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No Iguanas On Goat Islands

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Published: Friday | November 1, 2013



SHIRLEY

THERE WERE no iguanas found on the Goat Islands.

In fact, biological and geological conditions, including marine life, were quite degraded, according to a four-week study of the area.

According to the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ)-commissioned environmental management scoping of the Portland Bight Protective Area, which includes the Goat Islands, Portland Bight has undergone significant damage due in part to illegal hunting and fishing activities such as dynamiting.

There would be no threat to any endangered species, the study said, if the logistics hub was constructed, as very limited biological life was found there.

This was revealed on Wednesday by Professor Gordon Shirley, president and chief executive officer designate of the PAJ, at a conference hosted at the Kingston office.

The study also said, because of the extensive degraded conditions, the approximate 2,585 fishermen in the area rarely use it. For many of them, fishing is now a

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supplemental income.

Environmentalist stance

Environmentalists have been strongly lobbying against the construction of the proposed China Harbour Engineering Company US\$1.5-billion transshipment port and industrial and commercial zone, which would include Goat Islands and lands north of the islands in the Old Harbour Bay area.

According to the lobbyists, the development would destroy biological life, including endangered species such as the iguanas, and cause untold suffering to the many persons who make a living off the sea.

"The \$1.3-million study was commissioned to determine the environmental impact of the logistics hub project. Study director was Dr Conrad Douglas, international development and environmental management consultant.

The study is available online at www.portjam.com.

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NowOnTheOutside · 2 years ago

Wasn't the proposition that the islands be used as a habitat to allow the Iguanas to repopulate away from introduced predatory species such as dogs, cats and the mongoose and out of harms way from continued development of the Hellshire hills? So far the only real success we have been having with them is the breeding programme at the Zoo. Isn't this study more than a bit misleading? So far it has proven that an animal that was not supposed to be on the island is indeed not there and the fishing grounds that are supposed to be regulated and protected have been allowed to degrade to the point where that degradation facilitates its complete destruction a real self fulfilling prophesy, we are.

22 ^ | v · Share



Chris · 2 years ago

So if no iguanas are on Goat Island what does that say about the extent to which the environment has been degraded and how further assault will impact not only this area but a larger geography. Fools we are not and we will pay dearly for our myopic approach in the name of economic development; which will no impact ordinary Jamaicans similar to other assets that we have put on the aution block.

17 ^ | v · Share



Miggy → Chris · 2 years ago

Chris let them go and destroy Goat Island. I think when people ears to hard them will feel. Such a pity though the good is going to have to suffer for the bad.

Unno hurry up start unno development since the study has been done and unno satisfied with it. The learned/bright men have reached the final verdict so just run with it.

We will see how things will unfold in Jamaica land we love.

I will be singing the lyrics of Chronixx song, Smile Jamaica "but she tell mi sey she tired, tired a the

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exploits and liars, she gi dem reggae, gi them beaches, gi dem flowers and the ferns, and all you get is abuse in return...don't you worry usef Mama..."

8 ^ | v · Share ›



roy876 · 2 years ago

Mr Shirley, so far your reputation is in tact, and I hope you, keep it that way.WE WILL SEE.

4 ^ | v · Share ›



jayjayja · 2 years ago

We destroyed everything in a "protected" area.

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MrJamaican · 2 years ago

Well lookey here... All the environmentalists had were unsubstantiated claims.

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