

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Projects and Initiatives in the Caribbean

Title: Flood Early Warning System (FEWS)

Organisation: Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA), St. Lucia

Aims and Objectives:

The Flood Warning System and Hydrological Monitoring for water management and disaster risk reduction was executed through the Saint Lucia Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA).

The overall purpose of the project is:

- To enhance WRMA's ability to monitor and manage Saint Lucia's water resources through hydrometric monitoring of the water balance
- To install and operate flood early warning systems in the communities Anse La Raye, Canaries and Castries

Duration: Start Year: 2013 Completion Year: December 2014

Additional Comments:

Estimated Cost (USD): \$314,330

Funding Source: Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

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Key Words: Hydrological Monitoring; Hydrological Model; Flood Early Warning System; FEWS

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Geographic Coverage: St. Lucia

Sectoral Focus: Water

Target Beneficiaries: Communities prone to flooding; Government of St. Lucia; Public at large

Outputs:

- Development of hydrologic model for Saint Lucia
- Staff training in the use of hydrologic models
- Establishment of at least 2 flood early warning systems in 2 communities
- Training of representatives of community stakeholders for effective functioning of flood early warning systems

Project Links and References:

Information not available

Impacts:

Ongoing project:

- Reduced vulnerability to communities prone to flooding due to flood early warning
- Enhanced water-related data collection towards better planning and decision-making

Sustainability:

- Training of community stakeholders in the effective functioning of the flood early warning system would contribute to long term sustainability of the project since community members will recognise the importance of the system to evacuation and reducing impacts of hazards. As such, there will be incentive to continue use of the flood early warning system.
- Financing to maintain/replace the mechanical components of the flood early warning system may limit long term sustainability of the project, particularly when components malfunction.

Lessons for the Future:

Increase funding in order to increase the number of spare parts and flood early warning systems installed

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Opportunities Arising from the Project:

- Expand the FEWS to include more flood prone communities
- Undertake specific hydrologic modelling for all flood prone watersheds, not just study watersheds
- Train community members within all flood prone watersheds in data collection (GPS, water level heights, rainfall etc.) in order to enhance the water-related database

Further Comments:

Information not available