

For Immediate Release
February 17th, 2014
Kingston, Jamaica

International Union for the Conservation of Nature writes to the GOJ re Goat Islands

The Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) has learned that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has written to the Jamaican government expressing concern about the proposed port development in the Portland Bight Protected Area near to the Goat Islands.

The letter is dated 29th January 2014 and is addressed to the Minister of Land Water Environment and Climate Change, Hon Robert Pickersgill. Signed by the Director General, the letter outlines the valuable natural resources and ecosystem functions provided by the Portland Bight Protected Area.

The IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, founded in 1948. It is a leading authority on biological diversity and sustainable development with more than 1,200 member organizations, including over 200 governments. Conserving biodiversity is central to the IUCN's mission, particularly as a means to address global challenges such as climate change and food security. Jamaica is a member of the IUCN.

JET thanks the IUCN for their interest in Jamaica and hopes the GOJ will take on board the many concerns outlined in the letter, specifically the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment before any decision is taken about this controversial project

The letter is attached.

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