



**Saint Lucia
National Emergency
Management Organisation
Annual Report for 2003/2004**

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***National Emergency Management Office
Prime Minister's Office***

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NEMO Staff List

| | NAME | POST | RESPONSIBILITIES |
|----|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Dawn French | Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Management • Coordination • Operations • Finance • Training |
| 2. | Julian Du Bois | Deputy Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Preparedness • Public Education and Information • Training |
| 3. | Maria Mombelli | Secretary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Documentation and Information |
| 4. | Craig Herman | Emergency Medical Technician (<i>Seconded from Ministry for Health</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development a National Policy on Amalgamated Ambulance Service • Development of Policy on Displaced Persons |
| 5. | Deborah Wolfe | Peace Corps Volunteer (<i>One day a week</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After Action Reports on past responses • Collating documents • Quarterly Newsletter |
| 6. | Anne Noel / Milda Narcisse | Cleaner/Office Assistant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning • Collating documents • Delivery of Mail |
| 8. | Arturo Lopez-Portillo | Consultant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the 1996 National Emergency Response Plan • Deployment of Continuity of Operations for Health Centres |
| 9. | Karen Dalton | Consultant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the 2000 National Emergency Response Act |

Part 1
Annual Report of the
Office of the National Emergency
Management Organisation
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

The profile of the Office of NEMO increased significantly over the year in review. The perception, however that the concern is only for hurricanes is one that the office continues to endeavor to change. The mandate of NEMO requires that the country be prepared for any hazard. Hazard analysis and experience shows that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to:

- **Rapid Onset/Natural:** Fire, Seismic, Volcanic, Tsunami, Flooding, Landslide, Storm, Hurricane, Medical
- **Rapid Onset/Manmade:** Dam Collapse, Explosion, Oil/Chemical Spill, Mass Casualty, Nuclear spill, Civil Unrest
- **Slow Onset/Natural:** Drought, Famine, Plague

The key responsibilities of the Organisation are:

- Widen the Network of Disaster Management with new partners
- Increase the mitigation activities of the District Committees
- Increase the planning activities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen response capabilities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen the planning and response capabilities of the Office of NEMO
- Review Disaster Plans for Saint Lucia
- Assist with Disaster Plans for Government Ministries
- Advise on Disaster Plans for Private Sector
- Research and documentation
- Disaster response and recovery
- Conduct Public Education
- Conduct Volunteer Training
- Conduct Simulation Exercises



Artist's Impression of
Response Center

The year under review saw an increase in mass events, which drew massive crowds from sports to culture to religious. With it came concerns from the emergency services, which make up NEMO, that enough is not being done to safeguard patrons. The Coordinator of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency has pointed out numerous times that the Caribbean is reactive and not proactive in the area of disaster management. This means that persons usually must die before mechanisms are put in place. The members of NEMO are determined that such a pattern will not manifest in Saint Lucia.

As the mandate of NEMO moves towards fulfillment support from the Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA/CU] continues to be of importance. It must be noted that the mandate of CDERA/CU is also maturing. Part of this growth is the recommendation that the composition of the Board of Directors be amended. There has been much debate on this topic and it is NEMO's recommendation that composition remain as is.

The CDERA/CHAMP Project in collaboration with the CDB and OFDA continued with work on a National Hazard Mitigation Policy. The Draft Document was published in the Saint Lucia Gazette as a prelude to a National Consultation host by NEMO in September.

The ability of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) to conduct land-based search and rescue operations was strengthened when NEMO took delivery of equipment from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). This was one installment of the three-year project "Strengthening of the Search and Rescue Capability of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency". Together with the Draft Land Search and Rescue Plan, which is also a component of this project as well as the Draft Marine Search and Rescue Plan, the equipment and in particular the vehicle will signify a leap forward in NEMO's member agencies' ability to respond. The Plans are presently with the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Marine Police respectfully to be adapted, adopted and submitted to NEMO to carry to Cabinet as part of the National Emergency Response Plan.

NEMO embarked on a dissemination of information campaign that saw information shared with Schools, the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association and the Council of and for Older Persons. It is a campaign that in the upcoming year that NEMO hopes to intensify as well as expand.

Together with the Ministry of Works, NEMO embarked on the intensive labeling of the Emergency Shelters. The labeling highlighted two recurrent challenges: The First being that the public continues to associate Emergencies/Disasters with only storms. Many persons pointed out that the chosen building was not appropriate for storm. Once it was explained that the building was not a Hurricane Shelter but an Emergency Shelter and all that the difference implied the objections were usually withdrawn. The second challenge was the many Managers who claimed not to know that their building was a Shelter. In collaboration with many agencies, NEMO has conducted Shelter Management Training. The list is published annually and persons are aware that all Schools and Churches are shelters. This program highlights the continued need for information penetration.



Rapid Environmental Assessment Training

Education in its varied forms is an area that comprises a significant component of NEMO's programming. The following matrix details the training and workshop activities for the period under review, with training for over nine hundred persons in areas ranging from Shelter Management to Stress Management. The training was conducted in partnership with agencies such as ODFA, PAHO and CDERA.

For first time the Team was in the position to test the Telecommunications system. As with all 'firsts' the results show there is much work to be done. HQ missed many scheduled dates, while there was never a 100% response from the District Committee on the dates that the tests did occur.

The Dennerly South Disaster Committee celebrated their 21st Anniversary and NEMO facilitated the donation by the Ambassador of the Republic of France of a computer and printer, valued at three thousand five hundred dollars.

NEMO and The Saint Lucia Mission of the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that would strengthen NEMO in its mandate of preparedness and response.

The Awards Committee met early in 2003 and agreed to widen the scope of the NEMO Awards to include Good Samaritan deeds, the Media as well as Public and Private Sector Agencies. The categories of School and Community were to be repeated. Nomination forms were distributed to all Schools through the Ministry of Education, to all District Disaster Committees and Media Houses. In collaboration with the Mirror Newspaper a copy of the Good Samaritan Nomination form was available in every copy of the October 4th, 2003 issue. The forms were also available on the internet and distributed at very workshop and consultation hosted by NEMO. The deadline of October 31st, was set and the Committee received no nominations. Thus the contingency plan was activated where a perpetual trophy for the Kenneth John Award for Heroism was commissioned and hosted by the Governor General at the Interpretation Center at Government House. Despite the commissioning of the perpetual trophy the Committee still expressed its disappointment at the lack of nominations from Disaster Committees and the wider community.

The Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority held its annual full scale simulation this time at the GFL Charles Airport. NEMO was commissioned to write the script to the scenario, which involved the fictitious Flight 013 of Omega Airlines is carrying a compliment of fifty (50) passengers and two (2) crew members. The undercarriage of the plane is malfunctioning and the plane is low on fuel – therefore it cannot circle IT MUST LAND. In the executing the landing the undercarriage collapses. The aircraft veers off the runway and crashes. As a result of the crash the Emergency Services are mobilised.

Continuing from 2002, the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) approved the second set of response plans. The National Emergency Response Plan now comprises of:

1. Hurricane Response Plan
2. Flood Management Response Plan
 - Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan (Appendix to Flood Management Response Plan)
3. Earthquake Response Plan
4. Volcanic Eruption Response Plan
5. Oil Spill Plan
6. Hazardous Materials Plan
7. Stress Management Response Plan
8. Hazard Mitigation Plan
9. Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
10. Land Search and Rescue Plan
11. District Disaster Committee Model Plan
12. Policy on Donations
13. Policy on Travel
14. Policy on Management Dead Bodies in Disasters
15. Policy on Emergency Shelters
16. Policy on Emergency Housing



NEMAC in session

Other documents to be submitted to NEMO for presentation to NEMAC are:

1. Policy on Hazard Mitigation
2. Health Sector Response Plan
3. Ministry of Works Response Plan
4. Borderlais Correctional Facility Response Plan
5. Cruise Ship Response Plan
6. Hospitality Industry Crisis Response Plan

NEMO will continue its work on plans such as:

1. Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowds Events
2. Policy on Hazard Mitigation
3. Policy on Displaced Persons

Achievements for the period 2003/2004:

- Consolidated the information network for the dissemination of press releases.
- Published Annual Report
- Completed final stages of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project
- Established MOU with the Mission of the Seventh Day Adventists

- Training of almost one thousand persons in various aspects of disaster management

- SUMA [Supplies Management]
- SMID Level II [Stress Response in Disasters]
- HazMat First Responders [Hazardous Materials]
- Oil Spill First Responders
- Use of Telecoms
- First Aid/CPR
- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment [VCA]
- Disaster Management and the Security Services
- Disaster Management and the Health Sector
- Continuity of Operations for the Health Sector



Search & Rescue Equipment

- Completed the second stage in the adoption process of the National Emergency Response Plan
 - Hurricane Response Plan
 - Flood Management Response Plan
 - Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan (Appendix to Flood Management Response Plan)
 - Earthquake Response Plan
 - Volcanic Eruption Response Plan
 - Oil Spill Plan
 - Hazardous Materials Plan
 - Stress Management Response Plan
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
 - Land Search and Rescue Plan
 - District Disaster Committee Model Plan
 - Policy on Donations
 - Policy on Travel
 - Policy on Management Dead Bodies in Disasters
 - Policy on Emergency Shelters
 - Policy on Emergency Housing
- Distributed:
 - Public Safety Advertisement on Disaster Preparedness to all Radio Stations on:

- The Christmas Season
 - The Easter Season
- Information Posters
 - All District Disaster Committees
 - All Secondary Schools
 - All Health Institutions
 - All Police Stations
- Information Brochures
 - All District Disaster Committees
 - All Post Office Boxes [Weather Hotline]
 - Pets [All Vets]
- Newspaper: Disaster Management for the Older Person
- Flood Information for the Visually Impaired
- Virtual Library:
 - All Secondary Schools
 - All Health Institutions
- Participated in Simulations:
 - Explosion [World First Aid Day.]
 - Plane Crash [SLASPA]
 - Flood
- Attended/planned:
 - National Consultation on Comprehensive Disaster Management
 - Introduction to Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (Trinidad)
 - Lessons Learned from Hurricane Lenny (Guadeloupe)
 - National Consultation on Disaster Legislation Bill
 - National Consultation on National Hazard Mitigation Policy
 - CDERA Board Meeting (Montserrat)
 - Instructor Training in Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (Trinidad)
 - National Consultation on Vector Management
 - Training in ETeam Computer Program (Barbados)
 - CHAMP Management Advisory Committee (Barbados)
 - Shelter Management (Grenada)
 - Introduction to the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (Grenada)
 - Regional Disaster Management Conference (Barbados)
 - Vector Control
 - Emergency Operations Centers for the Health Sector
 - Konstit Kreole
 - Facing Reality
 - *Post Disaster Rapid Environmental Assessment Workshop
 - Introduction to Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - Introduction of Natural Hazard Impact Assessment into Environmental Impact Assessment [Barbados]
 - Inter Regional Seminar on Flood Hazard Mapping and its use in planning in the Caribbean and Central America [Barbados]

- Strategic Planning and Work Program Development Workshop [Barbados]
- Strategic Planning and Work Program Development Workshop [Montserrat]*

As a result NEMOs profile within the community continued to heighten as the office kept the public informed of its work through press releases. One may sign up for receipt of the Press Releases or they may accessed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo/>

Press Releases by Month and Year

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2004 | 5 | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2003 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 3 |

Source: NEMO News Archives

For 2003 Hurricane Season the National Emergency Management Orgainsation with the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee was activated twice; first for the Tropical Wave of July 7th which caused over EC\$3 million in damage and then for Tropical Depression Number 6 which threatened to stop Carnival.

As a member of the United Nations; on Friday, September 8, 2000, together with over one hundred and fifty Heads of State from around the world Saint Lucia adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, parts IV and VI within the deceleration refer to Disaster Management and state:

IV. Protecting our common environment

23. (4) To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

Through NEMO and its other departments it is the intension of the Government of Saint Lucia to continue with the mandate of having the Nation prepared for a disaster.



Downed Tree at Praslin
July 7th Wave

.....
A. L. DAWN FRENCH
Director - NEMO

Part 2

Government Liaison Officers

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
REPORT FOR
April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2004

During the reporting period April 2003 to March 2004 the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was able to ensure that most of the requirements for the safety of its workers and property were in place during the hurricane season and in the event of a disaster. Manuals were provided to all heads of departments and divisions and the staff would familiarize themselves with the procedures. Every officer is required to know exactly what to do to secure their work area including responding to natural disasters. This was demonstrated effectively during the hurricane season.

Projections for April 1, 2004 to March 31 2005:

1. A fire drill for the department along with the other agencies housed in the building.
2. Ensure that all fire escapes are properly marked. Communication with N.I.P.R.O. already undertaken to this effect.
3. Periodic testing of radio communications systems in preparation for storms and disaster.

Concerns

Fire escape to the left of the building is non functional because it ends on the roof of a building below and not on the ground. This is a concern that has to be dealt with in the very near future.

The opportunity is taken to thank N.E.M.O. for the assistance given during the year.

Anthony Thomas
Liaison Officer – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Part 3

Reports of the Standing Committees of NEMO

National Committees

National Telecommunications Committee

Report on Activities for the period - 2003 to 04

April 2003 to March 2004

Despite efforts by NEMO to pull resources together to revitalise the committee, The interim Chairman working and NEMO's technician have continued to ensure that all matters pertaining to telecommunications at NEMO maintained at an level acceptable to NEMO.

To date SLAPA, WASCO and LUCELEC are the only agencies which have responded positively to NEMO's request to sit on the committee.

The Director, NEMO and the interim Chairman have agreed on the following plan of action for the up-coming period:

- Setup a technical committee with representatives from selected agencies to serve as an advisory body to NEMO on matters pertaining to emergency communications in Saint Lucia.

Below is a report on the status of NEMO's telecommunications system.

| No. | Location of Base Units | Remarks |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Anse La Raye | Operational |
| 2 | Canaries | Operational |
| 3 | Soufriere | Operational – Equipment relocated to Bureau of Health Office |
| 4 | Buton | No equipment at this site. |
| 5 | Fond St Jacques | No equipment at this site. |
| 6 | Choiseul | No equipment at this site. |
| 7 | Laborie | Operational |
| 8 | Vieux Fort | Operational |
| 9 | Micoud North | Operational |
| 10 | Micoud South | No equipment at this site. |
| 11 | Dennerly South | Equipment out for repairs |
| 12 | Dennerly north | Operational – New installation |
| 13 | Castries South | Operational |
| 14 | Castries Central | There is no equipment at this site. |
| 15 | Castries East | There is no equipment at this site. |
| 16 | Babonneau | Operational |
| 17 | Repeaters North and South | South Repeater in for repairs – Link radio in for repairs. A replacement is recommended |

Hand held Transceivers

- Transceivers are assigned to the Chairpersons/representatives of the following district committees:
Anse-La-Raye, Barbeneau, Castries East, Dennery North and South, Castries SE, Canneries, Soufriere, Chouiseul, Laborie, Vieux_fort South and Micoud North and South.

Training and Callouts

- Training in the use of equipment was conducted under the OESC Emergency Response and Disaster Management Project
- Call out to commence weekly during hurricane season and monthly outside of the season.

Requirements

- Full sets of equipment for Castries North, Castries East, Micoud South and Buton

Dermot Saltibus

Interim Chairman

National Telecommunications Committee

National Oil Spill Committee

Report on Activities for the period 2003 - 2004

April 2003 to March 2004

Below is a summary of the Committee's activities for the period under review.

- (1) *August 6th to 8th 2003* - The Chairman and the On-Scene Commander Land Mr. Lambert Charles from the Saint Lucia Fire Service attended a two day training workshop in Bridgetown Barbados. The participants received training in the use of a computer software designed for emergency personnel for the management of emergencies. The Workshop was sponsored by CDERA and the US South Command.
- (2) *August 15th 2003* - Oil Spill at Castries Seaport involving a flat bed trailer with an unsecured cargo of an assortments of oils (lube and hydraulic).
- (3) *December 16th to 17th 2003* - Members of the committee participated in a simulation exercise hosted by HESS Oil Ltd. on. Responses from the Marine Police Unit were tested during the simulation.
- (4) *January 22nd 2004* -.Final payment received from Saint Lucia Clay Products for the response and clean-up to the Cul-de-Sac oil spill of October 17th 2000.

Planned Activities:

- NEMO to explore the possibility of obtaining funds to acquire equipment for combating oil spills.
- Matters to be addressed by the committee:
 - (a) conduct of a simulation exercise
 - (b) training of first responders
 - (c) acquisition of oil spill clean-up equipment
 - (d) visits to selected industrial sites/ selected companies

Dermot Saltibus

Chairman Oil Spill Committee

ANNUAL REPORT OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES

CASTRIES SOUTH EAST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

In February the Community Development Officer for the Area attended a three day regional workshop in Barbados on the Creation of Hazard Mapping.

Also in February 2003 some thirty- seven (37) community members from Castries South East participated in a four day workshop in Mass Casualty Management. Twenty- seven (27) of those participants received certificates in CPR and all participants receiving Certificates of Participation.



Castries SouthEast
Satellite Warehouse

In April five persons from the communities participated in training in Shelter Management.

The Committee met in June 2003 to discuss plans for the Symposium scheduled for July 2003. The purpose of this Symposium was to begin a process whereby Community Disaster Preparedness Committees would begin to structure their organizations like that of the Central body. With these structures in place, communities would therefore become more functional and be able to provide that link to the Core Committee.

The Symposium was held on July 31, 2003 with some twenty-five (25) persons in attendance representing ten (10) communities from Castries South East. Communities presented information on the status of their community's preparedness and initial plans.

Throughout the year the Committee participated in various national activities to include a Use of the ECLAC Methodology in Assessing the Macro-economic and Social Impact of Natural Disasters Workshops and telecom call out.

The Committee provided NEMO with its Wish List which it hopes will commence the utilization of its newly constructed Warehouse located at L'Abayee.

In 2004 The Committee will meet to discuss Preparedness Plans for the New Year and will hold its second Symposium as a follow up of 2003 discussions towards the establishment of Community Disaster Preparedness Plans.

Special emphasis will be made on the inclusion of prevention plans in the identification and construction of community infrastructural projects.

Committee and community members will also participate in training activities scheduled within the year. The Committee looks forward to a more active and productive year in Disaster Preparedness in Castries South East.

Lenus Deterville – Chairperson



Background – Chairman of the Castries SouthEast Committee at NEMO

DENNERY SOUTH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

The Dennerly South Disaster Preparedness Committee has embarked on several activities and projects during the reporting period, both locally and nationally.

A Committee in it's 22nd year of existence had strived to achieve most of it's objectives and goals. During the year under review, the Committee on a monthly basis participated and conducted the following activities:

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

April 2003

- Monthly meetings held
- National Simulation Exercise – Flood
- Members participated in "Incident Command System meeting (Jazz Festival 2003)"
- Received ten (10) t-shirts from NEMO
- Attended meetings on the Dennerly Coastal Project with Officers from the Physical Planning Section of the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing and the OECS Emergency Recovery Management Project – Project Coordinating Unit
- Participated in Shelter Management (Representatives from Police and S.D.A. Church) and Consultation on Comprehensive Disaster Management
- Fund Raising Dance



District Rep and District Chair

May 2003

- Meeting with NEMO in Castries (Satellite Warehouse)
- Meeting with Physical Planning Officer – Mr. Jason Louis (Satellite warehouse)
- Monthly meetings held
- Committee met with District Representative
- Public meeting on the Dennery Waterfront Mitigation Project with Officers from Physical Planning Department, Project Coordinating Unit, NEMO and residents
- Tour of Dennery and La Caye
- Members participated in Project Proposal Writing Workshop organized by NEMO in conjunction with the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF)

June 2003

- 21st anniversary ceremony/opening of hurricane season
- Monthly meeting held
- Members participated in Telecommunications and SUMA workshop

July 2003

- Monthly meeting held
- Monitored tropical wave movements/events

August 2003

- Monthly meeting held



Committee Members

September 2003

- Monthly meeting held
- Members participated in NEMO meeting to review “District Disaster Plan”, National Consultation on “Hazard Mitigation Policy” and “Health Situation Analysis Room” Workshops
- Observed World Aids Day
- Members participated in “Attack on Plastics National Clean up Campaign”

October 2003

- Monthly meeting held

November 2003

- Monthly meetings held
- Members participated in National Clean up Day Activities (organized by Saint Lucia Solid Waster Management Authority)
- Fund Raising Dance

December 2003

- Monthly meeting held
- Christmas Party

January 2004

- Monthly meeting held
- Meeting with personnel from the World Bank, Physical Planning Department and Ministry of Works on the Dennery Coastal Project

February 2004

- Monthly meeting held
- Members participated in "Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop"

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD:

- Monthly meetings held
- Meeting with District Representative and NEMO
- 21st Anniversary Celebrations
- Constituency tour
- Sign Posting on Designated Shelters by Ministry of Works
- Fund Raising Activities

PLANS FOR APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005:

- Monthly meetings
- Revising Committee Disaster Plan
- School Debate Competition
- Anniversary Celebrations
- Constituency Tour
- Fund Raising Activities
- Formation of Sub-committees for La Caye/Limiere

IVAN GASPARD

Chairman – Dennery South Disaster Committee

DENNERY NORTH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

April 2003

- Members visited business places in the community to get acquainted with their operations and to enquire whether they possess a Response Plan
- Training workshop with Community Development Officer

May 2003

- Members participated in the Supply Management and Project Proposal Writing Workshops

- Simulation exercise conducted at the Grand Riviere Senior Primary School to test members ability to use communications systems

June 2003

- Identified the hazard prone areas in the community
- Visited schools in the community to make presentation on disaster preparedness, prevention and response

July 2003

- Monthly meetings held
- Training workshop for members of the Executive with the Community Development Officer

August 2003

- Training workshop for members of the Executive with the Community Development Officer continued

September 2003

- Members participated in Telecommunications training workshop
- Members participated in "Attack on Plastics National Clean up Campaign"



Dry Season in Dennery

October 2003

- Fund Raising Activity

December 2003

- End of year social activity

PLANS FOR APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005:

- Visits to all schools to make presentation on disaster preparedness, prevention and response
- Meetings with Clubs, mothers' and fathers' groups and all other organizations in the community
- Public education campaign

URBAN GLACE

Chairman – Dennery North Disaster Committee

**BABONNEAU DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

Prior to April 2003, the Committee was not organized and sub-committees were not in place. At the beginning of the year the committee focused on organizing the various sub-committees. All sub-committees were formed with the exception of Shelter Management. Letters were sent out to all churches and schools within Babonneau inviting the participation of one (1) or two (2) representatives to a meeting in an effort to form the Shelter Management Sub-committee. Only one (1) school and two (2) churches were represented at the meeting. The Committee have always experienced difficulty in having the Principal or designate present at meetings.

During the period under review, the Committee held regular meetings. These meetings focused on explaining the roles and responsibilities of the sub-committees as well as identifying the available resources within the communities. The Education sub-committee was also formed with the mandate to put together strategies for an anti litter campaign. The Education sub-committee met with personnel from the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and the OECS Natural Resource Management Unit. These two agencies pledged their support to the initiative. At their next meeting, the sub-committee will be meeting all school principals to solicit their input to the action plan and its implementation.

The Committee received radios from NEMO and a training session was held on the Use and Maintenance of the equipment. An exercise to test the radios in the various communities was also carried out. The exercise was to determine the reception quality from base to the various communities.

PLANS FOR APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005:

- **Sensitization meetings in all sub-communities**
- **Identify and document hazards in all sub-committees**
- **Inspect all shelters and update shelter list**
- **Form Shelter Management Sub-committees**
- **Training for members in hazard mapping**
- **Fund raising activity**
- **Social activity**

MARY FRANCIS

Chair – Babonneau Disaster Committee

**SOUFRIERE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

1. Training:
Telecommunications - site for equipment was identified and radio relocated to
Equipment – Radios assigned to members of Disaster Committee
2. Warehouse:
Erected in Fond Bernier Soufriere, keys handed over. Equipment and supplies yet to be received.
3. Workshops:
Two-day workshop held in collaboration with the St. Lucia Red Cross and CDERA on Disasters
(VCR) Community was represented. First Aid Training for members (2) was done by Red Cross.
4. Community Profile:
Assessment completed. List of resources – tools, etc – completed.
5. Community Education on Disaster Preparedness:
 - Soufriere
 - Etangs
 - Chateau Belliar
 - Fond St. Jacques
 - Schools
6. Hazard Mapping and Community Profile in collaboration with the Fire Dept.
7. Collated list of all the elderly in the Community
8. Training workshops:
 - a. Mass Casualty
 - b. Stress Management
 - c. Radio Communications
 - d. Proposal Writing

PLANS FOR APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005:

1. Reactivate Fond St Jacques sub-committee and train representatives of Chateau Belliar, Etangs, and Bouton
2. Education in disaster and response training for Morne La Croix and Fon Jens Libres

3. Strengthening of Community Disaster Response Committee
4. Sourcing Equipment for warehouse
5. Follow-up with schools on Disaster Plan
6. Continuation of Community Education in Disaster Preparedness
7. Installation and relocation of base radio station. Dialogue with Taxi Association to assist in the event of a disaster, especially to offer assistance at the Senior Citizens Home
8. Disaster Preparedness lectures at schools. Reinforce the need for a Disaster Plan at the Schools. First Aid Training.
9. Meeting with Water Taxi Association. Meet with Lagan regarding condition of road.
10. Workshop on trees, to try to solve the tree problem in Soufriere.

SIMONE MONDESIR
Chair – Soufriere Disaster Committee

CASTRIES EAST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

During the period under review the Committee held monthly meetings.

1. Members of the committee participated in a recruitment drive inspecting all the high-risk areas in the different zones.
2. Four (4) members of the committee attended the PRF training workshop and two (2) attended the Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment Prioritization Workshop which was held for three days from 3rd February to 5th February, 2004.
3. The Chairman gave lectures to members on fire safety and means of escape in case of fire and other emergencies. Pamphlets were issued to members on Fire Safety, Catastrophe, Hurricanes, Floods and Slides, Heat, etc.

Observation

During the zonal tours a number of hazards were observed in Maynard Hill, Black Mallet and Bagatelle. There were a number of small slides in the areas mentioned during the period under review. There is an

area at the lower part of Maynard Hill with a hump which is rising slowly. Also, there are some areas at the upper part of Maynard Hill where water is coming out of the ground, which we assume is a result of improper drainage from the top of the hill to the bottom. Also, there are a number of damaged sewage systems in the area, which present a great risk to life and property in the event of a serious hurricane or earthquake. As some of the areas are saturated with water, some residences are experiencing cracks and water on their premises.

Hydrant

There is a sluice hydrant in the Maynard Hill and Black Mallet area, which is a dead end; it was damaged during the demolishing of buildings in the area. This presents a great risk to a number of buildings in the area if there was a fire. The matter was reported to the Fire and Water authorities for further action.

SHELTERS

Shelters were inspected and found in order, with the exception of the necessary emergency equipment in the event of a disaster. Castries East is a high risk area prone to floods and slides, with some areas not easily accessible in the event of an emergency. Therefore, each Shelter in the area should be equipped with the necessary equipment such as a first aid kit, etc to deal with any Risk Hazard that is encountered.

SLIDES AND FLOODS

There were two (2) landslides at Maynard Hill and one at Rock Hall. One caused damage to a Senior Citizen Building and the other one blocked the road at the lower part of Maynard Hill. Mr. Haynes Cyril of the Castries East Disaster Committee, accompanied by other members of the committee, assisted in clearing the road, and reported the slide, which damaged the senior citizens building to the appropriate authorities for further action. The Slide has been dealt with and repairs to the Senior Citizens building are ongoing and will be completed soon. The slide near Rock Hall is still under investigation by authorities.

FIRE

There were 3 fires in the Castries East Constituency for the period in review. One was in the Bagatelle area, involving a house belonging to one Gray, but there was no loss of life. The house could not be saved because of the distance from the main road and the difficulty that prevented immediate help from the fire department. The fires at Black Mallet and Rock Hall completely destroyed these buildings, but with no casualties.

COMPLAINTS

1. The senior citizens of Maynard Hill and Black Mallet are complaining about the removal of the Marchand Health Centre to Entrepot. A number of them reported that they are not able to climb the Entrepot Hill due to the walking distance, especially for those who cannot walk properly, and to get their medication. They would like the Centre returned to its original location.

I informed some of the senior citizens that the entire building is to be repaired, and the authorities should have a reason for moving the Heath Centre to Entrepot. The place may be a health hazard. I informed them that I will try and get some information from the authorities or District Representative

and let them know. I encouraged some of them in the Club 60 and others to have patience, and that things will be done, even for those who cannot walk to the Health Centre for their medication.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2004

1. The recruitment drive to be continued
2. The fundraising activity to be continued, disaster management training and further training in first aid, and fire protection and use of fire extinguishers.

Observation

3. There is a need for proper drainage in the Maynard Hill/Black Mallet areas to prevent floods and slides and for the protection of life and property in the area.
4. It is observed that a section of the surface of the main road (above the upper standpipe) at Bagatelle is in need of a proper resurfacing in order to prevent major accidents.

Emergency Equipment

5. There is a need for the following emergency equipment for the Castries East Disaster Committee for the year 2004, to be equipped for all disasters:
 - Chainsaws
 - Cutlasses
 - Ropes
 - Spades
 - Barrows
 - Lanterns and torch lights
 - Medicine kits
 - Blankets
 - Stretchers
 - Lumber jack boots (thigh high)
 - Rain coats

.....
 HAYNES CYRIL
 Chairman – Castries East Disaster Committee

MICOUD NORTH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

The Micoud North Emergency Management Committee comprises of fifty-seven registered persons from the communities of Praslin, Mamiku, Mon Repos, Patience, La Pointe, Malgratoute and the village of

Micoud, including the Community Development Officer, a representative of the Police and the Health Centre staff respectively.

For the period of April 2003 to March 2004 two meetings of these persons were held: one (1) prior to the hurricane season in May and in November 2003. While most persons were present at the May meeting, less than half attended the November meeting. Other meetings were held specifically for persons in the following groups/categories: (a) the Executive, (b) two (2) representatives of each community committee and (c) the Secretaries of each Sub-Committee, viz: transportation, telecommunication and information, supplies management, health and welfare, damage assessment and immediate works. Five (5) of such meetings were held during the period in question.

During the month of September a number of outreach public meetings were held, one (1) in each of the communities. Topics covered were: Awareness for Disaster Preparedness, Attack on Plastics, Safety of Property. The police were to talk on the subject: "Law and Order in the Event of a Disaster" but never showed up at any of the meetings. Attendance at these meetings could have been better. All meetings were given due publicity through the electric media and using public address system. It would do well if politicians would play a greater role in ensuring that their constituency takes an active interest in matters of disaster preparedness.

The list of contracted suppliers was reviewed and proprietors were contacted to renew their commitments in the event of a disaster. The Micoud North Committee was very much concerned about the way shelters are identified and recommended for emergency. In spite of previous pleas from the Chairperson that officers going around to identify and check on buildings, should contact the Committee as to the day and time but this suggestion has been ignored. It is hoped that this year officers responsible will take this into consideration. Some shelters air marked as Emergency Shelters are either non-existence or are unsuitable.

Training

Ten (10) person from the Committee received training in Basic Life Support Skills – the ABC of First Aid (CPR) and twenty-four (24) persons in Mass Casualty Management conducted by Mr. Pius Benjamin, Emergency Management Technician and Mr. Marinus Pascal, then Deputy Director of NEMO respectively. Participants are complaining over not receiving their certificates to date. Eight (8) persons were also trained in the use and care of hand held radios. Trainees were mainly from the Telecommunications & Information Sub-Committee. Certificates have already been awarded to those persons. There is need for the training of more persons in the various communities in the use and care of the radios. It is unfortunate that the radio based in Micoud is faulty. This has been reported to NEMO by both the committee Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Telecommunications & Information Sub-Committee on more than one occasion. For this reason, Micoud North has not been able to participate in the exercises which require the use of the radio. Five (5) hand radios were received from NEMO and were distributed among trained persons from five (5) of the communities. The committee requests at least three (3) more of these radios for the purpose of prompt communication. It is unfortunate that these radios can reach only a limited distance for proper communication.

I am once more appealing for some help to ensure that the police co-operate by attending and participating in our meetings and activities. It is not enough to say that they will be there in the event of a disaster. Continuous planning, preparation and proper organization is of paramount importance.

Obituary

We regret to announce the passing away of the Chairperson of the Transportation Sub-Committee: Mr. Anthony Emmanuel on December 28, 2003. He was a dedicated and devoted member of both his community Malgratoute and the Micoud North Constituency at large. May he rest in peace!

Concerns

There are three(3) main concerns which need to be highlighted: (1) The absence of a stand-by generator at the Micoud Police Station for over two years; (2) We are yet to understand why the satellite warehouse in Micoud North has been kept closed for such a long time after it was built; (3) There is the practice of the washing of vehicles in the Troumassee River which the committee feels is a hazard to human and marine life.

Recommendations

The Committee has more than once requested a meeting or meetings of Chairpersons of Local Sub-Committees with Chairpersons of the National Sub-Committees. This is important as it will open an avenue for those concerned to share experiences, common concerns and or problems with a view to improve on administration of Local Committees. We need to re-negotiate for a proper place for our meetings and EOC. We previously made a recommendation but there has been no response.

Fund Raising

In March 2003 the committee organized a Sponsored Walk in an effort to obtain funds for the purchase a small First Aid Kit for each of the communities. Sponsorship was very poor, but we shall continue to make the effort to achieve our purpose.

One of our main disappointments is the lack of proper record/record keeping. Persons who volunteered to do the secretarial work have become complacent and unreliable. Every effort will be made to improve this situation.

We look forward for routine and frequent visits from NEMO representative since a new Deputy is now in place, to help restructure for more efficient functioning of committees.

PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2004MARCH:

- Meeting of Executive and Community Representatives
- Appointment/Election of Secretary & Deputy
- Distribution of Packages to schools
- Operation of Warehouse.

APRIL:

- Identifying buildings for recommendation as Emergency Shelters
- Signing of Suppliers Contract
- Outreach public meetings in various communities

- TRAINING: (a) Community Disaster Management for all community representatives and their Secretaries (b) Shelters Management
- Meetings of all Sub-Committees especially Transportation to identify Chairperson

MAY:

- Establishment of schools' Disaster Preparedness Corner
- TRAINING WORKSHOP:(a) Hazard Mapping (b) Community Disaster Profile (c) Use of hand radio
- Outreach public meetings in various communities (cont'd).
- Demarkation & Zoning – For communities of Patience, La Pointe, Lombard, Mon Repos, Mamiku & Praslin (Assign jurisdiction)
- Educational Tour/Talk: Work of Meteorological Office; To Dennery and Vieux-Fort South Committees
- Fund Raising Activity
- Inspection of Emergency Shelters to ascertain suitability
- Meeting of all Auxillary and Active Members re: Plans for the 2004 with special emphasis on this year's hurricane season.

GREGOR BISCETTE

Chair – Micoud North Disaster Committee

MICOUD SOUTH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

The Micoud South Disaster Preparedness Committee promptly submits the annual report of the Committee's activities, functions, achievements, proposals, and recommendations.

Report in Brief:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Meetings | 16 |
| Meeting Postponement | 5 |
| Hurricanes | 0 |
| Storms | 3 |
| Attendance at Meetings | Good |
| Attendance at Workshops | Good |
| Emergency Meetings | 3 |
| Mitigation – cutting trees | 3 days |
| Projects | 1 |
| Church Lectures | 5 |
| List of Hurricanes for 2004 | -- |
| Visits | 2 |
| Fires | 1 |

Tragic Accidents

1

The Committee followed up on its visits to the Vigier and Anger Ger School. Vigier School has the usual complaints, with better progress at the school. The Anger School made significant progress, having keys made available to watchmen (security) in the event that it is needed during an emergency. One (1) generator was installed in 2003, and the security guards were trained in the care and use of the equipment.

Contractors and Suppliers:

JC's Confectionary

Alexis Samuel

Mr. and Mrs. Rene Francis

Rosalie Marius (Ti Rocher)

Shelters:

Most of our shelters are still intact needed to be repaired and upgraded with water tanks. To identify shelters, emergency shelter signs were placed on all shelters.

Pending Courses:

The Committee is still awaiting word from Mr. Pierre of the Red Cross with regards to the "community-based disaster preparedness course," which started in 2001 and was held over a 3-day period, and is still on hold.

Workshops Committee Attended:

1. Stress management in disaster – level 2
2. Supply management
3. Use of telecommunications equipment
4. Hazard Mitigation planning
5. Post-Disaster planning
6. Post-Disaster rapid environmental assessment, etc

We have had a lot of trouble with the availability of Crown Lands in Blanchard from the Ministry of Physical Planning. Land is needed so that we can utilize space for our storeroom structure.

Three (3) emergency meetings were held in Blanchard at the school during the hurricane season. As a result of these three storms, numerous trees fell in Micoud South; two houses fell in the process. Drains and culverts were blocked due to heavy rain and debris. There were no major damages. We are pleased to report that LUCELEC contracted an individual to trim all trees and branches overhanging power lines

Church lectures and meetings:

The Committee held a meeting at the Ti Rocher multipurpose centre, lectured at the Desreuisseaux Evangelical Church, La Cu Ville Evangelical Church, Ti Rocher Adventist Church and Ti Rocher Baptist Church.

Following our Mass Casualty, First Aid and CPR training from November 16-19 2002 in Blanchard, no certificates or identification has been received.

Projects:

All projects with Communications and Works -- speed bumps, road signs, pedestrian crossings, etc, are still on hold. The Committee have supported the fire victim.

To date the Committee has been very instrumental in the erection of a house for Ms. Alphonse, and it will soon be complete and formally presented. Mr. Peter Joseph from MCWT&PU has been assigned to the Committee and has attended meetings.

Account:

The Committee's accounting process has gone through but there is need to make some more changes. The account stands at \$194.64.

Radios

On 11th August 2003 members of the Executive received hand radios. The codes on the radios are MS-1 to MS-5. We are looking forward to more radio sets and base sets. We have problems presently with the repeater station in the south. Cable and Wireless has not played their role since the last report.

VICTOR JN BAPTISTE

Chairman – Micoud South Disaster Preparedness Committee

**CHOISEUL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

Realising that the Choiseul Disaster Committee was dormant, the Choiseul Village Council summoned a few committed persons to a meeting at the Choiseul Police Station on May 16, 2003. An Executive was elected:

- Chairperson: Ms. Clara Edwards
- Deputy Chair: Mr. Peter Philip
- Secretary: Mrs. Williana St. Rose
- Treasurer: Miss Anthea Lafeuillee
- Asst. Treasurer: Mr. John Mathurin
- PRO: Mr. Verlin Noel

Eight sub-committees were formed:

- Transportation
- Communication
- Evaluation and Information
- Distribution and Supplies
- Health and Welfare
- Immediate Works
- Fundraising
- Shelter Management

Year in Review April 2003-Feb 2004

A workshop was conducted to train and acquaint all subcommittee members of their roles and responsibilities.

May 15, 2003: Training workshop was held for all Shelter Managers. The main objective was to provide all persons who have the responsibility for operational management of emergency shelters with the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the required duties. A very successful workshop, conducted by Williana St. Rose.

May 24, 2003: A very interesting, exciting and informative Simulation Exercise was planned by the committee and executed by Ms. Dawn French. The activity was done in two phases:

1. The real-time notification which tested the length of time it took for the team to assemble at the headquarters (Choiseul Police Station). Members were not aware of the exact date, but they were aware of the week.
2. The second phase was the form of a table-top exercise. The team remained in a room and pretended that the community required help. The team was required to find realistic solutions to a 7.0 magnitude earthquake south of St. Lucia. The team responded to search and rescue, shelter management, debris clearance, gas explosions, health issues, the press and providing a report.

? 7th: A Workshop on Tracking and Mapping a Storm. This workshop provided persons with the technical knowledge and skills to follow the path of a storm when given the location. The facilitator was trained in Germany (Marine Training) – Mr. Jn. Baptiste.

?, 2003: Regular meetings were held on a monthly basis, and emergency meetings were called whenever the need arose. Community meetings were held in about 35 communities in Choiseul. The communities were zoned in order to facilitate the committee. These meetings were held every evening at 6:30 pm by three teams. The main objective was to sensitise and open people's eyes to the possibilities for disaster, as well as how to prepare and get help, and gave out shelter information. Each community formed a disaster sub-committee.

Transportation for both land and sea was put in place. Caterers were identified in the event of an emergency response, as well as contractors for fuel and food supply. Members of the team attended many workshops attended by NEMO at the National level.

Follow-up activities:

1. Hazard Mitigation Consultation

Objectives:

- To develop a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan for the district of Choiseul
 - To facilitate the input of all relevant agencies and organisations at the levels of the hazard mitigation plan and escalation
 - To formalize the establishment of sub-committees to work along with the central committee
2. Continuation of community meetings
 3. Formal launching of the Choiseul Disaster Committee and the Red Cross groups
 4. Desktop exercise
 5. One fundraising event

6. Hazard Mitigation exercises throughout the District of Choiseul.

CLARA EDWARDS

Chair – Choiseul Disaster Preparedness Committee

**EMERGENCY WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004**

Activities conducted during the reporting period:

1. Damage assessment report submitted to NEMO following TW on 7th July. Estimated cost for storm damage \$52,000.
2. Meeting convened on July 23rd for MCWT&PU Technical Services Division to update Disaster Plan and review responses to Tropical Wave/Depression of 7th report/20th July respectively.
3. Inspection of 325 emergency shelters undertaken during April/June. Installation of signs ongoing. Project completed mid August 2003.
4. MCWT&PU representation on all District Disaster committees provided.
5. Liaise with Transportation Committee updating public/private equipment lists.
6. NEMO/NEMAC meeting – 15 August 2003
7. National Consultation on mitigation policy – 11th September 2003
8. National Consultation on Revised Disaster Response Set No. 13 of 2000 – July 15th 2003

Mitigation Works

1. Annual desilting of rivers and watercourses substantially completed (44No) in June/July 2003 (\$800,000)
2. Flood pump in SLASPA pump house installed May 2003 for \$150,000 (SJC Consultants/WEPCO) commissioning and testing in progress
3. OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project (see status report)
4. Anse La Raye and Castries Drainage Improvement (Halcrow Consultants)
5. Caretakers resumed July 2003 island wide
6. Model hazard mitigation policy adaptation workshop – May 27 to 29 2003

Plans

1. MWRP to be further reviewed/updated and submitted to NEMO to include plans for all departments including Met Services, Transport Division, and Electrical Service in addition to Technical Services.
2. Meeting of Emergency works Committee to review Roles/Responsibilities/Plans. To take place when MOW Plans are completed
3. Meeting to be convened with MCWT&PU staff to identify resource and training requirements.
4. Training workshop in Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation and First aid to be organized with NEMO and Red Cross
5. CO-ordination with Damaged Assessment Committee with respect to damage Assessment Teams, evaluation reporting

Issues/Constraints

1. Communications: radio/mobiles. Mobiles not required from C&W
2. Damages assessment reporting internally and externally

Deputy Chief Engineer/Liaison Officer
Chairman Emergency Works Sub-Committee

EMERGENCY SHELTER SUB-COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

During the period under review The Ministry of Education HRD Y&S continued to work assiduously in its effort to place and maintain all schools/emergency shelters in a state of preparedness in the event of a disaster of any kind. The activities undertaken were mainly in the areas of retrofitting of shelters training of officers and procurement of equipment, as outlined below.

1. Retrofitting of schools/Emergency shelters

The schools which benefited from this initiative and the civil works undertaken are as follows:

- Micoud Secondary School:
 - Replacement of the roof cladding of the science block
 - Replacement of the toilet block
 - Construction of a canopy between that block and the main building
 - Replacement of all damaged doors and windows
- Ti Rocher primary school:
 - Replacement of the roof of the western block.
- Bexon Primary School:
 - Replacement of the entire roof (i.e. both rafters and cladding) of two buildings.
- Ava Maria Infant:
 - Replacement of roof cladding and ceiling of two buildings and rewiring of these buildings to ensure that they conform to acceptable standards.
- George Charles Secondary
 - Extensive repairs to both the electrical and the plumbing systems.
- Mongouge Combined:
 - Retrofitting of the ceiling and gutters of two buildings
- Odsan Combined:
 - Construction of retaining walls and
 - Improvement of drainage by the construction of concrete gutters.
- Clendon Mason Secondary:
 - Construction of concrete gutters to improve drainage.
 - Replacement of all damaged windows and
 - Construction of a water tank.

- Vieux Fort Comprehensive Campus B:
 - Construction of septic tanks and
 - Replacement of all damaged doors and windows.

In addition, Vieux Fort Senior Primary, Laborie Boys' Primary and Des Barras Combined schools have been earmarked for retrofitting under Phase 2 of the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project.

2. Training

The Liaison officer participated in:

- A two (2) day Supply Management (SUMA) Workshop.
- A three (3) day Preparation of Policy Documents Workshop and
- A two (2) day First Aid, CPR Workshop.

The Ministry of Education plans to train all shelter managers and their deputies in First Aid, CPR and SUMA. This Ministry also plans to train two officers in Disaster Management and Control.

3. EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

The Ministry proposes to procure the following equipment deemed necessary for emergency recovery.

- One (electric) Water pump
- 2 (petrol) water pump – 5hp
- 210 air beds
- 210 blankets
- 210 hygiene kits
- 105 first aid kits
- 100 water bladders for drinking water (3 gallons)
- 200 Water Tanks (store drinking water)
- 200 Flash Lights
- 1 mobile kitchen
- 10 Electric generators
- 3 Water purifying plant

This proposal has been approved by the world Bank and will be funded under Phase 2 of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project.

Fortuna Anthony-Husbands (Ms.)

Chair – National Emergency Shelter Sub-committee



Part 4

Consultants Reports

Critical Incident Stress Management & Debriefing (Level 2) Course Report
Prepared for NEMO (Saint Lucia)
By
Dr. Davendra Sharma

Purpose

The advanced training program in critical incident stress management and debriefing was organized by the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) of Saint Lucia as part of the Emergency Recovery and Disaster project in order to effectively deal with possible disruptive distress caused by critical incidents and to prevent post traumatic stress reactions in primary, secondary and tertiary victims of any critical incident.

Background

Acute stress reactions, adjustment disorders, prolonged grief, childhood disorders including conduct disorders, substance abuse and acute and chronic post traumatic disorders are significant problems which may ensue from any critical incident where the normal coping mechanism of the survivor is overwhelmed by the incident. These reactions are not limited to the primary victim but may occur in the first responders, the secondary victim and also in the families of trauma workers, the tertiary victims. The impact with respect to the loss of time from work, impaired work function, liability to poor judgment, avoidant behavior and substance abuse are unfortunate costly consequences

Critical incidents include: Natural disasters such as hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes, tidal waves, flooding. Accidents such as an aviation disaster, chemical accidents, oil spills and others such as bomb threats, fires and acts of terrorism.

Individuals with training in Critical Incident Stress management including training in defusing and debriefing are recognized as essential to providing adequate support in managing and preventing post traumatic stress reactions

Aim of the course

The course aimed to further train individuals with previous knowledge of stress management interested in providing services in the area of advanced post traumatic stress management including critical incident stress defusing and debriefing.

Scope of the service

General: Provide a four day training package in Stress Management in Disasters including training in Critical Incident Defusing and Debriefing.

Methods

The workshop participants were:

Educated on the theory of post trauma presentations and stress related disorders by Power Point presentations and video tapes of post trauma reactions in adults and children. Participants were informed of the reactions in the primary secondary and tertiary victims and shown slides of the different victims and their responses.

Participants were provided methods to evaluate and detect post traumatic stress disorders including the severity of the impact by use of the post impact questionnaire. Also taught how to use questionnaires to detect problems in children, anxiety and depression and substance abuse disorders.

Participants were trained in multi modal techniques of post trauma stress management, including understanding the type of intervention to apply to different situations. Participants were given the opportunity to role play their communication and crisis intervention skills in a variety of post trauma stress situations including anger management, grief management and conflict resolution. These were video taped and interview techniques and counseling skills previously taught by power point presentations, were reviewed and critiqued.

Participants gained competency practice in the skill of defusing and debriefing by observing a video taped defusing session.

Discussion of the role of the CISD worker was done and included the importance of health education in the area of post traumatic stress disorders to be done in the workplace, in the school and for the general public.

Course materials:

Each participant was given a handbook containing resource materials for reference. They were also given clinical cases, questionnaires and assessment tools and handouts of each of the power point lectures

Course Evaluation

Evaluation of the participant was done by means of an end of workshop examination. Also by direct feedback on performance and participation during the workshop.

Eleven of the twelve participants successfully met the end of completion requirements and were awarded the level 2 CISD certificate.

The workshop was evaluated by an end of workshop questionnaires to be filled in by each participant. This was given to the Director of NEMO for analysis.

Recommendations

The CISM counselors would meet on a quarterly basis to:

- To review and familiarize themselves with the protocols of the Saint Lucia Stress Response Team.
- A coordinator, for the CISM team, Mr. Hilary Bynoe was elected and would liaise closely with the Chairman of the Stress Response Team and the Director of NEMO
- At the quarterly team meeting, the team would plan and conduct simulation exercises of crisis interventions, defusing and debriefings.
- Plan public education exercises to inform of the stress effects of critical incidents.
- Make recommendations to NEMO for the training of all first responders in the level 1 SMID program

- Make recommendations to the chairperson of the Stress Response Team and Director of NEMO for education of senior managers of the role of the CISM team and the benefits to personnel of applying Critical Incident Stress Demobilization, Defusing and Debriefing for work teams involved in a critical incident.
- Director of NEMO to ensure that arrangements are made for release to conduct Critical Incident Defusing and debriefings as may be required after any incident.
- Director of NEMO to make recommendations for further continuing and advanced training of team members
- Director of NEMO to arrange for suitable identification cards or badges for team members.

Supplies Management Computer Course Report
Prepared for NEMO (Saint Lucia)
By
Marcus Day

1.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

It has been determined that a Trainer in the Computer Program for relief supplies tracking called SUMA will be required to assist in the response capacity of NEMO Committee responsible for such. This Terms of Reference (TOR) is for a Trainer to provide assistance to NEMO in the area of SUMA in Saint Lucia.

- To introduce SUMA warehouse module to Government ministries for use as a programme that can be used to computerize stock management in Government warehouses
- To train a number of individuals in SUMA in order to create a pool of SUMA operators available in the event if a Hurricane or other disaster that requires the movement of supplies

2.0 SCOPE OF THE SERVICES

The scope of work for the Trainer will be guided by the objective to strengthen the capacity of the NEMO Committee in the area of SUMA. In this regard, the Trainer will liaise closely with the Director and the staff of NEMO to deliver the training.

General Responsibilities

The Trainer will be responsible for delivering fifteen (15) two-day training packages in SUMA. SUMA is a computer program and as such the method of training is a hands on, interactive session, which shall include:

- *Demonstration of changes with previous versions*
- *Installation and exercises of SUMA Warehouse 5.2*
- *Establishment of SUMA Teams*

5. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Trainer will work under the guidance of and report directly to the Director. The NEMO will provide facilities for the use of the Trainer. Such facilities include:

- Office accommodation
- Access to computing and photocopying equipment
- Local and regional telephone calls and faxes
- Provision of secretarial and other support services

The NEMO will also facilitate access to the Trainer to reports, documents and other pertinent information relevant to the services to be undertaken by the Trainer.

NEMO Support

The Consultant acknowledges the logistical support and backstopping provided by Ms. Dawn French, Director of NEMO and Ms Maria Mombelli, Office Manager. Nine (9) two-day workshops were held over a period of five weeks. During that period the NEMO office was required to produce training materials and compact disks for over 100 participants.

The materials were always ready for the consultant to collect. Their hard work and conscientious execution of the tasks went a long way to making this training programme a success.

Constraints

Level of computer proficiency of participants

The level of computer literacy varied. While there were no computer illiterates there were people with “user” knowledge who had to be instructed in operations such as deleting folders, formatting disks etc.

Functioning of computers at Computer lab

Of the 30 computers in Lab 1 at SALCC on 12 had functioning CD and floppy drives, both a necessity of SUMA training

Number of participants

The number of participants invited to the training was 30. On average, 10 – 14 people attended. There were only a few people directly involved in warehouse functions and some institutions that would have benefited from this training did not attend, such as police services and prison services

Punctuality of participants

The punctuality of participants varied greatly and this made formal instruction difficult to coordinate. The trainer chose have participants work independently using the training manual and to work individually with the participants who needed assistance to get over a learning hurdle. This

method worked well and allowed advanced students to complete the course work at their own pace. Learning moments were taken advantaged on the individual level.

Recommendations

National SUMA TEAM

A number of participants were identified who were willing to participate on the National SUMA team. These individuals are indicated on the attendance list in Appendix B. 96 individuals were trained in SUMA. While most have the competency to assist, 19 have indicated a willingness to serve on the national team and more importantly shown a high level of ability in operations

Use of SUMA Warehouse module in everyday use

A number of individuals with stock management responsibilities indicated that they were interested in using SUMA as a tool to coordinate their stock management.

The list of those individuals are contained in Appendix C. Efforts should be made to access funding to provide consultancy services to assist in the adaptation and implementation of SUMA into those warehouse situations.

Part 5

Work program



National Emergency Management Office
Prime Minister's Office

Telephone (758) 452-3802
(758)-468-2126
Fax (758) 453-2152
Telex 0398 6272 LC
Weather Hotline (758) 454-3452

P O Box 1517
Red Cross Building
Vigie
Saint Lucia
West Indies

E-mail eoc@candw.lc
URL <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

WORK PROGRAMME – 2003/2004

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6. Comprehensive Disaster Management



**National Consultation
On Interactive Class Materials**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological, these include:

- ❖ *Metrological Hazards: hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, storm-surge, floods and drought.*
- ❖ *Geological Hazards: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides.*
- ❖ *Environmental Hazards: marine pollution, oil and hazardous material spills.*
- ❖ *Transportation Accidents: air – aircraft; land – vehicular; marine – ships.*

The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters.

Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.

This Work Programme therefore seeks to promote a comprehensive integrated approach to disaster management by bringing about greater partnership between government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, donor agencies and regional organisations in an effort to enhance the institutional and human resource capacity, improve national coordination of comprehensive disaster management programmes and activities and provide for the incremental acquisition of the necessary resources.

2.0 CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS

In order to successfully implement this programme, the following critical assumptions have been made:

- (1) *That emergencies in Saint Lucia may be categorised in two ways. Those that are preceded by a build-up [slow onset] period, which can provide the National Emergency Management Office with advance warnings, which is used to facilitate timely and effective activation of national arrangements.*
- (2) *That other emergencies occur with little or no advance warning thus requiring mobilization and almost instant commitment of National resources. That the event may require prompt support from Regional and International assistance just prior to or after the onset of such emergencies.*
- (3) *That the Government of Saint Lucia will endorse the programme and seek to provide the financial and human resources and administrative facilitation required for its implementation*
- (4) *That the private sectors, non-governmental organisations and other donors will provide support in a spirit of partnership.*

- (5) *That the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency will endeavour to provide technical support, wherever possible, for the programme.*
- (6) *That key government and private sector agencies will continue to develop their individual disaster management plans, support the development of sectoral disaster management plans and provide tangible support to the Director and National Emergency Management Office.*
- (7) *That community disaster management planning will become an integral part of the national effort so as to empower communities to take greater responsibility for their protection and safety.*
- (8) *That the lessons learnt from past hazard impacts would influence the review and updating of disaster management plans and procedures.*

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- (1) *To strengthen the administration of the National Emergency Management Office to provide leadership and coordination in disaster management in Saint Lucia.*
- (2) *To provide specialised training in Disaster Management for local committees.*
- (3) *To provide specialised training in Disaster Management for relevant sectors and agencies.*
- (4) *To educate and inform the population about the hazards facing the island by improving the public education and awareness programmes.*
- (5) *To improve and strengthen the shelter management programme.*
- (6) *To develop and implement a system of Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis following a major hazard impact.*
- (7) *Increase the level of preparedness of the response organisations and the population of Saint Lucia.*
- (8) *Promote the reduction of vulnerability of infrastructure in Saint Lucia.*
- (9) *Strengthen the links with academic and research institutes.*



4.0 OUTPUTS

At the end of this programme it is expected that the following would have been accomplished:

- (1) *A cadre of trained personnel in specialised areas of disaster management.*
- (2) *Established Damage Assessment, Needs Analysis and Relief mechanisms, which would facilitate the identification of damage and needs and orderly distribution of supplies following a hazard impact.*
- (3) *Establish Community Disaster Management System within each constituency with personnel trained to adequately manage disaster/emergency events in their community.*
- (4) *Improved Public Education and Information Programmes about all hazards.*
- (5) *Greater cooperation, coordination and information sharing at the national and regional level.*

5.0 WORK PROGRAMME AREAS

| ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING | PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE | MITIGATION AND RESEARCH | INFORMATION AND EDUCATION |
|---|--|---|---|
| Secretary on placement at CDERA/CU. | Review of the National Emergency Management Response Plan as required by Law. | Creation of After Action Reports for Past Disaster Events that NEMO has responded to. | Distribution of Annual Report. |
| Appointment of Acting Deputy Director. | Collaborate with Agencies for increased Safety Protocols at Mass Crowd Events. | Creation of After Action Reports on future Disaster Events that NEMO must respond to. | Collaborate with local Music Industry and GIS to produce music videos. |
| National Consultation on Comprehensive Disaster Management. | Convene the Bi-Annual Meetings of NEMO. | Collate and distribute resource information to District Committees. | Collaborate with private sector to distribute information brochures. |
| Annual Renewal of supply contracts for emergency response supplies. | Collaborate with the Government Liaison Officers to review the Ministry's Continuity Response Plans. | Shelter Identification by labeling. | Publication of Children's workbook. |
| Annual Awards Night. | Collaborate with regional and international agencies to conduct training of response organisations and volunteers. | Annual Inspection of Emergency Shelters | Publication of 2003 National Emergency Response Plan. |
| Staff to learn a second language. | Collaborate with regional and international agencies to implement projects. | Preparation of NEMO Annual Report. | Improvement of collection at NEMO Documentation Center. |
| Provision of material resources for the NEMO through programmes like the HAP | Planning and participation in simulation exercises. | | Collaborate with Media Houses to produce the annual Newspaper supplements |
| Increase financial resources through donations. | | | Meet with National and District Committees |
| Construction of a National Warehouse and EOC | | | Distribution of information to partner agencies. |
| Introduction of the resource monitoring computer program SUMA to the Public and | | | Planning and production of a regular newsletter. |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Private Sector. | |
| | Attendance at Local, Regional and International meetings. |

6.0 COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The development objective of the project is to begin to effectively realize and embed comprehensive disaster management (CDM) into the development process of the Caribbean countries and to strengthen CDERA to help achieve this. Achievement of the development objective of the project will be measured by the number of countries in the region that begin the process of incorporating CDM into their overall development strategies. (CDERA – May 2002)

The 2002/2003 Work Plan of NEMO dovetails into CDM under the following Intermediate Results of the Strategic Framework.

| <i>NEMO Work Programme:</i> | <i>ADMINISTRATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING</i> | <i>PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE</i> | <i>MITIGATION AND RESEARCH</i> | <i>INFORMATION AND EDUCATION</i> |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <i>Comprehensive Disaster Management:</i> | <i>IR –1: Stronger regional and national institutions to promote CDM</i> | <i>IR-2: Research and training to support CDM.</i> | <i>IR-4: Preparedness, response and mitigation capacity is enhanced and integrated.</i> | <i>IR-5: Hazard information is incorporated into development planning and decision-making.</i> |

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A. L. DAWN FRENCH
Director - NEMO

Part 6
Minutes of the 2003 bi-annual meetings of
The National Emergency Management
Advisory Council (NEMAC) and
The National Emergency Management
Organisation (NEMO)

AGENDA FOR
THE BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NEMAC)
AND THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION(NEMO)
HELD ON
AUGUST 15, 2003
AT THE
NATIONAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, WATERFRONT
AT 9:00 A.M.

- I. Welcome Remarks
- II. Apologies
- III. Errors and Omissions from Minutes of July 27th, 2003
(See Part 5 of Annual Report)
- IV. Confirmation of Minutes
- V. Matters Arising
- VI. Reports:
 - 1. Supply Management Sub-Committee
 - 2. WASCO Representative
 - 3. LUCELEC Representative
 - 4. Transport Sub-Committee
 - 5. Babonneau Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 6. Castries East Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 7. Anse La Raye Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 8. Choiseul Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 9. Soufriere Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 10. Micoud North Disaster Preparedness Committee
 - 11. Vieux Fort South Disaster preparedness Committee
 - 12. Micoud South Disaster preparedness Committee
 - 13. Community Development Officer – Vieux Fort North
 - 14. Castries North Disaster preparedness Committee
 - 15. Dennery North Disaster preparedness Committee
 - 16. Laborie Disaster preparedness Committee
 - 17. World Bank
 - 18. Met Services
 - 19. Consultant to NEMO
- VII. Any other Business

**Minutes of the National Emergency Management Organisation/National Emergency
Advisory Committee (NEMO/NEMAC) Meeting**

Held on August 15th, 2003

at the

**National Insurance Corporation (NIC) Conference Room
5th Floor Francis Compton Building, Waterfront**

Present were:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Hon. Dr. Kenny Anthony | Chairman |
| Ms. Dawn French | Director – NEMO |
| Mr. Francis Nelson | Chief, Ports Police |
| Mr. Augustin Gaspard | Chief Fire Officer |
| Mr. George James | Coordinator, Emergency Disaster Recovery and Management Project |
| Mr. Jahto Mahal | Community Development Officer, Ministry of Social Transformation |
| Ms. Brenda Wilson | Community Development Officer, Ministry of Social Transformation |
| Ms. Jackie Allain | Community Development Officer, Ministry of Social Transformation |
| Mrs. Norma Herman | Community Development Officer, Ministry of Social Transformation |
| Mr. Faustinus Faisal | Community Development Officer – Dennery North |
| Mr. Jean Mathurin | Liaison Officer, Minister of Finance |
| Mr. Urban Glace | Chairman, Dennery North Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Augustin Jimmie | Deputy Chairman, Micoud South Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Victor Jn Baptiste | Chairman, Micoud South Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Winston Lubin | Chair, Vieux Fort South Disaster Committee |
| Ms. Simone Mondesir | Chairperson, Soufriere Disaster Committee |
| Mrs. Clara Edwards | Chairperson, Choiseul Disaster Committee |
| Mrs. Mary Francis | Chairperson, Castries North-West |
| Mr. Gregor Biscette | Chairman, Micoud North Disaster Committee |
| Ms. Allison Joseph | Chairperson, Castries North Disaster Committee |
| Ms. Viana Jn Baptiste | Member, Soufriere, Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Joseph Samuel | Chairman, Anse La Raye Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Cyril Haynes | Chairman, Castries East Disaster Committee |
| Ms. Dorothy Agard | Chairperson, National Transportation Sub-committee |
| Mrs. Renee La Grenade | Deputy Chair, National Transportation Sub-committee |
| Mr. Guy Joseph | Member, National Transportation Sub-committee |
| Mr. Dermot Saltibus | Chairman, National Oil Spill Sub-committee |
| | Interim-Chairman, National Telecommunications Sub-committee |
| Mr. Dalton Cenac | Chairman, National Emergency Works Sub-committee |
| | Chief Engineer, Ministry of Works |
| Mr. Andre Mathurin | Chairman, National Supplies Management Sub-committee |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Mr. Embert Charles | Chair, National Information Sub-committee |
| Mr. Kenneth Monplaisir | Chair, National Welfare Sub-committee |
| Mr. Peter Calderon | Representative, Ministry of works |
| Mr. Pancras Albert | Police |
| Mr. Moses Charles | Police |
| Mr. Herbert Regis | Director, Meteorological Officer |
| | Representative, Saint Lucia Electricity Services Ltd. |
| Ms. Edgard Felicite | Representative, Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority |
| Ms. Shanta King | Representative, Water and Sewerage Company Ltd. |
| Mr. Anthony Herbert | Representative, Saint Lucia Red Cross |
| Mr. Arturo Lopez-Portillo | NEMO Consultant |
| Ms. Maria Mombelli | Recording Secretary |

Absent were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Hon. Walter Francois | Member of Parliament – Soufriere |
| Hon. Mario Michel | Member of Parliament – Gros Islet |
| Hon. George Odum | Member of Parliament – Castries North-East |
| Hon. Phillip J. Pierre | Member of Parliament – Castries East |
| Hon. Sarah Flood-Beaubrun | Member of Parliament – Castries Central |
| Hon. Ignatius Jean | Member of Parliament – Castries North |
| Hon. Felix Finisterre | Member of Parliament – Castries North-West |
| Hon. Cyprian Lansiquot | Member of Parliament – Anse La Raye/Canaries |
| Hon. Jon Odum | Member of Parliament – Castries South |
| Hon. Velon John | Member of Parliament – Laborie |
| Hon. Ferguson John | Member of Parliament – Choiseul |
| Hon. Marcus Nicholas | Member of Parliament – Dennery North |
| Hon. Damian Greaves | Member of Parliament – Dennery South |
| Hon. Cecil Lay | Member of Parliament – Vieux Fort North |
| Hon. Marius Wilson | Member of Parliament – Micoud North |
| Hon. Arsene James | Member of Parliament – Micoud South |
| Mr. Martin Satney | Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing |
| Mr. Cosmos Richardson | Permanent Secretary – Ministry of External Affairs |
| Mr. Thaddeus Montoute | Chair, Gros Islet Disaster Committee |
| Mr. Primus Duplessis | Chair, Laborie Disaster Committee |
| Mrs. Velda Octave-Joseph | Community Development Officer – Micoud North |
| Mrs. Perpetua James | Community Development Officer – Dennery South |
| Mrs. Urania Joseph | Community Development Officer – Anse La Raye/Canaries |
| Ms. Martha Blanchard | Community Development Officer – Castries/South East |
| Mr. Mc Arthur Phillip | Community Development Officer – Choiseul |
| Mr. Julian Duybois | Community Development Officer – Laborie |
| Mr. Augustus Cadet | Community Development Officer – Vieux Fort South |
| Mr. Sylvester Monroe | Community Development Officer – Micoud South |
| Dr. Mc. Donald Chase | Chief Medical Officer |
| Mr. William Hilaire | Liaison Officer – Office of the Prime Minister |
| Mr. Bonaventure Jn Baptiste | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Education |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Ms. Alison Lubon | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Commerce |
| Mr. Anthony Thomas | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries |
| Mrs. Christella St. Juste | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing |
| Mr. Augustin Compton | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations |
| Mr. Cyrus Reynolds | Liaison Officer - Ministry of Labour Relations, Public Service and Co-operatives |
| Mrs. Fortuna Belrose | Liaison Officer – Ministry of Social Transformation, Culture and Local Government |

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and acknowledged the tremendous work done through dedication.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted on behalf of the following persons:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Hon. Menissa Rambally | Member of Parliament, Castries South/East (attending to death of family member) |
| Mr. Egbert Louis | Chairman, National Damage and Needs Assessment Sub-committee – (out of state) |
| Mr. Trevor Braithwaite | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance (out of state) |
| Mr. Felix Finisterre | Member of Parliament, Babonneau (out of state) |
| Ms. Aloysia Gabriel | Liaison Officer, Ministry of Justice (previous engagement) |
| Mr. Claude Paul | Comptroller of Customs (previous engagement) |
| Mrs. Fortuna Anthony-Husbands | - Chair, National Emergency Shelter Sub-committee (previous engagement) |

4. **REPORTS**

A. **Chairman – National Supply Management Sub-committee**

- (i) *Reported on level of stock at government warehouse.*
- (ii) *Supply Management (SUMA) Training conducted by Mr. Marcus Day to staff of various government ministries, and NEMO volunteers. Persons trained in this area will be identified to form a SUMA Team.*

- (iii) Committee meetings held but attendance has been low. The following agencies were represented at the last committee meeting.
 - WASCO
 - Police
 - Saint Lucia Red Cross
 - Customs and Excise
 - Ministry of Trade
- (iv) *Emergency supplies are available at the NEMO warehouse and will be distributed to district committees upon completion of satellite warehouse.*

Comments/Suggestions

The meeting **agreed** on the following:

- (i) Information on supplies available at the government warehouse should be supplied to district committees during the hurricane season.
- (ii) Committee to conduct an audit of district disaster committees on a monthly basis.
- (iii) Committee to liaise with factory in Vieux Fort involved in packaging of food supplies.
- (iv) WASCO and LUCELEC to supply information on stock level.

B. WASCO Representative

- (i) *Chemical stock at an adequate level. Order for other supplies placed before beginning of hurricane season.*
- (ii) *Repairs to water pumps continues.*
- (iii) *Stand by power at Roseau and Choc Dam are inadequate. WASCO will write to LUCELEC for assistance.*
- (iv) *The company has one (1) functional water truck. The representative lamented the fact that during the dry season the company was faced with severe problems with pipe water distribution and had to resort to contracting private water trucking companies for water distribution.*

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *The Director informed the meeting that NEMO will assist if there is a crisis, and in such case the Cabinet Secretary will requests a partial activation of NEMO and the mechanism will be in place with the trucking companies.*

C. **LUCELEC Representative**

- (i) Inadequate supply of poles.
- (ii) Major works are being conducted in Cap Estate.

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) The Chairman commended LUCELEC for their presence at the meeting.

D. **Chair – National Transportation Sub-committee**

- (i) *The committee was revamped in April 2003. A new Chair was elected in the person of Ms. Dorothy Agard with Mrs. Rene La Grenade as Deputy.*
- (ii) *Committee is in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Saint Lucia Helicopters.*
- (iii) *Arrangements are being made to get representatives of the airline companies on board.*
- (iv) *Resource list updated.*
- (v) *National committee members to meet with their counterparts on the district committees in Soufriere and Vieux Fort.*
- (vi) *The Chair informed the meeting that in the event of a crisis, arrangements are in place with fifteen (15) water trucking companies to assist NEMO with the distribution of water.*

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *The Chairman indicated that there is an urgent need to finalize arrangements with the helicopter company.*
- (ii) *The National Damage and Needs Assessment Sub-committee, National Transportation Sub-committee and Government Information Service to conduct an aerial reconnaissance.*
- (iii) *Chairman, National Supply Management Sub-committee to contact gas and aviation stations regarding stock level.*
- (iv) *List of minibus drivers who will assist in a crisis to be submitted to district disaster committees.*
- (v) *Government vehicles will be assigned to NEMO once a request is made. DIWI vehicles are also available.*
- (vi) *Chief Engineer to liaise with Lagan regarding arrangements for speedy response during a crisis.*

E. Chair – Babonneau Disaster Committee

- (i) Members received training offered by NEMO in various areas.
- (ii) Public awareness campaign to be initiated.

F. Chairman – Castries East

- (i) Continuous monitoring of the Black Mallet/Maynard Hill landslip area whenever it rains.
- (ii) The Chairman indicated that there is need for the Ministry of Works, Fire Department, Police, WASCO, NEMO, and the Castries East district committee to have an evacuation plan in place for the Black Mallet/Maynard Hill area. Meeting to be held among the various agencies.
- (iii) The meeting was informed that two surveys were done by the Ministry of Works and an estimate done for works to be done to foot path.

G. Chairman – Anse La Raye Disaster Committee

- (i) *In the process of recruiting new members. The committee members are targeting the sporting and youth groups requesting one (1) member of the group to attend meetings.*
- (ii) *Regular monthly meetings conducted.*
- (iii) *Auxiliary Fire Service members activated.*
- (iv) *Emergency shelters visited.*
- (v) *The Chairman expressed concern about the Palladium Cinema which is being used as an emergency shelter. NEMO spend a large sum of money conducting repairs to the building and it is now worse off than before the repairs.*

The NEMO Chairman requested a survey to be conducted by the Damage and Needs and Assessment Sub-committee.

- (vi) *Anse La Raye is in the process of identifying a site for the satellite warehouse. The NEMO Chairman requested that the Chairman of the Committee, along with the NEMO Director and Coordinator of the Emergency Disaster Recovery and Management Project identify a site.*
- (vii) *The Chairman expressed concern about persons returning to the flood prone area after severe flooding.*

The Chairman informed the meeting that persons affected were informed that they would be compensated for their losses. The NEMO Chairman informed the meeting that it is not obligatory for government to compensate persons for their losses during these events.

Committee to continue sensitizing residents of Anse La Raye regarding flood prone areas.

H. **Chair – Choiseul Disaster Committee**

- (i) There is presently thirty-two (32) committed members on the committee.
- (ii) All sub-committees are functional. Fund raising activities not working.
- (iii) Monthly committee meeting continues.
- (iv) Workshop with members on their roles and responsibilities.
- (v) Shelter Management workshop conducted.
- (vi) Committee members attended workshops organized by NEMO.
- (vii) Real time notification simulation exercise conducted on June 26, 2003 in collaboration with NEMO. Simulation was in the form of a tabletop exercise.
- (viii) Workshop conducted on tracking and mapping a storm.
- (ix) Construction of satellite warehouse in progress.
- (x) Hazard mapping done.
- (xi) Lagan pledge full support to committee.
- (xii) Committee to work with LUCELEC and WASCO regarding the company's roles and responsibilities during a crisis.
- (xiii) Sub-committees formed in the various communities to liaise with the main committee.
- (xiv) Red Cross group to be formed.

I. **Chair – Soufriere Disaster Committee**

- (i) *Public education in disaster preparedness.*
- (ii) *New members requited.*
- (iii) *Committee to work with schools which do not have a disaster plan.*
- (iv) *List of elderly in the various communities prepared.*
- (v) *Committee members received training in various areas organized by NEMO.*
- (vi) *There is need for more communication equipment for distribution among members in the various communities.*

- (vii) *After much delay, a site has been identified for construction of the satellite warehouse.*
- (viii) *Land and water taxi and mini buses are represented on committee.*

Projections

- (i) *Relocate and install base station.*
- (iii) *Install new base station for Fond St. Jacques.*
- (iv) *Meeting to be conducted with Lagan Construction.*
- (v) *Continuation of Public Education on disaster preparedness activities.*
- (vi) *Meeting with land owners regarding the matter of trees. Workshop on tree cutting to be conducted.*

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *The NEMO Chairman requested that the NEMO Legal Consultant put legislation in place regarding tree cutting. The Consultant informed the meeting that there are provisions under the revised Disaster Preparedness Act. Whoever is responsible for cutting of trees should be clearly stated.*
- (ii) *The NEMO Chairman extended his appreciation for the work being done by the committee members.*
- (iii) *The Deputy Chair of the committee informed the meeting that the problem with squatters at Barrans Drive still exists. Persons are expected to move to Crestland.*

J. Chairman - Micoud North Disaster Committee

- i) *Expressed the non-appearance of Fire and Police Officers at committee meetings.*
- ii) *The Chairman expressed concern about the condition of Emergency shelters and the unwillingness of Shelter Managers to assist in a crisis.*
- iii) *Participated in Kwasit Kweol with the NEMO Director and the Red Cross Disaster Officer.*

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *Officer Charles will follow up on the matter of the non-appearance of Officers at meetings.*
- (ii) *The NEMO Director informed the meeting that Shelter Managers have received training in Shelter Management under the OECS Emergency Disaster Recovery and Management Project.*
- (iii) *Retrofitting of schools is being conducted. Additional schools will be done in Phase II of the OECS Emergency Disaster Recovery and Management Project.*

K. Chairman – Vieux Fort South Disaster Committee

- (i) *There are twelve (12) active committed members.*
- (ii) *Conducting humanitarian assistance to residents. Support received from LUBECO, and the southern branch of the Red Cross to assist fire victims.*
- (iii) *Satellite warehouse on stream.*
- (iv) *Training of members continues.*
- (v) *Communications equipment received from NEMO.*
- (vi) *With the assistance of personnel from the Ministry of Works and stakeholders tour of hazardous areas conducted eg. Bruce Ville, Shanty Town.*
- (vii) *Outreach programmes conducted in schools.*
- (viii) *Residents sanitized on hazards, proper disposal of garbage and disaster management.*
- (ix) *Disaster Plan revised.*
- (x) *Monthly meetings conducted. Stakeholders, personnel from the Fire Service, Police and Public Health do not attend meetings, but they assist during a response.*

Projections

- (i) *Simulation to be conducted*
 - real time notification
- (ii) *Membership drive*

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *Fire Chief to follow up on the matter of Fire Officers non attendance at committee meetings*

L. Chair – Micoud South Disaster Committee

- (i) *Police, Fire Officers, nurses and health aids do not attend committee meetings.*
- (ii) *Sub-committee functional.*
- (iii) *Awaiting material and supplies promised by the Ministry of Works.*
- (iv) *Lectures conducted in churches after the service.*

- (v) Received communications equipment from NEMO.
- (vi) Committee requested assistance from Poverty Reduction Fund to build a foot path to the Blanchard School.

M. Community Development Officer – Vieux Fort North

- (i) With support from NEMO, a functional disaster committee will be set up.

N. Chair – Castries North Disaster Committee

- (i) Committee celebrated it's first anniversary on August 14, 2003. The committee functioned without support from stakeholders and a Community Development Officer.
- (ii) Regular committee meetings are conducted.
- (iii) Familiarization tours conducted.
- (iv) Members participated in training offered by NEMO.
- (v) Relationship with Morn du Don School established.
- (vi) Conducted activity on proper waste disposal.
- (vii) Network with other disaster committee
 - met with the Castries East Committee . Plan to meet with other committees.

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) Shelter Management
 - not able to meet with principals/shelter managers
 - insurance for volunteers

Recommendations

- (i) NEMO to reactivate negotiations with insurance company regarding insurance for volunteers.
- (ii) Shelter Managers to work alongside disaster committees. Training in Shelter Management for committee members.

O. Chair – Dennery North Disaster Committee

- (i) New executive in elected.
- (ii) Monthly meetings conducted.

- (iii) Representative from the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority made a presentation to members.
- (iv) The Community Development Officer for the area made a presentation to members.
- (v) Presentations made at schools.
- (vi) Identification of hazards in the area.
- (vii) Site for construction of warehouse identified.
- (viii) Members attend training offered by NEMO.

P. Report from the Laborie Disaster Committee

- (i) In the absence of the representative from the Laborie Committee, the Chairman read the committee's report which was supplied to NEMO prior to the meeting.
- (ii) Committee meetings conducted.
- (iii) Members attended workshops organized by NEMO
- (iv) Sub-committees formed.
- (v) Committee received radios from NEMO

Q. World Bank Project

- (i) Construction of seven (7) of the nine (9) satellite warehouses are nearing completion. Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Works are working on the installation of electricity in the warehouses. Once completed NEMO will distribute emergency supplies.
- (ii) Mr. James indicated his concern about site selection with regards to security for warehouses.
- (iii) The NEMO Director informed the meeting that committees are encountering numerous problems for site where surveillance already exist, but some committees have encountered numerous drawbacks particularly with the Ministry of Education refusing use of the school compound for this purpose.
- (iv) The meeting was informed that there is a new company in Vieux Fort which is in the business of bagging rice, beans, and other products. NEMO to liaise with management regarding their available supplies.
- (v) Ministry of Works to conduct works on the Castries River.

R. Meteorological Officer Report

- (i) 2003 season above average. Nine (9) storms and three (3) hurricanes.
- (ii) Arrangements to be made for Cable and Wireless to use met. Information off met. office web site to be broadcast on NTN.

S. Any Other Business

- (i) The Director informed the meeting that the letter for dissolution of Castries Central Disaster Committee was sent out.
- (ii) Saint Lucia Red Cross to assist in the formation of the Castries Central and Vieux Fort North Disaster Committees; and strengthening of the Gros Islet Disaster Committee. The Chairman indicated that these issues should be addressed by end of August.
- (iii) The Chairman expressed his concern about Gros Islet Disaster committee and indicated to members present that politics in the district disaster committees is unacceptable.

Comments/Suggestions

- (i) *The Chairman requested that NEMO disband the Castries Central Committee and work with committed persons in the community and a member of the Council to set up a new committee.*
- (ii) *The Chairman to speak with the Member of Parliament for Gros Islet regarding the Gros Islet committee.*
- (iii) *NEMO to be more visible during the period December – June and not only during the hurricane season.*
- (iv) *Ministry of Works to conduct and analysis/survey on the cause of the falling boulders on the Millennium Highway.*
- (v) *The Director General, Saint Lucia Red Cross commended the Director and staff for the comprehensive report submitted for the period 2002/2003.*
- (vi) *The Chairman thanked Mr. Arturo Lopez-Portillo for his overwhelming support during his tenure with NEMO.*
- (vii) *The Director informed the meeting that representatives from the Office of Foreign Disaster Agency (OFDA) will be in Saint Lucia to discuss Shelter Management Training with members of the Organisation regarding. Saint Lucia has been identified as a model for Shelter Management.*
- (viii) *Evacuation Plan to be developed for new Union School. Chairman to liaise with Ministry of Education on the matter.*

- (ix) *The Director informed the meeting that nomination forms for the NEMO Awards have been sent out to committees and stakeholders.*
- (x) *NEMO will be conducting a telecom call out every Wednesday at 3:00 pm to all committees.*
- (xi) *NEMO will be conducting an activity with the National Conservation Authority (NCA) entitled "Attack on Plastics". One day will be designated for collection of plastics island wide.*
- (xii) *Police and Ministry of Education representative to report on attendance at district disaster committee meeting at the next NEMAC meeting.*
- (xiii) *There is need to have a symposium with Shelter Managers regarding their roles and responsibilities as Shelter Managers.*
- (xiv) *Contingency plan to be in place for recharging of equipment from the district committees during a disaster.*
- (xv) *No stand by generator at Micoud Police Station. Matter to be addressed.*
- (xvi) *Police to be invited to meeting of World Bank Project – Phase II.*

T. **Adjournment**

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

September 1, 2003

Prepared by:

Approved by:

.....
MARIA MOMBELLI
Recording Secretary

.....
A.L.DAWN FRENCH
Director – NEMO/Secretary – NEMAC

.....
Confirmed

.....
Seconded

Part 7

Special Reports

Remarks by Dr. James Fletcher
Cabinet Secretary
Deputy Chairman – National Emergency Management Organisation
At the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy Consultation
APRIL 15, 2003, NIC CONFERENCE ROOM

Once again, good morning.

My job this morning is a very simple one. It really is to welcome you to this workshop on Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency has a mitigation capacity building project, which has this very attractive acronym of CHAMP. Before I go on, however, let me apologize, although I am not sure if it's an apology or if you'll be happy that there is no feature address today, because the Minister for Communications, Works and Public Utilities who was supposed to deliver the feature address is out of state and unfortunately I think there was a bit of a mix-up in that his PS who was supposed to deputize for him has been assigned to another Ministry, and there was some administrative mix-up, so there is no feature address and the good news is that I won't be delivering the feature address on their behalf so this opening ceremony should be very short, and very to the point. Although I'm sure that the other persons who speak will give you some outline of the project and exactly what is expected of you, and what you hope to achieve over the next few days.

So my job is really a very simple one, it is to welcome you to this workshop, to express the interest of the Office of the Prime Minister in this workshop, because as you know, whenever we are confronted with a disaster, whenever we are confronted with an emergency, the office of the Prime Minister is very often the office that comes under the greatest pressure, and is the one that has to mobilize resources, be these resources financial, human or otherwise, in order to deal with the disaster, so we would much prefer not to have to deal with disasters, not to have to deal with the effects of disasters.

Unfortunately we live in an area where we are prone to disasters of one form or the other—if it's not the annual hurricane cycle, it's as some of our neighboring islands like Montserrat have to deal with volcanic activity, and as we are experiencing in Saint Lucia right now, the effects of a draught. That draught, fortunately, is not as severe as one of a few years ago but it is still equally traumatic for our agricultural sector, and I'm sure the PS of Agriculture can attest to that. I live in an area of the island that is particularly dry under normal circumstances and I can testify to the impact of this draught, of this dry period, and what I think has been even more remarkable about it is that up until maybe two months ago, we were remarking that we probably would not experience a dry period because we were getting some very unseasonable rains, and all of a sudden, the rain stopped and we found ourselves in a water deficit situation very quickly, and what is probably lamentable from our end, and I'm sure also from the Ministry of Agriculture end, is that we don't very often seem to be able to predict those things, we don't seem to have the information that will allow us to make the forecasts and put in place the sort of mitigation efforts that would at least allow us to buffer some of the impacts of those natural phenomena, and I was very pleased to see that this is one of the things that will be addressed.

Because I see one of the objectives of this three-year project is the wider use of hazard information in development decisions and I think that is something we really must take on board. We are collecting data—we collect data on a regular basis, the various agencies and NGOs that are collecting data, but very often the data remain in the agencies that collect them, there is very little collaboration between the various

agencies and analysis of that data, so I'm hoping that we will get better integration of data collection and data analysis coming out of this. Also the fact that we will be looking at the development of national hazard mitigation policies and implementation policies which is of importance to us because I think very often what we do and the way in which we do it contributes to the severe impacts we suffer as a result of some of these disasters, and we really have to look at better policies. Again, it's lamentable that even with the experiences of the past, even seeing the impact of a tropical Storm Debbie or tropical Storm Lili on our economic sectors, we still do many of the things that cause those weather phenomena to have the sort of impact that they have had. And the strengthening of safe building practices for building, training and certification, I think is important, because again, we can lessen on some of the damage that is brought on us by some of these activities.

I was just reading something that Dawn prepared for another activity where I think it was a World Bank analysis that showed that for everyone dollar spent on disaster mitigation, seven dollars is saved, so I guess it's a twist of the whole adage "A stitch in time saves nine," it's a dollar in time saves seven. I think it shows just how much we can do if we do the right thing early enough, and I'm hoping that this is what will come out of this workshop—a greater appreciation of what we need to do, and a greater conviction on our part to do these things, so that we know that every year we will be visited by some form of weather phenomenon, be it a storm or hurricane or draught but at least if we take the right measures, if we do the right things very early, the we will lesson on the impact of those events on ourselves and, more importantly, on our economy, so I'm hoping that coming out of this three-day workshop that we will get not just some good recommendations because we always get good recommendations coming out of workshops, but that we get the sort of commitment to action at this level, and even more importantly, at the highest levels, so I'm assuming, Dawn, that there will be some paper going to Cabinet, (another paper going to Cabinet), but I can assure you that we will do all on our end to make sure that Cabinet not just takes cognizance of what is in the paper but also takes the necessary action in order to get it done. These are my welcoming remarks, I've even gone on longer than I promised I would have, but I'd like to wish you a very good workshop.



Thank you.

Remarks by Mr. Jeremy Collymore
Coordinator – Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
At the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy Consultation
APRIL 15, 2003, NIC CONFERENCE ROOM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is indeed a pleasure for CDERA to be here in partnership with USAID and UNDP in support of the efforts of the Government of Saint Lucia (GOSL) to strengthen and consolidate its institutional capacity building for Disaster Management (DM).



As some of you may be aware, this is where I had my first significant consultancy in Disaster Management, in 1987, which focused on Hazard Perception and Mitigation among banana farmers. I have therefore had an upfront personal view and interest in the development in DM in Saint Lucia.

Over the years, the day-to-day management of DM programmes in Saint Lucia has had a leadership which is passionate and intense. Understandably therefore, the decision-making leadership has been injected by this intensity and is increasingly demonstrating its support for a DM agenda.

The recognition that to change the level of risk to our development requires a deliberate investment in its mitigation appears to have influenced the GOSL's utilization of the various reconstruction and mitigation facilities of the CDB and the World Bank.

Indeed Saint Lucia has had a long association with the launch of pioneering initiatives in regional DM. It was here in 1979 that a meeting of regional and other experts paved the foundation for a regional approach to DM, which later manifested itself in the PCDPPP.

Indeed this year will see the initiation of a SIDS/POA review process to determine how much progress we have made since 1994. At the same time, the DM community is also beginning a process to review the 1994 Yokohama Plan of Action. In both of these international conferences the issues of disaster management as a critical input in the sustainable development of SIDS have been and continue to be prominent.

The linking of the CDM Strategy to a larger regional strategic goal of sustainable development is therefore a deliberate reflection that DM must be seen as an ingredient in the development policy process as opposed to a relief activity.

To pursue an agenda that is not informed by this understanding will raise many questions about our participation in international fora that have resulted in the millennium development goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It will seriously raise questions about our sincerity on vulnerability reduction and the development of a vulnerability index to accommodate the peculiarities of SIDS within the development supporting community. These now form key elements of the regional foreign policy agenda.

The following statistics on disaster loss experiences in the OECS region are unambiguous about the need for a more deliberate, cooperative and structural approach to disaster loss reduction in the region in general and on this sub-region in particular.

The OECS sub-region provides a very lucid example of the derailing impact of hazards in the development agenda. Within the currency union real output growth in 1995 slowed to 0.7% compared with an average annual growth of 3.2% over the preceding three years. In that year all the member territories with the exception of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were affected by natural disasters. Value added in the hotel and restaurant sector declined by 11.3% in 1995 and did not surpass its 1994 level until 1999. As a percentage of GDP the industry contributed 11.2% in 1994. Since 1994 recovery and growth within the tourism industry have been repeatedly set back by hurricanes, particularly in 1998 and 1999.

The region's agricultural sector has also suffered immensely from storms and hurricanes. In particular, banana production, which has significant economic and social importance in the Windward Islands, was affected severely at a time when the industry grappled with issues surrounding the uncertainty of access to the European market and competitiveness. Saint Lucia's economic loss as a percentage of GDP, for eight (8) events, occurring between 1970 – 1999 was 272% of 1995 prices.

The purpose of CDM is not to give DM professionals unrestricted intrusion into the affairs of the departments of Government but rather, to encourage all in our community to recognize that we have an important contribution to make if the significant losses we experience as a result of hazard impacts are to change.

In this context that CDM seeks to elaborate a framework for dialoguing on the priorities for accelerating disaster loss reduction initiatives, agreeing on the lead and other roles, requisite resources and strategies for mobilizing these.

We at the CDERA/CU have already begun to see the benefits of working with stakeholders around common goals and shared responsibilities. Organizational territorialism is gradually being replaced by cooperative programming and shared recognition. Duplication is on the decline and replication is on the increase.

The CDM Strategy and Results Framework has had widespread endorsement and promotion. It has spawned several cooperation dialogues, agreements between CDERA and key sector constituency representatives as well as regional organizations. A noticeable outcome of this process has been the structured cooperation of regional organizations on key elements of the strategy and in project development in support of it.

More importantly the donors in this region have bought into the CDM agenda and process and are beginning to define their support around the emerging priorities.

I therefore wish to urge that this national consultation be very explicit about the link between DM and SUSDEV, the programme that should be pursued in support of it, key roles and indicative priorities set within the context of the important next steps for Saint Lucia.

We recognize that some support will be required to carry the process forward. This is an issue we have been discussing with the initial funders of this process and those supporting the programme. USAID and UNDP are supporting the extension of the CDM project for an additional year, during which time the emphasis will be on strengthening CDERA/CU and NDOs to effectively lead and coordinate a CDM Agenda.

Additionally, the Government of Canada, Japan and the EU have allocated resources for regional and national CDM designed initiatives over the next three to five years. A similar interest is unfolding within the CDB, through its DMFC, the World Bank, IDB and the multi-lateral institutions.

CDM, Ladies and Gentlemen, allows us to explore and exploit opportunities for synergies at all levels.

I laud the process that is already underway in Saint Lucia and hope that this support from CDERA and its DM partners will add value to it.

Remarks by Ms Julie Leonard
Regional Advisor – Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
At the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy Consultation

Mr. Prime Minister, Distinguished Invitees, Colleagues, Friends...

It is an honor to be with you today, representing the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, or OFDA, as we are informally known. As many of you also know, OFDA is part of the Agency for International Development, created to work in response to disasters outside the US.

OFDA, in collaboration with the UNDP, has partnered with CDERA to promote Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in the Caribbean – at both regional and national levels. This is a project that started three years or so ago, although our collaboration, I'm happy to say, goes back much further. This particular collaboration has deepened our commitment to finding very concrete ways to reduce vulnerability and risk in the region, as well as our commitment to working together to find solutions to these complex challenges.

I have three points I'd like to make:

1. As has been (or will be) discussed, CDM is about integrating disaster management concerns into the development agenda. The CDM strategy that is being outlined today has everything to do with reducing our shared vulnerability to hazards, which express themselves in emergencies and disasters. As such, it goes much further than preparing to respond to natural hazards during the hurricane season. Indeed, we think that taking the steps to implement the strategy will go a long way to making development efforts and investments sustainable.

This is an endeavour that is multi-sectoral by nature, and that will require strong working relationships among and between government departments and agencies. It will also require concerted action and commitment between public and private sectors, as well as civil society. It goes without saying that it will require commitment at the highest level. All this makes it a very tall order indeed. While many of the resources necessary for implementation can be found at hand, we are aware that additional resources will be required.

2. My second point is that OFDA is committed to continue supporting the implementation of CDM in the region. We are funding an extension of the CDM project, again in collaboration with the UNDP and CDERA. We are also funding the CDB's Disaster Mitigation Facility, a \$3 million project which will develop additional mitigation tools and integrate risk reduction principles and practices into development finance projects. We are encouraged that CDERA and the CDB are looking at how this facility can support CDM implementation. OFDA will also continue to work with National Disaster Offices and others to develop national risk management training programs and offer technical assistance where we can best provide it.

3. Thirdly, we are all in this together. There is no easy recipe for CDM, although the principles seem pretty clear. We are learning as we go along with you.

Having said that, much of the outcome of this process will be up to you, particularly the decision-makers. In a sense, there isn't much choice in the matter: natural hazards are out there and coming this way, and vulnerability is with us. We know that financial resources seem more stretched than ever to be able to deal

with them. But we know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. What we have before us is a challenge, but one I'm sure that we can rise to.

We look forward to working with you as we navigate these still uncharted waters.

Thank you.



Address by
A. L. Dawn French
B.Sc. (Hons), MA (EPCD), PostGradDip (RCDM), RTPI, APA, IAEM
Director - National Emergency Management Organisation
At the
National Hazard Mitigation Policy Adaptation Workshop
Saint Lucia - May 27, 2003

Dr. James Fletcher – Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. Julius Polius – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Ms Avril Alexander for Ms Elizabeth Riley – Programme Manager, Mitigation and Research, Caribbean
Disaster Emergency Response Agency
Dr. Cassandra Rogers – Consultant Project Manager, Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean,
Caribbean Development Bank
Members of the Press / Participants / Ladies and Gentlemen

Mitigation: The actions we take to reduce the effects of a hazard.

For the next three days we are here to look at just that: the actions we can take collectively to reduce the effects of the numerous hazards that we're vulnerable to.

In 1995 the then Office of Disaster Preparedness began the process by producing a Draft Mitigation Plan. In 1996, there was a National Consultation and every agency here was represented regardless of the name we may carry now.

Due to the lack of human resources at NEMO, the process stalled, until 2002 when under the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank.

In tandem with this we are now a pilot country for the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP). There are many components to CHAMP. For the next three days we will focus on a mitigation policy, which by coincidence will compliment the Mitigation Plan.

At the end of this consultation, NEMO will require the assistance of the four volunteers to guide the consultants, as both the plan and the policy must be completed by August. Then we will gather again all our partners to review our work.

It takes many agencies to bring such a project to light and I'd like to like to take the opportunity to thank:

1. the Project Coordinating Unit of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project
2. CDERA
3. CDB
4. USAID/OFDA
5. OAS
6. CIDA



Welcome ladies and gentlemen.



Development of the National Hazard Mitigation Policy of Saint Lucia

Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy Adaptation Workshop

May 27 – 29, 2003

Castries, Saint Lucia

Opening Remarks
by
Dr. Cassandra Rogers, Consultant Project Manager
Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean
Caribbean Development Bank

Dr. James Fletcher, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. Julius Polius, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Ms. Dawn French, Director National Emergency Management Organisation
Ms. Avril Alexander, Programme Officer, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
Distinguished colleagues, members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In 1998 the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) conducted a review of its technical assistance and loan portfolio over the previous 25 years and noted that the large majority of its investment in disaster management in its 17 borrowing member countries (BMCs) was for disaster response and rehabilitation. In addition, CDB noted that in spite of this major investment in disaster management, there was no demonstrated reduction in the vulnerability of our BMCs to natural hazards and disasters.

It became clear to CDB that there was a need to assist our BMCs to shift from the traditional approach of managing disasters, through the use of reactive methods such as disaster response and rehabilitation, to one of managing hazard risk, emphasizing the proactive approaches of hazard mitigation and prevention. It is in this context that CDB made the commitment to mainstream disaster mitigation into development planning decision-making as a key strategy towards vulnerability reduction.

In September 2000, with support from the United States Agency for International Development /Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), CDB established the Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC) in its Projects Department. The DMFC has two strategic objectives. The first is to strengthen CDB's institutional capacity for natural hazard management. Under this objective, CDB is integrating disaster mitigation into its project cycle. As part of this exercise, CDB is in the process of developing guidelines for natural hazard impact assessment (NHIA) as a mechanism to appraise the natural hazard risk associated with its development projects, in order to ensure that hazard mitigation measures are incorporated into project design. The NHIA will identify the impacts of natural hazards on the proposed project and is designed to enhance the natural hazard consideration of an environment impact assessment (EIA).

The second and complementary objective of the DMFC is to assist BMCs with the adoption and institutionalization of functional hazard mitigation policies and practices. These include the development of national, sectoral and community mitigation policies and plans, strengthening the capacity of regional and national disaster management organizations and tertiary education institutions for disaster mitigation, support for greater use and application of hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments in development planning, enforcement of building codes and standards and increasing stakeholder participation in disaster mitigation.

The commitment by CDB to play a key role in utilizing disaster mitigation mechanisms to assist our BMCs to reduce their vulnerability to hazards and disasters was most recently indicated by a presentation on Natural Hazard Vulnerability and Caribbean Economic Development made by Dr. Compton Bourne, CDB President at the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting of the CDB Board of Governors in St. Kitts in May 2003.

President Bourne noted:

“It should be noted that scholars, the region's business leaders and its political leaders are fully conscious of the vulnerability of the Caribbean's small, highly open economies to external economic shocks. They are no less conscious of the countries' extreme vulnerability to natural hazards. A great deal of policy thought and policy attention is directed towards managing and mitigating international trade vulnerability and financial vulnerability. It is high time that serious effort be also directed towards managing and mitigating natural hazard vulnerability. Progress in reducing and better managing natural hazard vulnerability will make progress in managing and mitigating international trade and financial vulnerability more sustainable. They are complementary objectives, as nature has a habit of reminding us. It is wise to treat them as such”.

This initiative to partner with the Government of Saint Lucia and indeed with five other BMCs to develop national hazard mitigation policies is a deliberate initial step to position CDB's BMCs on the path to structured vulnerability reduction.

CDB is pleased to collaborate with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in this activity. As you are aware, CDB and CDERA have developed a Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy for the Caribbean. The model policy provides the framework by which individual BMCs (which includes all CDERA Participating States) may implement hazard mitigation measures in a structured and comprehensive manner, and is expected to serve as a guide in order to allow BMCs to develop country-specific national policies. It is the model policy, the joint collaborative effort between our two organizations, which will be adapted to develop a national hazard mitigation policy for Saint Lucia.

Once developed CDB will provide additional TA to GOSL to develop/enhance the Saint Lucia national hazard mitigation plan.

Over the life of the DMFC, CDB also proposes to provide technical assistance to the GOSL in the following areas:

- Hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment studies, as part of the national hazard mitigation plan process
- Conduct of an institutional assessment for the implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in Saint Lucia
- Implementation of components of CDM
- Development of community vulnerability reduction programmes – Black Mallet/Carellie
- Training in natural hazard risk management.

CDB is pleased to partner with the Government and people of Saint Lucia in all interventions which lead to a reduction in the risk associated with natural and technological hazards. We look forward to the completion of the national hazard mitigation policy of Saint Lucia and to our future collaboration.



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MODEL NATIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION POLICY ADAPTATION WORKSHOP,
THE OFFICE SHOP CONFERENCE ROOM
SANS SOUCIS, CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA
MAY 27 - 29, 2003

Opening Remarks

By

**** Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA)

- Dr. James Fletcher Permanent Secretary Office of the Prime Minister and Deputy Chair of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO),
- Mr. Julius Polius Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
- Dr. Cassandra Rogers, Consultant Project Manager Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean, Caribbean Development Bank,
- Ms. Dawn French, Director National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Members of the media,
- Partners in disaster management

I wish to express apologies on behalf of Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Coordinator CDERA and Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Programme Manager, Mitigation and Research who are not present due to other work related commitments.

In January, a group of regional stakeholders gathered at a regional workshop in Grenada to further articulate the then draft model hazard mitigation policy. It is the product emerging from that meeting which will guide our discussions over the next three days as we seek to elaborate a national hazard mitigation policy for Saint Lucia. It is truly a pleasure to be in Saint Lucia to conduct this the fourth of a series of seven workshops being convened within the region through the collaborative efforts of CDERA and the CDB. In keeping with the CDERA programme implementation principle of integrating lessons learnt from past initiative into upcoming ones, the Saint Lucia workshop will benefit from the workshop experiences of Jamaica, Belize and Grenada.

Recent hazard events affecting Saint Lucia have further exposed the fragility of the social and economic infrastructure of a country striving to improve the well being of its people. Tropical Storm Lily 2002 resulted in over EC\$20,000,000 in direct losses across a range of sectors including transport, business, agriculture and environment. This event along with others has left no doubt that the sustainability of our hard fought socio-economic progress is very much in question if the issue of loss reduction is not addressed aggressively and urgently.

The Governments of our region including Saint Lucia have recognized the critical link between sustainable development and vulnerability reduction. In Saint Lucia, the need to strengthen national capacities for such has been reflected in the creation of the post of Deputy Director at NEMO. The CDERA Coordinating Unit looks forward to continuing its excellent working relationship with the strengthened NEMO office.

At the regional and international levels, the SIDS/POA, Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development reflect this growing political recognition of the need to pay more attention to hazard risk reduction in development planning and decision-making. At the recently concluded CDERA Board of Directors Meeting Montserrat two weeks ago, the Board encouraged Governments of Participating States to actively participate in the preparatory process for the upcoming SIDS + 10 review in 2004. In this regard, CDERA urges the Government of Saint Lucia to capitalize on this opportunity through the articulation of national needs within national preparations. The Coordinating Unit pledges to play its part at the regional level and reminds Participating States that the voices of individual nations in fora such as these is powerful.

Despite the strong commitment of our governments to the agenda of sustainable development, including disaster loss reduction, the critical gap of established policy frameworks within which to structure vulnerability reduction initiatives at the national level had not been fully addressed. Thus, in keeping with the CDERA commitment to support capacity in our participating states through *inter alia* model programming for widespread adaptation, the agency has partnered with the Caribbean Development Bank in the development of the Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy for the Caribbean.

CDERA views this initiative as an integral step towards realization of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (CDM). The goal of this strategy is to embed CDM into sustainable development planning in CDERA and its partner community.

CDM is the outcome of an interactive and consultative process among key disaster management stakeholders in the region, including those in the public and private sectors, civil society, donor and multi-lateral community. This framework for cooperation around a common goal anticipates the establishment of interest driven partnerships amongst stakeholders.

Indeed, the model national mitigation policy for the Caribbean which will guide our deliberations at this meeting for adaptation and adoption, reflects the realization of such a partnership. Funding is being made available by two longstanding bi-lateral donors to the region, the Government of Canada, through CIDA and the Government of the United States through the United States Agency for international Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA).

These resources have allowed CDERA as the regional specialized disaster management agency and the CDB, the development financing institution of our region to forge an alliance to meet a need in the vulnerability reduction agenda.

For us at CDERA, this evolving partnership with the CDB represents an important era in the landscape of inter-governmental institutions of the Caribbean Community. This is the recognition, through practice that cost effective and efficient service to our community must be at the forefront of our deliberations and our interventions. We are convinced that people centered programming which focuses on sustainability is the approach to achieve the desired outcomes.

We at CDERA anticipate that the next step in the process will be a structured cooperation mechanism with the CDB. In this regard, our institutions are currently in discussions toward the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The importance of sustainability of initiatives cannot be overemphasized. As such efforts are continually being made to integrate CDERA activities with ongoing national and regional initiatives. CDERA is pleased to support the initiatives of the Government of Saint Lucia in hazard mitigation planning. The development of a draft national hazard mitigation plan by Saint Lucia is evidence that our efforts are in the right direction. Indeed, in the Coordinating Unit's ongoing efforts to promote further dialogue with Participating States in programme implementation, discussions are currently ongoing with NEMO on mechanisms for integrating complimentary components of the ongoing World Bank funded 'Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project' with the CDERA/CDB initiative to facilitate maximum national benefits.

In addition, we encourage Saint Lucia to utilize these initiatives as an opportunity to redefine the scope of works of the Hazard Mitigation Council as we strive towards long term sustainability. It is through actions such as this that the integration of hazard mitigation considerations into projects and programmes will become entrenched into the national approach to doing business.

I wish to thank our partners CIDA and USAID/OFDA for their belief, confidence and investment in this CDM strategy; the Organization of American States for their technical input in programme delivery and JICA for its technical feedback through its advisors based at CDERA.

At the recently concluded National CDM consultation, the outline of a Saint Lucia CDM Strategy was developed. You as participants therefore have the unique opportunity to chart new waters in advancing the CDM development paradigm which seeks to promote development that focuses on vulnerability and loss reduction. I wish you every success and look forward to the completion of the Saint Lucia National Hazard Mitigation Policy.

I thank you.

Vote of Thanks

Saint Lucia National Hazard Mitigation Policy Adaptation Workshop
May 27 – 29, 2003

Hon. Felix Finisterre – Minister of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities

Madame Chair: Miss Dawn French – Director, National Emergency Management Organisation

Dr. James Fletcher – Deputy Chair, National Emergency Management Organisation

Mr. Julius Polius – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ms Elizabeth Riley – Programme Manager, Mitigation and Research, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency

Ms Julie Leonard – Regional Advisor to the Caribbean, United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Dr. Cassandra Rogers – Consultant Project Manager, Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean, Caribbean Development Bank

Members of the Press

Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Amidst the menace of a large number and variety of natural and technological hazards, which could easily disrupt people and property, and undoubtedly Government and its economic development plans, this three day workshop, which is of paramount importance to the people and Government of Saint Lucia could not be more timely and to simply say THANKS to all present would be synonymous to a hitch hiker saying thanks for another free ride.

Indeed, Saint Lucia's National Emergency Management Organisation has seen it fit not only to thank, for thanking sake, but rather to recognise and appreciate each and everyone's effort and contribution in the forum.

Because Saint Lucia along with other CDERA Participating States has yet to develop the concept for the adaptation of a mitigative culture when it comes to, especially natural hazard vulnerability reduction initiatives through the development and acceptance of natural and technological hazard mitigation policies it is of even utmost importance to place value on each and every one's contribution which would go a long way in achieving this goal.

Hence, on behalf of the people of Saint Lucia, I say a special "Thank You" to Ms. French, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Riley, Ms Leonard and Dr. Rogers (all women) for their tiresome efforts in pursuance of the goals and objectives of this "Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy Adaptation Workshop".

Dr. Fletcher, participants, once again, your participation is one of interest and welfare.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

By: Pius Benjamin, NREMT-P, EMS-I, ASEMS

Address by A. L. Dawn French
Director – National Emergency Management Organisation
On the occasion of the
21st Anniversary of the Dennery Disaster Committees
June 1st 2003 at the Dennery Community Center

Salutations

- District Representative for Dennery South – Hon Damian Greaves
- District Representative for Dennery North – Hon Marcus Nicholas
- Minister for Physical Development – Hon Ignatius Jean
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health – Mr. Vedelis Williams
- Acting Commissioner of Police – Mr. Ausbert Regis
- Chairman Dennery South Disaster Committee – Mr. Paul Gaspard
- Chairman Dennery North Disaster Committee – Mr. Urban Glace
- Members of both Dennery Committees
- Chairmen of Fellow District Disaster Committees
- Fellow Disaster Managers
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite the fact that at 18 we can vote it's really when we turn 21 that we are considered to be an adult, and it's for this reason we are here today to congratulate the Dennery South Disaster Committee on attaining adulthood.

To be fair I should point out that we are really celebrating the anniversary of twins. For it is only in 1999 that the Dennery Disaster Committee became the Dennery North and Dennery South Disaster Committees. Therefore much of what we celebrate today is the accomplishment of the two committees.

The Committee was formed in 1982. Coincidence? I think not it was only two years previously that Hurricane Allen struck Saint Lucia. Having experienced the fury of that storm it wasn't long after that the Committee formalized.

In disaster management it is difficult to maintain dedication as it is a field that feeds on devastation. Between 1982 when the committee was formed and 1993, Saint Lucia was blessed with a peace; a peace that proved to be the calm before the storm.

Beginning in 1994 Saint Lucia faced a barrage of hazards. Starting with...

- Tropical Storm Debby in 1994
- The Oil Spill in the Cul de Sac Bay in 1995
- The fires at Victoria Hospital and Patterson's Gap and the Tropical Wave of Jounnet Creole in 1996
- The Beaugease Landslide of 1997
- The Rains of Independence in February and the Tropical Wave in October in which a child died in 1998
- Hurricane Lenny and the Black Mallet/Maynard Hill Landslide in 1999

- The Attack at the Minor Basilica of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in 2000
- Tropical Storm Lily in 2002

The Committee has borne witness to all and has been involved in many of these events. Let me illustrate what I mean.

In 1994 when the then WASA informed the Community that it would take weeks to bring water to the Community, because of the damage caused by TS Debby, the Disaster Committee rallied and together with the Community of Dennery they traced the pipe line and repaired it. Shortening the projected time line from weeks to days.

Tropical Storm Debby set the Committee to the test, as they were the focal point for NEMO's predecessor, the Office of Disaster Preparedness. Cut off from the North by landslides at the Barre D'Isle, relief supplies had to be airlifted to the Committee who were also responsible for the management of the Emergency Shelter, which had been opened, to house victims.

A sense of déjà vu must have prevailed as again in 2003 with the advent of Tropical Storm Lili the now Dennery South Committee was called upon to activate their Shelter Management teams.

The Committee has shown itself to be self-reliant to the extent of being able to assist the community as again illustrated in 2000 when during the Christmas season an LPG cylinder exploded damaging the owner's home. The Committee rallied to the aid of the victim and presented a check to contribute to the recovery. This was without the need to call on any national agency. This was possible as the team maintains an account, which they audit annually. Truly a commendable effort.



The Committee was formed at a time when Disaster Management was not a concept of note in Saint Lucia or the Caribbean; since then they have witnessed:

- The creation of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) by the Heads of Government of CARICOM,
- The consolidation of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and its evolution into the National Emergency Management Organisation,
- The creation of a family of District Disaster Committees that now number seventeen (17),
- The passing of legislation for Disaster Management, which among many things guarantees the protection of the volunteer's employment in a similar manner that, is offered for Jury Service.
- The present construction of a satellite warehouse to compliment the future Central Warehouse of NEMO,
- The equipping of committees. Many of you may have seen the Committee out in their golden raincoats with NEMO splashed in black on the back.

As part of the continuing goal of having the tools to do the job, Dennery South as part of the celebrations shall be the next committee to receive a computer. On behalf of the People and Government of the Republic of France, the French Ambassador has pledged a computer to NEMO, we are presently waiting

the acquisition of the printer by the supplier, before handover. We take this opportunity through the Ambassador to thank the People and Government of France.

Before I close I wish to remind the Committee that as Disaster Managers our work will never be completed.

- Saint Lucia is located in a seismically active zone. That means earthquakes. We have had large quakes and we will again. The last massive earthquake in Saint Lucia was on March 19, 1953, which measured 7.5. That was fifty years ago this year, and forty-four years before that in 1909 we had a 7.0 magnitude earthquake are we in a cycle of massive earthquakes? Only time will tell. To place it in perspective for you, the earthquake in Algeria last month measured 6.7
- Like most of our sister islands we have a volcano. The Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies have informed the Disaster Coordinators that the Volcanoes of the region are expected to remind us of their existence by the end of this century. Including Saint Lucia. I know - the end of the century is a long way away but remember that next week is also part of this century. We know not when our sleeping giant will awaken.
- Today is June 1st the official start of the hurricane season. As you are aware the 2003 season is proving to be an impatient one with TS Ana already having come and gone. The season is predicted to be an active one with the final projections scheduled for June 6th. In the mean time Scientists point to global warming and the long-term effects of sea level rise, atmospheric temperature rise, the increased strength of storms and the increase in their frequency.
- We are an independent nation and as a people we exert that independence regardless of the consequences. A stray cigarette can cause bush fires, poor agricultural practices can lead to deforestation and with an exposed hillside comes the potential for landslides while the indiscriminate manner in which we dispose of our refuse where we will; worsens floods.

I will stop with these – but to repeat, *“as Disaster Managers our work will never be completed.”*

I wish to say that the Disaster Committees of Saint Lucia have heard the call, answered it and have proved to be equal to the need of their country and we stand as one to salute the dedication of one of our own – the Disaster Committees of Dennery.

Long may they serve.

DBS Commentary #279 by Earl Bousquet
For Wednesday Morning, July 9, 2003

It's the Hurricane season and the rains are here, but how prepared are we? I ask this question because we all know that we have hurricane seasons every year, but by our very behavior, not enough of us seem to take the weather seriously. The evidence is there for all to see what can happen if we are caught unawares for not having taken hurricane or storm warnings seriously. Yet we persist in always hoping for the best but not making the allowance for the worst.

We grew up like that. As a child, I can remember that the hurricane season came during the last weeks at school before the August holidays. Many of us wished for the heavy rains because it meant we would not have school or we would be sent home on the account of the weather. But rather than going home, we would walk up and down the flooded streets of Castries splashing water on each other, playing boat and wetting anyone who seemed to be dry. We didn't mind getting home all wet because we were expected to be wet – but more because we expected that there would most likely be the normal hurricane meal (hot bakes and cocoa tea) when we get home. We had no idea why the floods happened and we didn't care – we were not interested in drainage and such matters because, as I said, we simply enjoyed playing water games in the flood.

Be that as it may, we all grew up to appreciate and understand the horrors associated with hurricanes and storms. I grew up hearing about Hurricane Janet and lived to see what Hurricanes Allen, David and Hugo did to the Caribbean. When I was in Guyana - where there is no hurricane season – I heard and read about Tropical Storm Debbie. And I saw the photos. I thought that by then, we in St.Lucia would have learned the lessons about hurricane preparations. I saw what Tropical Storm Lily did here and said at least that would have awakened us from our apparent slumber. But I was all wrong. I have watched how we have responded to hurricane warnings every year and I am still very much perturbed. In fact, I feel we continue to pay lip service to hurricane warnings. We have the Weather channel on TV, we have the repeated weather reports on radio and we can even get the weather report by e-mail. However not even our ability to know about the weather much easier and much quicker seems to have made a difference.

Nothing is as unpredictable as the weather. Yet we seem to care less. We get reminders all the time of this unpredictability. On Monday, the days started with great sunshine. The midday sun was unbearable. Yet, by 3:00pm the weather changed suddenly with reports that a tropical wave had left Barbados and was heading for St.Lucia. In just a split second, we moved from nice weather to warnings of a tropical wave with winds at 52 mph heading our way. The rains poured and the winds blew heavily. A few houses lost their roofs, many trees fell and many more branches broke. Parts of Castries flooded quickly and it seemed like the tropical wave would have developed into something worse. The local met people warned that things could get better overnight and the Weather Channel warned that it could also get worse. But as far as we were concerned, things could get better. I hardly saw any evidence of people preparing for a hurricane or a storm, a tropical storm, a tropical depression or a tropical cyclone.

In all of this, while we have escaped another possibility of bad weather that could have spelt danger we still don't seem to have learned that hurricanes are costly and hence why we must always be prepared. The regional disaster organization CDERA has warned CARICOM leaders to take steps to ensure their respective territories don't get caught off guard. CDERA reminds us that in the period since 2000, the CARICOM region has suffered over US\$3 billion worth of hurricane damage – over \$2 billion in the OECS and the rest between Jamaica and Belize. Yet we don't seem to be counting those costs because, in most cases, it didn't come from our pockets.

However, we cannot always expect to count on the international and regional assistance that we can get for hurricane damage. Our banana farmers always get help and victims can always count on NEMO and the Red Cross to provide immediate assistance to those affected. But the main point is that we must all strive not to have to need help or assistance – or to minimize the need for such help by always being prepared by paying attention to warnings and always doing those little things that we are reminded of by NEMO and others through the hurricane tips given every year.

Prevention is better than cure. That's something we all learned at school, but, unfortunately, it's something too many of us don't take seriously enough. Here's hoping our most recent brush with the unpredictability of the weather – on Monday – serves as yet another reminder that the best way to avoid or minimize the damage done by hurricanes or tropical weather systems is to be prepared.

I'm Earl Bousquet.

Handing over ceremony of Satellite Warehouses to NEMO District Committees
February 12, 2004

Salutations

My name is Julian Du Bois and I am the Deputy Director at NEMO. Today I represent the Director Ms Dawn French who is presently in Barbados representing Saint Lucia at a Climate Change Conference hosted by the Caribbean Development Bank.

Ms French sends her apologies, congratulations and the following message.

In this the year of our 25th Anniversary of Independence much will be chronicled of our achievements. Today we focus on disaster management. There was a time when all that obtained in the area of disaster management was faith and a will to achieve. Today we are here to accept the keys to a series of warehouses that will later hold response tools. This warehouse is sibling to seven others scattered cross the country.

In 1998 with a loan from the World Bank the Government of Saint Lucia through the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project sort to strengthen disaster management in this country. The project covered a number of components that included training, telecommunication equipment, bio hazard response suits, equipment, water tanks relief supplies and of course warehouses.

The procedure for the warehouse aspect of the project was that the district committees would identify a site and Headquarters would get the paperwork and permission. If the Office of NEMO is the face of the Organisation then the volunteers are its heart and soul. It took three months for the warehouses to be built and three years for the project to be what it is today. We at the Office can attest to the dedication, perseverance, frustrations and sometimes downright anger as volunteers struggled to find land to locate warehouses to store equipment and relief supplies for their communities. It was indeed a test of patriotism.

I came across an interesting unit of measurement. How does one measure success? The answer: By what you do to get it. An apt dimension, for the success we see here today is a testimony to what was needed and given by the volunteers to reach this day.

NEMO's structure is more akin to a spider's web than any regular organizational chart. The achievement of having warehouses is an example of our working relationships. This would not have been achieved without the assistance of the Staff of:

- Architectural Section, Ministry of Physical Development

- Crown Lands, Ministry of Physical Development
- Survey and Mapping, Ministry of Physical Development and
- Department of Community Development, Ministry of Social Transformation
- Project Coordinating Unit, Ministry of Physical Development

Even as we take this opportunity to thank these persons and their Departments, gratitude must be repeated as these warehouses stand on the land of a variety of agencies.

- This one for example is here with the kind permission of the Ministry of Health.
- While the warehouses of Castries SouthEast, Micoud North and Choiseul are with the Ministry of Social Transformation.

- Dennery South is with the Ministry of Works.
- Vieux Fort South - the National Development Corporation
- Soufriere - Crown Lands
- Canaries - Royal Saint Lucia Police Force.

It is times like this that Thank You does not seem to completely convey what we feel.

I will not take up too much more of your time here today. But it would be lax of me not to inform persons that this is only the beginning. NEMO and her members now have to find 10 additional lots for 10 more warehouses.

On behalf of the Staff of NEMO, I congratulate the eight committees on this landmark occasion.

Part 8

Appendix

The National Emergency Management Organisation

The National Emergency Management Organisation, was renamed in 1999 from the Disaster Preparedness Office.

NEMO is responsible for having the Nation in a state of preparedness for an event. Also for responding to the needs of the Nation after an event and coordinating this response at local, regional and international levels.

NEMO's MISSION STATEMENT...

The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation [NEMO] is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters. Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.

Severe weather systems are not the only threat that NEMO must plan and respond to, hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological:

- Natural: Fire, Seismic, Volcanic, Tsunami, Flooding, Landslide, Storm, Hurricane
- Manmade: Dam Collapse, Explosion, Oil/Chemical Spill, Mass Casualty, Nuclear spill, Civil Unrest
- Slow Onset: Drought, Famine, Plague

During "peacetime" the Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation acts as a secretariat assisting local communities with various public awareness campaigns as well as training sessions. One area of constant activity is providing advice to companies and service groups on action that can be taken before, during and after a disaster. The Office also takes part in activities that will heighten awareness with the public e.g. Radio and Television programs, summer school talks, production of telephone cards and the creation of an Internet website at <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is executed on a voluntary basis and during an event NEMO is part of a larger network that comes into existence to respond to a disaster (see attached). There are various Ministries that are essential to a response action. Together with national committees this response is executed. There are thirteen (13) community committees that are composed similarly to the national committees, which are composed of representatives of various Ministries and Social Groups. Therefore, for a response action the national personnel contact his/her local counterpart and together execute an action.

During an event NEMO transforms into the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC is the center from which all commands are issued and to which all demands are made. It is the seat of control for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the EOC and as Leader of the State. All heads of essential services locate at the EOC e.g. Commissioner of Police, Chief Fire Officer, Chief Medical Officer, etc.

With the permission of the Cabinet of Ministers NEMO has the responsibility of the majority of Government's resources during a crisis. These resources are coordinated by NEMO/EOC but are utilized by various agencies. With the cooperation of the private sector NEMO also has access to the resources of individuals and companies. Finally The Emergency Powers Act 5/95 provides the office with the ability to commander DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY ONLY. Therefore NEMO/EOC has access and control of the resources of the Nation when faced with a disaster. In 2000 the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 13/2000 was passed thus consolidating and placing in law the actions of NEMO.

The EOC has one final responsibility, and that is to the Tourism Industry. The sector has created the Crisis Management Unit (CMU) which functions out of the Ministry of Tourism. Once the National EOC is activated the CMU is also activated.

It is recommended that no one person work longer than 12 hours therefore a shift system is implemented. Ultimately all Heads of Sections and their Deputies are expected for duty at the National EOC.

Saint Lucia is a member state of CDERA. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) is an inter- governmental regional disaster management organisation established in 1991 by an Agreement of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Its headquarters are located in Barbados.

CDERA has three (3) principle organs:

- The Council is the supreme policy making body and is comprised of the Heads of Government of the Participating States or their designated representatives. It meets annually to review the work of the Agency, approve its Work Programme and Administrative Budget and make any other major policy decisions required.
- The Board of Directors is made up of the National Disaster Coordinators of Participating States, with the Coordinator (see below) as Chairman. The Board serves in a technical advisory capacity and makes recommendations to Council on matters such as those mentioned above.
- The Coordinating Unit is the administrative headquarters of the Agency and is located in Barbados. It is responsible for executing the activities of the Agency and conducting its day-to-day business. Source: CDERA 2001

The completed National Emergency Response Plan for Saint Lucia comprises the following:

17. Hurricane Response Plan
18. Flood Management Response Plan
19. Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan (Appendix to Flood Management Response Plan)
20. Earthquake Response Plan
21. Volcanic Eruption Response Plan
22. Oil Spill Plan
23. Hazardous Materials Plan
24. Stress Management Response Plan
25. Hazard Mitigation Plan
26. Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
27. Land Search and Rescue Plan
28. District Model Plan

- 29. Policy on Donations
- 30. Policy on Travel
- 31. Policy on Management Dead Bodies in Disasters
- 32. Policy on Emergency Shelters
- 33. Policy on Emergency Housing

Other plans yet to be completed are:

- Health Sector Response Plan
- Ministry of Works Response Plan
- Borderlais Correctional Facility Response Plan
- Cruise Ship Response Plan
- Hospitality Industry Crisis Response Plan

NEMO continues to work on:

- Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowds Events
- Policy on Hazard Mitigation
- Policy on Displaced Persons

While Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is guided by

- The National Emergency Powers Act 5 of 1995 and
- The Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 13 of 2000

Hurricane Names for the period 2002 – 2006

For the Daily Weather update call (758)-454-3452

| <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> | <u>2006</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Arthur | Ana | Alex | Arlene | Alberto |
| Bertha | Bill | Bonnie | Bret | Beryl |
| Cristobal | Claudette | Charley | Cindy | Chris |
| Dolly | Danny | Danielle | Dennis | Debby |
| Edouard | Erika | Earl | Emily | Ernesto |
| Fay | Fabian | Frances | Franklin | Florence |
| Gustav | Grace | Gaston | Gert | Gordon |
| Hanna | Henri | Hermine | Harvey | Helene |
| Isidore | Isabel | Ivan | Irene | Isaac |
| Josephine | Juan | Jeanne | Jose | Joyce |
| Kyle | Kate | Karl | Katrina | Kirk |
| Lili | Larry | Lisa | Lee | Leslie |
| Marco | Mindy | Matthew | Maria | Michael |
| Nana | Nicholas | Nicole | Nate | Nadine |
| Omar | Odette | Otto | Ophelia | Oscar |
| Paloma | Peter | Paula | Philippe | Patty |
| Rene | Rose | Richard | Rita | Rafael |
| Sally | Sam | Shary | Stan | Sandy |
| Teddy | Teresa | Tomas | Tammy | Tony |
| Vicky | Victor | Virginie | Vince | Valerie |
| Wilfred | Wanda | Walter | Wilma | William |

~~Names used that year.~~*Disaster Management Information may be obtained from:*

The Director
National Emergency Management Office
P O Box 1517, Castries, Saint Lucia, West Indies

Tel: 758-452-3802 / Fax: 758-453-2152 / E-mail: eoc@candw.lc / URL: <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

PRESS RELEASES

EMAC Meet to Discuss New Hazard

April 1, 2002 - As the War with Iraq continues NEMO and its fellow members of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) now face a new hazard - that of Complex Emergencies.

Complex emergencies combine internal conflict with large-scale displacements of people, mass famine or food shortage, and fragile or failing economic, political, and social institutions. Often, complex emergencies are exacerbated by natural disasters and severely inadequate transportation networks.

The multiple causes of complex emergencies can be described as the entanglement of "four scourges": war, disease, hunger, and displacement. The fabric of society - including economic, political, and social institutions - becomes frayed or torn. (Source: Institute of World Affairs <http://iadc.iwa.org/en/Unit3.htm>)

Regionally and historically the members of CDERA have faced the need to have policies on refugees in place. The conflict in the East, however shows that such persons are but one aspect of such an emergency.

On April 2, the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) shall meet in the Cabinet Room of the Office of the Prime Minister at 9 am to discuss Saint Lucia's strategy should one be needed.

Scheduled to report are the:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Royal Saint Lucia Police Force | • Ministry of Agriculture |
| • Ports Police | • Ministry of Tourism |
| • Ministry of Health | • Saint Lucia Red Cross |
| • Ministry of Finance | |

The twenty-five member Committee shall also discuss guidelines and strategies for the guidance of the District Committees.

At 2pm on this same date the Soufriere Disaster Committee shall convene a meeting to discuss the rippling effects of the War. At the meeting the deliberations of the NEMAC shall also be discussed.

NEMO to take part in Flood Simulation

April 7, 2003 – As part of the Enhancing Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean Project NEMO shall be conducting a Flood Simulations for its members in collaboration with CDERA. As part of the project a Model Flood Plan was presented to Saint Lucia, adapted and will be tested with a simulation scheduled to take place at NEMO on March 4th from 9:00 am

The "Enhancing Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean Project" was conceived as a three-year project and commenced in March 1, 1999. The general objective is to strengthen disaster management activities in the Caribbean region. Specifically to facilitate the development of a long-term regional programme in

disaster preparedness for schools, relief supplies management, emergency broadcast and telecommunications and community disaster preparedness.

Year 1 of the project was devoted to building the foundation for the programme. Capacity was first to be strengthened at the regional level through the development of training, education and policy guideline material and the training for instructors.

Year 2 was devoted to the transfer of knowledge and capability from the regional to the national level. Individual countries and their communities have been able to use the resources developed in Years 1 and 2 of this DIPECHO Project to strengthen local disaster preparedness.

Year 3 of the project will therefore seek to enhance disaster preparedness in the Caribbean with a distinct focus on the flood hazard.

In reviewing the work of capacity enhancement within the last two years and the emerging needs of CDERA Participating States, it was recognized that the third year intervention should focus on enhancing disaster preparedness for the flood hazard. This is in keeping with the Status of the Disaster Preparedness in CDERA Participating States conducted in May 2001, which identified floods as the most common event - occurring in 90 % Participating States in the last five years, however in contrast only 25% of these countries have any plans to guide disaster management activities for this hazard. It is therefore imperative that arrangements to address this hazard be undertaken as a priority intervention.

Objectives

Year 3 is centered on four Specific Objectives:

To enhance preparedness efforts for the hazard through an enhanced public education programme for schools.

- To enhance the managerial and operational capability of CDERA Participating States in addressing the flood hazard through contingency planning, evacuation and vulnerability assessment.
- To improve disaster management capability in the region by ensuring that relevant national and regional organizations have the capability to access, use and disseminate disaster management information to specific target audiences via the most effective media and for specific hazards particularly floods.
- To promote community disaster planning at the regional and national level for the enhancement of national disaster management programmes.

Source: <http://www.cdera.org>

NEMO and partners to embrace Comprehensive Disaster Management

April 14 --The Comprehensive Approach for Disaster Management Project promoted by CDERA with funding from UNDP and the USAID has been ongoing since July 2000, and has resulted in the development of a Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Framework for the Caribbean. The CDM Strategy and Framework has been endorsed at the Regional level by partners and stakeholders and is now being promoted at the country level among the CDERA Participating States.

Key to the continued promotion and implementation of the CDM Strategy is the ability of the CDERA Coordinating Unit and the National Disaster Organisations to develop their respective capacities to firstly elevate and strengthen their level of operations and secondly to provide leadership in coordinating the process. To achieve this, the necessary resources have been identified to pursue activities recommended under Intermediate Results of the Caribbean CDM Strategy.

In an effort to achieve the Intermediate Results and to present Comprehensive Disaster Management to Saint Lucia; NEMO and CDERA shall be hosting a half day briefing on the Strategy to the Members of Government, NEMAC and NEMO.

CDM is the integrated management of all natural and human-induced hazards, involving management through all phases of the Disaster Management Cycle (prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and restoration). CDM engages the public and private sectors, civil society, urban and rural communities, and the general population in hazard prone areas. CDM is therefore multi-hazard, and multi-sectoral in its application and is concerned primarily with integrating vulnerability assessment and risk reduction into development planning and management. (Source: cdera.org)

The session is scheduled to take place at the NIC Conference Room on April 15, 2003 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Shelter Management Training Continues

April 16, 2003 - The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) continues to prepare for all contingencies, this time with training of its team. Starting on April 14, 2003 NEMO in collaboration with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) began a series of two day training Workshops in Shelter Management. The target groups this time are the leaders of Churches.

The three sessions have been taking place in Castries (Pastoral Center) and Vieux Fort (Department of Fisheries Training Room) in an effort to reach as many Churches as possible.

In 2002 NEMO in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and later with the Seventh Day Adventist Church trained Teachers and Church Members in Shelter Management, however with over three hundred (300) buildings designated, as Shelters training in this area is vital.

The 1996 Emergency Shelters Policy of the Government assures that...

The first priority for the government is to ensure that all citizens have shelter, which can withstand the effects of disasters. In the event of a threatened alert that a disaster results in the need for emergency shelters, the selection of structurally sound buildings is the chief priority.

Also to...

Provide a mandatory programme of training for personnel designated as shelter managers or potential managers to ensure they are full equipped for their responsibility.

The training covers areas such as:

- Disasters and the Disaster Cycle
- The Shelter (and its inspection)
- Administration of a shelter
- Operations and
- Problem Solving

One of the main revelations of this training is that the shelters in Saint Lucia are for Emergencies for any kind and not Hurricane only.

OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for providing non-food humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters.

NEMO to assist NERO with Shelter Management Training

April 21, 2003 - The National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) continues to collaborate with fellow disaster offices in the region to have the Caribbean prepared for all contingencies. Running from April 22 - 25, 2003 the Director of NEMO in collaboration with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) shall conduct two-day training workshops in Shelter Management for the Grenada National Emergency Relief Organization (NERO).

As with NEMO, NERO is charged with having the people of Grenada prepared for a disaster.

The training will cover areas such as:

- Disasters and the Disaster Cycle
- The Shelter (and its inspection)
- Administration of a shelter
- Operations and
- Problem Solving

OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for providing non-food humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters.

NEMO Warehouses Scheduled for June

April 28, 2003 - The Ministry of Physical Development announced last week that Phase I of the Satellite Warehouses for NEMO was to commence to day April 28, 2003.

Funded by a loan from the World Bank the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project has conducted a number of components. This latest one is a series of small warehouses for the District Disaster Committees around Saint Lucia. The Buildings were designed by the Architectural Department

with in the Ministry and the Department shall monitor construction. The warehouses are designed with a small office to allow for the administration of the facility.

Hand in hand with the construction, volunteers shall be trained in inventory management through the use of a computer program called SUMA.

The Committees receiving warehouses in Phase I are:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|----|-----------|
| 1. | Gros Islet | 4. | Micoud North | 7. | Choiseul |
| 2. | Castries South East | 5. | Vieux Fort South | 8. | Soufriere |
| 3. | Dennerly South | 6. | Laborie | 9. | Canaries |

The warehouses are being constructed at the average cost of eighty thousand EC\$80,000 each.

NEMO Committee Member to attend CDB Meeting

May 06, 2003 - The Chair of the Castries North Disaster Committee shall represent Saint Lucia at a workshop sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The meeting is to be held in Barbados from May 7 - 13, 2003.

Through it's Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC) and Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF0 initiatives, CDB is seeking to support the development of community vulnerability reduction programs in the Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs). Approximately five participants from each country are being invited to attend.

Areas to be covered by the workshop include:

1. The use of participatory methodologies for the collection of qualitative data (targeting and selection);
2. Collection protocols applicable to both qualitative and quantitative data gathering;
3. The use of participatory techniques for community planning and action;

This training is designed by CDB for all member countries (excluding Jamaica) as it is felt that Jamaica has already engaged in substantial in country training in this area. Participation in this training is very hands on and field oriented.

The Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) strategic objectives for 2000 - 2004 are to:

1. Foster more rapid and board based growth of the economies of the Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs);
2. Reduce poverty and improve the status of the most vulnerable in the Caribbean Society;
3. Promote good governance and efficiency in public policy formation;
4. Ensure that environmental issues are an integral part of programme and project planning;
5. Foster closer economic integration of the BMCs.

In order to satisfactorily address these objectives, various meetings have cited the need for better data gathering strategies and increase capacity of the BMCs to analyse and utilise this data. In addition, more in depth knowledge of the use of the participatory method in information collection and community mobilization has been named as being critical for the identification, preparation and implementation of sub projects across the Region.

As part of the Bank's Department for International Development Funded strategy to expand its skills in social development and support its action to integrate social policy and social analysis into the Bank's procedures and processes CDB has engaged the services of a consultant Social Researcher in the Social and Economic Research Unit (SERU). In addition to conducting research, the Consultant is required to promote and participate in workshops and seminars on the design, methods and implementation of social research and its applications to policy for research and planning personnel in BMCs and other regional agencies.

The newly formed SERU has therefore collaborated to design a training workshop together with the CDBs Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) and Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC). The workshop will:

1. Train field staff from across a range of Government Ministries and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in targeting for development projects, data collection protocols in both qualitative and quantitative methods and the techniques to be used in participatory research and community planning.
2. Strengthen the overall research capacities in CDB activities especially as needed in social policy formation, data gathering and project implementation.

NEMO Annual Report

May 1, 2003 – For the third year running the National Emergency Management Organization is making its annual report public.

With the mandate of the Organisation being to have Saint Lucia in a state of preparedness for an event, the annual report is a mechanism by which the progress of the team may be measured. It also allows the public to become abreast of the myriad of activities being conducted by the Organization.

The components of the document include:

- Director NEMO's Report
- Accountant's Report
- Reports of Government Liaison Officers
- Reports of Standing Committees (National and District Committees)
- Reviews of the Hurricane Season
- Review of the Fires of the year.

A copy is presented to the Governor General, the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, Permanent Secretaries, the Diplomatic Corps and every Chairperson of NEMO.

The latest copy as well as back issues of the Annual Report may be accessed at any public library.

NEMO ATTENDS USAID/OFDA RESPONSE WORKSHOP

May 5, 2003 -- OFDA will be staging an OFDA Response Workshop to be held in Grenada on May 6th and 7th, 2003. The objective of the workshop will be to discuss the role and capabilities of OFDA before, during and after an emergency or disaster situation. Also, to provide participants with a hands on training in the use of radios, satellite phones and the use of OFDA relief supplies (plastic sheeting, water bladders, water jugs, blankets, hygiene kits, etc.).

The workshop is primarily geared towards seasoned practitioners in response mechanisms, whose role in the organisation involves the planning and implementation of response activity in emergency events. The sharing of information between OFDA and participants will be an effort to further strengthen its relationships amongst its partners and, clarify the role of OFDA in emergency situations.

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is the office within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) responsible for providing humanitarian assistance in response to disasters and crises outside of the U.S. and its territories. OFDA is part of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance.

Our Mission as the lead foreign disaster assistance organisation for the U.S. is to coordinate the overall USG foreign disaster response in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to save lives and mitigate human suffering in the affected region.

The Director of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Office shall join counterparts from Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

CDERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEET IN MONTSERRAT

May 9, 2003 -- The Thirteenth Regular (13th) Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) will be held from May 12th – 15th, 2002 in Montserrat and will be attended by representatives of its sixteen (16) Participating States.

The Board Meeting will be preceded by technical consultations which will focus on the Revised CDERA Agreement, Flood Contingency Planning Report, and the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy Phase II Review.

Among the technical areas that will be engaging the Directors' attention during the formal deliberations include the work of the Sub-regional Focal Points, Secondment Protocol, a Volunteer Policy as well as the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Project. CDM has become an important issue as the Caribbean struggles to avoid or mitigate the intensive losses associated with hazard impacts. Other important issues to be discussed include the reviewing of disaster events with a view to improving response operations and coordination at the national and regional level and the upcoming Hurricane Season focusing on appropriate preparedness action.

Of paramount importance will be the review of the performance of CDERA during the past year as well as the progress of the tri-annual Work Program for 2001-2004 which seeks to chart the way forward for the Agency and includes a number of strategic measures to improve its efficiency and performance as it seeks to fulfill its mandate within the Region.

As the Disaster Coordinator for Saint Lucia the Director of the National Emergency Management Organisation shall represent Saint Lucia.

Model National Hazard Mitigation Policy Adaptation Workshop, Saint Lucia

May 26, 2003 -- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Saint Lucia will co-host a workshop from May 27 - 29, 2003 to assist the Government of Saint Lucia to develop a national hazard mitigation policy.

The workshop will be held at The Office Shop Conference Room, Sans Soucis, Castries, Saint Lucia, from 9:00 am. The feature address speaker shall be the Chairman of the Hazard Mitigation Council, Hon. Felix Finisterre, Minister for Communications, Works, Transportation & Public Utilities.

Recent disasters in the Caribbean, including several hurricanes and tropical storms in the Eastern Caribbean, and volcanic activity at Chances Peak in Montserrat and at Kick 'em Jenny in Grenada have further exposed the vulnerability of the Caribbean to the impacts of hazards and disasters. In recognition of the need to develop and implement structured and comprehensive programmes which lead to a reduction of hazard risk and disaster losses, CDERA and CDB have developed a Model Hazard Mitigation Policy for the Caribbean. The model policy addresses natural and technological hazards and is designed to be used as a guide by CDERA Participating States and CDB borrowing member countries (BMCs) to develop national hazard mitigation policies.

This project to develop the national hazard mitigation policy of Saint Lucia is being implemented as part of collaboration between CDERA's Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP) and CDB's Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC) to develop national hazard mitigation policies in Belize, Grenada and St. Lucia. CHAMP aims to strengthen the capability of regional governments to incorporate hazard vulnerability reduction strategies into development planning. The DMFC will assist BMCs with the implementation of functional disaster mitigation policies and practices as well as strengthening CDB's institutional capacity to address disaster management issues. CHAMP is being executed by the Organisation of American States with support from the Canadian International Development Agency. The DMFC is a partnership between CDB and the United States Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

The workshop will bring together a wide cross section of key stakeholders in hazard vulnerability reduction in Saint Lucia, including representatives from public and private sector organizations such as the national disaster office, economic and physical planning, environment, education, health, agriculture, social development, works and communications, professional organizations, insurance and civil society. At the workshop, participants will develop an outline of the national hazard mitigation policy of Saint Lucia and a

work programme for completion of the policy document. It is anticipated that the national policy will be completed by December 2003.

CDERA and CDB propose to provide technical assistance to finalize the national hazard mitigation plan for Saint Lucia during 2003 and 2004. National hazard mitigation policies and plans are expected to be incorporated into the national planning process as a means to reduce the vulnerability of Saint Lucia to the impacts of natural and technological hazards.

PRF and NEMO Collaborate

May 27 -- Recognizing the potential for small projects to be executed to improve social conditions, NEMO and the Poverty Reduction Fund have collaborated to conduct a one-day workshop on project proposal writing.

The 17 District Disaster Committees shall be given the opportunity to discuss the requirements of the PRF and to prepare a project proposal to address disaster management in their district.

In an effort to achieve an actual outcome and not a hypothetical one the participants shall use an actual project, which shall be submitted for funding.

Police Station Commanders Prepare for the 2003 Hurricane Season

May 30 – At the request of the Acting Commissioner of Police the National Emergency Management Organisation shall be hosting a one-day workshop on Emergency Management, scheduled to take place June 2nd at the Saint Lucia Red Cross from 9 am.

As scientists predict an active 2003 Hurricane Season the session is well timed. With the lessening of the strength of El Niño it is predicted that there will be 12 named storms combining to make for 65 days of storm activity.

In what is hoped to be the first of an annual workshop NEMO shall be working with the Station Commanders of all the Police Stations of Saint Lucia, which number fifteen (15).

The Agencies of NEMO collaborating on this workshop are:

- The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
- Saint Lucia Red Cross
- NEMO Legal Consultant
- NEMO Mitigation and Planning Consultant

The topics to be addressed are:

- The National Emergency Management Organisation
- The Disaster Cycle
- Stress Management in Disasters

- The Role of the Police under the Disaster Act
- The Standing Operating Procedures of the Police in the Hurricane Season
- How to Plot a storm
- Creating the Family Disaster Plan
- Creating the Office Disaster Plan
- Evaluation of a Building

Choiseul Disaster Committee Conducts Shelter Management Training Course

June 3, 2003 – On June 5th and 6th, 2003, Choiseul Disaster Committee together with the Schools in the Community shall cooperate to conduct training in Shelter Management. With Tropical Storm Ana appearing in April of this year and forecasters predicting a severe hurricane season, the Committee has taken a proactive stance towards preparedness for the 2003 season.

The 1996 Emergency Shelters Policy of the Government of Saint Lucia assures that...

The first priority for the government is to ensure that all citizens have shelter, which can withstand the effects of disasters. In the event of a threatened alert that a disaster results in the need for emergency shelters, the selection of structurally sound buildings is the chief priority.

Also to...

Provide a mandatory programme of training for personnel designated as shelter managers or potential managers to ensure they are full equipped for their responsibility.

The training covers areas such as:

- Disasters and the Disaster Cycle
- The Shelter (and it's inspection)
- Administration of a shelter
- Operations and
- Problem Solving

The Choiseul Disaster Committee was the outstanding Committee at the 2002 NEMO Volunteer Awards.

The materials used in the Shelters and Shelter Management Course are produced with the sponsorship of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

NEMO continues to strengthen

July 3, 2003 – Under the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank the National Emergency Management Office shall welcome to its offices two consultants.

The first Mr. Arturo Lopez-Portillo shall be attached to the office to create plans, policies and procedures on:

- Flood Plan
- The Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan
- The Land Search and Rescue Plan
- Mass Events Policy
- Hazardous Material Policy and Plan
- District Plan

The second consultant, Mrs. Karen Stephens-Dalton shall review the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000 and the Emergency Powers Act No. 5 of 95 with the aim of having the Act amended if needed. She shall also draft the many regulations that are needed to support the Acts and various Policies that guide disaster management in Saint Lucia.

Both consultants shall last for six months and will run from April to September 2003.

In other developments with the project the Office of the Prime Minister has assigned Ms. Verina Calderon as Training Officer for NEMO. As a part time member of staff Ms Calderon shall handle special project for NEMO.

NEMO Training To Reach New Intensity

June 5 - As the OECS Emergency Management and Recovery Project heads into the home stretch the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has begun it's final component, that of training.

Starting in May the Stress Response Team took part in a three-day training in Level Two of Stress Management In Disasters (SMID). The Stress Response Team has recognized the need for the debriefing of Emergency Workers in Disaster Situations. PAHO volunteer Dr. Davendra Sharma of Dominica conducted SMID.

This continues with training in SUMA. SUMA is short for SUPplies MAanagement a computer program developed by PAHO and its partner agencies. From May 27th to June 27th, the Ministries of Government as well as District Disaster Committees shall be equipped with the skills to monitor stocks both during a crisis and non-crisis. SUMA shall be conducted by NEMO volunteer Mr. Marcus Day.

Also to be conducted though out the month of June shall be the Use of Telecommunications Equipment. Conducted for all District Disaster Committees as well as the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC), volunteers shall take part in a hands on and interactive session on the handling and use of Radios. NEMO volunteer Mr. David Ferdinand shall conduct the Use of Telecommunications Equipment.

The final topic to be imparted shall take place in July, as the Oil Spill/Hazardous Material Committee shall be trained in the techniques of a First Response in a spill situation. This training shall take place both in

Castries and Vieux Fort. The First Responder training shall be conducted by Lt. Wayne Watts of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Team and FAVA/CA Volunteer.

The Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action, Inc. (FAVA/CA), is a private not for profit organization formed in 1981.

NEMO Members Continue to Prepare

June 11, 2003 -- As the Organisations that comprise the National Emergency Management Organisation continue to prepare for the Hurricane Season and any other Hazard the latest tool is about to be used.

The Simulation: Where the teams prepare to do or make something which looks real but is not real: (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

First - The Office of NEMO shall conduct a real time notification. This will take the form of actually calling on the members of NEMO and recording the time it took to locate them. This gives the Office practice in locating members, verifying contact information and suggesting ways to improve location time.

While on June 18th the members of SUMA both local and regional shall take part in a virtual simulation conducted by the Pan American Health Organisation. SUMA is a computer program, which allows countries and agencies to account for the relief supplies they receive to assist victims of a disaster. Presently NEMO is conducting a full month of training in SUMA as part of the Organisation's component of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a World Bank Loan.

Finally, in the last week of June the Choiseul Disaster Committee in collaboration with NEMO shall conduct a real time notification and tabletop exercise. The real time notification will test the time it will take the team to assemble, once assembled the team will conduct a table top exercise to practice cooperation and response to a disaster.

The Choiseul Team is the winner of the 2002 NEMO Volunteer Award for Community Preparedness.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

June 11, 2003 -- The NEMO/Castries North Disaster Committee will conduct a disaster mitigation awareness session with the students of the Morne Du Don School on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th June 2003.

This exercise is part of the Committee's continuing education and awareness program to encourage, promote and develop community participation in disaster mitigation and prevention.

The aim of the Committee is to target the youth in bringing about a change of attitudes and practices in disaster mitigation and prevention. The presentation will also feature hazardous implications of littering and improper disposal of garbage.

The Committee hopes to continue this awareness program in all of the eight schools within the district over the next eight months.

NEMO Team Join PAHO in Regional Simulation

June 16 -- The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) on June 18th from 9am shall be conducting a simulation to test the readiness of Island States for a disaster.

The tool being tested is the computer program called SUMA. Short for **S**upply **M**anagement, the computer program is used to monitor the donations of relief supplies made during a disaster.

Presently under the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a World Bank loan, NEMO is in the process of conducting nine training sessions in the program at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, throughout June.

As part of the June 18th training session participants shall take part in the simulation, which shall be conducted via the Internet.

NEMO distributes 400 document Virtual Library

June 18, 2003 – NEMO continues its distribution of the Virtual Library, which consists of 400 documents, this time to all Secondary School Libraries.

Two years ago PAHO/WHO produced the first edition of the Virtual Disaster Library on CD-ROM -the most complete electronic information tool for disaster reduction. The first edition has been substantially enlarged and enhanced.

The latest Virtual Health Library for Disasters incorporates the works of many new partner organizations and consequently offers a much broader variety of information. The Virtual Health Library for Disasters is now truly a global collection. It is the result of a process of consultation and exchange among the disaster and emergency programs of WHO and PAHO, all WHO technical divisions, other United Nations agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF, the ISDR, the International Committee for the Red Cross, Project SPHERE, NGOs such as OXFAM and national organizations such as Costa Rica's National Emergency Commission.

Thanks to support from these organizations, the new Virtual Disaster Library contains more than 400 scientific and technical documents including the most important works published by these agencies on disasters and emergencies.

It also has an easy-to-use powerful and improved search engine that allows searching by topics, country, keyword, title, publisher or any other word.

The new library offers all documents in HTML and many in PDF format on...

- Public health in emergencies and disasters: principles and guidelines

- Emergency preparedness and response
- Disaster mitigation
- Human rights and humanitarian legislation
- Health of refugees and displaced population
- Environmental health and chemical products
- Communicable diseases
- Parasitic and vector-borne diseases
- Food and nutrition
- Reproductive Health, child health and immunization
- Mental health
- Management of supplies and essential drugs
- Management of war-wounded and injuries

Aspects of this press release were taken from: <http://www.paho.org/english/ped/about-vdl.htm>

Cabinet Approves Volcanic Assessment for Saint Lucia

June 20, 2003 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Saint Lucia having reviewed the Volcanic Hazard Assessment for Saint Lucia have approved for dissemination through the Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation.

Cabinet has further directed that NEMO collaborate with relevant agencies on updating the Volcanic Plan, Public Education for awareness of the plan and development of appropriate strategies for mitigating against volcanic hazards.

In keeping with NEMO's mandate for preparedness and the Cabinet instructions NEMO continues to highlight that Saint Lucia is not only at risk to the annual storms. In June 2002 NEMO in collaboration with the Seismic Research Unit conducted a week of activities which highlighted the volcanic risk in Saint Lucia.

As part of the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank, the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) accepted the 2002 Volcanic Plan. The 2002 Plan is an update of the 1996 plan.

Later in 2003 NEMO shall present the complete National Emergency Response Plan for the final approval and authorization of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Together with the Government Information Service, NEMO shall have The Volcanic Hazard Assessment for Saint Lucia available for download soon from the Web site at <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc>

Choiseul Disaster Committee Holds Simulation

June 24, 2003 -- The Choiseul Disaster Committee in collaboration with NEMO shall conduct a simulation today June 24th.

There are two components to the exercise.

The first is to conduct a real time notification. A real time notification tests the time it takes for the team to assemble. Once the committee members are assembled then the second aspect commences. This second phase is in the form of a table top exercise, where members remain in a room and pretend that the outside world is in need of help. The aim is to practice cooperation and to find realistic solutions as part of the response to a disaster.

The team shall be tested on an earthquake. With the Soufriere to Vieux Fort under construction the team wanted to ensure peak performance if there were to be a need to conduct a response to any hazard.

The Choiseul Team is the winner of the 2002 NEMO Volunteer Award for Community Preparedness.

CDERA COUNCIL TO MEET IN BARBADOS

June 26, 2003 -- The twelfth (12th) Regular Meeting of the Council of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) will be held on June 27th 2003 at Savannah Hotel Hastings, Christ Church in Barbados and will be attended by representatives of its sixteen (16) Participating States.

Among the areas that will be engaging the Council's Directors' attention during the formal deliberations include the report of the Board which met in Montserrat in May as well as the work of the Sub-regional Focal Points, the Secondment Protocol, Volunteer Policy as well as the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Project. CDM has become an important issue as the Caribbean struggles to avoid or mitigate the intensive losses associated with hazard impacts. Other important issues to be discussed include the reviewing of disaster events with a view to improving response operations and coordination at the national and regional level and the upcoming Hurricane Season focusing on appropriate preparedness action.

Of paramount importance will be the review of the performance of CDERA during the past year as well as the progress of the tri-annual Work Program for 2001-2004 which seeks to chart the way forward for the Agency and includes a number of strategic measures to improve its efficiency and performance as it seeks to fulfill its mandate within the Region.

As the Deputy Chair of NEMO, Dr. James Fletcher, Cabinet Secretary shall represent Saint Lucia.

NEMO continues to strengthen

July 3, 2003 – Under the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank the National Emergency Management Office shall welcome to its offices two consultants.

The first Mr. Arturo Lopez-Portillo shall be attached to the office to create plans, policies and procedures on:

1. Flood Plan
2. The Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan
3. The Land Search and Rescue Plan
4. Mass Events Policy
5. Hazardous Material Policy and Plan
6. District Plan

The second consultant, Mrs. Karen Stephens-Dalton shall review the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000 and the Emergency Powers Act No. 5 of 95 with the aim of having the Act amended if needed. She shall also draft the many regulations that are needed to support the Acts and various Policies that guide disaster management in Saint Lucia.

Both consultants shall last for six months and will run from April to September 2003.

In other developments with the project the Office of the Prime Minister has assigned Ms. Verina Calderon as Training Officer for NEMO. As a part time member of staff Ms Calderon shall handle special projects for NEMO.

NEMO Collaborates with National Printing Corporation

July 11, 2003 -- In order to meet the mandate of having Saint Lucia prepared for any disaster that may occur the Office of the National Emergency Management together with the National Printing Corporation Organisation (NEMO) has published in the latest issue of the Saint Lucia Gazette a copy of the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The intention is to solicit observations from the public on the document.

Comments on the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan may be sent into the Office of NEMO at the Red Cross Building in Castries. Written submissions should be in by close of day on Friday, August 30th to allow for collation for a September Consultation on Hazard Mitigation.

Contributions may be made via the following:

Fax (758)-453-2152

Email: eoc@candw.lc / Alternate email slunemo@yahoo.com

Or

National Emergency Management Organisation
P O Box 1517, Castries, Saint Lucia

The Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan is also available at the Government of Saint Lucia Web site at
<http://www.stlucia.gov.lc>

NEMO Legal Instruments to be Reviewed.

July 14 – On July 15th the members of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) shall meet at the National Insurance Conference Room to discuss the proposed amendments to the Emergency Powers Act No. 5 of 1995 and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000.

As yet another component of the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank, NEMO has had the services of a Legal Consultant to review the Legal Instruments and make recommendations for improvements.

One area of interest to the membership of NEMO has been the powers of evacuation. This will be one of the topics discussed at the review session.

The Coordinator of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), Mr. Jeremy Collymore, has been invited to attend. Saint Lucia is one of sixteen states, which make up the Agency.

The meeting is being convened by the Project Coordinating Unit of the Ministry of Planning on behalf of NEMO.

OFDA Team visits Saint Lucia

July 24, 2003 – A team from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance shall make a fact finding visit to Saint Lucia on July 25th, 2003.

The team is interested in following the development of Shelters and Shelter Management in Saint Lucia. Over the years persons have been trained in Shelter Management and materials have been developed to support this important aspect of Disaster Management. Strategies have also been strengthened with District Committees where contracts are signed between NEMO, the District Committee and Shop Owners for the provision of supplies in a response.

The team's agenda includes meetings with

- Director – NEMO
- Director General of the Saint Lucia Red Cross
- Chair - Emergency Shelters Committee
- Chair – Supplies Management
- Emergency Shelters Inspector

Where they will discuss areas such as...

- Shelter management policies
- Roles and responsibilities (and assignment thereof)
- Programme structure
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Logistics & Maintenance

The 1996 Emergency Shelters Policy of the Government of Saint Lucia assures that...

The first priority for the government is to ensure that all citizens have shelter, which can withstand the effects of disasters. In the event of a threatened alert that a disaster results in the need for emergency shelters, the selection of structurally sound buildings is the chief priority.

Also to...

Provide a mandatory programme of training for personnel designated as shelter managers or potential managers to ensure they are full equipped for their responsibility.

OFDA is the office within USAID responsible for providing non-food humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters.

NEMO Labels Emergency Shelters

July 28, 2003 - In a definitive move by the National Emergency Management Organisation together with the Ministry of Works, the two agencies have begun to label the Emergency Shelters Island wide.

The public is reminded that though the Office of NEMO is concerned about Hurricanes the emphasis is focused on providing shelter for any hazard, which may and can occur and not only Hurricanes. As a consequence the signs will identify an Emergency Shelter not a Hurricane Shelter.

It is hoped that this exercise will clarify in the mind of the public the exact buildings in their community that have been designated.

The Ministry of Works is the Agency with the responsibility for the inspection and certification of shelters. The inspection is conducted annually in April and May. Any member of the public wishing to nominate a building to be a shelter may do so by contacting NEMO at tel: 452-3802 fax: 451-3152 or e-mail eoc@candw.lc the contact information shall also be carried on the shelter signs.

In keeping with the Disaster Act No. 13 of 2000 NEMO has published in the Saint Lucia Gazette the 2003 List of Shelters, which is also available at the Government of Saint Lucia Web site <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc>

Ambassadorial support for NEMO

July 29, 2003 -- In a show of support for the work of the National Emergency Management Office and its District Committees the Ambassador of the Republic of France will make a contribution of a computer and printer, valued at three thousand five hundred dollars (EC\$3,500).

The presentation is scheduled for the offices of NEMO at Vigie for 10:00 am today July 29, 2003.

This is the continuing program for the strengthening of the computer capacity of the District Disaster Committees of NEMO.

This first contribution was assigned to the Choiseul Disaster Committee. This second contribution being made by the People and Government of France shall be assigned to the Dennery South Disaster Committee, which is in the middle of celebrations of its 21st Anniversary. The Committee was officially formed in 1982 a mere two years after Hurricane Allen struck Saint Lucia.

NEMO has 17 District Committees.

This is not the first collaboration between the French Embassy and NEMO. In 2001, the Ambassador presented the Office of NEMO with a multi copier to assist with education campaign.

NEMAC to Meet

July 30, 2003 - The Prime Minister has called a meeting of the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) for July 31, 2003 at 3:00 pm in the Cabinet Room.

At a meeting of the NEMAC held in June 2002, the decision was taken that there were to be biennial meetings of NEMAC. The Director NEMO as the Secretary to NEMAC was instructed to ensure that the decision was carried out.

There shall be three agenda items:

- Reports on the state of preparedness of Government Ministries and National Committees for the 2003 Hurricane Season
- Work plan for the period June to December 2003
- Date for a meeting of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is executed on a voluntary basis. There are also various Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Ministries that are essential to a response action and together with national committees this response is executed.

For 2003 Hurricane Season the National Emergency Management Organisation with the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee has been activated twice; first for the Tropical Wave of July

7th which caused over EC\$3 million in damage and then for Tropical Depression Number 6 which threatened to stop Carnival.

The next meeting of NEMAC is scheduled for November 2003.

Disaster Management Consultation

July 31, 2003 -- The Castries South East Disaster Management Committee shall host a community consultation on Disaster Management on July 31, 2003 from 3:00 pm at the Roman Catholic Parish Hall.

As part of the National Emergency Management Organization, the Castries South East Committee has over the years taken part in numerous simulations and training exercises and responded to a number of situations. For 2003 the Committee has already been activated twice for Tropical Disturbances in July.

As part of the Inaugural NEMO Awards, which took place in 2003, the Committee through a member received honours for its work in the category of Outstanding Individual.

The meeting will seek to inform both the Committee and the Community on the Disaster Management issues they must face together.

NEMO Members continue to embrace Technology

August 4, 2003 – The National Emergency Management Organization has received from The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) a CD-ROM on the topic of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Basic Awareness Training.

The CD-ROM offers users a self paced course covering a basic understanding of WMD, the threat of terrorism, and the appropriate response to such events.

In the days to come NEMO shall be sharing this information with

- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
- Saint Lucia Fire Services
- Saint Lucia Ports Police
- Occupational Health and Safety and
- The Ministry of Health

It is hoped that the WMD Basic Awareness Training course will, through its easy to use format and self paced approach to training, provide valuable information to first responders.

District Disaster Committees prepare to communicate

August 8, 2003 – The District Disaster Committees of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) today August 8 at 10:00 am at the NEMO Headquarters, received telecommunications equipment, procured by NEMO.

In an on going program of strengthening the response capabilities of the team, the Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation began a program of equipping the committees under various projects. In collaboration with the GTZ through the OECS, the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank and local funds; over the past three years NEMO has slowly but surely been able to acquire for and distribute radios to the Committees. The equipment comprises of HF base stations and the attendant handheld radios.

With the committees now equipped and trained in the handling and use of the radios phase two of the program will soon commence. The training was again conducted through projects funded by GTZ through the OECS and the Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project funded by a loan from the World Bank.

In phase two there shall be a weekly call out to all seventeen district committees, during the Hurricane Season. Out side of the Hurricane Season the testing shall be monthly.

Once the testing schedule is established then phase three will involve the inclusion of partner agencies in the call out.

Presently NEMO conducts a weekly call to all commercial Radio Stations via a series of telephone hotlines installed both at NEMO and the Stations.

NEMO members return from CDERA Training

August 11, 2003 – Two members of the Oil Spill Committee of the National Emergency Management Organization returned recently from a training course, where Disaster Managers from eight participating states of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) met for hands on training in the Incident Command System (ICS) hosted by CDERA and US Army Southern Command.

The training took place on August 6th and 7th in Barbados.

ICS is a standardized response management system, which has an "all hazard – all risk" approach to managing crisis response operations as well as non-crisis events and is used by the Oil Spill Committee in Saint Lucia.

The ability to successfully manage a disaster and return a country to normality depends on, among other things, the quality and timely delivery of information.

Manager of CDERA's Preparedness and Response Unit, Donovan Gentles, said that this two-day seminar is an activity which is part of a wider programme known as the Integrated Decision-Making Support System (IDSS). The idea is to get accurate information to decision-makers and other important parties in a timely fashion. It will also enable real time messaging and online conferencing for critical decision-making and timely distribution of information.

The system, which was designed by emergency managers for emergency managers, also includes enhanced Geographical Information System mapping so that emergency managers can zoom in on affected areas. Another component will see real time satellite and weather information being imported into the programme which can be used for forecasting and modeling of such things as storm surge as a hurricane approaches a member state or track volcanic ash plumes based on wind direction and speed, among other things.

The two-day seminar is co-hosted by CDERA with the continued support of the United States Southern Command Humanitarian Assistance Programme (SOUTHCOM/HAP) and in collaboration with the software company E-Team.

Attending the orientation seminar at the Accra Beach Hotel are representatives from disaster management agencies in Barbados, Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

NEMO was represented by:

- Mr. Dermot Saltibus - Chairman Oil Spill Committee
- Officer Lambert Charles – On Scene Commander, Fire Department - Oil Spill Committee

Castries North Disaster Committee is One Year Old

August 12, 2003 – Today the Castries North Disaster Committee (CNDC) marks its first anniversary.

The Committee has indicated that "...there will be no grand do." They have however called a meeting of members for Thursday 14th August at 6:00p.m. at the Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School this meeting will also mark the First Anniversary of the Committee, which was established on 12th August 2002.

The Chairlady of the Committee issued a special invitation to the Principals of the schools in the district, with the hope that the fact that schools are closed, would not keep them away.

In their one year of operations the committee has...

- Represented NEMO/HQ at meeting with the Caribbean Development Bank
- Contributed to the Review of NEMO Legal Instruments
- Received Hand Held Radios
- Received SUMA Training
- Received Telecom Training
- Participated in a National Simulation on Flooding
- Placed on alert twice in July for weather systems.

NEMAC and NEMO to meet

August 14, 2003 – Having set the schedule of Bi-Annual meetings at an assembly of the National Emergency Management Advisory Council (NEMAC) held in June 2002, the Organisation is endeavouring to meet the self imposed directive with a gathering set for August 15, 2003 at the NIC Conference Room from 9:00 am, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

There shall be two agenda items:

- Reports on the state of preparedness of Government Ministries and National Committees for the 2003 Hurricane Season
- Work plan for the period June to December 2003

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is executed on a voluntary basis. There are also various Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Ministries that are essential to a response action and together with national committees this response is executed. There are seventeen (17) District Committees that are composed of sub committees.

For 2003 Hurricane Season the National Emergency Management Orgainsation with the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee has been activated twice; first for the Tropical Wave of July 7th which cased over EC\$3 million in damage and then for Tropical Depression Number 6 which threatened to stop Carnival.

The next joint sitting of NEMO/NEMAC is scheduled for November 2003.

NEMO and its partners forge stronger ties

August 18, 2003 -- As disaster management continues to expand the National Emergency Management Organisation and its partners continue to find new ways to cooperate.

The first collaboration is with the Solid Waste Management Authority. Recognizing that poor garbage disposal can have a link to flooding; the two agencies have produced a joint information flyer that speaks to both topics.

The second collaboration is with the Bureau of Standards (SLBS). With an increase in number of agencies offering training in First Aid/CPR the SLBS and NEMO have agreed that together with the trainers to develop guidelines and standards for this life saving activity.

The third collaboration is with the National Conservation Authority, where NEMO and the NCA shall collaborate on the "Attack on Plastics" scheduled for the week of September 15th.

Representative of ECHO to Visit

August 19, 2003 – Mr. Stéphane Quinton, Regional Coordinator of the Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission (ECHO) based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, shall pay a visit to the Office of National Emergency Management Organisation on June 20th at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Quinton shall be in Saint Lucia as part of a mission taking place from the 20th to the 24th of August with the Saint Lucia Red Cross; organized by the International Federation of Red Cross. His visit with NEMO will involve discussions surrounding the results of the CDERA Flood program “Enhancing Disaster Preparedness in the Caribbean” that was sponsored by ECHO and finalized this year.

(Project profile at http://www.cdera.org/Special_Projects/dipecho/Projyr3.htm)

The three year program had as the general objective, the strengthening of disaster management activities in the Caribbean region. Specifically to facilitate the development of a long-term regional programme in disaster preparedness for schools, relief supplies management, emergency broadcast and telecommunications and community disaster preparedness.

Saint Lucia was involved in:

- The Model Flood Plan, Adaptation and Simulation
- Interactive Class materials Training for Teachers
- Technical Assistance to NDOs for Documentation Center
- Regional Workshop Disaster Auxiliary Corps
- Regional Workshop Preservation of Disaster Management Information

A visit is also planned for the Village of Anse la Raye, which a community prone to flooding and is presently a focus for the “Improvement of the Drainage Systems in Castries and Anse la Raye” project being undertaken by the Ministry of Works.

NEMO TO COMMENCE WEEKLY TEST OF RADIOS

August 20, 2003 – The Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) shall commence a new operating procedure where on a weekly basis the radio communications of the District Disaster Committees shall be tested.

The call out shall be weekly during the hurricane season and monthly outside of the season. It is hoped that the call out shall expand to involve other partner agencies as the system becomes established.

Over time and in partnership with many Donors Agencies; NEMO has acquired HF base stations and handheld radios for all the District Disaster Committees on the island. Now that the equipment has been installed and the volunteers trained it is timely for the system to be tested on a regular basis.

Testing will ensure that firstly the equipment is functional and secondly the volunteers do not forget their training.

The call out shall start today August 20, 2003.

NEMO and Red Cross Supply Health Sector

August 25, 2003 – The National Emergency Management Organisation together with the Saint Lucia Red Cross are providing the thirty five Health Centres on the island with information material to assist Nurses.

As part of its AIDS/HIV awareness campaign the Saint Lucia Red Cross is providing all Health Centers with flyers for distribution. There are four in the series:

The Virus The Condom The HIV Test HIV and Children

While NEMO is making available a package of six posters on the topics of

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Beware of Floods | 4. Save Water |
| 2. Storms | 5. Dengue |
| 3. Community Disaster Preparedness | 6. Emergency Numbers for an Oil or Chemical Spill |

With the compliments of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO); NEMO has again received copies of the Virtual Library, which consists of 400 documents. This time the CD-ROM is being shared with:

- The Ministry of Health
- The Gros Islet Polyclinic
- All Health Centers
- All Hospitals (Public and Private)
- Saint Lucia Red Cross
- St John Ambulance Brigade

NEMO has already made the Virtual Library available to all Public Libraries and Secondary School Libraries.

NEMO urges public to be prepared.

August 29, 2003 – As the Hurricane Season deepens the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) is urging all persons to maintain their vigilance, and for those who have not yet begun preparations that it is not too late to do so.

The organization comprises of seventeen District Disaster Committees and the public is encouraged to maintain links with them. This can be done by walking into any City, Town or Village Council where they in turn can provide the contact information for the nearest Disaster Committee.

Do not assume that there is nothing to do but react. Find out what strategies are in place to be in a better position to save your life.

Historic evidence shows that the peak of the Hurricane Season is September 9th while the traditional rhyme says “**August come it must**”. For the 2003 season the first named storm formed in April and a total four named systems have formed already.

The 2003 prediction is for fourteen (14) named systems, where eight (8) will become hurricanes and of that eight; three (3) are predicted to become intense, meaning category three or stronger. A category three hurricane carries sustained winds of 111 mph – 130 mph. A storm becomes a hurricane when the sustained winds reach 74 mph.

As Saint Lucia has experienced already for the 2003 Season one does not need a storm to cause damage. The island has been on alert twice so far; first for the Tropical Wave of July 7th which caused over EC\$3 million in damage and then for Tropical Depression Number 6 which threatened to stop Carnival.

NEMO to repeat its Awards Night

September 2 (repeated October 1) -- NEMO shall repeat its recognition night in December, with new categories. The first appreciation night held in 2002, acknowledged the contributions of NEMO volunteers and partnerships.

In 2001 the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) celebrated its tenth anniversary. As part of the celebrations the Agency proposed a series of Awards. By coincidence in 2001 the United Nations designated December 5th as International Volunteer Day. Before this, the decade of the 1990s was set aside by the UN as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

Recognizing the need to both thank the volunteers of NEMO as well as heighten the public awareness in the area of Disaster Management, NEMO held its first Recognition Night in December 2002.

The categories of Community and School were featured in 2002 and are repeated this year, while the categories of:

- Private Sector
- Good Samaritan and
- Media are being introduced for the first time.

The public is invited to send in nominations. The forms have been in circulation since June and are available from NEMO or online at the Government of Saint Lucia Website at www.stlucia.gov.lc

Nominations are to be sent to the Director - NEMO at PO Box 1517, Castries. The deadline for nominations is October 31st.

September 8, 2003 – Plans continue apace for the National Consultation on Hazard Mitigation to be held on September 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the NIC Conference Room.

NEMO has employed a number of strategies in an effort to get the widest possible exposure for the document. One such strategy is in collaboration with the National Printing Corporation the ***Draft Hazard Mitigation Policy*** has been published in the Monday September 8th, 2003 issue of the Saint Lucia Gazette. Persons who receive copies of the Gazette are asked to read the Draft Policy and submit their comments to the Director NEMO by September 19th, 2003.

NEMO has used this method before when in the issue July 7th, issue of the Saint Lucia Gazette the ***Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan*** was published and comments encouraged.

To date NEMO has received no comment from the Public on the Draft Plan.

Once again the Organisation is seeking comment on a document that will have far reaching implications for Disaster Management in Saint Lucia.

Both the ***Draft Hazard Mitigation Policy and Plan*** are now available at every public library and from the Internet at <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc>, <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo/hazardmitigation.pdf> <http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/> and http://www.slugovprintery.com/nemo/national_mitigation_plan%20pdf%20and%20html.asp

NEMO urges persons to assist in this effort of continuing to have the island prepared for a Disaster.

NEMO Hosts National Consultation on Hazard Mitigation

September 11 – Today September 11th, 2003 the National Emergency Management Organisation and its numerous members shall gather to review the ***Draft Hazard Mitigation Policy for Saint Lucia***, at the National Insurance Corporation Conference Room from 9:00 am

Through the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP) being coordinated by the Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA/CU) in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank's Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean, NEMO is presenting the ***Draft Mitigation Hazard Mitigation Policy***.

Together with a Policy Development Committee (PDC), comprising a number of agencies NEMO has been working with a consultant to prepare this document.

The Document has received unprecedented circulation for as many inputs as possible is needed for this to be a truly Saint Lucian Policy. The two main areas of access to the document have been via the Public Libraries and the Government of Saint Lucia web site.

It is hoped that the assembly will endorse the Draft Policy thus paving the way for the next two steps in the process. The first is that the Draft Policy with recommendations shall be presented to the National

Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) and then to the Cabinet of Ministers of final sanctioning.

The document under consideration is available for download at

<http://www.geocities.com/slunemo/hazardmitigation.pdf>

NEMO and Partners observe World First Aid Day

September 14 – Together with the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society, the National Emergency Management Office has been observing a week of activities to highlight World First Aid Day.

NEMO's participation has been to join in discussions on Constitution Park: Inside Government where the Director represented NEMO and on Constitution Park: En Kreole where the Dennery South Disaster Committee represented NEMO. This is in keeping with the Dennery South Committee's program of activities to celebrate its 21st Anniversary as a Disaster Committee.

On a broader platform NEMO and the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society shall collaborate to provide First Aid/CPR training to members of NEMO commencing September 9th the week of World First Aid Day and to continue for three additional weeks exposing a total of fourth eight members to the life saving training.

Recently the two agencies were invited by the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards to join a committee to produce guidelines and standards for First Aid/CPR training in Saint Lucia. NEMO is represented on the Committee by the Canaries Disaster Committee.

CPR = Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation

NEMO and SDA sign MOU

September 19, 2003 -- The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) and The Saint Lucia Mission of the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will assist NEMO in its mandate of preparedness and response.

The agreement strengthens the gentlemen's agreement, which had existed between the agencies for years.

The agreement confirms that NEMO will assist the Mission in preparing its members for any disaster, which may befall the society, while the SDA has pledged that it shall continue its support to the District Disaster Committees by continuing to be standing member of the Committee.

The MOU, which came into effect on September 18, 2003, was signed by the President of the Saint Lucia Mission of Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) and the Director of NEMO.

NEMO Remembers... 1963 – Hurricane Edith

September 23, 2003 – Fifty years ago on September 25th 1963 Saint Lucia faced the wrath of Hurricane Edith. The headlines from that period could have been written in September 2002 for Tropical Storm Lili as the headlines of the Voice of Saint Lucia for September 28th 1963 read...

“Edith” Passes with Little Damage But Winds, Rain send Banana Cultivations Toppling

While the headlines of the Saint Lucia Herald for September 28th 1963 stated...

Edith Flattens Bananas Over 80 Percent Damage Suffered

As still occurs today the banana industry was badly hit, with the papers reporting eighty and eighty five percent damage to the crop mainly in the north of the island, caused by winds of over eighty miles per hour mph.

The Voice Newspaper painted a grim picture:

...constant and heavy showers and night winds throughout Wednesday have done considerable damage to banana cultivations and blown to the ground an estimated 50 percent of fruit bearing trees all over the island. The damage has been most extensively in the northern part of the island where the destruction of banana fields is believed to be as high as eighty percent.

Damage was not confined to the banana sector as the Herald reported:

The temporary bridge over the Roseau River was swept away by the floods; jetties belonging to Shell Company at La Toc and to the Government of St. Lucia in the villages of Laborie and Choiseul were destroyed.

While the Voice revealed:

Extensive damage was also done to the Choiseul jetty and the Dennery abattoir. At Dennery, too, two houses were displaced and many villagers had to leave their homes during the night, because of the threatening sea.

All in all the damage was estimated to be \$250,000.00.

NEMO Continues Training of Members

September 29, 2003 – As the OECS Emergency Management and Recovery Project heads into the home stretch the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) has begun its final training component.

Starting today September 29, 2003 and continuing until October 11, 2003 NEMO in collaboration with the Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action, Inc. (FAVA/CA), shall conduct training for First Responders for **Oil Spill and /Hazardous Materials** situations. The training, aimed at the **Oil Spill**

and /Hazardous Materials Committee, shall take place both in Castries (Marine Base 9:00am – 4:00pm) and Vieux Fort (New Fisheries Complex 9:00am – 4:00pm)

Agencies represented are:

- The Marine Police
- Saint Lucia Fire Service
- Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority

While the Training Instructors of the following are also expected to attend:

- Shell Antilles
- Texaco
- WINERA
- WINWARD and LEEWARD Brewery

The First Responder training shall be conducted by Lt. Wayne Watts of the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department and FAVA/CA Volunteer.

The Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action, Inc. (FAVA/CA), is a private not for profit organization formed in 1981.

Vieux Fort South Disaster Committee Holds Simulation

September 30, 2003 -- The Vieux Fort South Disaster Committee in collaboration with the Office of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) shall conduct a simulation today September 30, 2003 from 2:00 pm.

The exercise chosen is that of a real time notification, where every member of the Response team is called.

With such an exercise it is possible to achieve a number of objectives.

1. To test the time it takes locate team members.
2. Once a member is found, how long it takes for them to report to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
3. How long it will take for the entire team to be found and the time it will take for all to assemble.

Though simple in its execution the aim of this simulation is to practice response times, the findings of which can be surprising, once the analysis is completed.

NEMO to collaborate on Inter-American Water Day

October 2, 2003 – In gesture of continued collaboration between the National Emergency Management Organisation and its partners, NEMO shall join forces with the Water Resources Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to commemorate the Inter-American Water Day (IAWD). The theme for

2003 is ***"Water: Let's Not Take It For Granted,"*** which is celebrated on the first Saturday, of October, which this year is October 3rd.

By coincidence three days later October 8th The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction will be celebrated globally with the theme of ***"Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development: Water - too much, or too little."***

With such important dates being acknowledged and the themes being so similar the Water Resources Unit kindly agreed to allow NEMO to join with them in highlighting the precious commodity at their exhibition being held at Alliance Frances at Point Seraphine from October 2nd.

In 2000, WorldNetDaily.com, Inc. projected that ***"Rather than a battle over oil or even land, the next great war in the Middle East may well be a fight to gain control over the most precious commodity in the desert -- water."***

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has indicated that ... ***Without water, life is not possible.***

Yet, too much water is dangerous and too little water can be devastating. Indeed these two extremes are the most common feature of natural disasters. Coastal and river floods, for example, are the most frequent natural disasters and are increasing more rapidly than any other disasters. At the same time, drought still affects more people than any other disaster. Hence the International Day for Natural hazards Reduction (DNDR) is dedicated to examining the relationship between water, disasters, and development, as well as demonstrating the steps that individuals, communities, and nations can take to reduce hardship due to floods and drought.

Some people believe that natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, and drought , are "acts of God," but the recent steep rise in losses due to natural disasters suggests a more worldly cause. Economic damage from natural disasters has quadrupled in the last 30 years, and the 1995 costs were at least double those of 1994. Humankind is clearly contributing to the rise in disasters. Floods, for example, are not uniquely determined by storm tides, heavy rains, or melting snows. The increase in floods worldwide can also be seen as a result of environmentally damaging development practices or over development in coastal zones and along river corridors, where human habitation is obviously dangerous. In addition, widespread development has simply decreased the amount of land and wetland available to absorb precipitation and runoff.

Similarly, drought is clearly not merely the result of too little rain. Overgrazing, deforestation, poor water and soil management all contribute to drought, as do social and economic circumstances that circumscribe and define the lives of people in drought-prone areas.

Just as clearly, reducing the social and economic impacts of floods and drought is possible if disaster mitigation is linked to development. Vulnerability to hazards is the result of human decision and policies that could have been made differently, that can be altered, and that can be approached differently in the future.

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Parts of this Press Release was taken from

<http://www.unisdr.org/unisdr/campaign2003/campaign2003.htm>
<http://www.uwin.siu.edu/announce/press/1997/press0827b.html>
http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=19093

NEMO distributes information to Older Persons

October 03, 2003 – The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) continues its drive to impart information to all sectors of the society in an effort to meet its mandate of having Saint Lucia prepared for any hazard, which may affect the island.

In partnership with The Department of Elder Affairs within the State of Florida, NEMO received a donation of seven hundred (700) newspapers called ***Elder Update 2003: Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders***. The content of the newspaper covers areas such as:

- Chemical Poising and Chemical Burns
- Disaster Supply Kit
- Driving in a disaster
- Emergency Preparedness Checklist
- Floods
- Hurricane Information
- Pets and disasters

The entire shipment has been donated to the National Council of and for Older Persons for distribution to its membership. The Council expressed its gratitude for the information package and commenced delivery immediately. "It's nice to know that we are not forgotten." A staff member said happily.

Recently the National Council of and for Older Persons participated in a National Consultation on Hazard Mitigation with NEMO.

A Creole sample of the newspaper was also made available to NEMO as was shared with the Folk Research Center.

NEMO Invited to Regional Conference on Disaster Management

October 7 – The National Emergency Management Organisation has been invited to a seminar on "*Lessons learned from natural disasters in the Lesser Antilles*." The seminar is to take place in Pointe à Pitre (Guadeloupe) on October 7th and 8th, 2003.

One day and a half will be dedicated to:

- Validation of a methodology for upgrading lessons learned. Using Hurricane Lenny as a case study the response and subsequent possibility for adaptation of the response as a response method to any natural disaster.

- To restart the network of actors for major disasters in the region. It will be the occasion to define projects of joint interest for the region.

While half a day will be devoted to the issue *“reliability of the organization for disaster management”*. Four French researchers will present an updated report of research achievements in France and will discuss on this issue with the participants

NEMO looks forward to this meeting, for although the French/Saint Lucian Cultural ties are strong there is much to learn in the areas of Disaster Management. As a member of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), Saint Lucia has strong ties with fellow English speaking islands, the systems used in the Frano Islands are not as familiar and this will prove to be an opportunity for exploration by both the Anglo and Franco worlds.

NEMO is being represented by Ms Maria Mombelli, Secretary to NEMO.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

October 8 -- The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction will be celebrated globally on 8th October. The theme for 2003 is ***“Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development: Water - too much, or too little.”***

Water - too much, or too little - plays an integral part in our lives, holds our imaginations and impacts our communities. Hydrometeorological hazards, such as floods, droughts, landslides, tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons, pose a risk to livelihoods and to the process of sustainable development.

The 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign looks at how we cope with water-related hazards, serving to raise awareness among decision-makers and the public that there is much we can do to reduce the impacts of hazards. While it is widely acknowledged that hydrometeorological hazards are on the rise due to human activities increasing vulnerabilities, there is still greater attention (and investment) paid to the disasters themselves and the resulting deaths and destruction.

Rather, we should be looking at the longer-term investment of disaster risk reduction strategies - incorporating disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention - that would in fact in the end significantly reduce their impacts and costs. We need to shift our emphasis: from disaster relief to disaster reduction.

NEMO Continues to distribute information

October 08, 2003 – The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) continues its drive to impart information to all sectors of the society in an effort to meet its mandate of having Saint Lucia prepared for any hazard, which may affect the island.

The latest information package to be distributed is to the Saint Lucia Blind Welfare Association. The Manual, written in Braille is entitled ***“Repairing Your Flooded Home”***

The Director of NEMO, Ms Dawn French pointed out that, ***“...there is much information on disaster management available for able bodied persons; however there are unique sections of the society that need special consideration, such as the Elderly, the Handicapped and the young. It is NEMO’s intention to provide service to these persons as we would to any other member of our Society.”***

The four documents were donated for use by the membership of the Association.

NEMO Remembers... 1973 SAINT LUCIA'S FIRST FATAL AIR CRASH

October 29, 2003 – Today marks 30 years that Saint Lucia had a fatal airplane crash occur. On that day three persons died.

Below is extract from an article by Robert Devaux, former Director of the Saint Lucia National Trust.

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At 7:30 p.m. Monday, 29th October 1973, Pilot Surage left Vigie Airport for Hewanorra Airport, 15 minutes away, in a SIAS (Sun Island Air Service) twin engine Islander aircraft, registration number M37JA, with three passengers. They were Dutch Engineer Dalman from Trinidad and his two sons, ages 9 and 11 years old. It became obvious by 8:30 p.m. when Surage had not yet requested landing clearance that the plane had probably encountered some misfortune. A search and rescue operation could not be launched until daylight.

At first light on Tuesday morning, an air and sea search was carefully conducted, using the spray plane, the police boat and other small crafts. Julio Valdez, SLBGA pilot, was the first to spot the wreckage from the air, on the south eastern spur of Morne Gimie.

A French helicopter was called in from Martinique to assist in a rescue attempt, but the terrain proved to be much too steep and dangerous to accommodate any such attempt from the air. A ground party including a doctor, with slim hope of finding survivors, was organised by mid-day and set out on foot from Migny. The difficult terrain made it impossible to reach the crash site before night fall and the rescue party had to spend an uncomfortable night in the forest.

The wreck was reached on Wednesday, when four bodies had to be pried from the mangled cabin of the plane. The rescuers wisely decided to bring back only the bodies of the two youths. The bodies of the two adults, 150 lbs. Surage and 250 lbs. Dalman, were injected with formalin to delay the process of decay, placed in body bags and laid on the only bit of non-precipitous ground near the wrecked aircraft.

On Thursday, a rescue party from Trinidad arrived in Saint Lucia, at the family's expense, to bring back the body of Dalman. This was only accomplished after the heavy body was cut in half and carried down the precipitous slope in two pieces.

The body of Surage was still on the mountain when a delegation approached the Premier on Friday, making several allegations and bemoaning the fact that people were asking for \$10,000.00 as a rescue fee. The family was seeking Government's assistance to recover the body of Surage.

I did not like the idea and I (called) the Premier and suggested that since the terrain was so difficult and dangerous, the body of Surage should be cremated on the mountain after a short ceremony by a Minister of Religion. The Premier replied that I did not understand the implications, that a delegation had approached him that morning (Friday) accusing government of recovering the bodies of the white passengers while leaving the body of the black pilot to rot on the mountain. I saw how distorted this accusation was and immediately volunteered. The Premier thanked me and informed me that the police boat would leave from Port Police Station at 4:00 a.m.

The truth is that beside the Premier; about seven policemen and fifteen prisoners, there were really only two volunteers on the rescue mission for the body of Pilot Surage.

The Hazard of Trees

November 3, 2003 – As November marks the last month in the Official Hurricane Season, NEMO reminds the public not to relax its preparations as in 1999 Hurricane Lenny affected Saint Lucia on November 19.

Now is the time to deal with the perennial problem trees. NEMO recommends that the problem be dealt with now as there may be no time to address the situation later.

The Public is advised that neither NEMO nor any other Government Office has the authority to address the problem of Trees as it pertains to private individuals.

The Laws of Saint Lucia provides one recourse and that is through the Judicial System. This is why it so important that anyone experiencing problems with Trees should address it now for the 2004 Hurricane Season.

NEMAC to Review Response Plans

November 6, 2003 - The National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) are scheduled to meet today November 6, 2003 at 2:00 pm in the Cabinet Room.

There shall be one agenda item:

- To review the following emergency plans –
 - Flood Management Response Plan
 - District Model Plan
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan

The plans were developed by a Consultant attached to NEMO as part of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project, which officially ended on October 31, 2003.

Once accepted by NEMAC the complete collection of Response Plans shall be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for final approval.

The completed National Emergency Response Plan will comprise the following:

34. Hurricane Response Plan
35. Flood Management Response Plan
36. Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan (Appendix to Flood Management Response Plan)
37. Earthquake Response Plan
38. Volcanic Eruption Response Plan
39. Oil Spill Plan
40. Hazardous Materials Plan
41. Stress Management Response Plan
42. Hazard Mitigation Plan
43. Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
44. Land Search and Rescue Plan
45. District Model Plan
46. Policy on Donations
47. Policy on Travel
48. Policy on Management Dead Bodies in Disasters
49. Policy on Emergency Shelters
50. Policy on Emergency Housing

Other plans under this project yet to be completed are:

- Health Sector Response Plan
- Ministry of Works Response Plan
- Borderlais Correctional Facility Response Plan
- Cruise Ship Response Plan
- Hospitality Industry Crisis Response Plan

NEMO in the mean time continues its work on:

- Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowds Events
- Policy on Hazard Mitigation
- Policy on Displaced Persons

Community College Makes Donation to NEMO

November 7, 2003 – After many instances of making donations the National Emergency Management Organisation found itself in the unique position of being the recipient of a gift.

The Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Technical Department made a contribution of “*Minimum Building Standards and Environmental Guidelines*”.

In handing over the manuals Lecturer within the Technical Department, Mr. Dujon congratulated NEMO on its work to date and pledged the continued support and collaboration of the Department and the College.

For its part NEMO too has recognized the need for such a preparedness action. In 1999 in response to Hurricane Lenny as part of an OECS project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Works, homes in Choiseul, were repaired and equipped with hurricane straps for both the roof and floor.

The manuals were delivered to NEMO on November 6th, 2003. The College has also made copies of the Manual available to every public library on the island.

The document was originally prepared in May 1997 under the Saint Lucia Safe Housing and Retrofitting Project by the OAS, NRDF, CARITAS Antilles and USAID. This 1997 edition was substantially updated in May 2003.

NEMO to take part in SLASPA Simulation

November 11, 2003 – On November 12 from 10am the GFL Charles Airport shall be conducting a Plane Crash Simulation. As part of its regional and international obligations the Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority (SLASPA) is required to test its response capability to a Plane Crash every two years. The authority, which is responsible for two airports, thus finds that it must conduct a simulation every year. In 2002, Hewanorra International was tested and now in 2003 it is the turn of GFL Charles Airport.

The Aim of the exercise is:

To evaluate George F.L. Charles Emergency Orders as it relates to and aircraft crash and specifically to scrutinize the response by key agencies as they carry out their functions in the Simulated Exercise.

As part of the response mechanism the National Emergency Management Organisation has been invited to participate.

The agencies participating are:

- Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority
- National Emergency Management Organisation
- Ministry of Health
- Saint Lucia Red Cross
- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
- Saint Lucia Fire Service

The scenario to be played out is that Flight 013 of Omega Airlines is carrying a compliment of fifty (50) passengers and two (2) crew members. The undercarriage of the plane is malfunctioning and the plane is low on fuel – therefore it cannot circle IT MUST LAND. In the executing the landing the undercarriage

collapses. The aircraft veers off the runway and crashes. As a result of the crash the Emergency Services are mobilised.

The fifty two (52) souls shall be represented by students of the Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School and the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School. Students from the St Mary's College, the Camille Henry and the Carmen Rene Schools have been invited to witness the simulation as well as to play the role of curious onlookers.

The overall objectives of the simulation are to:

1. To give practice to the Duty Air Traffic Control Officer to notify various agencies whilst carrying out day to day duties.
2. To practice the activation and operation of the command post.
3. To practice the activation and operation of the Emergency Control Center, and the coordination between Incident Command and other Agencies.
4. To practice the activation and operation of the Staging Area.
5. To give practice to the Host Airline in activating their Emergency Procedures.

Each agency, however, will be seeking to test its own response mechanism in relation to this hazard.

Red Cross to train NEMO members

November 17 - Six District Disaster Committees have been invited to a workshop to be conducted by the Saint Lucia Red Cross on Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) at the Red Cross Hall on November 18 & 19, from 9:00 am.

VCA is a pre-disaster activity for preparedness. The tools may range from a simple SWOT analysis to develop the organizational development aspects of disaster management; to an in-depth national VCA.

The training is part of a regional project being conducted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society together with DipECHO. Four islands are taking part: Jamaica, St Kitts/Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia. The targeted communities in Saint Lucia are:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Gros Islet | • Soufriere |
| • Castries Central | • Vieux Fort South |
| • Anse la Raye | • Micoud North |

The objectives of the two day session are to:

1. Understand the key components of VCA, which can optimize the possibilities for Disaster Management capacity building whilst reducing unrealistic expectations within communities.
2. Understand how to set up a relevant and effective VCA management team that permits the support of all actors that may be involved.
3. Work to create an active problem solving 'driving group' to ensure a VCA is managed in practice.

4. To understand the gathering of valid information, recognize useful data and to be able to conduct the analysis process towards realistic recommendations.
5. To be able to translate information gathered into realistic and capacity building programming relevant to identified needs.
6. To facilitate in the designing of a comprehensive action plan to implement VCA and understand how to manage variation from targets.
7. To leave with the ability to produce a VCA following a time frame.

Together with the NEMO volunteers, the Red Cross has also invited the respective Community Development Officers and Red Crossers.

Once this two days training has taken place the participants together with the Red Cross and NEMO shall repeat the training in the nominated districts.

PAHO Pilots New Programme in Saint Lucia

November 25, 2003 – The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), with the endorsement of the Ministry of Health and the cooperation of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), shall conduct a two day work shop in Continuity of Operations for Health Centres. The sessions shall be held at the Training Room of the UWI Extra Mural Department at Morne Fortune.

Saint Lucia is the pilot country for the PAHO, funded training workshop, targeted at Health Care providers stationed at Health Centres. The workshop, an initiative of NEMO, will take place on November 26 and 27, 2003.

Consultant to the Pan American Health Organisation and the National Emergency Management Organisation Arturo Lopez, held discussions with Head Nurses of the various Health Centres, on an appropriate and workable plan that would guide the exercise.

In October Mr. Lopez stated that *"We will design the whole two day training course where participants will be exposed to the basic theoretical concepts of disaster management, their functions during and after an emergency or disaster, and how to write emergency procedure..."*

The recommendations emanating from the training workshop will be submitted to the Pan American Health Organisation. It is the intention of PAHO to replicate lessons learnt from this pilot workshop, in other Caribbean countries.

The objectives of the Workshop are:

1. To expose participants to the basic disaster management and contingency planning concepts.

2. To identify emergency activities the health sector is responsible for before during and after a disaster.
3. To assign responsibilities to specific areas within the health sector for the emergency activities identified, particularly to Health Centres.
4. To write or revise/update emergency procedures for the health sector that are to be used during an emergency and/or a disaster, particularly for Health Centres.
5. To decentralise the emergency planning process in the health sector and make it a permanent activity.
6. To write emergency procedures for Health Centres in Saint Lucia.
7. To revise any plans or procedures already written.

"Disaster Management is as strong as its weakest link and in is imperative that wherever possible the abilities of the emergency services be strengthened. The Health sector is a vital aspect of Saint Lucian society and the services become even more essential when there is a disaster. It is therefore necessary for the Centres to be able to function when most needed." The Director of NEMO explained.

Aspects of this press release were taken from a press release by the
Government Information Service of October 30, 2003

EXTENDED RANGE FORECAST OF ATLANTIC SEASONAL HURRICANE ACTIVITY AND STRIKE PROBABILITY FOR 2004

January 19, 2004 – Professor Grey and his team on December 5th 2003 released their preliminary predictions for the 2004 Hurricane Season. The team stated that the recent upturn in Atlantic basin major hurricane activity which began in 1995 is expected to continue in 2004. They anticipate an above average probability for Atlantic basin major hurricanes and U.S. major hurricane landfall. This forecast is based on new research by the authors, along with current meteorological information through November 2003.

The team will update the forecast in April.

ATLANTIC BASIN SEASONAL HURRICANE FORECAST FOR 2004

Named Storms - 13
Named Storm Days - 55
Hurricanes - 7
Hurricane Days - 30
Intense Hurricanes - 3
Intense Hurricane Days - 6

The full report may be read at <http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/2003/dec2003/>

The Hurricane names for 2004 are as follows, with Gaston replacing Georges and Matthew has replacing Mitch.

Alex

Bonnie

Charley
Danielle
Earl
Frances
Gaston
Hermine
Ivan
Jeanne
Karl
Lisa

Matthew
Nicole
Otto
Paula
Richard
Shary
Tomas
Virginie
Walter

NEMO-CDERA-CDB Collaboration in Hazard Mitigation Policy and Planning

February 2, 2004 -- As a component of the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in collaboration with the Organization of American States with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) shall be conducting a three workshop on Introduction to Hazard Mitigation Planning. The three day session shall take place from February 4 – 6 at the National Insurance Corporation's Conference Room on the Castries Waterfront from 9am. On the first day the Cabinet Secretary in has capacity as the Deputy Chairman of NEMO shall present the featured address.

The project is seeking to enhance the regional capacity to reduce vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards. This will be done through the development of national hazard mitigation policies and implementation programmes, the promotion of the wider use of hazard information in development decisions and the Strengthening of safe building practices building training and certification. CHAMP activities will be carried out in the four pilot States of Belize, British Virgin Islands, Grenada and **Saint Lucia**.

Through its Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking to Strengthen regional capacity for disaster mitigation as a means of vulnerability reduction in CDB's borrowing member countries (BMCs) (which include all CDERA member States). The DMFC will provide financial assistance to CDB's BMCs in implementing functional disaster mitigation policies and practices while Strengthening CDB's capacity to address disaster management issues and the integration of disaster mitigation into all of its policies, programmes and projects. The development of mitigation policies and plans will be conducted by the CDB in the DMFC's six primary core countries of Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts Nevis and Saint Lucia.

CDERA, through the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), and the Caribbean Development Bank through its Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC), are collaborating to support the development of national hazard mitigation policies and plans in the States of Belize, Grenada and Saint Lucia. The development of national hazard mitigation policies are well underway following national hazard mitigation policy adaptation workshops over the period April – June 2003 and are expected to be completed by December 2003.

National hazard mitigation policies will provide a basis for guiding vulnerability reduction activities at the national level and will inform the development of national hazard mitigation plans.

The process to develop national hazard mitigation plans is expected to extend over the period from January 2004 to May 2005 and will involve the following Steps:

1. Legislative review and Institutional capability assessment
 2. Introduction to Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop
 3. Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment – Phase 1
 - a. Hazard mapping, vulnerability assessment and critical facilities inventory
 - b. Digital base map development
 - c. Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment Prioritization Workshops
 4. Workshop on “Natural hazard risk management for disaster managers, economic planners and physical planners”
 5. Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment – Phase 2
 - a. Mapping of priority hazards
 - b. Vulnerability Assessment
 6. Workshop on “The use of natural hazard vulnerability information in development planning”
 7. Capability Assessment review
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CDERA-CDB Collaboration in Hazard Mitigation Planning

February 02 -- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) through its Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), through its Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC) have established a **Collaboration in Hazard Mitigation Planning**. The purpose of the Collaboration is to promote vulnerability reduction to natural hazards and disasters in CDERA participating states and in CDB's borrowing member countries through hazard mitigation policy and planning and their integration into development planning.

The Collaboration is a deliberate intervention by both organizations to assist member countries to break the cycle of increasing losses and risk associated with natural hazards and disasters, through proactive action toward long-term vulnerability reduction, leading to sustained economic growth and development. This philosophy is consistent with the goal of the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, developed by CDERA, which promotes sustainable development in the Caribbean, the objective of which is that CDM is integrated into all development processes in the region; and with CDB's Corporate Priority to “promote vulnerability reduction to natural hazards and disasters through support for the development and adoption of hazard mitigation policies, standards and practices”.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Collaboration are:

- (a) enhanced and integrated hazard mitigation capability in target countries; and

- (b) hazard information is incorporated into development planning and decision-making.

Outputs

Under the Collaboration technical assistance will be provided to support the development of the following:

- (a) a model national hazard mitigation policy for the Caribbean;
- (b) national hazard mitigation policies in Belize, Grenada, and St. Lucia through the adaptation of the model policy at the national level;
- (c) national hazard mitigation plans in Belize, Grenada and St. Lucia;
- (d) associated hazard information products, to be generated as part of the hazard mitigation planning process, viz. a national digital hazard database compatible with the national geographic information system, national hazard maps for priority hazards, vulnerability assessments of selected critical facilities and standardized products and procedures for hazard mitigation policy development and planning.

Utilizing the approaches and procedures developed by the Collaboration, CDERA-CHAMP is also assisting the Government of the British Virgin Islands to develop a national hazard mitigation policy, while CDB-DMFC is providing technical support for the development of national hazard mitigation policies in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis and a national hazard mitigation plan and associated hazard information products in Jamaica.

The model national hazard mitigation policy for the Caribbean has been completed and national hazard mitigation policies are well underway. The project to develop the national hazard mitigation plans and associated hazard information products is scheduled to extend over a 17-month period beginning January 2004.

CHAMP is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and is being executed by the Organisation of American States. The DMFC is a partnership between CDB and the United States Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

NEMO urges public to address their tree problems.

DATE – Many persons may think that it is too early in the year to be thinking of the Hurricane Season but NEMO wishes to advise persons that it is not the case.

On the vexing topic of trees NEMO advises that the time to start trimming trees is now and not when the warning of an approaching storm is given.

There are many instances where problems arise that prevent the speedy cutting of a tree and once again the time to start the resolution process is now.

- The section of the Criminal Code dealing with “**Offences affecting public comfort, convenience, Health, safety and right of way, and use of public Places, water and works**” and
- The “**Statutory Rule and Orders, 1978, No. 10 Public Health (Nuisances) Regulations**” provide guidelines for dealing with trees.

It should also be borne in mind that should a tree be threatening a line, the public call LUCELEC or Cable and Wireless to enlist their assistance in cutting the hazard.

For the 2003 Hurricane Season the first named storm formed in April. As such NEMO is urging all Saint Lucians to address their tree problems from now.

NEMO-CDERA-CDB Collaboration in Hazard Mitigation

March 10 -- As a component of the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in collaboration with the Organization of American States with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) shall be conducting a one day workshop on Hazard Mapping and Vulnerability Assessment Prioritization Workshop at the Cara Suites Hotel on March 11, 2004, from 9am.

This is a follow up from the Introduction to Hazard Mitigation Planning, held in February.

The project is seeking to enhance the regional capacity to reduce vulnerability to the effects of natural hazards. This will be done through the development of national hazard mitigation policies and implementation programmes, the promotion of the wider use of hazard information in development decisions and the Strengthening of safe building practices building training and certification. CHAMP activities will be carried out in the four pilot States of Belize, British Virgin Islands, Grenada and **Saint Lucia**.

Through its Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking to Strengthen regional capacity for disaster mitigation as a means of vulnerability reduction in CDB's borrowing member countries (BMCs) (which include all CDERA member States). The DMFC will provide financial assistance to CDB's BMCs in implementing functional disaster mitigation policies and practices while Strengthening CDB's capacity to address disaster management issues and the integration of disaster mitigation into all of its policies, programmes and projects. The development of mitigation policies and plans will be conducted by the CDB in the DMFC's six primary core countries of Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts Nevis and Saint Lucia.

CDERA, through the Caribbean Hazard Mitigation Capacity Building Programme (CHAMP), and the Caribbean Development Bank through its Disaster Mitigation Facility for the Caribbean (DMFC), are collaborating to support the development of national hazard mitigation policies and plans in the States of Belize, Grenada and Saint Lucia. The development of national hazard mitigation policies are well underway

following national hazard mitigation policy adaptation workshops over the period April – June 2003 and are expected to be completed by December 2003.

National hazard mitigation policies will provide a basis for guiding vulnerability reduction activities at the national level and will inform the development of national hazard mitigation plans.

The objectives of this session are to:

1. Familiarize participants with the status of hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment in the particular State;
2. To reach consensus on the gaps or short comings of existing hazard maps and vulnerability assessments;
3. To select priority hazards to be mapped;
4. To identify national critical facilities to be targeted for vulnerability assessment studies.

The outputs and outcomes based on the objectives are expected to be:

1. An increased awareness amongst participants of the national status of hazard mapping and vulnerability assessment;
2. Prioritized list of hazard maps and vulnerability assessments to be undertaken at the national level.

Choiseul Disaster Committee Hosts Workshop

March 12, 2004 – Tomorrow March 13, 2004 the Choiseul Disaster Committee shall host a Workshop on Hazard Planning Mitigation. It shall take place at Education Sub Office at La Fargue in Choiseul, from 9am to 3pm. The District Representative is expected to attend.

The packed agenda covers areas such as:

1. Definition of Potential Hazard and their impacts [NEMO]
2. A Brief History of Disaster and their Impact on Choiseul/Saint Lucia
3. Identify Roles of Various Stakeholders
4. Areas of Vulnerability
5. Developing a Plan
6. A Strategy for Implementation
7. The Formation/Establishment of Sub Committees

Out of this the Consultation is anticipated to achieve the following outcomes:

1. To develop a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan for the district of Choiseul
2. To facilitate the input of all relevant agencies and organizations to all levels of the hazard mitigation plan and execution
3. To formalize the establishment of sub-committees to work along with the Central Committee

“As a member of the National Emergency Management Organization, the Choiseul Disaster Committee has been an integral part of the consultative process on both the Hazard Mitigation

Policy and Plan.” Miss Dawn French, Director – NEMO pointed out, “***It is exciting that a District Committee has already taken the strategy to heart and instigated this workshop. NEMO is happy to support this initiative.***”
