

# Haiti's South Department

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# 2011–2016



The Government of Haiti, with support from Norway and UNEP, has marked new achievements for the sustainable development and resilient economic growth of the South Department. Since the establishment of UNEP's programmes in the South in 2011, efforts to advance sustainable development have resulted in major steps towards sound environmental management and sustainable development, including several foundational, first-time achievements have been marked for the country.

## BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

→ Haiti's **first marine protected areas** (MPAs) were declared by Presidential Decree in the South Department in August 2013 and were followed by the establishment of the **first unit for MPA management** for the South Department Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and the **first fisheries management unit** within the South Department Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

→ Haiti's **first protected areas management plan and operational plan** were developed in 2014–2015 (Macaya National Natural Park), and **first methodology** for PA management plan development.



## GREEN ECONOMY AND VALUE CHAINS

→ **Direct support to partners** working in terrestrial and marine ecosystems for improved technical capacities, **enhanced technical knowledge**, awareness of fruit tree grafting techniques, grain storage methods, drip irrigation, off-shore fishing techniques and trainings for improved security at sea.

→ Completion of **Haiti's first departmental-level green economy assessment** on key value chains found in and around protected areas (including vetiver, charcoal, waste, cacao, mango, castor oil, cashew nuts and honey), leading to strong engagement from the Government of Haiti multiple donors (GEF, AFD/FFEM, Norway) for the **implementation of sector strategies in 2016-2020**.



## NATURAL PROTECTION AND RISK REDUCTION

→ Haiti's **first coastal species plant nursery** was established in 2014 in Port Salut, providing mangrove seedlings to rehabilitate degraded coastal zones and better protect against tropical storms and extreme weather events.

→ Restoration and **protection of high-risk, steep riverbanks** through the planting of bamboo to reduce flash flooding and erosion in ecologically sensitive and populated areas.

→ Reforestation of **27 linear kilometers of riverbanks** in the South Department and over **64,000 mangrove seedlings planted for costal protection** in the commune of Port Salut.



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### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND RENEWABLES

→ Haiti's **first electric cooperative** was constructed between 2013–2015 to connect the communes of Roche-a-Bateau, Coteaux and Port-a-Piment and is providing power to over 800 members as of November 2015, with others joining daily.

→ The **first micro-grid in the South to use smart-meters** to allow for pre-paid electricity supply and flexible time-of-use pricing to 400+ households was established in Les Anglais and is providing regular power since April 2015.



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### REGIONAL PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

→ Haiti's **first Regional Development Planning process** has been initiated for the Grand Sud region, supported by regular Green Donor Roundtables with the Departmental Delegations of the South and Grand'Anse since 2013.

→ Haiti's **first online library** was developed in 2015 for the Southern region, providing a knowledge platform to share reports, studies and stock archives relevant to the development of the Grand Sud region. [www.grandsudhaiti.ht](http://www.grandsudhaiti.ht).

→ The development dynamic created by UNEP in Southern Haiti constitutes for ECO-SOC a **"Delivering as one" experience at the local level** which could usefully inspire other initiatives of the UN system at a wider scale" (2013).



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### EYES TOWARD THE FUTURE

Norway-UNEP development achievements have resulted in **catalyzing an expanded donor base** that now also includes GEF, AFD/FFEM and the EU and have established **key stepping stones leading the Grand Sud Region** and its institutions and communities towards:

→ **Greater recognition, protection, restoration and sustainable use** of marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

→ Sound implementation of ecosystem-based approach for reducing **disaster risk**, and **developing sustainable value chains** (fisheries, cacao, fruit-trees, castor oil, solid waste) in a sustainable way.

→ Increasing **energy access in remote areas** through new solutions to energy poverty.

→ **A common, integrated and long-term vision** for the sustainable development of the region.

