

ECOWAS POLICY ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



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About ECOWAS

- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional body comprising of 15 countries and 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 & financial as well as social & cultural matters”.

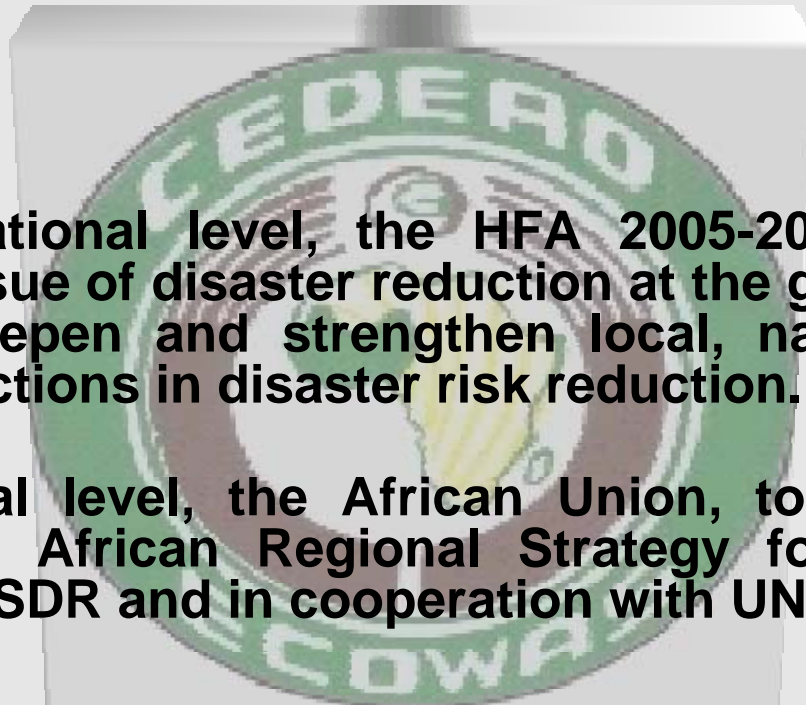


Disaster Risk Reduction

- **Increased incidence of disasters triggered by natural and man-made hazards over the last decades have resulted in high vulnerability of West African peoples to socio-economic losses and slowing down the process towards sustainable development that poses treats to the region's ability to achieve the MDGs**
- **Some of the hazards affecting the sub-region are pest invasions (locust & recently, army worm invasions), deforestation, flooding, soil erosion, coastal wetlands degradation and wild land fire.**
- **Climate change factors will worsen drought conditions as well as change vegetation patterns.**

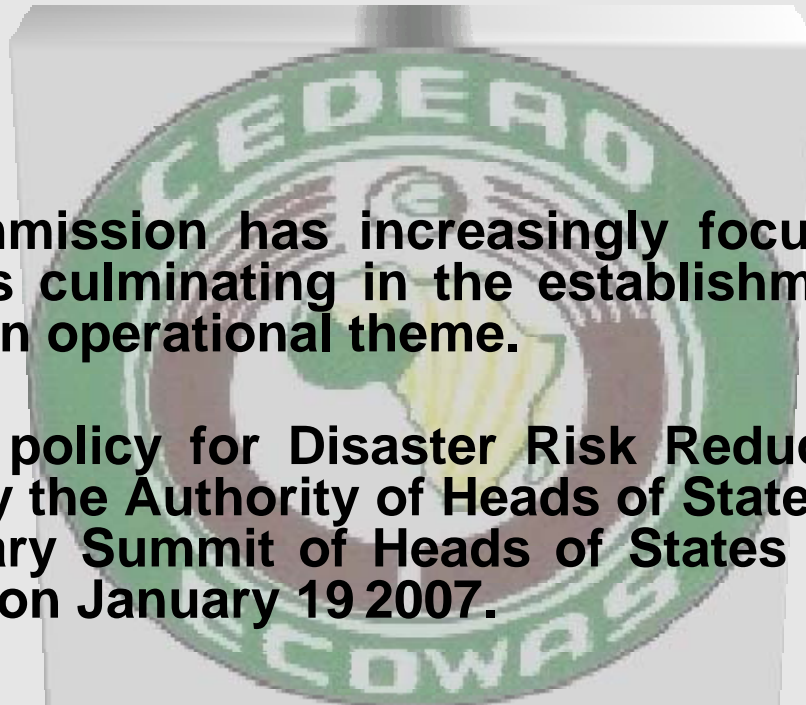
Framework/Strategies on DRR

- **At the international level, the HFA 2005-2015 was adopted to address the issue of disaster reduction at the global level as well as to expand, deepen and strengthen local, national, regional and international actions in disaster risk reduction.**
- **At the regional level, the African Union, together with NEPAD, developed the African Regional Strategy for Disaster with the support of UNISDR and in cooperation with UNDP and the ADB.**



ECOWAS Initiative on DRR

- **ECOWAS Commission has increasingly focused its attention on disaster issues culminating in the establishment of Disaster Risk Reduction as an operational theme.**
- **The ECOWAS policy for Disaster Risk Reduction was developed and adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Governments at the 31st Ordinary Summit of Heads of States and Governments in Ouagadougou on January 19 2007.**



Focus Areas of the Policy

The Policy comprises of five areas of focus:

- 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.



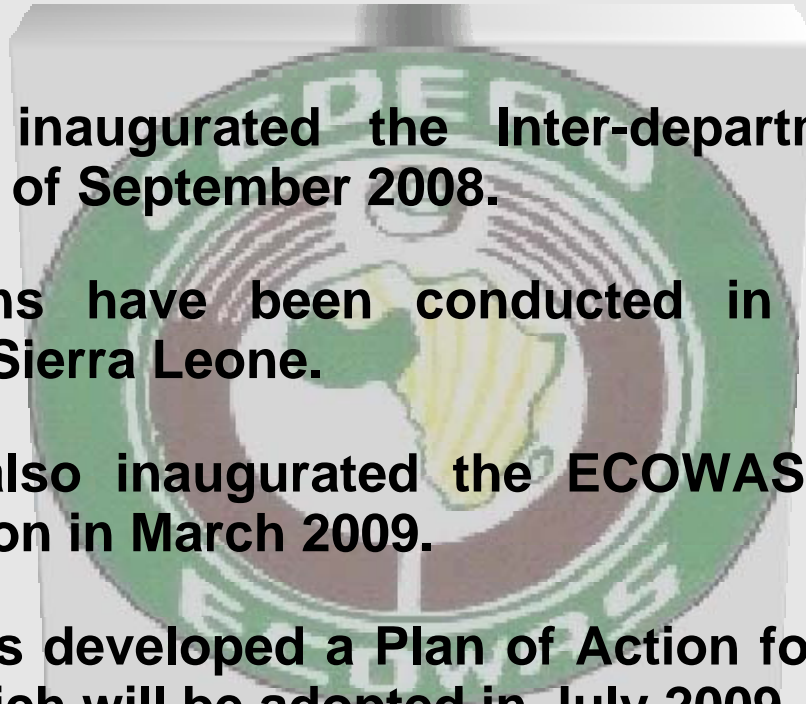
Objectives of the Policy

- **Advocate for and raising awareness on disaster risk reduction**
- **Integrate disaster risk reduction into development policies, planning and programs**
- **Develop and strengthen institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards**
- **Incorporate risk reduction approaches in emergency preparedness, rehabilitation and recovery**
- **Enhance the contribution of the disaster reduction to peace and security of the sub-region**



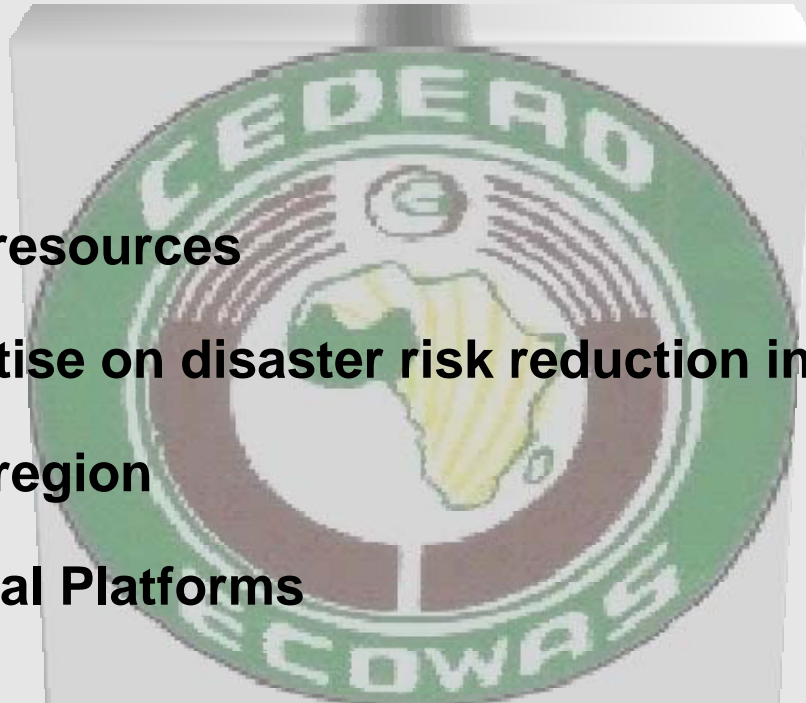
Where are we?

- The DRR Division inaugurated the Inter-departmental Coordinating Committee on the 16th of September 2008.
- Assessment missions have been conducted in Ghana, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Sierra Leone.
- The DRR Division also inaugurated the ECOWAS Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2009.
- The DRR Division has developed a Plan of Action for the Implementation of the DRR Policy, which will be adopted in July 2009.



Challenges

- **Insufficient financial resources**
- **Limited human expertise on disaster risk reduction in the sub-region**
- **Instability in the sub-region**
- **Strengthening National Platforms**





THANK YOU!!!