



Community Risk Reduction



Safer, Healthier
Communities

FORESTIERE

VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

March 2010





Acknowledgements

The dedication of persons from the Forestiere community, who attended and participated in the VCA training, and the support from the Principal of the Forestiere Combined School, who made the school available for conducting the weekly sessions, were paramount in getting this document finalized. The community members of Forestiere reflected the camaraderie and spirit that has been synonymous with St. Lucian communities. The service given to the process by the volunteers from the St. Lucia Red Cross National Intervention Team continues to reflect the dedication of the organization in ensuring that our communities are safer and healthier.

Special thanks, to the Development Officer, Ms. Gustave for the support in sensitizing and mobilizing the community to participate in the process.



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Abstract

Initial focus group sessions and community meetings commenced in December of 2009 to mobilize the community and build an awareness of the VCA process and the project within the community. The actual VCA sessions started in January of 2010. During the early stages of the VCA training, the initial participation was indeed low; however, with some community sensitization, a final core group of fifteen (15) participants became regular attendees. The core group of VCA participants came from a wide cross section of the community and their various professions added to the diversity of the group.

The training sessions took place predominantly on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm at the Forestiere Combined School, which also an emergency shelter. During the time period and, January to April, a total of ten training sessions were carried out with the project team. A number of other meeting sessions were organized by the participants themselves to facilitate the data collection.

The group members continue to meet as they finalize plans for the execution of the community micro project and put other plans in place for the sensitization of the community especially during the hurricane season.



Foreword

The present VCA study was carried out through a series of community meetings from December 2009 to March 2010 with various organizations in Forestiere and the residents of the community

This study is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regional project “Improving the preparedness of Caribbean communities to respond to disasters affecting their locality”. This program, implemented in 2010-2011, covers the National Societies of Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam, Bahamas, Guyana, St. Kitts and Antigua, through the support of the European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and the United States Office for Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Acronyms

CIA	Change / Influence / Accept
CIT	Change / Influence / Transform
ECHO	European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
OFDA	United States Office for Disaster Assistance
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
NEMO	National Emergency and Management Organisation
SLURC	St. Lucia Red Cross
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CDRT	Community Disaster Response Team



Introduction

In December 2009, Forestiere embarked on a journey of self-analysis, examining its strengths and weaknesses, the external and internal threats and the resources it has to cope with these threats. Heads of households, local leaders of religious and sports groups, and workers of all trades discussed the history of their community and the problems they encounter. They shared their experiences and their tips for overcoming daily difficulties. As a group, they identified the main problems ahead and discussed the future of their common home.

The process was organized by volunteers and staff of the St. Lucia Red Cross Society (SLURC) as part of a region-wide attempt to improve community-based disaster preparedness. The community work was based on the methodology known as “Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment,” or VCA. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and understand the most pressing issues and threats in the community (vulnerabilities) while simultaneously identifying the local and external resources available to minimize the risks to the villagers (capacity).

The VCA approach is composed of a series of tools for community-based participatory consultations to ensure a better understanding of how the community functions. Behind this process lies the assumption that a community more aware of its own limitations can better organize itself to overcome them. In the context of the SLURC project, the stated objective was to improve the capacity of the community to cope with the disaster-related risks in its environment.

To this end, the first section summarizes the results from the VCA process, as carried out in Forestiere. It presents the history, the local dynamics and the coming challenges as perceived by the people who live in Forestiere. Although this program specifically focuses on natural disasters and hazard mitigation strategies, the results presented in this first section provide guidelines for a broader approach towards sustainable community development.

The second section focuses on the output from the community focus groups in relation to the risks faced by the community: What are the main risks? Can they be mitigated? By whom? Using the results presented in the proposed Action Plan, the community members – supported by SLURC teams – will identify and implement strategies to mitigate these risks. The information gathered here will also provide the necessary baseline information for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the community.



Part 1: Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment of Forestiere

What is VCA?

Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) is a participatory investigative process designed to assess the risks that people face in their locality, their vulnerability to those risks, and the capacities they possess to cope with a hazard and recover from it when it strikes. Through VCA, National Societies can work with vulnerable communities to identify the risks and take steps to reduce them by drawing on their own skills, knowledge and initiative. **In sum, VCA helps people to prepare for hazards, to prevent them from turning into disasters and to mitigate their effects.**¹

Vulnerability can be defined as:

The characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of natural or man-made hazards.

The definition of vulnerability suggests that it cannot be described without reference to a specific hazard or shock. So, the question that must always be asked is, "Vulnerability to what?" People living along coastal areas or rivers may be vulnerable to seasonal storms and flooding, while the inhabitants of countries with social, political and economic problems may face difficulties in achieving a satisfactory and sustainable quality of life.

*The reverse of vulnerability is **capacity**, which can be described as:
The resources of individuals, households, communities, institutions and nations to resist the impact of a hazard.*

The coping strategies of people in response to various hazards will differ from one society to another and will often change over time. People in chronically-prone countries facing multiple hazards, such as drought, locust infestation and civil unrest, find their capacity levels weakening, reducing their ability to mitigate the effects of the next crisis.²

¹ Quoted from *VCA toolbox with reference sheets*, IFRC, Geneva, 2007, page 6.

² Quote and definitions from *Vulnerability and capacity assessment, An International Federation Guide*, IFRC, Geneva, 1999, page 11-12.



How is the VCA carried out?

The VCA process relies on a few key principles:

Data collection: Preliminary data can be collected through the use of questionnaires developed specifically for each community or for each type of hazard. However, as information is not always immediately available on the ground – because of time constraints, security issues or financial resources – the VCA process also relies on the gathering of secondary data. Precious information about the community can be gathered from research by government bodies, the United Nations and other development- and research-based organizations.

Community participation: The goal of the VCA process is to empower the community to allow it to respond on its own to the risks to which it is subjected – or allow it to identify those who can help it to respond. For this reason, community members constitute the core of the process. The main criterion for a successful VCA is the receptiveness of the local community and its willingness to be an active part of the process. Only if all vulnerable groups are included can they find collective answers to the threats they face.

Sharing information: The VCA process helps the community understand its relation to its environment. Through discussions among neighbors and the collection of data, the community members will be better able to understand – and therefore reduce – the threats to which it is subjected. The final VCA document also offers an opportunity to share information beyond the community by bringing up issues to the relevant authorities, partner organizations or local leaders.

The VCA is mainly used ***to identify in advance, and change where possible, the conditions that create or contribute to the state of vulnerability of at-risk populations.***³ As such, the main usefulness of VCA comes from an improved understanding of the risks and of measures to mitigate those risks. To gather all information relevant to a better understanding of the community, the following steps have been followed:

1. Review of secondary sources: this first crucial step consists in collecting information that already exists, to avoid duplicating efforts already carried out. Most of this phase consists in collecting written material, or identifying all resources relating to a better understanding of the community;
2. Direct observation: A summary presentation of the community, by someone external, often allows to get a first impression of the local dynamics and main issues;
3. Focus group discussions: The heart of the VCA process lies in this phase of community interaction, using tools for the involvement of all stakeholders.

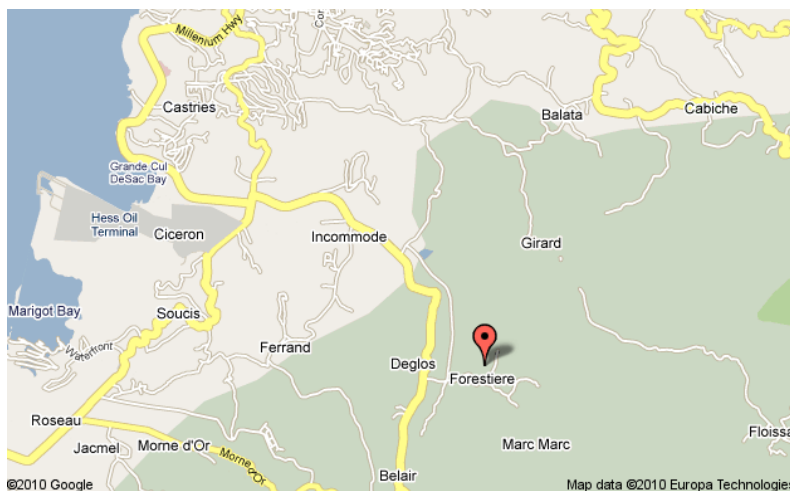
Based on these three steps (presented hereafter in points 1, 2 and 3), disaster-related information has been gathered and is presented in part 2.

³ Idem, page 12, emphasis added.



1. Gathering data from secondary sources

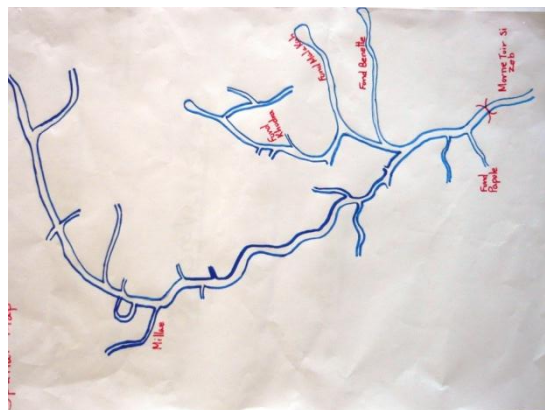
Location of the community



The community of Forestiere is located in the northwest interior of St. Lucia: Lat – 13.961273 Long: -60.96602

Population of the Community

600



Map of the Forestiere Community



2. Direct observation

The small community of Forestiere is located in the interior North-West portion of the island which forms part of the forested region of St. Lucia, just about 9Km away from the main City of Castries. The community is considered rural with a large portion of lands being allocated in the past to main the banana industry. Due to the decline in the banana industry the community members are now involved in a number of other employment areas with construction and heavy equipment being a major focus.

- Three dominant Christian denominations are present, Methodist, Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist;
- There is no Community or Health Center, the Ti-Rocher Health Center services the community;
- 2 Church buildings, the Methodist and Seventh Day Adventists Church. Catholics from the community attend the Ti-Rocher Church;
- One Primary School – Methodist Primary;
- The community is in a forested area with high rainfall and a large percentage of forest;
- A large number of Cell phone antennas are mounted near the community due to its high elevation;
- Community is rather prone to landslides due to its precipitous nature;
- Large presence of underground streams thus the community always has water;
- Presence of a 100,000 gallon water tank to service the community;
- High presence of wooden and wall houses
- Absence of hurricane retrofitting on wooden houses;
- A percentage of houses still use pit latrines;
- 6 bars/shops in the community
- 1 field, which serves the community but has no fencing, lighting or markings;
- Good drainage on the main road but an absence of drains in the areas which make up Forestiere;
- One main exit into the community, however there are tracks through the rain forest which can be access on foot;
- Very narrow main road with poor lighting at some points;
- Good garbage collection system;
- A major concern with the haphazard driving on the Forestiere main road;
- A concern over the lost of community spirit especially among young persons;



3. Focus group discussions

A focus group discussion is a qualitative information-gathering tool whereby a group of selected individuals, guided by a facilitator, are invited to give their thoughts and views on a specific issue.⁴

To facilitate the process of interaction with key community stakeholders, the International Federation has developed a series of tools for participatory appraisals. These include, but are not limited to:

- a. Historical profile;
- b. Historical visualization;
- c. Seasonal calendar;
- d. Institutional and social network analysis;
- e. Livelihoods and coping strategies analysis;
- f. Mapping;
- g. Transect Walk/Cross Section;
- h. Household/neighborhood vulnerability assessment;
- i. Assessing the capacity of people's organizations;
- j. Venn diagram.

Not all tools are used every time, nor are these tools the only ones used to encourage community mobilization. More than the tools, the success of the VCA is measured by the mobilization it induces within the targeted community.

Tool b, i and J were not used during the VCA process. The analysis of the other tools used are reflected below;

⁴ From *VCA toolbox with reference sheets*, IFRC, Geneva, 2007, page 66.



a. Historical profile

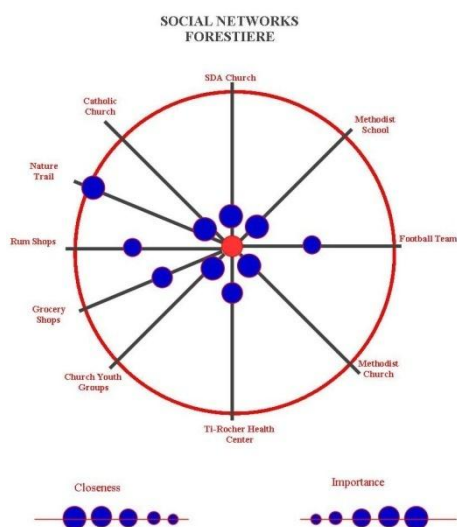
YEAR	HISTORY
1960's	Settlement of East Indian Descent in Forestiere (Gajadhar, Khodra, Ragunanan, Biroo etc)
	Settlement of First negro family (Calendar)
	Construction of Major Roads
1970's (early)	Establishment of the Forestiere Methodist School. The Methodist Church building formed part of the school structure.
1970's (late)	Electricity introduction
	Advent of Telephone (Land Line)
	Introduction of Television (Mr Marius, Ma Rock, Evelyn etc) only two television stations (CBC & HTS)
	Distribution of pipe born water
1970	First female MP (Mrs Heraldine Rock from the Forestiere Community)
	1 st Murder
	1 st Dance Hall (Mr Alexander Apooloon)
3 August, 1980	Hurricane Allen Devastation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total destruction of Banana Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damage to School - Loss of Forest
1980	Re-development of the agricultural sector (bananas)
1983	Establishment of the SDA church
	Establishment of the Gospel Hall
1990's	Introduction of 1 st Computer System (386)
2000's	Widespread use of cell phone
2006	Election of another Local citizen as a minister of Gov't (Hon Guy Joseph)
2007	Formation of the Forestiere Development Community
October, 2008	Heavy rains caused road land slippage which almost restricted access in and out of the community
2009	Dengue Outbreak (Community education was done)
2009-2010	Intervention of Red Cross to assist community to mitigate against disasters.



b. Seasonal calendar

HAZARD	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HURRICANE						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FLOODS	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DRUGS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LANDSLIDES	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COCK FIGHTING	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DRUGS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
DENGUE										X	X	X
RECKLESS DRIVING	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TEEN PREGNANCY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

c. Institutional and social network analysis



This rural community though it suffers from a lack of social institutions, 4 organisations have played an important role in the development and socialization of the community

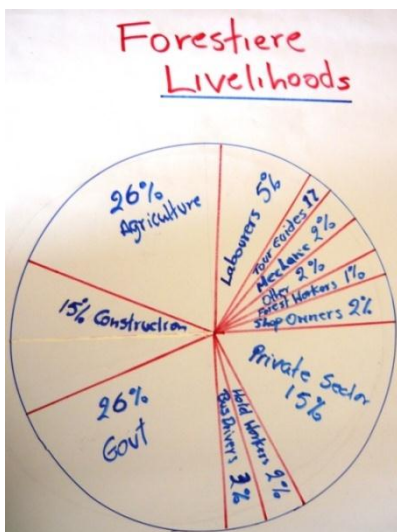
- The Methodist Primary School
- The Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist Church
- The Catholic Church
- Forestiere Development Committee

The absence of a health center directly in the community somewhat hinders the ability of the community however their needs are service by the Ti-Rocher Health Center. Responding to criminal activity such as drugs, reckless driving, paedial larceny, domestic disturbances have to be handled by the Castries Polices station which is about 9Km way from the community.

The dominant youth organizations are from the Methodist Church and Master Guides from the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The community has minimal participation in national youth or sporting activities. Though there is a seasonal football team, the absence of proper sporting facilities again hampers their development.

d. Livelihoods and coping strategies analysis

The community of Forestiere, while predominantly a farming community, has great diversity in the types of employment in which members are engaged. The following pie chart reflects the occupations in which most of the Forestiere community members are employed.



While the agricultural industry has been plagued with a number of issues, particularly the failing banana industry of which a large portion of the Forestiere farmers were a part along with animal husbandry, still continues to be a great area of employment particularly of the older members of the population. Younger persons are involved widely in private and government sector employment.

1. Construction workers
2. Mechanics/technicians
3. Hotel workers
4. Private sector workers
5. Teachers
6. Farmers
7. Government workers
8. Business owners

While there have been concern over the lost of community spirit particularly among the youthful population, during the time of disasters or emergencies area of assistance comes from the following sectors of the population;

- a. Church members
- b. Family
- c. Friends
- d. Neighbours
- e. Other outside organizations(private or governmental)

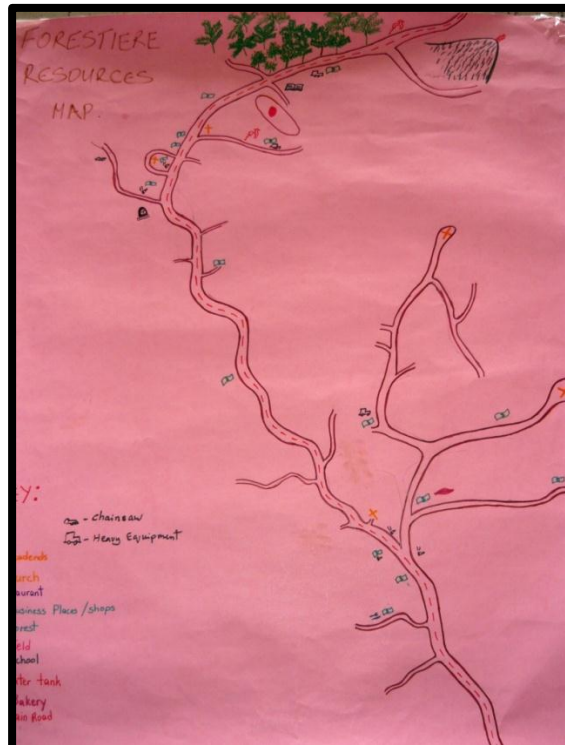
The major concern when it comes to disasters in this community due to past experiences has been lost of livelihood because of crop damage and landslides affecting access to and from the community. Because of its unique and elevated location, Forestiere can be easily cut-off via the main road from the rest of the island. During such disasters the major areas which get affecting in relation to sustenance and other factors of community life are as follows:

1. Amount of monies spent on transportation; therefore, less travelling
2. Purchasing of processed foods (milk, cereals, flour and canned foods)
3. Fuel

e. Mapping



(Hazard map of Forestiere)



(Resource map of Forestiere)

f. Cross Section/Transect Walk

The Cross Section/Transect Walk of the Forestiere Community focused on the six major areas of Forestiere:

- Fond Khodra
- Fond Malakan
- Fond Deveaux
- Fond Benette
- Fond Papole
- Morne Trois Si Zeb



(Fond Deveaux area)

Within the six areas, the community called Fond Deveau was deemed most vulnerable due to its location, elevation and poor drainage and access issues; The transect walk result are reflected below:



Type of Ground	Hilly and sloping
Livelihoods	Bus drivers, farming, private and government sector workers, construction and technicians;
Risk/hazards	Soil erosion, landslides, groundwater contamination, fallen trees and electrical poles;
Conditions that increase vulnerability	Sloppy ground, absence of drains and proper access roads, poorly constructed houses, closeness of houses, pit latrines, construction of homes close to trees and electrical poles, deforestation;
Beliefs and values	Religious views, volunteerism and community oriented
Capacities	Food production, rain water harvesting, Road access, construction workers and technicians, disaster response training;
Natural environment	Water, forested area

g. Household/neighborhood vulnerability assessment

The assessment highlighted the major vulnerabilities of the community with respect to the households and neighborhood. The precipitous nature of the community and its location being in a forested region of St. Lucia has left it vulnerable to a number of events:

- Tropical Storm Debby: 1994 (crop damage)
- Land Slide : 1998
- Hurricane Ivan: 2004
- Hurricane Dean: 2007
- Heavy rains- landslides and crop lost (2008)

The assessment of the 6 communities in Forestiere identified the following vulnerabilities as being major issues of concern for residents:

- The homes in the community of Fond Deveau have very poor roof construction;
- Close proximity of houses to the main road;
- The reckless driving (drag racing) practiced by the youth along the main road especially on evenings;
- The placement of the electrical meter to power the pump of the WASCO water tank is within the reach of community members;
- A large presence of Pit latrines in all of the major parts of the community;
- The entire community of Forestiere is prone to landslides especially the Fond Khodra area which has been impacted by a major landslide in 2008 resulting in one death and lost of a home. The land slippage is still very active;
- The lack of access roads for emergency vehicles in the all the areas in Forestiere;
- The large number of derelict vehicles which foster a rodent problem;
- The absence of a bus shelter;
- The lack of lighting safety signs along the Forestiere main road
- A large number of bars/rum shops;
- Emergency shelter is inappropriate;
- The and drainages presents a high level of concern to the community;



- A high level of loitering and delinquency seems to result in criminal activity usually by the young men of the community;
- The dangerous bends in road the absence of a safe crossing zone for primary school students;
- The location of the WASCO water tank being prone to land slippage

Another concern for the community is the vulnerability of its major physical resources. The following list shows the vulnerabilities of the community's major resources:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. WASCO water tank | : Prone to landslide |
| 2. Methodist Church | : Prone to landslide |
| 3. Methodist School | : Fallen trees |
| 4. SDA Church | : Fallen trees |
| 5. Access Road | : Prone to land slippage |

Part 2: Risk assessment in Forestiere

The VCA process made it possible for the St. Lucia Red Cross Society (SLURC) to get to know Forestiere, while allowing the community members to share their knowledge, fears and ideas. At the same time the project has offered a unique opportunity to go from theory to practice.

The SLURC – in collaboration with partner agencies and local community stakeholders – has used the VCA method to identify and solve problems within their capability. In particular, as the following pages will show, the implementation of the VCA tools improves understanding of:

- ✓ the nature and level of risks that vulnerable people face;
- ✓ where these risks come from;
- ✓ who will be the worst affected;
- ✓ what is available at all levels to reduce the risks; and
- ✓ what initiatives can be undertaken to strengthen the impact of programs to raise the capacity of people at risk.

Methodology for a Risk assessment

The following five-step approach was used with the Forestiere community members:

1. The first step meant identifying for each hazard the **Potential Risks to the community**: the areas of vulnerability and the capacity that exists within the community.
2. The second step required identifying for each Hazard **Actions that could be undertaken** to transform vulnerabilities identified into capacities.
3. The third step consisted of differentiating the types of measures, whether they related to prevention, mitigation or preparation for response.
4. The fourth step involved a CIA Analysis, in which participants considered each and every action to transform vulnerability into a capacity and decide whether such changes were realistic.
5. The fifth and final step involved identifying a Plan of Action that could be implemented by the community. While a number of actions were identified, this final step identified realistic actions. It should be noted that the information gathered and the specific actions identified below, while not reflected in the final plan of action, are still relevant and needed and could be utilized by other agencies.



The results of these five steps are presented hereafter (points 1 through 5 below).

1. Identifying hazards and their potential impact on the community

Hazard	Potential Risk	Vulnerability	Capacity
Land Slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of homes• Loss of livelihoods• Death• Loss of physical assets• Loss of natural resources in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fond Deveau• Fond Khodra• Entrance To Community• Near Wayne and Vincent homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavy equipment operators• Disaster response personnel• Technicians• Minibus drivers – transportation• Chainsaw operators• CDRT Groups• Development Committee
Criminal Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of property• Death• Loss of physical resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth• Children• Older persons left alone at home• unemployed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community leaders• Church Youth Groups• Football team• Development Committee
Overhanging Trees near residential area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homes• Loss of educational opportunities for a period of times• Loss of place of worship• Loss of physical resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upper Forestiere area from: (Fond Deveau upwards)• Homes in the Fond Deveau area• SDA church• Methodist Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavy equipment operators• Disaster response personnel• Technicians• Minibus drivers – transportation• Chainsaw operators• First Aid responders• CDRT group• Development Committee



Extreme Fast Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of life • Damage to personal property • Loss of physical resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire community - Students attending the Primary school; - Elderly persons; - Businesses and homes along the main Forestiere road; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid responders • CDRT group • Development Committee • Community Leaders
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2. Local capacity to respond to hazards

HAZARD	Vulnerabilities identified	Actions to transform vulnerabilities into capacities
Land Slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fond Deveau • Fond Khodra • Entrance To Community • Near Wayne and Vincent homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In order to build a safer community the group will educate the community in the practices of adherence to proper building practices. ✓ Engage the owners of heavy duty equipment in discussions regarding the use of their equipment in the event of a disaster. ✓ The group will also engage in the sourcing of funding to tackle the areas that are more prone to land slippage. - The entrance of the community is prone to land slippage. There is only one entrance and exit to the community in the event of such a disaster, the entire community will be cut off. The engagement of the Parliamentary Rep in identifying an alternative exit is very essential at this point
Criminal Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Children • Older persons left alone at home • unemployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the Police in arresting and convicting persons engaging in such activities. - Organize community watch groups
Overhanging Trees near residential area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Forestiere area from: (Fond Deveau upwards) • Homes in the Fond Deveau area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To get together with the Department of Forestry and the entire community to cut down the trees that are near the residential areas



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDA church• Methodist Primary School	
Extreme Fast Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entire community<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Students attending the Primary school;- Elderly persons; Businesses and homes along the main Forestiere road;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with perpetrators to discuss our concerns<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inform the authorities of our concerns, especially of the non-licensed drivers• Work with the authorities to apprehend and stop this dangerous practice



3. Type of measures to mitigate disasters

The third step consisted of separating the types of measures into three categories:

- Prevention actions: action which tries to reduce the probability of a disaster in the community;
- Mitigation actions: action that attempts to protect, strengthen, rehabilitate or reconstruct;
- Preparation actions: action that aims to strengthen the capacity of the community of Forestiere to respond in an effective and efficient manner

Identifying prevention, preparation and mitigation activities

Actions to transform vulnerabilities to capacities	Prevention	Preparation	Mitigation
Land Slides	✓ In order to build a safer community the group will educate the community in the practices of adherence to proper building practices .	✓ Engage the owners of heavy duty equipment in discussions regarding the use of their equipment in the event of a disaster. ✓ The engagement of the Parliamentary Rep and other community members in identifying an alternative exit is very essential at this point	✓ The group will also engage in the sourcing of funding to tackle the areas that are more prone to land slippage.
Criminal Activities	✓ Work with the Police in arresting and	✓ Report criminal activities to the police	✓ Organize community watch groups ✓ Organize matches against such activities



	convictin g persons engaging in such activities.		
Overhanging Trees near residential area	✓ To get together with the Departm ent of Forestry and the entire communi ty to cut down the trees that are near the residenti al areas	✓ Use of Chainsaws from persons in the community	✓ Write to the Department of Forestry regarding our concerns
Extreme Fast Driving	✓ Work with the authoriti es to apprehe nd and stop this dangero us practice	✓ Inform the authorities of our concerns, especially of the non-licensed drivers	✓ Meet with perpetrators to discuss our concerns



4. Ability to act on hazards (CIT analysis)

The fourth step involves a CIT Analysis⁵ in which participants considered each and every action to transform vulnerability into a capacity and decide whether such changes were realistic. Each problematic situation had to be categorized according to the three possible options:

- the situation can be **changed** with the participation of the people at risk;
- the situation cannot be changed directly, but could be **influenced** by the people at risk so that third parties can offer a solution to the identified need; or
- the situation cannot be changed or influenced and the community needs to **Transform** the threat.

Actions to transform vulnerabilities into capacities	Prevention	C I T	Preparation	C I T	Mitigation	CIT
Land Slides	In order to build a safer community the group will educate the community in the practices of adherence to proper building practices	C			The group will also engage in the sourcing of funding to tackle the areas that are more prone to land slippage.	I
			Engage the owners of heavy duty equipment in discussions regarding the use of their equipment in the event of a disaster.	I		
			The engagement of the Parliamentary Rep and other community members in identifying an alternative exit is very essential at this point	I		
Criminal Activities	Work with the Police in arresting and convicting persons engaging in such activities.	I	Report criminal activities to the police	C	Organize community watch groups	C

⁵ CIT: C = change, I = influence, A = Transform.



					Organize matches against such activities	
Overhanging Trees near residential area	To get together with the Department of Forestry and the entire community to cut down the trees that are near the residential areas	I	Use of Chainsaws from persons in the community	C	Write to the Department of Forestry regarding our concerns	I
Extreme Fast Driving	Work with the authorities to apprehend and stop this dangerous practice	I	Inform the authorities of our concerns, especially of the non-licensed drivers	I	Meet with perpetrators to discuss our concerns	C



5. Plan of action

Plan of action:

Hazards/Issues	Vulnerable Areas	Community's Contribution	Action Plan		
(1) Land Slippage *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fond Deveau - Fond Khodra - Entrance To Community - Near Wayne and Vincent homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education of Residents - Use of Heavy Equipment for clearing in the event of slippage - Encourage residents to use guttering in their houses - Sourcing of Funding to build walls and baskets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In order to build a safer community the group will educate the community in the practices of adherence to proper building practices. ✓ Engage the owners of heavy duty equipment in discussions regarding the use of their equipment in the event of a disaster. ✓ The group will also engage in the sourcing of funding to tackle the areas that are more prone to land slippage. ✓ The entrance of the community is prone to land slippage. There is only one entrance and exit to the community in the event of such a disaster, the entire community will be cut off. The engagement of the Parliamentary Rep in identifying an alternative exit is very essential at this point 		
(1)Criminal	Entire	-Organize community	✓ Work with the Police		



Activities*	Community	watch groups - Report criminal activities to the police - Organize matches against such activities	in arresting and convicting persons engaging in such activities.
(2) Overhanging Trees near residential area	Upper Part Forest Area	-Write to the Department of Forestry regarding our concerns - Use of Chainsaws from persons in the community	✓ To get together with the Department of Forestry and the entire community to cut down the trees that are near the residential areas
(3) Extreme Fast Driving	Entire Community	- Meet with perpetrators to discuss our concerns - Inform the authorities of our concerns, especially of the non-licensed drivers	✓ Work with the authorities to apprehend and stop this dangerous practice

Conclusion: The next steps

The completion of the VCA training for the community of Forestiere has indeed positioned them to be a safer and healthier community. The group has now completed the CDRT training along with the Disaster Simulation and has put together an executive committee to execute the duties of the group and better facilitate their operations within the community.

With the upcoming hurricane season, has commenced working with the various households in putting together family emergency plans. So far the group has worked with a 150 households. The group has been working with the members of the Fond Deveau area to finalise the community micro project which the construction of a 60ft access route from the top to the end of the Fond Deveau section of Forestiere.



Annex 1: List of participants in the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

Resource Personnel

#	Names	Addresses
	Hubert Pierre	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Terencia Gaillard	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Bennet Charles	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Rupert Fletcher	St. Lucia Red Cross
	Mr. Ferdinand	St. Lucia Fire Service



Focus group meetings – Dates & participants

Dates	Names	Addresses
Jan 12 th 2010	Malicia James	Forestiere
Jan 19 th 2010	Alvin khodra	Forestiere
Jan 26 th 2010	Dorcine Ragunana	Forestiere
Feb 2 nd 2010	Julian Constantine	Forestiere
Feb 9 th 2010	Linus Constantine	Forestiere
Feb 16 th 2010	Kyle Constantine	Forestiere
March 2 nd 2010	Cardin Felicien	Forestiere
March 9 th 2010	Shanna St. Ville	Forestiere
March 16 th 2010	Vera Daniel	Forestiere
March 23 rd 2010	Pernuda Jawahir	Forestiere
	Yolanda Khodra	Forestiere
	Dorine Gustave	Forestiere
	Barbara Henry	Forestiere
	Augustin Henry	Forestiere
	Unifa Joseph	Forestiere
	Caran Constantine	Forestiere
	Beverly-Ann lookwa	Forestiere
	Vijaya Khodra	Forestiere
	Germain Jawahir	Forestiere
	Alyssa Gustave	Forestiere
	Peter Jn. Pierre	Forestiere
		Forestiere



The Executive Members of the Forestiere CDRT include:

NAME	POSITION	CONTACT
Mrs. Pernuda Jawahir	Chairperson	758-461-9021
Alvin Khodra	Deputy Chairperson	758-7154977
Caran Constantine	Secretary	758-287-3230
Mr. Augustin Henry	Treasurer	758-384-9200
Mr. Jermain Jawahir	Public Relations Officer	758-719-7329