



## **FACT SHEET**

### **Haiti Reforestation Partnership**

PO Box 7116, Charlottesville, VA 22906

[www.haitireforest.org](http://www.haitireforest.org)

Facebook: @HaitiReforest

Twitter: @HaitiReforest

501(c)3 Organization; Tax ID Number 58-1933713

#### **Overview**

Founded in 1989, CODEP was the brainchild of a retired executive, Jack Hanna, who recognized that tackling the reforestation of an entire watershed would have lasting impact on the lives of Haitians.

To create support, Hanna appealed to Presbyterian and Episcopalian congregations. Ultimately nearly 50 churches provided volunteers, money, and expertise ranging across agriculture, engineering, business, construction, logistics, leadership, and more. The Haiti Fund, Incorporated, a 501(c)3, was formed in the United States to enlarge and sustain community support, tell the CODEP story, and create a legal apparatus for donations.

Beginning in 2018, the organization has engaged in an effort to reach more systematically beyond the faith community for broader partnership, recognizing the importance of its extraordinary reforestation success story. This effort included a name change from The Haiti Fund, Inc. to Haiti Reforestation Partnership, a social media presence, addition of new board and council members from environmental and development professions, and a strategy to build partnerships and strategies with government, academia, and service organizations.

In 2020 HRP engaged with Duke University to study the potential of participating in the carbon offset markets. We learned about the mapping and data collection disciplines required to be part of such transactions and are taking those insights into account in our strategic and programmatic efforts.

To address leadership concerns now that the original cohort of Haitian leaders is aging, HRP established a Reforestation Mentoring program in 2021 with a charter cohort of nine recent graduates of the CODEP School. The program includes building nurseries, learning the "CODEP Way", mapping parts of the forests, and becoming acquainted with CODEP's

history, methodology, and challenges. Upon being certified by the program, one woman is being sponsored by CODEP to pursue further agricultural education. Another young man has already organized his own cohort of Haitian neighbors to build a nursery and become a part of CODEP. A third has chosen to attend nursing school, having gained personal confidence and understanding of her community whom she hopes to return to and serve. A second group has been interviewed and selected. They are launching activities in early 2023.

In 2022 a NASA Develop team studied the progress of the CODEP reforestation efforts based on NASA's library of satellite observations over three decades. The final report, *Reforest (Space) Station Utilizing NASA Earth Observations to Measure Reforestation Efforts*, can be reviewed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/32fa70ebcf2f427f8483b7d9e7c63b4d>

### **Core Mission: Reforestation**

Supporting the rural Haitian organization, CODEP, in a reforestation program.

- Located along the Jacmel Road in the mountains above Leogane.
- Formed originally with handful of workers; now 786 actively engaged workers.
- Led by 14 Haitian Animators and 47 Chef Ekips.
  - The Animators provide overall leadership. Four have been with CODEP for over 25 years.
  - The Chef Ekips directly oversee teams that manage the nurseries and plant and steward the trees.
- Have planted approximately 19.25 million trees
  - 372,318 in 2023
  - 392,235 in 2024
- Estimate well over 17.5+ million survive despite drought, feral goats, and disease.
  - The trees are variously grouped.
    - A demonstration forest over 30 years old has matured to the point of regenerating itself and attracting birds.
    - One stretch of mature trees on a mountainside is 20 acres and visible from space.
    - Many of the trees are planted in "working forests" and provide food for families from the community gardens project.
    - Trees are often planted on small sections of land near homes to provide some shade from the harsh sun, improve the soil, and shelter gardens.
  - CODEP trees have stabilized three watersheds, holding the soil and retaining water so that hurricane storms do less damage. During Hurricane Matthew in 2016 the bridges at sea level below the forests held fast in the floods while others along the coast were washed out.
- Created 47 nurseries in which 500,000 to 600,000 seedlings are grown annually and ultimately transplanted in two batches (November/May) onto the mountains, CODEP members' plots of lands, and other requested or negotiated areas.

- Developed a unique and distinguishing process for reforestation (the CODEP Method), which is taught to all participants and carefully monitored. It is also taught at the local school. It includes such elements as:
  - Harvesting seeds locally from produce in market
  - Nursery planting and staged growth of seedlings
  - Field preparation
  - For mountainside planting, the preparation of terraces, ditches for moisture, rows of holding grasses, etc.
  - Stewardship of young trees; occasionally fencing and protecting them from feral goats
  - Harvesting only under strict rules and supervision from Animators.
- Planted the following types of trees

<b>Food Producing Trees</b>	<b>Hard and Soft Wood Trees</b>
Almond	Pin
Coffee	Shin
Mango - 10 types	Ced
Avocado	Dishlya
Chadek	Pwapine
Chocolate	Kapok
Citron	Calendra
Orange - two types	Kapesh
Pomme	
Papaya	
Kanub	
Fren Tavernu	
Acashya	
Cashaarena	

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### **Supporting Mission: Community Building and Education**

CODEP has focused from the beginning on creating a healthy and prosperous community. To achieve that goal, Haiti Reforestation Partnership has provided financial, engineering, and construction support, business expertise, and strategic partnerships with the following visible results:

- Built and operate a school recognized as a "School of Excellence" by the Government of Haiti
- Created a micro-financing organization used largely to lease or buy land to plant trees
- Built a church for the community
- Built a guesthouse as a revenue generating activity

- Built a depot which functions as a marketplace
- Facilitated and encouraged entrepreneurial ventures: corn grinding, lumber milling, peanut butter/coffee/chocolate/
- black beans production

### **Leadership**

- Board of Directors (9 members)
  - Chair: financial consultant
  - One former USAID contractors
  - Two financial professionals
  - IT professional
  - Retired marketing executive
  - International Search Executive
  - Retired signals intelligence Naval Captain
  - Community and Church members
- Advisory Council (18 members)

### **Staff**

- Executive Director, Michael Anello, 2018 - present
  - Works 3/4 time
  - Based in Haiti but is spending more time in US due to the upheavals in Haiti
- Previous Executive Directors:
  - Jill Staton-Bullard 2016-2018
  - John Winings 2008-2016
- Wisterley "Kingzer" Cerant - Forest Inventory Specialist
- Benou Sejour - Mentorship Leader
- Jameson Avril - Community Garden Coordinator
- Accounting services by Eliza LaLuna, CPA, Charlottesville, VA
- Audit services provided pro bono by James C. Briley, Jr. CPA, New Bern, NC

### **Contact Information**

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