

Antigua and Barbuda

Met Services and National Office of Disaster Service (NODS)-Reflections on existing capacities and challenges in coordination

Keithley Meade

Director , Meteorological Services

And

Philmore Mullin

Director, National Office of Disaster Services

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services



- Data collection and services
- Hourly weather observations
- Public weather forecasts (*Antigua & Barbuda, the Leeward Islands and the British Virgin Islands*)
- Weather briefings, flight information and other aeronautical services
- Severe weather warnings and other advisories



British Virgin Islands

Aneгада

Jost Van Dyke

St Thomas

Gorda

Tortola

St John

St Croix

US Virgin Islands

Anguilla

St Martin

St Bathelémy

Saba

St Kitts

Nevis

Montserrat

Barbuda

Antigua

Guadeloupe

La Desirade

Marie-Galante

Dominica

**Map of the
Leeward
Islands**

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service

Acts as a customized weather service provider
for:-

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Saint Kitts, Nevis
- Anguilla
- Montserrat
- British Virgin Islands

We provide services such as:

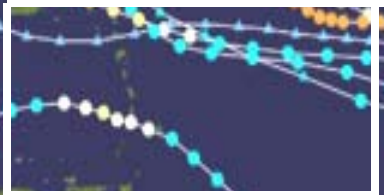
- Weather Forecasts
- Relaying Tsunami Warnings
- Severe Weather Watches and Warnings
- Aeronautical Meteorology
- Agricultural Meteorology (limited)
- Marine Meteorology (limited)
- Climatology

Severe Weather Watches and Warnings

- We issue severe weather watches and warnings for the Public, in coordination with disaster agencies, to take appropriate actions:
- Cyclone watches and Warnings
- Flood Watches and Warnings
- Other related severe events such as adverse sea conditions

Developed SOPs for Cyclones and Floods

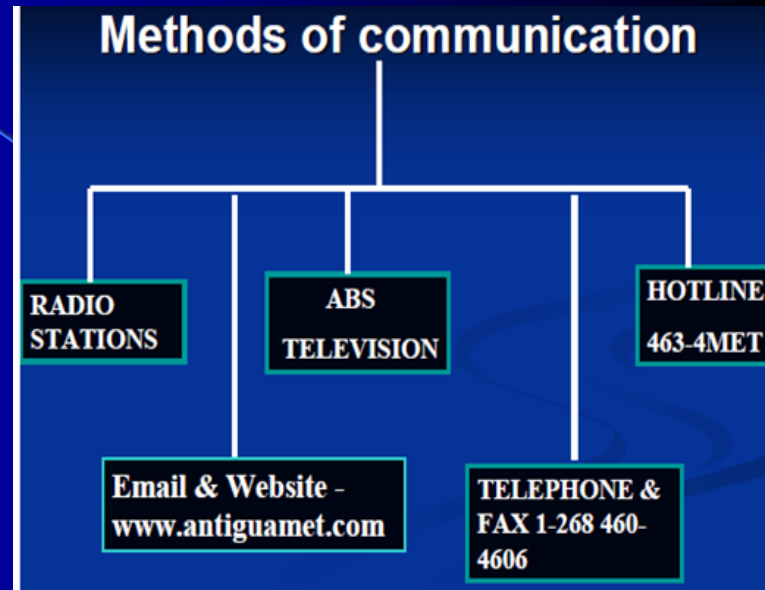
- ✓ Information Phase
- ✓ Pre-alert Phase
- ✓ Alert Phase
- ✓ Watch Phase
- ✓ Warning Phase
- ✓ Recovery Phase



Monitored Area

Dissemination Methods

- Telephone/telephone hotline
- Cell phone (Antigua Alert)
- Media – Commercial Radio/Television
- AFTN – Aviation fixed telecommunication Network
- GTS – Global telecommunication System
- WEB site (<http://www.antiguamet.com>)
- E-Mails
- Marine Radio (channel 14VHF-via Coast Guard four times daily)
- Ham Radio (HF)



Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services

P.O. Box 1051, St John's Antigua, Barbuda. Telephone: 1-268-460-4606

NEWS Email us

Current Weather Forecasts Regional & World Met Sites Storm Information Climatology Misc Information Additional Local Links

Home News About Us Our Staff Guest Book Climate H'cane Tips

Visit us at www.antiguamet.com

ABOUT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Antigua and Barbuda are located in the middle of the Leeward Islands in the "Jewel of the blue Eastern Caribbean Waters, 17.1 degrees North of the equator and 61.5 degrees West. The current population of Antigua is approximately 69,000. Its capital is St John's, Great Antigua, the largest of the English-speaking Leeward Islands, is 308 square miles (800 sq km).

Barbuda is 52 square miles (135 sq km) lies approximately 30 miles due north of Antigua. The current population is approximately 3,000. Its capital is the village of Codrington.

ARTICLES/NOTICES

Local tornado?

Caribbean aerial refueling

2010 Huric Season Released?

Current Weather

- Antigua Weather
- Leeward Islands
- Free Web Discussion
- Eastern Carib. Outlook
- Leeward & B.W.I. Web Discussion

Regional Forecasts

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Montserrat
- St Kitts & Nevis
- Anguilla
- British Virgin Islands
- A.S. & S. Ocas Ecast
- Eastern Caribbean
- Sabhalpa Phala
- Gilbert Forecasts

- Trinidad
- Jamaica
- St Lucia
- Leeward Int'l. (LWI)
- Bahamas
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Guatemala
- Canada
- South America

Storm Information

- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Tides
- Archives Information

Climatology

- Climate Normal
- Monthly Summary
- Caribbean Storms

Web Information

- Learn W.S. Symbols
- Satellite Info
- Weather Alerts
- Research Terms
- Web 2.0 Conversions
- Local Links
- A.S. & Government
- Antigua News
- Search Antigua

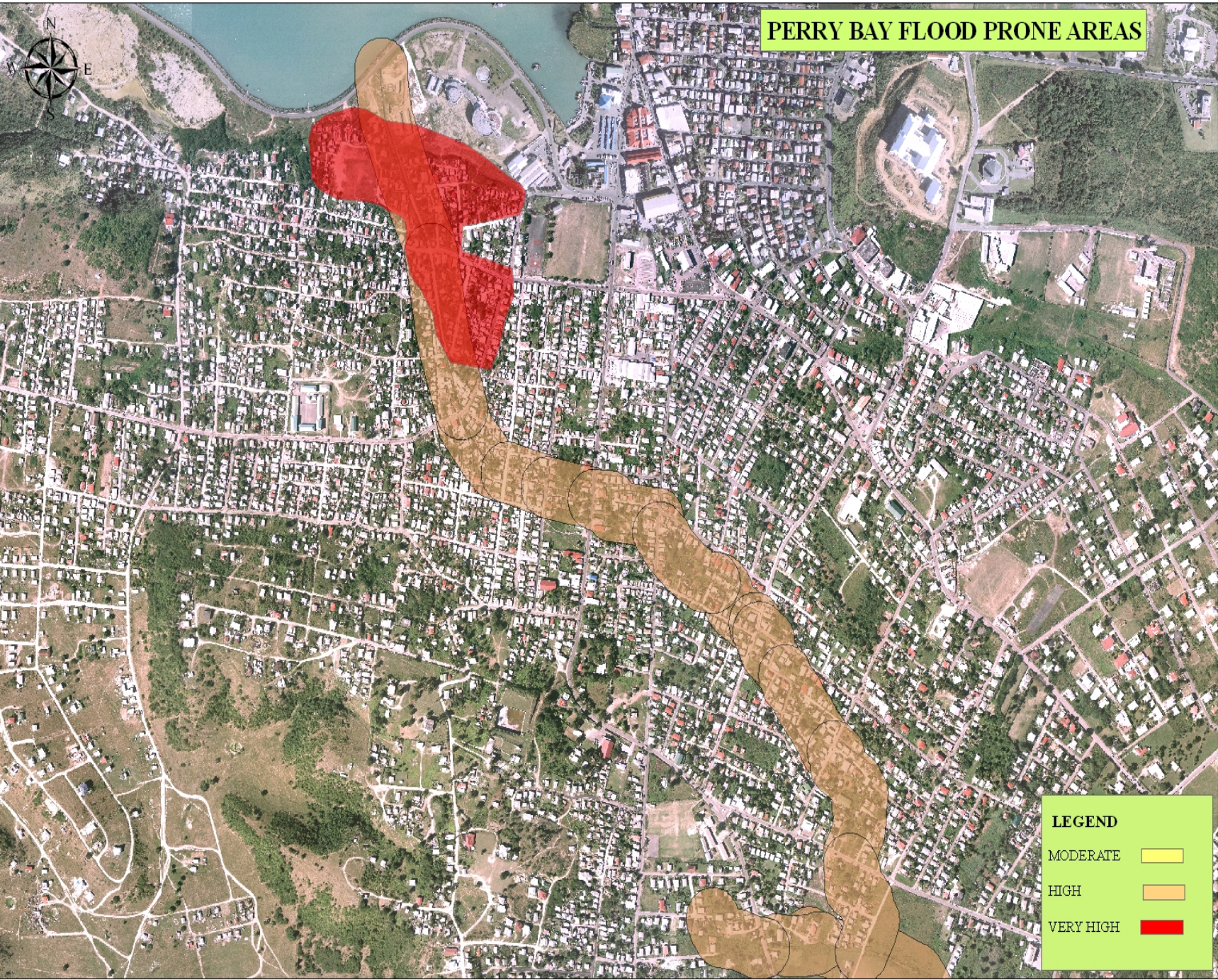
Coordination Challenges faced by Met Services

- The islands are small and separated by sea(*even a slight shift can make a big difference; message must reflect this*)
- Lack of data collection equipment throughout
- Some islands are sovereign states, others are colonies of Britain (*with varying chains of command in relaying information*)
- Unannounced changes in command
- No feedback; before during or after events
- No control over some sources of useful data(*radar, buoys etc*)
- No data sharing from the territories

Challenges faced by NODS

- Modalities of warnings
- Absence of data makes certain types of warnings difficult(e.g. drought)
- Adequate resources
- Absence of a national system for all warnings
- No data collected in more vulnerable areas
- Security for data collection systems

PERRY BAY FLOOD PRONE AREAS



LEGEND	
MODERATE	Yellow
HIGH	Orange
VERY HIGH	Red

Conclusion (we all want the same thing)

- Improve on what we have at the moment with a view to understanding the agencies involved and offering assistance that can make for better coordination between the agencies.
- Fully embrace the effort towards the strengthening of national and regional capacities in a Multi-Hazard Early Warning *System (not just by words but deed)*. That is, to participate in workshops, drills, exercises, Quality Management Systems (QMSs) etc.
- DRMs should look for ways of assisting the forecast office; Forecast Offices should seek a thorough understanding of the needs of DRMs and ensure that systems are in place to deliver.
- Forecast Offices and Disaster Agencies should try as much as possible to develop a strong partnership and by so doing, the public will have greater faith in both agencies.

THE END

THANK YOU