

Diablotin Conservation Expedition: Haiti 2016

EPIC: Adam Brown

Societe Audubon Haiti (SAH): Anderson Jean

Save the Devil: Aaron Straight, Guido Ronge

Grupo Jaragua: Ernst Rupp, Jose Luis Castillo, Jairo Isaa Matos Arache (aka: Perrine), Rene Jeaune, and Tinio Louis

Plant With Purpose: Milmer Martinez, Guy Paraison, Darius Desilus

March 1 (Port aux Prince and Les Cayes)

Adam Brown, along with the team from Save the Devil and Anderson Jean from Societe Audubon Haiti, drove from Port aux Prince to Les Cayes. The team stopped occasionally and filmed along the south coast. Once Les Cayes was reached, the team spent the afternoon filming Anderson Jean and his family. The footage will be used in a future episode of Save the Devil.

March 2 (Les Cayes and Port aux Prince)

Along with Save the Devil team and Anderson Jean. Filmed Anderson and family in morning. In afternoon, filmed along south coast locations and returned to Port aux Prince in evening.

March 3 (Port aux Prince, Boukan Chat, Foret Depins)

Spent the majority of the day provisioning for the upcoming work in Boukan Chat. In afternoon, filmed in valleys along the route between Port aux Prince and Boukan Chat. We spent the evening in a cabin in Foret Depins.

March 4 (Boukan Chat)

Save the Devil, Anderson Jean, and I spent the day in Boukan Chat. The film team spent a bit of time filming the upgrading of the cisterns at the Renozier house (Ti Tet's family). On this day, a local crafts men was sealing the inside of the cistern with the help of numerous other village members. In addition, the film team interviewed Ti Tet. Additionally, the team filmed the village of Boukan Chat. The cistern work was being funded by a crowdsourcing initiative started by Adam Brown and Aaron Straight. The overall effort was for the completion and/or upgrading of three cisterns in the community. The first cistern was at Ti Tet's house and the upgrade required new gutters, a new roof on the cistern, and providing a new sealant on the cisterns inner walls. In the evening, the team from Grupo Jaragua arrived at the cabins in Foret Depins. This team included Ernst Rupp, Jose Luis Castillo, Jairo Isaa Matos Arache (aka: Perrine), Rene Jeaune, and Tinio Louis. Additionally, the team from Plant With Purpose, also known locally in Haiti as Floresta-Haiti, arrived. This team had four members, Milmer Martinez (Program Officer for Latin America and Caribbean), Guy Paraison (Country Director for Plant With Purpose), Darius Desilus (VSL Facilitator for Haiti), and another staff member from the US who is not involved in the project.

March 5 (Boukan Chat)

Adam Brown, Anderson Jean from SAH, the teams from Save the Devil, Grupo Jaragua, and Plant With Purpose all met with members of the Boukan Chat community. Grupo Jaragua, SAH, and EPIC discussed the current status of the petrel in the local area. The on-going research of the species and what we feel are important components to the conservation effort (research, education, and community support). Plant With Purpose introduced themselves to the community and provided a presentation on what they can provide to a community and how successful contracts between themselves and village groups work.

Specifically, they discussed Village Savings and Loan Groups (VSLG). Members of Boukan Chat spoke about their community, what projects have happened in the past and noted they would like to continue working with the petrel conservation team. It also came to light that Plant With Purpose already is working with a number of groups in Boukan Chat. Plant With Purpose left feeling excited to continue working with the community. The community already trusts Plant With Purpose and a number of community members acknowledged that they would like to start new Village Savings and Loans.

March 6, 2016

In the morning, the Save the Devil team filmed “b-roll” in Boukan Chat. At Foret Depins, Adam Brown trained Renee and Tinio of Grupo Jaragua on the education lessons that Jennifer Wheeler designed. The team went through each lesson and practiced each hands-on activity and set up each spoken lesson. In addition, Adam showed the team the Diablotin Mascot and we talked about how to present the mascot to primary school aged children. In the afternoon, a portion of the Grupo Jaragua team walked from Boukan Chat to Lomo del Toro to look for nests in a potential Diablotin nesting area. The Save the Devil team and Adam Brown toured the rest of the water catchment sites with the Association and filmed some additional building of those systems.

March 7, 2016

Adam Brown, Save the Devil, Anderson Jean and members of Grupo Jaragua walked from Boukan Chat across the border into the Dominican Republic to meet the Grupo Jaragua team that was looking for Diablotin nests along the border. Save the Devil filmed some of the team looking for nests. The entire team then walked back across the border to Boukan Chat for a soccer match in the afternoon against the Boukan Chat soccer team. Our team had created some soccer uniforms for the Boukan Chat soccer team prior to this visit. We had a ceremony prior to the soccer match and presented the soccer uniforms to the team. Following the presentation, the Boukan Chat team played the members of our team made up of Grupo Jaragua, Save the Devil, SAH, and EPIC. Hundreds of people from the village showed up for the match. We played for two 45 minute halves and the Boukan Chat team won 2-1. The whole experience around the soccer match was really positive and the village really seemed to accept all of our staff following the game.

March 8, 2016

Grupo Jaragua staff Tinio and Renee along with SAH staff Anderson Jean made the first presentation to a primary school in Boukan Chat regarding the Diablotin. Tinio dressed up in the Diablotin mascot outfit and Renee and Anderson made the presentation. Save the Devil filmed the lesson. The entire presentation lasted about an hour and the kids kept asking, as we left, when the Diablotin was coming back. Pretty cool. In the early afternoon, the team found the association building the last of the water catchment systems. Save the Devil filmed this last effort. In the late afternoon, Grupo Jaragua staff led EPIC, SAH, Save the Devil, and Tit Tet to the Boukan Chat nest colony where we checked on the status of the nest cave. Save the Devil filmed some of the work Grupo Jaragua was doing at the nesting site.

March 9, 2016

Grupo Jaragua left in the morning and drove back to Oviedo, Dominican Republic. Save the Devil, EPIC, and SAH left for Port aux Prince. Some filming was done along the way and the team reached the guest house in the city just before sunset.

March 10, 2016

Save the Devil team left Haiti.

March 11, 2016

EPIC staff left Haiti and Anderson Jean of SAH left for his office in Les Cayes.