



THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION OF SAINT LUCIA

Revised July 7, 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

Disaster Management, though called by numerous names over the years has manifested itself constantly in Saint Lucia. As far back as June 10 – 20, 1979 Saint Lucia was host to the Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar, where over one hundred and fifty delegates from the Caribbean, North and Latin America assembled to discuss the concerns of the day. Of course it was the following year that Hurricane Allen blasted Saint Lucia.

A year later in 1991 Saint Lucia together with fifteen other Caribbean States signed the Articles that created the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA]

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is conducted on a voluntary basis and during an event NEMO is part of a larger network that comes into existence to respond to a disaster. There are various Ministries that are essential to a response action. There are also eighteen (18) District Committees that are composed similarly to the national committees, which are composed of representatives of various Ministries and Social Groups. For a response action the national personnel contact his/her local counterpart and together execute an action.

2. ASSUMPTIONS

- That the District Disaster Committees shall be among the first responder to situations on its own jurisdiction.
- A large scale emergency will result in increased demands on the volunteers of the National and District Disaster Committees
- That the Government of Saint Lucia shall respond to a National Disaster.
- That Emergencies in Saint Lucia may be categorised in two ways:
 - Those that are preceded by a build-up [slow onset] period, which can provide the District Disaster Committees and NEMO Secretariat with advance warnings, which is used to facilitate timely and effective activation of national arrangements

- Other emergencies occur with little or no advance warning thus requiring mobilization and almost instant commitment of resources, with prompt support from the Government of Saint Lucia just prior to or after the onset of such emergencies

3. LIMITATIONS

The response plans are limited to the coordination of responses to actual or potential major events in Saint Lucia.

4. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Emergency Powers Act 5 of 1995

Provides the office with the ability to commandeer DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY ONLY. Therefore NEMO/NEOC has access and control of the resources of the Nation when faced with a disaster.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 13 of 2000

This consolidated and placed in law the actions of NEMO.

Cabinet Conclusion 1149/96

Authorised the National Emergency Response Plan for Saint Lucia

5. SITUATION

Hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological:

- Meteorological Hazard: Hurricanes, Tropical Wave, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, Flooding, Land Slides, Drought
- Seismic/Volcanic Hazard: Volcanic Eruption, Earthquake, Tsunami [Marine and land based]
- Technological: Fire, Explosion, Hazardous Material Spill, Mass Poisoning, Pollution, Civil Unrest
- Other: Plague, Mass Causality, Epidemic Outbreak, Dam Failure, Office Violence, Terrorism, Bomb Threat/Explosion, Utility Failure

6. THE NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

Disaster Management is not conducted on an ad hoc manner. There are plans and procedures to be followed and no two hazards are responded to in the same manner. As such in August 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers accepted and authorized the Saint Lucia National Emergency Response Plan.

In 2002/2003 with the assistance of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Project, NEMO reviewed the 1996 Response Plan and commissioned new plans to address other hazards.

7. DISASTER RESPONSE PLANS

The National Response Plans for Saint Lucia are all at various levels of approval. Once they have met the full approval process they shall be available to the public. The plans are all “stand alone” documents that may be activated to support hazard management plans. They are inter alia:

1. Executive Summary

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES [SOPs]

1. SOPs: General [Approved 1149/96]
2. SOPs: EOC [Approved 1149/96]
3. SOPs: Declaring a Disaster [Laws of Saint Lucia]
4. SOPs: National Shut Down
5. Telecommunications Procedures [Approved 1149/96]
6. Mass Crowd Events Guidelines

POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. A Policy Framework on Disaster Management
2. Donations and Importation of Relief Supplies Policy [Part 1 approved 1149/96]
3. Emergency Shelter Management Policy [Approved 1149/96]
4. Emergency Housing Policy
5. Hazard Mitigation Policy
6. Mass Fatalities Policy
7. Mass Crowd Events Policies and Guidelines
8. Governmental Officers Security Travel Policy
9. Backup Policy
10. National Policy on Ambulance Operations
11. National Incident Management System [NIMS] Policy

COMMITTEE PLANS

1. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Guidelines
2. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Plan
3. Crisis Communication Guide
4. Media Plan for Disasters and Emergencies
5. Telecommunications Plan
6. Relief Distribution Plan
7. Shelter Management Program
8. National Plan for Transportation in Disasters
9. Welfare Emergency Management Support Plan
10. Stress Response Team Plan
11. Emergency Action Plan for Agricultural Pests And Diseases
12. Disaster Auxiliary Corps Guidelines
13. Hospitality Industry Crisis Management Plan
14. Model Plan for the District Disaster Committees

HAZARD SPECIFIC PLANS

1. Hurricane Plan [Approved 1149/96]
2. Earthquake Plan
3. Volcanic Eruption Plan
4. Landslide Plan
5. Oil Spill Contingency Plan
6. Strategy on the Management of Used Oil
7. Hazardous Materials Plan
8. Hazard Mitigation Plan
9. Response Plan for Refugees and Displaced Persons
10. Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
11. Land Search and Rescue Plan
12. Drought Response Plan
13. Flood Response Plan
14. Fire Response Plan

GOSL PLANS

1. GOSL Continuity of Operations Plan [COOP]
2. The Ministry of Works Plan
3. The Ministry of Health Plan
4. Private Sector Response Plan
5. Borderlais Prison Emergency Plan
6. GFL Charles Airport Emergency Plan
7. Hweanorra International Airport Emergency Plan
8. Seaports Contingency Plan
9. Guidelines for Debris Management in a Disaster
10. Ministries of External Affairs - Guidelines in case of Disasters
11. National Incident Management System [NIMS] Plan

AGREEMENTS

1. Articles Establishing the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA]
2. St George's Declaration of Principals
3. Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations
4. United Nations Millennium Goals
5. Agreement Between Member States and Associate Members of The Association of Caribbean States for Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters

LEGISLATION

1. The National Emergency Powers Act (5/1995)
2. The Disaster Preparedness & Response Act (13/2000)

Once accepted all plans must be reviewed. This is usually done in three ways:

1. **Ongoing Maintenance** - Any change in methodologies, organization, staffing, business methods, etc., must be reviewed in terms of impact to the Agency's COOP.

2. **Tests and Exercises** - These are tests of individual components and exercises that ensure that staff is familiar with the plan and that the supporting procedures and infrastructure are workable. The tests and exercises to ensure the continued viability of the branch's business continuity plan are itemized below to ensure that every critical aspect of the plan will be effective when required. There are four types of Exercises: Orientation, Drill, Desktop and Full scale
3. **Actual Event:** Though no one wants the experience of an actual disaster, the event provides the opportunity to test the validity of the assumptions within the plan. A review of responses after an event provides the opportunity to upgrade the disaster plan.

8. TRAINING

It is recognized that to achieve the capacity and competency that will allow staff / volunteers to function smoothly during a response, training must be an ongoing component of professional development. The following subjects are conducted, but by no means are limited to:

1. Introduction to Disaster Management [IDM]
2. Emergency Operations Centre [EOC] Management
3. Incident Command System [ICS]
4. Telecommunications
5. Initial Damage Assessment [IDA]
6. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA]
7. Stress Management in Disasters [SMID]
8. First Aid / CPR
9. Fire Preparedness

9. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the National Emergency Management Organisation includes but is not confined to the following:

1. National Emergency Management Advisory Committee
2. National Hazard Mitigation Council
3. Ten National Disaster Committees
4. Eighteen District Disaster Committees
5. Fifteen Government Liaison Officers

All are comprised of Public and Private Sector Partnerships.

Disaster Management is a 24 hour vocation and members may be called upon without notice to render service.

10. DISASTER CYCLE

The Disaster Cycle comprises of the following elements:

BEFORE

- Prevention
- Mitigation
- Preparedness

DURING

- DISASTER OCCURS

AFTER

- Response
- Reconstruction / Recovery
- Rehabilitation / Rebuilding



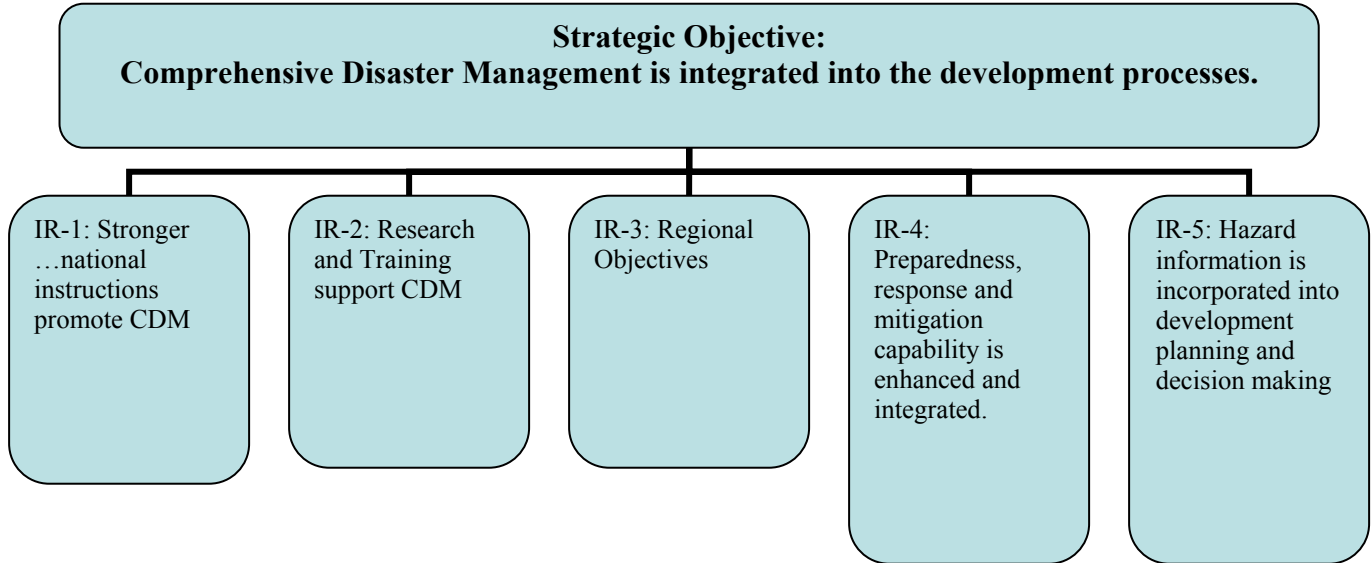
11. DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SAINT LUCIA

It is understood by the Government of Saint Lucia [GOSL] through NEMO that the disaster cycle lends itself to a comprehensive approach to disaster management, whether within this organisation or at a National Level. As such it is recognised that there are various frameworks to facilitate having our Agency prepared and by extension the Nation.

11.1 COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Comprehensive Disaster Management [CDM] was conceptualised by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA] as a new direction for disaster management for the 21st century. It moves away from the relief and response mode to a comprehensive approach which takes disaster and mitigation considerations into account during the planning and development stages. It also expands the partners to include economic, social, and environmental planners, architects, engineers, and health professionals among others. [CDERA Press Release of Feb 27, 2004]

With the main objective being to integrate Comprehensive Disaster Management into the development planning process it is the government's intension to weave Comprehensive Disaster Management into the Corporate Life through the recommended Intermediate Results [IR]



11.2 ST. GEORGES DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

It is understood that as a tool to achievement of the CDM Strategy it is this Agency's undertaking to support Principle Nine of the St. Georges Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS].

Where each member state agrees to:

- Establish at the community, national and regional levels appropriate and relevant integrated frameworks to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the causes and impacts of natural phenomena on the environment and to prevent man made disasters;
- Exchange information with each other, relating to the experiences and lessons to be learnt from the causes and impacts of natural and man made hazards and phenomena on its environment.

11.3 SIDS+10

As a participant at the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Caribbean Small Island States held in Barbados, 10 - 14 November 1997, Saint Lucia agreed to a number of initiatives in the area of Disaster Management. This included to:

Provide adequate resources to National Disaster Organisations to equip them to satisfy the requirements outlined in Article 14 of the CDERA Inter-governmental Agreement, thus in effect strengthening the national and regional disaster preparedness mechanism.

The GOSL through the National Emergency Management Organisation shall ensure that the national disaster preparedness mechanism functions efficiently and to capacity.

11.4 UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM GOALS

Together with over one hundred and fifty Heads of State from around the world Saint Lucia adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, parts IV and VI within the deceleration refer to Disaster Management and state:

IV. Protecting our common environment

23. (4) To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.

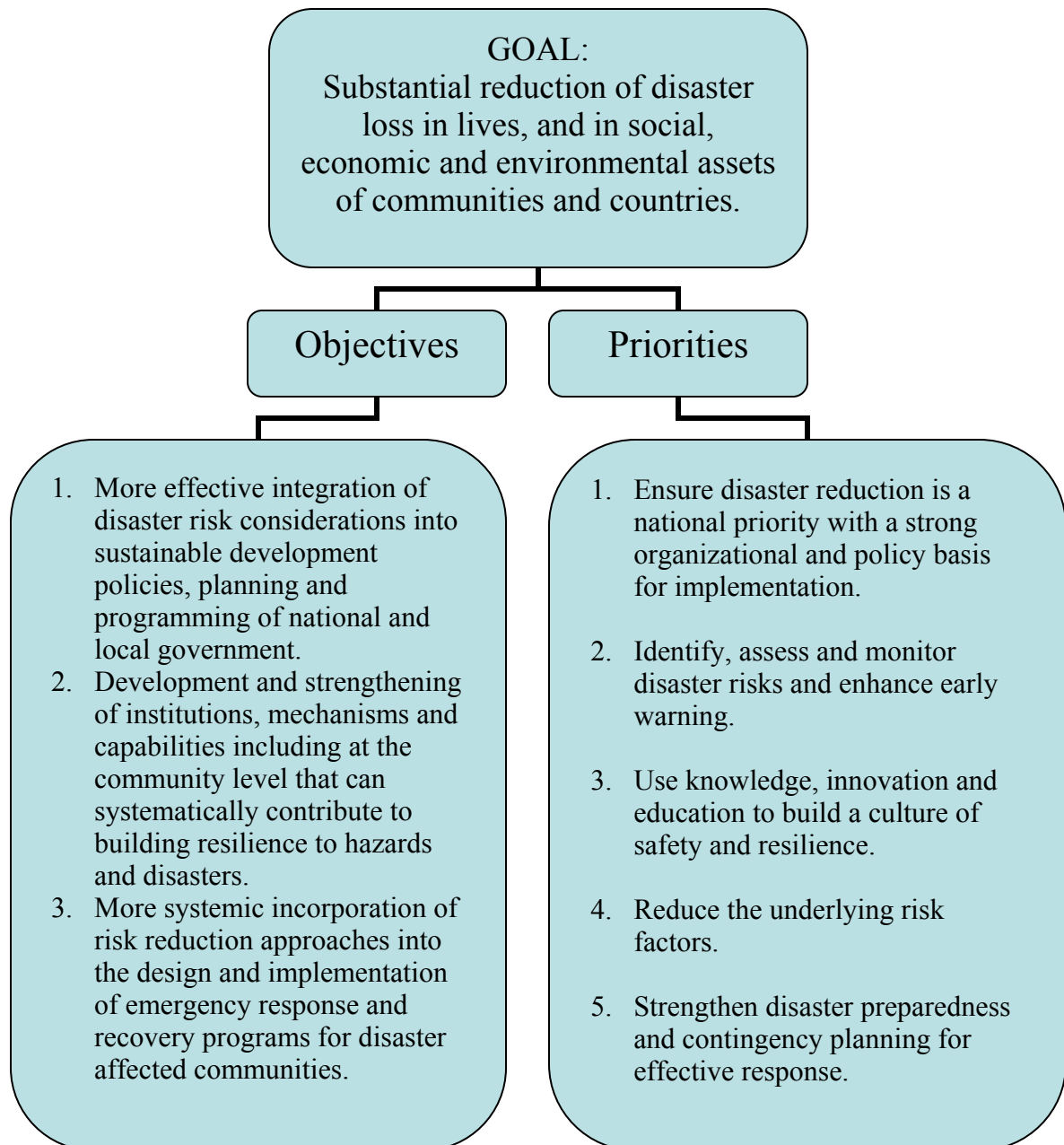
VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

11.5 WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION [WCDR]

In February 2005 the World Gathered in Kobe, Japan at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. As a member of the United Nations, the Committee for Adaptation to Climate Change and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, Saint Lucia endorsed the goals of the WCDR which are the:

Substantial reduction of disaster loss in lives, and in social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.



12. ACTIVATING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM

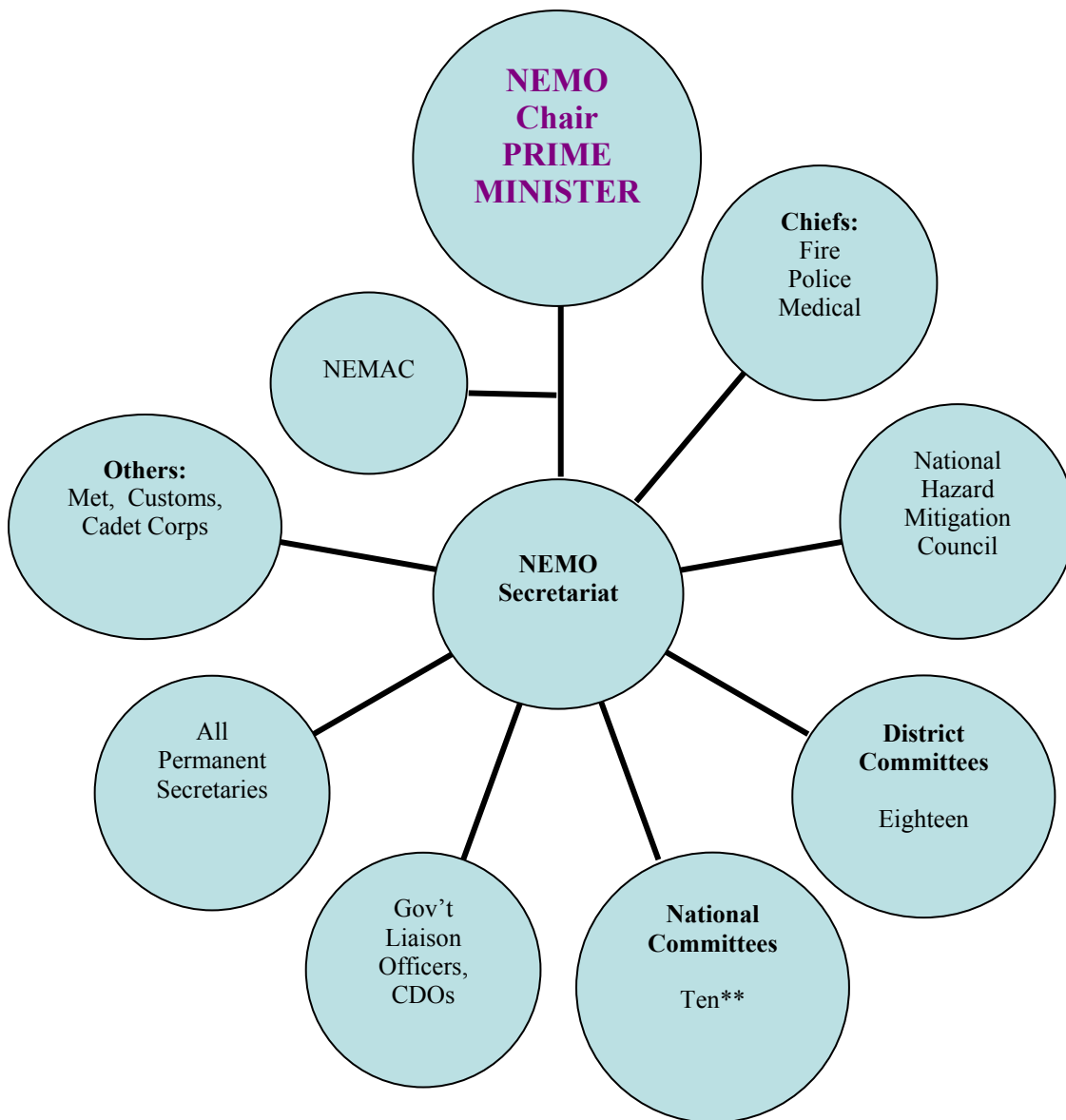
A major situation, which threatens population centres will require that the Lead Agency's or District Committee's Incident Commander [IC] receives support for its control and management. This will be coordinated by the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The decision to advise the NEMO Secretariat of the need for additional support will be made by the IC.

The IC will complete a Situation Report Form for the Director NEMO.

The Director NEMO in consultation with the IC and the Cabinet Secretary, will decide on activation of the Plan and if necessary, the NEOC.

The NEOC, once activated, will coordinate response, request additional resources and ensure adequate support to all relevant functions. Once the NEOC is activated all Standing Operating Procedures as listed in Section Seven [7] of this document shall come into effect.

NEMO Organizational Structure
 Updated March 20, 2005



** 1 - DANA, 2 - SMC, 3 - Transport, 4 - Telecom, 5 - Welfare, 6 - Shelters, 7 - Works, 8 - Oil Spill, 9 - Information, 10 - Hospitality Crisis Unit