



# Deforestation and Charcoal Production in Haiti

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# Tree Cutting and Charcoal Production

- Trees and shrubs large enough to be processed into charcoal are cut and stacked in a shallow excavated pit
- The green wood is lit and then carefully covered with soil to exclude most of the air



# “Mound” for producing Charcoal

- Children are often enlisted to tend to the mounds for several days to two weeks.
- Sticks are used to poke holes into the mound to ensure adequate air supply to keep the fires smoldering.



# Vendor Selling Charcoal



A pile of “money”

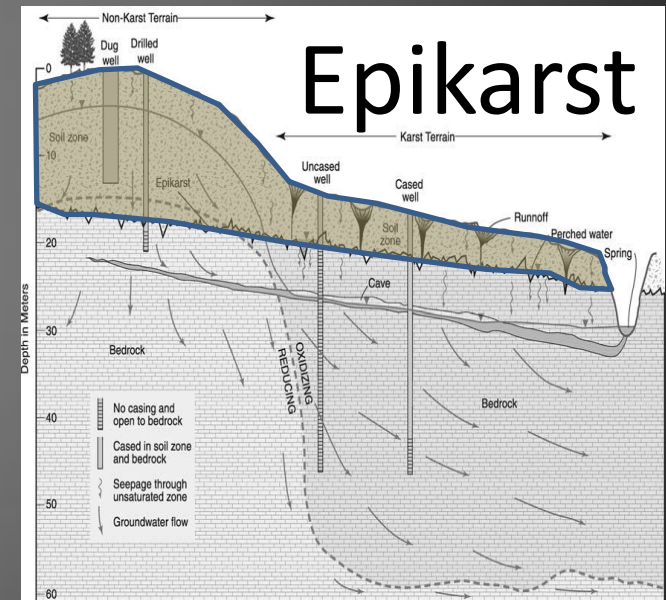
Typical Haitian “stove”

# Soil Loss and Karst

- Vegetation and forest cover form a first line of defense against soil loss.
- Soil in most karst settings serves as an important primary filter for water pathogens.
- Soil is missing in many locations in Haiti due to deforestation resulting in water quality degradation.



Source: Reynolds et al., 2008



Modified from Kelly et al., 2009



**GVSU Student Andrew Sisson standing on Exposed Limestone**

# Questions ?



[www.gvsu.edu/haitiwater](http://www.gvsu.edu/haitiwater)

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