



MADAGASCAR

Management and Prevention of Natural Disasters

Disaster Context

Madagascar is frequently exposed to cyclones and severe storms. In early 2000, the island was exposed to three cyclones – Gloria, Eline, and Hudah. Severe floods are known to occur in the south-east and west of the country and drought is recurrent in the southern part of the island. Madagascar also faces severe loss of forest cover, accompanied by erosion.

Agriculture, fishing and forestry – the mainstays of the national economy– are frequently affected by disasters. Most of the population suffers from malnutrition and lack of access to health services and sanitation infrastructure, which further exposes people to health risks caused by floods, cyclones and epidemics. Although there has generally been good disaster management and capacity in Madagascar, increased investment in disaster prevention, mitigation, and capacity building will significantly contribute to sustainable development.

Project Titles

- Politique et Strategie Nationale de Gestion et Prevention des Catastrophes Naturelles (MAG/99/005)
- Emergency Response to the Damage Caused by Cyclone Eline and Tropical Storm Gloria (MAG/00/005)

Sector

- Capacity-building

Funding

- UNDP contributed a total of \$300,000: \$100,000 from TRAC 1.1.1 and \$200,000 from TRAC 1.1.3
- USAID provided a grant of \$1 million
- The British Government contributed \$30,000 and the provision of an expert from Cranfield University for training and needs assessment

Partners

- UNOPS
- Natural Disaster Council (CNS)
- USAID
- British Embassy

Programme Activities

For project MAG/99/005, UNDP activities supported the following:

- Clarification of roles and responsibilities of government ministries involved in disaster management and response
- Improvement of overall coordination and decision making
- Reinforcement of effective decentralisation of CNS disaster preparedness, management, and response skills at district levels
- Disaster management training
- Provision of equipment to enable data processing and communications
- Improvement of CNS ability to use assessment tools, as well as analyse and use disaster data in order to improve response time and targeting
- Design of a disaster data system (including developing indicators), a rapid assessment tool, software to rapidly process data, and systems to facilitate effective use of data collected

Following the three cyclones of early 2000, UNDP, as the lead agency, installed two operational centres in the north east towns of Antalaha and Maroansetra and reinforced the logistic capacity of CNS. This project (MAG/00/005), specifically formulated for the response to the emergency, was later re-directed to the reinforcement of CNS capacities at national and local levels (see project MAG/99/005).