



Cuban experience in disaster risk reduction associated with tropical cyclones



Cuban Civil Defense Headquarters (CD-HQ)



**Category 5 Hurricane
November 8, 1932**

More than 3000 dead



SANTA CRUZ DEL SUR

**Category 4 Hurricane Paloma
November 8, 2008**

There were no deaths



**Category 2 Hurricane Flora
October 5-8, 1963**



CUENCA DEL RÍO CAUTO

**Tropical Storm Noel
October 2007**



More than a thousand dead

There were no deaths

- In the last 18 years, Cuba has been affected by 27 tropical cyclones, of which 17 hurricanes, 7 great intensity.
- More than 11 million people have protected and has lamented the death of 56 people and economic losses exceed 20 billion dollars



The Civil Defense of Cuba

The Civil Defense system of Cuba is composed of all the resources of the society and state, with the main goal to protect people and their property, social infrastructure, economy and natural resources from the impact of disasters and climate change.



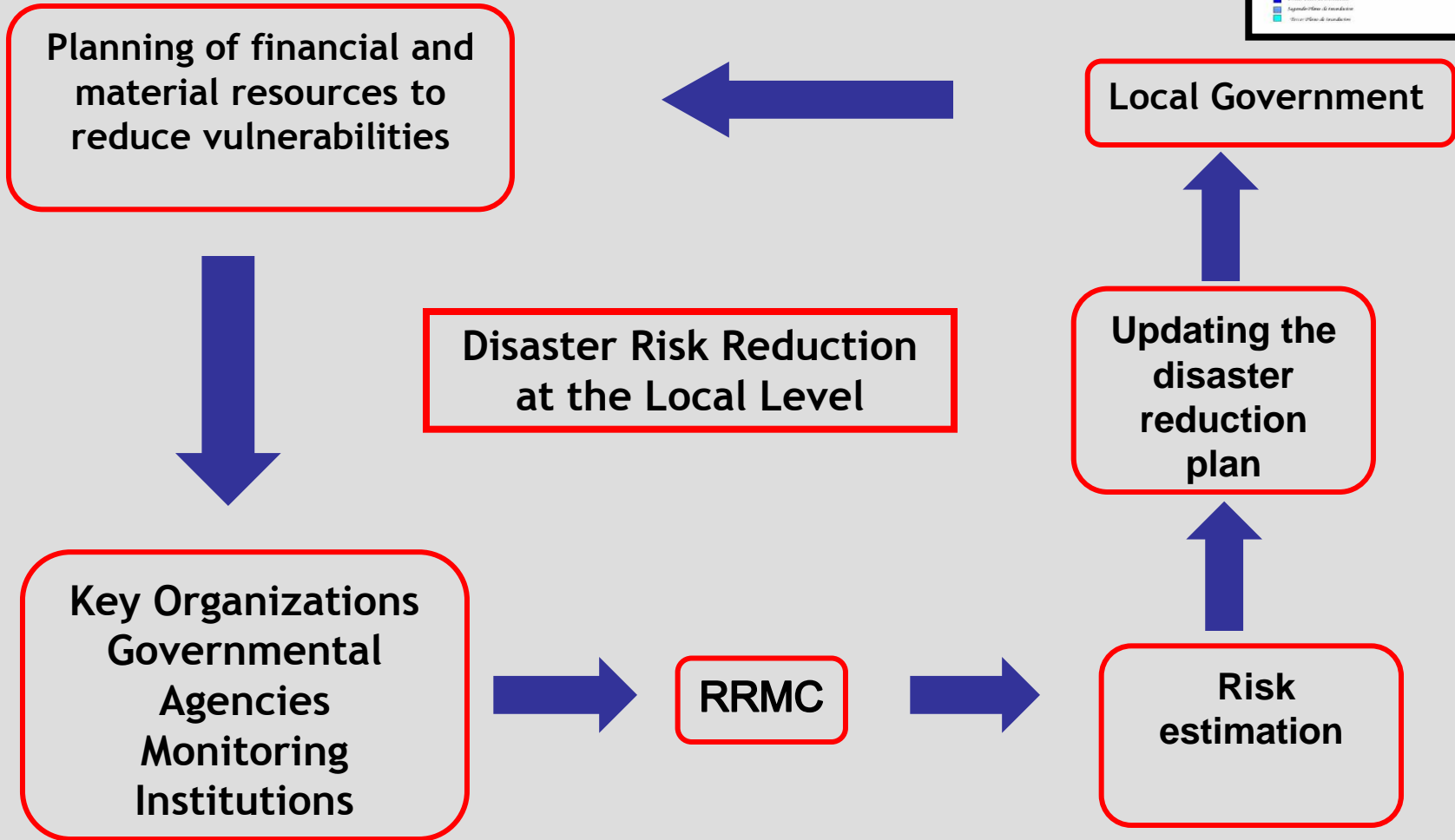
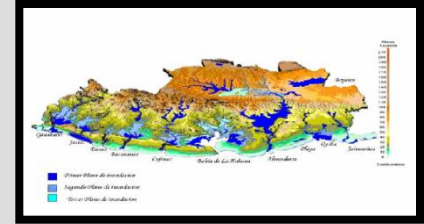
Achievements of the Revolution that have reduced social vulnerability

- Universal access to health, education and social security
- Policies aimed at reducing social and economic disparities
- Investments in infrastructure
- Universalization of culture to increase human knowledge
- Policies aimed at the formation of values and the promotion of cooperation, solidarity and cohesion



Disaster risk management cycle

Procedures for managing the risk associated with each hazard at the municipality and popular council level



RRMC= Risk reduction management centers



Al servicio
de las personas
y las naciones

Actions to strengthen local capacities for risk reduction

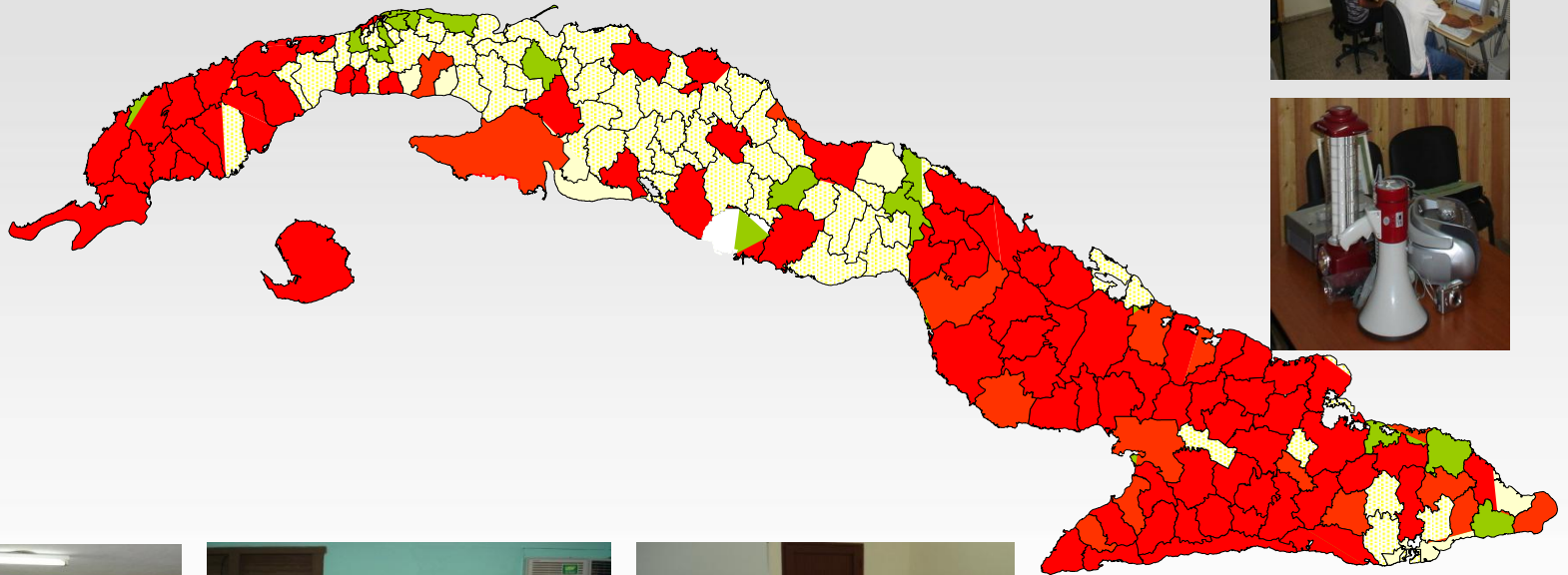
The Risk Reduction Management Centres (RRMC) are designed to provide local governments with an estimation and monitoring of risks associated with natural hazards and implementing measures to reduce vulnerability and the level of exposure of people and economic resources. This represents the basis for disaster risk reduction which leads to sustainable development.





Al servicio
de las personas
y las naciones

Distribution of RRMCs



Estado Mayor Nacional de la Defensa Civil



Risk Management at a Local Level

- Government agencies (housing, electricity, health, physical planning)
- Non-State Sector
- Monitoring Institutions
- Entities dealing with hazardous substances
- Environmental Studies Center

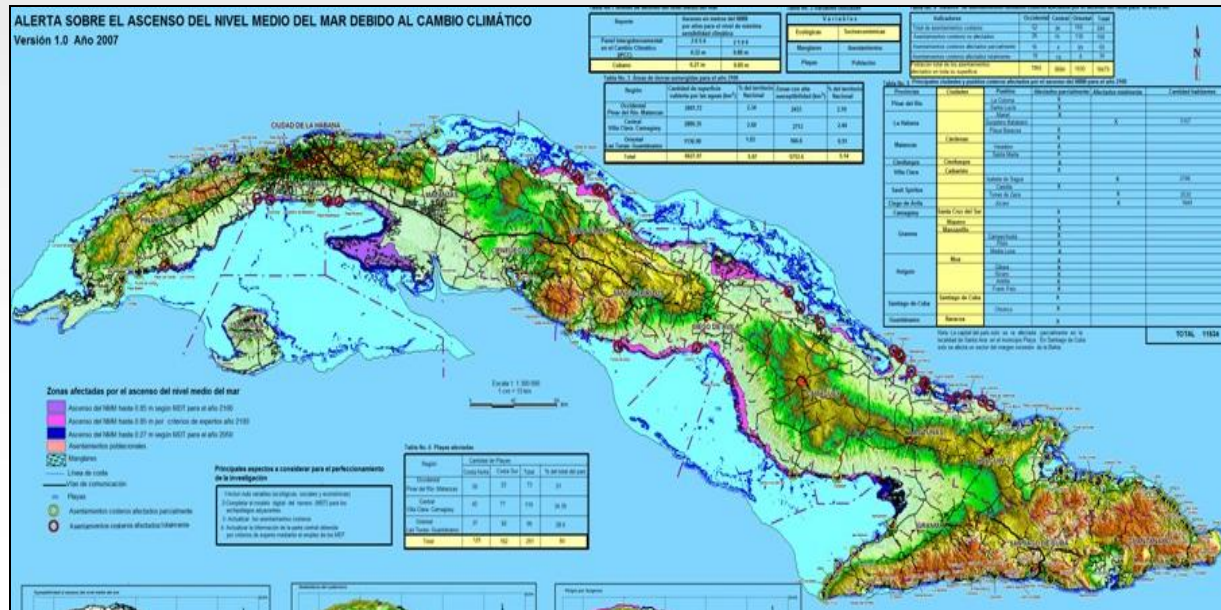


- Vulnerability reduction measures (i.e. that address the planning, housing, water, electricity and communication sectors)
- Disaster risk reduction for major hazards (i.e. heavy rains, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes, tropical cyclones, movement of hazardous substances).
- Environmental studies and actions to protect fragile ecosystems.



Other Prevention Measures

- Planning of financial resources for DRR
- Climate Change adaptation measures
- Reconciliation of investments with the Civil Defense





Cuba's Experience in Preparedness

- Annual update of disaster reduction plans.
- Early warning systems at national and local levels.
- Planning response and recovery measures for extreme situations, based on level of risk.
- Use of all territorial communications systems, directing information to authorities and the public.
- Role of media and information organization.
- Optimum use of the resources obtained through international cooperation.



Cuba Integration

Cuba is a member of the Latin American Association of Government Organisations of Defence and Civil Protection, the Special Committee on Disaster of the Association of Caribbean States and shares its experiences with countries in the region as part of South-South cooperation initiatives.





Key recommendations for disaster risk reduction associated with tropical cyclones

- Know the risks associated with the three destructive effects of tropical cyclones at local level.
- Properly manage the reduction of prioritized vulnerabilities prioritized, using available resources optimally.
- Organize the response and recovery based on the level of risk.
- Properly prepare the authorities and the public.

Thank you
very much



Monument to the Cuban people for commemorating the
50th Anniversary of the Civil Defense System