



► ILO Project brief

September 2024

Jamaica Just Transition: embedding climate justice in regional policy frameworks

Project details

- **Implementation:** DWT POS
- **Funding source:** Regular budget supplementary account
- **Technical Assistance:** 700,000USD
- **Timeframe:** October 2024 – September 2026

Objective

To support the Government of Jamaica to infuse climate action with decent work principles in Jamaica, advancing social justice and sustainable economic development goals. It envisages that by 2026, Just Transition measures are integrated into Jamaica's national climate change policy frameworks not least its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Background and justification

The Caribbean is one of the most climate exposed regions in the world, but most States lack integrated climate change and labour market policies which engender strong, inclusive, environmentally sustainable economic growth. The Paris Agreement requires Parties to establish and update NDCs, which are climate action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. It also mandates integration of Just Transition measures into national development priorities.

The selection of Jamaica responds to specific conditions and needs of the country as it develops and designs its climate change policies and national action plans. Jamaica

ranks 47th in the 2023 Inform Risk Index on humanitarian crises and disasters, given high probability of adverse climatic events. In 2024 we have seen the devastating impact of Hurricane Beryl on the country's population, workforce and businesses in key parishes.

The Project builds on in-country work already implemented by the ILO with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The national Green Job Assessment Model (GJAM) Project in Jamaica is evaluating the impact of Jamaica's current NDC strategies on its economy and job demand in the future years through building policy modelling scenarios.

The GJAM Project is set to provide policy makers, workers' and employers' organizations with an opportunity to "test"/forecast the possible implications of new economic, and climate policies in Jamaica. The Project is supported by a tripartite partners/constituents, academia (and other stakeholders such as climate experts) technical working group comprised not only of traditional partners of the ILO, but also non-traditional partners from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (Climate Division), the University of the West Indies and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (Climate Unit).

The gains from the GJAM Project provide a foundation to this Jamaica Just Transition Project to build on the multisectoral engagement forum that has developed, utilize the empirical data to support further policy analysis and embark on wider national dialogue with key stakeholders in the area of climate change and traditional labour partners.

Theory of change

This RBSA-funded intervention aims to infuse climate action with decent work principles in Jamaica, advancing social justice and sustainable economic development goals. It envisages that by 2026, Just Transition measures are integrated into Jamaica's national climate change policy frameworks not least its NDCs based on a four-part intervention model that is aligned to the four objectives and the five guiding principles in the ILO Strategy and Action Plan on Just Transition. It will:

- Identify and analyse gaps in national climate change and development policy frameworks inclusive of nationally determined contributions (**National level research and knowledge generation to strengthen empirical bases for policy development**).
- Enable inclusive participation from most affected Parties (**Social dialogue and partnership building**) on the nationally determined contributions reviews.
- Empower tripartite constituents through evidence-driven knowledge- and experience-sharing interventions to elaborate proposal for just transition inclusive and responsive to the unique needs and experiences of each constituent (**Accelerated capacity building strategy**).
- Develop integrated climate policies aimed at expanding social protection coverage to encompass climate considerations in the region.

Project outcome

- Just Transition principles related to decent work and labour market principles are integrated into inclusive national development policies of Jamaica by 2026 including the Nationally determined contributions due to be updated 2025/2026.
- Revitalized social dialogue and governance mechanism to support engagement on nationally determined contributions by tripartite constituents and technical experts in Jamaica.

- Integrated climate policies responses that promote extension of social protection coverage developed.

Stakeholder beneficiaries

- Planning Institute of Jamaica;
- The Statistical Institute of Jamaica;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security;
- Climate change Department, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation;
- National Partnership Council;
- Labour Advisory Committee; and
- Social partners (Union and Employers) will obtain an understanding on the implications of the assessment for their constituencies.

Governance structure

- **Secretariat (ILO)** - Coordinate all Project activities, manage day-to-day operations, and ensure communication between all stakeholders.
- **Steering Committee (High level officials of key institutions and organizations)** - Provide strategic direction, oversight, and ensure alignment with national and regional policies and international commitments.
- **Technical working group** - Focus on specific technical aspects of the Project, such as policy development, capacity building, and social protection.

Key outputs

- **Revised policy development position** to support Jamaica's just transition to a greener economy based on empirical data.
- **Social Dialogue Governance structure for tripartite engagement** formed at the national level to further just transition initiatives.
- **Institutionalized social protection** policies planning measures that focus on supporting life and work transitions for workers and employers notably in the context of climate change.

Immediate next steps

- Official Project launch and inception
- Awareness raising campaign
- Establishment of the National Steering Committee