



**IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD:**
THE GROWING
ROLE OF REGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
IN DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT

The Brookings Institution –
London School of Economics
Project on Internal Displacement

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OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION*

Global demographic trends suggest that more people are living in areas vulnerable to sudden-onset natural disasters even as scientists predict that the frequency and intensity of these disasters are likely to increase as a result of the effects of climate change. These trends, coupled with recent high-profile mega-disasters, are raising global awareness of the need to build the capacity of national governments, civil society organizations and international actors to prevent, respond to and recover from natural disasters.

This study looks at the role of one group of important, but little-studied actors in disaster risk management (DRM): regional organizations. The term disaster risk management (DRM) is used to refer to all activities intended to reduce risk or prepare for disasters as well as those associated with emergency relief and reconstruction.

Although regional mechanisms are playing increasingly important roles in disasters, there has been remarkably little research on their role in disaster risk management. While they are mentioned in passing in many summaries of actors in disaster response and while there are some descriptive studies of specific regional bodies, there are few published studies about the relative strengths and weaknesses of regional bodies, much less comparisons of their range of activities or effectiveness in DRM.¹

This study seeks to begin to address that gap by providing some basic information about the work of more than 30 regional organizations involved in disaster risk management and by drawing some comparisons and generalizations about the work of thirteen of these organizations through the use of 17 indicators of effectiveness. This introductory section begins by placing the issue of regional organizations and DRM in the context of broader

* The authors wish to thank Mike Asplet for his contribution on compliance mechanisms of regional disaster management instruments and Chareen Stark and Maia Rotman for their help with editing the paper. They also express appreciation to those representatives of regional organizations who reviewed the draft study and to the following experts who were willing to be interviewed for this paper: Laura Boudreau (GFDRR), Henrike Brecht (World Bank), Al Dwyer, (OFDA), Pablo González (OAS), Justin Locke (World Bank); Asta Mackevicute (EU), Yordanka Mincheva (EU), Robert Reid (GFDRR); Col. Phillip Mead (Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance); George Topic, Lt General Chris Christianson and Admiral Tom Tron (National Defense University.)

¹ Exceptions include Patricia Weiss Fagen, *Natural Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean: national, regional and international interactions*. HPG Working Paper, October 2008, <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/3415.pdf>.

Also see: Ana-Cristina Costea and Tania Felicio, *Global and Regional Mechanisms of Disaster Risk Reduction and Relief: Review, Evaluation, Future Directions of Integration*, UNU-CRIS Occasional Papers, 0-2005/12, <http://www.cris.unu.edu/fileadmin/workingpapers/20051021102742.O-2005-12.pdf> for analysis of the engagement of regional organizations in disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Why a focus on regions?

Since the 1950s when European regional integration seemed to offer prospects not only for the region's post-war recovery, but also for lasting peace and security between former enemies, international relations scholars have posited that regional cooperation can be a force for peace, security and economic progress. There have been contending theories about the most effective means of building regional identities, with some arguing the need for political commitment to a broad vision of regional identity. Other scholars, known as functionalists, maintained that cooperation between countries on specific practical issues can lead to cooperation on broader issues, leading to decreasing likelihood of conflict between the countries and eventually to the development of regional identities. For example, even governments of neighboring countries which have fought wars against each other may be able to cooperate in a regional mechanism to manage a common river resource; this cooperation may then lead to cooperation on other issues, which leads in turn to a reduction in possibilities of future conflict. In other words, functional regional cooperation on specific issues can contribute to peace and security. Some scholars argue that regionalism is both the successor to the nation-state and an alternative to globalization. Rather than a future world order characterized by global suprastructures, there is a rival image of an emerging 'world of regions.'²

And indeed, regional organizations are growing in number, expanding in scope, and becoming more active in many areas – from free trade agreements (which now number in the hundreds) to cooperative initiatives on resource management to counter-terrorism measures.³ As Louise Fawcett summarizes, “the regional momentum has proved unstoppable, constantly extending into new and diverse domains.”⁴ In terms of global governance, she argues that “what is emerging is a de facto, albeit often ad hoc, division of labour, sometimes consensual, sometimes contested, where regional actors take on increasingly important roles...”⁵

In today's globalizing world, regions can be seen as serving as an effective bridge between the international and national systems. As Haver and Foley point out, “a regional entity, working from cultural and linguistic commonalities, can provide a forum for building trust and familiarity that is not possible on a global scale. For these reasons they can often be more effective in establishing common policies and resolving issues of contention.”⁶

² For a discussion of these theories, see Andrew Heywood, *Global Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, pp. 480-486.

³ See for example, Kati Suominen, “Globalizing Regionalism: Harnessing Regional Organizations to Meet Global Threats,” UNU-CRIS Occasional Papers, 2005/11. <http://www.cris.unu.edu/UNU-CRIS-Working-Papers.19.0.html>, pp. 8-11.

⁴ Louise Fawcett, “Exploring regional domains: a comparative history of regionalism,” *International Affairs* 80, 3 (2004) p. 431

⁵ Fawcett, “Exploring regional domains”, op. cit., p. 431.

⁶ Katherine Haver and Conor Foley, *International and Regional Initiatives*, Background paper 2 prepared for the International Dialogue on Strengthening Partnership in Disaster Response, October 2011. <http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/93533/Background%20paper%202.pdf>

One particular area where regional organizations seem to be playing a leading role is in the relationship between migration and climate change. Regional processes to deal with labor migration have been increasing in importance over the past decade or so, leading one international official to observe that migration governance has “witnessed a marked shift to the regional level.”⁷ With growing recognition of the potential effects of climate change, regional organizations are becoming aware that they have particular roles to play in policy discussions.⁸ Regions are more likely to face similar environmental phenomena and hazards and if (or when) people are forced to leave their countries because of the effects of climate change, they are likely to turn first to nearby countries. Writing about possible ways of addressing cross-border disaster-induced displacement, Kälin and Schrepfer argue that “regional and subregional organizations are often more coherent in terms of interests of member states and thus more likely to reach consensus on issues.”⁹

In terms of disaster response, regional mechanisms may not only be able to respond more quickly than international ones, but their intervention may also be politically more acceptable, as evidenced by the key role played by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in responding to Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Regional organizations have developed innovative and effective forms of regional collaboration that could serve as models for other regions. For example, in Central America, the Central American Integration System’s Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC) organizes regional training initiatives, while in the Caribbean there are joint protocols for the use of military assets for a clearly-defined period after a disaster strikes. In the Pacific, UN agencies have organized a regional protection cluster (rather than a national one) and developed a rotation system to ensure a rapid international response to disasters in the region.

Humanitarian organizations tend to stress the role that regional organizations can play in immediate response to disasters while development actors tend to see the importance of incorporating disaster risk reduction measures into long-term development plans. Other researchers make the case that natural disasters are security threats and argue that:

⁷ Karoline Popp, “Regional Policy Perspectives,” in Frank Laczko and Etienne Piquet (eds.) *People on the move in a changing climate: Comparing the Impact of Environmental Change on Migration in Different Regions of the World*, IOM & Springer (forthcoming).

⁸ Interestingly, regional processes set up to deal with labor migration have been reluctant to address the potential impact of climate change on regional migration patterns. Rather, it seems that regional political organizations – such as ASEAN, the OAS, the African Union, and the Pacific Islands Forum have been more active in considering these issues.

⁹ Walter Kälin and Nina Schrepfer, *Protecting People Crossing Borders in the Context of Climate Change Normative Gaps and Possible Approaches*, UNHCR Legal and Protection Policy Research Series, PPLA/2012/01, February 2012. Similarly Roger Zetter also calls for the development of regional mechanisms to govern cross-border movements resulting from climate change, see Roger Zetter, *Protecting environmentally displaced people Developing the capacity of legal and normative frameworks*, University of Oxford, Refugee Studies Center, February 2011, <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/workshop-conference-research-reports/Zetter-%20EnvDispRep%2015022011.pdf>

[r]egional organizations are particularly well-equipped to carry out today's threat management functions. They have solid information and expertise on their regions, inherently tailor their responses to the regional realities, and can get on the ground fast. ROs [regional organizations] are also innately compelled to continue their engagement and monitoring of the scene when the other actors depart. And having reshaped their policies and plans over the years to meet newly emerging challenges, ROs have a record of responsiveness and institutional flexibility.¹⁰

While this study examines the role of regional organizations in the specific area of disaster risk management, it is important to keep in mind that these emerging forms of regional cooperation could have larger implications. It may be that countries that can work together to reduce the risks of natural hazards will find other areas for cooperation. Thus we hope that this research is of interest not only to those working in the field of disaster risk management but also to those who see regional cooperation as an important part of global governance and as a force for peace, security and development.

Regional Actors in DRM: A plethora of initiatives

Regional organizations come in many different forms and were established to serve different purposes. Some were intended to coordinate political positions on broad issues of peace and security, others to enhance free trade, and still others were intended to enhance cooperation on very specific scientific or logistical issues. As one recent overview concluded:

By and large, the rhetoric of many regional organizations is ahead of the reality. Actors in many regions have called attention to the importance of strengthening national capacities for disaster response, and to developing relationships between international and national disaster-management officials, but there remain significant gaps between 'what is established in principle and what happens in practice.'¹¹

In many regions, disaster risk management involves a wide array of actors from national disaster management organizations and ministries, regional organizations, national and regional universities, NGOs and civil society organizations, international organizations, UN agencies, regional and international development banks, military forces, donor governments and the private sector. Moreover, there are sometime overlaps and inconsistencies between regional mechanisms intended to work on disaster risk reduction, the effects of climate change, weather and meteorological systems, and longer-term recovery efforts.

¹⁰ Katie Sumonin, op. cit., p. 7.

¹¹ See for example, Katherine Haver and Conor Foley, *International and Regional Initiatives*, Background paper 2 prepared for the International Dialogue on Strengthening Partnership in Disaster Response, October 2011. <http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/93533/Background%20paper%202.pdf>. Quotation is from Paul Harvey, *The role of national governments in international humanitarian response*, ALNAP meeting paper, 26th Annual Meeting, 16-17 November 2010 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. p. 17

In many cases, international bodies, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)¹², the Global Facility for Disaster Risk and Reconstruction (GFDRR) and the World Bank include regional processes which also overlap with independent regional mechanisms. The relationship between these international initiatives and regional mechanisms is an interesting and dynamic one. In at least some cases, regional mechanisms have been strengthened by international action. For example, “[t]he UN’s International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction launched in 1990 propelled ROs [regional organizations] to take on a more pro-active role in humanitarian emergency management.”¹³ International initiatives can foster regional organizational involvement with disaster risk management. Indeed one of the tasks of regional offices of international humanitarian actors is to support the engagement of regional organizations.

There are also many regional bodies which were not established primarily as DRM mechanisms, but which play important roles in disaster response, such as the Pan-American Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank. Following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, most regional organizations in the region – and most regional offices of international organizations – were involved in responding to the disaster, including some which had no previous experience with disaster response.

Cooperation between military forces in responding to disasters takes different forms. For example, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has developed very clear protocols for the use of military assets in responding to disasters. In other cases, military forces within a region cooperate on a less formal basis. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has developed guidance on how military forces within the region will respond to disasters in member countries. The ASEAN Defense Ministers Plus has a working group on humanitarian and disaster response but has not developed formal protocols for the ways that military forces will be used to respond to disasters in the region. Bilateral and multilateral relations between military forces in a given region are often strengthened by collaborative efforts to prepare for disasters; for example, in Asia and the Pacific there are dozens of training exercises every year on disaster response. In some cases, international military assistance is used to support regional initiatives, such as training centers.

The particular role of regional organizations in this complex network of actors and relationships is sometimes difficult for the outside researcher to discern. Thus, our focus on regional organizations necessarily leaves out some important regional initiatives that are not directly related to the work of the regional organization. In this respect, this study is not a comprehensive picture of all DRM activities taking place in a particular region, but rather a subset of a far larger network involved in disaster-related work.

¹² The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and is mandated by the UN General Assembly to ensure its implementation.

¹³ Sumonin, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

Moreover, the global architecture of regional organizations is very complex. Some regions, such as the Americas and Africa, have a regional ‘big-tent’ organization that includes most countries of the continent as members (Organization of American States, African Union) and at the same time have many sub-regional organizations in which some of the continent’s members participate. Other regions – such as Asia – have many subregional organizations but no continent-wide regional organization. In Europe there are several regional organizations working on DRM issues.

Analysis of regional mechanisms presents other difficulties, beginning with the fact that regional and subregional organizations have overlapping memberships. For example, in the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum has 16 members, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) has 21, and the Pacific Regional Environmental Program has 24 (including the United States and France). In the Caribbean, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has 15 members while CDEMA (the region’s disaster response mechanism) has 17 members. There seem to be particular overlaps between membership in regional organizations in East Asia and the Pacific and between North Africa and the Middle East (with, for example, Egypt being a member of both the League of Arab States and African Union.) The situation is further complicated by the fact that many international organizations – from the World Bank to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – have regional offices and programs, often covering a different assortment of countries than those included in regional organizations.

In many cases, regional mechanisms were established or strengthened after a particularly severe natural disaster, such as CEPREDENAC after Hurricane Mitch in Central America in 1998. In some cases, such as ASEAN, regional engagement in natural disasters was a high-profile initiative after a particular disaster – Cyclone Nargis in 2008 – and then seemed to take a less prominent role. However, there does not seem to be a direct correlation between the frequency of disasters and the role of regional organizations. Thus almost 90 percent of those affected by disasters globally for the past decade have been from Asia and yet Asia’s regional mechanisms for responding to disasters are relatively weak, perhaps reflecting the political tensions within the region. In some regions, such as Europe and the Caribbean, regional actors seem to be quite active in both disaster response and in mitigation efforts. In other regions, international actors such as UN OCHA and other UN humanitarian agencies have played the leading role in disaster response while regional bodies have been more active in mitigation efforts. This may be the result of funding patterns. In Latin America, for example, Fagen found that disaster prevention activities are ‘almost invariably’ funded by international donors, often through regional bodies.¹⁴ This may have the effect of strengthening regional bodies, but may also contribute to a disconnect between prevention and response work.

¹⁴ Fagen, *op cit.*, p. 22.

It is usually easier to mobilize support for disaster response than for efforts to reduce the risk of natural hazards. At the national level, all governments need to be seen as capable of mobilizing an effective response when disaster strikes; otherwise there can be serious political consequences as evidenced by the 1976 Nicaraguan earthquake and more recently by Hurricane Katrina in the United States. But investments in long-term efforts to reduce future risks of disasters rarely yield an immediate payoff to political leaders faced with making difficult choices in budget allocations. At the international and regional levels, large-scale, high profile disasters tend to lead to generous contributions for the response effort (although there is always a gap between immediate pledges of support and funds which are actually received.) It is more difficult to raise funds for the long-term efforts to prevent the worst effects of a disaster.

Brief notes on terminology and methodology

Regional and Subregional Organizations

A distinction is usually made in the literature on regionalism between regional and subregional organizations. For example, in Africa, the African Union (AU) would be seen as a regional organization, while the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) would be classified as a subregional organization. As this distinction is not clear-cut in all global regions, this study refers to all organizations as regional organizations unless the distinction is clear.

Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management

There has been a trend to move away from a rigid dichotomy between activities intended to reduce risk/prepare for disasters and those associated with emergency relief and reconstruction. Thus the term “disaster risk management (DRM)” is used as the overarching subject of this study. The Global Facility for Disaster Risk and Reconstruction (GFDRR) defines DRM as:

Processes for designing, implementing, and evaluating strategies, policies, and measures to improve the understanding of disaster risk, foster risk reduction and transfer, and promote continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery practices, with the explicit purpose of increasing human security, wellbeing, quality of life, and sustainable development.¹⁵

However, as the dichotomy between pre-disaster and post-disaster activities is still prevalent in international institutions, international agreements and frameworks, government institutions and regional institutions, the term disaster risk reduction (DRR) is used as a catch-all phrase for pre-disaster activities while the term disaster management (DM) refers

¹⁵ GFDRR, World Bank, *The Sendai Report, Managing Disaster Risks for a Resilient Future*, 2012, p. 55.

to all post-disaster activities. While epistemologically this is not the cleanest of distinctions, it was found to be helpful for the analytical framework.

Methodology

Comparisons of regional organizations' work in DRM are difficult given the great variety of regional organizations in terms of history, purpose, size, capacity, etc. comparisons are difficult. Thus, in order to facilitate comparisons, a set of 17 indicators was developed to serve as a baseline for comparisons.

These indicators are:

Does the regional organization have?

1. regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM
2. a regional DRR framework/convention
3. a regional DM framework/convention
4. a specific organization for DRM
5. a regional/sub-regional disaster management center
6. a regional disaster relief fund
7. a regional disaster insurance scheme
8. a way of providing regional funding for DRR projects
9. a means to provide humanitarian assistance
10. a regional rapid response mechanism
11. regional technical cooperation (warning systems)
12. joint disaster management exercises/simulations
13. regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues
14. research on DRM issues
15. regional military protocols for disaster assistance
16. a regional web portal on DRM
17. a regional IDRL treaty/guidelines¹⁶

The research began with an examination of more than 30 regional or sub-regional organizations¹⁷ which were then narrowed down to 13 for more detailed analysis. These 13 were a representative sample of organizations from all regions of the world who were actively engaged in DRM. For many of the organizations not covered in this analysis, activities on DRM were either very limited or information on the scope of those activities were not avail-

¹⁶ For a more detailed description of categories please see Annex III.

¹⁷ For our research on all 32 organizations please see Annex II of this paper.

able. However, basic information collected on the other 19 organizations (including any available information on the indicators) are included in the annex to this report.

The 13 organizations for which we analyzed the indicators are:

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CAN	Andean Community of Nations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CoE	Council of Europe
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
LAS	League of Arab States
OAS	Organization of American States
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SICA	Central American Integration System
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Initially, each of the organizations were assessed along the 17 indicators on the basis of desk research using as much publicly available information as possible from regional organizations' treaties and frameworks, websites, reports by international organizations and UN agencies as well as research papers written about specific regional organizations. This initial desk research was then supplemented by interviews with selected staff from regional organizations and experts from international organizations working with regional organizations. The summary description of each of the organizations was then shared with representatives of the organizations themselves and their comments incorporated in this version.

The authors are acutely aware of the shortcomings of this methodology. While every effort was made to be as accurate and as prudent as possible, some of these assessments are undoubtedly based on outdated or incomplete information. Furthermore, responses were not received from all regional organizations.

In spite of these limitations, it is hoped that this paper will be useful in providing basic information about the important contributions that regional organizations make in the field of DRM and by stimulating discussion of what the role and purpose of regional organizations in this field could and should be.

COMPARISONS OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: APPLYING THE INDICATORS

Indicator 1 Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM

The first indicator examined was whether regional organizations have (or have had) intergovernmental meetings on DRM. As intergovernmental meetings, in most regional organizations, create policy and negotiate treaties, this seems to be a minimum requirement if a regional organization is to be considered as doing work on DRM issues. The findings seem to support this assumption as almost all regional organizations in this inquiry at some point in the last ten years have had at least one intergovernmental meeting dealing with DRM issues and indeed most organizations have regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM. This seems to indicate that regional organizations see some engagement on DRM as part of a broader regional agenda. A qualifying factor within this category is the frequency of intergovernmental meetings. While some organizations have regularly scheduled meetings on DRM issues, in other organizations intergovernmental meetings are more irregular or even one-time events. The frequency of intergovernmental meetings is a clear indication of the importance that member countries give the topic of DRM; it is therefore not surprising that organizations that meet regularly have generally developed broader cooperation on DRM than those which have only had one-off meetings.

Indicator 2 A regional DRR framework/convention

Indicator 3 A regional DM framework/convention

The second and third indicators examine the legal and policy base for DRM work by regional organizations by considering in particular whether the organizations have developed a regional framework on disaster risk reduction and/or disaster management. Two different approaches were evident. While a majority of organizations have developed a comprehensive framework which encompasses the entirety of DRM activities,¹⁸ other organizations have developed separate frameworks for DRR and DM. Regional differences on these indicators were also observed with African organizations tending to use a multi-framework approach, while organizations in the Americas have clearly favored the development of comprehensive frameworks.

¹⁸ However, it should be noted that more in-depth analysis might show that some of the nominally comprehensive frameworks are strongly biased towards either the DM or DRR side.

While most regional organizations had developed a framework that included risk reduction and prevention before the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005, this has intensified in recent years with the formation of regional platforms and networks on DRR. In many cases, regional organizations have played leading roles in the creation of these platforms and networks. Advocacy and technical support through UNISDR and GFDRR have also led to the translation of some of the regional frameworks into action plans, such as the *Madang Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015* and the *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Strategy* of the (AU).

The table below provides an overview of the timeframe for the development of DRR and DM frameworks by regional organizations:

Regional Organization ¹⁹	DRR Framework	DM Framework
AFRICA		
AU	2004	in development
ECOWAS	2007	2012 (humanitarian policy)
SADC	2005-6	2001
AMERICAS		
OAS		2003
SICA/CEPRENAC		1999
CARICOM/CDEMA		2001
CAN/CAPRADE		2004
ASIA		
LAS	2010	1990
SAARC		2007
ASEAN		2005
EUROPE		
EU	2009	2001
Council of Europe		1987
PACIFIC		
Regional Pacific Framework		2005

The Form and Compliance Mechanisms of Regional Disaster Management Instruments

By far the dominant approach to regional disaster management is the use of strategic frameworks or policy documents rather than legally-binding agreements. In all regions under consideration, there are only three treaties that specifically deal with disaster management as their primary focus: ASEAN's *Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency*

¹⁹ For a full list of acronyms please see Annex I.

Response, SAARC's *Agreement on Rapid Response to Regional Disasters* and CARICOM's *Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) Agreement* (which continues to inform the work of CDERA's successor, CDEMA). Notwithstanding these important exceptions, the majority of DM instruments at the regional level are non-binding in nature.

Generally speaking, the preferred approach can thus be characterized as one of encouraging cooperation and implementation, rather than attaching legal consequences to non-compliance. This reflects the desired flexibility and reassessment that these documents permit; indeed, many of the plans of action adopted throughout the world have been frequently amended or updated.

Two main mechanisms exist in these informal arrangements that serve to promote compliance and implementation of regional strategies or programs.

The first is through indirect compliance with regional constituent treaties. The bulk of DM frameworks are negotiated and adopted under the umbrella of a regional organization, which is constituted by a legally binding instrument. Africa, for example, has used the AU as the main convening body for the negotiation of its Regional Strategy, Programme of Action and Guidelines. The authority of the Regional Strategy derives from the AU's Constitutive Act empowering the Executive Council to take decisions on "disaster response and relief." By taking decisions under that rubric, these informal documents are tied to a concrete legal instrument.

With some minor deviations, all regions share this model of using a parent treaty to underpin a DRR and DM framework. The *Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Response* (EAPAD), for example, has been adopted under the auspices of the Andean Community and its Cartagena Agreement. Likewise, the Pacific DRR and DM Framework for Action, falls under the Pacific Community and the Canberra Agreement. However, disaster management is often not specifically mentioned in the constitutive instrument treaty itself, rather incorporated into wider categories. The OAS for instance, has linked its disaster management strategy to the concept of development, locating its disaster management functions within the secretariat for Integral Development, an important component of the OAS Charter. The *Treaty of Lisbon*, relating to the establishment of the European Union (EU), casts disaster management as "civil protection", and specifically provides for "co-operation between Member States in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing and protecting against natural or man-made disasters."

A second compliance mechanism in non-treaty arrangements is the establishment of bodies to monitor compliance or implementation, or to coordinate and support the framework more generally. In Europe, such compliance is more or less explicit. Enforceability of the underlying obligation in the Lisbon Treaty is robust: the European Court of Justice is specifically mandated to ensure that EU treaties are observed by EU member states. This is a feature unique to the EU. Yet, the lack of a formal judicial mechanism does not preclude indirect enforcement through monitoring and support. The ECOWAS Directorate on Humanitarian and Social Affairs for example, has the power to request state contributions to

the ECOWAS Emergency Response Team. The Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of the South African Development Community (SADC) may, when fully resourced, assist with the implementation of its DRR strategic plan. Other regions have analogous bodies.

These bodies are, in all cases, incorporated into existing institutional arrangements established by treaties. By being so located, these bodies derive their functional powers from the relevant constituent instrument. Europe again serves as an exception: the EC's Committee of Permanent Correspondents for example was established through a Resolution of the Council, which is automatically binding on member states.

Treaty-based frameworks

The three treaties mentioned above (ASEAN, SAARC and CARICOM) address substantively similar issues as the more widely adopted strategic plans and programs, such as preparedness, emergency response, and technical cooperation. Likewise, the treaties do not have compliance provisions as such. Indeed, emergency assistance from other states is still framed in terms of "requests", and where mandatory language is used, obligations are generally broad.

Like non-treaty approaches, each of the three treaties also establishes or mandates a body to assist in coordination or monitoring. Again, these organizations have no formal enforcement or compliance powers, but rather a focus on coordination and support. The CDERA Agreement for instance, creates a quasi-autonomous Coordinating Unit, whereas the SAARC Agreement relies on the existing SAARC Disaster Management Center to support Rapid Response. Allocating these powers through a treaty as opposed to a framework implicitly increases their authority; however, modification of the institutional framework to address new monitoring or compliance needs may be more restrictive.

The core difference between the two approaches is that a treaty approach can invoke the possibility of state responsibility, complete with compensation and reparations. The specific obligations enumerated in the treaty can be used as grounds for these complaints. However, disaster management is obviously intended to be more cooperative than confrontational. Seen through the form of the arrangements, the absence of compliance provisions and the tendency toward informal approaches underscores this. In a very remote sense, the treaty-based approaches are 'more' binding approaches to cooperation but the compliance provisions remain weak.

Indicator 4 A specific organization for DRM

Indicator 5 A regional/sub-regional disaster management center

The fourth and fifth indicators are whether the regional organizations have a specific organization for DRM issues and whether they have a regional disaster management center. While it is not always easy to tell whether these indicators have been achieved, there is

clear evidence that the formation of a distinct entity, whether it is called an agency, center, mechanism or division clearly expresses the regional organization's involvement with DRM, while the development of an operational disaster management center is a good indicator of the technical capacity of a regional organization. The trend to have distinctive organizations dealing with DRM seems to be especially pronounced in Latin America and the Caribbean where the CARICOM, SICA and the Andean Community all have formed specific entities to deal with DRM issues: the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC), and the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE). Central America and the Caribbean were among the first regions tasking regional organizations with work on DRM. CEPREDENAC was founded in 1987 and the predecessor of CDEMA was founded in 1991 – at least five to ten years before most other regions started to seriously look at DRM on a regional level. This is likely due to the prevalence of disasters in these regions and the need to supplement limited national capacities with regional expertise. In the case of Central America, the region's long history with regional organization may also be a factor. The Central American Common Market was formed in 1960 by the governments of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua (with Costa Rica joining in 1962) and spawned many regional cooperative initiatives. Although the 1969 war between El Salvador and Honduras and the political turmoil in the region in the 1980s weakened regional cooperation, the region had experience in working together which likely made it easier for governments to work together in DRM.

The advantage of having a specialized entity for DRM is that it is usually better staffed and has a higher profile and visibility within a wider organization than when there is no specialized entity. Such a mechanism also brings together the technical expertise on DRM issues which in other cases might be dispersed between different departments. In other regions, DRM activities are also centralized in secretariats or departments but are often bundled with different issues. For example, in ECOWAS, DRM is part of the Directorate on Humanitarian and Social Affairs while in the EU, the Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM) is part of the Commission's European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO).²⁰

Several regional organizations also have disaster management centers. Some of the centers have operational capacity for disaster management, such as the EU's Monitoring and Information Center or the recently-opened ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance. These disaster management centers are tasked with collecting data, monitoring disaster situations and facilitating the process of assistance. In other instances, such as the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, the regional disaster management centers are research and training institutions. Overall, less than half of the 14 regional organizations analyzed here seem to have a specific organization for DRM and between a quarter and a third have disaster management centers.

²⁰ As DG Echo deals with humanitarian assistance in and outside the EU and given the scope of the EU's CPM we have classified it as having a specialized institution.

While the organizational structure of DRM activities is important, a major factor determining the effectiveness of the organizations dealing with DRM is the budget and staffing for those activities. However, the researchers were not able to obtain detailed funding and staffing data for a sufficient number of organizations to draw comparisons and therefore this has not been included as an indicator. Available data seem to indicate that DRM activities are funded through a combination of membership contributions and donor funds with donor contributions apparently responsible for a large percentage of funding for DRM work in most regional organizations. For example, in its 2010 budget, about 12 percent of SOPAC's budget was planned to come from membership contributions with the entirety of its projects on disaster reduction funded by donors (almost 50 percent of SOPAC's overall budget).²¹ ASEAN member countries are obliged to pay \$30,000 per year in support of the AHA center with the rest of the center's budget provided by donors. One of the better-funded regional initiatives is the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism which has a budget of about Euro 25 million (US\$31.8 million) coming from EU membership fees. Staffing levels also vary widely. While the EU's CPM has a staff of about 60 persons and SOPAC has more than 20 persons working on risk reduction projects, SADC's Disaster Risk Unit had only 1 employee in 2010.

Indicator 6 A regional disaster-relief fund

Indicator 7 A regional disaster insurance scheme

Indicator 8 A way of providing regional funding for DRR projects

Indicators six, seven and eight are: the existence of emergency relief funds, the provision of funding for DRR projects by regional organizations and the existence of regional disaster insurance schemes managed by the regional organization.

Several regional organizations have disaster relief funds, in particular the AU, the EU and the OAS. This research seems to indicate that relief funds were an early expression of solidarity among members of regional organizations but have more recently been overtaken by a stronger interest in regional initiatives for disaster insurance and risk-sharing. The AU Special Emergency Assistance Fund which had dispersed \$40 million for risk reduction and relief activities since 1984 was down to \$2.8 million by 2010 and pleading for contributions. Similarly, the Inter-American Emergency Relief Aid Fund of the OAS has only disbursed relatively minor amounts in recent years. The EU's Solidarity Fund on the other hand, disbursed Euro 2.15 billion for major disasters in Europe between its founding in 2002 and 2009, which is significantly above the amount provided by any other regional organization to any of its member states.²² Other organizations, while not officially having relief funds,

²¹ SOPAC, Final Annual Report Summary of the SOPAC Secretariat, 2010, p. 80.

²² European Commission, European Union Solidarity Fund, Annual report 2009, 23. March 2011, COM(2011) 136 final, p. 11.

do at times provide financial assistance to affected countries. ECOWAS, for example, in November 2012 provided almost \$400,000 to the Nigerian government for flood relief.²³

In terms of funding for DRR projects, the criteria were defined rather narrowly, including only those regional organizations which provided direct financial assistance for DRR projects. Only two organizations met this criterion: the EU through both the CPM and the EU's Structural Funds and the AU through the Special Emergency Assistance Fund discussed above. In the EU the CPM provides funding for multi-member prevention programs while the more significant EU structural funds had a budget of several billion Euros for DRM projects. That regional organizations are not strong donors for DRR projects is not surprising as much of the funding for most regional organizations comes from donor governments and international development actors. Rather than funding DRR activities, regional organizations often provide technical assistance to member governments on DRR issues and work on joint projects with member governments.

More dynamic developments are certainly to be seen in the area of risk insurance and risk finance. After the Caribbean pioneered the concept with the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF²⁴) in 2007, other regions have begun to explore risk insurance and finance options. In 2012 five Pacific countries began a risk-pooling project overseen by GFDRR and SOPAC, while ASEAN organized a risk finance and insurance forum in 2011.²⁵ The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) provides emergency liquidity for countries hit by hurricanes or earthquakes and while the amounts are not huge, the more than \$7.7 million Haiti received after its 2010 earthquake were the only funds the Haitian government received directly in the initial weeks after the disaster. For Pacific countries, pooling their insurance policies, allows them to access global reinsurance markets for the first time. Risk insurance schemes are not only important in terms of financial planning and providing help for damages in case of disasters, but the process of developing risk finance options both in the Caribbean and Pacific was necessarily coupled with disaster risk and financial risk assessments which provide important data points which can be used for other DRM purposes by participating countries. Other regional organizations are also following suit, for example the AU in June 2012 decided to establish an African Risk Capacity Secretariat with the aim to develop a risk-insurance scheme for African nations²⁶ and the Indian Ocean Commission has also been exploring options regarding risk insurance.²⁷

²³ African Quarters, "ECOWAS presents US\$382,000 to flood victims in Nigeria," 14 November 2012, <http://africanquarters.com/index.php/nigeria-news/2534-ecowas-presents-us-382-000-to-flood-victims-in-nigeria.html>

²⁴ See CCRIF, "About us," accessed 8 November 2012, <http://www.ccrif.org/content/about-us>

²⁵ The World Bank and GFDRR, ASEAN, *Advancing Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance in ASEAN Member States: Framework and Options for Implementation*, April 2012.

²⁶ UNISDR, "UNISDR champion applauds African Union for decision on disaster insurance," 5 August 2012, <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/27926>

²⁷ Interview with Laura Bourdreau, GFDRR Risk Finance, 2 November 2012.

- Indicator 9** **A means to provide humanitarian assistance**
- Indicator 10** **A regional rapid response mechanism**
- Indicator 11** **Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)**
- Indicator 12** **Joint disaster management exercises/simulations**
- Indicator 13** **Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues**
- Indicator 14** **Research on DRM issues**

This group of indicators looks at some of the activities and assistance provided by regional organizations to their member states, which goes to the core of the question of the role played by regional organizations in the wider DRM field. This indicator first assessed whether and how regional organizations provide humanitarian assistance and whether they have rapid response mechanisms. Then cooperation on a more technical level was considered in terms of whether regional organizations cooperate on provision of technical information, especially in regards to early warning systems; whether they organize regional disaster management exercises; and whether they provide capacity building for disaster management professionals from member states or other technical training for national and regional experts working on DRM issues. The last indicator in this series looks at the question of whether regional organizations are engaged in research on DRM or climate change adaptation issues.

This research finds that regional organizations play an important role in fostering technical cooperation on DRM issues. In many regions, especially in the developing world, national capacities on technical disaster management are limited and this seems to be an area where regional actors add considerable value through pooling resources and human resource development. Ten of the thirteen organizations reviewed were doing at least some work to foster technical cooperation and at least seven were engaged in capacity building and technical training. As is the case with other indicators, cooperation takes a variety of forms. In many cases, regional organizations support the development of specialized technical centers and units in the region. In some cases, such as the SADC Climate Services Center or the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, the technical centers are directly affiliated to regional organizations. In others, such as the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) or EUR-OPA's (Council of Europe) network of over 20 Euro-Mediterranean Centers, the institutions are based on cooperation between regional organizations and an array of other actors, such as international agencies, universities, and specific host governments.²⁸ When not carried out via specialized institutions, technical cooperation often takes place at the project level. For example, the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS),

²⁸ Detailed footnotes provided in the specific organization's description in Annex 1 of the document.

which is funded by the EU, brought together expertise from a variety of actors, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNESCO and SOPAC.²⁹

The area of capacity building and research is closely related to the issue of technical cooperation and the research found that about half of the organizations analyzed are active in one of these two areas. For some organizations, such as CDEMA, training is an important part of the disaster management framework while SAARC's core institution, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, seems to be mainly focused on research and training activities.³⁰ In the Pacific, several organizations (SOPAC, OCHA, IFRC, etc.) have formed the Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) which provides a forum for agencies involved in the design and delivery of emergency management training.³¹ In many cases, regional organizations cooperate with international actors in research and training and serve as important conveners for regional training activities and/or research projects. As many regional organizations engage in collecting information, they are also important resource centers not only for governments in the region but also for practitioners and academic researchers.

A small number of regional organizations (such as the EU and ECOWAS) also organize regional disaster management exercises and simulations. For example, disaster focal points from ECOWAS member states convened in Abuja in June 2011 to simulate a regional emergency and forge a joint response.³² The EU Commission financially supports civil protection exercises at the level of the EU which are multi-country thematic exercises, organized by member states.³³

In terms of humanitarian assistance and rapid response mechanisms, there seems to be a trend in some regions toward developing more technical expertise and rapid response capacities (while other regional organizations seem to have decided to focus more on the DRR side of the DRM equation). But it is important to underscore that this is an ongoing process and in many organizations the exact balance between these functions is not clear. While only two indicators on disaster response were included in this survey, they lead to the following observations.

- Regional organizations which have invested in disaster response capacity often take on the roles of: a) monitoring and relaying disaster information and b) coordinating regional response efforts. Probably the best example in this regard is the well-devel-

²⁹ Pacific Hycos, "Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS) Web Portal, home page," accessed 15 November 2012, <http://www.pacific-hycos.org/>

³⁰ SAARC Disaster Management Center, "Training Programmes," accessed 31 August 2012, <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/training.asp>

³¹ SOPAC, "Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, Regional Synthesis Progress Report, Report for the period 2007 – 2009, June 2009, p. 20.

³² IRIN, "Disasters: ECOWAS stepping up response," 13 July 2011, <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/93222/DISASTERS-ECOWAS-stepping-up-response>

³³ See: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/prevention_preparedness/preparedness_en.htm

oped system of the EU's CPM. When a disaster occurs, EU member states communicate their assistance needs to the CPM. The CPM first links up the affected state with capacities that are available in other member states and in a further step it facilitates the logistical and legal deployment of those assets to the disaster area. The ASEAN's AHA Centre seems to aim at providing a similar type of services to ASEAN member states. In the Caribbean, CDEMA, if requested by a member state is responsible for soliciting and coordinating assistance from governments, organizations and individuals both within and outside the region.

- In addition, several organizations have developed rapid response capacities which can be deployed in disaster situations to a) assist in coordinating assistance and/or b) provide damage and needs assessments. The EU's CPM for example can dispatch a small team of experts on site to co-ordinate EU civil protection assistance. ECOWAS has created an Emergency Response Team Unit and ASEAN is developing an Emergency Rapid Assessment Team as part as its *Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response* (AADMER) framework.
- Some regional organizations go further and play active roles in pooling and training rapid response capacity from member states. The EU for example coordinates the creation of disaster modules, which are thematic clusters of experts and equipment (for example, search and rescue teams, high capacity pumping advanced medical posts, etc.) which are pre-committed for disaster relief. These modules use standardized equipment, train together and can be dispatched both within and outside the EU within a short period of time (max. 12 hours).³⁴ When the national capacities of affected states are overwhelmed, CDEMA can activate the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), which comprises representatives from the military forces within CARICOM. The CDRU's main responsibility is logistical support and receipt and dispatch of relief goods.
- Large scale humanitarian assistance seems still seems to lie in the realm of other actors' responsibility, including national disaster management agencies, military forces, UN agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the international NGO system etc. Aside from the EU, which is a major donor for humanitarian assistance and also a provider of assistance, most regional organizations seem to have neither the mandate, will nor capacity to engage in large-scale humanitarian operations.

Indicator 15 Regional military protocols for disaster assistance

Another indicator focused on the development of regional military protocols/treaties/ conventions on disaster assistance which spell out the protocols for military assistance in the event of a major disaster and/or develop rules for civil-military cooperation. The main international

³⁴ European Union, Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, "Modules," updated 26 July 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster_response/modules_en.htm

instrument on this issue is the Guidelines on the use of military and civil defense assets in disaster relief updated in November 2006 ("The Oslo guidelines")³⁵ and the *Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies*.³⁶ Several regional organizations have incorporated the guidelines into their policies. The EU for example was a member of the review commission that drafted the MCDA guidelines and the European Commission published a communication that the EU should adhere to and promote the guidelines. In the years after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the EU also developed a clear framework for military assistance in disaster relief and established a Civil-Military Cell with the EU Military Staff (EUMS) to support the coordination of civil and military operations.³⁷ ASEAN's AADMER from 2005 also specifically discussed the role of the military within the regional DRM framework.³⁸ The agreement calls for the preparation of standard operating procedures to guide the actions of member states and the AHA center in ... (b) the utilization of military and civilian personnel, transportation and communication equipment, facilities, goods and services, and the facilitation of their trans-boundary movement; and (c) the coordination of joint disaster relief and emergency response operations.³⁹ In Africa, the 2002 *Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union* tasks the Security Council with supporting and facilitating humanitarian action in situations of armed conflicts or major natural disasters. It is also part of the mandate of the African Standby Force to support efforts to address major natural disasters. The Standby Force is due to become active in 2015.⁴⁰

Indicator 16 A regional web portal on DRM

One trend in recent years has been for regional organizations to develop web-portals on DRM issues. Some of the portals directly relay real-time information about hazards and disasters such as ASEAN's AHA Centre's website. Others, such as *Pacific Disaster Net*⁴¹ are comprehensive information platforms which serve as tools to support national action planning and decision making and are also rich in resources from reports to risk management plans. In the Caribbean, the *Caribbean Virtual Disaster Library* provides resource materials for disaster management. The Regional Disaster Information Center in Latin America and the Caribbean (CRID), which is a joint project by CEPREDENAC, the

³⁵ OCHA, *Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief ("Oslo Guidelines")*, November 2007, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/47da87822.html>

³⁶ OCHA, *Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defense Assets to Support United Nation Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies*, January 2006, available at: <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/coordination-tools/UN-CMCoord/publications#>

³⁷ Jean-Luc Marret, "Complex Emergencies: Disasters, Civil-Military Relations, and Transatlantic Cooperation," in: Julia Steets and Daniel S. Hamilton (eds.), *Humanitarian Assistance, Improving U.S.-European Cooperation, Center for Transatlantic Relations*, The Johns Hopkins University/Global Public Policy Institute, 2009, p. 346f.

³⁸ ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, Vientiane, 26 July 2005.

³⁹ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *The Effectiveness of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response*, 2008, p. 30f., <http://www.scribd.com/doc/65111189/Effectiveness-of-Foreign-Military-Assets-in-Natural-Disasters-Response>

⁴⁰ African Union, *Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union*, 2002.

⁴¹ Pacific Disaster Net is a collaboration of SOPAC, UNDP, OCHA, IFRC and ISDR.

Pan American Health Organization – Regional Office of the World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO), IFRC, UNISDR and the Costa Rica National Risk Prevention and Emergency Commission, also provides a broad online resource center on DRM issues. The EU's Common Emergency and Information System (CECIS) meanwhile is a web-based alert and notification application with the intention of facilitating emergency communication among participating states.

Indicator 17 A regional IDRL treaty/guidelines

The final indicator examined whether regional organizations had developed International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) guidelines or treaties. In 2001, the IFRC began its International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Program to investigate how legal frameworks can contribute to improving the delivery of disaster relief. On 30 November 2007, the states parties to the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement unanimously adopted the *Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance* (the "IDRL Guidelines") at the 30th International Conference of the movement. In 2008, the UN General Assembly adopted three resolutions (Res. 63/139, 63/141, and 63/137) encouraging states to make use of them.⁴² The guidelines deal with four major areas: emergency planning, emergency management and co-ordination on site, logistics/transport and legal and financial issues and refer to IFRC's IDRL guidelines. While the IFRC has mainly encouraged states to incorporate IDRL in their disaster laws and policies rather than directed its efforts at regional bodies and while the issue has not gained strong regional traction, two regional organizations have activities on IDRL. Already in 1991 the OAS adopted the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance⁴³ while only five member states have ratified the convention, the treaty came into force with the second ratification. A more recent approach was pioneered by the EU through developing guidelines for host nation support, which aim at assisting affected states to receive international assistance in the most effective and efficient manner.⁴⁴

One important asset of regional organizations in DRM which is not captured by any of these indicators is the convening power of regional organizations. Their knowledge of the ways member governments work and their staff's contacts with the relevant ministries and agencies make them important facilitators of communication between international actors, donor governments and national governments. It is often easier to convene conferences, workshops and trainings on the regional level and regional organizations are therefore helpful in organizing and co-organizing meetings that do not always relate to the core agenda of

⁴² International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "IDRL Guidelines", accessed 15 November 2012, <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/idrl/idrl-guidelines/>

⁴³ <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-54.html>

⁴⁴ European Commission, "Commission Staff Working Document EU Host Nation Support Guidelines, SWD(2012) 169 final, Brussels, 1 June 2012.

COMPARISONS OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
APPLYING THE INDICATORS

regional organizations but foster broader issues in DRM and other fields. The exchange fostered by regional organizations can also have positive effects on peer learning among member states as best practices can be shared and knowledge can be transferred.

Indicator	Regional Organization ⁴⁵													TOTAL
	AU	ECOWAS	SADC	OAS	SICA	CARICOM	CAN	LAS	SAARC	ASEAN	EU	COE	SPC	
1. Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	13
2. Regional DRR framework/convention	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	13
3. Regional DM framework/convention		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	13
4. Specific organization for DRM					■	■	■				■		■	5
5. Regional/sub-regional disaster management center					■				■	■	■			4
6. Regional disaster-relief fund	■			■							■			3
7. Regional disaster insurance scheme						■							■	2
8. Regional funding for DRR projects	■										■			2
9. Provides Humanitarian Assistance											■			1
10. Regional rapid response mechanism	■	■				■				■	■			5
11. Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)		■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	10
12. Joint disaster management exercises/simulations		■				■					■			3
13. Technical training on DRM issues/capacity building		■			■	■			■		■	■	■	7
14. Research on DRM/CCA issues				■		■			■		■	■	■	6
15. Regional military protocols for disaster assistance						■				■	■			3
16. Regional web portal on DRM					■	■	■			■	■		■	6
17. Regional IDRL treaty/guidelines				■							■			2
TOTAL	5	7	4	7	8	12	6	3	6	8	16	6	9	

⁴⁵ See Annex 1 for more detailed descriptions of the 13 regional organizations to which these indicators were applied as well as shorter descriptions of an additional 19 organizations.

CONCLUSION

This research has shown that in almost all regions of the world, regional organizations are playing increasingly active roles disaster risk management. While each region has unique characteristics that shape the nature and activities of its regional bodies, it seems as if they all (or almost all) see value in working together to prevent disasters and to a lesser extent to respond to disasters occurring in the region. The role of regional cooperation in longer-term recovery seems to be much more limited although this may due to the fact that multilateral development banks – all of whom play important roles in both long-term reconstruction and increasingly in disaster risk reduction – were not included in this analysis.

As noted in the introduction, international organizations seem to play an important role in building regional capacity and in supporting the development of strong regional organizations. International humanitarian agencies have developed an impressive operational capacity in disaster response and international development agencies are leading the way in advocating for disaster risk reduction. An area which was not explored in this phase of the research is the particular role played by regional bodies vis-à-vis national governments. National authorities are, of course, responsible for protecting their people from the effects of natural hazards. By and large, they are doing an increasingly good job in exercising this responsibility. Although the number of reported natural disasters has almost doubled since the 1980s and economic costs have increased dramatically, the number of casualties has not increased to the same degree.⁴⁶ Moreover, although most of the world's attention focuses on the mega-disasters, such as the 2010 Haitian earthquake or the 2011 Japanese earthquake/tsunami/nuclear accident, the fact is that over 90 percent of natural disasters have less than 50 casualties.⁴⁷ National governments may be expected to respond to these small-scale disasters without needing significant assistance from international or regional bodies. Some governments of disaster-prone countries, such as Indonesia, India, Chile and the Philippines have developed impressive national capacities to mitigate the risks of disasters and to respond appropriately when they do occur. For these governments, regional organizations offer an opportunity to share expertise, to develop joint mechanisms in areas such as early warning systems, to pool resources to carry out research or to acquire technical expertise which remains beyond the scope of a single country. Regional organizations also add value in cases where disasters have regional consequences – whether

⁴⁶ Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, www.emdat.be - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium", see also: IPCC, "IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007, Climate Change 2007: Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 1.3.8.4 Economic and Insurance Losses," 2007, http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/ch1s1-3-8-4.html

⁴⁷ Malcolm Lucard, Iolanda Jaquemet, Benoit Carpentier, 'Out of sight, out of mind', *Red Cross Red Crescent Magazine*, issue 2, 2011, p. 20, http://www.redcross.int/EN/mag/magazine2011_2/18-23.html

through warning systems for tsunamis or sharing seismic data or monitoring volcanic activity. However, for governments with far less capacity, such as Myanmar, Laos, Haiti, Bolivia, and Liberia, regional organizations may have an important role to play in responding to disasters, particularly in smaller-scale disasters that do not trigger major media coverage and international funding.

In the EU, the principle of subsidiarity has proven to be a useful concept. This is the principle that tasks and responsibilities should be performed at the most immediate or local level. In other words, a state or provincial government should perform only those tasks which a municipality is unable to carry out and a national government should not carry out actions that a state government is capable of doing. Applied to regional organizations, this suggests that regional bodies should focus their efforts on tasks that national authorities are not able to assume. This principle also suggests that a regional organization will play different roles vis-à-vis its members depending on their capacities and needs. Thus ASEAN played a more crucial role in responding to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008 than it did in responding to the Thai floods in 2011. In this respect, one of the important roles which regional bodies can play is in addressing the needs of its weaker members and working to build their capacities for future response.

This desk study suggests many areas for future inquiry, including the gap between statements of intentions and regional agreements and what is actually taking place on the ground. More work is needed on the interaction between national governments, regional bodies and international actors in order to determine the particular value added by these different layers of DRM. More analysis is needed of the way in which national and regional politics affects the work of regional bodies. The relationship between military and civilian regional mechanisms and relationships is an area where more in-depth analysis would be useful. Finally it would be helpful to survey member states of regional organizations about their expectations of regional bodies: what do they need? What do they expect? What are they willing to contribute? What are they willing to give up?

The next planned phase of the research will look at the roles of regional mechanisms in two regions: the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. Although their histories, cultures, and traditions are worlds apart, they share certain common experiences as small island states as well as common vulnerabilities to natural disasters. It is hoped that comparative analysis of these two regions will be useful not only to regional bodies in those two parts of the world, but also to other regional initiatives.

ANNEX I: ACRONYMS

AADMER	Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
AfDB	African Development Bank
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management
ALLO	Arab League Liaison Office
AMCDRR	Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
AMESD	Africa Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development
APC-MADRO	Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Forum
APRDM	ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management
ARC	African Risk Capacity
ARC	AGRHYMET Regional Centre
ASC	ASEAN Standing Committee
BSEC	Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CAF	Andean Development Corporation
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment
CAN	Andean Community
CAPRADE	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARIFTA	Caribbean Free Trade Association
CCA	Climate change adaptation
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCOP / SOPAC	Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CDMCHC	Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonisation Council



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE GROWING ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

CDRU	Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit
CEDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel-Saharan States
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes States
CEPRENAC	Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America
CIIFEN	International Research Center on El Niño
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CMI	Caribbean Meteorological Institute
CNE	Costa Rica National Risk Prevention and Emergency Commission
COHI	Caribbean Operational Hydrological Institute
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPM	European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism
CPPS	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
CRID	Regional Disaster Information Center
CRMI	Caribbean Risk Management Initiative
CRSTRA	Scientific and Technical Research Centre on Arid Regions
CSC	Climate Services Centre
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe
DesInventar	Disaster Inventory System
DG ECHO	EU's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department
DM	Disaster Management
DMC	SADC Drought Monitoring Centre
DMRS	ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System
DPPI SEE	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe DRR
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRP	Disaster Reduction Programme
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRC	Disaster Risk Reduction Centre
EAC	East African Community
EACCCP	East African Community Climate Change Policy
EADRCC	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre
EADRU	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Unit
EAPAD	Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Response
EC	European Commission
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECHO	European Commission's European Community Humanitarian Office
ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



ECRP	European Centre for Risk Prevention
EERT	ECOWAS Emergency Response Team
EFDRR	European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
EPWG	APEC's Emergency Preparedness Working Group
ERAT	Emergency Rapid Assessment Team
ERC	European Commission's Emergency Response Centre
EUR-OPA	European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GFMC	Global Fire Monitoring Center
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System
IACNDR	Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction
IASP	Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response
ICHAD	International Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Department
ICPAC	The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDMC	International Disaster Management Course
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IDRL	International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
INDM	Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
ISDR/UN	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
JNAPS	Joint National Action Plans
MAP	Multinational Andean Project
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MVN	Melanesian Volcanological Network
NAP	DRM National Action Plan
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOAA	United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE GROWING ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

OAS/DSD	OAS Department of Sustainable Development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODECA	Organization of Central American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OFDA	USAID / Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OIP	Ocean and Islands Programme
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAHO-WHO	Pan American Health Organization
PBA	Programme Based Approach
PCCR	Pacific Islands Climate Change Roundtable
PCRAFI	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PDRMPN	Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network
PENTAG	Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group
PERSGA	Regional Organization for Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PREANDINO	Andean Risk Prevention and Mitigation Program
PREDECAN	Support for Disaster Prevention in the Andean Community
PTA	Preferential Trade Area
RBM	Results Based Management
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
REHU	Specialized Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance
REHU-MERCOSUR	Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RISK-MACC	Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change
ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment SADC
SADC DMC	SADC Drought Monitoring Centre in Gaborone
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SDMC	SAARC Disaster Management Centre
SEAF	Special Emergency Assistance Fund
SEECF	South East European Cooperation Process
SIAPAD	Andean Information System for Disaster Prevention and Relief



SICA	Central American Integration System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIPO	Strategic Plan for the Organ
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPEC	South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
TAF	The Asia Foundation
TCG	Tripartite Core Group
TFEP	APEC's Task Force for Emergency Preparedness
UDEAC	Central African Customs and Economic Union
UN	United Nations
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UWI	University of the West Indies
VL	Virtual Library
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT – OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

*Information in the following sections was collected from publicly-available information and in several cases supplemented by interviews and questionnaires. The authors would appreciate comments and additions from the regional organizations, member governments or people knowledgeable about the way the organizations function in practice. Although bringing together basic information on these organizations is a necessary first step for understanding their roles, capacities and limitations, much more information about how the organizations work in practice is needed.*⁴⁸

Each of the following regional sections includes a brief summary of important statistics about the region, followed by a summary of the activities of the principal regional (and sub-regional) organizations in the region. We have marked the thirteen organizations which we have analyzed in the main part of our study with an asterisk.

Regional organizations and mechanisms included in this research:

1. Africa

- African Union (AU)*
- Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- East African Community (EAC)
- The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*
- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)*

⁴⁸ Comments, additions, and suggestions may be sent to dpetz@brookings.edu or to idp@brookings.edu.

2. Americas

- Organization of American States (OAS)*
- Central American Integration System (SICA)*
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*
- Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
- Andean Community of Nations (CAN)*
- Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

3. Asia

- Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)
- Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
- The League of Arab States (LAS)*
- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)*
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*
- Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC)

4. Europe

- Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)
- Council of Europe (COE)*
- European Union (EU)*
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)

5. Pacific

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)*
- Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
- Pacific Island Forum (PIF)

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –
OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. AFRICA

Countries: 54⁴⁹

Population⁵⁰: 1,022 m
(14.82 percent of global)

Average HDI⁵¹: 0.463 (Sub-Saharan)

Total GDP⁵²: \$3.2 trillion

Average GDP/Person: \$3,107

No. of disaster affected 2000-2011⁵³:
222,447,116

No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011⁵⁴: 16,449

Percent of global affected: 7.9

Percent of global fatalities: 1.48

Percent of region's population affected 2000-2011: 21.77

African Union (AU)*

Founded: 9 July 2002

Seat: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

No. Members: 54

Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe (Madagascar, Mali, Guinea-Bissau currently suspended)

Website: www.au.int

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional disaster-relief fund	■	
Regional funding for DRR projects	■	
Regional disaster insurance scheme	■	Under development
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	Under development
Regional rapid response mechanism	■	

⁴⁹ UN member states.

⁵⁰ UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revisions, File 1: Total population (both sexes combined) by major area, region and country, annually for 1950-2100 (thousands), POP/DB/WPP/Rev.2010/02/F01, April 2011.

⁵¹ UNDP, Human Development Index (HDI), 2011, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>

⁵² Most numbers 2011 est., 53 UN member states, numbers for South Sudan not available, source: CIA World Factbook, "GDP Total (PPP)", accessed 28 August 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2001rank.html>

⁵³ Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, www.emdat.be - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium."

⁵⁴ Does not include most fatalities for slow-onset disasters such as droughts and famines.

The African Union (AU) was established on 9 July 2002 as the successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), based on the 1999 Sirte Declaration. The vision of the AU is that of: “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in (the) global arena.”⁵⁵ This includes: economic integration across the continent to enable participation in the global economy; the promotion of peace, security, and stability on the continent; and the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights. The AU Executive Council is charged with taking decisions on policies in areas of common interest to the member states, including “environmental protection, humanitarian action and disaster response and relief.”⁵⁶

In terms of DRM, the AU’s first focus was on reactive emergency relief and response issues under the Special Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF). The Fund is managed by a Policy Committee of Ambassadors and administered by the African Development Bank (AfDB). SEAF has supported a wide range of interventions aimed at the promotion of local livelihoods and protection from disasters and other emergencies, including early warning, small-scale irrigation, food storage, reforestation, post-emergency reintegration, dam construction and maintenance, emergency preparedness and post-disaster reconstruction more than 30 AU states.⁵⁷ In July 2011 the fund approved \$300,000 for drought victims in Somalia to be managed by UNHCR. In 2011, the AU also noted that the financial situation of the SEAF was continuously deteriorating due to a lack of voluntary contributions.⁵⁸ The fund, which had supported 82 projects with more than \$40 million since 1984, was down to \$2.8 million in May 2010.⁵⁹

The 2002 Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union tasks the Security Council to support and facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflicts or major natural disasters. It is also part of the mandate of the African Standby Force to support efforts to address the effects of major natural disasters.⁶⁰

The AU’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the AU in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) developed the African Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was approved by the AU in 2004.

⁵⁵ African Union, “AU in a Nutshell,” accessed 16 August 2012, www.au.int/en/about/nutshell

⁵⁶ African Union, *Constitutive Act of the African Union*, adopted in 2000 at the Lomé Summit (Togo), entered into force in 2001, www.au.int/en/about/constitutive_act

⁵⁷ African Union, UNISDR, *Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region*, January 2008, p 18.f.

⁵⁸ NEPAD, “The AU special emergency assistance fund for drought and famine in Africa approved emergency relief assistance to Somalia,” accessed 16 August 2012, www.nepad.org/foodsecurity/news/2409/au-special-emergency-assistance-fund-drought-and-famine-africa-approved-emerg

⁵⁹ African Union, “The special emergency assistance fund for drought and famine in Africa, appeal to member states,” accessed 17 October 2012, www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&ved=0CDAQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.africa-union.org%2Froot%2Fau%2FConferences%2F2010%2FOctober%2FPA%2FAppeal%2520to%2520Member%2520States%2520for%2520Voluntray%2520Contribution.doc&ei=3RB_UKbvPIra8ATJ7oDYCg&usq=AFQjCNHdNo5skAjjlpywVPhnfpHLS59y6g

⁶⁰ African Union, *Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union*, 2002.

The Strategy's objectives are to:

- (1) Increase political commitment to disaster risk reduction;
- (2) Improve identification and assessment of disaster risks;
- (3) Enhance knowledge management for disaster risk reduction;
- (4) Increase public awareness of disaster risk reduction;
- (5) Improve governance of disaster risk reduction institutions; and
- (6) Integrate disaster risk reduction in emergency response management.⁶¹

In 2004, the AU and the above-mentioned partners also produced the Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment in Development, which provide guidance on governance and institutional aspects of DRR and on mainstreaming DRR into development processes and sectors.⁶² In 2005, the AU adopted the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Strategy, which focuses on activities underlining the strategic directions of the six objectives set by the Africa Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and is in line with the five thematic priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). It is to be implemented at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels over a five-year period by national governments with the support of the international development community.⁶³

In 2007, the AU moved forward on several measures relating to climate change and adaptation, land degradation management, and DRR. A decision and declaration adopted in January 2007 commits member states to develop and implement climate change and adaptation measures to support sustainable development, including through a Climate Change for Development Strategy and Action Plan that the AU also adopted.⁶⁴

The AU also adopted a decision endorsing the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, which aims to control land degradation, slow the advance of the Sahara Desert, and thereby contribute to poverty reduction.⁶⁵ A further development in 2007 was the establishment, through the facilitation of UNISDR Africa, of a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder forum on disaster risk reduction—the Africa Regional Platform for DRR.⁶⁶

⁶¹ AU, NEPAD, UNISDR, Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, July 2004, p. 1.

⁶² AU, NEPAD, UNISDR et al. Guidelines for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Assessment in Development, June 2004, www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/4040, see also Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region, January 2008, p 18.f.

⁶³ Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region, January 2008, p 18.f.

⁶⁴ African Union, Decisions and Declarations, Assembly of the African Union Eight Ordinary Session, 29-30 January 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

⁶⁵ Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region, 2008, op. cit.

⁶⁶ African Union Commission, UNISDR, Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006 - 2015) and Declaration of the 2nd African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2010, 2011.

The 2008 report on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region noted that the region made significant progress in DRR, especially in terms of policies, institutions, and organizations. But the report also notes that: “The major constraint is translating this momentum into sustainable programs and investments that can reduce long-term vulnerabilities. This is due to a number of factors, but especially lack of capacity to mainstream disaster risk reduction. Most disaster management institutions also face funding constraints which limit their effectiveness. Most countries have not established norms for allocating budgets for risk mitigation as part of ongoing development planning.”⁶⁷

The AU adopted in January 2011 an Extended Programme of Action to support the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015).⁶⁸ In this action plan regional economic communities were empowered to provide effective coordination and strategic guidance to their member states to align their sub-regional strategies and programs with the Africa Regional Strategy and Programme of Action.⁶⁹

Aside from working on DRR issues, the AU is currently developing a Humanitarian Framework Policy for Africa. Through this Framework, the AU plans to provide strategic guidance to all humanitarian actors on the continent for more effective action in the areas of disaster preparedness, capacity building and resource mobilization, and seek to further facilitate coordination of humanitarian action. The AU incorporated suggestions regarding the implementation of International Federation of the Red Cross’ (IFRC)’s IDRL guidelines into the draft policy.⁷⁰

The adoption of the AU Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) marked a milestone in preventing and addressing the negative impacts of natural disasters in Africa. The Convention is a legally binding instrument imposing on states the obligation to protect and assist IDPs and explicitly protects the rights of persons who are internally displaced by natural disasters by noting that state parties should “devise early warning systems, in the context of the continental early warning system, in areas of potential displacement, establish and implement disaster risk reduction strategies, emergency and disaster preparedness and management measures and, where necessary, provide immediate protection and assistance to internally displaced persons”⁷¹.

⁶⁷ Commission of the African Union, ISDR, “Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region,” January 2008, p. i.

⁶⁸ African Union, *Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015)*, Nairobi, 16 April 2010.

⁶⁹ Regional Economic Communities (REC’s) include: Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), East Africa Community (EAC), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

⁷⁰ IFRC, *Disasters in Africa: The case for legal preparedness*, 2011, p. 6.

⁷¹ African Union, African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 2009, Article 4, <http://www.unhcr.org/4ae9bede9.html>. See also: Andrew Solomon, “An African Solution to Internal Displacement: AU Leaders Agree to Landmark Convention,” Brookings Institution, 23 October 2009, www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/1023_african_union_solomon.aspx

By early November 2012, 37 AU member states had signed the Convention. On 6 November, it received the last of 15 ratification deposits required for entry into force, which happened as stipulated in the convention 30 days later, on 6 December 2012.⁷²

The Commission of the African Union will host the project management unit of the Africa Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD). AMESD is a joint project of ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, IGAD and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), with financial support from the European Development Fund. The objectives of AMESD are to ensure that Africa is better equipped to receive and apply meteorological information and has the capacity to process data and maintain satellite receiving stations in the region. AMESD will contribute to DRR in Africa as well as enhance climate change adaptation.⁷³

The AU, in June 2012, decided to establish an African Risk Capacity Secretariat—a specialized agency of the AU which will assist the development of a legal agreement on a pooled risk insurance facility for the effects of droughts, floods, earthquakes and cyclones. The agency will set up rules to guide the team of experts from the African Risk Capacity (ARC) project, which will use satellite weather surveillance technology and software developed by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to trigger the rapid disbursement of funds within two to four weeks after drought is detected.⁷⁴

Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)		
Founded: 1988	Seat: Tripoli, Libya	Members #: 28
Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauretania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia		
Website: http://www.uneca.org/cen-sad/aboutcensad.htm#organigram		

The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) is a regional organization that brings together 28 African countries with the goal of establishing a free-trade zone. It was set up in 1998 in Tripoli, Libya, at the end of a summit that brought together the presidents of Libya, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Chad. CEN-SAD has signed partnership agreements with numerous regional and international organizations to collaborate on political, cultural, economic, and social issues. Two of its main areas of work are security and environmental management, which include its flagship project to create the Great Green Wall of trees across the

⁷² African Union, African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), 2009. The convention is stipulated to come into force 30 days after the 15th ratification is deposited with the AU. See also: Beth Ferris, “A Great Day for Africa! A Great Day for IDPs!” Brookings Institution, *UpFront Blog*, 14 November 2012, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2012/11/14-african-union-ferris>

⁷³ AU Commission, UNISDR, Report on State of DRR in Sub-Saharan Africa Region, January 2008, p. 35.

⁷⁴ UNISDR, “UNISDR champion applauds African Union for decision on disaster insurance,” 5 August 2012, www.unisdr.org/archive/27926

Sahel.⁷⁵ The recent Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia and the conflict in Libya seem to have hampered the organizations' work in these areas.

Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)		
Founded: 1973	Seat: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Members #: 9
Member States: Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauretania, Niger, Senegal		
Website: http://www.cilss.bf/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues	■	
Research on DRM/CCA issues	■	

Founded in 1973 at a time of widespread drought in the region, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) was created to invest in research on food security and to combat the effects of drought and desertification in establishing a new ecological balance in the Sahel region.

CILSS supports ECOWAS policies on food security, national action plans to combat desertification and domestic energy strategies. It also houses the Technical Secretariat on Regional Food Security in West Africa. CILSS runs the Centre Regional de Formation et d'Application en Agrométéorologie et Hydrologie Opérationnelle AGRHYMET in Niamey (ARC) which is a specialized institution providing technical services to member states such as agro-meteorology, crop protection, resource management, food safety, etc. CILSS has been monitoring food security in West Africa for over 30 years and collects data on agricultural production, rainfall, and hydrology in the region. It also regularly conducts in-depth studies on topics related to food security, natural resource management, and the linkages between population and development.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Calestous Juma, *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa*, 2011, http://books.google.com/books?id=6l5HziiKimgC&pg=PA221&lpg=PA221&dq=which+include+its+flagship+project+to+create+the+Great+Green+Wall&source=bl&ots=nFom544slH&sig=HPKfHDIq12z5fi2lpGvcOWnlMDE&sa=X&ei=NPwzUN9RrJ_pAZXkgIAH&ved=0CBwQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=which%20include%20its%20flagship%20project%20to%20create%20the%20Great%20Green%20Wall&f=false, p. 221.

⁷⁶ CILSS, "Mandat du CILSS," accessed 30 August 2012, <http://www.cilss.bf/spip.php?rubrique41>

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OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)		
Founded: 1994	Seat: Lusaka, Zambia	Members #: 19
Member States: Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe		
Website: http://about.comesa.int/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Sub-regional funding for DRR projects		In cooperation with EAC and SADC

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was formed in 1994, replacing the former Preferential Trade Area (PTA) in existence since 1981 with the aim of creating a fully-integrated, internationally-competitive, regional economic community with high standards of living for its entire people with the goal of merging into an African Economic Community.⁷⁷ COMESA created a free trade area in 2000 for products originating within COMESA with its original nine member states (this number increased to eleven by 2004). While the main focus of COMESA is on regional economic integration, COMESA has a Climate Initiative which runs as an integrated part of the AU's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program's (CAADP) first pillar, the purpose of which is to extend the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems, focusing on soil fertility, the moisture-holding capacity of soils, and an extension of the area under (small-scale) irrigation in order to sustainably increase output.⁷⁸

East African Community (EAC)		
Founded: 1999	Seat: Arusha, Tanzania	Members #: 5
Member States: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi		
Website: http://www.eac.int/about-eac.html		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Sub-regional funding for DRR projects		In cooperation with EAC and SADC

The East African Community (EAC) was established by the 1999 Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (which entered into force in 2000) with the mission to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value-added production, trade and investments. The EAC countries established a customs union

⁷⁷ COMESA, "Vision and Mission," accessed 21 August 2012, http://about.comesa.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=114

⁷⁸ COMESA, "COMESA Climate Initiative," accessed 21 August 2012, http://programmes.comesa.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=80&Itemid=110

in 2005 and a common market in 2010 with the goal to enter into a monetary union and ultimately to become the Political Federation of the East African States.⁷⁹

In terms of DRM, the 4th EAC Development Strategy emphasizes the implementation of the HFA and the Africa Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The EAC also developed a Climate Change Strategy and a Climate Change Master Plan to implement the Policy (EACCCP, 2011). In July 2011, the EAC and the AU Commission held a joint workshop to work out the modalities to establish a joint DRR platform for the region.⁸⁰

In respect to climate change adaptation, the climate change strategy states its objective is: “[to implement] urgent and immediate adaptation priorities identified in the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and climate change strategies.” The policy further explains various adaptation priorities, including:

“...strengthening meteorological services and improving early warning systems; disaster risk management through: risk reduction, preparedness, mitigation and reconstruction, scaling up of efficient use of water and energy resources, irrigation, crop and livestock production, strengthening pre and post agricultural losses, protection of wildlife and key fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, coastal, marine and forestry ecosystems, improving land use, soil protection, tourism, climate proofing social infrastructure, and reducing climate sensitive vector and water borne diseases.”⁸¹

In 2011, EAC, COMESA and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) launched a joint five-year Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. The program aims to harmonize climate change programs across the three regions, addressing the impacts of climate change through successful adaptation and mitigation measures to enhance social and economic resilience. These measures include investments in climate-resilient and carbon-efficient agriculture (climate-smart agriculture) and its linkages to forestry, land use and energy practices by 2016. The program received \$20 million in funding from European donors.⁸²

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)		
Founded: 1983	Seat: Libreville, Gabon	Members #: 10
Member States: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, São Tome and Principe, Chad		
Website: http://www.ceeac-eccas.org/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Sub-regional disaster management center		Sub-Regional DRR Center
Regional DRR framework/convention		Under development

⁷⁹ East African Community, “About EAC,” 2012, <http://www.eac.int/about-eac.html>

⁸⁰ EAC, “EAC Moves to Reduce Risk of Disasters in the Region,” 13 July 2011, <http://www.eac.int/index.php/about-eac/eacnews/708-eac-drr-platform.html>

⁸¹ EAC Secretariat, EAC Climate Change Policy (EACCCP), April 2011, p. ii.

⁸² EAC, EAC-COMESA-SADC Launch Five-Year Climate Change Initiative,” 8 December 2011, www.eac.int/environment/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=53&Itemid=183

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At a summit meeting in December 1981, the leaders of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) agreed in principle to form a wider economic community of Central African states. ECCAS was established on 18 October 1983 by the UDEAC members and the members of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes States (CEPGL). ECCAS began functioning in 1985, but was inactive for several years because of financial difficulties (non-payment of membership fees) and the conflict in the Great Lakes area.

ECCAS aims to achieve collective autonomy, raise the standard of living of its populations and maintain economic stability. Its ultimate goal is to establish a Central African Common Market.

At the Malabo Heads of State and Government Conference in 1999, four priorities for the organization were identified:

- To develop capacities to maintain peace, security and stability as essential prerequisites for economic and social development;
- To develop physical, economic and monetary integration;
- To develop a culture of human integration; and
- To establish an autonomous financing mechanism for ECCAS.⁸³

Although ECCAS does not have a subregional disaster management strategy, it has established a Department of Humanitarian Affairs aimed at emergency response which has been involved in regional efforts at disaster risk reduction. In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it has also established a sub-regional center for DRR and is, at the time of this writing, working to develop its sub-regional DRR strategy with the support of UNISDR.⁸⁴

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*		
Founded: 1975	Seat: Abuja, Nigeria	No. Members: 15
Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo		
Website: www.ecowas.int		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Sub-regional disaster management center	■	Planned
Regional disaster-relief fund	■	Planned

⁸³ African Union, "Regional Economic Communities, ECCAS," accessed 21 August 2012, <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/recs/eccas.htm>

⁸⁴ Commission of the African Union, ISDR, "Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region," January 2008, p. vi.

ECOWAS (continuation)

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regional disaster insurance scheme	☐	Planned
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	☒	
Regional DRR framework/convention	☒	
Regional DM framework/convention	☒	
Regional rapid response mechanism	☒	
Joint disaster management exercises/simulations	☒	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	☒	
Research on DRM/CCA issues	☐	Planned

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a group of fifteen countries, founded in 1975. Its mission is to promote economic integration in “all fields of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial questions, social and cultural matters...”⁸⁵

ECOWAS has also begun to address DRR, focusing on strategy, policy and the development of legal frameworks. A Technical Committee on Disaster Management was established in 2003 to recommend ways to operationalize disaster prevention and reduction. A sub-regional policy for DRR was approved by an ECOWAS summit in February 2007. This policy focuses on five areas:

- Enhancing disaster reduction by making it a development priority with requisite institutional capacities.
- Reducing disasters by improving identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning risks.
- Building safe and resilient societies by enhancing the use of knowledge.
- Reducing underlying risk factors by addressing priority development concerns through disaster reduction interventions.
- Improving effectiveness of response through stronger disaster preparedness.

Following the development of the policy, the DRR division of ECOWAS established an Inter-Departmental Coordinating Committee in 2008 and an ECOWAS Working Group on DRR in 2009, which conducted assessment missions in Ghana, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The Plan of Action for the Implementation of the DRR policy covers the 2010-2014 timeframe and was agreed on at the ECOWAS DRR expert meeting in 2009.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ ECOWAS, “Discover ECOWAS,” 12 March 2010, www.comm.ecowas.int/sec/index.php?id=about_a&lang=en

⁸⁶ Adenike Vogt, “ECOWAS Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction,” accessed 20 August 2012, www.preventionweb.net

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The ECOWAS Directorate on Humanitarian and Social Affairs, established in 2000, is responsible for disaster management issues. The directorate works on the ECOWAS Draft Plan of Action on Implementation of International Humanitarian Plan and will organize an Emergency Response Team unit which will be drawn from national NGOs and staff of relevant member state ministries such as defense, foreign affairs and internal affairs.⁸⁷

In 2012, ECOWAS developed its Humanitarian Policy⁸⁸ which aims to prevent, mitigate and respond to the impacts of disasters triggered by natural hazards. Among its strategic objectives is the enhancement of regional capacity for humanitarian response. In terms of disaster management, the policy envisages the establishment of a regional disaster relief fund, the development of a hazards profile for the region and the establishment of a regional center (“Regional Center for Excellence”) for research, training and capacity building program of humanitarian affairs personnel. The policy also puts the adaptation and promotion of standards and guidelines for the use of military assets as one of its priority measures.⁸⁹

In addition to ECOWAS disaster management and disaster risk reduction policies, the organization has developed a Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in West Africa and Chad, which contains guidelines for desertification control policies and strategies and actions at the sub-regional and national levels. The community has also developed a sub-regional Common Agriculture Policy and a sub-regional program for food security.⁹⁰

ECOWAS also organized a joint response exercise for disaster focal points from ECOWAS member states in Abuja in June 2011 to simulate a regional emergency and forge a joint response. There are also efforts in place to improve joint weather forecasting to predict major disasters in West Africa.⁹¹

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)		
Founded: 1996	Seat: Djibouti	Members #: 7
Member States: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda		
Website: http://www.igad.org/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	

⁸⁷ Mohammed Ibrahim, “ECOWAS Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Activities,” Presentation, Regional Consultation on Flood Preparedness and other Natural Disasters, Praia, May 2010.; see also ECOWAS Commission, “Humanitarian & Social Affairs Directorate,” 26 February 2012, www.comm.ecowas.int/dept/stand.php?id=e_e3_brief&lang=en

⁸⁸ This policy is intended to complement the ECOWAS Risk Reduction Policy.

⁸⁹ ECOWAS Commission, *ECOWAS Humanitarian Policy*, March 2012.

⁹⁰ African Union, UNISDR, *Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region*, January 2008, p 18.f.

⁹¹ IRIN, “Disasters: ECOWAS stepping up response,” 13 July 2011, www.irinnews.org/Report/93222/DISASTERS-ECOWAS-stepping-up-response.

IGAD (continuation)

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues	■	Planned

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which was founded in 1986.

IGAD's mission is to assist and complement the efforts of the member states to achieve, through increased cooperation in the areas of:

- Food Security and environmental protection;
- Promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs, and,
- Economic cooperation and integration.⁹²

IGAD has developed a regional strategy to strengthen sub-regional disaster preparedness and response capabilities, which incorporates a regional program for disaster risk management. The program aims at disaster mitigation through capacity development and enhancement. Specific objectives include:

- Facilitating the development and effective implementation of policy and legislative frameworks and program interventions among member states;
- Strengthening community participation in disaster issues;
- Establishing a sub-regional mechanism; and
- Promoting international cooperation. IGAD is also planning to facilitate capacity building of national governments for DRR in line with the HFA priorities and has developed a manual for training in DRR with the support of UNISDR.

To support drought monitoring, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNDP established the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre as a specialized institution of IGAD. Participating states are Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Two operational centers in Nairobi and Harare are charged with monitoring drought intensity, geographical extent, duration and impact on agricultural production, and with issuing early warnings.⁹³

⁹² African Union, "Regional Economic Communities, Intergovernmental Authority for Development," accessed 21 August 2012, <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/recs/igad.htm>

⁹³ Commission of the African Union and ISDR, "Report on the Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region," January 2008, p. 14.

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Organization: Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)		
Founded: 1984	Seat: Mauritius	Members #: 5
Member States: Comoros, France/Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles		
Website: http://ioconline.org/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regional DRR framework/convention	☐	Under development

Created in 1984 through the Victoria Agreement, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental organization of regional cooperation of five member states which promotes the strengthening of ties of friendship and solidarity between peoples, and aims to contribute to the sustainable development of its member states.⁹⁴ The commission has requested assistance from UNISDR to develop a sub-regional DRR strategy.⁹⁵

Southern African Development Community (SADC)*		
Founded: 1992	Seat: Gaborone, Botswana	No. Members: 15
Member States: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe		
Website: www.sadc.int/english		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	☒	
Sub-regional disaster management center	☐	DRR Unit operational, Disaster Management Unit planned
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	☒	
Regional DRR framework/convention	☒	
Regional DM framework/convention	☒	
Regional web portal on DRM	☐	Under development

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) started initially as an initiative of the Frontline States whose objective was political liberation of Southern Africa. SADC was preceded by the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which was formed in Lusaka, Zambia in 1980 with the adoption of the Lusaka Declaration, entitled, “Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation.”

In 1992, at a Summit held in Windhoek, Namibia, the Heads of State and Government signed the SADC Treaty and Declaration that effectively transformed SADCC into SADC. SADC’s objective shifted to include economic integration following the independence of the rest of states in the region, with the 2001 Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ (SIPO) being the main frameworks for SADC Regional integration.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ Indian Ocean Commission, “Who we are?” accessed 16 August 2012, <http://politics.ioconline.org/official/about-us.html>

⁹⁵ Commission of the African Union, ISDR, “Report on the Status of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region,” January 2008, p 18.f.

⁹⁶ SADC, “About SADC,” 2012, <http://www.sadc.int/about-sadc>

Disaster management has been included as an important component of the overall SADC strategy for regional development. The first SADC summit in 1992 recommended the development of a regional disaster management strategy; significant progress has been made in its institutionalization. In 2001, SADC launched a Sub-Regional Disaster Management Strategy to address food security, climate and environment and water management. In regards to drought and flood management, the SADC Water Sector Coordinating Unit is implementing the Third Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management (2011-2015), one main focus of which is climate change adaptation.⁹⁷

The SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Plan was produced in 2005-2006, and basically aligns SADC's DRR strategy with the HFA and the African Regional Strategy for DRR. The plan also recommends the establishment of a regional disaster management unit, the introduction of which has been delayed. SADC created a Disaster Risk Reduction Unit in 2008, but, unfortunately, the unit only had one staff member in 2010 due to funding constraints.⁹⁸ Nonetheless, the unit held a disaster risk reduction and preparedness planning workshop in October 2010, in cooperation with GFDRR, OCHA and ISDR which proposed a variety of measures to strengthen DRR in the region. The workshop report also notes that a one-stop shop for DRR on the organization's website is under development.⁹⁹

SADC operates a climate services center (CSC) which aims to ensure that a sub-regional mechanism for monitoring and predicting extremes in climate condition is operational. The CSC carries its mandate through development, generation and dissemination of meteorological, other environmental and hydro-meteorological products.¹⁰⁰

Specialized Regional Agencies

There are several specialized regional agencies and centers that work on DRR, some of which have been discussed above as they are part of the organizational framework of sub-regional organizations. These agencies, such as the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre in Nairobi, the SADC Drought Monitoring Centre in Gaborone and, in Niamey, the AGRHYMET Regional Centre which is a specialized institute of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)¹⁰¹ and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, have in recent years closely linked their climate research programs to DRR.¹⁰²

⁹⁷ SADC, "Implementation of Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development," 29 February 2012, <http://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/>

⁹⁸ Latest information available from: SADC, "Report on the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Planning Workshop Gaborone, Botswana, 05-08 October 2010," April 2011, <http://reliefweb.int/report/angola/report-sadc-disaster-risk-reduction-and-preparedness-planning-workshop-gaborone>

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ SADC, "SADC Climate Services Centre," 2012, www.sadc.int/english/regional-integration/is/csc/

¹⁰¹ Preventionweb, "AGRHYMET Regional Center (AGHYMET)" accessed 19 November 2012, <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/contacts/v.php?id=1561>

¹⁰² GFDRR and World Bank, *Report on the status of Disaster Risk Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa*, November 2010, p. 10.

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2. AMERICAS

Countries: 35	
Population: 934.5 m (13.55 percent of global)	Avg .HDI: 0.731 (LA + CAR) 0.910 (USA and Canada)
Total GDP: \$23.76 trillion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$25,432
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 94,842,766	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 250,833
Percent of global affected: 3.37	Percent of global casualties: 22.60
Percent of region's population affected: 10.15	

Organization of American States (OAS)*

Founded: 1948	Seat: Washington DC, USA	No. Members: 35
Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela		
Website: www.oas.org/en/default.asp		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional disaster-relief fund	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional on DRM/CCA issues	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	Through INDM
Regional IDRL treaty/guidelines	■	

The Organization of American States (OAS) came into being in 1948 with the signing in Bogotá, Colombia, of the Charter of the OAS, which entered into force in December 1951. It has subsequently been amended four times, including with the adoption in 1993 of the Protocol of Managua.

The OAS was established in order to achieve among its member states “an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.”¹⁰³ Its four main pillars are democracy, human rights, security, and development.

¹⁰³ Article 1, Charter of the OAS. OAS, “Who we are,” accessed 21 August 2012, www.oas.org/en/about/who_we_are.asp

Within the organizational structure, the Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD), through its Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change section (RISK-MACC), supports the priorities of OAS member states in adapting to and managing the increasing risks associated with natural disasters.

In 1999, the OAS formed the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) which acts as the principal forum for analyzing issues related to natural and other disasters including prevention and mitigation efforts. The IACNDR is also responsible for coordinating the implementation and updating of the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP) which since 2003 is being implemented at the regional, sub-regional and national levels through collaboration by the different stakeholders that the plan identifies.

RISK-MACC is also partnering with UNISDR to mutually support and coordinate the implementation of the HFA Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas.¹⁰⁴ The Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS has established the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) which seeks to support the development of the national platform of the HFA; facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience; support the monitoring and revision of the IASP; and support the implementation of the IASP and the decisions of the IACNDR.¹⁰⁵

Country missions and awareness-raising on disaster issues are also key activities of the OAS. By request of member states, the OAS undertakes country missions to assess a member state's DRM capacities. By 2012, the OAS had performed three such assessments, including most recently, in Honduras.¹⁰⁶ In terms of information services and research, the OAS publishes a weekly newsletter on disaster issues in the region and broader research papers on disaster-related topics such as children's rights and disasters.¹⁰⁷

In terms of IDRL, the OAS adopted the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance¹⁰⁸ in 1991, but at the time of this writing, the convention had been ratified by only five member states. Notwithstanding, recent years have seen the issue of IDRL reemerge, as evidenced, for example, by the OAS's adoption in 2011 of a resolution supporting the development of an Inter-American Plan for the Coordination of Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance. The same resolution urges member states to develop internal legal structures based on the IDRL efforts of the IFRC. As early as 1965, the OAS already had established an Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), depending on voluntary contributions of member states, but the operationalization of the fund took decades

¹⁰⁴ OAS, Department of Sustainable Development, "Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP)," 29 September 2010, www.oas.org/dsd/Nat-Dis-Proj/Natdesproject/InterCommit.htm

¹⁰⁵ Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, "Strategic Objectives, accessed 22 August 2012, <http://www.rimd.org/documento.php?id=318>

¹⁰⁶ Interview with Pablo Gonzales, Washington DC, 12 September 2012.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ <http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-54.html>

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OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

and was only finalized in 1995.¹⁰⁹ In the mid 2000s the duties and functions of the fund were transferred to the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR). The amounts disbursed by the fund are relatively minor, with for example the St. Vincent and the Grenadines receiving a contribution of US\$25,000 following Hurricane Tomas in 2010.¹¹⁰

This past June, the OAS General Assembly endorsed a new Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance at its XLII ordinary meeting, in the city of Cochabamba in Bolivia. The Inter-American Plan highlights IACNDR as the permanent mechanism to strengthen inter-regional coordination and stresses the importance of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and the need to strengthen both, the Network and the Committee.¹¹¹

CENTRAL AMERICA

Central American Integration System (SICA)* Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC)		
Founded: 13 December 1991	Seat: SICA (El Salvador) CEPREDENAC (Guatemala)	No. Members: 7
Member States: SICA: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá (Dominican Republic, Associated State)		
Website: www.sica.int / www.sica.int/cepredenac		
Population: 42.7 mil. (0.61 percent of global)		Avg. HDI: 0.668
Total GDP: \$285,9 billion		Avg. GDP/Person: \$6,698
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 9,509,651		No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 4,820
Percent of global affected: 0.34		Percent of global casualties: 0.43
Percent of region's population affected: 22.27		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Specific organization for DRM	■	
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	Member of CRID ¹¹²
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	

¹⁰⁹ www.oas.org/EN/PINFO/RES/RESGA95/agd1327.htm

¹¹⁰ Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the Organisation of American States, "Press Release," 10 November 2010.

¹¹¹ Organisation of American States, "Plan Interamericano para la Prevención, la Atención de los Desastres y la Coordinación de la Asistencia Humanitaria," accessed 28 January 2013, <http://rimd.org/plan/#>

¹¹² Regional Center for Disaster Information for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Central American Integration System (SICA) is the institutional framework for regional integration in Central America and was established in 1991 with the signing of the Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA) or Tegucigalpa Protocol, which amended the Charter of the Organization of Central American States signed in Panama on December 12, 1962, and formally came into operation on February 1, 1993.¹¹³

The Coordination Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC) was created in 1987 with the purpose of promoting regional cooperation in terms of disaster prevention. While in its early years it focused on loose regional cooperation of scientific and technical bodies, in a 1993 meeting in Guatemala CEPREDENAC was given the mandate to develop a Regional Plan for Disaster Reduction and to develop the Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America as a regional agency, based in Guatemala City. Founding members were Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, while Belize and the Dominican Republic are Associate members. Hurricane Mitch revealed the high vulnerability of Central American societies facing natural hazards so after Mitch CEPREDENAC was tasked with assisting the strengthening of a culture of prevention and risk management. In 1999, the XX Summit of Presidents of Central America adopted the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America.¹¹⁴

The Constitutive Agreement establishes a Council of Representatives, a Board of Directors and an Executive Secretariat. The highest authority is the Council of Representatives and consists of two representatives per country, one from the emergency or civil defense organizations and one from the technical-scientific institutions specialized in disasters. Likewise, the various countries should organize National Commissions with the relevant institutions that will be responsible for the coordination of the projects at the national level.

The Functions of CEPREDNAC are to:

- Promote and coordinate international cooperation related to emergencies (through developing a Coordinated Cooperation Mechanism in Disaster Response);
- Facilitate the sharing of experiences between the institutions and the countries of the region;
- Provide technical and technological assistance in order to reduce the socio-natural disasters in the region.

CEPREDENAC supports the consolidation of information systems that include internet components and radio communications systems. It also coordinates studies regarding the

¹¹³ SICA, "SICA in Brief," accessed 12 August 2012, www.sica.int/sica/sica_breve_en.aspx?IdEnt=401&Idm=2&IdmStyle=2

¹¹⁴ CEPREDENAC, "Reseña Histórica," accessed 15 August 2012, www.sica.int/cepredenac/resena.aspx

legal status of early warning systems within the national legal frameworks of disaster risk reduction management. It is currently developing a communication platform for information exchange and transfer.¹¹⁵

A 2011 report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for the UN General Assembly notes that CEPREDENAC was a “remarkable example” in approving the Central American Policy for Integral Risk Management, which introduces disaster risk reduction as a binding policy instrument for the member countries. The experience of CEPREDENAC was awarded with a mention in the UN Sasakawa Award¹¹⁶ for Disaster Reduction in 2011.¹¹⁷

A recent report identifies the organization’s challenges as the lack of subregional contingency and emergency funds as well as a lack of a regional insurance mechanism (although some sub-regional financial mechanisms are provided by the IDB and the World Bank). Another issue raised was the need for coordination of private sector and civil society activities to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of their contributions.¹¹⁸

CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)* Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)		
Founded: 4 July 1973 (CARICOM) 1 September 2009 (CDEMA)	Seat: Guyana, (CARICOM) Barbados (CDEMA)	No. Members: 15 (CARICOM) 17 (CDEMA)
Member States ¹¹⁹ : CARICOM: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago		
Member States: CDEMA: CARICOM member states plus Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks and caicos islands		
Website: www.caricom.org / www.cdema.org		
Population: 16.8 mil. (0.24 percent of global)	Avg. HDI: 0.704 ¹²⁰	
Total GDP: \$105,2 billion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$6,265.43	

¹¹⁵ UNISDR, “UN Sasakawa Award 2011,” accessed 22 August 2012, www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/sasakawa/2011#CEPREDENAC

¹¹⁶ Together with the World Health Organization Sasakawa Health Prize and the UN Environment Programme Sasakawa Environment Prize, the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is one of three prestigious prizes established in 1986 by founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa. It is worth approximately US \$50,000 and is shared among the Laureates. Nominees also receive Certificates of Distinction and Merit. See: <http://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/sasakawa>

¹¹⁷ United Nations General Assembly, *Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Report of the Secretary-General, A/66/301*, 12 August 2011, Sixty-sixth session, p. 18f.

¹¹⁸ OAS, Informe regional del progreso en la implementación del Marco de Acción de Hyogo (2009-2011), 21 April 2011, p. 2.

¹¹⁹ Associate members: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

¹²⁰ UNDP does not provide data for the Anguilla, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE GROWING ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

CARICOM/CDEMA (continuation)	
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 5,771,642 ¹²¹	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 229,505
Percent of global affected: 0.21	Percent of global fatalities: 20.69
Percent of region's population affected: 34	

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Specific organization for DRM	■	
Regional disaster insurance scheme	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional rapid response mechanism	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Joint disaster management exercises/simulations	■	
Regional military protocols for disaster assistance	■	
Research on DRM/CCA issues	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	

In 1972, Commonwealth Caribbean leaders at the Seventh Heads of Government Conference decided to transform the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) into a common market and establish the Caribbean Community.¹²²

In 2001, CARICOM, through broad based stakeholder consultations, adopted a Strategy and Results Framework for Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM). In 2006, the CDM strategy was reviewed and reshaped to emphasize disaster loss reduction through risk management, and to follow a more program-based approach, with an emphasis on results-based management.

CDM is an integrated approach to disaster management, including the management of all hazards through all phases of the disaster management cycle (prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation). It involves the public and private sectors, as well as all segments of civil society and the general population. The goal of CDM is to enhance efforts aimed at sustainable development in the Caribbean by reducing risks and losses associated with natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change.¹²³

¹²¹ EM-Dat does not include disaster data for the British Virgin Islands.

¹²² CARICOM, "The Caribbean Community," accessed 12 August 2012, www.caricom.org/jsp/community/community_index.jsp?menu=community

¹²³ Comprehensive Disaster Management, "What is CDM," <http://www.cdema.org/cdmconference/what-is-cdm.html>

The strategy is a roadmap for building resilience to hazards within the 18 CDEMA participating states. It is a results-based programming agenda that facilitates harmonization among key development partners and institutions and embraces the latest regional and international thinking on, and approaches to disaster management. It is also closely aligned to the global and regional agendas:

- Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015;
- CARICOM Regional Programming;
- Caribbean Single Market and Economy;
- St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental sustainability.¹²⁴

In 2007, a CDM collaborative governance mechanism, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Coordination and Harmonisation Council (CDMCHC) was created, with the explicit target of mainstreaming DRM at the national level and into key sectors of national economies, to facilitate the effective coordination of the CDM implementation process, and to facilitate learning and knowledge management.¹²⁵ There is also an Annual Caribbean Conference on CDM since 2006.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) was created in 2009 as the successor to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CEDERA), which was established in 1991 and was tasked with the implementation of the CDM framework.

As the main implementing organization of the CDM framework, CDEMA's operations include:

- Training for disaster management personnel;
- Development of model training courses and products including audiovisual aids;
- Institutional strengthening for disaster management organizations;
- Development of model disaster legislation for adaptation and adoption by participating states;
- Development of model policies and guidelines for use in emergencies; contingency planning;
- Resource mobilization for strengthening disaster management programs in participating states;
- Improving emergency telecommunications and warning systems;
- Development of disaster information and communication systems, education and public awareness.¹²⁶

¹²⁴ CARICOM, "What is CDM," accessed 22 August 2012, <http://www.cdema.org/cdmconference/what-is-cdm.html>

¹²⁵ CDEMA, Regional progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011), 18 January 2011, p. 4.

¹²⁶ CDEMA, "Activities of the Agency," accessed 31 August 2012, www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=358&Itemid=120

If a participating state requests assistance, CDEMA is responsible for soliciting and coordinating assistance from governments, organizations and individuals both within and outside the region, who can provide the specific resources or expertise most urgently needed. In past emergencies CDEMA has supplied or coordinated relief supplies, communications facilities, emergency management personnel and financial assistance.

In major disaster situations which overwhelm the capacity of the affected state(s) to respond, the Regional Response Mechanism is activated. This includes the activation of the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) which is the operational arm of the Regional Response Mechanism. The CDRU comprises representatives from the military forces within CARICOM and its main responsibility is logistical support for the receipt and dispatch of relief supplies.¹²⁷

CDEMA is in the process of developing a Virtual Library (VL) which is intended to provide the agency with a medium for maintaining a structured, publicly accessible electronic collection of information on relevant disaster management topics.¹²⁸

After series of devastating hurricanes in 2004 and in response to the long-recognized need for multidisciplinary training, research and technical expertise in disaster management and risk reduction in Caribbean communities, the University of the West Indies (UWI) established the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (DRRC). The center has its genesis in the UWI Hurricane Relief Task Force.¹²⁹

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) coordinates the Caribbean region's response to climate change. Officially opened in August 2005, the center is the key node for information on climate change issues and on the region's response to managing and adapting to climate change in the Caribbean. It is the official repository and clearing house for regional climate change data, providing climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to CARICOM.¹³⁰

In 2009, the CCCCC prepared the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change at the request of CARICOM heads of state, participating in the First Congress for the Environmental Charter and Climatic Change, held in 2007. The strategic vision driving the regional strategy is to lay the ground for a "regional society and economy that is resilient to a changing climate."¹³¹ The seriousness of the challenge global climate

¹²⁷ CDEMA, "Provision of assistance in response to disasters," accessed 31 August 2012, www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=359&Itemid=198

¹²⁸ CDEMA, Regional progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011), 18 January 2011, p. 8.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

¹³¹ Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), *Climate Change and the Caribbean, A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015)*, 2009, p.iii.

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change poses to the development prospects of small islands and low-lying coastal states is addressed in the Barbados Plan of Action, as the first of 14 priority areas for achieving sustainable development.

The Framework envisages that the financing of DRR initiatives will be treated as a development priority within the budgeting process, and that all government entities will advance the goals and objectives of the framework by ensuring that DRR is taken into account in the design of development programs and projects. In addition to the current financing arrangements for post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction, provided through external loans and local revenue, the CARICOM governments will explore the feasibility of establishing a Natural Hazard Risk Management Fund to finance prospective disaster risk management initiatives. It is envisaged that such a fund could be patterned on the environmental levy concept and/or could be built around user fees, charges on polluters, special-purpose lotteries, and licenses. It is also envisaged that the creation of such a fund should be linked to a review of the use of available financing mechanisms, such as fiscal incentives for various economic stakeholders.¹³²

The CCCCC and CDEMA and other regional institutions are strategic partners in charting an integrated approach to DRR and CCA, by mainstreaming climate change into disaster risk management, which is implemented by CDEMA as well as implementing adaptation projects which focus on disaster mitigation.¹³³

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)		
Founded: 1994	Seat: Trinidad and Tobago	No. Members: 28
Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela Associate members: Aruba, French Guyana (French), Guadeloupe (French), Martinique (French), Netherlands Antilles		
Website: http://www.acs-aec.org/		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	

¹³² John E. Hay, "Institutional and Policy Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Pacific Island Countries," Final Report, Prepared for the United Nations International System for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme, May 2009.

¹³³ John E. Hay, "Institutional and Policy Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Pacific Island Countries," Final Report, Prepared for the United Nations International System for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme, May 2009.

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was founded in 1994 with the aim of providing consultation, cooperation and concerted action among the countries of the Caribbean. The ACS is working on five areas of concern:

- Preservation and conservation of the Caribbean Sea;
- Sustainable tourism;
- Trade and economic relations;
- Natural disasters;
- Transport.¹³⁴

In its focal area of natural disasters, the organization focuses on DRR and has a Directorate for Disaster Risk Reduction which serves to foster cooperation among the organizations responsible for disaster planning and relief in the region. In 2007, the ACS held a high-level conference on disaster reduction in Haiti which developed the Saint Marc Plan for Disaster Reduction, which was adopted by the ACS's 13th Ministerial Council. The Saint Marc plan contains 27 points defining the work program of the ACS on DRR, which including such diverse efforts as making the ACS the principle forum in the region for the exchange of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in the development of national and regional coordination mechanisms and encouraging member states to continue to protect historical, cultural and natural heritage from the impacts of disasters.¹³⁵

Other Regional Institutions and Facilities

Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is a training and research organization formed by the amalgamation of the Caribbean Meteorological Institute (CMI) and Caribbean Operational Hydrological Institute (COHI). Responsibility for the operation of the Institute rests with the sixteen Commonwealth Governments which comprise the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO).

The role and mission of the CIMH is to improve meteorological and hydrological services and to assist in promoting the awareness of the benefits of these services for the economic well-being of the CMO countries. This is achieved through training, research and the provision of specialized services and advice.¹³⁶

¹³⁴ Association of Caribbean States, "About the ACS," accessed 15 November 2012, <http://www.acs-aec.org/index.php?q=about-the-accs>

¹³⁵ Association of Caribbean States, "Disaster Risk Reduction," accessed 15 November 2012, <http://www.acs-aec.org/index.php?q=disaster-risk-reduction> see also: ACS, "Plan of Action," ACS High-Level Conference on Disaster Reduction, Saint Marc, 14-16 November 2007.

¹³⁶ CDEMA, Regional progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2009-2011), 18 January 2011, p. 11.

Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)

The Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) is a risk pooling facility, owned, operated and registered in the Caribbean for Caribbean governments. It is designed to limit the financial impact of catastrophic hurricanes and earthquakes to Caribbean governments by quickly providing short term liquidity when a policy is triggered. It is the world's first and, to date, only regional fund utilizing parametric insurance, giving Caribbean governments the unique opportunity to purchase earthquake and hurricane catastrophe coverage with lowest-possible pricing.

CCRIF came about as the direct result of Caribbean governments' consideration of their exposure to catastrophic hazards, as vividly demonstrated in the summer of 2004 when Hurricane Ivan crossed the Caribbean Sea, causing major damage in Grenada, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. At a special meeting of the heads of government of CARICOM convened to consider actions after Ivan, a formal request was made to the World Bank to assist in development of a government insurance program.

In 2007, CCRIF paid out almost \$1 million to the Dominican and St Lucian governments after the November earthquake in the eastern Caribbean; in 2008, the fund paid out \$6.3 million to the Turks & Caicos Islands after Hurricane Ike made a direct hit on Grand Turk; and in 2010, CCRIF made a payment of \$7.75 million to the government of Haiti after the 12 January earthquake.¹³⁷

SOUTH AMERICA

Andean Community of Nations (CAN)* Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE)		
Founded: 1969 (CAN) 2002 (CAPRADE)	Seat: Lima, Peru	No. Members: 4
Member States: CAN and CAPRADE: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru		
Website: www.comunidadandina.org/endex.htm; www.caprade.org		
Population: 99.7 million (1.45 percent of global)	Avg. HDI: 0.705	
Total GDP: \$964 billion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$9,667	
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 19,797,618	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 5,712	
Percent of global affected: 0.70	Percent of global fatalities: 0.51	
Percent of region's population affected (2000-2011): 19.86		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Specific organization for DRM	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	

¹³⁷ Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, "About us," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.ccrif.org/content/about-us>

The Andean Community (until 1996 Andean Pact) is a sub-regional organization for Andean countries which was founded in 1969 through the Cartagena Agreement and currently has four member states. Its goal is to achieve comprehensive development through institutions which are articulated in the Andean Integration System.

In 1998, as a result of the recurrent impact of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (1997-1998), the Andean Presidential Council requested the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of this phenomenon and to analyze the performance of Andean institutions regarding disaster prevention. On the basis of this research, the Andean Presidential Council asked CAF to support countries in this matter. This led to the development of the Andean Risk Prevention and Mitigation Program (PREANDINO). Subsequently, the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE) was founded in 2002 as part of the Andean community with the purpose of gathering in one institution the principal bodies related to disaster prevention in the Andean sub-region. Its main instrument is the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Response (EAPAD) which was approved by the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers in 2004.¹³⁸ In 2005 CAPRADE decided to implement EAPAD through the approval and implementation of the Andean Strategic Plan for Disaster Prevention and Relief – EAPAD, expected to be implemented during the following 5 years: 2005-2010 and in 2007 it harmonized the strategic plan with the Hyogo Framework for Action.

The EAPAD consists of five closely-related central themes:

- Institutional capacity building at every level, so that risk reduction becomes a national and Andean-sub-regional priority;
- Promote research and knowledge to identify, monitor and evaluate disaster risks and to develop early warning;
- Promote education, communication and involvement in order to encourage a culture of security and resilience at every level;
- Reduce underlying risk factors;
- Develop systems and mechanisms for preparedness, relief and mutual assistance in case of disasters, at every level;

CAPRADE receives support from several projects and institutions. Among them, the Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID) offers information, documentation and consultation regarding many aspects of disasters, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) offers support for the quantification of socioeconomic impacts of disasters in the Sub-region, in order to encourage investment in disaster

¹³⁸ Technical Secretariat of the Andean Community, "Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief. Andean Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers' Decision Number 713," September 2009, p. 9.

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reduction. The Support for Disaster Prevention in the Andean Community (PREDECAN), financed by the European Commission and the Andean countries, has collaborated closely with CAPRADE in the implementation of the EAPAD, and has improved organization and coordination frameworks, supporting the development of the Andean Information System for Disaster Prevention and Relief (SIAPAD), the update of the Disaster Inventory System (DesInventar), the incorporation of information on risks and disaster in the sub-region through Virtual Libraries (Red BiVa-PAD), the production of methodological guides addressing different aspects of risk and development planning and the incorporation of risk management into the school curricula.¹³⁹

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)		
Founded: 1991	Seat: Montevideo, Uruguay	Members #: 5
Member States: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela (Paraguay suspended until presidential election in 2013)		
Website: http://www.mercosur.int/		
Population: 274 million (3.98 percent of global)		Avg. HDI: 0.729 ¹³
Total GDP: \$3.8 trillion		Avg. GDP/Person: \$ 13,939
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 12,301,292		No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 3,038
Percent of global affected: 0.44		Percent of global fatalities: 0.27
Percent of region's population affected: 4.49		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	☐	

The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) is a sub-regional organization focusing on economic integration of its member states. In 2009, MERCOSUR members convened a “Specialized Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance” (REHU). Since 2009 these meetings have been held regularly and the member countries have expressed their intention to create mechanisms of coordination and mutual assistance, although these mechanisms have not yet been created.¹⁴¹

Other institutions and initiatives

Climate change has encouraged the WMO and other entities to develop international and regional research networks such as the International Research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN)

¹³⁹ *Ibid.* p. 21.

¹⁴⁰ UNDP does not provide data for the Anguilla, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

¹⁴¹ Katherin Haver and Conor Foley, *International Dialogue on Strengthening Partnership in Disaster Response: Bridging national and international support*, Background Paper 2 Regional and International Initiatives, Humanitarian Outcomes, September 2011, p. 20.

and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) to improve coordination among the entities that engage in hazards research and deal with disaster prevention and RELIEF, the implementation and optimization of early warning systems and the development of risk reduction at an institutional level. The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has created the Forum on Climatic Panorama, where meteorologists, forecasters and disaster managers come together in an attempt to incorporate the use of weather forecasts into disaster management, agriculture and health in the sub-regions. Likewise, the Multinational Andean Project (MAP) supports cooperation in the geological services of the sub-region.¹⁴²

¹⁴² Technical Secretariat of the Andean Community, "Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief. Andean Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers' Decision Number 713," September 2009, p. 20.

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3. ASIA	
Countries: 44	
Population: 4,15 billion (60.38 percent of global)	Avg. HDI:
Total GDP: \$30.7 trillion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$7,392
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 2,485,523,225	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 701,606
Percent of global affected: 88.27	Percent of global casualties: 63.24
Percent of region's population affected: 59.7	

As Asia does not have a regional organization encompassing the majority of its countries, we have included the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center as the closest approximation to Asia-wide engagement on DRM issues.

Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR)		
Conference has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	

The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) is a biennial conference organized by rotation in different Asian countries since 2005 with support from UNISDR and GFDRR. The event represents a unique opportunity for Ministers in charge of disaster management from the region to reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).¹⁴³

The Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in October 2010, with the participation of fifty governments from the Asian and Pacific region, approved a five-year road map to establish climate-resilient disaster risk management system, explicitly calling for joint and integrated action at all levels in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.¹⁴⁴ The Fifth Conference was held in October 2012 in Jogjakarta, Indonesia and passed the Jogjakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012 which affirms the important role of DRR and the HFA and calls for all DRR stakeholders to integrate local level DRR and climate change adaptation into national development planning.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ BNPB, "5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://5thamcdrr-indonesia.net/about-5th-amcdrr/>

¹⁴⁴ UNISDR, *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Building the Resilience of Nations and communities to Disasters, mid-term review, 2010-2011*, March 2011, p. 50.

¹⁴⁵ Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, "J Jogjakarta Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia and the Pacific 2012," accessed 10 November 2012, <http://5thamcdrr-indonesia.net/press-release/>

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)		
Founded: 1998	Seat: Kobe, Japan	Members #: 29
Member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China PR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea Rep., Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Maldives, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen		
Website: www.adrc.asia/aboutus/index.php		

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC), while not part of any regional or sub-regional organization as such, is the Asian DRM institution with the most Asian member countries. It was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with the mission to enhance disaster resilience of the member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. The center works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges.¹⁴⁶

ADRC's main areas of activities are:

■ Information Sharing on Disaster Reduction

- ◆ Provision of information on disasters and disaster preparedness ;
- ◆ Promotion of GLIDE (global unique disaster identifier);
- ◆ Disaster Management Support System (Sentinel Asia Project);
- ◆ Organization of international conferences;

■ Human Resources Development:

- ◆ Organizing conferences, workshops and trainings on DRR;
- ◆ Visiting researchers program for member countries;

■ Building Communities Capabilities:

- ◆ Development and Dissemination of Tools for Encouraging Community Participation
- ◆ Support for the activities of Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN);

ADRC and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) agreed to form the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network in 2002. Since then, ADRC has supported the effort to improve networking among Asian NGOs that play important roles in disaster reduction and response.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁶ ADRC, "Mission and Objectives," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.adrc.asia/aboutus/index.php>

¹⁴⁷ ADRC, "Activities," accessed 29 August 2011, <http://www.adrc.asia/project/index.php>

CENTRAL ASIA

There is no regional or sub-regional organization dealing with DRM issues in Central Asia, but within the context of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the World Bank and UNISDR in partnership with other international partners under the umbrella of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) has initiated a Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative, which is in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and aims at reducing the vulnerability of countries to the risks of disasters.

The Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative incorporates three focus areas (with the possibility to include new activities):

- Coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response;
- Financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer instruments such as catastrophe insurance and weather derivatives, and
- Hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning¹⁴⁸

One of the recent outcomes of the program has been a risk assessment for Central Asia and Caucasus which was published in 2009.¹⁴⁹

There is also a plan to establish a 'Regional Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordination Centre in Central Asia' which would be based in Almaty, Kazakhstan but the Center is not yet operational.¹⁵⁰

There has also been regional cooperation on IDRL in Central Asia, with officials from the five Central Asian states and their National Red Cross/Crescent Societies meeting with UN agencies and other interested stakeholders in Astana, Kazakhstan for their second regional conference on IDRL in 2011. Convened by the IFRC, UN OCHA and UNDP and hosted by the Government and Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, the Conference gathered representatives of multiple ministries and backgrounds to look to the progress that has been made in the region in strengthening legal preparedness for international disaster assistance since the first conference held in 2009 and to make plans for the future.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁸ UNDP, "Republic of Kazakhstan, Disaster Risk Reduction Review," July 2009.

¹⁴⁹ Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CAC DRMI), *Risk assessment for Central Asia and Caucasus: desk study review*, 2009, <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/11641>

¹⁵⁰ ADRC, "Activity Report: Area & Country: Central Asia and Caucasus," accessed 29 August 2012, http://www.adrc.asia/adrcreport_e/archives/area-country/central-asia-caucasus/

¹⁵¹ IFRC, "Second Central Asia IDRL conference marks progress," 28 September 2011, <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/idrl/latest-news/idrl-newsletter-august-2011/second-central-asia-idrl-conference-marks-progress/>

¹⁵² Does not provide comprehensive data for fatalities from droughts.

MIDDLE EAST

The League of Arab States (LAS)

Founded: 1945

Seat: Cairo, Egypt

Members #: 22

Member States: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Website: <http://www.arableagueonline.org/>

Population: 357 million (5.17 percent of global)

Total GDP: \$3 trillion

Avg. GDP/Person: \$8.448

No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 23,670,709

No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 6,694

Percent of global affected: 0.84

Percent of global fatalities: 0.6¹⁵²

Percent of region's population affected: 6.6

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	Under development
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	

The League of Arab States (LAS) was founded in Cairo in 1945 and currently has 22 member countries. The League facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programs designed to promote the interests of the Arab world.

In 1990 member states passed the Arab Cooperation Agreement Organizing and Facilitating Relief Operations. In 2005, the Arab Summit in Algeria established an Arab Coordination Mechanism between Arab countries and Arab agencies in charge of disasters and emergencies.

The Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) is the regional mechanism to maintain coordination and cooperation among Arab countries in all matters related to environment and sustainable development.¹⁵³

Technical support to LAS is supported by UNEP. This cooperation was formally established in 1986 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, according to which UNEP pledged support to LAS Technical Secretariat, CAMRE and its Bureau. This support is aided through the establishment by UNEP of its Arab League Liaison Office (ALLO) in Cairo.

UNEP has continued its support to CAMRE over the years, with emphasis on priority programs identified at the annual Ministerial Meetings. The Jeddah regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (1999) signed between UNEP, CAMRE, the Regional Organization

¹⁵³ Fatma El Mallah, "Key Achievements and DRR Priorities within the League of Arab States system," PowerPoint Presentation, accessed 29 August 2012, www.preventionweb.net

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for Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), enables the consolidation of available resources, avoids duplication and ensures that regional activities focus on the priorities identified by the Ministerial Councils and within the UNEP global environmental program.¹⁵⁴ CAMRE in December 2010 adopted the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020.

LAS in 2011 also agreed to establish an Arab Center for the Prevention of Earthquakes and other Natural Disasters Risks, which will be hosted by Algeria.

Organization : Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)		
Founded: 1969	Seat: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Members #: 57
Member States: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei/Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea,- Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen		
Website: http://www.oicun.org/		

The Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The OIC is the collective voice of the Muslim world and works to to safeguard and protect Muslim interests in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among the world's peoples.¹⁵⁵

In 2008, the OIC created an International Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Department (ICHAD) based in its secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The OIC through the department has assisted in crisis response in several crises, for example by sending a mission to the Philippines after tropical storm Washi in late 2011.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, "UNEPs work," accessed 28 August 2012, <http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/UNEPsWork/Multilevelsupport/tabid/420/Default.aspx>

¹⁵⁵ Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, "About OIC," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.oicun.org/2/23/>

¹⁵⁶ OIC, "OIC Participates In the Humanitarian Efforts Made by the Philippines," 29 December 2011, <http://www.oicun.org/73/20120103053151996.html>

SOUTH ASIA

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)*		
Founded: 1985	Seat: Kathmandu, Nepal	No. Members: 8
Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka		
Website: www.saarc-sec.org		
Population: 1.63 billion (23.64 percent of global)	Avg. HDI: 0.584	
Total GDP: \$5.4 trillion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$3,367	
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 764,753,817	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 193,104	
Percent of global affected: 27.16	Percent of global fatalities: 17.4	
Percent of region's population affected (2000-2011): 46.9		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues	■	
Regional on DRM/CCA issues by regional or sub-regional organization	■	

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985, for the purpose of promoting economic and social progress, cultural development within the South Asia region as well as friendship and cooperation with other developing countries.

Environmental concerns and the issue of disasters were of concern to the organization from its very early days. During the Third SAARC Summit in 1987, a Regional Study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment was commissioned and a decade later, in 1988, a study on Greenhouse Effects and its impact on the Region was commissioned. Since then, periodic meetings of environment ministers have worked on issues of environment, climate change and natural disasters. Cooperation intensified in the last decade, when a Special Session of the Environment Ministers in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami was held in Malé in July 2005 and a SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Dhaka in July 2008.¹⁵⁷ SAARC has eleven regional centers located in different capitals of member states, which are mandated to work on different aspects of DRM. All of its regional institutions are actively involved in regular documentation, research and dissemination of information at regional and sub-regional levels.

¹⁵⁷ SAARC, "Area of Cooperation, Environment," accessed 27 August 2012, http://www.saarc-sec.org/areaofcooperation/cat-detail.php?cat_id=54

In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, SAARC developed a Comprehensive Framework on Early Warning, Disaster Management and Disaster Prevention which was adopted at the 14th SAARC summit in 2007 and is aligned with the implementation of the HFA.

The SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) was set up in October 2006 at the premises of the National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi. The center has the mandate to serve SAARC members by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia.

The center works on various dimensions of disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia and is networking through the national focal points of the member countries with the various ministries, departments and scientific, technical, research and academic institutions within and outside the government working on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management. The center conducts studies and research, organizes workshops and training programs, and publishes reports and documents.¹⁵⁸ In terms of research, the center publishes an annual disaster report for South Asia and a bi-annual journal of South Asia Disaster Studies. Among recent training activities were a training program/workshop on development of South Asia regional standards for Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in December 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh and a SAARC training program on urban risk management, held in late 2011 at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka.¹⁵⁹ The center also conducted several training-of-trainers programs with specialized institutions of member countries focusing on geological and hydro-meteorological disasters, such as earthquake resistant structures and building codes, the role of geo-informatics in disaster management, knowledge management using information technology, role of media in disaster management, groundwater management and rainwater harvesting.

In terms of research, the centre documented Best Practices on Community Based Disaster Risk Management in South Asia and reviewed seismic vulnerability of the Himalayan-Hindukush Belt vis-à-vis the Regional Active Fault Zones. SDMC has organized several expert group meetings to consider issues of disaster management by addressing various constraints of early warning/technological development; data/information sharing; collaborative research both among different institutions of SAARC and beyond SAARC.

SDMC has executed two flagship projects which are the development of a South Asia Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN), and a Digital Vulnerability Atlas (DVA) for South Asia. These function as one-stop-shops for information on disaster and vulnerability in the region. SADKN is based on a network of networks among SAARC member states,

¹⁵⁸ SAARC, "SAARC Disaster Management Centre," 13 February 2012, <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/index.asp>

¹⁵⁹ SAARC Disaster Management Centre, "Training Programmes," accessed 31 August 2012, <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/training.asp>

allowing them to access information from specifically designed for each member state of SAARC.

The SAARC Disaster Management Center has developed a number of road maps on different aspects of disaster management through a participatory process, involving the member states and experts on the relevant fields. The road maps have been approved by the concerned SAARC bodies.

The Road Maps developed so far include the following

1. Community based disaster risk management in South Asia;
2. Application of science and technology for disaster risk reduction and management coastal and marine risk mitigation plan;
3. Integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in South Asia;
4. Mainstreaming disaster reduction in development in South Asia;
5. Earthquake risk management in South Asia;
6. Landslide risk management in South Asia;
7. Urban risk ,management in South Asia;
8. Drought risk management in South Asia;
9. Flood risk management for South Asia;
10. Incident command system for South Asia;
11. PDNA for South Asia (under finalization).¹⁶⁰

¹⁶⁰ SAARC Disaster Management Centre, "SCMC Roadmap," accessed 31 August 2012, <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/roadmap.asp>; additional information through email conversation with Dr. O. P. Mishra, Head, Geological Disaster Division, SAARC Disaster Management Centre, 9 January 2013.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*		
Founded: 8 August 1967	Seat ¹⁶¹ : Jakarta, Indonesia	No. Members: 10
Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam		
Website: www.aseansec.org		
Population: ¹⁶² 621.7 mil. (8.9 percent of global)	Avg. HDI: ¹⁶³ 0.653	
Total GDP: ¹⁶⁴ \$3 trillion	Avg. GDP/Person: ¹⁶⁵ \$4,918.02	
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: ¹⁶⁶ 168,494,190	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: ¹⁶⁷ 346,414	
Percent of global affected: 5.98	Percent of global fatalities: 31.22	
Percent of region's population affected: 27.1		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional rapid response mechanism	■	Rapid assessment team formation ongoing
Regional military protocols for disaster assistance	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	

Southeast Asia is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world. With the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 hitting several countries in the region and Cyclone Nargis in 2008 devastating Myanmar, the region has seen two of the world's deadliest mega-disasters in the last decade. According to the International Disaster Database, during that same period, the region accounted for over 31 percent of all global fatalities from disasters and 6 percent of those affected by disasters.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is the main regional organization in Southeast Asia and was founded in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singa-

¹⁶¹ Headquarters or Secretariat.

¹⁶² CIA World Factbook, "Country Comparison: Population," accessed 10 August 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2119rank.html>

¹⁶³ UNDP, Human Development Index (HDI), 2011, <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>

¹⁶⁴ CIA World Factbook, "Country Comparison: GDP (PPP)," accessed 10 August 2012, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2001rank.html>

¹⁶⁵ Total GDP/Population.

¹⁶⁶ Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.

¹⁶⁷ Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database.

pore, and Thailand with the stated goals of accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development and the promotion of peace and stability in the region.¹⁶⁸ ASEAN, which was constituted during the Cold War, supported non-intervention in internal affairs among its member states, many of which were ruled by authoritarian or semi-authoritarian regimes during that time. After the end of the Cold War, ASEAN expanded by admitting Vietnam (1995), Laos, Myanmar (1997) and Cambodia (1999)¹⁶⁹ and has since worked to deepen regional cooperation in several areas, including economic cooperation and free trade, environmental concerns and human rights. These efforts culminated in the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter on December 2008, which gave the organization a new legal framework and a number of new organs.¹⁷⁰

Regional cooperation on disaster management is a fairly recent phenomenon in ASEAN. The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) was established in early 2003 following the decision of the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC).¹⁷¹ The ACDM consists of heads of national agencies responsible for disaster management of ASEAN Member Countries which had the task of developing the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management (APRDM) which was tasked to develop a broader ASEAN disaster management framework and develop a framework of cooperation from 2004-2010.¹⁷²

Propelled by the massive destruction of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the organization adopted a comprehensive Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) in July 2005 which came into force in December 2009. While the AADMER framework was not yet in place, ASEAN faced a major test in 2008 when cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar with at least 130,000 casualties. The involvement of the regional organization was key to mobilizing assistance from outside the country. ASEAN, which because of its non-intervention policy was frequently criticized by the West for its soft approach to the military regime in Myanmar, became the ideal interlocutor between the international community and the regime which initially resisted international assistance. The regional organization helped to put into place a transparent aid mechanism, facilitate an effective needs assessment and establish follow-up recovery plans. The key to the post-Nargis model was the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), a Yangon-based structure made up of ASEAN, the United Nations and the Myanmar government.¹⁷³

AADMER is a proactive regional framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance, and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management, providing the legal

¹⁶⁸ ASEAN, "Overview, Aims and Purposes," <http://www.asean.org/asean/about-asean>

¹⁶⁹ Brunei Darussalam had joined in 1984.

¹⁷⁰ ASEAN, "ASEAN Charter," <http://www.asean.org/asean/asean-charter/asean-charter>

¹⁷¹ The institutional mechanism (in the form of experts group) has existed since the 1970s but was only strengthened in 2003 with the elevation of the experts group into a full-fledged committee. (see www.aseansec.org/18444.htm)

¹⁷² ASEAN, "ASEAN Cooperation on Disaster Management," accessed 28 August 2012, www.aseansec.org/18444.html

¹⁷³ AlertNet, "ASEAN finds new purpose with Cyclone Nargis response," 1 May 2009, <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/asean-finds-new-purpose-with-cyclone-nargis-response/>

framework for both civilian and military organizations in enhancing ASEAN cooperation in disaster management. AADMER is tasked with supporting ongoing and planned national initiatives of member states and with supporting and complementing national capacities and existing work programs. While programs will be developed at the regional level, the primary responsibility for implementation lies with the member states.

The AADMER Framework and work program for 2010-2015 covers a detailed road map for four strategic components:

- Risk Assessment, Early Warning and Monitoring;
- Prevention and Mitigation;
- Preparedness and Response; and
- Recovery.¹⁷⁴

ACDM has identified 14 flagship programs to be implemented in phase 1 of the work plan (2010-2012), including:

- The creation of an emergency rapid assessment team (ERAT);
- Implementation of ASEAN's Roadmap on Disaster Risk Assessment;
- Development of a GIS-based disaster information-sharing platform for early warning;
- Production of a disaster recovery toolbox;
- Establishing an "ASEAN Resource Centre" as part of the AHA Centre.

The framework established the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in Jakarta as one of the main operational engines of the framework. The center, which became operational in November 2011, is planned to fulfill a wide array of functions from management of stand-by arrangements, risk assessment and information management, knowledge management and the facilitation of joint emergency response.¹⁷⁵ The center houses the ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), which is envisaged to provide the emergency operations center with streams of hazard data from all over ASEAN.¹⁷⁶ In addition to the above mentioned roles of the AHA Centre, the ACDM is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the AADMER

¹⁷⁴ ASEAN, "ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, Work Programme for 2010 – 2015", <http://www.asean.org/resources/publications/asean-publications/item/asean-agreement-on-disaster-management-and-emergency-responce-work-programme-for-2010-2015>

¹⁷⁵ Larry Maramis, "ASEAN Regional Cooperation on Disaster Management," UNHCR eCentre 2012, Symposium on Humanitarian Coordination in Asia and the Pacific, May 9 - 11, 2012, www.the-ecentre.net/resources/workshop/index.cfm?fuseaction=view&id=349; AHA Centre, "Based on AADMER, AHA Centre shall perform the following functions," accessed 10 August, 2012, www.ahacentre.org/

¹⁷⁶ United States Mission to ASEAN, "U.S. Supports State-Of-The-Art Disaster Monitoring and Response System for ASEAN," 12 April 2012, <http://asean.usmission.gov/pr4122013.html>

framework, while the Secretary-General of ASEAN was designated as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator for natural disasters and pandemic in ASEAN in 2009.

The AADMER framework also helps to facilitate countries calling for international cooperation, including with UN agencies. One outcome of the cooperation between ASEAN and the UN was the development of a joint strategic plan on disaster management between ASEAN and the UN.¹⁷⁷

ASIA – PACIFIC

Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC)		
Founded: 1989	Seat: Singapore	Members #: 21
Member States: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China PR, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea Rep., Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States, Vietnam		
Website: www.apec.org		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/technical training on DRM issues	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	Under development

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was founded in 1989 and has 21 member 'economies' which are situated in the Asia-Pacific region, including countries in Asia, Oceania and the Americas. While economic cooperation is the main aim of APEC, under its human security agenda, APEC also addresses issues of disaster preparedness.

APEC's Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) was first established as APEC's Task Force for Emergency Preparedness (TFEP) by APEC Senior Officials in 2005. Originally called the Virtual Task Force for Emergency Preparedness, the TFEP carried out much of its work via electronic communications. In 2009 the Task Force was upgraded to a working group.

Priorities for APEC's work set by the TFEP were:

- Business and community resilience;
- Public-private partnerships;

¹⁷⁷ ASEAN, "Joint Declaration on ASEAN-UN Collaboration in Disaster Management," 30 October 2010, <http://www.asean.org/asean/asean-summit/item/joint-declaration-on-asean-un-collaboration-in-disaster-management>

- Disaster relief coordination and cooperation, including donor management; and
- Integration of disaster risk awareness and management education into school curricula.¹⁷⁸

The working group brings together the largest annual gathering of heads of emergency management agencies on the region. APEC in 2008 also presented its Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 – 2015.

This Strategy, which provides an important framework for APEC's current and future emergency preparedness activities, identified three important objectives:

To provide APEC economies with solid information on the economic and social costs of disasters and on the human and economic costs of failing to take action;

1. To analyze gaps in regional disaster risk reduction approaches with a view to developing targeted capacity-building initiatives; and
2. To identify a suite of practical mechanisms, instruments and communication products for implementation at a community level, including measures that enhance business and community resilience.

The working group is also building a library of APEC-wide principles and information resources to support the development of emergency preparedness capabilities in the region, including:

- An APEC stocktaking of best practices and capacity building needs (2008);
- APEC Principles on Disaster Response and Cooperation (2008);
- APEC Principles on Disaster Damage and Loss Assessments (2009);
- An electronic library of disaster risk reduction school education material (under development); and
- A virtual advisory group on Long Term Capacity Building for Disaster Reduction (under development).¹⁷⁹

In November 2011, APEC held a High Level Policy Dialogue on Disaster Resiliency in Honolulu, Hawaii with a special focus on private sector participation in disaster preparedness and resilience efforts.

¹⁷⁸ APECD, Task Force for Emergency Preparedness, *Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific region: 2009 to 2015*, 15 August 2008, p. 4.

¹⁷⁹ APEC, "Emergency Preparedness," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Emergency-Preparedness.aspx>

APEC has also organized a wide number of workshops in the region dealing with DRM issues, such as:

- Study Course on Disaster Emergency Response and Recovery in Beijing, China in April 2008;
- Dialogue among APEC Economies, Business Community, International and Regional Partners on
- Emergency Preparedness in Hanoi, Viet Nam in April 2008;
- Workshop on Large Scale Disaster Recovery organized by Chinese Taipei and China in September 2008;
- Workshop on Damage Assessment Techniques in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in July 2009;
- Workshop on the Framework of Long-Term Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction in APEC, in Chinese Taipei in 2009;
- International Disaster Management Course (IDMC) in Singapore in March-April 2011;
- Workshop on School Earthquake Safety in APEC Economies: Reducing Risk and Improving Preparedness in Chinese Taipei in October 2011;
- Study Course on Wildfires Management in APEC Region in Moscow, Russia in November 2011.¹⁸⁰

¹⁸⁰ APEC, "Emergency Preparedness," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Emergency-Preparedness.aspx>

¹⁸¹ UN Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revisions, File 1: Total population (both sexes combined) by major area, region and country, annually for 1950-2100 (thousands), POP/DB/WPP/Rev.2010/02/F01, April 2011.

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –
OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

4. EUROPE

Countries: 49

Population¹⁸¹: 754 million
(10.7 percent of global)

Avg. HDI: 0.751
(Europe and Central Asia)

Total GDP: \$19.4 trillion

Avg. GDP/Person: \$26,351

No. of disaster affected 2000-2011:
11,301,450

No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 139,116

Percent of global affected 2000-2011: 0.40

Percent of global casualties 2000-2011: 12.53

Percent of region's population affected: 1.53

Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

Founded: 1992

Seat: Istanbul, Turkey

Members #: 12

Member States: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

Website: www.bsec-organization.org/Pages/homepage.aspx

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Regional IDRL treaty/guidelines	■	

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was established in 1992 to maintain the Black Sea region as a stable and prosperous area through the multilateral economic cooperation among its member states.

The BSEC has signed an agreement on Collaboration in Emergency Assistance and Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in 1998 to facilitate emergency assistance between its member states. An additional protocol to the agreement was adopted in 2005. As a follow-up of the agreements several events (workshops, conferences, and trainings) have been held, including regular meetings of the BSEC Working Group on Cooperation in Emergency Assistance which has formed ad hoc working groups of experts on issues of seismic risk, massive forest fires, and floods and torrents.¹⁸² The additional protocol to the agreement also established a Network of Liaison Officers on Emergency Assistance.¹⁸³

¹⁸² Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, "Black Sea Economic Cooperation," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.mfa.am/en/international-organisations/BSEC/>

¹⁸³ Email from Ambassador Bratislav Dordevic, Executive Manager, Permanent International Secretariat, BSEC, 19 December 2012.

¹⁸⁴ Headquarters or Secretariat.

Council of Europe (CoE)*		
Founded: 5 May 1949	Seat¹⁸⁴: Strasbourg, France	No. Members: 47
Member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom		
Website: www.coe.int		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Research on DRM/CCA issues	■	

The Council of Europe (CoE), based in Strasbourg (France), covers virtually the entire European continent, with its 47 member countries. Founded on 5 May 1949 by 10 countries, the CoE seeks to develop common and democratic principles throughout Europe based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals.

In 1987, the CoE created the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) which is a platform for cooperation between European and Southern Mediterranean countries in the field of major natural and technological disasters. Its work covers analysis of hazards, risk prevention, risk management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation. The Agreement has 26 members to date.¹⁸⁵ At the political level, the Council's decision-making body is the Ministerial meeting, held quadrennially and assisted by a Committee of Permanent Correspondents, which meets annually. At the scientific and technical level, specialized Euro-Mediterranean Centers develop projects both at national and regional levels which aim to improve the awareness and resilience of the population. At the time of this writing, 27 Centers participate in the program, including the European Centre for Risk Prevention in Sofia, Bulgaria, the Global Fire Monitoring Centre in Freiburg, Germany and the Scientific and Technical Research Centre on Arid Regions in Biskra, Algeria.¹⁸⁶

EUR-OPA adopted a new Medium Term Plan for 2011-2015 aiming at:

- Improving values, law and governance: new policies for disaster risk reduction; Promoting education and risk awareness;

¹⁸⁵ See Council of Europe, "European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement," accessed 29 January 2013, http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/presentation/memberstates_en.asp

¹⁸⁶ Council of Europe, http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/majorhazards/centres/default_en.asp

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –
OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Using science and technical co-operation to assess risks, reduce vulnerability and improve resilience of societies;
- Ensuring early warning, efficient response and attention to victims.¹⁸⁷

European Union (EU)*		
Founded: 1958 (EC)/1993 (EU)	Seat¹⁸⁸: Brussels, Belgium	No. Members: 27
Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malt, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom		
Website: http://europa.eu/index_en.htm		
Population: 500 million (7.25 percent of global)	Avg. HDI: 0.860	
Total GDP: \$15.6 trillion	Avg. GDP/Person: \$31,200	
No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 2,349,933	No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 78,371	
Percent of global affected: 0.08	Percent of global fatalities: 7.06	
Percent of region's population affected: 0.47		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Specific organization for DRM	■	
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	
Regional disaster-relief fund	■	
Regional funding for DRR projects	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional rapid response mechanism	■	
Joint disaster management exercises/simulations	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Research on DRM/CCA issues by regional or sub-regional organization	■	
Regional military protocols for disaster assistance	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	
Regional IDRL treaty/guidelines	■	

¹⁸⁷ Council of Europe, "European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Medium Term Plan 2011-2015," 28 September 2010.

¹⁸⁸ Headquarters or Secretariat.

The European Union (EU) is the main vehicle of the European economic and political unification process. The EU was formed by merging the European Communities through the Treaty of Maastricht, which came into force in 1993. The EU's work on disaster management is carried out under the title of civil protection. By 1985, EU ministers had already formally agreed to coordinate their civil protection strategies. Following the main EU directive, all civil protection strategies follow the subsidiarity principle with the aim to support national, regional and local efforts. In 1997, the EU took an important step forward when the Council approved a major civil protection action program which ran for two years and which was followed in 1999 by a second, more extensive scheme which ran from 2000-2004. The main areas of those programs were risk evaluation, prevention and mitigation, information to the public, preparedness and response, and analysis after the disaster.¹⁸⁹

Following the September 11 attacks, the EU established a Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM) in 2001 (revised in 2007). All 27 member states plus 5 non-member states (Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) participate in the mechanism. The operational heart of the mechanism is the Monitoring and Information Centre which gives countries access to a one-stop shop for civil protection means available among all participating states. Any country whether inside or outside the Union affected by a major disaster can make an appeal for assistance through the center and the center coordinates with participating states on the provision of assistance. The CPM also provides co-financing up to 50 percent for the transport of equipment into the disaster-affected countries.

The CPM also developed a Common Emergency and Information System which is a web-based alert and notification application with the intention of facilitating emergency communication among the participant states. The EU also set up a training program to improve co-ordination on civil protection intervention by ensuring compatibility and complementarity between the intervention teams from participating states. Part of this standardization effort is the creation of disaster modules, which are self-sufficient units of experts and equipment which range from search-and-rescue to wildfire fighting. There are currently 17 kinds of modules and 143 registered modules. Modules often require the cooperation of several member states, are standardized and intended to be ready for deployment within 24 hours.

The CPM is also working on prevention and preparedness issues based on the 2009 Commission Communication 'A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters.' The main areas of activity are the creation of an inventory of information on disasters, improvement of the knowledge base on DRR through research and collection of best practices, promotion of a multi-hazards, multi-risk approach, improvement of EU sectoral legislation (for example, on flood protection and drought management) and some direct support for prevention projects.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ European Commission, *EU focus on civil protection*, 2002, p. 6ff.

¹⁹⁰ European Commission, "A Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters," Communication from the Commission of the European Commission, Brussels, 23 February 2009; and Interview with Yordanka Mincheva, 18 October 2012.

Since its creation in 2001, the CPM has been activated over 150 times, for very different types of disasters. Major disasters in which assistance was requested included the tsunami in South Asia (2004/2005); Hurricanes Katrina in the USA (2005); earthquakes in China (2008), Haiti (2010), Japan (2011); floods in the Balkans (2010); forest fires in Greece (2007, 2012); civil unrest in Libya (2011); and explosion at a naval base in Cyprus (2011).¹⁹¹ The EU also provides technical support in terms of satellite imagery for both prevention and response purposes.¹⁹²

In addition to the work of the CPM, the EU's structural funds provide large amounts of financing for disaster preparedness and risk management. The EU Cohesion Funds will have risk management as one of their objectives from 2014-2020. But even from 2007-2013 the structural funds had a budget of Euro 6.5 billion for DRM projects.¹⁹³

The European Commission has also developed guidelines on host nation support which seek to assist affected states to receive international assistance effectively and efficiently. The guidelines deal with four major areas: emergency planning, emergency management and coordination on site, logistics/transport and legal and financial issues.¹⁹⁴ The guidelines refer to the IFRC's IDRL guidelines. The IFRC was involved in drafting an Analysis of Law in the EU pertaining to Cross-Border Disaster Relief in 2009-2010.¹⁹⁵

In recent years, two studies were undertaken to identify prevention gaps in existing community instruments and to analyze the approach to prevention taken by member states. These studies suggested that the EU should have a single framework covering prevention and pointed to a need for more sharing of information and exchange of best-practice among member states. They also note that the EU could assist in developing joint standards and methodologies with the aim of improving efforts when dealing with cross-border emergencies.¹⁹⁶

In December 2010, the Commission issued a Staff Working Paper on Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management based on a multi-hazard and multi-risk approach. According to the Commission, risk assessments are crucial for enhancing disaster prevention and preparedness activities and contribute significantly to planning and capacity building.¹⁹⁷ EU member states are tasked with conducting national risk analyses, which are to be followed by the Commission's preparation of a cross-sectoral overview of

¹⁹¹ European Commission, Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection, "The Community mechanism for civil protection," 1 December 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster_response/mechanism_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prevention_overview.htm

¹⁹² Interview with Asta Mackevicute, 12 October 2012.

¹⁹³ Interview with Yordanka Mincheva, 18 October 2012.

¹⁹⁴ European Commission, "Commission Staff Working Document EU Host Nation Support Guidelines, SWD(2012) 169 final, Brussels, 1 June 2012.

¹⁹⁵ Katherin Haver and Conor Foley, *International Dialogue on Strengthening Partnership in Disaster Response: Bridging national and international support*, Background Paper 2 Regional and International Initiatives, Humanitarian Outcomes, September 2011, p. 27.

¹⁹⁶ European Commission, Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection, "Prevention," 1 December 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prevention_overview.htm

¹⁹⁷ European Commission, "Risk assessment guidelines," 1 December 2011, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prevention_risk_assessment.htm

the major natural and man-made risks that the EU may face in the future, taking into consideration the future impacts of climate change and the need for climate adaptations. The process aims to establish a coherent risk management policy by 2014 linking threat and risk assessments to decision making.¹⁹⁸

In December 2011 the European Commission proposed to revise the EU's Civil Protection legislation in order to ensure a more effective, pre-planned and predictable EU approach to disasters. According to the proposal, which is currently subject to negotiations, member states would remain fully responsible for civil protection while the Commission's role would be to facilitate and co-ordinate co-operation among member states. The proposal includes a number of major developments including:

- The establishment of a 24/7 Emergency Response Centre, enabling improved service, planning and co-ordination in crisis situations. In the case of an emergency, the ERC would put together an immediate response plan, matching the needs on the ground with a pool of available voluntary assets and then call upon member states to deploy the most needed capacities.
- The proposal also promotes the transition from ad-hoc to pre-planned response. Member states register the means of assistance they can offer and pre-commit capacities for a European response both inside and outside of the EU. In addition, the proposal provides for a limited use of EU funding for the development of additional assets in certain areas of disaster management in which member states lack sufficient capacity.
- The provision of EU assistance for training for improved co-ordination of member states' teams on the ground.¹⁹⁹

While well-funded in comparison to DRM activities in other regions, Civil Protection has the smallest budget of all major EU activities. The Commission has proposed an increase (from approx. €25 million to €65 million) to reflect the increased frequency and intensity of disasters and the need for more robust prevention, preparedness and response policies.²⁰⁰ The EU's humanitarian aid and civil protection department (DG ECHO) which houses the CPM, has a staff of around 650, of whom approximately 60 work for the CPM.²⁰¹

Aside from its work on civil protection, the EU is the second-largest global humanitarian aid donor. EU institutions contributed \$1.7 billion globally for humanitarian assistance.²⁰² The European Commission is also the third largest funder of UNISDR, contributing more than \$19 million between 2000 and 2011.²⁰³

¹⁹⁸ Hyogo Framework for Action, *Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in Europe: advances and challenges 2009-2011*, 2011, www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=19690&pid:0, p. 90.

¹⁹⁹ Commission of the European Union, "Moving closer to more effective disaster management in Europe," MEMO/11/927, 20/12/2011.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, and Interview with Asta Mackevicute, 12 October 2012.

²⁰¹ Interview with Asta Mackevicute, 12 October 2012.

²⁰² Development Initiatives, *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2012*, 2012, p. 13.

²⁰³ UNISDR, "Donor Partnerships, Biennial Contributions, 2010-2011," accessed 24 August 2012, <http://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/donors>

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –
OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)		
Founded: 1949	Seat: Brussels, Belgium	Members #: 28
Member States: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States		
Website: http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regional/sub-regional disaster management center	■	
Provides Humanitarian Assistance	■	
Regional rapid response mechanism	■	
Joint disaster management exercises/simulations	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Regional military protocols for disaster assistance	■	

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 to provide military cooperation and collective defense for the North Atlantic countries as a military alliance opposing Soviet expansion during the Cold War, preventing the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe, and encouraging European political integration. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has taken on a broader security role, expanding into Eastern Europe and has become involved in military and peacekeeping missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Libya.²⁰⁴

Based on a broad definition of security that recognizes the importance of political, economic, social and environmental factors, NATO is addressing security challenges emanating from the environment. This includes extreme weather conditions, depletion of natural resources, pollution and so on – factors that can ultimately lead to disasters, regional tensions and violence.

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) is NATO's principal civil emergency response mechanism in the Euro-Atlantic area. It was founded in 1998, is active all year round, operational on a 24/7 basis, and involves NATO's 28 allies plus 22 partner countries. The center functions as a clearing-house for coordinating both requests and offers of assistance mainly in case of natural and man-made disasters.

In its coordinating functions for the response of NATO and Partner countries, EADRCC not only guides consequence management efforts, but it also serves as an information-sharing tool on disaster assistance through the organization of seminars to discuss lessons learned from NATO-coordinated disaster response operations and exercises.

²⁰⁴ NATO, "A short history of NATO," accessed 29 August 2012, <http://www.nato.int/history/nato-history.html>

In addition to its day-to-day activities and the immediate response to emergencies, EADRCC conducts annual large-scale field exercises to improve interaction between NATO, Partnership for Peace (PfP) and other partner countries. Regular major disaster exercises have been organized in different participating countries to practice procedures, provide training for local and international participants, build up interoperability skills and capabilities of the non-standing Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Unit (EADRU), and harness the experience and lessons learned for future operations. To this date, EADRCC has conducted thirteen exercises in Ukraine, Croatia, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Romania, Italy, Finland, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Turkey, Moldova and Georgia.

All EADRCC's tasks are performed in close cooperation with UN OCHA, which retains the primary role in the coordination of international disaster relief operations. EADRCC has been designed as a regional coordination mechanism, supporting and complementing UN efforts. Furthermore, EADRCC's principal function is coordination rather than direction. In the case of a disaster requiring international assistance, it is up to individual NATO allies and partners to decide whether to provide assistance, based on information received from EADRCC.

In 2005, the center contributed to the United States' response to Hurricane Katrina by coordinating the donations of NATO and partner countries. The same year, the center played a central role in the relief effort in Pakistan after the country experienced a devastating earthquake and, later in 2010, when it was hit by massive floods.²⁰⁵

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)		
Founded: 1957	Seat: Vienna, Austria	Members #: 56
Member States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan		
Website: http://www.osce.org/who/87		

With 56 member states, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and puts the political will of its participating States into practice through its unique network of field missions. The OSCE traces its origins to the Cold War détente of the early 1970s, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. After the end of the Cold War the CSCE was institutionalized and in 1994 became the OSCE.

²⁰⁵ North Atlantic Treaty Organization, "The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre," 20 July 2012, http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_52057.htm?selectedLocale=en

While most of the work of the organization centers on regional security issues, the OSCE has done some work on environmental issues, primarily on fire management. For example in 2006 and 2008, the OSCE conducted environmental emergency assessments to fire-affected territories in the South Caucasus region. Building on this experience, a regional capacity building project on fire management in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of reducing wildfire risks in the South Caucasus region is being implemented. In the draft Framework for Action in Astana (December 2010), there was a call to intensify dialogue, exchange best practices, and step up efforts to enhance protection of the environment, including by fostering cooperation on collective responses to natural and man-made disasters. Following this, in May 2011 the OSCE held a workshop on the potential role of the OSCE in natural disaster relief in Vienna.²⁰⁶

South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP)		
Founded: 2000	Seat: Sofia, Bulgaria	Members #: 12
Member States: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey		
Website: http://rspcsee.org/en/pages/read/		

The South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) is a forum for diplomatic and political dialogue reaffirming the political will and readiness of the countries from SEE to work together in pursuit of a common agenda thus meeting the region's needs of stability, security, democratization and economic prosperity.

The SEECP Ministerial Conference (Antalya, 13 May 2010) addressed the need for a more comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction, tracking status of and protecting critical infrastructure, coordination and active participation of the national authorities.²⁰⁷

²⁰⁶ International Peace Institute, "Responding to Natural Disasters: What Role for the OSCE?" June 2011.

²⁰⁷ Hyogo Framework for Action, *Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in Europe: advances and challenges 2009-2011*, 2011, <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/publications/v.php?id=19690&pid:0>, p. 90.

5. PACIFIC

Countries and Territories: 24

Population: 36.59 m (0.53 percent of global)
9.96 m without Aus/NZ

Avg. HDI: 0.685²⁰⁸

Total GDP: \$1,09 trillion
\$0.37 trillion without Aus/NZ

Avg. GDP/Person: \$29,706
\$3,711 without Aus/NZ

No. of disaster affected 2000-2011: 1,506,368

No. of disaster fatalities 2000-2011: 1,498

Percent of global affected: 0.05

Percent of global casualties: 0.14

Percent of region's population affected: 4.12

Given the threats from both natural hazards and climate change—which is exacerbating some of these hazards—regional organizations in the Pacific play an important role in tackling those issues. The main institutions working on those issues are the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP). In the last decade Pacific states developed two major regional frameworks, the Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015 and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (2006-2015).

The Pacific Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015 was endorsed at the Pacific Islands Forum in Madang, Papua New Guinea in 2005 and has six themes:

- Theme 1: Governance – Organisational, Institutional, Policy and Decision-Making Framework;
- Theme 2: Knowledge, Information, Public Awareness and Education;
- Theme 3: Analysis and Evaluation of Hazards, Vulnerabilities and Elements at Risks;
- Theme 4: Planning for effective Preparedness, Response and Recovery;
- Theme 5: Effective, Integrated and People-Focused Early Warning Systems;
- Theme 6: Reduction of Underlying Risk Factors.

Each thematic area lists key national and regional activities with expected outcomes at the end of the 10 year implementation period. There is an emphasis on disaster risk reduction to cover mitigation, prevention, adaptation or transfer of disaster risks and disaster management to cover preparedness, early warning, response and recovery; and cross cutting issues such as governance, capacity building and awareness and education.²⁰⁹ SPC/SOPAC was the institution tasked to lead the implementation of the framework.

²⁰⁸ UNDP in 2011 only provided HDI values for 11 countries in the region: Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

²⁰⁹ SOPAC, "Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015, Regional Synthesis Progress Report. Report for the period 2007 – 2009, June 2009, p. 9.

To support the implementation efforts, in 2006, SOPAC, in cooperation with UNISDR, facilitated the establishment of the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network (PDRMPN). Participants include representatives from national, regional, international and civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. The network has agreed to support the development and implementation of DRM National Action Plan (NAPs) for countries in the region and to create an online information portal for DRM in Pacific states. The web portal, pacificdisaster.net, is an important information source on disaster risk reduction and disaster management in the Pacific. In addition to promoting research and collaboration, it is essentially a tool to support national action planning and decision-making, as it is a database that also holds reports, disaster risk management plans, alerts and notifications of events as well as audio and visual files on DRM.²¹⁰

The PDRMPN also facilitates the Pacific Framework for Humanitarian Assistance which includes a Pacific Humanitarian Team of all disaster response actors in the region which is coordinated by UN OCHA. The intention of such a framework is to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response by ensuring that comprehensive needs-based relief and protection reaches the largest possible number of beneficiaries in an effective and timely manner. The agencies are organized around six key cluster areas, namely: 1) Health and nutrition; 2) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; 3) Emergency Shelter & Camp management; 4) Logistics; 5) Information Management and 6) Protection. For the Pacific, a collaborative approach to humanitarian response was triggered by the Solomon Islands tsunami of 2007 and the January 2009 floods of Fiji and the Solomon Islands.²¹¹

An additional regional initiative is the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI), which is a joint initiative between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community SPC/SOPAC, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, with financial support from the government of Japan and GFDRR. Under the initiative, detailed risk assessments were conducted for 15 nations in the Pacific region quantifying potential disaster losses from earthquakes, tsunamis and tropical cyclones. This includes the most comprehensive analysis of buildings, infrastructure and cash crop exposure ever conducted for the region. To promote the best use of this data, the results will be shared in the Pacific Risk Information System using an open-source web-mapping platform.²¹² This was followed by a feasibility study on regional risk finance mechanisms (for 15 countries in the region) culminating in a pilot project begun in late 2012 in which five Pacific countries (Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) are pooling their risk insurances to be able to gain access to the international reinsurance market.²¹³

²¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 17.

²¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 17f.

²¹² GFDRR, *Global Facility For Disaster Reduction and Recovery Annual Report 2011, 2012*, p.39f.

²¹³ The World Bank, "Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative," accessed 6 November 2012, <http://go.worldbank.org/7BXXDUVMC0>, and interview with Laura Bourdreau, 2 November 2012.

Since 1996 SOPAC has also undertaken a Pacific Cities Project which aims to quantitatively assess risk to people and property from natural and man-made hazards in selected urban areas in the Pacific.

There are also several programs and projects in place that deal with specific hazards and risks. With regard to volcano risks, the Melanesian Volcanological Network (MVN) was formed in 2008 to provide a cost-effective and sustainable operational framework that would allow for the sharing of resources (equipment and technical personnel) among the Melanesian countries, namely Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.²¹⁴

For hydrological hazards, the Pacific Hydrological Cycle Observing System – ‘Pacific HYCOS’ Project has an overall objective of attaining a sustainable level of capacity in Pacific Island Countries to be able to assess and monitor the status and trend of PIC’s water resources, and to provide the water-related information and hazard warnings needed to support national social and economic development and environmental protection. In terms of flood risks the project provides an opportunity to install flood monitoring and forecasting equipment in Pacific Island countries. In terms of drought forecasting, the HYCOS project is working to develop a common approach to drought forecasting in Pacific Island Countries. This component would involve existing meteorological and hydrological data analysis; recent drought impact analyses; development of mitigation and management plans; development of rainfall and stream flow forecasting model; low flow equipment installation; standardization of drought forecasts; training workshops in drought forecasting, response and mitigation; development of public education materials on drought preparation; application of drought forecasting to rainwater harvesting; and drought response policy and plan development.²¹⁵

The Pacific Emergency Management Training Advisory Group (PEMTAG) comprises SOPAC, TAF/OFDA, UN OCHA and the IFRC. It provides a forum for agencies involved in the design and delivery of emergency management training and development within the region to work together to ensure that through partnership arrangements there is an integrated regional approach to the building of national capacity in the long term.²¹⁶

In addition to its DRR policy, the Pacific Islands have engaged in efforts to create policies relating to climate change. In 2005 a Pacific Islands Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) meeting was convened to review the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea Level Rise 2000-2004. One outcome was a proposal to develop an action plan for implementation of the framework for the years 2006-2015. In 2008 the PCCR was reconstituted, with SPREP being called upon to convene regular meetings of the PCCR inclusive of all regional, international organizations and civil society organizations with active programs on climate change in the region.

²¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 20.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.* p. 15.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 24.

The framework envisages the Pacific people as being able to withstand the risks and impacts of climate change, including through the following measures:²¹⁷

- Education, training and awareness for an improved understanding of climate change;
- The implementation of adaptation measures;
- Governance and decision-making efforts;
- Contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and,
- Partnerships and cooperation.

The purpose of this framework is to strengthen climate change action in the region by:

- Raising awareness of climate change issues in the Pacific (for stakeholders within the Pacific and outside the region);
- Providing guidance on design and implementation of climate change measures (both national and regional);
- Providing guidance on development of policies, whether they be climate change specific policies or sectoral policies; and
- Providing a framework to enable measurement of progress of climate change action in the region.

This framework is intended to inform the decisions and actions of national, regional and international partners, and promote links with, but in no way supersede, more specific regional and national policies and plans across specific sectors, including: disaster risk management, water, waste management, agriculture, energy, forestry and land use, health, coastal zone management, marine ecosystems, ocean management, tourism, and transport.²¹⁸

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)* South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)		
Founded: 1947 (SPC)	Seat: Suva, Fiji (SOPAC)	No. Members: 21 (SOPAC)
Member States (SOPAC): American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga (Kingdom of), Tuvalu, Vanuatu		
Member States (SPC): above countries plus Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Wallis and Futuna, France and the United States of America		
Website: www.sopac.org ; www.spc.int		

²¹⁷ Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006-2015, 2005.

²¹⁸ SREP, "Current Programmes," accessed 20 August 2012, www.sprep.org/Policy-and-Science/current-programmes

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE GROWING ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Organization/Region has... ²¹⁹	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	
Specific organization for DRM	■	
Regional disaster insurance scheme	■	
Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)	■	
Regional DRR framework/convention	■	
Regional DM framework/convention	■	
Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues	■	
Research on DRM/CCA issues by regional or sub-regional organization	■	
Regional web portal on DRM	■	

The South Pacific Commission, as SPC was formerly called, was founded in Australia in 1947 under the Canberra Agreement by the six 'participating governments' that then administered territories in the Pacific: Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. They established the organization to restore stability to a region that had experienced the turbulence of World War II, to assist in administering their dependent territories and to benefit the people of the Pacific. In 1962, Samoa was the first island nation to become an independent state and in 1965 was the first to become a full member of SPC. Other island nations in turn became independent or largely self-governing and in 1983, at the 23rd South Pacific Conference in Saipan, all 22 Pacific Island member countries and territories were recognized as full voting and contributing members of SPC. The name, South Pacific Commission, was changed to the Pacific Community at the 50th anniversary conference in 1997 to reflect the organization's Pacific-wide membership. By 2010, SPC's 26-strong membership included the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories along with four of the original founders (the Netherlands and United Kingdom withdrew in 1962 and 2004 respectively when they relinquished their Pacific interests). The Conference of the Pacific Community, which is held every two years, is the governing body of SPC with each member entitled to one vote on decisions. However, debates are usually resolved in the Pacific way by consensus.²²⁰

The mission of the SPC is "to help Pacific island people position themselves to respond effectively to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow."²²¹

The South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) was established in 1972 under the Economic and Social Division of the UN as a project called the Committee for Coordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC), to promote offshore mineral and petroleum prospecting but became an autonomous

²¹⁹ The Pacific seems to have a very collaborative approach to DRM so it is difficult to attribute activities to a single organization. Still, the Madang framework clearly tasks SOPAC to have the lead function on risk reduction in the region.

²²⁰ Secretariat of the Pacific Community, "History," www.spc.int/en/about-spc/history.html

²²¹ SOPAC, "SOPAC Overview," 29 March 2010, <http://www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-overview>

secretariat in 1984. In the SOPAC context, geoscience means any science concerned with the earth. This includes geological, physical, chemical and biological processes that occur at the earth's surface or in its interior. It includes the tools used in SOPAC to assess whether the use of resources is viable, and to study natural disasters and their impact on island communities.²²² The initial focus of SOPAC's work was on marine mapping and geosciences, but recent years have seen a broadening of this scope to include hazard assessment and risk management, environmental vulnerability, oceanography, energy, water and sanitation and information and communication technologies.²²³ In January 2011 SOPAC became a division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The goal of SOPAC is to apply geoscience and technology to realize new opportunities for improving the livelihoods of Pacific communities.

At the time of writing, SOPAC currently had three major disaster management programs:

Disaster Reduction Program: The Disaster Reduction Program (DRP) provides technical and policy advice and support to strengthen disaster risk management practices in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The program carries out this responsibility in coordination and collaboration with other technical program areas within SOPAC and also with a range of regional and international development partners and donors. The overarching policy guidance for DRP is the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005-2015. The other significant regional policy instruments that help to guide the efforts of the DRP are the Pacific Plan and the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006 – 2015.²²⁴

Ocean and Islands Program: The Ocean and Islands Programme provides applied ocean, island and coastal ecoscience services to support countries to govern and develop their natural resources, increase their resilience to hazards and facilities data based approaches to adaptation. These vital technical services have been strategically deployed in response to specific member requests to assist in the development, management and monitoring of natural resources and unique island environmental systems and processes.²²⁵

Water and Sanitation Program: SOPAC, as the regional agency mandated to coordinate water and sanitation in the Pacific, provides support to its member countries through three components: water resources management; water and sanitation services; and water governance. Pacific Island countries have uniquely fragile water resources due to their small size, lack of natural storage, competing land use and vulnerability to natural hazards.²²⁶

²²² SOPAC, "SOPAC Overview," 29 March 2010, <http://www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-overview>

²²³ SOPAC, "SOPAC Overview and History," accessed 13 August 2012, <http://www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-overview>

²²⁴ www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-programmes/disaster-reduction-programme

²²⁵ www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-programmes/oceans-and-islands-programme

²²⁶ www.sopac.org/index.php/sopac-programmes/water-and-sanitation-programme

Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)		
Founded: 1993	Seat: Apia, Samoa	No. Members: 24
Member States: American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna		
Website: www.sprep.org/index.php		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Research on DRM/CCA issues	■	

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is an intergovernmental organization which was founded in 1993 (under the name of South Pacific Environment Programme) with the purpose of promoting cooperation in the South Pacific region and providing assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.²²⁷ The secretariat of (SPREP) is located in Samoa and has a staff of about 70 people.

SPREP's activities are guided by its Strategic Action Plan 2011-2015 which establishes four strategic priorities:

- Climate change;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem management;
- Waste management and pollution control;
- Environmental monitoring and governance.²²⁸

The goal of the Climate Change Strategic Priority is that, "[b]y 2015, all Members will have strengthened capacity to respond to climate change through policy improvement, implementation of practical adaptation measures, enhancing ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change, and implementing initiatives aimed at achieving low-carbon development."²²⁹

The program supports Pacific countries' development of:

1. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA)
2. Joint National Action Plans (JNAPS)²³⁰

²²⁷ Agreement establishing the south Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Article 2, 1993.

²²⁸ SREP, "About us," Accessed 20 August 2012, www.sprep.org/About-Us

²²⁹ SREP, "Climate change overview," accessed 20 August 2012, SREP, "About us," Accessed 20 August 2012, www.sprep.org

²³⁰ SREP, "Climate change overview," accessed 20 August 2012, SREP, "About us," Accessed 20 August 2012, www.sprep.org

ANNEX II: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT –
OVERVIEW OF REGIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

In 2005 the Pacific Leaders endorsed the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change (PIFACC) 2006 to 2015. A second edition, launched at the 22nd SPREP Meeting in 2011, maintains the vision and goal of PIFACC but considers advances in understanding of climate change issues, developments in the global and regional climate change architecture, and the experiences of Pacific Island Countries and Territories, Pacific regional organisations, donors and other development partners, in implementing climate change programs since endorsement of the original edition of this framework.²³¹

Pacific Island Forum (PIF)		
Founded: 1971/1999	Seat: Suva, Fiji	No. Members: 16
Member States ²³² : Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshal Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.		
Website: www.forumsec.org.fj/index.cfm		

Organization has...	Yes	Comment
Regular intergovernmental meetings on DRM	■	

The Pacific Islands Forum is a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states. It was founded in 1971 as the South Pacific Forum and renamed in 1999 as the Pacific Islands Forum. The main decision making body is the annual Leaders Forum with the chairmanship rotating annually among members. The secretariat to the forum, called the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), was initially established as a trade bureau in 1972 and later became the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC). In October 2000, it became the Forum Secretariat. The goal of the PIFS is to stimulate economic growth and enhance political governance and security for the region, through the provision of policy advice; and to strengthen regional cooperation and integration through coordinating, monitoring and evaluating implementation of Leaders' decisions.²³³ The Forum Secretariat is also mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Pacific Plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

The PIF is an important forum for advocacy and action on climate change in the Pacific region. The leaders of the forum in 2009 issued a call to action on climate change and the Forum Secretariat is engaged in monitoring the regions effort to combat climate change

²³¹ SPREP, "Current Programmes," accessed 20 August 2012, <http://www.sprep.org/Policy-and-Science/current-programmes>

²³² New Caledonia and French Polynesia, previously Forum Observers, were granted Associate Membership in 2006. Forum Observers include Tokelau (2005), Wallis and Futuna (2006), the Commonwealth (2006), the United Nations (2006) the Asia Development Bank (2006) and the World Bank (2010), with Timor Leste as Special Observer (2002).

²³³ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, "Mission, Goals & Roles, accessed 20 August 2012, <http://www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/about-us/mission-goals-roles/>

and its impact s on the member states. In its capacity to coordinate development assistance in the region, the Forum Secretariat is exploring ways of increasing the effectiveness of donor assistance to member countries.²³⁴ Key considerations at the forum's leaders meeting in Vanuatu in 2010 was the importance of engaging in global negotiations and the issues of climate change financing and mainstreaming climate change responses in national planning frameworks.²³⁵ The PIFS also has a special unit for Smaller Island States which engages to assure that Smaller Island States derive the fullest possible benefit from the Pacific Plan and development in the Pacific.

²³⁴ PIFS, "Climate Change," accessed 17 August 2012, <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/strategic-partnerships-coordination/climate-change/>

²³⁵ PIFS, "Pacific Plan 2011, Annual Progress Report," 10 February 2012, <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/documents/pacific-plan-1/>, p. 14.

ANNEX III: 17 INDICATORS FOR DRM AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Regular intergovernmental (or technical) meetings on DRM

Designated ministers or heads of national disaster management agencies have regularly scheduled meetings that have a special focus on disaster issues. Infrequent high-level summits on disaster issues count in determining the frequency. Frequency of meetings should not be further apart than 2-3 years.

2. Regional DRR framework/convention

Regional/sub-regional organizations have passed and ratified a regional DRR framework/convention.

3. Regional DM framework/convention

Regional/sub-regional organizations have passed and ratified a regional disaster management or humanitarian framework/convention.

4. A specific organization for DRM

A specific organization or sub-organization has been created that focus specifically on disaster management, DRR and/or climate change adaptation issues. This does not include disaster management divisions or focal points within the main secretariat of an organization.

5. A regional or sub-regional disaster management center

Centers which assist member countries in a variety of capacities, such as early warning, coordination, data provision, research.

6. A regional disaster relief fund

A regional fund exists which is designated to disburse assistance in case a (major) disaster strikes one of the member countries.

7. Regional disaster insurance scheme

The region has developed a regional mechanism for disaster insurance.

8. A way of providing regional funding for DRR projects

The regional or sub-regional organization provides direct funding for DRR projects in the region/sub-region or in other regions.

9. A means to provide humanitarian assistance

The regional/sub-regional organization provides humanitarian assistance in the event that a major disaster strikes one of its member states. Assistance must be from regional/sub-regional organization and not bilateral.

10. A regional rapid response mechanism

Regional/sub-regional organization possesses rapid response mechanism that can be deployed in disaster area in member or non-member country. This can be a civilian or a military mechanism.

11. Regional technical cooperation (warning systems)

There are either collective projects or institutions which foster technical cooperation, such as be tsunami warning systems, meteorological data sharing, famine early warning systems, etc. These projects can be done by a joint center (see criteria 5), specialized institutions or be carried out by ad hoc means.

12. Joint disaster management exercises/simulations

Member states hold joint disaster management exercises/trainings in the region.

13. Regional capacity building for NDMA staff/Technical training on DRM issues

The regional/sub-regional organization organizes courses/trainings/workshops for government, NGO or private sector experts working on disaster management or DRR issues.

14. Research on DRM issues

The regional/subregional organization or its subsidiary bodies engage in or support research on DRM in the region/sub-region.

15. Regional military protocols for disaster assistance

Regional conventions/treaties/protocol on military assistance in emergencies have been developed and are in force.

16. A regional web portal on DRM

There is a regional web portal/resource center on the regional/sub-regional level which is supported/organized by the regional or sub-regional organization.

17. Regional IDRL treaty/guidelines

Countries in the region have passed a regional IDRL treaty, developed regional IDRL guidelines or support member states to incorporate IDRL into their national laws and policies.



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