

ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program: Focus Day on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in ACP Countries

November 9, 2018

Summary Report

Background

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) organized the second edition of the Africa Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR) Program¹ Focus Day around the theme of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in ACP countries. The event was organized on 9 November 2018 in Brussels, Belgium and hosted by the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission in the margins of the GFDRR Fall 2018 Consultative Group (CG)² meeting and Knowledge Partnership Day³ which took place on 7 and 8 November 2018, also in Brussels, Belgium.

The Focus Day brought together various stakeholders – including regional organizations, officials from ACP countries, ACP embassies in Brussels, ACP Secretariat, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies and the EU and GFDRR/World Bank – to learn from countries and regional organizations about how they are strengthening their resilience to natural hazards, particularly through projects financed by the ACP-EU NDRR Program. The event provided an opportunity to take stock of the ACP-EU NDRR Program and several projects in its portfolio, identify challenges and opportunities, and exchange perspectives and on-the-ground experience. The event also provided implementing partners, such as NGOs and African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), with an opportunity to share their experiences with the ACP-EU NDRR Program.

The Focus Day was divided into five sessions. The first session discussed mainstreaming DRM and CCA at the regional level in Africa and the Caribbean⁴. The second, third, and fourth session allowed for discussions on country-engagements in each of the ACP regions and for sharing perspectives on the mainstreaming of DRM and CCA. The final session elaborated on the next steps for mainstreaming DRM and CCA in ACP countries. Each of these sessions are summarized below.

¹ The ACP-EU NDRR Program (www.drrinacp.org) managed by GFDRR has 107 projects in its portfolio as of November 2018 and is carried out through regional, national, and post-disaster activity windows:

- **Window 1:** Regional projects aim to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation to advance ACP countries' national agendas for managing disaster risk.
- **Window 2:** National level projects provide technical assistance for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation policy development and implementation.
- **Window 3:** Post-disaster response to support ACP countries in the aftermath of a disaster with rapid technical assistance to build back better, boost capacity for post-disaster needs assessments, and integrate DRM into recovery planning.

² The Consultative Group (CG) is GFDRR's primary decision-making, oversight, and advisory body, which guides GFDRR's long-term strategic objectives, while overseeing expected results.

³ The Knowledge Partnership Day is an opportunity for the GFDRR Co-chairs to showcase their own Programs and initiatives to other GFDRR members.

⁴ The session initially intended to include the Pacific Community (SPC), but they could not attend.

Welcome Remarks and Setting the Scene

Ambassador Léonard-Emile Ognimba (Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group) opened the meeting by highlighting the importance of events such as the Knowledge Partnership Day (which took place the day before) and the ACP-EU Focus Day as an opportunity to share lessons learned and knowledge between ACP countries.

Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio (Acting Head of Climate Change Sector, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission) reminded about the importance of focusing on mainstreaming DRM and CCA in vulnerable regions and how stakeholders can work together and engage in a dialogue that can help find solutions to improve resilience in the most vulnerable regions and countries.

Ms. Julie Dana (Head, GFDRR) welcomed the wide range of participants present, from policy officers to experts. She underlined that this event aimed to hear about experiences as well as for participants to learn from each other and to learn about challenges experienced in the field, and how all actors can work together to overcome them and do more and better.

European Commission: Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio gave a presentation about the European Commission's initiatives in mainstreaming DRM and CCA, with a focus on the Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+). Mr. Di Pietrantonio highlighted that the EU is on track in reaching its target of spending in 2014-2020 20% of its budget on climate action. The GCCA+ has supported 66 projects to date, which mainstream climate action, increase resilience, and support the development of strategies and action plans.

GFDRR: Ms. Manuela Chiapparino (Team Leader for the ACP-EU NDRR Program, GFDRR) gave an overview of GFDRR and of the results achieved under the ACP-EU NDRR Program. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has implemented 107 projects since 2011, supporting more than 50 countries. The projects are described on a dedicated website: <https://www.gfdrr.org/acp-eu>. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has leveraged since 2011 an estimated \$2 billion in DRM investments. She also reminded that the European Commission and the ACP Group of States are GFDRR's co-chairs in 2018-2019, showing the importance of this partnership.

Session 1: Building Resilience at the Regional Level in Africa and the Caribbean

This session was chaired by Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas (Expert in Humanitarian Matters, ACP Secretariat), and provided regional organizations with an opportunity to share their experiences with mainstreaming DRM and CCA at the regional level.

CDEMA: Ms. Andria Grosvenor (Planning and Business Development Manager, CDEMA) highlighted the economic impacts of disasters, with three category 5 hurricanes in 2017 causing losses of 10 to 225% of GDP across the Caribbean region. She presented the Caribbean Pathway for Resilience which aims to foster social protection for the most vulnerable as well as to enhance economic opportunities and environmental protection. Ms. Grosvenor underlined that the focus of DRR interventions need to be on contributing to sustainable development, and interventions should be aligned to national and regional priorities.

ECCAS/ ECOWAS/ IGAD/SADC: Mr. Dominique Kuitsouc (Regional Coordinator for DRM and CCA Programs, ECCAS), Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim (Head of Division for DRR, ECOWAS), Mr. Keflemariam Sebhatu (DRM Program Coordinator, IGAD), and Mr. Clement Kalonga (Senior Program Officer, DRR, SADC) shared the perspectives of their respective RECs. Common observations were that there is a need to break the silos between DRM, adaptation, and development; to increase collaboration and sharing of DRR data among scientists and other DRM actors to support planning; and to reduce dependency on external funding. The RECs also noted

that whilst work has to continue on increasing awareness of DRM and on supporting the development of DRM legislation, it is important to go beyond advocacy by implementing solutions and enacting legislation.

During the discussion, a question was asked about how regional organizations coordinate with different partners to ensure complementarity. Ms. Andria Grosvenor from CDEMA responded that their organization coordinates which each member countries and that DRM interventions should be aligned to national and regional priorities/ Funds should be aligned with indicators and targets identified in each region. A Representative from the African Union also responded that they are currently developing a strategy for climate change, which includes DRR and which should provide an overall framework for regional cooperation and complementarity.

Session 2: Africa: Managing Climate and Disaster Risks at National and Local Levels

This session was chaired by Mr. Niels Holm-Nielsen (Lead DRM Specialist and Regional Coordinator for Africa, World Bank), and provided delegates from African countries with the opportunity to share their experiences with mainstreaming DRM and CCA at the country-level and how the ACP-EU NDRR Program has contributed to this end.

Malawi: Mr. Samuel Gama (Principal Mitigation Officer) highlighted the importance of local community involvement in building resilience and emphasized that learning at the community level as well as stakeholder coordination in DRM and CCA have to remain priorities. Some challenges put forward are the limited availability of emergency contingency funds and poor enforcement of DRR regulations and laws. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has, amongst others, supported the review of the national DRM Bill.



Presentation of country experiences at the Focus Day

Mozambique: Ms. Ana Cristina Joao Manuel (National Director of Prevention and Mitigation, National Institute of Disaster Management) stated that the involvement of communities in activities, such as the setting up of Early Warning Systems under the ACP-EU NDRR Program, allows for greater appropriation of the systems and sustainable results. Another lesson learned is that policies and national communications regarding DRM need to be reviewed and kept up to date to increase the awareness of all stakeholders.

Rwanda: Mr. Patrick Nsabimana (Coordinator, Landscape Approach to Forest Restoration and Conservation, Environment Management Authority) noted the importance of a sectoral approach to DRM and CCA, with the New Sector Strategic Plans for 2018-2024 having mainstreamed DRM and CCA in priority sectors. The development of analytical products is key to making informed decisions, and knowledge and information sharing within and between countries is key. Amongst others, the ACP-EU NDRR Program assisted the Government in conducting a nation-wide risk assessment.

Zimbabwe: Ms. Meliqiniso Sibanda (Principal Administrative Officer, Civil Protection Department) highlighted the importance of adequate DRR legislation and noted that Zimbabwe is working on finalizing its DRM Bill. Remaining challenges include limited funding

for structural DRR measures and for capacity development of key players. A lesson learned is that community-involvement promotes the ownership of projects, which was for example the case for the ACP-EU NDRR project supporting the adaptive capacity of vulnerable poor communities.

Some questions pertained to how risk data can be used and shared to the wider community and to be used in an open manner. Mr. Niels Holm-Nielsen responded that data is shared on online sharing tools as much as possible, including OpenDRI or ThinkHazard! The creation, sharing and use of risk data is encouraged through World Bank operations.

Session 3: Caribbean: Strengthening DRM, Climate, and Financial Resilience

This session was chaired by Mr. Joaquin Toro (Senior DRM Specialist and Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, World Bank). Delegates from the Caribbean shared their experiences with the ACP-EU NDRR Program and their perspectives on the mainstreaming of DRM and CCA.

Dominican Republic: Dr. Alexis Cruz (Director, Economic and Social Analysis Advisory Unit,) highlighted that the significant impact of disasters on GDP raises the urgency of action. With the help of the ACP-EU NDRR Program, the Dominican Republic improved its fiscal sustainability and built capacities in PDNA methodologies.

Jamaica: Mr. Omar Sweeney (Head of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and Project Director of the Disaster Vulnerability and Reduction Project) shared the Government of Jamaica's decision to develop a DRM policy. He underlined that rapid access to adequate funding is crucial for effective response in the event of a disaster, and that coordination with stakeholders is critical in all stages of DRM. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has supported a gap analysis and capacity building for emergency preparedness.

Saint Lucia: Ms. Cointha Thomas (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service) noted the economic reality of high debt, and emphasized the importance of integrating disaster vulnerability considerations into budget processes, and of having a comprehensive set of analytical products to inform decision making. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has successfully provided DRF technical assistance, paving the way for further work on DRF strategies.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Mr. Recardo Frederick (Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning) emphasized the importance of forward-looking legislation and policies, and noted that leadership from the Ministry of Finance helps speed the pace of progress in DRM. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has, amongst others, supported studies to inform the urban planning in the city of Arnos Vale which will have a risk-informed planning process.

Session 4: Pacific: Integrating Climate and Disaster Resilience into Development and Community Resilience

This session was chaired by Ms. Habiba Gitay (Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank). Delegates from the Pacific shared their experiences with the ACP-EU NDRR Program and their perspectives on the mainstreaming of DRM and CCA.



Samoa: Mr. Asuao Malaki Iakopo (Assistant CEO, Water Resources Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) reminded that in Samoa 70% of the population is located along vulnerable coastlines, and highlighted that DRM is

a highly participatory process with no single “right approach.” The ACP-EU NDRR Program is supporting coastal communities to become more resilient to climate variability and change, through a participatory “Ridge to Reef” approach.

Solomon Islands: Ms. Mary Alalo (Project Coordinator) noted that DRR should be further decentralized away from capitals, as disasters hit remote communities that are not reached by DRM projects. The ACP-EU NDRR Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards project in the Solomon Islands, uses the term “instreaming” rather than “mainstreaming” to reflect the need to internalize DRM into national, provincial, and community-level processes. The project was instrumental in reviewing the National Disaster Management Plan as well as providing seismic monitoring systems to local communities.

Vanuatu: Ms. Esline Garaebiti (Acting Director, Geo-hazard Division, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department) emphasized the need to have risk knowledge and data for proper planning, to inform for example decisions on DRF. The ACP-EU NDRR Program has amongst others contributed to the establishment of a system for volcano and tsunami early warning, and set up a catastrophic risk insurance pilot program.

Session 5: Next steps on mainstreaming DRM and CCA in ACP countries

This session, moderated by Ms. Valentina Villoria (Program Manager, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission) was an open discussion with all participants on the next steps in terms of mainstreaming DRM and CCA in ACP countries. Delegates were asked the following questions to guide the discussions:

- Which concrete activities will be undertaken in your country/region following this Focus Day, to go from policy to implementation?
- What is the added value of Technical Assistance received by the World Bank as a partner compared to other organizations?

Delegates responding to the first question noted as next steps that sectors need to integrate DRM considerations in their budgets, that further work is needed on the development of DRM legislation, and that the perspectives of communities needs to be taken into account in risk mapping. They further pointed that the implementation of policies needs to be monitored against key performance indicators on DRM/CCA.

In response to the second question, delegates highlighted their positive experiences while cooperating with the World Bank. Specific examples include that project implementation starts swiftly following the approval of grants, that the World Bank brings its experience from other countries, that it is flexible in accommodating for the specific needs of countries, and that the World Bank has successfully trained government officials in DRM approaches. One person appreciated the EC/WB approach of strongly involving governments which made them feel empowered to carry out projects.

Closing session

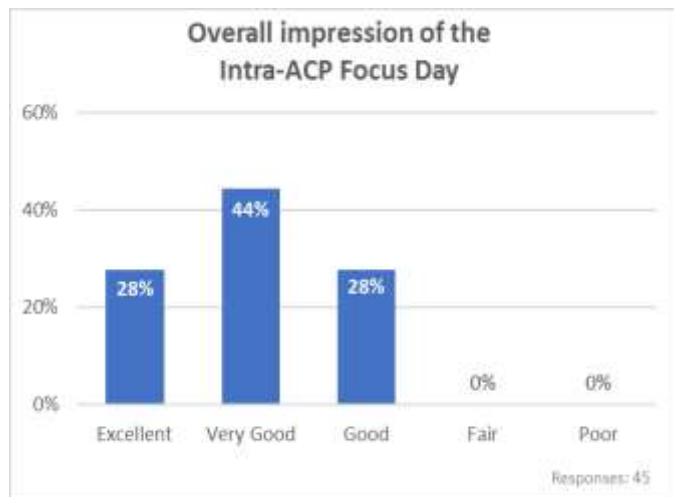
A summary of the discussions undertaken during the Focus Day was delivered by Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas and Ms. Valentina Villoria, emphasizing the importance of the partnership between the ACP Group of States, the EC, and the World Bank-GFDRR in the area of DRM. Ambassador Leonard Emile Ognimba’s concluding remarks mentioned the importance of the week’s events with the GFDRR Consultative Group meeting, the Knowledge Partnership Day as well as the Focus Day which included

important lessons learned and food for thought for all participants. He concluded that sharing knowledge has an impact when new perspectives are drawn based on what has been learned.

Dr. Patrick Ignatius Gomes (Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States) gave the final closing remarks and underlined that stakeholders must build on the discussions achieved during the event to build tangible and concrete results. He noted the importance of interrelation between programs to achieve coherent interventions. Finally, he reiterated the importance of the partnership between the ACP Group of States, the EU, GFDRR and the World Bank.

Meeting evaluation

A questionnaire was circulated to gather ACP Delegates' feedback on the event, generating 45 responses. Nearly three out of four participants (72%) had either an excellent or very good impression of the Intra-ACP Focus Day. The five thematic sessions have been evaluated very positively through and the vast majority of respondents stating that they were either excellent, very good or good. The three country-focused sessions seemed to have created slightly more appreciation compared to the regional and mainstreaming ones.



With regard to the agenda, 62.5% responded that they were very satisfied with the program. Participants very much appreciated the wealth of information shared and the ability to interact and learn from other countries. All respondents indicated that they would attend a similar event in the future. Suggestions for the topic of the next Focus Day identified a couple of main interests: (i) measuring (social) impact and monitoring progress (M&E) of DRR & CCA interventions, and (ii) innovative ideas/methodologies/tools/solutions/technologies for DRR and reconstruction (green building). On a more logistical aspect, participants suggested to reduce the number of presentations and allow for more time for discussion if another Focus Day was to be organized.

Selected quotes of the Intra-ACP Focus Day:

"Go Local. Go Big. Risk Resilience is everyone's business."

By Cointha Thomas, Permanent Secretary, Saint Lucia & Mary Alalo, CRISP Project Coordinator, Solomon Islands.

"Climate Change Adaptation is our global mission."

Mr. Omar Sweeney, Managing Director, Jamaica Social Investment Fund

Annex I – Agenda Focus Day

9.00-9.30	Registration and coffee
9.30-9.40	<p>Welcome remarks and Focus Day objective</p> <p>Amb. Leonard Emile Ognimba, Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group</p> <p>Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio, Acting Head of Climate Change Sector, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p>Ms. Julie Dana, Head, GFDRR Secretariat</p>
9.40-10.00	<p>European Commission initiatives in mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation – select examples and Focus on the Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+)</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Mr. Nicola Di Pietrantonio, Acting Head of Climate Change Sector, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p>
10.00-10.15	<p>Overview of projects implemented by the ACP-EU NDRR Program since 2011 and review of their impact and leveraging results to date.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Ms. Manuela Chiapparino, Team Leader, ACP-EU NDRR Program and European Donors relations, GFDRR Brussels</p>
10.15-11.30	<p>Session 1: Building resilience at regional level in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>CDEMA</u>: Ms. Andria Grosvenor, Planning and Business Development Manager - <u>ECCAS</u>: Mr. Dominique Kuitsouc, Regional Coordinator for DRM and CCA programs - <u>ECOWAS</u>: Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, Head of Division for Disaster Risk Reduction - <u>IGAD</u>: Mr. Keflemariam (Kefle) Sebhatu, DRM Program Coordinator - <u>SADC</u>: Mr. Clement Kalonga, Senior Program Officer, DRR <p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Natallie Corrie-Kordas, Expert, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group of States</p> <p>Q&A</p>
11.30-11.45	Coffee Break
11.45-13.00	<p>Session 2: Africa: Managing climate and disaster risks at national and local levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Malawi</u>: Mr. Samuel Gama, Principal Mitigation Officer, Government of Malawi - <u>Mozambique</u>: Ms. Ana Cristina Joao Manuel, National Director of prevention and mitigation, National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) - <u>Rwanda</u>: Mr. Patrick Nsabimana, Coordinator, Landscape Approach to Forest Restoration and Conservation (LAFREC), Rwanda Environment Management Authority - <u>Zimbabwe</u>: Ms. Meliqiniso Sibanda, Principal Administrative Officer, Civil Protection Department <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Niels Holm-Nielsen, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Regional Coordinator for Africa, World Bank</p> <p>Q&A</p>
13.00-14.30	Lunch break and Networking



14.30-15.30	<p>Session 3: Caribbean: Strengthening DRM, climate, and financial resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Dominican Republic</u>: Dr. Alexis Cruz, Director, Economic and Social Analysis Advisory Unit (UAAES) - <u>Jamaica</u>: Mr. Omar Sweeney, Head of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and Project Director of the DVRP project - <u>Saint Lucia</u>: Ms. Cointha Thomas, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service - <u>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</u>: Mr. Recardo Frederick, Program Manager, Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic Development and Physical Development <p><i>Chair</i>: Mr. Joaquin Toro, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist and Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, World Bank</p> <p>Q&A</p>
15.30-15.45	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>
15.45-16.45	<p>Session 4: Pacific: Integrating climate and disaster resilience into development and community resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Samoa</u>: Mr. Asuao Malaki Iakopo, Assistant CEO, Water Resources Division, Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment and Ms. Jean Valiamu, Climate Resilient Investment Division, Ministry of Finance - <u>Solomon Islands</u>: Ms. Mary Alalo, Project Coordinator, Increasing Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards Project - <u>Vanuatu</u>: Ms. Esline Garaebiti, Acting Director, Geo-hazard Division, Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department <p><i>Chair</i>: Ms. Habiba Gitay, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Q&A</p>
16.45-17.15	<p>Session 5: Mainstreaming DRM and CCA in ACP countries: Way forward</p> <p><i>Chair</i>: Ms. Valentina Villoria, Programme Manager, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
17.15-17.30	<p>Wrap-up of the workshop and concluding remarks</p> <p>Ms. Valentina Villoria, Programme Manager, Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p>Amb. Leonard Emile Ognimba, Assistant Secretary General, Political Affairs and Human Development, ACP Group</p>
17.30-19.00	<p>Cocktail reception</p>