



Tree nursery in Léogâne, Haiti (Joana Eichenberge)

## Afforestation (Haiti)

Afforestation

### DESCRIPTION

In the Mornes region of Léogâne, the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) practices reforestation through community participation.

The Swiss Red Cross (SRC) supports land users in Léogâne to practice afforestation. This is a participatory approach with OCBs (organisations communautaires de base - grassroots community organisations) and land users. It is important to raise awareness among OCB members and their neighbours about the value of the ecosystem services of trees and forests and to motivate them to cooperate in afforestation efforts.

The objective of this approach is to afforest slopes in the Léogâne region in order to restore the environment and thus reduce disaster risk. The Swiss Red Cross requires the cooperation of the OCBs and the participation of the land users, as the communes need to take the initiative to organise themselves and then establish nurseries and plant trees. The SRC provides technical guidance and some raw materials (e.g. plastic bags) to raise the seedlings.

As this is a community participation approach, the SRC technicians engage in outreach. First, the SRC staff sensitizes the representatives of the OCBs so that they can participate in the project, and then the OCBs motivate all the people in the community to collaborate, and select appropriate locations for reforestation. Once a plot is chosen and approved by the SRC technicians, the OCBs can start setting up the nursery for a rainfed agroforestry system. After four months in the nursery, the seedlings are ready to be planted, usually in combination with progressive bench terraces formed by contour vetiver hedges. Land users appreciate this approach because they are aware of the benefits of trees in terms of land degradation and food security - therefore participation and enthusiasm to restore the tree cover is high. However, some land users are concerned about the conversion to agroforestry systems, as there is a perceived loss of arable land for cash crop production.

### LOCATION



Location: Léogâne, Département d'Ouest, Léogâne, Haiti

### Geo-reference of selected sites

- -72.59076, 18.397
- -72.58225, 18.35668
- -72.58603, 18.3677
- -72.58373, 18.37152
- -72.57837, 18.36704
- -72.57785, 18.36123
- -72.5896, 18.39036
- -72.63962, 18.3997
- -72.63237, 18.40062
- -72.65371, 18.40138
- -72.62859, 18.44079
- -72.65308, 18.40158
- -72.62933, 18.43971
- -72.65305, 18.43417
- -72.65405, 18.42797
- -72.63747, 18.41898
- -72.59405, 18.37083
- -72.60719, 18.38502
- -72.61293, 18.39
- -72.61235, 18.39221
- -72.62475, 18.39545
- -72.64826, 18.39709
- -72.63379, 18.39694
- -72.64087, 18.39814
- -72.61823, 18.39855

Initiation date: n.a.

Year of termination: n.a.

**Type of Approach**

- traditional/ indigenous
- recent local initiative/ innovative
- project/ programme based



Nursery with plastic bags donated by the Swiss Red Cross (Joana Eichenberger)



Pilot Project: Nursery without plastic bags (Joana Eichenberger)

**APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

**Main aims / objectives of the approach**

In a watershed reforestation serves as a disaster risk management technology: By stabilizing the soil and improving water infiltration, trees protect cities, fields and downstream infrastructure from landslides and flooding.

Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

**PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED**

Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	People of the area, all categories (women, men, young, old ...)	Care of the forest, maintenance
community-based organizations	Grassroots community organisations (OCBs organisations communautaires de base) (women, men, youth, seniors...)	Raising awareness, setting up and caring for the nursery, planting the plants, caring for the forest
SLM specialists/ agricultural advisers	Technicians of the Swiss Red Cross (only men, young-aged)	Awareness raising, technical support
local government	Local authorities: Council of Communal Administration (Cazec) for the communal sections and the assembly of communal sections (ASE) for "habitations" (hamlets), (men and women, with quotas for women).	L'administration
international organization	Swiss Red Cross	Supports the CBOs (grassroots community organizations), provides technicians, gives a hot meal for the people who work

## Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization
initiation/ motivation				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
planning				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
implementation				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
monitoring/ evaluation				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

The OCBs are very active. The land operators follow the orders of the OCBs and the CRS cannot act without the OCBs. Ideally the plot belongs to a member of the OCB. That way you just have to sensitize the neighbours. If the space does not belong to a member of the OCB, it is more complicated. So you have to sensitize the owner and convince him of the benefits of reforestation.

Neighbours are involved in protection. The OCB needs to raise awareness so that people will protect

### Flow chart

La CRS n'en a pas. Les processus pus importants: Identification et sélection de l'espace, préparation du sol, plantation, entretien

### Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- land users alone (self-initiative)
- mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- SLM specialists alone
- politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- research findings
- personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- Capacity building/ training
- Advisory service
- Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Research

### Capacity building/ training

Training was provided to the following stakeholders

- land users
- field staff/ advisers
- The OCBs

Form of training

- on-the-job
- farmer-to-farmer
- demonstration areas
- public meetings
- courses

Subjects covered

Soil stabilization on-the-job

### Advisory service

Advisory service was provided

- on land users' fields
- at permanent centres

### Institution strengthening

Institutions have been strengthened / established

- no
- yes, a little
- yes, moderately
- yes, greatly

at the following level

- local
- regional
- national

Describe institution, roles and responsibilities, members, etc. OCB

Type of support

- financial
- capacity building/ training
- equipment
- technical support

Further details

### Monitoring and evaluation

## FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- < 2,000
- 2,000-10,000
- 10,000-100,000

The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- Financial/ material support provided to land users
- Subsidies for specific inputs

100,000-1,000,000  
 > 1,000,000  
 Precise annual budget: n.a.

Credit  
 Other incentives or instruments

**Financial/ material support provided to land users**

OCB: plastic bags for nursery SRC: on official activities participants receive a hot meal

petits sachets pour la pépinière

partly financed  
 fully financed

**Labour by land users was**

- voluntary
- food-for-work
- paid in cash
- rewarded with other material support

**IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS**

**Impacts of the Approach**

	No	Yes, little	Yes, moderately	Yes, greatly
Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? They are interested in protecting the forest and they are participating. They are proud of their work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? It's a participatory approach, they do everything by themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve coordination and cost-effective implementation of SLM? Especially in the long run there are many benefits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach mobilize/ improve access to financial resources for SLM implementation? It costs less in terms of financial capital.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of land users to implement SLM? It's like a pilot experiment. It's gonna help people on their fields.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of other stakeholders? Land users who are not members of an organization are usually not included because they are less reliable: sometimes it is assumed that there will be 7 participants, but only 2 arrive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach build/ strengthen institutions, collaboration between stakeholders? Sometimes OCBs gain new members.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups? Soil fertility will increase and as a result these people will have more yield (can plant coffee).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve gender equality and empower women and girls? It is mostly women who take care of the nurseries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach encourage young people/ the next generation of land users to engage in SLM? Young people realize the ecological benefits of forests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? The approach requires everyone to put their plots together, but not everyone agrees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to improved food security/ improved nutrition? But only in the long term (about ten years).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve access to markets? Maybe in terms of tourism: it can attract people who love nature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to improved access to water and sanitation? To water: the flow of springs should increase, even dry springs should reappear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to more sustainable use/ sources of energy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters? Ecosystem services of forests are enhanced: With the new vegetation layer, the impact of rain on the soil is reduced, water infiltration into the soil is improved and forests also serve as windbreaks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to employment, income opportunities? After ten years one has the income, e.g. from coffee or cocoa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Main motivation of land users to implement SLM**

- increased production
- increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- reduced land degradation

**Sustainability of Approach activities**  
 Can the land users sustain what has been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

no

- reduced risk of disasters
- reduced workload
- payments/ subsidies
- rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- environmental consciousness
- customs and beliefs, morals
- enhanced SLM knowledge and skills
- aesthetic improvement
- conflict mitigation

- yes
- uncertain

This is why the CRS has prioritized this participatory approach.

## CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

### Strengths: land user's view

- After awareness raising they see benefits such as environmental protection.

### Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- Restauration de l'environnement physique

### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's view → how to overcome

- Less arable land → Awareness rising
- The space inaccessible to cattle → Awareness rising

### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's view → how to overcome

- It's a long-term job.
- Requires a lot of energy

## REFERENCES

### Compiler

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### Resource persons

Loius Jeune - Technicien agroecologie

### Full description in the WOCAT database

[https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches\\_3284/](https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_3284/)

### Linked SLM data

Technologies: Progressive bench terraces formed by a vetiver hedge system and trees

[https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies\\_3223/](https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/technologies/view/technologies_3223/)

### Documentation was facilitated by

Institution

- Swiss Red Cross (Swiss Red Cross) - Switzerland

Project

- n.a.

### Reviewer

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