

Conflict Mitigation through EbA in Haiti

Madeline St John • Program Manager
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About PADF

PADF aims to improve the lives of the people of the Americas. Operating throughout Latin America, PADF's work focuses on saving lives, creating economic growth and livelihood opportunities, and advancing governance, rights, and justice.



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Today's Presentation

- PADF in Haiti
- Ecosystem-based adaptation projects and conflict mitigation
- Lessons learned and key takeaways





PADF Haiti

PADF has been present in Haiti for over 40 years. The team works on a wide range of projects throughout the country to support community-driven development in some of Haiti's most conflict-afflicted areas, targeting disaster resilience, education, economic empowerment, and community involvement in governance and decision-making.

PADF in Haiti: The Agroforestry Outreach Project

For decades in the 20th century, **reforestation efforts in Haiti had been unsuccessful**. In the late 1970s, a team of anthropologists was able to design a new methodology to encourage tree-planting and reforestation in Haiti.



Takeaways from PADF History: The Agroforestry Outreach Project

In 1981, the **AgroForestry Outreach Project**, implemented by PADF, started. The project continued until 2000, resulting in planting of **68 million trees**.

- 1 Engage at a local level with communities, non-profits, civil society organizations.
- 2 Leverage existing market systems.
- 3 Focus on economic benefits rather than ecological ones.



CBF Projects

With the support of CBF, PADF is implementing community-driven ecosystem-based adaptation projects in two parts of Haiti.

These projects focus on the effective management of ecosystems to promote adaptation and sustainable economic growth for coastal communities.

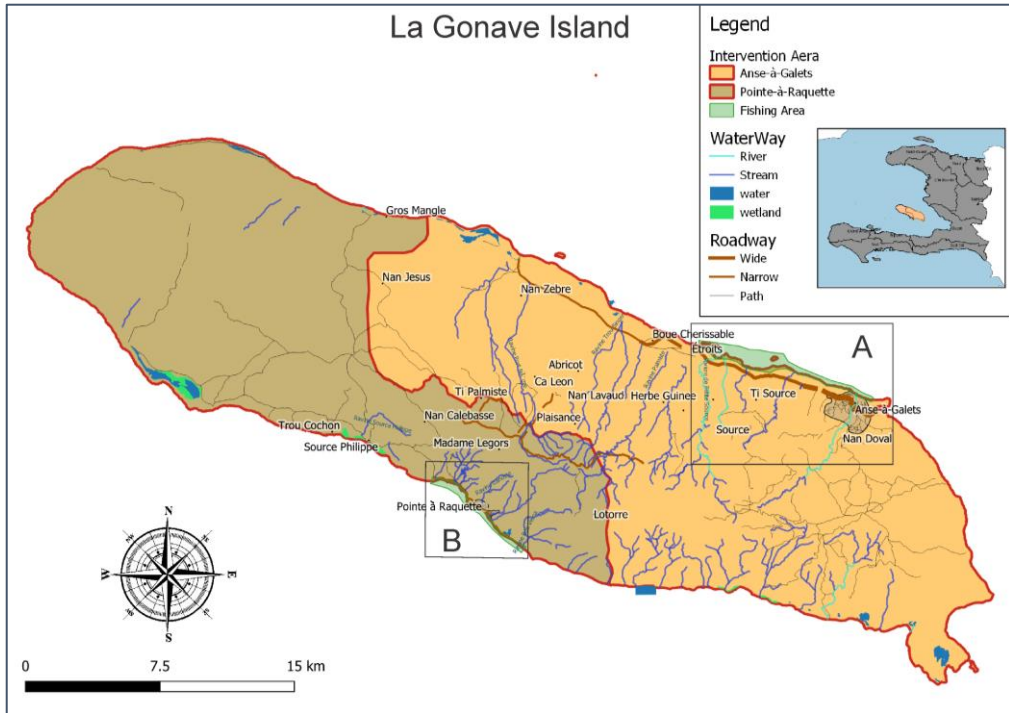


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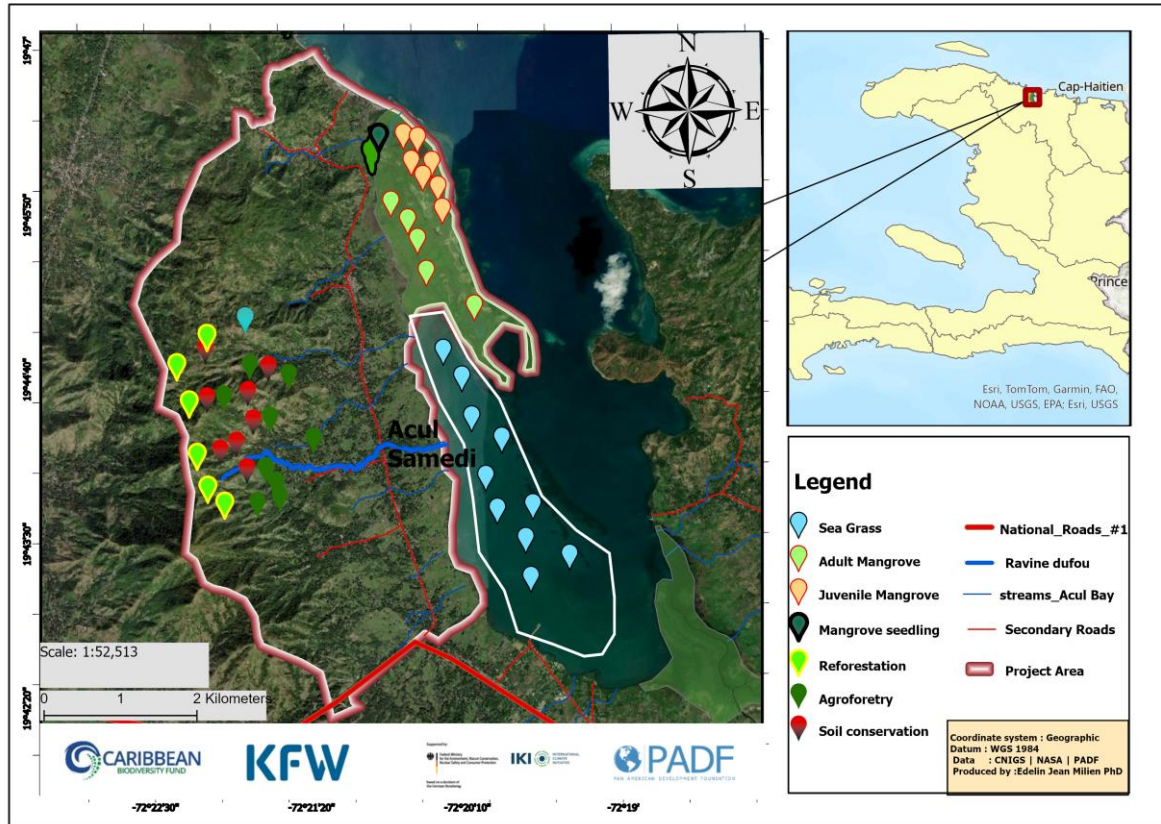
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La Gonâve

- Largest island around Hispaniola
- Key Biodiversity Area
- Containing over 1,085 hectares of mangroves and 3,725 hectares of coral reefs
- Two coastal communes: Anse-à-Galets and Pointe-à-Raquettes
- Risks of sea level rise and storm surge
- Deforestation and watershed degradation



Acul Bay

- Northern Haiti, west of Cap Haitien and North of Acul du Nord commune
- Key biodiversity hotspot
- Major habitat for aquatic birds
- Prime tourism destination
- Coastal flooding challenges and damage to marine ecosystems
- Deforestation, watershed degradation, and intensification of agricultural activities

The Projects

Community-led ecosystem-based adaptation projects

Objectives

1. Increase community resilience to climate risks through improved local governance
2. Decrease pressure on ecosystem services through access to alternative livelihoods
3. Restore and maintain ecosystem health in coastal and marine areas





PADF's Community-Driven Approach

The focus on being community-driven is key for community ownership, successful implementation, and sustainable project results.

This process has been successful in conflicted-affected contexts. In Colombia, PADF supported reintegration of communities following the civil war; in Haiti, PADF has worked with communities afflicted by gang violence or natural resource conflicts.

Blue Economy Planning

There is no single definition of the blue economy, but we think about it as the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources to promote economic growth, improved livelihoods, and job creation while maintaining ecosystem health for generations to come.

W WELL-BEING. Prioritize initiatives that deliver shared economic gains for all.

A ACCESS. Ensure that initiatives are accessible

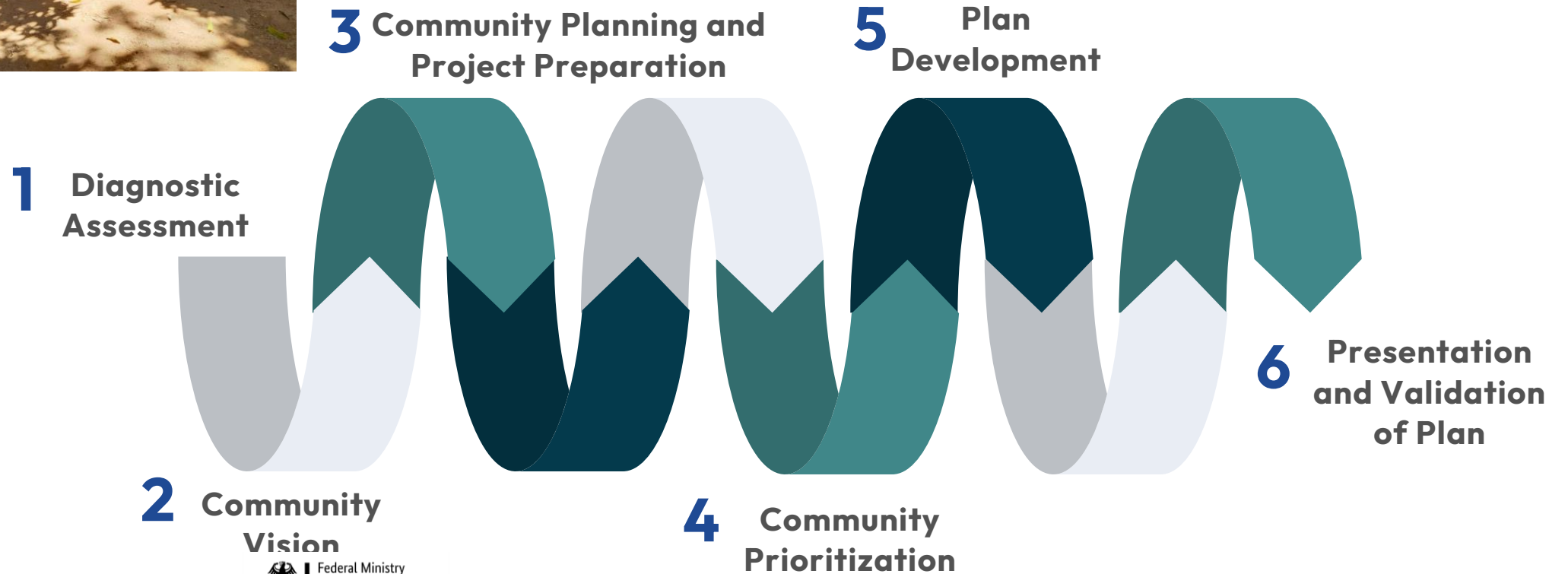
V VALUE OF NATURE. Recognize the essential role of oceans in economic development.

E ESSENTIAL NEEDS. Promote initiatives that meet basic human needs.

S STRONG GOVERNANCE. Champion participatory decision-making and strengthen local leadership and cooperation.



Blue Economy Planning Process





EbA Knowledge Building

PADFs trains a multi-sectoral stakeholder group on climate change risks, ecosystem services, and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches for disaster-resilient planning. This group serves as an initial group of stakeholders for a steering committee that works to identify, prioritize, and monitor community projects utilizing EbA approaches. This committee helps to ensure community involvement and sustainable implementation of EbA approaches.

In Acul du Nord, 72 stakeholders and community leaders have been trained in governance and climate change risks since 2024.





Valorizing Assets

The diagnostic assessment assesses the natural and built capital and activities the community's marine and coastal ecosystem, including:

1. Existing ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses, biodiversity, and resources such as marine minerals, etc.
2. Knowledge and skills related to use and management of marine resources
3. Existing infrastructure (ports, piers, fish processing facilities), equipment, technologies, and support services
4. Access to financing and credit for activities related to the blue economy



Emphasis on the Economics

Most of the human activity that places pressure on natural resources is driven by economic reasons.

By supporting existing livelihoods or creating alternatives, blue economy approaches increase buy-in for ecosystem-based adaptation.



Livelihoods Training

PADF focuses on pairing a combination of technical and practical training for greater engagement.

In La Gonave to date,

- 381 people trained in natural resource management
- 65 fishers trained in sustainable fishing techniques and over 8 fishers associations receiving sustainable fishing gear

In Acul du Nord to date,

- 50 farmers trained in agroforestry techniques
- 45 fishers trained in sustainable fishing

Tree nurseries as income-generators

In La Gonâve, PADF supported two tree nurseries, resulting since 2021 to date in:

- 113,665 mangrove seedlings planted
- 184,750 fruit, forest, and multipurpose trees planted
- 575 hectares of ecosystems restored

In Acul du Nord, since 2024:

- 52,000 forest and mangrove seedlings were produced and 20,185 tree seedlings planted
- Estimated 145 hectares restored



Community-Driven Implementation

Involving the community in project implementation helps to mitigate resource-driven conflicts. Community members can be engaged through activities such as 1) community events, 2) grant competitions, 3) partnerships with institutions like universities.

Community members in La Gonâve, especially youth, participated in community mangrove-planting days.



Replicable nature-based solutions

PADF projects promote replicable nature-based solutions like tree-planting, mangrove nurseries, soil stabilization, and sustainable fishing techniques.

1

Low-cost

2

Easily adopted

3

Replicable by communities



Institutional Engagement in EbA

Through a partnership with a Haitian university, 16 university students were trained in coral reef restoration. 20 A-frames were constructed and installed.



Blue Economy Enterprises

Grantmaking to organizations in Anse-a-Galets and Acul du Nord supports activities like:

- Agroforestry
- Sustainable Tourism
- Mangrove restoration
- Watershed restoration
- Apiculture/beekeeping
- Aquaculture
- Waste management and recycling

In Summary

Ecosystem-based adaptation projects present opportunities to promote community collaboration around a shared vision and mitigate potential conflict.

- 1 Build a knowledge base in the community for understanding risk.
- 2 Bring together diverse stakeholders from ridge-to-reef to develop blue economy plans.
- 3 Valorize marine assets and emphasize the economics benefits.
- 4 Provide livelihoods training and economic opportunities and support local businesses.
- 5 Engage the community through avenues such as community events, institutional partnerships, or grant competitions.

Thank you



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