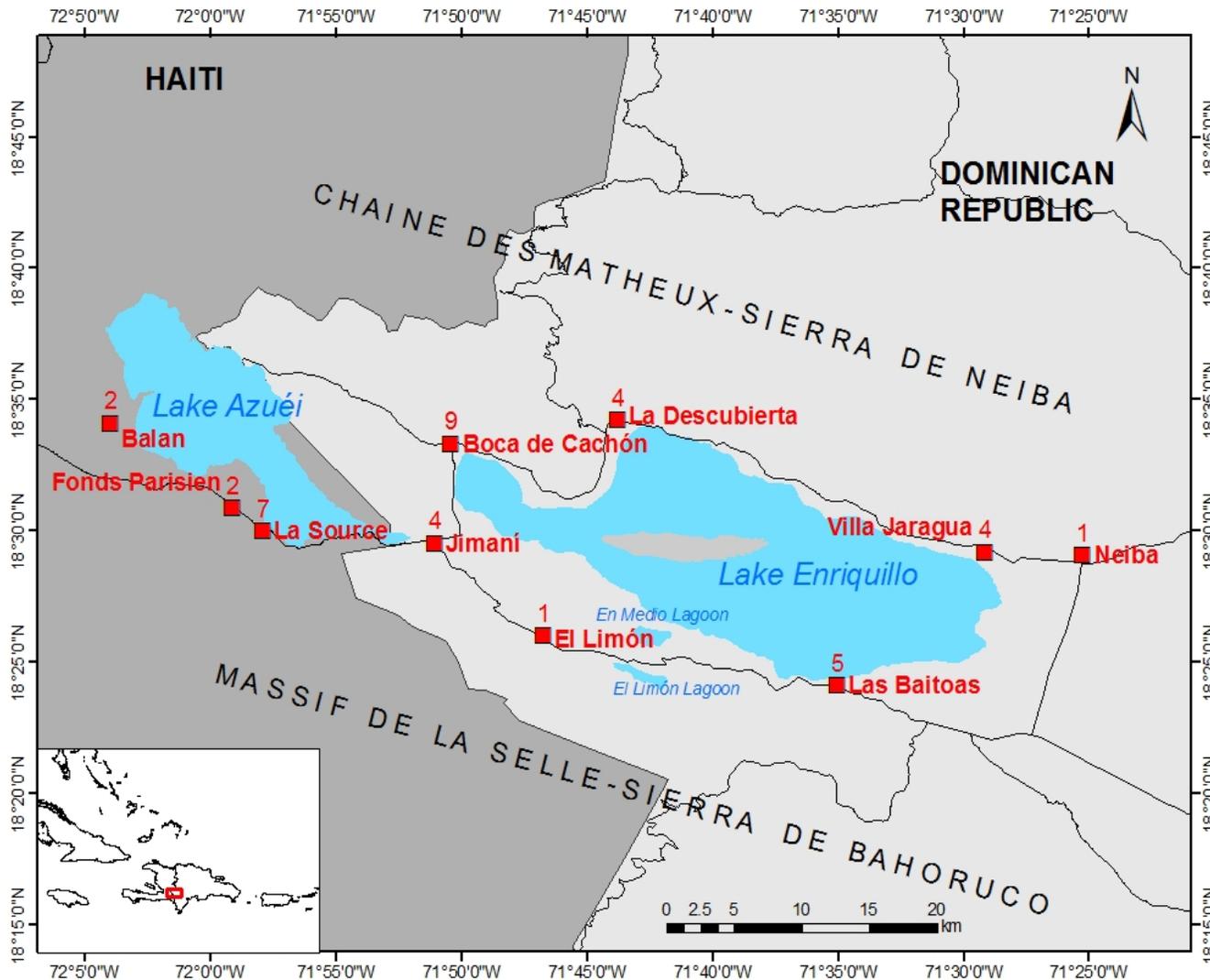




Socioeconomic Impacts of the Growth of Lakes Azuei & Enriquillo

Dr. Mimi Sheller, Drexel University and
Dr. Yolanda M. León, INTEC

Interview Locations



Interviews
Conducted
March-July
2013

Number in
Haiti: 11

Number in
D.R.: 28

Economic impacts: La Source, flooded farmland



Boca de Cachón, flooded farmland



Interviewee quote, Haiti

- ▶ *“[The floodwaters] have diminished our ability to work because we lost nearly everything we invested in this land. Life has become much worse because we have to find a way to build other houses. With no money, that is a tough situation. We are here with nothing now. If we had visas, we would be gone already. [But] we don’t have a choice.”* (Truck driver, la Source)



Interviewee quote, DR

- ▶ *“My father had a cattle farm, but he had to sell all of the animals because of the flooding. I used to transport people across the border on my motorcycle, but because of the growth of Lake Azuei, I would need a boat to continue doing this, and I can’t afford it. And those bullies of the Ministry of the Environment don’t even let me make a little bit of charcoal to survive.”* (Resident, Boca de Cachón)



Loss of livelihood: Flooded farms



Loss of food security: Flooded farmland near Las Baitoas



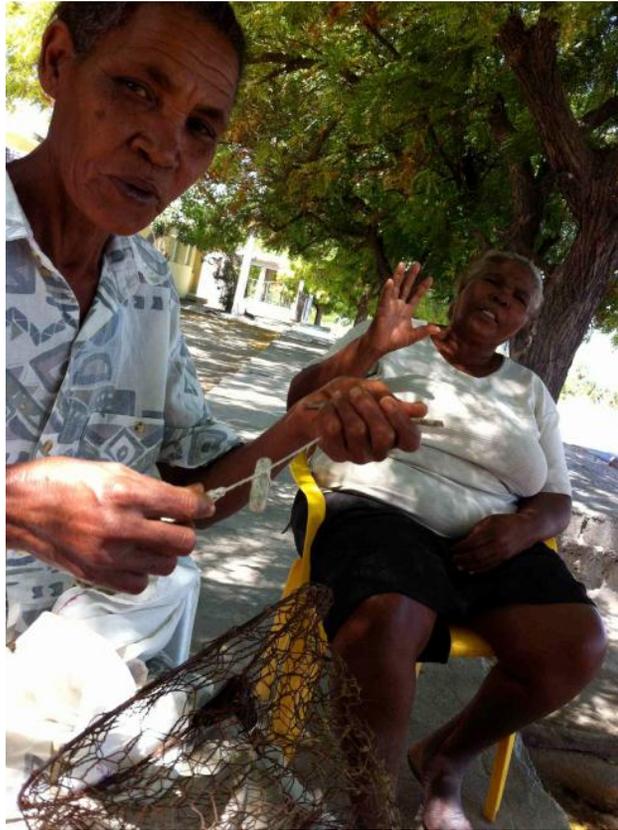
Elder farmers affected most



Natural impacts too: Habitat lost to wildlife



Adaptation



Loss of significant Ecotourism Potential?



Economic impacts: threat to trade routes, Malpasse–Jimani

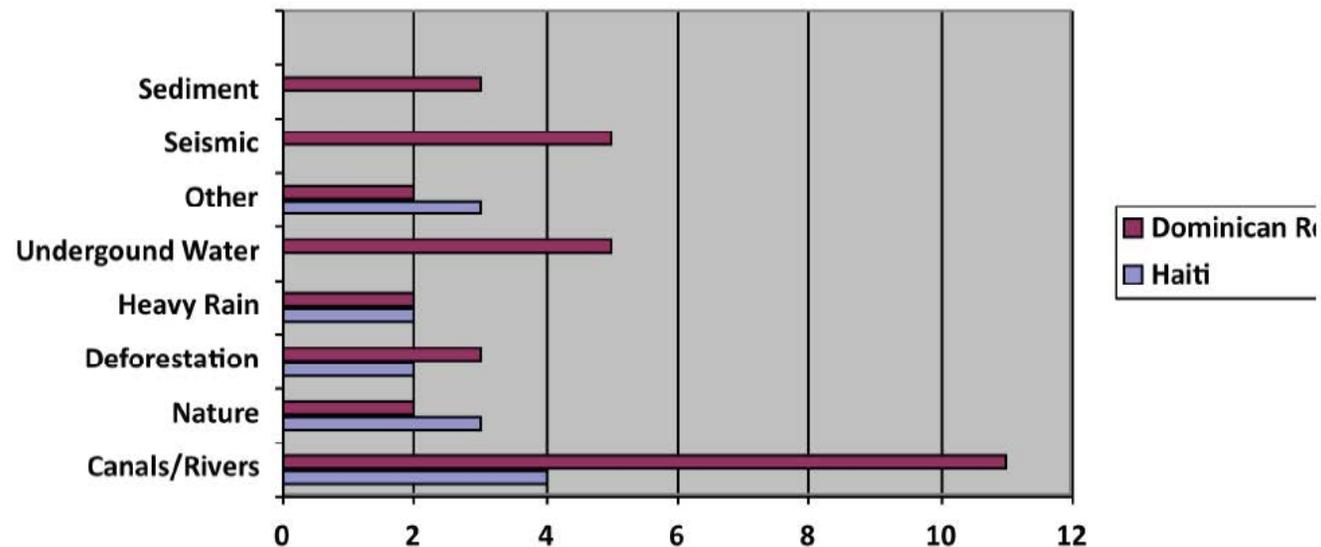


Economic impacts at border: Malpasse–Jimani Market Flooded



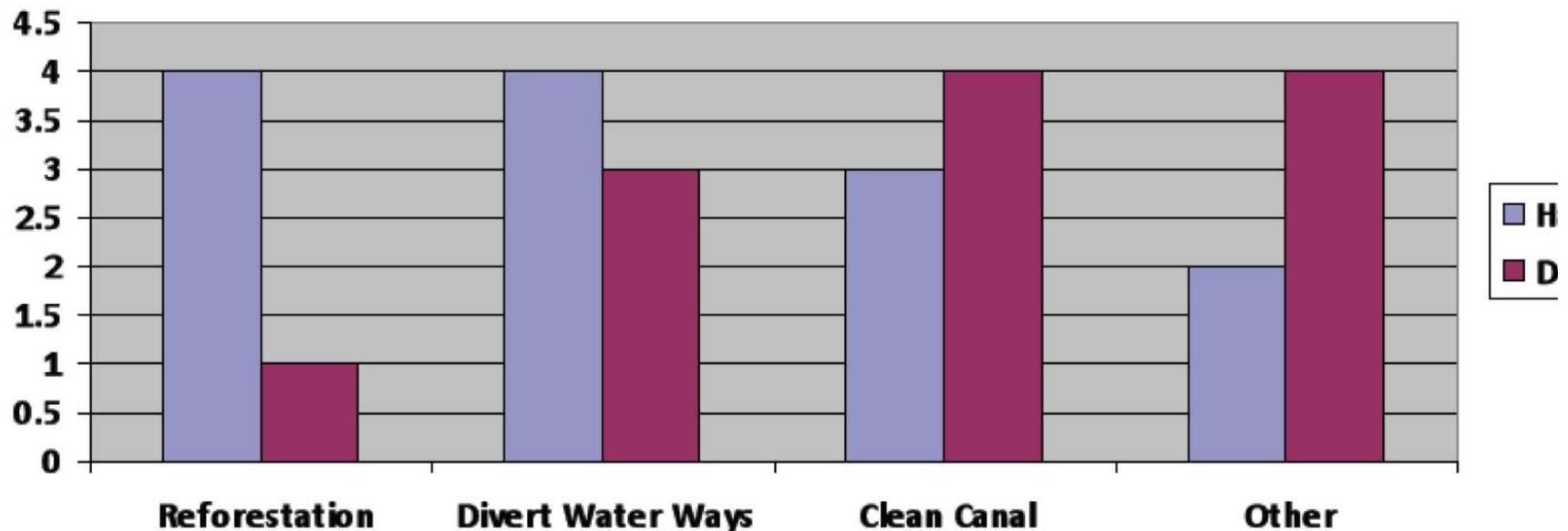
Perceived causes for Lakes' Growth

- ▶ Many respondents, especially in D.R., believe that the main cause of the problem is the need to clean, repair or divert canals.



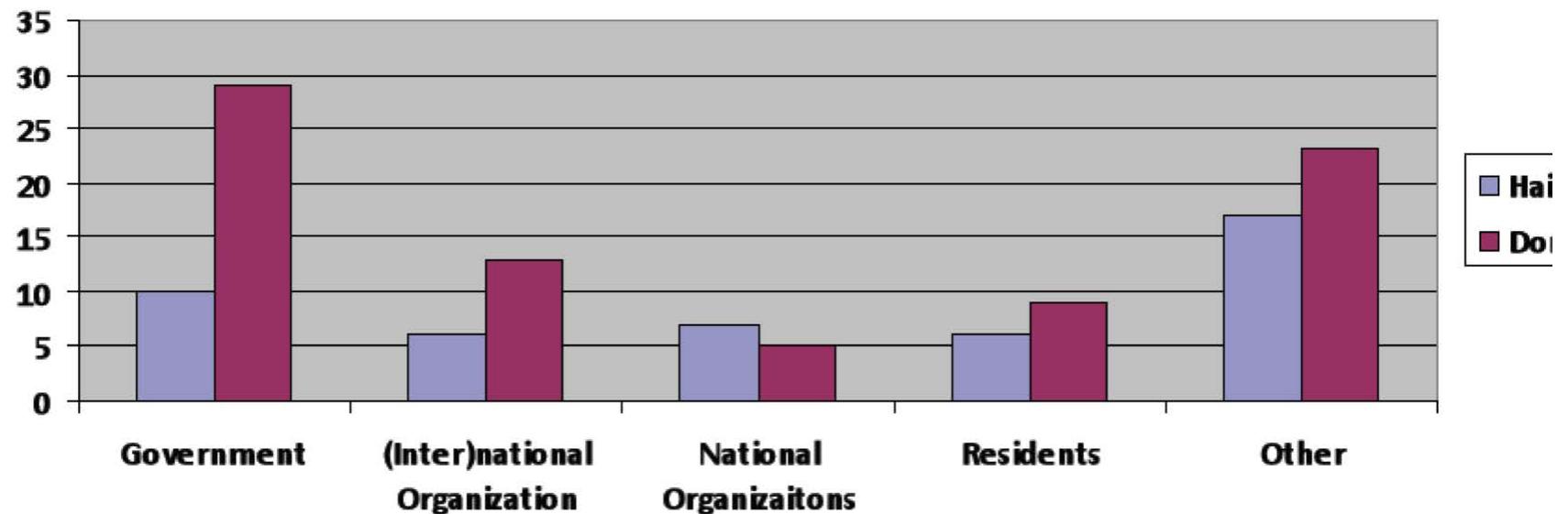
Preferred Solutions compared

- ▶ Haitian respondents favored reforestation as a solution. Dominicans: fixing canals.



Who should be responsible?

- ▶ National government strongly favored to take action in D.R., less so in Haiti.



Government response 1: new road



Government response 2: new agriculture projects



Government response 3: new town



Government response 4: Monte Grande Reservoir

Listin Diario

9 septiembre 2013, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, actualizado a las 7:04 PM



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ENTIDADES

Piden agilizar trabajos de prensa Monte Grande

RECLAMAN QUE SE RETOME LA REHABILITACIÓN DE LA PRESA SABANA YEGUA

Artículo

Ramón Pérez Reyes
Santo Domingo

La Comisión Permanente para el Desarrollo de la Región Enriquillo y la Red de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (REDONGRE), consideraron ayer que los trabajos de la construcción de la presa de Monte Grande van a paso de tortuga, por lo que piden que sean retomados inmediatamente culminen la rehabilitación de la presa de Sabana Yegua y las demás obras colaterales.

Indicaron que esta problemática afecta a más de 350 mil personas que serían beneficiadas con estas obras. "No queremos palabras sin explicaciones ni más promesas, queremos ver trabajos en marcha", dijo ayer el obispo de Barahona, Rafael Leonidas Felipe Núñez, quien leyó un documento a nombre de la comisión.

El Obispo encabezó una rueda de prensa en la Cámara de Diputados junto a los senadores y diputados de la zona y otras organizaciones sociales de la región.

La comisión indicó que los habitantes de la región Enriquillo están



Rueda de prensa. El obispo de Barahona, monseñor Rafael Leonidas Felipe Núñez, habló en nombre de las organizaciones de la región Enriquillo que abogan por la agilización de la presa de Monte Grande.



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Comisión gubernamental llega al Senado a depositar convenio con Barrick Gold

Adolescente habría matado a su padre por un suéter y lo había amenazado otras veces

Marina detiene a 34 haitianos y 6 dominicanos pretendían ir en una yola a PR

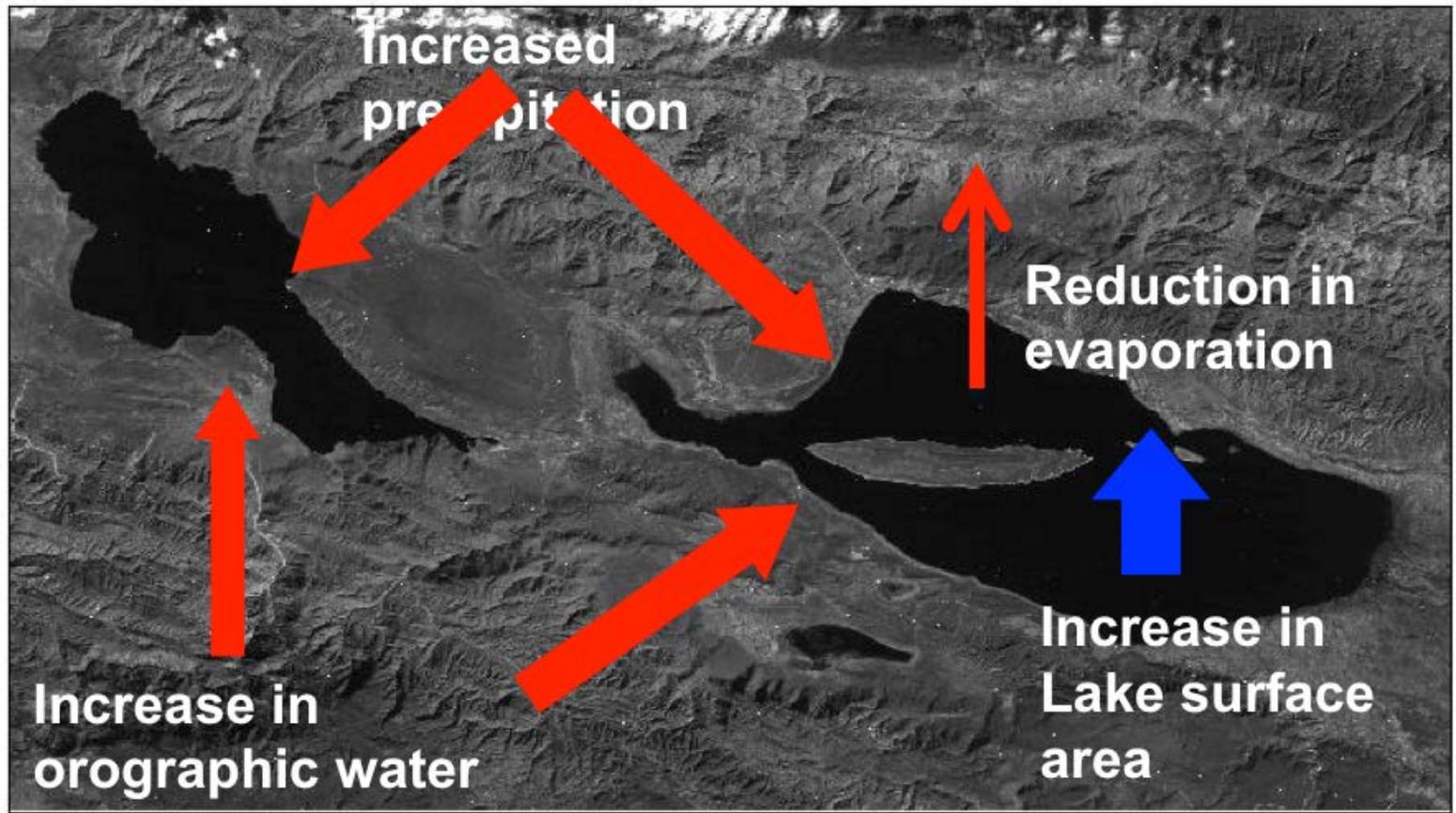
Un traficante acusa a la OTTT de

Other Responses

- ▶ Enriquillo 2030 (Development Strategy for Lake Enriquillo area)
- ▶ UNEP: Rotary fund for small initiatives to recuperate and adapt in the lake Enriquillo area
- ▶ European Development Fund: Open call for Haiti-DR binational program (communities affected by flooded areas a priority)



How can scientific data be effectively conveyed to local people?



production

How can scientific data be shared?



Installing sensor on Lake Azuei

Conclusions 1

- ▶ In responding to major environmental hazards that are brought about by changing hydro-climatological patterns Caribbean governments, international agencies, and scientists need to build institutional capacities and specific mechanisms to work across national borders.
- ▶ Different explanations of the phenomenon of lake growth offered by people on both sides of the border make it more difficult to reach a common consensus about how to respond.
- ▶ Developing a common framework for response must begin with a common understanding of the problem.



Conclusions 2

- ▶ Without a mechanism for sharing information (e.g. community meetings, radio programs discussing the issue, or informed leaders) there is no basis on which to take community-based actions to mitigate the future risks.
- ▶ Informing people will require work to translate across not only languages, but also institutional systems and explanatory contexts.
- ▶ In order to avoid future conflict, any initiatives to relocate or compensate people for losses must be open to a broad range of applicants and transparent in terms of who benefits from the government assistance.



Conclusions 3

- ▶ There is little cross-border coordination of responses, risk-assessment strategies, or bi-national risk mitigation.
- ▶ Given the linkages of water, weather, and flooding across national borders, and the crucial economic linkages via the border market and highway, it is urgent to have a bi-national approach to the problem supported by international agencies.
- ▶ Pan-Caribbean planning processes should begin to take this into account and create forums for bringing scientific data to bear on future mitigation and response strategies that address the region as a whole and support cross-regional cooperation.

