



**Acronym:** CDERA

**Full Name:** Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency

**Website:** <http://www.cdera.org/index.php>

**Established:** 1991

**Location:** St Michael, Barbados

**Areas of expertise:** Disaster management

**Main Partners and Collaborations:** Organization of American States (OAS), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

**Short Description:**

The regional inter-governmental agency was established in September 1991 by an Agreement of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM to be responsible for disaster management. There are presently sixteen Participating States within CDERA's membership. CDERA's main function is to make an immediate and coordinated response to any disastrous event affecting any Participating State, once the state requests such assistance. Securing, collating and channeling to interested governmental and non-governmental organizations, comprehensive and reliable information on disasters affecting the region; Mitigating or eliminating as far as possible, the consequences of disasters affecting Participating States. Establishing and maintaining on a sustainable basis, adequate disaster response capabilities among Participating States; and mobilizing and coordinating disaster relief from governmental and non-governmental organizations for affected Participating States. With more than US\$5 billion in losses to the Caribbean in the last two decades of the 20th Century, the Agency has refocused its attention on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) which is a new thrust in disaster management for the 21st Century.

**Main activities:**

CDERA focuses on all cycles of a hazard, involving all sectors of the society, and concentrating on all hazards. This strategy has been endorsed by all member states and accepted by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) which will see it being promoted in the Latin American states of the ACS. At the crux of CDM is a well informed and aware public and activities to achieve full compliance with CDM are at the heart of the CDEA operation.

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