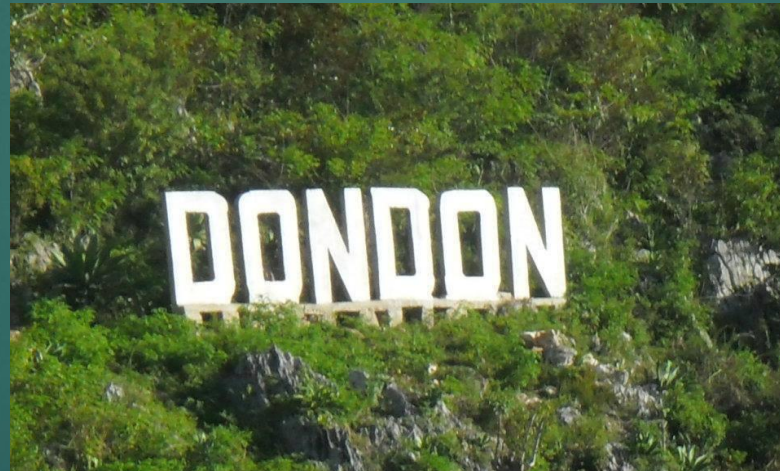




ODID ORGANISATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
INTEGRAL DU DONDON



**A NATURAL TREASURE**

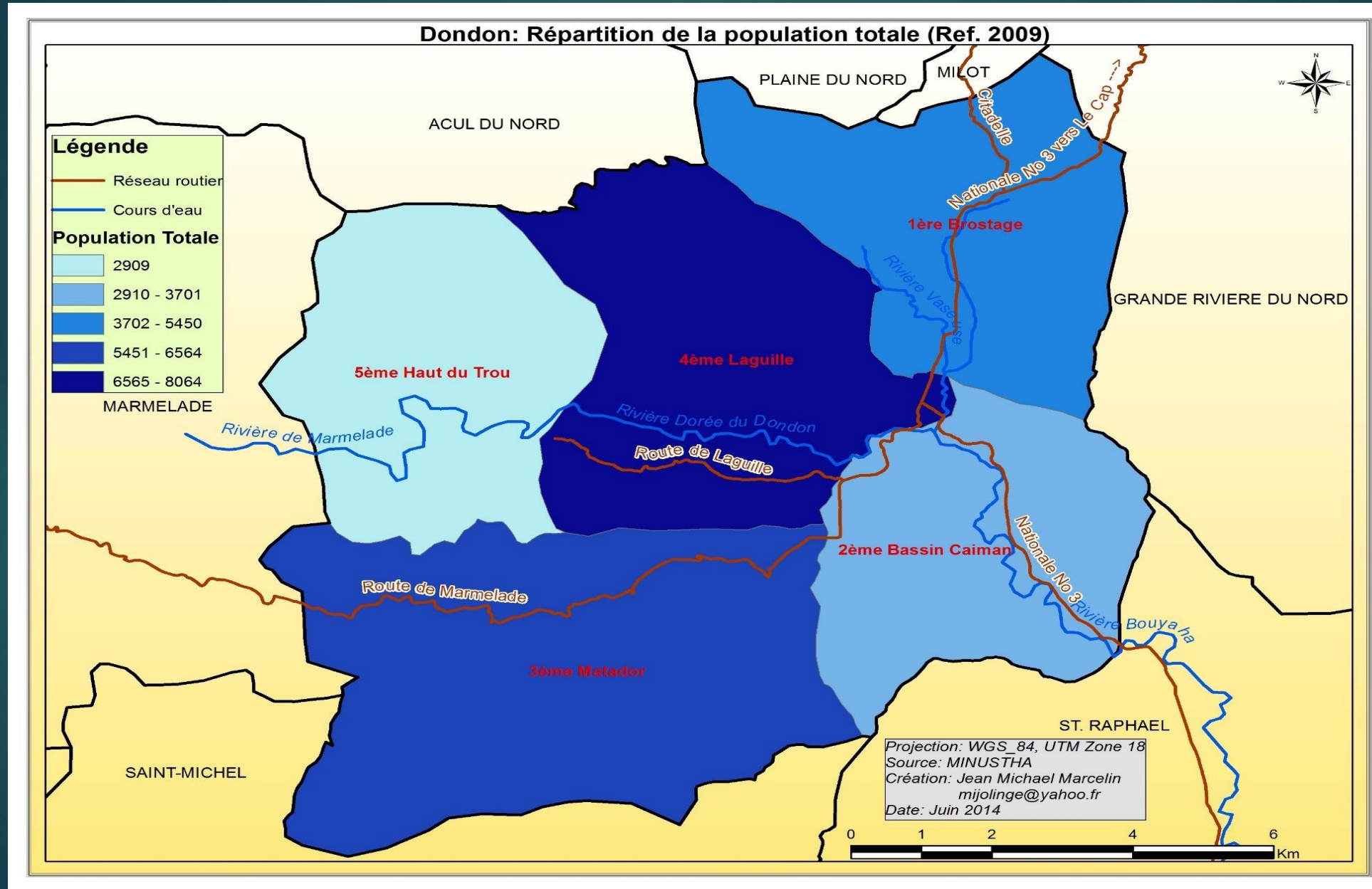
# DONDON

Dondon is located in the department of Nord , about 30 km south from Cap- Haitian, and 290 km from Port -au- Prince (106 km by plane) .

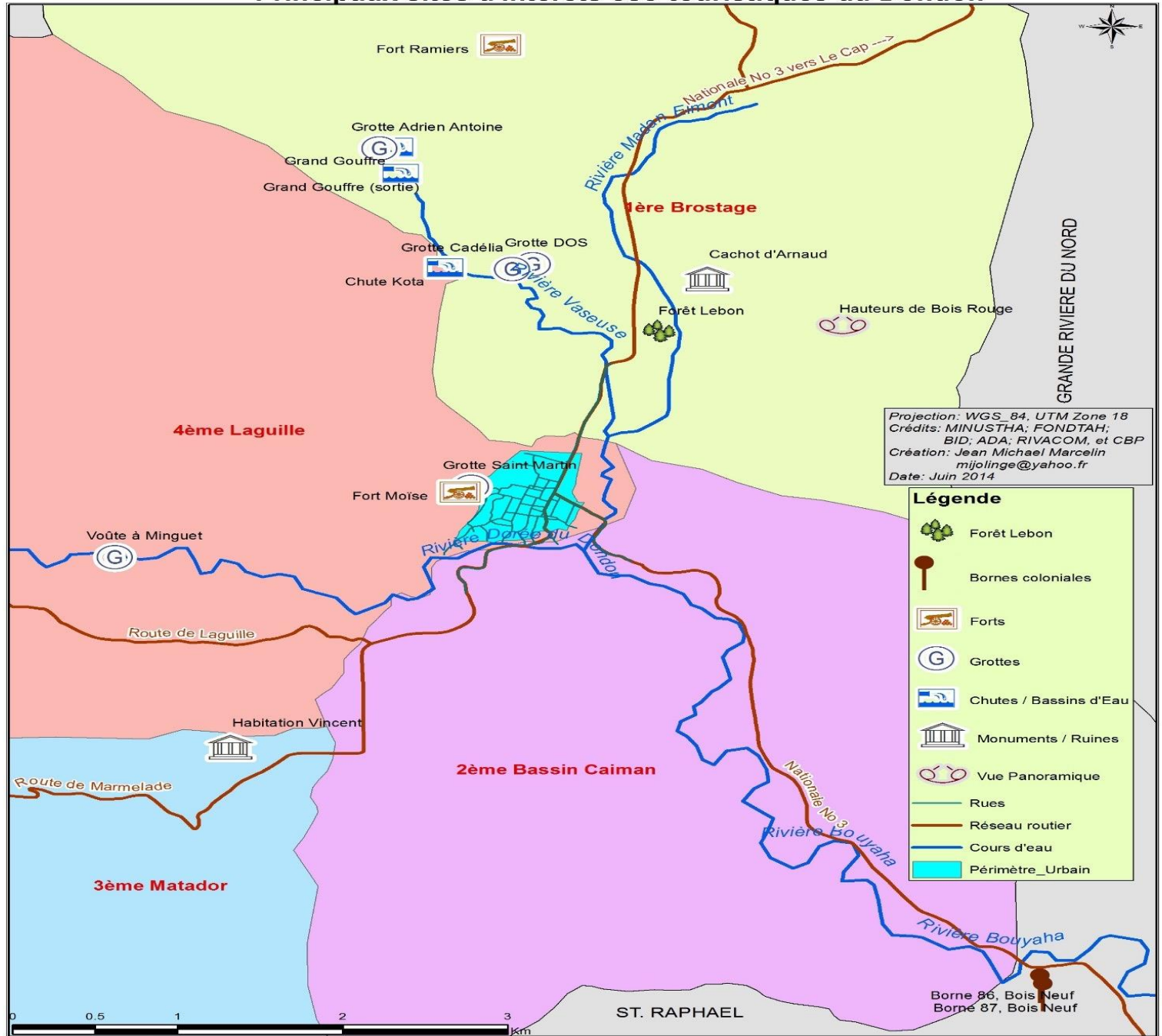
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ History
- ▶ Population
- ▶ Coffee
- ▶ Demographics
- ▶ Mountains
- ▶ Water

The village , situated at an altitude of about 425 m above sea level, is surrounded on all sides by mountains . Some of Dondon's mountains are part of " Bonnet a L' Leveque 's mountains chain which houses the Citadelle Laferrière .

The highest point of the municipality is located in Haut-du - Trou at 1028 meters above sea level. In general, the air is cool, temperate and healthy.



### Principaux sites d'intérêts éco-touristiques du Dondon



Projection: WGS\_84, UTM Zone 18  
 Crédits: MINUSTHA; FONDTAH;  
 BID; ADA; RIVACOM, et CBP  
 Création: Jean Michael Marcelin  
 mjolinge@yahoo.fr  
 Date: Juin 2014

**Légende**

- Forêt Lebon
- Bornes coloniales
- Forts
- Grottes
- Chutes / Bassins d'Eau
- Monuments / Ruines
- Vue Panoramique
- Rues
- Réseau routier
- Cours d'eau
- Périmètre\_Urbain



GRANDE RIVIERE DU NORD

ST. RAPHAEL

# HISTORY

- ▶ Dondon was a gateway between the north and the rest of the country and separated the French and Spanish territory, as a result it played a leading role in the war of Independence. It is true that Dondon is better known for being Vincent Ogé and Gabart Le Vaillant 's birthplaces. Ogé as one of the first martyrs of freedom and Gabart Le Vaillant as one of Haiti's Independence War heroes.

History tends to associate Dondon with these two heroes and " Voute a Minguet" which in pre-Columbian times was a place of pilgrimage for the Indian Tainos of the island. however seems to have omitted other important stories such as....

# History continued.....

- ▶ 1 - The Jesuit, Le Pers who provided Charlevoix most of the information of his "History of St Domingo" , died in Dondon
- 2 - Father Hague after having been arrested and accused of promoting and engineering the slave insurrection in the North, was drowned by order of Rochambeau in Cap\_Haitian harbor. He was Dondon's priest in 1792
- 3 - In 1791 , Jean -Francois and Biassou , leaders of slave rebellion attacked Dondon and killed hundred whites.
- 4 - In 1794 , Toussaint Louverture attacked Dondon , took it from the Spaniards and made it a French territory. This feat greatly contributed to increase Toussaint's influence.

# History continued.....

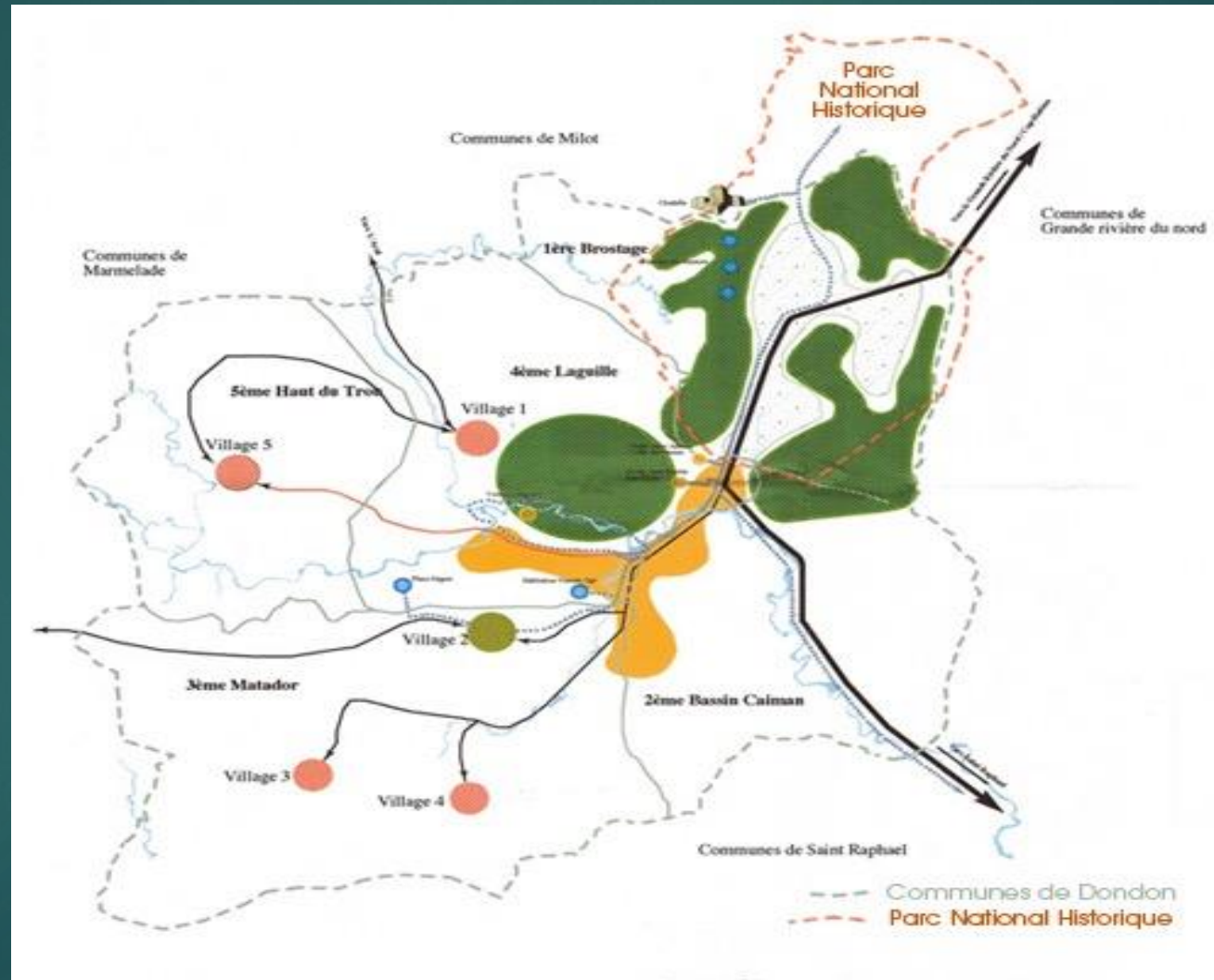
5 - Roume was prisoner in Dondon

6 -After the arrival of the St-Domingue Expedition , General Hardy attacked Dondon and Christophe was forced to retire in disorder in Marmelade after leaving a portion of his troops to delay Hardy .

7 - In 1802, The Dondonnais , after chasing Christophe as commander Dondon , accusing him of having terribly hunted them as a French officer , was visited by Dessalines. Dessalines wanted to indulge them into accepting Christophe . Dessalines worked out a deal with the Dondonnais by sending Christophe to Milot .

It is the history, the geography, the small stories mixed with the beautiful landscape and the hospitality of his sons and daughters, who have inspired ( ODID ) to work toward the betterment of Dondon worthy of its history and natural resources.

# Dondon in the Parc National Historique





# INFRASTRUCTURE Challenges

- The paving of the town has been stopped since 2015 before it was fully completed.
- Recovery of the drinking water system linked to the completion of the street paving
- The housing stock is neglected, and not maintained
- No soccer field
- Need for Electrification of the municipality of Dondon

## Infrastructure continued...

### ▶ **Environment:**

- Reforestation and protection

### ▶ **Transportation & Roads:**

- Completion of the national highway # 3
- Improvement of the highway between Dondon or Cap-Haitian
- Construction to access "voûte a Minguet" via Matador
- Improvement of the way from Carrefour Seze to the Citadel parking
- Construction of bridges between Pignon and St. Raphael

# Economic challenges

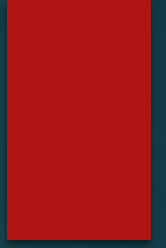
- Agriculture-Loss of coffee plantations due to invasion of mites. General reduction in coffee production
- No other organized industries
- Citrus are currently dying
- Effects of Emigration-Abandoned unkept housing stock
- Exodus and Influx of the population
- Poverty

# Social Issues

## Lack of social Outlets

- **No** current soccer field for major sports activities. No volleyball, basketball programs.
- No movie theatre
- No cultural activities
- **Community Isolation**

# Background/History



- ▶ Creation of ODID

# MISSION



**ODID** is nonprofit and apolitical founded in 2013. Its mission is to promote the social and economic development of Dondon via ecotourism through community engagement.

# OBJECTIVES

- ▶ To promote the natural and cultural-historical heritage of Dondon
- ▶ To organize social, health, economic and environmental improvement projects
- ▶ To promote a diversity of cultural products and events  
To Encourage self-maintenance of tourism activities  
To provide centralized information and technical assistance to sectorial organizations
- ▶ To involve rural communities in ecotourism and all other improvement projects
- ▶ To organize public efforts to promote activities concerning environmental protection and preservation of natural, cultural and historical monuments.

# ORGANIZATION FOR DONDON'S INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (ODID)



- ▶ Haiti & Diaspora
- ▶ Committees
- ▶ Commissions



HEALTH

# Community Health

- ▶ **Health (ODID santé):** The population of Dondon is 35,000 with the size of 121 km<sup>2</sup> divided into 5 rural jurisdictions (Brostage, Laguille, Matador, Haut-du-Trou and Bassin-Caiman) and the town's Central area. Health care is inadequately rendered through a dispensary and a health center located in the town where a physician visits 2 days a week. In the rural areas where most of people live, healthcare is non-existent, leaving people susceptible to otherwise treatable diseases.
- ▶ **Goal:** ODID's Health division goals is to improve access to healthcare to the Dondon community. Our Health committee is composed of members from New York, Miami, Georgia, Dondon, Cap- Haitiien and Port-Au-Prince

# ODID Santé

- ▶ Objective 1: Offer regular mobile clinics in all the villages in the town. More than 2000 patients have been seen 2015. The team participated in Matthew response in November 2016.
- ▶ Objective 2: Build a health care center for urgent care and basic health services in the rural area of Brostage to offer basic health services



# Medical Missions

- ▶ ODID Medical Missions in Dondon, Haiti  
ODID Santé also organizes medical mission trips in Dondon Haiti for both medical and non- medical students.
- ▶ Students will have the opportunity to shadow providers and directly interact with patients for hands on assessments, patient intake, clinic triage, provider-patient care, and direct patient education.
- ▶ In addition, the mission combined a historic visit as the town of Dondon is situated in the North of Haiti and occupies 60% of Haiti National Historic Park. It provides the opportunity to visit the Citadelle fortress, Ramiers Forts and Sans-souci palace, a world heritage. Dondon is also the city of caves, it counts more than a dozen including the famous, pre- Columbian Voute a Minguet, sacred temple of Indian Tainos. providers.



# SOCIAL PROGRAMING

# Youth Issues

- ▶ Dondon young people faced limited opportunities for education and training, viable employment and health and social services. The lack of basic resources gave rise to a plethora of problems such as unwanted pregnancies, juvenile delinquency, social isolation, high levels of youth unemployment, including long-term unemployment, inadequate opportunities for vocational education, and training prevalence of debilitating disease, and hunger and malnutrition.

# Youth Program Social Activities

- ▶ **Objective I: Establish a multi- sport youth initiative (5-18)**

Activities: 1) Train 600 youth in various sports; 2) host competitions

- ▶ **Objective II. Maintain a youth club of 100 kids groups**

Activities: 1) Train youth in theatre, arts & crafts;  
2) implement a civic, health, computer and language curriculum

- ▶ **Objective III: Develop girls' leadership (ages 8-15)**

Activities: 1) Teach leadership skills; sex education and HIV prevention

- ▶ **Objective V: Organize a summer and winter camp**

Activities: 1) Recruit and train instructors / camp counselors; 2) implement programs in sports, theatre, arts & crafts, health, computer skills, language, leadership development; 3) provide daily meal for campers

- ▶ **Objective VI: Youth Sustainable Development Program (15-18 year- old)**

**Activities:** workshop series on: 1) sustainable development 2) global issues; 3) the environment; 4) how they can take action in their environment for positive change



# Youth Programs

- ▶ *Objective VII: Building Playgrounds:* Our goal is to also have a playground in the five areas in the community. The playground is a lovely thing to have in a town, and it greatly enhances the overall quality of life there. The community will benefit aesthetically, socially and even financially from a vibrant, active town center, and what better way to draw families into town than with a well-designed playground.
- ▶ *Objective VIII: Advocate for the construction of a Soccer Field.* There is no soccer field in the community.
- ▶ *Objective IX:* This year we want to introduce an Art Competition in the schools. We are impressed by the talent and creativity of Kids in the community we have seen. Our goal is for students to have exposure to art and opportunities to expand their creativity. We hope our contest help to introduce and raise interest in art programs in schools and in the lives of children.





# EDUCATION

- ▶ **Objective IV: Maintain an academic scholarship program (Ages: 3-5)**

Activities: 1) Recruit sponsors; 2) monitor academic progress; 3) renew annual sponsorship

- ▶ **Establish and open a Pre-school in the Fall of 2020**

Activities: 1) Raise funds; 2) Identify space; 3) Recruit teachers and students; obtain materials and furniture; Adopt curriculum; Open school

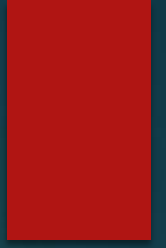


# Recreational Activities:

- ▶ **Toy Distribution:** Local toy collection campaigns begin in September and last until mid to Mid-November. Members of the collect new, unwrapped toys that are shipped to Haiti last week of November. At Christmas, Coordinators, with the assistance of local volunteers, distribute the toys to the less fortunate children of the community.
- ▶ **Easter Scavenger Hunt: Continue to** organize a scavenger hunt activity for kids for Easter. The first one was held in 2016 and was very successful.
- ▶ **Field Day:** This activity is held during the annual festival for kids from age 5-9



# SPORTS



# 10k Marathon

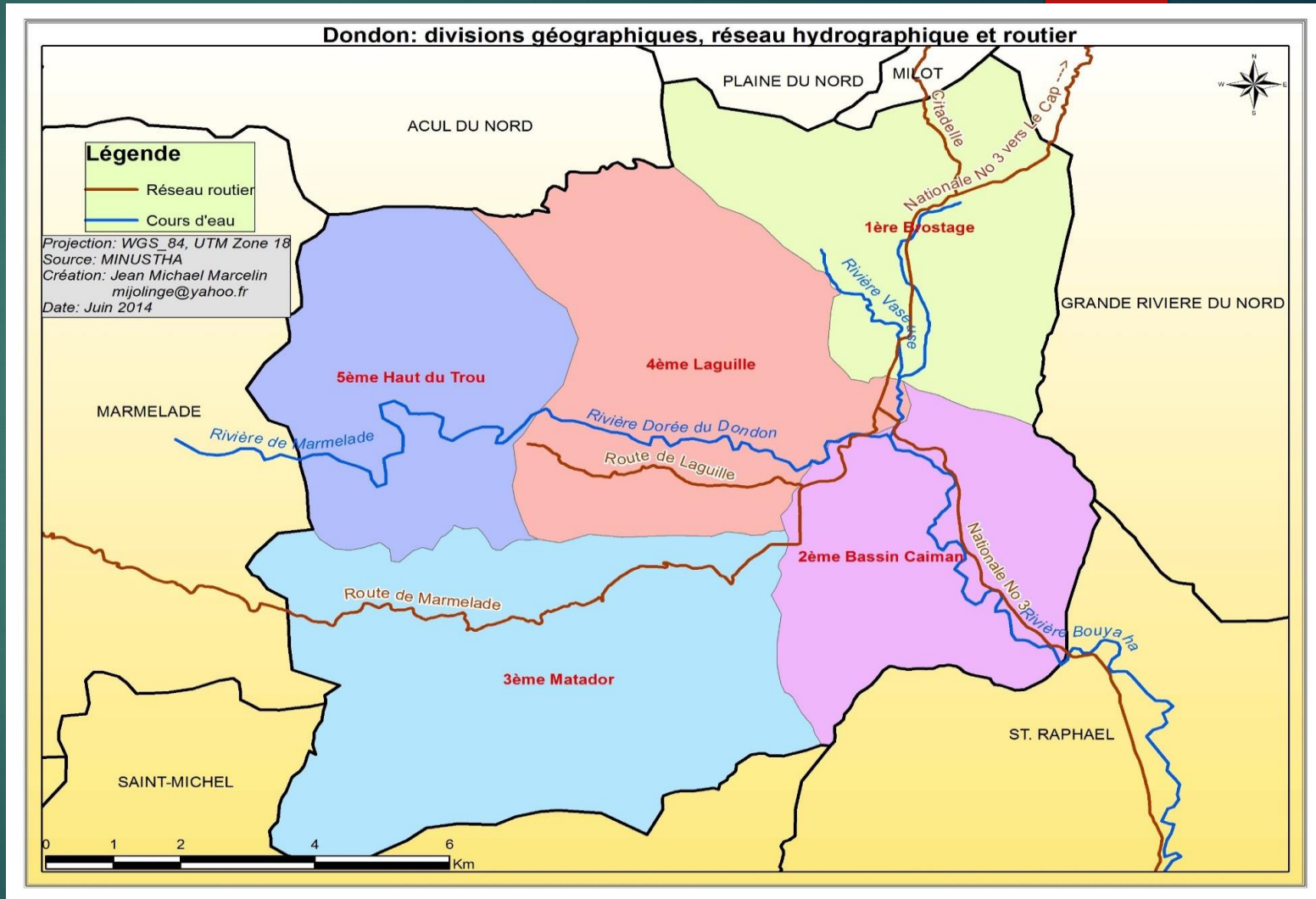
- ▶ Instituted in November 2013, in 3 categories in 4 competitions for the year including:
- ▶ St. Martin, in November
- ▶ New Year's Eve week-end
- ▶ Easter week-end
- ▶ Festival in July



# ECOTOURISM

# Dondon... an Ecotourism Haven

**Dondon** is for the Speleologist, Researcher, Anthropologist, Sociologist, Geologist, Historian, the Adventurous, the intelligent vacationer, the Hiker, the nature lover or those who want to simply discover or re-discover Haiti; and last but not least for every “Dondonnais” who just wants to return home and reconnect....



# Speleotourism

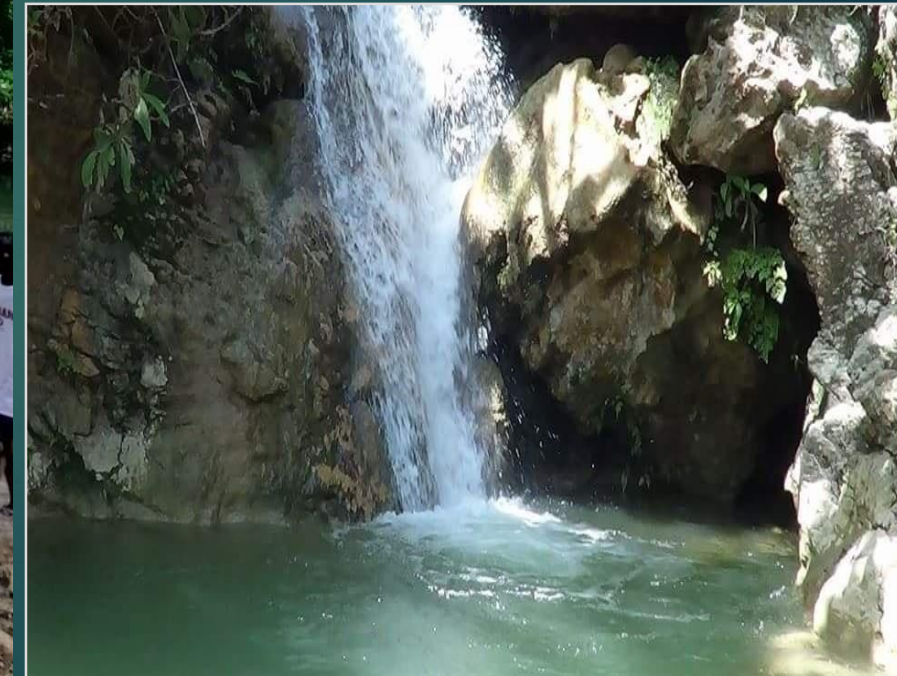
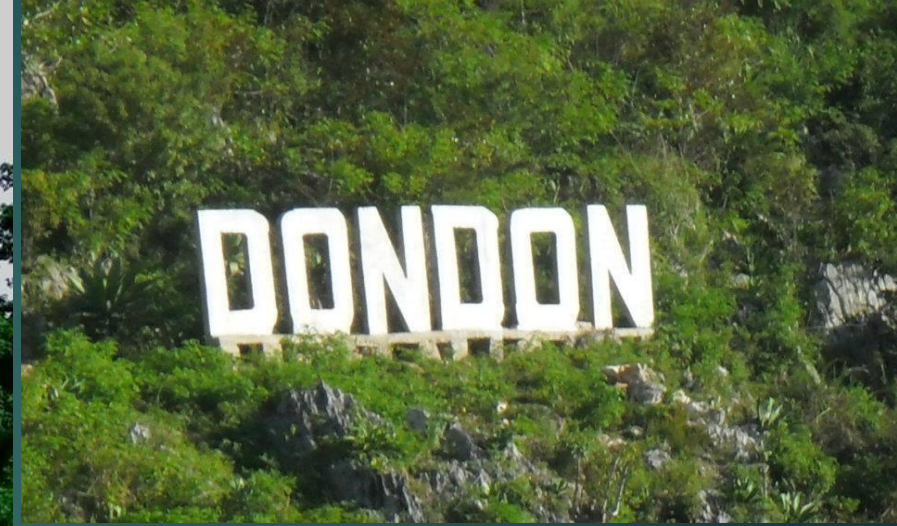
- ▶ Discover the culture of the Taino Indians through the Voute a Minguet, the most sacred temple of the first inhabitants of Haiti
- ▶ Enjoy the Spéléotourism with tours of the caves one more beautiful than the other, including voute des Dames and voute St. Martin, Marc Antoine, Cadélia, Antoine Adrien, Nan Michel I and II
- ▶ Live the pilgrimage of St. Jacques Laporte



# Hiking & Sightseeing Tourism

Appreciate the unique ecology and geology of Dondon with hiking to "deux rochers à l'Aguille, the waterfall of Cotard and the Grand Gouffre of Vaseux

Enjoy the panoramic views in altitude provided by our majestic mountains including our Hollywood "DONDON" erected above the town.





# Historical Tourism

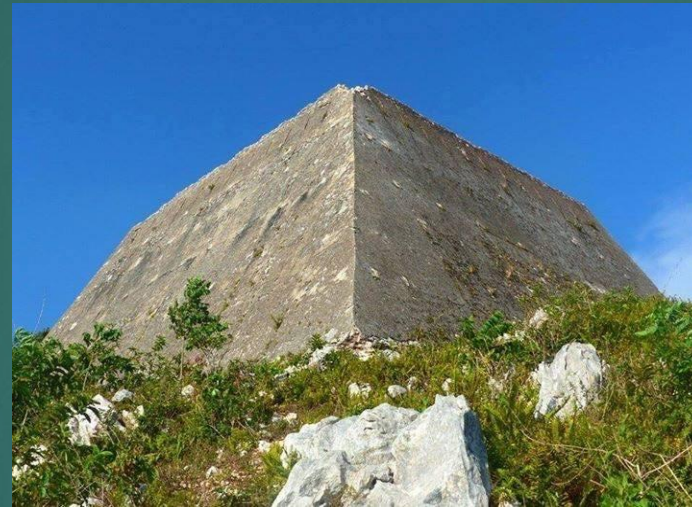


- Visit the Henry Citadel and the residence of Queen Marie Louise Coidavid located on the fortified sites of Ramiers.
- Deepen your knowledge of Haiti's history through famous men such Dondon Gabart Vaillant, Vincent Ogé alongside the great heroes of the history of Haiti as Toussaint Louverture, Henri Christophe, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Alexandre Pétion.
- Visit the remains of the house of Vincent Ogé and the coffee cooperative of the same name at Matador, and go a little higher at "Plas nèg" at "Habitation Dupuy".
- Visit Brostage oldest coffee cooperative in Haiti, the Cooperative Agricultural Caféière Gabart Le Vaillant founded in 1955, and the colonial jail cell at Habitation Arnaud.
- Visit coffee plantations worthy of the historical legacy of Dondon as the second region of the island of Haiti where whole towards the 1710-1735 years, has established and developed the cultivation of coffee.

# Ramiers sites- A World Heritage in Dondon

## 2016 site exploration visit

ODID Ecotourism –A Priority



# Cultural Tourism

Satisfy your curiosity of indigenous religions including:

- ▶ St. Martin town Celebration, November 11th.
- ▶ The 5 Villages feast celebrations throughout the year
- ▶ Laporte St. Jacques pilgrimage in July

# Dondon Eco/cultural and Historic Tours:

## **Goal:** Increase the number of visitors to Dondon

Objective 1: *Host groups of visitors internationally and locally. Our welcoming committee are able to customize the tour in clusters based on interests:*

1. Circuit Carrefour Seize : Citadelle, Forts Ramiers
2. Circuit La paire 1: Cave NMichel I & II
3. Circuit La paire 2 : Cachot d'Arnaud & Coopérative Gabard le Vaillant
4. Circuit Kota : Cave Cadélie / chute de Kota
5. Circuit Vaseux : Cave Adrien (Trou la Fimen) / Grand Gouffre/La Porte St. Jacques
6. Circuit Pont des Dames : Cave Des-Dames & Cave Marc Antoine
7. Circuit du Bourg : Cave Saint-Martin & Fort Moise
8. Circuit Bassin Caïman : Sentier Borne coloniale de Bassin-Caïman/Calvaire
9. Circuit Matador: Habitation Vincent Ogé/Forêt acajou/Coopérative Vincent Ogé
10. Circuit Laguille : Voûte à Minguet / Deux-Rochers
11. Circuit Haut du Trou : Hiking





# Infrastructure Improvement

# Sanitation:

- ▶ **Goal:** Is to improve the lubricity of the environment
- ▶ *Objective I:* The sanitation system and regular trash removal of the town is very inadequate. There is no budget or plan for the maintenance of our historical sites. ODID has establish a sanitation committee that has conducted activities to encourage responsibility in hygiene, and new toilet construction. The coordinator of this committee also works very closely with ODID santé on logistics and health education.
- ▶ *Objective II:* Toilet construction: ODID wants to develop a campaign “one family, one toilet”. The goal is to see that each family has access to toilet over the next five years.

# Radio & communication

- ▶ **Goal:** Improve the communication system including radio and Television in the community. The radio station has been built in April 2016.
- ▶ *Objective I:* Maintain the radio programming to keep the community informed.
- ▶ *Objective II:* Establish a Solar system for electricity to sustain a 24-hour radio
- ▶ *Objective III:* Advocate for 4G internet service that would allow to broadcast over the internet that would improve programming and better reach the community
- ▶ *Objective II:* Establish a TV station

# Hospitality

- ▶ **Goal:** To increase lodging options for visitors
- ▶ *Objective I:* Encourage investment in host houses
- ▶ *Objective II:* Hospitality: We believe the number of visitors will continue to grow over the years we therefore want to encourage locals to retrofit their homes with modern toilets so the town can host more visitors.
- ▶ *Objective III:* Increase diversity of food production in the community

Since 2016, a family has built a hostel “Auberge du Parc” that can host 100 individuals equipped with a functioning restaurant open to the public.





# The clean Water Project

- ▶ **Goal:** improving the community access to clean water. The lack of proximate sources of potable water means villagers are forced to drink from sources including irrigation ditches and streams, containing high rates of harmful micro-organisms not only due to their open nature, but because often they have already passed through and been used by upstream communities and animals. Often government institutions have little presence or their programs and services are non-existent.
- ▶ Objective I: Our goal is to build 7 more in other rural communities.
- ▶ *Objective II:* Advocate for clean water as a health improvement goal.
- ▶ *Objective III:* Spring water collection system: Spring catchments make accessing spring water much easier than trying to scoop water out of the dirt. Our main objectives of making a spring water collection system are: 1. directing the spring's flow for practical uses and; 2. protecting these water sources from contamination.



# Environment Improvement Project

- ▶ **Goal:** ODID is concerned with the welfare of people, the use of land, design of the urban environment including transportation and communication networks, and protection and enhancement of the natural environment and related to infrastructure that can enhance the charm and aesthetics of the town:
- ▶ *Objective I:* Conservation of natural areas and wildlife.
- ▶ *Objective II:* Conservation, preservation, maintenance and improvement of access and hospitality in touristic sites
- ▶ *Objective III:* Increasing awareness of the environment and nature in general among tourists.
- ▶ *Objective IV:* Tree protection campaign
- ▶ *Objective V:* Build a nursery for the preparation of flowers and seedlings
- ▶ *Objective VI:* Conduct awareness education on the radio on tree protection, and reforestation



# Restaurarion& beautification EFFORTS



# Touristic site Improvement



- ▶ **Goal:** ODID has made cave ecosystem preservation a top priority.
- *Objective I: Policy:* Develop a conservation policy to enter the caves and attraction sites under protected program. It is hereby declared the policy of the town to conserve, protect and manage caves and cave resources as part of the community's natural wealth.
- ▶ *Objective II: Survey and Assessment of our caves*
  - Make a record of the caves and other sites in Dondon  
Sort the caves according to their priority for conservation and restoration.
  - Establish indicators on environmental impacts  
Measure the vulnerability of caves and other sites for prioritization actions conservation / restoration.
  - Preventing damage caves and other sites
  - Provide training in conservation / restoration caves

# Touristic site Improvement continued)



*Objective III: Site management: Strengthen cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities and cave resources and other sites for scientific, educational, recreational, tourism and other purposes:*

- Establishing cave preserves
- Placing entrance gates where appropriate
- Improve access to the caves
- Signage of each cave and other attraction sites
- Construct rest areas at touristic circuits
- Opposing the sale of speleothems
- Supporting effective protective measures
- Cleaning and restoring over-used caves
- Providing knowledge about their cave and assisting in protecting the cave and property from damage during cave visits
- Encouraging and aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

# Long-Term goal: Management of the Territory

- ▶ *Objective I:* Encourage façade improvement programs to encourage property owners and businesses to improve the exterior appearance of buildings and storefronts focusing on either commercial or residential properties in historic or non-historic areas.
- ▶ *Objective II:* Street vendors: Improve street vendors' space and apparatus to ensure food display is elevated and arranged in an orderly manner
- ▶ *Objective III:* Refacing of the town's major heritage buildings such as church, its theatre facility and the town's buildings like the library
- ▶ *Objective VI:* Achieve beautification activities and landscaping and construction of small gardens and flower beds
- ▶ *Objective V:* The development of a botanical garden
- ▶ *Objective VI:* Build small parks around town
- ▶ *Objective VI:* Set up "welcome bureau" at our 5 major tourism circuits
- ▶ *Objective VII:* Build a promenade boulevard by the river in the area of "anba dlo"
- ▶ *Objective VIII:* Maintenance and access improvement efforts of our touristic sites



# Dondon Festival Des Grottes

# Festival des Grottes



ODID has instituted an annual festival "Dondon Festival des Grottes" since 2014

- ▶ **Goal:** The aim of the cave festival of Dondon is an annual celebration inspired by the history of Haiti, the Taiho Indians, culture, heritage and arts that represent the rich traditions and the enthusiastic spirit of the Dondon community.
- ▶ The idea of this festival was to bring back Dondon Diaspora to "rediscover Dondon". The first edition in 2014 has started to attract tourists, but also has inspired the return of the Diaspora which gave birth to the slogan «Dondon I will return» The festival has grown since its first year. The 2016 festival third edition attracted 8 million participants.



# Festival des Grottes (continued)

- ▶ **Concerts/Dance/Excursions/Sports:** This festival is becoming a great cultural event in the country. It promotes the Haitian culture through arts / crafts, storytelling, sports events, concerts, music, dance and "coffee culture". The Festival takes place over 5 days and also include stories, music, dance, cinema, sport and art / crafts and excursions. The program includes outdoor events and performances by neighborhood musicians, dancers and actors, outdoor concerts, theatre, and excursions.



# Arts/crafts Fair:

- ▶ **Goal:** The fair is meant to gather vendors, artisans, or tradespeople to sell goods, particularly food, convey information; and exhibit Arts crafts.
- ▶ **The annual festival affords us an ideal occasion for artists and crafts people to demonstrate and exhibit their skills. It offers an opportunity to market artisan workmanship, and gastronomical traditions. The fair represents a real-time, interactive environment bringing together supply and demand in a certain industry. They promote the formation and growth of markets and market segments and one can distinguish three economic functions of trade fairs, namely the exchange of goods, the sharing of information and the promotion of products and organizations.**



# Artistic Club

- ▶ Artistic club: Our artistic club includes a theater group that provides innovative, high-quality arts programming for underserved youth that stimulates learning, inspires creativity and encourages self-expression as a mean of developing empathy, promoting academic growth and empowering the individual through self-expression.
- ▶ Goal: Empowering young people to maximize their potential through artistic expressions that transform and inspire. The club has performed theatrical and musical art that “Le CID” in July 2016.



# CONFERENCES & TRAINING

- ▶ Educational seminars focused on the culture, history, tourism, arts and crafts, religion and development
- ▶ Conferences: The summer Institute is a series of conferences takes place within the festival and at other times throughout the year.



# DONDON ANNUAL FESTIVAL DES GROTTES



# Dondon's Gains –From 2014 to 2018

- ▶ Airport to Cap-Haitien
- ▶ Paving of the town
- ▶ Street solar light
- ▶ Construction of an Auberge
- ▶ Exploration of “site des Ramiers” from Dondon
- ▶ 2000 individuals received health care- A Prevention seminar held
- ▶ Engaged over 200 youths in Art, sports and community civic activities
- ▶ Renovated the church and other major landmarks
- ▶ Planted (flamboyant/flame tree) along the road at the entrance of the town
- ▶ New constructions and renovations
- ▶ “Festival des Grottes” instituted (more than 5,000 revelers and growing)
- ▶ Dondon as an ecotourism destination is taking stock (Increasing number of visitors)
- ▶ Discover a series of new ruins in the rural jurisdiction of Laguille
- ▶ Improvement in economic opportunities, especially for small vendors

# 2020 Worplan

## ▶ **Economic Initiative**

- ▶ Festival 17-21 Juillet- Dondon wout oblije
  - Increasing number of small vendors
  - Increasing the number of revelers at the 2020 festival
  - Establish an art/craft market
  - Increase the number of Tours/Excursions to 20 (Offer an all 20-All-inclusive package)

## ▶ **Social Initiative**

- Christmas gift distribution
- Increase scholarship from 20 to 30 kids
- Improve ODID soccer league training
- Youth club “activities”: Sports, excursions, carnival, Labor day
- Open a pre-school program

# Dondon 2019-2024

## ▶ **Health Initiative**

- Increase the number of international medical missions
- Improvement in primary and urgent care
- Construction of additional 2 water systems
- Increase prevention education

## ▶ **Infrastructure & Environment Improvement**

- Vincent Ogé habitation protection, sites des Ramiers access
- Legalize ODID radio station
- Advocacy for Electricity , roads and water and a soccer field

- ▶ **ECOTOURISM/ Eco-Tours:** Increase visits of 100 groups for the year-  
improving access to sites-promoting local visits-promoting tourism in  
Dondon at all levels-participating in the annual patron saints celebration  
in the rural sections-promoting the improvement sites of the Ramiers

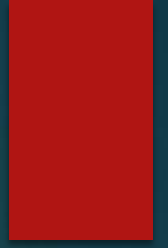
- ▶ Organize annual festivals



# Become a Member

- ▶ Mailing address : 1109 East 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210
- ▶ For online Donation go to: <http://dondonhaiti.org/donation.html>
- ▶ For more information, visit us at: [www.ODID.org](http://www.ODID.org)
- ▶ Email us at: [ODID2014@gmail.com](mailto:ODID2014@gmail.com)

# Our vision, our hope



- ▶ To improve the lives of the people of Dondon