



FACT SHEET

Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment (DEED)

DEED helps to protect fragile natural resources and creates employment and business opportunities.



USAID staff

A beneficiary of DEED planted anti-erosion pineapple and elephant grass ramps on his hillside plantation in Limbé.

- DEED has expended more than \$3 million through its partners and leveraged another \$2 million from the Haitian private sector to invest in agricultural enterprises.
- DEED pioneered a watershed governance process, under which populations in various parts of the watershed come together to design and implement a management plan.
- More than 100 Haitian organizations now work in collaboration with DEED.
- Over 16,000 households are directly involved in DEED-supported activities in improved farm practices and small agriculture enterprise development in two watersheds.

Overview

Environmental degradation in Haiti is among the worst in the Western hemisphere—a cause and result of Haiti’s economic problems. Haiti’s stability depends upon its capacity to promote sustainable environmental practices while developing economically. Through commercial agriculture and natural resource management (NRM), DEED seeks to improve watershed inhabitants’ livelihoods while promoting ecological recovery and stabilization. The DEED project uses a market-based approach, which integrates improved management of land and other natural resources with expanded enterprise and job opportunities. In particular, DEED promotes alternative approaches to the erosive agriculture practiced on the steeply-sloped land in the upper areas of watersheds.

Objectives

DEED seeks to initiate investment in sustainable NRM at the scale and density needed to produce future positive landscape level changes in environment, infrastructure, and economic vulnerability in watersheds.

Activities

DEED focused on two Haitian watersheds covering approximately 90,000 hectares—Montrouis in West Department and Limbé in North Department; as of October 2010, DEED works only in the Limbé watershed. The project employs innovative approaches to mobilizing target communities and producer groups and helps them develop land use and business plans that not only help protect fragile natural resources but also create employment and business opportunities. DEED works across six integrated technical components: 1) strengthening community-based producer groups, associations, and enterprises; 2) promoting alternatives to hillside farming; 3) promoting and improving community-based NRM; 4) assisting the Government of Haiti develop sound NRM policies; 5) developing watershed restoration and management plans with watershed stakeholders; and 6) promoting alliances with the private sector to leverage USAID resources. For example, DEED has supported private sector entities in the cacao value chain in developing activities oriented towards organizing private farmers into farm associations, which generated direct participation from communities in program development and implementation. Working through these associations, DEED has provided training to at least 5,000 cocoa growers, who have increased their incomes by a minimum of 25 percent as a result of the training.

Life of Project: January 2008 – September 2012

Implementing Partner: Development Alternatives Inc.