

UNFCCC expert meeting on a range of approaches
to address loss and damage associated with the
adverse effects of climate change, including impacts
related to extreme weather and slow onset events
for SIDS

9–11 October 2012, Bridgetown, Barbados

Session summaries

(Rapporteurs)

**Session 1 –
Framing the discussion on loss and
damage from a SIDS perspective**

On framing approaches to loss and damage:

- SIDS are highly vulnerable, but at an early stage of implementation
- Must improve understanding of characteristics of SOEs and types of approaches needed to address unique kinds of loss and damage
- Important to build on existing activities and concepts – e.g., Bali Action Plan
- Consider how DRR approaches and tools may apply
- Loss and damage includes both economic and non-economic impacts and values; need to do more to identify non-economic loss and damage.

Additional key points from discussion:

- A diversity of needs among different countries, so important to find ways to tailor approaches to a given context.
- Need more consideration of goals of an international mechanism and how it would function
- Also need to consider regional and national mechanisms
- Important to look closely at existing mechanisms and lessons learned

Additional key points from discussion:

- Indigenous populations have been addressing these events for a generations; need ways to incorporate traditional knowledge.
- In some SIDS, loss and damage is already so severe that adaptation no longer an option; requires actions “beyond adaptation”

Session 2 –

A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts related to slow onset events

L&D related to slow onset events

- Slow onset events are not in future - are already occurring and are exacerbating other extreme events and underlying non-climate stressors
- SOE loss and damage greater than for rapid-onset events – affect more people, last longer, undermine development, increase poverty
- Address across all sectors and governance levels:
 - Prepare effectively (long-term planning; integrated land and water mgmt; etc.)
 - Increase capacity (institutional, technical, human, financial; across sectors and ministries; etc.)
 - Share and transfer risk (new types of insurance; hybrid approaches; etc.)

Additional key points from discussion:

- Traditional knowledge invaluable; need to explore how to include
- Existing risk transfer methods like insurance don't apply in SIDS – need new approaches
- Need to use data already available, and move from research to action
- Data collection continues to be important - actions must be evidence-based

Additional key points from discussion:

- Some loss and damage is “transformational” – leads to state change; raises new adaptation issues - no longer question of returning to status quo
- Current activities focused on pre-intervention, with implicit risk retention by governments; major gaps in risk transfer and management of residual risks
- SIDS that are already “beyond adaptation” require different kinds of approaches– e.g.,
 - how to address loss of livelihoods and cultural values?
 - how to preserve culture of relocated communities?
 - how to “prepare with dignity?”
 - what social safety nets are needed?
 - what will happen to country sovereignty?
 - how will definition of economic zone change?

Session 3 –

**A range of approaches to address loss
and damage at the local and national
levels**

L&D at local and national levels

- A “**basket of approaches**” is required to address loss and damage in SIDS. Countries are starting at different levels with diverse national circumstances and therefore tools must be tailored to meet their needs.
- Combining community-based approaches with national level policy guidance allows for **maximizing benefits of bottom-up and top-down** approaches (e.g. SPREP approach)
- DRR, much work has been done on hazard mapping, vulnerability assessments, and early warning systems, but **need to address residual risk**.
- Data constraints:
 - how do you capture the non-economic loss & damage?
 - quality problem with historical data, but trends still possible to see (e.g. DesInventar)
 - data availability is important**, reforming data sharing protocols is critical
 - outstanding issues regarding definitions of baselines for slow onset events
- There is need for **further integrated and cross-ministerial approaches** (e.g. from UNDP, forum for dialogue between hydro-metereological and disaster management communities of practice).

Additional key points from discussion:

- There is need for **scaling up of capacity** at the national level in SIDS. **Predictable sources of funding** is required to support national level activities.
- Facilitating greater interaction between DRR and CCA planning communities at the national level can result in cost-efficiencies and synergies (e.g. in PICs).
- However, in light of the CC challenge facing SIDS **there are limits to what adaptation can achieve**; project-based approaches insufficient & adaptation planning does not consider tipping points.
- AOSIS proposal is for an international mechanism with Risk Transfer, Rehabilitation, and Risk Management approaches that are seen as inter-dependent and part of a **comprehensive approach** to minimizing and addressing loss & damage.
- **Further concrete examples** would be helpful for clarifying the operational aspects of the international mechanism proposal and its linkages to capacities required to implement at the national level.

Additional key points from discussion:

- Implementation of loss & damage approaches will take both national and regional initiatives to function
- The need to understand the nuances of regional cooperation, e.g. in the Pacific a number of regional agencies provide capacity and thus expertise has been retained in the region, but not at the national level.

Other perspectives raised in discussion included:

- The need to consider **national institutional arrangements, compliance & enforcement**
- Consideration of various financial instruments/mechanisms available (e.g. emergency trust funds, debt-swaps)
- Consideration of the **effectiveness of the approaches** initiated, evaluation
- The ever-present need for good data that can be interpreted at national and sub-national level and turned into decision making knowledge capital for use in national decision and policy making
- Gender, civil society, youth engagement

Session 4 –

**A range of approaches to address loss
and damage at regional and
international levels**

L&D at regional and international levels

- There is **value in developing regional expertise** and sources of information to help SIDS address loss and damage, **build capacity for policy makers, and conduct research relevant to regional priorities** with national ownership (e.g. 5Cs 'clearing house' for regional CC data).
- Regional risk management, risk transfer, and risk assessment tools have many **useful applications** including **for macroeconomic and urban planning, institutional capacity development, and rapid disaster impact estimation** (e.g. country risk profiles, PCRAFI).
- **Lessons learned from CCRIF experience: wide ranging consultations and donor support essential for innovative insurance initiatives, private sector expertise** and hands-on knowledge of relevant markets is vital, CCRIF is designed to address liquidity issues rather than to address slow onset events, as a regional entity that pools resources it may be able to design products or promote initiatives that reach the local and individual level.

Additional key points from discussion:

- **Affordability of insurance** is a critical factor and **some regions have limited private sector experience and insurance options** (i.e. PICs).
- Identified **need to bring CC considerations into insurance models**, and that ground-truthing using community-level data collection can improve model accuracy.
- **South-South exchange is seen as very valuable**, including for risk assessment, e.g. PCRAFI is keen to promote peer-to-peer exchange between countries. CCRIF has a MOU with the 5Cs, also with the CDEMA on DRR activities.
- Other **international mechanism** proposals offer a model for a SIDS owned entity that is more than an insurance company, but rather a vehicle for development that harnesses shared characteristics of SIDS to derive increased power in insurance and other market negotiations.
- Setting up regional initiatives is a long-term commitment with significant costs.
- A plethora of information on available solutions is available for policy-makers upon which prioritization of actions should be taken. However this is mediated by a lack of capacity on how to use information effectively.



Thank you for your attention!