Antigua and Barbuda

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

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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


Anegada
British Virgin Islands
Jost Van Dyke
St Thomas
Gorda
Tortola
St John
St Croix
US Virgin Islands
Anguilla
St Martin
St Bathelemy
Barbuda
Saba
St Kitts
Nevis
Antigua
Montserrat
La Desirade
Guadeloupe
Marie-Galante
Dominica
Map of the Leeward Islands

Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service

Acts as a customized weather service provider for:-

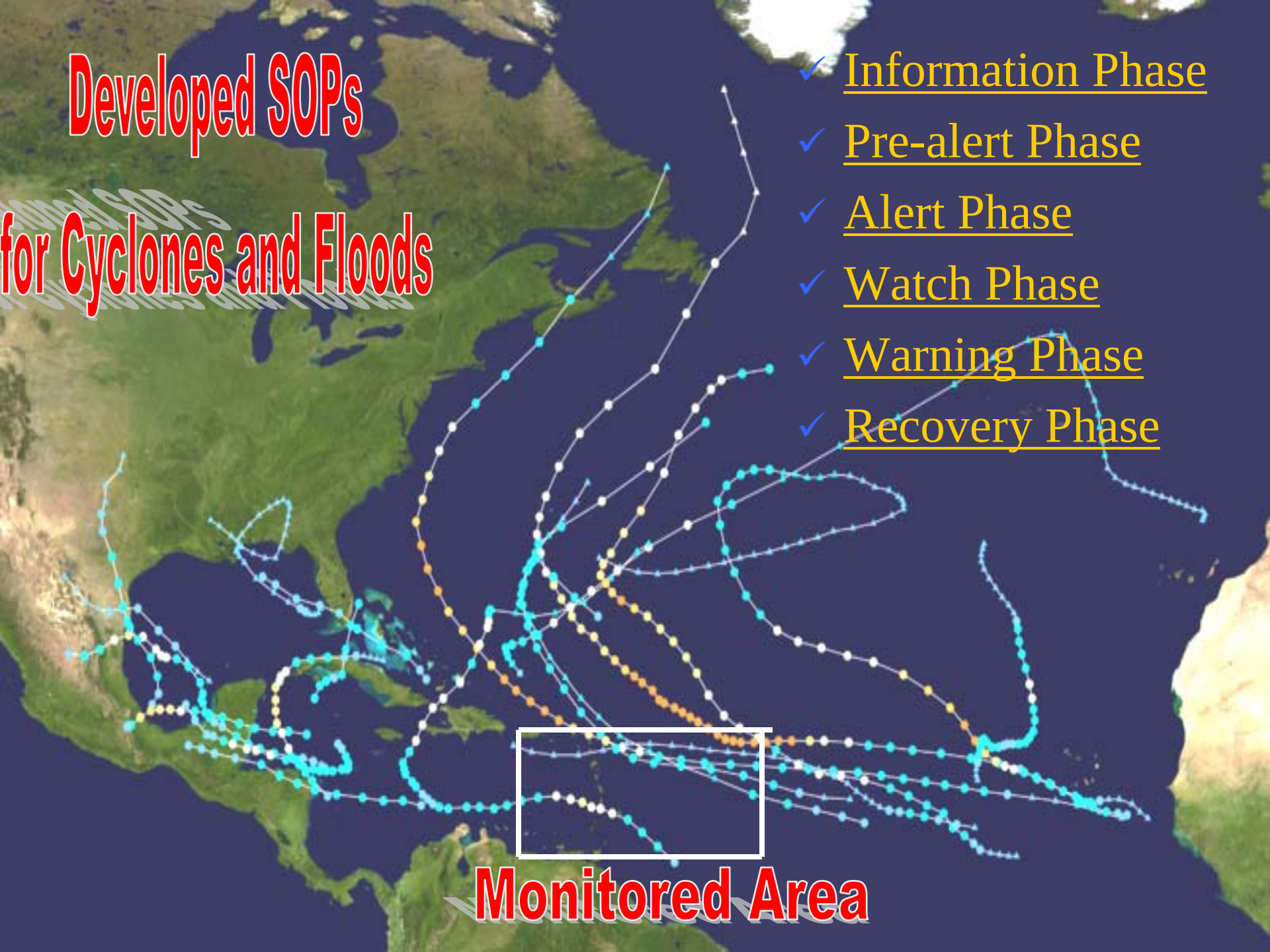
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Saint Kitts, Nevis
- Anguilla
- Montserrat
- British Virgin Islands

We provide services such as:

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

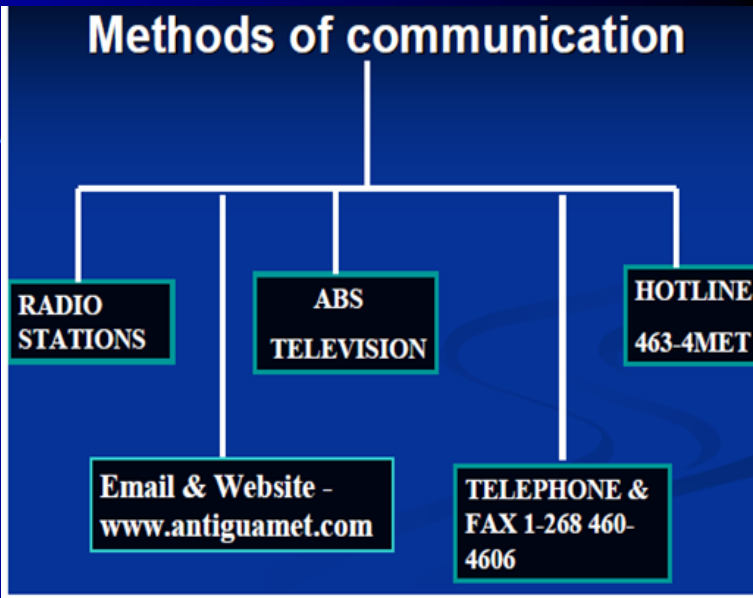
Severe Weather Watches and Warnings

- 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)

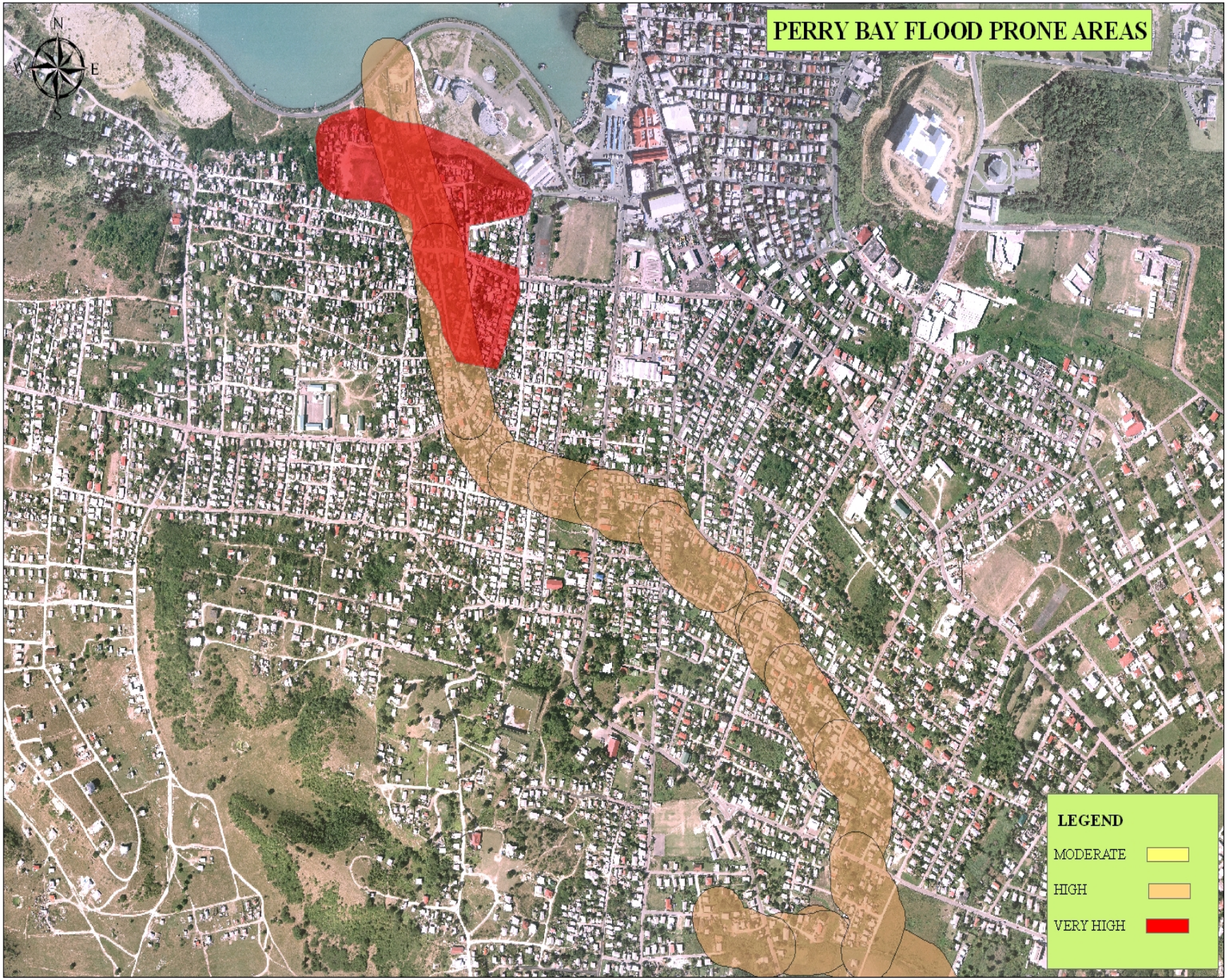


Coordination Challenges faced by Met Services

- 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
N
W
E
S
LEGEND
MODERATE
HIGH
VERY HIGH

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