

## Hurricane Case Studies



# Hurricane Mitch fact file



# Impact of Hurricane Mitch



# Hurricane Katrina

Hurricane Katrina caused incredible devastation.

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, an 8.5 m (28 ft.) high **storm surge** hit the coast of Louisiana, breaking through the **levees** protecting the low-lying city of New Orleans.

Winds gusted at speeds of over 100 mph, tearing down power lines.

Torrential rain (200-350 mm, or 8-14 in.) caused flooding, washing away buildings and other **infrastructure**.



# Hurricane Katrina impact



What has happened in New Orleans since August 2005?



## **Rebuilding levees:**

In the year following the hurricane, levees were repaired to their original state. Work is still ongoing to strengthen levees against cat. 5 hurricanes.

**Wetland creation:** The hurricane destroyed large parts of the city's already fragile wetlands. These act as valuable stores of water and protect against storm surges, so a plan to restore marsh- and swamplands is in place.

New Orleans is in a very vulnerable location.  
Should the city be rebuilt or relocated?

In the U.S., hurricane warnings are issued by the National Hurricane Center. The Center uses a number of different ways to predict the path of a hurricane:

- Satellites show tropical storms as they develop.
- Ships and buoys send weather data.
- Reconnaissance aircraft, balloons and automatic surface observation stations record information about air pressure, wind speeds and rainfall.

