

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Barbados and the OECS  
&  
Cuba**

**Caribbean Risk Management Initiative**



**Semester Report**  
JANUARY – JULY 2010

***Achievements this semester:***

- *Approval in principle of CRMI Phase II*
- *Publication of Cuba - Risk Reduction Management Centres document*
- *Updated content on the website*
- *Training Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems with Focus on Institutional Partnership and Coordination*
- *Supporting Pacific Delegation to Caribbean*
- *Supporting Caribbean Delegation to Fiji*

**Section A: Project progress report**

**Objective 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**

ICG CARIBE EWS Meeting in Nicaragua 15-17 March 2010

CRMI facilitated the participation of Mr. Ronald Jackson to the fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-V), held in Nicaragua 15 - 17 March 2010. The meeting served as a forum for discussions on the establishment of a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center as well as the CARIBE EWS implementation plan.

This meeting also facilitated the election of officers to the CARIBE-EWS, namely one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for the next biennium and provided updates on progress from the different working groups.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hemispheric Encounter: Santa Marta Columbia

The Second Hemispheric Encounter, National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction was convened in Santa Marta Columbia 14 -16 April.

The meeting allowed for the exchange of successful experiences and best practices in the area of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) with a goal of advancing the establishment and strengthening of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

The Encounter also sought to strengthen cooperation between the countries in the region, regional and international organizations, as well as agencies for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of DRM and CCA.

CRMI participated in this meeting through its project manager, Mr. Ian King who shared the experiences of CRMI. The audience at this meeting included principal government institutions from each country in areas of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change; experts and officials from programs and projects belonging to regional intergovernmental organizations; international cooperative organizations; development banks; as well as bilateral and multilateral donors.

The Encounter was convened by the Government of Colombia, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), and the secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

### Community of Practice (CoP) Tela, Honduras

The CRMI management team attended BCPRs Community of Practice event in Honduras during the period 26 - 30 May. This is an annual event that allows DRR focal points in the Country Offices (CO) and BCPR representatives in the region to review developments in the area of DRR; provide advice on practice tools and strategies; share experiences; and clarify approaches including during crises.

The meeting allowed discussions on a number of key areas including Early Recovery; the PDNA and DALA processes; the experiences in Haiti and Chile; tools and approaches to accessing support during a crisis. CO representatives, including the CRMI team, shared their activities and contributions to mainstreaming DRR in their respective contexts and were encouraged to support the roster of pre-approved consultants by nominating persons and having the requisite documentation submitted for the pre-approval process.

Mr. Howie Prince, Mr. Ian King and Ms. Jacinda Fairholm jointly presented on results to date achieved by CRMI and the upcoming transition to CRMI II at this event. Mr. King also participated on a panel discussion as it relates to the experiences with the DALA.

### 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Disasters, Havana Cuba

CRMI sponsored 6 regional participants (Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Cuba) to the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Disasters in Havana Cuba from 14 – 18 June. This conference provided a unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, results, experiences and outlooks in risk reduction, as well as a chance to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs and projects in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.

A wide-ranging scientific program was prepared, which took into account the various types of dangers, the related vulnerabilities and risks, as well as the different stages and elements of risk reduction in disasters; which boosted the exchange of ideas and provided scientific and technological updating for specialists. One of the CRMI sponsored participants; Ms. Nicole Alleyne made a presentation on Mainstreaming Climate Change into Disaster Risk Management for the Caribbean Region (CCDM) Project. The CRMI program manager, who was also in attendance, gave an overview of CRMI and spoke to the second phase upcoming.

Additionally, CRMI facilitated the set-up of a model Risk Reduction Management Centres (RRMC) at this Congress, established a booth for dissemination of UNDP materials and publicized recent CRMI publications.

## 2. Website and network facility

CRMI's web site ([www.undp.org/cu/crmi](http://www.undp.org/cu/crmi)) continues to be very active and provides enhanced visibility to the CRMI.

This website, which was redesigned in 2009 in order to reposition it as a key regional website for information and best practices case studies on DRR and ACC, contains key features such as a document library; online resources; news and activities and a gateway function to the UNDP Logos Knowledge Platform. The website is trilingual, with all information available in Spanish, English and French, to reach the largest number of risk management practitioners in the Caribbean region.



New documents posted in 2010 include the World Bank's "Assessing the Financial Vulnerability to Climate Related Natural Hazards," UNDP's Guidebook on Gender, Climate Change and Community Based Adaptation, Training manual for Integrating Gender into Community Based Disaster Risk Management, CRMI's own publication on Risk Reduction Management Centres in Cuba and news releases on CRMI sponsored regional technical trainings.

## 3. Documentation of Best Practices

### Cuban Model: Risk Reduction Management Centres in Cuba (RRMC)



In December 2009, CRMI completed a 90 page draft document systematizing the RMCC model. The final document was completed earlier this year with the publication *Risk Reduction Management Centres in Cuba* being launched at the 8th Congress on Disasters, held in Havana, 14 – 18 June 2010. Systematizing this practice is the first step in documenting this model for future adaptation and replication to other countries in the region.

This document makes available to the regional and international community an analysis of the structure and operation of the Risk Reduction Management Centres and a categorization of their tools, best practices and lessons learned that have resulted in a successful disaster risk reduction model for the Caribbean.

The Risk Reduction Management Centres model establishes the possibility of mitigating disaster impacts through an informed, coordinated, multi-disciplinary and decentralized approach which focuses on identifying hazards and acting pre-emptively to reduce risks.

This publication was funded by the Spanish - UNDP Trust Fund and the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

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

### **1. Regional technical training workshops**

#### **Training Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems with Focus on Institutional Partnership and Coordination 22 - 25 March, San Jose, Costa Rica**

CRMI recognizes the importance of EWS for this region and in this regard, the CRMI project manager joined representatives from National Disaster Agencies, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other ministries and agencies engaged in Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Central America and the Caribbean, for a training workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in Central America and the Caribbean.

This workshop, which was organized by WMO, provided a unique opportunity to address, at a regional level, a wide range of questions pertaining to EWS and the special role played by national meteorological services and their relationship to disaster management offices. This training workshop sought to:

- Share good practices in EWS, experiences and lessons learned from around the world;
- Explore national capacities and gaps relating to planning, legislative, institutional and operational aspects of EWS of countries in the region and;
- Identification of priorities for action for the development of national EWS and opportunities for regional cooperation

The CRMI project manager was asked to represent UNDP's perspective on addressing coordination on EWS in Central American and the Caribbean. CRMI also provided input to the regional coordination meeting that discussed both the outcomes of the MH-EWS workshop and facilitated a more coordinated approach for supporting EWS projects in the region.

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

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

### **1. Horizontal cooperation**

#### **Caribbean Pacific Exchange (Jamaica, Cuba, Barbados, Saint Lucia) 10-23 July**

During the south-south planning session convened at the 2009 CDM conference, it was highlighted that representatives from the Pacific will visit the Caribbean to study best practices in Disaster Risk Management for SIDS with Cuban Civil Defense and NDO's in the region. This

was intended to further enhance knowledge building on SIDS issues between the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

CRMI provided valuable logistical and coordination support to the UNDP Pacific centre which allowed for the successful undertaking of this event. This exchange was part of the South-South project established to strengthen the safety and resilience of both regions in facing common threats and included representatives from the Pacific Islands Applied Geo-Science Commission (SOPAC); South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and University of the South Pacific (USP). National experts from the Meteorological Services Tonga, National Emergency Management Office Palau, the Maldivian Meteorological Service and the South-South project coordinator at the UNDP Pacific Centre also attended.

The exchange centered on the common threats to both regions such as accelerating climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of related disasters; tropical cyclones and sea water flooding, and the consequent damages and setbacks for human development. In addition comparing methodologies and techniques provided an opportunity to confirm project activities for 2010 and 2011.

### *Jamaica*

The Pacific islanders started their Caribbean mission with a two day visit to Jamaica. The first day started with presentations on topics of joint interest, including an overview of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) disaster management system and examples of disaster risk reduction initiatives evident in Jamaica. Ways to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in key sectors such as tourism and agriculture was also discussed, given that SIDS countries share these common economic drivers which are vulnerable to climate variability.

The afternoon meeting included a discussion on tsunami warnings and the enhanced priority given to timely warnings in view of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, the group toured various points on the Rio Cobre River, where a flood early warning system had recently been established to cover an extensive flood plain on the outskirts of Kingston



Jamaica's Water Resource Authority explains flood early warning systems to delegation.

## *Cuba*

After a courtesy visit to UNDP Cuba, the group visited the National Civil Defense. With only 38 disaster related deaths in the past decade, the Cuban Civil Defense is recognized for its commitment to protecting the population. The delegation had the opportunity to dialogue with local representatives of Civil Defense and visited a Risk Reduction Management Centre, which comprehensively manages territorial risk information for planning and preparedness purposes.

The exchange finished with a meeting at the Cuban National Institute of Meteorology (INSMET). The delegation toured the facility, observing the satellite imagery and the radar system that INSMET employs for accurate weather forecasts. INSMET also shared its expertise in early weather warning systems, regional climate change modeling and agro-meteorology



**Cuban Civil Defence receives the Pacific delegation during the Cuba stage of the exchange.**

## *Barbados*

While in Barbados the group visited CDEMA to discuss challenges and achievements in implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region; processes for building community resilience and advancing gender-sensitive risk reduction strategies. The team also visited UNDP Barbados and the OECS for a fruitful exchange on building linkages to common threats experienced in both regions.

The visit to Barbados also provided opportunities for discussions with:

- Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology - methodologies for assessing hydro-meteorological hazards
- Coastal Zone Management Unit - tsunami modeling (including alert systems and sirens and storm surge) and;
- Department of Emergency Management – an understanding of mechanisms in use in Barbados

## *Saint Lucia*

Saint Lucia was the final stop for the Pacific Islanders. The delegation met with NEMO and its committee members at its new facility, for lively discussions on tsunami preparations and alert systems as well as women's leadership and challenges in the Disaster Risk Management field. A site visit to the volcano monitoring station in Vieux Fort was also incorporated into the two day visit.



**Prof. Kahsai of University of South Pacific examining seismic monitoring equipment in Saint Lucia**

This mission enjoyed an encouraging amount of press coverage in the islands. This was even more so seen in Saint Lucia where the Pacific members met with the local press, an event which was later broadcast on one of the local evening news channels. An article was also written in the news letter of channel 4 Saint Lucia.

[http://www.htsstlucia.com/2010\\_News/July/HTS\\_News\\_July\\_23rd\\_2010.html#nem](http://www.htsstlucia.com/2010_News/July/HTS_News_July_23rd_2010.html#nem).

CRMI has also placed articles of the visit of the Pacific Islanders to the Caribbean on its news page [http://www.undp.org/cu/crmi/en/news\\_ss.asp](http://www.undp.org/cu/crmi/en/news_ss.asp).

CRMI fully participated in these meetings through CRMI project manager, Ms. Jacinda Fairholm who travelled to Jamaica and through Cuba with the delegation, while CRMI consultant Mr. Marlon Clarke, accompanied the delegation to their meetings in Barbados and Saint Lucia.

### Videography for Caribbean South-South Cooperation Project (10 - 23 July)

To facilitate a high degree of coverage for the exchange visit, CRMI in cooperation with the UNDP Pacific Centre developed ToRs for the provision of videography services during the Pacific visit to four Caribbean nations.

These ToRs were disseminated throughout the region with this service allowing for the capture and sharing of approaches, ideas and techniques in addressing disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. The videographers were asked to:

- Shoot the meetings and site visits
- Conduct interviews with the Pacific and Caribbean counterparts
- Take cut away footage of relevant topics being discussed
- Take still pictures of meetings and site visits

This video will soon be completed and will be shared with partners when finished.

CRMI was also able to provide input towards development of the storyline used by the videographers and organised their logistics as they travelled through the region.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Fiji 7-17 August

A group of disaster risk management and climate change specialists from the Caribbean attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network in Fiji. Members of the group made presentations on disaster risk management and working with civil society, regional partnership in climate change modeling and regional community-based disaster risk management.



Mr. Carlos Fuller (CCCCC) making presentation at Pacific Platform meeting in Fiji; Site Visit to the Yasawas Islands.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the direct exchange and learning on matters of mutual concern to Pacific island territories and the Caribbean as well as provided a forum for sharing experiences of collaboration with various stakeholders on DRM. A site visit to the Yasawas community was also incorporated into the Caribbean delegation's mission.

The visit of the Caribbean members received some media coverage with an article appearing in Island Business, a South Pacific online news magazine. CRMI also has full details of this mission, including the visit to the Yasawas community on its website.

[http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands\\_business/index\\_dynamic/containerNameToReplace=MiddleMiddle/focusModuleID=19367/overrideSkinName=issueArticle-full.tpl](http://www.islandsbusiness.com/islands_business/index_dynamic/containerNameToReplace=MiddleMiddle/focusModuleID=19367/overrideSkinName=issueArticle-full.tpl)

[http://www.undp.org/crmi/en/news\\_ss.asp](http://www.undp.org/crmi/en/news_ss.asp)

The Caribbean group comprised: Dr Asha Kambon (ECLAC); Carlos Fuller (CCCCC); Nicole Williams (IFRC); Tomás Gutiérrez (INSMET); Jacinda Fairholm (CRMI) and came just one month after the Pacific delegation's visit to four Caribbean countries. This visit was facilitated mainly through the south-south Cooperation project with two representatives being fully supported through CRMI.

**Objective 3: Increase investments in climate risk management**

## **I. Partnerships established and strengthened**

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### **1. CRMI Phase II Approved**

The next phase of CRMI (2010 – 2012) has been approved in principle by the UNDP Regional Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean and is currently being revised for final circulation. The second phase of CRMI will consolidate gains made in phase I and carry out activities in strategically important areas, with the overall goal of developing capacity within the Caribbean for managing the risk due to climate related hazards. CRMI II will be launched in the coming months with leadership being provided by Mr. Howie Prince at the UNDP regional centre in Trinidad and Tobago. We look forward to this new phase of CRMI.

### **2. South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management**

This south-south project (2011 – 2012) was approved in February and is coordinated by UNDP Pacific Centre, with extensive support from CRMI. Regional partners -- who are involved in the project's governance structure and will lead the implementation of various activities -- include Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), CARICOM Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and University of the West Indies (UWI) from the Caribbean region. Key partners from the Pacific region include the Pacific Islands Applied Geo-Science Commission (SOPAC), South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and University of the South Pacific (USP).

The programme's expected outcome is: strengthened safety and resilience of Pacific and Caribbean SIDS communities to a range of natural hazards by facilitating and supporting a South-South cooperation program targeted at strengthening climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction capacity in SIDS, based on the transfer of appropriate 'southern' expertise and technologies.

The following outputs and associated activities are planned under this project: 1) Identification, documentation and dissemination of best practices on integrated climate change adaptation and disaster management specific to the SIDS context. *Sample activities: case studies, presentations at conferences, contributions to on-line networks.* 2) Transfer and exchange of technologies currently being used by SIDS for effective, equitable and appropriate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, between the Pacific and the Caribbean regions. *Sample activities: training in storm surge modeling, assessment of climate change impacts in the agricultural sector, manual for climate observers.* 3) Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation included in the broader development agenda through support for national action planning, mainstreaming and advocacy work in the Pacific and Caribbean regions and countries. *Sample activities: guidelines, checklists, position papers.*

Funding for project is kindly provided by UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and by the UNDP-Japan Partnership Fund.

### 3. **New Appointments at CRMI**

CRMI has welcomed two new members to its team. Mr. **Howie M. Prince** has been appointed to the RC-POS Office in Trinidad & Tobago as DRR Specialist. In the capacity as Director of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Prince also served as chief liaison between his country and regional entities such as CDEMA, UWI, OECS, CDB, the World Bank and the UNDP. Howie is also an international trainer in many DRR topics with training experiences in the Caribbean, South East Asia, Africa and the South Pacific. Mr. Prince will provide guidance to CRMI in the next phase.

Mr. **Marlon Clarke** has joined CRMI as a program consultant with a BSc in Management from UWI Cave Hill Campus and a MSc in Disaster Management from Coventry University. Marlon provides essential support to the program in the areas of logistics, publications and coordination.

CRMI is excited about these two individuals on board and believes their addition will further assist CRMI achieve its stated goals and objectives.

## Section B: Financial Report

| <b>Cuba Country Office</b>                       |                                       |   |                                |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Source of funds</b>                           | <b>Planned Budget for 2010 in USD</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures as of 31 Jul 10 (in USD)</b> | <b>Remaining unspent funds</b> | <b>Projected expenditure 2010</b> |
| UNDP – Spanish Trust Fund                        | 257,186                               | 62,689  | 194,497                        | 257,186                           |
|  |                                       |   |                                |                                   |
| <b>Barbados and the OECS Sub-Regional Office</b> |                                       |   |                                |                                   |
| <b>Source of funds</b>                           | <b>Planned Budget for 2010 in USD</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures as of 31 Jul 10 (in USD)</b> | <b>Remaining unspent funds</b> | <b>Projected expenditure 2010</b> |
| UNDP - Spanish Trust Fund                        | 15,600                                | 3,163   | 12,437                         | 15,600                            |
|  |                                       |   |                                |                                   |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>272,786</b>                        | <b>65,852</b>                                       | <b>206,934</b>                 | <b>272,786</b>                    |

## **Conclusions**

During 2010, the focus has remained on continuing activities supported by the UNDP - Spanish Trust Fund (STF). Under the STF, there has been continued support to sharing of relevant experiences and practices through presentations and facilitating participation to meetings/workshops, publishing of documents and support to technical trainings. Additionally, there has also been continued collaboration and support in south-south cooperation activities between the Caribbean and the Pacific seen through Pacific delegation to Caribbean in July and Caribbean representatives to Fiji in August.

CRMI II has been approved in principle and it is anticipated that the launch of this second phase would occur in the coming months. Additionally, two new team members were welcomed by CRMI during this semester.