

**WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL**

**(WSSC)**

**VISION 21- WATER AND SANITATION**

**JAMAICA REPORT**

**PREPARED BY:**

**LINETTE VASSELL & ASSOCIATES**

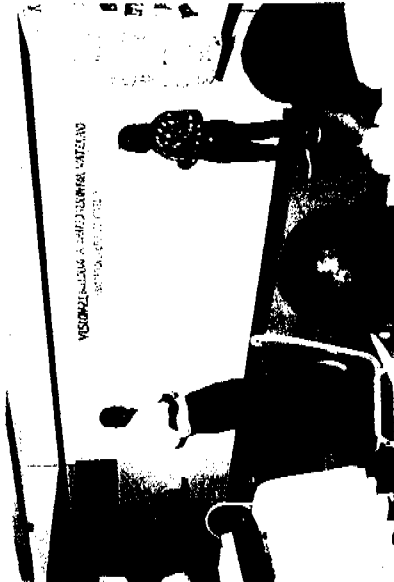
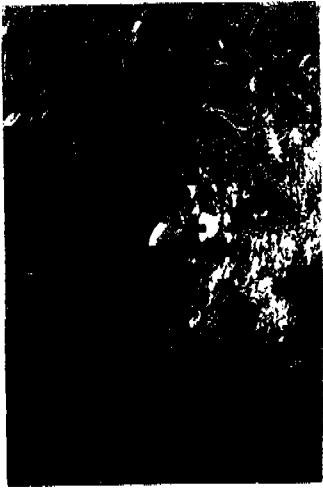
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## VISION 21 - WATER AND SANITATION JAMAICA NATIONAL REPORT

### A. Introduction

During the *International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade* (1980-1990), Jamaica became a signatory to a number of regional and international agreements dealing with water and sanitation. The goals and targets of these agreements envisioned at first the provision of 'potable water for all by 1990' and subsequently by the year 2000.

The goal and target for sanitation were less specific and referred to adequate sanitation for all, by the year 2000.

Neither the goal for water or for sanitation was achieved and the **Jamaica Water Sector Policy (January 1999)** which is being circulated for discussion by the Ministry of Water has provided a framework for discussion of the new proposed goal and target. The implementation in Jamaica of the **Vision 21** project, sponsored by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) which has stressed community -based "bottom-up" participation in the formulation of a vision for water and sanitation into the next century, has provided a test of the national policy. It is pleasing that fundamental aspects of the national policy accord with the vision from the communities.

A basis has been laid, through the national workshop on **Vision 21** held in late April 1999, for collaborative work among a broad grouping of stakeholders to be done towards implementation of recommendations arising from the process.

This report details the **Vision 21** process and the results in the Jamaican context.

### B. The Jamaica Process: Method.

The Jamaican component of the world **Vision 21** involved two communities, sharply different in important aspects. The rural community of Woodside in St. Mary is a stable farming community with approximately 4000 persons. The Rose Hall Lane community, in Kingston, is one of the 'unregulated squatter communities' in which approximately 20 % to 25% of Jamaicans live. In Rose Lane, some 34 families live within a small space with responsibility for making their own provision for critical services including sanitation. Their experiences have helped to bring different perspectives on the challenges and possibilities that face the nation in achieving any vision that is charted.

The community-based and multi-stakeholder consultations around **VISION 21** have enabled participants to see the interconnectedness of the **VISION** from the micro to the macro levels and to recognise that the **VISION** itself must be viewed in a dynamic way.

The method used in the Vision 21 process in Jamaica included the following:

**1. Documentary Research**

This related to issues of water and sanitation in the country.

**2. Community Consultation**

The views of members of both communities were expressed through various - means:

- Initial introductory meetings ;
- Structured discussion of issues using Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) in which community members made drawings which engaged many in very interactive exchanges. Small group discussions among adults and with children, with women and with men in both communities;
- Feedback meetings in which the results of the discussions were reported to the communities for discussions and ratification.

**3. Individual Interviews.**

Interviews were also held among stakeholders at the local level in St. Mary Parish (the rural community setting) as well as with persons related to national organisations and agencies related to water and sanitation.

**4. National Workshop**

This brought together the rural and urban communities as well as representatives of national organisations and agencies. Some 33 persons attended , 15 women and 13 men. (See appendix 1)

**C. Present Status Water and Sanitation.**

Data contained the Survey of Living Conditions in Jamaica (1997), and general corroboration from interviews indicate that:

- i. Across the country, the percentage of households with piped water has risen from 61% in 1990 to 66% in 1997. Over the same period, the percentage of households relying on water from rivers, springs and ponds has fallen from 5.7% to 3.8%.
- ii. In the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), some 97% of households have piped water, and in other rural towns some 79% have this access. This is up from 73% in 1996.
- iii. Some 18.7 % of the Jamaican population, approximately 450,000 people do not have access to safe drinking water. This is more pronounced in rural communities where 35.5% of the population does not have access.

However, as is indicated in the Woodside community, even where there is access, there are frequent periods when that 'safe water' is not easily accessible and

unsafe (unchlorinated) sources of water are substituted. Further, it is noted that 30.4% of households falling in the poorest quintile of the population depend solely on untreated water sources.

- iv. A low of 38.8% of people in rural areas have access to piped water. Again, the experience of Woodside is instructive as only 2% of that community's population has regular supplies of piped water. This demonstrates the real need for closer touch with the reality of communities' problems.
- v. Women and children remain the primary carriers of water often over long distances. Some 27.3% of people in rural areas walk over 400m to access safe drinking water while 48% walk over 400m to unsafe sources, springs, streams etc. It has been observed in Woodside that men also carry water for farm use.
- vi. Although there has been some improvement in access to adequate human waste disposal systems there remains a significant need for further development in particular in rural areas and the special needs of squatter communities. Overall, 58.1% of the population use water closets with the Kingston Metropolitan area having a 92.5% access. However, the significant number of informal/squatter communities such as Rose Hall Lane with its unique community designed toilet facility and others with out any pose potential public health and environmental problems requiring intervention to regularise and improve the life of residents.
- v. Over 90% of the community of Woodside use Pit Latrines. This is way above the 68.5% average for rural areas. Here, as also in the case of Rose Hall Lane there is a lack of public health initiatives. Public Health Inspectors who once assisted in monitoring and enforcement are no longer seen in the communities.
- vi. At present, 6% of the population or over 150,000 Jamaicans do not have access to any toilet facility. This is a significant minority which when coupled with a large number of inadequate and wrongly placed pit latrines can have a severe public health and environmental implications. This more so because Jamaica tends to be on the borderline for the possible outbreak of some major diseases including cholera and typhoid in some areas. Post infection public health treatment tends to suppress what could be a major outbreak of these diseases.
- vii. There is presently no policy on sanitation. Sewage and solid waste management has not improved. In some aspects things are getting worse getting worse and is set to continue so as more and more non-biodegradable disposable material, plastic bottles for example, are being dumped in the environment.

- viii. Unregulated squatter settlements pose additional problems with inadequate or no disposal systems. Those located in certain environmentally sensitive areas where seepage could pollute rivers and coastal waters are particularly worrying. There is increasing closure of wells due to high turbidity and/or high nitrate levels.
- ix. Decision-making on water and sanitation has, until recently, been very centralised within the government bureaucracy. In the main policy has been guided by national budget allocations in a 'top-down' decision-making process.
- x. Although most Jamaicans know the value of safe water and to some extent sanitation - "**Water is Life**", ( being a common phrase of protest and the motto of the National Water Commission) public education and awareness have generally been at a low level. The public has generally put priority on the provision of water and not so much on sanitation.
- xi. Although there is awareness on the part of the authorities on the importance of water and sanitation, there seems to be some unclarity in respect of appropriate strategies, especially in respect of sanitation.

### **Change Efforts- Water**

- Water management has improved over the past two years with the formation of the Ministry of Water. This has led to the following:
  - Improved inter agency cooperation with joint efforts to deliver water.
  - New legislation moving the Underground Water Authority to the Water Resources Authority, which is significant as it links all sources of water.
  - Water quality responsibility is now under one roof.
  - New policy now makes the National Water Commission responsible for sewage.
- Management of resources as an integrated system is now better understood. Greater attention is now being paid to infrastructural issues, for example leaks, and on sanitation as these impact on the ability to deliver water.
- Some improvements in water management indicated by a reduction in unaccounted water, which now stands at 61% down from 76% three years ago. Some 27% of accounts are still unmetered, (98,228 accounts). This is a significant reduction from the 356,545 accounts previously unmetered.

**- Sanitation:**

- New sewage treatment plants have been erected. However, it is estimated that these are operating at only 30 percent capacity - raw sewage therefore continues to go straight into the Kingston harbour, for example, and connections to homes in others areas are still incomplete.

**Indicators of Change**

Water quality measurements are indicators but historical data are needed to show trends. Visual and personal experience and observations are important measurements

However:

- We do know that coral reefs are dying due to global warming as well as pollution from sewage and waste from gullies etc.
- The upgrading of some squatter settlements for example Riverton City can be considered positive changes.
- The number of water closets in use as well as the number of households with piped water having increased empirically are measurements indicating improvements.

**D. Goals and Targets for the Next 25 Years.**

The VISION for Water and Sanitation for Jamaica into the next 25 years is “ to ensure that by 2005 all Jamaican households, rural as well as urban, have access to potable water and adequate sanitation” - *Jamaica Water Sector Policy*. January, 1999.

Access to water is defined as to be within 400m of the source of potable water .

In terms of sanitation, a policy is being designed and the thinking is towards providing adequate sanitary disposal for metropolitan areas through the expansion and improvement of central sewage systems. Priority attention will be given to the use of low-flush toilets. The hope of Rose Hall Lane residents for a total housing solution would involve connection with such a central system.

For rural areas, the deliberations in the community based- policy discussions are targeted towards deciding on the appropriate systems for rural communities. From the perspective of Woodside residents, this will mean a combination of low-flush water closets relying on rain water catchment in individual tanks as well as using efficient pit toilets. There is interest in the VIDP toilets.

**E. Principles that Guide the Vision**

The Vision is guided by principles discussed and agreed among stakeholders at the national consultation on April 28, 1999. These principles are as follows:

**i. Partnership and Collaboration among Stakeholders.**

This partnership among the community, private sector, government ministries and agencies and other categories of interests is vital for the planning, development, and optimal utilisation of water resources. It was noted for example that among stakeholders, there is a wide range in the level of usage of water. For example, there is an estimated household usage of 70 imperial gallons per household per day; the commercial sector uses some 60% of the water supplied by the NWC and that within this, the level of usage of hotel guests per night can range from 81 imperial gallons to 351 imperial gallons.

Taking into account the country's dependence on tourism, the need for agriculture, the impact of poor sanitation practices on coastal water, it is imperative that collaboration and partnership must guide the vision for water and sanitation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The community is a critical partner and the pilot project to be undertaken by the Water Resources Authority, Ministry of Water, National Water Commission, St. Mary Parish and the **Woodside Community Development Action Group** to investigate and optimise the resources of local springs to increase water supplies, is to be an example of this approach.

Another initiative will be towards securing assistance for dealing with public health issues in the Woodside and Rose Hall lane communities.

**ii. Inter-Agency Collaboration.**

In this context, the Ministries and agencies attending the VISION 21 national workshop agreed to work together and with the related local authorities and communities to implement the decisions taken. The Ministry of Water would assist with spearheading the coming together of the agencies with assistance from the National Facilitator of the VISION 21 project.

**iii. Support for Community Initiatives**

This principle rests on the use where possible, of methods well known and time tested by the community. The initiatives currently being taken by Woodside community members to augment water supplies through catchment of rainwater is to be supported.

There was strong support by many representatives of national agencies for 'rain water harvesting' to be implemented at the household level and for local ordinances through local government to support this.



A programme to put in place Woodside citizens' proposal that loans and/or grants should be provided for the building of individual tanks is to be developed for implementation under the direction of the Ministry of Water and in collaboration with relevant agencies.

Further, the proposal by citizens that the building regulations formulated and administered by local Parish Councils and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC) be amended to require that all new buildings should have gutters and systems for rain water collection and storage, is to be followed up.

**iv. Greater Responsiveness to Community Needs**

The development of a Rapid Response Unit at the National Water Commission to enhance the provision of water to community tanks was cited as an example of this commitment.

**v. Improved communication of the responsible agencies with and their accountability to the community; involvement of community in decision-making.**

Mechanisms to achieve greater dialogue between local communities and the regional bodies of the National Water Commission and with the Parish Councils around water and sanitation are to be specifically considered. The review of the recently developed Water Policy by communities will provide the opportunity for discussion of such a mechanism, as well as provide feedback on the overall policy.

**vi. Application of Appropriate Technology**

The development and use of a modified water closet/pour flush toilet facility in the Rose Hall Lane community is of interest to the National Water Commission as an example of how communities can participate in applying and using the appropriate technology. Improved and monitored dry toilets including the Ventilated Improved Double Pits (with its related fertilizer benefits) could be more appropriately applied in rural farming communities. A pilot programme is to be implemented in Woodside.

**vii. Strengthened Community Organisations**

Citizens within the communities have an essential role to play as a major stakeholder in water and sanitation. In this respect the effort of the Woodside to establish a special sub-committee to follow-up on the Vision 21 decisions was seen as commendable by the participants in the national workshop.

Further, the efforts of citizens of Rose Hall Lane to organise themselves with assistance from the nearby church community, Webster Memorial, was seen as vital to the achievement of the core objective of a housing solution and in that context, charting a vision for water and sanitation.

The strengthening of community organisations through training of local level leadership and by use of participatory and general capacity building was a necessity in a context where de-centralisation as was taking place as in the water sector. According to the NWC their regional offices were seeking to establish consultative links with communities. From reports officials from the St. Mary Parish Council also spoke of the need for citizens to become more involved in influencing the implementation of Local Government reform which rested on the principle of community participation, among others.

#### **vii. Public Education**

Public education on the economic, social and environmental cost of water and sanitation is vital. Public education should also apply to improving public health practices. This should be done both by community organisations as well as the related Ministries and agencies

Public education is needed to encourage communities' involvement in management of issues of water and sanitation.

An important related issue was the need to take a holistic and culturally sensitive approach to addressing issues of water and sanitation at the community level. Related to the Rose Hall Lane experience for example, the observation was made that to respond to the community's call for larger water pipes and/or for individual meters (which was possible) would mean that more water would be in the community but this would upset the sanitation system that residents had put in place.

This underscored the need for an overall developmental approach to be taken in respect of addressing the needs of Rose Hall Lane. In this context, their vision for systems of water storage, to supplement the public piped water system (as reflected in one of their illustrations) could be pursued.

#### **F. Gender Issues in Water and Sanitation**

Gender related issues were discussed at various levels: the respective roles and responsibilities and attitudes of men and women to the provision of water in particular are discussed in the Woodside report. Of interest is the fact that views on the traditional responsibility of women and children to provide water, is rebutted by men moreso than by women. The view that this is a shared responsibility emerges as the more acceptable position.

It is clear from both communities that women express strong interest in the solution to issues of sanitation and water supplies. From the perspective of some officials in the water and sanitation sector, in seeking changes in behaviour at the community level, special emphasis should be placed on targeting women.

In terms of their roles in decision-making in the water and sanitation entities, women hold a minority of positions. Women constitute 30% of the NWC Board for example. Many of the officers are open to the view that fairness in the implementation of an effective policy could require a higher level of women in decision making at the highest

levels within the sector. It was pointed out for example, that the Ministry of Water is currently training four (4) women in Hydrology, since they are so far absent in this field of study.

A matter of related interest is the need from the perspective of women in Rose Hall Lane for more men to become involved in organisational development issues.

### **G. Role of International Agencies**

Participants see a definite and continuing role for international agencies towards the achievement of Jamaica's water and sanitation goals. Agencies like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and lending agencies like the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) are seen to have a potential role in assisting with technical expertise and financing.

Reference was also made to an initiative- Advancing Cooperation in Environment and Sanitation (ACES),- a clearing house facility for information and training and the contribution that this body could also make.

International cooperation is also seen in the role of setting and providing a framework for monitoring standards and for encouraging commitment to change and development.

### **H. Sustaining Collaboration for Vision 21 Decisions.**

In order to sustain the momentum of the Vision 21 process and ensure that the decisions taken at the national workshop are implemented, the facilitation process should be maintained. Support at the national, regional and international levels should be secured to ensure that the work with the communities proceeds as steadily as possible.



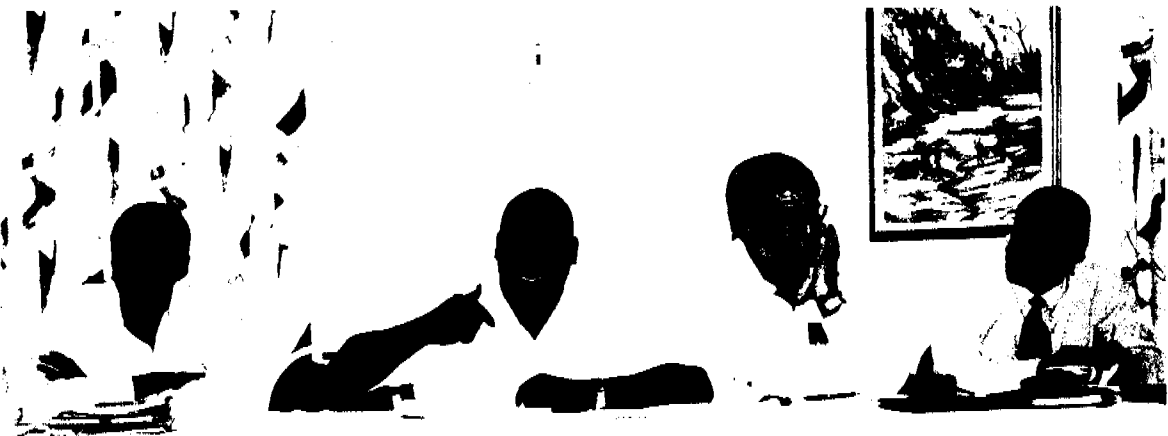
- Norman Grindley

*Thorant Hardware, (centre) permanent secretary in the Ministry of Water, examines a document while Mrs. Einnette Vassell, natural facilitator of the Vision 21 workshop, and Mr. Albert Gordon, (right), vice-president of Corporate Planning at the National Water Commission, look on. The occasion was the Vision 21 workshop at the Altamont Court hotel on Wednesday. ■*



Participants at the workshop--Altamont Court Hotel April 28, 1999

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D. Stanburry (Ministry of Water) makes a point.

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V Walker speaks to officials about water and sanitation in Woodside



D Lewis speaks to officials about water and sanitation in Rose Hall Lane

## **Appendix 1**

### **VISION 21 NATIONAL WORKSHOP APRIL 28, 1999, ALTAMONY COURT HOTEL, KINGSTON WORKSHOP REPORT**

The Vision 21 Workshop was held at the Altamont Court Hotel (Kingston) on April 28, 1999. It commenced at approximately 10 am, with twenty-nine registered participants.

Reverend Gary Harriot of the Webster Memorial Church opened the function with prayer. Mrs. Linnette Vassell, the National Facilitator for Vision 21 gave a background on the project. Participants introduced themselves and Mr. Thorant Hardware, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water was invited to make remarks.

He stated that the primary objectives of the Ministry of Water in relation to the vision of water and sanitation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century included: -

- Partnership between the government, private sector and communities;
- Use of technology to maximise potential achievement;
- Focus on public information, education and feedback

He stressed that the formation of the Ministry of Water had been strongly influenced by public protest over water and that the water policy which had been prepared was to be subject to wide public discussion.

He commended the members of the Woodside and the Rose Hall Lane communities for their initiative around dealing with issues of water and sanitation and said the Ministry was committed to partnership with them in addressing the issues which were raised in their reports.

He commended the World Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSC) for Vision 21 and said the Ministry was also involved in other initiatives being taken to address water and sanitation within a framework of global cooperation.

The role of the National Water Commission in the water and sanitation sector was acknowledged, and appreciation was expressed by Mrs. Vassell for the support of the NWC towards the expenses of the workshop.

Mr. Albert Gordon, Vice-President of Corporate Planning of the NWC then made remarks. He spoke to the objectives of the National Water Commission (NWC):

- Encouraging conservation and efficiency.
- Improving the quality of water in Jamaica.

- Improving the management of operations in the technical and financial aspects. This would include efficiency in billing and collection of revenues.
- Preservation of the environment.
- Collection and treatment of wastewater.
- Improving customer service.
- Protecting the interests of internal stakeholders.

The NWC's sensitivity to its social and business obligations was stressed and in this respect he spoke to the importance of community participation.

As a vital aspect of the visioning process for water and sanitation in Jamaica, an overview of the present situation was presented by Mr. Cyril Vassell, Quality Consultant. He presented data on the areas of improvement and to the continuing areas of weakness in water and sanitation from the national perspective, giving some comparisons to the global situation.

The participating communities, Woodside (St. Mary) and Rose Hall Lane (Kingston), reported on their community's views and expectations of the Vision 21 Project. Mrs. Walker, the Local Facilitator of the Vision 21 project in Woodside (St. Mary) gave the report on her community. (See appendix). The Rose Hall Lane report was presented by Miss Rachael Ellis supported by community members.

The open discussion which followed focussed on specific issues raised in both reports-water availability and quality, the communities' experiences with the relevant agencies, measures to improve sanitation, and how communities and agencies could work together more effectively. There was much interest in the sanitation system put in place by Rose Hall Lane. However, it was stressed that although it was possible for citizens to be supplied with individual water meters, the increase in water to the community would raise new challenges of waste water disposal. It was important that the community should implement a health and sanitation education programme.

Experiences from other Caribbean countries and Europe in water storage and management were also raised.

The following specific decisions were taken in relation to some of the agencies and the communities.

#### Ministry of Water

Most of the specific proposals from communities were reflected in the water policy (1999)

The Rapid Response Programme-1999 was a new initiative.

- Community tanks are to be placed at strategic points. A fleet of 100 water trucks would service these. In the short term this would bring improved services to communities like Woodside.



- The programme to supply individual households with loans for tanks as was proposed by Woodside would be accommodated. Residents will be responsible for paying for these in installments, while the NWC will supply them. Woodside would be treated as a pilot .
- Willing to raise with the relevant authorities the possible amendment of the building codes to enforce catchment /storage of rain water.

#### National Water Commission

- To forge and sustain a link between the NWC and the Woodside Community- will be involved with the Ministry on the development of the pilot programme for funding the water catchment programme via individual tanks.
- Willing to work along with the Parish Council to give technical assistance to communities re proper storage and use of water.
- Plans to visit Rose Hall Lane Community to examine the water and sanitation situation.

#### Water Resources Authority

- Undertook to investigate the water sources in Woodside with a view to unifying them.
- Would provide information to the National Water Commission and the Ministry of Water where this project is concerned.
- Would investigate the situation re water catchment in the Carron Hall area.

#### Ministry of Local Government Youth and Community Development

- The Ministry is implementing a project to get community feedback on sanitation and welcomes ideas from the communities.

#### The Communities

- Woodside to assist with hosting a community discussion on the water policy and to hold discussions on the development of the pilot project.
- Woodside to follow-up with the St. Mary Parish Council (invited to workshop but absent) on the various decisions and specifically re assistance re public health and sanitation .
- Rose Hall Lane to continue its initiative with Operation Pride re its housing project and call on support of agencies as necessary.

Linnette Vassell and Associates was commended for convening the workshop. As National Facilitators of the process, the agency should continue to play a co-ordinating role to assist in the implementation of the decisions.

#### Evaluation of Workshop

- Well done
- Very well organized
- Very useful
- Government should take it from here and do something more
- Individuals should take it from here
- The workshop was very important since 'water is life'

Participants in the Vision-21 National Workshop

Mr. Thorant Hardware  
Permanent Secretary  
**Ministry of Water**

Mr. Albert Gordon  
Vice President, Corporate Planning  
**National Water Commission**

Mr. Basil Fernandez  
Managing Director  
**Water Resource Authority**

Mr. Ian Gage  
Project Manager  
Project Executing Unit  
**Ministry of Local Government, Youth  
and Community Development**

Mr. Donavon Stanbury  
**Ministry of Water**

Mr. Vernon Barrett  
**National Water Commission**

Ms. Sheila Grant  
National Coordinator  
Life Programme  
**United National Development Programme**

Reverend Gary Harriot  
**Webster Memorial Church**

Ms. Rachael Ellis  
**Webster Memorial Church**

Mr. Norman Grindley  
Photographer  
**The Gleaner**

Mr. Derven Patrick  
Project Officer  
**United Nations Children's Fund**

Ms. Odette Bailey  
**Construction Resource and Development Centre**

Ms. Lovena Henry  
Quality Assurance Officer of Productivity  
**Jamaica Promotions (JAMPRO)**

**Woodside Participants**

Mrs. V. Walker (Local Facilitator of Vision-21, Woodside)  
Ms. Verna Forbes  
Mr. Hopeton Bailey  
Mr. Clarence Russell  
Ms. Elaine Stanton  
Ms. Lorna Williams  
Ms. Sakina Walsh  
Mr. Lennox Boyd  
Mr. Aston Davis  
Mr. Neville Brown  
Mr. Stafford Ellis  
Dr. Erna Brodber  
Mr. Donald Hermit

**Rose Hall Lane Participants**

Mrs. Delores Lewis  
Ms. Veletta Constable  
Mr. Wayne Fanty

**Linnette Vassell and Associates**

Mrs. Linnette Vassell, Social Development Consultant  
Mr. Cyril Vassell, Quality Consultant  
Ms. Saffron Campbell, Research Assistant  
Ms. Tracy-Ann Logan, Secretary

**Appendix 11****VISION 21- WATER AND SANITATION  
WOODSIDE, ST. MARY, JAMAICA**

The following is the summary of views arising from interviews with persons from public service agencies, leaders from NGOs and members of the Woodside community:

1. Targets and goals set for water and sanitation in St. Mary could be more realistic.
2. Things have improved over the years in many instances. Whereas people got water from untreated springs, there are still many more that is not getting enough water.
3. Education needs to be improved in schools and communities regarding water and sanitation.
4. Communities are not as aware as they should regarding the scarcity and cost of water.
5. There is a role for International Agencies especially in terms of providing additional financial and technical assistance (in addition) to what is already being done.
6. There needs to be more involvement of communities in the decision making regarding water and sanitation.
7. Community groups, NGOs Government and the Private Sector should be involved in building strong networks towards future goals.
8. Community Organization is key to future development.
9. The matter of sanitation needs to be stressed regarding garbage disposal of other waste and introduction of new technology to advance the cause.

The peculiarities of St. Mary need to be taken into account.

**VISION 21- WOODSIDE COMMUNITY**

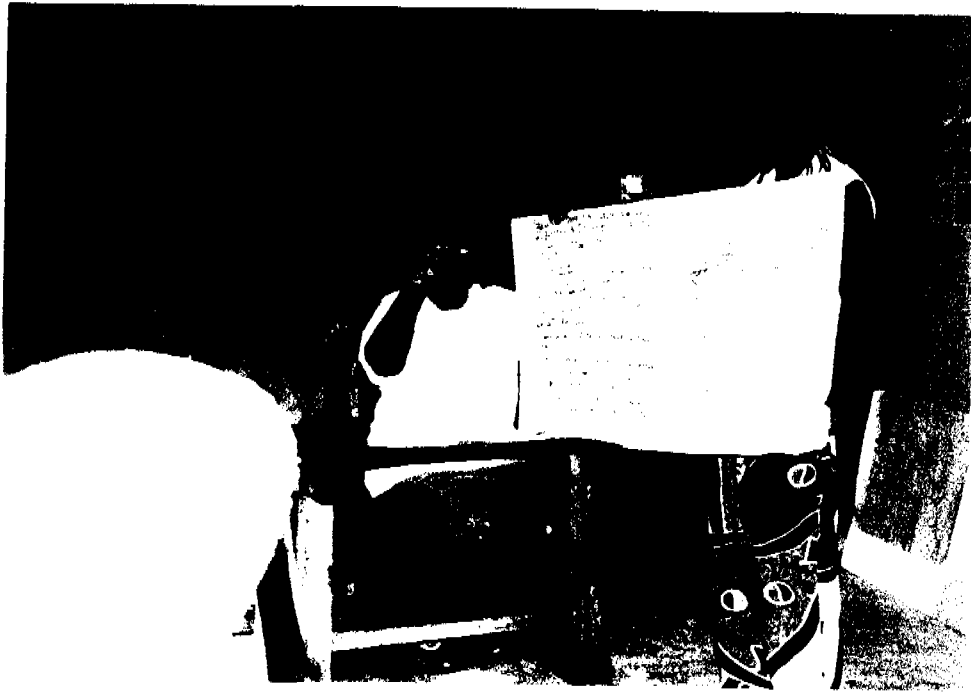
1. For every household to have access to potable water.
2. To see toilet facilities (water closets and or Pit Latrines or Ventilated Improved Double Pit-VIDP) in all homes.
3. For improvement in educational programmes regarding water and sanitation among all age groups.



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Community meeting at Woodside April 11, 1999

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Community member makes a point at the meeting held on April 11, 1999 at Woodside.

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4. For St. Mary Parish Council to take the lead in encouraging and assisting households to store rain-water for domestic and farm use.

#### Woodside - the Community.

The Woodside Community is located in the Parish of St. Mary, six miles from the town of Highgate and about the same distance from Guy's Hill in St. Catherine.

There is a population of 4000 persons.

This is a farming community which produces food crops (Yams, Sweet Potatoes, Cocos) and vegetables (Tomatoes, Pumpkins, Peas and Beans etc.). Fruits, (Oranges, Soursops, Apples, and Grapefruits).

The occupations include Teachers, Carpenters, Shopkeepers, Farmers, Housewives and Drivers.

There is an All Age School in the community; three churches- Anglican, Church of God and Seventh Day Adventists.

Some children attend High Schools in the Highgate Guy's Hill, and Port Maria areas. The four to 6-year-olds attend the Woodside Basic School, and the 6 to 15 years old attend the All Age School in the community and schools in Carron Hall, Dean Pen, Pear Tree Grove, and Marlborough.

Woodside has a community based development project focussed around research on its history and the hosting of students who study community life. This forms the basis for the development of community tourism.

#### Methodology

The St. Mary area and specifically the Woodside Community were looked at regarding the situation with Water and Sanitation.

##### i. Training workshop

The Local Facilitator for Woodside assisted by the National Coordinator and the Local Facilitator for the urban/Kingston project, held a site workshop to discuss the project and to do basic training in Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) techniques.

### **ii) Preliminary Community Meeting**

A preliminary meeting was held with residents attending the regular monthly meeting of the Woodside Community Development Action Group, where the general situation regarding water and sanitation in Jamaica and the Vision 21 Project were discussed.

### **iii) Field Work**

This period was followed by fieldwork by the team of three where the actual discussions began with individual and small groups in the community. This process continued with the Local Facilitator alone.

### **iv) Interviews of Local Officials**

Persons in the Parish who have to do with both areas of development were interviewed.

These persons were:

Mr. Sheldon Peart:	Secretary Manager St. Mary Parish Council
Mr. Noel Walker:	Former Mayor St. Mary Parish Council
Mr. Anthony Robins:	Deputy Public Health Inspector
Mr. Joseph Suer:	District Manager National Water Commission
Ms. Avis Lungren:	Parish Coordinator Social Development Commission
Honorable Terrance Gillette:	Member of Parliament Western St. Mary

Dr. Erna Brodber: Resident Woodside and Officer of the Woodside Development Organization

Mr. Robert Montaque: Councillor, Carron Hall Division St. Mary

Members of the Woodside Community were also interviewed.

Some responded by way of illustrations.

### **v) Community Feedback Meeting**

This was held on April 10, 1999. Thirty-four (34) persons attended (17 men 13 women and 4 children).

### **Water Sources in and near to the Community**

<u>Sources</u>	<u>Agency responsible</u>	<u>Status</u>
Forbes Spring (Bramba)	PC	Chlorinated
Patterson Spring	PC	Chlorinated
Rock Spring (Cooling Spring)	PC	Not Chlorinated
Maria Spring	PC	Not Chlorinated

Charlie Gully            PC                            Not Chlorinated

Near- by Sources

Palmetto Grove        NWC                    Chlorinated  
 \*Smailefield            NWC                    Chlorinated

Distribution

- Water to houses through pipes is limited to less than 2% of households (about 80 persons)
- The other 98% or so go to the springs.
- The Maria and Charley Gully Springs are not chlorinated thus posing a health Hazard.
- Water is trucked to the area by the National Water Commission and collected in drums by residents.

Quality

The chlorinated sources are sometimes affected by muddy water when it rains; thus, the quality is poor at intervals.

Smailefield the National Water Commission source at Rock Spring is a good source but does not supply the community.

\*Does not supply the community

**Summary--Water Problems**

1. Many sources, but far apart. People mainly women and children have to carry water from far distances.
2. Some sources are not treated, hence pose a threat to health.
3. Most people do not get water into their homes. Of 26 persons present at a community feedback meeting only four received pipe water from public spring.

Most times the pressure is extremely low; hence, these persons do not get the piped water.

4. There is poor water quality when it rains.
5. Bathing and washing takes place under the pipes; washing in streams pollutes the sources.
6. There is insufficient water treatment at times especially after heavy rains.
7. Inadequate maintenance of tanks and cisterns.



8. Lots of water goes to waste.
9. Poor supervision by the authorities and citizens of the water situation.
10. Low water source especially in dry season.

These conditions bring hardship to the family. Many community members raised questions when it was suggested that the water problem was especially hard on women and children. This generated quite a heated discussion when the question was put directly to the audience:

What is the community doing for itself?

A few residents collect water in tanks from their roof and use this for non-drinking purposes. The Woodside All Age School itself has such a system in place.

**Water and Gender Issues**

Facilitator 1:

"Do you women feel that water is a special problem for you?"

Male:

"That could be a 'yes' where women are concerned because the ladies have the problem to face the demands where water is concerned. Ladies have the task to go up the hill, down the hill, up the hill... the ladies have the responsibility to pay the price of such".

Female:

"No, it is not a special problem for ladies only. We have to take in that this community is a farming area and men have it hard also to get water for their crops. So they also have to carry water at times to water their crops, so it is hard for every one.

Male:

"When I say it's a problem for ladies and children is because ladies has to do a lot of washing. They have to wash a lot of children's clothes and they have to bathe very often to go to school. They need a lot of water to use.

Male:

"Well I believe being a family man and having eight children, the fact that they must go for the water, personally.

Facilitator 1:

"Who must go for the water?"

Male: "The children should go for the water and then bring it in to the mother ... otherwise, then you see the father couldn't really personally get up to go for water because he have his farm to look about, personally".

Facilitator 1: "People agree with that?"

Female: "No I don't agree with children alone carrying water, I think everybody has to support the family once you are not sick, because men use water too, children use water, women use water, it should not be left up to the children".

Facilitator 1: "How the children feel? How do you feel about carrying water?"

Girl Child: "Bad, because I have to carry water everyday.."

Facilitator 1: "How it makes you feel?"

Girl Child: "Lazy".

Facilitator 2: "One of the persons I interviewed was making the point about men carrying water pass where he is and how people in the road, maybe other men or so, are saying 'dem carrying water? Dem under woman government'. What do you have to say about that men?"

Male: "I believe that in every home, all of who is living in a home should support the home with water, both children, mothers and fathers should support the home with water".

#### Solutions for water into the 21<sup>st</sup> century

1. The solution of the community is to improve water volume and the quality of supplies to households. It is proposed that it should be done by :
  - a) connecting sources
  - b) Entombment of large water sources, treat and pipe to homes for drinking.
  - c) Changing of small pipes to larger ones, as well as replacing those of poor quality.
2. Collection of water from roofs for general use. Get assistance from National Water Commission and the Parish Council regarding chlorination to make water potable.



Water being harvested at a private resident in Woodside

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Water being harvested at a public school in Woodside.

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3. The St. Mary Parish Council is to include in their building regulations the requirement that all buildings provide water tanks.
4. Through the relevant authorities, (National Water Commission/Parish Council) loans and grants are to be provided for residents to build tanks for community and households use.
5. Improve citizens' awareness regarding use and care of water sources. This to be done through the schools (social studies) and by the community organizations.

#### Vision Statement... Water in Woodside

##### Female:

"They did a survey at Bramba Spring and the other springs in the area. They couldn't get the water up the hill because of the pressure (to go up the hill) ...and the water was up at Ms. Swaby's gate and sometime Ms. Swaby get water and sometimes she didn't, especially in the dry season. So we down the bottom there, we would get water while the people up on the hill don't get any water, because in the dry season the water do down up there.

So what I was saying that when we get water when rain fall, the only thing that we should do is collect the rain water and store it in tanks for this area".

##### Male:

"Rain water spoil teeth". (Laughter)

##### Female:

"Let me tell you something, do not bother believe that we are going to get water right through the time going down. We have to rely on the rainwater, because the trees are cutting down... which you do not understand, the trees are cutting down.

We same one are destroying the environment. We are going to get less water and if we do not store more rain water that we are wasting now, what is going to happen later on? Although you say rain water spoil teeth it can wash the clothes, it can cook and it can drink".

### **The Sanitation Situation**

1. Sanitation is an area, which is not talked about as much as water.
2. There is no public garbage collection system in Woodside.
  - a) Some persons burn their garbage.
  - b) Others throw it in their fields.

There is no separation of garbage, so that plastics and other such materials are not properly disposed of.

3. In terms of disposal of body waste, over 90% of community use Pit Toilets. The rest have water closets, which are serviced mainly by water collected in tanks and fed into homes.
4. Mosquitoes breed in areas not bushed.
5. Rats and Roaches also breed and invade the foundations of the latrines.
6. Public Health Officers are not seen. There is no help with rats, mosquitoes, roaches etc.
7. There is not enough information through schools on health science.
8. There is lack of information regarding setting up of proper Pit Toilets.
9. Law enforcement regarding bushing of property is not effective.

### **Sanitation Solutions**

1. Collect and use rainwater to flush toilets.
2. Investigate new Ventilated Improved Toilets towards encouraging their installation.
3. Seek more help from Public Health Authorities regarding Pest Control.
4. Do more education on Health and Sanitation in schools and Community Organisation.

### **For Action on Vision 21**

The Woodside Community Development Action Group will: -

- a). Strengthen itself to pursue the Vision
- b). Follow up on the specific proposals
- c). Link, pressure and work with authorities to achieve the plans.

2. The Action Group has nominated a Vision 21 sub-committee with persons who will coordinate the implementation of proposal regarding water and sanitation.

The sub-committee members are:

- Mr. Lenox Boyd- Vice- President, Farmer;
- Mr. Gus Brown, Farmer;
- Mrs. Meeva Stanton, Housewife;
- Mrs. V. Walker, President.



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A modified Pit Latrine at Rose Hall Lane.

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Pit Latrine that needs to be repaired in Woodside.

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## **Appendix 111.**

### **A vision for betterment: The community of 2a Rose Hall Lane**

#### **History**

No. 2 Rose Hall Lane is part of the Boland's Family Property. Up to the 1960s, there were three large houses, which were rented. From a small settlement of a few families in the late 1960's, the community, especially after Hurricane Gilbert (1988), expanded rapidly.

At present at 2 Rose Hall Lane, there are some 34 families consisting of 32 men 39 women and 41 children. Men represent 1/3 of the heads of households (10), while women represents 2/3 of the heads of households (24). The population consists of mainly young people, with a large population of school age children (approximately 31%).

The community grew because of individuals accommodating their relatives and friends from the country areas, notably Clarendon, St. Catherine and Manchester.

#### **ISSUES OF CONCERN**

##### **1. HOUSING**

- A major worry is the delay in getting a decision from Operation Pride around ownership of land and the building of houses on the property. Thirty-one (31) families have sales agreement, have been saving, but now feel frustrated.
- The hope is that they can be provided with affordable housing.

##### **2. UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT**

- Many 'hustle' but have no steady work
- Skilled people need opportunities.
- Trades people need opportunities.
- Jerk vendors feel pressured by authorities.
- Small business fail because of "hand to mouth" existence.

##### **3. WATER**

- The system is inadequate.
- The 1/2" pipe cannot property service all households.
- Everybody is on one meter.



Community member in Rose Hall Lane makes a point at the meeting held on April 17, 1999.

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Community meeting at Rose Hall Lane April 17, 1999

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#### 4. INADEQUATE SANITATION

- Not everyone has adequate toilet facilities.

#### 5. LIGHT

- Improper and dangerous connections
- Difficult to get approval for legal connections
- Residents reluctant to spend money for they are not sure of Operation Pride Project.

#### 6. EDUCATION

- Expensive to send children to school e.g. transportation, lunch, books etc.
- Many single unemployed mothers find it very hard.
- Problem of illiteracy

#### 7. LOW COMMUNITY SPIRIT

- Co-operation is lacking
- There is need for residents to care and share more
- There is low participation in community activities
- There are quarrels and vexations.
- Men are not sufficiently involved

#### 8. ROAD

- Road leading into community needs repair.

### **POSITIVES OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### 1. NO VIOLENCE

- People can walk at any time of the night. No gunmen, no thieves.
- central location
- Near Police Station, hospital, shopping areas and bus route

#### 2. **Many skilled persons in the community**

- Dressmakers
- Cabinet makers
- Mechanics (men & women)
- Plumbers
- Electrician

- Chefs (men & women)
- Domestic helpers (women)
- Hairdressers
- Barbers
- Artists
- Drivers
- Tailors
- Painters
- Salesmen
- Janitors

### **COMMUNITY TRIES TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEM**

- There is Vision to improve the community
- There is saving through Credit Union
- Monaltrie Development Committee was formed
- All children are in school
- People are enterprising ambitious, warm and friendly
- There are Resource persons in community willing to help with training.
- Residents developed their own toilet system.

#### **The Sanitation System...How it Operates.**

From residents...

" We dig a hole below where we going to put the bathroom. We dig it two drum length. We put in two drums, one on top of the other. We put a big hole in the top of the first drum and another smaller hole at the bottom of the first drum. We put another hole at the top and bottom of the second drum.

We punch some holes in the sides of the drums . Some people put old care tyres in the hole around on the outside of the drums. We cover the top of the big hole using steel and concrete and leave out the space for the toilet bowl. When we use the toilet, we use water from a bucket to flush it.

We use a different hole and only one drum for water from the kitchen.

The toilet can last a long time, years. There is no bad smell for we put a pipe in the hole to vent the toilet."

### **COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

#### **1. Need for Action to Solve Housing Problems**

- 31 persons have sales agreement
- Some started saving but stopped
- Uncertain about present situation, but many interested to move forward.

**2. Alternative Housing Solution**

- Overall, Community Development Plan.
- Revive community organisation

**3. Improve Water System-Larger Pipes****4. Literacy Programmes**

- Homework programme
- Skills training for youth
- Sunday school

**5. Sanitation**

- More sanitary conveniences

**6. Deal with Illegal Light****FEEDBACK MEETING**

A community meeting was held on April 10 to report on what citizens had said. Among those attending the meeting were the team from Webster and Miss Ivy Hill, Secretary of the Constituency in which the community falls.

The Webster team reported to the community on what different people had said. Except for minor corrections, citizens agreed that the report captured what they had said.

Rev. Harriot reported that he had spoken with one Ms. Sonia Forbes of the Ministry of Housing. She had been dealing with the matter of upgrading the community through Operation Pride.

Ms. Forbes it was reported said that there was difficulty in contacting the owner of the lands and in locating the title at the Titles office. According to her report, the Ministry of Housing and Environment would be making efforts to clear up the matter by June.

A few persons made suggestions about follow-up action, for example, to do fundraising. However, all agreed with Miss Hill's suggestion that a Steering Committee should be formed from trustees and other members and along with the Webster team should go to Operation Pride to find out exactly what was happening.

Miss Hill said that it was good that the Provident Society had been active in the past and still had money saved.

Community members, when asked what role they expected Webster's to play, said that they hoped the church would stand beside them and be a partner to them as they try to help themselves.

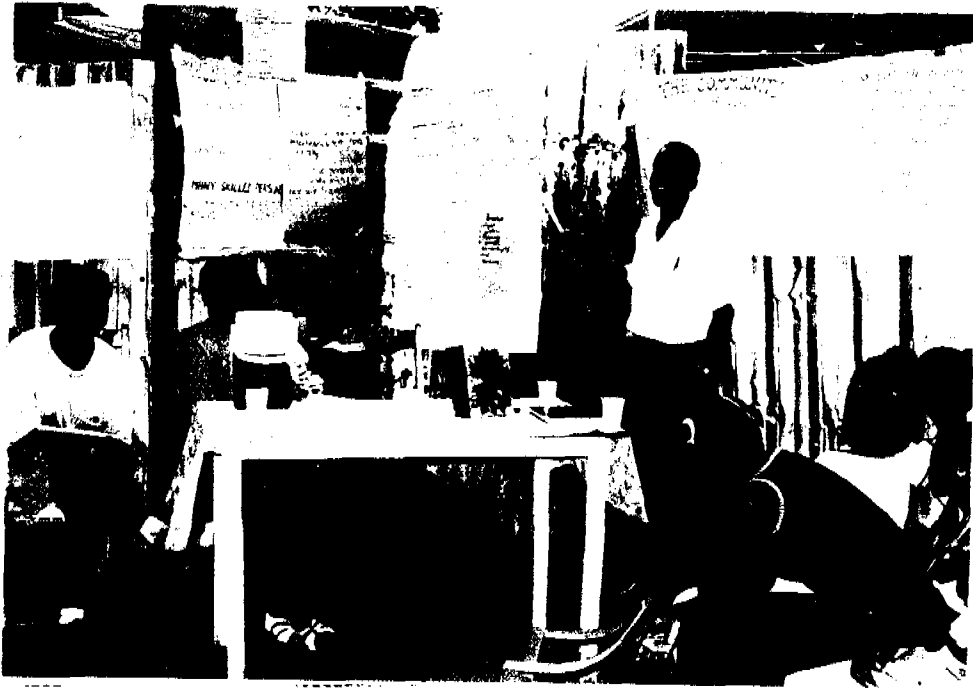
The first meeting of the new steering committee was set for Saturday April 17 at 4:30pm in the community.

**Members of the Steering Committee**

Michael Smith  
Ms. Terry Robinson  
Mr. Edward Lewis  
Mrs. Louis Frazer  
Ms. Naja Bennett  
Representatives of Webster Church.  
Mrs. Hope Cameron  
Mrs. Meveta Henry  
Sharon Ellis  
Hazel Davis  
Wayne Fanty  
Sherwin Cummings  
Mrs. Doris Lewis  
Ms. Veleta Constable

**TRUSTEES**

Ms. Hope Cameron  
Mr. Smith  
Mrs. Smith



Reverend Harriot discusses with the community issues that concerns them.



V Walker speaks to residents at Woodside at a community meeting.



L Vassell (National Facilitator) and V Walker (Local Facilitator) having discussion with young community members in Woodside.



Young community members from Rose Hall Lane illustrate their vision for water and sanitation.

**Appendix 1V****List of Persons Interviewed at the National Level**

Mr. Robert Bryan  
Executive Director  
**Social Development Commission**  
25 Dominica Drive,  
Kingston 5

Mr. Basil Fernandez  
Managing Director  
**Water Resource Authority**  
Hope Gardens  
Kingston 7

Mr. Albert Gordon  
Vice President  
Corporate Planning  
**National Water Commission**  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Life of Jamaica Building  
Dominica Drive,  
Kingston 5

Mr. Thorant Hardware  
Permanent Secretary  
**Ministry of Water**  
6 St. Lucia Avenue  
Kingston 5

Mr. Stephen Hodges  
Representative  
**National Environmental Societies Trust**  
95 Dumbarton Avenue,  
Kingston 10  
&  
Water Consultant  
**Construction Resource and Development Centre**  
11 Lady Musgrave Avenue  
Kingston 10

Mr. Tim Kasten  
Water Officer  
**United Nations Environmental Programme**  
14 Port Royal Street.  
Kingston

Mr. Franklin Mc Donald  
Executive Director  
**Natural Resources Conservation Authority**  
10 Caledonia Avenue.  
Kingston 5

Mr. Derven Patrick  
Project Officer  
**United Nations Children's Fund**  
60 Knutsford Boulevard  
Kingston 5

Mr. Stephen Rodriques  
Head of Planning  
**Jamaica Social Investment Fund**  
10 St. Lucia Avenue,  
Kingston 5

Mr. James Samuels  
President  
**Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association**  
Terra Nova Hotel  
17 Waterloo Road  
Kingston 10

Mr. Ken Shimitzi  
Programme Officer  
Environmental Focal Point  
**United Nation Development Programme**  
1 Lady Musgrave Road  
Kingston 5

Mr. Basil Sutherland  
Chief Executive Officer  
**National Water Commission**  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Life of Jamaica Building  
Dominica Drive  
Kingston 5



Ms. Selena Tapper  
Executive Director  
**Environmental Foundation of Jamaica**  
17 Trinidad Terrace  
Kingston 5

Mr. Laurie Watson  
**Director of Public Health Inspection**  
Ministry of Health  
2 Kings Street  
Kingston 5

**LINETTE VASSELL & ASSOCIATES**

**Vision 21 Project:**

National Facilitator- Linnette Vassell  
Local Facilitator- Rural- Mrs. Velma Walker  
Local Facilitator- Urban- Mr. Cyril Vassell  
Research Assistant- Miss Saffron Campbell  
Secretary- Miss Traci-Ann Logan