

THE MAKAYA WATER PROJECT

Partners in Progress (PIP) in collaboration with

the Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF)

Background and Objectives

Fondwa, a small village in rural Haiti, is located in the tenth "communal section" of the district of Leogane, about 60 miles SW of the capital of Port au Prince. At present there are no improved water sources sufficient to meet the needs of the more than 7000 people living in the region comprising Fondwa. Annual rainfall is 1600 mm (about 63"). The majority of people rely on fresh water springs for their daily water needs. Only a few of these sources have been "captured" or improved so that water must be drawn directly from the springs and carried to where it is needed, often over great distances.

At a meeting of the Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF) it was reported that many women must awaken at 3 am in order to begin the task of providing water to meet the day's needs. Per capita consumption of water in the region is about 30 liters per day (about 8 gallons), far below the average for South America (over 50 gallons) although still considerably above the average for all of Haiti (1.2 gallons). (Haiti, according to the UK-based Center for Ecology and Hydrology, is now the most water-poor country in the world.)

In January 2004 the APF opened a post-secondary educational program, the University of Fondwa 2004, in order to provide higher education in agronomy, veterinary medicine, and business management to the daughters and sons of peasant families from all over Haiti. The university admitted 19 students in January 2004 and expects to admit an additional 20 students for the academic year scheduled to begin in September 2004. At this rate of