

An Environmental Profile of the Island of Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands

Acknowledgements



including Little Jost Van Dyke, Sandy Cay, Green Cay and Sandy Spit



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An Initiative of the Jost Van Dykes (BVI) Preservation Society
and
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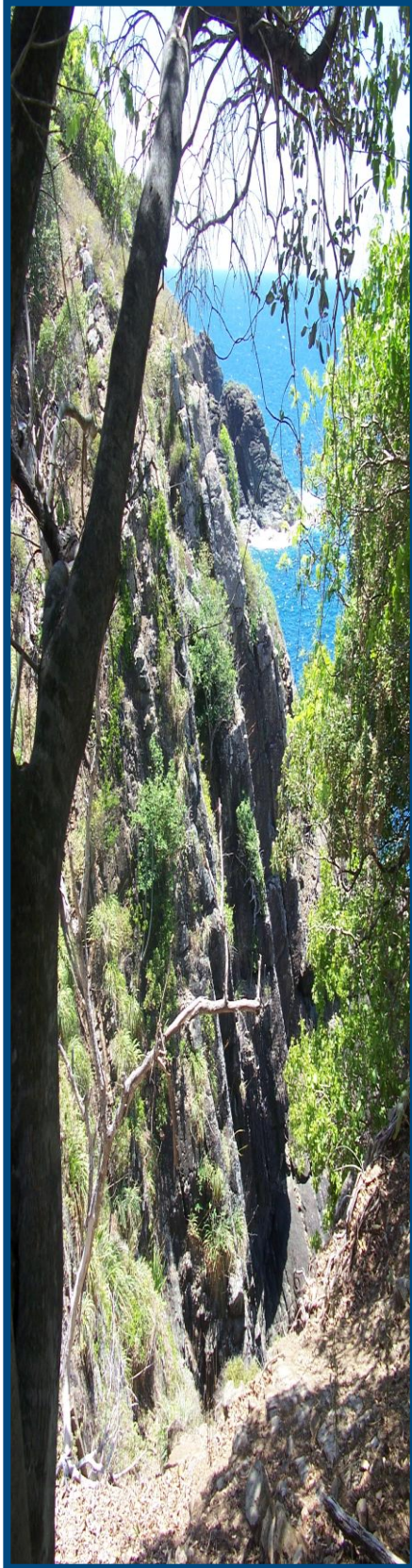
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The island of Jost Van Dyke from the north shore of Tortola



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This project had its origins in numerous discussions between principals from the Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society (JVDPS) and Island Resources Foundation (IRF)—around a library conference table at the Foundation's Road Town office (where fragrant smells tempted us from the College's bakery below) and a tree-shaded table at Foxy's Tamarind Bar and Restaurant on Jost Van Dyke, where we shared the ambiance of that special place with tourists and residents alike.

From those early meetings grew the idea of an "*environmental profile*" for the island of Jost Van Dyke and its nearby satellite islands and cays. Eventually, a proposal was put forward at the end of 2007 to the UK Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) for a JVD-based, environment-focused project, with this *Profile* as one essential output. The proposal was funded by OTEP in March of 2008.

From the beginning, the Governor's Office in the British Virgin Islands (which oversees OTEP projects in the Territory) has been very supportive. Sue Cotton guided us through the proposal preparation phase with insightful advice and direction. His Excellency, Governor David Peary helped launch the project at a community meeting in JVD in May of 2008. Sue Cotton's successor, Emma Dean, and Claire Hunter, the Project/Consular Officer in the Governor's Office, also provided helpful assistance during project implementation; while, in London, the project was supported by Shaun Earl and his successor, Heather Christie, at the OTEP unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The leadership team from the Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society has been a source of inspiration throughout the project. They are extremely motivated individuals who, with an unusual measure of patience, hard work, and commitment, have overseen the emergence of a highly purposeful NGO that has now taken its place within the JVD community mix.

IRF acknowledges in particular: board member Bruce Donath, whose energy and organisational skills made this project possible; Susan Zaluski, the Society's projects manager, who wears many hats and takes on diversified tasks with an incredible range of skills and unbounded good spirit; Rosemary Delaney-Smith, who joined the Society's staff at the commencement of the OTEP project and immediately became a valued member of the project team, especially as newsletter editor, media outreach coordinator, educational overseer, and community liaison; and—over it all—Foxy and Tessa Callwood, whose vision for the Society provided the foundation that made the Society a reality and this project an opportunity.

My colleagues and fellow team members from IRF, Jean-Pierre Bacle and Kevel Lindsay, were—as always—a joy to work with. They tromp through the roughest of terrain to reveal ever new, ever precious components of the natural environment, always looking forward to another night of bat netting or exploring another bat cave. IRF was joined in its research efforts by two associates—Mitch Kent and Clive Petrovic—whose BVI knowledge and experience allowed us to expand the scope and narrative of this *Environmental Profile*. Mitch was the principal investigator behind the historical heritage chapter as Clive was for the coastal/marine chapter; we thank them both for their valued participation.

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We owe the success of this project in large part to the energy and support of the JVD community. While a group of individuals did serve as part of the project's Advisory Committee, we found that engaging community members in more informal settings—outside of official meetings—allowed us to increase community participation. We owe special thanks to Advisory Committee members Sendrick Chinnery, Cecil Chinnery and Adrianna Callwood, all of whom accompanied field researchers during their visits to JVD, providing useful background information and access to research sites.

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Numerous residents participated in community meetings, and several island businesses allowed us to place copies of the draft *Profile* in public locales for easy access, including White Bay Villas, Soggy Dollar, Abe's, The Perfect Pineapple, Foxy's Tamarind Bar, Foxy's Taboo and Jewel's. Bunn's Taxi also helped distribute announcements for meetings.

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— **Judith Towle (IRF) and Susan Zaluski (JVDPS)**
September 2009

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