

Call for Abstracts

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability special issue on “Slow Onset Events related to Climate Change”

Authors are invited to respond to a **call for abstracts** for a special journal edition on emerging understanding about slow onset events, climate change impacts, and loss and damage.

The editors of *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* (COSUST) and the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism are soliciting contributions for a special journal issue on environmental sustainability in relation to slow onset events. The overall aim of the special issue is to bring together literature review and synthesis articles that:

- Evaluate the nature of slow onset events and highlight emerging topics in the scientific literature on slow onset events
- Identify the gaps and challenges in understanding slow onset events and their local, national, and regional impacts, and possible approaches to manage these

Accepted papers will enhance the knowledge base and highlight potential approaches to assess and address slow onset events at the local, national and regional levels. Through concise review of articles of recent literature, authors should provide scientific information that can support the development and accessibility of tools, which inform national planning and policymaking processes in assessing and addressing the impacts and risks associated with slow onset events and response options.

Papers may consider the following topics:

- Interactions between multiple climate related slow onset and extreme events that increase the risk of loss and damage, and consideration of data gaps at different spatial scales;
- Factors that may influence the exposure and vulnerability of human and natural systems at different spatial and temporal scales;
- Impact and risk assessment methodologies, and relevant integrated risk management approaches as well as the necessity to develop both short- and long-term planning and other approaches, and considerations in undertaking these approaches;
- Sustainable sources of finance and instruments for addressing loss and damage associated with slow onset events, including residual risk in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
- How uncertainty associated with the interactions between multiple climate related slow onset and extreme events play a role in the development of flexible, iterative approaches that can be built into long-term planning and management processes;
- Non-economic aspects of slow onset event impacts including those on vulnerable groups, such as women, the young and elderly, and minority groups, health impacts, issues concerning food and water security, impacts on ecosystem resilience, and the difference in slow onset impacts between urban and rural contexts;
- Articles that review and synthesize or provide meta-analyses of literature representing case studies in developing country contexts, and information about response options considerations; articles proposing empirical case studies will not be considered (see note below).

The guest editors aim for diversity and balance in contributions and authors. They encourage researchers from developing countries, women, and underrepresented minorities to contribute to this special issue.

Please note that COSUST articles are intended to provide concise (2,000 to 4,000 words excluding bibliography) synthesis and review papers based on (predominantly) recent literature on cross-cutting topics in sustainability and global change. We do not publish articles presenting empirical research, although examples are welcome to illustrate review and synthesis articles. Synthesis figures and tables are encouraged, including visual abstracts. Articles should include 3 to 5 short highlight points and provide a short summary (1-2 phrases) on selected (3-5) bibliographic references. See guide for authors for specific instructions [<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/current-opinion-in-environmental-sustainability/1877-3435/guide-for-authors>].

The indicative timeline for the special issue is:

- 30 November 2019: Abstract submission deadline
- End of January 2020: Abstract selection, authors invited to develop full papers
- End of May 2020: Author submission deadline for full papers¹
- June 2020 – February 2021: Peer review process and revisions
- March 2021: Author notification of article acceptance²
- June 2021 - Publication of special issue

Authors interested in submitting abstracts for consideration in this special journal issue on slow onset events are requested to send an abstract, along with contact details, no later than 30 November 2019.

Please forward these materials to loss-damage@unfccc.int with the subject line “SOE special issue abstract submission”.

Background: This call for abstracts and planned special issue journal is part of the five year rolling workplan of the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (the Executive Committee), and ongoing efforts of the Executive Committee in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the climate change impacts.

The Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change identified sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification as slow onset events of particular concern. The Executive Committee has identified a need for enhanced engagement between the scientific community and decision-makers to understand slow onset events and relevant risk management options

¹ Note: IPCC AR6 Working Group II submission cutoff for submitted papers is 1 June 2020.

² Note: IPCC AR6 Working Group II cutoff deadline for accepted papers is 1 May 2021.

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/12/Timeline_WGIIAR6.pdf