual based financial statements up to the 2020/2021 financial year have been submitted for audit. The 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 financial statements were being audited at the time of this report.