

United Nations Development Programme

**Barbados and the OECS
&
Cuba**

Caribbean Risk Management Initiative

Quarterly Report

January to March 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 Subregional Office (SRO) Deputy Resident Representative and the CRMI Project Manager attended the OECS/USAID Regional Conference on Disaster Response and Risk Reduction held on February 16-17, 2006 in Castries, St. Lucia. This Conference reviewed disaster risk reduction initiatives convened under the aegis of USAID support in the OECS. It also reviewed priority areas for attention in the OECS including areas of focus for the OECS Secretariat.

The CRMI Project Manager also met with representatives of the OECS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit in St Lucia on 23 February 2006 to discuss the disaster management element of the sub-regional cooperation program between the OECS and the UNDP. This meeting was in preparation for the formulation of a OECS project document to be supported by UNDP.

The Barbados and the OECS SRO through the Governance Programme Manager and the CRMI Project Manager and the Cuba Country Office through the Deputy Resident Representative attended the Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery Workshop Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 27- 30 March 2006. The workshop brought representatives from the entire Latin America and Caribbean COs and those from BCPR and RBLAC to review programming, strategies and tools for crisis prevention and recovery in order to develop the capacity of the LAC COs. During the meeting, participants were informed of the CRMI and the opportunity was taken to gain some comment on the various elements of the project, especially the network and website.

The UNDP Cuba country office made specific arrangements to support the participation of the Cuban delegation in the Third International Conference on Early Warning held in Bonn, Germany from 27 to 29 March, 2006. This delegation presented the CRMI as a regional initiative designed to build capacity within the Caribbean region to adequately address the growing occurrence of natural hazards and environmental risks as well as to emphasize the concept of climate change and social vulnerability. The delegation also distributed brochures about the project.

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. 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. Among the recent and upcoming relevant international events publicized are the International Early Warning Conference held in Bonn in March 2006 and the International Congress on Disasters, to be held in Havana from 13 to 16 June, 2006.

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.

Also, the final reports of the Adaptation to Climate Change initiative implemented in Cuba and Dominican Republic are shared with the Caribbean region and posted in the CRMI website.

3. Network facility

The Program Manager prior to her departure and the Network Administrator installed Lyris software to support the network and prepared a list of possible members. Subscriptions continue to be received and discussion topics finalized with a view to a virtual forum will be launched. The CRMI network will provide an opportunity for an exchange of theme-related information, knowledge and lessons learnt about policies and practices. The network will function in English, Spanish and French to broaden the participation of these different language communities in the Caribbean region.

The network will benefit from the DIPECHO project in the development and promotion of case studies and best practices of the Caribbean region to be shared in three languages.

An official recruitment process of Project Manager is still in process. The proposal will be consulted with the Government of Italy according with the partnership agreement established with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory.

The UNDP Cuba office in coordination with the Cuban government created a national technical working group with the following main objectives: To promote the exchange among the Scientific community (risk management and adaptation to climate change) at the national and regional level; to support the implementation and consolidation of the cross cultural risk management and adaptation knowledge network; and, in this regard, to support national institutions and South South cooperation. The TORs of this working group has been prepared.

The inscription of the main Cuban institutions to the network is in a process of a wide participatory consultation with the main national scientific and academic institutions to have a broad and relevant representation.

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 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 and 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.

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

As a result of the Regional Workshop for National Authorities held in Havana, 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. Cuba UNDP office expects that in 2006 the network implementation will promote new opportunities of horizontal cooperation, particularly in the countries that have expressed their interests, like Honduras and Uruguay.

Also, a concept note and methodology on South-South cooperation has been elaborated in Cuba.

Additionally, International Consultancy in the framework of collaboration between UNDP Cuba and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory has been planned for the second quarter of this year. The TORs has been approved, and the main objectives of the consultancy are:

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 identification of projects and initiative in the framework of the CRMI and identify a pilot project profile for fund raising

The inventory of the Cuban best practices on disaster preparedness and risk reduction at the local level has started, and the main concerned national institutions are 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.

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.

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 a close collaboration and interchange of experts from both countries. Both in Cuba and Dominican Republic field activities for APF testing have been finalized

The final report of the scientific activity has been terminated and its publication is in process and will be soon available on CRMI website. The Final Workshop concluding the project took place on 14th and 15th of November in Cuba and final results obtained by Cuba and Dominican Republic were presented and shared and collected in a CD-ROM.

The studies and investigations developed applying the APF tool reached the following main results:

- a. Creation of a network of experts trained in the application of this innovative tool and potentially available to share this capacity with other countries of 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 the risk of drought
- c. Strengthened collaboration with other regional initiatives (especially the ACCC Project) for the implementation of a common tool of climate modeling

Technical assistance on the publication and dissemination to the region of the main results and impacts arising from the above-referred project implemented in Cuba and Dominican Republic has been agreed.

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

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, as the previous one, initially integrated into the PA, has been implemented since 2003 as a separate DEX project jointly with APF testing but was 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 and its publication is in process and will be soon available on CRMI website. The Final Workshop concluding the project took place on 14th and 15th of November in Cuba and final results obtained by Cuba and Dominican Republic were presented and shared and collected in a CD-ROM. The studies and investigations developed allowed to collect and adequately process all available information on both climatic and agricultural drought over the last 40 years and generated relevant outputs in both countries:

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

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.

Given the delayed pace of implementation the MACC Project and the UNDP held discussions with St Lucian officials on how best to improve this area. A clearer schedule exists for this activity’s conclusion and more importantly, linkages to pilot adaptive activities will be developed in the current period, but most activities should be concluded by the end of July.

The UWI student intern continued to be contracted to support this activity, particularly the areas of planning, monitoring and technical review.

The opportunity was also taken to discuss the implementation with Dr. Roger Pulwarty the principle technical expert for this activity.

Obj. 3 Increase investments in climate risk management

II. Partnership established and strengthened

1. Other Activities

The Barbados and the OECS SRO took the lead in developing an extension to the CRMI which will be funded through RBLAC and the BCPR. This followed a PAC with other COs and the BCPR and RBLAC in late 2005. This extension will come into effect in the second quarter of 2006.

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.

The above-referred initiative complements other UNDP Cuba's interventions to support the creation of 18 risk management centres in the most vulnerable municipalities of the country, which aim at strengthening the local institutional capacity and the early warning system effectiveness.

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

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

Cuba Country 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)	77.393	6.254,06	71.138,94	77.393
TRAC 3 – Recovery	78.891	16,145.48	62.745,52	78.891
TRAC 3 – Response & Recovery	30.877,72		30.877.72	30.877,72
Total	187.161,72	22,399.54	164.762,18	187.161,72
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	\$29228.43	19049.57	\$48,278
TRAC 3 – Recovery	\$51,363	\$0	\$51,363	\$51,363
TRAC 3 – Response & Recovery	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$99,641	\$29228.43	\$70412.57	\$99,641

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Barbados and the OECS Subregional Office was involved in discussions and review in the area of program development for disaster management. There were wrap up activities and dissemination of some reports including the Best Practice Case Study and the three country institutional assessments under the Comprehensive Disaster Management. The area that has occupied much attention was the VCA implementation in St Lucia. There are clear signs that significant progress will be realized in this area in the second quarter of the year.

Another significant area of attention was the conclusion of the proposal for the extended CRMI, one of the main elements of which is the Caribbean Reducing Disaster Risk report. Opportunities for capacity building of the COs through participation in the BCPR event in Bogota Columbia was also utilized, including developing the linkages between the governance and DRR areas.

Most activities under the CRMI Phase I conducted by the Barbados and the OECS SRO would be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2006 or very early in the third quarter.