

United Nations Development Programme

**Barbados and the OECS
&
Cuba**

Caribbean Risk Management Initiative

Quarterly Report
April to June 2006

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

The Barbados and the OECS Sub-Regional Office (SRO) convened a series of meeting associated with the preparation of a Caribbean Reducing Disaster Risk Report in April and May 2006. The Caribbean RDR is a product of the meetings comprised of the following:

- Preparatory technical meetings by video conference on 27th April and in Barbados on 3rd May with representatives from UNDP COs; BCPR; University of the West Indies; CIDA; USAID/OFDA; IADB; CDERA; OECS; and regional disaster risk reduction practitioners;
- A launch of the preparatory process with the head of BCPR, Ms. Kathleen Cravero in Barbados on 3rd May including regional disaster risk reduction stakeholders – a report of this is on the CRMI website at www.onu.org/cu/crmi

A CRMI Project Steering Committee meeting was held in Barbados on 23rd May 2006. Representatives from all COs except Haiti were present, as well as RBLAC in the form of the Deputy Director and the Caribbean Oversight Office and the BCPR (see attached report). Some of the key recommendations and conclusions of the meeting included:

- Support was given to the Caribbean RDR preparations but emphasis was placed on participation of all key stakeholders.
- Demonstrating the expansion of project activities to a wider community.
- An evaluation of the CRMI by late 2006 or early 2007
- Respective COs were asked to identify contacts who could supply the CRMI network with information for sharing especially through the website.
- DEX authorisation was extended to May 2007 but according to RBLAC, it is unlikely to be extended again as suitable organisations should be identified to take over the management of the CRMI to ensure sustainability and ownership.
- The UNDP/DIPECHO project was presented and its relationship with the CRMI was noted. It was also noted that the methodology being applied builds on the experience of the Panama SURF.

The CRMI Project Manager attended a meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines addressing the UNFCCC Second National Communications (SNC); the Special Project Addressing Climate Change (SPACC) and the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA). The meeting on the 20th and 21st June sought to prepare key stakeholders and identify the most effective mechanisms for implementation of these activities and

coordination between them. Also involved was the mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project.

The CRMI Project Manager also participated in the Joint Meeting of MACC and CDERA for Disaster Managers and Meteorological Officers held in Antigua from June 28th & 29th 2006 to discuss on-going initiatives including the testing and operationalizing of a climate model to support EWS for hydro-meteorological events. The meeting agreed to a process for testing a weather forecasting model which could improve EWS and support broader climate scenario development capability. Also involved in this process was a representative of the Cuban Meteorological Institute which has been pioneering this work in the region with good results. Additionally, representatives from the UWI campuses in Jamaica and Barbados who are also developing climate scenarios were also present and involved in this initiative. CRMI may provide further support to this activity through coordination efforts of the Cuba and Barbados offices as well as supporting some of the modelling in the centres.

The consultant supporting the CRMI VCA also participated in meetings in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana to assist those countries in developing their VCAs in conjunction with the MACC project in June.

A new CRMI Programme Manager to be based in Havana, Karen Bernard, has been recruited and will take on this position by mid-July 2006. Ms. Bernard has 10 years' experience working in the region and since 2000 had been the Caribbean Field Representative for Oxfam Canada based in Cuba.

Regarding relevant events in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, the International Congress on Disasters organized by the Cuban Civil Defence took place in Havana from June 13th to 16th, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together authorities, personalities and institutions dedicated to disaster reduction at all levels to exchange experiences, perspectives and knowledge on risk reduction and to foster related cooperation projects and programmes

The UNDP_Cuba, headed by acting Resident Representative Ulrika Richardson-Golinski, and other UN agencies represented in the country, participated extensively in this congress. All UNDP offices from the region were invited to participate, and more than 500 people representing national and international organizations addressing disaster management in 28 countries attended the event.

A panel on the UN system's contributions to disaster management at the regional and global level was held, and Linda Zilbert from the BCPR regional office in Panama made a presentation representing UNDP & BCPR. For more information on this presentation, please refer to <http://www.onu.org.cu/uunn/noticias/noticias.html>

At the same event, a replica of a Centre for Risk Reduction and Management was set up on site and visited by most of the congress participants. As a result, much interest was generated in learning more about on this type of Centre, and accordingly official field

visits to the field were organized to observe such centres operating in real time. So far, 17 such centres have been established in Cuba with UNDP financial support, and one centre in particular is sponsored by the CRMI. Also, a brochure on the mission and roles of the Centres for Risk Reduction and Management was published and distributed among participants during the Congress. Both tools effectively facilitate the dissemination of this unique and pertinent Cuban experience with the broader region. The replica and brochures were produced with a cost-sharing contribution from the CRMI.

Also, to coincide with this event the UNDP Cuba received a delegation of regional NGOs at its offices for an exchange on the UNDP Cuba's role in disaster management initiatives.

2. CRMI Website and Improved Havana Risk Web Page

The web site (www.onu.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.

A proposal to enhance the CRMI website, based on an initial assessment of its current state, has been elaborated by the newly recruited Programme Manager and shared with the appropriate parties for feedback. The main dimensions of this proposal entail improvement of some design aspects such as color and graphics, harmonization of language management, and increased access to French content. All the recommendations will become effective in August 2006.

3. Network Facility

For the time being, the Programme Manager will also serve as CRMI Network Administrator and to this role she brings her previous experience as multi-lingual Communications Officer with an Afro-Caribbean Women's Network based in Costa Rica.

A National Working Group (GNT) has been created in Cuba, and its TORs negotiated, in order to facilitate Cuban participation in technical discussions under the CRMI network. This group is comprised of the key national institutions and the experts involved in disaster risk reduction and climate change at the country level. The Group will convene for its 3rd work session in September.

4. Documentation of a Best Practice

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 completed during the prior period. This study has been circulated

through the CRMI website (http://www.onu.org/cu/crmi/docs/country_st/best_pract_barb.pdf) and the UNDP CPR Network.

II. Cadre of climate risk management personnel developed

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.

Discussions have commenced with representatives of the UWI regarding the extension of the association defined under the MOU. Specifically with the extension of the CRMI, support for scholarships, visiting lecturers and support to a disaster risk reduction curriculum were raised. Further, support to developing or expanding a Disaster Risk reduction curriculum has also been raised under this agreement.

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. The Cuba UNDP office expects that in 2006 the network implementation will promote new opportunities for horizontal cooperation, particularly in countries that have expressed their interest, such as Honduras, Haiti and Uruguay.

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

The contacts between UNDP-Cuba, UNDP-Honduras and the Honduran national authorities have been activated again and updated TORs are under preparation by the

Honduran authorities. It is expected that the official mission of Cuban experts to Honduras will take place by the last quarter of 2006.

Additionally, an international consultancy in the framework of collaboration between UNDP Cuba and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory will take place from July to September, 2006. The TORs have been approved, and the main objectives of the consultancy are to:

1. Prepare a resource mobilization strategy for actions and projects of UNDP Cuba integrating disaster risk reduction and adaptation approaches to development planning at national and local level.
2. Prepare guidelines for the identification of projects and initiatives in the framework of the CRMI and identify a pilot project profile for fund raising

Ms. Loredana Dall'Ora from the Italian ministry has been hired as the consultant. She has extensive professional experience in international cooperation on environmental issues, specifically regarding water management, climate change and adherence to international conventions.

The inventory of the Cuban best practices on disaster preparedness and risk reduction at the local level is under way, with the main national institutions in charge of this activity compiling the relevant information. Outputs of this effort will complement the regional inventory on best practices that is carried out by the DIPECHO Regional Project on knowledge transfer in the Caribbean region covering Haiti, Dominican Republic and the English-speaking Caribbean. The Barbados SRO is also preparing an inventory of best practices and developing associated case studies under the DIPECHO/UNDP initiative for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Also associated with the DIPECHO/UNDP initiative are the Knowledge Fairs to be held in Barbados and the Dominican Republic at the end of the year. The Barbados SRO is currently in discussions with CDERA to combine the Knowledge Fair with a Comprehensive Disaster Management Conference planned by that agency for December 2006.

2. 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. This activity was largely concluded by the end of 2005 with a few minor comments advanced by the authorities in St. Lucia. These documents have been circulated in limited fashion as a result of the comments referred but will be placed on the CRMI website and the CPR practice network.

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is seeking the UNDP's support to conduct a similar CDM review of that country utilising the experience of the CRMI and TRAC funds.

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

1. Completion of disaster inventories in the region

A comprehensive, detailed and geo-referenced inventory of disaster occurrence and loss in the Caribbean over the last 30 years was prepared to provide essential baseline information. This inventory will allow an assessment of serious data gaps in this area in the region. DESINVENTAR first results have been delivered to enable its integration in the Havana Risk web page.

2. Apply adaptation policy framework (APF) in Cuba and Dominican Republic

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, has been implemented since 2003 as a separate DEX project but was considered under the umbrella of CRMI, with activities carried out in Cuba and Dominican Republic through close collaboration and interchange of experts from both countries. Both in Cuba and Dominican Republic, the field activities for APF testing have now been finalized.

The final report on this scientific research has been concluded, its publication is in process and it will be soon available on CRMI website. The project's final workshop took place on 14th and 15th of November in Cuba, and in that forum the findings obtained by Cuba and the Dominican Republic respectively were presented, discussed and subsequently documented in a CD-ROM.

The research conducted applying the APF tool achieved the following key results:

- a. Establishment of a network of experts trained in the application of this innovative tool and potentially available to share this capacity with other countries in the region
- b. Recommendations (130-140 in each country) to governments indicating specific measures to strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change especially in case of drought risk
- c. Strengthened collaboration with other regional initiatives (especially the ACCC Project) toward the implementation of a common tool for climate modeling

Technical assistance for the publication and dissemination within the region of the main results and impacts emerging from this project implemented in Cuba and Dominican Republic has been agreed on and is in progress. As a result, an executive summary of the project findings will be printed in a brochure format and shared throughout the region via the CRMI network and website, initially in English and later in French and Spanish.

3. 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 will be carried out.

Like the previous one, 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 preliminary data analysis produced.

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The studies conducted permitted the collection and processing of all available information on both climatic and agricultural drought over the last 40 years, and generated relevant outputs in both countries:

- Early warning and monitoring systems both on climatic and agricultural drought
- Mapping (using a GIS platform) of spatial and chronological distribution of drought in both countries
- Manual on climatological techniques and procedures for addressing agricultural drought in Cuba and Dominican Republic
- CD-ROM on climatology of meteorological and agricultural drought in Cuba and Dominican Republic
- Numerous scientific articles produced and published

The final report 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. Both documents can be accessed through http://www.onu.org/cu/crmi/proj_list.html

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 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. This benefit was seen with the experience and expertise gained by the UWI Intern who supported the VCA and was later contracted until June 2006, in support of the process. He was able to support St. Lucia in its implementation as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana.

In St. Lucia, progress has been made with the collection of information and community-based discussions. A Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey was conducted in the study area and community meetings held. These activities will inform the perceptions of vulnerability and risk as well as an understanding of capacity. Climate data was made available through the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), which has been used by the UWI Barbados campus to produce scenarios of future climates. This is a vital element of the VCA process and will facilitate the analysis over the next two months. Additionally, similar scenarios should be produced for other Caribbean countries.

The contract of Mr. Joslyn concluded at the end of the reporting period. He supported the VCA process first as a UWI student intern and subsequently as a consultant with specific focus in the areas of planning, monitoring and technical review. He is likely to continue to participate in the process in support of the other countries through the MACC project.

Obj. 3 Increase investments in climate risk management

II. Partnerships established and strengthened

Other Activities

The extension to the CRMI was approved during the reporting period with funding from RBLAC and the BCPR. This followed a PAC with other COs and the BCPR and RBLAC in late 2005.

The Project Manager also continued to support DRR activities in the Barbados SRO, including development of disaster management program activities for countries including St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Technical support was also provided for the agreement of a disaster risk reduction proposal for the OECS, which was approved in principle by an LPAC in July 2006.

Another area of support was in coordination with the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management (ECDGDM), in preparation for the 2006 hurricane season and the UN system Contingency Planning with emphasis on the HPIA virus.

1. Inter-sectoral and inter-institutional communication strengthened between National Civil Defence, the provinces, municipalities and the population, including the creation of a National Reference Centre on Risk Management

Cuba possesses a varied range of experiences and knowledge in the area of risk management, and in initiatives for reducing vulnerabilities, based on a well-developed legal foundation. This type of information, however, to a large extent is distributed in an ad hoc manner only to relatively few institutions. This limited information flow often leads to duplication of efforts and thinly funded efforts to find adequate solutions. For example, a geo-referenced system (GIS) has been initiated but not fully integrated, nor can it make full use of risk studies and other new knowledge. In addition, it has not been extended to the entire country but prioritised only for coastal zones directly vulnerable to flooding. An Early Warning System (SAT) has also been developed and introduced by the National Civil Defence institution. This system, however, has mainly been limited to the national level and so far there are no institutional linkages between the geo-referenced system and the early warning system.

Under the CRMI, there are plans to centralize all of the existing knowledge and resources in one reference point in the form of a web site (intranet), which would allow for improved quality and quantity of the information provided -- both at national and regional levels -- through a process of continuous information updating, and would ensure the necessary linkages between the two systems tools (GIS and SAT). Both tools will be provided to vulnerable communities of Guama Municipality, in Santiago de Cuba province. The access to high quality information -- through the intranet - will furthermore meet the need for regular updating and real time dissemination of critical information through GIS and SAT, and will facilitate and strengthen the decision-making processes of participating institutions. This activity will require training for relevant institutions in the development and use of the GIS and SAT systems.

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. Accordingly, the National Civil Defense is being supported in undertaking risk studies in selected communities and establishing a Risk Management Centre in Guama, and 7 Early Warning Systems in selected vulnerable communities.

This initiative complements another intervention by UNDP Cuba, to support the establishment of 18 risk management centres in the country's most vulnerable municipalities, with the purpose of strengthening local institutional capacity and the effectiveness of early warning systems.

In April 2006, UNDP Cuba received an official mission by Angeles Arenas, BCPR's Regional Advisor, and Linda Zilbert, Knowledge Transfer Expert, during which the UNDP's comprehensive intervention on early warning systems and risk management centers was presented, and field visits were conducted to observe these centers in operation.

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

Methodologies and supporting materials for managing risks and natural disaster situations will be developed. 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 post-disaster recovery and reconstruction following 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 aligning UNDP support with that provided by the government prior, during and after natural disasters, given the need to quickly move from the emergency phase towards recuperation and rehabilitation. This integrated strategy will enhance implementation and ensure that emergency actions are coordinated and linked to long term reconstruction processes. Activities will also create synergies among existing and new projects in the area of housing and risk, implemented with UNDP, and strengthen UNDP capacity to implement this strategy and specific risk-related projects in the provinces.

Section B: Financial Report

Cuba Country Office				
Source of funds	Planned Budget for 2006 in USD	Actual Expenditures as of 30 June 2006 (in USD)	Remaining unspent funds	Projected expenditure 2006
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 2006
Regional Activities (Line 1.2)	\$48,278	\$46,001	\$2,277	\$48,278
TRAC 3 – Recovery	\$51,363	\$22,634	\$28,729	\$51,363
Extended CRMI				
Regional Activities	\$140,000	\$15,900	\$124,100	\$140,000
TRAC 3	\$53,000	\$0	\$53,000	\$53,000
Total	\$292,641	\$68,635	\$224,006	\$292,641

It should be noted that \$15,904 was spent on costs related to the Caribbean Reducing Disaster Risk Report, which was drawn from both the TRAC 2 and # activities for Barbados SRO. These funds would be reimbursed to the lines resulting in \$48,910 remaining for expenditure in 2006.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Most activities under the CRMI Phase I conducted by the Barbados and the OECS SRO have been completed by the end of the second quarter of 2006. The main outstanding activity relates to the conclusion of the VCA which should be realized during the coming period. However, the commencement of the extended CRMI has provided the opportunity to build on some activities, with the Caribbean RDR taking most of the initial attention.

A decisive step forward by the UNDP Cuba office is the successful recruitment of the new CRMI Programme Manager during this period, an essential pre-condition which ensures that much progress towards results can be made during the next quarter.