



SOCIÉTÉ AUDUBON HAÏTI

**Toward an Improved Conservation Strategy for  
Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)  
in La Visite National Park, Haiti**

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Environment  
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## Introduction

This report provides a synopsis of recent and current development activities financed by foreign-assistance in the area of La Visite National Park, Haiti. The initial objective for this report was to better understand the purpose and substance of these local interventions in order to develop a more effective conservation strategy that targets the broadleaf forest deemed critical as a wintering habitat for Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*)<sup>1</sup> a Neotropical migrant bird. The conservation action plan of the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG, 2010) was reviewed in an attempt to align our recommendations for further action following this study. Hopefully, this report will enhance each group's awareness of priorities and current activities of the other groups working in the area. We hope that this enhanced awareness helps all groups to maximize synergy between activities, and to minimize the potential for interventions to negatively impact each other.

From the perspective of conservation of habitat for Bicknell's Thrush, the operating assumption is that any activity that directly or indirectly conserves or expands the area's highly diverse broad-leaved cloud forests supports conservation of Bicknell's Thrush. The goal of this report is to provide an overview of local activities and to prepare a logical framework that summarizes the most important aspects of local activities relevant to Bicknell's Thrush conservation in LVNP. Additionally, it provides a first step to organizing a proposal and action plan.

## Methodology

We developed a questionnaire to address basic questions regarding the goals and achievements of interventions financed or implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development agencies working in the area (See Annex 1 for organizational profiles). The information from the interview questions reveals what and how the organizations are addressing problems associated with the local environmental, social and economic situation. Our review and analysis of these activities is intended to provide a clearer understanding of the factors to be considered for more effective strategies designed to conserve the last remaining broadleaf forests in the area that are habitat for Bicknell's Thrush, as well as for other Neotropical migrant birds, and a host of flora and fauna endemic to Haiti. We conducted interviews with Fondation Seguin (a Haitian NGO), AECID (Spanish bi-lateral development agency), USAID WINNER (US bi-lateral project), GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) and two US-based NGOs, Community Development International, and Humanity First USA. Additionally, former GIZ development workers collaborating with Fondation Seguin in the area from July 2009-

February 2012 responded to the questionnaire in writing. All information regarding project accomplishments and future plans that is contained in this report is based on information provided by

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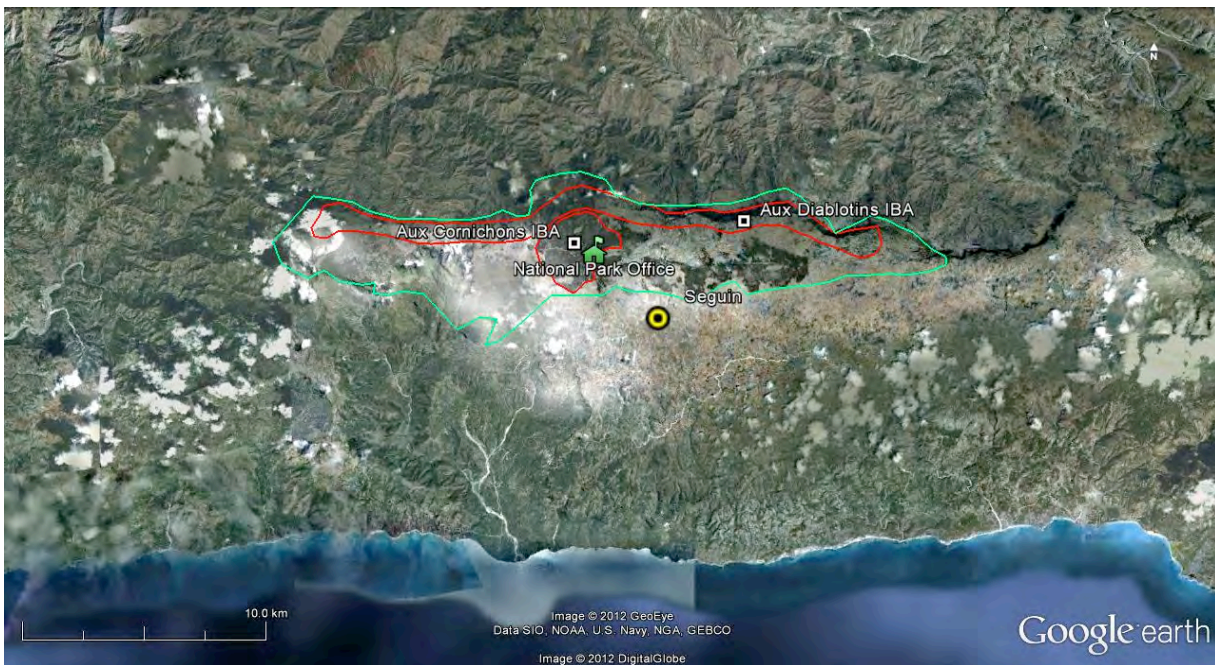
<sup>1</sup> There are two areas within proposed park boundaries that have been designated as Important Bird Areas. Both areas provide wintering habitats for Bicknell's Thrush.

interviewees or based on reports cited in the references section and websites that the organizations maintain. It is beyond the scope of this brief report to confirm all the information provided by the interviewees.

We tabulated results of the questionnaires by major activity category, then evaluated them for their importance to Bicknell's Thrush habitat conservation. Then, based on the field experience of the authors in Haiti and working with Bicknell's Thrush, we prioritized the actions required to improve the impact of such activities.

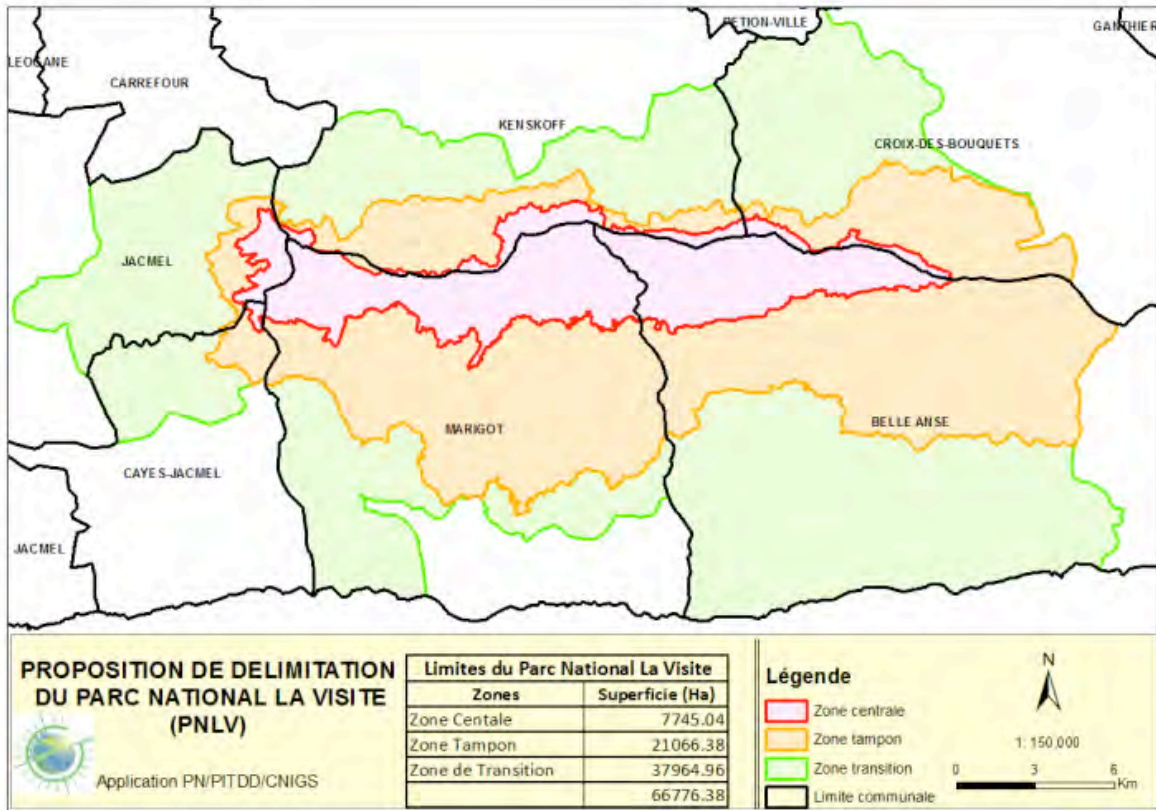
### Area Description

La Visite National Park is approximately 25 km south of Port-au-Prince, along the divide of the Massif de la Selle (Figure 1). The nearest town is Seguin which is an important regional market for vegetables and also the administrative center for various government agencies. See Timyan (2009) and Pollini and Goetz (2009) for detailed background information regarding this area.



**Figure 1.** La Visite National Park satellite image. The 2 IBAs are shown as red polygons and the proposed park boundaries are shown in green.

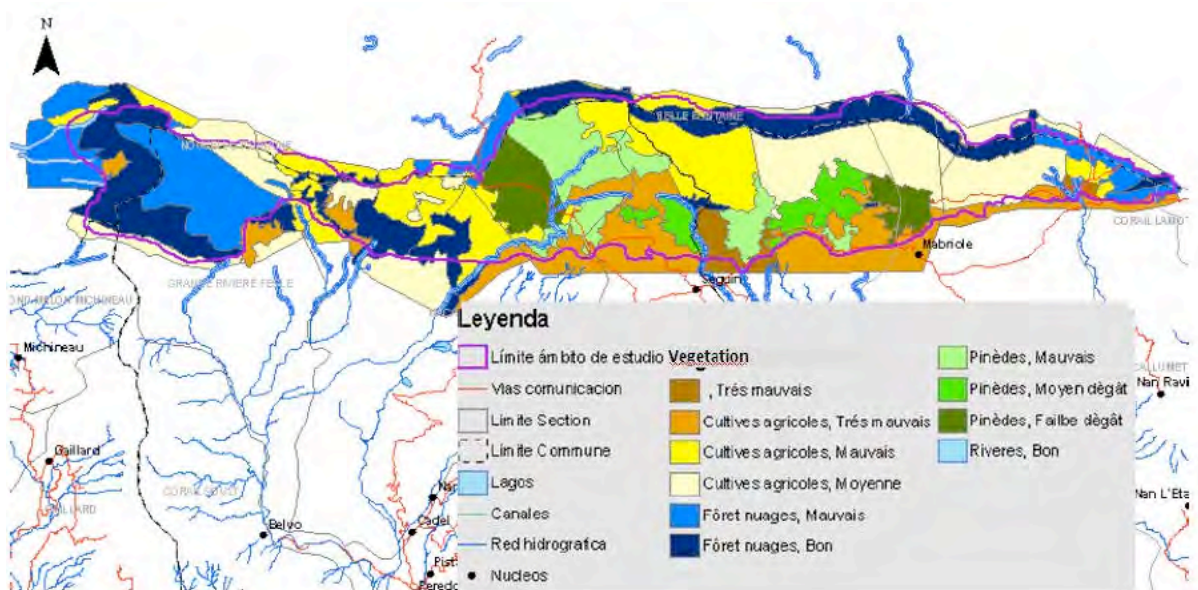
The proposed boundaries of La Visite National Park encompass approximately 7745 hectares (CNIGS, 2012) as shown in Figure 2. Despite official declaration of the park in 1983, exact boundaries have never been established, nor has any clear policy been implemented to resolve the inevitable conflicts over land tenure and land management inside park lands.



**Figure 2.** Proposed boundaries of La Visite National Park. Violet shading outlined in red shows core park area. Orange shading shows the buffer zone, and green shading shows the transition zone.

The prominent geological features of the region are the karst topography and the east-west faulting of the geological substrate giving rise to the 400 m high escarpment just inside the park’s proposed northern border. What remains of the natural broadleaf forests are degraded fragments along steep slopes of this escarpment that are subject to continuing livestock grazing, harvest of fuel wood and other forest products. Invasive plants and animals may present additional conservation challenges. The two types of forests are native Hispaniolan Pine (*Pinus occidentalis*) forest on drier, rockier sites and a highly diverse broad-leaf forest that occupies the wetter sites. Figure 3 shows the distribution of vegetation types.





*Figure: Vegetation actuelle*

**Figure 3.** The remaining fragments of native forest are shown in blue (broadleaf cloud forest) and green (pine forest). Dark blue and dark green shades indicate the forest patches with the least disturbance. Brown, yellow and white areas are highly disturbed and generally in various modes of agricultural use.

### Summary of Activities

Although there is some overlap between categories, the activities of the NGOs and government development agencies operating within the park’s proposed boundaries generally fall into the following categories: 1) Alternative Land Use; 2) Alternative and Enhanced Livelihoods, 3) Sustainable Consumption of Local Natural Resources; 4) Governance, and 5) Social and Health Services. These categories are sometimes associated with a particular project and budget with measurable performance indicators such as the number of trees planted or the length of rock walls built to prevent erosion.

#### 1. Alternative Land Use

Several organizations support activities that seek to alter land use. Fondation Seguin (FS) and AECID have managed projects that employ large numbers of local residents, and have planted tens of thousands of trees in the eastern-most section of the park, east of the town of Seguin. Primarily seedlings of Hispaniolan pine, have been planted, with some emphasis on native broadleaf species, or fruit trees (chiefly avocado and peach). Both organizations have supported projects that directly paid local residents to plant trees for a daily wage, or per tree planted, an arrangement locally termed *cash for work*. FS and AECID both maintain nurseries to produce the pine seedlings, although FS has also paid local residents to harvest wild pine seedlings for later transplant to deforested areas. The two organizations combined have planted over 200,000 seedling trees. This is equivalent to approximately 150 hectares planted at an average density of 7.5 m<sup>2</sup> per tree.

The tree-planting projects are intended to restore forest cover while providing much-needed cash income for local residents. However without sufficient attention focused on the longer-term

stewardship needs such as post-planting maintenance, control of risks (livestock grazing, fire, weeds), the primary impact may be short-term enhancement of local livelihoods, with little or no appreciable long-term effect on forest cover.

In collaboration with GIZ consultants, FS began to approach tree-planting more holistically (Lange et al., 2011). In 2010-2011 FS established a pilot program of three types of formal contracts that directly paid local landholders<sup>2</sup> 1) to restore deforested and degraded areas of their land by planting native tree species; 2) to dedicate a portion of their farmland to raise endemic trees from seeds and seedlings, for use in local reforestation and 3) to engage in stewardship contracts to protect intact forest habitat and any newly reforested areas on their land from grazing and conversion to agriculture. As part of contracts to grow seedlings and to use them in reforestation, local residents raised and planted 53,000 native trees on 12 ha of degraded lands. After training by an FS agronomist, locals collected seeds and successfully propagated ten native species. This is a significant accomplishment because it is the first time these trees have been propagated for use in reforestation. FS is trying to grow several other native species but is encountering difficulties associated with seed availability, lack of propagation knowledge and in some cases, lack of interest in species without direct economic values.

In 2010, FS signed pilot stewardship contracts with 8 landholders for 21 ha, and in 2011, with 12 landholders for 36 ha. To date compliance with the contracts has been uneven. Valuable lessons learned from the pilot stewardship contracts that may pose problems for future implementation include 1) the difficulty of independently confirming compliance, 2) lack of adequate control of threats to the forest for some landholders; 3) the difficulty of withholding payment in the event of compliance failure, especially if non-compliance is associated with trespassing and other violations by third parties; 4) the lack of incentives for neighbors to support compliance; 5) payment may not reflect opportunity costs, surveillance costs and other costs of stewardship that landholders incur, 6) lack of optimal timing of payments. In the absence of any other forest conservation activities, such as intervention by Ministry of the Environment, similar forest stewardship contracts appear to have the best potential for effective forest conservation. However, the above issues would have to be comprehensively addressed to significantly impact land use in LVNP.

Starting in fall 2012, funding from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) will enable Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) to take the lead on assisting FS to improve and extend implementation of all three types of contracts. This project is slated to continue reforestation work and expand to include more intact broadleaf forest to eventually encompass a total of 60 ha of intact and reforested land within two years. VCE will also monitor the project area for Bicknell's Thrush and other Neotropical migrants.

## **2. Alternative and Enhanced Livelihoods**

Efforts to enhance local livelihoods and household incomes include: 1) improvement in agricultural production, 2) access and promotion of alternative micro-enterprises (e.g., sewing, horticulture, retail) and 3) improvement of degraded lands through soil conservation structures (e.g. rock walls, planting

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<sup>2</sup> All land in this area is legally State Land and the landholder(s) may or may not be the actual person(s) who pays rent to the *Direction de Gestion des Impôts* (the government tax authority). De facto tenure is also affected by sub-leasing, sharecropping or other social arrangements that allow access to a particular land parcel.

perennial vegetation along the horizontal contours, hedgerows) via cash-for-work programs. These activities are subsidized by international funds, among other things, via support personnel, capitalization, and training. To what degree such activities remain sustainable beyond the set project timelines is questionable, although some marketable items, such as improved wood stoves or eco-charcoal (see below), have the potential to generate sufficient profit to encourage entrepreneurial activity, and become self-sustaining. However, most of these alternative livelihood options even if successful, are at best supplementary to other sources of income, since income levels and profit margins by themselves are inadequate to support a household.

Often, the employment of local residents to plant trees, build rock walls and establish soil conservation structures is intended primarily as an alternative livelihood, and only secondarily for its potential environmental benefit. These jobs programs have not yet been evaluated for short or long-term impacts on the environment or the overall ecological health of natural ecosystems.

The rock walls are designed to help stabilize slopes by slowing runoff and increasing infiltration rates to recharge the aquifer. Typically they are constructed under contract (per cubic meter constructed); however, supervision and quality control can be variable and must be improved to avoid long-term consequences and investment risks of poor construction. It is unclear if perceived benefits over the next 3-5 years will exceed construction and maintenance costs. If terraces created upslope of the walls help retain costly fertilizer and other chemical inputs for vegetable gardening, benefits may well be higher than costs. However, where rock walls are built on highly eroded areas or areas that are inherently unstable and prone to landslide, environmental benefit will be minimal, and the main benefit will likely be only enhanced local incomes.

USAID WINNER has proposed a scheme to establish alternative livelihoods on a large scale, by promoting a shift of households and livelihoods to areas outside the park's proposed core zone. This plan would incentivize migration of residents out of the core park area and into the buffer zones, particularly those households that were established inside proposed park boundaries after the 1983 decree. The project would underwrite most of the capital, training and management costs of establishing intensive greenhouse vegetable production outside the park in exchange for permanent relocation of families from areas inside the park and the additional requirement that abandoned lands be restored to their natural state. This initiative has yet to find a local partner willing to implement the requirements of such a scheme. Furthermore, the mid- to long-term maintenance and security costs of restoring such lands have not been determined.

### ***3. More Sustainable Consumption of Local Natural Resources***

Activities in this category introduce new technologies to conserve local natural resources by decreasing consumption of local wood for daily cooking. Ideally, this translates to a net positive impact on the conservation of cloud forest habitat. The two solutions that FS is promoting to this end are improved wood stoves and the use of a manufactured eco-charcoal product (from recycled biomass). Much of the supply costs of the eco-charcoal is absorbed by sponsors, since it is manufactured north of Port-au-Prince and the additional transport costs would likely price the eco-charcoal out of the local market. Community Development International (CDI), is also working to secure funding to provide and promote improved cooking stoves.

The current supply of improved stoves and eco-charcoal are financed by FS and their sponsors. Two women in the park area sell the stoves slightly above wholesale prices to gain a small profit. FS report a distribution of around 200 stoves. With a high rate of adoption, the reported increase in wood use efficiency of 40-50% could substantially reduce cutting of local forest for daily cooking wood.

#### **4. Governance**

These activities fall into several categories, both direct and indirect support to elected and non-elected government personnel in the park and surrounding area. The Spanish-financed AECID directly supports the Ministry of Environment to conduct scientific, maintenance and security functions (e.g., training of park guards) of the park. This includes funding the delimitation of park boundaries through the Centre Nationale de l'Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS) which is a branch of the Ministère de la Planification et de la Coopération Externe. USAID WINNER trained park guards to use GPS technology to inventory agricultural fields and their owners inside park boundaries as part of initiative to begin offering incentives to move out of the park. However, this initiative was discontinued by USAID WINNER before meeting its objectives.

Fondation Seguin supports several areas of governance in addition to the AECID-funded initiatives. These include: 1) facilitation of equipment purchases, support for the repair and construction of facilities and administrative services – all to the benefit of the Corps de Surveillance; 2) organization of pressure groups in the area, particularly that attempt to control free-range livestock grazing; 3) pressure on government agencies to assume responsibility for management of park lands, including the re-location of households residing inside proposed park boundaries to buffer zone areas; 4) management contract with the government of Haiti through Système National des Aires Protégées (SNAP) to work with the local communities on various park-related initiatives in the buffer zone; and 5) liaison between the local and international organizations and between the local communities and President Martelly's administration.

#### **5. Social and Health Services**

Two groups, Community Development International (CDI) and Humanity First USA, provide social services in the Seguin area. The end effect of these services on forest conservation and on activities by other groups is unknown, but these groups provide services that enhance the wellbeing of local residents, and can have an important effect socially, if not environmentally.

CDI promotes an eco-enterprise system that actively seeks to avoid dependence on support from development agencies and organizations by promoting activities that develop revenue streams for the participants. It does, however also support key investments in community health such as a public latrine built in the town of Seguin to help improve sanitation and reduce the incidence of cholera. CDI plans to introduce composting latrines to the area in the near future.

CDI has supported alternative livelihoods by teaching local women to knit hats and scarves that are to be sold in New York City, with proceeds returned to the workers, and to community projects in the area. CDI has also taught local residents to collect and dry chanterelle mushrooms that grow naturally in the local pine forest. They intended the mushrooms for sale to tourist resorts, as well as for domestic sale, and for exports to the Dominican Republic. CDI is working to secure funding for a 300,000-tree planting



initiative, fruit-tree planting, and the promotion of improved cooking stoves as mentioned above. In the future, CDI plans to explore the potential for hands-on volunteering and diverse outdoor eco-adventure activities, such as mountain biking, horseback riding, caving and hang gliding.

Humanity First USA (HFUSA) began operating the Cloud Forest Medical Clinic near Seguin in 2010. As the only source of professional health care within a six-hour hike of Seguin, it served over 10,000 patients for a variety of infectious and chronic diseases. Recently HFUSA closed the clinic to transition to a more economically and socially sustainable model. In the new model, HFUSA collaborates with the Haitian Ministry of Health to support the dispensary in the village of Seguin and community health training initiatives. HFUSA also provided funds to build a school for 170 primary school students in Baie d'Orange, a few kilometers east of Seguin. HFUSA will help provide funds for teachers to continue support that school in the future. While environmental education is not explicitly integrated into curricula, Fondation Seguin provided 400 pine seedlings which students planted near the school.

### **Barriers to Effective Protected Area Management**

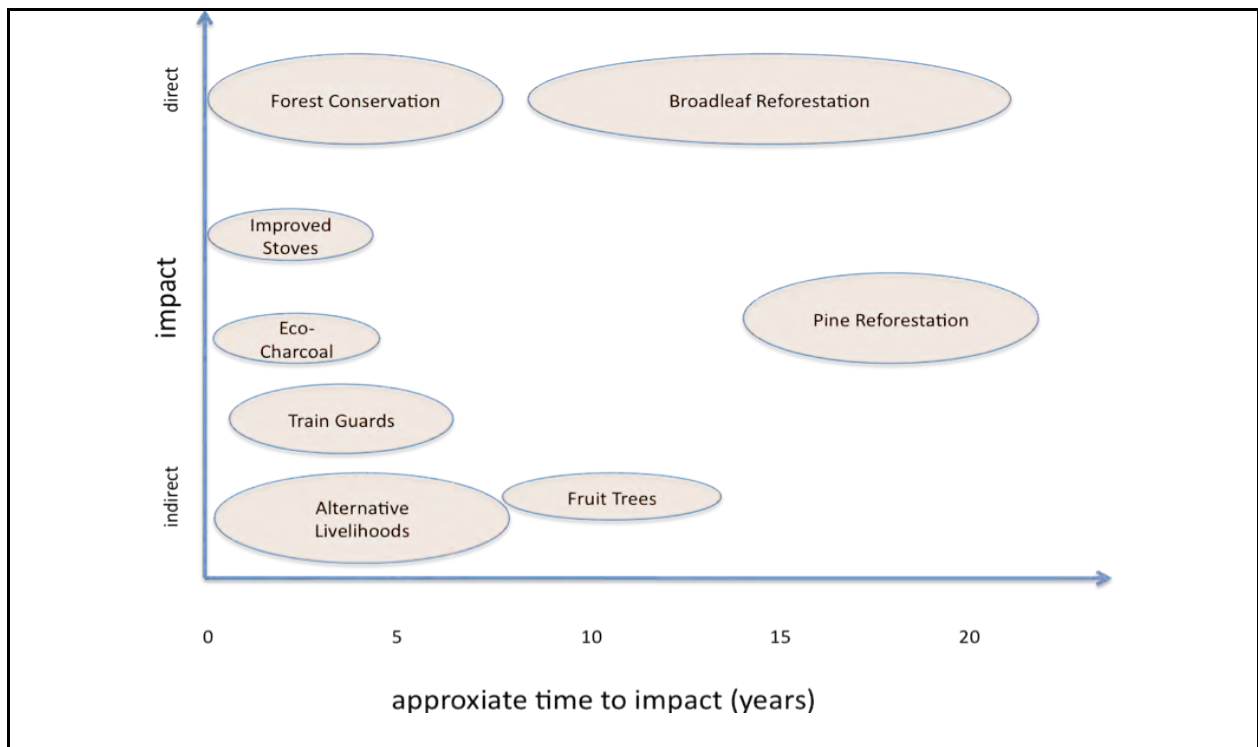
The organizations operating in the area of LVNP were asked – “What are the main stumbling blocks to achieving your intended results?” The responses are typical of many rural initiatives in Haiti:

1. Lack of direct government interest among key representatives of the government;
2. Lack of Ministry of Environment competency to manage protected areas;
3. Lack of coordination and information flow among donors and implementing groups that might benefit best management practices;
4. Low level of education and capacity among the resident population;
5. Inadequate capital resources (human, financial, infrastructure);
6. Inefficient and incompatible policies of the operating organization coupled with inexperience and lack of technical knowledge within the donor community;
7. Trend toward “handouts” that promote dependencies and receiving attitudes among local residents;
8. General political and economic insecurity.
9. Difficulty in dealing with highly embedded norms and expectations of local partners that project resources would be readily available to be appropriated for private gain.
10. Lack of relationship of healthy trust, respect and collaboration between local residents and outside groups working for conservation or human development in the region.

These barriers are typical for Haiti, and will present significant and persistent challenges to any conservation or development intervention. Notwithstanding, they help identify factors that must be considered to design an effective approach to protect and restore Bicknell's Thrush habitat.

**Current Activities Relevant to Bicknell’s Thrush conservation**

Figure 4, below, shows the current interventions that are most relevant to Bicknell’s Thrush habitat conservation. The relationships depicted are schematic in nature, since the causal relationship between the interventions and habitat conservation has not been rigorously evaluated.



**Figure 4.** Likely impacts of activities on Bicknell’s Thrush conservation showing anticipated impacts, if direct or indirect, and approximate time to impact in year. Relative size of ellipse indicates anticipated relative size of impact.

## Logical Framework

Table 1 shows a log frame that summarizes a proposal to improve the success of conservation efforts targeting Bicknell's Thrush at La Visite National Park. It is based on the current context of project activities in the area and may change as new information becomes available and as conditions change.

**Table 1.** Logical framework of Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) conservation strategy in La Visite National Park.

| <b>BITH Habitat Conservation Initiative in LVNP</b>                               |  | <b>May 2012 – April 2015</b>              | <b>Haiti, Massif de la Selle, La Visite National Park</b>                         |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Goal: Conserve, restore and expand BITH habitat in La Visite National Park</b> | <b>Verifiable Indicators</b>                               | <b>Means/Sources of Verification</b>      | <b>Assumptions</b>  |
| <b>Results</b>  |  |   |   |
| <b>1</b> Habitat Conserved  |  |   |   |
| <b>2</b> Local Awareness Increased  |  |   |   |
| <b>3</b> NR Use Efficiency Increased  |  |   |   |
| <b>4</b> Governance Improved  |  |   |   |
| <b>Activities</b>   |  |   |   |
| <b>1.1</b> PES contracts evaluated  | Area, location, compliance to TOR                          | GPS, evaluation manual, geo-spatial tools | Contracts available and in effect; contract holders willing to participate        |
| <b>1.2</b> Habitat inventory completed  | Area, location, habitat quality, flora and fauna inventory | GPS, inventory data, geo-spatial tools    | Habitats accessible, inventory specialists available                              |
| <b>1.3</b> New contracts signed   | Contracts, location  | Documents, contracts                      | Potential contract holders available and willing to participate, secure financing |
| <b>2.1</b> Environmental Education outreach strategy developed                    | Strategic Plan   | Plan review                               | Strategy specialists available  |
| <b>2.2</b> Educational and public awareness material disseminated                 |  |   | Budget secured, targeted audience available                                       |
| <b>2.3</b> Outreach program evaluated   |  |   | Outreach strategy implemented, evaluator available                                |
| <b>3.1</b> Improved stoves evaluated  | Stove eff., Sales, Demand, Limitations                     | Data, Interviews, Stove supply, receipts  | Data available  |
| <b>3.2</b> Agroforestry & soil conservation evaluated                             | Tree quality, soil cons. structure quality, yields         | Data, area under improved agriculture     | Data available  |
| <b>3.3</b> New strategy finalized   | Strategic Plan   | Plan review                               | Strategy specialists available  |
| <b>4.1</b> Security of habitat parcels evaluated                                  | Parcels, threats, social analysis                          | GPS, geo-spatial analysis, interviews     | Social & political conditions are stable  |
| <b>4.2</b> New security & monitoring strategy finalized                           | Strategic Plan   | Plan review                               | Strategy specialist available   |
| <b>4.3</b> Stakeholders trained   | Training Sessions, stakeholder participation               | Participants, training manual             | Stakeholders available & willing to participate, training specialist available.   |

## Recommendations

Conservation strategies targeting Bicknell's Thrush in the area of La Visite National Park can be more effective by addressing key institutional, cultural and socio-economic factors. Many of these factors serve as both a barrier to alternative conservation strategies as well as offer sustainable opportunities to stem the decline in native habitat and its presumed negative impact on the local populations of wintering Bicknell's Thrush. Furthermore, failed efforts to delimit park boundaries, establish government control over park lands and implement a park management plan severely limit what options might be considered feasible over the long-term. Despite the best of intentions, in some cases, humanitarian efforts that provide free goods and services may undermine attitudes, behaviors and efforts that support conservation and sustainability.

- 1) Conservation of cloud forest habitat creates an opportunity cost for the same Haitians whose need to earn a livelihood poses the greatest direct threat to the forest's existence. Any effort to conserve such habitats requires a clear understanding of the social and economic benefits derived from exploitation on one hand, and on the other hand, an adequate balance of incentives, sanctions and direct and indirect benefits derived from conservation. In order to truly change land use, the incentives to conserve land must more closely linked to performance, and an effective system of accountability must be implemented.
- 2) Short-term economic initiatives implemented to enhance local incomes and quality of life must be implemented in ways that minimize potential short and long-term ecological impacts - many of which, unfortunately, are difficult to predict. However, it is clear that initiatives that incorporate ecological requirements of native flora and fauna will increase value of local habitats for local biodiversity and for ecosystem resilience.
- 3) Independent, scientific monitoring and evaluation of the ecological impact of local initiatives to conserve and protect native habitats is required. Conservation and ecological impacts are prone to being dismissed as unimportant or at least of less value than the economic and humanitarian efforts that prevail in the area.
- 4) Strategies need to be developed in participation with the local stakeholders to implement activities of the IBTCG Action Plan: 1) Improve protection of broadleaf forest that provides BITH winter habitat; 2) Develop habitat-specific management plans; 3) Pilot winter habitat restoration areas; and 4) Verify scientific data regarding distribution, winter habitat use, overwinter survival and BITH demography relative to habitat condition and quality.
- 5) Although some residents are aware of locally observed bird species, few if any are aware of the importance of biodiversity in the local environment and why it is important to conserve Haiti's biodiversity, including Bicknell's Thrush. Public awareness and outreach strategies that are designed and innovatively adapted to the local culture to overcome this barrier could help strengthen local conservation values.

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**Annex 1.** Organizational profiles for organizations with active projects in areas of Bicknell's Thrush wintering habitat, La Visite National Park, Haiti.

## **Organizational Profiles**

**AECID.** The *Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo* (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation) works to achieve sustainable human development, the eradication of poverty, active peace-building and the full exercise of the rights of global citizenship. AECID works in over 50 countries worldwide to fight poverty and exclusion, defend peace, work for the environment and sustainable development, respond to conflict and natural disasters and promote education rights, health, culture and food security. AECID has worked in the Seguin area since 2008.

**BirdLife.** BirdLife International is a global Partnership of over 100 conservation organizations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The BirdLife Partnership forms the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and the issues and problems affecting bird life. Société Audubon Haïti has been BirdLife's partner in Haiti since 2009. For its work in Haiti, BirdLife also collaborates closely with many conservation and development groups that work in Haiti or support work there, including CWS, CLO, Durrell, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, MacArthur Foundation and, Rezo Ekolo (a Haitian umbrella organization for conservation groups).

**Canadian Wildlife Service.** Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) handles wildlife matters that are the responsibility of Canada's federal government, such as protection and management of migratory birds as well as nationally significant wildlife habitat, endangered species, control of international trade in endangered species, and research on wildlife issues of national importance. Its interest La Visite National Park is part of its support of conservation of long-distance migrant birds that nest in Canada and overwinter in Haiti.

**Community Development International.** CDI began working in Haiti right after the 2010 Earthquake. It works with community development projects both internationally and locally in the areas of education, agriculture, environmental protection, energy, eco-enterprise, health and others. CDI initiates internal projects and collaborates with other organizations and individuals on project creation and implementation within their focal areas.

**Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.** Founded in 1915, the Cornell Lab is a nonprofit organization supported by 45,000 friends and members. It is a world leader in the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds. Its hallmarks are scientific excellence and technological innovation to advance the understanding of nature and to engage people of all ages in learning about birds and protecting the planet. Its involvement in Haiti began in 2009 through support for graduate student research on bird and forest conservation and through training opportunities for SAH field staff.

**Fondation Seguin.** FS was founded in 2004 by Haitian entrepreneurs to serve the La Visite National Park region from its administrative office in Port-au-Prince, and from its field headquarters near Seguin. FS receives both public and private funding as well as technical support to conduct environmental education program, soil conservation, agroforestry, improved cooking stoves and advocacy for improved management of La Visite National Park. On-site at Seguin, FS currently employs two full-time Haitian agro-technicians, and collaborates with an environmental conservation expert supported by GIZ.

**Annex 1.** Organizational profiles for organizations with active projects in areas of Bicknell's Thrush wintering habitat, La Visite National Park, Haiti.

**GIZ.** The *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (Agency for International Cooperation) operates worldwide and on behalf of the German Government to promote international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ technical advisers work with local organizations to induce positive change to empower local people to shape their own futures. Since 2009, GIZ has supported environmental conservation advisors to collaborate with at FS at its Seguin headquarters, and with several other conservation and development organizations in Haiti.

**Humanity First USA** was incorporated in 2004 in affiliation with its parent organization, Humanity First that is working in 33 countries, and whose focus is on disaster relief and human development. Humanity First USA operated the Cloud Forest Medical Clinic near Seguin from 2010-2012, but recently closed that clinic to transition to a more sustainable model that involves collaborating with the Haitian Ministry of Health to support the local dispensary and community health training initiatives. Other collaborators with their work are the Haiti Epidemic Advisory System and Doctors Without Borders.

**Société Audubon, Haïti** . SAH was founded in 2003 as a non-profit foundation whose mission is to conserve the biodiversity and natural ecosystems of Haiti through research, education, conservation and national-international partnerships. Since its inception, SAH has been a leader in conserving Haiti's natural areas and unique biodiversity through partnering with leading international conservation organizations in research, education and outreach.

**USAID-WINNER.** Initiated in 2009, WINNER (Watershed Initiative for National Natural Environmental Resources), is a five-year project financed by USAID (US Agency for International Development) and implemented by Chemonics, that seeks to sustainably increase incomes of rural households through a package of services set around 1) improvement of agricultural production, 2) stabilizing watersheds, 3) strengthening agricultural markets. Its project area overlaps with the proposed park boundaries on the heavily forested northern escarpment. The WINNER project area overlaps with the proposed boundaries of La Visite National Park on its northern edge, on a steep escarpment that harbors that largest remnant (~200 ha) of cloud forest in the park.

**Vermont Center for Ecostudies.** VCE is an independent research group dedicated to the understanding and conservation of birds and other wildlife. With a reach extending from northern New England through the Caribbean to South America, their work in wildlife research and population monitoring strives to unite people and science for conservation. VCE has researched ecology and conservation of birds in the Dominican Republic since 1994, and in Haiti since 2004. VCE has supported graduate study and trained dozens of field technicians in both countries. It is closely allied with the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group which promotes conservation of Bicknell's Thrush in winter and summer habitat.

Other organizations that have been active, or are currently active in the general area that are not included in this report include Canadian Red Cross, Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement (DINEPA), Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale (FAES), The Raincatchers, World Food Program (WFP) and World Bank.

**Annex 2.** Questionnaire for project managers representing institutions active in areas of Bicknell Thrush wintering habitat, La Visite National Park, Haiti.



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada



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| <b>CWS / Bicknell's Thrush Conservation / La Visite National Park / Haiti</b>   |
| <b>Objective:</b> To investigate current interventions by foreign-assisted organizations and agencies in LVNP area that may impact wintering habitat of Bicknell's Thrush ( <i>Catharus bicknelli</i> ).  |
| <b>Methodology:</b> Using a questionnaire format, interview key individuals responsible for institutional presence in proposed area of LVNP. Profile target population, development sector (e.g., education, health, business, credit) and policy). If given permission, audio record conversation in addition to taking notes. Respect privacy concerns and do not publish confidential information. |

**Individuals and Institutions Interviewed for Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Strategy Document**

| Name                          | Institution         | Based in           | Contact information                           | Interviewer             |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Yves-Andre Wainwright         | USAID WINNER        | Peguey-Ville       | 3619-1869, yawainright@winner.ht              | Joel Timyan             |
| Monika Lange, Christian Novak | GIZ/DED             | Germany            | info@monikalange.de<br>christian.novak@web.de | submitted questionnaire |
| Christiane Delfs              | GIZ                 | Mousseau (Bourdon) | 3748-3908, christiane.delfs@giz.de            | Juan Carlos             |
| Serge Cantave                 | Fondation Seguin    | Petion-Ville       | 3604-1919, 3445-0111                          | Joel Timyan             |
| Philippe Léon                 | Fondation Seguin    | Petion-Ville       | philippeleon@mac.com                          | Joel Timyan             |
| Charles Ménard                | Araucaria XXI/MDE   | Jacmel             | 3675-8517, chdmenard@yahoo.fr                 | Joel Timyan             |
| David Palacios                | Araucaria XXI/AECID | Port-au-Prince     | 3491-2043, david.palacios@aecid.ht            | Juan Carlos             |
| Winnie Attie                  | Fondation Seguin    | Petion-Ville       | winthrop_attie@yahoo.com                      | Juan Carlos             |
| Clayton Bell                  | Humanity First USA  | AR, USA; Seguin    | mtndoc4@gmail.com                             | Jim Goetz               |
| Matthias Resch                | CDI                 | NYC, Seguin        | matthias_resch@hotmail.com                    | Jim Goetz               |

**Questionnaire of Institutions active in the area of La Visite National Park, Haiti**

1. Name.
2. Email.
3. Organization.
4. Years working in the current position in Haiti.
5. Please describe briefly your current work responsibilities.
6. Start date, End date.

**Annex 2.** Questionnaire for project managers representing institutions active in areas of Bicknell Thrush wintering habitat, La Visite National Park, Haiti.

**General Project Information**

7. Name of the project.
8. Number of people involved, In situ, Ex situ.
9. Describe briefly the main objectives of your project.
10. Project budget (in USD).
11. Did you participate in the design of this project?
12. Identify in a map the area of intervention of the project (mark on attached maps).
13. Who are the stakeholders / beneficiaries?
14. Describe the main results achieved to date.
15. What are the main stumbling blocks that you have identified to achieve your expected results?
16. If you had the opportunity to start this project all over again, what would you like to do different, if anything?
17. What do you think will happen when your project comes to an end?
18. And five years later?
19. If you received additional funding of, let's say \$1 million USD for your project, what would you recommend to do with the money?
20. Which of the following activities is your project involved in? Government, Reforestation Soil Conservation Social Services (education, health, other) Agricultural Production, Business, Coops, Marketing, Biodiversity Conservation.

**Governance**

21. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe what is the project about?
22. Who are the stakeholders?
23. What services or goods do you provide to local elected officials?
24. What services or goods do you provide to non-elected government personnel?
25. What activity do you engage in that supports local groups to protect the park or natural areas?
26. What activity do you engage in that supports the resolution of conflict over use of park resources?

**Reforestation**

27. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe what is the project about?
28. Who are the stakeholders?
29. Do you pay your stakeholders to plant trees?
30. Do you pay your stakeholders to take care of the trees?
31. Do you use any other type of economic incentives to achieve your results?
32. What are you planning to achieve by the end of the project?
33. What are the species being used to reforest?
34. What kind of follow-up are you using for this activity?

**Soil Conservation**

35. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe what is the project about?
36. Who are the stakeholders?
37. Do you pay your stakeholders to do soil conservation?
38. Do you pay your stakeholders to take care of any physical structure built to ameliorate soil loss?

**Annex 2.** Questionnaire for project managers representing institutions active in areas of Bicknell Thrush wintering habitat, La Visite National Park, Haiti.

39. Do you use any other type of economic incentives to achieve your results?
40. What are you planning to achieve by the end of the project?
41. What kind of follow-up are you using for this activity?

**Social Services**

42. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe the project.
43. Who are the stakeholders?
44. Do you pay your stakeholders to take care of any physical structure built to provide these services?
45. Do your stakeholders pay any part for the type of social service you provide?
46. What type of incentives are there to comply or adopt the practices that you are promoting?
47. What are you planning to achieve by the end of the project?
48. What kind of follow-up are you using for this activity?

**Agricultural Production, Business, Coops, Marketing**

49. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe the project.
50. Who are the stakeholders?
51. Do you offer subsidies or loans to plant/protect or market a specific crop?
52. Do you use any other type of economic incentives to achieve your results?
53. What are you planning to achieve by the end of the project?
54. What kind of follow-up are you using for this activity?

**Biodiversity Conservation**

55. Is your project involved in this activity? If so, describe the project.
56. Who are the stakeholders?
57. Do you pay your stakeholders to protect any particular species or ecosystem?
58. Do you use any other type of economic incentives to achieve your results?
59. What are you planning to achieve by the end of the project?
60. What kind of follow-up are you using for this activity?

**Final Question**

61. Who would you recommend to interview based on the objectives of this questionnaire?