

List of Jamaican Protected Species

- *West Indian Manatee*
- *Common Bottlenose Dolphin*
- *Jamaican Coney*
- *Jamaican Iguana*
- *Jamaican Yellow Snake*
- *American Crocodile*
- *Green Turtle*
- *Hawksbill Turtle*
- *Loggerhead Turtle*
- *Leatherback Turtle*
- *Giant Swallowtail Butterfly*
- *Yellow –Billed Parrot*
- *Black Billed Parrot*

It is against the law to have any of these species in your possession without prior permission from the regulatory agency.



For further information please contact
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GLOSSARY OF BIODIVERSITY TERMS



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Biodiversity: This is the variety of plants, animals and other living things found in a particular area or region.

Community: An integrated group of species inhabiting a given area. These organisms within a community influence each others distribution, abundance and evolution.

Convention on Biological Diversity: This is an international treaty aimed at protecting and conserving biodiversity. It was adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Jamaica became Party to the Convention in 1995.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): This is the convention that governs the trade in endangered species and also regulates trade in species that may become endangered in the future. Over 145 countries are party to this agreement.

Conservation: The protection, preservation, management or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources.

Deforestation: This is the unplanned removal of vegetation from an area. This is one of the major factors that poses a threat to Biodiversity here in Jamaica.

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is a web of living and non-living parts that is connected and maintained by energy from the sun and nutrient flow. Plants, animals, rocks, soil, air, water, sun and people are all links in the Earth's web of life.

Endangered: An endangered plant or animal is one that is in danger of extinction in the near future and without protection is likely to become extinct. The Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collie*) is listed as an endangered species here in Jamaica.



Endemic: This means that a plant or animal is peculiar or prevalent in a particular location, region or people. Jamaica has been rated 5th in the world in terms of the amount of endemic plants. The island also boasts over thirty (30) endemic bird species including the Jamaican Tody (*Todus todus*). The Conservation Data Centre (CDC) reports that 221 of these endemic species are 'critically imperiled' and are especially 'vulnerable to extinction'.



Extinct: When a plant or animal becomes extinct it is no longer living or existing on Earth.

Habitat: The environment in which an organism lives.

Indigenous Species: A species is said to be indigenous when it originates and is found naturally occurring in a specified location.

International Day for Biological Diversity Day: International Day for Biological Diversity (Biodiversity Day) is celebrated worldwide on May 22, each year.

Invasive Alien Species: A species that occurs in an area outside its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities. These species may become invasive when they out compete other species for resources.

Niche: The particular area within a habitat occupied by a plant or animal.

Protected Area: A legally established land or water area where either public or private ownership that is regulated and maintained to achieve specific conservation objectives. Some of Jamaica's protected areas include the Blue and John Crow Mountains, Montego Bay Marine Park and the Portland Bight Protected area.



Protected Species: A protected species is a species protected by law. The picture left shows a Giant Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio homerus*), one of Jamaica's protected species. This species is also classified as **Endangered** and **Endemic**.

Species: A group of organisms capable of interbreeding freely with each other, but not among other species.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs and aspiration of the current generation without comprising that of the future generation.



Threatened Species: A species is said to be threatened if it is likely to become endangered if not protected. The Jamaican Yellow-Billed Parrot (*Amazona collari*) is a species that is listed as threatened in Jamaica and is therefore protected by law.