



Rebuilding Livelihoods of Haitian Farmers

“As we clear the rubble, we will create better tomorrows by building Haiti back better: with stronger buildings, better schools and health care; with more manufacturing and less deforestation; with more sustainable agriculture and clean energy”.

- Bill Clinton; 42nd president of the United States and U.N. special envoy for Haiti.

EcoVentures International (EVI) and our team are deeply saddened by the recent events in Haiti. EVI has been working in Haiti over the last few years on a range of projects related to youth employment, environmental enterprise development, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable livelihood development. We have spent the past days trying to reach partners and friends, some of which have been located and some of which are still missing.

In the coming weeks and months, it is vital to support the rebuilding of Haiti. **EVI will focus efforts over the coming weeks and months to rebuild the livelihoods of farmers in the south of Haiti through supporting the recovery of the Haiti’s primary export industry and provider of livelihoods to so many.**

Donations to EVI will provide support to the families and businesses that rely on the Vetiver sector in Haiti, as well as assistance to support the revitalization and long-term viability and sustainability of existing economic activities. The sooner Vetiver farmers and distillers rebuild and restart operations, the sooner we can help restore the income and hope of so many in desperate need.

[Click here](#) to donate to EVI’s Global Giving site. If you would prefer to donate by check, please make it out to EcoVentures International and send to:

**EcoVentures International
1519 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036**

Background of Economic Activity

The Vetiver plant is grown throughout the south of Haiti and the livelihoods hundreds of thousands of families are connected to the growing, harvesting, and distillation of Vetiver. Vetiver oil, a primary ingredient in many cosmetic and beauty products, is one of Haiti’s primary exports. As Haiti is already highly devastated from deforestation, rebuilding the Vetiver industry in a sustainable manner will provide a symbol of hope, environmental security, and sustainability. Our work to date has centered on Haiti’s Vetiver industry to support the adoption of sustainable, reforestation practices, increased incomes for farmers, and application of renewable energy technologies throughout the sector.

EVI has already been working with the Estee Lauder Company and members of the Natural Sustainable Resource Council, an industry council of other essential oil companies, to strengthen the Vetiver sector. It is not uncommon for businesses and sectors in an area affected by disaster to lose customers and access to markets during the time of rebuilding. EVI has already dedicated efforts to working with the essential oils industry to ensure access to markets for the Haitian Vetiver sector upon recovery. EVI will continue its efforts to improve Haiti land stability with the Vetiver grass, which contributes to hillside stabilization, needed to dispel impacts of future natural disasters.



Immediate Support Provided by EVI

EVI will work with local partners on the ground in the south of Haiti to perform an immediate assessment of the impacts to farmer livelihoods and the level of destruction to the infrastructure of the Vetiver sector.

Following an immediate assessment, EVI will be coordinating a follow-up mission to provide needed technical assistance to rebuild the Vetiver sector, which so many livelihoods depend on.

As we look to the immediate needs and relief, we recommend donations to [Partners in Health](#).

