



Île à Vache

PROPOSITION PRÉLIMINAIRE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT TOURISTIQUE



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Mot de la ministre

À l'Initiative du Premier Ministre, un groupe de travail ministériel a été formé pour définir une stratégie de développement durable pour l'île à Vache en misant prioritairement sur son potentiel de développement touristique. Présidé par la Ministre du Tourisme, ce «task force» réunit le Ministère de la Planification et de la Coopération Externe (Secrétaire d'État à la Planification), le Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances (DGI, Direction du Domaine), le Ministère de l'Environnement, le Ministère de la Sécurité publique.

La firme IBIDAA a été retenue pour élaborer cette stratégie de développement en collaboration avec les firmes 360VOX, Resonance et SODADE. Un premier atelier de travail sur la vision et stratégie de développement touristique a été tenu au début décembre à l'hôtel Montana à Port-au-Prince et a permis de réunir un ensemble de partenaires impliqués, dont le Délégué Départemental, le Maire de la Commune de l'île à Vache, les opérateurs hôteliers déjà établis (Abakabay, Port Morgan), les experts des enjeux environnementaux (Nature Conservancy, Cote sud Initiative), Architecture for Humanity et des experts de l'industrie touristique.

Le résultat de cette première phase de réflexion vous est présentée dans ce document de Proposition préliminaire de développement touristique pour vos commentaires et bonifications, le tout afin de permettre au Groupe de travail d'avancer dans ce processus.

Les prochaines étapes de travail permettront d'établir un programme de mise en place des infrastructures de services sur l'île à Vache; d'amélioration des conditions de vie (programmes sociaux); de renforcement de l'économie locale, notamment la pêche et l'agriculture; et de protection et de conservation environnementale (écosystème marin, mangroves, reboisement et autres).

Vous remerciant à l'avance de votre collaboration «constructive» je vous invite à nous accompagner tout au long de ce processus qui aboutira à un plan de développement intégré de l'île à Vache.

Mme Stéphanie B. Villedrouin
Ministre du Tourisme d'Haïti

Vision de développement



Executive Summary

In a world where a billion people have officially become tourists, it is increasingly rare to find a place that seems to our eyes untouched by time – especially right in the Caribbean, one of the world's favourite holiday destinations.

Île à Vache, an island just off the southwest coast of Haiti 30 minutes from the town of Les Cayes, is a true treasure. Just 3.2 km. wide and 13 km. long, it is a virtually undeveloped place with some 10,000 inhabitants, more than 20 beaches, a landscape of mountains and mangrove forests, an artisanal fishing economy and a history that includes hosting Sir Henry Morgan, one of piracy's most successful practitioners. Reefs and shipwrecks line the waters offshore.

Île à Vache is singular for its complete absence of roads and cars.

The Ministry of Tourism of Haiti is developing Île à Vache into a destination with 1,000 new beds in bungalows and small hotels for luxury travellers seeking an authentic, somewhat adventurous and unusual island experience. The goal is to develop a sustainable tourism that will borrow from the successes of eco-tourism practices and benefit local inhabitants, the island environment and the economy. The vision for the island is described below:

“Île à Vache is the Caribbean’s last treasure island. Unpaved, unplugged, unspoiled and unlike anywhere else, it is a raw and rustic paradise, a rarity in the world. Here, tourism treads lightly, surely and sustainably, responsibly creating places of exquisite peace and well-being, and helping local communities become strong, smart and self-sufficient.”

Caribbean tourism is growing, albeit slowly, and economic difficulties in the US and Europe are clearly affecting decisions to visit. 23.8 million stayover visitors came to the Caribbean in 2011, an increase of 3.3% over 2010.

The target visitor for Île à Vache is a well-heeled tourist from traditional markets of North America and Europe, but also from the Caribbean region, emerging markets in South America, and newly mobile Russians. They may be Explorers in search of knowledge and adventure; Lovers seeking a getaway; Rejuvenators seeking spiritual and physical solace; and Homecomers, Haitians from the diaspora looking for a second or retirement home in their country of birth.



Executive Summary cont'd

The development principles that will guide the growth of Île à Vache are as follows:1)

Transportation: Conspicuously Car-Free 2)

Environment: Mothering Nature 3) Community:

Hand in Hand 4) Development: Build for Good

Energy: Independence Quest.

Considerations for development:

- The construction of an airport, for easy access and to bypass Port-au-Prince
- The placement of several neighbourhoods combining boutique-hotel type accommodation and beachfront cottages on the western side of the island
- A village, offering restaurants, galleries, cafés and festival space – along with a docking facility – is being planned just to the west of the island capital of Mme. Bernard

- An underwater museum recounting the romance of pirates would be a major attraction

- A community farm would engage both visitors and locals

- Walking trails would be upgraded for the enjoyment of visitors and the utility of locals

- Caribbean sailors would be attracted to new docking facilities

- An electric trolley or other alternative-energy system would transport guests and permit servicing of rooms and restaurants

Detailed plans for the island are included in this document.



location



location

Île à Vache is an island 30 minutes by boat from the town of Les Cayes on the southwest coast of Haiti. According to Wikipedia, Île à Vache is one of the most popular tourist sites in Haiti and it has some of the best island scenery in the Caribbean.

Here's an incomplete but indicative list of what Île à Vache offers:

- it has, according to official records, some 10-15,000 inhabitants, although anecdotal evidence would suggest there are far fewer
- it has hills up to 150 meters high on the western end of the island
- it has several important swamps in lower regions, especially on the east side, which boasts one of the largest mangrove forests in Haiti
- it has exactly two resorts, The Port Morgan and Abaka Bay, both on the western end of the island
- it has a series of important reefs, one of which was responsible for the wreck of Canada's pre-eminent racing clipper, the beloved Bluenose. Other shipwrecks, real and imagined, are part of the lore of the island and the delight of scuba divers
- it has Spanish origins, and was originally known as Isla Vaca until Hispaniola was divided between Spain and France in 1697
- it has a capital city named, charmingly, Madame Bernard, after the wife of an American named Bernard Kock, whose name is reflected in Cacoq. An orphanage named Soeur Flora Blanchette, after its Canadian founder, is also located in Madame Bernard
- it has a hillock of sand just off its shores called *L'île de l'amour*
- it has one key industry, and that is artisanal fishing on sailboats
- it has ports that were favoured by pirates. Among many other brigands, the notorious Captain Henry Morgan, immortalized by the rum brand, plied his dastardly trade around the island



location cont'd

What Île à Vache does not have is the one piece of infrastructure that is entirely taken for granted in most destinations. It doesn't have running water or electricity, but that seems minor. Extraordinarily, Île à Vache does not have a road. Nor the cars that call it home.

And therein lies its *magie*.

At 3.2 km. wide, Île à Vache is narrow enough to walk across in an afternoon. And at 13 km long, it's a very manageable bike ride – if you're riding a mountain bike, of which there are a few on the island.

Despite the island's other attributes, it is this careless, carefree state of affairs that most intoxicates, and provokes the imagination.

Île à Vache is a luxury reboot, a spa retreat, a place for adventurous activities, *un voyage responsable*, a place that must be protected, a home to pirates, an ocean, a beach, sand. But it is also a communion, a place of purification, spirituality and rebirth, a therapy, *une rareté*, *une merveille* of peace and tranquility, *calme*, *serénité*, *santé* and well-being.

Most interesting, perhaps, are the words that explain the exquisitely untouched character of the place: *sauvage*, *vierge*, *déconnecté*, far away, raw, unlike, ripe. It is *rustique* and pure, and its *pureté* is a kind of nakedness – somehow, there is nothing between you and this paradise, a word used to describe Île à Vache again and again.

This island is, in short, *un trésor*.

LES CAYES

Les Cayes, the closest town to Île à Vache on the mainland, is a destination in its own right. The town of 70,000 is near Gelée Beach, a long white marvel punctuated with ocean-front restaurants serving local specialties. The town's music festival in mid-August attracts some of the country's best Compas bands. The Grotte Marie-Jeanne caves bring enthusiasts to virtually untouched formations.

A major port exporting coffee and sugar cane, Les Cayes is also the world's largest supplier of vetiver, a key ingredient in the making of perfume. More than 60 tons of the fragrant essence are exported every year.



History

Haunts of “The Brethren of the Coast”

SCALE OF MILES



History

Come hear the thunder of the big guns, and blasts of the muzzleloaders,...feel the creakin' deck roll under yer feet and yer cutlass bangin' against the back of yer knees. Or, if you prefer to do yer sea-rovin' from yer armchair, we'll supply you with plenty o' tales to spice yer imagination.

-Pirates Magazine, 2012

There's something about pirates that tugs at us still, all these centuries later. It's the romance that we can conjure around a life that has little to do with fact, because by all accounts, a pirate's life was decidedly nasty, brutish and short, even if the scenery was splendid. Still, they were the entrepreneurial rebels of their age, hackers on the high seas, laughing in the face of danger and scrapping it out for the crumbs from the Spanish barons' great ships. Their eye patches – surely conceived to hide hideous injury – have an enduring allure. Their shirts we imagine ruffled, giving the men wearing them a ripped, rakish femininity that heats up both sexes, like Johnny Depp in eyeliner, surely one of the genius costume coups of recent memory. We imagine the emotions as deep and violent, and when we read the exploits of the ferocious women pirates Mary Read and Anne Bonney, we sharpen our cutlasses and we climb aboard for the incredible ride.



History cont'd

Piracy dates to the beginning of the 16th century when Spanish galleons stuffed with gold from the new world plied the seas, and the French, English and Dutch who missed out on the windfall savagely went after their share. Whether sanctioned by kings (as were Corsaires and Privateers) or not (Filibustiers, Buccaneers, Frères de la Côte) or independent agents (Pirates), adventurers plied the Caribbean and Indian oceans until about 1730. That year, the last pirate, Olivier Levasseur – nicknamed La Buse or The Buzzard, for his speed and ruthlessness – was hanged, eyepatch and all, on the island of La Réunion. Levasseur reportedly left behind a code that has flummoxed treasure hunters for nearly 400 years.

Île à Vache comes by its piracy honestly, and was the theatre and haven for one of Caribbean piracy's most enduring names, Captain Morgan, whose moniker and legend now add aplomb to millions of bottles of spiced rum.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A PRIVATEER

Henry Morgan, born in about 1635, was a successful and ruthless privateer – a hired cannon, if you will – assigned by the British crown to defend its interests in the “Spanish Main” of the Caribbean. By 1661, Morgan had been part of several expeditions – and had been named admiral by privateers whose own captain had been executed – and became captain of his first vessel. Ensued many campaigns in and around Jamaica, aided and abetted by a Governor bent on protecting his own position. This tidbit about Morgan stands out in the lengthy Wikipedia entry about him: “Morgan assembled a fleet of ten ships in a way that was quite different from most Admirals of the time. Instead of sending out a flyer and allowing willing buccaneers of the region to come to him, Captain Morgan sailed to the places where the most daring pirates could be found. When he arrived at the ports, he dressed himself in red silk and wore fancy gold and jewels so that he appeared to be extremely successful so that more swashbucklers were drawn to him. Using a

word-of-mouth approach, he was able to acquire five hundred of the best pirates in the area.”

Ravages of Cuba turned up little lucre, so Morgan and his buccaneers turned their sights on Porto Bello in what is now Panama, taking the city even though they were vastly outmanned. And then the privateers got bold, and here's where Île à Vache links up with one of history's most infamous marauders. Morgan assembled a fleet of 900 buccaneers in Île à Vache to plan an attack on the rich and strategic Spanish settlement of Cartagena. In the celebration of the impending attack, intoxicated sailors ignited explosives that destroyed The Oxford, Morgan's flagship. The rest of the raid was ill-fated, but the shrewd and manipulative Morgan managed to procure another ship – stolen from the French – and ended up attacking Maracaibo. The story of the attack, a counter-attack by the Spanish, and subsequent escape, is fodder for at least a trilogy of pirate movies. Morgan then set his sights on Panama, the richest city in New Spain, which he sacked



Sir Henry Morgan.

History cont'd

and burned through a series of clever military maneuvers. He retired in Jamaica in 1683 and died in 1688; rumors blame rum.

The good captain made news again in 2012 when an expedition, funded by Captain Morgan rum – made, incidentally, in Puerto Rico – turned up one of Morgan's ships sunken off the coast of Panama during the raid of Panama City. The loot aboard the boat, thought to be the Satisfaction, included wooden chests and barrels, nails, horseshoes, ceramics and lead seals. "I was particularly excited recovering the sword, not only because it can give us more information, but because it's just cool," confessed underwater archaeologist and pirate romantic Fritz Hanselmann of the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University.

SHIPWRECKS

Île à Vache has more than its share of shipwrecks, and while details are sketchy about location and condition, there's an opportunity to interest divers to explore those sunken hulks that are accessible. Chief among them:

- The Jamaican Merchant and the Oxford, both belonging to Captain Morgan. Exploring the sunken boats of one of history's most successful privateers? Irresistible.
- The Bluenose, Canada's pre-eminent racing and fishing boat, struck a reef and was abandoned off Île à Vache in 1946 while working as a freighter. A variety of divers claim to have found the wreck, but the reef here is littered with wrecks and identification is difficult. For Canadians, the Bluenose sails on – on a stamp, the Nova Scotia licence plate, and the Canadian dime.
- Loot from pirate ships is hard to come by after 400 years under water: an incense burner, a communion wafer mold, four silver plates, some bullets and a few other objects have been brought to the surface.



Development Strategy



Development Strategy

Towards a Sustainable Tourism

In a world – and a region – where tourism is well established and the effects of climate change are palpable, sustainable tourism is the only possible way to development the industry. How is Sustainable Tourism defined, exactly? According to the United Nations Environment Programme, sustainability principles “refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.”

The Growth of Eco-Tourism

Over the past decade, eco-tourism has been one of the fastest growing parts of the tourism industry. The Australians were pioneers in the development of eco-tourism, understanding early on that their many ecologically-sensitive areas could actually benefit from an influx of people – but the right kind of people, those who are willing to pay handsomely for the privilege of, say, swimming with sharks. (Shark tourism, incidentally, is a multi-billion dollar business, worth \$73 million annually to the Bahamas alone.)

The Ecotourism Association of Australia defines eco-tourism as simply ‘Ecologically sustainable tourism that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.’ For the research duo of Ceballos-Lascurain, “Eco-tourism is tourism that involves travelling to relatively undisturbed natural areas with the objective of admiring, studying and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any cultural features that may be found there.” (1991)

Strictly speaking, it appears that the key elements of ecotourism are the protection of natural landscapes, a learning experience, and getting along with local culture – all of which is abundantly possible on Île à Vache.

At the same time, eco-tourism has come to be associated with exotic and fragile species and places: the aforementioned sharks, Africa’s big game, the creatures of the Galapagos, or the vivid bird life of Costa Rica. And while there’s less buzz around eco-tourism today than when it was a fresh concept, the lure of eco-tourism – and the often once-in-a-lifetime experiences that often accompany it – has profoundly affected travel habits.

VISION

Île à Vache is the Caribbean’s last treasure island. Unpaved, unplugged, unspoiled and unlike anywhere else, it is a raw and rustic paradise, a rarity in the world. Here, tourism treads lightly, surely and sustainably, responsibly creating places of exquisite peace and well-being, and helping local communities become strong, smart and self-sufficient.



Development Strategy cont'd



In the 2012 issue of Travel & Leisure magazine's Top 100 Hotels of the World, eight destinations of the top 25 were true eco-lodges, and several others had respectable green credentials. Clearly, the safari experience is in vogue. But destinations designed sustainably are also clearly becoming mainstream among well-heeled travelers.

Forward-thinking destinations know this: you don't simply want more tourists (although more tourists on Île à Vache could not be a bad thing). Long term, what is needed is tourists who are mindful – they choose a destination for a reason, they want a more meaningful experience. That's how the most economic benefit can be had with the least social and environmental costs. So even if 'sustainable' tourists are a slender minority, they're an attractive one.

A 2011 study for the ITB World Travel Trends Report showed that consumers in general rank sustainability seventh out of eight in importance when booking trips. But 22% of the group studied – about one in five – said it was in the top three

What's needed is tourists who want a meaningful experience.

determining factors. Most interestingly, there was an above-average share of 'sustainable tourists' in the emerging markets of India, Brazil and Russia.

The down side is that only one-third of the 22% took a 'sustainable' holiday, and there was little indication that people were ready to pay a premium for it. The report concluded that

sustainable products are interesting as niche products. "But," it says, "they could be part of a successful differentiation strategy in order to gain additional market share."

Should a holiday on Île à Vache be touted as specifically 'sustainable'? Not necessarily. Sue Hurdle, CEO of the Travel Foundation, told Blue and Green Tomorrow that, "Sustainable tourism can be about staying in a very mainstream destination in a very mainstream hotel. If that hotel is reducing the amount of water and energy it uses on your behalf, and if it's sourcing its produce from local farmers, and if it's making sure that the excursions it offers are benefitting the local community, then it is on its way to being a sustainable product."

In other words, a traveller doesn't have to take a 'sustainable holiday' or be a 'sustainable tourist' in order to have a sustainable tourism experience.

While growth in eco-tourism has steadied from the early, heady days, opportunity remains. In a wide-ranging report called *A Time to Choose: Caribbean Development in the 21st Century*, the World Bank reports that the region has upbeat prospects for diversifying its traditional tourism product, and noted an increasing demand in new product areas such as adventure and cultural tourism, eco-tourism and upscale resorts. This, it said, provides an opportunity to revitalize the mature tourism sector, borne out by the success of St. Lucia's Jazz Festival, Dominica's Creole Festival, and the increase in eco-tourists across the region.

Île à Vache, a newcomer to the tourism game, has much to learn from the successes and challenges of its neighbours.

Development Principles



Development Principles

The principles by which Île à Vache will be developed centre around five main concerns: transportation, the environment, community engagement, development planning and energy needs.



1) Transportation: Conspicuously Car-Free

Île à Vache will build on one of its unique differentiators, and be a haven from cars and their attendant noise, roads, smell and speed. The history of the island is etched into the ground by its network of paths, and so is its future. Walking will be honoured and celebrated; trails will be refurbished to withstand rain and weather, and to serve locals and visitors on foot or on bikes. Our sports will not pollute “ni par le nez, ni par l’oreille.” Île à Vache is where tourists take their foot off the gas and adopt the pace of the promenade.

2) Environment: Mothering Nature

For decades, nature has been the provider. Now we will also provide for her. The beauty and landscape of Île à Vache is what will attract the world. It is our greatest resource and only asset, and we must be resourceful in protecting it and ensuring its future. Water is primordial: the biodiversity of the shoreline and its mangroves, along with our surrounding underwater world – on the island and the archipelago – needs environmental heroes; the fresh water needed for development must be carefully sourced and managed; the food

we grow needs to nourish the land as well. The new consciousness of the environment needs to be shared with both visitors and locals if it is to take root on the island.

Development Principles cont'd



3) Community: Hand in Hand

Infrastructure will be built to be shared. As we choose sites for development, we will confer constructively with neighbours. As we clean and repair shorelines and manage waste, we must embark on an ecological education with locals to help them understand the benefits to them, and be prepared to provide ongoing support. As we look for drinking water, we need to ensure that we supply surrounding communities and help them steward it for longterm health. As we seek to grow food for visitors, we have an opportunity to advance agricultural practices for locals and to learn from them in return. As we build secure ports and destinations, we will ensure safety in local communities.

4) Development: Build for Good

We will be adding many beds and many people to Île à Vache, and the consensus is to create small, low-density clusters of development in appropriate areas. Zoning will be strategic in order to minimize occupation of the ground and maximize conservation of open space. Beaches and reefs will be protected by developing a safe distance from the water, and mangroves will occupy a protected zone of their own. Architecture, whether contemporary or inspired by vernacular, will complement the landscape.

5) Energy: Independence Quest

Île à Vache relies on the mainland for key resources, and there's an opportunity to consider how we can help the island become self-sufficient. Renewable and alternative energies, like solar and windmills – in concert with conservation education, are a first step. Local water sources are key. Local building materials, as much as possible, would be employed. Food, or part of it, must be grown locally. The statute of the island, potentially as a tourism zone, would be key to facilitating these and other steps.

Market Analysis



Market Analysis

Tourism, the biggest single industry in the world, is also one of the planet's most dynamic: the billionth international traveler arrived at a destination on December 13, 2012, marking a milestone in the globetrotting ways of the world. (The momentous event has sparked a "One billion tourists, one billion opportunities" campaign to build on tourism's remarkable momentum and create awareness of the potential good tourism can offer when travel is mindful.)

6.8%

more Canadians visited in 2011

1.7%

more Americans visited in 2011

.6%

more Europeans visited in 2011

3.3%

more visitors in 2011 stayed over in the Caribbean (23.8 Million).

45%

of searches will be done on mobiles in 2013

Caribbean Tourism: Signs of Life

David Scowsill, President & CEO of WTTC said recently that, "Travel & Tourism is without parallel in its ability to create jobs, drive exports and generate prosperity. In 2011, Travel & Tourism accounted for one in 12 jobs on the planet – and at 9% of global GDP, the sector is a key driver for investment and economic growth. Of no less value is its ability to foster understanding tolerance and understanding between the world's peoples."

And tourism numbers keep increasing. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization

Travel and Tourism accounts for 1 in 12 jobs on the planet

(UNWTO), the number of international tourists worldwide grew by 5% between January and June of 2012 over 2011. In the Caribbean, where tourism is the economic lifeblood, growth is positive. The Inter-American Development Bank says that international tourism receipts in Latin America and the Caribbean grew 50% in the last decade. Tourism supports 12.6% of total employment in the region and represents a 41% share of Goods and Services.



Market Analysis cont'd

At the State of Industry press conference in Barbados in February of 2012, the Jamaican Gleaner reported that the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) recorded 23.8 million stay over visitors to the Caribbean region in 2011, an increase of 3.3% over 2010. The CTO reported that cruise passenger arrivals were flat, rising marginally by 0.3% to 20.6 million.

Sean Smith, the CTO's statistical specialist, said that while growth was uneven from destination to destination, tourist arrivals during the winter months (January to April) were up 4.4% over the previous winter, which had grown by 3.9% over 2009. The summer period ending December recorded a lower than expected increase of 3%.

As expected, the Canadian market performed strongly, with arrivals up 6.8 per cent over 2010, but growth from the U.S. was modest at 1.7%, while Europe was flat, recording a 0.6% rise.

Challenges remain: high unemployment in major source markets – particularly the U.S. and Europe – and high oil prices, along with uncertainty created by volatile weather patterns, make the future of Caribbean tourism less than certain. Changing consumer habits are also forcing

regions to rethink the way they tell their stories: Tourism marketing is being revolutionized by digital and social media and by explosive growth in mobile media. In September of 2012, Tran

Probably the most important shift in the last decade is the new dynamism of markets in Latin America, making these markets a key opportunity for growth.

Hang, head of travel industry at Google, told the EyeforTravel Travel Distribution Summit that mobile will represent 45% of searches in 2013, a leap of 10%. Google data shows that consumers are looking for experiential travel, they're highly price sensitive and they want choice.

Target Markets

In general, key source markets for Caribbean tourism are the U.S. – with about a 50% share – followed by Germany, the UK and France, the Caribbean itself and Canada, according to TargetEuro, tourism development specialists in



Market Analysis cont'd

Italy. Probably the most important shift in the last decade is the new dynamism of markets in Latin America, making these markets a key opportunity opportunity for growth. Emerging Latin markets are themselves becoming ever more popular destinations. At Virtuoso Travel Week in 2012 – a gathering of 4,000 luxury travel advisors – “emerging” destinations included many countries in South America: Columbia, Peru, Ecuador and Argentina.

Île à Vache will seek to target a higher end traveler from all of these markets.

According to Virtuoso, there are five motivators behind high-end travel:

- a search for authentic experiences in new destinations
- rest and relaxation
- personal enrichment
- to seek adventure
- to spend time reconnecting with loved ones

For this last reason, Virtuoso predicts that multigenerational travel will be one of the biggest trends for 2013.

Forbes magazine reported that another trend that emerged from the Virtuoso week was Value in Luxury: high-end all-inclusives like the oddly-named The Body Holiday LeSport spa in St. Lucia received raves, as did intimate all-suite Seabourn cruises, where all dining venues and bars are complimentary. Luxury value is a new focus at high end travel house Abercrombie & Kent, which is now offering small-group trips that are 30% less than their average itinerary.

Certainly, Île à Vache is as authentic and adventurous an experience as can be had in the Caribbean, and its remarkable, one-step-at-a-time pace could be as enriching as it is relaxing.



Traveler profiles

Île à Vache will have a particular appeal to four broad categories of educated, luxury-oriented travelers. Their provenance would be the Caribbean, the US, Canada and the European countries with a fondness for the Caribbean: England, France and Germany, along with the newly-mobile Russians and South Americans. The age of our visitors will vary, although the majority will be over 18, and children and families are not anticipated to be a main source of tourists.



Explorers

These are the visitors, amateur or professional, in search of knowledge and new frontiers: biologists, eco-system specialists, divers, archeologists, historians, cavers and all those fascinated by the underwater world.

Explorers include active tourists in search of experiences, ones who'll roam the surface and the waters of the island, above and below, perhaps making a stop at a submerged museum, or spending a day at Les Cayes to discover vetiver and checking out a festival. Explorers are also the "boat people" – yachters and sailors on the lookout for new destinations.



Lovers

Couples in search of the sensation of being alone in the world are a natural on our long beaches and quiet paths. Honeymooners of all ages, couples of all kinds in search of a getaway, empty nest boomers seeking a refuge just for the two of them...all feel the warm intimacy of our cozy island.



Homecomers

Île à Vache could become a second home or even a principal home to members of the diaspora looking to resettle in their country of birth, yet far enough away from its tumult to offer respite. Wealthy Haitians looking for second homes could build a wonderful getaway home that, with luck and planning, will be easy to come to.



Rejuvenators

These are visitors looking for a physical and spiritual renaissance on the island. They're of all ages, and include eco-conscious urbanites and young professionals from the city looking to escape on the weekend. They could be part of the Haitian jet set coming to party or chill. They might be a new class of medical tourists who've come for a state-of-the-art treatment combined with some folk plant treatments from the island. They might be a small group of work colleagues or spa goers seeking peace in paradise.

Vision



Vision

ÎLE À VACHE 2025

Your phone reassures you that it is November 2025, but the moment you leave the Vache Volante airport in Île à Vache, you leave behind the present tense – and in many important ways, the present era. You walk out the front door onto an island of bright sunshine and lush greenery on which there are no cars and no roads. The reality of this is so foreign, so strange and wonderful, that it takes you a moment to fully grasp it as you stand there, absorbing the warmth.

You will not, for the duration of your stay on this 49 square kilometres just off Haiti, be riding on a strip of asphalt with a line its centre aboard a vehicle fueled with gas. You will take a promenade, a walk, an amble, a saunter, and a bike if you wish, but you won't take a car. You will get from one place to the next in a novel way that humans have employed for millennia, along trails that evolved on the island over a century or more, were worn into the earth by time and feet because of their usefulness – how directly and easily they could climb a hill to a vantage point for orientation or to stargaze, avoid a marshy area, find a beach or pass under a coconut palm for sustenance and shade.

Sure, we all walk in the cities in which we live, but it's always so purposeful and focused on the destination, and there's always a lot of striding going on. On Île à Vache, walking is more ramble, amble and saunter. You become reacquainted with the simple act of putting one foot in front of the other for the sheer pleasure of doing so, of seeing where it will take you. This is something you haven't done for a long, long time. Maybe never.

Still, you wouldn't want to walk with your bags from the airport, which is centred midway on the island, discreet and beautifully landscaped.



Vision cont'd

Before the airport, the island was virtually unknown; now, it's one of Condé Nast Traveler's top 10 Treasure Islands. (A new port is being constructed at a site on the coast east of Les Cayes where boats historically sought shelter. It is for visitors and small sail and power boats, and often, tourists take one of the island's iconic sailing ships to the villages.) The 15-minute journey to your neighbourhood, a hamlet of sorts, is short and sweet; a comfortable electric trolley, vividly painted by Jacmelians, pulls you quietly underneath the palms, and the sea is always in sight. The silence, in fact, is all around, and it occurs to you that you've never had a ride from an airport quite like this. It sounds different and tastes different, too: a fresh *jus de chadek* is your first taste of the island, and you savour it and the silence.

The hamlets for tourists, never more than 50 small bungalows and a nanohotel on each site, dot the western end of the island on both the north and south shores, and provide about 1200 villas, hotel rooms and bungalows in all. East of the airport, mangrove conservation areas and working forests wait to be explored on foot or bike, and

there are places to stargaze and camp – including a spectacular treehouse – but no permanent settlements.

You're here this time for the farm, and you've chosen a village by the eco-golf course, itself an experiment in sustainable agriculture, entirely fed with greywater. The farm itself is the source of some 50% of the food you'll eat during this visit; the other half is the fish that locals catch and sell to village chefs daily. Dinners are always an event: Île à Vache held its first farm to table dinner just two years ago and now young Haitien chefs come to the island regularly to apprentice at the farm, learn the ways of the rich soil and create menus that honour the best of land and sea.

At the entrance to your neighbourhood, your driver scoots ahead with suitcases while you step out of your shoes and onto the limestone pathway and take your first steps into your vacation. It is one of many discoveries.

From your bungalow, designed as a contemporary riff on island vernacular of wood, limestone and corrugated metal, you can oversee the fields on one side and the ocean on the other; your private plunge pool is at your feet.



Vision cont'd

Below you is another small settlement, closer to the beach; it's "les 25 pas du roi" from the shore, just close enough to feel the pull of the sea and just far enough away to protect the fragile shoreline.

The ritual, at first, before anything, is to stretch out in a hammock that's part of the furniture in every suite. With a proper Barbancourt rum sour, which has been elevated to an art here. And close your eyes. And lie perfectly still. And just be.

Later, or maybe tomorrow, you'll be ready for a promenade – steps from each neighbourhood, trails lead off into local communities, and local guides lead visitors on expeditions into the wonderful, endless labyrinth. You could bike ride around the mangrove, or maybe go lobster fishing, or kayak. Or maybe you'll just go for a swim and walk to the real village – a gathering place for visitors to all neighbourhoods – that's located just west of the capital of Madame Bernard. Inspired by the charming name of the capital city, the new village is called Mary Anne, after famous female pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Read. While each small settlement has its own dining and bar, people eventually gravitate to the village, with its choice of restaurants, narrow walking streets and

coloured buildings with art galleries and craft markets. A perfumer makes vetiver in one building open to the street; repairs are made to sails; papier maché artisans, borrowed from Jacmel, invite passersby into their ateliers on weekends.

And there's always live music somewhere in the village; it's the reason so many people come at sunset, when the heat retreats, and don't leave until long after. On wide decks overlooking the water, sunset is saluted, moonrise is celebrated, and dinner is served.

Twice a year, *Frères de la côte* festivals turn the town pirate: there are races on the water in boats captained by locals; battles in the pool, skirmishes in the forest, and eyepatches and bad pirate accents everywhere.

Haitian troubadour music by torchlight, folkloric dancing, voodoo and traditional island storytelling around a campfire are the rage after dark. The Milky Way swirls above, just beyond reach.

GPS-happy pirates go geocaching for treasure. Others use old-fashioned maps. The intrepid look for sunken treasure, and Île à Vache, final resting place of Captain Morgan's Oxford and



Vision cont'd

Canada's Bluenose, attracts elite geocachers – the kind who scuba dive into the wrecks looking for treasure or just browsing among the displays of an underwater village unlike anything else on the islands. The displays are 20 feet down, so snorkelers can enjoy the view. Divers and curious fish can get close to displays and artifacts that look and feel like they've been there forever. Coral grows anew. Fish abound.

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Vision cont'd

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A NEW VERNACULAR

The architectural design at Île à Vache, like its trails, transcends time: the materials are the very stuff of the island – the limestone that is just under the surface, the straw of vétiver that has long been roofing, and wood, now precious, that was once carved into doors. All these are made afresh by contemporary design that has made the resort a must-see destination for anyone passionate about architecture. Bungalows on the water are intimate with the shore without hogging it; boutique hotels on the hillside above melt into the mountain and their wide terraces offer views and lounging above the sea. Outdoor comes indoor in everyone's home – showers are outside, and beds can be rolled onto decks so you can sleep beneath the stars, safe under a net on a pillow-soft bed.



THE PATHS LESS TRAVELED

The experience of walking from settlement to settlement on Île à Vache is an unforgettable experience. Visitors will see life as it's lived on the island by wonderful schoolchildren skipping home from class, boys driving cows, naked babies, fishermen tending their nets, women carrying baskets on their heads. In Cinque Terre, the experience has been perfected: it's a walk of one or several days, with excellent restaurants along the way and spectacular views to be enjoyed. Hikers pay a modest fee, which goes to upkeep of the trails.



AIR ACCESS

An airport on Île à Vache would be a game changer. In Tortola and Anguilla, both airports that accommodate regional jets and turboprops, runways are 5,500 ft. (1,676 metres) long. With a small airport, connections to Île à Vache could be made from Port-au-Prince, but also from Miami, Santo Domingo and San Juan, opening Île à Vache to many new markets.



RED SKY AT NIGHT

Île à Vache is dotted with quiet coves and places that are potentially a sailors' delight – it's deserving of inclusion on the itineraries of sailors cruising the Caribbean. With the addition of the proposed village, it could earn its share of the international crowd of mariners who are always looking for a new destination.

BEAUTY IS A BEACH

There are more than 20 beaches to explore on all sides of Île à Vache – virtually deserted beaches for picnics, beaches facing sunset, beaches with beautiful shells, with black, singing rocks, beaches for snorkeling...enough to satisfy every vacationer's craving for the classic Caribbean beach experience.



ramon resort belize

MARY ANNE VILLAGE

A village on the north coast would provide a gathering place for visitors at all the bungalows on the western end of the island, offer a variety of restaurants, cafés, galleries and markets, and provide a focal point for festivals and celebrations. Named for the Caribbean's two most famous female pirates, and located on the north coast just west of Mme. Bernard, the village is walkable from most tourist neighbourhoods. It could also be home to a dock where visitors could initially arrive on the island, particularly before the airport is built. The historic docking area on the Haitian mainland lies just opposite the proposed village site.



ISLAND FARMS

Agriculture is a key activity on Île à Vache, and farms and food are an obsession amongst knowledgeable travelers. There's an opportunity to create a kind of working community farm run by locals – who'll benefit from technology and best practices – where visitors can be part of planting, harvests, and farm to table dinners prepared by local chefs. In the community of Kukui'ula on Kaua'i, Hawai'i, the farm is both a visual and literal feast, and residents enjoy fresh fruits, veg, herbs and flowers from the farm.



ON THE TRAIL OF PIRATES

Île à Vache has an opportunity to take possession of and lovingly tell the pirate story in a highly innovative way. Captain Morgan, Anne Read and other merry marauders could become part of a museum exhibit....underwater. Inspired by the Museo Subacuatico de Arte in Cancun, the museum could lead divers deep into history – and also help conserve and support the life-giving reefs around the island.



MOVING PEOPLE AND THINGS

A system of surfaced paths needs to be created to facilitate the transportation of guests and their luggage from the airport and village, but also to service hotels and bungalows and move food and trash via efficient electric shuttles. Innovative surfacing means that asphalt can be avoided, which would prevent problems from runoff and keep paths passable year round.

Conclusion

There are so many Caribbean islands, and yet so few true treasures. Île à Vache, untouched and unperturbed, late to the tourism game in the region, can be part of the new generation of Caribbean developments – innovative and respectful in its design, enriching and sustainable for its community and its country. Most importantly, Île à Vache can offer visitors a rare gift of well-being that comes from the absurdly simple act of walking from one beautiful place to the next, sharing a path and watching life on the island unfold. That's a reason to come...and to come back again and again.

One day, before he knew that the pirate Mary Read was a woman, Captain Jack Rackam asked her why she followed a line of life that exposed her to so much danger, and at last to the certainty of being hanged. She replied that, As to hanging, she thought it no great hardship, for were it not for that, every cowardly fellow would turn pirate, and so infest the seas; and men of courage would starve. That if it was put to her choice, she would not have the punishment less than death, the fear of which kept some dastardly rogues honest; that many of those who are now cheating the widows and orphans, and oppressing their poor neighbors who have no money to obtain justice, would then rob at sea, and the ocean would be as crowded with rogues as the land, so that no merchants would venture out, and the trade in a little time would not be worth following.

– from Mary Read, elizabethan-era.org.uk

Principes directeurs de développement touristique



Principes directeurs de développement touristique

Les principes directeurs de développement touristique proposés ici s'inspirent du tourisme durable. Le tourisme durable met l'accent sur un développement touristique qui préserve l'intégrité culturelle, les écosystèmes et la diversité biologique et qui favorise le développement économique et social des communautés. Il se veut solidaire et responsable. Il découle de la Charte du tourisme durable, inspirée de la Déclaration de Rio sur l'Environnement et le Développement et adoptée en 1995, lors de la Conférence mondiale du Tourisme durable réunie à Lanzarote.

Chacune des notions inhérentes au tourisme durable est détaillée ci-après .

A- Le respect de l'intégrité culturelle

La rencontre et la cohabitation de populations provenant de milieux de vie différents impliquent des risques au niveau de la structure sociale et culturelle de la population hôte, soit:

- la perte d'identité;
- la perte des traditions pouvant conduire à une folklorisations;
- la désarticulation du réseau social entraînant, par exemple, l'abandon scolaire des jeunes pour la sollicitation auprès de la clientèle touristique, le vol ou la prostitution et;
- l'insouciance dans la conservation du patrimoine, par la détérioration de lieux ainsi que le pillage de biens culturels.

Le développement touristique devra donc être accompagné de balises. Aussi bien destinées au touriste qu'à la population qui l'accueille, ces balises doivent être orientées ***sur le respect et la mise en valeur des cultures et pratiques locales*** (incluant des aménagements qui mettent en valeur les activités économiques traditionnelles tels que la pêche, l'agriculture, le commerce, etc.), et sur le maintien des équilibres sociaux et culturels. En plus de valoriser la culture locale, ces actions augmentent la qualité des produits touristiques puisqu'elles procurent une expérience unique et authentique aux visiteurs.

B- La protection de l'environnement

Les efforts de planification touristique doivent intégrer la notion de protection de l'environnement, des paysages, des processus écologiques, des écosystèmes et de la biodiversité. Ceci se traduira par la minimisation et la gestion continue des impacts environnementaux par l'intermédiaire, entre-autre, de ***création de zones de conservation, d'aménagements favorisant la mobilité active, d'opérations d'entretien et de reboisement des mangroves et zones boisées, d'application de normes et principes d'aménagement sensibles aux milieux, de programmes de formation et de sensibilisation de la population et des touristes***, etc. Le tourisme durable mets à profit les ressources naturelles dans le but de les valoriser et de les protéger; elles sont considérées comme des atouts et leur maintient est nécessaire au développement d'attractions touristiques, à la préservation de la qualité des paysages, etc. Les aménagements proposeront aux touristes la pratique d'activités passives qui ne viendront pas à l'encontre du principe de protection de l'environnement.

Toutefois, la présence de touristes sur l'Île à Vache occasionnera une augmentation de la consommation de certaines de ces ressources. C'est pourquoi les principes d'aménagement proposés présenteront des solutions afin d'effectuer une saine gestion des potentiels de l'île. Cette augmentation de la demande est perçue comme une opportunité d'améliorer les pratiques locales afin d'effectuer une gestion durable du territoire.



¹ Organisation du tourisme de la Caraïbe (CTO), Cadre Stratégique pour le Tourisme durable Caribéen, avril 2008

Pro-Poor Tourism Partnership and the CTO, Making Tourism Count for the Local Economy in the Caribbean, Guidelines for Good Practice, April 2006

Organisation du tourisme de la Caraïbe (CTO), Faire concurrence avec les meilleurs : Bonnes pratiques en matière de tourisme communautaire dans la Caraïbe

Principes directeurs de développement touristique (suite)



C- La pérennité du produit touristique

Le modèle touristique massif caractéristique du siècle dernier visait essentiellement la croissance à court terme au détriment d'une croissance à long terme, en ne visant qu'une utilisation maximale jusqu'à épuisement de la destination ou du produit.

La pérennité du produit touristique de l'Île à Vache est essentielle pour permettre aux générations futures de continuer à en vivre. Par conséquent, le produit ne devra pas être perçu comme simplement un bien de consommation mais plutôt comme une valeur et un actif précieux, intégré au mode de vie et au contexte actuel. Le type d'aménagement choisi influencera le volume et la nature de la demande touristique par le développement d'un produit qui **respecte la capacité d'absorption des milieux et qui conserve autant que possible sa personnalité et son unicité**.

L'industrie devrait être développée de manière à fournir diverses opportunités d'emplois stables et permettre la mise en place d'un réseau de services sociaux adéquat et accessible, permettant de réduire la pauvreté et la vulnérabilité de la communauté d'accueil.

D- L'implication active des communautés locales

Afin d'influencer positivement le développement touristique de façon pérenne, l'appui et l'implication des communautés locales doit être assuré.

Les notions de travail commun, **de partenariat et d'élaboration conjointe devront circuler dans les communautés orientées sur le développement touristique afin de maximiser les retombées de l'industrie dans la communauté locale**. Ces notions devront se traduire par l'élaboration de moyens concrets, comme la mise en place d'un mécanisme de consultation publique ou la création de réseaux entre entreprises partenaires.

La transparence des modes de décision et des transactions financières est critique pour le succès de cette implication.

E- La répartition équitable des retombées

Les bénéfices provenant de l'activité touristique sont souvent distribués inégalement. Le développement touristique implique souvent l'importation massive de biens et le rapatriement des bénéfices réalisés par les investisseurs étrangers.

Afin de contourner cette situation, le développement touristique devra prioriser les échanges commerciaux dont les bénéfices sont les plus équitables envers l'Île à Vache. L'accent doit être mis sur le contrôle et la participation locale en vue d'un **meilleur partage des bénéfices, que ce soit par l'embauche locale, l'achat local ou la redistribution locale des revenus d'exploitation**.

Le développement d'une offre touristique peut aussi être prétexte à la mise en œuvre d'une revitalisation urbaine (ex. : amélioration des espaces publics, création de parcs, piétonisation, art public, etc.). à titre d'exemple, dans le cadre de ce projet, le secteur urbain de Madame Bernard verra son cadre bonifié, ce qui aura un impact positif significatif sur la qualité de vie de ses résidents. Une distribution équitable des retombées d'un projet d'aménagement touristique durable implique aussi une répartition géographique des interventions.

Finalement, l'offre touristique doit être intégrée à l'économie locale, que ce soit au niveau de la restauration, de l'artisanat, ou des services, et être cohérente avec les visions de développement des contextes d'insertion.

F- Le rôle facilitateur de l'État et la synergie avec le secteur privé

Au-delà de son rôle de législateur, l'État se doit de mettre en place les conditions d'un développement touristique dynamique. Le soutien aux projets d'investissement est essentiel, qu'il se joue sur le terrain ou au travers des programmes d'aide et d'incitation. Les initiatives d'affaires individuelles et communautaires ne doivent pas être freinées par la bureaucratie ou l'inaction. L'élimination des obstacles et des barrières à l'entrepreneurship est critique.

De plus, **l'action doit être conjointe entre le secteur public et le secteur privé**, qu'il s'agisse de développement de l'offre ou de promotion commerciale.

L'État doit jouer le rôle de modérateur et s'assurer de l'arrimage des projets d'aménagement touristiques promus par le secteur privé avec les besoins des communautés vivant dans le contexte d'insertion (ex : protection des zones agricoles).

Plan concept de développement touristique







Programme de développement touristique : l'Île à Vache, pionnière du tourisme durable en Haïti

L'Île à Vache est une destination authentique dans un environnement naturel préservé à l'état brut, offrant tous les attributs pour y développer une expérience de tourisme durable. La circulation sur l'île se fait sans véhicules motorisés à carburant; les visiteurs seront appelés à se déplacer à pied, en bicyclette, à cheval, en motocyclette ou en voiturette électrique, soient les modes de transports présentement adoptés par la population locale.

Il n'y a pas non plus d'imposants complexes hôteliers sur l'Île à Vache; que de petits hameaux d'unités hôtelières ou résidentielles de villégiature à implantation minimale, liés entre eux par des petits chemins ou des passerelles de bois.

L'île compte 45 km² en tout (environ 15 km en longueur); dont environ 30 % sont constitués de milieux humides (mangrove) et moins de 3 % y est présentement habité (villages et hôtels existants). Des 25 km² de terrains potentiellement développables, nous proposons d'utiliser moins de 20 % pour y aménager les nouvelles installations touristiques, activités extra hôtelières et services d'infrastructures; qui dans tous les cas devront être bien intégrés et entourés de grandes superficies laissées à l'état naturel et/ou à reboiser. Dans son ensemble, la densité du développement touristique sur l'Île à Vache sera donc très faible; la norme à y respecter sera de moins de 1 chambre à l'hectare.

La stratégie de développement durable de l'Île à Vache comporte également des volets de renforcement de l'économie locale, principalement des activités de l'agriculture et de la pêche; d'améliorations des conditions de vie dans les villages existants (services sociaux d'éducation, santé, sécurité civile et autres services gouvernementaux, habitats et infrastructures sanitaires notamment) et de protection environnementale / conservation des milieux sensibles.

La vision et l'objectif à atteindre est de faire de l'Île à Vache un «fleuron» du tourisme durable dans les Caraïbes.

Port touristique et aéroport sur l'île

Une arrivée des plus rapides sur ce petit coin de paradis sera possible directement de par la mer et par les airs.

L'Île à Vache est située au centre d'un vaste plateau continental marin de 800 km² qui s'étend depuis Aquin jusqu'à Saint-Jean-du-Sud (voir la carte contexte régional en page précédente). Bien que la seule liaison maritime actuelle soit celle reliant la ville des Cayes avec l'Île à Vache, la vision de développement est de mettre en place à partir de la demande générée par les visiteurs, un réseau de navettes excursions reliant l'Île à Vache aux différentes attractions sur la côte, depuis Port à Piment et les grottes, le Pic Macaya; Port Salut, Saint-Jean-du-Sud, la plage de gelée aux Cayes, Camp Perrin, la baie du Mesle et Saint-Louis-du-Sud, l'île de la Trompeuse, Aquin, Côte de fer et jusqu'à la destination touristique culturelle créative de la Ville de Jacmel. Ce système de navette maritime aura son attaché au port touristique (avec tous les services de capitainerie et d'accueil) du village central de services sur la côte nord de l'île à proximité du village de Kay Madame Bernard.

Les 45 km linéaires de côtes de l'île sont aussi faits de nombreuses petites baies et "ports naturels" qui sont autant de haltes potentielles à aménager avec des installations légères de marina pour permettre d'accueillir les nombreux bateaux de plaisanciers se déplaçant dans la région des Caraïbes.

Par ailleurs, l'arrivée par les airs permettra le meilleur premier coup d'œil sur l'entité de l'île et de ses divers environnements naturels. L'aéroport (et héliport) sera localisé dans la partie centrale de l'île, dans une zone de moindre impact sur l'environnement et à proximité du village central d'accueil où les visiteurs/touristes sont dirigés vers leur hameau et unité par des sentiers avec voiturettes électriques décorées à l'image artistique du pays. La relaxation commencera dès l'atterrissement...





Programme de développement touristique (suite)

Programme hôtelier et services touristiques

Le parc immobilier comptera près de 1,200 unités au total, entre chambres d'hôtels offertes en location à l'année et des villas de villégiature vendues à des particuliers, qui pourront aussi être mise en unité de location.(formule en pool de location).

Tel que montré au plan concept en page suivante, ce parc immobilier sera répartie entre environ 8 à 10 hameaux de développement touristique (indiqués au plan comme Unité d'aménagement touristique UAT), avec des thématiques spécifiques par hameau, qui seront grandement inspirée par leur type et forme d'implantation; soit sur pilotis dans les baies protégées (type de cité lacustre), sur les flancs des collines et dans la plaine.

Dans tous les cas, la protection du littoral et de son environnement naturel sera une norme obligatoire. L'implantation sur les collines sera favorisée de sorte à offrir des vues sur un paysage marin exceptionnel et une protection contre les risques des tempêtes tropicales affectant la région.

L'hôtel sera le noyau de services, d'activités et de ralliement de chaque hameau de développement touristique, avec restaurants, bars, spa-fitness et tous les équipements récréatifs extérieurs tels que bassins à remous, piscines, plages, et autres activités nautiques. Les villas de villégiature graviteront autour de ce noyau hôtelier et les usagers de ces dernières pourront bénéficier des services de l'hôtel.

Il y aura un Village Central pour l'île au complet, qui sera aussi le point d'arrivée et de départ des visiteurs; un cœur de services et d'animation situé à proximité

du port d'attache et de l'actuelle zone urbaine nommée Kay Madame Bernard du côté nord de l'île.

Les hameaux seront liés entre eux par des sentiers qu'il sera possible d'emprunter à pied, en bicyclette, à cheval, ou en voiturette électrique, ainsi bien entendu par un système de navette maritime qui aura son attache au port touristique du village central de services. La distance entre les hameaux sera suffisante pour créer une belle intimité entre ceux ci.

L'architecture, quelle soit contemporaine ou inspirée de principes vernaculaires, s'harmonisera avec l'environnement naturel du site, entre colline et la baie, adapté au climat local et une orientation favorisant une ventilation naturelle et qui privilégiera l'utilisation de matériaux locaux.

Médical, santé et bien être

Le volet bien être étant en demande croissante auprès de la clientèle de tourisme de destination, il est proposé qu'un programme médical avec des soins de santé de pointe (traitement et suivi médical) et de mise en forme soit aussi réalisé sur l'île à Vache (tourisme de santé).

De plus, un complexe éducatif de santé pourrait y être aménagé ce qui aurait le double avantage de créer une image de marque / notoriété et d'avoir une clientèle étudiante permanente.

Commercial

Notre clientèle de tourisme durable demandera aussi une expérience culturelle, artistique et gastronomique de qualité, locale et authentique.

Programme de développement touristique (suite)

La vision de l'offre commerciale sur l'Île à Vache en est une composée de commerçants et producteurs locaux (produits de la terre et de la mer), ainsi que d'artisans et d'artistes locaux; le tout permettant d'offrir une panoplie d'emplois locaux et de renforcement de l'économie locale liée à l'agriculture et à la pêche.

Infrastructures et approvisionnement

Qui dit île dit nécessairement besoin en autosuffisance des ressources, renouvellement et gestion de ces dernières. Nous planifions que l'approvisionnement alimentaire pour l'île soit majoritairement composée de produits cultivés sur l'île même. Cette stratégie passera par des programmes d'intensification agricole, de cultures sous serre et un important volet formation des ressources humaines locales.(centre de formation spécialisée en aquaculture, agriculture sous serre, ...).

De plus, l'opportunité de rendre l'île complètement indépendante en termes d'infrastructures de services se présente, en développant des sources d'énergies renouvelables comme le solaire, le biocarburant, l'éolien et l'énergie géothermique.

Chaque hameau verra à la gestion de ses besoins en eau potable (puits ou désalinisation, et au traitement de ses eaux de rejet; plusieurs technologies biologiques offrent des solutions intéressantes adaptées au besoin de l'île.

L'île devra également être équipée pour gérer l'ensemble de sa production de déchets solides avec un centre (lieu) d'enfouissement technique sanitaire et de valorisation de la biomasse (compostage pour les besoins locaux des producteurs) et recyclage des autres produits.

Récréatif et équipements

Un tel paysage enchanteur commandera des activités hautement différencierées; découverte du fonds des mers en plongée avec guide, avec en toile de fond les thématiques écologiques (corails, mangroves, ...) mais aussi celle «magique» de l'histoire des pirates et des vestiges des bateaux et trésors (l'île aux trésors); pêche en haute mer avec des pêcheurs expérimentés qui vous expliqueront les secrets du métier; voile sportive; golf écologique nouvelle tendance; randonnée de remise en forme ou à volet éducatif à travers l'île avec des guides formés pour la découverte de la faune et de la flore.

Éducatif et formation

Le développement touristique de l'île à Vache ne pourrait se faire sans y adjoindre un important volet muséologique moderne sous les thématiques «Maritime et son écologie; ainsi que l'histoire des flibustiers», soit Le Musée de l'Île aux Trésors.

Le programme de formation professionnelle est une grande composante du développement pour l'Île à Vache. En effet, d'une part, afin d'offrir une expérience à la hauteur des expectatives élevées des visiteurs, conscientisés et exigeants, un personnel spécialisé devra être embauché. Nous proposons donc, au cœur du village central, une école de formation en gestion et opération touristique, en gestion commerciale, en restauration, et de l'industrie bien être (spa), ainsi qu'une formation en animation touristique. D'autre part, des programmes de formation spécialisée devront être donnés dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de la pêche. Finalement, nous avons également mentionné le potentiel pour y établir un complexe éducatif et de traitement dans les services de santé et du bien être (tourisme de santé).

Environnemental – zone de conservation marine

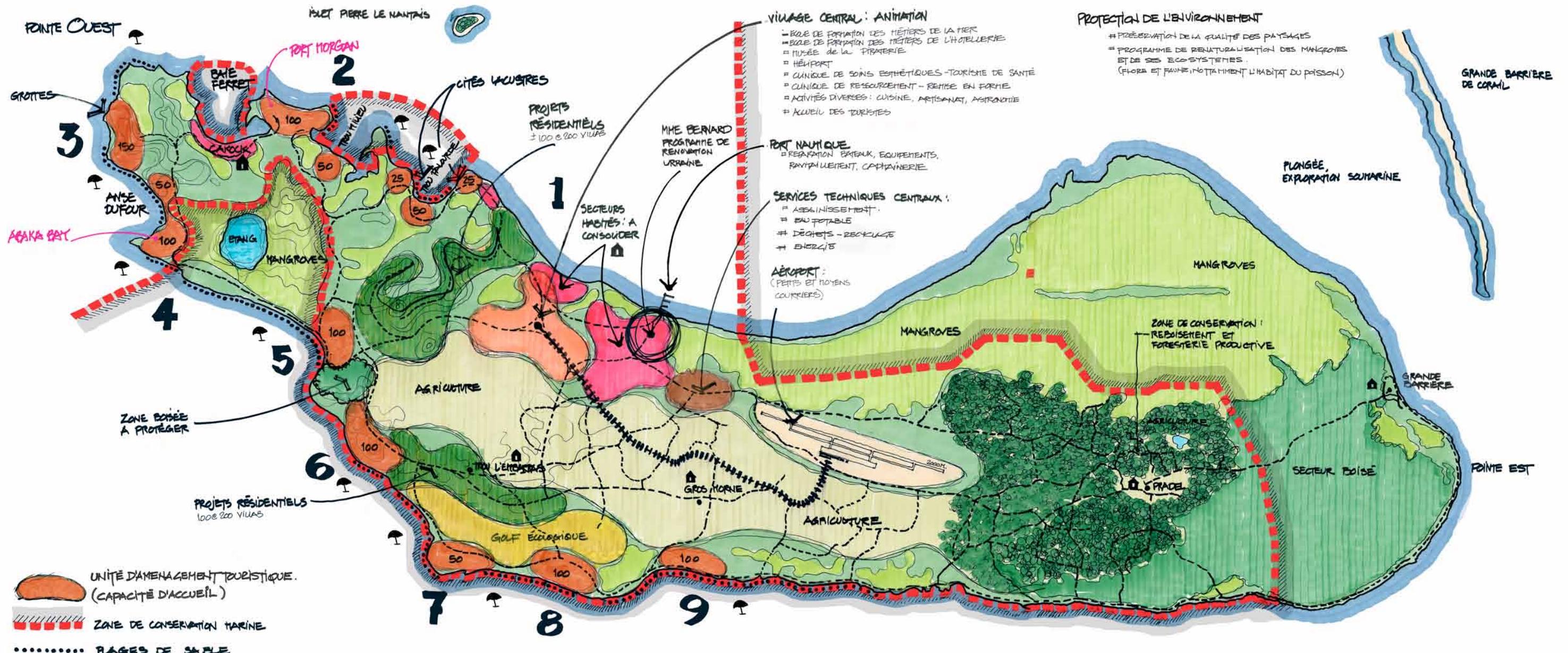
Une telle croissance de la population résidente et visiteurs à l'Île à Vache devra nécessairement être accompagnée d'une bonne gestion des ressources maritimes comme importante ressource alimentaire, tant par la formation et sensibilisation des pêcheurs, la rotation des zones de pêche (vivaneau, barracuda, poisson perroquet, demoiselle, poisson d'argent, hareng, sardine,et autres) afin de permettre la reconstitution des espèces marines ainsi que la mise en place de quotas de pêche et réglementation.

À cet effet, à l'initiative du Ministère de l'Environnement, il devra être proposé au gouvernement de légiférer afin d'établir une zone de protection/conservation marine dont les limites préliminaires (selon les travaux de Nature Conservancy / CSI, Mer Sud – Protection Marine et Côtière, septembre 2012) sont montrées au plan concept en page suivante.

Les mangroves à l'Île à Vache sont parmi les plus importantes d'Haïti. Le visiteur aura la chance de s'en approcher à pied ou part bateau afin de parfaire sa connaissance de ces vrais filtres marins et de leur contribution à l'équilibre environnemental.

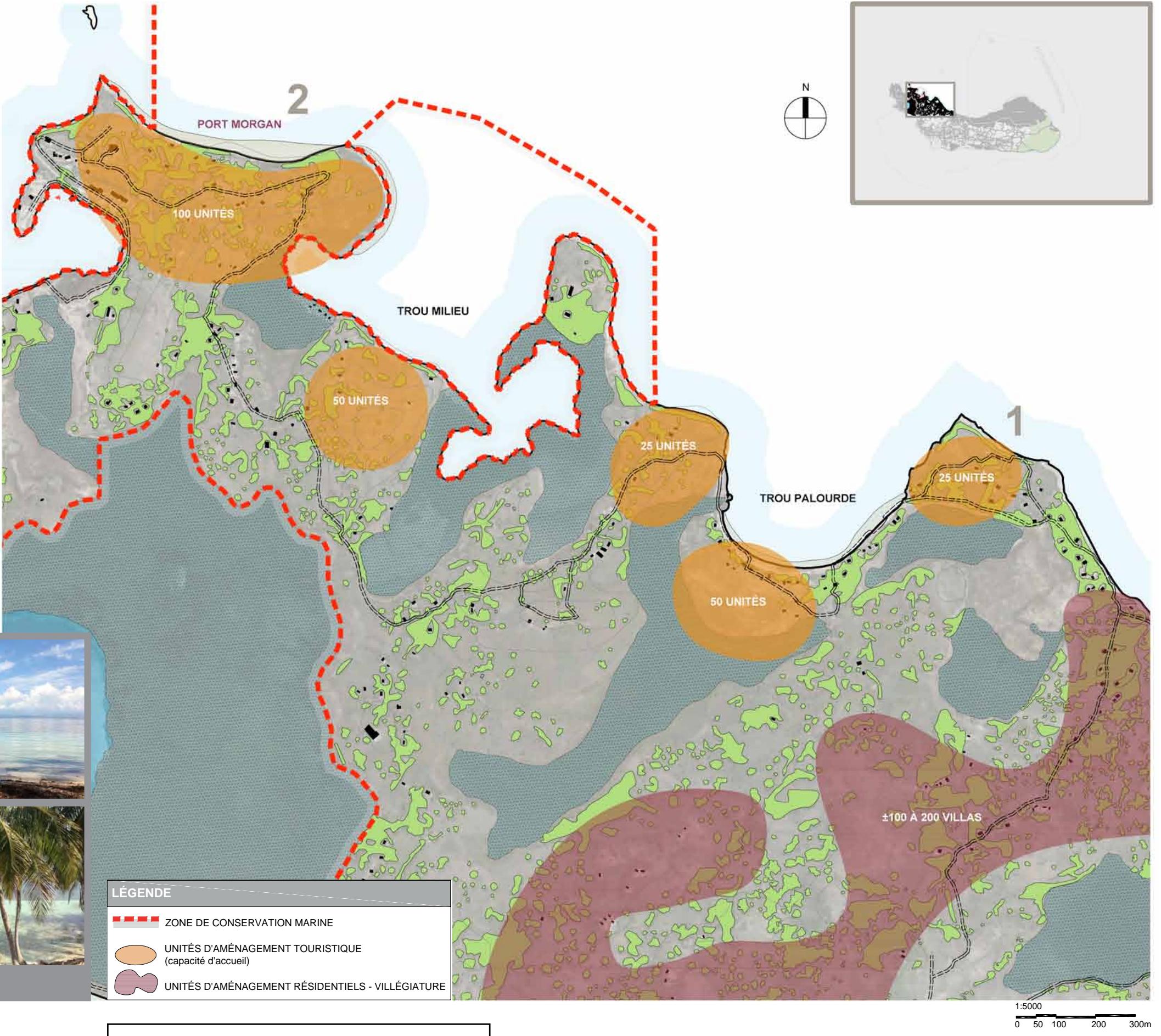
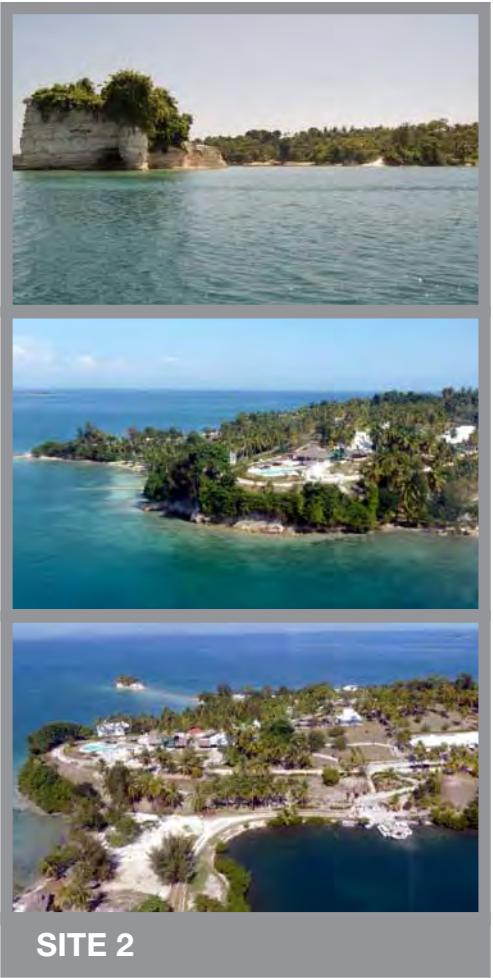
Cette protection marine et environnementale ne fonctionnera qu'avec la plus large participation de la population et des autorités locales et des partenaires privés impliqués dans le développement de l'Île à vache, et cela dès le début du processus, soit maintenant.

La Mise en place d'un Comité de Gestion réunissant l'ensemble des parties permettra cette gouvernance environnementale.



1:12 500
0 250m 750m 1250m

ILE-A-VACHE | HAÏTI
Plan concept de développement touristique



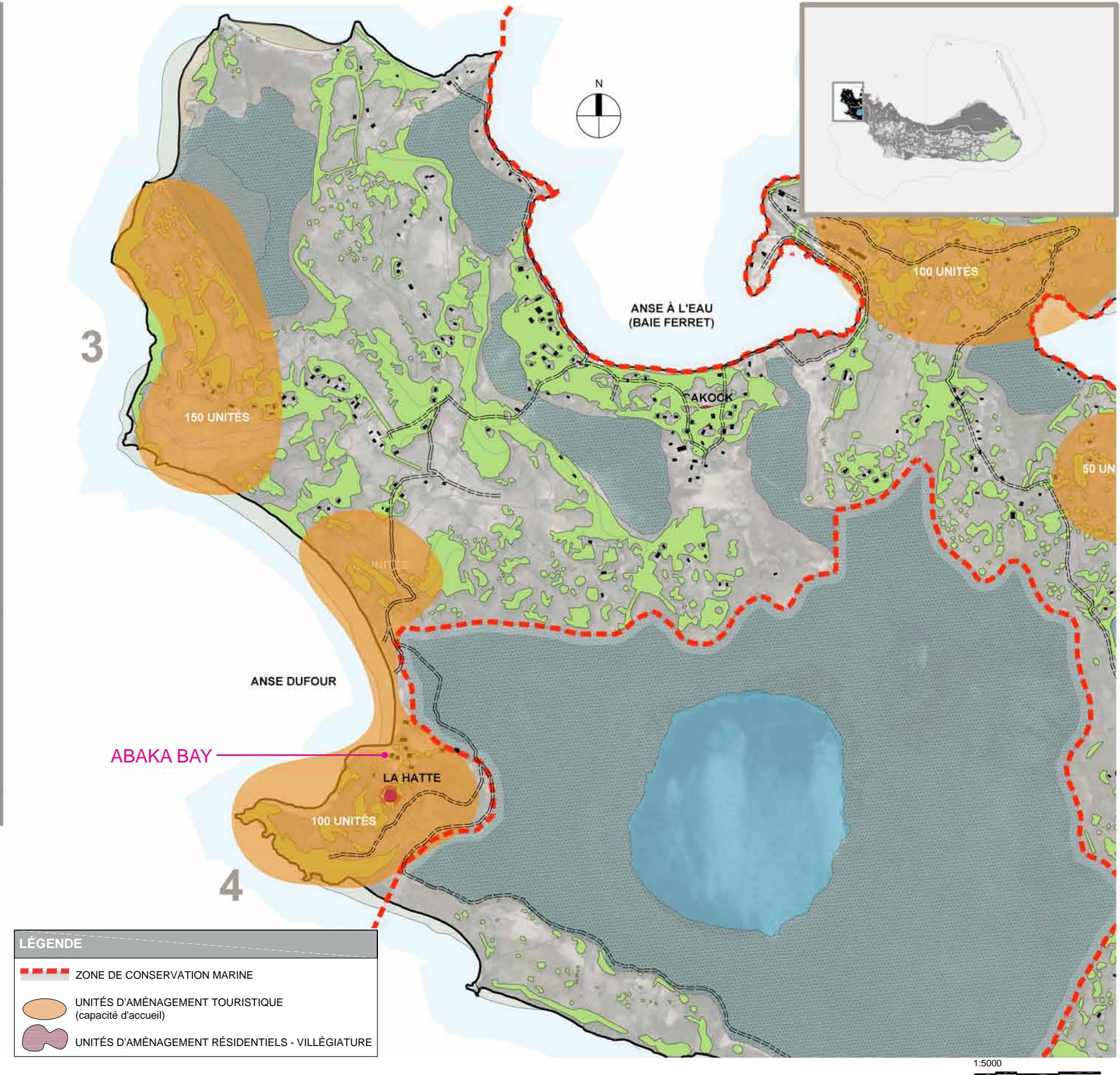
ILE-A-VACHE | HAÏTI
Plan concept de développement touristique
Planche des sites 1 et 2



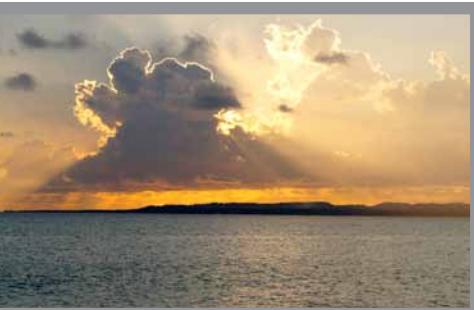
SITE 3



SITE 4



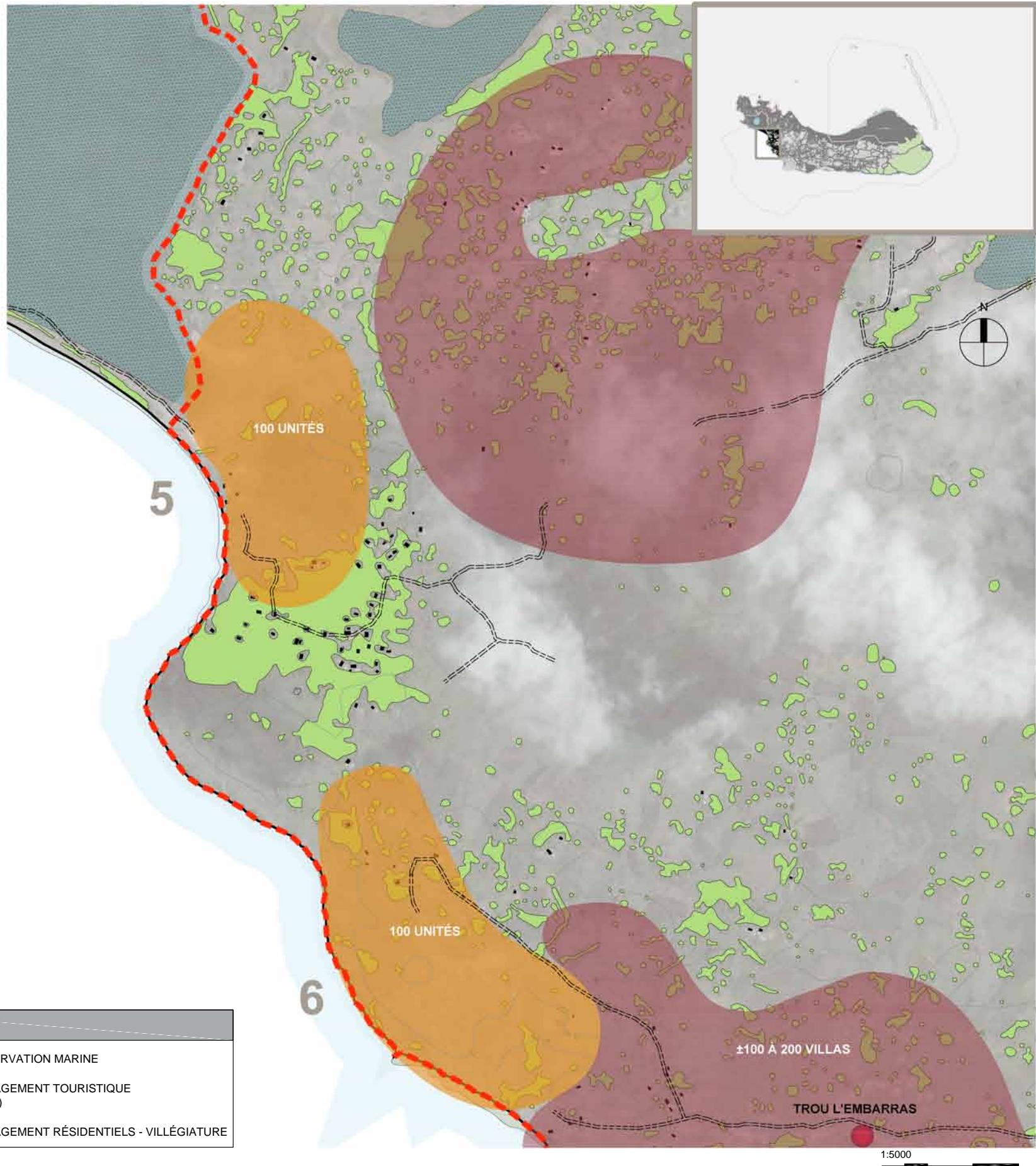
ILE-A-VACHE | HAÏTI
Plan concept de développement touristique
Planche des sites 3 et 4



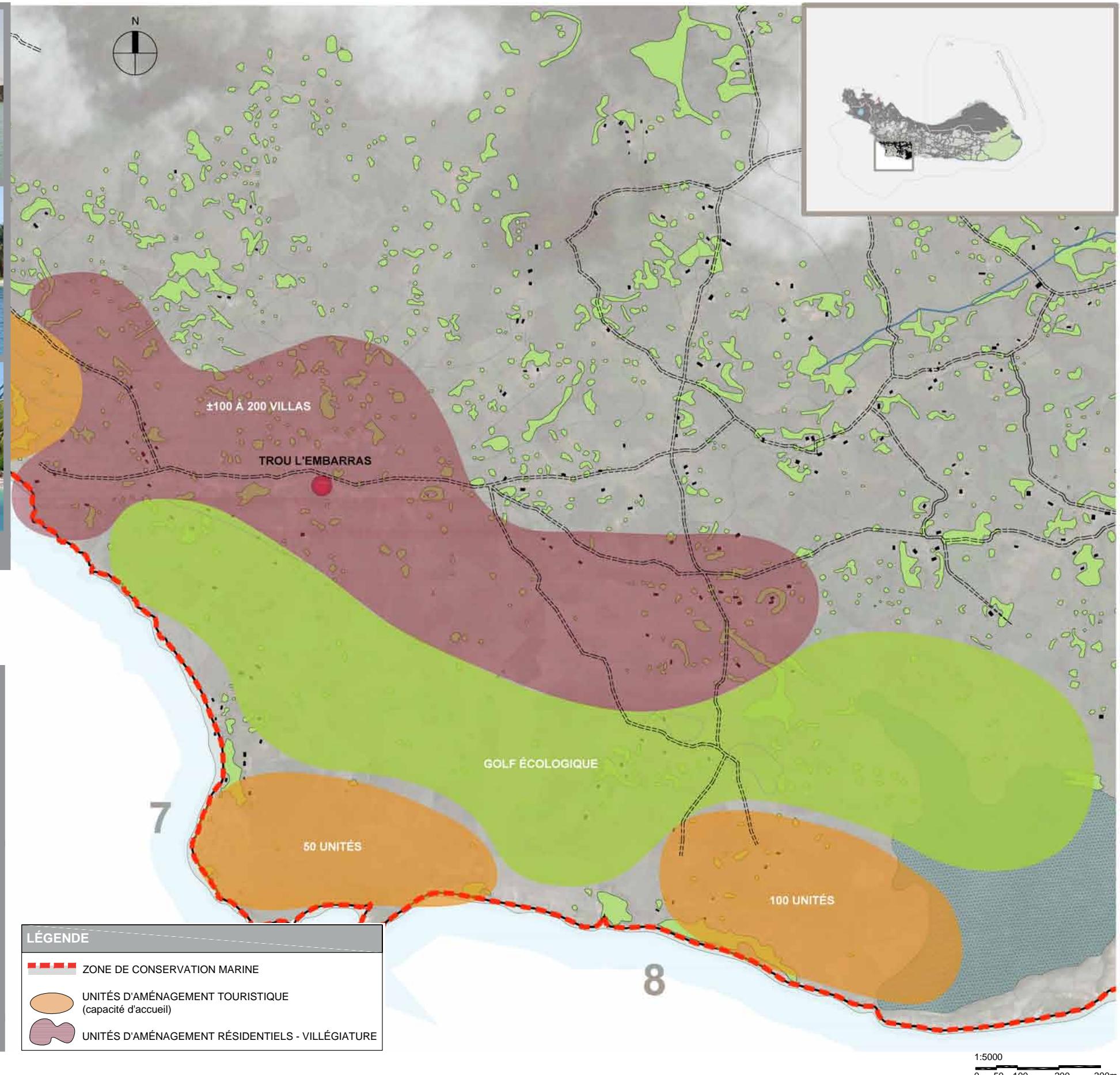
SITE 5



SITE 6



ILE-A-VACHE | HAÏTI
Plan concept de développement touristique
Planche des sites 5 et 6



ILE-A-VACHE | HAÏTI
Plan concept de développement touristique
Planche des sites 7 et 8



LÉGENDE

- ZONE DE CONSERVATION MARINE
- UNITÉS D'AMÉNAGEMENT TOURISTIQUE
(capacité d'accueil)
- UNITÉS D'AMÉNAGEMENT RÉSIDENTIELS - VILLÉGIATURE

SITE 9

1:5000
0 50 100 200 300m

Annexes



Exemples des bonnes pratiques de développement touristique durable

Programme pour le tourisme de patrimoine (Sainte-Lucie)

Financé par l'UE et le gouvernement de Sainte-Lucie, le programme pour le tourisme de patrimoine de Sainte-Lucie (SLHTP) a vu le jour en 1998. Le programme vise à mettre en place une distribution plus large des bénéfices du tourisme, développer les activités basées sur la communauté dans le cadre du tourisme de patrimoine et renforcer les liaisons entre l'industrie du tourisme et d'autres secteurs économiques locaux. Voici quelques exemples de réalisations :

- l'entreprise boulangère Plas Kassav, qui a axé son offre sur le pain de manioc préparé de façon traditionnelle. Fréquentée des touristes (25 % de la clientèle) et des résidents, l'entreprise a su développer des relations avec le milieu agricole, devenant le plus grand acheteur de manioc des agriculteurs locaux de l'île en plus de vendre divers produits alimentaires mettant en évidence la cuisine créole;
- la création du programme de mise en marché Heritage Tourism, axé sur la commercialisation de produits provenant du tourisme communautaire, et incluant un étiquetage distinctif, et;
- le développement de l'Anse la Raye Seafood Friday, sur le modèle de l'Oistins Fish Fry à la Barbade, où se tient une manifestation hebdomadaire basée sur la friture de poissons, avec animation du quartier du front de mer, restriction de circulation automobile et vente d'artisanat local. Cet événement récurrent permet de diversifier et de soutenir le revenu des pêcheurs, fermiers, cuisiniers et artisans locaux.

Plan Pavillon Bleu (Porto Rico)

Le département du tourisme de Porto Rico a initié le plan Pavillon Bleu en 2002, et quatre plages ont atteint le statut Pavillon Bleu. OPAS, une ONG pour l'environnement, se charge de la gestion du plan et des conditions requises. Les destinataires du projet ne sont pas les touristes mais, plutôt, les habitants du pays. Ceux-ci tirent profit d'une vaste gamme de programmes d'éducation et de recherche sur l'environnement, de contrôles réguliers de la qualité de l'eau de baignade, et de la priorité accordée à la santé et à la sécurité pour tous. Les touristes bénéficient de la même qualité de service. L'État subventionne la mise en œuvre du plan et partage les coûts de la gestion des plages et des contrôles de la qualité de l'eau avec les municipalités locales.

Matura National Park (Trinité-et-Tobago)

La surveillance et les activités touristiques de la plage interdite de Matura (lieu de nidification des tortues de mer) sont gérées par Nature Seekers, un organisme communautaire collaborant avec la division gouvernementale des forêts. Ce projet découlait d'une volonté commune d'assurer la conservation de ce milieu naturel, unique victime de braconnage, tout en assurant le développement local par le biais de formation de guides touristiques également responsables de la patrouille de la plage en nuitée pendant les saisons de ponte. Afin de pérenniser l'offre d'attrait sur une base annuelle, l'organisme a développé, en 2006, de nouvelles activités guidées écotouristiques (visite au site des singes, excursions aux chutes du Matura et Rio Seco). Par la suite, cette bonne pratique a permis le développement de programmes similaires dans d'autres destinations (Sri Lanka).

Indian River (Dominique)

La gestion des visites sur l'Indian River est effectuée par la Portsmouth Indian River Tour Guides Association (PIRTGA). Avec le soutien du gouvernement et d'ONG, l'association a renforcé la compétence de ses guides, son service d'accueil et son développement organisationnel, lui permettant de devenir un attrait touristique organisé important pour la région nord de la Dominique. L'association compte une trentaine d'adhérents (des guides touristiques certifiés possédant des embarcations en bois local, non motorisés). Les effets économiques de cette organisation se sont non seulement fait sentir sur la création d'emplois périphériques, mais également sur une prise de conscience sur la valeur économique du milieu naturel ambiant (ex. : indications, par les membres de PIRTGA, indiquant aux plaisanciers où jeter l'ancre pour assurer la protection des récifs coralliens, surveillance volontaire du port, nettoyage de la rivière). La promotion des intérêts de PIRTGA a d'ailleurs changé la loi qui interdit désormais l'utilisation des hors-bords sur la rivière.

La Ruta del Café (République Dominicaine)

Localisée dans le secteur nord-est du pays, La Ruta del Café (Route du Café) a permis aux habitants de la province de Salcedo de diversifier les sources de revenus dans une région non touristique. Depuis 2005, le concept, basé sur celui de la route des vins en Toscane, permet au visiteur de sélectionner trois routes différentes où il peut goûter la cuisine traditionnelle, assister aux démonstrations de la torréfaction du café et découvrir les caractéristiques naturelles et sociales du territoire. L'initiative, financée par la Région de Toscane et la Province d'Arezzo en Italie, entend protéger et faire revivre la culture et les traditions de la province par le biais de forfaits excursion ou multi-jours, forfait qui incluent tous un frais de « développement de la communauté » comme levier supplémentaire de développement local.





Intégration de produits agricoles locaux dans la chaîne de valeur (Jamaïque)

La chaîne Sandals en Jamaïque travaille avec les agriculteurs pour la production de certains légumes requis de façon régulière à l'année, et ce pour sa propre consommation et pour l'exportation, en plus de collaborer avec le conseil de développement pour l'agriculture rurale (Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)) pour animer des formations sur les méthodes de plantation. De dix fermiers fournissant deux hôtels au début de l'application, le projet compte de nos jours 80 fermiers installés partout sur l'île fournissant les huit hôtels de la chaîne Sandals à Negril, Montego Bay et Ocho Rios.

Hotel Moka à Las Terrazas (Cuba)

Ce complexe touristique, localisé dans la Réserve de la Biosphère Sierra del Rosario, appartient à la communauté et au gouvernement. Sa gestion est assurée par les deux entités et les revenus sont partagés. Les revenus nets sont investis entre l'établissement hôtelier, la compagnie (gouvernementale) et la communauté environnante. Deux membres élus de la communauté décident du partage de la part destinée à la communauté (approximativement un tiers du revenu net de l'établissement).

Élaboration d'un cadre du développement du secteur des croisières (Belize)

La Politique des Bateaux de Croisière (Cruise Ship Policy), élaborée par le Gouvernement, vise à optimiser les bénéfices de l'industrie des croisières tout en soutenant les ressources naturelles de Belize. Parmi les actions découlant de cette politique, notons :

- la limite quotidienne recommandée de 8000 passagers pour la ville de Belize;
- l'obligation pour les compagnies de croisière de signer le Plan de Surveillance et de Conformité Environnemental lors du processus d'enregistrement;
- l'obligation pour les compagnies de croisière d'offrir des excursions de passagers dont les propriétaires/organisateurs sont des réceptifs locaux où les excursions sont menées par des guides brevetés;
- la cotisation exigée de ces compagnies pour la visite d'attractions et sites;
- l'obligation, pour la compagnie de croisière, de développer un programme d'orientation informant ses passagers sur les ressources naturelles et l'environnement du pays, et;
- une précision sur l'ancrage dans des sites et ports prédéfinis où seule l'utilisation de détergents sans phosphates pour l'entretien des ponts des bateaux est permise.