



GOAL 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Context

Consumption and production are at the heart of every economy. How consumers and companies manage their products and waste, directly impacts the built and natural environment, domestically and internationally. Jamaica is not unique in the challenges it faces with food regulation, energy and manufacturing output and how firms treat the waste from these industries. With an exclusive economic zone of 257.7 square kilometres (sq. km.) and a land area of 10 991 sq. km, the importance of sustainable resource management and management of chemicals and waste can affect livelihoods on land and at sea. Sound environmental practices are therefore required across industries and more so for those that use marine resources, such as tourism and fisheries.

Jamaica's policy and legislative agenda have kept pace with targeting consumers and producers through protecting lands from resource exploitation, banning single-use plastics and facilitating recycling initiatives. Further progress will require stronger measures for non-compliance and increasing the information available to consumers and producers on the content of products and harmful substances.

The review for the period 2018-2022 summarizes key achievements, issues and challenges concerning sustainable consumption and production patterns.



FIGURE 68: HIGHLIGHTS, SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS (2018-2022)

Discussion

Target 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

The GOJ, through a range of policies and programmes, coordinated and implemented the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (YFP). The NEPA, through the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), is Jamaica's focal point for the 10YFP. The Jamaica VNR Report 2018 highlighted that Jamaica's policy planning and regulatory framework included the National Energy Policy (2009-2030), Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica (2015) and Water Sector Policy (2018) among others. Since then, the latest policy to promote sustainable consumption and production practices was approved in 2018.

The Public Procurement Regulation (2018) was introduced to provide balance in the procurement of goods and services by the public sector. The policy supports MSMEs through reserve contracts and projects equal to 20.0 per cent of the annual procurement budget. Government spending has reached approximately 13.2 per cent of real value-added annually, accounting for one of the largest contributions to GDP annually. With MSMEs representing over 91.6 per cent of registered businesses, increasing the pool of revenue available to these firms has significant benefits to job creation and growth.

Cabinet's approval of the National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste¹³⁶ was a key milestone towards strengthening the governance framework for environmental management and sustainable consumption and production. The policy is in keeping with international and regional best practices to ensure the protection of human health and the environment and guided by the tenets of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Additionally, the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy is currently in development.

Further, statutes, and one bill were promulgated in the Houses of Parliament including the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (FSPI) {Amendment} Act and Regulations, 2019, and the Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture {Amendment} Act, 2019, which makes provisions for the protection of Jamaica's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Jamaica is preparing to make amendments to the Forest Act, 1996 and Forest Regulations, 2001; the proposed amendments emphasize the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of forests, mechanisms to include the private sector in forestry, and strategies to ensure compliance and enforcement.

Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

The Mining and Quarrying industry in Jamaica contributes an average of 2.1 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP) annually, representing the smallest industry group measured in the national accounts. However, products from the extractive industry, bauxite, alumina, limestone and others, account for an average of 49.8 per cent of merchandise export earnings.

136 The policy includes inputs from a series of stakeholder consultations led by the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change in 2019.

Due to the importance of the extractive industry in foreign exchange earnings, employment and contribution to GDP, navigating the sustainable use of land and resources for earnings and also environmental protection is a pertinent concern. As a result, actions have been taken to declare the Cockpit Country—home to large reserves of bauxite and also the largest remaining natural forest— as a protected area, increasing the country’s protected land territory from 18.0 per cent to 24.0 per cent. The challenge facing firms in the mining and quarrying industry in sustainable production and land revitalization is compounded by the increase in demand for products. The domestic construction boom and increased demand for alumina products are factors for exploitation. However, bauxite and alumina production have been declining annually, significantly affected by activities at the producing plants and proprietary changes.

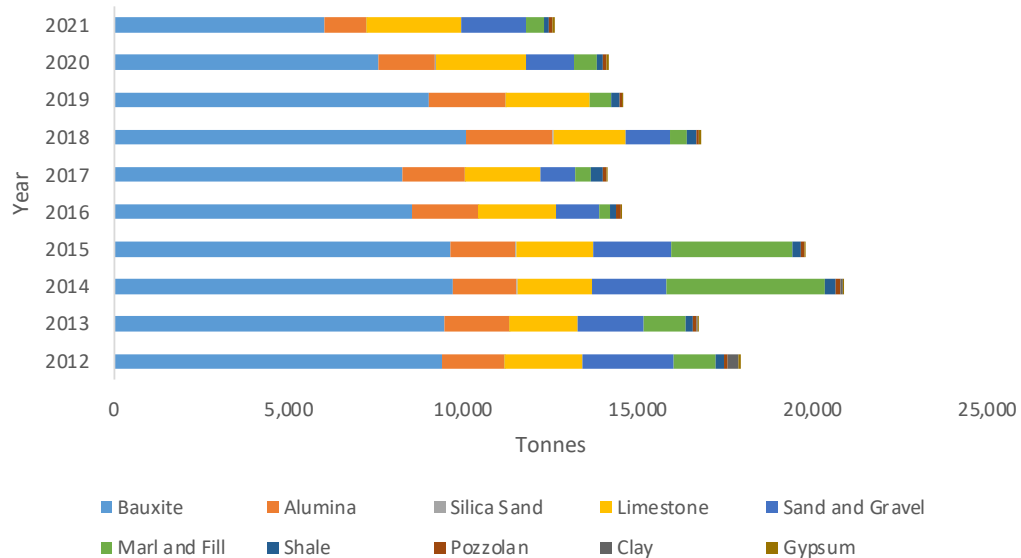


FIGURE 69: DOMESTIC MINERAL PRODUCTION
SOURCE: STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Goal 12 is aligned to Goals 3 and 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica—National Development Plan ‘Jamaica’s economy is prosperous’, ‘Jamaica has a healthy natural environment’. A key area of focus to achieve these goals is the management of waste. The Plastic Waste Minimization Project, initiated in 2018, was designed to reduce marine litter from plastics generated from land-based activities. Up to 2019, more than 15.0 tonnes of plastic material had been collected. Additionally, the programme delivered a Final Regulatory Impact Assessment on Plastics and Polystyrene in 2020.

The UNDP also implemented the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (NIP for POPs) which sought to strengthen national and local capacities to effectively manage Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

The GOJ implemented the Trade (Plastic Packaging Materials Prohibition) Order (2018) and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (Plastic Packaging Materials Prohibition) Order (2018) to ban the importation, distribution, manufacture and commercial use of certain types of single use plastics, in phases, as of January 1, 2019 (NEPA, 2020). A mobile app was developed by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to facilitate easier collection and reporting of non-collection of solid waste, and illegal dumping.

The NSWMA launched the Northern Belt Plastic Project in 16 communities across the Manufacturing Process Management (MPM) region to increase public awareness of the importance of solid waste separation and promote solid waste management best practices. Over 2 200kg of plastic was collected and handed over to a recycling company for processing.

E-waste is a major factor in solid waste management. Data from the UN in the Global E-Waste Monitor (2020) show that Jamaica generated the most e-waste in the Caribbean sub-region, with 17.8 kilo tonnes in 2019 and the second-lowest level of waste generated per capita at 6.2 kilogrammes. Management of e-waste has been included in the Draft National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste.

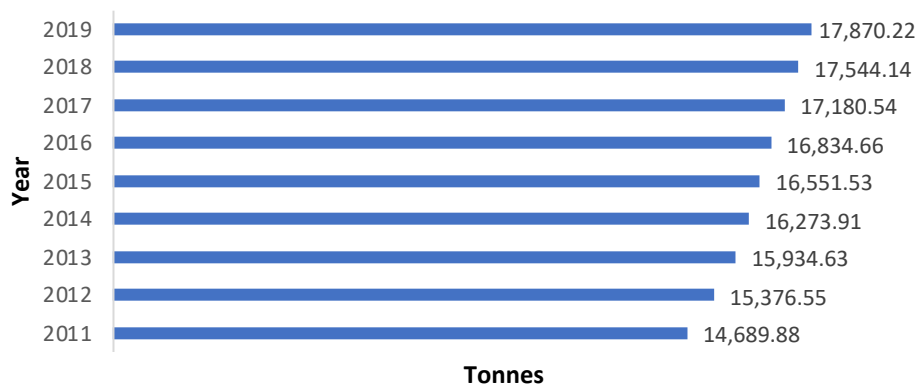


FIGURE 70: VOLUME OF E-WASTE GENERATED
SOURCE: UN STAT

The Cabinet approved the National Programme for the environmentally sound management of end-of-life pneumatic tyres. The ten-year \$428.0 million project involves the removal of pneumatic tyres from the island's disposal sites for incineration in a high-temperature kiln.

To further promote sustainable production, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and the Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change advanced the development of the National Investment Policy and prepared a Draft Green Economy Investment Strategy and Action Plan.

Target 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Under the Knowledge Co-Creation and the Young Leaders Programmes, funded by Government of Japan, 14 persons (including eight females) were trained in areas such as tourism development, disaster risk reduction, value chain development for sustainable use of fisheries resources and solid waste management. The Government of Japan also approved grants in the amount of \$67.1 million on the Sustainable Transport and Renewable Energy-Powered Electromobility Support Project to prepare an electric mobility strategic framework, which is intended to improve the technology transition in the transport and energy sectors consistent with indicator 12.a.1. As of 2021, five charging ports have been installed.

Through the initiative, Support for the Development of the Ginger Value Chain (2018-2019), Jamaica made progress in strengthening the scientific and technological capacity through initiatives such as the MOAF's improved capacity to develop and implement value chain upgrading strategies and a review of the ginger tissue culture facilities with recommendations for improvement in Jamaica (2018–2019). The Government of Korea awarded scholarships worth \$8.3 million for students who are pursuing graduate studies in urban development policy and technology entrepreneurship.

The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID) was the first local inspection entity to attain the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 international standard. Additionally, more than 40 standards were developed for products and services over the review period. Among those launched was the Jamaican Standard (JS) ISO 14005:2017 – Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Guidelines which will facilitate the implementation of an EMS within organizations, particularly, MSMEs.

There are gaps in the availability of data to track progress under SDG 12, including measurement of the material footprint in Jamaica.

TABLE 23: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON AVAILABLE INDICATORS.

Targets	Indicator	Output as at 2018	Progress	Assessment
Target 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) including standard specifications such as ISO 14000 environmental management standards	At the end of 2017, at least 10 companies were certified	At the end of 2020, 12 companies certified	Relatively no change
	Coral Reef Health as measured by the National Environment and Planning Agency	In 2015 the Coral Reef Health Index was 2.2. Jamaica ranked as 'poor'.	In 2020 the CHRI index was 2.0 remaining in the category 'poor'.	Decline
Target 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste	Green Paper tabled in 2017	White paper completed March 2019, revisions made and submitted to Cabinet at the end of 2020	Approved
	Emissions Policy Framework for Jamaica	---	Green Paper finalized and submitted to Cabinet by the Ministry of Housing Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change.	Ongoing
	Draft Climate Change Policy Framework (CCPF)	Passed into law in 2015	Amended to include provisions in conformity with the Paris Agreement as well as developments in the international climate change arena. Submitted as Green paper to Cabinet in 2020	Ongoing

SOURCE: JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

Lessons Learnt and Best Practice

One of the lessons learned over the period is that there are benefits to be derived from increased public awareness activities. There was a positive response by the private sector to the bans introduced by the GOJ on plastics. The Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) reported that the ban fuelled opportunities for the manufacturing of bio-degradable packaging, such as paper bags and bamboo straws (ESSJ 2019). This was associated with the rise in public awareness activities conducted between 2019 and 2021 concerning the proper treatment of plastic waste, with activities being conducted in multiple communities.

Another best practice that has paid dividends is the development of policy that is aligned with the SDGs and the national planning framework - the Jamaica National Energy Policy 2009–2030 which emphasizes the sustainable management of energy resources and the development of viable renewable energy resources, with the latter expected to represent no less than 20.0 per cent of the energy mix by 2030. Since 2013, renewable energy has risen to 13.0 per cent of total energy production.

Crosscutting issues and interlinkages with other SDGs

Progress made in achieving the targets under goal 12 has implications for other goals, specifically SDG 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.' Target 13.2 in particular speaks to integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. This is demonstrated in:

- Finalization of the Green Economy Investment Strategy and Action Plan, a component of the Plastic Waste Minimisation Project.
- The tabling of the White Paper for the National Policy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste in Parliament. This aligns with the international agreements made by Jamaica including the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Increased up take of renewable energy also augers well for SDG 7 "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"; target 7.2 on the renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.

Way Forward

Achieving progress on the sustainable production and consumption of goods and services presents challenges for Jamaica in advancing the 2030 Agenda because of the myriad interconnected areas of responsibility for citizens, the private sector and the government. Jamaica has several policies and action plans that promote sustainable consumption and production however, the enforcement and monitoring of practices by citizens and businesses is the next step.

The take-up of firms committing to certification to ISO-14000 remains slow, with 12 firms obtaining the standard, up from 10 at the end of 2017. This will limit Jamaica's ability to address pollution from the source—firms' manufacturing plants. Moral suasion may not be enough; stronger responses that emphasize good environmental practices are required.

Resource constraints notwithstanding, key actions for moving forward include:

- Development of indicators to measure the targets under SDG 12 (e.g. - Jamaica's material footprint.)

- Strengthening the monitoring framework within respective MDAs with responsibility for monitoring the targets.
- Facilitation of greater partnerships between businesses and MDAs to determine the full economic cost of sustainable consumption and production and the development of strategies for meeting these standards in production.

Resource Requirements

- For Jamaica to advance towards achieving SDG 12 resources are needed in the following areas: Increased allocation of finances from domestic resource mobilization and the alignment of environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) principles in businesses, including MSMEs.
- Higher levels of sharing of technical expertise at the domestic and international level, supporting the *means of implementation* as outlined under the commitments related to SDG 17.