



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Regional Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean

REGIONAL REPORT OF THE 2002 WORLD DISASTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

DISASTER REDUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

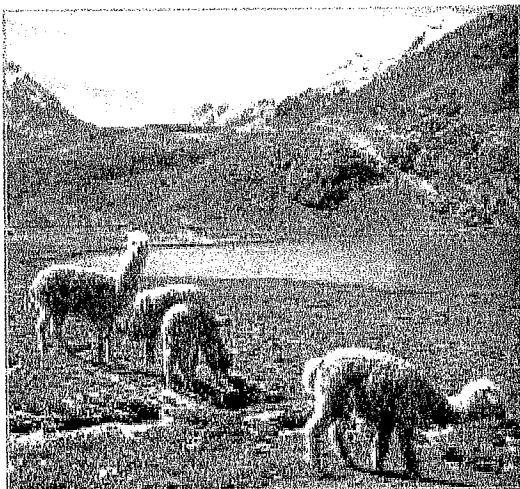


Each year the United Nations organizes a World Disaster Reduction campaign to raise awareness and promote disaster reduction on a selected theme. This year's theme "Disaster Reduction for sustainable Mountain Development" was selected parallel to the celebration of the 2002 International Year of Mountains (IYM).

Why focus on mountains?

Mountain ecosystems are home to over 600 million people and the source of water for more than half the world's population.¹ Yet the very nature of mountains, as vertically inclined land masses, implies that their surfaces are inherently susceptible to natural hazards. Added to this is the increasing vulnerability of mountain areas caused in recent times by harmful processes by humankind.

As harmful processes continue, the damages being caused are becoming increasingly dire to the point where they could even be said to be irreversible. Not surprisingly, the poor are among the most vulnerable to disaster situations as a result of their lack of alternatives.



Within the region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), disasters in mountainous areas of the Andes have had devastating effects. Among the most recent have been the floods in Bolivia earlier this year, landslides caused by the earthquake in El Salvador in 2001, the earthquake in Peru in 2001, mudflows in Venezuela in 1999, an earlier earthquake in Peru in 1970, as well as an earthquake in Chile in 1960. These last two alone caused more than 71,000 deaths and resulted in incalculable losses and destruction.

Bearing in mind that the importance of mountain ecosystems derives not only from their great vulnerability, but also from their role as the source of important resources for the future,

such as water, energy, biological diversity, mineral resources, cultural diversity and leisure, in addition to providing a physical space for many populations, the 2002 campaign was designated to promote sustainable development and reduce disasters in mountains and mountain ecosystems.

To promote these campaigns, the second Wednesday of October marks the annual International Day for Disaster Reduction, as the culmination of activities being done throughout the year. This report is intended to highlight some of the initiatives which took place in Latin America and the Caribbean to commemorate October 9, in 2002.

¹ United Nations University. UNU Project on Sustainable Mountain In and Forest Development. <http://www.unu.edu/env/mountains/findings.html>

Given the complexity of mountainous areas, a singular definition has not, as of yet, been universally agreed upon, yet mountains throughout the world do have common traits which can be said to approach an understanding of what constitutes a mountain.

Mountains are home to one out of every ten people and serve as the "water towers" by providing most of the world's fresh water. Regardless of where we live, we are all connected to mountains in ways we can only imagine.

Elevation zones: Cartographic compilation showed that 48 percent of the world's total terrestrial surface lies above 500 m; 27 percent above 1 000 m; 11 percent above 2 000 m; 5 percent above 3 000 m; and 2 percent above 4 000 m. These statistics provide an approximation for describing mountain areas.

Morphology and climate: "Steep slopes" (characterized by geomorphologically high-energy environments with frequent mass transfers down slope) and "altitude" (characterized by low temperatures and, in certain cases, aridity) are aspects of mountain or highland landscapes which individually, or as a system, lead to marginality for human utilization and adaptation.

Latitude: The climatic effects of higher latitudes through the poles mean significant areas in these regions have mountainous characteristics despite only moderate altitudes.

Biodiversity and food security: Mountains contain high biological diversity, often of global relevance. Consequently, mountains are also important centres of crop diversity, a key factor in agriculture worldwide and water resources.

Land-use opportunities and constraints: From the humid subtropical and temperate zones pole wards, all land-use activities in mountain areas are disadvantaged compared with the subjacent, neighbouring, and more densely populated flatlands. But from the subtropical arid zones to the tropical humid zones, some higher altitudinal belts are more beneficial for human land use than lower altitudes because of better moisture and temperature conditions.

Conflicts and cooperation: Mountains often constitute geo-political borders and can be sites of potential/current tensions or even conflicts owing to their rich natural resources and strategic relevance. Within countries too, mountain areas can be places of tension and conflict.

Highland-lowland interactions: Highlands and lowlands are interconnected through often very complex linkages; therefore the interest in mountain areas should not stop at the contour lines. Looking beyond mountain areas into the ecological, economic, social and political dimensions of highland-lowland interactions is an issue of growing importance. This is particularly relevant in the context of lowland vulnerability to mountain hazards.

Source: Taken from the support material - based mainly on "Mountains of the world: a global priority", by B. Messerli and J. Ives (1997), as mentioned by FAO, www.mountains2002.org.



The Andes

One of the greatest mountain systems of the world, and indeed one of the great natural features of the globe, The Andes is the main mountain system of Latin America, extending 5,500 miles from its southern most point in Chile and extending northward through the western part of South America into Colombia and Venezuela. It is made up of three distinct massifs: the Cordillas Oriental, Central and Occidental. As with mountain areas of the world, the Andes are a vital source of biodiversity and water for people living both close and far.

Facts and Figures:

- Mountains are home to one-tenth of the world's population of which over four-fifth is among the poorest on the planet.
- More than half of humanity-three billion people-relies on mountains for safe, fresh water to drink, to grow food, to produce electricity and to sustain industries.
- Mountain forests are crucial to the ecological health of the planet. They protect the watersheds which supply freshwater. Tropical mountain forests have been disappearing at a rapid pace in recent years
- Mountains are islands of biological diversity and are home to a unique and seemingly infinite variety of plants and animals found nowhere else. Of the twenty plants species which supply 80% of the world's food, six originated in mountains.
- Mountains are guardians of cultural diversity. They are keepers of languages and repositories of traditions.
- Mountains are a barometer for climate change. A change in temperature can disrupt a mountain system. Mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates. Consequently, mountains will become more dangerous as soil erosion, landslides, rock fall, floods and avalanches will increase in number and intensity.
- Tourism and the related economic boom of mountain resorts over the last century have pushed more and more settlements into disaster-prone areas.
- Mountains are very sensitive to environmental change. Environmental degradation becomes apparent earlier and quicker. In general, changes in soil regime above the treeline are irreversible.
- Mountain ecosystems are the source of a variety of medicinal plants, the uses of which many are still unknown.



Media Flash



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
A SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR USE OF THE INFORMATION MEDIA -
NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD

2002 UN Sasakawa Award to Armenian physicist Serguei Balassanian

FOCUS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION ON VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

GENEVA, 9 OCTOBER 2002 (ISDR/WMO) - As mountain communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, a special focus has been put on this aspect of natural disaster mitigation for today's celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction. Mountain populations, as all other communities throughout the world, are exposed to extreme weather and climate events that account for more than 90 per cent of all natural disasters occurring, according to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

WMO draws special attention to the devastating impact of weather- and climate-related disasters, the increased vulnerability of humankind and the need for better response mechanisms. Records show a two-fold increase of weather, water and climate-related disasters with 360 significant disasters in 1992 and to over 700 in 2001. Weather, water and climate-related disasters claimed 90 per cent of the 250 000 annual fatalities. Over this same period, more than 200 million persons per year were affected, which is seven times the number of persons affected by armed conflict. The global annual costs for property damage lay between 50 to 100 billion US dollars. Prevention and mitigation of natural disasters is a priority activity of WMO through its programmes that provide warnings with longer lead time on floods, tropical cyclones, droughts and other extreme weather events which also affect mountain communities.

The UN Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) says no community is immune from the threat of natural disasters, but mountain communities are particularly vulnerable. Winds seem to blow harder and snowfalls are more perilous in the high passes while avalanches can wipe out whole villages. Heavy rains can wash away fields, long droughts can spell starvation. Earthquakes can send hillside tumbling, volcanic eruptions can make thousands homeless. Altitude and steepness and vulnerability to pollution and climate change mean that mountain people are more at risk than ever. Poverty has forced people to build homes on hazard-prone slopes, and demographic pressures have pushed them to settle at the feet of volcanoes, and other seismically active areas.

Asia has been the continent most frequently hit by hydro-meteorological disasters, accounting for 43 per cent of the total number of events and 60 per cent of the people killed during last decade. Recently this record was being confirmed with China, India, Bangladesh and Vietnam being hit by devastating floods affecting millions of people. Based upon the information currently available to WMO, the total number of people being affected by floods throughout the world, including recent casualties in Asia is 160 million with China alone accounting for 140 million people.



Free and unrestricted access as well as exchange to meteorological data is prerequisite to ensure effective early warning systems to be able to alert and act in good time especially for high-risk areas such as mountains and their communities. WMO will continue promoting disaster mitigation measures and contribute actively to the implementation of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of which WMO is the leading agency in the Working Group on Climate and Natural Disasters.

Several initiatives within this UN-umbrella partner initiative highlight the way ahead and how to live with the risk, and benefiting from risk mapping, education and mountain development. A brochure on "Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Mountain Development", published by the UNISDR Secretariat, offers information on the issues at stake as well as concrete examples of disaster reduction solutions already in practice in mountain areas worldwide. The UNISDR Secretariat has also produced a children's booklet on volcanoes and volcanic risk reduction.

Today's International Day for Disaster Reduction is commemorated with the attribution of the UN Sasakawa Award 2002 to Armenian physicist Serguei Balassanian, President of the Armenian Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (AASPEI). The Sasakawa Award is sponsored by the Japanese Nippon Foundation and is given to reward outstanding achievements by disaster reduction practitioners in their field. Prof. Balassanian is rewarded for his personal long-term commitment and dedication to the issue of seismic disaster risk reduction, as well as for mobilizing efforts in the scientific domain and political spheres.

Several Certificates of Distinction and Merit are also awarded every year. The 2002 Certificates of Distinction go to Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Bangladesh, Director of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre, Ms. Fernanda Teixeira, Secretary General of the Mozambique Red Cross, and the Emergency Monitoring and Forecasting Agency, Russian Federation. Certificates of Merit 2002 are given to United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Guatemala; Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL), and Lt. Colonel Abbu Darwish, Jordan, Director of the Disasters Department of the Jordan Civil Defence.

The ceremony will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in room XII at 17:00 pm followed by a cocktail. Details on this year's awardees are attached.

For more information, please contact:

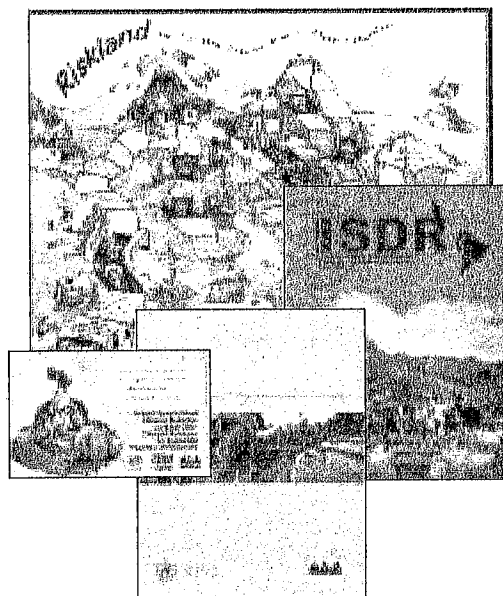
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Regional Activities

Informative material produced by the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was distributed throughout the region of Latin America and the Caribbean in anticipation of the International Disaster Reduction Day to facilitate activities and events. This material included an information booklet on Disaster Reduction in Mountain Areas, poster, sticker, a children's booklet on Volcanoes, interactive board game "Riskland", ISDR Informs special issue dedicated to Mountains and Disaster Reduction as well as supporting information with suggestions for promoting the 2002 World Disaster Reduction Campaign throughout the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Launching of Radio Drama Series "Times of Hurricanes"



With the idea of producing a medium for relaying important disaster prevention information to communities in an interesting and easily understandable way, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Coordinating Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, (CEPRENAC), joined forces to produce a radio drama series, "Tiempo de Huracanes", (Times of Hurricanes) accompanied by a guide for community facilitators and radio programmers, along with material for airing promotional radio announcements. (radionovela images)

Conveying an important message on hurricanes and disaster reduction, the drama consists of four different stories which are divided into 20 30-minute chapters which carry the reader through the issues of what could happen before, during and after a natural disaster such as a hurricane or flood. It looks at the consequences of not being prepared and how these negative impacts may be reduced through preparation and awareness. It also analyzes the roles which men and women play in society and what can be done to increase community capacity to prevent negative impacts of disaster situations.

Tiempo de Huracanes has been widely publicized and played by radio stations of varying coverage throughout Central America, as well as in South America (Venezuela, Ecuador) and the Caribbean (Dominican Republic) to a



lesser degree. Starting on October 9, in observance of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, Tiempo de Huracanes was broadcast by 46 radio stations throughout Central America.

In Honduras, the airing of Tiempo de Huracanes has generated related activities and motivated communities to get actively involved in their community's disaster preparedness organization. Every week-end during the month that the drama was aired, community meetings were held to discuss the latest chapter, the community's level of preparedness, to draw up risk maps and emergency plans. Phone calls, letters and contests have also been part of the interactive campaign to raise awareness and promote community organization and cooperation, while promotional items such as posters, stickers and T-shirts were being used to encourage participation.

In the San Carlos region of Costa Rica, the drama was included as a compulsory part of many secondary school curriculums, along with supporting activities to analyze the messages being conveyed through the stories and how



Activities at the National Level

Argentina

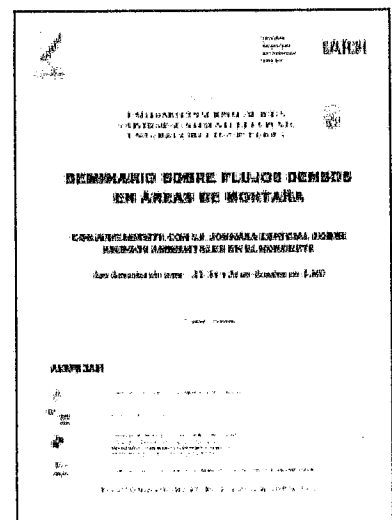
A seminar entitled Dense Flows in Mountain Areas and a one-day workshop on 'Geo-hydraulic Risks in Mountainous Areas of Argentina's north-west' were held from October 23 – 25 in commemoration of the International Year of the Mountains.

As an occurrence of great concern to the well-being of Argentina's mountain areas, the objective of the seminar was to analyze the current understanding of dense gravitational flows in Argentina and make recommendations for orientating field activities, areas of work and research, as well as strategies for managing watersheds in mountainous areas.

The seminar was organized by the Argentinean Hydraulic Resources' Institute and the Unit for the Integrated Management of Hydrographic Watersheds in the Province of Jujuy, along with the National University of Jujuy and the National University of La Plata. The events were sponsored by the Sub-secretariat of the Nation's Hydraulic Resources, the National Water and Environment Institute, the Argentinean National Committee for UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, the Bermejo Regional Commission, the International Commission on Continental Erosion of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, and the Government of the Province of Jujuy. Presentations were open to all based on submission and a consequent selection process.

The following topics were covered:

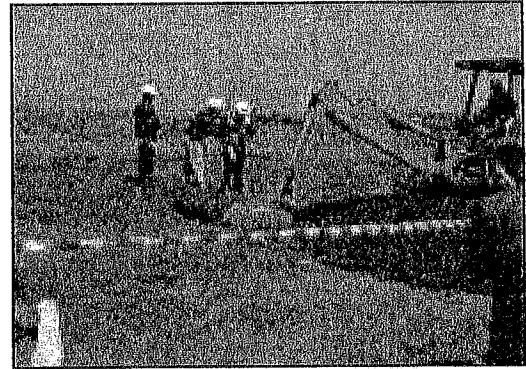
- Processes of formation and finalization of dense flows
- Flow content properties
- Processes of erosion, movement and sedimentation
- Physical and numerical models
- Prognostics of occurrences
- In-field observations and monitoring
- Evaluating the frequency and danger of events
- Examples of dense flows in particular hydrological and geological conditions
- Vulnerability and risk assessments
- Risk mapping of dense flows
- Structural and non-structural measures of risk mitigation





Brazil

In commemoration of the International Disaster Reduction Day, the Department of Civil Defense in Río Claro, San Pablo together with the transportation company which transports natural gas between Bolivia and Brazil, Transportadora Brasileira de Gasoducto, carried out a simulation activity for dealing with the eventuality of broken gas ducts. Among the objectives of the exercise were the observation of various facets of the system's functioning, such as the reaction capacity for responding to complications, the system's ability to receive and transmit basic information about goings on, as well as the operational integration in emergency situations among the transportation company, the fire department, and the Civil Defense System. The private company also used this opportunity for reviewing the contingency plan and integrating local and regional entities.

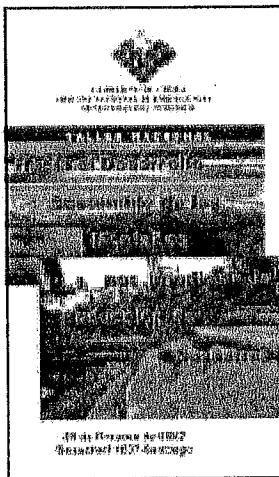


British Virgin Islands

An exhibition was held with secondary schools in celebration of the International Disaster Reduction Day.

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ELINA

Chile



In 1991, the national government of Chile marked the National Day for Civil Protection, to be celebrated each year on October 10th. As this year's International Day for Disaster Reduction fell on the 9th of October, commemorative activities coincided for these two dates and were celebrated jointly throughout the month of October.

A series of actions were carried out throughout the month for understanding public opinion and motivating public awareness on the potential for developing numerous aspects of emergency and disaster prevention.

Displays were also on exhibition at different locations on various days throughout the month on the theme of school safety. A workshop was also given on the School System Security Plan.

An Interactive Civil Protection Mini-Museum was inaugurated on the 10th to mark the National Civil Protection Day.



On the 29th of October a national workshop "Towards the Sustainable Development of Mountains Through Disaster Reduction" was held by the National Emergencies Office of the Ministry of Interior.

The National Emergency Office (ONEMI) is also currently in the process of organizing its first large scale Real Time National Simulation Exercise. The purpose of this event is to promote training in the procedures necessary for the coordination of national response measures, aimed at improving joint actions by the agencies and institutions which make up the National Civil Protection System. This event is being organized by ONEMI, regional directors of civil protection and emergencies, as well as members of the Armed Forces Academy. The event is to be evaluated based on predetermined criteria, with both technical and non-technical observers from the private and public sectors. Participants will include members of the National Emergency Operations Committee, representatives from the regional and provincial civil protection and emergency committees, as well as workers from varying sectors such as health, military, and fire fighters.

Emphasis will be placed upon the warning system, communications, coordination, preliminary evaluation, decision-making, complementary assessments, and the reformulation of decisions based on the achievements and shortcomings observed throughout this activity.

Colombia

Activities were held throughout the month by various local and regional disaster prevention and emergency response committees.

- In **Bogota** a seminar was given on October 9th on risks and emergency preparative measures;
- A full day Disaster Prevention workshop in **Bucaramanga** on October 11th focused on fire drills, climatic changes, disaster prevention and emergency response in the Secretariat of the departmental government;
- Emergency preparations and evacuation simulations were the focus on the morning of October 9th in **Barranquilla**;
- In **Ibague** a certificate course was given on Community Organization in Risk Management, Community Organizational Experiences in Emergency Response, October 3;
- A conference on the geological faults of **Ibague** was also held in Ibague, in the offices of the Red Cross, October 11;
- An all day regional workshop on the Strategy for Strengthening Science, Technology, and Education for Reducing Risks and Responding to Disasters was held on the 9th of October in the EAFIT University in **Medellín**;
- Awareness raising activities were held in various educational institutions in **Armenia** on Strengthening Local and Regional Committees in Risk Reduction, October 7-9;
- A disaster prevention workday in **Popayán** was held in the University of Cauca on the 9th, which focused on reflecting on the importance of disaster prevention and emergency response;
- In **Huila**, Strengthening of the Educational Sector in Themes of Disaster Prevention was the focus between the 15th and the 18th of October.



- A radio station with coverage throughout the department **Boyacá** kept its lines opened for discussions on the International Disaster Reduction Day on October 9, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., organized with Boyacá's regional disaster prevention and emergency response committee, CREPAD;
- In the department of **Manizales**, a workday on capacity building with simulation activities was held in the Bolivar Plaza on the 11th of October along with similar activities in four of the city's communes from the 7th through the 11th, organized by CREPAD and various operational units;
- Finally, in the department of **Cucuta** a display was given by the National Disaster Prevention System highlighting the Socialization of Risk Management on the 24th and 25th of October.

Costa Rica

To commemorate the International Day for Disaster Reduction, the Costa Rican Bank "Banco Hipotecaria de Vivienda" organized an activity for the staff and distributed campaign information (leaflets, booklets etc.) prepared by the ISDR Secretariat.



Cuba

Several activities were carried out in Cuba to commemorate the 2002 International Disaster Reduction Day.

An educational campaign for students and teachers was held by the National Reference Centre for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (PREMIDES) as part of this year's activities in Cuba for celebrating the 2002 International Disaster Reduction Day on October 9th. Workshops were held during school visits by PREMIDES. The topic of discussion was on understanding the various aspects of Risk Management.



Adapting the discourse to the respective levels of each audience, numerous hazards and dangers were discussed with the students, with specific emphasis given to the local particularities of each given area. Factors contributing to the vulnerability of the schools were discussed, along with the role that both students and teachers could play throughout all phases of disaster situations.

The 2002 International Disaster Reduction Day was also celebrated on the morning of Friday, October 18th in the Ministry of Public Health.

This activity was organized by the Cuban Latin American Center for Disaster Medicine, CLAMED (Centro Latinoamericano de Medicina de Desastres de Cuba) and was presided over by:

- Dr. Abelardo Ramírez, vice-minister and president, CLAMED;

- Dr. Héctor Conde Rico – vice-president, CLAMED;
- Dr. José Rubiera, Meteorological Institute;
- Functionaries of Civil Defense,
- Municipal health directors,
- Members of the Habana East Municipal Red Cross,
- Representatives from various agencies and non-governmental organizations,
- Specialists from various sectors,
- Doctors,
- Librarians from Habana City and other municipalities, and
- Members of CLAMED's facilitating Technical Board.

Topics included Local Management and Risk Reduction in Human Settlements along the Caribbean Basin, as well as presentations on recent natural phenomena in Cuba.

This event was also used as the stage for presenting a proposal for the creation of a Latin American Information Network on Health and Disasters to which CLAMED personnel welcomed suggestions and comments.

Over 50 persons participated in this event.

El Salvador

A press conference was organized by the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Coordinating Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, CEPREDENAC, in collaboration with the ISDR Secretariat on October 9th to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Reduction. The head table was made up of some of the main actors in disaster prevention in El Salvador, among them were: the Secretary General of SICA, Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC, representatives from the following institutions: ISDR Secretariat, ECLAC, the National Service of Territorial Studies of El Salvador (SNET), Sergio Paniagua of the University of Costa Rica, and Oscar Perez, Director of the Central American Branch of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, AMARC.



About 30 representatives from the media attended the event.



Guatemala

The Resident Coordinator Office and the United Nations' Disaster Management Team organized a panel on Sustainable Mountain Development and Disaster Reduction on October 9th, to commemorate the International Disaster Reduction Day's 2002 campaign for the year of Sustainable Mountain Development and Disaster Reduction.

The panel was made up of representatives from the National Disaster Reduction Coordination (Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres - CONRED), United Nations' Volunteers with the University of San Carlos, the Secretariat of the Presidency's Programming (Secretaría de la Programación de la Presidencia – SEGEPLAN), and the Madre Vieja Early Warning Systems Project.



Other participants in the event included:

World Food Programme, UNDP, UNICEF, Ministry of Public Health, OXFAM Great Britain, Gandara & Associates, World Vision, CARE, the American Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, the University del Valle de Guatemala, along with representation by the press including El Noticiero, el Telediario, and Cerigua.

Discussions focused on the purpose of the International Campaign, successful initiatives for disaster reduction in mountains, and methods for reducing vulnerability to socio-economic impacts of natural dangers.

In Guatemala, mountains represent 40% of the country's geographical coverage (49 km²), are home to 45% of the nation's population, and are a source of potable water for over half of the inhabitants. The mountains of Guatemala also serve as guardians of a diversity of cultures, languages and traditions.

Honduras

Through the exchange of experiences and a series of consultations, COPECO, the Permanent Contingencies Commission (Comisión Permanente de Contingencias), and the United Nations System coordinated a forum entitled "Government, International Community and Civil Society Together in the Reduction of Disasters" within the framework of celebrating the International Disaster Reduction Day. Government perceptions in disaster matters as well as political strategies and actions were presented by Vicente Williams, Presidential Designee; COPECO shared some of their experiences in recent emergencies along with actions for the short, medium and long term; while representatives of the United Nations discussed their role in disaster reduction in Honduras. Community organizations and members of the general public were also represented by the coordinator of the Emergency Committee of the municipal of La Ceiba Hernán.

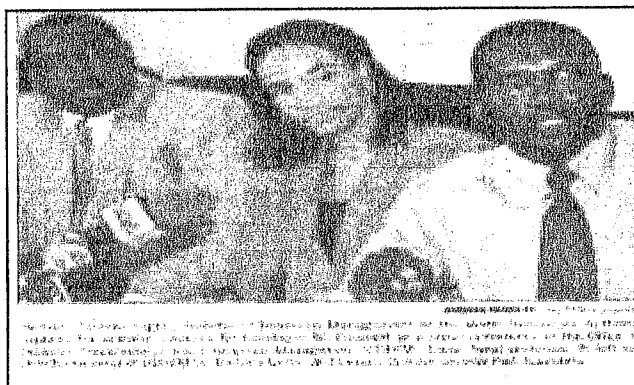


Jamaica

The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in keeping with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Campaign observed International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) on October 9, 2002 with the following activities:

PRESS CONFERENCE

Among other countries of the region, Jamaica experienced the effects of Tropical Storm Lili which hit Jamaica in late September. Lili brought heavy rains and flooding to Jamaica, most notably in the New Market Basin in the southwestern section of the island where water levels rose from 1,075 feet to 1,155 feet above sea level by October 9th. As such, it was deemed prudent to address this matter with some level of urgency.



A Press Conference was therefore convened on October 9th by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) at the ODPEM Conference Room to discuss matters relating to the flooding effects. The scientific basis for the rise in water levels in New Market was also addressed. The event was utilized to apprise the media on the observation of IDDR Day and the activities that were being carried out by the ODPEM. To further educate the public on the relief process, a presentation was also made on the Management of the Relief System in Jamaica.

The media was well represented and print, radio and television coverage was received.

IDDR DAY EXHIBITION

The ODPEM in collaboration with the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) staged an exhibition at the Tom Redcam Library in St. Andrew, which is one of the largest libraries in Jamaica. This exhibition ran from October 9 - 11, 2002. Highlights of the exhibition were the "International Year of Mountains" and "The Protection of Watershed Areas in Jamaica" models. Posters which depicted areas in Jamaica which were affected by landslides and slope failure caused by earthquakes and as a result of constant heavy rainfall associated with storms were highlighted. Several schools were invited to view the exhibit as well as regular visitors to the library.

DISASTER QUIZ

A disaster quiz was aired on Love 101 Radio Station in the afternoon programme, "Small People". Three prizes which contained emergency supplies were presented to the lucky winners.



Mexico

Information surrounding the 2002 World Disaster Prevention Campaign was broadcast by radio, in coordination with the Mexican Society of Emergency and Disaster Medicine and the municipal Civil Protection. 10 simulation activities were also carried out in educational institutions, and preschoolers were invited to participate in an drawing contest on disaster prevention.

Useful links:

International Mountain Year – Available in English, Spanish and French
<http://www.montanas2002.org/>

Mountain Forum Regional Networks: Latin America – English only
<http://www.mtnforum.org/regions/lamerica.htm>

Grupo Nacional de Trabajo sobre Ecosistemas de Montañas – Spanish only
<http://www.condesan.org/peruAIM2002/>

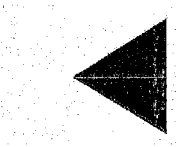
Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecorregion, CONDESAN
<http://www.condesan.org/> - available in English and Spanish
InfoAndina, red de comunicación de CONDESAN

Redes de Información para el Desarrollo Sustentable de América Latina - REDISAL
<http://www.redisal.net/>

Mountain Research and Development (MRD) – English only
www.mrd-journal.org

Proyecto PROTÉGÉ (Chilean NGO)
<http://www.protege.cl/educa/montanas/> - Spanish only

**ANNEX III:
2002 UN Sasakawa Award**







United Nations – Nations Unies

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – Stratégie internationale pour la prévention des catastrophes

2002 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Media coverage

General Coverage

‘International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction to be celebrated on 9 October: UN Sasakawa Award on Disaster Reduction to be Presented’

United Nations Press Release 7 October 2002

‘UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Goes to Armenian Seismologist’

United Nations Radio 10 October 2002

<http://www.un.org/av/radio/news/2002/oct/02101000.htm>

2002 Laureate

Professor Sergueï Balassanian, President of the Armenian Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (AASPEI)

Certificates of Distinction

1. *Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Bangladesh, Director of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre*

‘Bangladeshi gets UN disaster award’

Agence France Presse 20 November 2002

‘Bangladeshi expert calls for new approach after receiving UN accolade’

UNDP Media Release 20 November 2002

Ceremony presentation of award to Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman by Mr. Jørgen Lissner, UNDP Resident Representation, Dhaka
National Press Club, 20 November 2002

2. *Ms. Fernanda Teixeira, Secretary General of the Mozambique Red Cross*

‘East Timor and Mozambique Red Cross Societies win recognition’

IFRC Press Release 9 October 2002

<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/pr02/7302.asp>

‘Mozambique Red Cross rewarded for Disaster Reduction’

Mozambique Humanitarian Situation Monitor Volume 1, Issue 4 11 October 2002

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/34be26bc1325dec0c1256c4f0054ef7d?OpenDocument>

3. *Emergency Monitoring and Forecasting Agency, Russian Federation*

Certificates of Merit

1. *United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Guatemala*

'UN Volunteers awarded for disaster reduction initiative in Guatemala'
UNV News Release 10 October 2002
www.unv.org/infobase/news_releases/2002/02_10_10GTM_award.htm

'ONU premia a guatemaltecos: fue entregado por proyecto en prevención de desastres'
Prensalibre 18 November 2002
http://www.prensalibre.com/app/pls/prensa/detnoticia.jsp?p_cnoticia=41175&p_fedicion=18-11-02

Ceremony presentation of award to the Rector of the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala and the UNDP Resident Representative by Ms. Gabriela Walker, Coordinator of the UNV Programme, Guatemala City
UNICEF, 13 November 2002

2. *Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL)*
'East Timor and Mozambique Red Cross Societies win recognition'
IFRC Press Release 9 October 2002
<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/pr02/7302.asp>

'CVTL wins Sasakawa award'
UNMISSET Press Briefing Notes 9 October 2002

'East Timor Red Cross gets reward for grassroots work'
IFRC News 9 October 2002

3. *Lt. Colonel Abbu Darwish, Jordan, Director of the Disasters Department of the Jordan Civil Defence*