

Final Report

3IC « VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE: LEARNING LESSONS AND INTEGRATING ECOSYSTEMS INTO ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE »

November 1, 2008- October 31, 2009

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This final progress report summarizes the project's initial goals, objectives, activities, results and suggestions for future work in this field.

ACRONYMS

DEWGA	Disaster and Environment Working Group Asia
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
GAR	Global Assessment Report 2009 (ISDR)
GFDRR	Global Fund for Disaster Risk and Recovery (World Bank and other donors)
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Risk (UN)
PEDRR	Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction
RiVAMP	Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Mapping Project (UNEP)
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis

1. Project synopsis:

The main goal of the 3 I-C project was **to improve IUCN's capacity to assess and address the impacts of climate change and disasters on vulnerable communities**. In doing so, the project set out to develop an innovative strategy for capturing lessons learned from IUCN's programme and project implementation, and develop innovative metrics to assess ecosystem-related elements of community vulnerability.

Project partners were:

- o IUCN- EMP: Neville Ash, Radhika Murti, Karen Sudmeier-Rieux (consultant)
- o ORMA: Pascal Girot, Rocio Cordoba and David Smith Wiltshire (consultant)
- o ARO: Ali Raza (ELG-2), Anshuman Saikia (Regional office), Raquibul Amin (joining ELG-2), Maeve Nightingale (ELG-2) and John Poulsen (Indonesia).
- o Georgina Peard, (TPA 4 Coordinator) Lorena Aguilar (Senior Gender Adviser) and Gonzalo Oviedo (Senior Policy Adviser) Padma Lal (Oceania) and Olivier Tyack (IUCN-EMP) are project advisers and observers.

2. Project objectives

2.1 Communications

Communicate lessons learned, and recommend processes for capturing information on ecosystems and DRR across IUCN.

2.2 Tools, guidelines and metrics

Discern and analyze existing knowledge tools and current research. Build on existing knowledge to create innovative metrics and assessment tools.

2.3 Funding and donor strategy

Assess IUCN's value-added and future needs related to DRR by creating dialogues, and targeted grant proposals.

2.4 Expand and build effective partnerships

Build on existing partnerships to expand IUCN participation in dialogue, collaborations and forums; support regional partnerships and external expertise for ecosystems-DRR related work.

3. Project activities

3.1 Communications a. **A website** dedicated to ecosystems and DRR was developed under IUCN-EMP's programmatic area, with links to key IUCN documents and IUCN regional programmes. Although not initially planned, a **sharepoint portal** was developed with announcements, documents, links and calendar of events related to DRR; it will become part of the TPA 4 sharepoint portal.

b. **A brochure on IUCN's DRR work and a publication** was developed, "*The Environmental Guidance Note for DRR, Ecosystems for Human Security*" (Ecosystem series no. 8), launched at the ISDR Global Platform for DRR. The 40 page booklet was well received and reprinted due to high demand, thanks to additional funding provided by Piet Wit, IUCN CEM Chair.

c. **Monthly teleconferences** were extremely useful for information sharing and planning 3IC activities. Detailed notes from the teleconferences were made available to the entire group.

d. **Two regional workshops were organized on DRR-related topics, co-financed by the 3-IC project**, one in Sri Lanka (April, 2009) entitled, "*Sharing Lessons from Disaster Risk Reduction*", coincided with the release of several manuals drafted by IUCN ELG_2 on DRR and ecosystem management, funded by the Spanish Government Autonomous Organisation for National Parks (*Organismo Aut6nomo Parques Nacionales – OAPN*). The second workshop was held in Costa Rica (August, 2009) entitled, "*Environmental Management, Disaster Risk Management, Climate Change and Sustainable Development*". Both workshops brought together 25-30 participants from NGOs, municipalities, disaster management authorities to share their experiences related to disaster risk reduction, environmental management/watershed management, environmental restoration, post-tsunami waste management, the convergence between climate change, disaster risk reduction and development. The workshops combined sharing experiences, with group discussion and a synthesis of recommendations.

e. A chapter: "Sustainable ecosystem management for DRR" was drafted in contribution to the **National Platform Toolkit for DRR**, which is being compiled by ISDR.

f. IUCN's DRR work had a visible profile at the June, 2009 **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Global Platform for DRR event**. Communication pieces developed in coordination with communications staff and TPA 4 coordinator included a communications strategy, a policy brief, an official statement (official plenary and unofficial plenary), case studies, press releases, an opinion piece and a banner with the text, "*Healthy Ecosystems for Human Security*". IUCN staff participated in several workshops and high level panels.

g. Subsequently to the ISDR meeting, a **brown bag lunch** on ecosystem management and DRR was organized at HQ, featuring a talk by David Smith (ORMA), Padma Lal (Oceania) and Karen Sudmeier with broad participation and interest.

h. A simple **template for capturing lessons learned** has been developed and used by 3IC project staff, and recommended for use by other IUCN projects.

3.2 Tools, guidelines and metrics

a. **Existing tools for assessing DRR have been documented** and synthesized in a report attached in annex and available on the sharepoint portal.

b. **Needs for tools and metrics have been mapped**. A questionnaire was developed to map what existing tools and metrics are available and future needs. At the local level, CRISTAL was listed as potentially very useful to both regions, with the need for additional field testing and modifications. At the national and sub-national levels, partners identified the need for developing indicators and metrics for assessing ecosystem change, and services that are relevant for DRR. Indicators were developed and published as part of the "*Environmental guidance note for DRR*", creating the foundation for further work on metrics. This step will require more dedicated, through collaborations with on-going parallel initiatives, notably with ISDR and the next Global Assessment Report, UNEP's RIVAMP method, WRI's indicator development work, and FLASCO's (Costa Rica) work on vulnerability indicators.

3.3 Funding and donor strategy

a. **Concept papers and grant proposals have been drafted:**

- Capacity building for national platforms for DRR to include ecosystem management components directed to ISDR;
- Development of ecosystem indicators and metrics for DRR of direct relevance to the ISDR 2011 Global Assessment Report and for future IUCN work related to DRR;
- Development of case studies highlighting how ecosystem management can be used as a strategy for the prevention of disasters and strengthening community resilience to disasters;
- GFDRR south-south partnership grant was developed for a joint ORMA-ARO proposal, with other regional partners but lacked final institutional buy-in;
- A draft concept note for ORMA on watershed management and DRR;
- A track II concept note is being developed with IUCN-ELG2 for national capacity building in Nepal;
- Plans are made to draft a collaborative proposal with ISDR for National Platform and local institutional capacity building, possibly for GFDRR Track I funding;
- Discussions are underway with UNEP for a collaborative proposal on National Platform capacity building for UNEP priority countries;
- IUCN PACO and Nepal are participating in a ProAct proposal, "EPIC" (a Swiss-based NGO) for pilot testing eco-engineering methods for DRR

b. **Dialogues have been initiated** between IUCN-EMP and SDC, DRR unit (Humanitarian section), Netherlands Mission (based in Geneva), DANIDA (DRR section), DFID (DRR section), French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (DRR section) and CIDA.

3.4 Expand and build effective partnerships

Partnerships expanded:

- IUCN-EMP via 3IC is an active member in PEDRR. Future activities include workshops, information sharing, case studies and coordination.
- The **Sphere Handbook** is the Humanitarian Charter for post-disaster operations. It currently includes some environmental guidelines, which could be strengthened further. The Handbook is due for revision in 2009 and IUCN has joined the workgroup for Environment and Climate change.
- A board of expertise was developed, the **IUCN Disasters and Ecosystems Advisory Board** (IDEAG) for specific advise on matters related to DRR. The board is likely to merge with CEM Thematic Group on DRR.

Other (pre-existing this 3 IC project)

- ARO plays an active role in **the Disaster and Environment Working Group for Asia (DEWGA)**, which was created in 2007 to coordinate actions and tools related to disasters and ecosystems in Asia, including **Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)**.
- **ORMA is a major player** in a number of partnerships combining DRR, water management and environmental management, at both regional (Meso America), notably with **CEPRENAC** (Central American Regional DRR agency) and country levels.

3. Project results

- **Dialogue and more effective communications** have been established between ORMA, ARO and EMP staff as well as with Oceania and the Caribbean, which now have strongly emerging DRR programmes.
- **Two regional workshops** have taken place in Sri Lanka and Costa Rica, bringing together professionals from environmental and DRR fields to share and document lessons learned and ways forward in integrating development, ecosystem management, DRR and CCA.
- **The profile and importance of DRR-related work internally and externally has been raised.** As a relatively new result area, DRR-related work within IUCN is still gaining support. Externally, the 3 IC project has contributed to raising recognition for IUCN's work in this field globally and regionally.
- **A clearinghouse of information** on ecosystems and DRR has been established as a resource for IUCN staff, commission members and closely related experts.
- A simple **template for capturing lessons learned** has been developed and used by 3IC project staff, and recommended for use by other IUCN projects.
- The project has completed a **mapping exercise of existing tools and indicators** related to vulnerability and capacity assessments, livelihoods approach methodologies, cost benefit analyses and environmental assessments for DRR.
- At the national policy level, we identified two needs: develop environmental guidelines and indicators; secondly, develop innovative metrics that measure progress toward ecosystem based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The first goal was achieved through the publication of the "**Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction**"; the second is inherently a long-term process, requiring field testing. This is being undertaken as part of **several collaborative processes** (ISDR/GAR; UNEP/RIVAMP; FLASCO/DATA; WRI/Envl Indicators).
- At a global level, several existing **partnerships have been strengthened and new partnerships** have evolved in the emerging field of DRR and ecosystem management.
- **Several concept papers have been developed and submitted** to several potential donors, and new contacts are being made in the humanitarian sectors of donor agencies, non-traditional donors for IUCN. The convergence of ecosystem management and DRR is an emerging field, creating **new opportunities for partnerships and funding for IUCN.**

4. Project outputs (most included as annexes)

- Two workshop reports**, from the Sri Lanka and Costa Rica regional workshops, with both general and regionally-specific recommendations, and useful lessons learned for other IUCN regional programmes.
- A publication**, "Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction – Ecosystems for Human Well-Being", 40 pp., a useful booklet for policy makers and practitioners with case studies, recommendations and indicators. A **banner**: "Ecosystems for Human Security"
- IUCN-EMP website** dedicated to DRR; **a sharepoint portal** "Ecosystems and DRR";
- A "**white paper**" summarizing vulnerability tools and environmental assessment tools related to DRR; **a needs assessment** for mapping needs for developing new or modified tools related to DRR; a template for assessing "lessons learned from DRR"; **a summary of main lessons learned** from ORMA's and ARO's field experience with DRR.
- Intangibles: **improved communications**, and internal and external **awareness** about IUCN's work related to DRR.
- Three internal, anonymous **evaluation forms** were drafted by ORMA and ARO staff, from which most of the following recommendations were taken.
- Three project reports**: February, 2009; September 2009, December 2009.

4. Recommendations:

4.1 More support for IUCN's emerging global and regional work on DRR

- IUCN is currently on the cutting edge of work related to ecosystems and DRR through work led by regional offices, multiple publications and workshop materials. In order to remain a global leader in this field, it needs to receive more support for a coordinated approach to ecosystems and DRR.
- Within IUCN, there is increasing awareness about the need to incorporate DRR considerations into IUCN projects, as demonstrated by result 4.2 of IUCN's Intersessional programme 2009-2012, which has been widely incorporated into regional and global programmes; however, the consequences of disasters on IUCN's projects has not yet been integrated systematically.

4.2 Continue internal and external coordination on DRR-related work

- The 3 IC project has highlighted increasing demand on IUCN regional and global programmes to provide more technical expertise to local and global partners on the linkages between DRR and ecosystems and as a facilitator for dialogue between national, regional and local authorities.
- Continued coordination between regional offices and HQ on DRR-related matters would offer needed technical, logistical and information support as this emerging field grows in parallel to Climate Change Adaptation.
- At the global level, there is need for continued exchanges with global partners, IUCN members, donors and the private sector such as global insurance companies. IUCN needs to continue building wide alliances and strategic linkages with DRR, climate change, development and environmental partners.

4.3 Continue to develop tools, indicators and metrics in collaboration with on-going efforts

- Continued work on conceptual frameworks, indicators, metrics and practical tools, such as CRISTAL, RiVAMP and existing tools such as ADPC's CBDRM and IFRCs VCA is needed to expand on the work started by this 3 IC project, ORMA and ARO.

4.4 Capturing lessons learned through effective communications

- Continue to use teleconferences for effective information sharing as well as sharepoint, an under-utilized and innovative tool;
- Use the proposed "lessons learned template" as an innovative means of highlighting lessons learned mid-way or at the end of each project cycle and a way of incorporating more DRR considerations into IUCN projects.

4.5 Logistical recommendations

- The 3 IC project had a modest budget and high ambitions- these can only be realized if combined with existing projects for co-financing purposes;
- Sufficient time is needed for workshop planning to ensure that IUCN regional staff has enough time for obtaining international visas.

"IUCN's opportunity for achieving an important role with regards to risk-and disaster risk reduction and ecosystem management linkages is exciting. Yet, this needs to be clearly envisioned and pursued for it to become a reality. "

(David W. Smith, DRR consultant for ORMA)