

#### **OUR CHALLENGE**

Supporting local agriculture with an environmentally-friendly solution



## A dam to counter drought and support local agriculture

Catherine runs a five-hectare sugar cane farm that has been handed down through the generations. Her agricultural rum, made with delicately spiced cane juice according to a secret family recipe, has secured her reputation across Guadeloupe, and particularly in her hometown, Côte-au-vent, in the municipality of Goyave.

But in the last few years, her harvest has been heavily affected by global warming. In 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated everything in its path and replanting the canes took a huge amount of work. Today, the periods of drought are more and more intense and like all the region's farmers and livestock breeders, Catherine is in the firing line of these climate hazards.

How can droughts be addressed to guarantee water for farmers?

How can the archipelago's rich ecosystem be preserved?

Discover the Moreau dam, a major infrastructure project for irrigating Guadeloupe's crops!

#### **OBJECTIVE**

# Supporting local farmers in their fight against drought caused by global warming.

# 1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>

of water will be stored for agricultural purposes by the Moreau dam

Combining geological, geotechnical and environmental skills to make a major infrastructure project a reality.

- Alongside **Guadeloupe's regional and local councils**, SUEZ Consulting teams have been working since 2006 on the construction of the Moreau dam, a 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> earth embankment in the municipality of Goyave on the east coast of Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe. After several years studying the feasibility of the project and its environmental impact, the construction began in 2014.
- Built on a foundation of residual rock of volcanic origin formed at the site through alteration, i.e. without transport, the embankment 255 metres long and 27 metres high, made with clay and sand, will provide the water needed for agricultural production in Basse-Terre during droughts.





- Natural environments are a central concern:
  - Protecting the surrounding plant life by transplanting rare species.
  - Protecting aquatic wildlife by maintaining a constant flow downstream from the dam in the Zombi ravine.
  - Integrating the project into the landscape by restoring and rehabilitating the site and the surrounding area following the work, replanting local plant species.
  - Training, raising awareness and following up the contractors to ensure an environmentally-friendly construction site.
- Limiting disruption for neighbours: construction of a specific track for work and convoys limited by the preferential use of materials present on site.





74.500 HECTARES OF FOREST AREA, 40% OF THE TERRITORY Source: agriculture.gouv.fr





52.165 HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND, 30% OF THE TERRITORY Source: agriculture.gouv.fr









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