

Full Course Title: United Nations Environment Programm - Options for Managing Land Tenure Problems in Haiti

Course Title for Registration System: UNEP – Opt. for Mnging Lnd Tenure Haiti

Course Number: SIPAU9000.051

Faculty Advisor: Marc Levy

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Meeting Date/Times: Fridays 11:00A – 12:50P

Location: IAB 409

Office Hours: By appointment

Credits: 3

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

The Haiti Regeneration Initiative aims to advance lasting sustainable development in Haiti through a coordinated combination of interventions that science-based, community-driven, and place-based. The Initiative was launched in 2011 and has extensive involvement from a range of Columbia University scientists. The Cote Sud Initiative is an integrated development program launched in early 2011 in 10 communes in south Haiti targeting a multi-sector planning and intervention strategies to achieve long-term sustained progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and rural development. www.haitiregeneration.org

Summary of project:

Haiti is plagued with insecure forms of land tenure. There are competing forms of ownership, a large percentage of property does not have formal title, and dispute resolution mechanisms are fragmented and weak. This poses critical problems both because of chronic patterns of high mobility (as a function of circular migration tracking shifting livelihood prospects in urban and rural areas) as well as acute episodes of mass migration following major natural disasters. Government plans and donor strategies call for significant increases in agricultural productivity supported by more intensive, long-term management of land and natural resources. Such strategies will be undermined by lingering problems regarding land tenure. The objective of the workshop is to compare the situation on the ground with international best practices so as to generate a clear gap analysis that will be used to guide responses. This will be done in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme's Post Conflict and Disaster Management Branch and the Environmental Law Institute.

The area of most intensive HRI involvement, the Port à Piment watershed in the Côte Sud region, will be the workshop.

The workshop will carry engage in three tasks:

1. Catalog of best practices for managing land tenure problems in fragile states such as Haiti. Information will be obtained from recently completed collections of case studies regarding such problems and interviews with experts and officials.
2. Inventory of land tenure dispute management resources available within the project area. Information will be obtained from project documents, from interviews with project leaders, and from a site visit to be carried out over spring break. The inventory will include descriptive information on what resources (adjudication, mediation, registration, etc.) are available to residents, rough estimates of how frequently they are used and in what proportion, and differential estimates on effectiveness according to residents. The site visit will also support partner organizations designing dispute resolution training for formal and informal systems dealing with land tenure issues.
3. Gap analysis. By comparing international best practices with what is present in the area, students will delineate the highest priority gaps. The gaps will be as specific as possible, with reference to institutions, training, finances and other resources. Students will also help design strategies for dispute resolution for the local scale in the Cote Sud region.

Deliverables to client:

Assignment of roles and detailed workplan: Jan 23
Identification of sources and interview subjects Jan 30
Initial Interviews completed Feb 6
First draft best practices catalog Feb 13
Field work research plan Feb 20
Field work March 11-17
Second draft best practices catalog March 23
First draft field inventory March 30
First draft gap analysis April 6
First draft whole report April 23
Present report to client April 30
Final revisions May 4

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

At least some students should speak French
At least some should have experience with rural development
At least some should have experience with field research
At least some students should have experience with GIS or spatial analysis.
At least some students should have experience with designing training programs.

Initial meeting(s) with your student team in late November or early December, if applicable:

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled:

Field component:

Students will interact with the client through Skype/Phone calls, email and at least one personal visit during the initial few weeks. Similar interaction will take place following the field trip to Haiti. The faculty advisor will accompany the students to Haiti. Columbia faculty participating in the HRI will also provide regular advice throughout the semester.

Please note: Students who participate in a capstone workshop that involves international travel will be charged a course fee of \$250 at the outset of the capstone project which will be included in their student bill.

Additionally, travel is contingent upon the conditions within the country during the expected dates of travel. If the faculty advisor and administration determine that the conditions within the country could put students in physical danger, then the travel will not occur and students will be refunded the \$250 course fee.

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).]

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

Quality of individual written work (10%)

Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)

Feedback from the client (20%)

Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)

Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

Readings: Will be determined.

***Academic Integrity Statement*:** [The statement below *must* appear on all syllabi.]:

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http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.