

CONSULTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT SECTORS AFFECTED BY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

March 30, 2013 at NACAM
National Agency for Civil Aviation and Meteorology
Moroni – Union of the Comoros

Draft Summary Report

National post-2015 consultation on the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience

A consultation workshop regarding developing sectors affected by the implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience has been held in the NACAM in Moroni in the Union of the Comoros on 30 March 2013 (list of participants in appendix 1). The meeting was supported by the project "Integration of disaster risk reduction in national planning", financed by the World Bank and UNDP in Comoros. The methodology of participatory approach was endorsed by all participants in the consultation for all the series of questions. In accordance with the guidance note of the ISDR, the national consultation was organized around the following key points:

1. Consultation on the existing framework, and progress achieved at the national level

A presentation recalling the main objectives of the HFA, the progress achieved, and the challenges to overcome, was made by the national HFA focal point.

The presentation required the assessment of participants who have expressed their appreciation for the inclusion of DRR into general policies. A discussion, among the representatives of different sectors, was held in order to coordinate the views and assessments of the progress made since the implementation of the HFA, as well as the impact thereafter.

The main points raised during this discussion, focused upon:

- Institutional strengthening, through the creation of the structure dedicated to DRR (General Directorate of Civil security, Decree setting up the National Platform, and directive concerning establishment of a national commission and a national coordination for prevention and DRR).
- A better understanding of the hazards threatening the country and the vulnerability studies attempted at the national scale (mapping of volcanic risk in Grande Comore, vulnerability study of climatic and geological hazards in the Union of the Comoros, vulnerability, sensitivity, and economic value of the mangroves and coral reefs).
- Implementation of different programs or projects targeting DRR by different partners:
 1. Project for the reduction of volcanic risk in Grande Comore financed by BCPR
 2. Project to build capacities in managing climatic and natural risks in the Union of the Comoros financed by UNDP
 3. Program to integrate DRR into national planning.

- Elaboration and implementation of a plan for preparing and responding to emergencies, national contingency plan, specific plan for the Karthala volcano, cyclone and tsunami, POLMAR plan to address marine pollution and hydrocarbons' spillage, recovery plan.

2. **Results of the first consultations and mid-term evaluation of DRR**

A national mid-term review of the implementation of the HFA was held in November 2009. A 2nd follow-up mid-term assessment of HFA was completed in 2011 and submitted to UNISDR before validation.

The main results of these evaluations denoted the integration of DRR into school curricula since 2010, as well as into the development plan.

The second national communication on climate change adaptation, recently validated, has also focused on the aspects of DRR.

Urban planning risks including building resilience in schools, hospitals and other public infrastructure remain challenges to be overcome for the next framework at a national scale.

3. **Underlying factors and opportunities for the integration of DRR into global development**

Development programs, pending financing, represent opportunities for all developing sectors to stand to benefit from reconstruction and rehabilitation support.

4. **Important elements to be considered for the future of DRR**

- Strengthening the resilience of cities and generalizing good practices for DRR at national scale

The urban approach to DRR is an important factor, in as much as it directly involves the communities which are potential victims of the various hazards, in order to make them more accountable and participatory.

The resilient cities campaign, conducted since 2009, and to which the main town of Comoros, Moroni has signed up to, did not have much impact at the national level. The expansion of the campaign to other cities of the Comoros will be an essential step for resilience strengthening.

Moreover, strengthening the capacity of the insular or regional institutions, in the context of decentralization, should support resilience building of communities to cope with disasters.

- Improve and strengthen hazards knowledge

The study of vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, made in 2011, led to a better understanding of hazards threatening the country. Emphasis should be placed on

scientific research and strengthening the technical means for observation and monitoring of hazards through the development of a comprehensive data base, GIS and remote sensing tools development. These are essential factors for mitigating and reducing the impact of hazards on populations.

- Stakeholders' awareness and popularization of existing plans.

The current consultation has identified certain weaknesses in certain sectors. These weaknesses include the knowledge of existing tools for DRR such as the current HFA, as well as the existing plans at national level. The opportunity to increase community awareness, notably that of decision makers and the popularization of existing tools, is to be seized in order to increase the effectiveness of actions in DRR.

- Building capacity and support for focal points

In order to increase the effectiveness and transparency of actions in the field of DRR at national level, focal points should be strengthened and supported. It is in this sense that it would be appropriate to set up training programs, for their benefit, in order to increase the efficiency of activities in DRR, but also to facilitate exchanges between the different focal points.

- Prioritization of underlying risks.

The validation in March 2013 of the 2nd communication on climate change adaptation takes into account the DRR aspect integrated into national planning (PRSP and cooperation framework UNDP / UNDAF Comoros 2012-2014).

The four main important elements that should be addressed in a post 2015 framework for the DRM are as follows:

1. Prioritization of investment for DRR to address underlying risks at local level
2. Emphasize the significance of city resilience faced with by the impact of CC, accompanied by necessary funding
3. Empowering national focal points on issues related to improvement of a culture for prevention and capacity building.
4. Enhance HFA's alignment with the convention on climate change (CC), and sustainable development