EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SURVEY

COUNTRY: **ST KITTS & NEVIS**

Please complete one form for each Hazard

I INFORMATION ON THE HAZARD

1. The Hazard HURRICANE

2. Summary of events triggered by the hazard

WIND DAMAGE, STORM SURGES, FLOODING OF FLAT AREAS

3. Historical events of significance.

HURRICANES HUGO-1989, GEORGES-1995

4. Description of the region and the population under hazard and of the existing vulnerabilities

b. Degree of exposure of population to hazards **(High/Medium/Low)** HIGH

a. Number of communities affected by the hazards **(Approximate #)** 70

c. Number of persons exposed **(#)** 36,000

c. Percentage of people exposed to hazard, etc).**(%)** 90%

5. Is there adequate public awareness about the hazard? (Y/N) YES

6. Attitude towards freedom of hazard information: (Very good/Good/Poor/None) GOOD

II TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

1. Type of system employed to monitor the hazard:

SATELLITE (INTERNET) MONITORING, RAIN GAUGES, WIND VANES,
HUMAN REPORTING, CABLE CHANNELS, MIXTURE

2. Year in which system became operational. 1989 - 2003 (GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT)

3. Time employed for the design and implementation of the system. 14 YRS

4. Geographic coverage of EWS. BOTH ISLANDS

5. Arrangements made for remote areas? (Y/N) YES

6. Routine operation of the EWS:

a. Members of the community; **(Position)**

b. Personnel from:

1) National; **(Position)** NEMA, MEDIA, DEFENCE FORCE

2) Regional; **(Position)**

3) Local government agency; **(Position)** CENTRALIZED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

4) Research center; **(Name)** NONE

5) Consulting firm; **(Y/N)** NO

6) NGO; **(Name)** RED CROSS

7) Other **(Name)**

8) Mixed; **(Y/N)** YES

7. Type of instrumentation used

a. to monitor the hazard; SATELLITE TVRO, RAIN GAUGES, WIND VANES,
COMPUTERS-INTERNET, 2 WAY RADIOS,

b. to process information gathered; COMPUTERS

c. to transfer it. BROADCAST RADIO AND TV, BULL HORNS, HF/VHF/UHF RADIO,
TELEPHONES, CELL PHONES, CABLE TV'S

8. Mechanisms used to forecast the events:

a. Procedures? **(Y/N)** YES

b. Are procedures documented in a national plan? **(Y/N)** YES

c. Are procedures backed by legal authority? **(Y/N)** YES

d. Who carries out this task?

1) Members of the community? **(Y/N)** **NO**

2) Personnel from technical institutions? **(Y/N)** **YES - MET OFFICE**

3) Other **(Name)** **CMO**

4) Automatic? **(Y/N)** **NO**

5) Mixed? **(Y/N)** **YES**

6) Other **(Name)**

9. Is warning adequately published in public broadcast media? (Y/N) **YES**

10. Are forecast and media agencies fully integrated? (Y/N) **YES**

11. Is there redundancy and backup for the EW system? (Y/N) **NO**

12. Is lifeline equipment (eg standby power) adequate? (Y/N) **NO**

13. Is there adequate provision for maintenance of the EWS? (Y/N) **NO**

14. Technical support used for the Design, Implementation, Development of the EWS:

a. International **(Name)** **CDERA, CMO, UWI**

b. National **(Name)** **NEMA, REGIONAL CONSULTANTS**

c. Technical **(Name)** **HAM OPERATORS**

d. Scientific **(Name)** **UWI**

e. Academic **(Name)** **UWI**

f. Consulting firm **(Name)**

g. Civil defense agency **(Name)** **NEMA, DEFENCE FORCE**

h. NGO **(Name)** **RED CROSS**

i. Other **(Name)** **NEWS MEDIA (CABLE OPERATORS, TV, RADIO)**

III INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE EWS.

1. Is there a legal framework for the EWS? (Y/N) **YES**

2. Institution(s) in charge of design and implementation (Name) **NEMA**

3. Institution (s) which participate routinely in monitoring the hazard (Name) **MET OFFICE, NEMA**

4. Is there adequate public awareness of the EWS? (Y/N) **YES**

5. Is there parity between forecasting and warning? (Y/N) **YES**

6. Is there provision for nightime warning and response? (Y/N) **YES**

7. Type of resources required for the implementation, routine operation, and maintenance of the EWS:

a. Technical personnel **METEOROLOGISTS, HYDROLOGISTS, COMPUTER OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS, RADIO ENGINEERS AND OPERATORS, MEDIA PERSONNEL**

b. Equipment: **COMPUTERS, RADIOS, CELL PHONES, SATELLITE PHONES, SIRENS, BULL HORNS, WEATHER RADAR, FIXED FREQUENCY RECEIVERS, MONITORING EQUIPMENT, GIS SYSTEMS, SMS READY CELL SYSTEMS, INTERNET ACCESS, TOTAL MEDIA (RADIO & TV) COVERAGE,**

c. Logistical support (transportation for example) **4WD PICKUPS WITH MAINTENANCE PACKAGES**

d. Monetary resources **ADEQUATE GOVERNMENT REVENUES,**

e. Other **(Name)** **COMMUNITY PERSONNEL FOR A VARIETY OF MANUAL OPERATIONS**

8. Origin of resources required to implement, operate, and provide maintenance to the EWS:

a. Community **(Y/N)** **NO**

b. National **(Name)** **GOVERNMENT MINISTRY**

c. Regional **(Name)** **CDERA, CDB, UWI**

d. Local institutions **(Name)** **GOVERNMENT MINISTRY**

e. International agencies **(Name)** **UNDP, OCHA, ECHO, DFID, USAID, CIDA,**

f. Donors **(Name)**

g. NGOs **(Name)** **RED CROSS**

h. Mixed **(Y/N)** **YES**

9. Inter agency and Inter personal relations between emergency agencies and personnel: **(Very good/Good/Poor/None)** **GOOD**

IV MECHANISMS TO ISSUE A WARNING AND AN ALERT

1. Who is warned or alerted by those who monitor the hazard?

a. Community **(Y/N)** **YES**

b. Local **(Name)** **FIRST RESPONDERS AND COMMUNITIES**

c. Regional **(Name)** **CDERA**

d. National Government **(Name)** **PRIME MINISTER, MINISTRIES, RESPONSE AGENCIES**

2. Which means are employed to warn the people and the various agencies or institutions?

TELEPHONE, CELL PHONE FAX, EMAIL, PUBLIC MEDIA, CABLE TV

3. Who is in charge of declaring the state of alert:

a. The Community **(Y/N)** **NO**

b. Technical personnel who monitor the hazard **(Y/N)** **NO**

c. Local **(Name)**

d. Regional **(Name)**

e. National level government **(Name)** **NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR**

f. National civil protection agency **(Y/N)** **NO**

4. Type of public alert employed:

Siren / Bells / Public Radio / TV / Flags / Whistles / Megaphones / Email /
Fax / Cell Phone / Community Members Cascade / Multiple options

5. Who is in charge of operating the alert mechanisms/equipment and orders the activation of alerts?

NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATOR

6. Official policies, norms, and procedures in place to issue warnings and alerts (if any)

YES - NATIONAL DISASTER PLAN

7. Local government participation: **CENTRALIZED**

8. Is the content of the alert message adequate? (Y/N) **YES**

9. Is there verification that the information is correct and acted on? (Y/N) **YES**

a. Type of municipal organization **(Name Type)**

b. Resources provided. **AS SPECIFIED ABOVE**

10. Community participation:

a. Type of organization **(Name Type)** **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, NGO'S, CHURCHES, ETC**

b. Participants **(Name Organizations)** **RED CROSS, ST JOHNS AMBULANCE, ETC**

c. Relation with the local government. **(Very good/Good/Poor/None)** **GOOD**

11. Special arrangements for social groups with limited resources and special needs? (Y/N) **YES**

V ANALYSIS OF EWS

1. Comments regarding successful and unsuccessful results during the operation of the EWS.

ADEQUATE PUBLIC AWARENESS HAS LED TO MINIMAL LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.

2. Strengths and weaknesses of the EWS.

STRENGTHS: CENTRALIZED SYSTEM ALLOWS QUICK, EASY AND CONTROLLED WARNING DISSEMINATION, VARIETY OF WARNING METHODS ALLOWS REDUNDANCY

WEAKNESSES: INADEQUATE RESOURCES, COMMITTMENTS AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

3. Lessons learned, benefits of the EWS.

SMALL SINGLE ISLAND STATES ARE BETTER OFF WITH A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM AS IT MAKES BEST USE OF SCARCE RESOURCES, EARLY WARNING WILL SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY BUT IT WILL NOT ASSIST THE LONGER TERM RECOVERY EFFORT WITHOUT ADEQUATE RESOURCES

4. Added value gathered from the EWS (benefits not initially conceived during the planning stages, which emerged during standard operation of the system).

ANNEX: MAP OF THE REGION WHERE EWS IS OPERATED.