

ISDR *Highlights*

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NEWS FROM THE INTER-AGENCY SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION



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International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction

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Landslide Risk Warning for Mountain Communities and Rural Infrastructure Planning

By Gareth Hearn

ISDR Highlights is published every two months by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR).

We welcome your input, ideas and suggestions for future issues, including contributions for the feature article. Please direct all correspondence (including subscription requests) to: isdr@un.org

United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tél: +41 22 917 27 62
Fax: +41 22 917 05 63
isdr@un.org
www.unisdr.org

UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean

P.O. Box 3745-1000
San José, Costa Rica
Tél: +506 224 1186
Fax: +506 224 7758
eird@eird.org
www.eird.org

UN/ISDR Africa

Block U Room 217
UNEP, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya
Tél: +254 2 62 41 19
Fax: +254 2 444 68 30
fengmin.kan@unon.org
www.unisdr africa.org

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Recognising that natural hazards can threaten any one of us, ISDR builds on partnerships and takes a global approach to disaster reduction, seeking to involve every individual and every community towards the goals of reducing the loss of lives, the socio-economic setbacks and the environmental damages caused by natural hazards. In order to achieve these goals, ISDR promotes four objectives as tools towards reaching disaster reduction for all:

- Increase public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster reduction globally
- Obtain commitment from public authorities to implement disaster reduction policies and actions
- Stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, including the expansion of risk reduction networks
- Improve scientific knowledge about disaster reduction



Field discussions with farmers

2002 was the International Year of Mountains. It was also Nepal's most tragic year on record for landslide disasters; newspapers reported 346 human fatalities due to landslides alone, and actual figures were probably much more. In the last ten years a total of 900 deaths have occurred due to landslides, confirming that the tragedies of 2002 were by no means unprecedented. Landslides are therefore not only a fact of geology in Nepal but they are also an unfortunate fact of life. Even in a country with the highest mountains in the world there is a certain resignation that what goes up – must come down. While the average mountain building rate of 1–4 mm per year is imperceptible to most observers, the local rates of denudation or erosion can be catastrophic, leading to loss of life, loss of livelihoods and economic disruption.

“Even in a country with the highest mountains in the world there is a certain resignation that what goes up – must come down.”

Of course, Nepal is not alone. During the year 2000, the smaller Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan (to Nepal's east), suffered major damage to infrastructure and loss of life as a result of landslides and floods. Other parts of the Himalayas in neighbouring India and Pakistan also experienced landslide hazards on a regular basis, due to the combination of steep slopes, frequently intense monsoon rain, unstable and weak geology and man-made effects, such as road construction and adverse land use practices in some instances. Planning for landslides is therefore a critical element in safeguarding rural development, lives and livelihoods in most hilly and mountainous regions of the world.

Despite the huge human and economic impacts of landslides, the data and information required to carry out proper and timely analysis and assessment is often inadequate. Often the lack of data hinders the assessment of

landslide risk during rural road access planning. Furthermore, community risk from landslides cannot be fully evaluated, and therefore disaster preparedness and contingency measures cannot be put into place.

To address these problems, the *Landslide Risk Assessment Project* (funded by the UK Department of International Development, DFID) was implemented by Scott Wilson in conjunction with seconded staff from government departments in Nepal and Bhutan, producing the following outputs:

- Best practice guidelines on the use of remote sensing for landslide assessment
- Rapid desk study methods of landslide hazard mapping
- Surveys of land use and social impacts
- Risk assessment and risk management guidelines for use by district engineers and rural communities
- Guidelines for route corridor planning, design, construction and management

These outputs were achieved through desk studies, field investigations and analysis carried out in six study areas within the two countries. Local participation in the project involved the full integration with collaborating government departments, non-governmental organisations and universities, secondment of staff, fieldwork and analysis carried out by local practitioners, field discussions with community representatives and workshops and training.

The central theme of the project was the development and testing of rapid methods of landslide susceptibility mapping for rural infrastructure planning purposes. Remote sensing and relatively simple computer analysis of desk study datasets enabled models to be developed that provide an acceptable level of accuracy required for rural road planning purposes. Six study areas were used to derive this model and the results have been successfully applied to test areas.

More importantly, the techniques and outputs from the project were developed and applied by local government authorities concerned with infrastructure planning and rural development. Government staff, combined with local specialists, was responsible for a large part of the data collection and analysis, ensuring the sustainable use of the mapping techniques

developed. Interviews and field-based workshops held with local community representatives and farmers enabled an open dialogue on best land use and slope protection practices, hopefully reducing exposure to landslide risk in the future.

The mapping techniques developed by the project were basic and simple in their analysis of remote sensing and their use of geological and topographical data. They proved invaluable – particularly in areas where there was little other data available – for the recognition of areas most susceptible to landslides and consequently most hazardous to rural populations and infrastructure. Government staff and local community representatives alike found the maps easy to understand, subsequently used for a range of planning, engineering and disaster preparedness applications.



Nepal and Bhutan, showing study area locations

While it is recognised that simple approaches such as these may not necessarily be applicable when more detailed landslide and slope stability assessments are required (for example, during the detailed design of a road scheme), the project resulted in the development of practical guidelines to assist government officers, rural communities and farmers in the planning and management of land and engineering structures to minimise and mitigate landslide hazards. ■

This article is an output from the DFID-funded project for the benefit of developing countries. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the DFID. For further information about the Landslide Risk Assessment Project, please refer to www.infrastructureconnect.info/news.asp or contact Mr. Gareth Hearn, Scott Wilson, gareth.hearn@scottwilson.com



**Africa
update**

UN/ISDR Africa has moved!

The address of the new UN/ISDR Africa office is:

UN/ISDR Africa
Block U Room 217/207/215
UNEP
Gigiri
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: + 254 2 62 41 19
Fax: + 254 2 444 68 30
Email: fengmin.kan@unon.org

First Regional Disaster Risk Management training workshop in the IGAD region

On 13-25 January 2003, UN/ISDR Africa collaborated with the UN Operations and Projects Services (UNOPS), UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to hold the first disaster management training workshop in Asmara, Eritrea, targeted at the seven Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. 59 participants of a variety of backgrounds – including representatives from international organizations, governments, academic and technical institutions, media and civil society – attended the workshop, which facilitated the exchange of information and experiences among the region.

Participants benefited from the workshop through learning about how the disaster reduction can be applied in their respective areas, by way of the establishment of ISDR National Platforms, the expansion of existing disaster reduction networks between experts and institutions, as well as cooperation and participatory consultation with UN/ISDR Africa.

For further information including documentation presented at the training, please contact Keflemariam Sebhatu, IGAD kefle.sebhatu@igad.org or Mohamed Abchir, UN/ISDR, abchir@un.org.



Participants at the IGAD Disaster Management training workshop (Asmara, Eritrea)

Djibouti's increasing involvement in disaster management

Since independence in 1977, the people of Djibouti have greatly suffered on account of internal and sub-regional conflicts, leading to an increase in vulnerability to natural hazards such as drought, earthquakes and floods. These hazards in turn gave rise to multiple human, financial and property losses as well as seriously damaging the country's fragile economy. Recent floods in Djibouti caused economic damage equivalent to the country's annual income.

Established in January 2003, the National Disaster Management Unit was officially designated the role of the Djibouti ISDR National Platform by the Djibouti Ministry of the Interior. The establishment of the region's first National Platform is a breakthrough for the ISDR in Africa, and will hopefully encourage the interest and commitment of neighbouring countries' governments for the creation of similar partnerships.

UN/ISDR Africa worked alongside the newly-established Djibouti ISDR National Platform in addition to the UN Development Programme and UNOPS in the coordination of a workshop entitled 'Enhanced National Capacity in Disaster Management', held in Djibouti town 15-16 February 2003. The workshop's overall goal was to enhance national capacity and competence in disaster prevention, response and coordination. To achieve this goal, participants acquired a more profound understanding of

concepts such as disaster risk management, the disaster management cycle, and the use of alternative tools and methods for disaster management coordination.

30 participants from the Djibouti Ministry of the Interior attended the workshop, identifying areas of weakness and proposed solutions for more effective disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. It was found that many of the existing mechanisms and policies currently in place proved to be unrealistic due to lack of education and training, essential supplies and equipment and logistical support. Recommendations agreed upon by participants included the clear definition of a national strategy and policy for the implementation of disaster risk and disaster management, followed by awareness-raising campaigns and comprehensive civic education programmes aimed at the broadest possible audience. To support these activities a decentralisation within the Ministry of the Interior is necessary to enable community empowerment and disaster reduction initiatives to take place at all levels.

*For more information concerning the Djibouti ISDR National Platform, including documentation resulting from the workshop please contact: Mohamed Ahmed Madar, Djibouti ISDR National Platform ammadar@hotmail.com
Feng Min Kan, UN/ISDR Africa, fengmin.kan@unon.org*

Application of Space Technology in Disaster Risk Management Workshop

Jointly organized by the IGAD Secretariat, the Regional Centre for Mapping Resources for Development (RCMRD) and UN/ISDR Africa, the 'Application of Space Technology in Disaster Risk Management' workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 17-21 February 2003. Attended by 21 senior planners and disaster managers of IGAD member countries Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan, the workshop also attracted representatives from the South Africa National Disaster Management Centre, UNDP, UNEP, OCHA, Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS-NET) and the Drought Monitoring Centre, allowing an open forum for experience-sharing of the application of space technology in disaster management.

The workshop provided government officials with a valuable learning opportunity on hazard mapping with rapid and low-cost methodologies, vulnerability and risk assessment and analysis, fundamentals of space technology, and the application of space technology in disaster risk management and early warning systems.

Upon the conclusion of the workshop, IGAD member countries expressed their collective determination to move further towards utilizing space technology and remote sensing in disaster risk management, recognising the benefits of such tools in regional and national applications. It was noted that such technologies enhances the link between disaster risk management and environmental and development programmes in the region. With the development and implementation of the integrated database IGAD 'ATLAS', participants believe that disaster reduction initiatives could be significantly improved and therefore prove more effective.

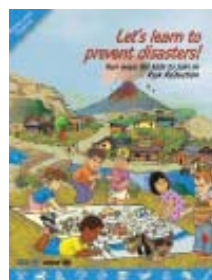
For more information concerning space technologies in the IGAD region, please contact Feng Min Kan, UN/ISDR Africa, fengmin.kan@unon.org.



Latin America and the Caribbean update

UNICEF and UN/ISDR joint collaboration for education kit on disaster reduction

UNICEF and UN/ISDR produced jointly an education kit, which consists of a booklet with basic information related to disasters and risk reduction, as well as a board game entitled *Riskland*. The game helps understand which practices may be effective for reducing the impact of disasters, and which are not appropriate and, as a result may lead to an increase in vulnerability. The kit is targeted at children between 8 and 12 years of age, as a complement to any other materials that schools may already have.



To receive the kit, please send an email request specifying the preferred language (English or Spanish) to eird@eird.org

Volcano booklet “Who are you, Mr. Volcano?”

After the eruption of the volcano Reventador in Ecuador in November 2002, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) joined forces with UN/ISDR to



publish the educational booklet *Who are you Mr. Volcano?*. The booklet is an adaptation of the material produced by UN/ISDR for the 2002 World Disaster Reduction Campaign *Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Mountain Development*. The revised 2003 version is adapted to the Latin America and the Caribbean region and includes special section on

health as well as practical information on what to do before, during and after a volcanic eruption. The booklet is available in Spanish only and can be consulted at the website www.disaster-info/PED-Sudamerica/volcan.

For hard copies, please contact Margarita Villalobos margarita.villalobos@eird.org

Regional Consultation on Early Warning, Antigua, Guatemala (3-5 June 2003)

A regional consultation on early warning systems is scheduled to be held in Antigua, Guatemala in the first week of June 2003. The consultation is part of the preparations leading up to the Second International Early Warning Conference (EWCII), to take place in Bonn, Germany in October 2003. The objectives of the regional consultations includes the identification of existing early warning systems, responsible persons/organizations, as well as other relevant elements of early warning systems such as financial aspects, costs of investment, and sustainability. The regional workshop will also identify shortfalls and future needs such as data, information, knowledge, skills, and resources.

For more information on the regional consultation, please contact Wolfgang Stiebens, GTZ wstiebens@gold.guate.net, or Elina Palm elina.palm@eird.org



Spanish ISDR National Platform joins the European network

In late 2002, the Government of Spain announced that it has established an ISDR National Platform to maintain a closer collaboration link with the ISDR and to follow-up on the activities carried out by the previous committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The decision was taken by the Council of Ministers in September 2002 and forms part of a series of governmental decisions to improve and rationalise the area of disaster management and risk reduction. The ISDR National Platform chaired by the Director General of Spain's National Commission of Civil Protection – also responsible for supporting a range of logistic and professional tasks – committed to ensuring the full integration of all elements and stakeholders in disaster reduction. UN/ISDR welcomes this positive development of its already close collaboration with Spain and looks forward to Spain's continuing engagement in ISDR programmes for Europe.

For more information, please contact Juan Pedro Lahore, Spanish ISDR National Platform jplahore@procivil.mir.es or Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR, pisanof@un.org

A Euro-Mediterranean dimension for disaster reduction

Since the launching of the Euro-Mediterranean process by the summit held in Barcelona in 1995, the European disaster reduction landscape has undergone a substantial evolution. Several meetings held in the region, particularly those of Castelnuovo di Porto in 1996 and Valencia in 1999, have consolidated a Euro-Mediterranean vision of disaster reduction based on managing vulnerability to similar hazards taking account of varied socio-economic conditions. The ISDR Secretariat is working with key partners in the region to translate this vision and various previous policy initiatives into a regional strategy compatible with the goals

established at global level by UN/ISDR and the future integrated strategy of the European Union (EU), as part of the process for the organization of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction, coinciding with the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (Madrid, 6-8 October 2003). The event is expected to be an important step for the consolidation of policies and strategies pertaining to disaster reduction in the region and a launching pad for future initiatives.

For more information, please contact Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR, pisanof@un.org.

More light on the interrelation between natural and technological hazards

The European Commission Joint Research Centre of Ispra and UN/ISDR have signed a Collaboration Agreement in an effort to launch a joint study programme on the interaction between natural and technological hazards. The agreement, a first in its kind, entered into force in February 2003 for an initial period of three years and marks a positive development in the growing collaboration between the ISDR Secretariat and the European Commission. Under the agreement the Joint Research Centre and UN/ISDR will also continue their collaboration in the area of database integration and the provision and analysis of data and information pertaining to the review and monitoring activities carried out by the ISDR Secretariat. The signing of the agreement was welcomed by ISDR partners engaged in assessing the impact of technological hazards and their compound effects on natural disasters. With this development, UN/ISDR has taken to gradually expanding its initiatives in an area where study and applications efforts have been relatively less intense over the past few years, attracting interest and support from agencies and donors in order to make the study programme sustainable and productive.

For more information, please contact Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR, pisanof@un.org.



Other activities in disaster reduction

Launch of the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign

Living with Risk - Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development

Organized by UN/ISDR, the main goals of the annual World Disaster Reduction Campaign is to increase awareness – across all sectors worldwide – about the measures that can be taken to reduce risk and vulnerabilities of communities to the negative impacts of natural hazards. The Campaign is based on a different theme every year.

In line with the International Year of Freshwater, ISDR's 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign will focus on the significance of water in the field of disaster reduction. Hydrometeorological hazards are noticeably on the rise due to phenomena such as climate change and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), affecting more communities than ever due to human activities that increase vulnerability and change the natural balance of ecosystems. Now more than ever before, disaster reduction must be successfully incorporated into the broader goals of sustainable development to enable the building of disaster resilient communities.

As the slogan suggests – ‘Turning the tide’ – the 2003 Campaign aims at changing people’s perceptions and attitudes towards hydrometeorological disasters through the involvement of as many sectors as possible. The Campaign itself will in fact extend beyond the year 2003 until World Water Day on 22 March 2004, whereupon UN/ISDR takes the lead within the UN system in the international celebrations focusing specifically on water-related disasters.

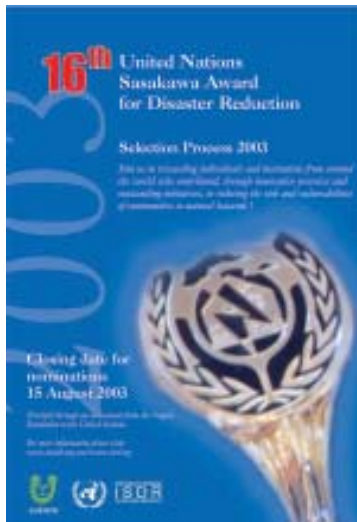
UN/ISDR will produce various supporting information materials for the World Disaster Reduction Campaign available in English, French and Spanish for dissemination worldwide, including an information kit comprising facts and figures, definitions of key concepts, success stories and lessons learned and resource and website listings.

We invite you to contribute to the information kit in the form of feature articles addressing the theme *Living with Risk – Turning the tide on disasters towards sustainable development*, in particular highlighting best practices and regional examples of successful disaster reduction initiatives.

To receive the first announcement of the 2003 World Disaster Reduction Campaign and/or to submit proposals for contributions, please contact Nicole Rencoret, UN/ISDR rencoret@un.org.

Nomination Process for the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Deadline for nominations: 15 August 2003



Nominations are now being received for the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction, to be presented on Wednesday 8 October 2003 in Geneva, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction was established in 1986 founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, in recognition of innovative efforts and outstanding initiatives in the field of disaster reduction. The total approximate value of the Award is US \$50,000, shared between the Laureate and the recipients of Certificates of Distinction and Merit. In addition to the financial prize, the Laureate is presented with the valuable UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction crystal trophy.

UN/ISDR calls upon former Sasakawa laureates, scientific and technical institutions specializing in disaster reduction, UN Resident Coordinators, UN agencies and representatives from the diplomatic community to submit nominations for consideration by the UN Sasakawa jury by **15 August 2003**.

The Report of the 2002 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is now available from UN/ISDR, celebrating the achievements of the 2002 Laureate and Certificate recipients.

To receive the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Nomination booklet (available in English, French, Russian and Spanish) and/or the 2002 Report, please refer to www.unisdr.org and www.eird.org, or contact Christel Rose, UN/ISDR, rosec@un.org.

3rd World Water Forum call on Ministerial Conference to address disaster reduction



The 3rd World Water Forum (WWF3) held 16-23 March in Kyoto, Japan provided an opportunity for thousands of participants to gather together to discuss current water-related issues of concern at the international, regional, national and local levels. In collaboration with the Asian Disaster Reduction

Centre (ADRC), UN/ISDR convened the session *Living with Risk – towards effective disaster reduction* as part of the overall theme 'Water and Poverty' coordinated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

While it is recognised that water-related disasters have caused widespread social, economic and environmental disruption to communities worldwide, it is necessary to note that often the principle cause of the increase in the impact of such hazards is due primarily to the underlying vulnerability of the poor.

With this in mind, session participants identified the following key elements as being essential to a successful disaster reduction strategy:

- An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
- The integration of the reduction of risk and vulnerability into water resource management policies and initiatives
- Support to regional disaster reduction initiatives, including the use of traditional and knowledge and the promotion of community-based disaster management planning
- Encourage governments to address the problems created by urban settlements in high-risk areas
- The sharing of hydrometeorological data and information at a regional level in the case of transboundary basins to enable reliable forecasts

For further information including more detailed content of the session, please contact John Harding, UN/ISDR harding@un.org. For information on WWF3, refer to www.world.water-forum3.com.

2001 World Disaster Reduction Campaign: Countering Disasters, Targeting Vulnerability

Risk Mapping Contest Award Ceremonies in Nepal and El Salvador

As part of the United Nations 2001 World Disaster Reduction Campaign, a Risk Mapping Contest was launched as one of the ISDR awareness and promotion activities keeping with the year's theme 'Countering Disasters, Targeting Vulnerability'. The Risk Mapping Contest challenged people to produce a risk map for their local geographical zone or community, providing an opportunity for schoolchildren, teachers and local communities to read, research and learn key concepts of disaster reduction, as well as consider vulnerability and the potential threat of natural hazards to their local surroundings.



Two award ceremonies were held for the presentation of the prizes in Kathmandu, Nepal (on 11 December, 2002) and Usulutlan, El Salvador (28 February 2003). The prizes consisted of a cheque made out for the amount of US\$ 500, accompanied by a certificate.

Group "C" in the 10th grade of the Technical-Vocational High School Program (Berlin's National Institute), Usulutlan, El Salvador

In El Salvador the event was coordinated by a number of institutions, including the Health Unit of Berlin, the Mayor's Office of Berlin, the Basic System for Integral Health of Santiago de Maria, Berlin's National Institute, and representatives of PAHO in El Salvador. It was held on 28 February 2003 at the central park of this community and gathered a large number of inhabitants, as well as special invitees, teachers and students, and representatives of the National Emergency Committee.



Shree Bal Bikash Secondary School, Kathmandu, Nepal
 UNDP Resident Representative Henning Karcher presented the prize to the Headmaster of the Shree Bal Bikash Secondary School at a

ceremony held on 11 December 2002 within the premises of UNDP Kathmandu.

A risk map is a map of a community or geographical zone that identifies the places and the buildings – homes, schools, health facilities and others – that might be adversely affected in the event of natural hazards and related technological or environmental disasters.

For guidelines on how to produce community risk maps, please refer to www.eird.org/ing/varios/folletocomunidades/mapascomunidades.htm

Space applications for disaster management: focusing on vulnerability assessment and risk reduction

The ISDR Secretariat and several other UN organizations met the three co-chairs of the UN Action Team on Disaster Management (France, Canada and China), tasked with implementing some of the recommendations stemming from the Third UN Conference on the Exploitation and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE-III) to discuss developments towards the design of an integrated space-based disaster management system. The meeting took place in Vienna on 18-19 February, in the context of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). It was found that recent developments in space related applications for natural disasters should lead to greater visibility and use of satellite techniques in the fields of vulnerability assessment and risk reduction, drawing attention to the potential benefits of using satellite data for disaster reduction instead of concentrating mainly on emergency management.

For more information, please contact Francesco Pisano, UN/ISDR pisanof@un.org.

For specific information regarding UNISPACE-III please refer to <http://www.oosa.unvienna.org/unisp-3/>

ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR), Working Group 3: Risk, Vulnerability and Impact Assessment

The recent meeting of the Working Group 3 proved a valuable opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues in relation to risk, vulnerability and disaster impact assessment. The main areas covered in the meeting are outlined below.

- 1. Improving Quality, Coverage and Accuracy of Disaster Data: Towards an integrated, multi-tiered global disaster database*
Upon review of two recent studies comparing various disaster databases, it was found that there is a pressing need for improvements in primary national data collection through capacity-building for monitoring disaster losses and ensuring more coherent synthesis, through the development of an integrated multi-tiered global disaster database.
- 2. Review of Indexes relevant for Risk and Vulnerability Indexing*
Prepared by UNDP as part of the upcoming publication *World Vulnerability Report*, it is hoped the national level disaster risk index will contribute to the ongoing review of the level of risk to natural disasters that countries face. A recent collaboration between UNDP and UN/ISDR has also led to the development of a framework for monitoring and measuring disaster risk reduction efforts.
- 3. Tools and Best Practices for Risk and Vulnerability Analysis at the Local and Urban Levels*
With the objective of planning and developing a new work programme for the collection of tools and best practices for vulnerability assessment at the urban and local levels, a proposal for local disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness was accepted and endorsed by the members of WG3 and the implementation of the first phase is underway.

For further information on WG3, please contact Andrew Maskrey, UNDP/BCPR Geneva, Convenor of IATF/DR WG3, andrew.maskrey@undp.org or Mohamed Abchir, UN/ISDR, abchir@un.org.

Drought within the framework of ISDR

The first meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction's (IATF/DR) Ad Hoc Discussion Group on Drought took place 11-12 March 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland. In accordance with its overall goal of addressing drought and related issues – including the identification of success stories and recommendations for drought vulnerability reduction – the Group promotes the development and improvement of drought early warning systems, appropriate mitigation actions, preparedness planning methodologies, and risk-based drought management policies.

The results of the meeting included the recognition of the human dimension in drought as well as the value of sharing regional experiences within broader global regional and sub-regional drought preparedness networks, encouraging initiatives between partner organisations.

*The report of the Group will be soon available at www.unisdr.org/unisdr/WGdrought.htm
For more information please contact Dr. Don Wilhite, National Drought Mitigation Center dwilhite2@unl.edu or Mohamed Abchir, UN/ISDR, abchir@un.org.*

ProVention Consortium Steering Committee Meeting

The ProVention Consortium Steering Committee Meeting took place on 5-6 March 2003 at the IFRC in Geneva. The meeting, which marked the official point of departure of the new IFRC hosted Secretariat, was attended by members of 14 different ProVention member organizations, among them. The agenda focused on four key areas: (i) Overview of progress on activities; (ii) Transition of the ProVention Secretariat; (iii) Review of governance structures, and (iv) Work Plan of activities 2003-2005.

The importance of continuity of activities was stressed by the Steering Committee as well as by both the World Bank and the new IFRC-hosted Secretariat, agreeing upon the development of an integrated Work Plan. It was decided the strategic framework of the Work Plan would be maintained (i.e. risk identification/analysis, risk reduction, and risk sharing/transfer), focusing on a limited number (3-5) of core areas, thus avoiding too broad a portfolio of activities. The attention to advocacy initiatives, such as the EU, the International Red Cross Conference and the World Economic Forum was widely supported with the recognition of the need for more advocacy and policy work in the field of disaster risk management.

A number of Steering Committee members stressed the importance of close coordination with UN/ISDR in the work plan of activities in order to avoid duplication of activities and achieve an appropriate division of labour between ProVention and UN/ISDR. David Peppiatt, new Manager of the Consortium Secretariat, expressed his satisfaction on the high level of cooperation between the ProVention and ISDR Secretariats and the recognition by both teams of the need to coordinate and complement joint efforts.

For more information, see www.proventionconsortium.org or contact David Peppiatt, ProVention Consortium Secretariat david.peppiatt@ifrc.org.

The following publications are available *for consultation only* in the UN/ISDR Library. Please contact Ms. Marie Lou Darricau, darricau@un.org for more information on the UN/ISDR Library and its resources.

To order publications, please contact the publisher/sources indicated.

Hard copies of all documents for inclusion in the UN/ISDR Library should be forwarded to UN/ISDR, Palais des Nations, CH 1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland.



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 2003. OCHA in 2003. English, 117 pages.

OCHA has drawn up a medium-term strategic plan for the period 2003-2005, identifying key priorities for 2003.

For additional information please contact Magda Ninaber van Eyben, OCHA ninaber@un.org.



UN/ISDR, Cabinet Office of Japan, Hyogo Prefecture, Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) and Disaster Reduction Alliance. 2003. Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2003. 15-17 January, Kobe, Japan, English, 148 pages.

As the first contribution to the review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action leading up to the 2005 2nd International Conference on Disaster Reduction, the Conference brought together representatives, experts in disaster management from 24 countries in Asia and other parts of the world, as well as representatives of 26 and international organizations.

Also available www.unisdr.org and www.adrc.or.jp.

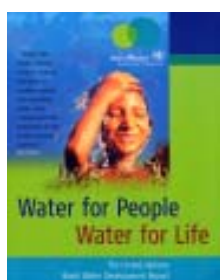


United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2002. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Information Kit.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Climate Change Convention both demonstrate that the peoples of the world can tackle global problems together by collaborating through the United Nations system.

Also available at: www.unep.ch/conventions/ and www.unfccc.int.

To obtain a copy of the kit please contact UNEP's Information Unit for Conventions IUC@unep.ch.



World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). 2003. Water for People, Water for Life: The United Nations World Water Development Report. UNESCO/Berghahn Books, Paris, English, 576 pages.

The long-awaited publication produced by the collaborative effort of 23 UN system-wide organizations, the World Water Assessment Programme. The report represents the first periodic review (to be continuously updated) designed to give an authoritative picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources.

The Executive Summary of the Report is available on-line at http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex_summary/.

To order a copy of this publication, please refer to upo.unesco.org.



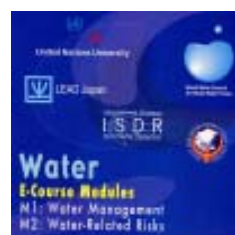
World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). 2001. Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability: Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521807689, English, 1,032 pages.

This publication is the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific assessment of the consequences of, and adaptation responses to, climate change.



NOAA, 2002, Helping communities determine and prioritize their vulnerabilities to hazards - Community vulnerability Assessment Tool, English, CD-ROM.

This CD-ROM provides a step-by-step guide for conducting community-wide risk and vulnerability assessments. It also provides an illustrative case study demonstrating the process for analyzing physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerability to hazards at the local level.



UN/ISDR, UN University (UNU), ADRC, World Water Council. 2003. Water: E-Course Modules. UNU, Japan, English, CD ROM.

An interactive educational resource on water management, water-related risks and additional modules related to water such as water quality, water monitoring and assessment, hydrogeology and hydroeconomics (currently under development). To access the e-course modules, please refer to www.unu.edu/water/

Date	Event	Venue	For Further Information
9 April	3 rd ISDR Support Group Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland	isdr@un.org
9-11 April	1 st International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism	Djerba, Tunisia	www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/climate/brochure.htm
10-11 April	7 th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR)	Geneva, Switzerland	pisanof@un.org
15-19 April	ECE/FAO International Conference on Forest Fire Management and International Cooperation in Fire Emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and Adjoining Regions on the Near East and Central Asia	Antalya, Turkey	www.fire.uni-freiburg.de
23-27 April	3 rd International Workshop on Seismic Risk in North Africa	Mansoura, Egypt	www.ungiwg.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/unoosa-stdm
28 April	Journée d'ouverture du Certificat en "Etude et Management des Risques Géologiques"	Geneva, Switzerland	www.unige.ch/hazards/cerg
28 April-9 May	11 th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development	New York, USA	www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11_2003.htm
4-15 May	New York Group for Technology Transfer Disaster Management Program	New York, USA	www.nygtt.org
5-7 May	Conference "Communities at risk"	Fiji	www.sopac.org.fj/Secretariat/Units/Dmu/Conference.html
5-24 May	14th World Meteorological Congress	Geneva, Switzerland	www.wmo.ch
8-10 May	Symposium concerning crisis management in times of flood disasters	Middelburg, Netherlands	cwc2003@zeeland.nl
12-14 May	4th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (SEE-4)	Tehran, Iran	www.iiees.ac.ir
13 May	Curso Virtual de Gestión Integral de Riesgos y Desastres Centro Internacional de Métodos Numéricos en Ingeniería y Structuralia, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña	Barcelona, Spain	www.structuralia.com/cdl1/cvdata/curso70/info/default.asp
13-14 May	Curso (CAEM) de Administración de Emergencias en Municipios en la Ciudad de São Carlos	Estado de São Paulo, Brasil	proci@linkway.com.br
14-16 May	High Level Expert Consultative APELL Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland	www.reliefweb.int/ochaunep/govern/agee5.htm
15-16 May	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL)	Geneva, Switzerland	http://www.uneptie.org/pc/apell
19-23 May	UN/Romania Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management for Europe	Sinaia, Romania	david.stevens@unvienna.org
9-18 Jun	Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction for Cities (EVRC-3)	Bangladesh	www.adpc.ait.ac.th
11-13 June	European Telecommunications Resilience and Recovery Association (ETR2A) Conference	Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK	www.etr2a.org

Please email news (providing dates, venues, organizer contact information) concerning upcoming events to be included in future issues of ISDR Highlights to isdr@un.org

NATURAL DISASTERS REVIEW

For detailed up-to-date information on recent natural disasters, please refer to www.reliefweb.int

The number appearing alongside each disaster refers to the GLObal IDEntifier Number (GLIDE), used by disaster databases worldwide. For more information about GLIDE, see www.cred.be or www.reliefweb.int/help/glide.html

Indonesia: Landslides - Apr 2003 / SL-2003-0155-IDN

Bolivia: Landslides - Apr 2003 / SL-2003-0153-BOL

India: Hailstorm - Mar 2003 / ST-2003-0134-IND

New Caledonia: Tropical Cyclone - Mar 2003 / ST-2003-0135-NCL

Mozambique: Cyclone - Mar 2003 / ST-2003-0114-MOZ

Tajikistan: Landslide - Mar 2003 / SL-2003-0115-TJK

China: Earthquake - Feb 2003 / EQ-2003-0105-CHN

Pakistan: Storm - Feb 2003 S / T-2003-0086-PAK

Argentina: Floods - Feb 2003 / FL-2003-0080-ARG

DR Congo: Tropical Storm in Yumbi - Feb 2003 / ST-2003-0073-ZAR