Regional Forum on Building a Caribbean Pathway for Disaster Resilience in the CEDMA Participating States

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Resilience

- The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions (UNSIDR, 2009).

- Focus on environmental protection

Defining resilience for the Caribbean Community

- Given the current context:
  - A population concentrated on the coastal plains
  - A narrow natural resource base
  - Heavy dependence on services
  - Exposure to adverse natural events
- Given the nexus between disasters and the environment, society and economic aspects, then we use the sustainable concept
- Resilience interconnects environment, society and economic sustainability
- An opportunity for sustainability (planning for the long term) – focus on prevention and mitigation

Resilience Definition: Focus on environmental protection

- Environmental protection
  - pre-cautionary approach – prevention and mitigation of DRM cycle

Main issues

- Activities/development may result in environmental degradation which may exacerbated disaster impacts

- Activities/development may be impacted by the effects of natural as well as other hazards

- Poor environmental attitudes and values

Key actions and recommendations

- Environmental Impact Assessments processes and Hazard and Vulnerability Assessments are critical to reducing exposure to hazards
- Baseline studies and hazard and vulnerability assessments – help to inform decision-making

- Improved land use planning and management – through improved legislation/institutions/policies – barriers to it

- Enforcement of these tools

Key actions and recommendations

- Sustainable Forestry Management

- Integrated Water Resources Management

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management

- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- Sustainable public environmental awareness and education

- Review our policies/institutions/capacities to implement

Thank you