



# Government of Saint Lucia

## Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA] Policy

Document of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan

*Version 1: September 7, 2005*

*Modeled Upon*

*Proposal for Enhancement of Policy and Guidelines for Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis  
in Belize as written by Dr. Barbara Carby*

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*Approved by  
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*September 8, 2005*

*[Date of Approval]*

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*Approved by  
[NEMAC]*

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*20<sup>th</sup> November 2007*

*[Date of Approval]*



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The ability of a country to respond to and recover from the impact of a hazard depends on a rapid assessment and understanding of this impact. Rapid impact and damage assessment also allows better response to the needs of the affected population, thus reducing hardship.

A high percentage of Saint Lucia's populations live in structures, which are vulnerable to hazards. Infrastructure, lifeline systems and even critical facilities such as hospitals are located in areas at risk from hazards. Ports and airports, by their very nature are exposed. Damage to these facilities will therefore impact not only the physical structures, but the country's economic capability.

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

- Meteorological Hazard: Hurricanes, Tropical Wave, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, Flooding, Land Slides, Drought,
- Seismic/Volcanic Hazard: Volcanic eruption, earthquake, Tsunami,
- Technological: Fire, Explosion, Hazardous material spill, Mass poisoning, Pollution, Transport accident, Civil unrest

The overall policy of the Government of Saint Lucia is therefore to maintain adequate capability in order to achieve rapid assessments of impacts of hazards on the country. This is carried out in the wider context of the country's national disaster management program coordinated by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO).

This document fulfills one of the Outputs under the consultant's Terms of Reference which calls for review of existing policies and guidelines and proposals for enhancing these. Saint Lucia has in place, a well organized system for post-impact damage assessment, led by the national Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee. This process is documented in the committee's operational plan. The plan however, does not include a policy statement, nor does it offer guidelines for certain preparedness activities which could improve post-impact assessment. Proposals for enhancement made here, relate for the most part to the preparedness phase, and include elements which are not addressed in the present operational plan which emphasizes response. As there is no documented policy, a policy statement is also proposed. Section 3 of this proposal suggests longer term preparedness activities which can be added to the operational plan.

It is suggested that the proposals be reviewed by NEMO, led by NEMO Secretariat, any necessary amendments be made and then formal approval be sought from the policy level of NEMO.

The proposal covers:

- a) A National Damage Assessment Policy
- b) Establishment and maintenance of data bases which will facilitate damage assessment as well as risk management
- c) Improved coordination of damage data during operations.
- d) Training

## **2.0. POLICY**

### **2.1 Authority**

The Chairperson DANA Committee will have authority to develop, maintain and implement all procedures and plans pertaining to damage assessment and needs analysis for Saint Lucia in collaboration with the NEMO Secretariat.

### **2.2 Responsibility**

The responsibility for damage assessment and needs analysis lies with the DANA Committee. NEMO Secretariat will lend oversight to the Committee and will give necessary support.

### **2.3 Priorities**

The Government's first priority is the saving of life and the relief of suffering. Allied with damage assessments, will be analysis of the needs of the population.

### **2.4 Cooperation**

The Government will encourage cooperation among appropriate ministries and agencies, the District Disaster Committees, the Private Sector and NGOs to ensure timely and accurate damage assessment.

### **2.5 Role of Private Organizations**

Private organizations such as Statutory Boards and Insurance Agencies, will provide to the Chairperson, DANA, any information which is requested for production of timely and accurate reports

### **2.6 Role of Public Agencies**

Government will take the actions necessary to ensure that each public agency has in place plans for damage assessment of its facilities. Ministries and Agencies will support the national DANA process by providing staff for committee membership, and data and information as requested by Chairperson, DANA

### **2.7 Data and Information**

Government will take the necessary action to ensure systematic collection, collation, classification and dissemination of data and information required for damage assessment and needs analysis. Ministries and Agencies will share data and information related to damage assessment with the DANA Committee.

## 2.8 Establishment and Maintenance of Data Base

Ministries and Agencies will maintain data bases of all assets under their jurisdiction. Further, these assets will be valued and this value depreciated over time.

## 2.9 Equipment

Government will provide the equipment and resources needed to carry out damage assessment and needs analysis.

## 2.10 Technology

The Government will encourage the use of available technology in the damage assessment and needs analysis process.

## 2.11 Training

Chairperson of DANA, in conjunction with NEMO Secretariat will ensure maintenance of appropriately trained damage assessment teams.

## 2.12 Methodology

Government will encourage development of a standard methodology to be used for damage assessment and needs analysis by all government agencies and partners.

## 2.13 Environmental Damage

Government will ensure that environmental damage is given appropriate emphasis in any damage assessment

## 2.14 Requests for Assistance

Government will make every effort to ensure that requests for assistance after a disaster are based on damage and needs analyses as set out in the *Donations and Importation of Relief Supplies Policies and Guidelines in Saint Lucia after Disasters Document 0201 of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan*.

External Assistance for DANA will be requested by the NEOC on the advice of the Chairperson DANA.

*Ministry of External Affairs Guidelines in Case of Disasters Document of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan* shall also make every effort to ensure that requests for assistance after a disaster are based on damage and needs analyses

### 2.15 Accuracy

The Chairperson, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee will ensure that damage assessments and needs analysis are within accepted limits of accuracy and that adequate checks are made of all figures. The Committee shall adhere to the agreed time lines.

- Initial Situation Overview [ISO] - Conducted within the first 8 hours after a disaster.
- Initial Damage Assessment [IDA] - Carried out within 48 hours after a disaster.
- Detailed Sector Assessment #1 [DSA] - Initial Report carried out within 48 hours after a disaster.
- Detailed Sector Assessment #2 [DSA] - Intermediate Report carried out within 14 days after a disaster and after as needed.

### 2.16 Damage Assessment Teams

Damage Assessment Teams will be organized by the Chairperson of DANA, and will be deployed as needed by DANA Committee EOC.

## **3.0 ORGANISATION FOR DAMAGE ASSESSMENT – PRE-IMPACT**

### 3.1 Concept

Outside of Operations, the Ministries/Agencies will act as focal points for collection and analysis of data related to damage assessment for sectors under their jurisdiction. The goal would be to establish a national data base which will permit an initial estimate of damage even in situations where field teams cannot be immediately dispatched.

The data base would also allow comparison of calculated (theoretical) values with actual values from field assessment teams, thus, over time permitting calibration of the methodology.

Chairperson DANA will lead the process of defining:

- a) Types of data needed
- b) Method of collection
- c) Methods of analysis, collation
- d) Format for storing data and also of



- e) Linking all data collected through the National Geographic Information System,

During the pre-impact phase, the data which will inform post-impact assessments will be gathered and collated. This will require cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary collaboration coordinated by Chairperson DANAC with support from NEMO Secretariat.

### 3.2 Establishment of data bases:

Collection of pre-impact data will facilitate damage assessment and needs assessment, by providing data for calculations, estimates and verification. Data bases on:

- a) Population
- b) Infrastructure
- c) Building stock
- d) Lifeline and critical facilities
- e) Commercial, Industrial assets
- f) Agricultural assets
- g) Environmental assets

should be established by the Ministries and Agencies under whose portfolio these sectors fall.

### 3.3 Valuation of assets

Establish value of assets using standard economic approaches.

### 3.4 Hazard Mapping - Identification of hazardous areas

The Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mapping component of the **Disaster Management Project II** will not be carried out specifically for damage assessment; however the outputs are important to the damage assessment process.

### 3.5 Establishing assets at risk

- a) Overlay hazard maps and resource/population maps
- b) Establish population and assets at risk.
- c) Establish value of assets at risk

b and c above can be done for each hazard.

### 3.6 Application to damage assessment and planning

Use this information to inform preliminary damage assessment estimates. This will facilitate a more accurate initial damage assessment.

Much of the data shown here as needed for damage assessment will also inform risk assessment, mitigation and vulnerability reduction programs. The involvement of the National Hazard Mitigation Council is therefore necessary, and will provide a link between damage incurred from an event and the introduction of methods to prevent or reduce damage to assets from future events. Damage assessment data should be used to inform recovery approaches, as well as future development planning.

## 4.0 DURING OPERATIONS

The major gap identified during operations, related to consistent sharing of damage data and information with the national DANA Committee. It is suggested that the NEOC Director ensure that copies of all damage reports go to the DANA representative in the NEOC. This should also be written into the SOPs of the National Operational Committees. In addition, during the response, and where necessary the initial recovery phase, there should be regular meetings of all agencies which collect damage data with the national DANA Committee. This will have the benefits of all organizations sharing data, lowering the risk of duplication of data and providing an opportunity for cross-checking of data. Organizations which are not part of the NEOC, such as Statutory Boards and Insurance Companies, also collect damage data.

The Government shall name the National DANA Committee (N/DANA-C) as the national focal point for damage data, and encourage all parties to share their data with NDANAC. Memoranda of Understanding to this effect could be established.

## 5.0 TRAINING

At present damage assessment and needs analysis are carried out by teams from Ministries, District Committees and Other Agencies. Consideration should be given to training community groups which could assist with the process. US AID/OFDA is testing a training module for community-based damage assessment which Saint Lucia could consider adapting.

NEMO Secretariat shall include community damage assessment training as part of its community preparedness program.

Training in post-impact Rapid Environmental Assessment is recommended for the national DANA Team

## **6.0 SUMMARY**

The policy and procedures outlined here will complement the existing Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis procedures as set out in the Operational Plan of the National Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Committee.