

FRANCE
NATIONAL SUMMARY REPORT
IDNDR
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

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SECTION A: PROFILE

(This section contains relevant basic information about your country.
 Please complete and check the information already included)

1. Composition of National Committee (Focal Point):

(Please list the names of the institutions represented and indicate in brackets the number of members for each group)

Ministries(4): of the Environment of the Interior of Equipment of Foreign Affairs Academic and Research Institutions (6) Univ. of Paris VI, including INSU (Inst National Science de l'Univers) Univ. of Paris I (Law) ORSTOM (overseas R&D & technology) CREDA (agricultural research) LCPC (roads and bridges laboratory)	Non-Governmental Organizations (1) Médecins Sans Frontières Media (1) Cassiope Agency
Private sector (4) SOCOTEC (tech control over construction) SAMU (First aid & ambulances, 94 branches) FNTP (Nat'l federation of public works Consultants	Insurance (1) CCR (regional air traffic control)
Public services (e.g. meteorological, etc.) (3) BRGM Météo France DDASS (Departmental sanitary/social affairs, 51 branches)	Others (1) City of Marseilles

2. Internal organization of the National Committee

(Please describe hierarchy, responsibilities, coordination and cooperation mechanisms in natural disaster reduction activities):

- President, Vice-President, Secretary General
- 18 members
- 5 Working Groups: Earthquakes/Volcanoes; Landslides/Mudflows; Storms/Floods, Prevention Systems, Information/Communication
- 2 Project Structures: French cooperation for Natural Disaster Reduction in the Caribbean Basin and the Mediterranean Basin

3. Prevailing hazards

Type	Location	Affected Population
Floods	SE France	8500 municip ; 2 M inhab.
Storms	W and N France	5 M inhab.
Hurricanes/Cyclones	West Indies, Reunion Isl., Pacific	1 4 M inhab.
Drought/Subsidence	Paris and Aquitaine basins, Loire and Rhone valleys, N France	2-3,000 municipalities; 5 M inhab
Earthquakes	SE France, Alsace, Pyrenees, Alpes, West Indies, Futuna (Pacific)	4500 municipalities; 15 M inhabitants
Volcanism	West Indies; Reunion Island	80 municip., 0.5 M inhab.
Landslides	Alps, Pyrenees, West Indies, Reunion Island	2 M inhabitants
Avalanches	Alps, Pyrenees	0.1 M inhabitants
Forest fires	SE and SW France	0.5 M inhabitants

4. Recent natural disasters

Type	Location	Affected Population	Losses (indemnity)
Storms (11/82)	Centre-south France		FF 2.9 billions
Storms (10/87)	Brittany/Normandy	4,000,000 inhab.	FF 3.3 billions
Flood (10/88)	Nimes	150,000 inhab.	FF 1.9 billions (10 dead)
Hurricane Hugo (09/89)	Guadeloupe (W. Indies)	150,000 inhab.	FF 1.7 billions
Storms (03/90)	Northern France	10,000,000 inhab.	FF 7.7 billions
Drought (1989-92)	Two-thirds of France	30,000 inhab.	FF 3 to 5 billions
Torrential rain (09/92)	SE France	500,000 inhab.	FF 1.6 billions (34 dead)
Flooding (09-12/93)	SE France and Corsica	600,000 inhab.	FF 2 to 3 billions (10 dead)

5. National socio-economic conditions

- Population: 56 millions inhabitants
- Gross National Product (GNP): 715 billions US dollars (1987)
- Per-Capita Income: 12 900 US dollars

6. Availability of assistance to other countries in the field of natural disaster reduction

(Please list potential resources, scientific expertise, technology, etc.)

- France:
 - Public organizations: BRGM, Cemagref, Ineris, CEA (IPSN), LCPC, CETE, Météo France, EDF, CNES
 - Universities. Paris, Grenoble, Strasbourg, Nice, Toulouse, Clermont-Ferrand, Marseilles, Caen
 - Associations, NGOs: Anena, AFPS, MSF, AUI, etc.
 - Private laboratories: Sogreah, BCEOM, Coyne et Bellier, etc
- Indian Ocean: Réunion Island (since 07/93) CMR (Regional specialized weather bureau for tropical cyclones)
- Caribbean: West Indies/Guiana weather service: meteorological radar on Guadeloupe, and observation and transmission system.
- Pacific Ocean: French meteorological service

7. International assistance required for natural disaster reduction

(Please indicate requirements for scientific expertise, technology, resources, etc)

None

SECTION B: STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

(This section deals with current or planned strategies and activities)

1. Steps towards achieving the 3 main Decade targets

- (a) **Comprehensive national assessments of risks from natural hazards, with these assessments taken into account in development plans:**
 - ♦ Preventive information, cf. law of 22/07/1987, Art. 21, Decree 11/10/1990
 - ♦ Creation of a specific structure, DRM (Major risks delegation), and setting up of legislation for the management and prevention of major risks (laws of 1982 and 1987, plus decrees of application).
 - ♦ Specific programmes of the French IDNDR Committee, carried out in the Caribbean and the Mediterranean (cf Livre Blanc)
- (b) **Mitigation plans at national and/or local levels, involving long-term prevention and preparedness and community awareness:**
 - ♦ Risk-exposure plans (PER) at scale 1:10,000, based on the law of 13/07/1982 and its decree of application of 1984, and defining risk perimeters of Type RIII 3 of the Town-planning Code. Almost 300 PERs approved and 700 prescribed. About 1000 "RIII.3" delimited and prescribed or decreed.
 - ♦ Departmental Atlas of Major Risks at scale 1:100,000
- (c) **Ready access to global, regional, national and local warning systems, and broad dissemination of warnings:**
 - ♦ Earthquakes: CSEM (European/Mediterranean seismological centre); the seismographic networks of the CEA and the EDF; the accelerometer network being installed.
 - ♦ Cyclones
 - The Miami (USA) Centre liaises with the weather bureaux of the French West Indies.
 - The international Indian Ocean meteorological centre at Réunion Island.
 - ♦ Floods: national flood-water warning system.
 - ♦ Landslides: several local networks in the French Alps
 - ♦ Volcanic activity: monitoring laboratories of the IPG (Institute for Global Physics) on Martinique, Guadeloupe, Réunion Island
 - ♦ Forest fires: specific regional warning networks

2. Present national plan for natural disaster reduction

a) Time span covered:

Since 1984, the Risk Exposure Plan (PER) policy has been implemented, which is a prevention policy that concerns 12,500 municipalities of which 4500 have priority status.

b) Agencies, institutions and organizations involved:

Ministry of the Environment (Major Risks Del), Min. of the Interior (Civil Security Deleg.);
Min. of Overseas Departments & Territories; Min. of Agriculture; Min. of Equipment;
Min. of Industry; Min. of Defence.

c) Implementing agencies:

BRGM (including the French geological survey)
CETE (Centre for technical studies of equipment)
RTM (Moutains grounds restauration)
INSU (National institute for science of the universe)
private contracting firms
technical services of municipalities and local state delegation

d) Funds available for implementation

FF 50 million per year

3. Legislation introduced and enacted in relation to natural disaster reduction

The law of 13 July 1982, plus decrees of 1984, 1991 and 1993 on the prevention of natural hasards in urban planning.

The law of 22 July 1987, plus decrees of 1990 and 1991, and of 1992, and the application of article 42 on preventive planning and information on natural hasards for the vulnerable populations.

4. Disaster mitigation activities completed or underway

a) Identification of hazard zones: hazard evaluation

Title of project:

- Inventory of municipalities exposed to risk in 1984/85 (12,500 municipalities)
- Updating of this inventory in 1993.

Status.

- 25% of the most exposed municipalities have a PER or RIII 3 (zonation of natural hazards and preventive planning).

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

- Ministry of the Environment, Major Risks Delegation

Costs of project:

- FF 1 billion, of which FF 400 M are earmarked for emergency programmes.

Sources of funding:

- National (Ministry of the Environment).

Implementing agencies:

- DDE (Departmental equipment office)
- DDA (Departmental agriculture office)
- RTM (Mountains grounds restauration)
- BRGM (including French geological survey)

Address (telephone and fax number) of the agency in charge:

- DRM (Major risks delegation): (33) 1/42.19 15..80 (phone)

b) Monitoring, prediction and warning

Title of project:

(1) Landslides: La Clapière, Sèchilienne and local monitoring of other landslides, (2) Earthquakes: national accelerometer network; (3) Volcanic activity: monitoring of three volcanoes (Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion); (4) Avalanches: Local and national monitoring; (5) Floods: high-water warning system; (6) Cyclones/hurricanes: warning systems in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, (7) Forest fires: regional centres near the Mediterranean and in SW France (Landes).

Status:

Permanent monitoring, except for the accelerometer network that is in the process of being installed

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

- Ministry of the Environment (DRM): (1), (2) and (5); Ministry of Agriculture (7)
- Universities, IPG (Institute of Global Physics) and CNRS (3)
- Local communities (4)
- Météo France (6)

Costs of projects:

- (1): FF 2 M per year (DRM)
- (2): FF 30 M per year (γ network)
- (3): FF 6 M per year (IPG)

Sources of funding:

National, departmental or municipal government organizations

Implementing agencies:

(1) CETE, (2) LIGT (Univ. of Grenoble); (3) IPG (CNRS); (4) Cemagref and university; (5) METT shipping company; (6) Météo France, (7) Council of interdepartmental collaboration and Cemagref.

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the agency in charge:

DRM, see above

c) Short-term protective measures and preparedness

Title of project/

- Drawing up of plans for evacuation and/or help in case of landslides, volcanic activity and flooding (evacuation), and of earthquakes, cyclones and avalanches (emergency)
- Preparedness for crisis management: creation of risk files, lists of experts, and lists of municipalities at risk.

Status:

50% completed

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level.

- State (services for civil security and protection): DSC, Ministry of Interior
- local communities

Costs of projects:

No figures available at present

Sources of funding:

National, departmental or municipal government organizations

Implementing agencies:

Gendarmerie, army, fire brigades.

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the agency in charge:

DRM, see above

DSC, tel. (33) 1/40.87.72 10

d) Long-term preventive measures

Title of project:

- (1) Research programmes leading to a better understanding and evaluation of vulnerability
- (2) Implementing an earthquake-resistant building code
- (3) Construction of dams and dykes against flooding, or of tunnels (La Clapière); and the design of hydraulic protection programmes (city of Nimes)

Status:

- (1) Programmes ongoing on geological (landslides, earthquakes, volcanism), atmospheric (storms and cyclones) and associated (floods, avalanches, forest fires) hazards.
- (2) Laws and decrees enacted: for constructions at normal risk; for constructions at special risk except industrial facilities; and for infrastructure, dams, pipelines, etc.
- (3) Programmes underway, half finished (Nimes) or completed (La Clapière).

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level

- (1) Universities (INSU), and public organizations and technical centres of the government, i.e. BRGM, Cemagref, Météo France, Cete, etc.
- (2) Ministries of the Environment and of Equipment
- (3) Public establishments (EDF Electricity Board, Epala; and community organizations (Nimes and La Clapière).

Costs of projects:

- (1) FF 20 millions per year; (2) nil; (3) FF 650 millions for Nimes, FF 450 millions for La Clapière, etc.

Sources of funding:

- (1) State; (2) nil, (3) State and local community organizations

Implementing agencies:

- (1) cf. 3.1; (2) Min. of Environment & Equipment, private contractors, (3) private companies

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the agency in charge:

DRM, see above.

e) Land-use and risk management

Title of project:

Consideration of major risks in land-use development, risk-exposure plans (PER) for municipalities exposed major natural risks, such as landslides, earthquakes, avalanches or floods.

Status:

One-tenth of the PER programme (300 PERs approved for nearly 4000 municipalities that should have a PER

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level.

Ministry of the Environment (DRM);	DIREN (decentralized services)
Ministry of Equipment;	DDE (decentralized services)
Ministry of Agriculture	DDA (decentralized services)

Costs of projects:

The PER "project" costs FF 600 to 1000 million

Sources of funding:

State: Ministry of the Environment (Insurance companies have defected)

Implementing agencies.

Decentralized government services, such as DDE, DDA, RTM, etc.

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the agency in charge

DRM, see above.

f) Public education and information

Title of project:

- (1) Training of educational staff in major risks and environmental protection (RME)
- (2) Programme of preventive information (law 22/07/1987)

Status:

- (1) Initial training phase finished (1990-91-92) and continuing training in progress
- (2) Preventive information started in 1992 with an experimental phase in 1992. During the years 1993 to 95, the programme will be extended to all of France

Participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level:

- (1) National training under the auspices of DRM (Delegation of major risks); regional training organized by the Education Offices (Rectorat) and the government
- (2) Preventive information is provided by DRM and the departmental structures for civil protection

Costs of projects:

- (1) Training FF 5 M over three years, to create an educational kit (in 4000 copies), each comprising 20 booklets of 50 pages on each major risk
- (2) Preventive information FF 3 M per year

Sources of funding:

- (1) and (2) the French Government via the DRM.

Implementing agencies:

- (1) Centre for Pedagogical Research, Dijon
- (2) Min of Environment (DRM) and the departmental civil protection services

Address (telephone and fax numbers) of the agency in charge:

DRM, see above.

5. Plans to fully achieve Decade targets by the end of 1999

As in 4, above, for each area of activity (i.e. hazard zoning/assessment, monitoring, preparedness, etc.) please indicate as applicable, the project title, the participating institutions in the country and/or on the international level, the costs of the projects, the sources of funding and the implementing agencies.