

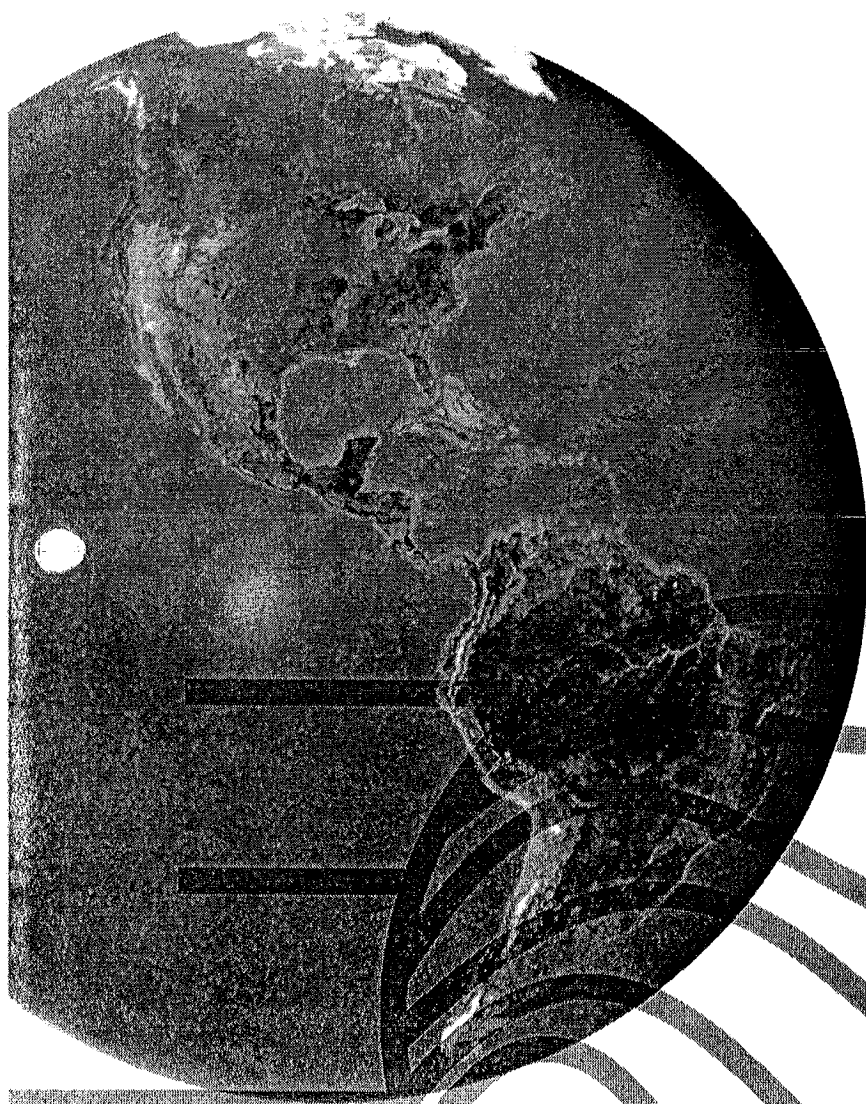
NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORTS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IDNDR HEMISPHERIC MEETING

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
30TH OF MAY
TO 5TH OF JUNE
1999

TOWARDS NATURAL
DISASTER REDUCTION
IN THE AMERICAS...
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY





National Reports

Introduction

This section is a summary of the big lines and conclusions presented and discussed by the countries present at the Hemispheric meeting. The countries were divided geographically into three groups: The Caribbean, South America, Central- and North America.

Written reports had been requested in advanced for a comprehensive review of progress and challenges. A country by country summary report is attached as Annex 1.

Reports from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Caribbean Countries

Experiences, Advances and Challenges

The subregion has been severely hit by tropical storms, hurricanes, floods, landslides, fires and drought over the past 10 years, most notably by Hurricane Georges (1998) and the volcanic eruptions in Montserrat. At the same time, there have been some outstanding achievements:

1. All countries have appointed authorities in charge of disaster reduction, although governmental funding is quite uneven from country to country.
2. Valuable risk assessments have been carried out in Montserrat, Jamaica, Cuba, the Virgin Islands and Dominica, although the other countries in the subregion still lag behind.
3. PAHO has helped develop vulnerability assessments involving hospitals and water supply systems in several islands, and most countries have launched hazard mapping efforts. For example, the Virgin Islands have completed a Hazards and Risk Assessment Project.
4. All countries have national disaster reduction plans, but not all have been completed at this stage. In general, they tend to focus on disaster response, although they are starting to incorporate a mitigation component. In particular, there is a need to develop sectoral plans, particularly for those economic sectors most vulnerable to disasters. Jamaica has produced the first draft of a mitigation policy, while Montserrat has completed its Volcanic Emergency Plan. The Virgin Islands have also begun to implement a damage mitigation program. The Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project deserves special mention.
5. All countries have adopted an interdisciplinary approach to this matter, or at least have acknowledged the need to develop one.
6. Cuba and Montserrat report improvements in their early warning systems, and all countries in the subregion can claim a fair amount of progress towards this goal.
7. Most countries consider that their legislation in this regard is inadequate. Cuba reports that 44 legal instruments were developed in order to enhance disaster management. The British government has been supporting CDERA countries in the development of the necessary legislation, but not all countries have taken advantage of this support.

8. The region has been the beneficiary of efforts by regional and international agencies as well as NGOs. For example,
 - DIPECHO is supporting CDERA financially in a project aimed at strengthening public education, including information dissemination in State-run schools.
 - Cuba has cooperated by providing medical personnel and pharmaceuticals to Peru and Nicaragua (1991), as well as care for the children affected by the volcanic eruption in Montserrat. It also sent medical brigades to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, countries severely hit by hurricanes Georges and Mitch. The Latin American School of Medical Sciences has been set up in Havana, with a regional campus in Santiago de Cuba, in order to train human resources at the postgraduate medical level in order to fill future needs in this critical area. During the current academic year, 1,408 students from 10 countries have enrolled.
 - A number of banking institutions have cooperated in these efforts, including the Caribbean Development Bank and the Dominican based Credit Unions.
9. All countries report public education and awareness-raising activities employing a variety of methods, including the use of videos and the Internet. CDERA has also carried out a substantial effort in this regard in English-speaking countries. The University of the West Indies has incorporated disaster management into its curriculum, while the University of the Virgin Islands is contemplating a similar initiative.
10. NGO experiences display a tremendous range of effectiveness. However, the trend is clearly towards a greater number of initiatives aimed at disaster reduction.
11. The most frequently met obstacles to meeting the Decade's goals are.
 - a) Lack of political will and synergy among local institutions.
 - b) Inadequate human and financial resources.
 - c) A lack of coordination and information exchange among countries in the subregion.
 - d) The lack of integrated assessments about the economic impact of disasters.
 - e) A lack of public education and information efforts.

South American Countries

Reports from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Experiences, Advances and Challenges

Participants agreed that the Decade has provided a framework within which to promote disaster management from a preventive perspective, involving all of society's key stakeholders at the national and local levels.

While each of the countries has a different geographical and climatological profile, the most common hazards in the subregion include floods, landslides, drought and technological hazards that are the result of industrialization. The El Niño phenomenon is a recurring event that affects the subregion, although it does have some positive effects that should be maximized.

Some countries in the subregion have reinforced their emergency plans and programs, even to the point of lending support to neighbouring countries. This underscores the subregion's capacity, opportunities and strengths when it comes to disaster reduction.

Higher education has seen the rise of curricula focused on civil protection and general disaster management. Progress has also been made in the development of risk mapping, and there is a growing wealth of literature on the subject, including vital reference material.

Disaster management agencies have improved their organizational and planning skills, complementing the other advances made over the past 20 years. For the most part, countries have engaged in permanent and systematic efforts to create new legal and administrative structures and policies aimed at increasing the efficiency, timeliness and coordination of disaster reduction initiatives.

A greater emphasis is being placed on prevention and mitigation. Investments in infrastructural reinforcements are up, and significant improvements in response capacity and early warning systems have taken place.

Local organization for disaster prevention and mitigation, at the municipal and grass-roots level, has been strengthened, particularly in the field of training, education and information dissemination.

International agencies have beefed up their credit systems. However, two weaknesses remain: the lack of resources for following up on prevention and response measures, and the obsolete nature of much of the relevant legislation, which hinders the efforts to provide much-needed autonomy to disaster management institutions.

Central and North American Countries

Reports by Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and Panama.

Experiences, Advances and Challenges

Every country presented its objectives and achievements during the Decade. In some cases, before-and-after studies were conducted. The most frequent phenomena were described, as were disaster mitigation experiences and plans, as well as the obstacles faced by countries in disaster management. Alternatives were suggested, as well as new approaches to strengthen those institutions dedicated to emergency and disaster response.

Costa Rica. National Emergency Commission (CNE)

The presenter described the most significant disasters to affect Costa Rica during the current decade and described the actions undertaken by the CNE, particularly those related to disaster reduction and mitigation. These were aimed especially at capacity building among organizations dedicated to risk management, and sought to raise awareness of existing hazards and disseminate prevention messages among the population.

Obstacles hindering meeting the goals of the Decade in Costa Rica include the lack of an appropriate legal framework for disaster prevention and mitigation, and the lack of the necessary technical and financial resources to carry out all the actions required. Additional barriers include the lack of land-use regulations and the inability to manage and follow up on development projects in prevention and mitigation. On the positive side, educational and public information programs have promoted a great deal of preparedness among the public in all matters pertaining to prevention and mitigation.

Canada. National IDNDR Committee

The presenter stressed that Canada's strategic plan focuses on risk and hazard assessments, vulnerability assessments, and mitigation. She stressed the need for multidisciplinary approaches and the identification and exchange of success stories.

Ms White reported on the North American Hazards Map, a joint effort involving Mexico, the United States and Canada, as well as on the Risk and Society initiative, a project aimed at integrating education, awareness-raising and communication.

The participation of civil society in risk management is crucial, she said, as is the need to develop a common terminology for risks and disasters.

Guatemala. Executive Secretary of the National Disaster Reduction Task Force

According to the presenter, Guatemala's efforts in disaster reduction before the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) tended to focus on response rather than prevention. He described the most severe disasters to hit his homeland over the past decade, including floods, hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic activity and forest fires.

In recent years, he said, emphasis has shifted to disaster prevention, mitigation and reduction through better organization and community training.

The main achievement of the Decade has been the development of the legal framework for the National Emergency Committee to transform itself into a coordinating entity, the Task Force, entrusted with working hand in hand with the National Ham-radio Network. It is also expected to train and help organize local coordination committees in all high-risk communities, implement the National Civil Protection System, and set policies at the highest level for the development of a national disaster prevention and reduction strategy.

Nicaragua. National IDNDR Committee

The presenter reported that the National Committee for Natural Disaster Protection was set up in 1989, by presidential decree.

Nicaragua's achievements during the Decade include organizing fully functional structures for disaster and emergency prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response. A bill currently in Congress would create a National Civil Defense System; it already exists in practice, as a network of local initiatives, and their members have been trained and provided with the necessary communications system. The country's civil defense institutions have a voice at the CEPREDENAC National Commission.

Challenges include the current lack of civil defense policies and strategies, the lack of a legal framework, and the weakness of institutions dedicated to disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Panama. National Civil Protection System

The presenter described the National Civil Protection System, which is legally entrusted with implementing measures to prevent or mitigate natural and man-made disasters. Its Steering Committee manages to integrate both governmental and non-governmental institutions, facilitating the flow of information among all key stakeholders.

In a country ravaged by floods, fires, tropical storms, landslides and shipwrecks, civil protection offices have been set up from the local to the national level. Institutional and community training programs have played a key role, as have general dissemination and training efforts. One of the training programs that have been most successful in terms of popular acceptance has been the School System Civil Protection Program, which has been undertaken in close coordination with the Ministry of Education.

For things to keep improving, the presenter stressed the need for budgetary commitments, the strengthening of local authorities, and the establishment of links between social and economic development programs and environmental protection within a sustainable development framework.

Mexico. National Disaster Prevention Centre

After describing the major hazards facing his country, the presenter described the structure and operations of the National Civil Defense System, which was created as a result of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). In 1990, the National Civil Protection Council was created as an advisory body entrusted with coordinating all disaster prevention and response efforts and headed by the President of the Republic.

Achievements include consolidating an organizational structure throughout the land: each state of the Mexican federation has its own Civil Protection Council entrusted with developing civil protection programs operated by state or municipal Civil Protection Units. These have been staffed and provided with the necessary equipment, and work hard at promoting a culture of disaster prevention among the population.

Special mention must go to the Health Facility Protection Program, the organization of response brigades, and training and dissemination activities.

Belize. Deputy Mayor of Belize City

According to the presenter, the recent impact of Hurricane Mitch on the region, although comparatively benign when it came to Belize, made the government realize how weak its National Disaster Management Plan was.

Since then, the government has committed itself fully to disaster preparedness, and requested the technical assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank. In April 1999, the National Disaster Management Administration and the Disaster Management Plan were thoroughly updated.

District-level workshops have been held, and emergency committees have been set up, in preparation for the next hurricane season. A special department was set up as part of the Prime Minister's Office, and a National Coordinator was appointed. The NDMA brings together the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministries of National Security and Immigration, of Transport and Communications, of Labour, of Housing, of Health, of Human Development, of Women and Youth, of Natural Resources and the Environment, and of External Affairs.

Each District Emergency Committee has its own Hurricane Response Plan, which is constantly updated.

The goal is to promote accountability, define mechanisms for private and public sector coordination with international aid agencies, identify resources for disaster response and mitigation, and provide capacity building to all relevant actors. Future plans include disseminating the Plan among the population, responding to communication barriers, strengthening the shelter network, updating the Plan on a regular basis, and carrying out regular drills.

Common Challenges (on the Basis of All Three Regions and their Reports)

- Continue to build disaster response capacity, particularly in the fields of prevention and mitigation, including risk assessments and strategy development. Integrate prevention and mitigation into all environmental protection and sustainable development plans. Include the “risk “ variable in development projections.
- Follow up on plans and projects launched during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, with international support.
- Increase the availability of human and financial resources, including the participation of professionals, scientists and technicians in each relevant field, and improve forecasting and early warning systems.
- Seek support for disaster prevention and mitigation projects involving international agencies and local NGOs.
- Develop the necessary legal framework to facilitate disaster reduction, including the cross-sectoral revision of all pertinent legislation.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination among the nations in the hemisphere. Caribbean countries, for example, agreed on the need for greater subregional integration in disaster prevention. Ecuador recommended the establishment of an International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon. Participants also recommended that Andean Pact countries get together to develop a project for subregional integration in civil protection and defense, and they recommended the appointment of regional technical and scientific committees dedicated to disaster reduction.
- Establish inter-institutional coordination mechanisms among international relief agencies.
- Introduce disaster prevention and mitigation into all relevant curricula in every country, from grade school to higher education. Promote a culture of disaster prevention through specific programs, in all countries where no such programs exist at present.
- Encourage the media to promote a culture of disaster prevention, by creating training programs for journalists.
- Involve other sectors, such as the insurance industry, in disaster prevention and mitigation activities, so as to facilitate risk assessment and reduce the costs of natural disasters.
- Strengthen urban and rural human settlement planning, given the increase of population in the region.
- Standardize disaster prevention and mitigation terminology throughout the region.
- Develop mechanisms for the ongoing training of emergency and disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response personnel.
- Strengthen the multi-sectoral participation of national-level institutions entrusted with emergency and disaster response.
- Improve the monitoring of natural phenomena at the local and regional level.

ANEXO 6

Summaries of National Reports

ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE DECADE

This document includes a set of tables that summarize the written information received by May 15 1999, in response to a questionnaire sent out to specialized institutions in each country. Its purpose is to provide a general picture of the achievements attained during this past decade, assessed from the perspective of the individuals or institutions who submitted the reports. Therefore, not all of the details provided are included in this document.

Countries:

Argentina
Bolivia
British Virgin Islands
Costa Rica
Cuba
Ecuador
Guatemala
Jamaica
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Uruguay
Venezuela

Pending: Brazil, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua

Country: ARGENTINA		Report by:	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses est. in millions of \$US
Total mentioned: Not specified	Forest fires	No information given.	
	Floods		
	Snowstorms		
1.2 Impact of disasters reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Environmental, economic " • "Socio-economic" • "Economic" 		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation • Financial subsidies for agriculture and construction of shelters. • Subsidies for livestock 		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to strengthen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness campaigns • Improvement in response capacity of emergency organizations. • Financing of resources 		
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES. The objectives of IDNDR have provided a major stimulus.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.	The coordination of technical bodies in charge of follow-up on El Niño provided the necessary information to implement early mitigation measures against floods.		
Item 2: Progress made since the start of the IDNDR			
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment:</u></p> <p>A national inventory has been prepared of the main hazards, and has been distributed at local level.</p> <p>a) <u>Structured mitigation plans :</u></p> <p>There are general and specific plans</p> <p>b) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <p>Detection system to determine the level of the watercourses on the coast.</p>		
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	Lack of funding for these objectives.		
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local training courses • Information campaigns on specific issues. 		
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Liaison established through conferences, seminars and meetings.		
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities into planning.	Cooperation agreements have been formalized at national, state and local level.		
2.6 Contributions made by international information provided for the execution of the IDNDR objectives in the country.	Because it was recently formed, the responding institution has not participated in the corresponding meetings.		

Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	Yes, there are budget lines for actions such as to combat fires, infrastructure works, shelters and water containment structures.
3.3 Legal framework	At provincial level. For example, earthquake resistant building codes.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	No, with some exceptions
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology in disaster reduction	The organizations in charge of drafting earthquake contingency plans disseminate information and technology in the national sphere.
Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	The Public Security Forces, the social welfare and public health institutions. NGOs such as the Red Cross.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	Strong political commitment is required. This should be reflected in the assignation of budget resources administered by competent technicians.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century	Formation of an international operational force to respond to emergencies in any part of the world financed by all the United Nations agencies.

Country: BOLIVIA		Report by: Luis Daza Director of the National Civil Defense Service	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
Total mentioned: 5	Landslides in La Paz, 1996 and another undated event	11 dead 5.060 homeless	84 homes partially o totally destroyed.
<u>Trigger events:</u>	Landslide in Larecaja La Paz, 1996	13 dead 645 homeless	50 homes partially or totally destroyed.
Earthquakes: 1	Earthquake in Aiquile, Totora and Mizque (5.9°), 1998	60 dead 5.000 homeless	130 homes partially or totally destroyed.
Landslides: 3	Floods and droughts caused by El Niño	119.588 families homeless	245.154 km2 affected by drought. 169.004 km2 affected by floods.
Climatic variations: 1 (El Niño)			
1.2 Impact of reported disasters.	The main references are to destruction of homes.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance with food, medicines, tools, blankets, mattresses, etc.• Well drilling plan• Medical supplies plan• Disaster management courses• Training for instructors• Education programmes for the population• Seed supply and distribution programme.		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness, training and education of the population.• Design of inter-sectoral emergency plans.• Prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of the National Civil Defense System and SENADECI.
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES, through the introduction of international training programmes (OFDA, La RED), formation of inter-institutional scientific-technical committees and greater attention on the part of Central Government, public institutions and non-governmental and private organizations.
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of hazards, earthquakes and floods in Bolivia. Simulated assessments in hospitals, schools and densely populated areas. Organization of Civil Defense Committees (at national, departmental and provincial level).
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDRDN	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment:</u></p> <p>SENADECI now has a data bank and presents periodic reports to the Defense Ministry.</p> <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <p>There are no national disaster management plans</p> <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Food Security Monitoring System and Early Warning, of the Agriculture Ministry. Naval Hydrographic System, San Calixto Observatory (earthquake monitoring)
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	Recommend: delegates should be sent to the IDNDR Secretariat for guidance on inter-institutional coordination and training courses.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	Annual training and education programmes all over the country (courses, seminars, lectures, simulations).
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	No.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	None
2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	The information that SENADECI receives from the IDNDR is very scant and insufficient for the implementation of activities.
Item: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The National Civil Defense Service, attached to the Defense Ministry.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned.	A very limited budget is assigned by the National Treasury, and is mainly used to provide assistance to disaster victims.
3.3 Legal framework	Only earthquake resistant building codes, which are currently being prepared.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures in education curricula.	No.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	No links have been established for this purpose.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	The Armed Forces, the Bolivian Police, the Fire Brigades, the Bolivian Red Cross, NGOs, USAID and La RED.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	A new Civil Defense Law is required, as well as norms to regulate land use, human settlements, industrial safety and management of hazardous substances. We need to create a National Emergency Fund, regulate the activities of the civil defense committees, establish a national communications system for disasters and inter-institutional

4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	agreements for the exchange of information and technical support.
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Country: BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS West Indies	Report by: Information Training Manager. Office of Disaster Preparedness
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters	

Note: The document begins with the following paragraph: "We have not experienced any disasters during the past five years but we have been affected by hazards such as hurricanes, floods, oil spills and earthquakes".

Items		Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past five years. <u>Trigger events:</u> Hurricanes: 4. Oil spills: 1		Trigger event	Victims	Losses est. in millions of \$US
		Hurricanes Louis & Marilyn, 1995		8
		Hurricane Bertha, 1996		1.5 – 2
		Hurricane Georges		12
		Oil spill		0.85
1.2 Impact of disasters reported		"We have not suffered loss of life or destruction of property as a result of the hurricanes and earthquakes".		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study on natural and technological hazards and mitigation strategies, 1997. Recommendations in implementation phase.• Public Education and Information Programme has been improved.• National Disaster Plan, including the implementation of specific plans in critical agencies.		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforce application of the building code and disaster legislation, once approved.• Reinforce mitigation activities and improve damage assessment methods.		
1.5 Has the IDNDR proclamation improved disaster reduction in your country?		YES. IDNDR has helped to create a greater awareness of the hazards that can affect the country and to underscore the need for preparedness in all sectors.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislation in disaster reduction• Preparedness activities included in primary and secondary school curricula.• Government Contingency Fund.• More support from private sector.• Disaster plans to deal with different hazards and to provide relief services.		
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR				
2.1 National achievements		a) <u>Risk assessment:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study to assess hazards and risk, shared with many national and international agencies.• Post Hugo study and numerous hazard reports, all available at our Web Site.		

	<p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a National Disaster Plan with a well-structured work programme that includes mitigation activities. New activities are prepared each year. • Mitigation strategies are included in the National Integrated Development Strategy. <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We use the printed media, our National Radiophone Emergency System, hurricane warning flags and VHF communications at all levels. • The country forms part of an HF network at regional and international level.
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in fulfilling the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	The main obstacle is the shortage of human resources. The Government currently provides additional staff.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster preparedness is now part of the school curriculum. • Information is distributed to the public through the media and exhibitions are organized for schoolchildren and other groups. There is a solid relationship with the media. • A corps of volunteer helpers collaborates in the dissemination of information to local committees and at all levels.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Training programmes for the media, the public and private sectors and decision-makers to create awareness of hazards and mitigation efforts.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities into planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of contingency plans and contacts with various agencies. • Numerous publications aimed at the business sector, which is also included in simulation exercises.
2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided in the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in the country.	Various international and regional agencies have provided technical and operational assistance, training and information. IDNDR has provided a global perspective of the problems and issues and several lessons that are applicable to our disaster programme.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The Disaster Preparedness Office, ODP, supervised by the <i>Deputy Governor</i> and by the Governor.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	There is an annual government budget for the functioning of the ODP and a contingency fund for post-disaster recovery operations.
3.3 Legal framework	Building code, legislation on disasters and a national development strategy that includes aspects such as land-use planning.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ODP provides training in disaster management at all levels. • Primary and secondary schools include these topics in their curricula. • Courses have been planned for local communities.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	Channels such as the Internet are used for this purpose. Our annual reports are widely circulated. The "training of trainers" approach is encouraged and our volunteers disseminate information at local level.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	At regional and international level we work with agencies such as PAHO, OFDA, DTRS, DFID, CDERA, FEMA, VITEMA, SRU in Trinidad y Tobago, Tropical Shipping, IMO, REMPEITC, USCG, CRRT and others. At national level we work with departmental governors' offices, NGOs, volunteers and local committees.
Item 4: Future requirements	

4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of international coordination mechanisms • Budget commitments • Policy commitments • Establishment of action networks • Communications instruments • Closer linkage between economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainable development. • Strengthen legislation in this area.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aid for development of mitigation programmes. Definition of standards for access to international assistance and donor agencies. • More support for training in all areas of disaster management.

Country: COSTA RICA		Report by: Lidier Esquivel National Emergency Commission	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items		Information supplied	
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years. Total mentioned: 16 <u>Trigger events:</u> Successive earth tremors: 1 Earthquakes: 2 Tropical storms: 2 Hurricanes: 4 Torrential rain: 4 Tropical depression: 1 Tropical wave: 1 El Niño: 1	Trigger event	Victims	Losses est. in millions of \$US
	Limon earthquake (7,5 °)1991	48 dead	172
	Torrential rain Atlantic coast, 1996		10
	Hurricane Cesar, 1996	39 dead	22
	Tropical storm Lily, 1996		
	Hurricane Mitch	4 dead 4 missing 5.500 housed in shelters	
1.2 Impact of reported disasters	The diversity and magnitude of the disasters mentioned caused a wide range of losses, damage and problems, especially to homes, road infrastructure, health services, water and electricity services, agriculture, livestock and fisheries.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	Activities aimed at determining risk levels: application of earthquake intensity model, estimation of density of alluvium, building foundations code, etc. Various studies and research. Additional measures mentioned under other items.		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to strengthen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formation and training of a team for the design of disaster reduction projects.• Legal framework• Strengthening of local and regional structures and of Technical Advice Committees.• Training and resources for the municipalities.• Incorporation of risk reduction in reconstruction efforts.• Regional cooperation agreements.• Establishment of information centers in the country.• National policy on disaster reduction and creation of disasters office within the governmental planning structure.		
1.5 Did the IDNDR proclamation improve			

disaster reduction in your country?	YES. The initiative has focused attention on the theme of disasters and has encouraged advances in the historical and social approach to the problems of development. Positive steps have been taken to support mitigation and prevention projects and mass information campaigns.
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment</u> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual publication of Cantonal Atlas of Natural Hazards • Identification of hazards in specific areas. • Vulnerability studies in numerous communities, as part of risk management projects. <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans</u>:</p> <p>Regulatory Plans have been implemented for reconstruction in 14 events declared a "national emergency"</p> <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning System</u>:</p> <p>There is access to regional meteorological information, especially from the US. The Central American Earthquake Center is based in Costa Rica. Volcanic monitoring is conducted by specialized institutions. Specific mention is made of the monitoring plan for the Caribbean river basins.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	The report mentions 13 obstacles: inadequate legal framework, duplication of efforts and gaps in institutional actions, lack of systematic research on vulnerability and its causes, little input from scientific, technical and academic sectors in the communities, and little involvement by these in planning efforts. Also, weakness of local governments, lack or non-application of regulatory or contingency plans in high-risk areas. The present scale of risk management is not useful to local planning. Lack of capacity to manage and follow up on disaster reduction projects, limited involvement by state institutions and lack of a planning system to guide the implementation of the Strategic and Operational Plan.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	A National Education strategy for Disasters has been proposed, along with a national system of medical emergencies and three programmes. The CNE has its own education and information department with 4 operational areas. The education and culture sector is given priority within the National Emergency Plan and disaster issues have been incorporated at all levels of education.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	The National Emergency Plan establishes responsibilities and a framework of action for the different planning bodies of the state. There are 10 inter-institutional committees for specific thematic areas.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	
2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided to the execution of the IDNDR objectives in the country.	Exchange of experiences with other countries has been enhanced and relations of cooperation have been established.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities	The National Emergency Commission (CNE), attached to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, is the institution most closely related to this role. However, its legal framework – or rather the gaps therein – do not empower it to undertake preventive actions.
3.2 Government budget assigned	The CNE has a budget of 450 million colones (\$1.600.000 approx.) for preparedness programmes and its own payroll expenses. It is authorized to administer the funds assigned to reconstruction efforts in affected areas.
3.3 Legal framework	There is no specific legal framework for disaster mitigation, but there are several laws that regulate related issues. For example, the General Health Law, the Building Code, etc.

3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the disciplines mentioned in the questionnaire has incorporated this topic into its curriculum. There are optional courses in Psychology, Mass Communications and other subjects. Courses in Medical Technologies and Masters degrees in Geography and Public Health include some of these topics. The Disasters Programme of the Ministry of Education (PREMED) provides training in these subjects.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology in disaster reduction	<p>The national model of organization for disasters is intersectoral.</p> <p>The CNE has an inter-institutional communications network. The Technical Advisory Committees are composed of a wide range of experts. The Emergency Committees facilitate the transfer of technology at local and regional level.</p>
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CNE's partners are all public officials and private citizens who participate in the organizational system, more than 3,000 in total. Advice is provided by various United Nations agencies and OFDA.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<p>It is necessary to implement, promote or improve community participation, regulatory (master) plans, the dissemination of information, the implementation of Early Warning Systems with community participation in earthquake monitoring, risk and impact evaluation, information, coordinated interdisciplinary work in the binational river basins, and the management capacity of emergency committees. In more general terms, it is necessary to update the National Emergency Plan.</p>
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century	

Country: CUBA		Report by: Jose Angel Llanes National Directorate of Civil Defense	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years. Trigger events mentioned: Hurricanes: 3	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
	Hurricane Lily	No deaths reported.	
	Hurricane Georges	6 dead, 818,000 evacuated	
	Hurricane Mitch		
1.2 Impact of disasters reported	Mainly damage to agriculture.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass preparation of the population• 750,000 animals evacuated (Hurricane Georges)		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to strengthen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention and preparedness of citizens to respond to disasters and how to act in situations of disaster and recovery.		
1.5 Did the IDRDN proclamation improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES. The prevention and mitigation measures put into practice have significantly reduced the impact of disasters. The annual celebration of International Day for Disaster Reduction enjoys a high level of popular participation.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions. (also see item 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Meteoro" exercise (popular exercise in actions to take during a disaster situations).• Implementation of Integrated Urgency and Medical Emergency System.• Installation of Units for Analysis and Trends in Health (epidemiological monitoring system).• Improving legal framework of Defense System.		

Item 2: Progress made since the start of the IDNDR	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment</u></p> <p>Risk assessment is carried out in various education, research and study centers, e.g. the Latin American Center for Medical Disasters, the Veterinary Center for Prevention in Cases of Disaster and the Engineering Center for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.</p> <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <p>National Development Plans include disaster reduction components.</p> <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <p>Our EWS have improved considerably, especially in relation to hydro-meteorological, earthquake, epidemiological, phytosanitary, technological and environmental hazards.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the IDNDR objectives and recommendations to overcome these.	The intensification of the economic war waged against Cuba by the United States has affected our national development programmes.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several study centers have been established Improved preparedness training for schoolchildren and university students, including more than 4,000 doctors and veterinarians.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Steady improvements in planning for disaster situations. Plans are updated annually under the supervision of the respective government authorities
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	
2.6 Contributions made by international information to the execution of the IDNDR objectives in your country.	During the Decade, as previously, Cuba offered cooperation to Latin American countries affected by disaster situations, especially in the area of public health and earthquake vulnerability studies. In return, this has provided us with valuable experiences in solidarity.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Chief of Staff of Civil Defense, composed of vice-ministers and national leaders of popular organizations. In relation to the Decade, in 1991 the Cuban National Committee was established by Agreement 2352 of the Executive Committee of Ministers of Cuba. It is headed by the above mentioned Chief of Staff.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	n/r
3.3 Legal framework	National Defense Law N° 75, decreed by the Popular National Assembly in 1994, establishes the basic structure and development of Cuba's Civil Defense System. Executive Order N° 170 (1997) specifies in greater detail the aspects related to disaster reduction. During the Decade, 3 Laws, 7 Executive Orders and 21 ministerial resolutions have been promulgated. Most of these are related to prevention.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	See item N° 2.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	

Country: ECUADOR		Report by:: Gustavo Burbano National Director of Civil Defense	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses est. in millions \$ USD
Total mentioned: 7	Landslide in Azuay, 1993	6.400	350
<u>Trigger events</u>	Landslide in Zamora, 1993	30 dead	2.0
Earthquakes: 3	Fire Galapagos Islands, 1994	N/i	4.500 Hectares of forests
Landslides: 2	Earthquake in Morona Stgo. 1995	N/i.	10.0
Forest fires: 1	Earthquake in Cotopaxi, 1996	N/i.	7.0
Climate variations: 1 (El Niño)			
1.2 Impact of reported disasters	Overall impact on the economy, housing, roads, transport, health and environmental sanitation.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of authorities and population • Contingency plans • Activation of COEs 		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of the lower social strata • Incorporation of risk awareness in national development plans. • Strengthening the role of technical institutions in research and monitoring of risks. • Reform of curriculum 		
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	NO, due to lack of government policies, economic resources and citizen awareness.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.	There are some initiatives that have not yet been consolidated, such as the Building Code, the earthquake micro-zoning process in Guayaquil and the Quito Project.		
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR			
2.1 National achievements	<u>a) Risk assessment:</u> Very specific risk studies are carried out and disseminated locally. <u>b) Structured mitigation plans:</u> Mitigation is not the responsibility of Civil Defense but of other governmental bodies. <u>c) Access to Early Warning Systems:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the Tsunami Warning System through the Oceanographic Institute of the Navy. • No local EWS because of financial constraints. 		
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	Essentially, lack of money which affects the entire country.		
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	Public and private communications media have been used.		
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Very limited.		
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	In 1994 the risk variable was incorporated into National Development Plans by the National Planning Council (CONADE)		

2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in the country.	"None that I am aware of".
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities	A high level commission created by presidential decree, which I barely functional.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	N/r
3.3 Legal framework	These activities rely exclusively on local governments and engineers' associations.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures to education curricula.	Through agreements with the Education Ministry for training at primary and intermediate level.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology in disaster reduction.	n/r
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	n/r
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	"All the criteria proposed in the questionnaire are valid, but the budget resources are not available to put these into practice".
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate information about the seriousness of any natural disaster through various educational activities supported with materials that are accessible to communities. This includes materials in the languages of our ethnic groups. Internal and external financial support to provide training to all social sectors.

Country: GUATEMALA	<u>Report by:</u> National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED)		
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
<u>Trigger events:</u> Forest fires: Several Hurricanes (affected country as tropical storms): 3 Landslides: 2 Volcanic eruption: 1	Landslides in Alta Verapaz, 1995.	Deaths (number is not specified)	
	Forest fires in Petén, 1998		
	Eruption of Pacaya Volcano, 1998		
	Hurricane Georges, 1998		
	Hurricane Lester, 1998		
	Hurricane Mitch, 1998		
	Landslides in El Quiché, 1998	Deaths (number is not specified)	
	1.2 Impact of reported disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Damage to road infrastructure• Major degradation of rainforest• Loss of crops, damage to banana plantations and livestock.• Tons of ash deposited on the capital	
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization of Local and Departmental Emergency Committees.• Improvements to CONRED's radio communications network.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of rainfall and hydrological parameters in river basins on the South Coast, to implement SATs. Small protective barriers and mitigation actions on rivers on the South Coast. Organization and training of communities in high risk zones. Information and orientation campaigns.
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of national authorities. Incorporate the "disasters variable" within development projects and programmes. Establish national disaster prevention policies. Implementation of monitoring systems (earthquake, volcanic and hydromet.) with effective technologies. Institutional and community organization. Response capacity.
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES, because it has focused interest more on prevention issues than on disaster management. It has gradually contributed to improved international cooperation and exchange of experiences and technology. The technicians in this field would like to have more contact with the UN officials in charge of following up on the proclamation.
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.	The National Programme to Strengthen Local Disaster Reduction and Mitigation Organizations.
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR	
2.1 National achievements	<p>c) <u>Risk assessment</u></p> <p>Decree to create CONRED</p> <p>d) <u>Structured mitigation plans</u></p> <p>Contingency Plans at national, departmental and local level, duly documented.</p> <p>e) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <p>Access to global, regional, national and local EWS.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the IDNDR objectives and recommendations to overcome these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural obstacles (illiteracy, multilingual society) to the dissemination of disaster reduction information in Spanish. Lack of access to advanced technologies Recommend: Financial support for the national organization of CONRED.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme (and follow-up) to create and develop a culture of prevention. Integration of this subject into primary and secondary school curricula and mandatory seminars on risk reduction as part of some professional courses. Information and awareness campaigns through the Executive Secretariat of CONRED
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	The private sector is represented within CONRED and promotes the interest of investors. It undertakes education, training and promotion of volunteer service with the social sectors.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities into planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Communications, Transport and Public Works. Ministry of Health Ministry of Finance
2.6 Contributions made by international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has enabled us identify institutions and bodies whose connection with the disaster reduction process was not

	<p>known.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New centers and channels of information have been created (e.g. with CRID in Costa Rica).
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED).
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	There is a National Fund for Disaster Reduction
3.3 Legal framework	Executive Order 109, of 1996, which created CONRED.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information lectures for students and teachers of the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine. There are plans to offer an optional course, with the respective credits.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	The National Council for Disaster Reduction, which manages CONRED, is made up of various Ministries, public service institutions and private enterprise. It provides a basis for the exchange of information, but its action is limited by a lack of resources.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	The above mentioned National Council, private enterprise, scientific organizations, universities, NGOs and public service institutions are our main partners, providing an interdisciplinary approach.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<p>Secure political commitment at the highest level to define a national strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and adapt instruments of induction and information on disaster reduction. Work to ensure that the disaster variable is incorporated into all development processes. Promote private investment in efforts to reduce the impact disasters.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous and general strengthening of CONRED. Optimization of technological and scientific exchanges among international risk reduction organizations.

Country: JAMAICA		Report by: Barbara Carby. Director General. Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years. Total mentioned: 9 <u>Trigger events:</u> Floods: 6 Droughts: 3	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
	Annual floods		
	Droughts: 1996, 97 and 98.		
1.2 Impact of reported disasters	Loss of life, displaced communities, economic losses, education and health problems, and loss of crops and livestock.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response measures to drought• Dredging of rivers• Reinforcement of protective structures to prevent flooding• Evacuation of populations at risk		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More mitigation projects such as soil conservation measures, cleaning and		

the country needs to strengthen.	rebuilding of drainage systems and storage facilities for potable water. • Training
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES. By providing increased information, IDNDR created greater awareness about the risks of natural disasters and led to renewed action on disaster management.
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporated preventive actions.	• Community warning systems for floods. • Relocation of homeless people in less vulnerable areas.
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDRDN	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment:</u> Efforts are beginning.</p> <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u> The National Plan was updated in 1997. We are beginning to develop structured plans and policies.</p> <p>b) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u> Automated EWS in Rio Cobre since 1993. Several community EWS.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	Recommend that the IDNDR Secretariat support the functioning of the National IDNDR Committee.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	A public education programme has been implemented.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Liaison with the media in the formation of committees and production and dissemination of information.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	<p>Extensive work with the private sector, which has sponsored information materials and organized seminars on contingency plans in various companies.</p> <p>Regular meetings are held with government institutions to create awareness of disaster issues.</p>
2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	n/r
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The Office for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), regulated by an Act of 1993.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned.	Receives annual funds from the above Office.
3.3 Legal framework	There are various legal instruments in this area. The most important is the "The Town and Country Planning Act" and there is a National Building Code.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable measures and concepts into education curricula.	The Geology Department of the University of the West Indies offers a course in Environmental Geology that includes disaster reduction. The University of Technology has a disaster reduction module in one of its courses.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	Various committees in the country facilitate these exchanges.
3.6 Main partners and Interdisciplinary approach.	Governmental agencies in all sectors, various professionals, universities, NGOs and local community committees.

Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of disaster reduction components into all national development plans and environmental impact assessments. Continue to promote the Internet as a tool for the exchange of information and training. A percentage of all aid funds should be specifically assigned to disaster reduction.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A body similar to the IDNDR Secretariat is needed to continue coordinating the dissemination of information. Formal courses on disaster management available through distance learning.

Country: MEXICO		Report by: Manuel Díaz, Director General of Civil Defense	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1.1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
Total mentioned: 54.613	Earthquake measuring 7,5° affected Jalisco, Colima and Nayarit, 9 October 1995	51 dead 126 injured	Homes damaged or destroyed. Buildings and hotels damaged. One church destroyed.
<u>Trigger events</u>	Hurricane Opal, 28/Sept/1995	85.564 homeless	367 homes and 2 schools damaged
Earthquakes: 2	Hurricane Roxanne 10/Sept/1995	208.330 homeless	Homes and crops destroyed.
Hurricanes: 9	Hurricane Pauline, 6 October 1997	228 dead 165 missing 288.000 homeless	Homes destroyed
Forest fires: 54.602	Forest fires, annual average: 9.100		
1.2 Impact of disasters reported	Most of the data is related to destruction of homes and forest resources, mainly.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food, clothing, mattresses, cardboard sheets, etc. to assist stricken populations. Preventive evacuations and provision of shelter. 		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and technical development for monitoring, follow-up, forecasting and warning. Improve planning systems on the basis of sustainable development. Awareness and preparedness of civilian population, with emphasis at local level. Improve operational coordination with NGOs in providing emergency relief and support. Zonification of risks Development of human and technological resources, especially at municipal level. Role of the mass media in information activities. 		
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES, because it encourages the development and dissemination of technological advances and the exchange of knowledge and meetings that help raise social awareness. It also promotes the creation of appropriate legal instruments that facilitate preventive actions.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporated preventive actions.	Contingency Programmes adopted by all Civil Protection Units (7 are mentioned)		
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR			

2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk assessment</u>: The National Directorate has prepared a "National Hazards Atlas". A new version of this guide is planned.</p> <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bases for the establishment of SINAPROC" • "National Civil Protection Programme" 1996-2000. • State laws and municipal regulations <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems</u> :</p> <p>There are 4 main EWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Earthquake Service • National Meteorological Service • Early Warning System for Tidal Waves. • Earthquake Warning System
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the objectives of the IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen training of human resources. • Promote municipal organization • Update legal framework • Increase channels to relay information to organized groups and the general public. • Promote technological development in this area. • Establish non-governmental sources of funding (national and international).
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide distribution of printed materials • Social communication campaigns • Inclusion of basic civil defense information in educational texts. • National Safety and Emergency Programme for Schools
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are local civil defense units that act through tripartite councils (public, private and social sectors) • Civil Defense Systems in all federal bodies.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities into planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Civil Defense Prog. establishes mechanisms of participation and the responsibilities of its members. Efforts are being made to forge closer links with NGOs. There are information and training activities with other sectors.
2.6 Contributions made by international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of activities derived from the IDNDR is relatively small. Its main effect has been to motivate actions and provide information. • Mexico has participated in initiatives generated by IDNDR, such as maps of natural hazards in North America, edited by National Geographic.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The General Coordinator for Civil Protection is the body in charge of coordinating the planning and execution of actions carried out by the National Civil Protection System.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	The institutions that make up the System have their own resources for implementing prevention measures.
3.3 Legal framework	There is no Federal Civil Protection Law as yet (currently under review), but 24 of the existing 32 Federal Institutions have state legislation on Civil Protection. In addition, there are legal dispositions pertaining to some institutions that form part of the System (e.g. the Land Use Law). The larger municipalities also have local regulations.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma courses and training in specific aspects of disaster prevention and civil

and measures in education curricula.	<p>defense are offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher and intermediate education institutions offer training and information programmes.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	The subject of disaster prevention is comprehensively addressed in national institutions and government bodies. CENAPRED maintains different modalities of cooperation with similar organizations. There are cooperation agreements with several countries.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	
Item 4 : Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	n/r
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	

Country: PANAMA		Report by: Rafael Bonilla Head of Project Planning National Civil Defense System	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items		Information supplied	
1.1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years. Total mentioned: 5 <u>Trigger events</u> Earthquakes: 1 Floods: 5 (annual) Tsunamis: 1 Tornadoes: Frequent Landslides: Frequent Forest fires: Frequent Urban fires: Frequent	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
	Earthquake and tsunami in Bocas del Toro, 1991	ni.	
	Recurring floods	ni.	
	Frequent forest fires during the dry season	ni.	
	Frequent tornadoes	ni.	
	Urban fires	ni.	
1.2 Impact of disasters reported	Heavy material losses, damage to homes and agricultural and productive infrastructure, damage to environment.		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuous operational drills and equipping of System.• Training of more that 15.000 people per year.• Local Organization Programme.• Installment of Geographic Information System in disaster management system.• Emergency Response Plan implemented.• Application of "Desinventar" and SUMA systems. Implementation of an Electronic Hydro-meteorological Stations.• Strengthening of joint search and rescue operations.		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community training and local organization.• Institutional development and strengthening• Scientific research• Strategic planning		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Defense Education • Formulation of technical cooperation projects.
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES (no explanation given)
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Defense Project for Schools, 1996 • Project to Strengthen Local Structures for Disaster Mitigation (1997-99) • Project to Strengthen Disabled People's Centers, 1998. • Project "Vulnerability Reduction in Floods and Local Warning Systems", 1998
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk Assessment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of the study "Natural Disasters and Risk Zones in Panama: Conditions and prevention and mitigation options". • Publication of book "Civil Protection: A Manual for Disasters". • Progress in the identification of areas at risk from earthquakes, mapping of flood risk areas and studies on land use. • Numerous planning activities. <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <p>Emergency Operations Plans with logistical annex.</p> <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <p>SATs have been established in accordance with the magnitude and development of the disasters.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in fulfilling the objectives of IDNDR and recommendations to overcome these.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many national authorities, organizations and communities do not assume their responsibilities in relation to this problem. • No budget lines for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and emergency relief in institutions concerned with disasters. • Recommend: Strengthen planning, research and training in these institutions.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information campaigns through pamphlets, posters and fliers. • Extensive training programme in public and private sector institutions. • Civil Protection Project for Schools
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Consultative Council was established with broad participation within the National Commission for the Decade. • The National Committee for Civil Protection in Schools has been strengthened. • Inter-institutional liaison committees have been established in different areas.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster prevention activities into the planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three areas have been established within the System: Prevention and Mitigation, Operations and Assistance, Reconstruction and Development. Each one works in a multisectoral manner.
2.6 Contributions made by international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	Awareness of IDNDR activities at regional level and in each of the Latin American countries.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	

3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The National Civil Protection System, created by Law 22 of 1982. It consists of a General Directorate, four National Divisions and a Regional Office in each province.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	Special funds are assigned from the Office of the Presidency for disaster prevention and reduction activities. The System's budget assigns special funds for Emergencies.
3.3 Legal framework	The above mentioned Law 22.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	The Civil Protection Programme for Schools incorporates the theme of disasters in the curriculum, focusing on central issues.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster	There is an Inter-institutional Coordination that has set up several working groups.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach.	The Consultative Council is made up of 42 state and private sector institutions. NGOs have made a significant contribution to civil protection. The System has agreements with scientific and teaching institutions and coordinated with numerous international and technical cooperation agencies.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International coordination mechanisms: these are necessary to continue promoting the objectives of IDNDR during the next century. • Budget commitments: it is essential that technical cooperation agencies include in their annual plan guidelines for financial cooperation with civil defense institutions in the region. Political commitments • Creation of action networks: we need to form national information networks and consolidate our participation on the Internet. • Improve our technical resources in communications. • Strengthen the role of local authorities within organizations and communities. • Full participation in the achievement of the objectives and goals of the National Environmental Authority.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing prevention and mitigation measures. • Promote policies to reduce the effects of manmade and technological disasters. • Promote exchanges among researchers. • Promote policies for the protection of the ozone layer and to lessen the greenhouse effect. • Treat problems such as crime, abuse against women and children, drug-addiction and alcoholism as "social disasters". • Study the possibility of characterizing motor accidents as manmade disasters. • Redouble efforts to deal with adverse events.

Country: PARAGUAY		<u>Report by:</u> National Emergency Committee, Interior Ministry	
Item: 1. Experience and recent disasters			
Items		Information supplied	
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country in the past 5 years. The report receive constitutes a detailed analysis of the impact caused by the recurring phenomenon of El Niño in the country.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
	El Niño	49 dead 600,000 - 800,000 families directly or indirectly affected. 100,000 displaced.	7,670 homes damaged or destroyed. Destruction of 172 schools, 87 health centers, 1,790 meters of bridges and 584 kms. Of roads.
1.2 Impact of disasters reported	The impact of El Niño has accumulated over a long period. The floods caused by this phenomenon have affected a huge area, with major losses to agriculture, cattle, milk		

	production and road infrastructure. GDP dropped from 8.7% in 1981, to between - 1 and -3% in 1983.
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	With support from UNDAC, a National Contingency plan was prepared and efforts were made to train authorities and operations officials. A package of mitigation projects is being negotiated. Various countries and international organizations have provided resources for repairs and reconstruction.
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	
1.6 Successful measures or projects that include preventive actions.	
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR	
2.1 National achievements	<p>a) <u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <p>Compilation of hydrographic data and assessment of hazards and vulnerability zones. In 1998 an assessment was made of the hydro-meteorological situation, public health and human settlements in affected areas.</p> <p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <p>National Contingency Plan</p> <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u></p> <p>Only projects are mentioned</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the IDNDR objectives and recommendations to overcome these.	Budget constraints
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	The report mentions efforts to increase awareness among citizens, training for authorities, officials involved in operations and communities.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors organizations and the media.	These result from the composition of the CEN itself.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	
2.6 Contributions made by international information provided to the execution of the objectives of the IDNDR in your country.	Not mentioned
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3. 1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities	The National Emergency Committee (CNE) attached to the Interior Ministry. It is headed by a Council led by the Interior Minister and consisting of the Ministers of Public Health and Social Welfare, Finance, Public Works and Communications, Education, and heads of the Armed Forces and the National Police.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	
3.3 Legal framework	Law 153 of 1993
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	Numerous efforts have been made to train authorities and officials of public institutions, municipalities and NGOs.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster	

reduction.	
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	

Note: A document entitled "Impact of El Niño Phenomenon in Paraguay", sent by the National Emergency Committee, was used as a source to compile the above tables. For this reason, some details are still pending.

Country: URUGUAY		Report by: Ignacio M. Bonifacio Director of the Technical and Operational Directorate of the National Emergency System	
Item 1: Experience and recent disasters			
Items	Information supplied		
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.	Trigger event	Victims	Losses reported
<u>Trigger events:</u> Forest fires: several Oil spills: 1 Floods: 2 Water shortages: 1	Various forest fires, 1997		1.100 hectares of forest and plantations
	Oil spill caused by oil-tanker collision, 1997		
	Floods, 1997 and 1998	8,000 people evacuated	
	Water shortages affecting half of northern zone.		
1.2 Impact of reported disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of forest resources, marine fauna and beaches affected. Damage to agriculture and livestock production. Problems with water supply and electricity services. 		
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation and shelter of victims. Control of water-borne diseases Construction of homes in non-flood zones and provision of free services to beneficiaries. Distribution of food, clothing, medicines and essential household items. Credit facilities to affected producers Campaign to prevent forest fires Publication of long-term weather forecasts Government commission to study water shortages.		
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.	It is necessary to coordinate the different organizations and create general awareness of the hazards of toxic spills on the coast.		
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?	YES. It has contributed significantly to disaster reduction, especially through the dissemination of information. As part of the Decade, an Awareness Session on Natural Disasters and the Media was organized.		
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporated preventive actions.			
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR			
2.1 National achievements	a) <u>Risk assessment:</u> Risk studies conducted at national and local level.		

	<p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since its creation, the SNE has had structured emergency plans. • The banks have credit policies to help the agricultural sector cope with damaged caused by climatic upheavals. The possibility of establishing agricultural insurance is being considered. <p>c) <u>Access to early Warning Systems:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of its composition, the SNE has an efficient communications system. Since it is based in the Presidential Building, its members have access to the top decision-makers. • Departmental emergency committees facilitate early warning and rapid decisions.
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the IDNDR objectives and recommendations to overcome these.	Only financial constraints.
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	The legally competent authorities organize their own campaigns on different themes: fire prevention, prevention of epidemics and traffic accidents, environmental pollution, etc. There are good relations with the media.
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	The SNE is an inter-institutional body.
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities into planning.	The private sectors, through various donations, and the general public have collaborated in emergency situations.
2.6 Contributions made by the international information provided to the execution of the IDNDR objectives in your country.	The activities implemented within the context of IDNDR have effectively contributed to the achievement of our objectives, particularly the sharing of information and experiences of other countries.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	The National Emergency System (SNE), which forms part of the government structure.
3.2 Governmental budget assigned	The SNE does not have its own budget, but can request special funds. Its member organizations must commit resources in the event of a crisis situation.
3.3 Legal framework	The SNE's functions and organization are regulated by Executive Decree. In addition, there are "legal frameworks for the prevention of disasters and the reduction of their consequences."
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures into education curricula.	Programmes applicable to disaster reduction have been incorporated into academic courses and professional training, for example, architecture and engineering.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology to disaster reduction.	The SNE's own structure forms part of an international information and collaboration network.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary focus.	The bodies that make up the SNE. An interdisciplinary approach is facilitated by their collaboration.
Item 4: Future requirements	
4.1 Requirements for future success in the execution of disaster reduction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly the dissemination of information and implementation of sustainable development and environmental protection programmes. • Continue with the necessary meetings to consolidate links and enhance coordination between countries to promote prevention and make disaster prevention more effective.
4.2 Desirable measures for the 21 st century.	

Country: VENEZUELA		Report by: Angel Ramón Freytez Director of National Civil Defense	
Item: 1. Experience and recent disasters			
Items		Information supplied	
1. 1 Major disasters occurred in the country during the past 5 years.		Trigger event	Victims
Total mentioned: 5		Floods in 16 States, 1994	18.265 affected. 8.015 homeless
<u>Trigger events</u>		Floods in 18 States, 1995	39.340 affected. 10.107 homeless 5 dead
Earthquakes: 1		Floods in 22 States, 1996	149.709 affected 14.753 homeless 20 dead or missing.
Floods: 4		Earthquake in Cariaco. Sucre, 1997 (5.7°)	28 homeless 37 dead 65 injured
		Floods in 15 States, 1998	50.864 affected 6.651 homeless
1.2 Impact of disasters reported		Landslides, blocked roads, overflowing rivers, epidemics, damage to homes.	
1.3 Mitigation measures adopted.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of National Civil Defense Plan. Public and private institutions have been encouraged to join the System. • Organization of an integrated information and risk assessment system. • Creation of state and municipal information and documentation center. • Updating of resource inventories of organizations within the System. • Citizen participation plans. • Prevention and mitigation programmes. • Consolidation of national emergency network and support to regional directorates. 	
1.4 Preparedness and prevention activities that the country needs to reinforce.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and information campaigns • Evaluation of local response capacities. Collaboration among organizations within System • Civil Defense Education. • Emergency drills to validate contingency plans. 	
1.5 Did the proclamation of the IDNDR improve disaster reduction in your country?		YES, because an awareness of prevention has been developed.	
1.6 Successful measures or projects that incorporate preventive actions.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting and presentation of a National Civil Defense Plan. • Approval of Security and Defense legislation • Puerto Rico-Venezuela mutual aid convention • Consolidation of National Civil Defense System with financial support from UNDP. • Establishment of National Emergency Network SINDEC VENEZUELA Project to unify information systems. • Strengthen Municipal Civil Defense 	
Item 2: Progress made since the start of IDNDR			
2.1 National achievements		<u>a) Risk assessment:</u> Geological risk assessments (earthquakes, landslides) are conducted by the Venezuelan Foundation for Earthquake and Meteorological Research at national and local level. Some are published and others are codified.	

	<p>b) <u>Structured mitigation plans:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Civil Defense Plan • Permanent National Prevention Plan Earthquake Prevention Plan • Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of Floods. <p>c) <u>Access to Early Warning Systems:</u> Venezuela subscribes to the Satellite Information System. A Natural Disasters Warning and Prevention System is being established through seven specific projects. The Environment Ministry is in charge of monitoring the country's main river basins.</p>
2.2 Obstacles encountered by the country in the fulfillment of the IDNDR objectives and recommendations to overcome these.	n/r
2.3 Information and education campaigns (ways and means)	Public information and education programmes on prevention have been implemented. (The report includes a detailed list of materials and events organized).
2.4 Liaison with political sectors, organizations and the media.	Various means of coordination have been established (Detailed list is added)
2.5 Work with other sectors to incorporate disaster reduction activities in planning.	Mainly participation in meetings, conferences and seminars organized by different professional associations and specialist institutions.
2.6 Contributions made by international information to the execution of the IDNDR objectives in your country.	We have obtained information from many countries of the world on emergency management, which has had a very positive effect on preventive actions and other measures.
Item 3: Existing national organization and structure	
3.1 Governmental authority designated for disaster reduction activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Civil Defense System. Its authorities are: the President of the Republic, the Interior Minister, the National Director of Civil Defense, the National Civil Defense Commission, the State Governors, Mayors or top civilians authorities. • There is a National Directorate for the Coordination of Civil Defense, attached to the Interior Ministry, and a National Commission composed of 15 Government Ministers, representatives of relevant bodies and the private sector.
3.2 Government budget assigned	The budget assigned to the National Directorate is 1.174.899.620 bolívars.
3.3 Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The functions of the National Directorate are regulated by Section 5 of the Constitutional Law on Security and Defense (1997) and Partial Regulations N° 3 of the same law, as it relates to Civil Defense. • There are other specific legal instruments, such as the Constitutional Law on Land Use, the Environmental Law and the Forest Law on Soils and Water.
3.4 Incorporation of applicable concepts and measures in education curricula.	Programmes applicable to disaster reduction have been incorporated into the curricula of academic courses and professional training, particularly in the field of Medicine.
3.5 Sectors and institutions to strengthen the transfer and application of knowledge and technology in disaster reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of information is based on the National Commission and the use of the Internet. • Cooperation and mutual support agreements exist with various countries.
3.6 Main partners and interdisciplinary approach	The Ministries (the contributions and responsibilities of each one are listed), international organizations and the Red Cross. There is an interdisciplinary approach.

Experience and Recent Disasters

1.1 Please provide a list of major disasters your country has experienced during the past five (5) years.

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1.2. What was the impact of the above listed disasters?.....

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1.3. Which measures were taken to reduce the impact of the disaster?

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1.4. Do you believe there can be improvements in preparing for natural hazards in your country and in preventing negative impacts of such hazards? What sort of improvements?.....

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.....1.5 Do you believe the IDNDR helped your country to give greater attention to disaster reduction?

_____ Yes _____ No Explain

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1.6. Please provide an example(s) an achievement (s) incorporating successful preventive approaches which you consider a "success story".....

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Progress made, since the inception of IDNDR, in the field of disaster reduction as a component of development planning and risk management

2.1. Please provide a brief statement of national accomplishment and/or describe current activities related to the achievement of the IDNDR Programme Targets:

(a) Comprehensive national assessment of risks. If an assessment exists, is it published or codified?.....

.....

(b) Structured mitigation plans. Do documented comprehensive national disaster management plans exist?.....

.....

(c) Ready access to global, regional, national and local early warning systems. Can you provide examples of early warning practices and demonstrated successes?

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2.2. What obstacles do you face which prevent the accomplishment of the Decade targets? What are your recommendations to best overcome these obstacles?.....

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2.3. To what extent have you established and implemented educational and information programmes aimed at generating public awareness? What methods of information dissemination have been utilized?.....

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2.4. Have you liaised with policy makers and major groups, such as local authorities, NGOs, and the media, in order to ensure support for and effectiveness of disaster reduction programmes? Please describe your activities.....

.....

2.5. To what extent have you worked with other sectors in incorporating disaster reduction activities into their planning (i.e. insurance, banking, private sector and development agencies)?

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2.6. The Decade provides an international arena for information exchange as well as an extensive international network of partners, how have these inputs contributed to achieving the goals of the

Decade?.....

Structures in Place

3.1. Is there a designated government authority for disaster reduction activities? If yes, is this authority's commitment to prevention embodied in the government structure, priorities, budget and legislation?

.....

3.2. Have budget lines for disaster reduction and preventive activities been made available in your government's budget?

.....

3.3. Have legislative authorities (national, state or local level) established legal frameworks for the implementation of disaster mitigation measures (ie. land-use planning, water and forest management, building codes)?.....

.....

3.4. Have academic institutions and professional schools in disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, architecture, urban planning, business or public administration incorporated in their curricula applicable disaster-reduction concepts and measures? Please provide examples.

.....

3.5. Have networks been build in order to aid in the transfer and application of existing knowledge and technology, information dissemination and international collaboration? Please briefly describe.

.....

3.6. Who are your principal working partners? Do they represent an interdisciplinary approach to disaster reduction?.....

.....

4.1. Given your experience since the inception of the Decade and the new challenges of disasters in the 21st century, please provide comments as to what you believe are the necessary future requirements needed to successfully carry disaster reduction activities into the 21st century. Listed below are some criteria for your consideration:

- international mechanism for coordination
- budgetary commitments
- policy commitment
- network building
- information dissemination
- communication tools
- local authorities
- links to economic and social development programmes, environmental protection and sustainable development

4.2. What sort of national or international measures would you like to be put in place in the 21st century?