



Linking EIA/SEA and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Basic Premises

- There is increased attention for disaster risk management around the world, including in developing world
- However, most countries do not have systematic tool for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning
- It is therefore proposed that EIA/SEA process is used as a vehicle



Why EIA/SEA ?

- Most countries, including developing countries, have legislation on EIA and many also have legislation on SEA
- Government and private sector have experience in the process
- Significant amount of expertise exists in the Government, Academia and Private Sector to undertake SEA/EIA
- Adding a DRR component is technically not challenging



EIA and Disasters

- Currently, in most countries, EIAs only consider potential hazards from the proposed development to the environment
- Hazards from outside impacting the proposed development is not systematically captured by the EIA/SEA process
- Even though such external hazards could impact the project leading to environmental impacts (triggered/cascading emergencies)

- Thai Floods 2011

Example

Could the EIA/SEA system have anticipated this ?



Not a new idea

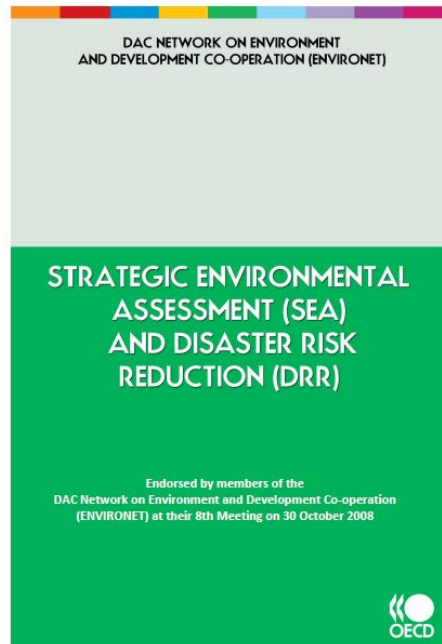
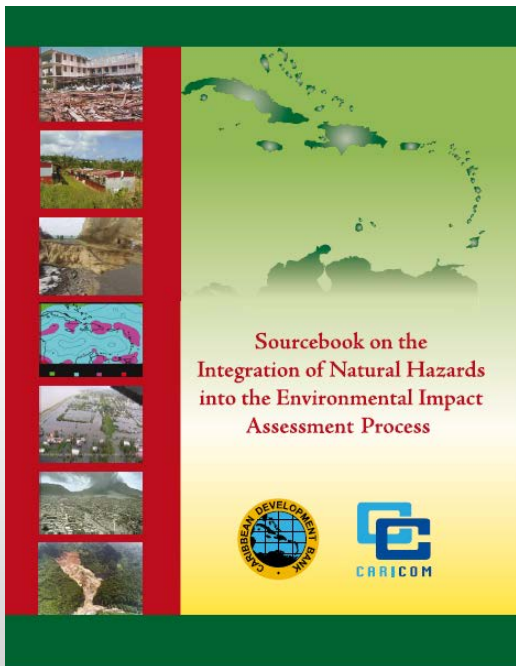
Many academic, regional and
national examples



Linking adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the operational level: What role can Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) play?

Victoria Schreitter
OECD Environment Directorate

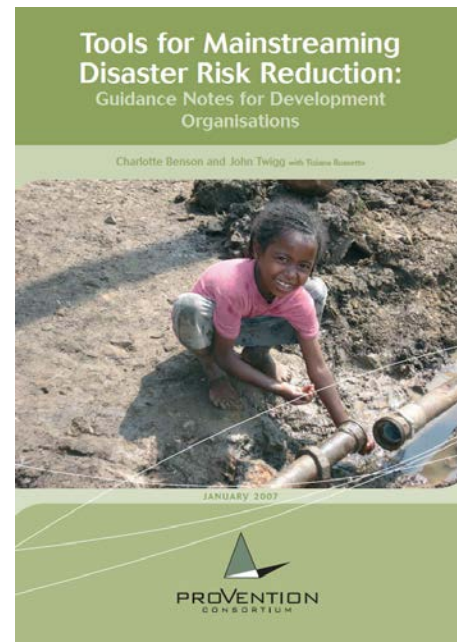
International Workshop on "Economics of Natural Disasters – Bridging Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Efforts and Strategies"
Venice, 10-11 February 2011



Training Module

Environmental Legislation for Disaster
Risk Management

Anil K. Gupta, Sreeja S. Nair and Swati Singh





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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR *005*

No 2011 -

SUBJECT : Incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) concerns in the Philippine EIS System

Consistent with the Bureau's efforts to standardize, streamline and rationalize the Philippine EIS System (PEISS) as well as the Country's commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and the priorities set in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011 – 2016, the attached EIA DRR/CCA Technical Guidelines is hereby adopted.



Others are joining in

- Sri Lanka
- India
- European Commission
- ???
- ???



What UNEP is planning to do ?

- Bring out a desk study “making the case” for EIA/SEA as a tool for mainstreaming DRR
- Organise an international workshop, in Geneva or Brussels, on the same topic
 - Worldbank, IAEA, ADB, CDB, OECD, and selected countries
 - ECHO Policy Division has agreed to collaborate/host the event
- Develop guidance note for countries wishing to take up this initiative
- Develop a standard training for practitioners
- Lobby with member states to include text promoting this approach in the upcoming HFA revision
- Advocacy and continued capacity building



Expectations from UNECE

- Is there any country within the UNECE system which is already following this ?
- Will UNECE be interested in being a collaborating institution to the upcoming workshop ?
- Is there opportunity to include this concept within the UNECE Convention on EIAs ?
- Any other suggestions

