# Research collaboration on Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery

Cuba’s system of disaster risk reduction and recovery (DRR&R) is unique, and has attracted international interest, particularly in relation to hurricane preparedness and recovery. Like the other islands of the Caribbean, Cuba is highly vulnerable to hurricanes, which are expected to increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change. The eventual aims of the proposed research collaboration are to (i) allow UCL researchers to investigate the Cuban approach, in order to identify whether or not there are transferable lessons that might help to improve risk reduction and recovery in other vulnerable countries of the region and beyond; and (ii) explore possibilities for further improving Cuba’s capacity for DRR&R through research collaboration with UCL; and (iii) identify sources of funding and effective methods for knowledge sharing between Cuba and her Caribbean neighbours.

Current research collaboration focuses on the first of these.

## 2018-19. Learning from the Cuban system of disaster risk reduction and recovery

Following initial discussions in Havana in May 2018, a small grant UCL Global Engagement Fund grant has been awarded for an exploratory visit to Havana by two researchers from UCL’s Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction.

The activities to be supported by this grant are:

1. **Initial UCL faculty of Population Health Sciences seminar**. October/November 2018. Dr Morris will brief for UCL academics from the involved in research on climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Response (DRR&R) on the evolution of Cuba’s DRR&R system within the context of its history and political, economic and social system. Participants will outline potential projects, and decide who best to attend Havana workshop with Dr Kelman.
2. **Collaborative workshop design**. UCL team will liaise with CENSA collaborators to agree on the programme and list of invited participants for the workshop
3. **Workshop**. February/Mary 2019. Dr Kelman, Dr Morris and one other UCL academic will travel to Havana to attend the workshop, which will be organised and hosted by CENSA with at least 10 invited participants from across Cuba’s DRR&R system. At the workshop, Cuban participants will explain the Cuban DRR&R system, and UCL academics and Cuban representatives will present and explain their research and expertise, for all to explore possibilities for collaboration.
4. **Post-workshop meetings**. A series of follow-up meetings over three days in Havana to allow the UK delegation to work closely with those Cuban researcher teams identified as the most suitable matches for UCL collaboration. Together they will prepare a full draft at least one proposal for funding for a large research collaboration project.
5. **Finalising** research design and submission of bids. On their return, UCL team will finalise and submit funding bids.