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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (DEED) NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

DEED or “Développement Economique pour un Environnement Durable” in French, is a three year, (Jan 2008 – Jan 2011), USAID project that works in two Haitian watersheds — 90,000 hectares around Montrouis in Haiti’s Western Department and Limbé in the North. DAI is implementing DEED in partnership with subcontractor Winrock International.

Environmental degradation in Haiti is the worst in the Western Hemisphere – a cause and result in Haiti’s economic decline. DEED focuses on environmentally sustainable development in the two watersheds through commercial agriculture, alternative livelihood development, natural resource management and environmental recovery. The project aims to find alternative approaches to erosive agriculture practiced on the steeply-sloped land in the upper areas of the watersheds, and to protect biodiversity.

DEED links the management of natural resources to sound conservation while generating alternative livelihood options - providing the essential stimulus for sustainable watershed management.

With a small office in Port-au-Prince, the majority of programming occurs via DEED’s two field offices: one in Montrouis, the other in Morne Rouge, near the town of Limbé.

ARCADINS MARINE PARK NOW BEING DEVELOPPED

A legal expert hired by DEED has finalized the text for the government decree that will establish the Marine Protected Area (MPA) along the Arcadins Coast. The text was submitted for input to the Ministry of Environment and the Regional Committee of the Arcadins Coast, who will in turn submit it to the Government.

The MPA’s creation is motivated by the rise in pollution depleting the coastal and marine resources, including the flora, the fauna and the fishing resources. Overall, it is meant to protect the area’s marine biodiversity and resources while increasing the touristic and cultural value of the site.



Photo: DAI

Extensive coral reef at La Gonâve threatened by overfishing and marine debris.



Photo: DAI

Above, mangroves in Ti Zile, one of the three Arcadins Islands. Although they are uninhabited, these islands are heavily fished by coastal communities including apparently those coming from as far away as Léogane. During rough seas, they are also a refuge for fishers to wait for calmer waters. Besides mangroves, sea grapes and bayawonn are among the larger plants present on the islands.

The proposed decree is validated by the government's past ratification of various international decrees on desertification, climatic change, biological diversity, fishing, marine rights, the creation of a sustainable tourism area of the Caribbean, and overall environmental management.

In the six months following its publication, a marine park development plan will be designed and executed, including a program for the community development of neighboring fishing villages, according to the priorities defined by the government.

The MPA encompasses the coastal and marine area located between Montrouis and Arcahaie, across the Channel de St-Marc to the southeastern tip of La Gonave, crossing back to Montrouis. It includes the 3 Arcadins Islands as well as the Arcadins Bank. The MPA will be managed by the National Agency for Protected Areas.

FLAMINGOS ARRIVED IN MONTROUIS, AS THE MIGRATION SEASON BEGAN

Escaping the cold fronts of winter, the migrating birds have begun heading south this month, where they will be hibernating until next spring. Flamingos are among the bird species usually spotted this time of year in the Montrouis area and their arrival is a refreshing sight for conservationists, considering the biodiversity

around the area's lake is increasingly threatened.

On October 29th, to mark the season in concordance with the International Festival of the Migrating Birds in the Caribbean, DEED and partner OSVIBE (*Organisation pour la Sauvegarde de la Vie et du Bien Être*), organized a conference in Arcahaie on bird migration and its relevance to the environment. Attendees were 150 high school students with some school teachers and town notables.



Photo: DAI

Flamingos spotted in Etang Bois-Neuf on October 5th 2009.

DEED ATTEMPTS TO SAVE LAKE'S RESSOURCES IN MONTROUIS

Subsistence agriculture and deforestation leading to soil erosion around *Etang Bois Neuf* are the cause of alluvial deposits, raising the water's level in the lake. Furthermore, unregulated fishing and bird hunting are serious threats to the survival of certain species in the area. Concerned by such dangers, DEED has initiated an awareness-campaign which led to the creation of a management comity for the lake and its resources. The idea is to change the community's perception of the lake, to get the members to see it as a patrimony whose deterioration should concern all.

The KJLBN (*Konsej pou Jere Letan Bwa Nè*) comity is comprised of representatives of all community sectors, including the local government branches, the schools, the Christian churches, the Vodoo practitioners, the fishermen association and other civil society organizations. It will collaborate with the communal authorities to set grounds and find solutions for the abusive exploitation of the lake's resources.

KJLBN has applied for legal recognition at the Municipality of St-Marc and will initiate activities on the field soon after.

USAID FUNDS TRANSFORMATION OF SOLID WASTE INTO COMPOST IN THE ARCAHAIE PLAINS

USAID has approved DEED's grant to AAPL (*Association des Amis des Produits Locaux*) for the recycling of solid waste into compost in the Arcahaie Plains.

The low supply of organically grown fertilizers and the high cost of chemical fertilizers on the local market limit farmers' agricultural production capacity, and the quality of harvests. On the other hand, solid waste poorly managed by the state - polluting the streets and increasing health hazards, is readily available for transformation in Arcahaie. AAPL will put in place a trash collection system in close collaboration with the municipality authorities, and a composting center employing 50 people, aiming to sell the organic compost locally before expanding to other markets. By project's year end, 50% of the 12,000 banana farmers in the region will have access to affordable organic fertilizers, and the community at large will benefit from a reduction of trash.

BUSINESS SERVICE PROVIDER OFFERS CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING TO PRODUCER GROUPS IN MONTROUIS

"Centre de Formation et d'Encadrement Technique" (CFET) has started a series of seminars on capacity building for DEED's affiliated producer groups in the Montrouis watershed. Eighteen participants, members of producer groups KAK, OPD-8, AJTAPP, CUPEC, COLUC, and APKA took part in a first three day training on organizational structure and certification, which was offered in Cabaret. A second group of nineteen members from partner groups CODEP, APDDL, APWOMOPA, ATAIB, APC, and FPPP took part in a second three day session, which was offered later in the month. The later session addressed some more basic topics for the participating groups which are at the preliminary stages of their organization.

TECHNIQUES IN YAM PERMACULTURE SHARED FROM FARMER TO FARMER IN LIMBE



Photo: DAI

Members of MODEPROVES using soil conservation structures for planting yams and associated perennial crops in Camp Coq.

In the Limbé region, twenty seven members from producer groups MODEPROVES (from Ravine des Roches), OPD8L and MOP8L (from Masabiel) visited KOREPA producers in Camp Coq, where they learned innovative farming techniques, as part of DEED's *Farmer to Farmer* exchange program.

Host farmers shared a set of technologies with their guests for improved yam permaculture and soil conservation, using banana, cedar, pineapple and other fruit trees. The guest farmers also learned the importance of a tree nursery to acquire the different crops used in the permaculture production model, and how to fragment yams using the miniset technique, thereby allowing a farmer to plant 6 to 8 new yam plants instead of 1 or 2 from the same yam seed tuber.

The farmer exchange program empowers participants by allowing them to make more informed decisions and creates a framework for long-term demand-driven technical assistance.

TWO OF DEED'S EXPERTS FOLLOWED INTENSIVE GIS TRAINING COURSES IN THE USA

From September 28 to October 7, DEED GIS specialists, Gary Doliscar and Renaud Jean-Louis, were provided with an opportunity to cover advanced topics in geo-database development, a data model that allows features to be modeled more realistically than ever before, and in new GIS functionality.

The geo-database is the data model adopted by Haiti's National Geospatial Agency (CNIGS). The development of standards and common data models will be essential to Haiti's future watershed management committees and Government of Haiti Agencies. This training provided the DEED GIS specialists with the practical knowledge needed to support watershed database development for the target watersheds of Limbé and Montrouis.

The courses were held at the Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI)'s regional office in Vienna, Virginia.

Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment (DEED) is a USAID/Haiti-funded project implemented by DAI. For further information, please contact:

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