



Inter-American Development Bank
Regional Policy Dialogue



Natural Disasters

**ADVANCES AND PROBLEMS WITH INSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL AND PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING
ASPECTS OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

Situational Analysis

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Preliminary Considerations

- ✓ *The research method and its limitations.*
- ✓ *Considerations as regards comparability and comparedness and the significance in terms of generalization, specificity, and the transfer of experiences between countries.*
- ✓ *Considerations as regards the notion of "advance": concept or practice and results?*

**Legislation and institutional aspects:
General considerations**

- ✓ *Radical legal and institutional changes and their impact on risk management practice: adjustment to and contradictions with existing social, economic and political structures and aspects of governance: the cases of Nicaragua, Colombia, Bolivia and El Salvador.*
- ✓ *Legal and institutional inertia and the use of innovation, imagination and improvisation: Jamaica, Chile and Costa Rica.*
- ✓ *Various organizational models, varied results: a structural and contextual explanation of advance and stagnation under different organisational models.*

**Legislation and institutionality:
Specific aspects**

- ✓ *System or structure versus sectoral, territorial, structural and non structural risk management instruments. The structure potentiates the instrument or the instruments define the structure or system?*
- ✓ *Parameters for management instead of preconceived management models as a guide to the adjustment of structures to national needs and options: promoting decentralization, intersectoral coordination, participation, ownership, consciousness etc.*
- ✓ *From top to bottom or from bottom to top: advances with local level risk management and options as regards the consolidation of risk management structures and the promotion of risk reduction*

**Policies and plans:
The basis for coordination and consolidation**

- ✓ *State policy and Governmental policy: permanent and transient states. The absence of State policy.*
- ✓ *The absence of, or lateness in the preparation of policies and plans. A structural explanation.*
- ✓ *Policies and plans as organizers of actions and participation. Improvements in response plans and backwardness with risk reduction and prevention plans.*
- ✓ *Action and instruments without policy and plan: Inductive approaches and dispersion.*
- ✓ *Local policy and plans: structural limitations for the vast majority and options and advances in large cities: examples from Manizales, Bogotá and La Paz*

Some conclusions

- ✓ *Laws do not guarantee in themselves substantial advances in actions. But, they are needed and proven facilitators of sustainable advances where propitious structural conditions exist.*
- ✓ *Structures and systems should be adjusted to particular existing national conditions and opportunities and result from profound analysis and diagnosis of national realities. Difficulties exist where attempts are made to transfer or generalize experiences without adjustment to, and consideration of such national realities.*
- ✓ *Policies and plans do not guarantee real advances but their absence is an invitation to dispersion without synergy.*
- ✓ *Countries are subject to advances and moving backward in differential temporal sequences where many times external factors are more important than internal ones in any explanation of this.*