

# Remarks on EIA-NHIA integration

A CARIBBEAN PERSPECTIVE

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**Harbour View: Hurricane IVAN 10 September 2004**



# Jamaica

- 1980 Initiated systematic comprehensive integrated science based Disaster Mitigation and Emergency Management.
- Reactive to its history, exposure, 'fashion'
  - 79 Floods + EC DR Impacts of David
  - Recent Managua/Guatemala Quakes
- Mitigation effort built initially around Physical Planning / Development Control mechanisms
- Close linkages with emerging National & Regional ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

# High Risk Identification (Scan)

- Areas prone to Landsliding, Ground Deformation, Liquefaction, Riverine Flooding, Coastal Inundation (Storm and Tsunami) identified based on Historic accounts and limited technical assessments
- 'Gaps' Identified & Regulatory powers applied to developers based on the scan expand knowledge base for public safety
- More systematic technical appraisals designed
  - Geotechnical and Flood Plain Mapping

- Detailed discussion of consideration of risk in development planning and project preparation, were addressed over 2 decades ago
- “Incorporating Natural Hazard Assessment and Mitigation into Project Preparation – Report to CIDIE members by the OAS,” OAS 1987, and
- *Primer on Natural Hazard Management in Integrated Regional Development Planning,*
  - *Chapter 1 Incorporating Natural Hazard Management into the Development Planning Process and*
  - *Chapter 2 Natural Hazard Risk Reduction in Project Formulation and Evaluation.* OAS 1990

# EIAs as Regulatory Tool

- EIAs began to be requested in 1970s under Physical Planning, Mineral and Coastal Management Agencies
- New Environmental (1991) & Disaster Legislation (1993) + FORMAL EIA System based on specific legislation (1996)
- EIA Process req appraisal of Risk/Impacts both TO & FROM the Environment
- LIMITED Success related to National RISK Management

# Risk related LIMITATIONS

- Process covers ONLY NEW developments
- LIMITED to categories in Env Act / Regulations
- State Investments / Informal Settlements difficult to capture
- Knowledge of biological / physical processes + Extreme Events + research capacity
- Inadequate capacity/economic tools for resource valuation /risk quantification in monetary terms
- EIAs focus on “Physical Projects” not Policies / Programmes with subtle impacts or long term VULNERABILITY or CUMULATIVE effects
- RESPONSE (+10 yrs) USE Strategic Env Assessments



# Current Status

- Currently 30 Year Plan, Updating of Climate Change Communication document is underway
- Principle of using EIAs to assess exposure of new investments accepted
- Review of the EIA process now underway
- HYOGO Framework seen as significant part of solution
- 30 Year National Development Planning Process Team looking actively at HYOGO
- Jamaica actively engaged in DRR MAINSTREAMING initiatives linked to regional partners, other SIDS and facilitated by regional bodies such as CDERA / CDB / ACS
- Need for functional, effective, innovative National Platforms is clear
- EIAs / SEAs do not replace the need for National and Local Risk Identification Processes (RIPS)

# CDBs NHIA - EIA

- The Caribbean Development Bank in collaboration with other regional partners has also sought to exploit the EIA process to address Risk related issues



# Incorporation of Natural Hazards into the Project Cycle: through the (Banks) EIA Process

- Environmental Impact Assessment assesses
  - impact of the project on the environment (stronger focus traditionally)
  - impact of the environment on the project

Current structure of EIA does not

- explicitly include natural hazards
  - address natural hazard vulnerability and risk
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- **Natural Hazard Impact Assessment** assesses
    - impact of the project on the environment (existing/potential natural hazards) and
    - impact of the environment (its hazards) on the project (vulnerability of the project to natural hazards)

## Corporate Priority

Promote vulnerability reduction to natural disasters through support for development and adoption of hazard mitigation policies, standards and practices

### Expected Outcome 1

Integrate NH risk reduction into CDB's projects and procedures

### Expected Outcome 2

Improve national capacity to mainstream NH risk management into the development process

## NH-EIA Guide and Sourcebook: Structure

- **Guide:** *Guide to the Integration of Natural Hazards into the EIA Process.* A CDB-specific document, in the form of an 'annotated' version of CDB's *Environmental Review Guidelines*.
  - Target Users; primarily CDB staff
- **Sourcebook:** *Sourcebook on the Integration of Natural Hazards into the EIA Process.* A systematic compilation of guidance information for undertaking **natural hazard components** of EIA. Annexes include checklists, references, examples for each step in the NHIA-EIA process.
  - Target users include EIA Administrators and EIA Practitioners
  - Responsibilities of EIA Administrator and EIA Practitioner are clearly identified for each step in the process

# Conclusion

- EIAs and SEAs are vital tools essential to a well run modern state
- Essential for Project / Programme / Policy evaluation and analysis
- They complement but do not replace other RIPs (Risk Id Processes)
- All the above require significant Capacity creation, development and maintainance!
- There is a LOT TO BE DONE by 2015?