

SAINT LUCIA Outline
for national reporting and information on disaster reduction
for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction
(Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005)

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Was the information provided consulted with other institutions? YES

NO

If yes, please list these organizations here-below:

ANNEX: REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PREPARATION OF NATIONAL INFORMATION

Component 1 Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects

Political commitment, strong institutions, and good governance are expected to elevate disaster risk reduction as a policy priority, allocate the necessary resources for it, enforce its implementation and assign accountability for failures, as well as facilitate participation from civil society to private sector. Due to its multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral nature, disaster reduction falls into the agenda of many diverse institutions which, for effective implementation, requires clear assignment of roles and assumption of responsibilities as well as coordination of activities.

1.1-Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction? If yes, please describe to what extent current national efforts and main priority areas of the policy, and mechanisms to enforce the implementation of the policy and legislation are applied (*and/or attach any relevant documentation*)

YES.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT NO. 13 OF 2000

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN 1996

DRAFT NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN 2004

1.2-Is there a national body for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, which includes ministries in charge of water resource management, agriculture/land use and planning, health, environment, education, development planning and finance? If yes, please give detailed information (name, structure and functions). *Attach any relevant documentation or indicate source of information.*

YES

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

NATIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL

1.3-Are there sectoral plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts into each respective development area (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, education and development planning)? If yes, please indicate some examples and challenges / limitations encountered. If no, does your government have any plans for integrating disaster risk reduction into development sectors? If no, please also specify the major difficulties.

DRAFT HAZARD MITIGATION POLICY 2004

1.4-Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Adaptation Plans of Action, National Environmental Action Plans and WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation? If yes to any of these, who are the main contacts for these initiatives.

DRAFT HAZARD MITIGATION POLICY 2004

DRAFT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN 2004

1.5-Does your country have building codes of practice and standards in place, which takes into account seismic risk? If yes, since when. Which are the main difficulties in keeping with the compliances of the codes.

YES

ACCEPTED IN 2003

1.6-Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction? If yes, is this commitment represented as part of the national budget or project based? Through which institution/s? If no, what other financing mechanisms for risk reduction initiatives are available?

NOT DEDICATED TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION BUT INTERWOVEN WITH PROJECTS RUN BY VARIOUS MINISTRIES.

1.7-Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts? If yes, how? Indicate existing coordination or joint programming between government and civil society efforts in disaster risk reduction, or major difficulties or constraints for this to be effective.

**NOT AS ACTIVELY AS NEMO WOULD LIKE, HOWEVER THEY DO MAKE UP PART OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION
NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES
NATIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL**

Component 2 Risk Identification

Identification of risks is a relatively well-defined area with a significant knowledge base on methods for disaster impact and hazard and vulnerability assessment. Systematic assessment of losses, social and economic impact of disasters, and particularly mapping of risks are fundamental to understand where to take action. Consideration of disaster risks in environmental impact assessments is still to become routine practice. Early warning is increasingly defined as a means to inform public and authorities on impending risks, hence essential for timely actions to reduce their impact.

2.1-Has your country carried out hazard mapping/assessment? If yes, please describe for which hazards, when they were updated and for what geographical scale they exist. Do they include characteristics, impacts, historical data, multi-hazards approach? Which institutions are using the results of the hazard assessment? To whom are they available? (*attach any relevant documentation*)

- **IN THE PROCESS [WORK TO START IN AUGUST 2004] (maybe you would like to add the priority hazards:**
- Coastal Erosion
- Tropical Storm and Hurricane winds
- Wildfire
- Flooding

2.2-Has your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments? If yes, please describe the methods used and major social, economic, physical, environmental, political and cultural factors considered in the assessment(s). Who are the main contacts for these assessments (*or attach any relevant documentation or contact information.*)

IN THE PROCESS [WORK TO START IN AUGUST 2004]

2.3-Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping? If yes, who is responsible?

NO. ONCE THE PROJECT FROM 2.1 AND 2.2 TAKES PLACE THE LEAD AGENCY WILL BE THE MINISTRY FOR PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.

2.4-Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis in your country after each major disaster? If yes, are the results available?

THE ECONOMIC: YES.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC: NO.

THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES [OECS] IN 2003 INTRODUCED THE POST DISASTER RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT [REA]. AN ACTUAL EVENT HAS NOT OCCURRED TO TEST THE REA, HOWEVER IT HAS BEEN SIMULATED.

2.5-Are there early warning systems in place? If yes, for what hazards and for what geographical scope. Do you have any example when the system was activated lately? Which are the main institutions involved? Please indicate any relevant lessons-learned from the use and public reaction to early warnings issued.

YES FOR FLOOD.

**NOT ACTIVATED RECENTLY AS THE PROJECT CAME ON STREAM IN 2003.
LEAD AGENCY – MET SERVICES**

Component 3 Knowledge Management

Information management and communication, education and training, public awareness and research are all parts of improving and managing knowledge on disaster risks and their reduction. Inclusion of disaster reduction at all levels of education, effective public awareness and information campaigns, media involvement in advocacy and dissemination, availability of training for communities at risk and professional staff, and targeted research are the ingredients to support the knowledge base for effective disaster reduction.

3.1-Does your country have disaster risk information management systems (governmental and/or non-governmental)? If yes, what kind of information on disaster reduction is available, how is it collected, how is the information disseminated and who are the main users? (indicate relevant sources of information, if applicable)

NO

3.2-Are the academic and research communities in the country linked to national or local institutions dealing with disaster reduction? If yes, please describe the mechanisms for information sharing and indicate any example of usefulness and effectiveness. Which are the main research and academic institutions dealing with disaster reduction related issues (please list, if available, and indicate how their research work is related to the country's disaster risk reduction needs.)

YES

**INFORMATION SHARING THROUGH EGROUUPS AND EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS.
TRAINING SESSIONS.**

LEAD AGENCY – SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: DEPT OF TECHNICAL ARTS.

3.3-Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction in your public school system? If yes, for what age-range? Do you have any educational material developed to support the teachers in this area? (*please attach any relevant documentation*)

DISASTER MANAGEMENT IS WOVEN INTO SUBJECTS SUCH AS GEOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES, BUT NOT AS A STAND ALONE TOPIC.

3.4-Are there any training programmes available? If yes, please list (if available indicate scope and target audiences of the courses). Do you have any indication on how these courses have been useful to change any practices at local or national scale?

SIR ARTHUR LEWIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: DEPT OF TECHNICAL ARTS, CONDUCTS A RETROFITTING PROGRAM WITH ARTISANS.

3.5-What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom is used in disaster-related practices or training programmes on disaster risk reduction in your country?

**THERE IS A MOVE TO RETURN TOWARDS THE USE OF BATTENS.
MOST HOUSES ARE ELEVATED.
MOST CARRY PITCHED ROOFS.**

3.6-Do you have any national public awareness programmes or campaigns on disaster risk reduction? If available, who are the main players for raising public awareness? How are the mass media and schools involved? Who are the targeted groups and how do you evaluate the programmes?

**ALL THE MEDIA HOUSES CARRY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS [PSA]
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES ALSO CARRY PSA
THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCY [CDERA] HAS COMMENCED THE PRODUCTION OF PSAS.
THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE [GIS] PRODUCES PSAS.**

Component 4 Risk Management Applications/Instruments

For effective disaster risk reduction, synergies are needed between sustainable development and disaster risk management practices. Moving from analyzing of and knowing about risks to taking concrete actions to reduce their impacts is a demanding step. Ideas and practices coming from different disciplinary areas will complement what is already practiced in disaster risk management. For example, instruments for risk management have proliferated especially with the recognition of environmental management, poverty reduction and financial management.

Environmental and natural resource management is among the best-known applications to reduce flood risks, control landslides (through reforestation) and control droughts (through ecosystem conservation). Physical and technical measures, such as flood control techniques, soil conservation practices, retrofitting of buildings or land use planning, are effective in hazard control. Financial instruments in the form of insurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds are useful to lessen the impact of disasters.

4.1- Is there any good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in your country (key areas of environmental management may include coastal zone, wetland and watershed management, reforestation and agricultural practices, amongst others). If yes, please indicate in what areas. (Attach any relevant documentation ore references)

NEMO IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE.

4.2- Are financial instruments utilised in your country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters (e.g. insurance/reinsurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds, micro-credit finance, community funds, etc.)? If yes, please describe what these instruments are and when they were established, who manages them and who are eligible to them.

RECENTLY YES.

JUNE 21, 2004 FINANCIAL INTUITIONS WERE BRIEF ON CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS [COOP] AS A PLANNING AND RESPONSE TOOL.

4.3-Please identify specific examples of technical measures or programmes on disaster risk reduction that have been carried out in your country (see below, case studies).

THE OECS EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY A LOAN FROM THE WORLD BANK. COMPONENTS INCLUDED:

- **COMMUNITY DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING**
- **SUPPLIES MANAGEMENT TRAINING**
- **STRESS MANAGEMENT IN DISASTER TRAINING**
- **SHELTERS AND SHELTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING**
- **HTML TRAINING FOR WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT**
- **PRESENTATION OF MET DATA TRAINING**
- **ACQUISITION EARLY WARNING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT**
- **ACQUISITION OF TELECOM EQUIPMENT**
- **CONSTRUCTION OF A NETWORK OF WAREHOUSES**
- **ACQUISITION OF RESPONSE MATERIAL TO PRE-POSITION IN WAREHOUSES**
- **INSTALLATION OF WATER TANKS AT SCHOOLS [SCHOOLS ARE DESIGNATED SHELTERS]**
- **RETROFITTING OF SCHOOLS**
- **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR SCHOOLS**
- **ACQUISITION OF MOBILE WATER PURIFICATION PLANT**
- **REVISION OF 1996 NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**
- **INSTALLATION OF NEW BRIDGES**
- **PRE-POSITION OF GIDEON BASKETS AND PORTABLE BRIDGES**

Component 5 Preparedness and Contingency Planning

Preparedness and emergency management has been used as a means for reducing life losses from direct and indirect effects of disasters. A well-prepared system is expected to be effectively informed by early warning, endowed with regularly rehearsed national and local contingency and evacuation plans, fitted with communications and coordination systems, as well as adequate logistical infrastructures and emergency funds. Local-level preparedness, particularly at community level, including training, deserves special attention as the most effective way of reducing life and livelihood losses.

5.1- Do you have disaster contingency plans in place? Are they prepared for both national and community levels? If yes, please describe their main components, who is responsible for activating the plan(s)? Are the plan(s) updated on annual basis? Have you ever used the contingency plan(s) that was or were developed? If yes, what was the result?

YES THERE IS A PLAN.

COMPONENTS:

NEMAC APPROVED:

1. HURRICANE RESPONSE PLAN
2. FLOOD MANAGEMENT RESPONSE PLAN WITH ANSE LA RAYE EVACUATION PLAN (APPENDIX TO FLOOD MANAGEMENT RESPONSE PLAN)
3. EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN
4. VOLCANIC ERUPTION RESPONSE PLAN:
 - a. APPENDIX - SCIENTIFIC SUPPLEMENT TO THE VOLCANIC HAZARD ASSESSMENT FOR SAINT LUCIA, LESSER ANTILLES
 - b. APPENDIX - VOLCANIC HAZARD ASSESSMENT FOR SAINT LUCIA, LESSER ANTILLES
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 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

17. NON-TECHNICAL VERSION

DOCUMENTS PENDING SUBMISSION TO NEMAC:

1. HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE PLAN
2. MINISTRY OF WORKS RESPONSE PLAN
3. BORDERLAIS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY RESPONSE PLAN
4. CRUISE SHIP RESPONSE PLAN
5. HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN
6. POLICY ON HAZARD MITIGATION [FIRST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL]
7. SUB-REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN DISASTERS [POLICY DOCUMENT]

NEMO IN THE MEAN TIME CONTINUES ITS WORK ON:

1. POLICY GUIDELINES ON MASS CROWD EVENTS
2. POLICY GUIDELINES ON AMBULANCE SERVICES
3. POLICY ON DISPLACED PERSONS
4. EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM
5. GUIDELINES FOR DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

YES THE HURRICANE PLAN HAS BEEN USED

THE PLAN CAN BE ACTIVATED BY: THE PRIME MINISTER, THE CABINET SECRETARY OR THE DIRECTOR NEMO.

5.2- Has your government established emergency funds for disaster response and are there national or community storage facilities for emergency relief items – mainly food, medicine, tents/shelters? If yes, please provide some details.

YES THERE IS A FUND.

YES THERE IS A NETWORK OF WAREHOUSES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DISTRICT DISASTER COMMITTEES OF NEMO

5.3- Who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness and is the coordination body equipped with enough human and financial resources for the job? Please comment on the effectiveness of the coordination work done so far?

**NEMO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COORDINATION OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS
THE PERMANENT STAFF IS LIMITED AS ARE FUNDS. HOWEVER ONCE THE EOC IS ACTIVATED THERE ARE SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS TO RESPOND.**

Component 6 Call for good practices in disaster risk management

Based on the above analysis and information provided, please provide at least two examples of any successful implementation of disaster reduction activities in your country (could be of local, national or regional scale); any project or community based experience, national policy, interaction between sectors, etc., would be welcome. Provide maximum one page on each example, indicating area of work, institutions and actors involved, duration, impact of the activities, lessons-learned and if the example have been replicated. You may also kindly direct us to relevant web-based information/organization.

OECS EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECT [SEE 4.3]

<http://geocities.com/slunemo/documents/SLU.PAD.pdf>

THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA ANNOUNCED THE SECOND PHASE OF A \$23.5 MILLION OECS EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECT. THE AIM OF THE PROJECT IS TO FURTHER REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES DEALING WITH DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

CARIBBEAN HAZARD MITIGATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME [CHAMP]

<http://www.cdera.org/projects/champ/index.shtml>

THE CARIBBEAN HAZARD MITIGATION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CHAMP) IS A THREE-YEAR PROJECT FUNDED BY THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA), IMPLEMENTED BY THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCY (CDERA) AND EXECUTED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS). THE PROJECT IS SEEKING TO ENHANCE 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.

Component 7 Priorities you want addressed at World Conference on Disaster Reduction

What do you think are the priority topics to be agreed upon at the World Conference to enhance and strengthen national policy and practice to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards? Please list any other thematic areas or specific topics of discussion that you consider of importance to increase the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction for your country.

COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

AS GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AWARENESS OF THE DEVASTATING POTENTIAL OF HAZARD IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMIES, COMMUNITIES AND PROFITABILITY GROW, SO DOES THE RECOGNITION OF AND DEMAND FOR A LONGER TERM, STRATEGIC AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO DISASTER REDUCTION. WE MAY SAY THAT NOW DISASTER MANAGEMENT IS EVERYBODY'S CONCERN. WE ARE NOW SEEKING TO MAKE IT EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS. [JEREMY COLLYMORE, CDERA - JUNE 6, 2001/CDM REGIONAL CONFERENCE, BARBADOS]

COMMUNICATION

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THE WORLD IS NOW A GLOBAL VILLAGE. YET MANY DISASTER MANAGERS ARE MONO-LINGUAL. THERE IS A NEED FOR MANAGERS TO BECOME BI-LINGUAL EVEN MULTI-LINGUAL IF IDEAS ARE TO FLOW, DISCUSSIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE AND FOR MULTI AGENCY [AND MULTI-NATIONAL] RESPONSES ARE TO BE CONDUCTED.

Please also indicate any particular experience or project that your country would like to exhibit or present at the Conference.

OECS EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROJECT [VIDEO PROGRAM ON VCD] PRODUCED BY GIS