

Hurricane Lili almost drowns Camp-Perrin, Haiti September 2002



When Hurricane Lili passed over Haiti for 3 days, on the 27th, 28th and 29th of September 2002, it miraculously subsided to the level of a tropical depression. But before leaving (and rising to hurricane strength again), it dropped 16 inches (410mm) of rain in southern Haiti. As a result, the Ravine du Sud river, once again, left its banks and flooded through the market town of Camp-Perrin. This time causing even more serious damage than the previous floods last May. As the streets became raging waterways, house, stores and warehouses were inundated, and a considerable amount of merchandize and household goods were lost. Fortunately there was no loss of life, just increased economic hardship. As the population recovers, many fear for the future of the town. It has becomes more and more vulnerable every year to the increasing furor of the flash-floods caused by deforestation in the mountains above.



Photographic report by ORE, Camp-Perrin.

Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Environment

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As Hurricane Lili approached Haiti, it subsided from a tropical storm to a tropical depression, nevertheless causing torrential rains to fall in the south of the country. It subsequently regained hurricane strength as it passed over Jamaica, Cuba and eventually the United States



The river overflows its banks and floods the La Porte area of Camp-Perrin



The high street of Camp-Perrin becomes a raging river as the flooding gets out of control.



The buildings in the market area are completely inundated.



The road from Port-au-Prince to Jeremie is cut off for several days. Buses and their passengers queue, waiting for the road to reopen.



Passengers from Port-au-Prince are forced to use the irrigation canal (which is closed off during the storm) to by-pass the floods in Camp Perrin.



Buses traveling from Port-au-Prince are overwhelmed by the rising waters.



The passengers escape with their belongings, but the buses remain trapped in the torrential waters.



The level of the river has become higher than the streets of Camp-Perrin.



Flood waters submerge the lower stories of buildings in the business district.



Waiting on the balcony for the waters to recede.



Businesses on the street level are flooded.



Children try to save some belongings through an open window.
Tons of rock have been deposited in the town, leaving the house above submerged.





The force of the water threatens the structure of the buildings.



Everyone tries to save their belonging as best they can.



Shop-keepers report heavy losses as the lower stories of their buildings are submerged.





The biggest general store in town, *Magasin Alexandre Brutus*, is totally flooded.





Shop-keepers try to save their merchandise and clean up.



Large stocks of provisions and merchandise are lost.



Camp Perrin is one of the largest rural markets in Haiti, but it presents a sad spectacle after the rains.



This woman had to sleep with her five children on the market stall (behind her) as the flood waters flowed beneath them throughout the night.



The only access to Camp-Perrin is now on foot.



A bull-dozer braves the torrential floods in an attempt to stem the flow of water through the town



This photo, taken two weeks before the floods, shows the dyke construction (on the left) designed to keep the river within its banks. The main road is hidden to the extreme left
(Photo courtesy Franco Gattigo, AECP)



The same scene two weeks later:
 The river has totally submerged both the dyke system and the main road.
 Crowds watch a bulldozer at work. (It took two days to divert the flow of water from the town).



After two days, the river is finally diverted back into its bed and the waters begin to subside.



Now the work of cleaning-up begins.



Tons of rocks have to be removed from the streets and stranded vehicles have to be repaired.



The road has to be quickly rebuilt to allow traffic to pass again.



Once the waters subside, the interior of each house has to be laboriously cleaned.



Tired, wet and hungry, the population clean out their homes.



Camp Perrin was lucky, no doubt, that the rains were not heavier. But after the disastrous floods in May, and now same again in September, no one wants to think of the consequences of another storm.





In the outlying areas of town, families do their best to recuperate as the water subsides.



Washing out the house, cleaning clothes and bathing are the order of the day.



Two thirds of Haitian's earn a living from agriculture. Natural disasters are part of the life. But they need support to replant crops lost during the floods



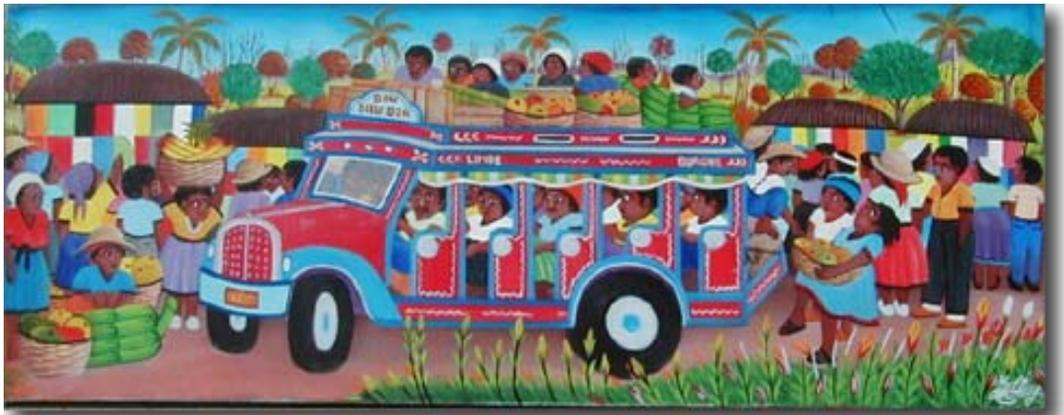
After such disasters, seeds are scarce and money is hard to come by. But the farmer must prepare to plant again for the next season if they are to survive.

Bon Dye Bon – the Lord is Good!

Everyone is grateful that at least this time we were spared the force of a full-blown hurricane.



After the danger has passed, this family rejoices in a meal, getting ready to take life on again.



The rich fabric of Haitian life continues...

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