

# Fate of Jamaica's Goat Islands



PHOTO: Jeremy Francis

The Goat Islands and two fish sanctuaries in Jamaica's Portland Bight Protected Area may be destroyed to make way for a mega trans-shipment port, proposed by the Chinese government.

ELAW is helping partners at the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) save these unique marine resources in Jamaica.

"There has been no official announcement of the plan, still no details, no consultation with anyone, not even with the NGO currently managing the protected area," says Diana McCaulay at JET.

ELAW is working with Diana to get the word out before it's too late, and tapping the expertise of grassroots leaders around the world who are working to save protected areas from development schemes.

The Port Authority of Jamaica has now commissioned an Environment Management Scoping Study to assess the feasibility of the proposed location at Goat Islands. The Minister of Transport and Works wrote to JET in late September and said that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would be conducted before any decision is made.

ELAW will work with JET to evaluate the EIA and ensure that fragile ecosystems are not sacrificed for short-term gains.

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The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) helps communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. We are a global alliance of attorneys, scientists and other advocates collaborating across borders to promote grassroots efforts to build a sustainable, just future.

EDITOR: MAGGIE KEENAN

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