

The Re-Birth of Hispaniola
Omar Bros
Dominican Republic

The project “The Re-Birth of Hispaniola” is an initiative of a group of individuals interested in a sustainable development of the island (comprising Haiti and Dominican Republic) and the recovery of man-made environmental degradation. An equitable mechanism allowing access to financial resources, technology and market, will create added values to sustainable agriculture practices while producing clean energy and food.

The island of Hispaniola (76,480 Km²), after the discovery of America in 1492, has experienced high rates of immigration resulting in high population densities. Overpopulation and bad management practices over the last 2 centuries have caused widespread poverty and alarming environmental degradation, exacerbated by global warming and increased incidence of hurricanes.

The proposed program is aimed at producing clean fuels and energy from locally available resources, mainly ethanol from sugar cane and from a variety of sweet sorghum, while reviving a sugar cane industry infrastructure that thrived in the island in the 1970’s. The goal is the production of 1.60 million metric cubed of ethanol annually. Additionally, the plan comprises a reforestation program of degraded lands, using varieties of existing climate oleaginous species that produce oil, such as the *Jatropha Curcas* and *Ricino*, to be used for biodiesel production.