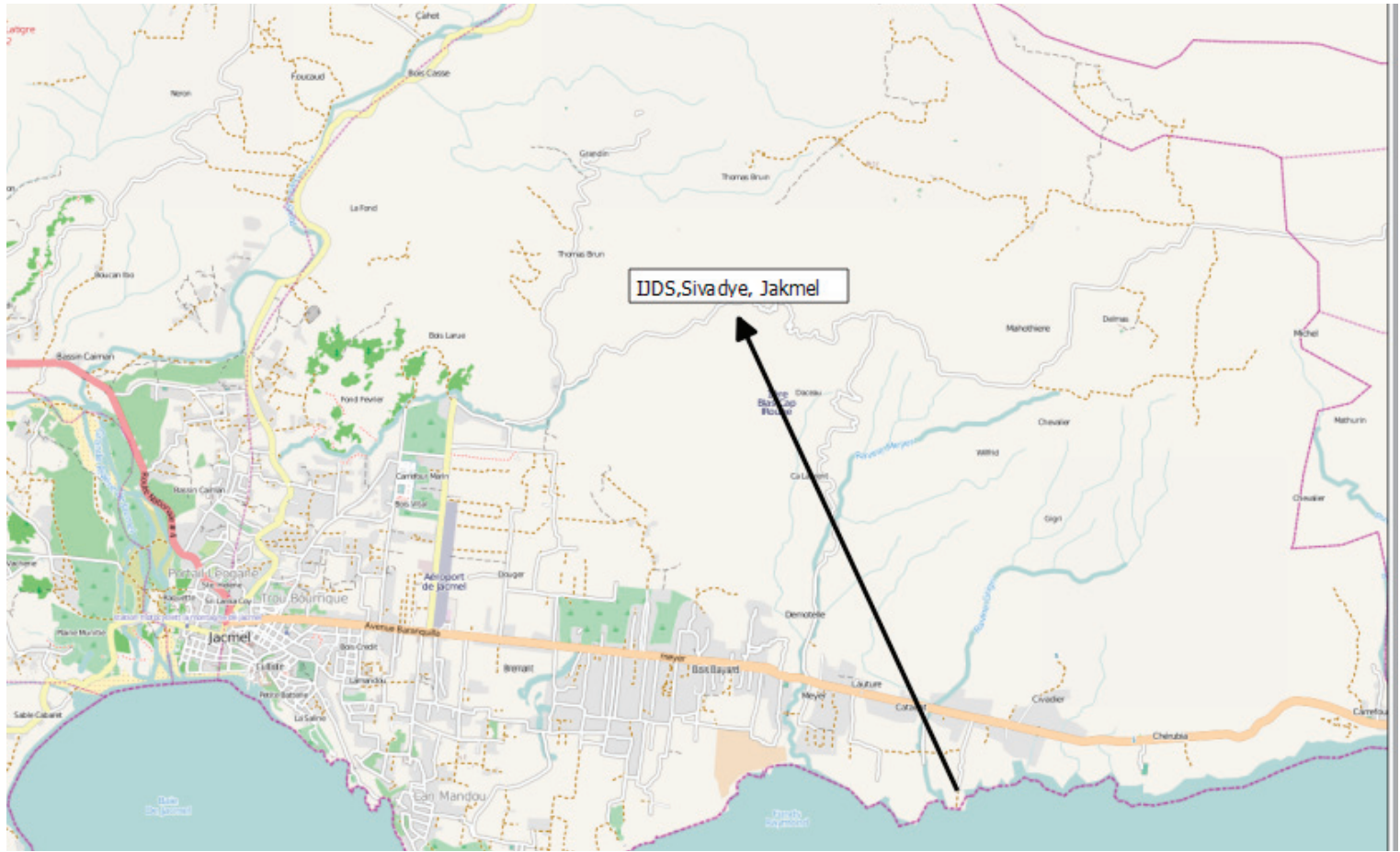


The Youth for the Development of Cyvadier (JDS) organization was formed in 2006 in the outskirts of the city of Jacmel with the objective of promoting environmental values amongst youth.



What can other communities learn from IJDS?

- * Production of charcoal bricks
- * Tree nursery management
- * Promotion of eco-tourism



History of the organization

One of Haiti's most serious challenges today is its extensive deforestation: structural problems and poverty have made it so countless Haitians in the countryside deem they have no choice but to cut down trees to make charcoal to sell. This deforestation has devastating consequences for the country, not just environmentally but economically and culturally. There have been countless efforts to resolve the charcoal problem in Haiti, but none so far have succeeded. It is in this context one finds JDS and Joe Duplan in Cyvadier, a coastal stretch just to the east of Jacmel.

Summary of the work

JDS (Youth for the Development of Cyvadier) was founded in 2006 by Joe Duplan, and it embraces many activities that all work towards a single vision: a new generation of Haitians who respect and protect their environments. The central and most innovative activity in JDS is that of a new form of charcoal: Joe has been experimenting for years to try to find an alternative to the environmentally-destructive charcoal market that Haiti currently has. He has developed a process which uses carbonized coconut husks and cow dung (although almost any organic material that can be found in a community works – corn husks, rice husks, yucca stalks, etc) and presses them into small cylinders that can be used to replace charcoal. He is also creating a more efficient stove to use with the charcoal, which can be made from materials that can be found in almost any Haitian community.

He has been supplying the stoves and the charcoal to several surrounding communities. One community he gave a press to is now making its own charcoal. World Food Program has recently agreed to purchase a number of JDS' industrial-sized stoves and give them to schools that are enrolled in its school-feeding program.

OPADEL also runs a program called “Conje Solidarite”, where people from anywhere can come to spend a vacation with the community in exchange for training them in their area of expertise.

But JDS' activities do not stop there: next to the charcoal workshop is an extensive tree nursery, from which trees are given to local farmers cooperatives and a youth group that reforest the mountains. There is also a composting toilet on site. JDS works extensively with local youth, and supports a local football. Joe also runs an eco-tourism hostel on the waterfront in Jacmel to bring in revenue to support JDS' activities.



What can other communities learn from JDS?

JDS is pioneering a new form of charcoal briquets that minimizes environmental impact and would reduce deforestation across Haiti. Access to this kind of technology and training would reduce environmental and economic burdens across the country, and paired with the other activities that JDS specializes in (tree nursery management, compost toilets, eco-tourism, etc) they make for an impressive lesson plan for any community serious about respecting its environment.

Contact Information:

Joe Duplan. Tel: 3844-8923

