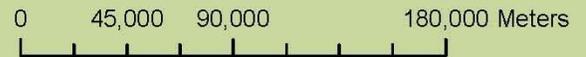


Parish of Clarendon



Legend

- Main Towns
- ▭ Clarendon Parish Boundary
- ▭ Community Boundaries
- ▭ Other Parishes
- ▭ Caribbean Sea



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PROFILE OF CLARENDON

Location and Size

Clarendon is a parish located on the southern section of Jamaica in the county of Middlesex at latitude 17°44'N and longitude 77°09'W. The parish has a land area of 1,196 square kilometres (km²). It is bordered by the parishes of Manchester in the west, Saint Catherine in the east, Saint Ann in the north and the Caribbean Sea in the south (see Appendix 1 for detailed boundary description). It is roughly half way between St Thomas and Westmoreland and is therefore found in the central region of the island.



Historical Background

- Clarendon, one of the largest parishes of the island, was named in honour of the celebrated Lord Chancellor, Sir Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. It acquired its present geographical boundaries after the total number of parishes in the island was reduced from twenty-two to fourteen in 1814. The then parish of Vere was divided, with the greater part being incorporated in the parish of Clarendon and the lesser joining other sections from St. Elizabeth to form the new parish now called Manchester.
- Long before the discovery of Jamaica by the Spanish, Clarendon was the site of several established Taino settlements. Archaeological evidence revealed that the natives lived in villages in Portland Ridge, Braziletto Mountain, Round Hill and on the banks of the Rio Minho and Milk River. The Spaniards, who later settled in the area, named the vast grassland plains 'Savannah'. Upon seeing the potential for livestock rearing on the Savannah, pigs, horses and cattle were imported, and three cattle ranches were established. The hides of pigs, horses and cattle were exported to Spain while the beef and tallow were used locally.



Historical Background

- Over the years, Clarendon has evolved from being primarily sugar plantations. While the local economy is predominantly agricultural, the parish had become a major player in the bauxite industry, with the establishment of Jamalco in the 1970s. The parish has also prospered due to the development of many business ventures that includes dry goods, confectionery and baked products. Clarendon has also seen improvements over the last few years which are evident in the development of its major towns; the improvement of health care facilities; the growth of educational institutions; and improved access to potable water.



Improving household water security in Clarendon against the backdrop of increasing climate variability and limited financial resources.



CURRENT SITUATION

- Approximately 75% of the population has water piped into their dwellings or into their yards from acceptable sources.
- The remainder of the population depends on a number of different water sources, including unimproved sources, such as springs and rivers.
 - Some of these sources are unreliable and an increase in the length of the dry season over the last few years makes the problem more acute.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Local government has responsibility for establishing minor water supply systems where it is not feasible to develop extensive infrastructure.
 - Local government therefore has an important role to play in achieving the sustainable development goals and executing responsibilities under international conventions.
 - Grant funding from national and international donors continues to be one of the main sources of financing for water related projects.
 - Local government also work through or partner with local community based organizations and non-profit groups who are also dependent on grant funding.



PAST AND PRESENT EFFORTS

- Over the last few years some creative strategies and projects have been embarked upon to ensure water security.
 - A water shop was opened in one local communities.
 - Rainwater harvesting has been promoted, mainly through public education, the rehabilitation of community catchments, and the retrofitting of public buildings with rainwater harvesting infrastructure.
 - A number of springs have been entombed.
 - Water has been trucked to certain areas.



THE FUTURE APPROACH

- Local government is committed to making Clarendon a sustainable municipality and making its contribution to international agendas.
- A sustainable development plan is in place which outline the future strategies of the municipality to achieve water security and climate resilience.
 - We will continue to support water resources conservation, improve our water storage capacity, promote the use of alternative sources of water, including rainwater and grey water, and ensure equitable pricing, among other things.



The End

