



2012

Annual Report  
on the  
National  
Emergency  
Management  
System of  
Saint Lucia



# 2012 Annual Report on the National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia

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Cover page photo credit: Director NEMO  
*NEMO's HQ over the years*

- Top: Co-located with Red Cross at Point Seraphine (1989 - 2006)
- Centre: HQ No1 at Bisee (2006 - 2009)
- Bottom: HQ No 2at Bisee (2009 – present)

Other photo credits:

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## Introduction

This report covers the period January to December 2012.

Saint Lucia is exposed to natural and man-made hazards, which increasingly have the potential to cause significant loss of life and property, as well as serious damage to the environment and the economy. At the same time, the national and regional interdependencies resulting from globalization increase Saint Lucia's vulnerability to the impacts of events caused by natural and technological hazards both at home, and abroad.

## The National Emergency Management System

### NEMS Structure

The National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia is made up of the following components:

- The National Emergency Management Advisory Committee
- The National and District Disaster Committees
- The National Emergency Management Organisation Secretariat

All of which are supported by the Disaster Management Act and the National Emergency Management Plan. These many components work together 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.

The vision of the NEMS is to have;

*A nation highly resilient to hazard impacts and adaptable to hazard risks.*

## Achievements

### Present Staff

During the period under review two officers transferred out: first was the Inventories Officer followed five months later by the Deputy Director. The loss of these officers was a blow to the disaster management program of the country as with their departure the technical burden of the nation fell to two officers: the Director and the Training Officer.

### New Staff

Progress was made in the area of Geographic Information Systems as the Ministry of Physical Development partnered with the Secretariat for a GIS Specialist to be assigned to the Office one day a week – Fridays. With the assistance of Mr. David Alphonse the GIS capability of the Office is slowly being built. The assignment ends in April 2013.

Under the National Initiative for the Creation of Employment (NICE), the NEMO Secretariat received three temporary officers:

- Mass Crowd Events Officer
- Assistant Librarian
- Office Clerk

All are assigned to NEMO on one year contracts; it is the hope that the Office of the Prime Minister as the parent Ministry for NEMO may find a way to have these temporary officers become full time.

## Reports

1. Annual Country Report -- In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006, an Annual Report is prepared, for forwarding to the Prime Minister, on the Disaster Management activities.

The Disaster Management Act 30 of 2006 has set deadlines.

Annual Report

10.— (2) The Director shall submit the Annual Report to the Minister and shall, on or before 1st June in every year, publish the Annual Report in the Gazette.

2. Annual Tsunami Report – As a member of the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission Saint Lucia took part in the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-VI) in the Dominican Republic. All member states are expected to submit a country report. The latest reports from Saint Lucia as well as past reports are hosted at <http://nemo.gov.lc/>
3. Country Report: Hyogo Framework of Action – This country report is prepared every two years.

*The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk - governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others - bringing them into a common system of coordination. The HFA outlines five priorities for action, and offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. This means reducing loss of lives and social, economic, and environmental assets when hazards strike.<sup>1</sup>*

4. DRR Country Profile - Saint Lucia was given the privilege to participate as one of the pilot countries in the elaboration of a DRR Country Profile (DRR-CP). It the DRR-CP provided a comprehensive overview of the status of DRR in the country, the progress made in reducing risk, the definition of priorities and strategies, the major challenges faced in reducing the loss of lives, as well as the economic, social and environmental impacts risks generate, in order to assist in disaster risk design, planning and investment.

## Collaborations

In June 2012 the CADM II Project came to an end. As a result of consultations in 2010 with the Cabinet Secretary it was agreed that the CADM II National Team should remain so as to facilitate

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa>

the replication of the project in other flood prone zones. In 2012 members of the Committee recommitted to the program.

The project had distinct objectives:

1. Strengthen and establish a system for flood hazard mapping
2. Enhance the capability for community Disaster Management (DM)
3. Enhance recognition of the importance and usefulness of hazard maps and Disaster Management plans among the member states.

School Safety Program: this is lead by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with USAID/OFDA, however many of NEMOs members provide strong support to the program.

## Reviews

During the year under review strategies were examined for effectiveness towards the improvement of the emergency response. These included reviews of:

- *Guidelines for National Recovery Plan*
- *Five year strategic plan for NEMO*
- *Sustainability Plan for Flood EWS*
- *HFA bi annual report*
- *UN/ISDR Country Profile*

## Disaster Preparedness Measurers

### Trainings & Meetings

The NEMO Secretariat and its members attended a number of training sessions and meetings both in Saint Lucia and abroad. Some of these sessions include:

1. Series of Technical Missions with World Bank
  - a. Hurricane Tomas Reconstruction Project
  - b. Review of DMP II
  - a. Pilot Program for Climate Resilience/ Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project [PPCR/DVRP]
2. Series of meetings of the Hurricane Tomas Reconstruction and Recovery Steering Committee
3. Series of Meetings hosted with the Ministry of Education on the CARICOM/Brazil/FAO Cooperation Programme - Living Schools and Emergency Response Capacity Building
4. Meetings of Technical Working Groups of CDEMA :
  - a. Regional Committee for Regional Monitoring and Evaluation System for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean Tourism Sector
  - b. Plan Review and Development Sub-Committee
  - c. Work program Committee
5. CARIBE Wave 2013 Tsunami Regional Simulation Exercise
6. Third Regional Platform meeting in Argentina
7. With CDEMA CU Missions to Jamaica and Bahamas for review of the National Evacuation Plans

8. Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions in Curacao
9. Seventh Annual CDM Conference in Jamaica

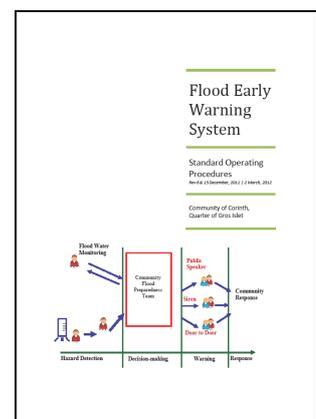
### Information Management

1. Website – During the year under review NEMO re-established its web presence. With the assistance of CDEMA through the Country Development Fund the website was designed and populated. The staff was also provided training on maintenance of the site. The website address is <http://nemo.gov.lc>
2. Documentation Centre - With assistance of the National Initiative for the Creation of Employment (NICE) the NEMO Secretariat benefited with the hiring of an Assistant Librarian for one year ending September, 2013. With the arrival of the Officer the documentation centre was formally established.
3. It remains a significant challenge to maintain the contact data base of the members of NEMO as many times assignments change and the information on the replacement officer is not imparted.
4. During the period under review there was shuffle of Permanent Secretaries as well as the hiring of new Permanent Secretaries, they were all written to with the standard welcome memo. The memo described their role and that of their ministry in the National Emergency Management System.

### Early Warning Systems

Together with the Government of Japan and CDEMA the Community of Corinthe completed a three year program that allowed the community to benefit from a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS). The system consisted of

- a. Instruments along the Corinthe River
- b. Establishment of a Community Flood Warning Team
- c. Equipping of the Flood Team
- d. Development of Standard Operating Protocol for the Flood Team and Emergency Services
- e. Development and distribution of Corinthe Evacuation Plan.
- f. The signing of an MOU among the partners of the FEWS



## PROGRAM AREAS

### Program Area: Admin and Finance

The Administrative and Finance Section is managed by an Administrative Secretary. In February 2012 Ms. Wendy Reynolds Administrative Secretary, was transferred to the Ministry of Health on promotion and was replaced by Ms. Patricia St. Croix.

### **Achievements - Admin**

- During the period under review March-September the Administration collaborated with the National Skills Development Centre by assisting with the attachment of two students on internship. The first student, Ms. Sania Alexander was assigned to the department from March-June.
- Upon the completion of Ms. Alexander's internship, another student Mrs. Rebekah Eugene was sent from NSDC on internship from July-September 2012.
- Ms. LeeAnna Wallace, student intern studying Cuba, was assigned to N.E.M.O. through the Ministry of the Public Service, Summer Employment Programme from July-September, 2012. Ms. Wallace had the opportunity of attending a pre-strike meeting and a plane crash stimulation exercise in Vieux Fort.
- There has been over the years, the need for a clerical assistant. With the level of maturity, professionalism and attitude towards her works, N.E.M.O. collaborated with the N.I.C.E Programme to secure the services of Mrs. Eugene as a Clerical Assistant.

### **Social Activities**

The Admin Section organised a number of social activities between the months of July-December, 2012, in order to foster togetherness, good communication rapport and unity amongst staff thus creating an enjoyable and a healthy working environment. (See Appendix photos).

### **Challenges**

- Not having an Accounts Clerk hinders on expediting accounting processes.
- Difficulty in updating the list of liaison officers.

### **Way Forward**

- In charting the way forward an Accounts Clerk should be appointed to N.E.M.O.
- All Administrative staff should be trained in as many disaster management activities as possible.
- Quarterly meetings to be held to keep staff update with new developments and to plan ahead.
- The NEMO Secretariat should be informed when persons (e.g. Liaison Officers and Permanent Secretaries) are transferred from a Ministry to another.

### Program Area: Maintenance

#### **Achievements:**

Considering the limited financial resources available to the National Emergency Management Organisation; the achievements for the year 2011-2012 have been encouraging from an operations and maintenance stand point. We were able to achieve the following.

1. Four stand pipes were installed around the compound in the event there would be any activity that necessitates the use of water.

2. Water gauges were installed on the tanks to facilitate the monitoring of water level.
3. Testing of the four generators from the Slovak Government continued, and they all remain functional. Also the standby generator functions.
4. With support from CDEMA the installation of CCTV cameras took place around the EOC and security was upgraded with the cameras on old building.
5. With support from CDEMA an intercom and remote control for the entrance gate were also added as part of the security upgrade.

### **Challenges:**

The financial challenges continue to impact this department; however we remain dedicated to achieving the mandate of having the Nation prepared for a disaster. However for this to be achieved the office shall continue to lobby for the necessary recourses need to increase our productivity and efficiency.

### **Way Forward**

To ensure proper maintenance and training for Maintenance Personnel, and to ensure our accomplishments are maintained and our challenges overcome and to complete ongoing projects.

### Program Area: Documentation Centre

#### **Achievement**

The Resource Center though not officially opened with a ceremony, began operations in September, 2012.

The Centre is in the early stages of cataloguing of books and documents, while information is being disbursed when requested.

#### **Preparedness**

In preparing for the opening of the Centre, the officer undertook two (2) weeks training at the Central Library which addressed the functions of a Library, while the training was not geared specifically to a special library which is what NEMO has; it gave an appreciation for the work to be done.

This was followed by a three (3) day Professional Enhancement training with CDEMA CU where the officer was trained in a more detailed manner and was introduced to the virtual library.

Finally the officer spent two (2) weeks with the National Archives.

#### **Simulations**

The TAJ Resource center along with the Training Officer did a short presentation with the Dennerly Infant School on Disaster Preparedness which the children thoroughly enjoyed especially the question and answer section at the end where the correct answers were rewarded with a Tsunami booklet.

They were shown slides on four (4) different Disasters that can and have an impact on the island.

**Public Education**

For the period under review preparations are being made to launch a program in 2013.

**Emergency Responses**

Work has commenced on documenting past events and preparing a docket on each.

**Challenges**

It is hoped that the staffing of the Resource Center will be made permanent so as to allow the work started to continue.

**Way Forward**

1. A number of Educational Activities are planned for 2013 beginning with field trips to the schools especially for Disaster Preparedness interactive discussions with the students.
2. The official launching of the Timothy Augustin James (TAJ) Documentation Center
3. The official launching of the NEMO Website

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**Events of 2012**

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Compared to previous years the period under review proved to be a calm season, however there were a few incidents of note.

**May: Rain event**

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Saint Lucia experienced a number of rain events and though a national response was not required the Flood Early Warning System at Corinthe was activated. The activation of the FEWS did not require an evacuation as the system did not escalate to a level 2 – which is when an evacuation is urged.

**July: Fish Kill**

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On the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 the Department of Fisheries received a report from the Marine Police of a possible poisoning of the mangrove at Sapphire. Laborie. The Water Resource Management Agency was then informed by the Department of Fisheries, after which NEMO was alerted.

The report indicated that the contaminated water was being pumped into the open ocean. The Police were asked to intervene and to stop the action till an informed determination could be made.

The Ministry of Health was alerted to the possibility of medical consequences as the local population had begun to consume the dead fish.

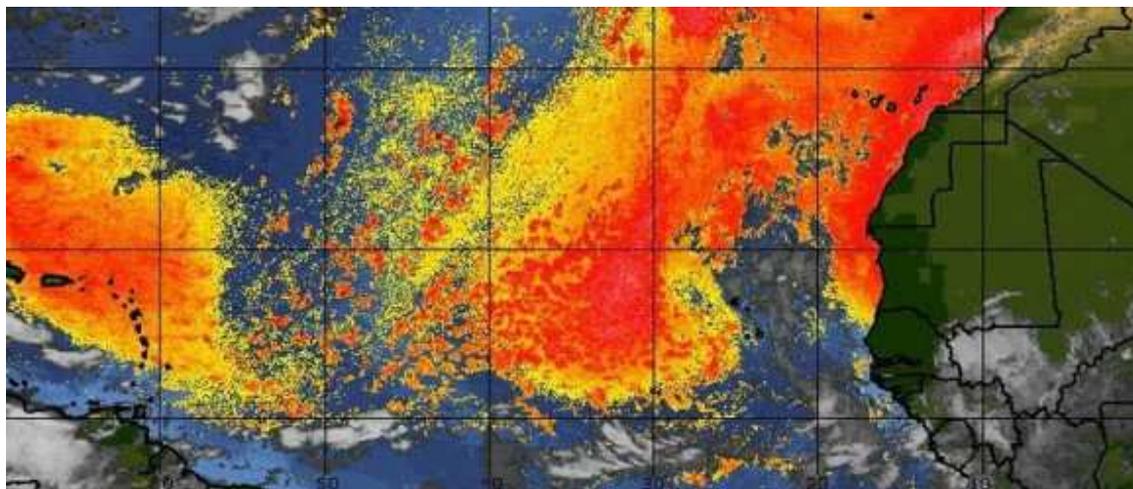
**July: Sahara Dust**

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Dust from the Sahara traversed across the entire Atlantic Ocean in July 2012, a dust plume extended across the Atlantic Ocean toward the Caribbean Sea and Florida. Though there were no alerts issued, there was a significant increase in the dust in the atmosphere. The Met Reports for the period reported:

*An area of Saharan Dust haze will continue to cause a reduction to visibility*

The national response system was not activated.




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### **August: Tropical Storm Ernesto**

On August 2, the depression approaching Saint Lucia was upgraded to Tropical Storm Ernesto.

At 11:00am the National Shut down was given by Prime Minister(ag) Hon. Philip J. Pierre in respect of tropical Storm Ernesto The announcement was hosted at

<http://media.dis.gov.lc/Tropical%20Storm%20Ernesto/All%20Clear%20.mp3>

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### **August: Tropical Storms Isaac and Joyce**

With the upgrade of Tropical Depression No.10 to Tropical Storm Joyce the Caribbean found itself monitoring two weather systems. The National Emergency Management System was placed on standby but eventually activation was not needed and there were no advisories in effect for Saint Lucia.

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### **September: Tsunami Scare**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) issued a Caribbean wide tsunami warning. The warning was triggered by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake occurred off the west coast of Costa Rica. Within three minutes of the issue the PTWC issued a cancellation for the tsunami watch which had been intended for the Pacific and not Caribbean nations.

As the National Tsunami Focal Point responsible for the receipt and dissemination of tsunami warnings, the Saint Lucia Met Service conducted a series of interviews with the media on what had occurred.

## **November: One year commemoration - Morne Sion Tragedy**

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On the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 the Nation was faced with the worst vehicular accident in its recorded history. The nineteen persons on board who were all from the community of Dugard were returning home after a funeral in Choiseul. The bus with all nineteen on board plunged down a 120 foot precipice at Morne Sion.

Officially the final count remains at seventeen dead and two missing.

## **Challenges**

Unfortunately the challenges to the program of Disaster Management in Saint Lucia remain that of resourcing. Presently the national program is donor funded, however the Secretariat remains committed to dialogue with the Ministry of Finance to seek strategies to address this gap.

The following are citations on the present state of staffing at the NEMO Secretariat:

### **1 - Saint Lucia Second National Communication on Climate Change to the United Nations (2012)**

Inadequate Information and Communications Technology Management: ICT

Management on the part of NEMO is hampered by an absence of the requisite trained staff as well as associated resources. This is currently supported by other agencies on an ad hoc basis. (page 217)

#### 6.6 Capacity Building Needs Other Than Those Identified

##### 1. Information and Communications Technology Management in NEMO

According to (SNC V&A, Disaster Management, 2010) NEMO has no Information Technology specialists on staff. Information Technology support is provided on an “as needed” basis by local service providers. The Secretariat also receives support from government Information and Communications Technology specialists (from the e-Government Unit and the Government Information Service), but that appears to be an informal rather than structured arrangement. There was no indication that either of the government departments offered any formal guidance to NEMO with regard to the implementation, support or use of Information and Communications Technology as it relates to disaster management. (page 255)

### **2 - NEMO GIS Assessment - to World Bank (2012)**

One of the components of the assessment was a review of the ICT practices, computer information systems, communication technology, Local Area Network (LAN) and other infrastructure at the NEMO Secretariat with respect to the secretariat’s ability to fulfill the various tasks relating to disaster response and disaster mitigation through the use of ICT.

The organization’s capacity was weighed against 3 predefined levels, Levels I, II and III. Level I being that the NDO was operating below the minimum recommended Level, Level

I, and as such needs to take urgent action. The assessment revealed that in 2010 NEMO had been operating at a Level I.

Extracts from the content of the report have been used to determine the current level NEMO is operating at and to highlight possible improvements since the assessment was conducted in 2010 and to reveal and deficiencies which still exist. (Appendix VII refers).

This current assessment has indicated that NEMO is still at *Level I* (below the minimum recommend Level and needs to take urgent action). (page 15 & 16)

### **3 - Annual Report on the National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia (2011)**

The telecoms team remains hopeful of the assignment to the NEMO Secretariat, of a full time telecoms officer. - National Telecoms Committee (page 24)

The Committee wishes to endorse the recommendations from the Review of the Response to Hurricane Tomas, namely: that the time has come to increase the technical staff of the NEMO Secretariat. - Gros Islet District Disaster Committee (page 30)

The CADM II National Team remains hopeful of the assignment to the NEMO Secretariat, of a full time GIS Specialist. CADM II National Team (page 42)

### **4 - After Action Review of Saint Lucia's Response to Hurricane Tomas of (2010)**

Recommendations - Strengthen the Management Capacity of NEMO through the appointment of Media personnel, Telecommunications Officer, Business Continuity Plan Officer, Mass Events Coordinator, etc. (page 73)

### **5 - Capacity Assessment of National Meteorological Services (NMS) and Disaster Risk Management Agencies (DMA) of Caribbean SIDS**

2.1.2 Institutional resources (human, financial) to implement MHEWS and DRR -- All countries reported the need for additional human resource capacity both in terms of number of staff and professionally trained staff. Most of the countries need to strengthen institutional and human resources in climatology, meteorology and hydrology (for example Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Suriname) including hydrological monitoring and modelling (Jamaica, Belize, Suriname). Professional expertise is needed for analysis of hazard maps and of risk information in Grenada, information management and technology including GIS in Jamaica and Saint Lucia; and radar observation in Jamaica. (page 3)

2.1.4 Risk mapping based on historical data - Where risk and hazard maps exist, both financial and human resources are needed to produce updates (Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis). (page 5)

## **6 – Hurricane Tomas: “A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR RECOVERY”**

Report by Hugh Cholmondeley, Early Recovery Adviser - May 1, 2011

*Third, MATCHING RESOURCES WITH NEEDS.* Policymakers, charged with managing emergency and recovery activities, must ensure that funding is available for a comprehensive and coherent work programme jointly prepared and implemented by all implementing agencies. (page 1)

### **Way Forward**

It should be noted that some aspects of the 2012 report may be repetitive from the report of 2011. Such is the case for the way forward as the NEMO Secretariat seeks to secure the following posts.

#### **Staffing**

It remains the hope that the Secretariat receives the human resources needed to take disaster management to the standards demanded by the people and government of Saint Lucia. To achieve stage one of the staffing of the Secretariat with the addition of:

1. Social Transformation Officer (re Field Officer) (1) G13
2. Mass Crowd Event Officer G12
3. Business Continuity Officer G12
4. Telecommunications Officer G12
5. GIS Specialist G9

### **Conclusion**

In 1991 the Heads of CARICOM in their collective wisdom used the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Project as a stepping stone for the launching of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency<sup>2</sup>. Sixteen CARICOM States, including Saint Lucia, established National Disaster Offices. Though many offices started with one Coordinator and one Secretary, over the years some offices have increased staffing while some have not.

Twenty years later, the resources that were first injected into the National Disaster Offices remain at the same levels while the demands on the Offices have increased significantly.

This model is no longer sustainable.

In 1991 the primary focus was that of response to hurricanes. Twenty years later the focus is all hazards – all phases – all people<sup>3</sup>. The concern is no longer solely hurricane focused, and the mandate to be prepared now includes: pandemic influenza, cholera, earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, mass crowd events, mass causality incidents and the list goes on.

As with many other Member States of CDEMA; Saint Lucia has arrived at the stage where the ability of the Office to function is being so compromised that coordination will be severely impacted to the point of paralysis.

<sup>2</sup> In 2010 CDERA transitioned into CDEMA.

<sup>3</sup> Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy

The Global Assessment Report (GAR) of 2011 has placed in perspective the decision facing Caribbean Nations, that:

1. The sheer scale of recurrent and probable maximum losses should be enough to shock governments into action.
2. Governments are liable for a significant part of total expected losses – and they rarely have the contingency financing to match this liability.
3. Governments need to decide how much risk they are willing to retain and how much they can afford to transfer.
4. A balanced portfolio of prospective, corrective and compensatory risk management strategies is the most cost-effective way to reduce disaster risks and support development.

A new injection of resources (human, financial, equipment) is needed that will sustain the work program of the office for the next twenty years. Without this the disaster management program of Saint Lucia and by extension the region, shall become stunted.

Disaster management will need to be viewed within the frame work of sustainable development as a tool that can be used to strengthen every aspect of growth.

Director NEMO  
13 March, 2013

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# Committee Reports for 2012

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## Introduction

In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006, which requires that an Annual Report be produced the first call for reports was issued in December 2012, the second in January 2013 and the third in February 2013 each notice carried a deadline of 13 March, 2013.

For the period under review that is January – December 2012 the following reports were received:

Number of Committees	Reported in 2012	Reported in 2013
11 National	4	2
18 District	3	6
20 Liaison Officers	3	8

An improvement in reporting, however overall an abysmal level of compliance.

## National Disaster Committees

### Emergency Shelters Committee

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Living Schools Project (II) : Audit of schools' emergency supplies :

The objective of the audit of the schools' emergency supplies is to determine whether schools are adequately prepared and have the necessary equipment/supplies to deal effectively emergency situations during school hours and as emergency shelters. The audit focused on:

- emergency preparedness protocols and plans
- training needs and activities in emergency response
- first aid and emergency supplies



2. Distribution of fire extinguishers -- one hundred and fifty (150) fire extinguishers were purchased and distributed to schools based on recommendations from the St. Lucia Fire Service.
3. Procurement of emergency management equipment and supplies under the World Bank Hurricane Tomas Recovery Project.
4. Increase in the number of schools having floor plans identifying areas which can be accessed by the public once shelter is activated.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

- ❖ In an effort to plan for the hurricane season a meeting of the shelters committee a meeting was scheduled at the commencement of the season. Unfortunately due to low attendance the meeting did not take place.
- ❖ During this reporting period no shelter was activated.

## **CHALLENGES**

- ✚ Communication – there is need for closer collaboration between the District Disaster Management Committee and the school principals/shelter managers
- ✚ Resources – inadequate number of stand-by power generators which can be easily moved.
- ✚ Human resource - insufficient number of security personnel at shelters.
- ✚ Alternative housing – identifying alternative housing for shelteries to allow the reopening of schools in most instances, post disaster.

## **WAY FORWARD**

- Shelters Management Course for all new principals and Disaster Coordinators.
- Updated list of shelters with current contact information of all shelter managers.
- Revision and circulation of protocols for activation of shelters.
- Distribution of additional emergency supplies and equipment to all schools to include the following items:
 

Cots	Petrol cans
Blankets	Chest coolers
Hurricane lamps	Am/fm radios
Lamps	Water filters

## **NEMO Auxiliary Corps**

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**Name of Reporting Officer: Fabian Lewis – NAC Member**

## **ACHIEVEMENT**

NAC member served on the Tender's Board for the selection of tender for the procurement and installation of the national telecoms network. NAC is currently assisting with the roll out and sign off on the installed network.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

### *Training*

Members participated in a three-day Amateur Radio training workshop which was held at the NEMO HQ.

### *Simulations*

In year 2012 NAC members participated in the annual National Simulation exercise, this time the stage was at Hewanorra International Airport at Vieux-Fort. NAC members played a substantive role as evaluators of the simulation. Members were strategically placed at the agencies involved in the simulation, where they observed and recorded information such as the response times, the handling of relevant information and the short falls to name a few. Members then presented their evaluations and noted observations at the general debriefing session of all stakeholders held at the end of the simulation.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

NAC did not take part in any public education sessions.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

During the hurricane season of 2012 although an actual response was not required, members of NAC were on standby in the event they were needed.

## **CHALLENGES**

- As with the previous year the maintenance (ensuring that it is current) of NAC member database presented a challenge in 2012. Efforts are continuing to regularize the member database and keep it up to date.
- NAC is in the process of correcting the issues that present a challenge with the member body and has identified areas for training to better prepare members.

## **WAY FORWARD**

- While there was no clean up activity in 2012, members of NAC will be taking part in the annual community cleanup, the area of cleanup is yet to be decided.
- As every year national simulated exercises are carried out, NAC stands ready in 2013 to participate and render assistance.
- NAC remains committed to support NEMO Secretariat; and is planning to have its members undergo training in the areas of Triage, First Aid/CPR, Systems Command and Control, Mass Casualty Management / Mass Crowd Events, Capacity Building, Training for Instructors and EOC Management training to better assist.
- As with the previous year NAC members will reinforce efforts towards assisting the adopted preschool in Gros-Islet area.

## District Disaster Committees

### Gros Islet Disaster Committee

Reporting Officer – Jennifer Gaston (Chairperson)

#### THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee consist of volunteers from the Gros Islet Community i.e. Cap Estate to Choc Bridge which includes Grande Riviere and Monchy and essential services:

#### THE COMMITTEE:

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Gros Islet Police              | 6. Gros Islet Town Council      |
| 2. Gros Islet Fire Service        | 7. Qualified Tree Cutters       |
| 3. Gros Islet Polyclinic          | 8. Transportation Organizations |
| 4. Religious Groups               | 9. Volunteers                   |
| 5. Gros Islet Vendors Association |                                 |

#### MEETINGS & TRAINING:

The Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee participated in a number of training and meetings held by NEMO during the year 2012. The Committee was represented by members in the following:

1. CDEMA Disaster Management Training
2. CDEMA Community Based Disaster Risk Plan
3. CDEMA meeting in Barbados – Jennifer Gaston
4. CERT Certification Course – David Jordan
5. National Recovery Plan Meeting – Fire Officer
6. Shelter Management Meeting – Paula St. Luce

#### LEVEL OF PREPARDNESS:

1. The Committee ensured that the following were prepared:
2. MOU Business houses/Gas Stations
3. Listing of Shelters/Supplies
4. Communication/Ham Radios GI Fire Station
5. HQ in Emergency – GI Fire Station
6. Plans for the different communities in particular those affected by flooding
7. Town Hall/Community/NEMO Meetings
8. Working with the Gros Islet Town Council re preparations

The Early Flood Warning System which was installed in the Corinth and Monier areas are working and continue to send out the alerts via texts regarding rain and water levels.

Visits to Shelters within the Districts were done to ensure all were in place to accommodate persons in the event of a Disaster as well as meetings with the Shelter Management Team. All School

Principals and Church Administrators are co-operating with the Committee regarding the use of their facilities and much be commended for their assistance.

The Committee participated/assisted NEMO Secretariat in the following:

1. International Cricket at the Beausejour Cricket Stadium – Members were onsite to ensure assistance in the event of a Disaster
2. St. Lucia Jazz Festival
3. Mass Crowd/Public Events within the Gros Islet Area.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

1. The Committee is faced with the following challenges:
2. Flooding in the Gros Islet, Rodney Bay, Bois d'Orange and Corinth Communities. A massive clearance was done in the Bois d'Orange River which assisted in ensuring that there was no major flooding in 2012 but due to the blockage of drains in some areas residents are still affected by floods due to heavy rains.
3. The lack of preparedness by residents such as tree trimming, drain cleaning and securing of roofs are also some challenges.
4. The Committee recommends that the Government Ministries ensure that the issues regarding rivers and drain cleaning be taken care of.

The members of the Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee as part of its year programme undertook trips through the Constituency of Gros Islet to access areas which are vulnerable to damage due to heavy rains or Hurricanes. A tour of the Constituency was also done with the Gros Islet Town Council to inform them and feature the issues affecting the different communities. Some work was done in Rodney Bay regarding the flooding issues. The Committee will continue with its education programme to update and inform residents on plans and process.

#### **WAY FORWARD:**

Assessment trips will continue in the preparations and a report will be submitted to NEMO regarding damages and needs. Meeting with the District Representative and other Organisations will be organised to highlight the issues and work on priority areas.

The Committee continues to have its regular meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month during the Hurricane Season and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month outside of the Hurricane Season. Communications is done via emails and presentation to update members of plans and issues affecting the District.

The Committee would like to extend its Thanks and Appreciation to its members for their commitment and all the Business and Community individuals who have assisted in ensuring that it can function effectively. Appreciation and Thanks also to NEMO for their support and assistance in ensuring that the Committee functions effectively.

## Vieux Fort - South Disaster Committee

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**Name of the Reporting Officer:** Ms. Kizzie Joseph (Deputy Chairperson)

### **Achievement:**

The year 2012 was a quiet one for the Vieux Fort South committee, as the Committee was able to achieve a few and not all of the activities that were identified in the calendar for 2012.

### **Disaster Preparedness Measures:**

#### **1. Public Education**

- A town hall meeting was held at Cantonment on disaster mitigation with emphasis being placed on Hurricanes.
- Hazard site visits in Bruceville, Baccadere, La Resource, Derrrier Morne and Cantonment.

#### **2. Simulation Exercises**

- There was a simulation of a plane crash at Beanfield Vieux Fort by the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority

#### **3. Training for the Committee**

- Refreshers course on First Aid and CPR
- In house training on telecommunications
- Mass Casualty training with SLASPA at the Hewanorra International Airport.

#### **4. Response Mechanisms**

- The Committee was approached by SLASPA for the closure of the Beanfield road to facilitate the simulation of a plane crash.

#### **5. Challenges**

- The committee was not able to get much support from NEMO, re: supplies and equipment
- The committee needs to mobilize new members as most of the pervious members have left the committee because of professional obligations or have left the island.

### **Way Forward**

Having more town hall meeting in the other communities that form part of Vieux Fort south, to build an awareness of the group and its roles and responsibilities.

## **Soufriere District Disaster Committee**

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Reporting Officer: Simone Mondesir - Chairperson

### **Achievement**

Four out of the activities identified last year under: “The Way Forward” was achieved.

These include:

- Review of District Disaster Plan, with new Hazard Mapping in collaboration with the Fire department.
- Community Awareness campaign in Soufriere and Fond St. Jacques.
- Worked closely with families in high risk areas to prepare a family disaster plan.
- Good News Project of Wisconsin completed three (3) more homes for hurricane Tomas victims.

### **Disaster Preparedness Measures**

Public Education was done at schools in Soufriere, Bouton, Etangs and Fond St. Jacques schools. Disaster Plans were reviewed, discussions were held with Principals to plan school drills **e.g. fire drills.**

Committee meetings were held with the Disaster Committee in planning and preparation for the hurricane season before and after:

- List of Emergency Shelters
- Memorandum of Understanding in preparation of a Disaster
- Family Disaster Plan

### **Training:**

- Evaluation of small and medium sized health facilities.
- Community based Disaster preparedness

### **Public Education:**

- Group sessions on family disaster plans for communities of Soufriere, Fond St. Jacques and Bouton.
- Committee meeting.
- Emergency shelters/ where is your shelter located?
- Lecture to O.E.C.S trainees in disaster preparedness.
- Lecture to NICE trainees in Care of the Elderly in the event of a disaster.

### **Emergency Responses**

There were no major responses last year 2012, but members assisted at mass events, held in Soufriere e.g. Jazz, Carnival etc

## Challenges

The committee is still faced with the following challenges:

- Lack of preparedness by residents in the areas prone to flooding, landslides and also the problem of tree trimming.
- The committee recommends that the different Government agencies ensure that these issues are dealt with, especially the problem with the trimming of trees, because it is an outstanding problem in the Soufriere Community.

## Way forward

- Review of the District Disaster Plan with new hazard mapping.
- Continue with the awareness campaign
- Training for volunteers
- Business continuity plan workshop for small business owners
- Work with Health Centres to organize a Health centre disaster committee.
- Preparation of Action cards for District Disaster Committee members

## **Babonneau Disaster Committee**

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Chairperson: Sarah Jules - Chairlady

The Babonneau Community Disaster prepared Committee's activities for 2012 included:

- Committee meetings with the general membership
- Meetings with other groups involved in similar activities (Community Disaster Response Team)
- Yearly sensitization of communities and schools
- Updated list of aged, disabled, housebound and other vulnerable persons in the community
- Contracts with shops/ supermarkets and other service providers.
- Inventory of satellite warehouse
- Reactivation of Supplies Management and Transportation and Fund Raising sub Committees
- Identified areas of concern for clearing of debris and silt. Exercise carried out in collaboration with Council who will be undertaking the cleaning.

### **Activities engaged in during 2012**

As stated above. Meeting with other groups were held in an effort to collaborate so as to make maximum use of available resources and to avoid duplication. The local Committee has made some progress in getting more communities represented on the local Committee. The Committee now has four (4) new members from La Guerre and La Croix.

### **Training**

No formal training has taken place but the Committee will be organizing for a training session as soon as the Telecoms. Sub Committee is revitalized. The Committee also worked with the Balata

CDRT in putting together some basic rules to guide the operations of a shelter in operation. It was agreed that if approved by NEMO this would be used for all shelters in Babonneau.

### **Emergency Response**

There was none for the reporting period

### **Challenges**

One major challenge for the Committee is that the few committed members are always the ones who remain active. Because most members are employed, the committee has not been able to implement its plans as it ought to.

### **Future Plans**

1. Sensitization programme to be continued. Continue process of collecting relevant information on communities.
2. Renewal of contracts.
3. Revitalization of all outstanding Sub Committees
4. Training for members (Communications)
5. With the assistance of the St. Lucia Red Cross, do VCA in at least one community ( to be identified)
6. Work closely with Community Disaster Response Teams.
7. Tour of designated shelters. Recommend buildings to be used as designated shelters.
8. Dialogue with school principals to resolve the issue of shelter managers within schools.
9. Hazard mapping in the communities of Chassin, Fond Assau, Cocoa.
10. Fund Raising activity

## **Laborie Disaster Committee**

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**Name of Reporting Officer: Ulric Alphonse - Chairman**

### **PREPAREDNESS**

- Committee meetings were held
- a proposal for funding of a rain water harvesting project to USAID was successful. Project will be financed up to US\$30,000.00
- Community walk about was done to identify possible hazards and to take corrective measures

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- School Visits: Committee members conducted sessions at all schools in the Laborie area on Tsunamis and other disasters. Printed material was also distributed.
- Committee meetings were held which included discussions on various aspects of disasters and disaster management
- Community meeting was held to sensitize the residents about various hazards and how to prepare for them

- Three members of the Committee facilitated the Choiseul Committee's training in IDA and Shelter Management

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

- Thankfully, none.

### **CHALLENGE**

- Finance: the lack of finance inhibits the independence of the Committee and its ability to do more to help reduce the negative consequences of any impact. The Committee will seek to activate its fundraising sub-committee to source required funding for various projects and activities.

### **WAY FORWARD**

For some time now, the issue of a disaster plan for the community has been in the pipeline. In this ensuing year, all attempts will be made to ensure that this is finalized.

It is our intention to make the Committee more visible, vibrant and 'attractive' to ensure full participation by all. The rainwater harvesting project should assist tremendously in that regard.

### **Choiseul Disaster Committee**

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**Reporting officer: Theophila Charles – Chairperson**

### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES**

1. 10 Committee and community leaders participated in a Radio operating training program.
2. The Choiseul Radio / Antenna were relocated to Choiseul Police Station, so that we can communicate effectively with a wider audience both locally and nationally.
3. Supplies management team met and developed an action plan for distribution of supplies, as well as storerooms in the various communities.
4. At least 2 or more Meetings were held with each sub- committee and they in turn held their own meetings.
5. A meeting was held with committee heads to discuss their responsibilities.
6. Development of a strategic plan for Choiseul.
7. Drainage improvement project ACP/EU implemented through CDEMA in collaboration with NEMO / CEPO
8. Workshop for the development of a community disaster management plan for Choiseul.
9. At least 10 executive meetings.
10. Assisted with the hosting of public activities, ensured that the venues were safe and met set standards set by NEMO
11. Attended workshop re disaster damage and lost assessment / DANA

12. Shelter inspection
13. Carried out a disaster vulnerability assessment within the Choiseul village.

### EMERGENCIES RESPONSES

Heavy rain, responded to challenges faced by communities, visited areas with reported damages to fences, crops.

### CHALLENGES

1. Finance seem to be one of the major stumbling blocks, how are we expected to purchase basic supplies for the committee, travel to meetings, cost of public education campaigns , telephone, no computer, do not have a place to operate , administrative assistance.
2. We need to extend the drainage project, the water coming from the hill has to be channeled in to the drainage and the houses above that area are at risk.
3. Inadequate communication equipment.
4. Lack of fire hydrants / truck and house emergency personnel.

### WAY FORWARD

1. Training in SUMA
2. Public education Campaign including fishermen, farmers, schools and club sixties, mothers and fathers groups/ community development groups.
3. Further work on flood mitigation (drainage) in Choiseul, village.
4. Simulation exercises for volcanic eruption and tsunami.
5. Possible relocation of 64 families in Choiseul village in case of a tsunami .

## **Liaison Officers**

### **Ministry of Education**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Mrs. Sisera N.P. Simon – *Planning Officer/ Liaison Officer NEMO*

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

In 2012 the Ministry of Education (MOE) kept disaster management at the fore in the delivery of education services. The Ministry successfully implemented a number of initiatives geared towards improving the level of disaster preparedness and response at the school and Ministerial levels namely:

-  **Living Schools Project Phase II.**  
The following was accomplished under this project:

- *an audit of schools' emergency supplies;*
- *training of eight (8) First Aid Instructors;*
- *purchase of one (1) set of instructional equipment and materials for delivering training in first aid and CPR.*

- ✚ Compilation of a brief documentary entitled “*Pathways to Building Disaster Resilience –The Responsibility of the Education Sector.*” This documentary features initiatives undertaken by the Ministry to assist in promoting disaster risk reduction at the school level and highlights some of the key activities and achievements.



- ✚ An increase in the number of schools formulating Emergency Plans and conducting evacuation drill and simulation exercises.

- ✚ **School Safety Programme.** The following was achieved during 2012:
  - School Safety Training Course for twenty-three (23) educators in the north.
  - Training of ten (10) persons as School Safety Instructors.
  - Draft School Safety brochure for schools



## **PREPAREDNESS**

The Ministry's Liaison Officer (and alternate) participated in the following:

- ✚ Training for Instructors (TFI): School Safety Programme
- ✚ Tsunami Public Awareness and Education Stakeholders Consultation (Santo Domingo)
- ✚ Comprehensive Disaster Management Conference (Jamaica)
- ✚ National Committee Caribe Wave 2013.
- ✚ Professional Development day facilitator on “Developing an Emergency School Plan.”



During these forums participants engaged in discussions on managing disasters within their various sectors, shared best practices and forged networks among participants at the local and regional levels. A core committee comprising representatives from NEMO, MET Office and Education met once monthly to plan a regional tsunami simulation exercise.

### ***Simulation Exercises***

Members of the MOE Internal Disaster Committee, in collaboration with the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) undertook training in fire safety and the use of fire extinguishers. This training session was facilitated by Fire Officers from the St. Lucia Fire Services Limited.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

### *Tsunami Education*

Schools in District Six (Vieux Fort) will participate in this exercise scheduled for March 2013. Schools in the south of the island have begun sensitizing and educating students on tsunamis. Educational resource material entitled “Tsunami Smart” comprising of students’ workbooks and teacher resource kit were disseminated to participating schools.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSES

An audit of schools emergency supplies was conducted. The information derived from this audit will be used to guide the planning of capacity building and training in the area of disaster management and will further assist in the distribution and replenishing of emergency supplies. To date, the MOE has procured one hundred and fifty (150) fire extinguishers and is in the process of distributing them to schools. Further, under the World Bank Hurricane Tomas Emergency Recovery Project, first aid and additional emergency supplies have been procured.



## CHALLENGES

1. **Human resource:** disaster management is evolving and dynamic in nature which requires a full time officer to coordinate efforts in the planning and implementing programmes at the school and ministerial levels which are geared towards reducing the risk of disasters.
2. **Financial:** there is a need for increase financial resources to purchase additional equipment and undertake training exercises to assist in mitigating the impact of emergencies.



## WAY FORWARD

Based on the findings of the recently completed “Audit of schools’ emergency supplies”, the MOE plans to undertake the following activities to assist in generating greater awareness and reducing the risk of disasters in 2013:

1. Conduct training and workshops in “School Safety” and “Hands Off” for principals and teachers in Districts one to four;
2. Support First Aid instructors in delivering first aid training course at the school level and formulating RED Cross Uniform groups at schools;
3. Replenish all schools’ first aid kits



4. First Aid/ CPR Training for all members of the Internal Disaster Committee;
5. Conduct school visits to provide the requisite support in the formulation of Emergency Plans;
6. Finalize the draft National School Safety Policy;
7. Conduct regular emergency drills in schools and MOE;
8. Review draft School Safety Policy;
9. Establish Minimum Safety Standards for all schools;
10. Procurement and distribution of educational materials on disaster management.

### **Women's Support Centre**

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**Name of Reporting Officer:** Angela Aimable for Sylvie Edward

#### **ACHIEVEMENT:**

A preparatory planning exercise was put in place for the hurricane season. Staff was encouraged by the Manager to assess the building and surroundings to ensure the safety of the residence and staff.

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES:**

1. In preparation for flooding a few sand bags were placed outside the building to reduce the possibility of flooding
2. All possible exits were assessed to ensure safety
3. A safe location in the building was also identified in the event of possible damage to the building.
4. Some repair work was done to the roof of the building.
5. Shelters nearest to our location were also identified in the event of an evacuation
6. We also stocked up on water and dried goods.
7. First aid kit was well stocked
8. All over hanging branches and trees were trimmed
9. Clients were informed of disaster plan

#### ***Public education, training and rehearsals***

1. *Public Education-* office meetings
2. *Stimulations my agency took part in* – Table top exercise
3. *Training my agency took part in* – Shelter management, stress management, damage management.

#### **RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES:**

1. The staff on duty including the driver must remain at the centre to secure rooms, documents, supplies and equipment.
2. Additional keys for the building must be made available to the staff nearest to the centre.
3. Food supply, water and medical kit made available to residence and staff.
4. Flashlights and radios must be made available in the event of sudden power outage, as well as follow up with weather hotline
5. Ensure client safety at all times
6. After the all clear is given staff on duty must assess damages

7. After the storm staff residing nearest to the centre must report to the centre to assist and support the staff that remained on duty.

### **CHALLENGES:**

Our building is vulnerable to flooding not only in the event of a hurricane but whenever it rains heavily.

### **WAY FORWARD:**

1. Urgent renovation of the building
2. Training in evacuation exercise
3. Training in first aid

## **Ministry of Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries**

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Name of Reporting Officer: Ms Deepa Girdari, Tourism Officer III

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES**

#### **1. Public Education, Training and Rehearsals**

##### **A. Public Education**

##### *Multi-hazard contingency plan for Marine Operators*

Four (4) Marine Operators were trained in Multi-hazard Contingency Planning for Marine Operators. Originally, two workshops were scheduled for September 2012 (1st week) but due to a delay in the facilitator's availability and the re-scheduling of a new date, the Ministry saw a decrease in the number of participants who attended. The training was eventually held during the period, November 11-12, 2012. The participants are currently working on formulating their own Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) for endorsement by NEMO.

The Ministry has been successful thus far in ensuring that Small Property Owners' BCPs and Marine Operators' BCPs are in place before an endorsement for placement on SLTB's website is granted.

##### *Invasive Alien Species Awareness in the Tourism Tours Sector*

Twenty (20) tour operators participated in this exercise, the objective of which was to inform tour operators of their impact on the environment re: invasive alien species and their impact on local flora and fauna. This awareness exercise was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development.

A representative from the Ministry of Tourism sits on the National Committee for Invasive Alien Species.

B. *Training your Committee/ Agency took part in*

*Training in Disaster Preparedness for Core BCP Committee in the Ministry of Tourism* - Nine (9) persons were trained on the subject of Disaster Preparedness, with an emphasis on First AID, by the St. John's Ambulance Services Group – October 3, 2012 at Auberge Seraphine

*Culinary Training in Lionfish Preparation for Consumption* – Twenty (20) people from the Food and Beverage Sector were trained in the preparation of the invasive species- the Indo-Pacific Lionfish, for human consumption. This training took place in the north and south of the island during the month of August 2012. This awareness exercise was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development under the Fisheries Department. A representative from the Ministry of Tourism sits on the National Lionfish Taskforce Committee.

C. *Simulations your Committee/ Agency took part in*

- Red Tide – 2012 Caribbean Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak Table-top Simulation Exercise – conducted by the Veterinary and Livestock Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries and Rural Development. Ms Deepa Girdari and Mr Imran Emmanuel participated in this simulation exercise.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

- A. On July 25, 2012, Ms Hannah Dafoe, a UK national, was electrocuted in a swimming pool at Juliette's Lodge, Vieux-Fort. The SLTB and Ministry of Tourism learnt of the incident the following day. The Emergency Crisis Management Plan was activated immediately. The Hospitality Crisis Management Committee and the agencies involved, namely, Ministry of Tourism, Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association and Saint Lucia Tourist Board, all worked together as a team to ensure that the rest of visiting party were re-located to other hotels and given complementary stay. They were all provided with grief counselling and religious intervention as well. The body of Ms Dafoe was flown out to her homeland after a post-mortem was conducted and cause of death determined.
- B. On November 19, 2012, Mr Colin Peter, a Canadian national was attacked at Vigie Beach and succumbed to his injuries a few days later at Victoria Hospital. Once again, upon learning of the incident, the Hospitality Crisis Management Team took the necessary steps to console the deceased's wife and provided counselling and religious support.

## **RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES**

The Hospitality Crisis Management Committee activated its plan and protocols were observed for handling of the incidents mentioned above. The Saint Lucia Tourist Board worked closely with the various Media Houses and the Police, to ensure that damage control was in place from a destination perspective.

Juliette's Lodge was ordered closed by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports Services and Transport and continues to remain closed. The property will be allowed to re-open once all its structural issues have been resolved.

## **CHALLENGES**

### *A. Multi-hazard contingency plan for Marine Operators*

Once again a limited budget impacted directly on the number of participants who were invited to attend training in Business Continuity Planning. Additionally, a shift from the original scheduled date (September 2012) led to a reduction in figures of confirmed participants.

### *B. Formulation of BCP for the Ministry of Tourism*

The Protocols of the Public Service has slowed the process of the plan formulation because some of the requirements of the BCP Plan cannot be implemented by the Ministry such identifying an alternative site for operation in the event of a disaster occurring, the issue of liability insurance and insurance on furniture and equipment.

Additionally, budget constraints have delayed the training of members of staff in the Certification of First AID Procedures, and the purchasing of hurricane supplies and any other emergency response supplies for the Ministry.

### *C. Public Education*

Maximizing participation in the conduct BCP has become a challenge since targeted participants do not or choose not to recognise the importance of having a BCP in place or the scheduled date is never appropriate for them to attend.

Many are of the view that the Indo-Pacific Lionfish does not pose any serious threat to Saint Lucia and therefore do not see the significance of preparing for this invasive species, while others are of the view that it is too ugly to eat or fear eating it because of the venomous spines.

In the case of the awareness of invasive alien species, inadequate PR was the reason for poor awareness and attendance of this workshop.

## **WAY FORWARD**

### *BCP Formulation for the Ministry of Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries*

Work will continue on the formulation of the BCP for the Ministry of Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries.

The Ministry will continue to play its part in public awareness of having a multi-hazard contingency plan in place. The tasks set out for this year are as follows:

- a. Risk Management for Marine Base Operators and, Sites and Attractions
- b. Continuous Review of tourism businesses listed on the SLTB website to ensure that minimum standards are met including the presence of endorsed BCP's in their management policies or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This review will require the conduct of site inspections.

### **Borderlais Correctional Facility**

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Name of Reporting Officer: Victoria Alcide, Deputy Director of Corrections

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

A fire drill was conducted on each of the Residential Units this year as planned, the results were better than last year since they were more organized; the response time to get inmates to vacate the units has lessen but the Department acknowledges that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in preparing our Facility for a fire or natural disaster.

#### **PREPAREDNESS:**

Continuity of Operations continues to be the Department's strongest asset because of the nature of our business of twenty-four hours a day three hundred sixty-five days a year. A small percentage of staff members were trained in Stress Management and approximately twenty-five percent were trained in Fire Prevention and First Aid. They also received Basic Training in (CERT) Community Emergency Response Team which included Light Search and Rescue Operations and participated jointly with the Dennerly and Vieux-Fort Fire Officers in a Bomb Explosion Simulation Exercise at the division of Ministry of Infrastructure, Port Services and Transport in Dennerly. This training exercise was conducted by officers from the Barbados Prison Service.

Evacuation procedures are in place for all residential Housing Units.

Department currently has three staff members that are active National Disaster Committee members in their home communities, although they are available to assist the Department in training other staff members they will not be available to the Department during National Disasters. The Department has never been invited to participate in any National Disaster Training or Simulation Exercise.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION:**

The Department has not participated in any Public Education Activity that pertains to National Emergency Management.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSES:**

The Department has never been invited to participate in a National Disaster Response.

#### **CHALLENGES:**

The Department is concerned that National Disaster Management Plans **DOES NOT** consider the Disaster needs of the Bordelais Correctional Facility. In the event of a fire or natural disaster, depending on the severity of the event every effort will be made to contain all inmates within the

compound of the Bordelais Correctional Facility and management is prepared to continue keeping the facility self sufficient during the disaster and the immediate aftermath.

**WAY FORWARD:**

The Department seeks to conduct a minimum of one (1) fire drill every quarter in each Inmate Residential Unit this year in an attempt to sensitize the staff and inmates of the proper procedures required to vacate the housing unit during or immediately after a disaster.

The Department looks forward to being invited to participate in a National Disaster Simulation Exercise to expose the staff to the stresses and reality of disasters manmade or natural.

**Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal**

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**ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal indicated that there were no activities to report for this last one year period.

**WAY FORWARD**

The Ministry reports that they are in the process of seeking grant funding from the World Bank to look at the naming of Public Buildings and Bridges Initiative which will include the identifying and naming of emergency shelters around the island.

**Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation**

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**ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation indicated that there were no activities to report for the period January – December 2012.

The Ministry did however comment on the Disaster Risk Reduction Country Profile of Saint Lucia.

**WAY FORWARD**

The Ministry reports that they are in the process of establishing a Disaster Management Committee within the Ministry.

## **Saint Lucia Fire Service**

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Name of Reporting Officer: Warn Augustin – Fire Officer

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Staff was exposed to a number of training opportunities that directly impact their skills level in a positive way.

- Of particular note is the collaborative training undertaken with cooperation from the Martinique Fire Department in which several officers got hands on experience in Disaster planning and response
- Six (6) officers completed level 2 certification in Search and Rescue in Jamaica
- One officer completed Staff and Command training with the RSS (mobilization and intervention for regional security coordination)

### **PREPAREDNESS**

Fire Officers took part in:

1. Aerodrome firefighting planning and strategy table top exercises
2. Written and oral communications skills training
3. Emergency Medical Services Training
4. Refresher training in firefighting and response strategies
5. Full scale Airport Simulation exercise
6. Driver Trainer training for 8 officers

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

No. of fire safety sessions conducted.	110
No. of persons attending /benefiting	3653

Institutions where training was conducted

School  
 Businesses  
 Hotels  
 National council for persons with disabilities  
 Town Meetings  
 SLASPA

Five (5) schools visited the fire station where the general introduction was made on operations. Six (6) form four (4) students were given the opportunity to spend a day at the station in the southern division.

### **FIRECALL RESPONSES**

The Fire Service responded to several emergency calls as follows:

Electrical	35
Coal Pit	11
Bush	370
False Alarm	31
House & Commercial	101
Vehicle	32
Bomb Threat	2
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>582</u></b>

### **AMBULANCE RESPONSES**

Trauma	3603
Medical	3795
Non-emergencies	1349
Not transported	213

**TOTAL** **8960**

Total Ambulance standby at mass crowd events **84**

### **CHALLENGES**

The challenges are numerous some are:

1. Inadequate staffing levels across the department
2. Need to update and improve complement of equipment both for fire and ambulance responses
3. Inadequate budgetary allocations for training. Several areas of training are still not being attended to because there is constant need to extend limited resources and many programmes suffer as a result
4. Absence of a functional training ground with the required props for stimulations.

### **WAY FORWARD**

The Fire Service needs a complete review and restructuring if it is to effectively confront the current challenges. It is therefore necessary to revisit the staffing levels, the required ranks to establish

appropriate controls and the required structure for the exerciser of command over the department needs urgent and immediate review. In keeping with this trust, the following must be done.

1. Complete Policy on Reserve/Volunteer Firefighters (in progress)
2. Commission new appliance for Soufriere Fire Station (in progress)
3. Commission new ambulance for Vieux Fort and Micoud Fire Station (in progress)
4. Construction of a new Aircraft Firefighting training facility in collaboration with SLASPA (in progress)
5. Provide certification training in the area of Aircraft Fire Fighting (responders and supervisors)
6. Provide training in Firefighting Strategy and Tactics
7. Provide training and certification in Hazardous Materials Incident Responses
8. Provide Disaster Management training for Subordinate Officers
9. Command and control Training for Sub officers in natural and man-made disasters
10. Provide Incident Command Systems training (Fireman and Leading Fireman)

### **Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations**

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**Name of Reporting Officer:** Dr. Merlene Fredericks, Chief Medical Officer

#### **Achievements**

1. Training of Health care personnel in Response to Chemical, Biological,
2. Radiological, Nuclear Events
3. Review of the Saint Jude Hospital External and Internal Disaster Plans.
4. Fire and evacuation inspection by the Saint Lucia Fire Service of the Saint Jude
5. Hospital.
6. Establishment of the Safety Committee at the Saint Lucia National Mental Wellness Center.

#### **Preparedness**

Training your Agency took part in:

1. Training in Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Events
2. Training of staff at the Gros-Islet Polyclinic on the updated Disaster Plans
3. Training on Disaster preparations and safety measures for the staff at the Gros-Islet Polyclinic

Simulations your Agency took part in:

1. Simulation of the Air-plane crash at sea organized by Saint Lucia Air and Sea
2. Ports Authority July 9, 2012.
3. Simulation of an external bomb threat at the Vieux-Fort Docks organized by SLASPA. April 2012.
4. Simulation Exercise of HAZMAT Event organized by NEMO, March 30, 2012.

## Public Education

EMS Department of the Saint Jude Hospital conducted training with civic groups, church groups, business houses and schools in disaster management and first aid.

## Emergency Responses

Responses that the Agency have taken part in include:

1. Rodent Control Program for Castries and Gros-Islet
2. Medical Coverage for Assou Square, January 2012
3. Saint Lucia Jazz Events, May 2012
4. Medical Coverage for Saint Lucia Carnival, July 2012
5. Jounen Creole Medical Coverage, October 2012
6. T-20 Tournament Cricket Grounds Medical Coverage, August 2012
7. Response to Fish Kill Incident at Sapphire, July 2012

## Challenges

1. The need for trained personnel to finalize the Ministry of Health Disaster Plans.
2. Lack of effective disaster communication equipment
3. Gaps in interagency communication mechanisms in a disaster setting.

## Way Forward

1. Training for Heads of Ministry of Health Emergency Operating Center
2. Training for the Ministry of Health Heads in Incident Command Systems
3. Training for the Ministry of Health Heads in Mass Casualty Management
4. Review of the Ministry of Health Disaster Management Plans
5. Conduct regular training for general staff on disaster preparedness and updates on the disaster plans.

## Others

### CADM II

Name of Reporting Officer: Flood & Drought Mitigation Committee

### INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006, the Committee submits its Annual Report for forwarding to the Prime Minister on activities for the period of January – December, 2012 with what activities are planned for 2013.

## **CADM II**

CADM is the Caribbean Disaster Management Project (CADM), supported by the Government of Japan. Saint Lucia is taking part in Phase Two of the project.

The project had distinct objectives:

1. Strengthen and establish a system for flood hazard mapping
2. Enhance the capability for community Disaster Management (DM)
3. Enhance recognition of the importance and usefulness of hazard maps and Disaster Management plans among the member states.

In June 2012 the CADM II Project came to an end. As a result of consultations in 2010 with the Cabinet Secretary it was agreed that the CADM II National Team should remain so as to facilitate the replication of the project in other flood prone zones. In 2012 members of the Committee recommitted to the program.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. The committee was represented at the final CADM II JCC Meeting in Barbados where a progress report was presented.
2. The committee commended the NEMO Secretariat for its collaboration with the GIS Unit of the Ministry of Physical Development where a GIS Specialist was assigned to the Secretariat one day a week.
3. On 24 May, 2012 the FEWS on the Corinthe River was activated by rain and the rising river. A review of the SOPs and the actions of members took place and a report on the event was produced and distributed
4. On the same day (24 May, 2012) with support from JICA and CDEMA the CADM II NT conducted a flood evacuation drill with the community of Corinthe. A report on the exercise was produced and distributed.
5. Mr. Yamaguchi the Deputy representative of JICA Dominican Republic Office and Mr. Mizutani, JICA Saint Lucia representative visited Corinthe on 5 June.
6. The committee accepted the proposal from the Water Resources Management Agency to include Drought in its mandate. The committee renamed itself to the Flood & Drought Mitigation Committee. The redrafted TORs are to be submitted to the Prime Minister
7. In partnership with the Survey and Mapping Unit a topographical survey with profiles of the Soufriere River was requested. The CADM II Manuals shall be used as the guide.
8. In partnership with CDEMA CU under the CDM-HIP a proposal was developed for the purchase of the river monitoring equipment.
9. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the following:
  - a. Redrafted Committee TORs
  - b. Redrafted JICA MOU
  - c. CADM Sustainability Plan
  - d. Standard Operating Procedures regarding actions to take upon the activation of the FEWS.
10. Completed discussions with LIME with an aim of the adoption of the FEWS SOPs.
11. Commenced discussion with Digicel and LIME with the objective of a waiver on the telephone bills/system that the FEWS utilizes.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

1. Training Workshop
  - a. In May, representatives of the Water Resource Management Agency, Saint Lucia Meteorological Services, Agricultural Engineering, Department of Forestry and WASCO attended training in drought monitoring and planning."
2. Simulations
  - a. A flood evacuation drill was conducted with the community of Corinthe.

## **CHALLENGES**

1. The NEMO Secretariat does not have a GIS Specialist. This will impact the progress of the hazard mapping program.
2. Funding will be needed if the FEWS is to be replicated in other communities.

## **WAY FORWARD**

1. Signing of MOU between Government and the main partners in the FEWS
2. The CADM II National Team remains hopeful of the assignment to the NEMO Secretariat, of a full time GIS Specialist.
3. The National Team continues to seek ways to replicate the FEWS in
  - a. Soufriere (with CDEMA CU)
  - b. Dennery (with World Bank)
  - c. Cul de Sac (With AusAid)
4. Resubmit the TORs for the Flood Mitigation Committee to the Prime Minister for endorsement.
5. Survey of the Soufriere River
6. Continue discussions with donor partners to source funding to replicate the FEWS

## **Saint Lucia Country DRR Profile**

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Name of Reporting Officer: M. Luvette Thomas-Louisy, National Liaison Officer for Saint Lucia - UNISDR DIPECHO Project

The island of Saint Lucia currently benefited from the 2011-2012 UNISDR DIPECHO<sup>4</sup> Project “*Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Caribbean at the local, national and sub regional level*”. The Project, coordinated through the UNISDR regional office in the Americas and managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the project local counterpart, the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), had as its principal objective, to contribute to “*building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters by increasing awareness surrounding the importance of disaster risk reduction throughout the Caribbean*”.

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention – European Commission for Humanitarian Aid

A National Liaison Officer (NLO) for Saint Lucia, M. Luvette Thomas-Louis, was engaged as a Consultant, to coordinate the implementation of activities at the country level, key of which was the development of a Country Profile document for Disaster Risk Reduction (CP-DRR). Under the framework of the DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean 2011-2012, Saint Lucia was one of the pilot countries selected to apply a standardized structure and guide to develop country documents for Disaster Risk Reduction. The CP-DRR provides a comprehensive overview of the status of DRR in the country, the progress made in reducing risk and the definition of priorities and strategies. Given the status of disaster risk in Saint Lucia, the CP-DRR will be useful as an important national reference document to guide the design of policies and strategies, promote decision making, and the formulation of DRR actions and activities, for bringing about sustainable development, as well as facilitate the establishment of channels for mutual help and cooperation.

The process of preparing the Country Document was inclusive and participatory, coordinated under the leadership on the National Focal Point for DRR, the Secretariat of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) and involved the collaboration of the DRR actors, including national authorities responsible for DRR implementation in the country, key stakeholders working on DRR in all relevant sectors (such as health, education, planning, housing and development, economic affairs and finance, etc.), technical and scientific institutions, the private sector, civil society, international cooperation agencies, DIPECHO partners, and members of existing DRR platforms, among others.

Strategic directions for DRR were charted coming out of the consultative process for the elaboration of the CP-DRR, based on the priorities identified during the process, and incorporating the findings of the UN 2011 Global Assessment Report and recommendations emanating from the work of UNISDR on Making Cities Resilient, as well as climate change adaptation response in Saint Lucia's SNC. These all - encompassing strategic directions, guidelines and actions are presented within the context of the five elements of DRR.

1. **Risk Awareness and Assessment:** Improve Information on how hazards are changing with detailed risk assessments from diverse sources of knowledge:
  - Enhanced risk analysis methodologies – risk indicators/indices
  - Multi-hazard assessments – risk and vulnerability
2. **Knowledge Development:** Build Adaptive Capacity with new skills, knowledge and resources:
  - Enhance systems for Research and Systematic Observation
  - Structured and targeted Public Education and Outreach (PEO) Programmes
3. **Public Commitment and Institutional Frameworks:** Empower and support communities to address root causes of vulnerability; Build participatory risk governance capacities:
  - Strengthened physical planning – regulate urban and local development with DRR instruments and mechanisms – e.g. building codes, land use planning, etc.
  - Institutionalise structures for disaster management with multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platforms at the national and community level.
4. **Application Measures:** Investment in hazard mitigation/ resilience building measures in all public and private development:

- Increase capital investment for climate sensitive/ disaster resilient infrastructure and national assets
- Enhance programmes for social protection (e.g. poverty reduction) to include resilience building
- Protection of ecosystems – watershed management activities; biodiversity management, re-forestation

5. **Early Warning Systems:** Improve forecasting, dissemination and preparedness measures and reaction capacities:

- Enhance and expand sphere of early warning systems
- Improve and expand data monitoring networks

The CP-DRR recognizes that disaster impacts, including climate change impacts, are cross-sectoral in nature and are manifested in effects on the country's natural resources, national infrastructure and assets and the population. These impacts however, are further exacerbated by the local risk realities emanating from physical, social, economic, environmental and political factors. At present, considerations for disaster prevention, mitigation or preparedness are not formally and routinely integrated into the appraisal of projects or programmes, particularly those financed by public investments in for example infrastructure, health and education. This suggests that costs for rehabilitation post disaster, simply recurs as opposed to the development of climate resilient projects.

As financial resources continue to decline, the Government of Saint Lucia (GOSL), like all other governments, will be driven to increasingly give consideration to resilience building. Key challenges in enhancing resilience to climate and disaster risks in Saint Lucia, include managing the overall disaster risks to ensure social protection, maintain economic resilience and minimise environmental degradation, protecting vulnerable and critical infrastructure, promoting sustainable land use planning and reforestation, ensuring security of water supply and water resources, and collecting and analyzing climate change and disaster related data and information in a comprehensive and sustainable fashion in order to be able to respond to the challenges posed by climate and disaster shocks and stresses.

The CP-DRR therefore, recommends a re-shaping of the policy mix to reflect the changing climate and disaster context to provide a strategic framework for action that will promote environmentally sound development, through the resourcing and empowering of local/community level institutions for building the resilience of citizens and the state.

The NEMO, as the lead agency for disaster mitigation and prevention, has been recognised as the agency which is best positioned to drive the process to generate the level of commitment required by the GOSL, and in particular all agencies responsible for national development, to collaborate with development partners, to assume their relevant roles and work towards capacity enhancement, to ensure a well constructed framework, integrating elements of policy, institutional structures and processes, and organizational and individual capacities, to effect a more coordinated response to DRR implementation, for the realisation of sustainable disaster resilient development. The NEMO will also need to advocate for requisite and concrete resources (human, technical and financial) to be committed and reflected within the National Budget to support the implementation of DRR activities and for investments in DRR.

## Appendices

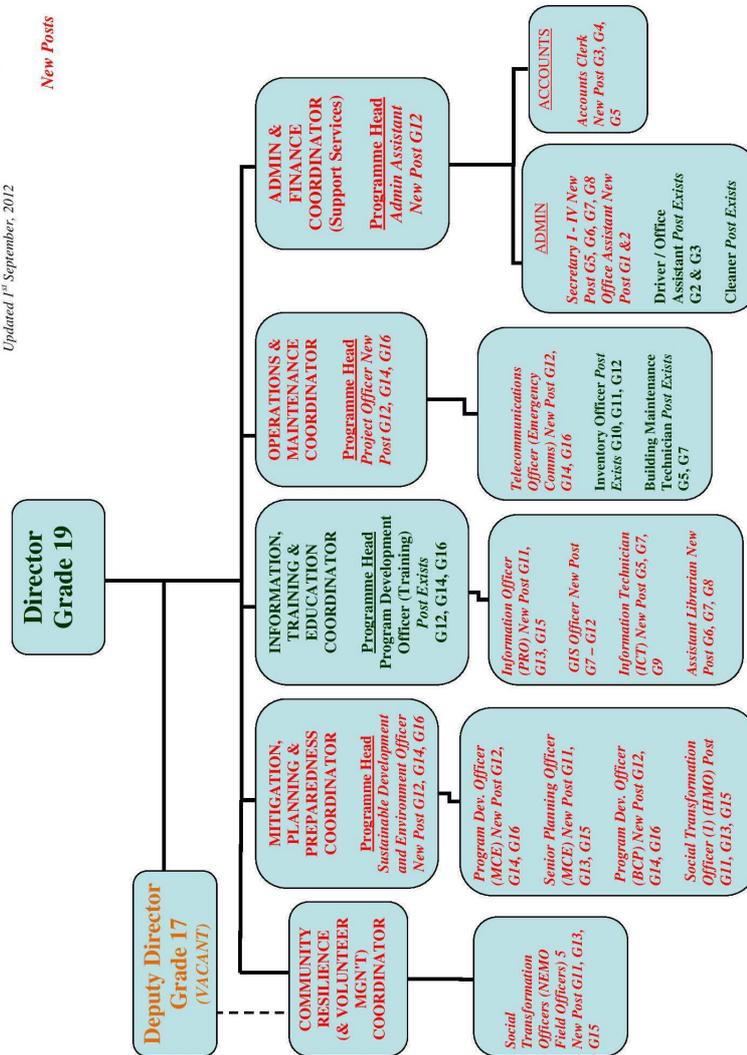
### Appendix 1: Secretariat Annual Budget

MEMO Budget	APPROVED		REQUESTED		VARIANCE	2011-2012
	2012-2013	2012-2013	2012-2013	2012-2013		
101 Personal Expenditures	\$ 328,429.00	\$ 332,871.62	\$ 24,442.62	\$ 328,429.00		
102 Wages	\$ 41,318.00	\$ 32,366.22	\$ 8,951.78	\$ 34,503.00		
105 Travel and Subsistence	\$ 40,248.00	\$ 62,748.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 31,248.00		
108 Training	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		
109 Office and Ground	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 28,252.00	\$ 10,252.00	\$ 10,200.00		
110 Supplies and Materials	\$ 3,672.00	\$ 8,584.67	\$ 4,912.67	\$ 3,672.00		
111 Utilities	\$ 96,440.00	\$ 116,300.00	\$ 19,760.00	\$ 94,251.00		
114 Tools and Instruments	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 450.00		
115 Communications	\$ 31,631.00	\$ 51,295.99	\$ 19,674.99	\$ 33,345.00		
116 Operating and Maintenance	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 99,130.60	\$ 54,130.60	\$ 42,000.00		
118 Hire of Equipment	\$ 1,872.00	\$ 13,480.00	\$ 11,608.00	\$ 1,422.00		
125 Rentals	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -		
132 Professional Consultancy Services	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00		
137 Insurance	\$ 53,500.00	\$ 45,352.09	\$ 8,147.91	\$ 23,400.00		
139 Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -		
	\$ 671,260.00	\$ 890,311.19	\$ 219,051.19	\$ 619,919.00		

Appendix 2: Secretariat Staffing Needs

NEMO Secretariat Structure - Projected  
Updated 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012

New Posts



Appendix 3: NEMO Staff Social Agenda

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**Director's Birthday – July**



**Farewell for Mr. Dubos (Deputy) and Leeanna (Cuban) - September**



**Christmas drink-up and Ms. Louisy's Farewell - December**



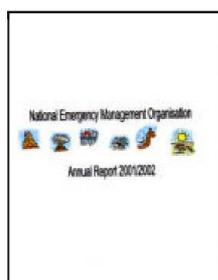
**Christmas Lime by Mr. Dubos – Laborie**



## Past Covers for the NEMO Annual Report



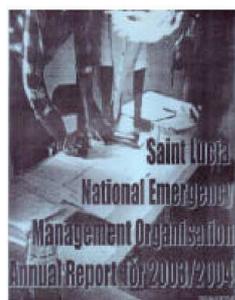
**2000**



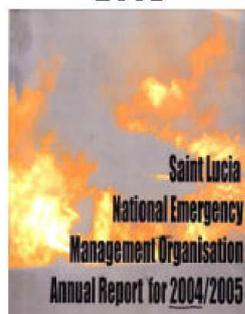
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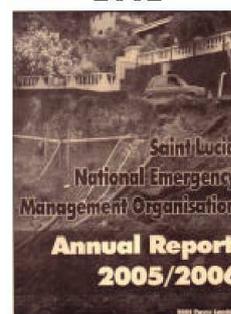
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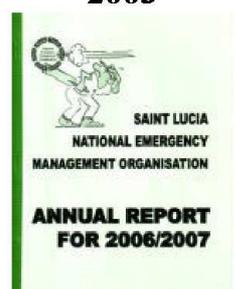
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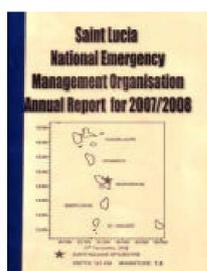
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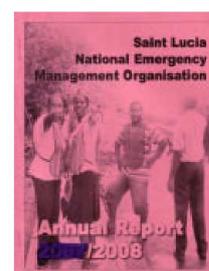
**2005**



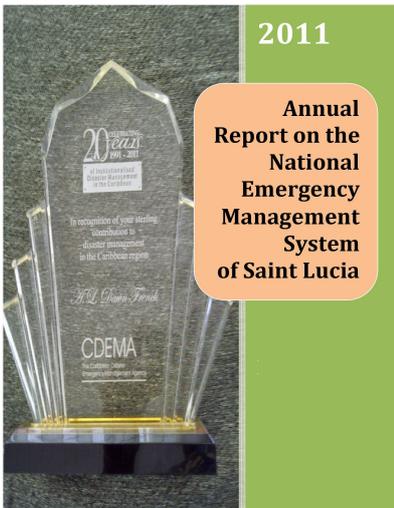
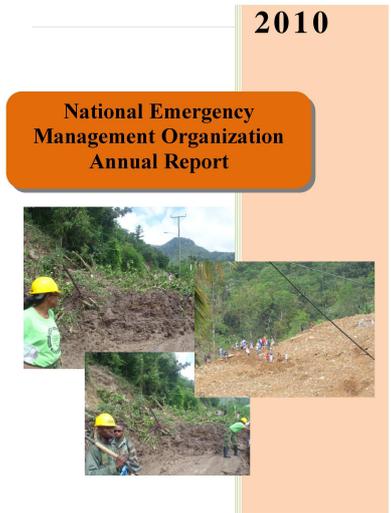
**2006**



**2007**



**2008**



# **Government's Blue Print for Growth**

## **Pillar 3: Infrastructure Development Programme**

### **Building Resilience**

We will prepare our country to deal with further natural disasters, which are a natural consequence of our geography.

1. We will review and update our hazard maps, making use of a combination of new technology, empirical data and local knowledge.
2. We will develop a national Geographic Information System, which will allow us to use spatial information for better land use planning and risk assessments.
3. Where necessary, we will relocate settlements that are situated in high risk areas.
4. An SLP government will undertake a comprehensive community disaster risk reduction programme.
5. We will restore NEMO's importance in preparing our country to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters and coordinating the response to a national emergency.