



ENVIRONMENT

Over the past thirty years, the country's forest cover dramatically decreased and now represents less than two per cent of the Haitian territory. Eighty-five per cent of the country's watersheds are degraded, which causes frequent floods, soil erosion and important losses of nutrients, which are essential for agriculture. In 2013, the United Nations continued its efforts to increase agriculture production, improve watershed management and integrated marine and coastal zone management as well as reforestation.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

More than 400 hectares planted and 800 short-term jobs created, of which more than a third for women through the 'Green Frontier' project. (1)

A bi-national committee works to improve shared management of natural resources in the border area, with representatives from the Dominican and Haitian ministries of environment. (1)

In the South: (2)

More than 1,300 linear meters of gabion wall were built; 1.5 million seedlings were prepared to reforest 1,000 hectares of land in Aquin and St Louis du Sud; more than 50,000 short-term jobs created (30% women) over the 18-month project duration; 70% of the funds for rehabilitation/mitigation projects allocated through state entities (municipalities or departmental directions of sector ministries).

Promoting the production and sale of 500 clean energy products and set up of 11 clean energy retail businesses in the South. Accessibility to 'Clean Energy' products was enabled through rent and sale of over 7 000 products and employment of 102 vendors.

Support provided to the construction of two pilot hydropower stations in the South to promote the

use of alternative energy sources and reduce fuel wood consumption. (3)

Promoting the use of briquettes to cook meals in schools, 299,000 briquettes distributed thereby saving 17,576 kg of charcoal and 105,077 kg of wood during the 2012-2013 school year. (4)

Installation of over 250 solar lamps in some of the marginalized areas of Port-au-Prince. (5)

Delimitation of the first 9 Marine Protected Areas in Haiti's South and 3 in the North.

Creation of an energy cooperative to manage the hybrid electricity system connecting 3 municipalities and micro-griddling of the South benefiting 52 households to date through a private-public partnership.

8 watershed management projects with a reforestation component targeting ravines overlooking Port-au-Prince created temporary jobs for 8,000 people in 2013. (5)

Strengthening of the banks of Grand Goave river. (5)

An environmental sensitization campaign was conducted in March 2013 with Members of Parliament, DINEPA, local administration and civil society in Saut d'Eau (Central Plateau). (5)



Development of a **mathematical model** allowing people to anticipate the most suitable kind of crops depending on climatic forecasts, as well as an upcoming national policy on adaptation to climate change. (6)

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

The UN will continue to accompany Haitian institutions at central and departmental level to support the **modernization of the environmental legislation** and strengthen their planning, fund management and coordination capacities.

In the South Department, the UN will focus on the **'Côte Sud' Initiative (CSI)**, a coalition supporting the Government for the sustainable development and reduction of vulnerability.

The UN will also pursue its **engagement with community-based organizations to improve the livelihoods** of Haitians through, for instance, the sustainable development of fishing, the development of eco-tourism initiatives and improved agro-forestry systems.



VOICES

«I had no job, so I crossed the border regularly to cut down trees and make charcoal. Charcoal sells well in Haiti. One day, while I was cutting a tree, this project manager approached me and convinced me of the importance of preserving our environment. He then asked me to join a tree-planting brigade, even though I have only one arm.»

Marie Lucie Borgella, project beneficiary of UNDP's 'Frontière Verte' (Green Frontier) in Ouanaminthe (North-east).