

# Haiti

South Department  
Forest Energy  
Supply Chains

UNEP Haiti, September 2016



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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Cover Photo: A truck is loaded with bags of charcoal in the commune of Tiburon, South Department, for transport to Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince. 2014 © UNEP/Marc Lee Steed.

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## Definition of Terms

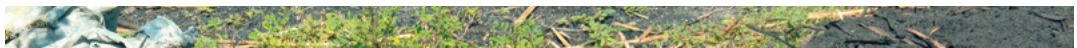
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<b>Carreau</b>	A traditional unit of land measurement in Haiti equal to 1.29 hectares.
<b>Communes/ Sections</b>	The commune is the third-level administrative division of Haiti. The country's 10 departments have 42 arrondissements, which are divided into 145 communes and then into 571 communal sections.
<b>Département/ Department</b>	Administrative unit of Haiti; there are 10 departments in the country.
<b>En détail</b>	"En détail" can mean anything from a marmite (5-6 pound coffee can) to even smaller bags of charcoal that are sufficient to cook one pot of food or one meal for a household. Typically, a household requires 2-3 marmites of charcoal per day to cook food and boil water.
<b>Farine</b>	Flour
<b>Gourdes</b>	National currency of Haiti. As of April 2016, the exchange rate was approximately 60 gourdes per US dollar.
<b>Jouisseur</b>	A housing arrangement whereby the owner of a house allows a person to occupy it without paying any formal rent or claiming ownership. It is an informal arrangement widely recognized in Haiti.
<b>Marchands</b>	"Marchand" is a general term for merchant in Haiti. Marchands can be those who sell goods in the markets that they have produced (such as agricultural products) or those who buy wholesale and re-sell (such as imported commercial goods, charcoal, etc.).
<b>Marmite</b>	A marmite is a 5-6 pound coffee can that is used as a standard unit of measurement in Haitian markets for everything from charcoal to dry goods like beans or flour.
<b>Sac</b>	Charcoal bags are classified in three sizes in Haiti: "gwo sak" which are 2 sacs sewn together and sell for around 10,000 Htg; "saks nomals" which sell for 4500 – 7500 Htg; and "ti saks farin", or small flour bags, which sell for 4,000-4,500 Htg. A "gwo sak" holds approximately 70 marmites of charcoal, a "sak nomal" holds around 50, and a "ti sak farin" holds between 20-22 marmites.



**Photo 1.** The process of making charcoal typically takes around 4-5 days, whereby all water and volatile elements of freshly cut wood becomes converted to carbon through a slow pyrolysis method. The traditional charcoal production method includes a pile of wood covered with dirt and leaves that will be lit from below and left to burn. This method of charcoal production is highly inefficient from an energetic perspective, as only around 25% of the energy in the wood remains in the finished charcoal.

**Photo 2.** Once the charcoal is ready, producers go through the laborious task of filling sacs to transport it to market. In doing so, they are exposed to high amounts of charcoal dust, which is especially damaging to the lungs, especially for the elderly and young children, who are often implicated in these tasks.



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