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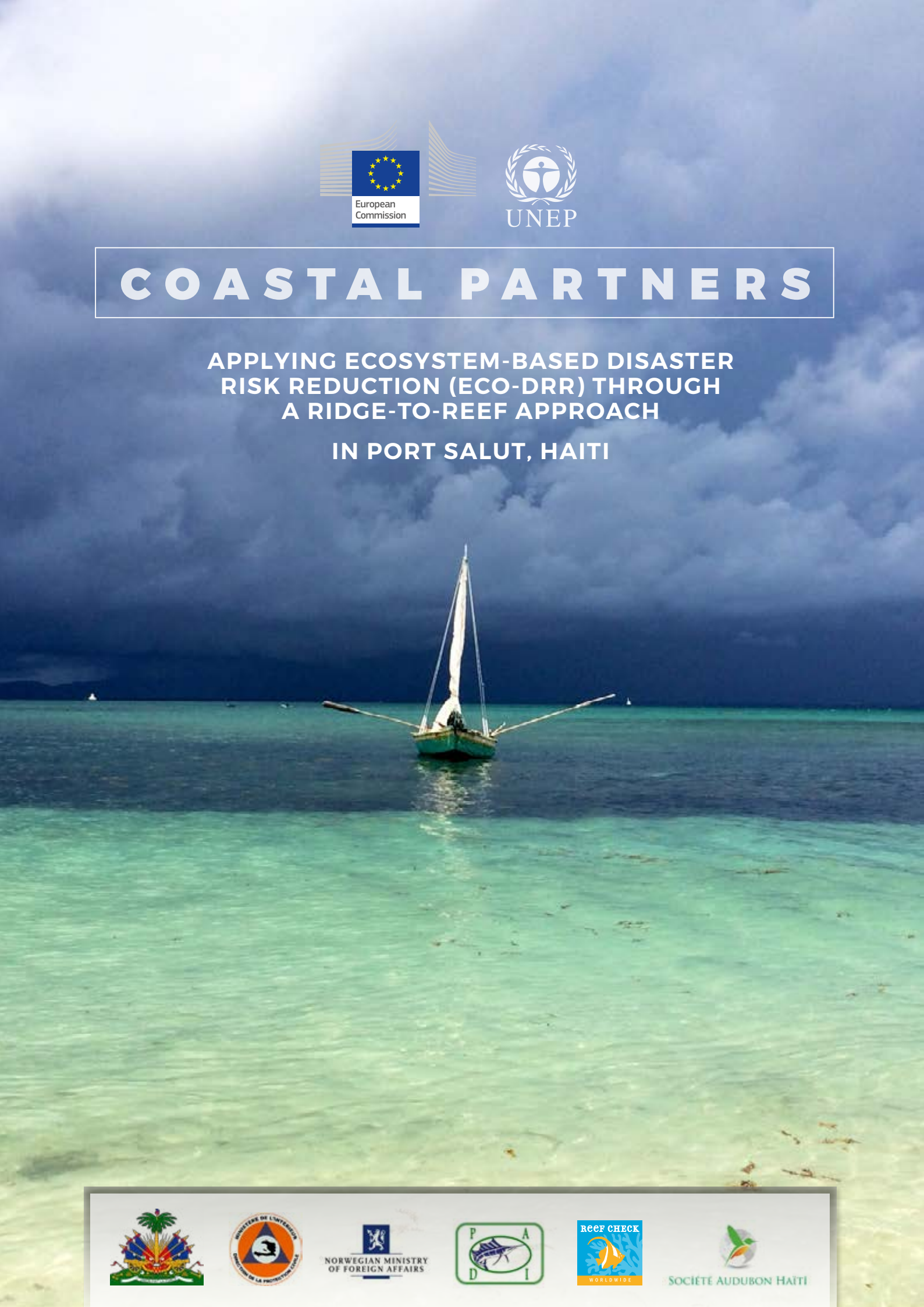
COASTAL PARTNERS

APPLYING ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (ECO-DRR) THROUGH A RIDGE-TO-REEF APPROACH

IN PORT SALUT, HAITI



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REEF CHECK WORLDWIDE

SOCIÉTÉ AUDUBON HAÏTI

First published in 2016 by the United Nations Environment Programme

This project was made possible by the generous contribution of the European Commission and the Government of Norway.

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Citation: UNEP. (2016). Coastal Partners: Applying ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) through a ridge-to-reef approach in Port Salut, Haiti.

Cover image: © UNEP

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Special thanks to the Port Salut community, Port Salut Municipality, Denis Sinal, Jean Mari Gauthier, Jonas Achile, Clausel Nozile, Joseph Lubin, Stephen Joseph, Pierre Marie Boutin, William Cinéa, Chesnel Jean, Joel Timyan, Remi Gouin, Gregor Hodgson, Antonia Mendes, Yves Barthelemy, Aditi Khodke, Cristina Poiata, Marie-Christine Berger and Sophie Brown.

Design and layout: Philippa Terblanche www.philanthropycreative.co.uk

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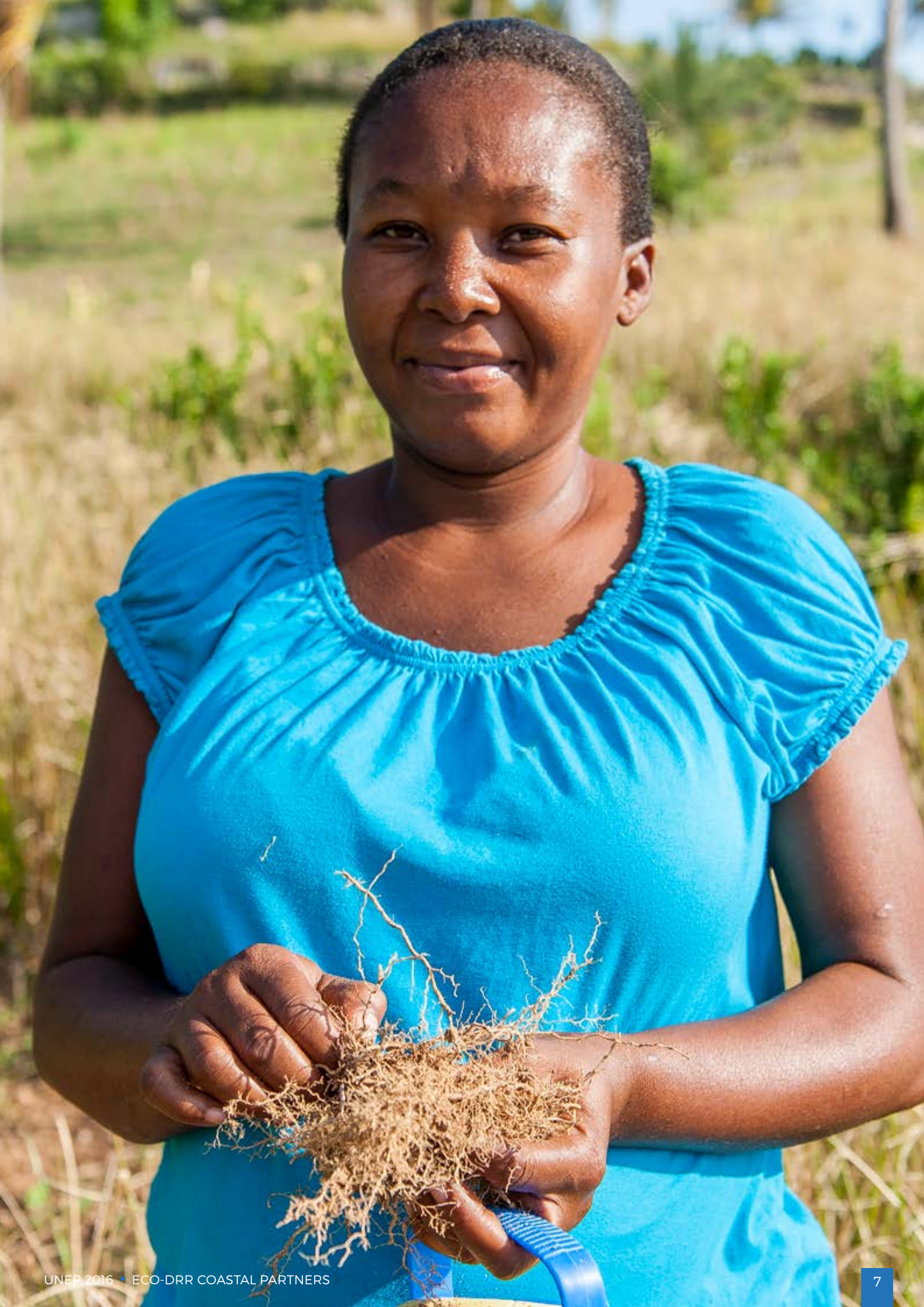
Sandra Maurice, 36, General Manager of COPVEPA holding recently harvested vetiver roots. COPVEPA is Port Salut's first sustainable vetiver farmers' cooperative .

2014 © UNEP/Marc Lee Steed



In 2013-2016, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC) implemented a pilot demonstration project on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in Haiti. In partnership with the National Government, the Municipality of Port Salut, and other local partners, the Eco-DRR project aimed to reduce disaster risks in the Municipality of Port Salut through a landscape or ridge-to-reef approach.

The Eco-DRR project was implemented within the Côte Sud (South Coast) Initiative (CSI), a larger program of UNEP and partner organizations in the coastal zone of southern Haiti. The pilot demonstration project in Port Salut provided a practical example of Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) in a coastal area.

The project had three main components:

1. Undertake field interventions to reduce disaster risk covering the entire landscape from the hills to the sea (i.e. ridge-to-reef), including:
   - Re-vegetation and sustainable vetiver farming to reduce the risk of upland erosion and inland flooding;
   - Coastal re-vegetation as natural buffers against coastal hazards, such as storm surges and coastal flooding;
   - Sustainable and resilient fisheries to increase local resilience to disasters.
2. Develop local and national capacities for implementing Eco-DRR for improved coastal zone management; and
3. Support national advocacy on Eco-DRR through marine protected area management.

The project aimed to demonstrate how Eco-DRR measures could mitigate hazards, and reduce exposure and vulnerabilities to disasters, thereby contributing to disaster risk reduction in Port Salut. However, in addition to field activities, the project also recognized that efforts to reduce disaster risk must also strengthen local and national governance and institutions. Field demonstration activities served as entry points to raise local and national awareness about Eco-DRR and promote improved coastal governance in Haiti.

The Eco-DRR project influenced the designation of Port Salut as one of Haiti's first marine protected areas and incorporated disaster risk considerations in the rationale for designation of marine protected areas in Haiti. The designation offers for the first time the opportunity to establish a coastal and marine governance framework to promote sustainable and disaster-resilient development, currently a major gap in Haiti's coastal areas.

As a result of increased national attention and high level of ownership from local residents as well as local and national authorities, a strong foundation exists for project activities to be continued and expanded through other UNEP projects and initiatives by the Government and other development actors in Haiti.

Key partners included various National Government agencies, namely the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Planning, as well as the Municipality of Port Salut, and civil society partners such as the Platform for Improving Artisanal Fisheries and Integrated Development (PADI), Audubon Society of Haiti (SAH), Reef Check, the Marine Fishers Association of Port Salut (AMPPOS) and the Cooperative of Vetiver Producers of Port Salut and Arniquet (COPVEPA).