

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Barbados and the OECS  
&  
Cuba**

**Caribbean Risk Management Initiative**

**Quarterly Report**

July to September 2005

## Section A: Project progress report

### **Obj.1: Increased Capacity for climate risk management**

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

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##### 1. Regional and national meetings

The Barbados and the OECS Subregional Office (SRO) hosted a BCPR and DMTP “Surge Capacity Training Workshop” between 31st August and 2nd September 2005 at UN House. Participation at the regional workshop included personal of the UNDP offices as well of the UNVs and consultants. The main objectives of the meeting were the following:

- 1) Development of a pool of Caribbean-based post-disaster recovery specialists available to the UNDP and the countries in the event of a disaster.
- 2) To compile the experiences and the learned lessons of the different UNDP offices to integrate them into the training material to support the effort of the BCPR in building capacity in the Caribbean to manage risk preparedness, recovery and risk reduction.

The main topics addressed during the workshop were the concepts of the recuperation post-disasters, the mobilization of resources, and the organization of the recuperation phase. The different countries attending the meeting made presentation of one of their own case studied.

##### 2. CRMI Website and Improved Havana Risk web Page

The web site ([www.onu.org/cu/crmi](http://www.onu.org/cu/crmi)) is now active. It includes the following documentations related to lessons learned in the Caribbean region, 12 best practices collected in the region and translated in the 3 languages, more than 25 documents and links related to DRR and ACC, list of past and up-coming events as well as general news that can be shared with the public. The several documents translated in English, Spanish and French have been done with the help and support of the on-line UN volunteers that resulted as an excellent initiative in support to our work..

The web site will be constantly up-dated with the inputs received from the CRMI partners.

### 3. Network facility

At present the structure and mechanism of the Facility is being laid by the Program Manager with the support of a technical assistant. The Lyris software to support the network has been installed and a list of possible members is under preparation. It is foreseen that the network will be active by October.

The CRMI regional thematic network provides an opportunity for an exchange of theme-related information, knowledge and lessons learnt about policies and practices. By operating as a broker for knowledge, services, resources and relationships, it provides an avenue to amplify the voices of communities and bring them into global and regional levels while empowering their capacities. The network will function in English, Spanish and French to broaden the participation to all the different languages community in the Caribbean region.

The discussions will be carried out via forums for discussions/debates as well as through opportunities for face-to-face networking and interaction. Most importantly, it will create and maximize opportunities and potentials for partnerships.

In particular network members will benefit from:

1. Welcome message with technical guidelines on how to access the network
2. A CRMI dedicated web site in three languages where to post the best practices and lessons learned collected in the region as well as links with other networks, news and documentation.
3. Self- moderation of the discussions
4. Resource, guidance and tools to select and diffuse Best Practices, lessons learnt and information.
5. Conduction of virtual consultations also to enable the formulation of policies
6. Information flow between the different language communities
7. Full member profile and activities database
8. Information on international and regional events related to DRR and ACC
9. Facilitation in the organization of conferences, workshop and events

### **4. Document a Best Practice Study**

The evaluation and documentation of a best practice case study demonstrating the British Virgin Island's experience in the integration of risk reduction into the development agenda was largely complete by the end of this period. The study also illustrates how investment in risk reduction as well as traditional preparedness and strengthening of the disaster management institution has contributed to reduced damage from recent natural hazards such as hurricanes, thereby contributing to reducing the loss of development gains.

Final editing of documents for submission was to be completed and these shall be available by the end of October for sharing with partners including through the cross cultural network.

## **II. Cadre of climate risk management and personnel developed**

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### 1. Tertiary Level Capacity Building

The project document states that the project will contribute to the development of a cohort of regional professionals in the field of climate risk management by creating linkages with and supporting existing tertiary level programmes such as the University of West Indies Climate Adaptation Programme. This support has included hosting two student interns at the UNDP to satisfy their Masters' requirements.

One of the students interned with the CRMI Project Manager from June to the end of September and focussed on the vulnerability and capacity assessment activity. The student is writing up his report, but his work has contributed to this area, particularly in assessing the methodology to be applied against other existing methodologies and in the development of work programmes for participating countries.

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

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

#### 1. Horizontal cooperation

The horizontal cooperation between national governments in the Caribbean must be promoted through the UNDP offices through a systematic and comprehensive effort to pool and utilize the capacities, experiences and resources of developing countries. This project activity will extract lessons learned and adapt them to other countries at the level of local government or community organizations as an attempt to find concrete measures that reduce the vulnerability of populations at risk. The project will help in bridging knowledge and information gap in the region as well as promoting greater collaboration and coordination between the countries in the region by using local capabilities and expertise in the Caribbean countries.

A first capacity building activity of the Civil Defence of the Cuban Government in Honduras will start by the end of september. The duration of the activity will be of one month in Cieba and Tegucigalpa and will be mainly focused on emergency evacuation. This capacity building activity will be documented in order to be shared with all the Caribbean countries through the CRMI.

## 2. Support of Institutional Structures.

The primary objective of this activity is to strengthen disaster mitigation institutions in 3 selected countries in order to capacitate them to implement the regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy at the national level. This will begin with follow through on implementing recommendations from the institutional reviews carried out under CDM and will continue with national reviews started under the CDM project. This activity will be linked to the study of national legislative systems in order to ensure that institutions have the capacity to operationalise legislation. The selection process for which countries will participate in this activity will begin in the first six months of the project cycle. The capacitation of the institutions will take place throughout the project cycle. These activities will be managed by UNDP – Barbados.”

An MOU between the UNDP and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) facilitated the implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Institutional Reviews in three countries, the Bahamas, St. Lucia and the Turks and Caicos Islands. CDERA employed a consultant to undertake the reviews and present findings for comment in national consultations in the respective countries. The final reports for review were received at the end of June 2005 and have been circulated to key partners for comments. There has been little comment from partners on this area, largely due to a very active hurricane season and a number of on-going initiatives.

This activity should be concluded by the end of the next reporting period.

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

### 1. Completion of Disaster inventories in the region

The Initiative states that the project will undertake a comprehensive, detailed and geo-referenced inventory of disaster occurrence and loss in the Caribbean over the last 30 years to provide essential baseline information. The emphasis will be on addressing serious data gaps in this area in the region. The inventory will attempt to analyse loss trends related to population growth and GDP.

DESINVENTAR first results have been delivered to enable its integration in the Havana Risk web page.

Cuba data has not be incorporated into DESINVENTAR at this stage, in spite of negotiation efforts deployed by the CO to encourage national institutions to provide data to LA RED. In 2004 additional support was granted to the Civil Defence in Cuba in order to enable the supply of the missing information. The last communication from the Cuban Civil Defence states that data are still being collected and that will be made available by October 2005.

## 2. Apply adaptation policy framework (APF)

The Initiative states that this framework, prepared by the UNDP in association with GEF, links climate change with development planning and addresses short term issues related to climate variability and extremes, as well as those associated with longer term climate change.

This activity initially integrated into PA, is being implemented since 2003 as a separate DEX project but is still considered under the umbrella of CRMI, with activities carried out in Cuba and Dominican Republic. Both in Cuba and Dominican Republic field activities for APF testing have been finalized. Methodologies and preliminary data have been shared between technical teams of both countries. The final report of the scientific activity has been terminated. The workshop concluding the project will take place from 26 to 30 of September in Cuba. Due to the fact that provision of the funds by the donor has been completed by January 2005, some delay in finalizing the project final report is envisaged.

## 3. Study the effects of climate forecasting and drought risk management efforts in agricultural planning.

The Initiative states that the aim of this activity is to contribute to on-going efforts to link climate monitoring and forecasting with risk information in order to underpin effective risk management efforts in the region. Drought is considered to be a priority for work in this area; thus, a study of drought risk management and its effects in agriculture will be carried out.

This activity initially integrated into the PA, is being implemented since 2003 as a separate DEX project jointly with APF testing but is still considered under the umbrella of CRMI, with activities carried out in Cuba and Dominican Republic. Both in Cuba and Dominican Republic, data collection activities have been completed. Preliminary data analysis has been produced.

The final report of the scientific activity has been terminated. The workshop concluding the project will take place from 26 to 30 of September in Cuba. Due to the fact that provision of the funds by the donor has been completed by January 2005, some delay in finalizing the project final report is envisaged.

## 4. 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 approach to assess 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.”

In the previous reporting period, preparatory activities were undertaken to facilitate the initiation of the VCA exercise in St Lucia in collaboration with the MACC Project. This included meeting with stakeholders; identifying related activities and opportunities for collaboration and available information sources; and prioritising next steps.

During the reporting period, progress in this area was slower than expected due to challenges faced at the national level. The local focal point and the committee of related agencies were able to identify the study area for the VCA and also that St. Lucia would adopt an integrated watershed approach as opposed to addressing any single sector for analysis. There have been challenges however in coordinating details such as a work plan and budget between the MACC Project, NOAA, the local focal point and the UNDP CRMI.

Several initiatives have been undertaken during the reporting period to address the challenges faced, including the limited response from other countries to the invitation by the MACC to identify their pilot VCA activity and the over stretched local counterparts. Specifically;

- Utilising the UWI intern, the UNDP CRMI developed draft work plans and budgets for implementing the VCAs in the various pilot sectors;
- The MACC project supported by the CRMI outlined the use of technical support to each country in the form of one individual per country to assist in developing work plans; data collection and assessment; and preliminary analysis;
- Organising a regional workshop in early October for technical support individuals and national focal points to finalise arrangements; review the methodology; as well as a field trip to the proposed study area in St Lucia to identify the issues and initiate the activity locally;
- Identify local support to assist the local counterpart in implementing the VCA iactivity in St Lucia;
- Formal communication to the responsible ministry in St Lucia reaffirming the commitment of the MACC and the UNDP.\
- Initiation of discussions with the Governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada for the implementation of the VCA pilots in those countries.

### **Obj. 3 Increase investments in climate risk management**

## **II. Partnership established and strengthened**

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### 1. Partnership with the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory

A third party cost share agreement has been signed with the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory to finance the post of Program Manager of the CRMI, thus reinforcing the existing partnerships in the program.

## **Other Activities**

Other activities not included in the project document and that can be considered parts of the CRMI are the one financed with 150.000 USD as a contribution from BCPR in response to Hurricane Charlie in Cuba.

The support aims at introducing risk management in development plans at the provincial and municipal levels, including relevant capacity development activities for local and national government officials and other actors. The support requested will also facilitate coordination activities for the implementation of the recovery and reconstruction strategy as well as provide support to ongoing and new UNDP recovery and reconstruction activities in the country. The main activities will be the following:

1. Strengthened inter-sectoral and inter-institutional communication between National Civil Defence, the province, municipalities and population including a National Reference Centre on Risk Management created and functioning

The country counts on a wide range of experiences and knowledge in the area of risk management, on initiatives in reducing vulnerabilities and on a well developed legal context. This type of information however is to a large extent limited to as well as distributed to, in an ad hoc manner, few institutions. Due to the limited flow of information, this often leads to duplication of efforts and thinly disbursed efforts in order to find adequate solutions. In addition, a geo-referenced system (GIS) has been initiated but not fully integrated or able to take advantage of studies on risk and other new knowledge. In addition it has not been extended to the entire country but prioritised to coastal zones directly vulnerable to flooding. An Early Warning System (SAT) has furthermore been developed and introduced by the National Civil Defence institution. The system however has mainly been limited to national level and up to now there are no institutional linkages between the geo-referenced system and the early warning system.

The project foresees to collect the existing knowledge and resources in one reference point in the form of a web site (intranet) which would allow for an improvement of the quality and quantity of the information provided both at national and regional level through a continuous process of updated information as well as ensure the necessary linkages between the two systems tools (GIS and SAT). Both tools will be extended to vulnerable communities of Guama Municipality, in Santiago de Cuba Province. The access to high quality information – through the intranet - will furthermore respond to the need of regular update and real time dissemination of critical information through GIS and SAT as well as facilitate and strengthen the decision making process of the relevant institutions. This activity will also require training for relevant institutions in the further development and use of the GIS and SAT.

## 2. Risk management capacities strengthened at provincial and local levels

This result aims at developing the early warning system as a decision making tool in development planning, investment and in the management of disaster situations. This result foresees supporting the National Civil Defense in undertaking risk studies in selected communities and establishing a Risk Management Centre in Guama and 7 Early Warning Systems in the selected vulnerable communities.

## 3. Experiences in risk management, including disaster preparedness and response, systematized and disseminated nationally and regionally

This result will include development of material of methodologies and experienced in managing risks and natural disaster situations. The main activity will be the organization of national and regional workshops together with National Civil Defense, MINVEC, Housing Institute (INV) and the Institute of Meteorology.

## 4. Implementation of the integrated strategy for recuperation and reconstruction after disasters caused by hurricanes Ivan and Charley

A strategy for long term recovery and reconstruction has been developed together with the Government of Cuba, in particular with National Civil Defense, with the purpose of more effectively align the support provided by UNDP to the government prior, during and after natural disasters, with the need to quickly move from the emergency phase towards recuperation and rehabilitation. The will enhance its implementation and ensure that emergency actions are coordinates and include a link to long term processes of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Activities will also include creation of synergies among existing and new projects in the area of housing and risk executed through UNDP and their alignment with the strategy as well as strengthening of UNDP capacity to implement the strategy and specific risk related projects in the provinces.

## Section B: Financial Report

<b>Cuba Country Office</b>					
<b>Source of funds</b>	<b>Planned Budget for 2005 in USD</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures as of 23 September 2005 (in USD)</b>	<b>Remaining unspent funds</b>	<b>Projected expenditure 2005-2006</b>	
Regional Activities (Line 1.2)	100,000	22,607	77.393	77.393	
TRAC 3 – Recovery	80,000	1.108.94	78.891	78.891	
TRAC 3 – Response & Recovery	150,000	119.122,28	30.877,72	30.877,72	
<b>Total</b>	<b>330.000</b>	<b>142.838,22</b>	<b>187.161,72</b>	<b>187.161,72</b>	
<b>Barbados and the OECS Sub-Regional Office</b>					
<b>Source of funds</b>	<b>Planned Budget for 2005 in USD</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures as of 30 September 2005 (in USD)</b>	<b>Remaining unspent funds - 2005</b>	<b>Projected expenditure Oct – Dec 2005</b>	<b>Projected expenditure 2006</b>
TRAC 1 & 2	\$100,000	\$100,349	-\$349	\$0	\$48,278
TRAC 3 –	\$106,363	\$0	\$106,363	\$55,000	\$51,363
External Cooperation	\$2,615	\$0	\$2,615	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,978</b>	<b>\$100,349</b>	<b>\$108,629</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$99,641</b>

### Conclusions and Recommendations:

One of the challenges faced by the Barbados and the OECS SRO was the establishment of the ASL for TRAC 3 funds and the reallocation of unspent funds from the 2004 TRAC 2 budget. The budget report reflects that there was an overspending of the TRAC 2 line for 2005 and no spending up to the reporting period under the other TRAC. This has finally been corrected with the establishment of the ASL in October and the reallocation of the 2004 funds to 2006. A budget revision will be prepared before the end of 2005.