Adapting to Climate Change and Reducing Disaster Risk

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Presented at
UNFCCC Expert meeting on adaptation for small island developing States
Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean
Kingston, Jamaica
5 to 7 February 2007
Global Trends (Risk Components)

\[ \text{Hazard} \times \text{vulnerability} = \text{disaster} \]

Natural and human-induced hazards

**Climate change**: increased intensity and frequency expected

**Socio-economic**: poverty, unplanned urban growth, lack of awareness and institutional capacities

**Physical**: infrastructure located in hazard prone areas

**Environmental degradation**: oil spills, degradation of coasts, watersheds, marshlands, etc.
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

- Launched by UN General Assembly in 2000

- At the beginning only organizations were members (IATF/DRR)

Since June 2007—First Meeting of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction—governments will also be members.

- Objective: Increase public awareness about risk reduction (vulnerabilities and hazards) and achieve commitment from public authorities
Hyogo Framework 2005-2015: Increase the resilience of countries and communities to disasters

Priorities:

1. Governance / institutional and legal bases
2. Identification of risks and early warnings
3. Knowledge and education
4. Integration of underlying factors (climate change)
   - Identifying the risk
   - Adopting specific measures
   - Informing about the risk
   - Mobilizing resources
5. Effective response

World Conference on Risk Reduction, 2005
ISDR Activities in Climate Change

- **ISDR/IAI** Workshop on Climate Change and DRR (December 2006)

- DRR and Climate Change VARG Pilot study in México, ([www.climatevarg.org](http://www.climatevarg.org))

- *Publication* "On Better Terms" ([www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org))
  Document for the discussion of terms and concepts for both communities

- Document about DRR tools useful for adaptation to climate change (*to be published*)

- DRR+CC *Infolink* continuous production

- IPCC/ IV AR review
VARG Pilot study in México

European Commission with ISRD, Red Cross, DFID.

- Studied policies and institutions for DRR: how prepared are they for adaptation to CC

- **Recommendations:**
  - To Integrate DRR (in civil defence) and CC (in environment)
  - To integrate CC in development plans.
  - Improve prevention and response, institutional coordination
  - In DRR, change technical focus and look for solutions for funding
  - Promote institutional continuity: try to keep human resources
Relevant activities in the Caribbean

- Promotion for the creation/strengthening of National Platforms (Proposal for the Caribbean -CPP)

- Strengthening of networks for:
  - a) Education;
  - b) Local risk management;
  - c) DRR and Adaptation to CC

- Preparation of the Caribbean High Level Conference, Haití, 2007 (adaptation of HF to regional context)
Activities in the Region: community education

- Soap Opera “Tiempo de huracanes”: in Central America, Mexico, Peru, Cuba and Dominican Republic.

- Now also in the anglophone Caribbean.
Education in schools

Riskland:
A game for children to learn about reducing disaster risk

Validated in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Colombia and Cuba since 2003. Now on demand from all the Americas and the world. Translated to Spanish, Portuguese, Quechua and others.
Linking DRR with Climate Change Adaptation offers a win-win opportunity

- Climate system is fundamental for both issues: 75% of all disasters originate in weather-climate extreme:
- DRR and CCA strategies are both aimed at enhancing sustainability, resilient societies and human security
- Similar sectoral focus, complexities & challenges, rely on same type of measures and policies
- DRR offers opportunities for “bottom-up” strategies for adaptation to current climate variability including climate extremes
- DRR can promote early adaptation to CC
- DRR offers a way to address some of the main obstacles (economic, political, social, technological, and institutional) to develop the potential for adaptation
How to promote the links between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation?

• Rise awareness in both communities about the links between DRR and adaptation to climate change and the need to integrate both in development plans

• Include DRR community in the development of Adaptation Plans, National communications and IPPC Reports

• Include climate change activities in Hyogo Framework Implementation National Report

• Strengthen National Platforms including institutions working in climate change

• Look for synergies to develop policies and activities that contribute to the reduction of current risks and adaptation to climate change using HF priority areas as guidance
  – Early Warning System for example
Experience within the Central American Integration Systema (SICA)

SICA organization for climate and water resources (CRRH/SICA)

Convene and facilitate regional climate FORA that:

- Monitors and discusses (in internet) global and regional climate (FCAC)
- Produce Seasonal Climate Outlooks for Central America

Outlooks are disseminated to stakeholders through the networks of specialized agencies in sectors like agriculture (CAC), risk reduction (CEPREDENAC), Food Security (INCAP) for them to identify specific responses to climate risks.

Two recent examples:

Marzo 2006.
Taller: Pronósticos y Posibles líneas de acción en Centroamérica para la temporada de ciclones 2006 (OCHA/CEPREDENAC/SICA)

Noviembre 2006:
Foro: Efectos de El Niño/Oscilación del Sur (ENOS) en la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (INCAP/UE-SICA-PRESANCA)
Anguilla (UK)
Antigua / Barbuda
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
BVI (UK)
Cayman Is (UK)
Colombia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Montserrat (U.K)
Nicaragua
Panama
Peru
Trinidad / Tobago
Turks / Caicos (UK)
St. Vincent / Grenadines