



# R2RW

## Ridge to Reef Watershed Project



A project of the Government of Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency  
and the United States Agency for International Development  
USAID Contract No. 532-C-00-00-00235-00

The **Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW)** is a five-year, \$8 million initiative undertaken by the Government of Jamaica's National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Project seeks to address the degradation of watersheds in Jamaica by improving and sustaining the management of natural resources in targeted watershed areas that are both environmentally and economically significant. R2RW contains three interrelated project components (Contract Results) to achieve its overall aims:

1. Working with local-level organizations to promote sustainable environmental management practices for resource users;
2. Identifying and supporting solutions that encourage better enforcement of existing environmental regulations and policy; and
3. Enhancing the capacity of Jamaican government agencies and private-sector and civil society organizations to implement effective watershed management programs in Jamaica.

### **Contract Result 1: Working with local organizations to identify and promote sustainable environmental management practices**

R2RW strongly endorses an approach of working with existing organizations in watersheds as partners in solving community-level problems. A host of partners will be strengthened through technical assistance, targeted funding, and training. This will leave in place powerful leadership organizations capable of engaging their communities in participatory ways to prioritize activities, implement these activities, and leverage additional human and financial resources as necessary.

Initiatives will:

- Reduce soil erosion and non-point source pollution;

- Improve land management practices;
- Provide clear and consistent environmental awareness; and
- Create a vibrant and viable market network with the potential to increase alternative income-generating activities, entrepreneurial spirit, and cooperation in the watersheds.

### **Contract Result 2: Identifying existing incentives and constraints affecting the enforcement of selected environmental regulations**

R2RW will implement activities that result in improved effectiveness of policy implementation and increased certainty of enforcement when infractions occur.

Implementation and enforcement of existing legislation will be approached by increasing popular and official understanding of the importance of enforcing environmental rules for watersheds and exploring options for involving local government, civil society, and GOJ officials (including NEPA/NRCA rangers and wardens), in community-based enforcement.

### **Contract Results 3: Enhancing the capacity of stakeholder organizations to implement effective watershed management programs**

The R2RW team will work with Jamaican government agencies, international donors, and private and civil society organizations to improve communication and achieve common goals for managing watershed resources. It is expected that the ability of all partners to implement watershed programs will be enhanced through better cooperation, capacity strengthening, and coordination of activities.

This will include support for the establishment of national coordination mechanisms, including the National Watershed Management Council and local Watershed Management Councils.

## PROJECT SITES

R2RW initially will target the Great River and Rio Grande watersheds, which differ considerably in their characteristics and offer unique challenges. The Great River watershed includes Montego Bay and impacts mainly on the parishes of St. James and Hanover. The watershed faces numerous environmental threats caused by agriculture and urban development. The Rio Grande watershed, in the parish of Portland, is extremely mountainous and heavily dependent on agriculture and tourism. An area of significant biodiversity, the Rio Grande watershed is threatened by deforestation, soil erosion, inappropriate land use, and mining.



## R2RW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

USAID and NEPA/NRCA are assisted in implementation by ARD, Inc., ([www.ardinc.com](http://www.ardinc.com)) its subcontractor Cargill Technical Services, Inc. (CTS), and a strong group of local and U.S. resource organizations. The R2RW technical assistance team comprises:

- Mr. Mark Nolan, Chief of Party
- Dr. George Wilson, Watershed Management Specialist
- Mr. Trevor Spence, Governance and Natural Resources Specialist
- Ms. Maria Protz, Community Development and Public Awareness Specialist.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF R2RW IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ **Demand-driven** – based on stakeholder needs
- ✓ **Focused, practical, and achievable**
- ✓ **Flexible**, with the ability to respond to changing situations and take advantage of opportunities
- ✓ **Results oriented**
- ✓ **Sustainable** – strengthening local partners to govern and manage their own watershed programs
- ✓ **Relevant** to the existing Jamaican context of policy on devolution of responsibility and local natural resource governance and management
- ✓ **Collaborative** – building partnerships among a wide variety of stakeholders through an understanding of prevailing incentive structures at all levels
- ✓ **Buttressed**, with economic incentives built into action programs within existing policy frameworks, as well as support for policy reform as needed.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about R2RW, please contact one of the following organizations:

Jointly funded by:



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And

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