



## TOPIC DOCUMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION



### **The Countryside, like the City, can be emancipatory.**

Haïti's Région des Palmes :

How can the metropolitan periphery, urbanized coastline,  
and rural mountainous areas be reconciled?

International workshop of urban planning and design, Haïti  
February 27 to March 11, 2016

An event by :

les ateliers  
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine



**CIAT**

Comité Interministériel  
d'Aménagement du Territoire

With the support of  
our partners :



## 0 / Preamble: Workshop Background

The area known as Region des Palmes (literally, the region of the palm trees) is located to the southwest of the Port-au-Prince urban conglomeration. It brings together a series of four communes that extend from the coast into the "mornes" (mountains). From east to west, they are: Gressier, Léogâne, Grand-Goâve and Petit-Goâve. Their combined population is approximately 450,000 inhabitants, located at the fringe of the capital city of Haiti, Port-au-Prince.

The spatial organization of the Region des Palmes is characteristic of the urban and rural geography of Haiti, and numerous challenges that can be found in other regions of the island are concentrated in the area: internal migrations, informal urban development, agricultural pressures, environmental degradation...

Lastly, located at the epicenter of the earthquake that shook the country on January 12, 2010, the Region des Palmes suffered considerable damage, which led the communes to gather into a Community of Municipalities, a unique and unprecedented experiment in Haiti that gained financial and institutional support from both cooperation and the state department. The future of the region is nevertheless strongly tied to that of Port-au-Prince, whose development profoundly impacts the region's spatial organization and economy (mostly rural and touristic).

In this context, the interest and need in constructing a shared vision for the future of this territory presents a double agenda – both local and national. Since 2010, the Haitian government, working through the CIAT (Ministerial Committee for Territorial Development), has been preparing a strategic national vision for long-term land development and management in order to bring foresight and action that goes beyond simply emergency or transitional periods. As for the Region des Palmes, though it had created the Community of Municipalities of the Region des Palmes (CMRP) in order to face emergency, it is now implementing land and water resources management policies, and aims eventually at developing a strategic vision for its territory.

This 'territorial' approach needs to strike an 'internal' balance between rural and urban areas and an 'external' balance between the region itself and Port-au-Prince, all within a context of profound demographic, social, and economic change. As a national pilot for this intercommunal approach, a successful outcome in Region des Palmes could have a demonstrative value that extends well beyond its borders.

## About this document

This document presents the theme of the workshop. It will be sent to our partners and the whole international network of the Ateliers in order to draw applications from professionals.

Text: Marion Talagrand (pilot)

With: Philippe Revault, Jean-François Parent (co-pilots) et Conor Moloney (participant of the fact-finding mission), Luc Raimbault et Antoine Plane (Les Ateliers).

Translation: Susanna Hsing (rereading by Conor Moloney)

Relecture : Comité d'Orientation Scientifique des Ateliers.

In the wake of exchanges during the preparation period of December 2014, with:

- Michèle Oriol – Executive Secretary of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Territorial Development (CIAT)
- Rose-May Guignard – Technical secretary of the CIAT ; Yann Martineau, consultant at the CIAT.
- Francis Alphonse – Executive Director of the Administrative and Technical Administration in charge of the Region des Palmes (DATIP), as well as the whole team of the DATIP, especially Emmanuel Mareus and Elvis Cineus
- Guitho Méthélus – Mayor of Gressier
- Anicet Jean Saint-Amant – Deputy mayor of Léogâne, and President of the Executive Committee of the Community of Municipalities of the Région des Palmes (CMRP), as well as the rural section councilman which took part to the final presentation of our mission. conseillers des sections rurales présents lors de la restitution de la mission préparatoire.
- Bruno Asseray – French Embassy at Port-au-Prince
- Olivier Solari – Concellor at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Governments (MICT)
- Benedicte Gazon, director of the Port-au-Prince Agency of the French Development Bank (AFD), and Olga Koukoui, project manager.
- Martin Blackburn – Director of the Program for Municipal Cooperation (PCM) of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Daniel Poitras, urban planning consultant.
- Rose-Marie Saint Germès-Akar – from the « Communauté d'Agglomération de Cergy-Pontoise » (CACP) in charge of decentralized cooperation
- Abner Septembre – President of the Peasants Association of Vallue
- The Director of the Popular bank of credit and savings Men Alé Men Vini (MAMEV)
- The members of the fishing association of Grand-Goâve and Léogâne
- The GRET, UCLBP, UNPD, The Ministry of Civil Engineering, the professional associations of architects and urban planners, University of Quisqueya, all presents to our final restitution on Friday, December 5 at the CIAT.
- Michèle Pierre-Louis, and the NGO FOKAL.
- Special thanks to the CACP which made this mission possible through its fundings.

### Les Ateliers

Les Ateliers is a non-governmental organization created in 1982 by urban planning authorities of the Ville Nouvelle of Cergy-Pontoise. They gather an international network of universities, decision makers and professionals dedicated to planning, development and urban design. Since 1982, les ateliers have been organizing international workshops on topics defined together with local authorities for city or regional planning. The association organises collaborative workshops for new, creative concepts. In France and elsewhere, the workshops offers to local authorities new and innovative urban development proposals. These workshops are also a source of training for all the participants, whether they be local or international experts.

## Table of contents

<b>0</b>	<b>Preamble: Workshop Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Region des Palmes: weight of history and contemporary dynamics</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1.	the importance of geography: a major determinant in the region's rural and urban organization	4
1.2.	Proximity to Port-au-Prince: A Progressive Integration into the Metropolitan Residential Zone	6
1.3.	Historical tensions and contemporary dynamics: differentiating and identifying factors between communes	8
1.4.	An unprecedented experiment of cooperation in Haiti	11
<b>2.</b>	<b>Proposed guidelines for the territory's development following the earthquake: addressing the root (or man-made) causes of vulnerability</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1.	At the national level, clear proposed guidelines conceived under the post-earthquake context: "transforming disaster into opportunity."	12
2.2.	At the CMRP level, general development guidelines defined for each of the four communes	16
<b>3.</b>	<b>Workshop's topic: reconciling city and countryside in the metropolitan periphery</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Stronger territorial approaches: complementary, reciprocal, and unifying</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1.	Key issues in the relationship between coastal plains and mornes	20
4.2.	Key issues in the relationship between the Region des Palmes and the capital's urban conglomeration	22
<b>5.</b>	<b>Bibliography and readings</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Maps</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Framework of the workshop and schedule</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>How to apply?</b>	<b>29</b>



**This geographic situation, marked by the contrast between the coastal plains and the mountains, is characteristic of Haiti as a whole.** The indigenous Taíno called Haiti "Quisqueya" (literally, High Land) or "Bohio," (literally, mountainous land).. In 1492, on his arrival to the island he would later name 'Hispaniola', Christopher Columbus was amazed by these plains which he perhaps took as a sign of fertility.



*Coastal plains and mornes of Léogâne*



*Mornes and bay of Grand-Goâve*



*Bay and mornes of Petit-Goâve*

This physical geography has been a determining factor in the region's organization, evident through the urban settlements, the connecting territorial relations, and the pattern of agricultural development. **The distinction between the plains and mornes has always persisted, despite the changes that have touched the Haitian countryside during its tumultuous history.**

The colonizing urban population was located in the plains. The settlements near the sea, although at a distance from the shore, benefited historically from water-based transportation; ferries connected Haitian cities when no roadway yet existed, and shipping exported products to European cities. Although densely populated today, the mountains served for a long time simply as places of refuge. The fixed and stable settlements that now exist are relatively recent and their populations are extremely dispersed.

The development of agricultural areas is also highly differentiated. The plains were cultivated before the colonial period by the Taíno, whereas the mountains served only as a resource for hunting and gathering. Then, starting in the colonial era, large-scale export-driven plantation agriculture was developed for sugar cane (and indigo in a more localized and temporary manner). This pattern persisted after independence. Some of the crops, such as coffee, could have been introduced in the mountains, but it was only after having first been planted sporadically then expanded as food crops that they gained recognition. Domestic and export sales collapsed in 1986, when Haiti was forced by the IMF to open its markets after the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship. Agriculture is now in "survival" mode, as much in the plains as in the mornes, as well as in industrial agriculture and subsistence farming.

## 1.2 Proximity to port-au-prince: a progressive integration into the metropolitan residential zone

---

The four communes are crossed by the RN2 national highway which follows the coastal plain in Gressier and Léogâne before passing through the steepest cliffs of Grand- and Petit-Goâve where the coastal plain is extremely narrow, indeed non-existent along some of its stretch.

**The highway supports the movement of people and major goods** between Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes, and Jacmel. At a local level, the RN2 is the vector for increasingly intense relationships between the cities of the CMRP (Community of the Region des Palmes Municipalities) and Port-au-Prince. Numerous residents of the region commute daily to the capital in order to access the employment and services it offers. The agricultural products produced in the Region des Palmes find a direct outlet in the urban markets. The area is gradually integrating into the residential zones of Port-au-Prince.

The appeal of Port-au-Prince is driving **major urban extension, concentrated along the major highways**, that benefits from the coastal setting. Between 1990 and 2010 the population of the capital is estimated to have grown from 1.5 to 2.8 million residents. Located in the capital's zone of influence, the cities of Petit-Goâve, Grand-Goâve and Léogâne are the main repositories of this growing population. Major unplanned urbanization extends along the RN2. As for Gressier, the commune has long since been absorbed into Port-au-Prince's urban continuum, becoming a sort of suburb for the capital.



The RN2



Port-au-Prince

Under the influence of metropolitan development, the morphology and economy of the Region des Palmes are experiencing a profound shift. The land, which is still mainly agricultural and undeveloped, is gradually being absorbed by the rapid and unchecked urban expansion, while the economy, which remains predominately rural, is becoming increasingly integrated into the urban economy.

This metropolitan transition is dismantling the traditional activities and organization of land, economy, and society. But for all that, throughout the Region des Palmes, numerous local initiatives demonstrate the **organization, strength, and energy of civil society** in confronting the pressures forced on the traditional activities and environment where they are located. **At stake are the control, preservation, and conservation of the land, whose usage is vital for the majority of the region's population.** Numerous associations and cooperatives organize the



sharing of the means of production and the provision of basic social services (education and health) in the cities, coastal plains and mornes.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.3 Historical tensions and contemporary dynamics: differentiating and identifying factors between communes

Although they share a geographical space whose coherence is undeniable, each of the four communes that form the Region des Palmes has a singular identity. The historical trajectory of each – from the the Taino up to contemporary times – has been affected by the influence of Port-au-Prince, varying accordingly to the capital's proximity to each of them, along with the variations in their geographic profiles. These differences create an overall identity that is both diverse and rich.

**Gressier** is furthest east. Originally called Gardes-Gendarmes, the settlement is located on a thin stretch of coastline 15km from Port-au-Prince. The mountainside falls almost directly into the sea, earning the name "Mer Frappée (sea-whipped)" for this section of the coastline. Gressier is contiguous with the Port-au-Prince conurbation and is integrated into the residential zone of the capital. The commune has long been known for its beaches. Its proximity to Carrefour – the neighboring commune which has numerous port and industrial (textile workshops) activities – has boosted its urban development. The coastal section of the Gressier commune has largely now been absorbed into the urban continuum of Port-au-Prince.



*The beaches of Gressier...*

*... and the neighborhoods near the RN2*

**Léogâne** constitutes the largest portion of the coastal plain in the region, and is also one of the largest in Haiti. Three coastal rivers run through it. The commune has always been a major location of industrial agricultural production, as much during the Spanish colonial period as the French, and after independence in 1804. It is still called the "Pantry of Port-au-Prince" even though its production has always been targeted for export and not local consumption. But Léogâne is also one of the oldest cities in Haiti. Founded at the end of the 17th century, it was the first capital of the country before Port-au-Prince was founded and deemed more preferable. Urban and agricultural tradition expresses itself through the Rara; this carnival, which takes place during Lent (an intense period of sugar cane harvesting before the return of the rainy season), was developed during the period of slavery in the large plantations and has now made Léogâne a city recognized for its Haitian culture.

---

<sup>1</sup> Several meetings were held during the exploratory mission with local associations and cooperatives: APV (Association of the Peasants of Vallée) in Petit-Goâve, fishing cooperative in Léogâne and Grand-Goâve, MAMEV (a banking cooperative) in Gressier...



A

*guildive: artisan production of Rum made from sugar cane*



*Darbonne sugar-processing factory in Léogâne*

**Grand-Goâve** is located on a thin coastal band. Its origin is tied to that of Petit-Goâve since the two cities were considered as one under the Spanish occupation and before the French founded Petit-Goâve. The two cities share a strong urban tradition and combine services and administrative offices. The CMRP headquarters is currently located in Grand-Goâve.

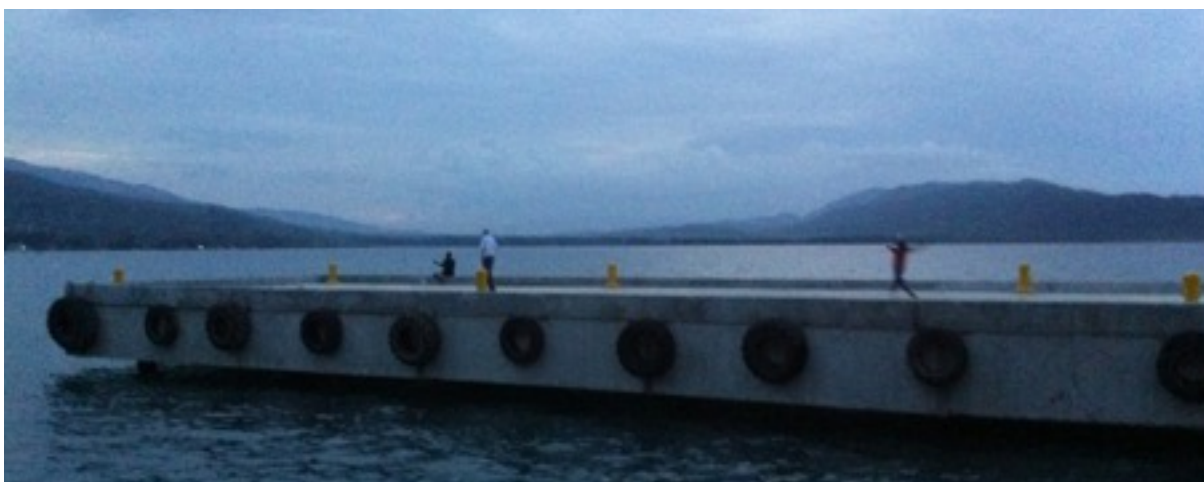


*Historic home and public square in Grand-Goâve...*

**Petit-Goâve** is situated on a remarkable bay. It is considered the oldest city in Haiti: a colonial town established on the site of a Taíno village, the indigenous people of current day Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The bay allowed for the creation of a port; thereby the colonial destiny of the city was tied to that of the commerce between what was then the colony of Saint-Domingue and metropolitan France. In the 17th century, Petit-Goâve was also a major base for piracy. The highly urban character of Petit-Goâve distinguishes the commune from the others in the CMRP, evident by the port, the presence of administrative offices and services, but also through the form of the city and the renowned political consciousness of its population.



*Fishing village in Petit-Goâve*



*Petit-Goâve Port*

#### 1.4 An unprecedented experiment in cooperation in Haiti

Right before 2010, the communes of Gressier, Léogâne, Grand-Goâve and Petit-Goâve were regrouped to form the **Palm Region Community of Municipalities (CMRP)**, bringing together close to 450,000 inhabitants. Having formed this group, the communes initiated a unique and unprecedented experiment of cooperation between municipalities in Haiti. In fact, the levels of local government for the Republic of Haiti are divided as follows: department, commune, and communal section (urban or rural). However, even if in Haiti cooperation between municipalities did not exist in the sense of an independent government authority, the law authorized communes to come together in official capacity to conduct policies of general interest.

The CMRP is a **political institution** created around an Inter-Municipality Council - an assembly of representatives from different urban and rural areas, an Executive Committee, and an Administrative and Technical Division (DATIP). The CMRP has initiated several cooperations with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Communauté d'Agglomération of Cergy-Pontoise (CACP) - partners since 2010 in the CMRP's spatial reconstruction and political structuring.

The CMRP enabled the sharing of resources, financing and skills to respond to the challenges of the post-earthquake reconstruction, and more generally for the territory's land development and management challenges. Through several accomplished concrete projects, along with those in still in the works, the CMRP is making strides in the development of local democracy, territorial governing, and land management for the area. These include:

- The defining of local urban planning programs (PUS) for each commune;
- The listing of properties and corresponding resources in preparation for the establishment of a land registry;
- Different technical projects such as the establishment of a Water Development and Management Plan (SAGE).

## 2 / Proposed guidelines for the territory's development following the earthquake: addressing the root (or man-made) causes of vulnerability

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was hit by an earthquake of rare magnitude. Its epicenter was located in Léogâne and its greatest impact was felt in Port-au-Prince as well as in the cities of the Region des Palmes. Demographic and economic effects were felt throughout the country.

The earthquake led to **an international movement of solidarity unseen before** in Haiti. Five years later, the presence of so many NGOs in the country and their sheer numbers in the cities, particularly in Port-au-Prince where damages were significant, is still extremely important. These NGOs played an important role during the **post-earthquake emergency phase**, as well as during the **transition period** through the provision of direct aid to the population and also through the construction of housing and provision of other goods generally associated with household needs.

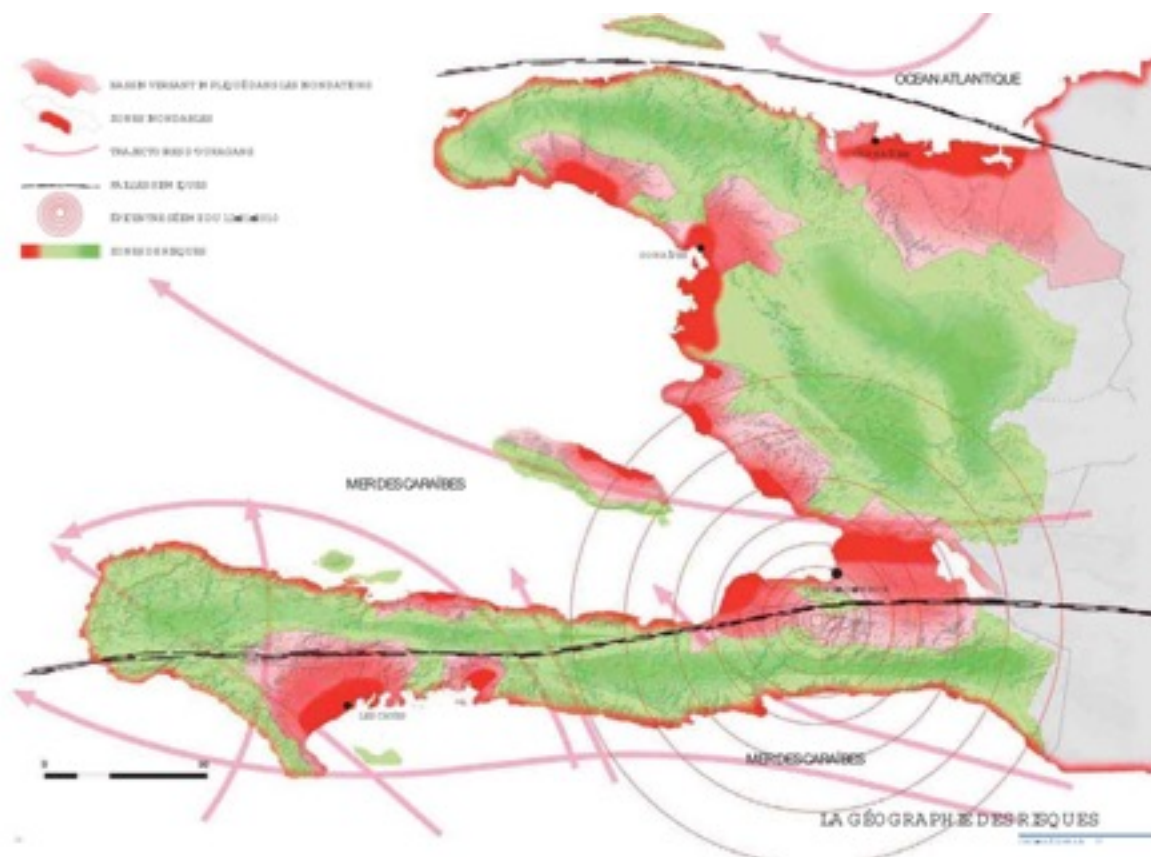
At the same time, **the Haitian government, working through the CIAT** (Ministerial Committee of Land Management), conducted a **long-term strategic analysis of the territory's planning at the national level** to define both the factors for social and economic development and for greater environmental resilience in the region.

The **CMRP** – directly affected by the earthquake – has also developed **communal development and management plans** integrating the dual problematic of shifting rural and urban demographics and post-earthquake repairs.

2.1 At the national level, clear proposed guidelines conceived under the post-earthquake context: "transforming disaster into opportunity."

---

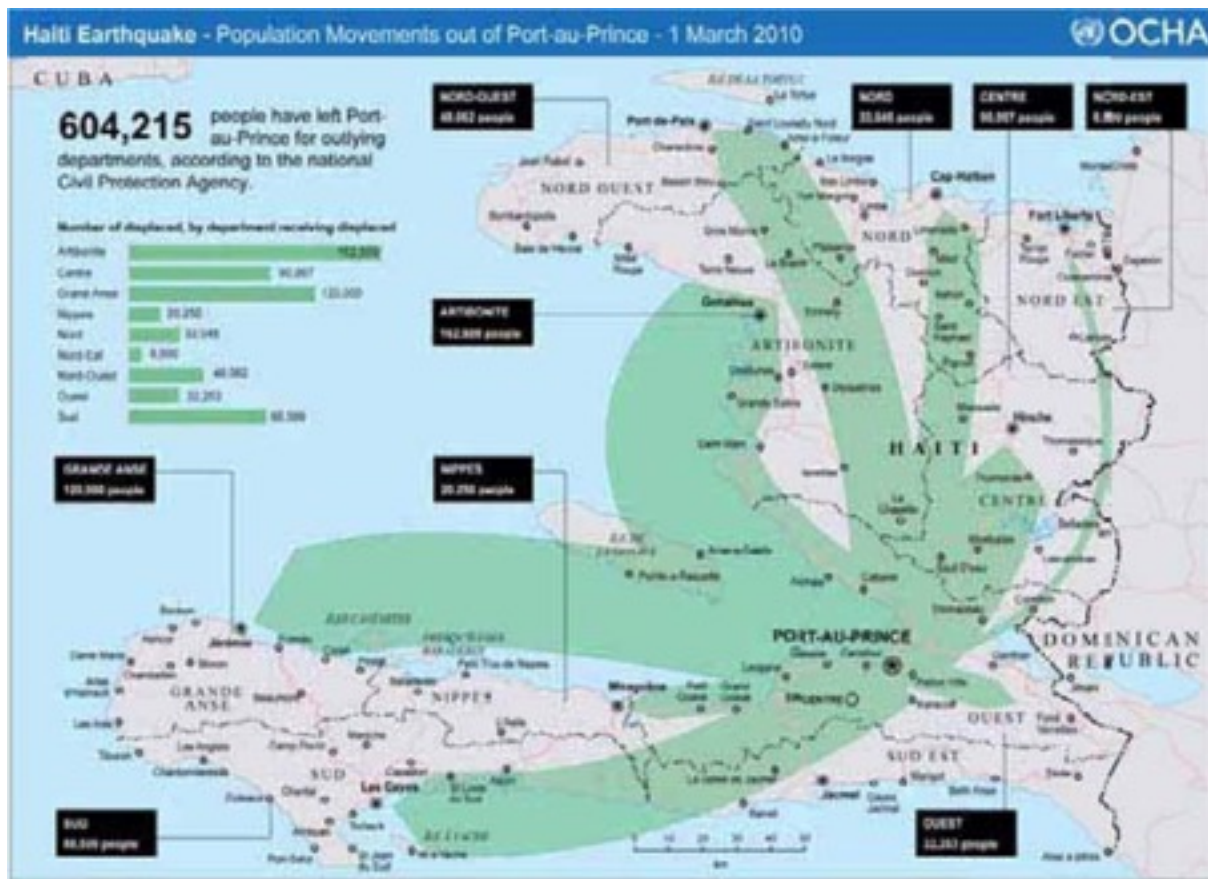
**Noting the extreme environmental vulnerability of the country**, the Haitian government has made an assessment of the natural but also human causes that have led the region to being so vulnerable, and concluded that it rests in the conjunction of a fragile natural environment, a high population density (close to 350 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>) and intense pressures exerted on natural resources.



The Geography of Risks - Haiti Tomorrow - Republic of Haiti - CIAT - 2010

**Taking into consideration the major population shifts** that were triggered by the earthquake, the Haitian government has become aware of its population imbalance and how these constrained displacements could become the lever to rebalancing the population.

RÉGIONS	Population avant séisme	Mouvement de population (Personnes déplacées et victimes)	Population actuelle	
NORD	4 424 482	+ 342 000	4 766 000	47%
CAPITALE	3 867 000	-854 000	3 013 000	29%
SUD	2 164 000	+262 000	2 426 000	24%
TOTAL	10 455 539		10 206 000	



Population Shifts from Port-au-Prince - Haiti Tomorrow - Republic of Haiti - CIAT - 2010

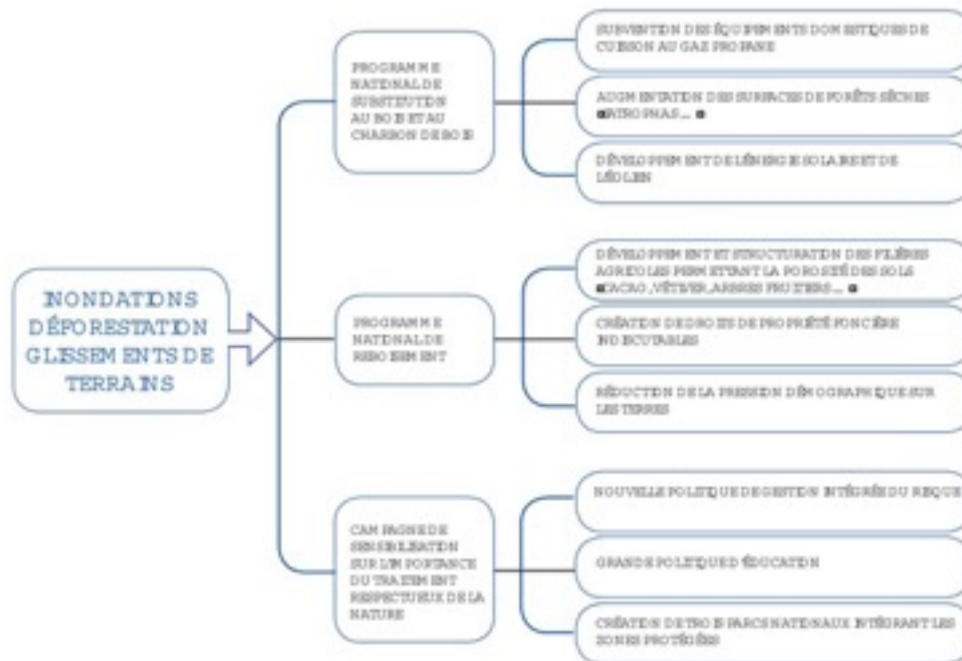
The regional strategy for reconstruction, "Haiti Tomorrow," includes the emergency reconstruction issues, while also going further to consider how the region will be restructured by 2030. **"Transforming Disaster into Opportunity,"** beyond just being a slogan, is also a question of **a long-term preventative commitment, not simply a short-term palliative measure.**

The main objectives consist of a demographic and economic rebalancing between the Port-au-Prince region and other areas, the restoring of environmental balance, and the reduction of social inequalities through access to education, housing, etc. In terms of land management, we would like to highlight two major points in the document: the restoration of the natural environment and the establishment of a more sustainable management of natural resources, and the promotion of a network of cities.

### **Aiming for more sustainable management of natural resources:**

A long-term process of deforestation has devastated the country. It causes soil erosion in mountains and flooding in alluvial plains, directly affecting both rural and urban populations. Even with numerous programs, one after the other, addressing this problem over the past 50 years, the situation has continued to deteriorate. The use of charcoal as domestic fuel, the ever-intensifying development of food crops, etc., have not diminished the pressures on natural resources. **Promoting local development projects that strongly involve populations coupled with implementing national structuring programs (land reform, energy efficiency transition) suggest an outline of an integrated policy for the restoration and sustainable management of resources.**

UNE CHAÎNE VERTUEUSE  
ASSOCIÉE AUX STRATÉGIES  
DE RECONSTRUCTION



*Integrated Watershed Management - Haiti Tomorrow - Republic of Haiti - CIAT - 2010*

**Aiming for a network of cities:**

The relatively strong population growth (annual rate of 1.08%) coupled with an exodus from the countryside to the cities (annual transition rate of 3.68%) has been particularly beneficial for Port-au-Prince. Indeed, the capital is the center of the country's industrial infrastructure and possesses superior services as well. This growing population has been reflected in an unchecked spatial expansion, the development of poor, under-equipped, and vulnerable areas, and an increase in transportation congestion for the Port-au-Prince urban conglomeration. **The reinforcement of medium-sized towns, the improvement of inter-urban relations, and the development of synergies at the core of a network of medium-sized towns could together shape a more balanced urban planning policy in terms of the whole territory and of each individual region.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Source: The Central Intelligence Agency





Organizational plan for the capital region - Haiti Tomorrow - Republic of Haiti – CIAT – 2010

## 2.2 At the CMRP level, general development guidelines defined for each of the four communes

Four urban development and management plans were developed following the earthquake and finalized in 2012. While they have yet to be validated by the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication (MPTC), they nevertheless constitute the basis of action in the four communes which form the Region des Palmes. The major challenges prioritized by these documents concern the following:

- **The emergence of an export economy** through the promotion of local resources in order to progressively build processing industries. The resources that have been identified vary according to the communes, but they mainly consist of **agricultural resources** (existing crops to be further developed: sugar cane, bamboo, cherries, seafood... and crops that should be reintroduced: cocoa and coffee), as well as **tourism resources**.
- **The spatial management of the population transition** at the communal and regional levels. The evaluations made by the local urban planning programs (PUS) estimate that there has been a nearly complete and proportional inversion of urban and rural populations between 2003 (when the last national population and housing census was conducted in Haiti) and 2015, with an average shift of 25% to 75% for the urban population.

- The improvement in the quality of life, mainly through the **establishment of public services as much for the urban population as for the rural**, in all areas of daily life (education, health...).
- **The mobilization of funding** to deliver projects. Two tracks are envisioned in particular: the establishment of a land registry for the whole territory that would allow for the levying of taxation and provide communities with proper resources; and the reorientation of international aid – which is today aimed at aiding the population directly – towards the implementation of public infrastructures.

These guidelines translate into urban development plans that are focused exclusively on the urban section of the communes and particularly for future urban development zoning. The rural sections are not the target of this spatial planning.

To this day, an urban planning or land management document still does not exist for the Region des Palmes as a whole. But the CMRP hopes in the next stages of its regional project to make advancements on an elaborated **long-term strategic and comprehensive operational vision** for the entire region, taking the form of an **Inter-Communal Development Plan (PID)**. This plan aims to express the collective vision of the region's elected officials, while **working in collaboration with the Haitian government and its ministries** (Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Communities and the Ministry of Planning and Exterior Communication). **It would provide a framework for the projects supported by international sponsors.** The considered methodology is founded on a pragmatic, progressive, and concerted approach, tied together with the energy of the civil society, in order to **anchor the Intercommunal Development Plan into the concrete reality of the region.**

### 3 / Workshop's topic: reconciling city and countryside in the metropolitan periphery

The Region des Palmes is experiencing an unprecedented social, economic and environmental transformation and the 2010 earthquake has had an accelerating effect on these changes. **The region is being shaped by two profound and comprehensive dynamics: population movement from the countryside to the cities, and economic transition from rural to urban.**

The area is under pressure and is transforming rapidly. This can be seen in the systematic enclosure of agricultural areas with masonry walls along the RN2 highway, and the construction of residential housing with poor-quality manufactured materials (cinder blocks, sheet metal...), that are often left unfinished leaving an impression of ruin. As a result, land is being removed from agricultural use and privatized. These "informal" developments gain an impressive scale along the RN2 highway and the coastline, creating extensive areas of poor permeability (for example in Gressier). Agricultural changes are also evident, driven by the collapse of domestic and export sales in 1986 when Haiti was forced by the IMF to open its markets after the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship. While export crops have dwindled, domestic food crops have not taken up the slack and remain extremely fragile to this day.

Managing land and development in the Region des Palmes within this context of change presents great challenges for the organization of the metropolitan region and the articulation of rural and urban areas.

**In the Region des Palmes, the "city-countryside" relationship is organized at two geographic scales:** at the scale of the Region des Palmes between coastal plains and mornes, and at the scale of the metropolitan area between the entire Region des Palmes and the urban conglomeration of Port-au-Prince.

- **At the scale of the Region des Palmes**, the mornes depend on the coastal plain for services, employment markets, transportation, etc.... But the coastal plain is also subject to the rural exodus and is seriously impacted by the consequences of poor environmental management in the uplands.
- **At the scale of the metropolitan area**, the Region des Palmes is part of the capital's rural periphery. It was once considered a coastal holiday area. Extremely dependent on the metropolitan center, which provides access to superior services and the employment market; it also suffers from the capital's informal and anarchic expansion, and is barely able to organize this growth except through the offering of services and jobs.

**In addition, this "city-countryside" relationship does not result in a simple and unequivocal spatial dichotomy, but rather a game of complex interrelations at varying levels.**



Today: Relations of territorial dependence between the mornes and coastal plains and between the Palm Region and Port-au-Prince - Exploratory Mission - December 2014.

The current prevailing hypothesis is that the region's development must regulate the seemingly inexorable phenomenon of rural exodus. In the cities, it appears crucial to prepare urban areas to receive these new populations through the standardizing of informal settlements and the defining of future urban zones. In the rural areas, it seems that migration can be reduced at source through the improvement of services and the building the resilience of the agricultural system. For now, the "city" is considered the only desirable future.

**The hypothesis proposed in the workshop's framework is to turn this paradigm around and consider the countryside, like the city, as a potential future and a place for holistic human development.** The workshop's analysis and proposals aim to identify the approaches that are most unifying, reciprocal and complementary for the region, between the coastal plains and the mornes, but also between Port-au-Prince and the Region des Palmes.



Tomorrow: Complementary, reciprocal, and unifying territorial relations between the mornes and coastal plains and between the Region des Palmes and Port-au-Prince - Exploratory Mission - December 2014

## 4 / Stronger territorial approaches: complementary, reciprocal, and unifying

**Attached to each of these relations**—the Porto-au-Prince urban conglomeration versus the Palm Region and the coastal plains versus the mornes—**are concrete problematics:** the rural exodus and urban sprawl, deforestation and soil erosion, coastal privatization and informal construction, inaccessible zones, constrained mobility and economic dependence, architectural integration and agricultural knowledge... as much as these are concrete problems, the Palm Region can also use them to strengthen its governing capacity in risk management, coordinated development of projects, sharing of regional resources...along with transversal themes, that will be touched upon during the workshop, such as the prospect of constructing a collaborative view of the future for the Palm Region.

### 4.1 Key issues in the relationship between coastal plains and mornes

---

#### **Environmental resources: from an opportunistic to a collaborative management of plains and mornes.**

Water is without a doubt the most revealing indicator of the interdependent relationship between the plains and mornes. It is chronically lacking in the mornes, but still washes away the soil. It periodically devastates the plains through its violent flooding, carrying with it sediment which degrades coastal waters. These symptoms are interrelated and their cause is well known (urbanization and soil capping, deforestation, and the increase in root crops). The management programs for ecosystems, soil, and water are intimately connected and can only be designed and put into place at the scale of the watershed. The CMRP has taken this question into account through the presentation of a Water Development and Management Plan (SAGE). **How can these clear guidelines be manifested in concrete development and management tools that correspond to a logic that goes further than a simple technical approach and integrates social and cultural dimensions?**



*Coastal River*

**Agriculture in the plains and mornes: complementary terrains targeted for specialization or diversification?**

The Region des Palmes benefits from two geographic areas – plains and mornes – of which the respective agronomic potentials are in theory complementary. Today, each of these sub-areas is strongly specialized: industrial and export crops in the plains, and food crops for local consumption in the mornes. Nevertheless, nuances exist. In the plains, sugar cane is processed through artisan methods in small quantities for the production of a rum called guildive; the distribution is focused mainly on the Haitian market. The Darbonne sugar factory in Léogâne, which was constructed in the 80s, closed and reopened in the early 2000s, is no longer able to run without the help of annual public funding. In the mornes, the farmers sell their marginal surplus production in the urban markets of the Region des Palmes and Port-au-Prince. It is important to remember that these export and local markets are extremely fragile since they have yet to fully recover from the collapse that was tied to the opening of the Haitian markets with the fall of the dictatorship. **In the future, what types of crops could be promoted both in the Region des Palmes and for each of these terrains – plains and mornes? What are the conditions needed to create a sustainable agriculture, as much in terms of the economy as for society and the environment?**



*Industrial sugar cane farming in the plains*



*Food crops in the mornes*

### **Access to housing and services: what are the urban forms in the plains and mornes?**

The forms of urban settlement in the plains from the mornes are very different, and reveal stark inequality in access to urban services and facilities in the two areas. Although densely populated, the rural areas are extremely underprivileged in comparison to urban areas – even those urban areas that also remain poorly equipped in terms of public services. Should urban areas respond to the legitimate needs of the dispersed populations of the mornes? **Or could a specific urban hierarchy be organized in the mornes to offer the living space needed in situ?**

## 4.2 Key issues in the relationship between the Region des Palmes and the capital's urban conglomeration

---

### **A shared environmental vulnerability: what solutions can be found together?**

The Region des Palmes and the Port-au-Prince (PaP) urban conglomeration share the same coastline and bay. They also share the same mountain range, and both are crossed by the seismic fault line. They face the same environmental problems: seismic risks, vulnerable mountain slopes, coastal pollution... **What are the shared conditions that could produce greater territorial resilience?**

### **From 'endured' to 'managed' urban development: what types of urban structures and forms?**

The expansion of the PaP area is driving a progressive absorption of the coastal plain into the urban continuum. According to the traditional "finger plan" model of expansion which reaches out from major cities, will it be Gressier today, Léogâne tomorrow, and next...? Is it desirable for the Region des Palmes to become a sort of suburb of the PaP area? Is there an alternative for organizing the spatial growth of the PaP area? **Is it possible to imagine a form of urban development that is denser, more balanced and organized, based on the pre-existing urban structure?**

### **Five years post-earthquake, post-emergency, what forms of architecture should be promoted?**

The PaP expansion is also reflected in urban and architectural forms: informal settlements and extremely poor housing made from inappropriate industrial materials. Post-earthquake reconstruction – constrained by the extreme state of emergency – has not led to the renewal of architectural quality. To the contrary, the reconstruction has manifested itself in the use of industrial materials for standard architectural building. **Local architectural vernacular and know-how is available (steel, wickerwork, wood...) and represents an invaluable resource that could foster a higher standard of architecture integrated into an overall policy of endogenous development combining local skills and resources. What are the possible forms of architectural integration for the future?**



*Informal urban development spreading near the RN2 in Gressier*



*Reconstruction of homes post-earthquake, constructed under the guidance of ITECA (Institut de Technologie et d'Animation which has been active in Léogâne for over 30 years)*

### **From transport mobility to internal accessibility in the Region des Palmes: what role for the RN2 highway?**

The territory of the Region des Palmes is structured around the RN2 highway. The RN2 provides the dual function of inter-regional and local transit. In fact, it is the only route linking the cities of the region, insofar as there is no other longitudinal road that connects the communes to each other. Gradually, as urbanization increases, the role of local transit will grow but at the same time the national transport function is unlikely to diminish. Numerous informal activities (commerce, direct personal services, vehicle repairs, etc.) are developing along the parcels of land bordering the road, to serve the passing trade. The intensification of these dynamic and stationary activities provokes tension, competition and conflict in terms of the use of space. **What will the status of this route be in the future? What are the possible uses for this roadway as a public space? How can it be developed to better respond to its different functions?**





*The RN2 in Gressier and in Grand-Goâve*

**A territory that either serves or partners with the urban conglomeration of the capital?**

As with all metropolitan peripheries, the Region des Palmes' transportation facilities are destined to serve the capital's urban conglomeration (for example the bus station in Léogâne). Once a place for holiday escapes to the beaches of Gressier and the historic charm of cities such as Petit-Goâve, it now risks becoming an undifferentiated urban sprawl. **How can a balanced relationship between the Region des Palmes and Port-au-Prince be configured? What are the factors to be considered in planning new facilities? What are the natural and cultural levers of the territory that could make this area a valued and desirable destination for residents of Port-au-Prince and on a larger scale, for Haitians and foreign tourists?**

## 5 / Bibliography and readings

Institutional Documents

---

**Haïti Tomorrow, objectives and strategies for reconstructing the country. Government of Haïti, Inter-Ministerial Committee For Territorial Development.**

<http://fr.scribd.com/doc/38650492/Haiti-Tomorrow-English-version#scribd>

Essays... (sorry, they are written in French)

---

**André Marcel D'Ans, Haïti, paysage et société, Paris, Ed. Karthala, 1987, 342p.**

Histoire du paysage haïtien d'avant la conquête jusque après l'indépendance et de son rapport avec les structures socio-économiques et politiques du pays.

**Gérard Barthélémy, Dans la splendeur d'un après midi d'histoire, Henri Deschamps, 1996, 430p.**

Présentation de l'histoire d'Haïti, de la volonté de rechercher des contre valeurs à celles du système occidental.

**Marc Menant, Le petit roman de Haïti, Ed. du Rocher, 2010, 125p.**

Récit de l'histoire de l'indépendance haïtienne et de ses héros racontée comme une grande farce cruelle.

**Jean Metellus, Rhapsodie pour Hispaniola, Ed. Bruno Doucey, 192p.**

Dernier ouvrage d'un grand écrivain et poète haïtien, récit d'une longue épopée, celle du contact des Indiens avec les conquérants espagnols.

**Claire Sugier, Haïti Terre Cassée, quinze ans dans la campagne haïtienne, Ed. de l'Harmattan, 1996, 304p.**

Récit d'un couple de français qui décidèrent de vivre en pleine campagne parmi les haïtiens et comme eux.

**Amy Wilentz, Farewell, Fred Voodoo : a letter from Haïti, Ed. Simon & Schuster, 2013, 329p.**

Reportage critique sur la vie et la culture du pays, par un journaliste américain ayant une connaissance longue d'Haïti.

Romans

---

**Dany Laferrière, Le charme des après-midis sans fin, Ed. Le Serpent à Plumes, 1999.**

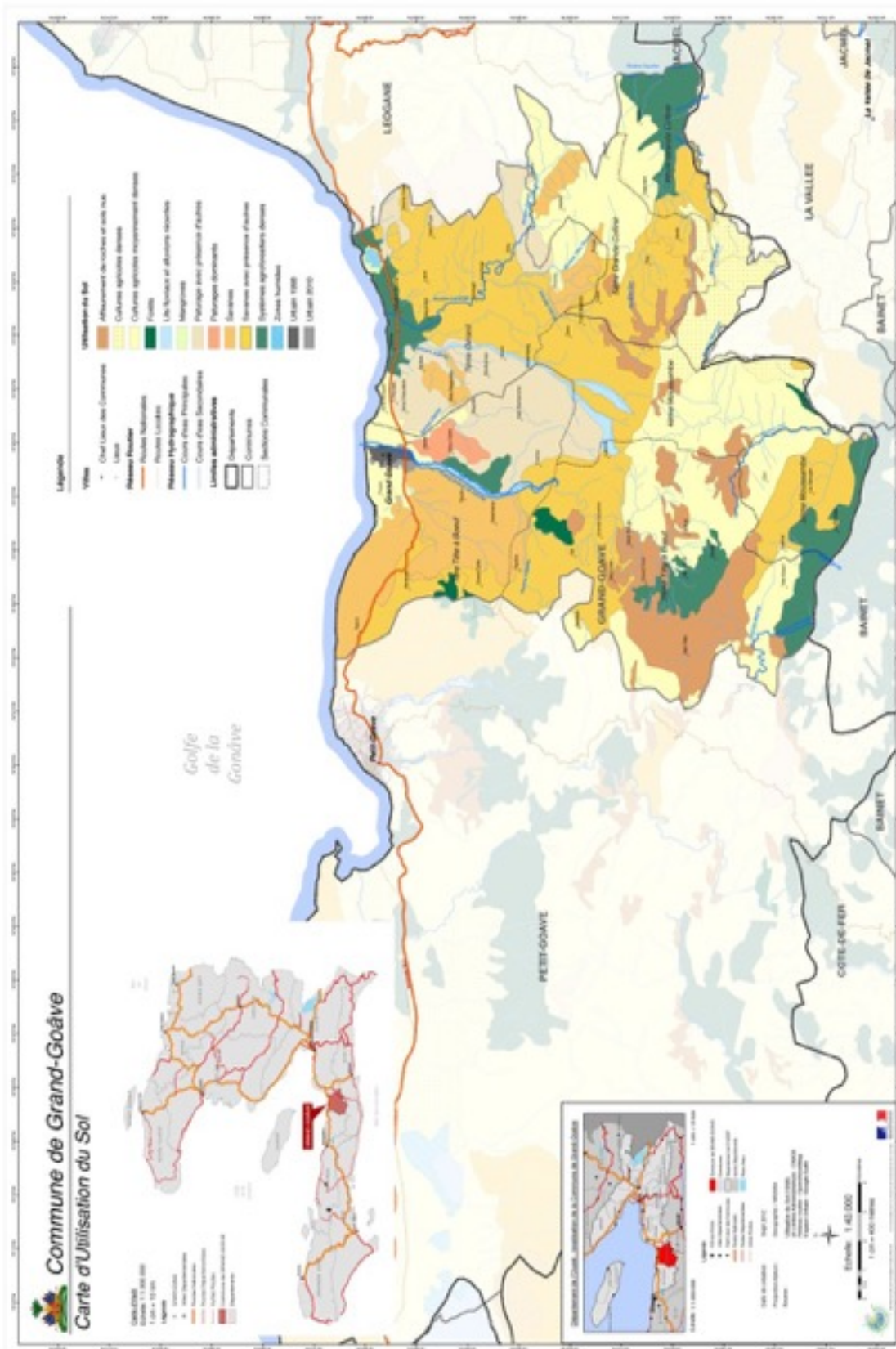
Roman truculent – à la manière de Marcel Pagnol – qui se passe à Petit-Goâve.

**Jacques Roumain, Gouverneur de la Rosée, 1944,**

Roman magnifique qui parle de l'histoire d'Haïti et des rapports entre ville et campagne.

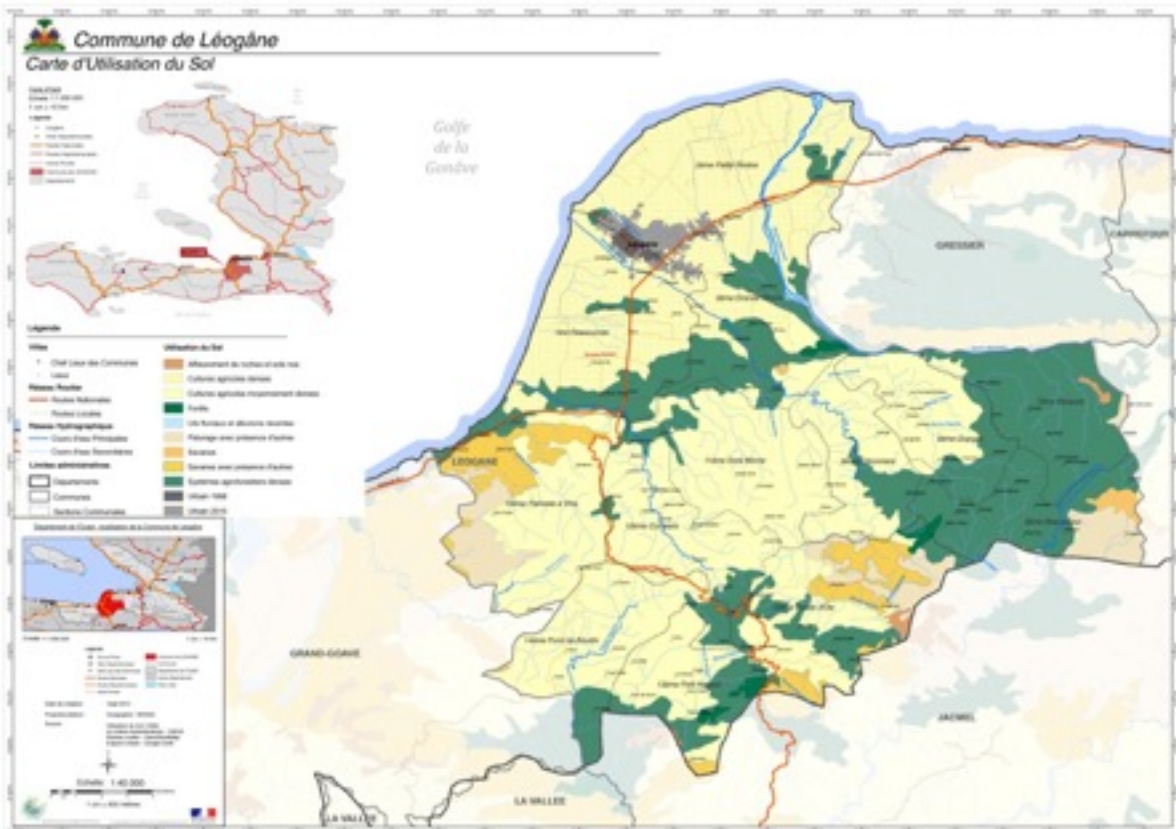
**Lyonel Trouillot, Yanvalou pour Charlie, Actes Sud, 2009**

Roman qui décrit subtilement comment se joue cette relation ville campagne dans la psychologie d'un homme qui s'en est allé à la ville.

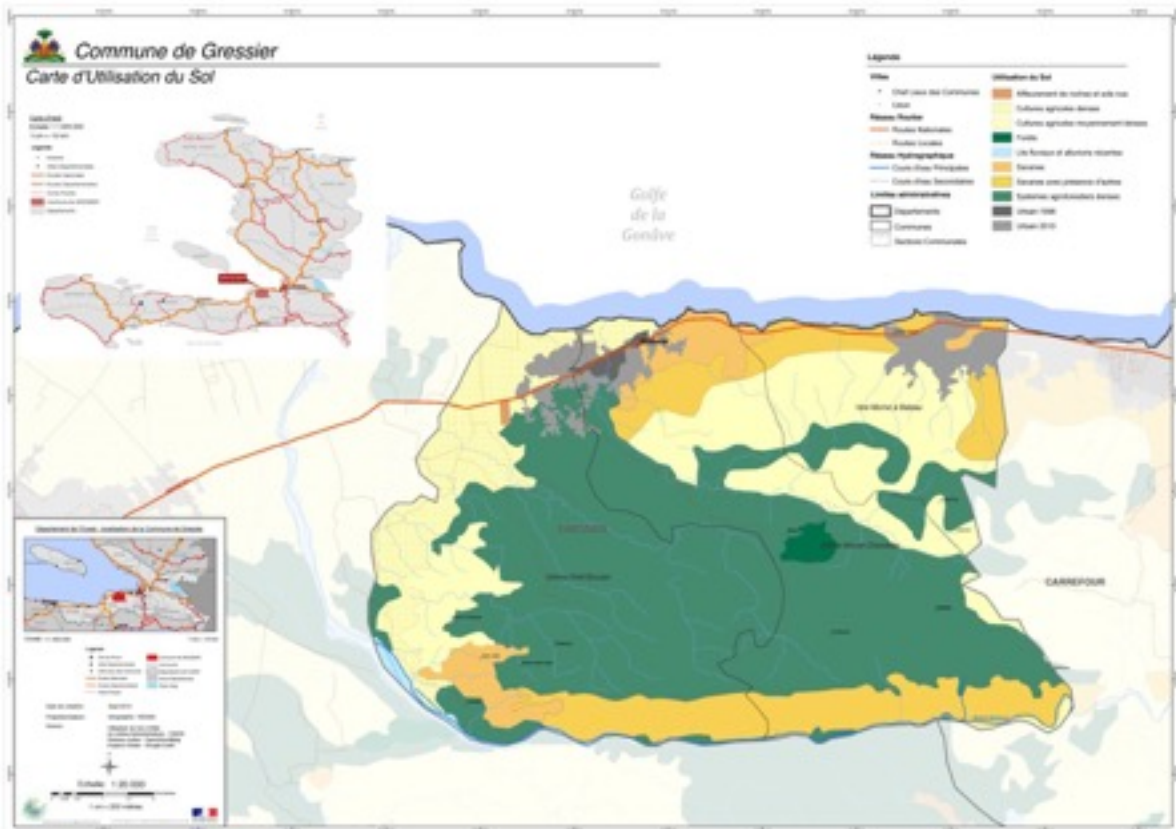


Land Use Map – Grand-Goave (and Petit-Goave) – September 2012

Les Ateliers - Immeuble Le Verger - Rue de la Gare BP 90047- 95020 Cergy-Pontoise Cedex



Land Use Map – Léoçâne – September 2012



Land Use Map – Gressier – September 2012

Les Ateliers - Immeuble Le Verger - Rue de la Gare BP 90047- 95020 Cergy-Pontoise Cedex

## 7/ Framework and schedule of the workshop

The classic Ateliers framework will be used for this workshop : a two-week session that will bring together 24 professionals from various countries and work backgrounds, and ask them to work in four teams of six members, each including two local professionals of which two will be Haitians.

Meetings and excursions will rhythm the first days. The local authorities present at the opening ceremonies will have the chance to communicate to participants directly, how they perceive our theme and what they expect from the workshop. Pilots will then make the teams, and participants will start to work in groups without using computers. Three days in, the first exchange forum - a key event - will offer participants the chance to present their analysis and initial ideas to the other teams and to a local committee, who will contribute freely. During the second week, teams will finalize their project with the help of computers and prepare both a written and an oral presentation for the final international jury.

The jury for the workshop is made up of local representatives, representatives from other Caribbean countries, and others members from elsewhere. All the members will have been collectively chosen by Les Ateliers, Région des Palmes Urban Community, and CIAT. The jury will act as a "fifth team", inasmuch as it will not grade the teams but rather take their projects further, and identify in their projects the most strategic and useful tools and ideas for the local authorities. The workshop, therefore, is not a contest, for there is no prize or market to be won. What matters will be to collectively - within teams and with the jury - produce good analysis, new perspectives, and plans of actions that will be easily applied.

### Work planning draft

This program is but an indication. It can be modified according to local events.

Friday, 26th of February	Foreign participants arrive at Port-au-Prince.
Saturday 27	Meeting at the CIAT and visit of Port-au-Prince. Welcome dinner at Olofson.
Sunday 28 and Monday 29	Transfer to Région des Palmes' workplace and hotel. Visits, meetings, conferences.
Tuesday, 1st of March	Teammaking. Opening ceremony. Starting groupwork.
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Groupwork, no computers.
Friday 4	Exchange forum with stakeholders. Debriefing with the pilots.
Saturday 5	Day off. Optional excursion.
Sunday 6 – Tuesday 8	Groupwork.
Wednesday 9	<i>Jury arrival.</i> Teams hand in their written project (8 A4 pages + 1 A1 map)
Thursday 10	Teams finalize and rehearse their oral presentation. <i>Jury: Excursions and presentations. Meeting the partners committee</i>
Friday 11	Presentation for the international jury, followed by a debate, and deliberation within the jury. Final evening : the jury announces the results; prize ceremony.
Saturday 12	Back to Port-au-Prince. Flights back.

## 8 / How to apply

### Taking part in the workshop – February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

This workshop is open to professionals of all ages and nationalities, working in or having experience related to urban planning. All backgrounds are welcome: architecture, sociology, geography, landscape, engineering, economy, art. It will be essential to work in English and/or French with ease. Knowing creole is an asset that will be considered.

The topic, at the interface between rural and urban aspects, is uncommon: in order to diversify the teams, profiles such as: agronomists, rural development professionals, urban planners familiarized with rural spaces or agriculture, etc., are especially welcome. 6 to 9 places will be attributed to Haitians or Caribbean professionals.

Participants will be put up in Petit-Goâve, and will work in a dedicated space. They will receive a *Context Document* presenting the context and related projects, as well as the necessary maps and documents.

Participants get no remuneration, but the following expenses are paid for: travel (within reasonable limits), housing in single rooms, food, translation, excursions, and work furniture.

24 participants will be selected by the pilot team of the workshop on the basis of their professional experience, their familiarity with the theme, their first outlook on the issue, their communication skills (both in language and drawing), and their motivation !

In order to apply, please send an email **until November, 30<sup>th</sup> of 2015** at midnight at: **haiti@ateliers.org** with the following documents:

- Filled application form (available for download on [www.ateliers.org](http://www.ateliers.org)). File name : NAME\_firstname
- 1-page Resume. File name : NAME\_firstname\_CV
- (Facultative) 1- or 2-page note in which you will state your interest in the workshop, and the skills and/or experiences you will contribute. File name : NAME\_firstname\_Note.

Selected participants will be notified in the following two weeks.