



**INTERVENTION BY**

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**ON**

***AGENDA ITEM 3: TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS 2017-2030***

***AT THE***

**20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS**

**MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025, NEW YORK**

*FINAL TEXT*

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Good Morning/Afternoon.

Jamaica thanks the Secretariat for document E/CN.18/2025/2, which, per paragraph 5, frames UNFF-20 as a technical session dedicated to Global Forest Goals 1, 3 and 5. Building on paragraph 61(a), we outline four interlinked technical priorities and corresponding support requests.

**First, modern forest monitoring and data analytics.** As encouraged in paragraph 6, we have institutionalised drone surveys across inventories, boundary verification, enforcement and reforestation audits. With UNDP-PAF support, our forthcoming Forest Monitoring and Reporting Platform will automate data uploads, analytics and FAO-/UNFCCC-compatible biomass-carbon reporting.

Later this fiscal year, under the IDB's Blue-Carbon MRV mechanism, we will pilot terrestrial-laser scanning to capture fine-scale 3-D forest parameters. To convert these data into actionable management, we are working to develop forest quality indices and to finalise our national forest reference emission levels (FREL) by year-end. Jamaica therefore, request technical assistance in these endeavours thereby advancing our REDD+ readiness journey.

**Second, governance and traceability.** In line with paragraph 28 on emerging finance architectures, funding through BIOPAMA has facilitated the deployment of a pilot rapid response mechanism to violation notifications. Recognizing that our timber-traceability system is nascent, we seek technical partners, expertise and advice to fully elaborate and integrate this tool to ensure legality from forest to market, both local and international.

**Third, dryland-forest resilience.** As highlighted under agenda item 6 (paras 52–56), our dry limestone forests host unique endemics but face risks associated with drought and wildfires. With the support Canada's Catalyst+, we will finalise a revised National Forest Fire Management Plan

**Fourth, blue-green carbon finance.** Noting paragraph 29, COP-29's ≥ US \$300 billion goal offers new opportunities. Jamaica's revised NDC prioritises mangrove rehabilitation and seagrass conservation, yet gaps in accounting and market access persist. We therefore urge the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network to establish a small-island access window with tailored training for SIDS.

We respectfully request:

- Priority access for SIDS to GFFFN technical assistance and finance
- Expert support to develop forest quality indices and complete national FRELS
- Partnership for dry limestone restoration and germ-plasm banking
- Collaboration on timber traceability mechanisms
- Support from the secretariat to scale our Monitoring and Reporting Platform for use across the Caribbean

Jamaica stands ready to share data, pilot sites and lessons learned, and to transform the Strategic Plan's technical ambitions into measurable progress. Thank you.