

# Compilation of National Progress Reports on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action:

## HFA Priority 4, core indicator 4.1:

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

### Know the Risks and Take Action

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Reporting period: 2007-2009

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This document has been compiled from the national progress reports provided by 76 countries through the HFA Monitor.

Note that these extracts are provided for convenience only.  
National HFA progress reports should be considered in their entirety and can be found at:

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/framework/progress/>

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# Africa

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## Algeria (in French)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

De notre point de vue, le niveau compris entre 3 et 4 serait approprié.

En effet, le plan national d'action pour l'environnement et le développement durable PNAEDD et la stratégie nationale prennent en charge et intègrent la réduction des risques naturels comme élément du plan et de la stratégie au même titre que les autres aspects et risques environnementaux. Des projets et des activités sectoriels et intersectoriels dédiés à la réduction des risques sont arrêtés et mis en oeuvre.

### Context & Constraints:

Le contexte économique et social en pleine mutation réduit quelque peu l'efficacité des efforts fournis dans le domaine de la protection de l'environnement et la prise en considération des outils déjà élaborés par l'ensemble des planificateurs.

L'émergence d'une culture du risque est une condition préalable de construction d'une politique en la matière.

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## Angola (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Existem acções tendentes a integração da gestão de desastres nos programas e políticas ligados ao ambiente. Com efeito estão em curso a formação com a criação de escolinhas ambientais. Foram igualmente realizadas acções diversas ligadas ao mapeamento das zonas de sinistros, reassentamento com segurança em caso de desastres e calamidades naturais. Foram criados instrumentos jurídicos de combate a desertificação e a seca através da arborização nas províncias do Namibe, Cunene e Benguela. Foram criadas leis de terras e reservas fundiárias com vista ao melhor aproveitamento de terras e recursos naturais produtivos.

### Context & Constraints:

As políticas e planos existem para uma maior implementação dos recursos naturais e uso de terras adaptado as mudanças climáticas. Todavia é preciso uma melhor coordenação multisectorial para permitir a integração dessas políticas e planos nos objectivos da gestão ambiental.

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## Burkina Faso (in French)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

Le Burkina Faso pays sahélien, menacé par la destruction accélérée de ses ressources naturelles a inscrit la protection de la nature dans sa loi fondamentale (Constitution). Un ministère chargé de l'environnement a été créé à cet effet. Ce ministère a élaboré et mis en oeuvre des politiques et des programmes axés sur la gestion durable de l'environnement: on peut citer entre autres:

- La politique nationale en matière d'environnement;
- Le programme d'action nationale d'adaptation aux changements climatiques (PANA);
- Le Code de l'environnement;
- Le programme d'action nationale de lutte contre la désertification (PANLCD);
- Le projet de partenariat pour la gestion durable des terres (CPP);
- L'Agence nationale de biosécurité (ANB) et son Conseil scientifique;
- L'Observatoire national de biosécurité (ONB);
- L'Observatoire de l'environnement en cours de création.
- La Commission spécialisée pour la prévention et la gestion des catastrophes du Conseil national pour l'environnement et le développement durable (CONEDD).
- La stratégie nationale d'éducation environnementale.

**Context & Constraints:**

- L'insuffisance des ressources financières;
  - L'insuffisance des ressources humaines qualifiées;
  - L'insuffisance des moyens logistiques;
  - La faible collaboration entre structures nationales chargées de la question environnementale.
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## Burundi (in French)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Des politiques et plans nationaux de gestion de l'environnement et d'adaptation aux changements climatiques existent et prennent en compte la RRC.

**Context & Constraints:**

Manque de synergie et de concertation à travers les interventions.

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## Cote d'Ivoire (in French)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

Bien que les politiques et plans de gestion des ressources naturelles et environnementales existent et peuvent d'une certaine façon prendre en compte la réduction du risque, il convient de relever qu'elles n'intègrent pas toujours explicitement des stratégies et des objectifs de réduction du risque.

**Context & Constraints:**

La meilleure façon de prendre en compte la réduction du risque est de les intégrer systématiquement dans les plans et politiques de gestion des ressources naturelles et environnementales. La mise plateforme RRC qui est un forum multisectoriel devrait pouvoir y veiller.

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## Egypt (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Projects and programmes related to environment and natural resources management include disaster/environmental risk reduction in existing mechanisms. Therefore, disaster management and risk reduction are integral components of environmental protection. For example, the Law of Environment No. 4/1994 includes among other articles:

- > Article 19: provides for an environmental impact assessment for new establishments (EIA).
- > Article 25: provides for the preparation of the national environmental disaster contingency plan.
- > Regarding projects and programmes related to land use, the concept of disaster management and risk reduction is considered and a set of regulations and codes of practice were developed by the National Center for Planning State Land-Use.
- > Environmental related policy is presented in the National Environmental Action Plan (2002 - 2017).

**Context & Constraints:**

Coordination is to be strengthened and legal aspects are to be revised through the NCCMDRR in order to integrate environment related policies and plans, including those for land use, natural resources management and adaptation to climate change, since the existing modalities are not fully integrated. The multi-sectoral approach is to be adopted and operationalized to ensure full integration and harmony.

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**Ghana** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Institutions such as the Town and Country Planning, the District Assembly Engineers Unit, and the Environmental Protection Agency exist and have guidelines to reduce risks/hazards associated with building, construction, and mining and quarrying. NADMO/Ghana National Fire Service collaboration in volunteers for bushfire prevention also exists.

**Context & Constraints:**

The Engineering Departments of the District Assemblies are unable to enforce building/construction regulations and bye-laws due to lack of logistics and personnel.

The Environmental Protection Agency also has not been able to regulate the activities of the mining/quarrying companies to appreciable level.

Volunteers are not adequately motivated to prevent or control bushfires.

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**Kenya** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Local Focal Points have been created in all the Line Ministries.

**Context & Constraints:**

Lack of funds.

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**Madagascar** (in French)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Le pays est grandement conscient de l'effet du changement climatique. Le département de l'environnement est en charge de développer des politiques et plans nationaux de réduction de l'effet du changement climatique. Le gouvernement malagasy envisage de mettre en œuvre une quinzaine de projets dans ce sens. Ces projets intègrent la réduction des risques dans leurs approches. Actuellement, les liens entre ces deux domaines (RRC et changement climatique) sont de plus en plus compris. C'est ainsi que le pays s'attèle aujourd'hui à mettre la politique nationale de RRC en cohérence avec le Programme Environnemental III et le PANA. De plus, des programmes d'adaptation au changement climatique et de protection de l'environnement ont été initiés.

**Context & Constraints:**

Il manque une coordination des activités de RRC et de réduction des effets du changement climatique. Il est important de relier les deux domaines et harmoniser les politiques de RRC et de réduction des effets du changement climatique.

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**Malawi** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Environmental management policies in the country do incorporate DRR and seek to reduce underlying risk factors. For example, the requirement that Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) be undertaken for all major projects seeks to ensure that all developmental activities do not exacerbate the vulnerability of communities. There is also a link between DRR and environmental management and this is reflected in the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in which DRR activities have been prioritised for implementation to reduce vulnerability of communities.

**Context & Constraints:**

1. Lack of enforcement of environmental regulations and legislation. Although Malawi has an Environmental Management Act and Policy, lack of enforcement has resulted in lack of protection of the environment. This has resulted in environmental degradation in some areas thereby contributing to disasters such as floods.

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**Mauritius** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

A number of measures already implemented do target disaster risk reduction, though they are not specific environment related policies. Similarly, there are some adaptation measures already in place without specifically mentioning the issue of climate change.

The National Environment Policy (revised version 2007) has a number of measures pertinent to disaster risk reduction. The National Forest Policy has a provision for land use management in the context of climate change.

**Context & Constraints:**

Though hazard information do exist, it has not yet been translated into integrated policies across planning documents. The issue of climate change and climate variability has not yet been integrated in general sustainable development policies.

Request of developments permits in areas with high hazard exposure is a real concern. An example is the high demand for coastal properties that are at increasing risk from storm surge, coastal erosion, tsunami and the effects of climate change.

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## **Mozambique** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### **Description:**

Progresses are being made by the Mozambican Government. The National Action Program for Climate Change Adaptation (NAPA) was approved at 04 December 2007 by the 32nd session of the Ministers Council.

Relationship between Disaster risk reduction and environment are strongly addressed in the 2nd PRSP generation (2006-2009) and approved by Government in 2006. PRSP is a response to 5 year 2005-2009 Government Plan and it address both disaster risk reduction and environment as cross-cutting issues which must be implemented by all key sectors. Effects of droughts, floods and erosion are faced as a result of climate change to which government and partners have to clearly address by improving land use natural resources management by capacity local communities and implementing good land use planning and environmental protection policies and strategies

Water supply and sanitation are seen as key factors to reduce environmental related diseases. In other hand, legal framework and institutional building capacity has been identified as essential to ensure changes and rapid dissemination and implementation of this broad vision to all government level so that disasters risk reduction and environmental protection must be viewed as tied issues each other. In This sense, natural disasters are seen as critical part to attain sustainable development in Mozambique

Since 2007, this vision is being disseminated in all the country provinces and districts by evolving local leaders and technical staff in workshop trainings with the objective of integrating disasters risk and environment in the local strategic and operational plans and budgets. In 2005 was set up a National Council for Sustainable Development (CONDES) chaired by the Prime Minister to monitor the progresses achieved in the implementation of the Government Plan related to sustainable development, where natural disasters are seen as a big environmental constraint.

Thus, since 2006, all the provinces and districts are gradually integrating disaster risk reduction and environment protection in their annual plans and budgets. In addition, district land use plans are been elaborated by local governments (districts) with support of provincial Governments and integrated in the District Development Strategic Plan.

### **Context & Constraints:**

There's a strong institutional weakness to rapidly deal with complex issues such as the relationship between disasters risk reduction and environment in all sectors and government levels. In other hand, for sector which is champion in these issues e.g. the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, there's shortage of human and financial resources to implement massive actions throughout the country.

The country is heavily dependent on international technical support to formulate and implement national and local levels plans which fully contribute to disaster risk reduction.

There's still weak coordination between Disaster Risk Reduction coordinator institution (INGC) and environmental affairs coordinator (MICOA) to critically address disaster as environmental issue and lead common and collective actions to fight them.

There's also lack of environmental indicators which shows this direct link between environment and disaster risk reduction as a strategy to ensure that all necessary action are taken by responsible institutions and progresses and challenges are monitored.

In other hand, there's full country recognition that there is a lack of indicators to measure the reduction of risk in a comprehensive manner. In this sense, setting up national and sector DRR indicators appears as a priority to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged to meeting the national targets and goals.

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## Senegal (in French)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Les instruments nécessaires à la RRC sont mis en place récemment (plateforme nationale de RRC, programme national de RRC, plan de contingence national, etc.) mais des réflexions sont nécessaires pour faire de la RRC un objectif intégral pour les politiques et plans d'environnement incluant la planification et la gestion des ressources naturelles et l'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

### Context & Constraints:

Les concertations menées avec la Direction de la Planification Générale, le Programme National de Développement Local (PNDL), le réseau des parlementaires ainsi que le fonctionnement de la plateforme nationale de RRC devrait fortement contribuer à la prise en compte de la RRC dans la planification et la gestion des ressources naturelles et l'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

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## Sierra Leone (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

5 - Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

### Description:

Not all community radio stations are used in the campaign and there are communities in the country with people speaking a dialect that only using their community radio can help in sensitising them on DRR. Thus, the need for funds to take the message of DRR to all in the country.

### Context & Constraints:

The level is FIVE. Many of the disasters that befall Sierra Leoneans are a result of man's negative interaction with the environment. Thus, the government have put in place policies and plans to reverse this trend with punishment for defaulters. This measure is to curb the underlying risks that are associated with the many disasters.

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## Swaziland (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

1 - Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

### Description:

Environmental legislation and related policies, strategies/plans including land use natural resource management does not explicitly integrate disaster risk reduction. Although the Environmental Management

Act of 2002 has a sustainable management purpose, it does not have explicit requirements to address the effects of natural hazards.

The Second National Communication (SNC) on climate change whose implementation is underway seeks to among others integrate climate change risk management (CRM) within the context of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Swaziland is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Capacity constraints is a major challenge on integrating climate change issues and concept within the context of DRR model/framework.

**Context & Constraints:**

The absence of substantive information on major hazards constitute a major challenge to translate this information into integrated planning and implementation across sectors.

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## Tanzania, United Rep of (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The national land Policy of 1995 emphasized the need to provide secure land tenure for those who were to invest in land. The village Act No. 5 of 199 requires village councils to designate and prepare Village Land Use Plans for various uses e.g. agriculture, pastoralist, forestry, water, minerals and conservation. In addition, the National Human Settlement Policy, 2000 has a section on Village planning which states that, the preparation of village Land use plans will be based on the National guidelines for the participatory Village Land Use Management and that village plans shall be prepared in response to felt demands of the villagers. Now, with the Land use planning Act No. 6 of 2007, the village assembly is the approving authority of village land use plans. Also provides for cooperation between the government, Local Government Authorities and other Institutions in Land use planning. The outcome is reduced vulnerability to environmental disasters.

**Context & Constraints:**

The national land Policy of 1995 emphasized the need to provide secure land tenure for those who were to invest in land. The village Act No. 5 of 199 requires village councils to designate and prepare Village Land Use Plans for various uses e.g. agriculture, pastoralist, forestry, water, minerals and conservation. In addition, the National Human Settlement Policy, 2000 has a section on Village planning which states that, the preparation of village Land use plans will be based on the National guidelines for the participatory Village Land Use Management and that village plans shall be prepared in response to felt demands of the villagers. Now, with the Land use planning Act No. 6 of 2007, the village assembly is the approving authority of village land use plans. Also provides for cooperation between the government, Local Government Authorities and other Institutions in Land use planning. The outcome is reduced vulnerability to environmental disasters.

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## Togo (in French)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

5 - Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

**Description:**

la loi-cadre sur l'environnement,  
le vote par le parlement du code forestier,  
le plan national d'action sur l'environnement,  
processus de mise en oeuvre du programme national de gestion de l'environnement,  
le projet de deuxième communication sur les changements climatiques ,

le processus de mise en oeuvre du programme d'action national d'adaptation,

**Context & Constraints:**

le financement de tous les projets identifiés dans le Plan National d'adaptation.

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**Zambia** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Focal Point persons have been appointed in all line Ministries to ensure that DRR activities are mainstreamed in their programmes. The Government has also commissioned projects relating to DRR to ensure that steady progress is attained in this area.

**Context & Constraints:**

Coordination is still required to bring all on board. Resources to conduct the DRR activities remain inadequate.

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# Americas

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## Anguilla (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

St Georges Declaration, Sustainable Development Policy, Biodiversity Strategy/Policy, Oil Spill PPlan ownership, significant progress has been made in this area.

### Context & Constraints:

ownership issues between departments - is being addressed via the harmonisation committee.

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## Argentina (in Spanish)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Tanto desde el ámbito de la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible como de la Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Territorial del Ministerio de Planificación, se implementan programas para esta cuestión. Si bien institucionalmente el compromiso es fuerte, y se han involucrado en ello el PNUD y otras agencias del sistema, lo cierto es que las limitaciones presupuestarias y, en algunos casos, dificultades técnicas de ello derivado, hacen que estos programas recién se estén consolidando

### Context & Constraints:

Mejorar la capacidad técnica y la contribución presupuestaria, será el reto.

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## Bolivia (in Spanish)

### Level of Progress achieved:

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### Description:

En términos de reducción de de desastres con temas relacionados al medio ambiente y gestión de los recursos naturales y uso de suelo y adaptación al cambio climático, se considera que si bien existen ciertos compromisos institucionales, estos son temporales y enfocados a la asistencia inmediata sin embargo no se contemplan seguimientos a largo plazo ni la evaluación de los resultados obtenidos.

En la Ley 1333, de medio ambiente, se incluyen, en el capítulo 3, elementos relacionados con prevención y control de los problemas ambientales derivados de desastres naturales o de las actividades humanas.

En relación al tema de Cambio Climático, se tiene un documento nacional llamado "Mecanismo Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático", se están considerando 5 sectores prioritarios (i) Recursos Hídricos, (ii) Seguridad Alimentaria, (iii) Salud, (iv) Asentamientos Humanos y GdR con enfoque de infraestructura urbana, y (v) Ecosistemas; además de tres programas transversales: (i) investigación científicas, (ii) educación sensibilización, y (iii) conocimientos ancestrales. Este es un proceso inicial que abarca, en una primera etapa el diagnóstico, un proyecto piloto y la instalación de un Sistema de Alerta Bioclimática.

Además se cuenta con el Plan Nacional de Cuencas que incluye: (i) manejo integrado de cuencas y (ii) gestión de recursos hídricos; el plan está orientado a la gestión del ciclo hídrico y de forma implícita a reducir el riesgo.

Las nuevas guías y lineamientos de ordenamiento territorial (en fase de diseño, no están implementadas), consideran el tema de la gestión del riesgo y la adaptación al cambio climático.

**Context & Constraints:**

Deficiencia en la asistencia técnica para mitigar riesgos por ejemplo: erosión y degradación (uso de suelo) - migración, asistencia de epidemias, fenómenos naturales, etc.

Atención limitada, sin ejecución eficiente, ni seguimiento a largo plazo. La asistencia es parcial y limitada,

Carencia en cuanto a la retroalimentación o políticas sistemáticas que comprendan el compromiso de ambas partes: asistencia y asistidos, esto genera, falta de confiabilidad, y disconformidad por parte de la población en general y afectados directos.

Se requiere mejorar asistencia y coordinación técnica integrando los saberes culturales.

Necesidad de formulación de políticas a nivel nacional que contemplen la integración de los niveles de acción pública (nacional, departamental, municipal).

La coordinación de acciones entre entidades gubernamental, no gubernamentales, de cooperación, de acción social, etc.

Los logros no son amplios ni considerables y las políticas tampoco son sistemáticas ni consecuentes.

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## **British Virgin Islands** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

With regards to Physical Planning, the CDM Strategy includes various programmatic efforts that contribute to 'focusing on risk reduction in the future from natural and man-made disasters' and 'improving the coordination of disaster management, physical planning and environmental management to ensure that these considerations are incorporated in decision making in an integrated fashion'. Activities include having the DDM Director sit on the Planning Authority and Environmental Management committees, non-structural mitigation, targeting the enhanced awareness of planners, engineers and developers for hazard mitigation integration into building/development and ongoing coordination and collaboration between Planning and the DDM. The DDM shall also continue to work with government ministries in Disaster and Emergency Management planning.

With regards to Environmental Management (in addition aspects already noted), the strategy shall also contribute to 'strengthening environmental planning among the various land environmental management agencies'.

**Context & Constraints:**

Availability of technical data at times can pose a tremendous challenge to providing information towards the building and development process, a condition not unique to the Virgin Islands. Efforts are being made to address existing gaps.

The mapping and vulnerability/hazard assessment process is heavily dependent on external funding. This

process is also seen as a singular activity instead of a continuous process which can be informed as events occur. In order for the investment of funds to be realized the mapping and vulnerability/hazard assessment process must receive reliable and significant long term funding to ensure coverage across the territory. Additional technical support is required to provide site specific updated and improved hazard data for the VI (UK) for emergency and planning purposes.

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## **Cayman Islands** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

The revision of the National Development Plan takes into account national development issues such as coastal setbacks.

The Draft Environmental Legislation addresses a number of issues relating to protection of natural resources.

Draft Hazard Management Legislation addresses especially vulnerable areas such as wetlands and areas prone to flooding.

A climate change working group has been formed. Climate change policy will address disaster risk reduction issues and sustainability.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Many of these issues are medium to long term mitigation and risk reduction strategies and it is hard to get the public to accept these things as being of immediate importance.

The challenge is not with the technical and scientific agencies; they accept and appreciate the need for action. The challenge is communicating the need to balance present development requirements with the future cost of inaction.

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## **Colombia** (in Spanish)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### **Description:**

Se ha incorporado la Gestión de riesgo en las políticas de gestión ambiental. Actualmente el análisis del riesgo es un componente integral de instrumentos como los Planes de Ordenamiento Territorial, planes de Manejo de Cuencas Hidrográficas- y de los instrumentos a través de los cuales se busca incorporar la dimensión ambiental en los procesos de ordenamiento del territorio, esto es; los planes de gestión ambiental regional, lo anterior soportado normativamente a través de la Ley 388 de 1997 y el Decreto 1729. El Ministerio de Ambiente Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial ejecuta las políticas del Ordenamiento Territorial, así como las de medio ambiente y recurso natural y el uso del suelo. Estas políticas van articuladas en los tres niveles, tanto así que el nivel territorial se convierte en funciones prioritarias de los Comités Locales y Regionales. De igual forma, los avances que se han realizado a nivel municipal, frente a los temas de uso y ocupación del suelo han sido trascendentales para la definición del marco normativo a nivel municipal, en especial en temas correlacionados con zonas de protección ambiental y de alto riesgo no mitigable. Es de destacar que en la actualidad el país cuenta con el 98% de los municipios con planes de ordenamiento territorial, documento en el que confluyen los temas correlacionados con el medio

ambiente, recursos naturales, usos del suelo, proyecciones de crecimiento, etc; De igual forma, a través de las CARs se están formulando planes de ordenamiento que trascienden al ámbito político administrativo de los municipios, y aborda una visión mucho más amplia de región a través de un elemento integrador como lo es la cuenca, en la actualidad se están liderando 35 procesos de ordenamiento de cuencas.

**Context & Constraints:**

La implementación de los planes de ordenamiento de cuencas hidrográficas en el país, en los términos que lo establece la legislación vigente, tiene antecedentes muy recientes con lo que su impacto en los procesos de ordenamiento ambiental territorial han venido implementándose recientemente. No obstante que la legislación define el procedimiento a través del cual ha de incorporarse la dimensión ambiental en los planes de desarrollo departamental y municipal existe una baja articulación entre estos dos instrumentos de planeación. De igual forma, es importante resaltar que como limitación importante de estos instrumentos fue el análisis de riesgo el cual desafortunadamente se construyó con un sesgo desde la amenaza, desconociendo en la mayoría de los procesos los aspectos de vulnerabilidad, generado dificultades para identificar los resultados finales de este proceso.

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**Costa Rica** (in Spanish)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

“La reducción del riesgo de desastres es un objetivo integral de las políticas y los planes relacionados con el medio ambiente, lo que incluye la gestión de los recursos naturales y el uso del suelo, al igual que la adaptación al cambio climático”

Nivel alcanzado: 4

La aprobación de la Ley N° 8488 en enero del 2006, así como el antecedente de tener un plan estratégico para impulsar la política de gestión del riesgo entre los años 2002 y 2006, ha significado un cambio en el marco de la planificación pública que ha posicionado el tema de la reducción del riesgo. En la actualidad el capítulo II de la Ley explícitamente hace referencia a la “Política de Gestión del Riesgo”, como transversal a toda iniciativa de desarrollo del país y como una responsabilidad de todas las instituciones del Estado. En materia ambiental y de uso de la tierra el país tiene un buen marco normativo que vincula y complementa la temática de riesgo. El Plan Nacional de Desarrollo incluye la temática del riesgo en el anexo del sector social, pero en la acción estratégica relacionada con el “desarrollo de ambientes seguros”, un enfoque que orienta al ordenamiento territorial. Del mismo modo, en el anexo de Armonía con la Naturaleza, en varias de las acciones estratégicas y concretamente en la acción destinada al Cambio Climático, se identifican acciones relacionadas con el tema de la adaptabilidad y el manejo del recurso hídrico. Así por ejemplo la “Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático” incorpora una serie de acciones tendentes a unificar agenda con el tema de gestión del riesgo. En el tema de uso del suelo, de acuerdo con esta Ley, las municipalidades deben ser asesoradas para que incluyan el análisis del riesgo en la planificación del territorio.

**Context & Constraints:**

Las limitaciones que se observan están referidas al ámbito de las capacidades institucionales de Estado, por falta de recurso humano y de capacitación, así como la vigencia de otras agendas de trabajo prioritarios, ante las cuales la reducción del riesgo queda subordinado o relegado; falta posicionar el tema de desastres en la agenda política institucional.

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**Dominican Republic** (in Spanish)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

1 - Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

**Description:**

La adaptación al cambio climático constituye una oportunidad importante que hay que aprovechar para integrar el factor ambiental a todos los niveles de riesgo

**Context & Constraints:**

Tomar en cuenta el cambio climático al momento de formular políticas para reducir el riesgo a desastre

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**Ecuador** (in Spanish)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

•AVANCE

Nivel de Logro: 3

Se cuenta con la Propuesta de Estrategia Nacional de Gestión de Riesgos en la que en cada una de las políticas hace mención a los desastres causados por la actividad humana y su relación con el medio ambiente.

**Context & Constraints:**

Limitaciones:

Aún pendiente la definición de las facultades y competencias institucionales en cuanto a Gestión de Riesgos.

Asignación de Recursos Financieros destinados a la Gestión de Riesgos en todos los niveles.

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**El Salvador** (in Spanish)**Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

La reducción del riesgo de desastres está enunciada en las normativas nacionales y municipales, aun falta profundizar y vincular los aspectos relacionados con los planes ambientales, recursos naturales y el cambio climático; y no es un objetivo integral de las políticas ni los planes relacionados con el medio ambiente.

Aunque se señala que se ha adquirido institucionalmente un compromiso encaminado a la reducción del riesgo de desastres.

**Context & Constraints:**

El tema debe ser considerado en los planes de desarrollo, como eje transversal y no solo enunciado en las políticas nacionales, en la práctica debe traducirse en actividades que repercuten en la reducción del riesgo de desastres.

El plan de acción debe enfocarse más en el desarrollo que en la respuesta.

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**Jamaica** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Jamaica has made significant strides in Environmental Management with the establishment of the National Resource Conservation Act (1991) and the formulation of a single agency (national Environment and Planning Agency) in 2001 with sole responsibility for addressing environmental issues. Projects such as the "Ridge to Reef" looks specifically at land use and natural resource management of targeted watershed areas and its effects on marine environment.

The country has also examined the whole conceptual framework for the Adaptation to Climate change which was initially addressed under the preparation of the first National Communication and is being updated under the preparation of the second national communication which is scheduled for completion in December 2008.

Jamaica is Party to the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. The Meteorological Service is the National focal point to the UNFCCC.

The mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management into development planning has been an integral component of the work programme of the National Disaster Office. Notwithstanding greater buy in is necessary by the various sectors, in working towards this effort.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges

- While the link has been made in terms of Disasters and Environmental Protection there needs to be greater collaboration among agencies especially as it relates to monitoring and enforcement, sharing of data and public education strategies.

Recommendations

- Strengthen linkages among agencies and increase enforcement capabilities.
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## **Panama** (in Spanish)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Las políticas existentes deben ir hacia la comunidad; las mismas existen pero lastimosamente hay muchas personas inclusive que trabajan en el tema que desconocen que se mantienen vigentes o creadas.

Hay que trabajar de forma integrada entrelazando prioridades un Ejemplo de eso es el trabajo que se hace en la Unidad de Prevención de Desastres y Gestión Local de Riesgos del Municipio de Panamá; que dentro del programa de Organización Comunitaria (Comité de Gestión Local de Riesgos) que realizan en los corregimientos, también van formándolos en el tema de protección del ambiente como es el caso de orientaciones en Manejo de Desechos; Reciclaje; Cambio Climático, entre otros; de esta manera no solo les enseñan sobre desastres y organización también impulsan el proceso de instaurar una cultura de conservación del ambiente.

Existe la voluntad y el marco legal donde la reducción de riesgos es parte integral de las políticas.

Ejemplos:

Política Nacional de Recursos Hídricos (ANAM)  
Política Nacional de Cambio Climático  
Política Nacional de Producción Más Limpia.  
Política Nacional de Información Ambiental.  
Política Nacional de Gestión Integral de Residuos No Peligrosos y Peligrosos.  
Política Nacional de la Descentralización Ambiental.  
Política Nacional de Supervisión, control y Fiscalización ambiental.

Se realizan evaluaciones de riesgos en áreas destinadas a proyectos de desarrollo.

También se trabaja para que se realicen los estudios de impacto ambiental, solicitado por la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente, pero en ocasiones se dan casos donde se inician obras sin que se hayan seguido los debidos procesos lo cual pone el ambiente en riesgo.

Existen instituciones que realizan inspecciones técnicas especializadas para la prevención y mitigación de riesgos de desastres. Incrementando en la ejecución de inspecciones técnicas especializadas en materia de reducción de riesgos a desastres, con el fin de contribuir en el tema.

**Context & Constraints:**

Realmente Panamá tiene avance en la existencia de leyes, normativas, políticas de protección al ambiente y de reducción de riesgos de desastres

Limitaciones:

- Se requiere del cumplimiento integral de cada una de las leyes existentes.
- Es preciso formar en la sociedad la necesidad del cumplimiento de las leyes y el seguimiento permanente por parte de las instituciones responsables de esto.
- Nuestras comunidades deben ser sensibilizadas sobre la realidad de temas ambientales y como pueden afectar las generaciones futuras.
- La comunidad es parte de algunos problemas de contaminación y de deterioro ambiental por lo que hay que integrarlos para impulsar programas que les incentiven a reforestar, reciclar, proteger y a evitar las malas prácticas en el manejo de los desechos de los mismos.
- Es necesario integrar a la empresa privada en proyectos de conservación del ambiente y que los mismos tengan un mayor compromiso por el buen manejo de sus desechos y por la forma en que colaboran con el proceso de conservación del ambiente y con la reducción de riesgos.

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## Peru (in Spanish)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Nivel de Progreso 3:

Esta vigente la Ley del Medio Ambiente, asimismo existe el Consejo Nacional del Medio Ambiente

Se ha creado el Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, habiendo sido designado como Ministro el Dr. Antonio Brack Egg.

Los lineamientos para la elaboración de la Zonificación Ecológica y Económica así como de Planes de Ordenamiento Territorial incluyen objetivos y criterios relacionados a la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres.

Elaboración de una propuesta para incorporación de la gestión del riesgo de desastres como una política de Estado en el marco del Acuerdo Nacional de parte del INDECI

**Context & Constraints:**

- Fortalecer la aplicación del análisis de riesgo en la implementación de las estrategias: Diversidad Biológica, Cambio Climático, Humedales y el Plan de Acción de Lucha contra la Desertificación y Sequía.
  - Impulsar en la Estrategia de Cambio Climático en el ítem de vulnerabilidad medidas de adaptabilidad necesarias para la mitigación de estos impactos.
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## **Saint Lucia** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

The following environment related policies all consider DRR concerns:

The Climate Change policy

Environmental Management policy

Water policy;

However, these policies have not been fully implemented or operationalized.

**Context & Constraints:**

The development and approval of policies and plans is only part of the resolution. Commitment to and the enforcement of these policies, plans and regulations is a grave issue; for example the enforcement of existing regulations regarding land use planning is a challenge and at best haphazard.

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## **United States of America** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The NSTC Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction is working with the interagency Climate Change Science Program to ensure that the disaster reduction perspective is incorporated into strategies being developed to address climate change with the recognition that a number of aspects of mitigating disaster risks can also be effective for climate change adaptation.

**Context & Constraints:**

See above.

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## **Venezuela, Bolivarian Rep of** (in Spanish)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Se ha establecido en la Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en el artículo 127 que "... El Estado protegerá el ambiente, la diversidad biológica, los recursos genéticos, los procesos ecológicos, los parques nacionales y monumentos naturales y demás áreas de especial importancia ecológica". Asimismo con la promulgación de la Ley Orgánica del Ambiente, el estado garantiza una mejor calidad de vida, mediante una gestión ambiental transversal, rectora, ejecutora y normativa, del uso y conservación de los recursos naturales promoviendo la participación de la sociedad para lograr el desarrollo sostenible. Por otra parte, a través de la misión árbol se promueve la reforestación de espacios que así lo requieran,

orientada en la participación comunitaria fundamentada en la recuperación y uso sustentable de los bosques. También se lleva a cabo proyectos como saneamiento del río Guaire, Saneamiento del Lago de Valencia, lago de Maracaibo, entre otros.

El sector infraestructura realiza contactos con otros organismos en lo que respecta a la materia ambiental. Se estudian los riesgos ambientales y su posible minimización.

Parte de la labor de FUNVISIS se vincula con las actividades de RRD relacionados con el medio ambiente, trabajando con el Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente en la realización de estudios en Zonas Costeras y Cuencas ; también desarrollan con el Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores estudios sobre Calentamiento Global y Antárticos.

Por otro lado, el Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente impulsa la creación de la red nacional de vigilantes voluntarios del ambiente y brigadistas voluntarios de protección contra incendios forestales, lo cual permitirá articular la gestión del Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente, con los consejos comunales y comunidades organizadas, en las labores de guardería ambiental. También se lleva actualmente el proyecto Evaluación de Suelos Agrícolas y Propuesta de la Creación del Programa Nacional de Suelos, el cuál trata la evaluación de estos para determinar sus potencialidades y promover su uso racional.

**Context & Constraints:**

Garantizar el cumplimiento de la normativa ambiental para impulsar la RRD.

Adecuar todo el marco jurídico y los planes del sector ambiente, ordenación del territorio y desarrollo, a los efectos del cambio climático.

Fortalecer el papel de las guarderías ambientales, como contralores en el cumplimiento del marco jurídico ambiental.

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# Asia

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## Bahrain (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

- A major update of Environmental Law No.21 of 1996 is currently being processed through Parliament.
- Once this is official legislation, it will ensure legal compliance in many areas which are currently only carried out on a voluntary or goodwill basis.
- The Legislation update, however, indicates institutional support and is a good indicator for the future.

### Context & Constraints:

- Once the Law is enacted it must be implemented in an inclusive manner for all involved stakeholders.
  - The new Law will only function effectively if appropriate, effective and comprehensive regulations are in place to support it.
  - In particular the Regulations must impact on current and future major development projects.
  - Much of the work for ensuring implementation of the redrafted law will involve inspections and physical audits.
  - This will almost certainly require additional resources and funding.
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## Bangladesh (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

The issue of climate change has received greater attention in past several years in Bangladesh. Draft of a National Adaptation Programme of Action is already prepared. During the reporting period, GoB proposed for the creation of a Climate Change Fund. Bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors are also exploring the possibility of creating a multi-donor trust fund to accelerate financing for research and adaptation in Bangladesh. At present the functions and institutional location of the Climate Change Cell are being reconsidered and it is possible that some of its functions and activities will be relocated within government to contribute to the broader GoB effort in addressing climate change.

Ministry of Environment and Forests in partnership with relevant stakeholders finalized and adopted the National Capacity Self Assessment for Environment and Natural Resource Management which addresses risk reduction issues in the policies and plans. This project identified the policy and planning gaps and in consensus recommended the road map for actions and development of capacity building plans and programmes. During the review period the Government has also initiated Sustainable Land Management Programme which is intended to cover land related risk reduction issues including mining. Ministry of Land is implementing Coastal Land Zoning Project. Ministry of Agriculture and its technical agencies are engaged and in continuous process to develop climate resilient crop varieties in the context of salinity intrusion, drought and submergence. A project is launched in early 2008 by FFWC and ActionAid with support from Danida to understand effectiveness of expandable DRR approaches into climate change context in three agro-ecological zones.

### Context & Constraints:

Research and piloting of climate change adaptation at the community level is necessary to inform various areas of intervention on CCA. Key constraints includes (i) small scale and isolated pilot initiatives which needs to be scaled up and mainstreamed; (ii) much more investment needed for large scale research and

development investment and its dissemination; (iii) Short term, medium term and long term human resource development policies and plans are needed in order to make all risk reduction efforts sustainable. On top of that exact institutional frameworks and financing mechanisms for a national level climate change initiative have yet to be fully finalised.

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## **Cambodia** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

There are some efforts made by the national government and other local, international and regional organizations to address concerns related to environment, land use, natural resource management and climate change, for example:

> Under national legal framework of social-economic development plan, environment and natural resource management is one of the five priority components.

> Ministry of Environment developed and implementing the National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA) in aiming to implement the high priority activities of non-health and health related issues identified in the NAPA and lead ahead to address policies and legal frameworks on environment, land use, and natural resource management and climate change.

> A few NGOs are now working on climate change mitigation and adaptation at national and local levels.

> The royal of Government of Cambodia, established Tonle Sap Basin Authority (TSBA) for sustainable use of lake ecosystem with support of ADB

> There are much consideration from funding agencies to support the Royal Government of Cambodia and other local, international organizations to implement food security projects, forestry and fishery conservation projects, include those related to community forestry and fishery protection in Kampong Speu, Rattanakiri, Mondul Kiri, Steung Treng, Kratie, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Banteay Mean Chey, Odor Mean Chey, and some other provinces along the Tole Sap and the Mekong River Basin

> MRC implementing long term Flood Mitigation and Management Programme (FMMP) for lower Mekong basin in aiming to contribute to sustainable development and environment management as well.

### **Context & Constraints:**

However, there are many emerging challenges and constraints to achieve the directions and efforts, such as:

- Inconsistency with technical and financial support to implement the initiatives and plans
- Human resources and the capacity of partner agencies is limited
  
- In a certain extent development and implementation of the comprehensive policies, guidelines and plans
- There are critical challenges of achieving the sustainability and ownership.
- Linkages between climate and DRR programme are no yet strong enough.

### **Recommendations to Overcome:**

- There are needs to develop the comprehensive policies, guidelines, and plans to support implement the policies and plans
- There are needs the high commitment from national government agencies to implement the initiatives, policies and plans, there are needs to the contribution from local, international and regional organizations in term of technical and financial support and to build up the capacity of human resources, enable the efforts, policies and plans would be effectively and efficiently implemented and achieved directions and goals.
- There are needs to initiate and develop the comprehensive guidelines and mechanisms on sustainability and ownership.

- Ministry of Environment and NCDM should be link climate change and DRR together.
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## India (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

The issue of climate change and the interlinkage that exists between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction has been widely acknowledged in India. Government of India has prepared the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which mentions two main strategies for disaster management response to extreme climatic events:

- 1) Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into infrastructure project design.
- 2) Strengthening communication networks and disaster management facilities at all levels.

NAPCC emphasizes on such actions like disaster specific vulnerability assessments and sectoral impact assessments at the state and district level for preparing contingency plans, maintenance of such critical facilities like health and water supply, incorporation of DRR concerns into ongoing development schemes, capacity building of professionals like planners, engineers and financial institutions, collaboration with Insurance providers and enforcement of building codes. It acknowledges the importance of upgrading forecasting, tracking and early warning systems for cyclones, flood, tsunamis and storm surge and building the resilience of the community through appropriate training against extreme events such as natural disasters. The National Mission for sustainable agriculture one of the identified missions to be implemented under NAPCC focuses on managing the risks of the agricultural sector through weather insurance mechanisms, development of GIS and remote sensing based soil resource mapping and land use planning at the level of a water shed or river basin. Such interventions have the potential to minimize the occurrence of severe drought events. The National Environmental Policy 2006 adopts a comprehensive approach towards Integrated Coastal Management by addressing linkages between coastal areas, wetlands, and river systems, in relevant policies, regulation, and programs. It provides guidelines for conservation and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems through appropriate land use planning and watershed management practices reducing the potential of occurrence of such hazards like landslides.

### Context & Constraints:

There is a need for extensive research to understand the interlinkages between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and it is to be further supported by implementation of pilot projects at the community level.

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## Indonesia (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction into policies and plans related to the environment have been commenced. Spatial planning as stipulated in Law No. 26/2008 on Spatial Planning, for instance, has accommodated the importance of disaster risk assessments in planning the land use.

In addition, the government has also initiated the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as the outcome of the Bali Conference in 2007. This is followed up with the drafting of the National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation.

Awareness to protect the wetlands has been promoted but has not achieved significant implementation. Forest land use monitoring is carried out as one of the efforts done by the National Forest Inventory.

**Context & Constraints:**

The constraint or challenge faced in the integration of Disaster risk reduction into environmental-related policies and plans is, among others, the drafting of the policies without involving the relevant stakeholders. Regulations and policies are considered too broad to be implemented. Besides, the policy drafting has not been assessed based on risk indicators. Different interest between the central and local governments also creates different perceptions in interpreting the existing policies/regulations. Weak law enforcement and the unavailability of the monitoring and evaluation system using substantive indicators constitute the challenges at hand.

Efforts to overcome the challenges are recommended by revising or improving the existing regulations/policies to be more well-defined and comprehensive involving relevant stakeholders. A system to ensure the proper implementation of the regulations/policies needs to be set up followed by enforcement measures. To encourage the better implementation of the regulations/policies, a reward and punishment mechanism can be built. Whereas, to ensure the progress of the disaster risk reduction integration into the policies and plans, a mechanism using substantive indicators to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the programs must be developed.

There is also a need to strengthen the consultative process with relevant sectors to develop synergy in implementing policies/regulations, and this process must be supported by clear implementation mechanism and adequate resources.

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**Iran, Islamic Rep of** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

5 - Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

**Description:**

Environmental and Natural Resource Management

- Developing guidelines and standards for sustainable development in earthquake prone areas considering land-use planning and proper allocation of facilities and infrastructures.
- Evaluation of the seismic resistance of critical public facilities and physical infrastructure, such as fire fighting stations, hospitals and water networks.
- Strengthening some of the hospitals and schools in Tehran and other cities.

Left: Evaluation of vulnerability of water network in Tehran

Right: Evaluation of seismic resistance of Fire-Fighting Stations in Tehran

(ii) Land-use planning and other technical measures

- Developing criteria for land readjustment in old urban areas in the earthquake prone zones.
- Planning for allocation of disaster risk management infrastructure (such as evacuation sites, emergency response centers, etc.)
- Studying reconstruction process in earthquake damaged areas to develop sound guidelines for disaster rehabilitation and recovery in Iran.
- Studying the process of housing construction in earthquake damaged areas to find the missing connections and developing helpful guidelines on housing dispersion and production policies in mega-cities of Iran.

**Context & Constraints:**

The environmental consequences of human activity tend to be hidden until it is too late. Consequently, the global order of priorities has focused on economic development, human development and finally on sustainable development. It is now known that a lack of attention to sustainability can threaten both economic and human development and that benefits are cancelled out by growing environmental costs. But the fact that these costs are sometimes hidden means that they may not be taken account of, unless there is maximum public awareness and public commitment to dealing with them.

1. Lack of inter- agency coordination on subjects like de forestation, desertification that is not within the jurisdiction of environmental protection organization.
2. Lack of an integrated program for follow-up on natural disasters related to climate change.

## Japan (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Japan has National land conservation projects such as river improvement, soil erosion control (sabo), and soil and coastline conservation are carried out strategically for protecting national land, citizens' lives and property from various disasters. In 2005, the National Spatial Planning Act (revision of Comprehensive National Development Act) was enforced in order to make the shift from the policy centered on development. Based on the Act, the National Spatial Strategies was developed at national level in 2008 and have been currently under development at regional level. One of the strategic goals identified in the Act and the National Strategies are to design disaster resilience nation to ensure safe and secure life including promotion of comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.

Additionally, the "Forest Improvement and Conservation Works Master Plan (5-Year Plan)" was formulated in 2003 to promote comprehensive and effective forestry improvement and soil conservation projects.

**Context & Constraints:**

The task force to comprehensively review the current progress of adaptation to climate change in the national policies has established and just started the activities in March 2009. Disaster risk reduction is considered one of the important issues to be considered in the study.

## Kazakhstan (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Effectiveness of ES prevention depends completely on prevention measures as:

- 1) assessment of territory for possible ES;
- 2) scientific complex evaluation of ES risks;
- 3) reliable prediction of ES and a rate of negative sequences;
- 4) monitoring of dangerous area and zones of ES;
- 5) planning of complex measures for ES prevention;
- 6) risk control by engineering measures.

The Ministry has developed the Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 which includes 3 basic directions realized in a frame of 18 budget programs with 4 as development programs and 14 as current programs.

The first strategic direction: development of the CD system, effectiveness for material reserve in cases of various conflicts, ES and for market regulation.

The second strategic direction: prevention, mitigation and effective liquidation of natural ES consequences.

The third strategic direction: enhancement of industrial and fire safety.

Realization of the first direction is going by solving of the following tasks:

Task1. Formation of material reserve for mobilization needs, assuming immediate measures on liquidation of ES consequences, measures for market regulation.

Task 2. Development of technical and territorial infrastructure, legal base of the national material reserve.

Task 3. Increasing of operability level and sustainable operation in crisis situation.

Task 4. Adequate provision with search-and-rescue equipment of population and facilities on a whole territory.

Task 5. Enhancement of preparedness of rescue teams and personnel for different complicated works.

Task 6. Development of aviation service.

For the second strategic direction there are following tasks:

Task 1. Measure performance for population and territory protection against natural disasters, providing of monitoring, broadcasting and prevention of ES.

Task 2. Establishment of a scientific base of protection for people, facilities and territories against disasters.

To realize the third strategic direction:

Task 1. Providing of guaranteed fire protection for communities, strategic facilities, steppes and forests.

Task 2. Enhancement of an industrial safety at dangerous facilities.

Basic priorities of this Strategic Plan of MES are corresponded to principles, directions and mechanisms of the Development Strategy to 2030 of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### Context & Constraints:

n/a

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## Korea, Rep of (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

Disaster Mitigation Pre-Consideration Regulation has being enforced since August 2005 to predict and analyze any disaster potential due to changed land use and development.

Also, disaster standards are being revised reflecting climate change in Korea and natural disaster

comprehensive plans are being updated accordingly.

Coping with climate change, seven national strategies are proposed as follows;

1. Study on the mechanisms between climate change and disaster occurrence
2. Establishment of national goal and mid- & long-term strategy for disaster mitigation
3. Establishment of holistic disaster response system in national level
4. Establishment of improved recovery system for recurrent disasters
5. Establishment of infrastructure such as disaster industry, education, BCP (Business Continuity Planning), etc. against mega-disasters
6. Strengthening vulnerable disaster management system with climate change
7. Reestablishment of disaster prevention standards with climate change

**Context & Constraints:**

Regarding sustainable development with changing climate, the Korean government focused on the industry aspect such as carbon dioxide reduction so far.

It is, therefore, necessary to view the climate change as one of factors that can alter the disaster management policies in the near future.

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**Kyrgyzstan** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Following the recommendations of the Hyogo Framework for Action the National Strategy on disaster risk management is being developed within the framework of the project supported by DIPECHO.

The Action Plan is being developed to implement this strategy. Such plan covers the activity including structural and non-structural measures on avoidance (prevention) or mitigation of and preparedness to the negative disaster consequences.

Relevant state bodies are responsible for implementation and coordination of activities on disaster risk reduction in Kyrgyzstan. Successful coordination in this field depends upon the participation of all stakeholders, from households with different incomes, local authorities, private sector, specialists and decision-makers to the support and participation of the international community in disaster risk management at the level of community and the republican level.

Disaster risk management issues are regulated by the laws and normative provisions and acts. Provisions of the organizations are approved by special regulatory documents on emergency situations. The key objective of these provisions is the determination of the organizational and legal norms on protection of the population, property, land, water, industrial and social resources, flora, fauna and other natural resources of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Analysis of the legislative acts shows that they determine the order of actions of the state bodies at various levels in the field of natural resources, human rights, and responsibility for violation of the legislation.

Special attention is paid to the rational use of the environment, its protection, taking of appropriate measures of the safety and restoration of the property, protection against negative impact including emergency situations.

**Context & Constraints:**

Constraints:

1. Poor introduction of disaster risk reduction issues into the national legislation
  2. Lack of special by-laws and orders on the implementation of the laws on disaster risk reduction
  3. Limited insurance mechanism on emergency situations
  4. Insufficient attention is paid to disaster risk reduction issues in the national development strategy of the country
  5. Improper coordination on the issues of disaster risk reduction and the initiatives on climate change
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## Lao People's Democratic Republic [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The Government of Lao PDR has recently established a National Steering Committee on Climate Change with 7 technical working groups such as agriculture & food security, forest and land management, energy management, hydrology and water resources, city infrastructure, economic management and financial instruments. These technical working groups will be chaired by different ministries and aim to formulate a national climate change strategy for 2020 and a first national action plan in alignment with the 7th national socio economic development plan.

**Context & Constraints:**

Information is not available

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## Maldives [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Maldives has made significant strides in Environmental Management with the establishment of the Environment Act and the formulation of agencies with sole responsibility for addressing environmental issues. Many Projects has been undertaken that looks specifically at land use and natural resource management of specific areas and its effects on marine environment.

Maldives is Party to the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. The second National Environmental Action Plan(NEAP) was formulated, which identified issues that have to be addressed for proper environmental management. The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) under the Integrated Climate Change Strategy (ICCS) is an attempt by the government to develop a countrywide programme that encompasses immediate and urgent adaptation activities that address current and anticipated adverse effects of climate change.

**Context & Constraints:**

Adaptation to Climate change is in many ways a theoretical concept that lack baseline data including reliable historical data. Severe constraint in qualified staff coupled with fragmented departmental approach is a major concern. Information harmonization on a national database could be the first step to address critical environmental related plans.

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## Nepal [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The existing natural resources management Acts and Acts related to climate change does not include disaster management as an integral part of it. However, the National Disaster Management Plan developed in 1993 and endorsed by the Government in 1996 emphasized that the need to bring the natural resources management, climate change and development together with disaster management. It is anticipated that the forth coming National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management will bring synergy to integrate natural resources management (NRM) and climate change along with sustainable disaster management.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

The major challenges include integration of disaster risk reduction with NRM and climate change; lack of appropriate national level policy, plan and strategy, institutional mechanism and capacity to integrate these issues together despite of the opportunities and possibilities.

Recommendations:

- Enact an appropriate policy and institutional mechanism to look after DRR from a long term and cross cutting perspective because the current institutions have major roles in other sectors such as law and order maintenance rather than disaster.
- Raise capacity at all levels to integrate DRR and other related issues/ subjects.
- Establish strong coordination mechanism at all levels and across sectors.

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## **Pakistan** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

In this regard, Pakistan can be categorized at level two. The National Disaster Management Framework envisages integration of DRR into all sectoral policies and programmes, including that of environment. Under the Framework, the Ministry of Environment has been made responsible to ensure the following:-

- Incorporate Natural Disaster Risk Assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines;
- Develop technical capacities of the staff of ministry to undertake disaster risk assessment and disaster risk reduction activities in the environment sector;
- Undertake assessment of vulnerability of natural resources (forest, lakes, streams, mangroves, coral reefs, protected areas, coastal areas) to natural and human induced hazards;
- Implement programmes for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in order to reduce risks of natural hazards; e.g. reforestation, mangrove plantation, combating desertification, conservation of special natural resources;
- Allocate resources for implementation of programmes to conserve and rehabilitate the natural resource base, particularly in up-stream areas of the Indus River basin;
- Develop mechanisms for assessment of environmental losses and damages in the aftermath of disasters and their rehabilitation;

The NDMA is coordinating with the Ministry of Environment for implementation of DRR policies and strategies on environment as envisaged in the Framework.

Apart from the above, with the support of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), sub-national assessments of environmental flashpoints developed in cooperation with national and international partners aim to draw attention to critical environmental concerns that affect risk and vulnerability to coastal hazards. The assessment of environmental flashpoints would be developed based on an instrument

designed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and would include identification of critical parameters, data and information needs. The instrument will be adapted to national needs based on consultations with national authorities. The assessment will be carried out by trained national partners with technical support from UNEP.

**Context & Constraints:**

As a prevalent phenomenon in the developing world, Environment Sector does not receive requisite degree of attention in the development policies of the Governments. The environmental protection policies and programmes have an integral element of risk reduction. Therefore, the increased allocation of resources for environmental sector complements the DRR policies as a consequential outcome. However, the government constrained by scarcity of resources have not been able to allocate reasonable allocation of resources to pursue development policies in the environmental sector which has a direct adverse bearing on DRR policies and strategies.

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## Philippines (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

While environmental and natural resource laws do provide a framework, their interpretation does not easily translate into instruments for DRR.

Environmental laws cover: mining; forestry; protected areas; agriculture and fisheries; wildlife resources; solid waste; toxic substances; hazardous and nuclear wastes; pollution control. While there are laws that overlap, the links among the policies are not articulated. No mention of disaster risks in these laws betrays the low level of awareness of past lawmakers about the linkage of environment and disasters. A National Assessment study on the environment's role in DRR states that the Mining Act is "popularly identified as a conflicting law to DRR management."

The country's environmental impact assessment (EIA) system has been in place since 1970s. DENR oversees its implementation to ensure that hazards and risks are taken into account in siting development projects. These require sufficient data and information from PHIVOLCS regarding geological risks, hydro-meteorological risks from PAGASA, land use plans from HLURB, as well as the identification of mitigating actions in order to address risk management issues.

The NEDA is actively building awareness and capacity to mainstream DRR in land use and physical framework plans. The National Land Use Committee prepared the National Framework for Physical Planning which indicated hazard prone areas for future land use and physical plans. Some progress is foreseen as capacities of the regional and local level development councils are being built to implement risk-sensitive planning. NEDA is also currently implementing a project entitled: "Strengthening the Philippines' Institutional Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change." The objectives of the project are to: a) mainstream climate change reduction into key national and selected development plans and processes; b) enhance national and local capability to develop, manage and administer plans, programmes and projects addressing climate change risks; and improve coping mechanism through tested pilot schemes with national upscaling potentials.

**Context & Constraints:**

Enforcement of laws dealing with environment and natural resources has not been easy. It has been known for the past decades that the decline and degradation of forests, mangroves, mountain slopes, hydrological capacity of rivers, and other natural attributes of communities have led to sub-optimal conditions that lead to severe disaster impacts. One measure to check illegal logging in Quezon Province is through watchdog groups. In 2004, mudslides and floods caused by deforestation have rendered

farmlands useless and buried communities in a three towns. The DENR authorizes watchdog groups to arrest suspected illegal loggers. Alerted of rampant illegal logging in Sierra Madre Mountains, a multipartite team consisting of national government, local government, community organizations, and NGOs had been organized as a watchdog group in August 2008. From past experiences, the success of such initiative depends on putting intervention by politicians and influential families in check and making them realize how such negative acts set back development. In many areas of the country, local politics constrain mitigation efforts.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has been actively participating on the National Chloroflourocarbon (CFC) Phase-Out Plan (NCP) of the DENR in compliance to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Any DRM bill should take into account how to harmonize with the existing laws, including environmental laws.

Also, instead of creating new programs, DRR are best incorporated in existing land use and environmental mechanisms, these are more cost-effective and more sustainable in the long run.

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## **Singapore** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### **Description:**

Singapore is relatively free from natural disasters due to its geographical location. However, there is study on-going on the impact of climate change on Singapore.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Nil

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## **Sri Lanka** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

Central Environment Authority is established under a parliamentary act to implement and monitor environment development programmes and resolve environment issues.

Considering the disaster impacts in the environment impact assessment process has been accepted in principal by the environment authorities. The political commitment is very high. DMC working with Practical Action and other experts groups and practitioners to develop criteria for the assessment of disaster impacts of minor project not covered by EIA.

Ministry of Environment agreed to appoint a representative of DMC to scoping committee of CEA, where ToR for EIA study for new projects developed and EIA report is considered for approval.

Prior to approval of any major development, Impact assessments on physical environment, ecological resources, Archaeological and cultural consideration and socio economic aspects are done by the central environment authority with the consultation of respective technical agencies.

Recommendations and mitigation proposals obtained from respective technical authorities are monitored and enforced by Central Environment Authority.

National Environment Act declared wetland as environment protection area.

Conservation and replanting of wetland mangroves are been done by the organizations involved in environmental conservation and development. Under the forest management activities, preservation of catchments areas and water bodies are undertaken.

The forest department is implementing reforestation programmes in catchments area to improve the retention capacity.

DMC initiated public debate on adaptation methodology in agriculture and proposed implement projects to popularized drought prone seed varieties.

Department of Meteorology developing capacities to issue weather forecast to farmers before the harvesting period to minimize losses due to floods and drought as a result of climate change.

Land use policies have been developed in consultation with all stakeholders. Land use plans are available only for some areas (Approximately 50% completed)

**Context & Constraints:**

Due to the ongoing conflicts in some parts of the country effects the enforcement of legal power on deforestation and unauthorized filling of water retention is weak.

Responsibility controlling of filling wetland, paddy land and other low lying areas are with different authorities without any clear boundary of their implementation authority and enforcement powers.

Town development plans for some areas are available but the DIA component is not integrated in to the plans. Discussions are in place to incorporate in future.

The details of the proposed mitigation measures in the Environment Impact Assessment procedure are not sufficient to evaluate Disaster Impacts. The format should be amended in order to suggest more specific mitigatory measures in quantifiable manner.

Enforcement of conditions given with the EIA approval are not regularly monitored or enforced due to inadequate human resources.

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## Syrian Arab Republic (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

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**Context & Constraints:**

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## Tajikistan (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

In accordance with the HFA, the National strategy for DRM is being developed with support of DIPECHO.

The Action Plan is being worked out, for implementing this Strategy; it includes structural and non-structural measures, for prevention, mitigation and preparedness for reducing losses.

The corresponding state organizations of Tajikistan are responsible for activities and coordination in DRR. Success of coordination in this sphere depends on participation of all stakeholders, including households with varying level of income, local authorities, the private sector, specialists and executive officials, and support and participation of the international community at the level of communities and at the national level.

The issue of management of risk of natural disasters is regulated by the Constitution of RT, by 29 laws and 37 regulatory acts.

Analysis of the legislation shows that these acts determine the order in actions of the state organs at various levels in the sphere of natural resources, human rights and liability for violation of legislation.

Special attention is paid to rational use of environment, its protection, necessary safety measures, recovery of property, protection from negative influences, including in emergency situations.

1. Health care:

- Special plan of preparedness for natural disasters for the sector of health care

2. Management of water resources:

- Strategy for flood management for most of the flood-prone areas

3. Protection of environment:

- National plan for protection of environment;
- National plan for mitigation of outcomes of climate change (2003);

4. Education:

- Educational programs for 5, 6 and 11th grades of secondary schools were reviewed and will be introduced

The Declaration of the International Conference on water related disasters (Dushanbe, 2008) contains recommendations on introduction of DRR in the programs and the national development strategy for the nearest future.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Difficulties:

1. Weak integration of disaster risk reduction issues in the national legislation
  2. Lack of special legislative acts and resolutions facilitating implementation of laws on reduction of risk of natural disasters
  3. Limited mechanisms of insurance in emergency situations
  4. The national development strategy does not pay sufficient attention to disaster risk reduction
  5. Insufficient coordination in the sphere of disaster risk reduction and initiatives in climate change mitigation
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## **Uzbekistan** (in English)

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### **Description:**

Emergency situations of ecological character: Situations coming from the changes in the conditions of land (soil, entrails of earth); Situations coming from the change in the structure and characteristics of atmosphere (air)

Situations coming from the change of the hydrosphere conditions. There are sector oriented concepts and target programmes on natural disaster risk reduction which are specified depending on the area of activity and nature of disasters. The SSES functional and territorial subsystems' action plans have been developed, approved and are systematically adjusted based on the Decrees of the President of the

Republic of Uzbekistan, the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan and resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan which govern the functioning of the SSES.

**Context & Constraints:**

n/a

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**Viet Nam** (in English)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

The 5 year socio-economic development plan for the 2006-2010 period has mentioned matters related to natural disaster mitigation, such as solutions based on assessment of natural, economic, social characteristics of the country as well as of each region and solutions for natural disaster mitigation by strengthening capacity of the whole society to deal with the issues. In addition, for each region, there are specific solutions that are suitable for its natural conditions. A monitoring and evaluation framework has also been established.

Several provinces, cities have integrated DRR into land use planning, irrigation development planning, forest development planning and residential relocation planning in the disaster prone areas.

In addition, Viet Nam government has actively collaborated and implemented many multilateral cooperation projects/programs with international and regional organizations for natural disaster mitigation, for example Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Typhoon Committee (TC), Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership (NDM-P), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), etc.

The cooperation with international organizations, nations and non-government organizations in disaster mitigation such as UNDP, UNESCAP, WB, ADB, etc., has been increased, particularly the cooperation in DRR and Climate Change projects and programs with the emphasis on the integration of DRR into the policies/programs on environment, such as the land use policies, natural resource management policies and climate change adaptation policies.

**Context & Constraints:**

The 5 year socio-economic development plan for the 2006-2010 itself is a document on consolidated and macro scale, including mainly important criteria, orientations, plans and solutions. As a result, it cannot contain all details of a specific topic such as integration of natural disaster risk management (as well as many other topics that need the integration). This is truly a challenge of implementation of integration. In general, integration contents of natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation have not integrated in a comprehensive manner. They are mainly socio-economic development and environment protection solutions. Somewhere has mentioned natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation, but is dispersed in a small scale and has not followed a unique system of a comprehensive approach according to the National Strategy requirements. In some sensitive areas such as aquatic product development, coastal economy and environment, detailed indexes are not integrated. In the fields of infrastructure construction and transport and traffic, sustainable indexes of the works in areas which are most frequently suffered from natural disaster are not delivered, such as: investment rate, design, construction materials, ect. or in North Central Region and Southeast Coastal Region, it is necessary to have criteria on infrastructure and housing designs and construction of housing models that are appropriate for flood and storm areas, etc (according to the National Strategy on Natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation until 2020)

In addition, indexes and solutions for each sector, industry, territorial area and field are limited to listing work heads and do not identify roadmap, process and assignment of responsible agencies, and co-operation of implementation agencies according each roadmap and the monitoring, keeping track of and taking over products, including work and non-structure solutions for natural disaster prevention, response

and mitigation.

Investigating in deep in each sector, it can be seen that many sectors have not mentioned the detailed criteria and solutions that reflect contents of integration in the development plan of such a sector. Natural disaster prevention, response and mitigation and risks due to natural disaster did not even mention. The Plan has some integration contents but the implementation organization has not assigned for any particular agency.

Proposed solutions:

Due to the above-mentioned limitations and according to spirit of National Strategy, it is necessary to have a roadmap to push up the integration into strategies, planning, and socio-economic development plans at national level. At the same time, it is also necessary to promulgate documents as soon as possible to instruct the integration of natural disaster mitigation for sectors and levels (provinces, sectors and development programs, hunger elimination and poverty alleviation programs, investment strategies activities of different partners in Vietnam's territory, etc.).

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## Yemen (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### Description:

2007, MWE has integrated several articles related to drought and flash flood risks reduction among the National Water Strategy through the coordination with EEGD .

More than 10 articles related to the disasters (natural and man-made hazards) and risk reduction, has been added in the updated draft of the Environmental law No 96, 1995.

The infrastructure development is the main priority of the government (Yemen is one of LCD) that provides a good chance to introduce the term DRR as investment but , this need an extensive awareness and capacity building programs for the governmental agencies and NGOs.

### Context & Constraints:

The Main constraints face EEGD and NTEDR to achieve this object are:

- Lacking to financial and human resources.
  - Lacking to awareness at the official and public levels.
  - Lacking for a clear legal framework .
  - Other aspects
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# Europe

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## Armenia (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Many programs and initiatives developed in Armenia with the assistance of international organizations in environment and natural resources sphere are incorporating the disaster risk management as integral part. Two of them are worth to mention.

Energy Sector development Strategy in Context of Economic Development in Armenia.

National Program on Energy Saving and Renewable Energy of Republic of Armenia.

Armenian NPP (ANPP) is a unique energetic facility in the Southern Caucasus located in seismically active region and its safety has been and being insured under the provisions of those documents.

When the decision to recommission the ANPP was made, specialized Armenian organizations together with international experts carried out additional studies to assess the earthquake hazard. Upon completion of the studies, activities targeted at seismic strengthening of equipment, systems, buildings and construction were implemented in priority order. The main building housing the reactor, main circulating pumps, principle and other safety systems, now meets standards for an 0.4 g ground acceleration corresponding to MMI X.

### Context & Constraints:

Countries, like Armenia, which lack energy resources, should plan their energy development based on energy independence and energy safety parameters and should use their own energy sources, including nuclear energy. Armenia has developed a nuclear energy infrastructure, such as specialists for nuclear energy unit operation, scientific-research institutes, calibration and construction companies and educational institutions, where future nuclear system specialists are educated and prepared.

In addition, regional environmental issues regarding the future protection of the Lake Sevan are important.

If the ANPP were replaced with thermal generation, serious environmental problems would arise.

Recent studies show that a new nuclear unit in Armenia must be of smaller capacity than the 1000MW units being built elsewhere. in order to match up with the capacity of the Armenian electric system.

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## Bulgaria (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

Preventive measures, which are invented on a basis of expertise, investigation and analysis, for possible avoiding and coping with natural disasters are subject of a National Program for protection in disasters.

### Context & Constraints:

The National Disaster Protection program for prevention and the Annual Plan are elaborated but not adopted until now due to an administrative capacity problem. (The Ministry of Emergency situation is created in 2006).

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## Croatia (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

In accordance with spatial plans, for every building in construction, there has to be an environmental impact study drafted.

**Context & Constraints:**

Accepting climate changes as risk factors is rather slow and a lot of work lies ahead for the climate changes to be considered for what they are - risk factors. Cases of heavy rains in short periods of time, as well as severe dry periods have been noticed.

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## Czech Republic [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Disaster risk reduction is covered especially by the ministry of environment, agriculture and health and relevant departments in regional and community administration and usually has got high priority. Climate change and its connection with disasters has been more and more recognized. Therefore, adequate protection for new features has been developed.

**Context & Constraints:**

Uncertainties in climate change subject are causing hesitations with application of mitigation measures where a global commitment is highly desirable while adaptation to climate change has become more and more important and recognized.

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## France [\(in French\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

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**Context & Constraints:**

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## Germany [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

As mentioned in Priority 1 Core Indicator 1, DRR accounts for an important part of the environmental law/policy, as well as spatial and land use planning. The "Competence Centre on Global Warming and Adaptation" (KomPass) of the "Federal Environment Agency" (UBA), and the "Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Response" (BBK) of the "Federal Ministry of the Interior" (BMI) work with the "German Committee for Disaster Reduction" (DKKV) on an official "German strategy of adaptation to climate change" (Deutsche Anpassungsstrategie: DAS) for which a general symposium takes place at the end of August 2008 (see links below). The BMU is preparing a draft for a new environmental code for all

issues related to sustainable development and DRR. In the case of land use planning the national parliament has passed a new version of the “Regional Planning Act” (Raumordnungsgesetz) in July 2008 in which civil protection and critical infrastructure play a more important role.

DRR takes an integrated approach to all policies because of its overlapping importance, but especially in environmental policies and plans. Besides climate policy, for example, DRR is active in agriculture policy through flood resistant coverage areas or in a more sustainable (heat and storm resistant) forestation through the conservation of resources. Especially in forest management practices, traditional measures are included for the prevention and spread of wildfires. The consequences of altered forest management practices and land-use change (abandonment of agricultural and pasture lands) are resulting in an increase of wildfire hazards in some regions of the country.

The German development cooperation promotes synergy effects between DRR and the management of natural resources. Therefore, aspects of DRR are already integrated in some partner countries in terms of the relevant development cooperation measures. It participates, for example, in a German-Nicaraguan environmental program on the integration of disaster risks into land use planning. Environmental programs in the Philippines and Madagascar integrate DRR elements automatically. Even climate change and disaster risks are integrated together into adaptation strategies of the German development cooperation.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

The overall challenge for both the national and EU level is to reduce rural exodus and/or address the consequences of rural land-use abandonment (also known as changing land-use patterns). At the same time the increasing lack of young work force/volunteers to be recruited by the volunteer fire and emergency services (what is directly connected to rural exodus and the mobility of the population) should be addressed (see the next Core Indicator). Even the adaptation on climate change must be further utilised to address the difficulties in environmental policy.

The general consensus of the German development cooperation maintains that there is a need for frameworks in sustainable resource and environment management because there is a lack of consistent integration of environmental politics and planning, aside from the successes on the project level. Currently the integration is more situational than systematic.

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## **Italy** (in English)

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Description:**

The relevant authority for the definition of environment related policies and plans is the Ministry of Environment, Land Protection and Sea, together with some authorities (such as, i.e., the Basin Authorities) set up in order to face particular problems. These National policies establish the framework for all environment-related issues and include guidelines for land use and natural resource management. The National rules are then translated into regional measures and implemented at the provincial and local level. Due to their inter-disciplinary nature, climate change issues are instead faced through a multiplicity of initiatives undertaken at all levels by a variety of institutional, research and private subjects, including volunteer's associations and actors belonging to the Core Group of the National Platform.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Since the introduction of the National Platform for DRR on January 2008, a strong effort is being made in order to develop a comprehensive National Disaster Risk Reduction policy and to define its relations with the strategies and plans concerning the related subjects. The immediate goal is to identify as soon as possible the definitive composition and working rules of the National platform. This will allow to officially start cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction among all actors involved.

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## Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Rep of (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

The integration of the risk reduction development strategy in the environmental policies and plans is addressed by the Law for protection and improvement of the environment, which is the legal framework.

The institutional focal point for environmental issues in the Republic of Macedonia is the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning(hereafter: MEPP). Some of its achievements include: providing consolidated national guidelines on carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment-SEA and applying the SEA directive, drawing on the available "best practices" within current EU member states and experience from the possible conduct of pilot cases in the country. It also prescribes the contents of the environmental report in secondary legislation. Prescribes in secondary legislation public consultation procedures, including specification of the manner in which public participation shall take place; the manner in which information regarding the SEA is to be published, and procedures for ensuring that the results are taken into account when a final decision is being made. Based on the above, carry out training of relevant staff in MEPP and other relevant ministries; in LSG; and in enterprises accredited to prepare urban and spatial plans.

Additional progress has been made by strengthening of institutional and human capacities in the Introduction of Safety Report, Safety Management System and an Emergency Plan. Also, the inspection system has been enforced and the cooperation between different inspectorates has been improved.

Also, progress has been made through prepared the guidelines and improved the practice of introduction of risk and safe management issues in the EIA and Land-use Planning Policies. There is also flood risk management.

The CMC has initiated the establishment of an inspectorate network that will include the inspectorates on environmental issues. Finally, the CMC is working on projects with the Environmentalist Movement of Macedonia

### Context & Constraints:

It is recognized that additional progress on the incorporation of DRR strategies in the environmental policies is always needed.

The principles for prevention of possible hazards are included in all legal acts, plans, programs, strategies and studies of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning.

The Ministry defines the guidelines for rehabilitation from the consequences of a specific disaster after preliminary analysis has been done.

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## Montenegro (in English)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

In all strategies, we defined strategic objectives which correspond with disaster risk reduction. Our activity,

as a line ministry, is to try to harmonize approaches with the aim to improve efficiency of the disaster response system.

**Context & Constraints:**

Harmonize an intensive construction of buildings and land use planning in Montenegro with disaster risk reduction strategic goals.

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## Norway [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change. The new act on land use planning is taking this into account. A Secretariat for climate change adaptation is established to support the sectors and municipalities on issues related to a changing climate.

Norway is working on a long-term plan for adaptation to climate change.

**Context & Constraints:**

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## Serbia [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Nothing reported within this timeframe.

**Context & Constraints:**

Reconciliation and standardisation of legal acts with the ones of the EU.  
There is an incompatibility of the existing legal acts.

It is necessary to adopt the Law on Emergency Situations which is currently a proposal and it has been amended by other Ministries, NGOs and international organisations in order to be in accordance with modern European laws,

It is important to develop the plan which contains all data and available capacities.

It is necessary to equip the operational units with modern techniques and equipment, to further develop specialised trainings, and to build capacities in human resource sector.

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## Slovenia [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

Nothing reported within this timeframe.

**Context & Constraints:**

Nothing reported within this timeframe.

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**Sweden** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

The Planning and Building Act requires that natural hazards and related risks should be elucidated in land use planning at the general level.

The Planning and Building Act is under redraft. For the coming years changes concerning water front development, environment and climate can be expected.

According to the Environmental Code the risks for landslides are one of the factors considered for operations that impact on the environment.

**Context & Constraints:**

Other interests (than considering risks related to natural hazards) have often higher priority in land use planning and development.

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**Switzerland** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

5 - Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

**Description:**

Disaster risk reduction and environmental protection are closely interrelated in Swiss federal laws (e.g. in laws relating to forests and water) and are overseen by one common institution at the federal level (the Federal Office for the Environment, FOEN). Utility of, protection of and protection from major natural resources (water, forests, soils) are considered jointly. Sustainability and robustness of protection measures are required. For instance, protection measures have to withstand the impacts of stronger events than those for which they were designed. Land use planning is preferred to protection measures whenever possible. Adaptation to climate change has gained attention recently.

**Context & Constraints:**

A sustainable management of natural resources is mandated by the constitution, which means any measures aiming at the adverse effects of natural elements must also take into account the protection of those resources and their social and economical benefits. Governmental agencies proceed with an appraisal of benefits and limitations of proposed measures considering these different aspects. More recently, land use planning in relation with natural hazard management has been recognized as a high priority. Efforts have to continue in this direction.

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**Turkey** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Turkey gives importance on the coordination of disaster risk reduction with environmental and natural resources policies. In all plans and programs, one of the key elements of the feasibility reports is the

disaster risks of the area. Detailed geological and geotechnical reports and water/meteorological reports are necessary for final decision to avoid or to limit adverse impact of hazards.

Climate change issues are a new concept for Turkey on Disaster risk reduction subject and environment. The National Environmental Approximation Strategy was adopted by Higher Planning Council and then GD of Disaster Affairs has undertaken the responsibilities of adaptation of climate change issue. A special division was established under the organization and they begin to coordinate with other governmental units and important NGO's for joint projects and training. The Ministry of Environmental and Forestry (MEF) gives special importance on the adaptation of climate changes issues and they made substantial progress in strengthening the administrative and institutional capacity at central level. As a result of the new concept of environment, GD of State Hydraulic Works joined to MEF last year.

The 5th World water Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 16 to 22 March 2009. In the Forum the specialists all over the world will be discuss impact of climate changes, water related disasters, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures.

**Context & Constraints:**

Unfortunately up to now Turkey has not ratified Kyoto Protocol. Turkey is assumed as a developed country for being a member of OECD countries (in reality developing country) and some parameters of protocol are too high for the country. But this year (2008) the Government decided to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and the process has been initiated.

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## United Kingdom [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

The UK has introduced the Climate Change Act through Parliament and this enhances the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change. The overarching challenge is to enable everyone to live within our environmental means. This is most clearly exemplified by the need to tackle climate change internationally and through domestic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to secure a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment.

This will inevitably bring a new variety of issues but the following actions have been undertaken;

- Setting out a long-term vision for water policy and management; by 2030 we will have embedded continuous adaptation to climate change throughout the water sector. water companies will be required to prepare and maintain drought plans

- £5 million will be spent on the development of Surface Water Management Plans in the highest priority areas

- Farming Futures, which gives practical advice to farmers on how and why they need to adapt to climate change, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions

The Rural Climate Change Forum has been set up, which brings together the key organisations with an interest in the rural sector and works to raise awareness of climate change, to coordinate work on climate change, and to advise on rural climate change policies and research priorities.

The UK's Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership has been developed, facilitating the uptake of tools and strategies to assist developing and assessing adaptation strategies around the coastline.

Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate

is included as an overarching theme of Environmental Stewardship. The agri-environment scheme in England has commitments to support the adaptation of the natural environment to climate change

An independent Foresight study on land-use futures is to be developed, including an analysis of how climate change will present challenges and opportunities for the way in which we use land over the next 50

years and beyond.

**Context & Constraints:**

Much of the perceived advantage of these plans will be achieved over a period of time, and are not seen as an immediate quick fix. Such measures do not currently take account of what already exists, for example, towns built below sea level or on flood plains, and much work has to be done on adaptation for such properties. There also remains a resources implication and a need to determine how much responsibility lies with the owner and that which lies elsewhere.

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# Oceania

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## Australia [\(in English\)](#)

### Level of Progress achieved:

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

### Description:

In 2007 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsed a National Climate Change Adaptation Framework as the basis for jurisdictional actions on adaptation over the next five to seven years.

The Framework recognises that climate change is likely to increase the risk of natural disasters in a number of regions of Australia and that bushfire, floods and storms are a feature of Australia's variable climate. Climate change is also likely to increase the frequency and/or severity of extreme events.

One of the identified areas of action under the Adaptation Framework is natural disaster management.

Climate change impacts need to be factored into natural disaster management, risk assessment, risk reduction, emergency services planning, and recovery management, especially for areas more vulnerable to extreme events.

The Framework identifies the following potential areas of action: a) research to improve knowledge on the nature and expected extent of changes to risk profiles for events such as bushfires, flooding, cyclones, storm surges, wind and hail damage; b) incorporate climate change impacts into planning for natural disaster response management, in particular the risk and changing behaviour from bushfires, flooding, cyclones, storm surges, wind and extremes in temperature. Among other things this will include improving information for emergency services and communities to foster awareness of climate change and adaptation responses.

The Framework also recognises that risks should be managed by those best equipped to understand the context and likely consequences of action, and there is a clear need to build capacity at local and regional scales. There is an important role for the community in addressing climate change risks, and under the Framework, governments will pursue a partnership approach to adaptation to manage risks and identify the part communities and individuals can play.

### Context & Constraints:

Australia is a federation and imposes a range of complications not experienced by other nations. The shared responsibility for emergency management between the Australian Government and the states and territories can provide challenges for achieving the efficient use of resources and imposes a need for high level sophisticated coordinated policies and programs.

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## Marshall Islands [\(in English\)](#)

### Level of Progress achieved:

2 - Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### Description:

RMI DRM NAP

### Context & Constraints:

DRM NAP has been submitted to Cabinet for endorsement. There are priorities for DRR identified within the NAP.

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## New Zealand [\(in English\)](#)

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4 - Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

**Description:**

The Resource Management Act has a sustainable management purpose with explicit requirements to address the effects of natural hazards, and requiring particular regard to the effects of climate change. Local authorities undertake hazard assessments and mapping, set overarching policy in Regional Policy Statements, and apply specific policies and methods (rules, advocacy and services) through Regional Plans, and District Plans. Quality Planning Best Practice Guides are available nationally, and include guides on addressing the effects of climate change. A guide on natural hazards in general is in preparation. (<http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/>).

Hazard risk reduction within the environmental area is linked to communities' broader goals and aspirations through Long-Term Council Community Plans, community asset management plans and annual (budgetary) plans of local authorities, produced in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

**Context & Constraints:**

A major challenge is translating hazard information, into integrated policies across planning documents, and undertaking coordinated and concerted action.

Of particular concern are the existing use rights attached to developments in areas with long-term high hazard exposure. An example is the high demand for coastal properties that are at increasing risk from storm surge, coastal erosion, tsunami and the effects of climate change.

The essence of these challenges are changing perceptions and behaviours of individuals and communities.

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**Vanuatu** (in English)**Level of Progress achieved:**

3 - Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The Environmental Management and Conservation Act 2002 of Vanuatu provides for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to be undertaken for all development activities that impact or are likely to impact on the environment of Vanuatu. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Lands is developing and Land-Use management policy to enable developers to conduct full risk assessment before development can be approved.

**Context & Constraints:**

The Land Use Policy is currently under development by the Ministry of Lands of Vanuatu, which will incorporate disaster risk reduction measures for land-use. In addition, they have a land degradation programme through which priority hazards are identified with measures to deal with them nationally, provincially and at community level. In terms of climate change adaptation, adaptation projects has been carried out where the Tekua community and rainwater catchments of Pamma, Aniwa and Tongoa has been relocated.

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