

THE LAMBI FUND OF HAITI

Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti



P.O. Box 18955 #94 Avenue Lamartinère
Washington, D.C. 20036 Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Tel. 202-833-3713 Tel. 509-45-94-45
e-mail: info@lambifund.org www.lambifund.org

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2006	CONTENTS
2005 Overview	1-3
Partner Organization Profile	4
New Projects	5
Member Profile	7
In the News	6-7
Why I Give	8

2005 A Year of Accomplishments & Challenges



While the news media in 2005 focused on the deteriorating security situation and the elections in Haiti, the Lambi Fund of Haiti's priorities were intensifying reforestation efforts, increasing peasants' skills and knowledge through expanded training, and recovering from the damage incurred by Hurricane Jeanne. These priorities responded to the needs of our partner organizations and took place in the context of our ongoing commitment to support economic justice, democracy and sustainable development.

WORKING ON THE DEFORESTATION PROBLEM

Reforestation. Many of our grassroots partner organizations experienced lower food production due to floods or drought. These extreme weather conditions are emblematic of the massive deforestation and consequent climate change in the area. Lambi Fund began an aggressive reforestation policy in 2005 whereby all Lambi Fund projects must now include a reforestation component.

Thanks to your support, Lambi Fund is working with peasant organizations in Haiti to help fuel a grassroots reforestation movement. After reflection on the reforestation issue, Lambi Fund and its partner organizations now have two levels of reforestation:

1) Small reforestation projects that are a sub-set of a larger sustainable development project. These projects are planting 10-50,000 trees each.

2) Large environmental projects whose main focus is a major reforestation effort. These projects are planting 50-100,000+ trees.

One group's reforestation plans. The mountain in Pochét is severely eroded due to over-planting of peanuts and deforestation, causing landslides so devastating that part of the mountain has slid into a ravine. This is a disaster on an ecological level. In order to save lives, the village and the mountain, drastic steps

2005 STATISTICS

- New community-led projects: 9
- Projects became self-supporting: 15
- Participants trained: 2,011
- Trees planted: Over 100,000
- Community projects rebuilt after hurricane: 27
- Women participating in women's conference: 72

must be taken to protect the land. Members of the **Assembly of the Peasants of Pochet (RPP)** asked Lambi Fund to help them reforest the area.

The members passionately want to recover the badly eroded land on their mountain. They will save lives

Continued next page



Continued from page 1

by planting trees to stop mudslides and by training other peasants about reforestation to preserve the land. They will be building nurseries for reforestation and agro-forestry gardens. They will also create a campaign to raise awareness about the degradation of the environment due to deforestation and the continual planting of peanuts. Lambi will provide funds for training, tools, and six nurseries capable of raising 100,000 tree seedlings.



INCREASING PEASANTS SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Expanded training. Thanks to your donations, Lambi Fund organized and conducted training in 2005 for over 2,000 members of 20 peasant groups on the following topics:

- Project Management and Simple Accounting
- Management of Micro-Credit Funds
- Managing a Community Irrigation System
- Sustainable Agriculture Techniques
- Water Management, Hygiene and Treatment of Water
- Management of Economic and Commercial Activities
- Management for Organizational Leaders

Regional Training Conferences. Lambi conducted two regional conferences for women with the theme “**Women Chat and Organize –Environment and Hygiene in the Family**”. Lambi Fund Advisory Board Member Marguerite Joseph and Lambi Fund staff members Josette Perard and Pierre St. Cyr trained the gatherings of 72 women on organizing for social change, interdependency of lifestyle and the environment, importance of proper trash disposal, composting, hygiene in food preparation and disease prevention, and ways to purify water for safe drinking. The presentation on water purification techniques triggered much discussion since many of the women were from communities that lacked potable water. The conference concluded with singing, dancing and eating to celebrate and reinforce the solidarity and learning that took place at the three-day conference.

Lambi also organized two general conferences with the theme “**Agricultural Production in Solidarity**”, which examined the techniques for successful management of a cooperatively-run sustainable agriculture project. The trainers were Donald Louis Cazeau, a specialist in “cooperative production,” and Lambi Fund agronomists Ferry Pierre-Charles, Paul Rodney and Joseph Dorsainvil.

RECOVERING FROM HURRICANE DESTRUCTION

Hurricane Recovery Update. The Hurricane Jeanne Emergency Project started in Oct. 2004 and continued throughout 2005. Lambi Fund has received generous funding from people like you to help re-build the community run projects that were damaged by the floods caused by Hurricane Jeanne. We especially want to thank Bob Snow, Mary Lania and our friends with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for their loyal support during the disaster recovery.

In Ennri, one group needed their irrigation system repaired so they could continue with farming. Lambi Fund helped projects like the Peasant Organization of Garat replace their livestock for breeding purposes. The Planter’s Association of Gros Morne needed to replace their irrigation pump in order to sustain their plantain farm. Lambi Fund also helped the Dibedou Federated Group for Community Action repair the irrigation canal so that farming in the area would continue. In all, over 27 grassroots organizations impacting over 25,000 people are now on the road to recovery, thanks to your help.

Continued next page



Over the past twelve years, Fund Lambi has partnered with over 130 peasant-led grassroots organizations, reaching over one million Haitians.

Continued from page 1

CONTINUING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Action towards achieving self-determination. Because of the support of people like you, nine new projects are in the preliminary stages: community farm projects, micro-credit funds, a pig and goat raising project, a fish raising project, two community cistern systems and four large reforestation projects (although all of these new projects have a reforestation component).

Progress towards self-sufficiency. As a result of your past support, 15 small-scale economic development projects became self-supporting, including grain storage projects, grain mills, community cisterns, irrigation systems, ox plow services, pig raising projects, micro-credit funds, and tool bank projects. Food production was increased for projects in the South. Food production was increased for projects in the Artibonite Valley but many of those harvests were destroyed by the flooding from Hurricane Jeanne.

WHAT WERE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES IN 2005?

The Lambi Fund staff living in Port au Prince has been under a lot of pressure, with the unrest due to the social, economic and political conditions in the country. Visiting U.S. Board and staff members were kidnapped in April and thankfully released safely, minus their money, laptops and other valuables.

It is sometimes difficult for the Lambi Fund staff to travel to the provinces because of this unrest. Our two Field Monitors (Tidjo in the Artibonite and St Cyr in the South) have been lifesavers as they have been able to take on increased responsibilities when the program staff from Port au Prince could not travel to the countryside. The Field Monitors have been able to monitor, evaluate and provide field support to projects. When the insecurity level decreased, Ferry (Lambi Field Di-



rector) and Paul (Lambi Assistant Field Director) made visits to rural organizations and conducted trainings.

Public transport has become very expensive. The price of gasoline has doubled or tripled. The price of everything the peasants need—seeds, tools, water—is high. The economic situation is not improving and this demobilizes people as they focus exclusively on survival. For these reasons, in 2006 Lambi Fund plans to work more on projects that encourage food production in order to address the reality of hunger and high prices, and also with environmental projects in order to counteract the effects of ecologic devastation.

In view of all this, how did the Lambi Fund manage to maintain operations and help grassroots organizations? This is a testament to the ability of the Haiti staff to maintain its course in a country of conflict and strife. Because the program staff of the Lambi Fund consists entirely of Haitians who live and work in Haiti and have many years' experience as activists and agronomists, the Lambi Fund staff knows the terrain, the culture and how to flexibly deal with challenging situations. *

.....
“ This is a testament to the ability of the Haiti staff to maintain its course . . . ”
.....

You Can Make a Difference in Haiti!

Want to learn about ways you can make a difference in Haiti from the security and comfort of your home?

Lambi Fund wants to reach out more to communities in the United States where we have a critical mass of supporters—Miami, New York, Boston, Washington DC, and San Francisco are examples of cities where many Lambi Fund supporters live. We would like to network, raise our profile and cultivate more friends in these areas.

Do you belong to a professional association or union

that would be interested in having a speaker on Haiti and the Lamb Fund? Help spread the word about Lambi Fund by inviting us to give an overview of Haiti, its needs, and why Lambi Fund is one of the best solutions for the future of Haiti.

Do you belong to a student group? We are already working with the NYU Haitian American Student Association. Would your student group be interested in

Continued next page

Partner Organization Profile

Landless Peasant Protest Movement or in kreyol the “Mouvman Revan-dikasyon Peyizan San Tè” (MRPST) is based in the town of Vèrèt in the Artibonite Valley. It has 950 members and was formed as result of a struggle against several large landowners who stole more than 950 *kawo* (a measurement of land like an acre) from peasants in difficult circumstances. These plots of land are currently in the hands of the peasants.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organization’s base is comprised of small groups known as *gwoupman* in Haiti, which have around 10 to 15 members each. (Note to readers: a *gwoupman* is a small local group of peasants who join together to work for social, economic or political change. They collectively reflect on a community problem and then come up with a group solution to the problem, usually an economic development project).

Each *gwoupman* is led by three members: a coordinator, a secretary and a treasurer. They send a representative to a delegate assembly. An executive committee of nine members heads the delegate assembly; this committee is elected every three years at the general assembly. As you can see, the grassroots groups in Haiti have a clear understanding of democratic representation.

The goals of MRPST are:

1. Fight to help poor peasants

improve their lives socially, economically and politically

2. Create a large network which is fighting to help the peasants work in better conditions and to increase the value of their products
3. Participate in all the work being done in the area, particularly in environmental protection

NEEDS

Peasants in Vèrèt live solely through agriculture. They are able to feed and educate their children thanks to the small profit they make through farming. However, because they lack money, they face many difficulties. For example, they frequently can’t plant on time due to lack of capital, they don’t have access to good seeds or technical training, they cannot always maintain their crops, and the local environment is becoming more damaged all the time. In reflecting on these problems, the organization was able to come up with a plan to solve the problems. This project includes: a small bean farming project, a soil conservation and reforestation project, and a tool bank.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Gain greater means to continue working a large portion of the plots of collective land MRPST occupies
- Reinforce the solidarity work which exists within the organization
- Begin to be liberated from the con-



trol of local large landowners from whom they borrow money at exorbitant interest rates in order to do their agricultural work

- Enable farmers to gain more technical knowledge of agriculture and management of their economic activities
- Enable farmers to increase their harvests so they have more money to provide for and feed their families.

To accomplish its objectives, the Lambi Fund will seed a micro-credit fund for the organization. At least 60 peasants will be able to cultivate larger plots of land with loans from the micro-credit fund. They will re-pay the loans at a far lower rate than the exorbitant rates charged by the greedy landowners. Peasants will learn about and implement systemic changes in their agricultural practices using agro-forestry, reforestation and organic farming techniques taught in the Lambi Fund training. In addition, the members will plant over 60,000 trees. By reforesting the land and farming larger plots of land, 60 peasant families will have the capability of earning more income and attaining economic justice. *

a conducting a student awareness campaign for Haiti and the Lambi Fund? Ask us about the “Fast for Hunger” or the “Piggy Banks for Pigs” campaigns to raise student awareness.

Do you belong to a **church or congregation**? We would be happy to come to a service or meeting at your church or congregation to talk about what Lamb Fund does and why it is a good program for faith based support. We have found that children’s groups such as Sunday school classes are especially interested to hear about the pig raising projects and often like to save “pennies for pigs”.

Do you work for a **newspaper, radio or TV station, or website** that would be interesting in profiling the work of Lambi Fund in Haiti? Do you have a **blog** that could include a feature on Lambi Fund?

Do you have other skills you would like to contribute to getting the word out about Lambi Fund? We now have an Outreach Committee in New York and would like to start similar groups in Boston, Miami and in Washington, D.C. The Lambi Fund Outreach Committee in New York is a small but committed group of community leaders—Gyliane Morgan, Sandy and Sherly Accime, and

Continued next page

New Projects Begun in 2005

Here are some examples of projects that Lambi Fund was able to begin, thanks to your support in 2005. Continued funding is needed to complete these projects. Please give generously!

In Chato, **Konbit 2004** is building 10 cisterns to provide potable water for the residents and water for the 100,000 trees in their large community-run reforestation project.

The **Organization of Peasants for the Development of Ennri** is encouraging peasants to start farming again with an agricultural micro-credit fund, sustainable agriculture training, and a small nursery for 10,000 tree seedlings.

The **Peasant Organization of Geren** is building a community cistern system because of the lack of potable water in the area. They are also planting trees in their community.

The **Landless Peasant Protest Movement in Veret** is starting a micro-credit fund for farmers in order to break free of the share-cropping system controlled by the big landowners in the area.

The **Cooperative Association for the Development of Nava** is starting a community-run fish farm to improve economic conditions and increase their protein intake.

Reforestation and organizational training are components of all these projects.

Many Thanks to Our Project Supporters!

In order to increase food production in the area, the **Dibedou Federation of Groups for Community Action** is creating an agricultural micro-credit program from which 150 farmers can borrow funds at planting time. Lambi Fund is providing \$8,000 in seed money for the micro-credit fund, as well as training in improved agricultural methods. We thank the **American Jewish World Service** for their support of this project!

Live Hope for the Development of Cap Rouge is increasing manioc production in the area with a micro-credit program to encourage farmers to plant manioc and a tool bank for use by manioc farmers. The project also includes a reforestation component. Lambi Fund will seed the micro-credit program for 50 farmers, purchase manioc seeds, tools and organic pesticides, buy 10,000 seedlings to build a tree nursery for agro-forestation, and provide training on sustainable agriculture techniques. We thank the **Presbyterian Hunger Program** for their support of this project! *



.....
Reforestation and organizational training are components of all these projects.
.....



.....
... Lambi Fund will seed the micro-credit program for 50 farmers, ...
.....

Myriam Augstin, with advice and guidance from Lambi Fund board member **Netlyn Bernard** of American Friends Service Committee. The New York Outreach Committee is planning a house party in May, a dance performance in the summer to raise funds, and a fun event at a Caribbean club in Brooklyn, to let people know about the unique work being done by Lambi Fund.

If you are interested in joining or starting an Outreach Committee in your city, contact Lambi Fund Deputy Director, Victoria Szatkowski at victoria@lambifund.org or call 202-833-3713.

Let's spread the news about the positive, progressive work being done in Haiti!



In the News

LAMBI FUND WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

M. Netlyn Bernard, the newest member of the Lambi USA Board of Directors, was born in Haiti and came to the US to go to college. She has a BA from Hofstra University and an MA from St. John's University with specializations in International Law and Diplomacy and in Public Administration. She has years of experience working with several non-profit organizations in New York. Currently, she is the Associate Director of Grants at the American Friends Service Committee, a peace and social justice organization with various programs in the US and abroad.

Netlyn said of her interest in joining the Lambi Fund Board, "I wanted to know about and fund peasant-led visionary projects in Haiti." Netlyn brings intelligence, humor and energy and we are happy she has joined the Lambi Fund Board of Directors.

France Buteau joined the Lambi Fund Advisory Board in Haiti this year. Born in Haiti and educated in Spain and the U.K., France retired to Haiti after a successful 31 year career with a major international financial

institution. She has been volunteering at the Lambi Fund office in Port au Prince and is especially interested in women's projects.

LAMBI FUND HIRES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

As a BFA, MS, and a PhD candidate in International Development Education, **Victoria Szatkowski** has experience in photojournalism, community outreach, program management, literacy, bi-lingual education, and research. She has been a social activist for Haitian issues for the past 15 years. While living and working in Haiti, she got married, helped build their house and had a baby who is now 4 years old. She is fluent in Kreyòl.

"My first trip to Haiti was with a Witness For Peace delegation led by Marie Racine, who is now the current Board Chair of Lambi Fund. She is the one who gave me the idea to enter a PhD program so I could continue to learn about Haiti as much as possible. Since then, I have been a passionate advocate for Lambi Fund, especially as I studied just what international development means for other countries. I always hold Lambi Fund up as a shining

example of truly sustainable development, the only kind worth doing," said Victoria.

NEW BOOK ABOUT HAITI

Haitian-American author **Hyppolite Pierre** has written a new book about Haiti that was released last month. Entitled **Haiti, Rising Flames from Burning Ashes: Haiti the Phoenix**, the book offers a brutally honest and precise historical analysis of Haiti and how the political system can be reformed to promote democracy, a vibrant economy, and cultural integration. The book begins with the assassination of the independence leader Jean-Jacques Dessalines in 1806, and continues through the three subsequent leaders, dubbed *The Three Musketeers* by the author, and their role in Haiti's current philosophical and structural makeup. In contrast to traditional theory, *Haiti, Rising Flames from Burning Ashes* explores the *distribution of powers* rather than the *separation of powers* as a solution to Haiti's political and cultural chaos. You can order the book on the books/music page of the Lambi Fund website at www.lambifund.org.

yes!

- Yes! I want to help peasant organizations in Haiti. Enclosed is my donation of \$_____
- Yes! I want to help peasant organizations in Haiti. I pledge to contribute \$_____ on a monthly/quarterly basis (circle one)
- Yes! I want to help spread the word about Lambi Fund. I plan to give this newsletter to a friend who shares my values and ask them to help, too.

Please clip and return to
Lambi Fund of Haiti, PO Box 18955, Washington DC 20036.
Checks payable to Lambi Fund of Haiti.
All donations are tax deductible

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



In the News

JOSETTE PERARD RECEIVES TWO HONORS

Josette Perard, Haiti Director of the Lambi Fund, was named one of the **21 Leaders for the 21st Century** by Women's eNews (www.womensnews.org) Out of a pool of hundreds of impressive candidates nominated, 21 determined and passionate trailblazers stood out for their extraordinary visions and commitment to working on behalf of women. Josette will be honored for her work on behalf of women and the Lambi Fund at a gala dinner in New York City in May.

In addition to being named a Leader for the 21st Century, Josette Perard was one of 30 women leaders selected to participate in the **Grassroots Women Environmental Leaders Strategy Meeting** in Mexico City in March of this year. The women developed a plan for working cooperatively on solving global environmental issues.

FAREWELL TO KATI

Several years ago Lambi Fund Founding Executive Director Catherine ("Kati") Maternowska accepted a position with the faculty of the University of California- San Francisco. With that career move, she transitioned from Lambi Fund staff to Lambi Fund board member.

She has served for the past several years on the Lambi Fund Board of Directors, while increasing her academic load with research projects in several countries in Africa. These public health research projects have required extensive travel to Africa, consuming more and more of Kati's valuable time. In an effort to balance her work and family responsibilities, Kati recently resigned from the Board of Directors. The Lambi Fund owes much of its reputation as an organization with integrity, purpose and drive to Kati. Thank you, Kati, for your years of dedication and commitment to the Lambi Fund of Haiti. You will always have a special place in our hearts!

NEW IMPROVED WEBSITE

If you have not seen it yet, check out the new Lambi Fund website at www.lambifund.org. You can see new projects in Haiti, sign up for our email newsletter, read a blog from Haiti, buy books and music about Haiti, make an online donation, download the most recent annual report and access information about staff, board members and case studies.

SIGN UP FOR LAMBI EMAIL NEWS

Keep up with the latest news by signing up for our new email newsletter. Visit our website at www.lambifund.org and sign up online. Or send your email address to us at info@lambifund.org. *

Contact info

Lambi Fund of Haiti
PO Box 18955
Washington DC 20036

Phone: 202-833-3713
Email: info@lambifund.org
Website: www.lambifund.org

Member Profile: Claudee

I am from the ODTPG organization, located in the Gilgo community in southern Haiti. We manage a community-run ox plowing service to help farmers cultivate their land. I am the Treasurer of the organization and have attended several of the Lambi Fund training sessions to learn about managing the project.

I am also a business woman, selling goods at the local market. My husband is a carpenter and we have two daughters and one son. My husband lives in Port au Prince where there is more work, while I raise the children here in Gilgo. Unfortunately, this is an arrangement that many Haitian families must endure because of the bad economic conditions.

I attended the women's conference conducted by Lambi Fund and learned a lot about the environment, ways to make water safe for drinking and why reforestation is important. The conference also taught me about equal rights for women and men and the importance of women in society. We would like to have training every three months. We would like a tree planting campaign as well as a loan for the women to plant more trees.

*Help Claudee and her friends make that dream a reality. Donate now for Lambi Fund reforestation programs. **



Why I Give

By DAVE NEELY

I give to the Lambi Fund because I have seen firsthand the desperate needs in Haiti and the positive, effective consequences of their projects. They target the independent, organized farmer's and women's groups, which is a key to their success. In my 11 trips to Haiti as volunteer, election observer, interpreter and my many conversations with all levels of Haitian society, I am convinced that most of the government aid and much of the NGO and missionary funds in Haiti are little more than a band-aid for their problems. A combination of education



and organization of the peasants, project successes that breed confidence, and above all, letting them decide on their own priority needs for projects has far-reaching effects. That seems to be the Lambi approach.

I have seen the positive results on a tour of projects in 2003. The people were not only grateful for the help, they were energized to continue the work and take on more projects. In spite of all the barriers to progress in Haiti, Lambi Fund workers there have been able to make a real, lasting difference in many rural communities. Therein lies the hope of the future for this country, I believe. *

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Marcelle Racine, Ph.D., **President**
Washington DC

Marie Marthe St Cyr, **Vice President**
New York, NY

Marie Estimé-Thompson, J.D., **Treasurer**
Miami, FL

Laurie Emrich, **Secretary**
Washington DC

M. Netlyn Bernard
New York, NY

Max Blanchet
Berkeley, CA

Julie Meyer
Washington, DC

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton
Detroit, MI

Ben Saint-Dic
Candiac, Quebec

ADVISORY BOARD

France Buteau
Port au Prince, Haiti

Freud Jean
Port au Prince, Haiti

Marguerite Joseph
Port au Prince, Haiti

Fr. William Smarth
Port au Prince, Haiti

STAFF

USA

Karen Ashmore
Executive Director
Victoria Szatkowski
Deputy Director

Haiti

Josette Perard
Haiti Director
Ferry Pierre-Charles
Field Director
Paul Henry
Asst. Field Director
Joseph Dorsainvil
Regional Monitor, Latibonit
Pierre Antoinier St.-Cyr
Regional Monitor, South

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lambi Fund's mission is to assist the popular, democratic movement in Haiti. Its goal is to help strengthen civil society as a necessary foundation of democracy and development. The fund channels financial and other resources to community-based organizations that promote the social and economic empowerment of the Haitian people.

Lambi Fund of Haiti
PO Box 18955
Washington, DC 20036



Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Merrifield, VA
Permit # 6418

Return Service
Requested