



**Global Meeting of National Platforms for Disaster Risk
Reduction (CICG – Geneva – 15 June 2009)**

**NATIONAL PLATFORM OF
SOUTH AFRICA**

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and

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Agricultural Disaster Risk Management

Disaster Risk Management is everybody's business - towards a resilient South Africa



Current and Historical Context of DRR in South Africa

In an attempt to break the downward spiral of impoverishment, and thus reduce the vulnerability of poor people to disasters the South African Government has made several policy changes in the last decade.

- ❑ A **Green Paper on Disaster Management** was developed and officially launched in **1998**. The Green Paper provided an opportunity to reflect on current approaches to disaster management and risk reduction by all stakeholders and provoked thinking around a future strategy or strategies that will be in keeping with international trends, and more appropriate to current and future needs within the country as well as the Southern African Region.
- ❑ A **White Paper on Disaster Management** that underscores the importance of preventing human, economic and property losses, and avoiding environmental degradation was launched in **2000**.
- ❑ **Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002)**, was promulgated on **15 January 2003**.
- ❑ The **National Disaster Management Framework** was published in **2005**.
- ❑ The **National Disaster Management Advisory Forum (NDMAF)** was established on **15 March 2005** as provided in section 5 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002.

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Characteristics of the National Platform

- **The National Disaster Management Advisory Forum (NDMAF)**
- **Established in terms of section 5 of the Disaster Management Act No. 57 of 2002**
- **The NDMAF comprises relevant national departments, provincial departments, municipal association, parastatals, public entities and NGOs.**
- **The NDMC through the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs is the co-ordinating body under the Minister.**



Activities/Achievements of the National Platform since its inception

- ❑ The NDMAF meets on a quarterly basis.
- ❑ There is no specific work plan. Matters of importance are presented and discussed as they arise.
- ❑ 18 Technical Task Teams have been identified and are in the process of being established:
 - # Animal Diseases # Capacity Building, Public Awareness & Research
 - # Communication & Information # Disaster Relief # Dolomite
 - # Drought # Early Warning # Energy # Environmental Emergencies
 - # Floods # International Aspects # Mining Disasters
 - # Radiation-related Disasters # Refugees # Technological Accidents
 - # Veld & Forest Fires # Weather Warnings



National Platform's main achievements/added-value

- The NDMAF has –
 - Succeeded in creating a discussion forum for all disaster risk reduction matters;
 - Started a process by means of which national sector departments in SA are participating in the National Global Platform on DRR issues;
 - Succeeded in changing the mindset of key stakeholders on DRR matters;
 - Started a process of creating task teams to report back regularly on disaster risk management issues.



What have been/are the remaining challenges?

- The remaining challenges are *inter alia* –
 - To make stakeholders realise what their specific roles in disaster risk reduction are;
 - To have them participating in a meaningful and constructive way;
 - Funding to support and enhance the implementation of the existing legislation in all spheres of government; and
 - Capacity, training and financial constraints remain a challenge.



National Platform's Future Outlook/Goals/Expectations (incl. from ISDR partners) – What needs to be done?

- The NDMAF (South Africa) needs to:
 - Establish all 18 identified Technical Task Teams to work in a participatory manner on DRR issues; and
 - Link up with other SADC and African countries to enhance DRR issues throughout the continent.



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