

The Bahamas' Report on Progress Towards Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

Part 3: Compilation of Information

Section 1. Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 1: *Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation*

1. **Name of initiative and programme:** Natural Risk Preventative Management Programme
This is being facilitated through a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].
Details of the programme may be found on IDB's website

2. **Description, objectives, main activities of the initiative or programme**
The goal of this programme is to contribute to sound disaster risk management by establishing a well functioning system for disaster management to provide for appropriate response and recovery efforts following a disaster. The programme focuses on aspects of preparedness. A second objective is to develop a country risk profile to orient actions in other areas of disaster risk management that would be helpful to launch larger programmes shown to be beneficial to The Bahamas when it comes to meeting risk reduction objectives.

The five components of the project are:
 - Legal and Institutional Strengthening of the National Emergency Management Agency [NEMA] and principle agencies participating in the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan.
 - Emergency Communications
 - Shelter Management
 - Community Preparedness
 - Country Risk Profile

3. **Results and achievements made, with indicators if available**
Implementation of the programme has not commenced as yet. Expected date of commencement is end July 2007 following upon review and approval of bids submitted consultancies.

4. **Major challenges and lessons in implementing the initiative or programme, and next steps planned**
The main risk to the successful implementation of the programme is derived from the incipient institutional framework that supports the operation, since NEMA needs to take on significant responsibilities. Additionally, a major nation-wide disaster early in the project may impact execution of the project by greatly diverting NEMA's attention to relief and recovery.

Section 2. Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 2: *Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

Forecasting and warning systems are to be developed and implemented under the Emergency Communications component of the Natural Risk Preventative Management Programme.

Section 3. Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 3: *Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

The Natural Risk Preventative Management Programme has a component on community awareness. The following will be provided under that component:

- Technical assistance to help communities formulate and implement preparedness plans.
- Preparation of hazard maps and the formulations of actions to reduce risks.
- Development of standard operating procedures regarding warnings and the dissemination of disaster preparedness information
- Special activities will be developed for the immigrant community.

Section 4. Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 4: *Reduce the underlying risk factors*

1. **Name of initiative and programme:** Land Use Policy and Project Administration Project

This project is being partly financed by a loan from the Inter-American Bank and has commenced.

Project Description: The Program has three components.

(a) Land Administration Modernization: This component will implement immediate technical measures to improve land administration in the Bahamas, as well as take initial steps to improve the legal framework for modernizing the real property rights registration system and securing land tenure in the longer-term. The activities to be financed are: i) creation of a parcel-index map of all properties in New Providence and Grand Bahama, with inclusion of funding for other islands to be determined during program preparation; ii) development of a Crown Lands management system; and iii) preparation of draft legislation for improving the management and allocation of Crown Lands, and modernizing the real property rights registration system.

(b) Land Information Management for Sustainable Development: This component will build upon Government reactivation of the Bahamas National GIS Center to provide technical support for preparing of geographical information system database for New Providence and geographical profiles for islands such as

Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, Abaco and Rum Cay. The component will finance data collection, upgrading of specialized computer equipment in the GIS Center and training of personnel in order to assemble and analyze land-related information.

(c) National Land Issues and Policy Guidelines: This component will include: identification of overriding national land issues; analysis of prioritized land issues, considering legal, technical, institutional, economical, environmental and social aspects; preparation of policy options for each prioritized issue; and compilation of policy options to prepare a set of strategic land policy guidelines.

2. Name of Initiative and Programme: Master Plan for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Project Description: Management of Coastal Resources is critical for the sustainable development of the Bahamas, because, given the geographic nature of the Bahamas, the majority of the Country's territory is part of the coastal zone. As such, the coastal zone contains essentially all of the Country's social and economic activities, as well as its fragile and economically very important coastal ecosystems (fresh water systems, coastal wetlands, coral reefs, sandy shores etc). However, in order to achieve integrated management, it is necessary to improve the institutional and regulatory framework, the amount and quality of the data available, and the existing planning process. This project aims to assist the Government of the Bahamas in developing and implementing a coherent, well-coordinated, science-based Master Plan for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The participation of stakeholders from the private sector and civil society will be encouraged throughout the process.

This project is being partially funded by the Inter-American Bank and is expected to commence in late July, 2007.

Section 5. Hyogo Framework Priority for Action 5: *Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response*

The Natural Risk Preventative Management Programme indicated at Sections 1, 2 and 3 above is designed to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response.