



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)

Hazard x vulnerability = 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.

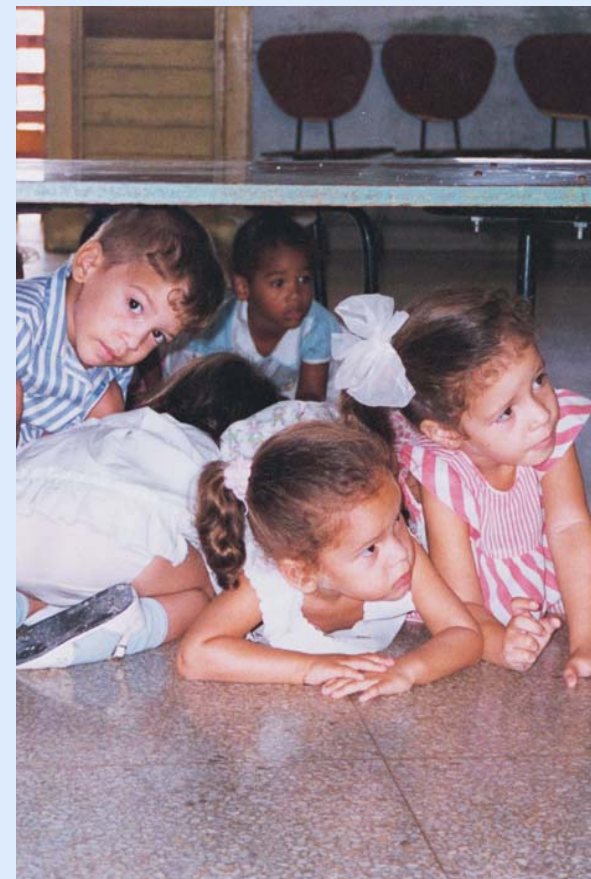


International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

- 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)
- **Publication “On Better Terms “**
(www.unisdr.org.)
Document for the discussion of terms and concepts for both communities



Foto: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

- 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.




"the rough season"
A Caribbean Audio Soap Opera for Hurricane Disaster Preparedness

Epoca tempestuosa

"Epoca Tempestuosa" es una radionovela que centra su atención en la reducción del riesgo de los desastres en la región del Caribe. Basada en el gran éxito obtenido con las radionovelas "Tiempos de Huracanes" y "Réplicas del Corazón" en distintos países de América Latina.

"Epoca Tempestuosa" busca sensibilizar a las comunidades más vulnerables en el Caribe sobre la importancia de la reducción del riesgo de desastres.

La radionovela gira alrededor de la ocurrencia de amenazas naturales como las inundaciones, huracanes, tormentas destilizamientos, al igual que crisis de seguridad alimentaria.

En 15 capítulos de 10 minutos de duración cada uno, el guión y los personajes ilustran las situaciones que uno espera encontrar en un típico contexto caribeño.

"Rough Season" is an audio soap opera focused on disaster risk-reduction issues in the Caribbean region. Based on the highly successful audio soap operas "Times of Hurricanes" and "Tremors of the Heart" in different countries in Latin America, "Rough Season" aims at raising awareness on disaster risk among the most vulnerable communities in the Caribbean.

This audio soap opera addresses recurrent natural hazards such as floods, hurricanes, storms, landslides, as well as food security crisis.

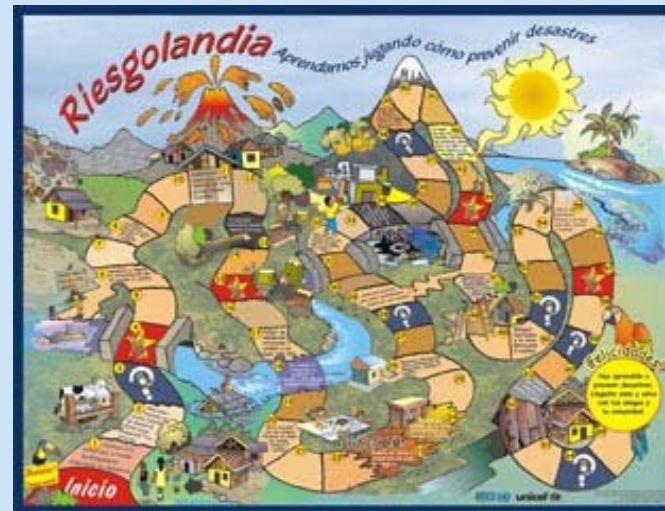
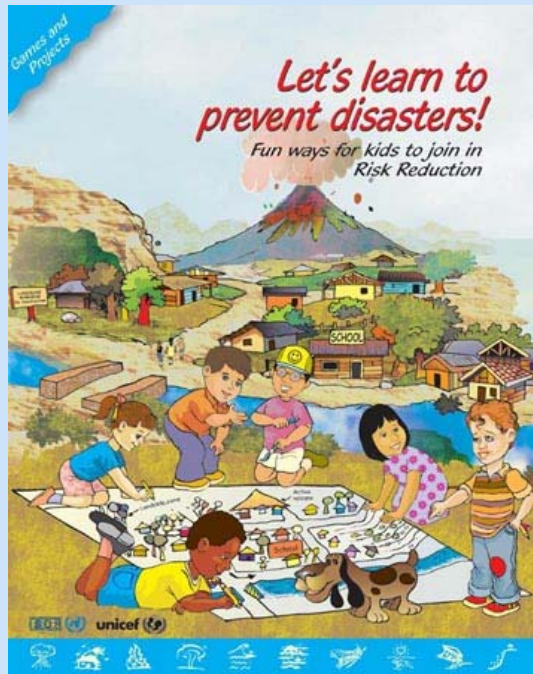
In 15 episodes of 10-minute duration, the script and its characters depict situations that one might expect to encounter in a typical Caribbean scenario.

Partners: UN, ECHO, ETRD, and others.

Logos: The American Health Organization, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Association of Caribbean States.



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 IPCC 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)

DESIGNATED HYOGO FOCAL POINTS

- 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

