

United Nations Development Programme

**Barbados and the OECS
&
Cuba**

Caribbean Risk Management Initiative

Quarterly Report
January to March 2007

Section A: Project progress report

Obj.1: Increased Capacity for climate risk management

I. Integrated, cross cultural risk management and adaptation knowledge network developed

1. Regional and national meetings

2nd Sub-Regional Knowledge Fair on Disaster Risk Reduction

The CRMI played a strong role in the 2nd sub-regional Knowledge Fair on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in the Dominican Republic from January 22-26, for the French and Spanish-speaking Caribbean. This Knowledge Fair was organized by a complementary project under BCPR, entitled “Fostering Knowledge Transfer and the Replication of Best Practices in Disaster Preparedness & Risk Reduction within the Caribbean.” The CRMI Program Manager made a presentation at this Knowledge Fair, on the topic of the systematization of best practices in risk management, with numerous examples from the Caribbean region. A booth displaying publications in 3 languages was also maintained by CRMI at this Fair, to engage with participants and the public.

Another way in which the CRMI maximized the use of this innovative space for knowledge exchange was through the coordination and funding of a Cuban delegation to the event, including key counterparts such as the Institute for Physical Planning (IPF), the National Meteorology Institute (INSMET), the Ministry of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation (MINVEC), GeoCuba and a representative from the Centre for Risk Reduction Management in Santiago province. Each of these made presentations at the Fair on aspects of best practices in risk management and related methodologies.

“Gender and Risk Management” Training offered by *America Latina Genera* project

In January, the CRMI Program Manager participated in a regional training workshop on gender and risk management, organized by BCPR in coordination with the *America Latina Genera* project. This project is managed by UNDP and based at the regional gender unit in El Salvador, and is designed to centralize access to the full range of gender-related resources available in Spanish, via a website platform and key training activities.

Participation in this training significantly enhanced the CRMI’s ability to apply gender analysis to risk management in the Caribbean, and provided theoretical tools to this end. Through its Program Manager, the CRMI continues to participate in the regional community of practice established at that workshop, mainly through discussion groups hosted on its website.

Internal workshop at UNDP Cuba focusing on CRMI

An internal workshop to reflect on the history of the CRMI and its future directions was organized at UNDP Cuba, with participation of the Resident Representative, Coordinator of programs, focal points and the CRMI Program Manager. The timing was planned so as to ensure the participation of the outgoing DRR, who is a key person for the institutional memory of the CRMI and was transferring to a new placement outside of the region. This work session at the country level was considered one of the building blocks for much broader consultation with stakeholders on a possible re-positioning or expansion of the CRMI.

Among the main conclusions of this work session were: (1) participants agreed that the CRMI program should continue, and (2) that as climate change issues are taking ever greater priority in the development debate, that there are now opportunities for a concerted effort at resource mobilization.

2. CRMI Website and network facility

The web site (www.undp.org/cu/crmi) remains active and continues to provide visibility to the CRMI. The website has been continuously updated to incorporate relevant past and upcoming events, as well as newly produced documents and reports.

Discussions have been initiated with BCPR and other key interlocutors as to make the optimal use of the CRMI website, including incorporation of the “best practices” in Caribbean risk management documented by the Caribbean Transfer project.

An expert in website development has been hired and started work on the re-design. The proposal will be presented at the upcoming 2007 Project Steering Committee for a final decision.

3. Documentation of Best Practices

In early 2007, several Cuban best practices in risk management were documented, translated and published in 3 languages. These case studies featured experiences which had proven successful in Cuba and which were potentially replicable in other countries, such as: risk assessment for coastal flooding, risk management in a highly industrialized municipality, local inter-disciplinary centres for risk reduction management at the municipal and provincial levels, and the use of bamboo for resistant housing construction.

The culmination of this activity is an important milestone for the CRMI, as there is great interest throughout the region in dissemination of Cuban experience, yet previously it had not been possible to achieve the necessary documentation from this country. During the last year, best practices in risk management have also been published by CRMI featuring experiences from other Caribbean countries, including St. Lucia, British Virgin Islands,

Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. In the next quarter, case studies on Grenada, Cuba and Dominican Republic and Cuba will be produced.

These best practices will be posted on the re-designed CRMI website during the next semester, linked to map of the Caribbean region.

The CRMI has also built upon the DIPECHO funded initiative “Fostering Knowledge Transfer and Replication of Best Practices in Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction within the Caribbean” to expand on the work done in this area. Specifically, the Early Recovery experience in Grenada following hurricanes is being documented beyond some of the information already captured. This is also highlighting the role of UNDP in the post-disaster recovery process.

II. Cadre of climate risk management personnel developed

1. Tertiary Level Capacity Building

The project has consolidated its support to the development of a cohort of regional professionals in the field of climate risk management through the University of West Indies MSc in Natural Resource Management Climate Adaptation specialized stream. Furthermore, discussions are on-going with the University to support the expansion of the disaster risk reduction curriculum including cooperation under the SIDS University Consortium. .

2. Regional Surge Capacity Training

Regional training to strengthen UNDP surge capacity for post-disaster recovery has been a pending activity under the CRMI since 2006. This key activity had been postponed to 2007, given that BCPR headquarters in Geneva had not finished preparing the training materials and methodology.

At an internal meeting convened during the Knowledge fair by regional risk reduction advisor Angeles Arenas, methodological and logistical aspects of the regional training workshop were discussed. The following conclusions were reached:

- The target group to train is internal to UNDP, and includes focal points and UNVs
- A formal agreement will be reached with Resident Representatives in the region for the deployment of these teams as needed in post-disaster situations
- The regional training workshop should ideally be held prior to the commencement of the next hurricane season in June
- In the future this training could also be extended to local counterparts and NGOs, but initially will be internal to UNDP

The CRMI Project Manager will follow up directly with BCPR regional office in Panama to further define and schedule this training.

Obj. 2 Risk reductions and climate change adaptation integrated into development

I. Policies, institutional structures and legislative systems developed and strengthened

1. Horizontal cooperation

As a result of the Regional Workshop for National Authorities held in Havana in May 2005, horizontal cooperation between national governments in the Caribbean is being promoted through UNDP Cuba as a systematic and comprehensive effort to utilize the capacities, experiences and resources of developing countries. Methodology and terms of reference of the south-south actions has been developed.

Also, a concept note and methodology for South-South cooperation was elaborated in Cuba by the previous programme manager.

Some modest progress was made on furthering the coordination on future horizontal cooperation exchanges. During the 2nd sub-regional Knowledge Fair in the Dominican Republic, the CRMI Programme and Project Managers met with the Coordinator of Haitian Civil Defence and a delegate from the Ministry of the Interior, to discuss interest in an exchange between Cuba and Haiti. The area of evacuation policies was identified as a key interest, and follow-up actions were established with the involvement of UNDP Haiti.

The CRMI Programme Manager has also communicated with UNDP Uruguay on a potential exchange with that country, but so far no concrete proposal has been presented.

One of the results of the two sub-regional Knowledge Fairs was a list of interested parties in various types of horizontal cooperation exchanges. The CRMI is studying this list to determine opportunities for implementing such exchanges, as well as specific topics in which there is a generalized interest throughout the region.

During this period, the CRMI Programme Manager provided accompaniment for a delegation from Honduran Civil Defence which arrived in Cuba, funded by a UNDP Honduras project. She accompanied them during the exchange, and also proposed a format to document and capture the lessons learned from that exchange. This format could also be adapted for use with horizontal cooperation activities organized under the CRMI directly.

3. Support of Institutional Structures.

Three institutional reviews carried out under the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy were conducted and completed for the Bahamas, St. Lucia and the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2005/2006.

A similar review is being undertaken for St. Vincent and the Grenadines utilising the experience of the CRMI and TRAC funds. This activity should conclude in the second quarter of 2007.

II. Risk reduction and climate change adaptation tools developed and applied

1. Support to Precis Caribe web page

Given that the PRECIS Caribe page is one of the key tools available to the region's scientific community for improved risk management in relation to climate change, the CRMI is supporting the process of enhancing this web page. PRECIS Caribe uses a regional climate model developed by the UK Meteorology Office (Hadley Centre), tailored for application the developing countries with limited resources and technology. The Cuban Meteorology Institute (INSMET) participates in a regional group of climate scientists which use this model to generate data on future climate behaviour which can be used by policy-makers to reduce risks for the population and to guide development planning. The PRECIS Caribe web page is an interface to the data base at INSMET containing this data.

The CRMI coordinated translation of this web page platform into French and English, to facilitate access by scientists from across the Caribbean to this key resource. The CRMI has also hired a website designer to enhance the site's aesthetics and make it more user friendly, on request from INSMET.

2. Study on the effects of climate forecasting and drought risk management efforts in agricultural planning in Cuba and Dominican Republic

The aim of this activity is to contribute to ongoing efforts to link climate monitoring and forecasting with risk information, in order to underpin effective risk management efforts in the region. Drought is widely considered to be a priority for work in this area; therefore, a study of drought risk management and its effects on agriculture was carried out.

This activity was initially integrated into the PA. It has been implemented since 2003 as a separate DEX project jointly with the APF testing, but is considered to be under the CRMI umbrella, with activities carried out in Cuba and Dominican Republic. In both

countries, data collection activities have now been completed, and the final data analysis produced.

The full reports of the above-mentioned initiative on Adaptation Policy Framework, as well as on the Agricultural and Meteorological Drought, have already been posted on the CRMI website.

The process for publishing a synopsis of these two reports continues, with CRMI support for editing and publication. The English edition is almost completed, and scheduled to be released via a formal public launch in mid 2007. The CRMI plans to undertake the Spanish and French translations and publication by the end of 2007.

Comments from various entities and contacts express a great interest in obtaining this publication, as drought is one of the adverse climate-related phenomena that increasingly affects a number of Caribbean countries.

3. Apply Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Methodologies.

In order to exploit the synergies between reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters and adapting to climate change, the objective of this activity is to adopt a common methodology for assessing climate risk -- from current risk posed by present-day extreme weather, to medium and long term risk from climate variability and change - - and to apply this methodology in two selected countries in the Caribbean in order to identify cost-effective interventions for reducing climate risk.

The CRMI has collaborated with the MACC project to implement this activity as has been illustrated through this report. St. Lucia was the lead country implementing the VCA, with other Caribbean countries benefiting from that country's experience. Other countries have advanced the VCA through the direct support of the MACC Project.

The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment activity in St Lucia was largely concluded at the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007 with a draft report. This report was to be reviewed and finalised by the lead expert in the area, but this has been delayed due to unforeseen personal challenges. From discussions with the lead expert, this can reasonably be expected to conclude in the second quarter of 2007. This document is then expected to inform the second National Communications report under the UNFCCC as well as the Special Project on Adaptation to Climate Change.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is also exploring the application of the VCA with possible support from the CRMI based on the experience developed by a former intern to the CRMI. This activity would also be aligned with the second National Communications report under the UNFCCC for that country.

Obj. 3 Increase investments in climate risk management

II. Partnerships established and strengthened

Other Activities

An extension of DEX authorization for the CRMI was submitted during the reporting period, and is pending decision.

With the arrival of a Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor to the Barbados and the OECS Office, the Project Manager has been collaborating in reviewing and defining a disaster program for the sub-region. This has continued to involve refinement of the UNDAF with a focus on disaster management; and support to and coordination of the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management (ECDGDM).

1. Resource mobilization

Given the general consensus that the CRMI should continue, and the draft resource mobilization strategy prepared in 2006 by the consultant from the Italian government, resource mobilizations effort were started during this period. Three concept notes were prepared and submitted to donors which had expressed an interest in supporting the CRMI: the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Gender Thematic Trust Fund (GTTF) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The Norwegian MFA approved a cost-sharing contribution in the amount of \$200,000 USD, mainly designated for regional technical training workshops on topics related to the management of climate-related risks. A tentative list of workshop topics has been prepared, based on information gathering to date by the Programme and Project Managers. This list has been circulated to key actors and counterparts for their feedback and prioritization.

A decision has not yet been received on the concept notes submitted to FCO and the GTTF.

2. Regional partnerships strengthened

Close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) continued. With a view to calling attention to the Caribbean region's particular vulnerability to the effects of climate change, a side event is being organized for the upcoming Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15), in New York in May. Led by the CCCCC and in coordination also with the Italian

government, the side event will address the issue, “What makes the Caribbean vulnerable.” The CRMI Programme Manager will make a presentation as part of this side event panel, and UNESCO will also speak about its projects in coastal areas of Jamaica and Trinidad.

Periodic meetings were also held with the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA), another key regional counterpart.

Relations were also maintained with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). The CRMI was represented by its Project Manager at an ECLAC meeting on developing a regional approach on Methodologies for Disaster Assessment. The meeting allowed various regional stakeholders to review appropriate methodologies; identify strategies, linkages and generally look to strengthening analyses for risk reduction. The meeting was hosted by ECLAC in Trinidad and Tobago from 28 February to 1st March.

The CRMI Project Manager accompanied the UNDP RR and UN RC for Barbados and the OECS to a meeting with the Director General of the ACS and the Director of Tourism and Disaster Management for the organisation during the same mission to Trinidad. In discussion with the ACS, it was noted that the ACS was primarily involved in policy and advocacy and this represented an opportunity for greater collaboration with the CRMI. One of the issues noted was the limited participation of the OECS countries in the ACS addressing natural disasters. UNDP Barbados and the OECS promised to assist in addressing this gap.

3. Systematization and dissemination of experiences in risk management, including disaster preparedness and response, nationally and regionally

Support was provided by CRMI to the Honduran Civil Defense delegation (COPECO), in terms of accompanying part time during their mission to Cuba. Also, a format was developed to try to document the experience and the lessons learned as a key input for the systematization. This format has been provided to the Honduran group for their completion.

Section B: Financial Report

| Cuba Country Office | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Source of funds | Planned Budget for 2007 in USD | Actual Expenditures as of 30 March 2007 (in USD) | Remaining unspent funds | Projected expenditure 2007 |
| Regional Activities (Line 1.2) | 27,376.09 | | 27,376.09 | 27,376.09 |
| TRAC 3 – Recovery | 97,681.07 | 22,990.54 | 74,690.53 | 97,681.07 |
| TRAC 3 – Response & Recovery | 2,227.68 | -352.08 | 2,579.76 | 2,227.68 |
| Development Advisory Services | 50,000.00 | 3,711.27 | 46,288.73 | 50,000.00 |
| Cost-sharing (Italy) | 62,660.62 | 4,255.29 | 58,405.33 | 62,660.62 |
| Total | 239,945.46 | 30,605.02 | 209,340.44 | 239,945.46 |
| Barbados and the OECS Sub-Regional Office | | | | |
| Source of funds | Planned Budget for 2006 in USD | Actual Expenditures as of 30 March 2006 (in USD) | Remaining unspent funds | Projected expenditure 2007 |
| Regional Activities (Line 1.2) | \$48,278 | \$46,001 (52,514) | \$2,277 | \$48,278 |
| TRAC 3 – Recovery | \$51,363 | \$49,881 (43,368) | \$1,482 | \$51,363 |
| Extended CRMI | | | | |
| Regional Activities | \$140,000 | \$40,000 | \$100,000 | \$140,000 |
| TRAC 3 | \$53,000 | \$0 | \$53,000 | \$53,000 |
| Total | \$292,641 | \$135,882 | \$156,759 | \$292,641 |

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The year 2007 should be decisive for the CRMI, as climate change issues are highlighted by the release of the UNDP's Human Development Report focusing on this issue, as well as other coordinated activities.

Related resource mobilization opportunities should be identified and seized. Also, the various committees established under the CRMI's implementation arrangements should be convened to review its mandate and make any adjustments advised.