



Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Caribbean Region



Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in St. Lucia

Saint Lucia





National Circumstances

- Saint Lucia is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) located at latitude 13° N, and 61° S within the Lesser Antilles.
- The island experiences a tropical climate with two seasons.
- Topography – young volcanic soils and steep slopes.
- Island constantly subjected to seasonal high rainfall and soil erosion.
- Poor practices of waste disposal, deforestation and land use contributes increased risk to disasters.



Disaster Management Organization - NEMO

- The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) in Saint Lucia is responsible for having the Nation in a state of preparedness in case of emergencies.
- NEMO is responsible for the co-ordination of all response activities before, during and after a natural disaster.

Conceptual Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in St. Lucia.

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is the conceptual framework of elements considered with the possibilities to minimize vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society.

Key elements of DRR are:

- Risk awareness and assessment.
- Knowledge development.
- Public commitment and institutional frameworks.
- Application of measures.
- Early warning systems.



Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework

- The legal, regulatory and institutional framework governing DRR is quite varied and mixed, reflecting a highly evolved governance framework, with a strong orientation to disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and lesser emphasis on disaster planning, prevention and mitigation.



National Emergency Management Plan

- The plan outlines eight (8) policies of relevance to DRR at the national level. These are:
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis .
- Disaster Management Policy Framework.
- Donations and Importation of Relief Supplies.
- Emergency Shelter Management.
- Emergency Housing,
- Governmental Officers Security of Travel Policy.
- Hazard Mitigation.
- Mass Fatality.



State of Disaster Risk in Saint Lucia

- Conditions of risk for Saint Lucia have been identified in several documents emanating from reviews and assessments including:-
- The National Hazard Mitigation Policy,
- The Disaster Management Policy Framework,
- The Risk Management/Vulnerability Benchmarking .
- The CDEMA Disaster Management Audit Country Report for Saint Lucia (2010).



Types of Hazards/Threats Identified for Saint Lucia

Natural:-

- Geological hazards – earthquakes, landslides etc.
- Hydrometeorological hazards – hurricanes, floods etc.

Anthropogenic/Human – made:-

- Socio-natural hazards.
- Technological hazards – pollution, fires etc.

Emergencies affecting Public Health and Safety

- Illness and epidemics of major occurrence – malaria, cholera.
- Phytosanitary emergencies – pestilence.
- Vector borne diseases – dengue
- Non endemic illnesses with the onset of climate change



Ways of addressing risk

- Timely, co-ordinated and focused direction of resources towards the disaster management system's effective operation.
- Maintaining institutions that are technically capable of efficiently executing the comprehensive disaster management programme.
- Developing local expertise capable of operating and maintaining the disaster management system.
- Ensuring that the public is well informed and educated about disasters, their consequences and preventive and mitigation measures.
- Creating an environment in which the private and non-government sectors contribute meaningfully to the comprehensive disaster management effort.



Strategic Points and Guidelines for St. Lucia DRR

- Risk Awareness and Assessment.
- Knowledge Development.
- Public Commitment and Institutional Frameworks.
- Application Measures.
- Early Warning Systems.



Key Issues for consideration with regards to risks (Global Assessment Report, 2011)

- Scale of recurrent and probable maximum losses.
- Government's liability for the total expected losses.
- Governments decision on how much risk to be retained.
- Balanced portfolio of prospective, corrective and compensatory risk management strategies.



National Circumstances

Physical Development

- Geographic location.
- Physiography.
- Climate and Weather.
- Climate change.



Tools to support planning for effective DRR

- National Land Use plan
- Zoning Plan
- Coastal Dev. Setbacks (sea level rise)
- Flood Mitigation Maps
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Building Code



Vote of Thanks

I would like to thank all present for attending this presentation on Integrated Coastal Area Management in the Caribbean Region.

It is imperative that we understand the importance of taking the correct measures to ensure that we in the Caribbean are capable of dealing with the risks involved in disaster risk reduction and management.

Once again I thank you.