A Central Agency for Climate Change and Hazard Management:

The Need to Streamline Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Services Agencies in PNG

Professor Frank Griffin 1, Ms Laramel Aisi 2 * & Associate Professor Joseph O. Espi 3

1 Vice Chancellor, The University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)
2 Lecturer & Coordinator - Center for Disaster Risk Reduction (C4DRR), School of Natural & Physical Sciences (SNPS), UPNG
3 Head - Earth Sciences Division & Director - C4DRR, SNPS, UPNG

* Presenter
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

• PNG’s Natural Hazard Risk Profile
• Current Disaster Management Structure
• Main Challenges
• Proposed Restructure
• Conclusions
• Acknowledgements
PNG’s Natural Hazard Risk Profile

Source: Pacific Risk Profile – Papua New Guinea, 2021

(Beyond Barrier, 2022; p 8)
PNG’s Natural Hazard Risk Profile

As a developing nation:
- Highly prone to disasters due to geological & hydro-meteorological hazards
- Range of hazards pose great challenges to manage disasters and risks
- Demographic diversity is a hindrance
- Lack coping capabilities (UNDRR, 2019)

Management
- Disaster Management Act 1984 (Revised 1987): sets statutory framework
- National Disaster Mitigation Policy 2004
- National Disaster Center: focal point for disaster risk management  

Literature:
Absence of integrated policy & governance structures at the national level is a barrier to integration at other levels  
(Beyond Barrier, 2022 ) Case Study
National level policy, financing & governance mechanisms for DRR & Climate Change in PNG are not integrated  
(PNG Disaster Management Ref Handbook, 2022)
Historically, disaster risk reduction has been impeded by resource constraints & a serious lack of capacity at national, provincial & local levels  
(PNG National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2017-2030)
Current Disaster Management Structure

- National Executive Council
- National Disaster Committee
  - Dept. of Provincial & Local Government Affairs
  - Department of Health
  - Department of Education
  - Overseas Mission, UNDP, DFAT
  - NGO’s, Red Cross
  - Dept. of Agriculture & Livestock
  - Department of Foreign Affairs
  - Department of Works & Implementation
  - Department of Finance
  - Department of Prime Minister & NEC

National Disaster Centre
Provincial Disaster Committee
District Disaster Committee

Disaster Governance in PNG (beyond barrier, 2022, p8)
MAIN CHALLENGES

Disconnected Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Management Entities

PNG National Disaster Centre (NDC) - PNG Defence Force & Ministry for Defence

Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management (DMPGM) - Ministry for Mining

PNG National Weather Services (NWS), National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA) + PNG Fire Service - Department of & Ministry for Transport & Infrastructure

Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA) & Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) - Ministry for Environment Protection & Climate Change

IMPACTS

- Delayed decision making pending committee meeting
- Confusing procedures, protocols and restrictive reporting structures
- Duplication of activities
- Lack of collaborative activities
National Adaptation Policies & Strategies

- Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (2020)
  https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Papua%20New%20Guinea%20Second/PNG%20Second%20NDC.pdf

- Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) (2016)
  https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Papua%20New%20Guinea%20First/PNG_INDC%20to%20the%20UNFCCC.pdf


- Second National Communication (2014)
  https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Pngnc2.pdf

- Adapting to Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Program(2014)
  https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/project/eu-adapting-climate-change-and-sustainable-energy

- National Climate Compatible Development Management Policy (2014)

- Initial National Communication (2000)

Source: Climate Risk Country Profile: Papua New Guinea, 2021
Proposed Restructure

1. New Department or Ministry
- Covers Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management & Emergency Services
- Covers Climate Change & Development Authority (CCDA), PNG National Disaster Centre (PNGNDC), National Maritime Safety Authority (NMSA), PNG Fire Service
- Centralizes, aligns & monitor programs of Development Partners, NGOs, CSOs & FBOs to ensure that they assist Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Services Plans of the Government & Provinces

2. Related Policy Changes
- Repeal of Act establishing Department of Mineral Policy & Geohazards Management
- Mineral Policy Division shifts to Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) or Department of Attorney General
- Geohazards Management Division & Geosurvey Division of MRA are amalgamated to form Geological Survey of PNG or Geoscience PNG
  > Geological Survey of PNG or Geoscience PNG = Provides Technical Advice on Geohazards & related Hazards
  > Geological Survey of PNG or Geoscience PNG & MRA - report to Minister for Mining
  > Conservation & Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) - reports to Minister for Environment Conservation and Protection
CONCLUSIONS

PNG has a disconnect disaster risk reduction & management system which urgently needs review for more efficient & effective outcomes of the PNG National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2017-2030

Disaster Management Act 1984 & other policies, institutional frameworks & plans to be holistically inclusive & innovative

Establishment of a new Department or Ministry - Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management and Emergency Services - is essential to streamline the current disconnected governance & reporting structures, remove duplication of duties, reduce expenses, focus expenses, & promote collaboration/partnership, which will build-improve the level of resilience to and preparedness for potential disasters.
SINGLE DEPARTMENT OR MINISTRY FOR

- CLIMATE CHANGE;
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT; &
- EMERGENCY SERVICES

BEST FORWARDING-LOOKING STRATEGY
TO IMPROVE NATION-WIDE RESILIENCE TO &
PREPAREDNESS FOR POTENTIAL DISASTERS
Acknowledgements

• MR WILSON THOMPSON, OBE, NRI COUNCIL CHAIRMANM FOR THE INVITATION
• SEMINAR PRESENTERS
• SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS
• UPNG VICE CHANCELLOR & DIRECTOR - UPNG CENTER FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FOR APPROVAL & SUPPORT TO DO THIS PRESENTATION