

# WHV - Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park

## Blue and John Crow Mountains, Jamaica

Mixed property inscribed on the List of World Heritage since 2015

11/09/2017 – 23/09/2017



The site encompasses a rugged and extensively forested mountainous region in the south-east of Jamaica, which provided refuge first for the indigenous Tainos fleeing slavery and then for Maroons (former enslaved peoples). They resisted the European colonial system in this isolated region by establishing a network of trails, hiding places and settlements, which form the Nanny Town Heritage Route. The forests offered the Maroons everything they needed for their survival. They developed strong spiritual connections with the mountains, still manifest through the intangible cultural legacy of, for example, religious rites, traditional medicine and dances. The site is also a biodiversity hotspot for the Caribbean Islands with a high proportion of endemic plant species, especially lichens, mosses and certain flowering plants.

### **Project objectives:**

The project's objectives is to establish a corps of Youth Ambassadors gaining knowledge and skills about the promotion, values and the importance of the Blue and John Crow Mountains. The activities aim to show young people around the world the outstanding universal value of the site and the importance of its management.

### **Project activities:**

The volunteers will have the chance to learn basic techniques about natural and heritage conservation. The activities include removing invasive plants and planting native species under the guidance of National Park Rangers. They will be involved in raising awareness activities, such as designing exhibits for tourists and design education activities about both natural and cultural heritage targeting local youth. They will be also invited to take part in a variety of cultural heritage activities with Maroon communities ranging from music to cooking.



## Partners:

Ministry of Culture, Gender Entertainment and Sports, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, National Environment and Planning agency, Forestry Development, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica/Forest Conservation Fund

### **Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust**

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