



SUCCESS STORY

USAID PARTNERS WITH HAITIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH INFORMATION AND MAPPING TECHNOLOGY



Photo: DAI

This Google Earth® image of the Montrouis watershed is an example of what DEED and CNIGS are doing to map geospatial information for the improved management of natural resources in the Limbé and Montrouis watersheds. Orange areas represent community-mapped territory; blue and green areas represent priority conservation sites – marine and terrestrial – that have been identified by DEED, yellow dots represent formal enterprises identified by DEED.

Below, community members of Chatelas proudly gather around their hand-drawn map, which is the result of a group meeting led by DEED, and which will be used for the preparation of a more detailed GIS map of their area's land.



Photo: DAI

USAID's Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment (DEED) project, which focuses on environmentally sound economic development in the watersheds of Montrouis, in Haiti's western department, and Limbé in the North, has recently signed an important partnership agreement with Haiti's CNIGS (Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale).

CNIGS is a public agency within the Haitian Ministry of Planning. It is the country's most significant source of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and expertise, and serves as Haiti's repository for important geospatial data. GIS is an information system that uses hardware, software and data for capturing, managing and displaying all forms of geographical references. GIS technology facilitates finding answers and solutions to topographical, agricultural and geological problems.

Through this partnership, DEED and CNIGS will share data, produce new geo-spatial information, and collaborate in data processing and analysis. As a benefit, DEED will employ GIS technology for land-use planning, and improved natural resource management in the Montrouis and Limbé watersheds. For example, DEED will use the community's hand-drawn maps as a base to prepare GIS maps of the geographic features and landmarks of the local areas. This process will enable communities to determine designation criteria of priority zones for conservation or production. The community leaders will then decide how to reorient and improve their land-use in highly vulnerable zones, and how to increase income generating opportunities for the community members, while preserving their land and its natural resources to the greatest extent possible. The final community maps will become useful tools for watershed management plans to be designed and implemented in collaboration with the Haitian government.

In return, DEED will provide technical assistance to CNIGS for the technical design of a prototype for a national topographic mapping initiative. DEED will also support CNIGS's emerging online capacity in order to make geospatial information available to all Haitian government agencies.