CARIBBEAN CATASTROPHE RISK INSURANCE FACILITY

BELIZE

COUNTRY RISK PROFILE

AUGUST 2013
Published by:

Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
c/o Sagicor Insurance Managers, 1st Floor Harbour Place,
103 South Church Street, George Town, KY1 – 1102,
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

CCrif, a Not-For-Profit Company, is the First and Only
Multi-Country Risk Pool in the World
Country Risk Profile

Belize

CCRIF is a risk pooling facility, owned, operated and registered in the Caribbean for Caribbean governments. It is designed to limit the financial impact of catastrophic hurricanes and earthquakes to Caribbean governments by quickly providing short term liquidity when a policy is triggered. It is the world’s first and, to date, only regional fund utilising parametric insurance, giving Caribbean governments the unique opportunity to purchase earthquake and hurricane catastrophe coverage with lowest-possible pricing. CCRIF represents a paradigm shift in the way governments treat risk, with Caribbean governments leading the way in pre-disaster planning. CCRIF was developed through funding from the Japanese Government, and was capitalised through contributions to a multi-donor Trust Fund by the Government of Canada, the European Union, the World Bank, the governments of the UK and France, the Caribbean Development Bank and the governments of Ireland and Bermuda, as well as through membership fees paid by participating governments.

Sixteen governments are currently members of CCRIF. These are: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos Islands.
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<tr>
<td>CCRIF</td>
<td>Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility</td>
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<td>CIA</td>
<td>US Central Intelligence Agency</td>
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<td>EQ</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCHLPM</td>
<td>Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology</td>
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<td>FEMA</td>
<td>see US FEMA</td>
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<td>GESI</td>
<td>Global Earthquake Safety Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP (PPP)</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDPPC (PPP)</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product per Capita (Purchasing Power Parity)</td>
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<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>KAC</td>
<td>Kinetic Analysis Corporation</td>
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<td>MLR</td>
<td>Mean Loss Ratio</td>
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<td>MMI</td>
<td>Modified MercalliIntensity</td>
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<td>MODIS</td>
<td>Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer</td>
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<td>MPH</td>
<td>Miles per hour</td>
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<td>MPRES</td>
<td>Multi-Peril Risk Estimation System</td>
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<td>NHC</td>
<td>See US NHC</td>
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<td>NOAA</td>
<td>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</td>
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<td>PGA</td>
<td>Peak Ground Acceleration</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTFS</td>
<td>Real-Time Forecasting System</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAOS</td>
<td>The Arbiter of Storms</td>
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<tr>
<td>TC</td>
<td>Tropical Cyclone</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>US FEMA</td>
<td>United States Federal Emergency Management Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>USGS</td>
<td>United States Geological Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>US NASA</td>
<td>United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US NHC</td>
<td>United States National Hurricane Center of NOAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWI</td>
<td>University of the West Indies</td>
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INTRODUCTION

This document provides an outline of the earthquake and tropical cyclone risk profile for Belize. It is aimed at providing decision makers with a clear picture of the key risks which the country faces in order to guide national catastrophe risk management and inform decision making for both risk reduction and risk transfer (via CCRIF coverage and other mechanisms which may be available).

This country risk profile also serves as a platform for the provision of more detailed information on the CCRIF Multi-Peril Risk Evaluation System (MPRES) catastrophe risk modelling platform which has been used to underpin CCRIF policies since the 2010/11 policy year and which is available as a regional public-good resource for research and practical application. The MPRES was developed and is supported by Kinetic Analysis Corporation (KAC), a bespoke risk modelling company with strong roots in the Caribbean.

Since the previous release of the country risk profiles, updates have been completed on the MPRES platform resulting in differences in output for the current year relative to the prior version released in early-2012. In addition, CCRIF has launched the GeoNode project, which will allow countries to access the geospatial data which underpins this risk profile, and enable geospatial data management and sharing within a collaborative context.

Section 1 provides some background information on the MPRES, as well as information on the risk modelling methodology, facility loss model and asset vulnerability.

Section 2 gives a general overview of Caribbean exposure to earthquake and tropical cyclone hazards.

Section 3 provides country-specific earthquake and tropical cyclone (wind) hazard profiles, as well as full country economic loss information.

Annex 1 provides a list of useful reference documents.

Annex 2 provides an explanation of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Intensity Scale.
Annex 3 provides an explanation of the Maximum Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) and Richter Magnitude scales for earthquakes.

Annex 4 provides an overview of changes in the CCRIF MPRES platform/analysis between version 1 (2012 Country Risk Profile) and the current version 2.

Annex 5 provides an overview of GeoNode.

Annex 6 provides a glossary of technical terms used in this document.
SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Rationale for Development and Use of CCRIF’s Second Generation Modelling Platform

CCRIF has been utilising the Multi-Peril Risk Evaluation System (MPRES) platform to underpin policies since the 2010/11 policy year and intends to continue to do so into the future. With this platform, the Facility is better able to meet the catastrophe insurance needs of its members, offer additional products beyond tropical cyclone and earthquake coverage, expand beyond the present number of clients, and provide a catastrophe risk modelling platform for the regional public good.

The MPRES can handle multiple hazards and hazard assessment methodologies, can accommodate a variety of input/output formats and detailed exposure classifications, and produces accurate loss estimates with known statistical uncertainty.

Benefits of the MPRES platform include a reduction in the basis risk inherent in the loss indexing approach used in the first generation CCRIF model. It also provides a globally consistent platform that is scalable, and makes possible the use of multiple methodologies based on public domain research results and data rather than proprietary information. In addition, it uses open standards for inputs and outputs, and enables incorporation of results in a wide range of platforms in a transparent way. The use of the MPRES supports CCRIF’s quest to provide a more open environment to assist Caribbean institutions such as the University of the West Indies (UWI) in developing a regional hazard and risk assessment and mapping capability in support of improved natural hazard risk management in the region.

As an added benefit, the MPRES utilises the same hazard modelling base as CCRIF’s Real-Time Forecasting System (RTFS). The RTFS, which is made available to all CCRIF members and many regional institutions and other catastrophe risk management stakeholders, is designed to provide a ‘preview’ of the likely hazards and risks associated with a tropical cyclone based on US National Hurricane Center (NHC) forecasts. Through the provision of forecast hazard footprint maps and site-
specific hazard and impact data, preparedness and response mechanisms within CCRIF member states are enhanced.

1.2 Risk Modelling Methodology

This section presents the KAC hazard and loss estimation methodology, first as a generic modelling framework and then as specifically applied in the CCRIF modelling platform.

Modelling Specific Events

The hazard and loss modelling process includes the following generic stages (see Figure 1.1).

![Figure 1.1: Hazard and loss modelling generic framework.](image)

1. **Hazard Assessment** - Using characteristics for a specific event (historical, active or hypothetical), apply numerical modelling to estimate the resulting hazard forces at all locations of interest affected by the event. Hazard maps or GIS data can be produced from the hazard assessment results to show the extent and severity of the hazards generated by the modelled event(s). The specific hazard
models used in the MPRES for tropical storm and seismic event modelling are described below.

2. **Damage and Vulnerability Modelling** - Using damage functions appropriate to each class of assets included in the analysis, calculate the extent of damage from the site-specific hazard forces from the event (based on model estimates) to each element in the exposure database.

3. **Loss Estimation** - Calculate the event losses by applying the location- and asset class-specific damage assessments to the asset valuations for each individual element in the exposure database. The MPRES calculates losses for each individual asset in the exposure database using damage functions specific to the asset class and the specific hazard levels at the asset site. Aggregate loss estimates can be produced for specific geographic areas (e.g., a country or smaller administrative area) or specific asset classes by summarising expected losses for individual exposures by location or class.

4. **Portfolio Loss Calculation** - Using an insurance model and specific contract terms, translate exposure loss estimates into loss estimates for a portfolio of assets across multiple countries. For each policy, payout estimates are determined by the terms of the insurance contract and the expected losses for the assets covered by the insurance contract.

**Hazard and Loss Probability Analysis**

Using hazard and loss assessment results from a large number of known events, KAC produces hazard severities across an evenly distributed grid and loss estimates for a specified exposure set for a wide range of event probabilities. Hazard and risk profiles and probabilistic hazard maps are derived from this information. KAC also generates ‘stochastic’ databases of hazard events which provide a longer, though more uncertain, view of hazard frequency and severity than the historical record alone.

The overall approach described below applies to tropical storm-related and seismic hazards (as well as other hazards). For estimating current loss probabilities, databases of current exposures are used, as we are interested in potential current losses from the event, rather than replicating the specific losses experienced at the time of the event.
KAC uses the following steps to produce loss probability estimates (see Figure 1.2):

1. **Model every event in the historical record or the stochastic database** - For each event, KAC applies the selected hazard and damage function modules to generate hazard and loss estimates from the event. The event-specific peak hazard and total loss estimate is recorded for each grid cell. It is important that the modelling directly generates the parameters of interest in the overall analysis. For instance, if the objective is to estimate loss probabilities for a portfolio, portfolio losses are recorded for each hazard event in the catalogue; due to the non-linear relationship between hazard values and losses, it is not valid to estimate loss probabilities from a fitted hazard probability curve.

2. **Fit a probability distribution to the raw modelled loss results** - Fitting distributions to event losses allows KAC to estimate losses for events that have not occurred in the historical record, including extreme events. The probability distribution captures the stochastic nature of the loss levels of historical events. KAC has found that the 2-parameter Weibull distribution generally provides the best fit over a wide range of scenarios. If a stochastic event database is used then fitting of a probability distribution may not be required.

3. **Simulate future events by sampling from the territory-specific loss curves (guided by historic frequencies and probabilities) for a large number of simulated event years** - This analysis integrates the separate probabilities of 1) the occurrence of an event, 2) the probability of a specific territory being affected by the event, and 3) the probability and level of loss for affected territories. Historic event frequency and territory impact probability tables are used to maintain consistency with historic patterns when carrying out this simulation. Simulating a large number of years (for instance, one million years) ensures consistency in the loss estimates produced from this analysis. Again, if a stochastic event database is used, then this simulation process may not be required.

4. **Create loss probability estimates** - The final loss probabilities are created directly from the simulation results (or the raw stochastic event results) by sorting the individual loss estimates by their frequency of occurrence.
1.3 Policy Pricing, Portfolio Analysis and Real-time Loss Calculation

The objective of the loss modelling approach is to equip the CCRIF with the capacity to estimate loss probabilities for individual territories, price contracts for specific territories, and estimate site-specific hazard levels and losses for specific events during the contract period. Given these and other operational needs of CCRIF, KAC implements the modelling framework described above in two phases: 1) historical analysis using KAC’s cluster computing facilities and 2) active event analysis in a stand-alone software package which can utilise CCRIF’s own computer hardware (and is installed at offices of the CCRIF Facility Supervisor and Policy Verification Agent).

For full compatibility, both parts are implemented using the exact same hazard and loss modelling code base. Key strengths of this approach are that it:

- Is built upon a strong, validated hazard modelling base;
- Uses the same techniques and code for both historical hazard assessment and loss modelling as well as real-time event modelling and payout calculation;
- Is implemented using open modelling techniques from the published scientific literature;
- Is highly scalable and has been applied at a wide range of modelling resolutions; and
• Is implemented on a geographic base, enabling generation of results in mapping formats.

Generating Losses for Pricing and Portfolio Analysis

Full Historical Analysis

1. **Model every event in the input catalogue**, using current exposures and the selected hazard and damage function modules.
2. **Create long-term loss event sets for each peril.** For both earthquake and tropical cyclone events, a synthetic loss event set is generated, and applied as described below.
   a. **Tropical Cyclone Return-period Analysis:** For assessment of tropical cyclone hazards and losses, KAC generates a 1,000-year synthetic Atlantic tropical cyclone track event set based on the overall characteristics of the historical record. For each event in both the historical Atlantic event set and the synthetic tropical cyclone event catalogue, KAC simulates the event to generate hazard footprints and loss estimates for CCRIF territories. Final, long-term, territory-specific loss curves are generated for the territory-specific losses from both the historical event simulations and the synthetic loss event catalogue. In both cases, the loss curves were generated directly from the sorted empirical losses in the loss catalogues. CCRIF utilises the loss curves from the synthetic event set as a basis for its pricing of policies, and those results are presented here (in Section 3); the full historical event set is used for comparative and benchmarking purposes and to provide as-if hazard and loss outputs for historical events (as presented in Section 3).
   b. **Seismic Return-period Analysis:** KAC has developed a model that uses historic earthquake event information from the USGS, and best-practice techniques of probabilistic earthquake hazard and risk mapping, to create a synthetic catalogue with 10,000 years of earthquake events (magnitude, hypocentral location and moment tensor information.) This is necessary as the historical record is insufficiently rich to enable probabilistic hazard and risk assessment. KAC also run a catalogue of historical events provided by CCRIF for comparative and benchmarking purposes. The process of loss curve
generation then follows the same schema as described above for tropical cyclones.

3. **Generate loss probability curves from the results in the long-term loss event set**–
   Given a known number of event years in the loss event set, annual aggregate loss probability curves were derived directly from the discrete, empirical loss set.

### Pricing and Portfolio Analysis

The loss event set derived from the synthetic catalogue for each of the two perils is used by CCRIF to generate a national loss profile, against which possible policy conditions are applied to provide the basis for pricing of policies and to provide governments with options for different coverage characteristics. This is undertaken as follows:

1. **Create government loss and payout probability tables** from the event set through applying policy conditions to each national loss, including an initial scaling factor to provide an indicative ‘government loss’ from the national loss amount.

2. **Complete portfolio analysis** through application of final policy conditions for each territory into CCRIF-level payout probability.

### Loss Calculation Model Methodology

In order to price country insurance contracts and estimate site-specific hazard levels and national losses for specific events — either historical or active events, CCRIF maintains its own version of the MPRES which replicates many of the functions of the full modelling platform described above. This enables CCRIF to run earthquake and tropical cyclone events as soon as event input information becomes available from the relevant reporting agency. The CCRIF software then runs the MPRES model for a real-time event using exactly the same methodology as was used in running each historical or stochastic event as described above. This ensures full compatibility between probabilistic loss results used for policy pricing and real-time loss results used for calculation of payouts.
Real-time Event Trigger Calculation

For tropical cyclones, event information from the National Hurricane Center’s Automated Tropical Cyclone Forecasting System, is used to run a tropical cyclone event hazard simulation that generates hazard estimates for the storm. Using these results, damage and loss estimates are produced for the CCRIF exposures. The exact same methodology used in calculating historical hazards and losses from synthetic catalogue events is used to calculate hazard, damage and loss from an event in real time.

For earthquake events, event information from the USGS is used to run a seismic hazard simulation to generate ground motion hazard estimates for the seismic event. Using these results, damage and loss estimates are produced for the CCRIF exposures.

Territory-specific event loss estimates from the single-event hazard and loss simulations are converted to CCRIF policy and portfolio loss estimates by applying the government loss and the territory policy limits and adjustments.

1.4 Asset Vulnerability

Asset vulnerability is defined as the degree to which an asset may be damaged when subjected to the hazard forces exerted by the peril. The hazards considered here are wind and storm surge for the tropical cyclone peril, and ground shaking for the earthquake peril.

Using appropriate damage functions, the loss model computes the damage to each exposure class as a function of the hazard level impacting that class, and estimates the resulting loss based on the value of that class. The loss modelling can produce multiple metrics, including: a mean loss ratio (MLR) for a class of assets (representing the ratio of repair/replacement cost to the total value of the asset class), and a total loss in value by asset class.

Damage Functions

Damage functions translate the peak hazard level at the site into the likely damage level to the structure.
**Wind Hazard**

Eight separate damage function families are used, for assessment of losses for both historical and real-time events. Individual functions within a family are defined by the particular configuration of parameters that best fit the structural characteristics of the exposure class.

The following damage function families were used in the CCRIF analysis:

- Australian—Leicester and Beresford (1978)
- Clemson, engineering basis—Sill et al (1997)
- Foremost Ins Co (1976)
- Friedman (1984)
- FCHLPM ProTeam—Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology (2002)
- Stubbs (1996)
- $X^3$—Howard et al (1972)

The parameters used in these damage function curves are based on published literature. Further information about these damage functions is available in Watson and Johnson (2004).

**Storm Surge Hazard**

The flood damage from static and moving waters is computed using an adaptation of the simple two-dimensional flood model and flood damage curves developed by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the HAZUS-MH model.

**Seismic Ground Motion**

Seismic damage functions developed by the Global Earthquake Safety Initiative (GESI) for standard building types are used to calculate damage from seismic ground motion (GeoHazards International, 2001). Construction types in areas of lower Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (GDPPC) are mapped to less resilient asset categories.
SECTION 2: REGIONAL HAZARD PROFILE

2.1 Introduction

The Caribbean faces a number of primary natural hazard risks, particularly earthquake and hurricane risks, and to a lesser extent volcanic risks in certain areas. The region also faces secondary risks from flooding and landslides, storm surge and wave impacts, and tsunamis.

2.2 Earthquake Hazards

As shown in Figure 2.1, most of the Caribbean countries lie close to the boundary of the Caribbean Plate, making most of the region susceptible to damaging levels of earthquake shaking. Figure 2.2 shows the epicentral location of earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 and above occurring in the region since 1530, while Figure 2.3 shows a small selection of shaking footprints for the major historical earthquakes affecting the region.
Figure 2.1: Caribbean Plate and regional faults. Source: USGS.
Figure 2.2: Earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater since 1530. Sources: Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and USGS
Figure 2.3: Major historical earthquakes in the region. Source: hypocentre locations from: Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), shaking intensity from MPRES model.
Figure 2.4 shows the peak ground acceleration (PGA) expected to be exceeded once every 475 for the Caribbean region. To create these probabilistic ground shaking hazard maps, the region is divided into 30 arc-second (~1km) grid cells. KAC fits hazard exceedance probability curves of PGA from the results of thousands of individual stochastic earthquake events for each grid cell. From these curves, the expected PGA at the required return period is logged and mapped across the region.

We note that the following maps use PGA buckets for illustrative purposes and therefore appear at lower resolution than the raw dataset.
Figure 2.4: Peak Ground Acceleration with return period of 475 years (equivalent to 10% probability of exceedance in 50 years).
2.3 Hurricane Hazards

The most significant natural hazard risk in the Caribbean is hurricane risk, particularly because of the possibly large span of territories which can be impacted by any single event. Figure 2.5 shows tracks of Category 3, 4, and 5 storms that have impacted the region since 1851. The significant impact that single hurricane events can have is illustrated in Figure 2.6, which shows three hurricanes (Ivan, Georges, and Marilyn), and their impacts on multiple islands. These three events alone impacted Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, The Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Puerto Rico.
Figure 2.5: Category 3, 4 and 5 storms affecting the Caribbean Basin since 1851. Source: NOAA-NHC.
Figure 2.6: Peak wind footprints of hurricanes Marilyn (1995), Georges (1998) and Ivan (2004) across the Caribbean region.
Figures 2.7 and 2.8 are probabilistic wind hazard maps for 50- and 100-year return periods, with Figure 2.9 showing a more detailed sub-regional version of the 100-year return period map. To create these maps, the Caribbean is divided into 30 arc-second (~1km) grid cells and hazard exceedance probabilistic curves of peak wind speed from the results of thousands of individual events are fit for each grid cell. From these curves, the expected peak wind speed at the required return period is logged and mapped across the region.

As with the earthquake hazard maps, we note that the following maps use wind speed buckets for illustrative purposes and therefore appear at lower resolution than the raw dataset.
Figure 2.7: Peak wind speed with return period of 50 years.
Figure 2.8: Peak wind speed with return period of 100 years.
Figure 2.9: Sub-regional map of peak wind speed with return period of 100 years.
3.1 Introduction

Belize is located on the north-eastern coast of Central America, bordered to the north by Mexico, and to the south and west by Guatemala. Belize has an area of about 22,966 sq km, including 22,806 sq km of land, and a coastline of 386 km. The country has a diverse geography including forests, flat swampy coastal plains, and low mountains in the south.

In 2011, the population was estimated at about 314,266 (Landscan 2011 estimate). About 52% of the population resides in urban areas. The Belizean economy derives most of its foreign exchange from tourism and the export of marine products and agriculture products (such as sugar, bananas, and citrus), and garments; approximately 10% of the labour force is involved in agriculture, 18% in industry and 72% in services. The IMF Database estimates GDP as US$2.6 billion (US$8,300 per capita) with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 90.8% (CIA Factbook, 2012).
Figure 3.1: Belize - geography and regional location.
Figure 3.2: Topography of Belize.
3.2 Country Hazard Profile

Belize is exposed to very similar natural hazards as much of the insular Caribbean including hurricanes sourcing from both the Atlantic and the southwestern Caribbean Sea threatening the coastal areas, particularly with storm surge flooding. Flooding from heavy rains also threatens the coastal and inland areas. Landslides and flooding also threaten the interior of Belize. Belize is close to the northern margin of the Caribbean plate, and earthquake hazards are greatest in the south-eastern region of the country.

Hurricane Hazard Profile

Hurricanes are categorised according to the strength of their winds using the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale (see Annex 2). Each year, an average of 10 tropical storms develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico.

Much economic activity is still concentrated in the low lying coastal areas around Belize City, and is exposed to hurricane hazard risks. Coastal tourism, which is becoming the main economic engine in Belize, is also exposed to hurricane hazard risks. However, the agriculture sector is less exposed than the rest of the economy, particularly to coastal flooding. Infrastructure is generally vulnerable, given the generally poor building standards. Hurricane Hattie in 1961 remains the most memorable and devastating hurricane to affect Belize, although many other hurricanes have hit the country, including severe storms in 1931 and 1941, Hurricane Janet in 1955, four storms in the generally quiet late sixties and seventies (Francelia in 1969, Carmen and Fifi in 1974 and Greta in 1978) and most recently hurricanes Keith (2000) and Iris (2001). Hattie was particularly devastating due to its intensity and the fact that it passed very close to Belize City. Figure 3.3 shows the tracks for Tropical Cyclones within 150 km of Belize since 1851.
Figure 3.3: Tracks of Tropical Cyclones moving within 150km of Belize since 1851.
Figure 3.4 shows the wind hazard profile for Belize City. The graph shows a fitted probability distribution to empirical historical data as well as the actual curve generated from the synthetic tropical cyclone track data. To produce the synthetic data, 1,000 years of hurricane activity is simulated, and used to determine a wind hazard profile for the location. This is in contrast to the historical wind profile which is based on ~160 years of historical data and curve fitting to that data. It plots wind speed against return period; for example, the wind speed taken from the curve at the 100-year return period is likely to be exceeded once every 100 years, or has an annual probability of exceedance of one in one hundred.

*Figures 3.4: Wind hazard profile for Belize City, Belize.*
Earthquake Hazard Profile

An earthquake is the sudden release of stored energy in the earth’s crust; most earthquakes occur along a fracture within the earth, called a fault. The shaking caused by this sudden shift is often very small, but occasionally large earthquakes produce very strong ground shaking. It is this strong shaking and its consequences – ground failure, landslides, liquefaction – that results in damaged buildings and structures and often results in negative impacts on the economy.

Earthquake magnitude and intensity are measured on two different scales, the Richter Magnitude scale for source magnitude (the amount of energy released by the event) and the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale for the amount of shaking felt at a specific place on the ground. Annex 3 provides the classification definitions for the two scales.

Belize is close to the northern margin of the Caribbean plate, and earthquake risk is concentrated in the south-eastern region of the country, away from the main population centres. The country has not been subject to any major earthquake events in recorded history. However, large earthquakes do occur in the area offshore to the southeast of Belize where the Caribbean Plate margin runs, and these have the potential to be damaging to Belize City and Belmopan as well as the more southern towns.
Figure 3.5: CCRIF stochastic earthquake catalogue.
Figure 3.6 shows the earthquake hazard profile for Belize City, Belize. It plots peak ground acceleration against return period; for example, the peak ground acceleration taken from the curve at the 100-year return period is likely to be exceeded once every 100 years, or has an annual probability of exceedance of one in one hundred.

*Figures 3.6: Earthquake hazard profile for Belize City, Belize.*
3.3 Country Exposure Profile

Asset Classification and Valuation

Using remote sensing data and economic and demographic statistics for 2011 and 2012 (the most recent base years for which complete data sets were available), KAC generated a database with the spatially distributed density and value of physical assets at risk in Belize for the MPRES. This compilation was performed at the same grid scale as the one used for the hazard assessment (30 arc-seconds or approximately 1km grid cells).

The exposure databases developed are designed specifically to provide acceptable estimates for losses from hydro-meteorological and geophysical hazards suffered by physical assets in the territory. The valuations in these databases represent the ‘exposed value’ \( i.e. \) the amount of value at risk of total loss, which is not necessarily equal to the absolute value of the asset. Consequently, these exposure databases are neither suitable for disaggregating by class of assets, nor for general use as a representation of the economic valuation of national assets.

Input Data Sources

- MODIS (used as a source of data for land cover) is a satellite-based instrument, designed and deployed by US NASA to “improve understanding of global dynamics and processes occurring on the land, in the oceans, and in the lower atmosphere.” [http://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/]
- Landscan 2011 (used as a source of data for distribution population information and administrative areas) is a global population database compiled by the (US) Oak Ridge National Laboratory’s Global Population Project. [http://www.ornl.gov/sci/landscan/]
- CIA World Factbook (used as a source of data for national and sectoral economic data) is a general reference source for a wide variety of country data. [https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html]
**Methodology**

Using the remotely sensed data and economic statistics listed above, KAC estimated exposure units and valuations by type in each grid cell in the analysis area (Figure 3.7).

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<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Geographic Distribution Source</th>
<th>Valuation Derivation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Population distribution</td>
<td>Number of dwelling units calculated based on population, age distribution, population density and Purchasing Power Parity GDP per capita (GDPPC-PPP). Land cover types and population information used to determine residential construction types. Asset category selection informed by population density and GDPPC. The household size is informed by both the population density and GDPPC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential: includes commercial, industrial, government/institutional and agriculture (crops)</td>
<td>Satellite imagery</td>
<td>Asset categories determined both as mixed development within larger residential areas and as concentrated types (for instance, areas with dense development but low population density). Agriculture component estimated from MODIS land cover and agriculture contribution to GDP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Satellite imagery</td>
<td>Estimated from density and distribution of population and building types, and per-capita GDP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.7: Sources of valuation.*

In the resulting exposure databases, infrastructure is not defined as a separate exposure type, rather it is incorporated into the residential, commercial / institutional and agriculture exposure values. The exposure generation assigns a higher quality to residential and commercial construction in areas where infrastructure is identified as present.
The key exposure values used in the loss modelling for Belize are summarised in Figure 3.8, and the breakdown of GDP exposure is shown in Figure 3.9. The economic composition data are from the CIA World Factbook, which provides a consistent and independent region-wide database.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>GDPPC</th>
<th>Economic Composition (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107,818</td>
<td>US$13,300</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscan 2011</td>
<td>IMF Database</td>
<td>CIA World Factbook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.8: Economic and population statistics.*
Figure 3.9: Breakdown of GDP by exposure type in Belize.
In generating the exposure database, KAC assumes that GDP is relatively consistent across a territory (adjusted for population density).

Figure 3.10 provides a map showing the distribution of exposure for Belize, while Figure 3.11 shows a breakdown of exposures by administrative level.

**Figure 3.10: Exposure map of Belize as used in CCRIF MPRES model.**
Country Risk Profile

The risk profile for a country presents losses for the country at different probabilities of occurrence (more precisely referred to as probabilities of exceedance). It acts as the basis for pricing of the risk transfer product (i.e. CCRIF’s insurance policy) and represents the established way of quantifying risk. As described earlier, a synthetic catalogue of hazard events, generated in the modelling process, and having the same statistical characteristics as the historical record of events, is used to estimate national losses (the total amount of loss sustained in the country before consideration for how much is actually lost by the government, and before any policy terms such as deductibles are applied), and for a range of levels of probabilities of occurrence.
Much of Belize’s economic output is generated on the coastline, particularly from coastal tourism. Such areas are prone to coastal hazards associated with hurricanes. While building standards are improving, they remain relatively poor, contributing to the increased vulnerabilities of infrastructure.

Figure 3.11 provides Tropical Cyclone (excluding rain) and Earthquake national risk profiles (in the form of loss exceedance curves) for Belize. Government losses (defined in the glossary) are determined as a percentage of the national losses, where the percentage applied varies by country.

Figure 3.12 tabulates the key statistics drawn from the loss exceedance curve. The average annualised loss (AAL) represents the loss that is expected each year when averaged over the full synthetic catalogue period. Actual losses in any one year will vary widely from the AAL – many years will have no losses, a few years will have very large losses; the standard deviation of the AAL is the standard metric used to describe this volatility in annual losses. The AAL and the standard deviation are the two metrics used as the basis of pricing of policies (once policy conditions are applied). The losses at given return periods are a numerical description of the shape of the risk profile and represent the amount of loss expected at each return period.
Country Risk Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Return Period (yrs)</th>
<th>TC National Loss (USD)</th>
<th>EQ National Loss (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>34,789,400</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>184,861,000</td>
<td>175,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>565,124,000</td>
<td>3,997,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>716,350,500</td>
<td>22,485,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>967,812,800</td>
<td>55,468,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,193,105,946</td>
<td>90,971,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,193,105,946</td>
<td>144,169,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAL</td>
<td>13,953,660</td>
<td>1,055,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD of AAL</td>
<td>87,353,356</td>
<td>39,130,040</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.12: Tropical Cyclone and Earthquake loss curves for Belize.

Figure 3.13: Summary of Tropical Cyclone and Earthquake losses for Belize.
Significant Historical Events

Figure 3.14 shows the three most significant recorded hurricane and earthquake loss events to affect Belize. The most significant hurricane events were Hurricane Iris, the 1931 hurricane, and Hattie. The footprint maps for Hattie and Janet (another significant storm) are shown in Figures 3.15 and 3.16. The MPRES model updates may have resulted in some differences in estimated losses (for instance, wind fields for tropical cyclones has changed, and so have exposure compositions) for events, and therefore a slight re-ordering of the most significant events from previous risk profiles. The most significant earthquake event occurred in 1912, and its footprint map is shown in Figure 3.17. The Footprint for another significant earthquake event occurring in 1999 is shown in Figures 3.18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hurricane Event</th>
<th>Loss (USD)</th>
<th>Earthquake Event</th>
<th>Loss (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most severe</td>
<td>2001(Iris)</td>
<td>461,393,573</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3,009,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second-most severe</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>336,496,035</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>1,724,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-most severe</td>
<td>1961(Hattie)</td>
<td>282,138,170</td>
<td>1785</td>
<td>443,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.14: Most significant historical hazard events affecting Belize.*
Figure 3.15: Peak sustained winds associated with Hurricane Hattie in 1961.
Figure 3.16: Peak sustained winds associated with Hurricane Janet in 1955.
Figure 3.17: Peak Ground Acceleration associated with the 1912 earthquake.
Figure 3.18: Peak Ground Acceleration associated with the 1999 earthquake.
ANNEX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY


### ANNEX 2: SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category/Wind Speeds (mph)</th>
<th>Damage Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 (&gt;155 mph)</td>
<td>Catastrophic</td>
<td>Shrubs and trees blown down; considerable damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 500 yards of shore. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane center arrives. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of shore possibly required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (131-155mph)</td>
<td>Extreme</td>
<td>Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing materials, windows and doors. Complete failures of roofs on many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Flat terrain 10 feet of less above sea level flooded inland as far as 6 miles. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering by waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane center arrives. Major erosion of beaches. Massive evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of shore possibly required, and of single-story residences within 2 miles of shore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (111-130mph)</td>
<td>Extensive</td>
<td>Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down. Practically all poorly constructed signs blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some wind and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at coast and many smaller structures near coast destroyed; larger structures near coast damaged by battering waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 3 to 5 hours before hurricane center arrives. Flat terrain 5 feet or less above sea level flooded inland 8 miles or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of shoreline possibly required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (96-110mph)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees blown down. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. No major damage to buildings. Coast roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water 2 to 4 hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers. Marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline residences and low-lying areas required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 (74-95mph)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage, and unanchored homes. No real damage to other structures. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 3:
EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE AND INTENSITY CLASSIFICATION

The following table provides the approximate conversion from Richter Magnitude to Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) and the MMI scale itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Richter Magnitude Scale</th>
<th>Typical peak Modified Mercalli Intensity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 to 3.0</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 to 3.9</td>
<td>II to III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0 to 4.9</td>
<td>IV to V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 to 5.9</td>
<td>VI to VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0 to 6.9</td>
<td>VII to IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0 and Higher</td>
<td>VIII or Higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Not felt except by a very few under especially favourable conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Felt only by a few persons at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognise it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibrations similar to the passing of a truck. Duration estimated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors, disturbed; walls make cracking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Felt by all, many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Some well-built wooden structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations. Rails bent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI</td>
<td>Few, if any (masonry) structures remain standing. Bridges destroyed. Rails bent greatly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII</td>
<td>Damage total. Lines of sight and level are distorted. Objects thrown into the air.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following changes were made in 2013:

**VULNERABILITY MODULE UPDATES**

**Updates To Exposures:**

- New countries/territories included in analysis: former Dutch territories, French Departments, Puerto Rico, and Dominican Republic.
- Economic and population data updated with currently available data from Landscan, IMF, and other sources.
- Exposure generation and damage estimation algorithms updated to:
  1) separate estimation of physical damages from broader economic impacts,
  2) refine handling of agricultural exposures, and
  3) refine valuations of rural versus urban exposures.
- Services class of exposure is now merged into broader commercial class.

**HAZARD MODULE UPDATES**

*Tropical Cyclones*

- History: storm track set extended to 2012
- Modeling: more robust storm geometry calculations, particularly for missing wind parameter estimation

Synthetic event set: generated 1,000-year synthetic track set, for use as a basis for synthetic hazard and loss modeling (compared with generation of synthetic loss set, not full track set, for 2011 update). The following steps are applied to derive the wind profile curves for a given catalog:

- For each wind profile location / point
  - For each year in the catalog (history or synthetic), review the maximum wind hazard level recorded (in the modeling) for that location in each event during that year, to identify the maximum wind value experienced there during the year. Repeat for all years in the catalog.
  - Wind profile curves are generated from the resulting list of annual wind hazard maxima (sorted by wind value):
    - the probability of any given value in the list is \( \text{rank}/(\text{num\_years}+1.0) \), where 'rank' is its order in the list (counting from the lowest value) and 'num\_years' is the number of years in the catalog. For example, for a 150-year catalog, if the 3rd highest value (148th from
the bottom) in the list is 62 m/s, the probability of experiencing a maximum wind speed of 62 m/s in a given year is \((148/(150+1)) \sim 0.98\).

- the return period can be calculated from the probability: \(r_{pd} = 1 / (1 - \text{prob})\) -- in this case \(1 / (1 - 0.98) = 50\) yr return period.

**Earthquakes**

- Modeling code: Added 'next generation' attenuation functions to modeling platform for use by CCRIF
- Synthetic catalog: generated a 10,000-year synthetic catalog. 2011: 5,000-year catalog.
- Analysis: Selected attenuation functions for modeling event based on event location and depth [selection scheme and attenuation function selections determined by CCRIF]. All events simulated using two attenuation functions, and loss estimates are generated from the merged (averaged) hazard results from the two simulations. 2011: all events simulated using a single, composite attenuation function.

**VULNERABILITY MODULE UPDATES**

While much of the attention has focused on the value of the exposures between these updates, it is critical to remember that the exposures and the damage modeling are deeply interconnected. Whereas the original system was geared to provide a single estimate of overall impacts, changes were made to both the exposure generation system and outputs (as outlined above) so as to enable separate assessments of physical impacts from purely economic impacts. These changes include:

- Damage probability -- damage replacement values [more precise term in this place than 'loss'] (both in 2011 and 2013) are calculated based on 1) the value of the asset or exposure and 2) from the damage modeling: a) the percent damage to the exposure and b) the probability of damage. The damage probability is based on results from an ensemble of damage functions (run for each asset), and is much more sophisticated today than it was in 2011, resulting in finer-detailed differentiations in damage probabilities across the landscape. Since the probability of damage rises with higher wind speeds, damage probabilities vary much more in lower wind-speed areas on the edges of the event.

- Physical damage focus -- With the updated damage modeling, we are separately calculating the physical damages and secondary impacts (e.g. evacuation expenses) from the event. In the 2011 analysis, the damage analysis included a component of secondary impacts. In 2013, the damage estimates produced for CCRIF focus on the replacement cost of the physical damages from the event -- the separately calculated secondary / economic impacts are not included in these numbers. The differences between these two approaches are again particularly evident in areas at the edges of the event, where there are fewer physical damages, but where some secondary impacts would have been included in the 2011 results.
ANNEX 5: GEONODE

The aftermath of the devastating earthquake event which struck Haiti on 12 January, 2010 was characterised by the presence of numerous disaster agencies at the various affected sites all seeking to assess, collect and map data related to the damage of infrastructure, loss of lives and the event’s overall impact on Haiti’s economic sectors. In a retrospective analysis of the damage assessment efforts from the various disaster entities, the World Bank concluded that greater value could have been derived through a more coordinated and collaborative approach by the combined agencies. It was determined that to best achieve this ideal, a platform specifically designed to enable geospatial data management and sharing within a collaborative context would be required. This led to the development of what is now known as GeoNode.

GeoNode is essentially an amalgamation of several open source platforms such as GeoServer (www.geoserver.org), Pycsw (www.pycsw.org), Django (www.djangoproject.com) and GeoExt (www.geoext.org). These platforms are all united through a single web interface that enables users to upload and style geospatial data; create, publish and print maps and grant registered users the ability to access/download geographic content in several formats. GeoNode is considered a very effective risk management platform because of the ease with which users not trained in traditional GIS technologies may quickly compile data/maps to better understand and manage their risk. More importantly, GeoNode’s community oriented approach whereby users are encouraged to access datasets, improve upon them and resubmit them to the GeoNode community is most critical. This culture of data sharing, fostered in part by GeoNode, creates opportunities for CCRIF to acquire data that maybe then be used to enhance the value of work done on behalf of member territories such as hazard analyses, loss and event reporting and risk modeling.

CCRIF intends to use GeoNode as an alternative medium for publishing the static geospatial risk profile maps, contained within this publication, as well as any other relevant data or maps pertaining to the hazard profile. The CCRIF GeoNode is in its final development stages and is scheduled to launch in 2013, with access provided via http://GeoNode.ccrif.org. Visit www.GeoNode.org for more details on GeoNode.
## ANNEX 6: GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative area</td>
<td>District or parish of a country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annualized Loss(AAL)</td>
<td>Average or expected loss of an insurance policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catastrophe model</td>
<td>Computer-based model hat estimates losses from natural or man-made disasters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage function</td>
<td>Equation describing expected loss in terms of intensity of the disaster event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceedence probability</td>
<td>Probability that a certain risk level will be surpassed during a future time period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>Assets at risk from a hazard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given time period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (PPP)</td>
<td>A measure of GDP where all value of goods and services are valued at prices prevailing in the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDPPC (PPP)</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity) per capita.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government losses</td>
<td>The short term (one to three months) shortfall in a government’s current account directly caused by the impact of a disaster, and represents such items as loss in revenue from tourism and other exports, clean-up and relief expenditures, and emergency repairs to public infrastructure and housing. It is determined as a percentage of national ground-up losses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Loss Ratio (MLR)</td>
<td>Average of incurred losses to premiums expressed as a percentage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Mercalli Intensity</td>
<td>Seismic scale used to measure intensity of an earthquake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODIS</td>
<td>Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer is an instrument launched into earth orbit by NASA, which capture changes in cloud cover, radiation budget, processes occurring in the oceans, on land, and in the lower atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Ground Acceleration</td>
<td>The maximum absolute magnitude of ground acceleration during an earthquake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return Period</td>
<td>Expected time between loss events of a certain magnitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetic Events</td>
<td>Set of simulated years (in this case 1,000 years) of natural disaster activities that is run through the model and used to create exceedance probability curves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerability</td>
<td>Defines the susceptibility of an asset to a particular natural or man-made disaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weibull distribution</td>
<td>One of several continuous probability distributions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For Additional Information, contact:
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   Tel (Barbados): +1 (246) 426-1525
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