

Regional Workshop Addressing Coordination and Data Sharing Challenges for Better Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Indicators

Panel

How to support and promote better coordination of key agencies for the environment, climate change and disaster data areas in Caribbean countries

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Linkages Between Climate Change, Disasters and the Environment

- Climate change impacts can amplify risks, which result in disasters
- Climate related disasters account for more than 80% of disasters caused by natural hazards
- Climate change and disaster risks can result in damage to important ecosystems and food production systems





NATURAL HAZARDS

Storms, Tropical Cyclones, Floods, Landslide, Fires, Tsunami, Earthquake, Drought, Heatwave, Cold Snap, Volcanic Activity

Causes loss of life and damages assets, infrastructure, settlements and ecosystems, and can trigger displacement

Losses and damage disrupt economic activities and governance, and access to basic services and education

Asset loss, livelihood and service disruption entrench multi-dimensional poverty and inequalities, and can trigger migration





SLOW-ONSET CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED HAZARDS

Ocean Acidification, Sea Level Rise, Increasing Temperature, Desertification, Salinization

Damages and undermines the resilience of ecosystems, ecosystems services and settlements

Climate stresses and shocks on settlements and ecosystems undermine economic activity and can trigger displacement

Disrupted economic growth and severe weather affect human health and trigger negative coping mechanisms

Negative coping mechanisms and further shocks entrench multidimensional poverty and inequalities, and can trigger migration



Characteristics of National Emergency, Environmental, and Climate Change Departments and Units in the Caribbean Subregion

- Small units and under-resourced
- Significant responsibilities
- Limited capacities and skill sets
 - E.g. data collection and analysis
- Inadequate data and information
 - Often lacking access to critical data and information
- Often have to provide policy advise and/or recommendations at times without having all the data and information



Potential Benefits of Increased Coordination

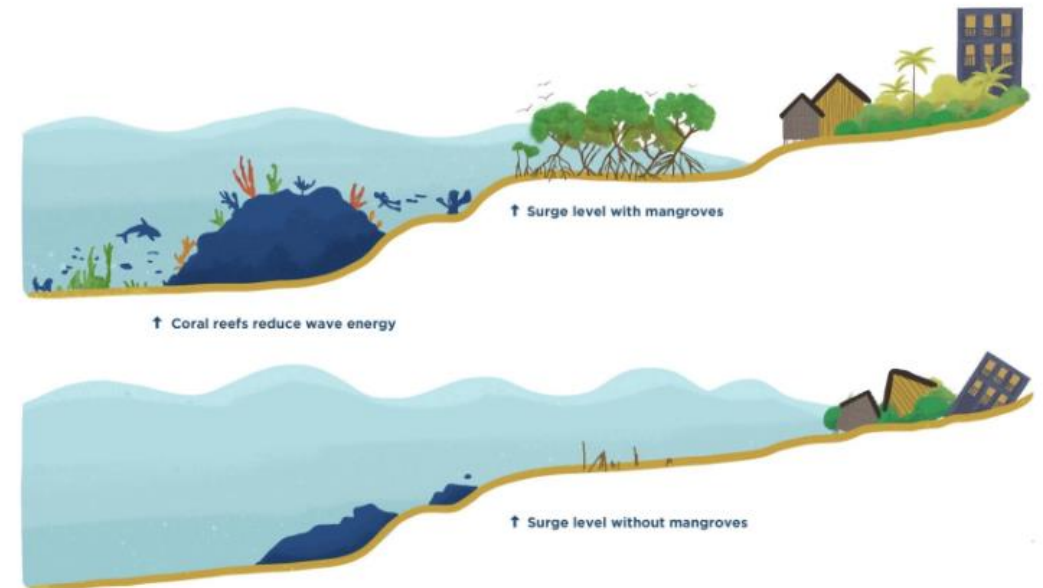
- Enhanced coherence – ensuring complementarity through the adoption of an integrated approach to climate adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:
 - Identify and reduce actions that support one agenda whilst undermining another.
- Increased efficiency – An integrated approach can result in countries making use of limited resources and maximizing existing capacity:
 - Sharing of data, encourages learning of best practices and common issues, direct resources to address more complex issues.

Means of enhancing coordination

- Greater understanding that disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and environmental management are interconnected
- Work together to develop capacity development and training activities
- Inter-sectoral coordination (e.g. committees with representation from other departments, ministries, CSOs and private sector)
 - Allows for a more holistic developmental agenda
 - Allows for sharing of ideas, best practices and lessons learnt
 - Provides opportunities for maximising scarce resources

Means of enhancing coordination

- Identifying areas of high risks to natural hazards and put in place mechanisms to reduce risks (e.g. wetland and watershed protection, coral reef restoration, reforestation)
- Provide guidelines and tools to inform comprehensive climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (e.g. early warning systems)
- Development of joint programmes and projects
- Promote joint data collection and monitoring



Source: The Global Value of Mangroves for Risk Reduction (2018)

How Coordination of Efforts can Support Data Collection, Monitoring and Analysis

- Through inter-sectoral committees joint work programmes between the three agencies can be developed where they:
 - Define the data sets needed to support their work;
 - Agree on which agencies will be responsible for collecting agreed data sets and the frequency;
 - Identify resources (capacity building, technological, human, financial, fuel, transport) to support data collection;
 - Agree on which agency will house the raw data
 - Identify how the data sets will be analyzed and used
 - Potential opportunities to undertake joint capacity building programmes
 - Outputs from data can be used to support an individual agency's work and mandate or can be used jointly by the 3 agencies to highlight linkages amongst the issues
- **Such approaches can result in:**
 - **Reduced duplication of effort**
 - **Maximized use of limited resources**
 - **Transfer of knowledge and skill sets across departments**
 - **Increased trust across agencies**