

Network of Young Agents Engaged for the Real Protection of the Environment (RAJEPRE)



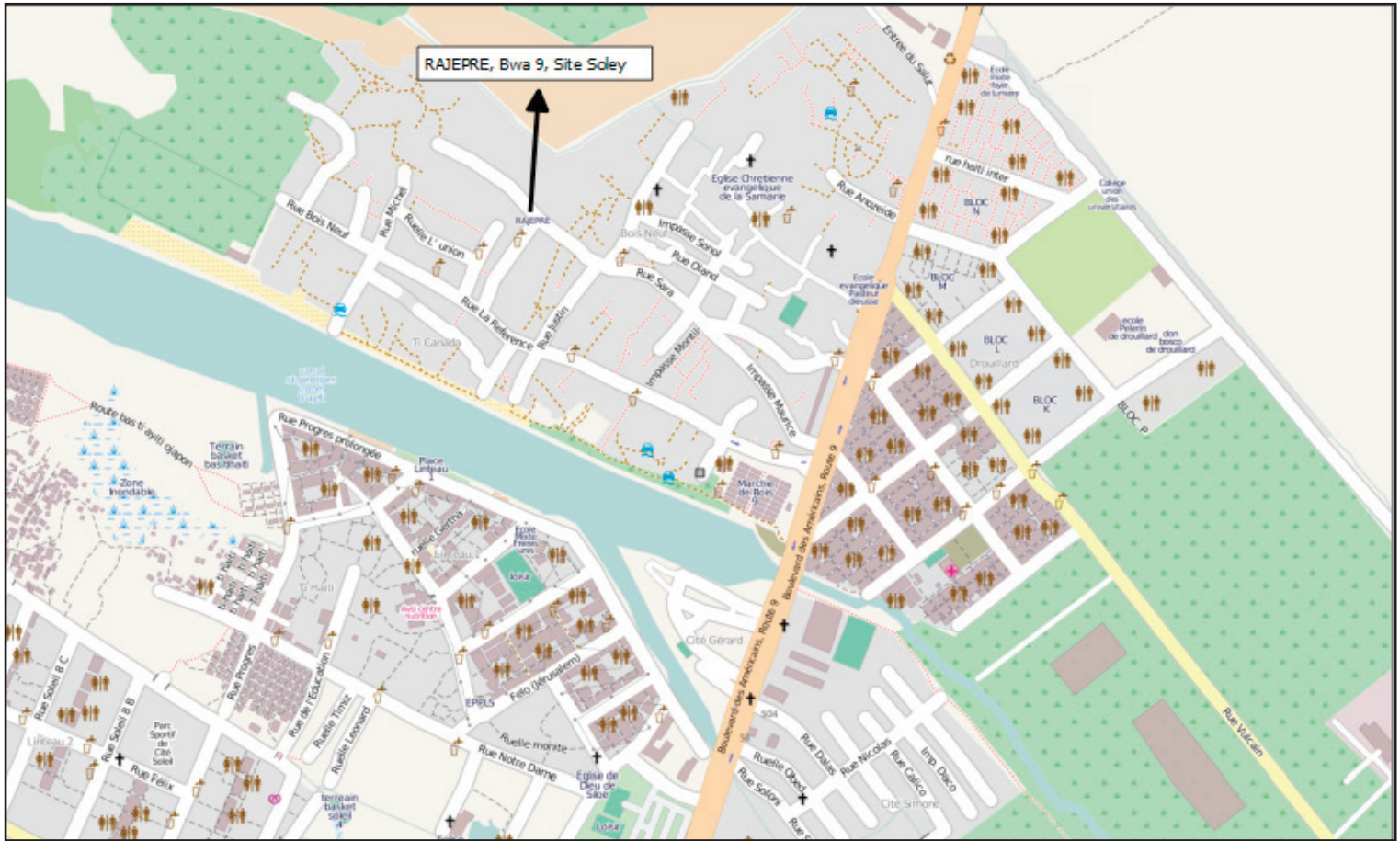
Department: West

The Network of Young Agents Engaged for the Real Protection of the Environment (RAJEPRE) came together in 2006 in Cite Soleil's neighborhood of Bwa Neuf. Its objective is to improve the life of the residents of the neighborhood by promoting environmental awareness and early education.



What can other communities learn from RAJEPRE?

* Strategies to use education for social change



History of the organization:

RAJEPRE (Network of Young Agents Engaged for the Real Protection of the Environment) was founded in 2006 in the area of Bwa Neuf. Their mission was to improve the life of their neighbors through a clean and healthy environment and a solid education, while involving the community in every step of the process. They have 120 members and are administered by a board of 5 people.

Summary of the work

RAJEPRE's first initiative was the found a community school called CEFJ (Center of Education for the Training of Youth), as they saw the need to provide free and quality education in Bwa Neuf. They partnered with a local kindergarten to establish the school, and this became the hub of their activities ever since. They began to hold summer camps for children (with an emphasis on culture and professional training) and other forms of training at the school, such as psycho-social assistance for schoolchildren and family planning for women. Their most recent initiative was to establish a community nursery in the school where they primarily plant moringa trees, which have renowned health benefits and are a tool to teach the schoolchildren about the importance of nutrition and the environment. RAJEPRE is now partnering with PADF to construct 5 classrooms for CEFJ.



RAJEPRE is very involved in promoting civic action in the community, leading and participating in voluntary street cleaning campaigns and neighborhood beautification projects. They also worked to facilitate a mobile health clinic coming to the community, and distributing food after the earthquake.



What can other communities learn from RAJEPRE?

RAJEPRE is a strong model of how to use education as the basis of social change. With half a decade of experience of trying to combine Haiti's classical education system with civic action (informing children about their responsibilities towards their environment and their own nutrition), they have developed an innovative approach. They also have become experts in the cultivation of moringa, and the knowledge of its nutritional benefits.



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