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## Trans-boundary river basin management: an experience in Haiti and Dominican Republic

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Over the last years, Isla Hispaniola, the island shared by Dominican Republic and Haiti, has been affected by several flood events. On May 24th, 2004 the flooding of the trans-boundary Soliette river killed over 1,000 Haitian and Dominican people, wiping out villages and leaving behind desolation and poverty. After this catastrophic event, the General Direction for Development and Cooperation of the Italian Government funded an international cooperation initiative (ICI), coordinated and directed by the University of Bologna.

First of all, the aim of the ICI was to provide capacity building on river basin management to 12 Dominican and Haitian junior engineers working in the public sector for institutions and public bodies that deal with water resources management.

Moreover, the project aimed at formulating a flood mitigation plan for the transboundary river basin. Concerning the upstream portion of the Soliette river basin, the plan consists of the following tasks: strengthening of the raingauges and hydrometric stations, for the implementation of a flood forecasting system; flood prone area mapping, for controlling urban expansion; reforestation program; environmental education campaign; system of filter dams for retaining solid material. Concerning the downstream portion of the Soliette river basin, the plan consists of the following tasks: flood prone area mapping; channelling and masonry lengthwise embankment.