

The Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

*Deconstructing Risk:
Towards national mechanisms and networks for risk reduction ...*

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Organization of
American States



Background

Regional Level: The Inter-American System

- 1991: Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance, AG XXI
- 1999: Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR), AG XXIX
- 2003: Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP), AG XXXIII
- 2007: Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM), AG XXXVII

Towards a Regional Platform

- 2007: Cooperation Agreement GS/OAS – UNISDR
- 2009: First Session of the Regional Platform, Panama
- 2010: Santa Marta Hemispheric Encounter
“National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction: from Theory to Practice”



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Santa Marta Encounter



**II Encuentro Hemisférico
Mecanismos y Redes Nacionales
para la Reducción del Riesgo
De la Teoría a la Práctica**

**Santa Marta Colombia
14 al 16 de Abril de 2010**

Organizers and Sponsors



Who is invited?

Competent government institutions in matters of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change; and representatives from other sectors, namely finance, development planning, health, education, as well as representatives from both public and private productive and service sectors, namely agriculture, energy, transport, and water and sanitation.

Experts and program officers from regional intergovernmental organizations – including CEPREDENAC, CAPRADE, CDEMA, ACS and MERCOSUR, international cooperative organizations, development banks, as well as bilateral and multilateral donors. And NGOs, universities and communication and information specialists.



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What do we expect to get out of Santa Marta?

Exchange of successful experiences and best practices in the area of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), as implemented by existing National Mechanisms and Networks, so as to advance the establishment and strengthening of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA).

Expected Outputs

- A **catalogue** of good practices in DRM and CCA –along with analytical abstracts and sources of information.
- A set of **recommendations** on how to advance a joint –DRM and CCA, agenda, and specific recommendations in each of the themes of the Encounter.



Community-centered Flood Early Warning Systems: Regional Platform for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic

SATIIC

Sistemas de Alerta Temprana para Inundaciones en el
Istmo Centroamericano y la Republica Dominicana



HFA Priorities for Action:

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and **local** priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance **early warning**
3. Use **knowledge, innovation** and **education** to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors
5. Strengthen disaster **preparedness** for effective response at all levels



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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Background

- 1995: Central America Small Valleys Flood Alert and Vulnerability Reduction Program (SVP): Regional Platform Development, GS/OAS, ECHO, Governments of Ireland and Turkey
- 2008-2009: UN Global Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, UNISDR, GS/OAS, Government of Germany

Progress. Opportunities and Challenges

- Efforts centered in community organization. Not everything installed is an EWS!;
- Lack of hydrological studies and use of hydro-meteorological 'watches' based on weather and hydro forecasts;
- Proliferation of EWS resulted in lack of inter-institutional coordination; and
- Strong dependency on international aid

Public Policies: Towards the financial and institutional sustainability of EWS ...



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What's next?

- Strengthening of the Regional Platform: on-line Database and Web Portal
- Complete Manual for the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of EWS
- Establishment of National EWS Offices, ONSATIs

*Change of Paradigm: There is no conflict between Community-centered and
Central Systems ...*

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Muchas gracias
Thank you very much
Muito Obrigado
Merci beaucoup



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