

World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP)

WASP

WORLD
ADAPTATION
SCIENCE
PROGRAMME

*making science work
for climate adaptation*



United Nations
Climate Change



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

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Science for Adaptation Policy Briefs (SAPBs)

- ❖ The Science for Adaptation Policy Brief Series is an initiative of the UN-led World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP).
- ❖ The briefs target researchers, policymakers and practitioners to help them successfully bridge the science-policy-action interface.

Recent Science for Adaptation Policy Briefs (SAPBs)

Brief 1 : Adaptation Decision-Support Tools and Platforms

Brief 2 : Transboundary Climate Risk and Adaptation

Brief 3 : High-End Climate Change and Adaptation

Brief 4 : Early Warning Systems for Adaptation

Brief 5: Cascading Shocks and Stresses

Brief 6: Global Goal on Adaptation (in preparation)



Available from: <https://wasp-adaptation.org/core-initiatives/science-for-adaptation-policy-briefs>

Brief #4: Early Warning Systems for Adaptation (EWSA)

- ❖ **Traditional EWS need to evolve to encompass climate change adaptation** to better help communities prepare for the worst, now and in the future → EWSA
- ❖ Building effective EWSA is an **interdisciplinary task** requiring an **integrated systems approach that includes incorporating climate change and adaptation** in their development and processes.
- ❖ **Learning how risks' exposure and vulnerability are shifting** with climate change is key to improving preparedness for future hazards.
- ❖ What worked in the past is no longer sufficient for **addressing today's and future risks**.
- ❖ Important **changes in extremes** are expected even for the **lowest warming scenarios**.
- ❖ EWSA urgently **needs interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration** between policymakers and scientists, sectoral experts, humanitarian/disaster risk management actors and vulnerable communities.
- ❖ This collaboration, coupled with financial support, will enable the co-development of **impact-based climate risk assessment** and **forecast-based early actions** that can **inform local strategies to effectively and efficiently respond** to the increasing risks due to the changing climate.

Brief #5: Cascading Shocks and Stresses

- ❖ Cascading impacts of climate change **amplify human vulnerabilities and risks**, and further challenge the success of our sustainable development trajectories.
- ❖ There are increasingly **small windows of time in which to build back** from each shock and stressor.
- ❖ **Impacts are exacerbated for those most at risk** (e.g., women, children, the elderly, and marginalized groups).
- ❖ Responding to cascading risks and impacts **requires transdisciplinary, cross-scale and cross-sector action**.
- ❖ A focus on **equity and justice is essential for effective responses** in vulnerable developing countries.
- ❖ There is **insufficient financing to support communities to develop locally led resilience activities** to respond to increasing cascading risks and impacts.
- ❖ **COVID-19 stimulus packages** that ensure a healthy environment and basic livelihoods, as well as access to jobs in the renewable energy industry, **will help build adaptive capacity, resilience and reduce future risks**.