



# **Climate Change Managing Risk or Crisis Response?**

**Presented to  
National Climate Change Forum for  
Civil Society**

**NEEC and EFJ  
November 2007**

**By  
Eleanor B. Jones  
Environmental Solutions Ltd**

# In Summary

- Defining Times for Jamaica and the Caribbean
- Population and key sectors at risk
- Adaptation strategies Urgent and Critical.
- Build and manage DRM knowledge
- Turn talk into Disaster Risk Management Results

# Thinking Points

- Environment as Asset – Environment as hazard
- Can we assume responsibility for our vulnerability?
- What do we need to achieve? How?
- A Disaster Risk Management Approach
- Road , Drainage, Housing, Water supply, Food Security....

# Caribbean Considerations

- Natural systems can be unpredictable in time, space, intensity and impact
- Living with risk - Manage or firefight?
- Living with hazards requires
  - Understanding of the hazard - natural or anthropogenic
  - Application of disaster risk management measures - all phases of the disaster cycle
  - Allocation of resources

# Our Situation

- Continuing saga of destructive events
- Derailment of budgetary allocations
- Dislocation & Loss of assets - public and private -Environmental , social, economic
- Exacerbate conditions of poverty
- Conflicting and competing priorities
- Short-term thinking

# ...Situation

- Parallel and duplicated efforts - “turfism”
- No OWNERSHIP OF THE RISK
- Minimal application of existing data on hazards
- Living in denial - fatalistic
- Resistance to change

# What do We need to Achieve?

- Reduction of loss and dislocation
- Disaster Management as a development issue
- Strengthened commitment
- A culture of disaster loss reduction and SAFETY.
- Management of disaster risk

# ...Achieve?

- Understanding and acceptance of responsibility
- National and Community Resilience
  - Consideration of disaster management *before, during and after* an event
  - Mainstreaming – integration of natural hazard vulnerability and risk assessment into development policy, planning, and practice



# Mainstreaming- What do We Mean

- Disaster risk management - not a stand alone function
- Not purview of only ODP or planners or decision-makers
- Involves all agencies, ALL sectors
- Requires clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Involves individuals and community

# Mainstreaming – What Purpose?

- Ensure development programmes and projects:
  - Designed to resist hazard impact
  - Do not increase vulnerability

Ensure reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes and projects

- Do not rebuild vulnerability
- Contribute to developmental aims.

















**Events - intensity,  
wind and rainfall  
Characteristics.  
Path of storm**

**Poor construction  
design and  
standards**

**Destruction of  
forest canopy;  
increased  
erosion and  
runoff**

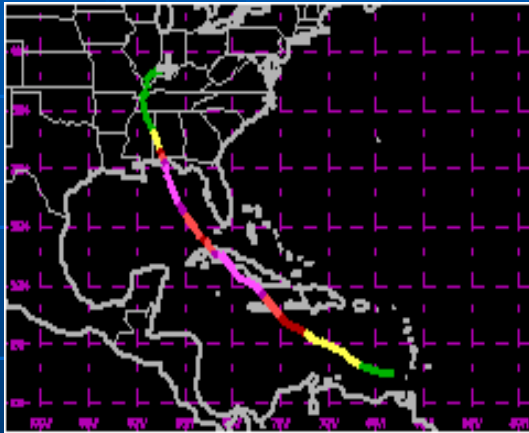
**INFRASTRUCTURE  
LOSSES**

**Heavy siltation in  
streams**

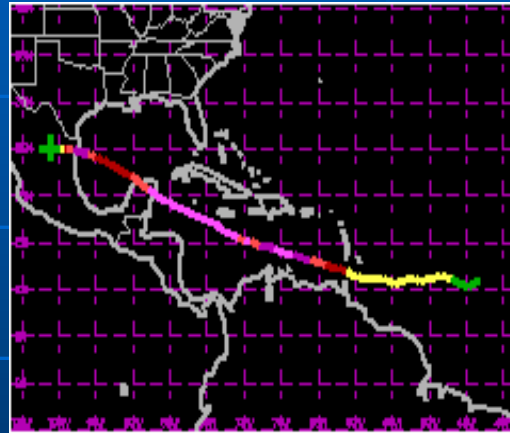
**Poor Maintenance**

**Capacity of natural  
drainage  
compromised**

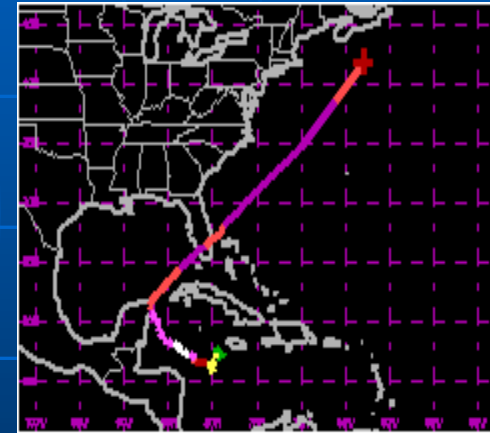
# Jamaica 2005 - 3 events



Hurricane Dennis  
July 8- 10, 2005



Hurricane Emily  
July 16- 17, 2005



Hurricane Wilma  
October 16-18, 2005

# Transport Infrastructure

- Urban roads
  - Rural roads
  - Major arteries
- 
- Shortfall on Funding
  - >\$9 billion

Event	Estimated Costs J \$
October – December Rains 2001	1,492,000,000
May/June Rains 2002	1,583,222,911
Isadore/Lili Rains 2002	2,926,773,495
May Rains 2003	591,000,000
Hurricane Charley & Ivan Rains 2004	3,368,376,824.73
December Rains 2004	228,515,000
Hurricanes Dennis & Emily Rains 2005	3,271,051,404*
Damage to Flood Control Structures	4,962,257,280
Total Damage Estimates	13,460,939,634
Funding Received to Date	4,476,400,000

# Lessons Learnt

Lessons based on 2004-2005 events

1. Timing of recovery and rehabilitation is critical.
2. Remedial works to infrastructure priority immediately after event.
3. Insure public assets + assets of vulnerable.

# Events or Governance

## The Case of Drainage

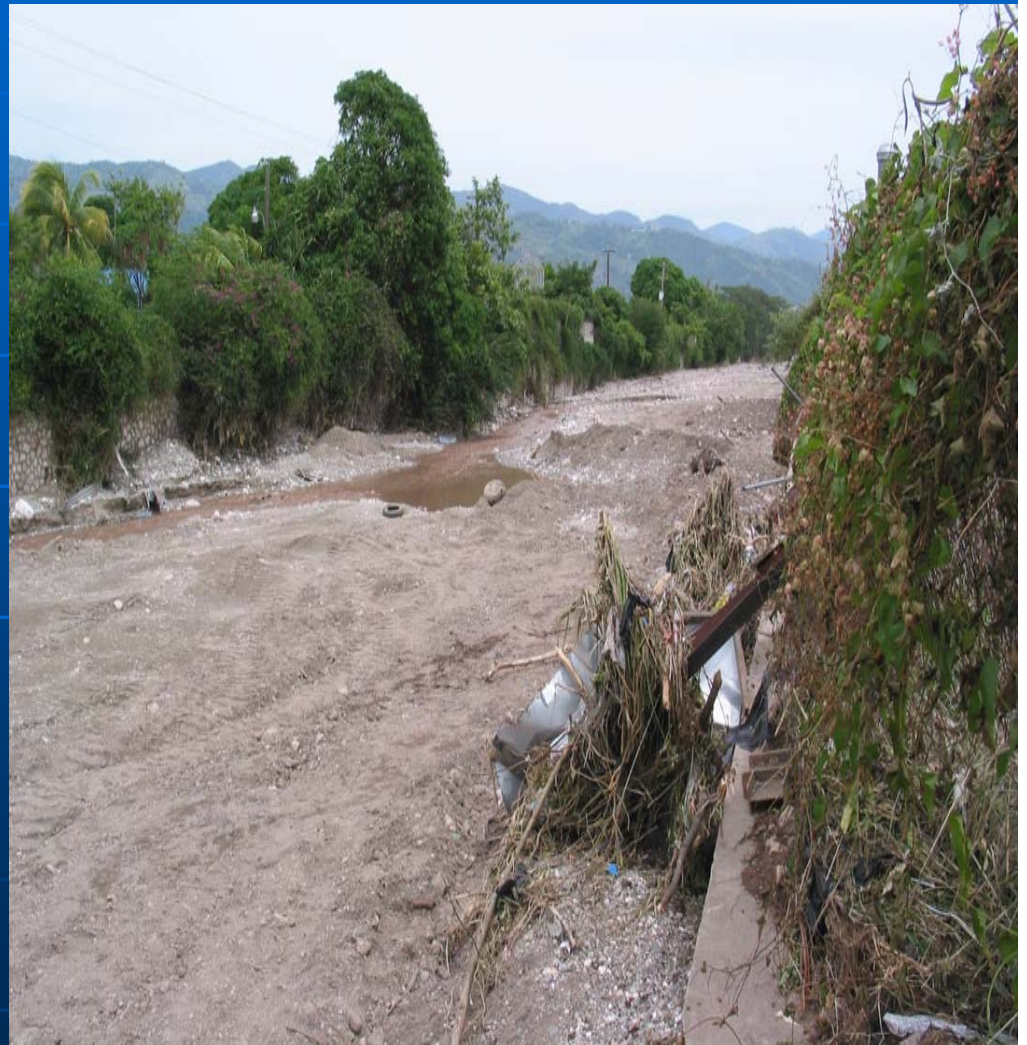
- Needs assessment - public and private
- Design - public and private
- Approval
- Implementation
- Enforcement
- Maintenance
- Whose Responsibility ?





# Responsibility for Cleaning?

- Gully sedimentation
  - Construction debris
  - Refuse and Trash
  - Garden waste
  - Reduce design capacity
- 
- MISPLACED Accountability And Responsibility



# Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management Framework

## GOAL

- *Regional Sustainable Development enhanced through Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management*

## PURPOSE

- *To strengthen regional, national and community level capacity for the mitigation, management and coordinated response to natural and anthropological hazards, and the effects of climate variability and change*

# Outcomes 2007-2012

- Building Institutional Capacity
- Knowledge Management
- Mainstreaming CDM into Key Sectors
- Building community Resilience



# Global Platforms

- Hyogo Platform for Action - WCDR - 2005-2015
  - Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority
  - Know the Risks and Take Action
  - Build Understanding and Awareness
  - Reduce Underlying Risk Factors
  - Be Prepared and Ready to Act
- ISDR Caribbean Platform for Action- 2007

# Building the Capacity for Change

## Remove Limiting Influences

- Break down Institutional blockages /barriers
- Enhance Institutional capacity
- Weaken Professional resistance
- Manage Workload
- Foster leadership
- Soften Control
- Build skills and knowledge
- Make Time

