UNEP and the European Commission are promoting improved ecosystems management for disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) to achieve sustainable and disaster-resilient development. From 2012-2015, field-based demonstration projects are being implemented in four countries: Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ECO-DRR PROJECT FACT SHEET

HAITI

COASTAL PARTNERS: REDUCING DISASTER RISK THROUGH SUSTAINABLE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

In 2013, the Government of Haiti demarcated nine marine protected areas for the first time in its history, giving recognition to the unique seascapes, biodiversity and cultural history in the South of the country. Haiti is thus committed to augmenting the ecological potential of its marine and coastal resources. Nonetheless, the coastal zone of Haiti is prone to multiple natural hazards, such as storms and flooding, causing beach erosion, loss of lives and economic damages. Climate change will only exacerbate the impacts of weather extremes on coastal communities. In Haiti, high vulnerability to disasters combined with high levels of poverty, has contributed to severe environmental degradation. Deforestation, cultivation on steep slopes, destructive fishing practices and coastal development exacerbate flooding, landslides and increased exposure to storm surge impacts. Therefore, efforts to reduce disaster risk must go hand in hand with improving and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Our Eco-DRR strategy in Haiti promotes sustainable coastal zone management through ecosystem-based solutions that improve local livelihoods and reduce disaster risks. It applies a ridge- to-reef approach to disaster risk reduction at a local scale.

WORKING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

UNEP works through its local and national partners to implement the Eco-DRR Project in Haiti.

Key partners include:

National Government of Haiti:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Planning
- Municipality of Port Salut

Platform for Improving Artisanal Fisheries and Integrated Development (PADI)

Society Audobon Haiti (SAH)

Reefcheck

Marine Fishing Association of Port Salut

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

Strengthen capacities of the Port Salut Municipality to lead and coordinate integrated coastal zone development that promotes environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction and public-private partnerships

Improve datasets on the status of coastal and marine habitats to support decision-making processes

Support ecosystem-based, disaster-resilient fisheries

Invest in re-vegetation and re-forestation along shorelines and riparian forests/streams that are exposed to flooding and coastal storm surge impacts

Promote community awareness-raising on the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in disaster risk reduction

Reduce near shore sedimentation loads by regulating cultivation of high value crops in Port Salut

Reduce marine pollution and obstruction of waterways by supporting the municipal solid waste collection system

CONTACTS

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OUR TARGETS

Baseline assessment of coastal and marine habitats completed and used as a basis for identifying highly exposed and vulnerable areas and selecting appropriate reforestation and re-vegetation interventions

Tree nursery established producing 137,000 seedlings of coastal and riparian tree species

289 hectares of reforestation undertaken in areas exposed to coastal hazards and flooding

Seven hectares of vetiver grass planted to demonstrate effective soil erosion control on hillsides and reduce sedimentation rates

Participatory action plan developed for the fishing community of Port Salut to agree on priorities and solutions for sustainable and resilient fisheries

Boats repaired and fleet improved (six motors, nine boats, 15 sails), enabling local fishermen to head further out to sea and reduce overfishing near shore

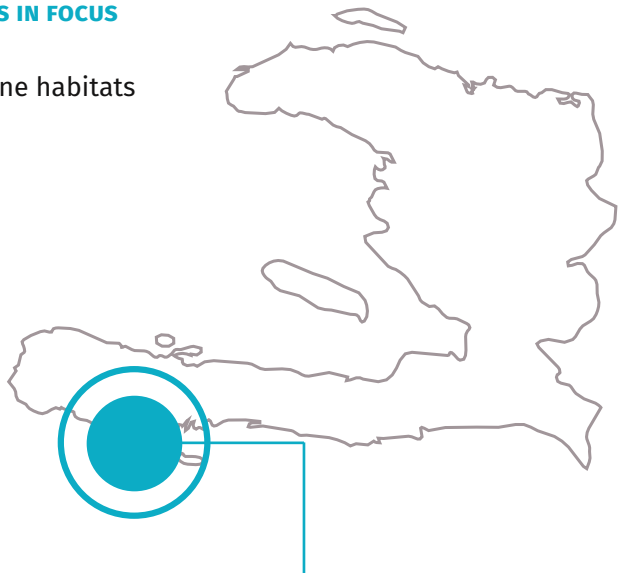
Disaster preparedness plan and associated measures in place for Port Salut fishermen (early warning system, emergency equipment, safe shelters, trainings)

Eight posters developed for public awareness-raising and communications on the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in reducing disaster risk

Municipal cash for work scheme promoted through community-led collection of solid waste along the coast in order to reduce marine litter and obstruction of waterways

ECOSYSTEMS IN FOCUS

Coastal and marine habitats



MAIN HAZARDS TARGETED

Flooding from both inland and coastal hazards
Storms / Hurricanes
Soil erosion

LOCATION

Port Salut municipality in the South Department
Target: 90 fishermen, 20 farmers and 300 households