

JAMAICA



Source: esri

General

Jamaica is an island country situated in the Caribbean Sea. It is located about 145 km south of Cuba, and 191 km west of Hispaniola (the island containing Haiti and the Dominican Republic). It is the third-largest island of the Greater Antilles and the fourth-largest island country in the Caribbean. Jamaica has an area of 1.1 Mha (million hectares) with in 2022 a population of 2.83 million, or 2.57 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2022).

Climate and geography

The climate in Jamaica is tropical, with hot and humid weather. Some regions on the south coast, such as the Liguanea Plain and the Pedro Plains, are relatively dry rain-shadow areas. Jamaica is located in the hurricane belt of the Atlantic Ocean. Because of this, the island sometimes suffers significant storm damage (source: Wikipedia).

Among the variety of terrestrial ecosystems are dry and wet limestone forests, rainforest, riparian woodland, lowlands, caves and rivers (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

The Group Polder Development (1982) has identified three polder areas. These are:

- *Meylersfield Polders* that have been constructed in the Meylersfield Swamp. The West-Polder (172 ha) and the East-Polder (560 ha). The polders are used for rice cultivation. Drainage pumping stations drain the excess water (Figure 1) (Baarveld, 1980);

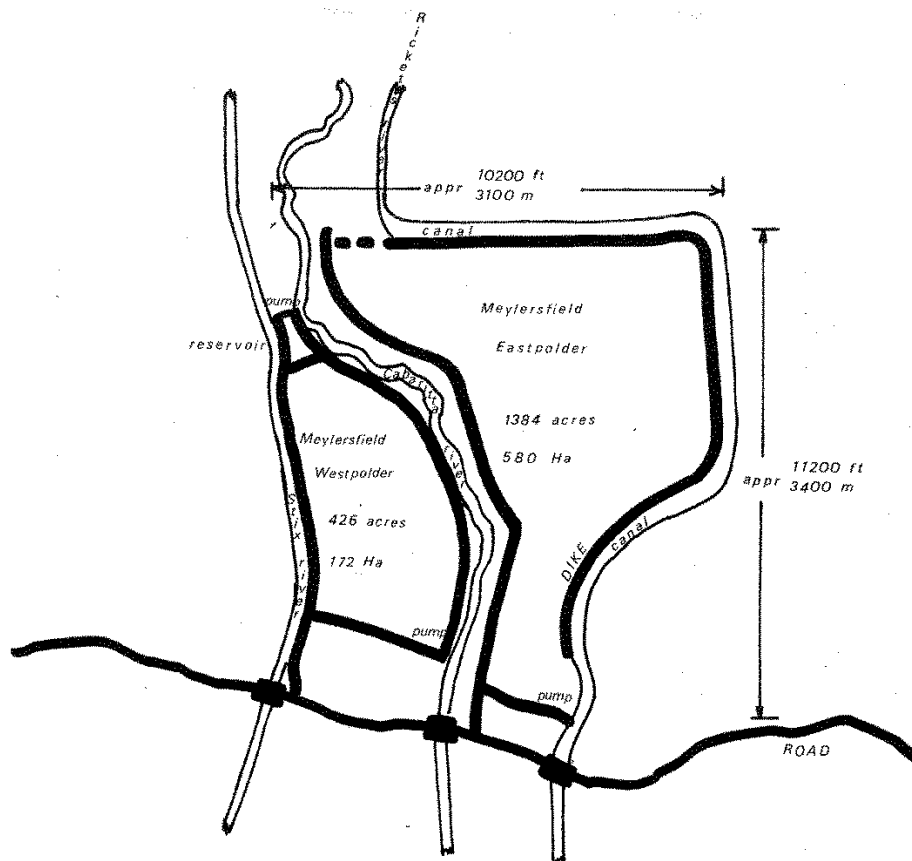


Figure 1. Meylersfield West and East polders (Baarveld, 1980)

- *Hague Polders*. The Group Polder Development (1982) describes that similar designs as used for the Meylersfield polders were made for the reclamation of the Hague Swamp. The Hague North-Polder with an area of 76 ha, and the Hague South Polder of 164 ha. The main crop is rice, but also coco-nut palms are grown. Part of the area are fishponds. A report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2018) showed that these polders indeed have been reclaimed in 1978;
- *Black River Marshes*. The Group Polder Development (1982) stated that in the Black River Marshes an area of about 8500 ha can be reclaimed. A polder of 5000 ha has been planned in the Lower Morasses, while for the Upper Morasses a detailed drainage system for 1600 ha has been designed. In a later publication by FAO (2018) it is stated that in the Upper Morass 4600 ha are under the Black River Upper Morass Development Company (BRUMDEC) project and that BRUMDEC is now managing 3000 ha, the drainage and land preparation of which were completed in July 1982. About half of these 3000 ha is peat soil. As far as can be traced no reclamation has taken place in the Lower Morass.

General characteristics of the polders in Jamaica are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

In addition to the Lower Morass no other proposed polders could be identified.

Location of the polders in Jamaica as shown on the World polder map

The location of the polder in Jamaica is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Location of the polder in Jamaica (source: esri – Batavialand)

References

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Jamaica

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
<i>Existing polders</i>							
Meylersfield West Polder	1977-1981	172	RLL	18° 16' N	78° 10' W	5	Rice
Meylersfield East Polder	1977-	560	RLL	18° 16' N	78° 10' W	5	Rice
Hague North Polder	1978	76	RLL	18° 29' N	77° 39' W	0	Agriculture
Hague South Polder	1978	164	RLL	18° 29' N	77° 39' W	0	Agriculture
Black River Marshes, Upper Morasses	1982	4,600	RLL	18° 02' N	77° 47' W	0	Agriculture
Sub-total		5,572					
<i>Proposed polders</i>							
Black River Marshes, Lower Morasses			RLL				
Total		5,572					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake