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## Saint Kitts and Nevis: National Progress Report on the Implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action (2011-2013)

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**Organization:** National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

**Title/Position:** National Disaster Coordinator

**Reporting period:** 2011-2013

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### Strategic goals

#### 1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

**Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:**

To create, promote and continually enhance a disaster resilient environment at all levels by the reduction of vulnerability to hazards

#### 2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .

**Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:**

To improve the national and community capability to effectively build resilience to hazards.

#### 3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.

**Strategic Goal Statement 2009-2011:**

To systematically incorporate risk reduction policies and measures into the design and implementation of recovery and rehabilitation programmes

### Priority for action 1

#### 1. National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

The National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) approved in 2006 is in place and includes a comprehensive land use guide.

Sector plans are in places which address various aspects of DRR. Related activities receive attention during regular National Disaster Mitigation Council meetings.

The Climate Change Policy and Poverty Reduction Strategy are yet to be completed.

Disaster Legislation in place 1999 and is currently under revision

**Context & Constraints:**

Lack of financial and technical resources continue to limit progress. Consequently, there is need for external support to address these challenges

## 2. Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

**Description:**

The National Emergency Management Agency at the federal level is a department in the Ministry of National Security is funded from the national budget (< 0.002 %). The Nevis Disaster Management Department is funded by the Nevis Island Administration. However, due to national financial constraints, programming is severely challenged

**Context & Constraints:**

There is the need for more technical personnel and equipment in several institutions to undertake disaster risk reduction effectively. Significant funding is needed to mitigate flooding in several communities and in the central business district of Basseterre the capital city. As a small developing state that depends heavily on tourism, support is needed to combat coastal erosion which has severely impacted major sections of our island road network and beaches. Soil erosion also has significant impact on the inland road network. Flooding in several rural communities as well as the central business district of Basseterre due to heavy rainfall in July 2010 highlighted such serious challenges

## 3. Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

**Description:**

St. Kitts & Nevis does not have the traditional local government/town council system; however, with reference to Nevis as a "Local Government" it is noted that the Nevis Island Administration has legal responsibility for its budget allocation.

Community participation is active and is encouraged. For the most part, however, funding is secured via project support and community fund raising initiatives.

There is the need for more technical personnel and equipment in several institutions to undertake disaster risk reduction effectively. Significant funding is needed to mitigate flooding in several communities and in the central business district of Basseterre the capital city. As a small developing state that depends heavily on tourism, support is needed to combat coastal erosion which has severely impacted major sections of our island road network and beaches. Soil erosion also has significant impact on the inland road network. Flooding in several rural communities as well as the central business district of Basseterre due to heavy rainfall in July 2010 highlighted such serious challenges

**Context & Constraints:**

The country's constitutional arrangement provides for a Nevis Island Administration, and St. Kitts is administered directly by the Federal Government.

St. Kitts & Nevis does not have the traditional local government/town council system; however, with reference to Nevis as a "Local Government" it is noted that the Nevis Island Administration has legal responsibility for its budget allocation.

Community participation is active and is encouraged. For the most part, however, funding is secured via project support and community fund raising initiatives.

There is the need for more technical personnel and equipment in several institutions to undertake

disaster risk reduction effectively. Significant funding is needed to mitigate flooding in several communities and in the central business district of Basseterre the capital city. As a small developing state that depends heavily on tourism, support is needed to combat coastal erosion which has severely impacted major sections of our island road network and beaches. Soil erosion also has significant impact on the inland road network. Flooding in several rural communities as well as the central business district of Basseterre due to heavy rainfall in July 2010 highlighted such serious challenges

#### 4. A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

##### Level of Progress achieved:

4

##### Description:

The national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is referred to as The National Disaster Mitigation Council. The Chairperson of that Council is the Deputy Prime Minister whose responsibility it is to report to Cabinet. The composition of the Mitigation Council is as follows:

1. Deputy Prime Minister - Chairperson
2. Minister of Communication, Works and Public Utilities â Deputy Chairperson
3. National Liason Officer â Secretary
4. Permanent Secretaries and Heads of each Government Ministry and Department
5. A representative of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
6. A representative of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce
7. A representative of the Hotel and Tourism Association
8. A representative of the St Kitts & Nevis Police Force
9. A representative of the St Kitts & Nevis Defence Force
10. A representative from the St Kitts & Nevis Fire and Rescue Services
11. A representative each from the Christian Council and the Evangelical Association
12. A representative from Womenâs organizations
13. Three representatives from Nevis
14. A representative of St. Kitts & Nevis Red Cross Society

Meetings of the Council are held quarterly and increase as necessary during the annual Atlantic Hurricane Season.

##### Context & Constraints:

A review of the structure and composition of the body is to be reviewed

#### Priority for action 2

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#### 1. National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

##### Level of Progress achieved:

3

##### Description:

Multi-hazard Post Hurricane Georges risk assessment for key sectors was undertaken in 2001, and now needs to be updated. All (100%) schools and hospitals were assessed during that 2001 evaluation. Hospitals and other public health facilities were assessed in 2009.

##### Context & Constraints:

There is need to undertake an up to date hazard vulnerability and risk assessment on St. Kitts and Nevis. This will require significant financial resources and supporting expertise. At present, there are significant aspects of planning and development activities with regard to DRR that are not informed by current data.

#### 2. Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

##### Level of Progress achieved:

3

##### Description:

A Disaster loss database (mainly hard copy files) is maintained and disaster losses are reported, monitored and analysed. The reports generated are used for planning purposes.

**Context & Constraints:**

The Database is not systematic. Data is normally collected post event. There is need to move to establish electronic databases as a matter of policy.

**3. Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.****Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

Risk prone communities receive timely and understandable warnings of impending predictable hazard events, e.g hurricanes. While there is active involvement of media in early warning dissemination, and early warnings are generally acted upon, there is need for further enhancements relative to Communication systems and protocols.

Generally, the respective communities prepare for the impending disaster, following early warnings.

**Context & Constraints:**

There is need to establish a mechanism to address unpredictable hazards e.g. Tsunamis and Technological hazards

**4. National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.****Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

St Kitts & Nevis participates in regional and sub-regional DRR programmes and projects., such as -

- : Programmes and projects addressing trans-boundary issues
- : Regional and sub-regional strategies and frameworks
- : Regional or sub-regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms

Programmes are in place to reduce communicable diseases example H1N1 and Dengue. The Ministry of Health is in partnership with the PAHO and WHO to prepare for and respond to related threats. There is on going monitoring at the community and national levels, data from which is included in regional and sub-regional arrangements and protocol, in keeping with international standards.

Action plans are developed for addressing trans-boundary issues as they emerge.

**Context & Constraints:**

There is need for training in trans-boundary health issues

**Priority for action 3****1. Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)****Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

There are established mechanisms for accessing DRR information. There is a functional Public Relations Office at the Disaster Management Office on each of the sister islands (on St Kitts and on Nevis) that produces a weekly radio programme. These radio programmes are supplemented by the availability of multi-hazard literature, the Nevis Disaster Management website ([www.nevisdm.com](http://www.nevisdm.com)), and Public Service Announcements that are aired for the Federation as a whole.

The disaster management agency on St Kitts is currently developing a Documentation Centre and the St Kitts website ([www.nema.kn](http://www.nema.kn)) is currently under construction.

**Context & Constraints:**

The further development of the disaster information system to produce television /electronic programmes and localized disaster management literature e.g fliers, brochures is restricted by limited finances

**2. School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2

**Description:**

At the primary level DRR is included in the Social Studies Curriculum, and is not as a stand alone subject. At the Secondary level, selected teachers have been sensitized to the subject matter via workshops. Aspects of DRR are taught and drills practised at the tertiary level. The Fire and Rescue Services Unit has implemented an annual Fire Safety Camp (non-residential) for students of primary school age during the summer vacation. Over 150 students attend from schools island-wide at different venues across St. Kitts and Nevis. The most recent event was held June/July, 2010. An initiative is being pursued to establish by the end of 2010 a multi-hazard Schools Safety Programme

**Context & Constraints:**

The current structure of the primary and secondary schoolsâ Curriculum does not permit the inclusion of DRR and other non traditional subjects/themes as stand alone subjects. Regular drills and related exercises are not conducted. The cost to procure safety equipment for all schools is prohibitive

**3. Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2

**Description:**

There are no significant Research programmes and projects being undertaken, and hence there are no outputs, products or studies.

Limited studies on the economic costs and benefits of DRR are being carried out. Recently an Economic Impact Assessment was completed for Nevis post Hurricane Earl (August 29, 2010)

**Context & Constraints:**

A fledgling core of resource personnel is being developed as economic impact assessors.

**4. Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

Public education campaigns on DRR reach risk-prone communities. There are ongoing campaigns on an annual basis using flyers, media PSA, brochures, newspaper information items, website information. There is a full time Community outreach Officer for island wide programming on both islands. Such resources help with the availability of information on DRR practices at the community level. Although much has been accomplished, particularly via the establishment of the radio programmes during this reporting period, the programme needs to be expanded to address a growing non English speaking community/population.

**Context & Constraints:**

A more extensive public education programme is constrained by limited funding and lack of appropriate equipment to produce various multi media programmes

**Priority for action 4**

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**1. Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

**Description:**

There has been much progress in each of the following areas :

- Protected areas legislation e.g. The Central Forest Reserve on St. Kitts and Nevis Peak on Nevis.
- Integrated planning (for example coastal zone management)

- Environmental impacts assessments (EIAs). An EIA is required for all major development projects.

**Context & Constraints:**

There are financial and technical constraints. Climate Change Adaptation projects and programmes require much work, and expertise is needed.

**2. Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

1

**Description:**

There has been relatively little progress in the means of verification areas listed above

**Context & Constraints:**

Technical and Financial resources are required.

Agricultural Resource Management Project (ARMP)

The goals of the project are to create conditions for environmental stability, improve soil, water and land management, foster agricultural development and sustainability while protecting vulnerable downstream housing settlements and other infrastructure including the railway track and bridges.

Main elements include:

1. Construction of storm drains/drainage structures: the main activities are centered on improving farmers' access roads around the island
2. Ghaut stabilization and channelization focusing on major waterways islandwide, that if not properly managed and maintained, can threaten housing and farming areas as have occurred during flash floods and hurricanes in the recent past

**3. Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

There has been relatively little progress in the means of verification areas listed above.

**Context & Constraints:**

Technical and Financial resources are required

**4. Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

The following facilities are in place:

- The national building codes and zoning laws
- Investment in drainage infrastructure in flood prone areas
- Slope stabilisation in landslide prone areas
- Training of masons on safe construction technology
- Provision of safe land for low income households and communities

**Context & Constraints:**

Consistent enforcement of building codes and zoning law remains a challenge.

Land management needs to be improved to minimize soil erosion and to prevent land degradation. Following the closure of the sugar industry that undertook a vast portion of such activities there is need for a comprehensive well resourced system (personnel and equipment) for land management. This is a critical need as part of the country's mitigation activities.

**5. Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2

**Description:**

Post disaster recovery programmes explicitly incorporate and budget for DRR. This is done in the preparation of related cost estimates and designs.

There are no recovery and reconstruction funds assigned from the national budget for DRR. There are measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery e.g special attention is given to female headed households.

**Context & Constraints:**

There are no recovery and reconstruction funds assigned from the national budget for DRR. There are measures taken to address gender based issues in recovery e.g special attention is given to female headed households

**6. Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.****Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

Procedures have been implemented in St. Kitts as fledgling initiatives, while an impact assessment was undertaken in Nevis, July 2010 ( Post Hurricane Earl) through a Natural Hazard Impact Assessment project, sponsored by the OAS.

Assessments of impact of projects such as dams, irrigation schemes, highways, mining, tourist developments etc on disaster risk is being undertaken.

Disaster risk impacts are taken into account in Environment Impact Assessments (EIA).

**Context & Constraints:**

Consistent enforcement remains a challenge.

**Priority for action 5**

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**1. Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.****Level of Progress achieved:**

3

**Description:**

Policies and programmes for school and hospital safety exist.

Training and drills are held in hospitals for emergency preparedness. This is yet to be achieved in schools and other educational facilities

**Context & Constraints:**

As such programmes are not institutionalized in the school system related initiatives are only undertaken occasionally

**2. Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.****Level of Progress achieved:**

2

**Description:**

Various plans are in place to address most hazards.

With regard to gender sensitivities, it is noted that there are no legislative or cultural hindrances or biases. The plans allow for equitable participation from both genders.

The following are in place:

• Operations and communications centre

- â€¢ Search and rescue teams
- â€¢ Stockpiles of relief supplies
- â€¢ Shelters
- â€¢ Secure medical facilities

There is however no dedicated provision for women in relief, shelter and emergency medical facilities.

**Context & Constraints:**

Limited finances adversely impact regular testing of plans

**3. Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3

**Description:**

There are (i): National contingency fund (but not specific to DRR) and (ii): Catastrophe insurance facilities on a regional basis through the Regional Catastrophic mechanism (CCRIF) but St Kitts & Nevis has not issued Catastrophe bonds.

**Context & Constraints:**

A contingency fund specific to DRR is needed

**4. Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews**

**Level of Progress achieved:**

4

**Description:**

With the increase in, and availability of technology, information is widely disseminated and accessed by a large majority of residents.

The following assessment methodologies and capacities are available -

- â€¢ Damage and loss assessment methodologies and capacities
- â€¢ Post disaster need assessment methodologies
- â€¢ Post disaster needs assessment methodologies include guidance on gender aspects

Additionally, human resources needs are identified and persons are trained.

**Context & Constraints:**

There are no adequate mechanisms in place to address unpredictable hazards such as the Tsumani Hazard

**Drivers of Progress**

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**1. a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**>Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region? Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:** Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy? : -- not complete --

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

YES, for some hazards, e.g Hurricanes, floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes  
The Seismic Research Centre in Trinidad and Tobago has seismic related for the Eastern Caribbean and the Caribbean Meteorological Institute has for meteorological hazards.

**2. b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

There are no institutionalized or traditional/cultural hindrances to gender involvement

**3. c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

There has been an increase in the human capacity at the disaster management offices and equipment available to relevant agencies in the Public Service. This is complimented by a significant investment in heavy equipment by private operators.

**4. d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Resources such as land, housing, employment and personal security are equitably distributed.

**5. e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

The St. Kitts-Nevis National Disaster Mitigation Council which was established in 1999 embraces the full involvement of Public and Private Sector entities and Non Governmental Organizations. At the community level there is open participation for any and all residents to become engaged and this is evidenced in various DRR training activities that are implemented at this level.

**6. Contextual Drivers of Progress**

**Levels of Reliance:**

3 - Significant and ongoing reliance

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

St. Kitts and Nevis has adopted the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management approach that incorporates all hazards and all stages of the disaster management cycle across all sectors. Consequently, this has enable entities in all the sectors to undertake DRR initiatives at various levels, and not just be the expected responsibility of the disaster management office.

The establishment in 1999 of the St. Kitts and Nevis National Disaster Mitigation Council, which is a multi sectoral body, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, has facilitated rapid progress towards mainstreaming DRR in St. Kitts and Nevis.

For example monthly crop forecasting by extension officers in their respective districts provides a fairly accurate assessment of pre-disaster crop status. Current cost of production exercises will enable individual crop and livestock farmers to supply even more accurate data

**Future Outlook**

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**1. Integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning**

**Overall Challenges:**

The global economic recession and our country's heavy debt burden severely restricts St. Kitts-Nevis's participation in regional and sub-regional programmes and projects. This continues to have an adverse impact on our country's investment in building adequate capacity to address DRR in several sectors.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

An improvement in the overall economic performance of the country will positively impact capacity building at all levels. This will also enhance our level of participation in regional and international DRR initiatives. As a small island developing state that is acutely vulnerable to several hazards including the probable impacts of climate change, our government will collaborate with regional and international partners to implement DRR measures.

## **2. Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards .**

### **Overall Challenges:**

Current financial and technical resource constraints continue to inhibit related progress. However, various initiatives at the household and community levels are being undertaken to foster a culture of resilience.

### **Future Outlook Statement:**

With the ongoing enhancement of our multi hazard public education/awareness campaign, implementation of the national School Safety Programme and community based DRR volunteer programmes, it is envisioned that the vulnerability to hazards will be substantially reduced.

## **3. Systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes.**

### **Overall Challenges:**

Financial and technical resources constraints continue to be a significant challenge to progress in this area, thus the need to widen and deepen our involvement with external entities.

### **Future Outlook Statement:**

It is envisioned that, by partnering with sympathetic influential DRR institutions, St. Kitts & Nevis will be able to acquire adequate financial and technical resources in order to better meet the associated challenges.

## **4. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199, requested the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. A first outline will be developed for the next Global Platform in 2013, and a draft should be finalized towards the end of 2014 to be ready for consideration and adoption at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015**

### **Please identify what you would consider to be the single most important element of the post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction:**

As a highly indebted small island developing state with very limited technical resources and acute vulnerability to multi hazards, including climate change and trans border threats, St Kitts-Nevis continues to experience severe constraints in implementing many DRR measures and strategies.

## **Stakeholders**

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### **Organizations, departments, and institutions that have contributed to the report.**

\* Ministry of Agriculture/Department of Agriculture () - Policy Analyst (Mr. Gene Knight)