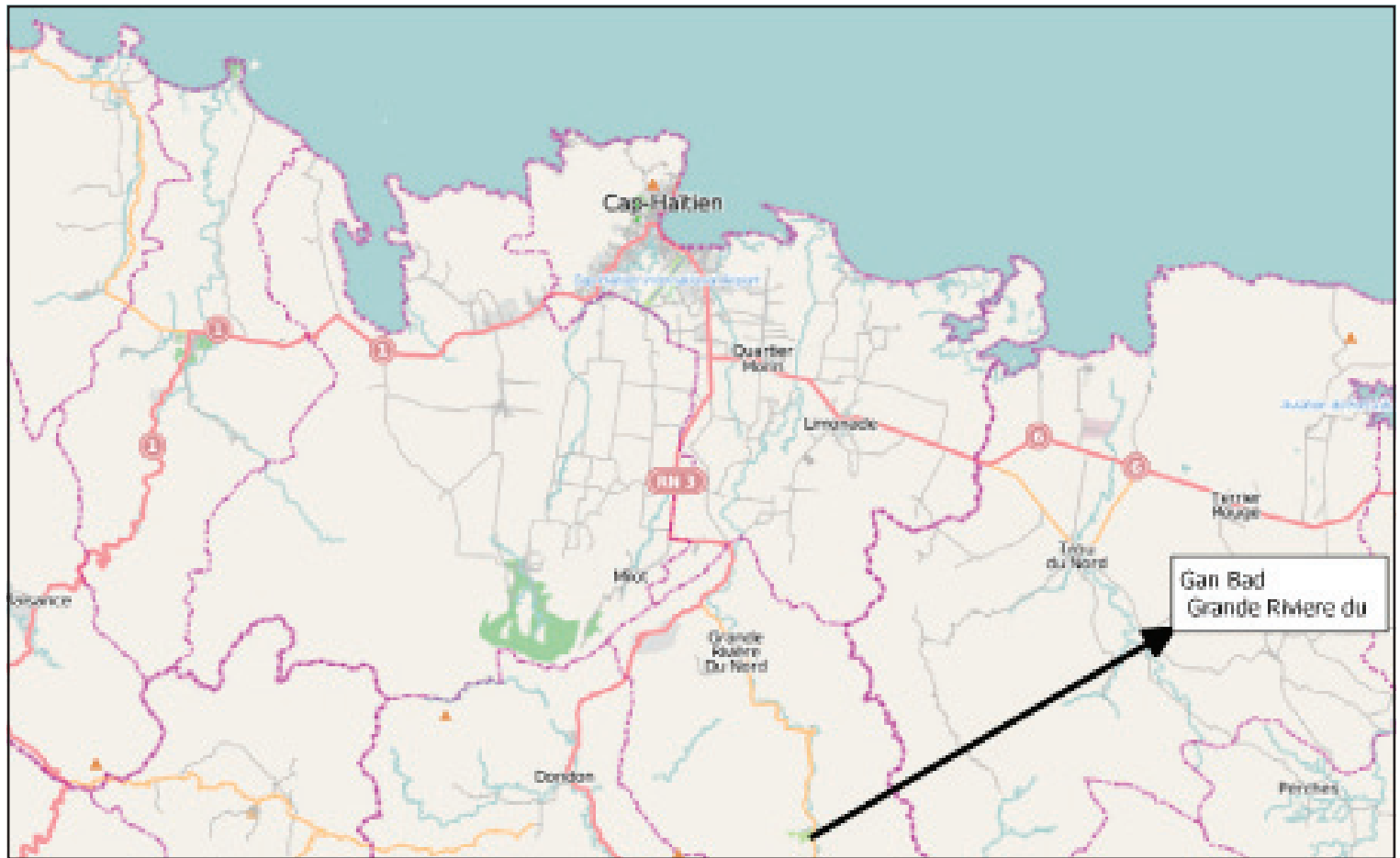


Gan Bad is home to a multitude of local organizations involved in different domains and activities. Since August of 2012, this ensemble of local groups, under an umbrella organization by the name of the Federation Tet Kole pou Devlopman Gan Bad (FTKDG), have taken on the mission of manually building the tertiary roads inside the section communal.



What can other communities learn from Gran Bad?

* Using forms of Konbit to build roads



History of the community

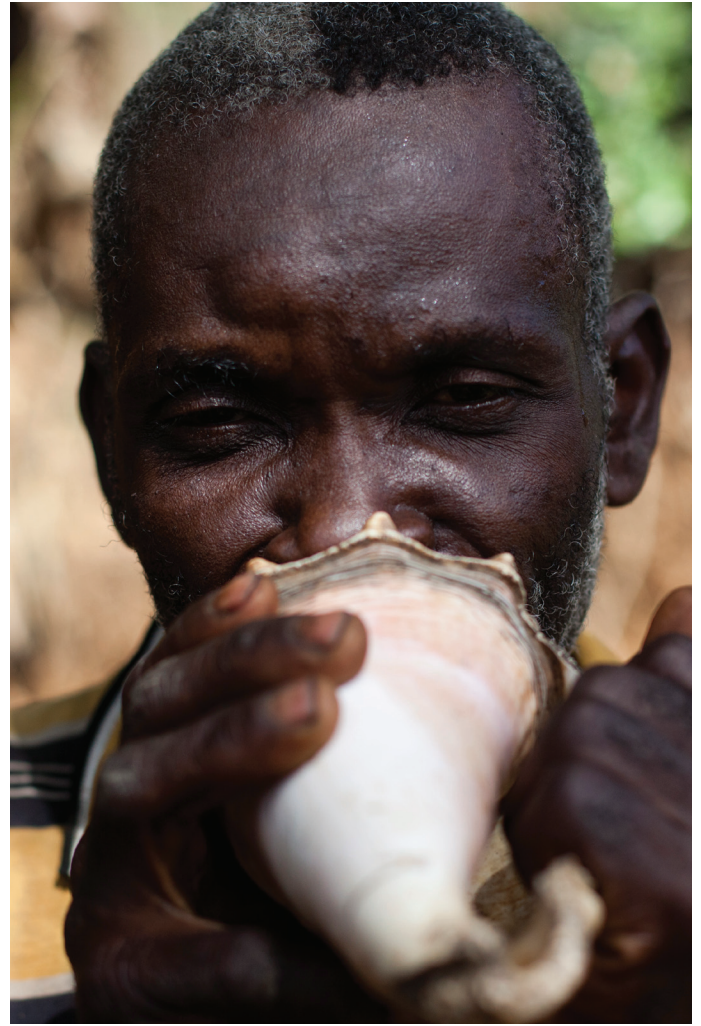
Gan Bad is the 3rd section of the Gand Riviere Du Nord commune, which lies between Dondon and Cap Haitien on Rt Nationale 3. It has 8000 people living along the Grand Riviere du Nord River. Although it is an agricultural area, the population has so far been unable to use the river for irrigation. The area primarily produces fruit (oranges, grapefruit, avocados), coffee, and cocoa. The community is equipped with an electrical grid but power is rarely sent from the commune's capital to rural sections such as Gan Bad.

Summary of the work

Gan Bad is home to a multitude of local organizations involved in different domains and activities (micro-credit, women's cooperative, church group, etc) that have come together with the objective of working towards the development of the region. Since August of 2012, this ensemble of local groups, under an umbrella organization by the name of the Federation Tet Kole pou Devlopman Gan Bad (FTKDG), have taken on the mission of manually building the tertiary roads inside the section communal. This ambitious task responds to the need of an important portion of the inhabitants of Gan Bad who live far from the main road that connects the region. Like in a large number of rural communities in Haiti, the further away a person is from the main road into Gan Bad, the more precarious their life is; not only is it more difficult for them to get to schools and markets, but when cholera hit the community in 2011,

many people in the mountains died for lack of even the simplest of roads.

The federation normally calls a konbit to work on a road running up to one of the mountains that borders the community every Saturday. The day before the konbit there is a meeting where each organization in the federation contributes (either monetarily or in-kind) so that the konbit will have food and water and other necessities. This has been going on since April 2012 (even before the federation was formally founded), and the group has made significant progress in the road, most of which is wide enough for a car to pass through. The vision is that the road will reach 18 kilometers over the mountain to connect Gan Bad with the commune of St Raphael, an important market in the North of Haiti. As of October 2012, 600 meters have been completed. However, cooperatives from a community further up the mountains have heard of this initiative, and have started working to meet the federation half way.





What can other communities learn from Gran Bad?

The Federation is still young, and has much to learn from other such networks about how to operate effectively and efficiently. However, each of the member organizations has its own expertise: from micro-finance to women's empowerment to agriculture to reforestation. The community's greatest experience to offer is on techniques for how to hand-carve a road into the mountains, and how to use the traditional form of konbit and all of its cultural elements (such as drums and song) to accomplish it.

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