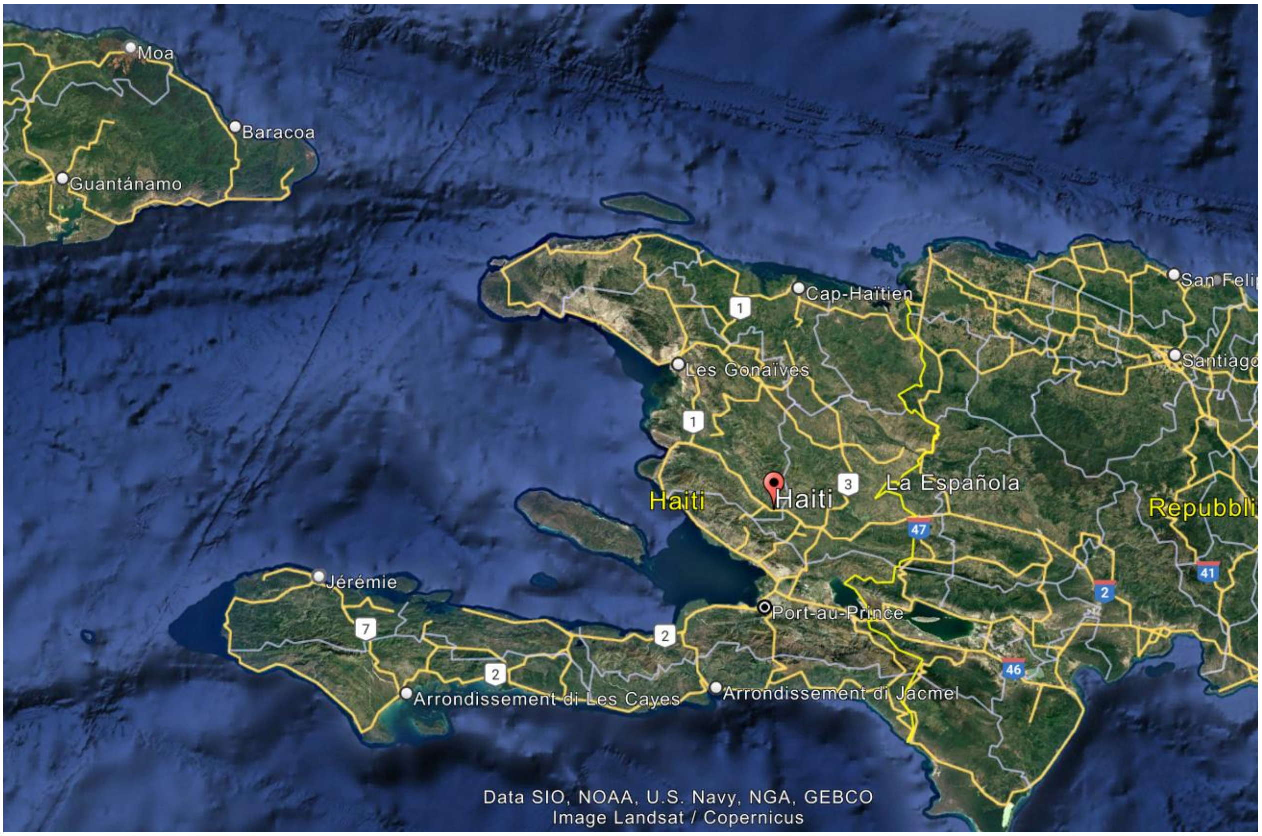
# Les Cayes (South Haiti) — Coffee Chain Context & Stakeholders




*You will **build a stakeholder map** for the Les Cayes coffee project: list **all actors**, then show **who contributes** to food-sovereignty goals and **who does not**. Place each actor **near or far** from the project (by influence, access, and willingness to engage). Mark which actors are **essential** (we must work with them to succeed), which are **neutral** (monitor/coordinate), and which are **"killer assumptions"**—actors or conditions that, if unmanaged, could **break the project** (e.g., corridor insecurity, predatory buyers). For each "killer," propose **non-hostile, context-sensitive** ways to **neutralize the risk** (e.g., community agreements, secure logistics, sequencing with public authorities), so that implementation stays **safe, legitimate, and effective**.*

## 1) Snapshot

- **Place:** Les Cayes and upland communities near the **Macaya** range (South Haiti).
- **Core topic:** the **coffee** chain within **Jardin Créole** smallholder systems.
- **Why this matters:** to position a sovereignty-oriented project by understanding **who holds power**, **who contributes**, and **where the risks** are.

- **General Objective (*OG*) — Household food sovereignty.**
  *Producer households in Les Cayes exercise greater **autonomy over their diets**—the **right and real ability to choose** healthy, culturally appropriate food—through stronger decision power, diversified on-farm food production, and fairer market terms.*
- **Budget = ca. €500,000; Direct beneficiary households = 400**
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## 2) Territory & environment (what the landscape looks like)

- **Jardin Créole**: most family parcels use a **functional, non-linear agroecological mix** (many crops/trees together, "messy" but **food-securing**). In coffee zones, plots often combine **coffee + cacao** and other species → **side incomes**.
- **Degradation**: severe **deforestation** (household **charcoal** use and external demand), strong **soil erosion**, weak soil/water management.
- **Climate shocks**: high **hurricane exposure** (e.g., **Hurricane Matthew**) damaging farms, trees, roads, storage, and housing.

## 3) Social & economic features (people and constraints)

- **Smallholders are the majority**; many lack **ID cards**, are **not formally registered**, often **do not vote** → **no access to formal credit**, subsidies, or standard contracts.
- Practices to improve: agroecological practices, **burning**, **free-roaming goats**, **no irrigation**; **fungal diseases** hit coffee yields and quality.

- Market reality: **fragmented chain**, thin margins for farmers, price volatility.

## 4) Logistics & market access (critical constraints)

- **Local access: no or poor roads** in mountain zones; mule/foot transport common; **landslides** and damaged bridges in rainy/hurricane seasons.
- **Corridors to the capital:** travel to Port-au-Prince is **dangerous**; multiple **gang-controlled segments**, checkpoints, extortion risks; movements often need **tight time-windows** or rerouting.
- **Import/export hurdles:** port congestion, customs delays, paperwork capacity limits; **insurance/security premiums** raise costs; **cold/dry storage** limited; these frictions reduce the **attractiveness** of serving domestic and export markets.

## 5) The value chain today (very short)

- **Farmers → aggregators/cooperatives → buyer/processor (often** Rebo**) → domestic/export**.
- When local supply is short, **Rebo imports coffee** (e.g., from abroad) → lowers bargaining power of local producers.
- **National demand gap:** domestic demand is **not fully met**—yet often **not attractive economically** for current actors due to high costs, risks, and better margins in alternative sourcing.

## 6) Stakeholders (who matters)

**A. Producers & producer organizations**
- **Smallholder coffee farmers** (family parcels; **Jardin Créole**).
- **Coffee cooperatives** (aggregation, quality control, collective sales, training) — **project partners & beneficiaries**.
- **Producers under Rebo contracts** (part of current supply model).
- **Farmer associations**, **women/youth groups** (often informal but influential).

**B. Market & private actors**
- **Rebo** (national buyer/processor; sets purchase terms; **imports** when short).
- **Local traders/intermediaries** (collection, price transmission).
- **International buyers / corporate foundations** (e.g., coffee-brand foundations such as **Lavazza**) — potential **private donors** for supply-stability/community projects.
- **Transport & corridor operators** (truckers, warehouse owners, port logistics).
- **Upstream inputs/services: seedling nurseries**, agronomy service providers, tool/irrigation vendors, basic plant-health labs.
- **Financial actors:** local **MFIs/credit unions**, MUSO (**local savings groups**, **mobile-money agents** (currently limited access for farmers), migrants networks, etc

**C. Public institutions**
- **Ministry of Agriculture** (national & departmental): legitimacy/coordination, but **low capacity** and **corruption risks** in a **fragile state**.
- **Municipal/local authorities** (permits, convening, land-use dialogue).
- **Civil registry / ID services** (gateway to **legal identity → finance & contracts**).
- **Environment/forestry** and **civil protection** units (watersheds, disaster preparedness).

**D. Civil society & community influence**
- **Local & international NGOs**: from **structuring agro-food programs** to **short-term "cash-for-work"** schemes (can distort long-term incentives).
- **Religious actors** (**Catholic** and **Evangelical churches**) and **Vodou priests**.
- **Community leaders / "notables"** (trust, social license, mediation).
- **Diaspora networks** (remittances, philanthropy, market links).
- **Schools & universities** (training, trials, monitoring support).

**E. Donors & multilaterals**
- **European Union**, **Canada**, **France**, **United States** (post-**USAID** retrenchment but other funds exist), **FAO**, **UNDP**, bilateral agencies.
- **Corporate foundations** (coffee sector) as **private donors**.

**F. Security & stabilization**
- **Organized gangs / criminal networks** (narcotrafficking, extortion; control of routes/territory) → **high disruption risk** to movement, aggregation, and trade.
- **UN stabilization contingent** (broad mandate, **low local acceptance**) — affects **checkpoints/corridors**; information source for **deconfliction** only; **maintain distance** to protect community trust (?)
- **Local policing** (where present) with limited reach.

**G. Standards & oversight**
- **Quality/certification bodies** (organic/fair trade where relevant), market info services, consumer protection groups.

## 7) Key dynamics & risks (what can help or hurt)

- **Supply gaps → imports** by **Rebo** → local producers lose leverage.
- **Domestic demand under-served** because serving it is **not profitable** for many actors given high logistics/security costs and thin margins.
- **Short-term aid** (e.g., cash-for-work) can **undermine long-term farming** commitment.
- **State fragility** (coordination, corruption) slows alignment and delivery.
- **Financial exclusion** (no ID, no credit) traps farmers in **low-investment cycles**.

- **Security threats** (gang control of corridors, extortion, violence) and **climate shocks** (hurricanes, disease) can erase gains.
- **Import/export friction** (ports, customs, insurance) raises costs and delays, reducing the appeal of local coffee.

## 8) Project focus (for orientation only)

- **Strengthen smallholders and/or their cooperatives** (governance, aggregation, quality, fair marketing).
- **Food sovereignty or Food security?**
- **Agroecological upgrading** (shade/soil/water, disease control) + **hurricane resilience** (nurseries, windbreaks, safer storage).
- **Financial inclusion**
- **Neutral, community-first posture** amid security/stabilization actors; **no engagement** with criminal networks.

**Use:** Distinguish **who's who**, how they **enable or constrain** sovereignty outcomes, and how to **position** the project within this complex territory.

| Actor | Proximity to the project | Next move |
|---|---|---|
| **Coffee cooperatives** | near | Governance refresh; drying upgrade; minimum-term price agreement |
| **Rebo (national buyer/processor)** | mid | MOU on purchase terms; diversify buyers to reduce dependency |
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