



# Activities under the ACP-EU NDRR Program Final Update #52

for July – December 2021

## A – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

### ACP-EU NDRR Disaster Risk Management Focus Days



The **third ACP-EU NDRR Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Focus Days and closing event of the ACP-EU NDRR Program** took place on **28-30 September 2021**, co-organized by the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the European Commission (EC) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The summary report of the event's activities and findings as well as all the session recording are accessible at: <https://bit.ly/3CQ0jok>.

### Closing of all ACP-EU NDRR grants

This 52<sup>nd</sup> and final update showcases the final activities and results implemented under the ACP-EU NDRR Program. This brings to a close the Program, which was launched in 2011, and which had been extended through December 2021 to adapt to the logistical and organizational hurdles created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This update focuses on several projects, in **Benin, Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Haiti, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**, which are highlighted in Section B below.

### Steering Committee meeting

The **15<sup>th</sup> and final Steering Committee (SC) Meeting of the ACP-EU NDRR Program** took place on 8 December 2021. This meeting was an opportunity for the OACPS, EC and GFDRR to have a final discussion about the closing of activities and overall results of the ACP-EU NDRR and the Result Area 2 Programs since the last SC meeting in April 2021.



## B – PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Addressing coastal erosion and hydrometeorological hazards in Sub-Saharan Africa

As one of the most exposed regions to natural hazards, and with the largest coastal population growth globally, Sub-Saharan Africa faces challenges in terms of coastal erosion and hydrometeorological hazards. Program activities have been addressing these challenges, as demonstrated through a session on [coastal resilience](#) and [hydromet](#) during the September 2021 DRM Focus Days. In addition, several final activities related to these topics were undertaken in the last few months:



Photos of the Gambia's coastline

Source: Screenshot from the May 2021 final delivery workshop, World Bank, accessible [here](#).

In **the Gambia**, the *Integrated Urban and Coastal Resilience Technical Assistance* project aimed to improve the understanding of flood and coastal risks affecting the capital city Banjul and its surrounding region. Final activities included the development of a digital terrain model covering the Greater Banjul area to map risk exposure. The collected data was used to produce a flood-risk assessment and a coastal risk assessment, which both included the development of an investment plan to promote a multi-sectoral approach to reducing these risks. Materials from a stakeholder workshop organized in May 2021 to discuss these achievements were also published, which had been attended by local governments, and international partners including the Delegation of the European Union.<sup>1</sup> To learn more about the project in the Gambia, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3q5VeVq>.

In **Rwanda**, severe flooding events, particularly in Kigali and the country's North-West region, have prompted the government to revise and improve its capacities to prepare for and respond to hydrometeorological hazards. The Program has supported the Rwanda Water and Forestry Agency, the Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, and the Rwanda Meteorological Agency (*Météo Rwanda*) to upgrade early-warning and forecasting capacities, thru the *Building Resilience to Flood Hazards in Northwest Rwanda through Improved National and Local Capacity* project. Public agencies have been able to upgrade crucial early-warning components, such as the development of new hydrological models, new abilities to process rainfall observations in real-time, and additional hydrological and hydrodynamic modelling activities. Final activities under this project included the identification of venues to implement nature-based solutions and green infrastructure such as open green spaces, reforestation, and bioretention areas. The potential hydrometeorological impact these proposed sites would have were evaluated, as well as financing and maintenance requirements. To learn more about the project in Rwanda, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ASqBol>.

### Tackling urban resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa

The African continent is projected to have the fastest urban growth rate in the world.<sup>2</sup> Several projects have thus tackled the challenges related to urban resilience, with some final activities and results to be highlighted.

In **Cabo Verde**, the *Integrating disaster risk and climate change considerations into school infrastructure investments* project supported the government to improve its ability to assess the structural integrity of school infrastructure and to reduce schools' exposure to natural hazards. Activities included the definition of a methodology to identify schools exposed to natural hazards, on the basis of information and detailed photos of

<sup>1</sup> The materials and interventions delivered during the workshop can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3hkGJrC>.

<sup>2</sup> Please see: <https://www.oecd.org/publications/africa-s-urbanisation-dynamics-2020-b6bccb81-en.htm>.



buildings collected for 45 schools that cover information on school occupancy, infrastructure condition, and functional spaces. Three outputs were completed: (i) a diagnostic on the school infrastructure policy and construction environment conducted with the support of the University of Cabo Verde; (ii) a diagnostic on the financial environment for school infrastructure in the country; and (iii) a report on disaster risk reduction intervention strategies for school infrastructure in Cabo Verde conducted with the support of the University of Porto. These were coupled with capacity building activities including a training session in June 2021 which focused on management, planning, design, construction and maintenance of school infrastructure, attended by 13 officials including 3 women from the Ministry of Education, but also delegates from local municipalities. A second training session took place in July 2021, and focused on the school infrastructure database, the integration of risk considerations for the rehabilitation and construction of schools. This session was attended by 11 officials including 3 women. To learn more about the project in Cabo Verde, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3eiD9MB>.

The rapid growth and expansion of Kinshasa has led the **Democratic Republic of Congo** to prioritize resilient urban development and to increase its use of risk information to inform its development planning and investments. The N'Djili urban watershed became the focus of stakeholders who sought to improve their understanding of the flood, erosion, and landslide risks in neighbourhoods affected by the N'Djili River. A risk assessment carried out under the project yielded a detailed analysis of flood-related hazards and scenarios, which informed the decisions to invest in flood-resilient and climate-proof infrastructure, such as bridges, drainage systems, and roads. Other activities included a community-mapping exercise which engaged local communities and sought to increase women's participation. The project's final activities until October 2021 focused on knowledge exchanges and best practices between Congolese government agencies, private sector actors, and the World Bank. Knowledge products such as publications and leaflets disseminated these practices, and public debate was encouraged to increase engagement and involvement in the data collection process. To learn more about the project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3FKHYLe>.

### Supporting regulatory reforms for DRM in Sub-Saharan Africa

Several Sub-Saharan African countries have continued to pursue institutional strengthening for DRM with support from the Program and concluded important activities.

In **Benin**, final consultations were conducted with the National Agency for Civil Security and the National Agency for Territorial Planning to produce a needs assessment and a roadmap to develop guidelines for local contingency plans in the neighbourhoods of Pèrèrè and Kandi. Overall, technical assistance thru the *Strengthening the Legal, Institutional and Technical Capacity to Manage Climate and Disaster Risks and Health Emergencies* project supported the government to strengthen its technical, legislative, and institutional capacities for managing climate and disaster risks, with a specific focus on managing health emergencies. To learn more about the project in Benin, please visit: <https://bit.ly/31ajawB>.

Policy reforms for DRM have been high on the agenda of the government in **Kenya** which received crucial support from the Program, thru the *Fortifying Institutional, Planning and Policy Frameworks to Manage Climate and Disaster Risk* project. Several key activities were finalized in the past months, including the development of 8 County Emergency Operation Plans to enhance emergency response capacity at the local level. Until August 2021, activities also contributed to the incorporation of multi-hazard resilient design standards into Kenya's National Building Code, which had already been updated in 2020 thanks to the support of the Program. These activities underline a comprehensive approach in pursuing policy reforms that give DRM a prominent role, both at the national and local levels. To learn more about the project in Kenya, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3mcZKPB>.

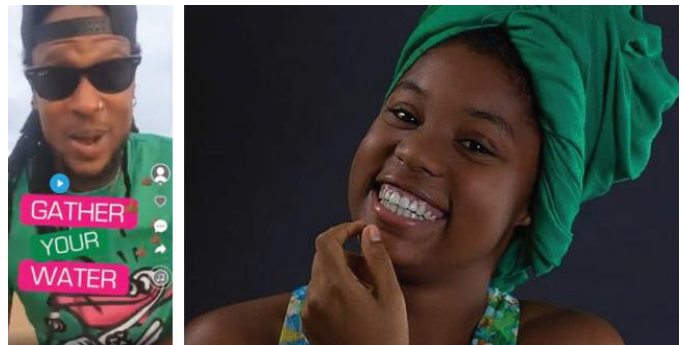




### Improving risk communication in the Caribbean

An [engaging and informative session organized during the DRM Focus Days](#) highlighted several innovative initiatives on risk messaging in the Caribbean, including how effective storytelling and messengers can have a crucial impact in promoting resilience.

The session showcased an activity entitled “Disaster Fighters” that entailed a new way to inform at-risk communities and raise public awareness about impending disaster risks.<sup>3</sup> This initiative is spearheaded by a cast of famous cricket players, musical stars, and other influential artists from across the region to promote a culture of preparedness. The campaign kicked off with a music video that was shared across major social media channels, in which these Caribbean voices emphasized the importance of “making a plan” and sharing essential tips such as stocking up on fresh water, knowing where the closest shelters are, and following news updates. The song emphasizes how even seemingly small actions like these take on an individual level can have a crucial impact on wider community resilience. The Disaster Fighters initiative was initiated by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), developed by the risk communications firm Pacifico, and co-financed by the ACP-EU NDRR Program, GFDRR’s [Canada Caribbean Resilience Facility](#), and the Binance Charity. Critical prevention messages and materials can be found on the initiative’s website: <http://www.disaster-fighters.org/>.



Photos of the risk communication campaign “Disaster Fighters” (left) and singer Tafa MiSoleil (right)

Source: World Bank

### Integrating Gender and Behavioral Sensitive Approaches to Enhance DRM in Haiti

As **Haiti** continues to face immense challenges due to overlapping disaster risks, final activities were undertaken to integrate gender-sensitive and behaviorally informed actions in DRM. At the center of the *Integrating Gender and Behavioral Sensitive Approaches to Enhance DRM in Haiti* project was the development of a gender gap analysis study to establish a baseline against which future progress in integrating gender considerations in DRM can be measured. The gender gap analysis was complemented with a literature review which gathered insights from the behavioral sciences, architecture and design to understand how to promote good behavior and safety, enhance management, and ensure equitable access to shelters. The project’s final activities included a crowdsourcing survey to better understand the challenges around emergency evacuation shelters, especially gender-related behaviors.

To learn more about this project in Haiti, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ABFije>.

<sup>3</sup> The video campaign is accessible at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDn-23xhFQg>. Also, critical prevention messages and materials can be found on the initiative’s website at: <http://www.disaster-fighters.org/>.



### Strengthening institutional frameworks for DRM in the Pacific

In addition to supporting hydromet and early warning services in the region, as showcased by [this session during the DRM Focus Days](#), several final activities were undertaken in the Pacific that promoted institutional strengthening for DRM:

In **Papua New Guinea**, thru the *Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for Disaster Risk Management in Papua New Guinea* project, in-depth diagnostics were finalized on current policies and gaps were identified within institutional systems for DRM in the country, including with the Treasury, the National Disaster Center and other relevant government agencies. Recommendations

were made for policy and institutional reforms to strengthen policy and institutional arrangements at the national, sectoral and provincial level, including through the development of an investment plan. In addition, a desk-based review of lessons learned from previous disasters in Papua New Guinea was undertaken and delivered in May 2021, providing an assessment of the opportunities for the country's emergency preparedness and response (EP&R) systems. To learn more about the project in Papua New Guinea, please visit: <https://bit.ly/314T4uM>.

Several government units in **Tuvalu**, including the Climate Change and Disaster Policy unit, the Disaster Management Office, and the National Disaster Committee have worked on operationalizing the *Building Act* through the review of *Building Codes* and associated Regulations. Through technical assistance provided by the Program thru the *Strengthening the policy and regulatory framework for Disaster Risk Management in Tuvalu* project, a gap analysis of the existing draft Building Code was finalized in the summer of 2021. These final developments provide a foundation to strengthen the policy and institutional framework for DRM in the country. To learn more about the project in Tuvalu, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3be6h6o>.

In **Vanuatu**, in the frame of the *Strengthening the Institutional and Legal Framework for Disaster Risk Management in Vanuatu* project several capacity building activities were conducted, including a stakeholder workshop on Subdivision Planning and Resilience which was organized in June 2021 by the Department of Lands and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, attended by 49 participants including 8 women from the local government, national agencies, and academia. The workshop was part of a series of activities undertaken by the government to engage stakeholders in the national dialogue on reforms on subdivision planning and resilient settlements in Vanuatu. Participants were very satisfied with the outcomes of these meetings, including Mr. Arthur Faerua, Director General, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources who said that the discussed documents “are critical for the implementation of the Subdivision Policy and to facilitate affordable and resilient settlements in Vanuatu”. To learn more about the project in Vanuatu, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3mhlDgt>.



Stakeholder workshop in Vanuatu, June 2021.  
Source: World Bank



## C – POST DISASTER RESPONSE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### Improving the understanding of risks and the consequences for urban planning and investments in Cameroon

The Douala Municipality in **Cameroon** has been provided with final technical support to assess the impacts of the August 2020 flood impact in Douala, thru the *Mapping of the August 2020 Douala Flood Impact and Its Consequences for Urban Planning and Investments* project. Additional hydrological and meteorological data was collected in the past months to inform flood hazard models for sea-level rise. In addition, through final workshops and stakeholder gatherings organized in September 2021, this project has raised awareness and built capacity of the public sector, as well as young students on the importance of flood risk information for urban planning. To learn more about this project in Cameroon, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3vLUYeS>.



Mapping activities between civil protection and local authorities in Douala, Cameroon.

Source: World Bank.



Tuti Island youth forming a human water barrier.

Photo Credits: Faiz Abubakr

### Capacity building on post-disaster assessments in Sudan

Following the publication of a rapid damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment<sup>4</sup> for the 2020 seasonal floods in **Sudan**, additional activities have been implemented until September 2021 to enhance recovery planning, thru the *Sudan Floods Damage Assessment and Recovery Support* project. A rapid diagnostic of Sudan's EP&R capacities was conducted, involving a broad stakeholder engagement process with key informant interviews and a three-day stakeholder workshop. The final the diagnostic report has been completed and shared with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, a three-day interactive stakeholder workshop was held in Khartoum on 16-18 August 2021, which was attended by 60 participants representing 28 state and non-state entities in Sudan. The workshop provided a forum for different groups of actors to discuss the current emergency preparedness and

response practices, identify policy and capacities gaps, and reach consensus over a set of recommendations and a roadmap to enhance the technical, financial and human capacities of EP&R in Sudan. To learn more about this project in Sudan, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3qo9k2i>.

<sup>4</sup> The Sudan Rapid Post Disaster Needs and Recovery Assessment is available in English at: <https://bit.ly/3yZgQUh>. An executive summary is available in Arabic at: <https://bit.ly/38WokN6> and the assessment is available in Arabic at: <https://bit.ly/3njWH93>.



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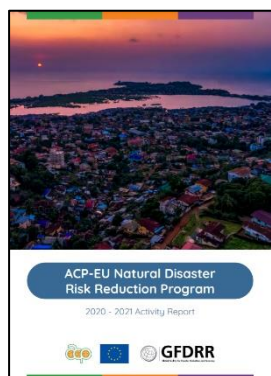
## D – RESULT AREA 2 OF THE “BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA” (R2)

### Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

#### Impacts of natural hazards on the agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors in Central Africa

A study was finalized in August 2021 that developed better knowledge and information on the effects of natural disasters in the agro-pastoral and fisheries sectors in the Central Africa region and on possible coping solutions. Several documents were thus published that estimate the damage and losses caused by natural hazards in agriculture and fisheries sectors of ECCAS member states, identifying specific sectoral needs for hydrometeorological services, and proposing an appropriate mechanism to strengthen and build the livelihoods of rural populations affected by natural hazards in ECCAS member states. The links to the documents can be found in section E below.

## E – RECENTLY PUBLISHED

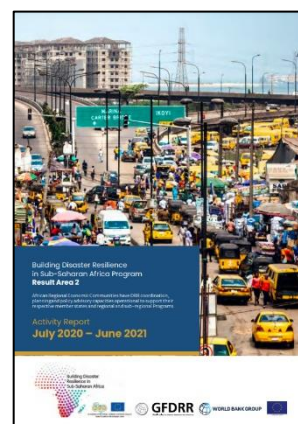


### ACP-EU NDRR Activity Report for 2020-2021

The FY21 Activity Report of the ACP-EU NDRR Program highlights the continued efforts of African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries and regional organizations to strengthen their resilience to disaster risks and climate change despite the hurdles that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and which promoted new ways of thinking to successfully complete the implementation of the Program. The report is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3puupsb> (the French version will be available by end of December 2021).

### Results Area 2 Activity Report for 2020-2021

The FY21 Activity Report for the Result Area 2 Program highlights the achievements that have been made possible through the increased regional cooperation between and within African Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, RECs were able to continue building their capacities to guide and inform their member states on resilience planning through policy advice and knowledge dissemination. The report is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3dnRhDR> and in French at <https://bit.ly/3EscMzu>.





### Video of the results and achievements of the ACP-EU NDRR Program

The accomplishments and lessons learned from the collaboration between the EU, the OACPS and the World Bank/GFDRR is outlined in the video accessible at <https://bit.ly/3Ahliy5>. A condensed version of this video focusing on the testimonials from program stakeholders is available at <https://bit.ly/3iyAp0g>.

### Regional videos of the results and achievements of the ACP-EU NDRR Program for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific

The ACP-EU NDRR Program tailored its approach to the unique environments and challenges facing each region. Discover the Program's regional achievements in the following videos for **Africa** accessible at <https://bit.ly/3mqTtTx>, the **Caribbean** accessible at <https://bit.ly/2YrfpBJ>, and the **Pacific** accessible at <https://bit.ly/2YqGqVY>.



### Summary report of the 2021 DRM Focus Days

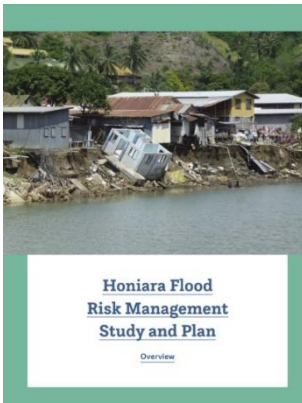
The final edition of the DRM Focus Days was held virtually on September 28-30, 2021, co-hosted by the OACPS, the EU, and GFDRR. This event served as an opportunity for participants to reflect on and share successes, experiences and lessons learned from the ACP-EU NDRR Program, as well as discussing the next steps for the partnership. This event showcased 14 sessions and had 388 registered participants, which were recorded and can be watched through the ACP-EU NDRR website: <https://bit.ly/3wisJos>. A summary report of the event was published and can be consulted at <https://bit.ly/309xCEZ>.

### Strengthening coastal resilience in Saint-Louis, Senegal

The government of Senegal has been addressing coastal hazards in the city of Saint-Louis with support from the Program. This has helped guide other initiatives in the city funded by the World Bank. One of these projects, the Saint Louis Emergency Recovery and Resilience Project (SERRP), involved the relocation of at-risk communities from the exposed Languede Barbarie to a safer neighborhood. This successful operation is recounted in a video: <https://bit.ly/3wiVEsq>.





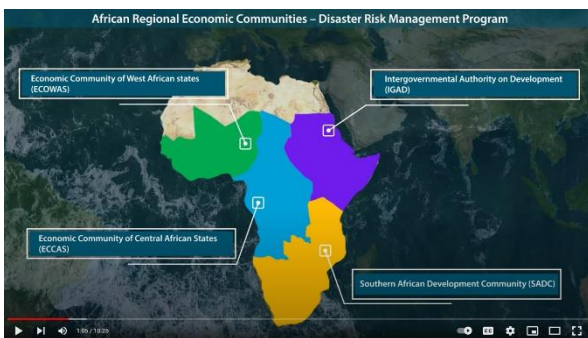
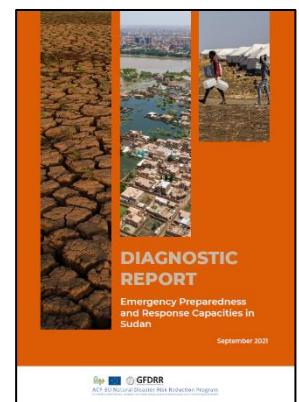


### Solomon Islands - Honiara Flood Risk Management Plan and Study

With support from the Program, the government of the Solomon Islands investigated urban flood risk, providing quality information on how flood risk can be better managed and reduced in the Greater Honiara area, thereby strengthening the city's disaster preparedness and resilience to weather extremes. A detailed flood risk study report was published, which provides an assessment of flood risk in the study area and a description of the impacts of climate change on flood behavior and risk. The study is accessible in English at <https://bit.ly/3iv0AET>.

### Sudan Emergency Preparedness and Response Diagnostic

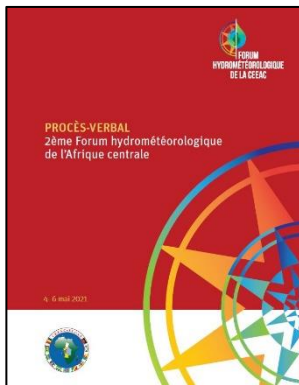
A Diagnostic Report on Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacities in Sudan was carried out under the ACP-EU NDRR *Sudan Floods Damage Assessment and Recovery Support* project. This diagnostic report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the capacity gaps Sudanese institutions need to overcome to improve their disaster response management, covering topics such as legal and institutional frameworks, information networks, equipment, and personnel. The document is accessible at <https://bit.ly/3y4Mwsg>.



### Result Area 2 – Video of the achievements of the Africa Regional Economic Communities Disaster Risk Management Program

Activities under this Program mobilized regional expertise and reinforced a collaborative approach to DRM through improved knowledge-sharing and more effective advocacy. RECs have been able to develop long-term disaster resilience strategies to address specific intervention areas such as hydrometeorological capacities, early warning mechanisms for floods and drought, and climate-smart agriculture to protect people from food insecurity caused by

disasters. The RECs have also integrated gender considerations into DRM strategies as an essential aspect of building inclusive resilience to natural hazards. Learn more about the accomplishments and lessons learned from the African RECs DRM Program in the following video accessible at <https://bit.ly/3ms7rQU>.

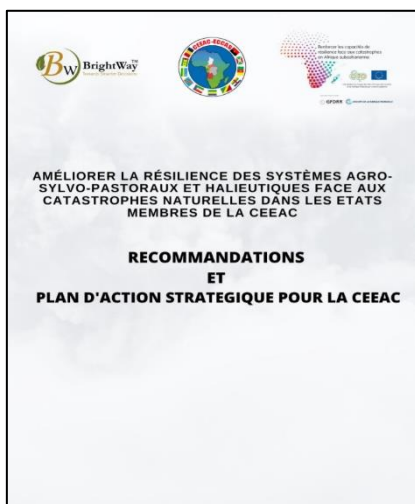


### Result Area 2 – Proceedings of the second Hydromet Forum

From May 4-6, 2021, ECCAS, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the World Bank co-organized the second ECCAS Hydromet Forum. This second edition, which was held virtually, aimed to share and consolidate achievements in the field of hydromet services at the regional level. The proceedings of the Forum were published in French at <https://bit.ly/3os1o11>.

### Result Area 2 - Towards disaster resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Building regional capacity, planning and policy advice in DRM

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Result Area 2 Program and is available in English at <https://bit.ly/3bww5dY>, in French at <https://bit.ly/3GC2nm6>, and in Portuguese at <https://bit.ly/3Eun4i6>.

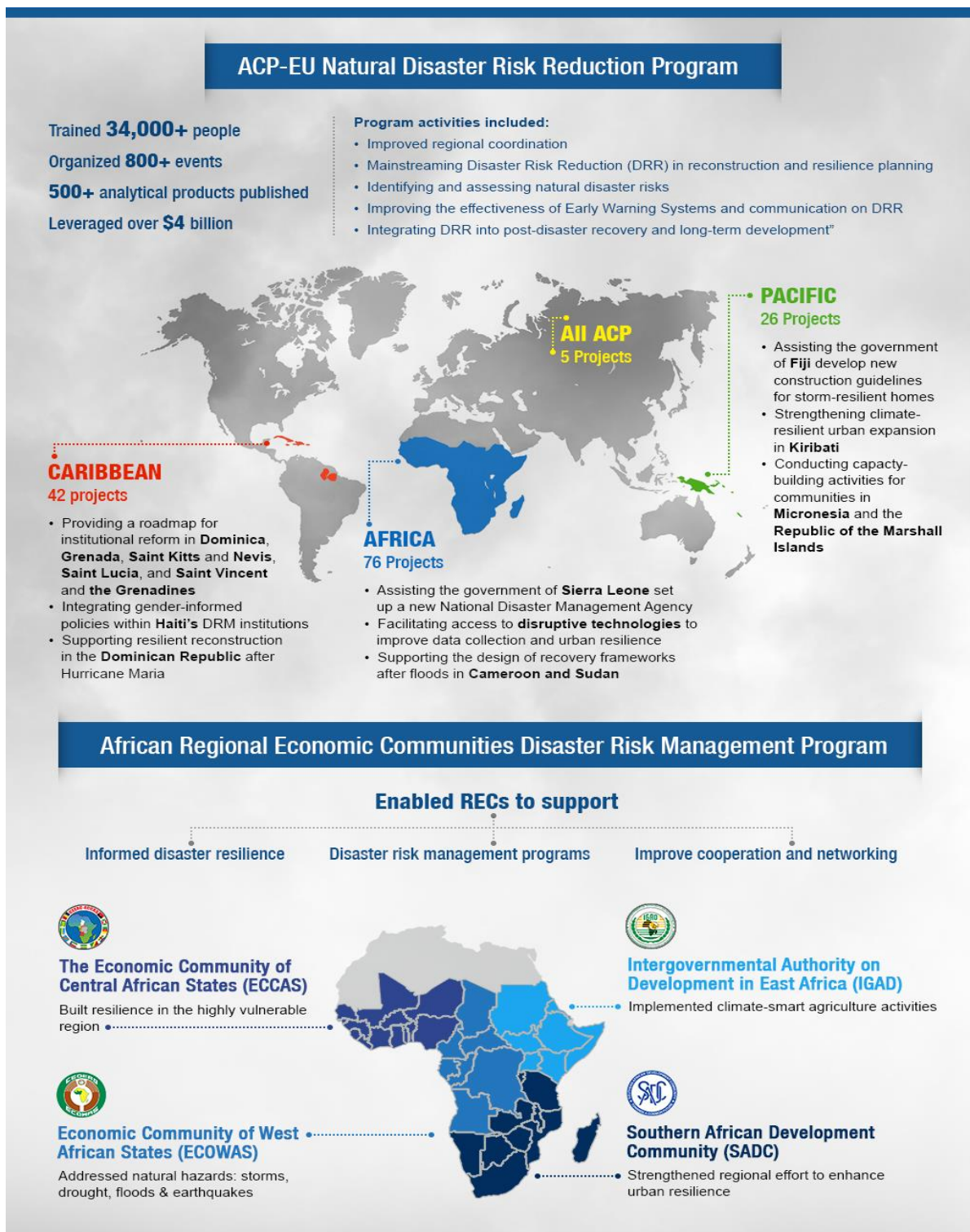


### Result Area 2 - Improving the resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems in the face of natural disasters in ECCAS member states

Several documents were published that provide a situational analysis and recommendations on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries systems in the face of natural disasters in ECCAS member states. The Recommendation and Action Plan Strategy is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3le5DeZ>. A diagnostic of natural disasters and their impacts on the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector in the ECCAS 11 Member States and is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3oxG8Hk>. A repository of the existing mechanisms for the resilience of local populations' livelihoods affected by natural disasters and is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3DbE8J1>. An analysis of the ECCAS Member States' needs for hydrometeorological services for agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector and is accessible in French at <https://bit.ly/3Bq3B3n>.



## Infographic summarizing the results and achievements of the ACP-EU NDRR Program



PARTNERS



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Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program

An initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, funded by the European Union and managed by GFDRR