

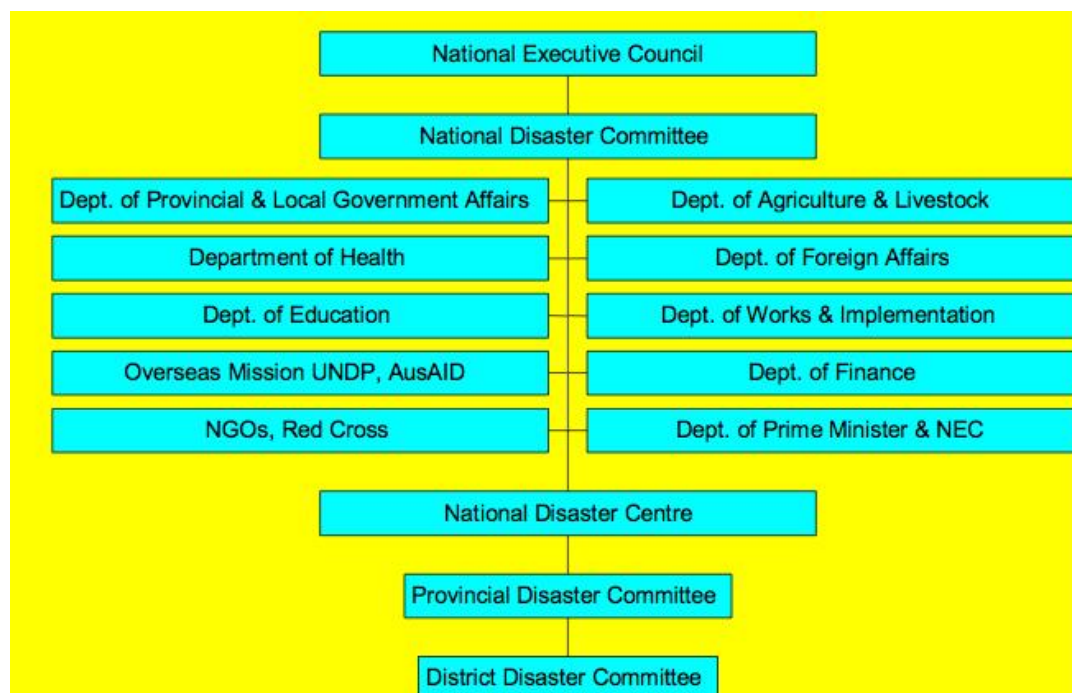
Papua New Guinea National Disaster Management Plan

A Disaster Management Plan has been in place since 1987. However, this Plan was under review and is expected to be completed and endorsed by the Government in 2009. The responsibility for Programming and Projects Planning to reflect the aims and the objectives of the National Disaster Management Plan is vested on the National Disaster Committee (NDC).

The National Disaster Management Plan provides guidance and direction for disaster management activities for all stakeholders and partners throughout the country, including all levels and sectors, both government and non-government. The plan has an aim, objectives and outlines the roles and responsibilities for various government levels, departments, agencies, authorities and communities. It encourages self-reliance, as it is one of the greatest assets in coping with the threat of disasters.

The plan and Act complement each other, and they have other supporting documents such as the Mitigation Policy, Five Year Cooperate Plan, Supporting Work plans, Standard Operating Procedures, and National and Provincial Response Plans, and the PNG Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management National Framework for Action 2005—2015.

Structure and Functions



The National Executive Council (NEC) comprising of members of the National Parliament makes final decisions for any disaster policy matters. The National Executive Council is guided by the National Disaster Committee, which comprises of heads of key National Government agencies who are vested with additional responsibility of Disaster Management.

Such departments include; Provincial & Local Government Affairs, Finance, Health, Works, National Planning, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Police, Red-Cross and Prime Minister and National Executive Council. The Chairman of the committee is the head of Department of Provincial & Local Government Affairs.

This committee is the decision making body of any emergency or disaster matters. When there is a matter concerning other departments, NGO's or churches they are co-opted. The PNG Disaster Management Act also allows the other Departmental Heads, NGOs and the national Churches as Co-opt members.

Adhoc sub-committees are formed for the purpose of mitigating the disaster at hand e.g. Water Sub-Committee to advise on water matters and the Awareness & Preparedness Committee to advise on the type of information to be disseminated to the public on how best to avoid heavy impacts of disasters, Disaster Education & Training Committee to advise on disaster training.

Membership is comprised of technical and specialized government and non-government officers in the disaster related fields. Similar arrangements are made at the provincial level with the Provincial Disaster Committee (PDC) except that instead of the Secretaries of the departments, the advisors or managers of the line departments become members of the Provincial Disaster Committees.

Sub-committees or working groups are established for the special occasions or purposes, e.g. when a disaster occurs, and these are abolished when the purpose for which they were instigated does no longer exist. The National Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Committee, however, was formed in 1998 during the Aitape Tsunami, and this has been maintained to date due to the important functions it has to fulfill.

The committee comprises of technical and specialized government and non-government officers in the disaster related fields. The Papua New Guinea Disaster Management system is headed by the National Disaster Committee who is responsible to the National Executive Council through the Minister for Inter-Government Relations.

National Disaster Management Agencies

The existing Emergency and Disaster Management arrangements of Papua New Guinea are as outlined below:

The Disaster Management Act 1984 (revised 1987) provides the mandate for the Centre through the National Disaster Committee. The "National Disaster Centre" (NDC) is established under the Disaster Management Act and the National Disaster Committee.

The National Disaster Centre acts as the executive arm of the National Disaster Committee and is responsible for carrying out its day-to-day responsibilities. The Minister for Inter-Government Relations and Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA) is the responsible government department directly responsible for disaster management in Papua New Guinea.

The DM Act is being reviewed to strengthen collaboration and coordination across Government and with Provincial, District and Local levels as well as with partners and other stakeholders with a view to greater efficiency and electiveness in relation to all phases of the DRM cycle: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The National Disaster Committee

The National Disaster Committee comprises of the Commander of the Defence Force, the Police Commissioner and Departmental heads of various government departments including the Prime Minister's Office, Finance, Health, Works, Defence, Police, Foreign Affairs, National Planning, and Provincial and Local Governments. The Committee is chaired by the Secretary of DPLGA.

The Committee's responsibilities as stipulated in the Act are to:

- Supervise the national state of preparedness for emergencies and disasters and report on it to the National Executive Council;
- Maintain the National Emergency Plan;
- Assign responsibilities for disaster related activities to Departments and other bodies;
- Advise NEC if assistance required;
- Lay down guidelines for the preparation and format of provincial disaster plans;
- Approve grants;
- Foster public awareness of the effects of natural hazards & measures which can be taken to reduce their effects;
- Supervise establishment of stockpiles of relief supplies; and
- Advise the National Executive Council of all the circumstances and on the advisability of declaring a National Emergency.

Secretariat support to the Committee is provided by the National Disaster Centre. The Secretariat coordinates with the above departments and agencies in mitigating the effects and impacts of disasters in Papua New Guinea.

The National Disaster Centre

The National Disaster Centre (NDC) within the Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs was established by an Act of Parliament to manage and coordinate rapid responses to the impacts of natural disasters in PNG. The Centre is headed by the Director, who is appointed by the National Executive Council (NEC). The NDC is the implementing arm of the National Disaster Committee.

The responsibilities of the National Disaster Centre as stipulated in the Act are to:

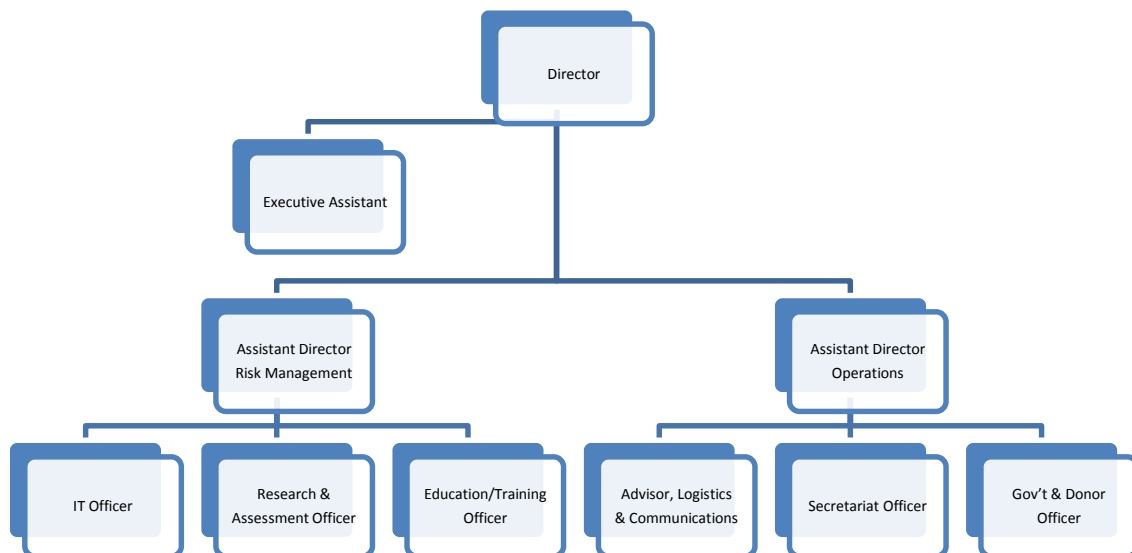
- Advise National Disaster Committee on all disaster management and disaster risk management matters;
- Coordinate national relief efforts;
- Act as the secretariat to National Disaster Committee and its subcommittees;
- Maintain a network of disaster management liaison officers;
- Report annually to National Disaster Committee on its activities;
- Provide advice and support for Provincial Disaster Committees;
- Assist with disaster management training for all levels and sectors when appropriate;
- Implement policies and decisions of National Disaster Committee.

The NDC has embraced the principles of disaster management through Disaster Management Cycle where it spells out the importance of (i) before disaster, (ii) during disaster and (iii) post disaster management. That was why PNG Mitigation Policy was established in later 2003.

There are two divisions that made up the centre. Risk Management Division is responsible for preparedness and mitigation of disasters and emergencies, and the Operations Division is responsible for disaster response and emergencies in the country as well as corporate affairs. Each of the division is headed by an Assistant Director.

While the NDC is tasked with coordinating all disaster related activities, in reality the budget, human resources and government commitment to this Centre are insufficient to undertake risk reduction and response activities. However, the National Treasury holds an annual contingency disaster response budget of K50m which the NDC can submit disaster response proposals to be approved and funded.

In line with the devolved powers to the provinces, the responsibility of responding to emergencies or disasters includes Provincial Authorities. Both the National Disaster Centre (NDC) and the Provincial Disaster Committees have the primary responsibility for implementing and coordinating the disaster counter measure activities before, during and after disaster and emergency situations.



The Provincial Disaster Committees

The draft National Framework for action cites a lack of capacity for disaster management at provincial level. The draft Framework also mentions plans to integrate DRM into provincial level planning and budgeting and include disaster risk assessments into investment decisions at the community level. The NDM Act provides for the establishment of Provincial Disaster Committees which should be responsible for preparing emergency plans for the provinces and coordinate relief operations.

According to the World Bank assessment, only four of the 19 provinces have operational disaster management arrangements. While there is reasonable awareness among provinces, there is an extreme shortfall in resources to implement disaster risk management

activities at the sub-national level, and focus is solely on response rather than preparedness or mitigation. As well as a lack of budgetary resources, there is a lack of human resource capacity to create sub-national disaster action plans.

The Provincial Disaster Committees are established by Section 9 of the DM Act of 1987.

The membership is comprised of the:

- Head of the Provincial Administration or in case of NCD, Manager of the National Capital District Commission as Chairman;
- Provincial Police Commander or in case of NCD, Commander NCD/Central;
- Provincial Works Manager or in case of NCD, City Engineer;
- Provincial Health Advisor (Officer) or in case of NCD, Health Officer;
- Officer-In -Charge of Provincial Affairs;
- Officer-In-Charge of Delegated Functions; and
- NGOs rep and other co-opted Members

The Provincial Disaster Coordinator is the secretariat to the Provincial Disaster Committee (PDC).

The basic roles and functions of the Provincial Disaster Committees are to:

- Provide and render advice to the Provincial Executive Council (PEC) through the Governor in ensuring that development plans for the province take into account hazards prone to the Province;
- Conduct assessments on particular hazards prone or common in the province;
- Prepare contingency plans for respective hazards and supervise the state of preparedness for emergencies in the Province;
- Foster public awareness on natural phenomena and mitigation measures; and organize training of relief workers in the province.

Mitigation Policy

The National Disaster Mitigation Policy was approved by the National Executive Council (NEC) in 2003 and was launched in 2004. It changed the emphasis in disaster management from disaster response to preparedness and mitigation. NDC had been promoting the policy in its provinces with DM partners.

The National Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Committee

The committee is a sub-committee of the National Disaster Committee and was established in early 1999. The committee is a coordinating and advisory body that has no executive powers.

The functions of the committee are to promote awareness and preparedness of natural and other hazards throughout PNG, provide technical advice of the highest possible stand to the Government of the PNG and other civil authorities in regard to natural and other hazards, to encourage and coordinate scientific investigations that are relevant to natural and other hazards in PNG and to improve communication and cooperation amongst those concerned with disaster reduction.

HAZARDS & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

VOLCANIC ERUPTION:	The Rabaul Volcano Observatory	Telephone: 982 1699/982 1656/982 4010 Facsimile: 982 1004 Email: hguria@global.net.pg
EARTHQUAKE:	The Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory Office	Telephone: 321 4500 Facsimile: 321 3976 Email: pmgo@daltron.com.pg
LANDSLIDE:	The Geological Survey Office	Telephone: 321 5888/321 1973/320 0692 Facsimile: 321 1360 Email: joebuleka@mineral.gov.pg
FLOOD:	The Geological Survey Office	Telephone: 321 5888/321 1973/320 0692 Facsimile: 321 1360 Email: joebuleka@mineral.gov.pg
TSUNAMI:	The Port Moresby Geophysical Observatory Office	Telephone: 321 4500 Facsimile: 321 3976 Email: pmgo@daltron.com.pg
DROUGHT:	National Weather Office:	Telephone: 324 4587/324 4476/324 4583 Facsimile: 325 2740 Email kluana@pngmet.gov.pg or smaiha@pngmet.gov.pg
	NARI:	Telephone: 475 1444/475 1445/475 1446 Facsimile: 475 1450 Email: naridg@global.net.pg
FROST:	National Weather Office:	Telephone: 324 4587/324 4476/324 4583 Facsimile: 325 2740 Email: kluana@pngmet.gov.pg or smaiha@pngmet.gov.pg
	NARI:	Telephone: 475 1444/475 1445/475 1446 Facsimile: 475 1450 Email: naridg@global.net.pg

CYCLONE:	The National Weather Office	Telephone: 324 4587/324 4476/324 4583 Facsimile: 325 2740 Email: kluana@pngmet.gov.pg or smaiha@pngmet.gov.pg
STRONG WINDS:	The National Weather Office	Telephone: 324 4587/324 4476/324 4583 Facsimile: 325 2740 Email: kluana@pngmet.gov.pg or smaiha@pngmet.gov.pg
DISEASE OUTBREAKS:	The Department of Health	Telephone: 301 3834/301 3836 Email: andrew_solien@health.gov.pg
FIRE:	The PNG Fire Service	Telephone: 325 5188/325 5205/685 7680 Facsimile: 325 3087 Email: fire@daltron.com.pg
PLANE CRASH:	The Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC)	Telephone: 324 4635/325 6885 Facsimile: 325 0749/325 6787 Email: atukana@caa.com.pg
SEA MISHAP:	The Marine Search and Rescue Centre (MARSAR) Office	Telephone: 321 1244/ Mob: 681 3721 Facsimile: 321 0873 Email: eeke@nmsa.gov.pg
ACCIDENTS:	Police:	Telephone: "000"/324 4200 Facsimile: 325 4833
	The St John Ambulance	Telephone: 325 52909/ 686 1003 Facsimile: 325 4637 Email: stjohn@datec.net.pg