

**Significance of addressing loss and damage for Latin America,
and important elements of the work programme on loss and damage for
COP18**

*Loss and Damage Regional Expert Meeting
Mexico City, July 23 2012*



ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE BOLIVIA

The meaning of loss and damage for sustainable development in Latin America

- Climate change is threatening the very existence of some countries, and impeding efforts of others to lift billions of people out of poverty and promote development.
- These impacts are caused by the historical emissions that have led to current levels of warming, and that will lead to considerable future “committed” warming as the Earth’s oceans and other systems warm.

The meaning of loss and damage for sustainable development in Latin America

Loss & Damage =

- Climate change impacts from historical accumulation manifested
- + Climate change impacts from committed warming
- Mitigation Action
- Adaptation Action

Loss and damage is a new dimension of disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts.

It Must include direct harm and foregone development

Rio Declaration, Principle 2 - *Sovereignty of national resources and no-harm*

UNFCCC Article 2- the Convention objective

Convention principles as articulated in Article 3, in particular articles 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, and Art 4.4 and 4.8

Other principles of international law, including the principle of the common concern of humankind

Vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change

UNFCCC recognition of vulnerability

“Recognizing further that low-lying and other small island countries, countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,”

“4.4. The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II shall also assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation to those adverse effects.”

Every region is different and approaches will vary, but these differences should not divide developing countries but rather seek to develop a comprehensive approach that adjusts to country needs

Areas in Latin America with the geophysical conditions listed above are particularly vulnerable.

Projected changes in temperature and precipitation extremes at the end of 21st century

Region and Sub-region	Trends in maximum temperature (the frequency of warm and cold days)	Trends in minimum temperature (the frequency of warm and cold nights)	Trends in the heat waves/warm spells	Trends in heavy precipitation (rain, snow)	Trends in dryness and drought
Amazon	 Warm days <i>likely</i> to increase (cold days <i>likely</i> decrease)	 Very <i>likely</i> increase in warm nights (<i>likely</i> decrease in cold nights)	 <i>Likely</i> more frequent and longer heat waves and warm spells	 Tendency for increases in heavy precipitation events	 Inconsistent trends
Northeastern Brazil	 Warm days <i>likely</i> to increase (cold days <i>likely</i> decrease)	 <i>Likely</i> increase in warm nights (<i>likely</i> decrease in cold nights)	 <i>Likely</i> more frequent and longer heat waves and warm spells	 Slight or no change	 Increase in dryness
Southeastern South America	 Warm days <i>likely</i> to increase (cold days <i>likely</i> decrease)	 Very <i>likely</i> increase in warm nights (<i>likely</i> decrease in cold nights)	 Tendency for more frequent and longer heat waves and warm spells	 Increases in northern areas  Insufficient evidence in southern areas	 Inconsistent trends
West Coast South America	 Warm days <i>likely</i> to increase (cold days <i>likely</i> decrease)	 <i>Likely</i> increase in warm nights (<i>likely</i> decrease in cold nights)	 <i>Likely</i> more frequent and longer heat waves and warm spells	Increases in tropics Insufficient evidence in extratropics	 Varying and inconsistent trends
Central America and Mexico	 Warm days <i>likely</i> to increase (cold days <i>likely</i> decrease)	 <i>Likely</i> increase in warm nights (<i>likely</i> decrease in cold nights)	 <i>Likely</i> more frequent, longer and/or more intense heat waves/warm spells in most of the region	 Inconsistent trends	 Increase in dryness, with less confidence in trend in extreme South of region

Loss and Damage in Bolivia

- Decreased water availability due to disappearance of glaciers
- Threat to food sovereignty
- Threat to traditional livelihoods and '*vivir bien*'
- Loss of human life and wellbeing due to changes in mosquito-borne diseases incidence
- Loss of forest area and livelihoods
- Others



Chacaltaya glacier, Bolivia - 5,300m

Numbers alone do not speak....

What is the meaning of loss and damage due to climate change to sustainable development?

Developing countries face a growing new triple crisis of development

The crisis of poverty and development

Coupled with the crisis of climate change

And improper responses to climate change

The support for developing countries to address loss and damage is required to

- Protect people where they live
- Protect climate migrants
- Cope with committed warming
- Prevent run-away climate change
- Support affected communities

Towards a COP18 outcome: At the international, regional, and national level

Decision 7/CP.17, para 8(a) mandates that regional meetings to reflect 'regional priorities and experiences', and this should all ultimately feed into the COP outcome

How can the Convention help address approaches to loss and damage?

What ideas can we identify that can have an immediate impact on LD?

How can developing countries be systematically supported in addressing LD?

What kind of COP provisions at Doha is desirable for the region/at the regional level?

What are specific regional experiences, priorities and needs that must be taken into account as we evaluate approaches? How to take into consideration the specific nature of loss and damage in the context of sustainable development?

What are various implementation options, taking into consideration Party needs, institutional arrangements/operational entity, governance considerations, and alternative financial arrangements in accordance with the Convention?

Gracias