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**Report of the National Training Workshop  
on the ECLAC Methodology to assess the  
Macroeconomic and Social Impacts of Natural Disasters**

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In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, International Financial Services and Economic Affairs of Saint Lucia, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat conducted a training workshop in the ECLAC methodology to assess the macroeconomic and social impacts of natural disasters. The workshop was held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 17-19 December 2002.

The main objective of the workshop was to expose a wide range of key personnel to training in the use of the ECLAC disaster assessment methodology. One of the objectives was to strengthen the capability of Saint Lucia to conduct its own assessment following a relatively minor disaster. In addition, the workshop sought to develop the capacity to create an effective counterpart team in cases of a serious disaster.

Training materials included power point presentations and a manual, *ECLAC/CDCC Disaster Assessment Training Manual for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) LC/CAR/G.709*. A copy of the table of contents of the training manual appears at Annex 3.

The training was conducted by ECLAC staff and included (in alphabetical order): Erik Blommestein, Lancelot Busby, Len Ishmael (Director), Asha Kambon and Esteban Pérez and two consultants Ivor Jackson and David Smith.

The training was held at The Bay Garden hotel, where 42 participants attended the course and received certificates of attendance. (A list of participants appears at Annex 2). The participants who did not attend at least two of the three days were not awarded a certificate.

The course proceeded along the lines of the Programme, which appears at Annex 1.

At the end of the training session, ECLAC requested participants to complete a brief evaluation form to assist the organization to evaluate the course and its content.

Question 1: Specify your area of expertise.

Participants were drawn from a wide range of disciplines and had been involved to some extent in disaster assessment. Some, like participants from the Red Cross, the Stress Response Team and the National Youth Council were more responsible for the emergency phase of a disaster, while others were more involved in the subsequent damage assessment. One notable group that was absent was engineers. The background of the participants did influence the responses to their expectations, and the usefulness of the material presented at the workshop.

Question 2: What were your expectations of the workshop?

Most participants expected to obtain a deeper understanding of various aspects of disaster assessment. Ten participants expected to obtain more knowledge of the ECLAC methodology, while another six were less specific in their expectations.

Question 3: Did the workshop meet your expectations?

Exceeded expectations:	2	(6%)
Met expectations	22	(71%)
Partially met expectations	5	(16%)
Did not meet expectations	0	
No response	2	(6%)

Question 4: To what extent was the material presented at the workshop useful to your current work?

Very useful	8	(26%)
Useful	12	(39%)
Somewhat useful	9	(29%)
Not very	2	(6%)

Question 5: To what extent was the material presented at the workshop useful to your work that you expect to perform in the future

Very useful	8	(26%)
Useful	18	(56%)
Somewhat useful	4	(13%)
Not very	1	(3%)

Question 6: Was the material presented?

Too much	9	(29%)
Just enough	18	(58%)
Not enough	4	(13%)

Question 7: Are there any areas that were covered in the workshop that you wish further training in?

This was an open question to which 14 people did not respond. Those who responded mostly wanted more in depth information on their respective area of expertise. Apart from this six people, or 35% of those who responded, would have preferred to receive more training in the macroeconomic aspects and on linking the sectoral reports with the macroeconomic section.

Question 8: Did the logistics (venue, administrative and technical support) enrich the training, distract from the training or were adequate.

With one exception all participants were satisfied with the logistics. Only one participant was less than satisfied.

Question 9: Any general comments.

This was an open question. Lack of time (too much material in too short a time) was referred to by 12 participants. Linked to these observations, was the need for more interaction, particularly on the first day, between teachers and participants, more exercises and more time for the case study, and more training on how to do an estimate rather than the theoretical approach. However because of the time constraints the participants realised that this was not possible.

*(P.S. This was one suggestion/approach which adopted at the Trinidad training course which was held in March 2003. Not only were there more exercises, but the tourism section was completely focused on how to do an estimate.)*

## **Recommendations**

Relevance of the subject matter to the immediate or future work requirements of the participants is important. In depth familiarity of the ECLAC methodology may be of less relevance to those who are primarily engaged in the pre-disaster or emergency phase (e.g. Red Cross) and not so much in the recovery and rehabilitation phase. Perhaps for those who are engaged in the emergency phase, a brief explanation of the ECLAC methodology may suffice.

More efforts should be made to make the presentations more interactive, particularly on the first day. Perhaps revising the agenda may suffice to achieve that objective.

Consideration needs to be given to expand the time for exercises and the case study. This may imply extending the training course by one day.

Apart from the training manual ECLAC should consider making selected studies (e.g. Belize) available to the participants. This can be done either in hardcopy and, more cost effective, on a CD.

Participants should complete an evaluation form at the end of any training course. The Social Affairs Unit (which has access to SPSS) could conceivably device a brief programme to assist in analysing the survey data.

Annex 1**Programme****Day 1 - Tuesday 17 December 2003**

- 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome Remarks  
 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Introduction of trainers and participants

**Session 1 - Vulnerability - Setting the stage**

- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. i) The concept of vulnerability  
 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. ii) The Coastal Zone: Summary of hazards and vulnerabilities  
 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. iii) Land use planning and vulnerability assessment  
 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*

**Session II - The ECLAC Methodology**

- 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. i) An introduction to the ECLAC Methodology  
 ii) Key concepts and definitions  
 11:45 - 12:00 p.m. iii) Introduction of the Case Study and assignment of working groups

**Section III - Applying the Methodology**

- 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. i) Affected Population: gender differentiation, loss of life, displaced population, homelessness, migration, employment effects, etc.  
 12:45 - 2:00 a.m. *Lunch*  
 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. ii) Infrastructure (transportation, essential services, communication)  
 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. iii) Coastal areas and infrastructure  
 3:30 - 3:45 p.m. *Coffee Break*  
 iv) Economic Sectors:  
 3:45 - 4:30 p.m. - Tourism  
 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Agriculture and fisheries

**Day 2 - Wednesday 18 December 2003****Section III Continued**

- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.            iv) Economic Sectors  
                                     - Commercial and manufacturing sector
- 10:00 -10:30 a.m.        v) Social sectors
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.        *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.        v) Social sectors *Cont'd*
- 11:15 - 12:30 p.m.        vi) Environment (marine and terrestrial natural resources)
- 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.        *Lunch*

**Session IV - Pulling It All Together - Summary of Effects**

- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.        Overall effects of damages on the economy: Macro-socio-economic impacts
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.        *Coffee Break*

**Session V - Vulnerability Reduction and Mitigation**

- 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.        Planning for vulnerability reduction
- 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.        Coastal engineering reconstruction, management and mitigation

**Day 3 - Thursday 19 December 2003**

- 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Social sector dynamics
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Institutional options for disaster management
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*

**Session VI - Pulling It All Together - Operational Aspects**

- 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Information management and operational logistics

**Section VII - Case Study**

- 11:15 - 1:00 p.m. Working groups (planning, natural resources, economic, infrastructure, social)
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Working Lunch*
- 2:00 - 3:45 p.m. Group presentations
- 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Wrap-up session
- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Presentation of Diplomas

Annex 2**List of Participants**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Michael Bryan Charles **	National Housing Corporation
Peter A. Murray **	OECS/ESDU
Ronald Charles **	National Research and Development Foundation
Grantley Charlemagne **	Statistics Department
Denis James	Ministry of Finance
Hubert Pierre**	St. Lucia Red Cross
Augustin Poyotte *	Ministry of Physical Development
Anthony Philgence **	Ministry of Agriculture
Bertram Clarke **	Banana Industry Trust
Cassandra Rogers **	CDB
Atkinson Alcide **	St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority
Aviva Fredericks **	Ministry of Finance
Hilary Bynoe **	Stress Response Team - National Emergency Management Office
Cynthia Labadie **	Civil Service Association
Reginald Burke **	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
Bonaventure Jn. Baptiste **	Ministry of Education
Marcus Day	SUMA
Gwendoline Popo **	Stress Response Team - National Emergency Management Office
William Polius **	Ministry of Agriculture
Catalina Fontenelle	St. Lucia Banana Corporation
Ava Collymore **	St. Lucia Red Cross
Marva Edward **	St. Lucia Red Cross
Verl Harris *	St. Lucia Red Cross
Lucian Isidore	Ministry of Social Transformation
Jimmy J. Clavier **	St. Lucia National Youth Council
Marie Solange Augier**	St. Lucia Red Cross
Telbert Samuel **	WIBDECO
Clairvair Squires * *	CDB
Desmond Alcide	Ministry of Tourism
John Calixte **	EDF-PMCU
Margaret Gaspard **	Ministry of Physical Development
Joanna Raynold **	Ministry of Physical Development
Dwight Calixte **	Ministry of Health
Michael Andrew *	Ministry of Agriculture
Augustus Cadette **	Ministry of Social Transformation
George Victorin **	Fire Service
Martha A. Blanchard **	Ministry of Social Transformation
Lindy Baptiste **	EDF-PMCU
Dermot Saltibus	SLASPA
Theresa Alexander-Louis *	ECMC Ltd. (St. Lucia)
Skeeta Charles	Ministry of Finance
Desmond Alcee	Ministry of Tourism

\* Attended two days

\*\* Attended three day

Annex 3:**Table of Contents of the Training Manual**

<b>Section A:</b>	<b>Caribbean SIDS and their Vulnerability</b>
A.1	Conceptual understanding of the issues of vulnerability
A.2	The coastal zone - risks, hazards and vulnerability
A.3	Landuse planning and vulnerability assessment
<b>Section B:</b>	<b>The ECLAC Methodology</b>
B.1	An introduction to the ECLAC methodology
B.2	Key concepts and definitions
B.3	Case study
<b>Section C:</b>	<b>Applying the Methodology</b>
C.1	The affected population
C.2	Infrastructure (transportation, essential services, communication)
C.3	Coastal areas and infrastructure
C.4.a	Terrestrial environments: Assessment of disaster impacts
C.4.b	Marine environments: Assessment of impacts
C.5	Tourism
C.6	Agriculture and fisheries
C.7	The manufacturing and commercial sector
C.8	The social sector
<b>Section D:</b>	<b>Pulling it all together - Summary of Effects</b>
D.1	Overall effects of damages on the economy of the affected country
<b>Section E:</b>	<b>Building a Framework for Vulnerability Reduction</b>
E.1	Planning for vulnerability reduction
E.2	Coastal engineering: Reconstruction - Management and mitigation
E.3	Social sector dynamics
E.4	Project development for vulnerability reduction
E.5	Actions at the community/national level to reduce vulnerability
E.6	Building capacity for vulnerability reduction - Institutional options for disaster management agencies
<b>Section F:</b>	<b>Managing the Process - Operational Aspects</b>
F.1	Information management
F.2	Operational logistics
<b>Section G:</b>	<b>A Generic Outline for Reports</b>
	<b>Glossary</b>