Roger S. Pulwarty NOAA





The concept of systemic risk introduced in the GAR 2019 emphasized the need to"understand and manage the interdependent, multidimensional variables of risk that are created by, and magnified among, different systems as they interact across different geographic or spatial scales"

To achieve the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) ...and adaptation...need to better understand and manage systemic risk



Globally networked risks: e.g. modern food systems highly dynamic, complex, formal and informal – fundamentally important to food security





"We know there will be more outbreaks, ...

as a consequence of extreme weather, biodiversity destruction, political instability......"









Traditional risk assessment and management strategies are increasingly challenged by **systemic and evolving** impacts of climate extremes, variability and change





2017

Twenty-two (22) of 29 Caribbean island states impacted: 4 were affected by 1 storm, 13 by two storms, 5 by three storms



Critical system failures caused evacuations, closures, and reduced services

Roseau, Dominica

Before Maria After Maria



WASHINGTON RUSHING RELIEF TO ISLAND

LOOTING BEGINS IN CITY

Maximum surface wind speed during Hurricane Maria

Maximum surface wind speed during Hurricane Maria



Puerto Rico 2017 Hurricanes Maria and Irma Critical system failures caused evacuations, closures, and reduced services



Panel shows the distribution of the number of days that households reported being without water, cellular coverage, electricity, and disruption of medical services between September 20 and December 31, 2017. (Kishore et al 2018, Hsiang et al 2018))

2017 hurricane season Twenty-two (22) of 29 Caribbean SIDS impacted: 4 were affected by 1 storm, 13 by two storms, 5 by three storms

Caribbean Basin Systemic risks 2021

CURRENT CONTEXT:

- 90% of Caribbean economies and cities are in coastal areas
- Poor (Coastal) Infrastructure
- Low agricultural production and high imports (G)
- Dependence on foreign tourism
 and remittances
- Vulnerability to weather-climate extremes
- High debt to GDP ratio

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POTENTIAL MULTIPLE SYSTEMIC FAILURES

- Pandemics
- Unavailability of services and goods for basic needs
- Inaccessibility of disaster sheltering (social distancing measures)
- Overwhelmed disaster response capabilities
- Reduction of financial capabilities to meet basic needs
- Continuous disruption of basic services





MULTIPLE STRESSORS:

- Inter-regional Displacement
- Strong dependence on external markets
- Reduced remittance flows
- Potable water access
- Food Insecurity
- Low demand on tourism services
- Sargassum development
- Impact, relief & recovery cycle/ limited proactive investments
- Low level of insurance
- Adequacy of medical facilities
- High mental stress levels

No. of tourists per km²

005 International tourist arrivals per km

- TIPPING POINTS /TRANSITIONSUnsually active hurricane season
- Potential for multiple hurricane impacts
- Supply chain disruption
- Potable water supply for tourism services during the dry season
- Post disaster migration
- Inter-regional Displacement
- Further dependence on remittance
 Flows



Source: McHardy, P. and Donovan, M. G. (2016).

Informal settlements in hazard-prone areas of Jamaica.

The effects of climate change on Caribbean countries include more frequent and severe hurricanes, tropical storms, droughts, and rising sea levels – the latter of which is of particular concern given that seventy per cent of the Caribbean population live in coastal cities and approximately 4.2 million people reside in low-elevation coastal areas. The pollution generated by informal settlements in the upper portions of river basins is affecting coastal areas, contaminating the marine environment and damaging coral reefs across the subregion.



Returning to Guatemala: voluntarily

Women: family / partner obligations

 "I returned because of him. He called me to go back because he was deported. My life was good there, I had my money (Adela, maya, 23)

Men: nostalgia and achieving goals

 "I thought all the time about my family, I even remembered my dog. I couldn't sleep, thinking. I decided to return, because I already had something to start in Guatemala" (Víctor, mestizo, 41).

Aracely Martinez U. Valle de Guatemala 2021







IN-MIGRATION

High certainty in high levels of climate in-migration

SALVADOR

Moderate certainty in high levels of climate in-migration

High certainty in high levels of climate out-migration

Moderate certainty in high levels of climate out-migration

Projected migration climate hotspots. Source: World Bank, Groundswell Report

OUT-MIGRATION

Drought: The Lived Experience: What is being learned ?





be living with water stress by 2025



Threatening human health, biodiversity and natural ecosystems



Affecting the most vulnerable the hardest



are massively underestimated







the drought has ended



The impacts of drought often amplify existing structural inequalities



With strategies that work with all kinds of people and groups





Across social groups, ages and demographic categories



All of society acting as one will prevent devastating drought impacts in the future



Choices(?) and Pathways..."if we are not careful we will end up where we are going"



(King et al 2021/UNCCD IWG)

Governing systemic risks: just transitions in an interconnected and rapidly changing world.....

Risk Reduction and Management

- Reactive.....Crisis-based
- Proactive.....Risk-based
- Prospective...Resilience-based





Putting the pieces together

Managing for resilience is different that for efficiency

Key nodes Vertical and horizontal alignment

Design to maximize

efficiency

Design to maximize

resilience

Broadening the actor network and their roles in expanding Drought and waterrelated finance: vertically and horizontally

National and Sub-National Governments

Development, NGOs Partners

Universities and Research Institutions

Financial Institutions, Impact Investors and Insurance Companies

Businesses and Individuals

Risk governance: broadening the "actor network"

Identifying effective interventions

Collaborative process for individual and institutional learning

DEFINE AND DIAGNOS REDEFINE AND REDIAGNOS ADAPT DESIGN INDELEMENT DESIGN DECIMIENT DESIGN



Transforming Governance under conditions of increased complexity and uncertainty

- Create awareness of moving from extreme events response to addressing extreme risk accumulation
- Transforming information into knowledge in increasingly complex risk contexts
- Overcoming the gap between theory and practice
- Containing risk drivers and new dynamics in risk construction –legislative frameworks







To sustain these processes there is a need to "strengthen and integrate territorial information systems" (RAR, 2021)



Ongoing Challenge: Sustaining collaborative networks across research, observations, services and decision-making

