

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Barbados and the OECS  
&  
Cuba**

**Caribbean Risk Management Initiative**



**Quarterly Report**

April - June 2007

***Highlights this trimester:***

- *CRMI representation at global events, such as ISDR Global Platform and CSD-15, draws attention to climate risk configuration in the Caribbean*
- *New website, regional report, case studies and exchanges in development to expand knowledge transfer*
- *Resource mobilization showing results with two new funding sources obtained*

**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**

UN Resident Representatives' Annual Meeting for LAC

The CRMI in Barbados and the OECS CO prepared one of the two presentations made by the RR/RC at the Knowledge Fair of the UN Resident Representatives Annual Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Cartagena, Colombia in May 2007. One presentation made addressed the application of the Virtual Development Academy (VDA) for effective capacity building. The CRMI supported presentation focussed on the collaborative approaches adopted for DRM in the Eastern Caribbean.

ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Project Manager attended the ISDR Global Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction meeting in Geneva from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. The GPDRR meeting was a significant event attracting reportedly 1300 participants representing countries, regional and international institutions, national, regional and international NGOs. The agenda of the meeting was substantial as well as the number of side meetings. Significantly there was a Caribbean side meeting involving the report of the Caribbean in developing national platforms; promotion of a Caribbean regional platform by CDERA; and a panel discussion in which the Project Manager represented a UNDP perspective.

The Global and National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction are a major initiative emanating from the Hyogo Framework for Action to advance DRR. This is particularly important as many DRR initiatives are being reoriented around the ISDR including: the implementation of some elements of the World Bank managed Global Fund for DRR; and the new Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative (CADRI) reformulated from

the old BCPR Disaster Management Training Program (DMTP). In this regard, participation in the meeting proved very illuminating and provided areas of follow-up.

The Caribbean Platform Program (CPP) promoted by CDERA seeks to build on the CDM and makes the case that the revised CDM, which is also structured around the HFA, represents a sound basis for the global activity. This is expected to be elaborated at the December CDM Conference.

Specific outcomes of the meeting were an improved understanding of the ISDR and the Global Platforms initiative; a representation of the CRMI and Caribbean COs in the various fora; further information of the Global Facility for DRR as a potential source of resources for the CRMI; support to the Caribbean Platform Program as advanced by CDERA; and advancement of the Caribbean RDR initiative through discussion with the BCPR and the consultant contracted to develop the Concept Note.

#### Side event at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) in New York

The Program Manager made a presentation at a side event during the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15), held at UN headquarters. Given the broad constituency from academic, government and community-based sectors to this event, it was considered a substantial opportunity for CRMI outreach and networking. Led by the CCCCC and in coordination also with the Italian government, the side event addressed the issue, “What makes the Caribbean vulnerable.” The panel proved to be quite successful, with a packed room of about 30 people in attendance and numerous new contacts made.

Taking advantage of the presence in New York, the CRMI Program Manager held bilateral meetings with RBLAC, BCPR, BDP and funders to disseminate information about the CRMI and explore prospects for more extensive collaboration.

#### Other

The CRMI Program Manager attended training sponsored by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), focusing on civil-military coordination in post-disaster situations. This provided an opportunity to gain more visibility for CRMI and its potential role in supporting early recovery frameworks and activities in the Caribbean region, in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

In Cuba, a meeting of the National Technical Committee of the CRMI was held. New activities, including the regional technical training and the research in gender and risk management in the region, were reviewed and ratified as relevant in the Cuban national context and in terms of engagement with the wider Caribbean.

## **2. CRMI Website and network facility**

The web site ([www.undp.org/cu/crmi](http://www.undp.org/cu/crmi)) remains active and continues to provide visibility to the CRMI. The website has been continuously updated to incorporate relevant past and upcoming events, as well as newly produced documents and reports. All documents are posted in Spanish, English and French, to reach the largest number of risk management practitioners in the Caribbean region.

New documents posted during this period include lessons learned from flood response in Surinam, and a report on the CRMI presentation at CSD-15.

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

Design of the new CRMI website was completed, in draft form, and provisionally posted for viewing at : <http://www.loteriala200.es/karen/vertical3/index.htm>. The consultation with on the website design key stakeholders was initiated during this period, including: RBLAC, BCPR, Communications Office of the Administrator, and the Project Steering Committee. The date of September 1<sup>st</sup> has been set to install the new website, once any necessary modifications have been made based on the consultation.

## **3. Documentation of Best Practices**

### Early recovery case study in Grenada

The initial drafts of the Early Recovery experience in Grenada following hurricanes Ivan and Emily were completed for review. This initiative builds on work done under the DIPECHO funded initiative “Fostering Knowledge Transfer and Replication of Best Practices in Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction within the Caribbean”. This draft was reviewed and commented on by the CRMI program management team, and BCPR regional office and headquarters. Feedback was quite positive, with the publication in Spanish, English and French planned for late 2007.

### Drought adaptation frameworks

In June, the summary of research done on drought adaptation frameworks in Cuba and the Dominican Republic was released, with CRMI support. See section II, item 2, of this report for further details.

With these two new reports, the CRMI has systematized a total of 10 best practice case studies over the last year, on a diverse range of topics looking at different angles of climate risk management.

## **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.

### **2. Regional Surge Capacity Training**

Regional training to strengthen UNDP surge capacity for post-disaster recovery has been a pending activity under the CRMI since 2006. This key activity had been postponed until mid-2007, to allow BCPR headquarters in Geneva to finish preparing the training materials and methodology, which is still pending.

It was noted in the previous quarterly report that there was agreement to the following:

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

Subsequently the BCPR advised that the workshop will be a combined activity between the Caribbean and the Central American COs. This had the advantage of improving the network of DRM focal points across the wider Caribbean, although it would mean a reduction in the representatives from the Caribbean COs.

There were also several challenges in finalising the actual location and dates of the workshop. This activity was re-scheduled for the second quarter of 2007, but challenges with the availability of the facilitators led to both a change in dates as well as location from Jamaica to Cuba in July 2007.

By the end of the second quarter, advanced planning was in place for the activity, with the BCPR having responsibility for the program, facilitators and CA participants and the CRMI responsible for overall logistics, the Caribbean participants and some facilitators.

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

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

#### **1. Horizontal cooperation**

##### Caribbean Training Course in Seismology and Tsunami Warnings

The CRMI provided support to a Caribbean Training Course in Seismology and Tsunami Warnings, hosted by the UWI's Seismic Research Unit, in Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 43 participants from 21 countries and territories, representing meteorological, emergency management, and seismological institutions in the region received presentations from experts aimed at developing their understanding of the science of tsunamis, hazard and risk assessment, preparedness, education, and outreach, and operational best practices of tsunami warning centers and tsunami emergency response agencies.

The specific support provided by the CRMI to this event was the identification and funding of two Cuban specialists to attend. The presence of the two specialists from the Cuban National Centre for Seismic Research (CENAI) added value to the course, as Cuban has particular expertise and methodologies in this field, which it is keen to share with other countries in the region. This also represented an important forum for the Cubans to learn about latest developments in the field and research undertaken by various actors.

The news release and a statement issued as a result of this course have been posted in the CRMI website, in the three main Caribbean languages. Recommendations issued include: development of end-to-end capabilities to rapidly deliver tsunami warning guidance to all those at risk; recurrent training workshops and other capacity building mechanisms; public education, preparedness, and sensitization activities for vulnerable communities.

##### Exchanges in development

Three horizontal cooperation exchanges are currently in development by the CRMI:

- Training for the Office for Disaster Management (OPDM, Trinidad and Tobago) in the SERVIR on-line geo-referencing system operated by the centre for Water Research in the Humid Tropics (CATHALAC);
- A mission by Haitian *Direction du Protection Civile* to Cuba to review best practices in evacuation as a disaster prevention measure;
- Follow-up initiative based on an exploratory mission by Cuban Civil Defence to St. Vincent and Grenadines, Dominican Republic and Grenada earlier this year.

The first of these exchanges emerged as a request put forward at the sub-regional Knowledge Fair sponsored by BCPR December 2006. At present, these three exchanges are currently on hold for lack of funds, pending further resource mobilization.

## **2. Caribbean Reducing Disaster Risk Report**

Activity in this area has advanced with the selection and contracting of a consultant to prepare a Concept Note (CN) for the CRDR. This CN will develop the scope of works to be undertaken and TORs for the activities to be developed. A focus will also be made on the sustainability of the process. With the finalisation of the CN in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007, it is expected that the activities will be advanced by the end of 2007.

## **3. Support of Institutional Structures.**

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

A similar review is being undertaken for St. Vincent and the Grenadines utilising the experience of the CRMI and TRAC funds. This activity has largely been concluded with the final report to be distributed.

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

### **1. Support to Precis Caribe web page**

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

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

In the next quarter this website will be installed, pending final decisions by INSMET on the design features.

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

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

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

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

The summary of this research was completed and translated into Spanish and French during this period. This document is now posted on the CRMI website in the three languages.

An official launch of this publication was held at the IV International Convention on the Environment and Development, which took place in Havana in June, given that many experts from the region were attending this event and that climate change was among the topics addressed. The report was introduced by Susan McDade, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Cuba, along with the Dominican Under-Secretary of the Environment, Ms. Zoila González de Gutiérrez. Representatives from other key research institutions involved -- Cuba's Physical Planning Institute (IPF) and the National Meteorology Institute (INSMET) -- also spoke about the research and its significance, as did the CRMI Program Manager.

## **3. Apply Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Methodologies.**

In order to exploit the synergies between reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters and adapting to climate change, the objective of this activity is to adopt a common methodology for assessing climate risk -- from current risk posed by present-day extreme weather, to medium and long term risk from climate variability and change -

- and to apply this methodology in two selected countries in the Caribbean in order to identify cost-effective interventions for reducing climate risk.

The CRMI has collaborated with the MACC project to implement this activity as has been illustrated through this report. St. Lucia was the lead country implementing the 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 at the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007 with a draft report. This document is then expected to inform the second National Communications report under the UNFCCC as well as the Special Project on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC). Discussions will continue with the lead expert to bring this activity to a satisfactory conclusion.

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

## **II. Partnerships established and strengthened**

---

### **Other Activities**

An extension of DEX authorization for the CRMI was submitted during the reporting period, and is pending decision. To this date, the DEX authority has not been granted.

#### **1. Resource mobilization**

Given the general consensus that the CRMI should continue, and the draft resource mobilization strategy prepared in 2006 by the consultant from the Italian government, resource mobilizations effort continued during this period. Contacts made in New York during the CSD-15 suggested leads on resource mobilization, which were subsequently followed up on by the CRMI Program Manager.

In the last quarter, the Norwegian MFA approved a cost-sharing contribution in the amount of \$200,000 USD, mainly designated for regional technical training workshops on topics related to the management of climate-related risks. The Local Project Approval Committee (LPAC) for these funds was held during this quarter, resulting in sign-off for these activities as proposed. The list of potential training topics and entities which would lead each session is currently in consultation with all UNDP office in the region, via the risk management focal points. The priority for scheduling these workshops will be determined by the results of this consultation.

In this quarter, the CRMI was awarded a conditional allocation of \$150,000 USD from the Gender Thematic Trust Fund (GTTF), as one of 3 initiatives chosen for funding in the Latin American/Caribbean region. Accordingly, work was initiated on development of the full Project Document that will be submitted to secure this allocation. At the same time, the CRMI Program Manager began canvassing to set up a technical advisory committee to support the activities on gender and climate risk management, to ensure the quality of the documents, research and to maximize potential synergies.

The LPAC meeting to analyze the gender activities under CRMI will be held in the next quarter, in Havana and with presence of the CRMI Project Manager based in Barbados.

## **2. Regional partnerships strengthened**

Key strategic partnerships with entities such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC), the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency (CDERA), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) are being maintained through systematic contact and collaboration on various activities.

The CRMI Project Manager continues to fully participate in the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group for Disaster Management (ECDG/DM). This has involved the planning and organisation of the pre-hurricane season meetings to review the various organisations' state of preparedness and commitment; organisation of a detailed planning meeting also involving the OCHA Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; participation in an ad hoc committee that is reviewing the Operations plan and Standard Operations procedures for the ECDG/DM.

New alliances were also explored in this period, specifically in relation to gender and risk management, which has been identified as an area that CRMI should show greater leadership on. To this end, outreach is under way with UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNDP Mexico, the "America Latina Genera" project, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other institutions with expertise in this field.

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

The summary of the drought adaptation framework research was launched, translated and published in hard copy and on the CRMI website. This responds to a specific interest in methodologies for addressing drought phenomena, raised on various occasions by risk management practitioners in the region.

Two articles on the CRMI were drafted for different BCPR electronic bulletins, for wider dissemination regionally and internationally of existing best practices documented by CRMI.

## Section B: Financial Report

| <b>Cuba Country Office</b>                       |                                       |  |                                |                                   |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Source of funds</b>                           | <b>Planned Budget for 2007 in USD</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures as of 30 June 2007 (in USD)</b> | <b>Remaining unspent funds</b> | <b>Projected expenditure 2007</b> |
| Regional Activities (Line 1.2)                   | \$74,612                              | \$47,613   | \$27,376                       | \$74,612                          |
| TRAC 3 – Recovery                                | 0                                     | 0  | 0                              | 0                                 |
| TRAC 3 – Response & Recovery                     | \$2004                                | 0  | \$2004                         | \$2004                            |
| Development Advisory Services                    | \$47,300                              | \$46,015   | \$1285                         | \$47,300                          |
| Cost-sharing (Italy)                             | \$6856                                | \$3818   | \$3038                         | \$6856                            |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$130,772</b>                      | <b>\$97,446</b>  | <b>\$33,703</b>                | <b>\$130,772</b>                  |
| <b>Barbados and the OECS Sub-Regional Office</b> |                                       |  |                                |                                   |
| <b>Source of funds</b>                           | <b>Planned Budget for 2007 in USD</b> | <b>Actual Expenditures as of 30 June 2007 (in USD)</b> | <b>Remaining unspent funds</b> | <b>Projected expenditure 2007</b> |
| Regional Activities (Line 1.2)                   | 0                                     | 0  | 0                              | 0                                 |
| TRAC 3 – Recovery                                | \$10,000                              | \$1866   | \$8134                         | \$10,000                          |
| <b>Extended CRMI</b>                             |                                       |  |                                |                                   |
| Cost sharing                                     | \$2522                                | 0  | \$2522                         | \$2522                            |
| Regional Activities                              | \$67,617                              | 0  | \$67,617                       | \$67,617                          |
| TRAC 3   | \$165,000                             | \$52,835   | \$112,165                      | \$165,000                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$245,139</b>                      | <b>\$54,701</b>  | <b>\$190,438</b>               | <b>\$245,139</b>                  |

## **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Two substantial challenges continued to face the CRMI during this period and over the year. First is the granting of DEX Authority. CRMI is a DEX initiative and this Authority lapses at the end of April in any year. There is therefore some uncertainty relating to the functioning of the initiative. It should be noted that a detailed request for DEX was submitted by the RR/RC for Barbados and the OECS in her capacity as chair of the CRMI Policy Steering Committee in March 2007. This request reviewed the options for implementation of the CRMI and concluded that DEX was still the only feasible option in the short term.

The other issue relates to TRAC funds. For a number of reasons, TRAC funds programmed in 2006 were not fully expended and were subsequently reprogrammed in 2007. This has become a challenge with the inability to roll-over TRAC funds and some consideration is being sought from RBLAC to make available all or part of the resources in question.

Once these issues are dealt with in a satisfactory manner, the next period should prove to be a very active one for the CRMI, given the improved consolidation of the program and signs of an emerging stronger sense of regional ownership.