

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### World Wetlands Day 2021

**Kingston, Jamaica. (February 2, 2021):-** The Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ) celebrates World Wetlands Day (WWD) with a series of virtual presentations in the month of February. Each Tuesday in February, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Zoom platform as well as the NHMJ's YouTube page will come alive with exciting presentations. WWD is being celebrated globally under the theme "Wetlands and Water" and the sub-theme created by the NHMJ is *Join the W.A.V.E. (Wetlands Awareness & Virtual Engagement)*".

Over the course of the four weeks the presentations will feature All About Wetlands & Water, There's A Wetland In Your Neighborhood, Wetland Characters and a Wetlands Virtual Tours. The presenters include Camilo Trench, Lecture at The University of the West Indies, Sashalee Cross, Botanist at the NHMJ, Jhannel Tomlinson, Senior CYEN Jamaica Member & Youth Climate Activist and Eleanor Terrelonge, Director, The Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council.

Wetlands are areas of land covered by water long enough to support aquatic plants and wildlife for part of their life cycle. It can also be regularly flooded with fresh, brackish or salty water. The Mason River Protected Area (MRPA) which is managed by the Natural History Museum of Jamaica was designated a Ramsar site in December 2011 and is known as a wetland of international importance. It is a very special type of wetland in Jamaica, as it is the only inland peat bog (a **palustrine wetland**), containing many plants and animals that are unique to that area.

Persons are being encouraged to tune into these presentations as they are important in bringing awareness to Jamaica's wetlands and their importance. Additionally keeping up to date on the social media platforms for NHMJ where public awareness campaigns are being ran to sensitize the public about wetlands and to help them identify the wetlands located around them.

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The Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ) offers tours, programmes and activities designed to stimulate an interest in the biological sciences and disseminate information on Jamaica's Flora and Fauna. The NHMJ is a Division of the Institute of Jamaica, an Agency of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment & sport.

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