

Linkages between systematic observation and the work of the Executive Committee on Loss and Damage

Enhancing observations to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate –
Learning from IPCC 5th Assessment report

12 February 2015

Bonn, Germany



Overview

- The broad context: as summarized in the AR5
- Complementarity within international policy process/provisions: the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
- Opportunities for collaboration for observation community: 2-year workplan of the Executive Committee of the International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage
 - Data and information needs
 - Specific entry points for collaboration



The broad context: exemplary key findings from the AR5

Climate change is projected to amplify existing climate-related risks and create new risks for natural and human systems. Some of these risks will be limited to a particular sector or region, and others will have cascading effects. To a lesser extent, climate change is also projected to have some potential benefits.

Distribution of impacts: Risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development. Risks are already moderate because of regionally differentiated climate-change impacts on crop production in particular (*medium to high confidence*). Based on projected decreases in regional crop yields and water availability, risks of unevenly distributed impacts are high for additional warming above 2°C (*medium confidence*).

Decision support is most effective when it is sensitive to context and the diversity of decision types, decision processes, and constituencies (*robust evidence, high agreement*). Organizations bridging science and decision making, including climate services, play an important role in the communication, transfer, and development of climate-related knowledge, including translation, engagement, and knowledge exchange (*medium evidence, high agreement*).⁷¹

IPCC, AR5, WGII Summary for Policymakers



International policy development: loss and damage

- The Bali Action Plan (COP 13, 2007) – launched a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action
- The Cancun Agreements (COP 16, 2010) – implementation pathways and institutions for enhanced action on adaptation
 - Process for developing countries to formulate and implement national adaptation plans
 - Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention
 - Consideration on approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change



International policy development: loss and damage

Technical deliberations

- Systematic literature review and synthesis of existing information and knowledge to summarizing current knowledge on relevant methodologies, and addressing data requirements as well as lessons learned and gaps identified at different levels

Assessing the risk of loss and damage

- What are the data and information requirements for assessing impacts and climate risk, at different levels and for a broad range of sectors and ecosystems? What data are available and where are the gaps?
- What methods and tools are available for risk assessment, including their requirements, strengths and weaknesses, and can they address social and environmental impacts?
- What are the capacity needs for applying risk assessment methods on the ground, including for facilitating their application in developing countries?
- How can the results of risk assessments be optimally formulated in order to support decision-making? What are the desired methods for presenting the results of risk assessment exercises so that they drive decision-making?

A range of approaches to address loss and damage

- What is the full range of approaches and tools that can be used to address the risk of loss and damage, at all levels and for a broad range of sectors and ecosystems, considering both extreme weather events and slow onset events?
- What are the foundational resource requirements (e.g. budget, infrastructure, and technical capacity for implementation) in order for different strategies and tools to be effectively applied?
- What are the lessons learned from existing efforts within both the public and private sectors, considering elements of design, limitations, challenges and best practices?
- What are the links and synergies between risk reduction and other instruments such as risk transfer? How can comprehensive risk management portfolios or toolkits be designed?
- How can risk management approaches be tailored to national contexts? How can Parties and other stakeholders evaluate which tools might be most appropriate for their
- particular risks and circumstances?

International policy development: loss and damage

- Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage established (COP 19, 2013)

To address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change

includes a mandate to

complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention, as well as on that of relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, at all levels;



Functions of the Loss and Damage Mechanism

1. Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches
2. Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders;
3. Enhancing action and support to address loss and damage, so as to enable countries to undertake a range of actions, *inter alia*

... (c) The systematic observation of, and data collection on, the impacts of climate change, in particular slow onset events, and accounting for losses, as appropriate;

... (g) Enhancing access to, sharing and the use of data, at the regional, national and subnational levels, such as **hydrometeorological data and metadata**, on a voluntary basis, to facilitate the assessment and management of climate-related risk;

The Executive Committee of will guide the implementation of the functions of the International Mechanism on Loss and Damage




Entry points: 2- year workplan of the Executive Committee (Excom)

Contains 9 Action Areas from promoting comprehensive risk management perspective (assessment, reduction, transfer, retention, social protection instruments, transformation approaches


- **Enhance understanding, data and knowledge:**

- how loss and damage affects particularly vulnerable countries (AA1)
- comprehensive risk management approaches (AA2)
- slow onset events* (AA3)
- non-economic losses (AA4)
- capacity and coordination needs (AA5)
- effects on patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility (AA6)
- information related to financial instruments and tools (AA7)

 Information needs

- **Complement, draw upon the work and involve:**

- existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention and relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention (AA8)
- the establishment of expert groups, technical panels, etc. (AA8)

 Opportunities for collaboration and synergies



In the context of the L&D work under the Convention, slow onset events include: sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, desertification

(Decision 1/CP.16)

Entry points: 2-year workplan of the Excom: opportunities for collaboration

Activity	Indicative timeline
<p>Foster the establishment or strengthening of collaborative channels, building from existing efforts, to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies to enhance, share and manage knowledge and understanding of slow onset events and approaches to address them <i>(Action area 3(b))</i></p>	<p>July-Dec 2015</p>
<p>Invite relevant organizations and experts to collaborate with the Executive Committee to facilitate access to information, including through collaborative channels or databases, and technologies to track the impacts, and enable approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events <i>(Action area 3(c))</i></p>	<p>When appropriate</p>
<p>Invite relevant organizations and experts to provide scientific information on projected migration and displacement based on projected climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations <i>(Action area 6(a))</i></p>	<p>Jan-Jun 2016</p>



2-year workplan of the Executive Committee: opportunities for collaboration

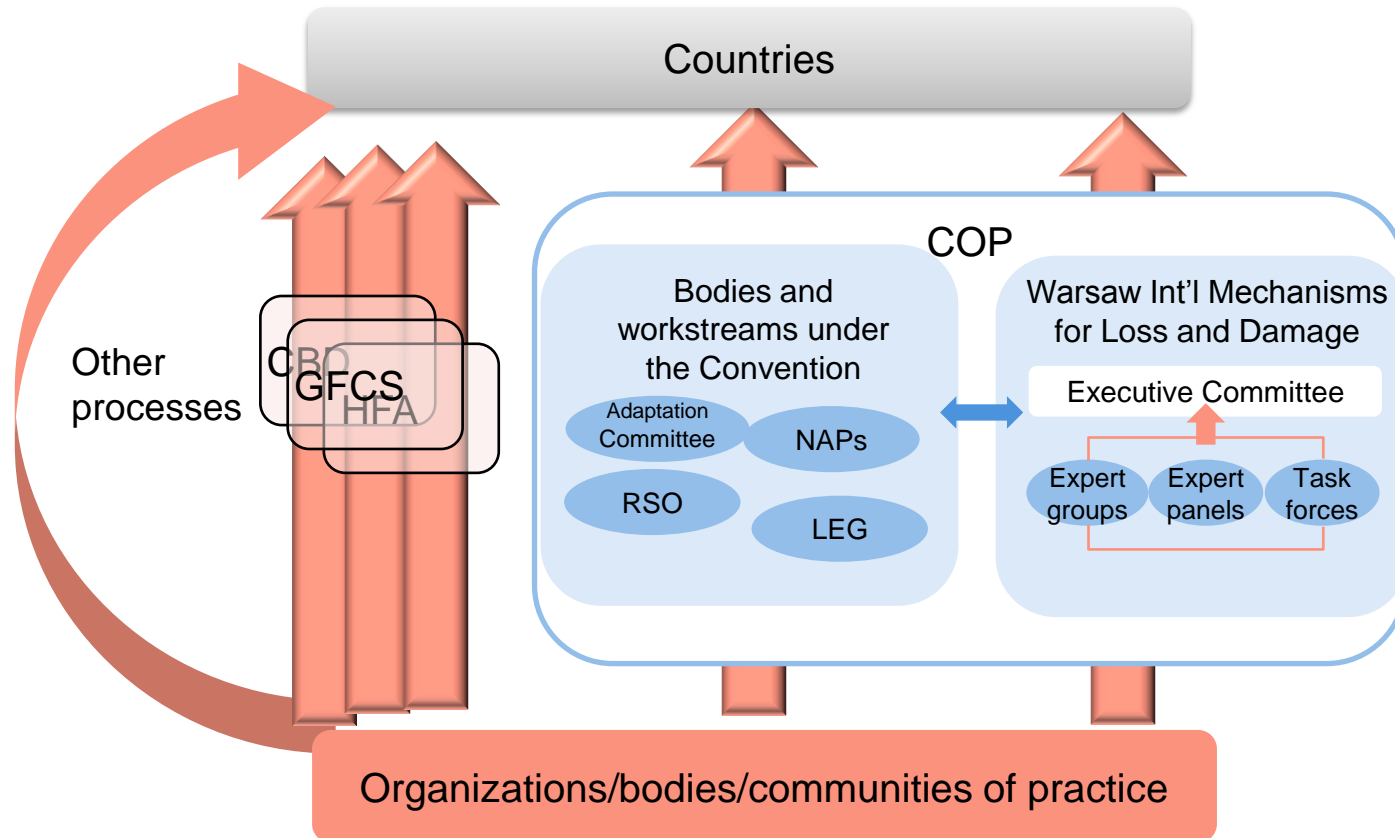
Activity	Indicative timeline
Establish a technical expert panel or group , extending invitations to relevant bodies under the Convention and relevant United Nations organizations, the private sector, expert bodies and relevant initiatives that could provide technical support and guidance on comprehensive risk management and transformational approaches (<i>Action area 2 (d)</i>)	When appropriate
Establish an expert group to develop inputs and recommendations to enhance data on and knowledge of reducing the risk of and addressing non-economic losses , including how to factor these into the planning and elaboration of measures to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change (<i>Action area 4 (b)</i>)	Jul-Dec 2015
<u>Identify gaps and identify or develop methodologies</u> to be used by national governments to enhance knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches, including issues related to finance, data , technology, regulatory environments and capacity-building, which may feed into NAPs and other relevant processes, as appropriate (<i>Action area 3(b)</i>)	July-Dec 2015



The full details of the workplan is available at <www.unfccc.int/8805>.

Challenge

Achieving effective collaboration, better coherence and improved synergies among different processes, institutional arrangements and organizations



Practical steps forward for putting in place collaboration modalities, channels, to respond to the needs of the developing countries?

Thank you!

**Further information on Loss and Damage work
under the UNFCCC**

www.unfccc.int/6056

