

United Nations Development Programme

**Barbados and the OECS
&
Cuba**

Caribbean Risk Management Initiative



Quarterly Report

July - September 2008

Highlights this trimester:

- *CRMI Stakeholders' Meeting and launch of ER Case Study*
- *Gender and Climate Change Advisory committee meeting*
- *UN Regional SPIDER Workshop convened in Barbados*

Section A: Project progress report

Objective 1: Increased Capacity for climate risk management

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

1. Regional and national meetings

CDERA Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean – Technical Advisory Committee

The CRMI Project Manager attended the TAC meeting to review the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project at the CDERA Coordinating Unit on 24 July. The meeting was convened to review the report of the project Consultants and to advise the Project on appropriate steps. This participation represents the continued commitment to a regional partner and process and cements the relationships developed or expanded under the CRMI.

Gender Advisory Committee meeting

The full CRMI Project Team participated in the Gender Advisory committee meeting in Kingston, Jamaica on 13 September to review the progress of the GTTF funded Gender and Climate Risk project. Specifically the objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To obtain an update on the CRMI/UWI gender research in progress
- To collectively provide input and comments to enhance the quality of the reports
- To start to envision the next steps and follow-up after this research is launched

While the full committee could not participate in the meeting, there was representation from UNDP offices in Barbados, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico; UNFPA in the Dominican Republic and members of the research team.

The decisions of the meeting included the following:

- The final outcomes will be presented at the CDERA CDM Conference in Barbados in December. The English version of the research publication will be available for sharing at the Conference.

- The CRMI is also in discussions with CDERA to facilitate a professional development course on Gender and Disaster at the CDM Conference.
- The meeting flagged the possibility of developing a Policy Brief on gender and climate change for the CDM conference.
- Other dissemination options for the research publication include opportunities through the CARICOM Committee on Gender and Climate Change and through the Gender and Development course at UWI Cave Hill in 2009.
- The meeting agreed that the research should be included into the University curriculum, and could be incorporated as a module into existing programmes (e.g. the Climate Change programme at UWI).
- With the departure of the CRMI Program Manager, the Project Manager and Officer based at the UNDP Barbados and OECS CO will take responsibility for supervision in the final stages of the project.

CRMI Stakeholder's Meeting in Belize

CRMI convened a stakeholder meeting in Belize on 22nd September. The specific objectives of the meeting were:

- To confirm and strengthen shared regional ownership of the CRMI program
- To resolve any outstanding discrepancies about the proper role of CRMI
- To reflect collectively on the best substantive focus and management structure for CRMI Phase 2

The Chair of the CRMI PSC, Ms. Susan McDade the UN RC and UNDP RR in Cuba was the chair of the meeting and the RC/RR of Barbados and the OECS, Ms Michelle Gyles-McDonnough the co-chair. Also represented at the meeting were the CRMI Program and Project Managers, the Knowledge Management Consultant and the Communications Officer from UNDP Barbados and the OECS. UNDP in Belize was represented by the ARR and the Energy and Environment Program Manager. The stakeholders present included CDERA, CCCCC, UN ECLAC Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, Association of Caribbean States, UWI, UNEP and BCPR. The Deputy Director of RBLAC also joined the meeting by teleconference.

The stakeholders concurred that the CRMI should continue in a new phase including the following considerations:

- CRMI Phase II should continue and have a narrow but clear focus on what it can do best, including:
 - As a facilitator/supporter to assist agencies and governments in furthering their CC and DRR mandate.
 - Advocacy and policy coordination should receive stronger focus
- The proposed outcomes should reflect ownership by the countries and agencies. National mechanisms for the CRMI should be reviewed and formulated in consultation with the countries.

- CRMI should facilitate South/South as well as North/South cooperation e.g. creation of linkages and exchanges with Japan.
- CC & DRR information should be packaged to target specific sectors (financial, tourism, agriculture etc.) to influence policy. The CRMI should engage with professional groups and the private sector.
- The concept paper for CRMI 2 should speak to the transitioning of CRMI beyond UNDP and address sustainability issues.

It was agreed that the following would be undertaken

- The development of a concept paper for the new iteration of the CRMI and circulate to stakeholders and a wider audience for input.
- A mapping of institutions addressing ACC and DRM would support the development of the new phase of the CRMI.

2. CRMI Website and network facility

Significant progress was achieved in the management of the CRMI Website and network. The Program Manager prepared terms of reference for the new website manager position, to be posted during the following quarter. Additionally, funds were also secured through the Spanish Trust Fund to enable the position.

3. Documentation of Best Practices

Early recovery case study in Grenada

The publication on lessons learned in the early recovery experience in Grenada following hurricanes Ivan and Emily was launched in Belize following the Stakeholder's Meeting on 22 September. The launch was chaired by Ms Susan McDade - Chair of the CRMI Policy Steering Committee. The feature address given by Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough the Resident Representative for UNDP Barbados and the OECS, the office that supported Grenada through the early recovery process. Copies of the Case Study were presented to local officials and the Coordinator of CDERA, Mr. Jeremy Collymore. The CRMI Project Manager also participated in a radio interview in Belize to discuss the relevance of Early Recovery to Caribbean countries.

A launch of the Case Study is planned in the next quarter for Grenada.

Climate change adaptation with a gender focus

One of the components of the initiative approved by the Gender Thematic Trust Fund (GTTF) under the CRMI framework entails three case studies documenting climate change adaptation practices in the Caribbean region with a gender focus. This research will help not only to mainstream gender concerns into climate risk adaptation in the

region, but will also provide much-needed information on a field in which scant documentation is currently available.

The Gender Advisory Committee meeting reviewed the work in mid-September (see report above). This meeting noted some of the initial findings of the assessments and the case studies and made specific recommendations. The research and report development will conclude by the end of 2008, after which no further financial authorisation will be valid.

Gender Profile for BCPR Toolkit

The CRMI program Manager prepared an profile for a BCPR tool-kit on the 8-point agenda illustrating how CRMI through the gender research is furthering this agenda.

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. Discussions have been held with the Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC) of the UWI regarding the programming of additional resources with a focus on support to the disaster risk reduction curriculum including cooperation under the SIDS University Consortium.

There has been no additional activity in this area this quarter. Further activity in this area will be based on concluding resource mobilisation activities.

2. Regional technical training workshops

United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for the Caribbean

From July 8th – 11th, 2008 more than 60 participants attended the “United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for the Caribbean.” The workshop was co-organised by UNDP Barbados and the OECS, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Government of Barbados. Funding was provided by the Government of Austria, which put forward resources in addition to the support it is already providing to the UN-SPIDER Programme. A total of 25 participants received support to attend the workshop.

The CRMI Project team in Barbados enabled and jointly coordinated this activity in collaboration with the UN SPIDER team in Vienna and CDERA and the Government of Barbados. The workshop was made possible through the participation of the CRMI

Project Manager's participation in a UN SPIDER meeting in 2007 and discussions held with the head of UN SPIDER, Mr. David Stevens. The objectives of the workshop were to share experiences in the use of spatial solutions for disaster management and emergency response and to illustrate the available options.

Immediately after the workshop, the impact was realised as the Montserrat Volcanic Observatory was able to access radar imagery to monitor the status of the Soufriere Hills Volcano at a period of some uncertainty utilising the mechanism outlined in the workshop.

The CRMI also supported participation of a Cuban scientist in the meeting.

Objective 2: Risk reductions and climate change adaptation integrated into development

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

1. Horizontal cooperation

The convening and participation in the UN-SPIDER (UN Space-based Solutions and Information for Disaster and Emergency Response) regional workshop held in Barbados and co-hosted by UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean facilitated improved horizontal coordination and networking. Participants from over 25 countries and a number of governmental, inter-governmental, academic and research, and donor institutions as well as non state actors participated.

In general, budget limitations and the review of CRMI restrict support to specific horizontal exchanges for the moment.

In a general sense, the regional training workshops are considered a contribution to horizontal cooperation, as these are based on south-south knowledge transfer among the region's professionals. They also facilitate a networking opportunity in this sector, which can provide opportunities for initial contacts on which to build bilateral exchanges.

2. Caribbean Reducing Disaster Risk Report

As noted in earlier reports, a Concept Note (CN) for the CRDR has been developed. This process is expected to be advanced with additional resource mobilisation to include a focus on the sustainability and integration with planned DRR mainstreaming and advocacy initiatives.

3. Support of Institutional Structures.

UNDP has provided support in the past in this area through institutional reviews carried out under the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy for a number of SIDS including the Bahamas, St. Lucia, the Turks and Caicos Islands and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The first three assessments utilised CRMI resources and the last national TRAC funds complemented by the experience and supervision of the CRMI staff. These activities were completed between 2005 and 2007 and the results published and circulated through the CRMI website. The Grenada Early Recovery Case Study followed this practice

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

1. 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 Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA), with other Caribbean countries benefiting from that country's experience. Other countries have advanced the VCA through the direct support of the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project.

The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment activity in St Lucia was largely concluded in early 2007 with a draft report. This document is expected to inform the second National Communications report under the UNFCCC as well as the Special Project on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC).

2. Gender and climate risk research activities

The CRMI Program Manager and the Knowledge Management Consultant undertook a mission to the Dominican Republic from the 20 – 24 July with the following objectives:

- Support gathering of information needed to complete the CRMI gender research studies, specifically for the gender assessment of the national risk management mechanism in the Dominican Republic
- Meet with lead researcher from UWI, to review and adjust timelines for deliverables under the gender research, strategize on optimal presentation of

research findings, and incorporate closer involvement of Barbados-based CRMI team members

- Update the DR CO and national contacts on recent developments under the CRMI (external evaluation and PSC meeting agreements)

In addition to gathering information needed to complete the gender research coordinated by CRMI, this visit also had the unexpected effect of educating a number of counterparts on issues regarding the incorporation of a gender focus into disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

During this period, the Gender and Climate Risk Research was completed and reviewed as described. The next steps include finalising the documents and presenting these in the annual CDERA Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Conference in December. This will include a half day seminar for disaster managers on gender and disaster management as well as presentation of results in the main conference.

As a result, it is expected that CRMI may support capacity development for disaster managers in the area of Gender and will also contribute to Gender and Climate Change discussions in 2009. It is expected that discussions at the Conference will feed into the development of policy positions on gender and disaster management which the CRMI can support into 2009.

Objective 3: Increase investments in climate risk management

II. Partnerships established and strengthened

Other Activities

Following the Stakeholders Meeting, a concept note is under development for the next phase of CRMI and also an Initiation Plan to support this process will also be prepared in the final quarter of 2008.

1. Resource mobilization

The proposal to the Spain-UNDP Trust Fund for its \$500,000 USD contribution to CRMI was approved and mobilised during the period.

The proposal to the EU for supporting Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) involved further negotiation during the period. The proposal involved considerable adjustment based on input from the OCTs and there has been discussion as to whether implementation through the CRMI and UNDP generally was the desired option. In collaboration with the EC Delegation in Barbados and the OCT office in Brussels, further

review has been undertaken. It is expected that a final document will be discussed with the OCTs and submitted in late November.

2. Regional partnerships strengthened

Opportunities arose during the Stakeholder Meeting to discuss areas of further collaboration with Cuban authorities and other regional partners including INSMET, MINVEC, CCCCC, CDERA and others. The process of developing the second phase of the CRMI will support this. Additionally, with the departure of the CRMI Program manager to the South Pacific regional centre in Fiji, there are improved opportunities for collaboration with that region.

The CRMI continues to support the CDERA led regional disaster management process with membership on the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Harmonisation Council (CHC). The CHC is meant to drive the implementation of the CDM, which is an approach among the 16 CDERA member states to define a regional approach to realising the goals of the Hyogo framework and mainstreaming of DRR. Support is also being provided to the annual CDM Conference through the Knowledge Management Consultant's participation on the planning committee.

CRMI also supports UNDP representation on a number of CDERA regional committees including the CDM Database committee – which will enable a comprehensive review of all DRR activities in the 16 CDERA member states.

Section B: Financial Report

Cuba Country Office				
Source of Funds	Planned Budget for 2008 in USD	Actual Expenditures as of 30 September 08 (in USD)	Remaining unspent funds	Projected Expenditure 2008
Regional Activities (line 1.2)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TRAC3 - Response & Recovery	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gender Thematic Trust Fund	148,787	53,025	95,762	148,787
Cost-Sharing (Norway)	138,731	138,326	405	138,731
Spanish Trust Fund	290,000	56,373	283,627	129,800*
TOTAL	\$627,518	\$247,724	\$379,794	\$615,518
Barbados & the OECS Sub-Regional Office				
Source of Funds	Planned Budget for 2008 in USD	Actual Expenditures as of 30 September 08 (in USD)	Remaining unspent funds	Projected Expenditure 2008
Regional Activities	50,000	46,509	3,491	50,000
TRAC3	48,721	45,323	3,398	48,721
Cost-Sharing	51,017	16,585	34,432	51,017
TOTAL	\$149,738	\$108,417	\$41,321	\$149,738

* Based on an expected budget revision

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Following the external evaluation in the first half of 2008 and the Stakeholder's Meeting, the steps to advance the next phase of CRMI are both clear and validated. This will involve the development of a new project which will be discussed in detail with stakeholders to reinforce ownership and commitment. During the transition phase and with the departure of the CRMI Program Manager, the Barbados based Project Manger has been directed to take leadership of the technical process under the direction of the Chair of the CRMI PSC.

It should be noted that the relatively low rate of expenditure under the Cuba CO is as a function of funds from the Spanish Trust Fund that will be re-programmed for 2009. This adjustment will be undertaken in the final quarter of 2009.