

**GOVERNMENT  
OF JAMAICA  
POLICY  
REGISTER**

**AS AT 30 NOVEMBER  
2020**

# **GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA POLICY REGISTER**

## **THE POLICY REGISTER**

The Government of Jamaica Policy Register was established, to provide an up-to-date information system, containing a record of all national policies. It includes a brief explanation of the intent of each policy, the Ministry that is responsible for each policy and where available the date of promulgation of each policy.

The Register serves as a reference point for stakeholders who require information on policies guiding the work of Ministries and should enhance coordination in assist policy development and implementation.

While this Register records the national policies guiding the work of Ministries, it is expected that Ministries will, where possible, make copies of the policies available on their websites.

## **DEFINITION OF POLICY**

For the purpose of this document, a National Policy is a course of action to be taken by the Government to resolve a given problem or interrelated set of problems. The policy is contained in a document which is subject to approval by the Cabinet and is tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

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<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>Food Safety Policy and Implementation Plan</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 107/13 dated 10 September 2013</p>	<p>The policy aims to implement programmes that promote high standards of food hygiene and maintain systems of surveillance and control to ensure compliance with those standards.</p>
<p>National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 40/13 dated 8 May 2013</p>	<p>The Food and Nutrition Security Policy will:</p> <p>i) Define the food and nutritional goals that are to be met so that the country's agriculture and food systems can deliver adequate and nutritionally appropriate quantities of food, especially to low-income and vulnerable groups;</p> <p>Make prescriptions for a structured food import replacement program and a re-orientation of food imports and the food distribution system, to increase the availability of good quality-nutritious foods in Jamaica.</p>
<p>National Plant Health Policy</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 4/11 dated 25 January 2011</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 62/14 dated 29 April 2014 (for Implementation Plan)</p>	<p>The Policy seeks to address the gaps and failures in the current plant health system in the light of the requirements of international treaties and agreements of which Jamaica is signatory and food safety and phytosanitary standards of major trading partners.</p>
<p>National Seed Policy and Plan</p> <p>White Paper No. 1/19 tabled on the 23 July 2019</p>	<p>The goal of the Policy is to establish a sustainable seed system that ensures a consistent and reliable supply of clean, affordable and accessible seed in support of agricultural production, productivity, food security and biodiversity.</p>

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<b>Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
The National Culture Policy	This policy provides opportunities for full and unbridled cultural expression as an act of liberation and empowerment.
National Sports Policy	<p>The development of a healthy, disciplined and united society through the provision of better opportunities and facilities that will encourage greater participation and the fulfilment of basic social, physical and mental needs through Sports.</p> <p>To provide a framework of excellence at the highest level of competition in the true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play and with a view towards enhancing national image and goodwill.</p> <p>To develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sports generally.</p> <p>To influence the development of strategies and programmes for the coordinated development of Sport.</p>
<p>National Policy on Gender Equality</p> <p>(Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 22&amp; 24 November 2011)</p>	To mainstream gender, within a human rights based framework, in all state institutions and their apparatuses, in partnership with private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations, to ensure that females and males have equal access to opportunities, resources, and rewards in order to eliminate discrimination based on gender and to promote sustainable human development

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<b>Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan (Ministry Paper No. 35/19 tabled on 2 July 2019)	To provide universal access to potable water to all Jamaicans by 2030.
Special Economic Zones Policy (Ministry Paper No. 116/15 tabled 24 July 2015)	To provide a framework for Special Economic Zones in Jamaica where globally competitive firms will thrive, driving growth and development for all in a logistics-centred Jamaican economy.
Construction Policy (White Paper No. 2 tabled on 12 May 2015)	The Policy seeks to address the anomalies that have hampered the growth of the nation's construction. It addresses issues such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety and security;</li> <li>2. Quality of inputs and outputs;</li> <li>3. Environmental factors including climate change;</li> <li>4. Research and development;</li> <li>5. The registration of professionals and enterprises;</li> <li>6. The refinement of procurement rules and guidelines; and</li> <li>7. The development of skill levels within the construction industry</li> </ol>
National Land Policy (1997)	The goals and objectives of this Policy are to ensure the sustainable, productive and equitable development, use and management of the country's natural resources.  The policy also aims to compliment socioeconomic development initiatives of the country. It challenges and seeks to remove inefficient, onerous and outdated legal, administrative, management and other barriers that affect the planning, use, control, development, protection and conservation of Jamaica's physical resources.
Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for the Privatisation of Government Assets	To guide the privatization of public assets.

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<b>Ministry of Education, Youth and Information</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
The National Youth Policy (2017 to 2030)  Tabled in Parliament on 14 November 2017	To provide the guiding principles and a framework for enhancing youth development. It sets out a mechanism to create an environment that will optimize the potential of young Jamaican to adequately adapt to and cope with the various environmental and social challenges
Education: The Way Upward  Ministry Paper No. 6 dated 16 February 2001	This policy document represents the commitment of the Government to engage the Jamaican people in partnership to develop human resources as the primary tool for personal, social and economic development.
National Policy for HIV/AIDS Management in Schools	This policy promotes respect for the rights and dignity of students and school personnel with HIV/AIDS and is intended to be used to guide the management of HIV/AIDS within schools and other educational institutions.
The Task Force Report on Education Reform	This document presents an action plan for the creation of a world-class education system, which will generate the human capital and produce the skills necessary for Jamaicans to be globally competitive.
Competence-Based Transition Policy	This policy was designed to ensure that students transitioning from the primary to the secondary level are ready to access secondary education. This is based on the ability of each child to demonstrate the skills and competencies that are required on the completion of the Grade Four (4) curriculum by being certified as literate through the National Grade Four Literacy Test.
National Policy on Children (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the right of every child to life and the attainment of the highest health standard for children.</li> <li>• To guarantee protection from all forms of maltreatment and special care for the disabled children and children without families.</li> <li>• To ensure protection from interference with privacy and special protection in times of civil disturbances or war.</li> <li>• To recognise children as whole human beings having an inalienable right to participate in society's affairs within their intellectual and emotional capacities.</li> <li>• To ensure special care, education and training for all children with disabilities to enable them to realise their fullest potential.</li> <li>• To facilitate the involvement of children in all aspects of Civil Society in keeping with the child's evolving capacities.</li> </ul>

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	To ensure the recognition of the child's identity with a view to promoting his/her participation in Civil Society.

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<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; Foreign Trade</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>National Foreign Trade Policy and Action Plan</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 62/18 tabled in Parliament on 3 July 2018</p>	<p>To firmly place foreign trade as a national priority, promote the mainstreaming of foreign trade via a “whole-of-government” approach, and recognize and promote the pivotal role of the private sector and public/private collaboration in foreign trade.</p>
<p>Ocean and Coastal Zone Management Policy</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 14/02 dated 24 July 2002</p>	<p>To provide a comprehensive framework for the management and development of resources in Jamaica’s ocean and coastal zones. A National Council on Ocean and Coastal Zone Management was established in 1998 to coordinate the policy and is guided by terms of reference which include measures to develop an integrated marine policy for Jamaica.</p>

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<b>Ministry of Finance and the Public Service</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>National Policy on International Migration and Development (tabled in Parliament on 6 June 2017)</p>	<p>The overall objective of the National Policy and Plan of Action is to contribute to socio-economic development by integrating international migration into development planning at the national and sectoral levels.</p> <p>The Policy will forge a common understanding of the migration and development nexus. A number of positive impacts have been identified, which underscore the potential of migration to contribute to development. It is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• better utilize international migration flows to improve critical economic development indicators and outcomes;</li> <li>• improve the quality of life of migrants and citizens through: (i) direct assistance to targeted sectors; and (ii) overall knowledge, skills and cultural exchanges;</li> <li>• foster collaborative efforts that seek to create a more defined foreign policy position on issues dealing with border protection and management;</li> <li>• guide actions and establish protocols and mechanisms for the definitive steps to be taken by the National Working Group on International Migration and Development and the</li> </ul>

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<b>Ministry of Finance and the Public Service</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
	<p>International Migration and Development Monitoring Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce, rationalize and repeal migration related legislation;</li> <li>• improve collaboration and dialogue among MDAs to ensure inter-institutional policy coherence; and</li> </ul> <p>facilitate stronger partnerships with non-state actors through the utilization of participatory approaches to national development.</p>
Reform of the Public Sector Pension System	To provide a framework for reform of the Public Sector Pension System
<p>Government of Jamaica Public Sector Procurement Policy</p> <p>Ministry Paper No.95/10</p>	The Policy sets the framework for the operation and management of the public procurement system and underscores its guiding principles and tenets. The Policy will guide public officers and all stakeholders and give direction for the further development of the procurement system.
National Population Policy (Revised 1995)	The policy establishes goals with respect to population growth and size; fertility; mortality; external migration; internal migration & urbanization; gender; children; the elderly; and the population in relation to the environment.

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<b>Ministry of Health and Wellness</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Drugs for the Elderly	To improve access of elderly persons, sixty years of age and over, who have certain identified diseases to basic pharmaceuticals at a minimum cost.
National HIV/AIDS Policy  (Tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 20 and 22 July 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To outline the role of social institutions and promote the involvement of all sectors of society in the national response to HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>• To affirm the rights and responsibilities of persons living with HIV/AIDS, of those interacting with them, of people vulnerable to HIV infection and of health care providers.</li> <li>• To delineate the mechanisms for effective implementation and monitoring.</li> </ul>
National Healthy Lifestyle Policy (2004)	To support health promotion among individuals and corporate entities
National Infant Feeding Policy (1995)	To contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality rates among Jamaican children. Reference guide for the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding and safe and adequate weaning practices throughout Jamaica.
Mental Health Reform	To provide assessable, equitable, integrated, comprehensive, community based mental health services to the people of Jamaica, while at all times respecting their human rights and following evidenced based practices.

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<b>Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Policy on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (Ministry Paper No. 61/19 and White Paper No. 4/19 tabled on 10 September 2019)	To support the implementation of Environmental Management Systems in the public and private sectors.
Forestry Policy (White Paper No. 1/17 tabled on 9 March 2017)	The goals of the Policy are presented under three broad headings: 1. Governance of the forestry sector;  2. The conservation and protection of forest ecological systems; and  Incorporation of socio-economic considerations into forest management.
Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica (Tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2015)	The Policy provides a strategic and integrated approach to addressing Jamaica's challenges and opportunities created by climate change, whilst honouring the country's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and related instruments.
Orchid Policy (2014)  (Ministry Paper No. 02/14 dated February 2014)	To guide the local trade in orchids and protect endemic and endangered species.
Housing Public Private Partnership Policy, 2008 (formerly Joint Venture Policy)	To provide the Ministry with an improved framework within which to give direction to developments: 1) being undertaken under the Housing Act on lands owned by the Government and 2) on privately owned lands which are being facilitated by the Ministry or housing agencies.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity in Jamaica	To ensure the most sustainable use and conservation of the country's biological resource in keeping with the Convention on Biological Diversity (to which Jamaica is a party).
Policy for Jamaica's System of Protected Areas (November 1997)	To support the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed national and regional system of protected areas.

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<b>Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Craft Policy  Tabled on 26 November 2019	The National Craft Policy is aimed primarily at developing the institutional structure of the craft sector for its continued growth and development; strengthening linkages between craft and the tourism sector; as well as creating a suitable framework for addressing the needs of craft producers, traders, artisans etc.
National Quality Policy  Ministry Paper No. 23/19 tabled on 21 May 2019	To create an enabling environment which facilitates the production and export of quality goods and services through the establishment and use of the National Quality Infrastructure to ensure compliance with global market requirements.
Updated Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises & Entrepreneurship Policy  Ministry Paper No. 66/18 tabled in Parliament on 3 July 2018	The Policy refocuses on the development of the micro, small and mediums sized enterprises and refines the programmatic areas of business development support and capacity building, an enabling business environment, improving financing to the sector, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship along with cross cutting issues.
Motor Vehicle Policy	This policy provides for the importation & sale of motor vehicles, inspection and regulations of the sale of motor vehicles on the domestic market.

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<b>Ministry of Justice</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Restorative Justice	Restorative Justice is a process whereby all the parties with a stake in a particular offence come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offence. This is a different way of thinking about crime and conflict. It involves the victim, offender and community. The policy has a multi-tiered approach and allows for six (6) referral points from the formal justice system to the restorative programme.
National Child Diversion Policy (White Paper No. 4 tabled on 29 September 2015)	The Policy establishes a framework for dealing with children in conflict with the law throughout the criminal justice system and seeks to ensure that detention of a child as punishment for anti-social behaviour becomes a measure of last resort.
Jamaica Justice System Reform Policy Agenda Framework	Outlines the major strategic objectives and the priority initiatives that would be conducted over the next five (5) years towards attaining the Government's goal of justice reform

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<b>Ministry of Labour and Social Security</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS Ministry Paper No.13 /2013 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 5 February 2013	<p>The Policy is a framework for action by government, employers and workers to deal effectively with HIV and AIDS at the workplace. It seeks to facilitate the development of a working environment that protects the rights of workers regardless of their HIV status.</p> <p>It is premised on the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) ten (10) key principles on HIV/AIDS and the Workplace, as enunciated by the 2001 ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work.</p>
National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2000)	The contextual framework for the National Disabilities Act. The policy seeks to foster an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to realize their full potential through employment and training.
National Policy for Senior Citizens (1997)	The policy recognizes the need to create the conditions and possibilities for the full participation of senior citizens in the community for as long as possible and to ensure systems of care and protection where necessary.

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<b>Ministry of Local Government &amp; Rural Development</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Solid Waste Management Policy	<p>The policy covers the following issues in relation to solid waste management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory Framework</li> <li>• Institutional Framework</li> <li>• Cost Recovery</li> <li>• Operational issues related to collection, transportation and disposal</li> <li>• Waste minimization</li> <li>• Waste processing</li> <li>• Hazardous and Medical Waste</li> <li>• Public Education</li> <li>• Relationship to other national policies and legislation</li> </ul> <p>Enforcement</p>
<p>Local Government Reform Policy (2003)</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 7 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 14 February 2003</p>	<p>Aims to implement mechanisms to ensure the effective delivery of service to citizens on a financially sustainable basis with the active involvement and participation of the citizens in keeping with the vision.</p> <p>The vision is for the creation and establishment of a new framework of governance for the management of the modern Jamaican society, with the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participatory</li> <li>• Autonomy</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Developmental</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> </ul> <p>The policy provisions cover 5 main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Municipal Management Mechanisms</li> <li>• Definitions of the roles and functions of Central Government and Local Government</li> <li>• Establishment of dedicated financial resources to support the work of the Local Authorities</li> <li>• Create space for the participation and representation of civil society on all Local Government Structures.</li> <li>• Initiation of national discussions to determine whether the existing 13 Local Authorities should be rationalized or consolidated in response to the proposed new municipal structures and to achieve economies of scale and efficiency.</li> </ul>

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<b>Ministry of National Security</b>	
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National Security Policy (2013)  Ministry Paper No. 63 tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 29 April 2014	Overarching policy coordinating the activities of Government around the issues of National Security.

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<b>Office of the Prime Minister</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>National Identification System (NIDS) – tabled in Parliament on 8 November 2016</p>	<p>The overall objective of the NIDS is to:</p> <p>Guarantee that each citizen or person ordinarily resident in Jamaica will be issued with a lifetime unique National Identification Number (NIN);</p> <p>Establish a reliable database of Jamaican citizens and other individuals ordinarily resident in Jamaica, with a NIN as the primary key/identifier of a person in the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue each citizen or person ordinarily resident with a multi-purpose identification card;</li> <li>• Establish an effective and convenient system of identification verification and authentication thereby reducing the possibility of persons having multiple identities;</li> <li>• Improve the governance and management of national, social, economic and security programmes; and</li> </ul> <p>Strengthen immigration and border control arrangements.</p>

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<b>Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Information and Communication Technologies Policy (2011)	The Policy seeks to achieve greater social and economic development for the people of Jamaica through increased application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in all sectors facilitated by affordable ICT services and effective management of all national ICT assets. It also seeks to advance Jamaica's vision of regional leadership in ICTs by enabling connectivity over multiple and diverse platforms.
National Energy Policy 2009-2030  Ministry Paper No. 124 - tabled in the House of Representatives on 8 December 2009 and in the Senate on 11 December 2009	This policy seeks to, among other things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage national energy base</li> <li>• Diversify the energy base</li> <li>• Encourage conservation and efficiency in energy production and use;</li> <li>• Promote the development of renewable energy resources; and</li> </ul> Make electricity available and affordable to customers
National Science & Technology Policy	This policy seeks to promote the development of science and technology to enhance national development and foster international competitiveness.

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<b>Ministry of Transport and Mining</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Minerals Policy - Tabled in Parliament on 19 March 2020	The Policy will create the framework to attract investments in the industrial and metallic mineral sectors, including prospecting for gold and copper, as well as exploitation of Jamaica's limestone potential.
National Transport Policy (2007)	To guide the overall development of the transport sector and to provide the framework for the development of environmentally-sound transport infrastructure and services in support of sustainable economic and social growth.
National Road Safety Policy (2004)	Provides the basis for achievement of the vision a safe traffic environment. It also assists in guiding and coordinating the actions of the relevant ministries and organisations toward the rational use of scarce resources and reducing duplication of effort. It creates the framework for the undertaking of corrective programme interventions and will facilitate steps to access funding.

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<b>Ministry of Tourism</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy - Ministry Paper No. 32/20 and White Paper No. 1/20 tabled on 24 June 2020	To enable the tourism sector to facilitate growth in the economy through key Networks that provide a foundation for coordinated achievement and growth. The Policy and Strategy document will present a framework for expanding the activities of the Linkages programme, with the build-out of five Network areas, namely: Knowledge, Gastronomy, Health & Wellness, Shopping and Sports & Entertainment.
National Community Tourism Policy and Strategy - Ministry Paper No. 40/15 and White Paper No. 1/15 tabled 14 April 2015	The Policy seeks to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate an internationally competitive, robust and inclusive community tourism sub-sector;</li> <li>• Support local communities, entrepreneurs and Non-Governmental Organisations to develop export market ready, sustainable community tourism experiences;</li> <li>• Promote community tourism that is consistent with, and does not compromise national policies for resource protection, cultural identity and community governance; and</li> <li>• Support community tourism that creates the conditions to advance national policies and general social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for local communities.</li> </ul>

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<b>Cabinet Office</b>	
<b>Policies that Currently Guide Operations</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<p>Public Sector Modernisation Vision and Strategy Paper 2002-2012</p> <p>Ministry Paper No. 56/2002</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To confirm the role and core functions of Government;</li> <li>2. To improve the ways in which Jamaica is governed, through sharing the exercise of power and increasing participation in decision-making;</li> <li>3. To promote effective management, through appropriate mechanisms that expressly reflect the government's priorities;</li> <li>4. To re-affirm the values of the public service, stressing integrity, objectivity and accountability;</li> <li>5. To deliver high quality services to users at a reasonable cost;</li> <li>6. To deliver high quality policy advice to the government;</li> <li>7. To secure performance improvements through the establishment of a performance culture in the public service;</li> <li>8. To value public servants and make sure that they are both motivated and properly equipped to meet these challenges; and</li> <li>9. To manage all the resources in the public sector to achieve the best value for money in the delivery of services.</li> </ol>
<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment Policy</p>	<p>The Government of Jamaica commits to ensuring that all its policies, plans and programmes adequately consider potential environmental effects and impacts, and where these are adverse, incorporate appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate these effects and impacts.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision and strategy for the modernization of the public sector, environmental implications will be fully included and adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making, on par with economic and social considerations.</p>