

COCKPIT COUNTRY IS OUR HOME!

FOOD IS LIFE!
DID YOU KNOW?
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES THAT YOU
EAT COME FROM PLANTS AND TREES
POLLINATED BY ANIMALS

**Have you ever watched a hummingbird or butterfly
dart from flower to flower and wondered what they are doing?**

Hummingbirds and butterflies going from flower to flower are feeding on nectar, and in the process pollinating plants. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of the flower, allowing for reproduction and the creation of seeds that grow into new plants and trees. The vast majority of plants are pollinated by animals, mainly insects such as bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles and flies, but also birds and bats, especially hummingbirds and fruit bats. The flower and the pollinator usually fit together – flowers with a long tube need pollinators with a long beak, tongue or muzzle, to reach deep into the flower to get to the rewarding nectar, and in the process the pollinator gets heavily dusted with pollen by the flower. They then carry the pollen while they flit from flower to flower, ensuring healthy cross-fertilization and the maintenance of genetic diversity.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JEREMY FRANCIS
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Pollinators are plentiful in Cockpit Country, including six species of bats who pollinate thousands of fruit trees every year and also scatter seeds as they fly about. We depend on animals to pollinate the food that we grow, sell and eat, and we pay nothing for these services that nature provides us. When there is a collapse in wild pollinators, farmers have to pay to rent domesticated pollinators or do the pollination themselves, this is extremely expensive and inefficient. It is much smarter to keep a healthy and diverse ecological system intact and reap the benefits. Food security is of utmost importance for Jamaica, we need to grow what we eat and eat what we grow, but without the services of pollinators we will have a collapse in local agriculture – an economic and cultural disaster. Cockpit Country is a sanctuary for many plants, trees and pollinating animals – if we protect Cockpit Country, we protect Jamaican food sources, while maintaining the pleasures and health benefits of eating fresh local produce, and the beauty and fascination that comes from our very own birds, bats, butterflies, and bees.



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No Bauxite Mining in Cockpit Country!

**IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN COCKPIT COUNTRY AS
THE GREAT SUPPLIER OF HABITAT FOR JAMAICA'S
WILD POLLINATORS AND THE PROVIDER OF FREE
NATURAL SERVICES WORTH BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS ANNUALLY, IT IS URGENT THAT WE
PROTECT COCKPIT COUNTRY FROM MINING,
DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION, THAT WE
PLANT MORE TREES, KEEP OUT TOXINS, KEEP ALL
WATER COURSES CLEAN, AND THAT WE LOVE AND
CHERISH COCKPIT COUNTRY: IT IS OUR HOME!**

For more information contact

Windsor Research Centre: windsor@cwjamaica.com

Visit: www.cockpitcountry.com

Facebook: Windsor Research Centre

Watch: "Cockpit Country is Our Home"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylqTfu07PJA>

"Cockpit Country: Voices From Jamaica's Heart"

http://youtu.be/x2Psj_UcqQY



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