

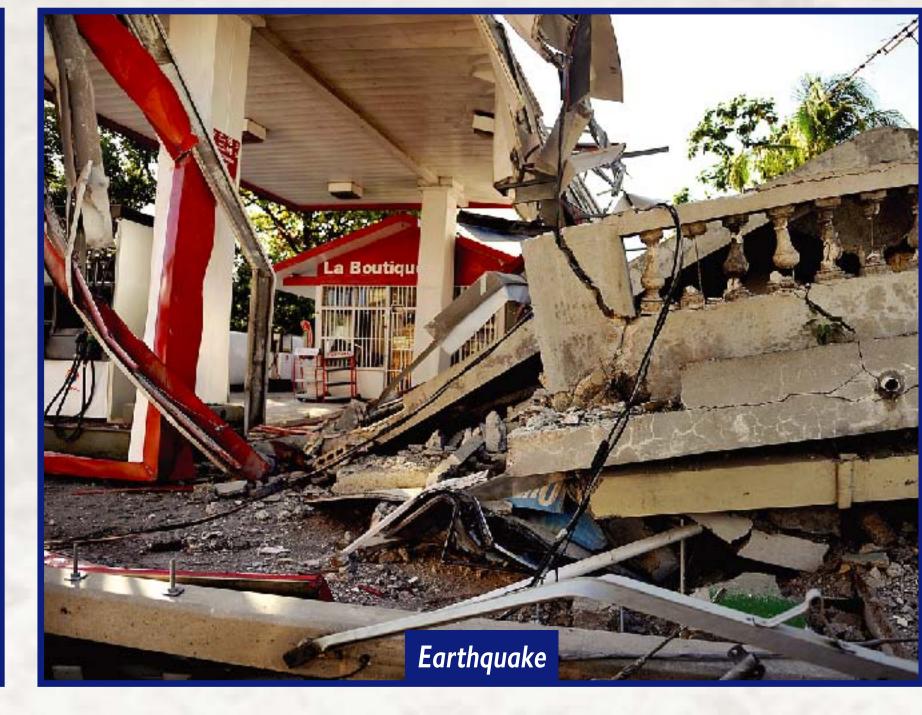
The various components of the earth system (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere) interact together to create the variety of natural phenomena on our planet. A natural phenomenon is a non-artificial event in the physical sense, and therefore not produced by

Natural phenomena

humans, although it may affect humans. Common examples of natural phenomena include earthquake, volcanic eruptions, weather, erosion.

Most natural phenomena, such as rain, are relatively harmless so far as humans are concerned.







Natural disasters

"A natural disaster can be the effect of a natural phenomenon"



A natural disaster can be seen as a rapid, instantaneous or major collision between the natural environment and the socio-economic system.

Natural disasters can be divided into three specific groups:

- hydrometeorological disasters
- geophysical disasters • biological disasters.

Geophysical disasters are sudden, calamitous, natural earth processes or phenomena that may cause loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation, which exceed the ability of the

affected community or society to cope using its own level of resources (United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction).

The loss of valuables or expensive construction, without human loss, may be a great negative effect on more developed and advanced countries but on the other hand in poorest countries the most expected consequence is human loss or the establishment of unfavourable conditions for survival.

In both cases the reason for the severe influence of natural disasters on humans is the lack of preparation and adequate infrastructure for such a case, in order to mitigate these effects. Additionally, a very important factor that increases the risk is the lack of integrated development plans and disaster recovery

> easily. The human weakness and vulnerability to natural disasters is often caused by ignorance, not only for the consequences of a disaster but also from the very limited extent which a given technology may have to alter a

for people to be able to pursue daily life more

