



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 19, 2017**  
**Kingston, Jamaica**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 IS SAVE COCKPIT COUNTRY DAY**

IRIE FM, ZIP FM, NATIONWIDE NEWS NETWORK, JAMAICA ENVIRONMENT TRUST, WINDSOR RESEARCH CENTRE, COCKPIT COUNTRY COMMUNITIES, COCKPIT COUNTRY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP, COCKPIT COUNTRY MAROONS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHERS HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO DECLARE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2017, “SAVE COCKPIT COUNTRY DAY” TO ALERT EVERYONE TO THE THREAT OF BAUXITE MINING IN COCKPIT COUNTRY.

Cockpit Country remains under threat from bauxite mining, which would destroy forest cover, block and pollute waterways, displace residents, threaten agricultural livelihoods, compromise air quality, threaten the health and well-being of thousands of Jamaican citizens, and turn intact rural communities and productive farms into wastelands.

In response to this threat, a coalition of concerned citizens working to protect Cockpit Country have declared Friday September 22, 2017 “Save Cockpit Country Day”. The public, media, policy makers, educators, are all encouraged to defend Cockpit Country.

**Get Informed!**

On Save Cockpit Country Day, tune in all day to IRIE-FM, ZIP-FM, and NATIONWIDE NEWS NETWORK for important information about Cockpit Country. Other outlets for information include: [www.savecockpitcountry.org](http://www.savecockpitcountry.org); [cockpitcountry.com](http://cockpitcountry.com); Jamaica Environment Trust FB Page; Protect Jamaica’s Cockpit Country FB Page

**Get Active!**

Sign the online petition to protect Cockpit Country <http://opm.gov.jm/participate/jamaica-house-petition/sign-petition/?pet=18> 15,000 signatures are needed by September 30 in order for the Government to respond. Paper petitions can also be signed at Jamaica Environment Trust, IRIE-FM, ZIP-FM and Nationwide News Network offices. A petition PDF can be downloaded from [www.savecockpitcountry.org](http://www.savecockpitcountry.org).

**Take a Stand!**

Cockpit Country forests are the lungs of Jamaica, they provide cooling temperatures and hold carbon in the soil thus helping against the negative effects of Global warming and climate change. In addition, Cockpit Country supplies Western Jamaica with about 40% of its water needs. Cockpit Country annually provides millions of dollars worth of natural services to Jamaica, much more than bauxite over time, and has much greater value left intact for future generations. Let the Prime Minister, your local representatives, your friends, family and networks know that you want Cockpit Country protected.

## **SAVE COCKPIT COUNTRY CONTACTS**

### **NORTH COCKPIT COUNTRY**

Lorna Williams Christie, Duanvale Resident, Cockpit Country Local Forestry Committee Member, CC activist, 774-1148

Asburga Harwood, was threatened with mining has been active in CC struggle: 425-5239

Susan Koenig, Scientist - Windsor Research Center 997-3882/361-4659

windsormikesusan@gmail.com, windsor@cwjamaica.com,

### **SOUTH COCKPIT COUNTRY**

Hugh Dixon, STEA, 393-6584; 610-0818, hughmdix@gmail.com,

### **CATADUPA COCKPIT COUNTRY**

Antonette Brown, Ginger Hill, 449-3744

Rev. John Gordon, Cambridge, 586-8778

Clavie Johnson, Principal: Elderslie Primary & Junior High School, 334-7770

Calvin Shirley, Chair: Cockpit Country Local Forestry Committee Member, Point; 361 6916

Ennis Wallace, Niagara, 359 1006

Millicent Clarke, Point Benevolent Society, Point, 329 3996

### **EAST COCKPIT COUNTRY - ST ANN**

Linsford Hamilton, Community Leader - Madras, 374-9197

Ivy Walton, Community Leader - Gibraltar, 824-7681

Bishop Clarke, Community Leader - Gibraltar 319-3635

Al Gallimore - Media Activist, Resident Alexandria 401-3066. alkivern@yahoo.com

### **ACCOMPONG**

Col Ferron Williams, Leeward Maroons, 531-2894 or 790-0867

Norma Rowe Edwards, Accompong, 573-6575

Taishon Wright (not sure about spelling - very articulate young maroon ask Norma for his contact info)

### **OTHERS**

Diana McCaulay JET 469-1315

Suzanne Stanley JET 470-7580

Dr Esther Figueroa, independent filmmaker, activist, 407-7439

Dr. Donovan Campbell, 351-1925, UWI, Human Geographer - donovancampbell@gmail.com

Dr. Chandra Degia, Environmental Management, Sustainable Tourism, Environmental Education, 461-3549, cadegia@gmail.com

Wendy Lee, Environmentalist, Seven Oaks Sanctuary for Wildlife, 359-1505 or 808-1657

Ann Haynes Sutton, Scientist, BirdsCaribbean, 877-7335

Carol Narcisse, Civil Society Advocate, 430-4705

Horace Levy, Executive Director, Jamaicans for Justice, 337-3390