

Focus Theme 2 :

Methodologies and Assessments for Technical Assistance, Funding Requests and National Response Plans

**From Assessment to Action : Pacific Innovations for Understanding and
Addressing Loss and Damage**

Filomena Nelson
SPREP Climate Change Adaptation Adviser

Presentation Structure

1. Context of Loss and Damage in the Pacific
2. Conventional L&D Assessment Tools
3. Integrating the Assessment of Economic and Non-economic impacts
4. Principles for Good Practice
5. The Storyline Approach
6. Way Forward

Context of Loss and Damage in the Pacific

- Emerging evidence illustrates that extensive L&D is already a reality for PSIDS
- Yet consistent, practical methods for assessing L&D are limited
- Conventional assessment tools like PDNAs capture only part of the picture:
 - Scope and capacities limit what existing tools can achieve
 - Slow onset events rarely trigger assessments
 - NELD is often overlooked or impacts are delayed
- Understanding of L&D is often limited within governments and communities
- Boundaries with adaptation are hard to define



Integrating Economic and NELD impacts

- Early evidence from the BOLD Project emphasizes the need for assessment methodologies that account for economic and non-economic losses and damages and the interplay between them
 - Need to reflect the cascading and compounding nature of loss and damage e.g. a non-economic impact can be compounded by an economic one and vice versa.
- Assessing economic L&D/NELD in isolation risks under reporting the true scale and severity of loss and damage
- L&Ds are experienced differently at different times, by different people, even if they stem from the same impact
 - E.g. post-disaster mental health impacts may be very different to a longer-term sense of fear regarding the future



Principles for Good Practice

In PSIDS, L&D assessment methodologies need to be:

- Climate-centric - establishing a clear link to climate change impacts
- Practical - aligned to existing processes e.g. NAPs and or national planning/engagement processes
- Scalable and flexible - appropriate for multiple sectors and scales
- Aligned to PSIDS capacities e.g. the time required to gather information, training requirements
- Respectful of traditional knowledge and ownership of ‘what has been/may be lost’
- Empowering: Inform practical L&D responses for communities and sectors



The BOLD Project storyline approach

- **Illustrative L&D storylines** have been tested and applied in PSIDS since 2025. This approach:
 - Helps communicate and enhance understanding of L&D with stakeholders
 - Uses a storytelling approach - relatable, locally relevant examples of realised impacts, avoiding technical jargon
 - Is a stakeholder driven co-development tool which explores locally relevant hazards, exposed sectors, experienced impacts, feasible adaptation options, adaptation limits, and NELD dimensions.
 - Enables stakeholders to explore L&D from multiple perspectives, not only their own
 - Aims to bridge the gap between climate science and locally informed decision-making, making L&D concepts more accessible, participatory, and actionable



The BOLD Project Storyline approach

Define the Scope e.g. Understanding L&D from heat stress in the agriculture sector

Establish evidence of historic incidence of the hazard under consideration. For example, high temperatures and heatwaves

Communicate exposure and vulnerability dynamics through envisioned characters.

Explore direct and indirect Impacts through the development of storylines, incl. focus on GEDSI

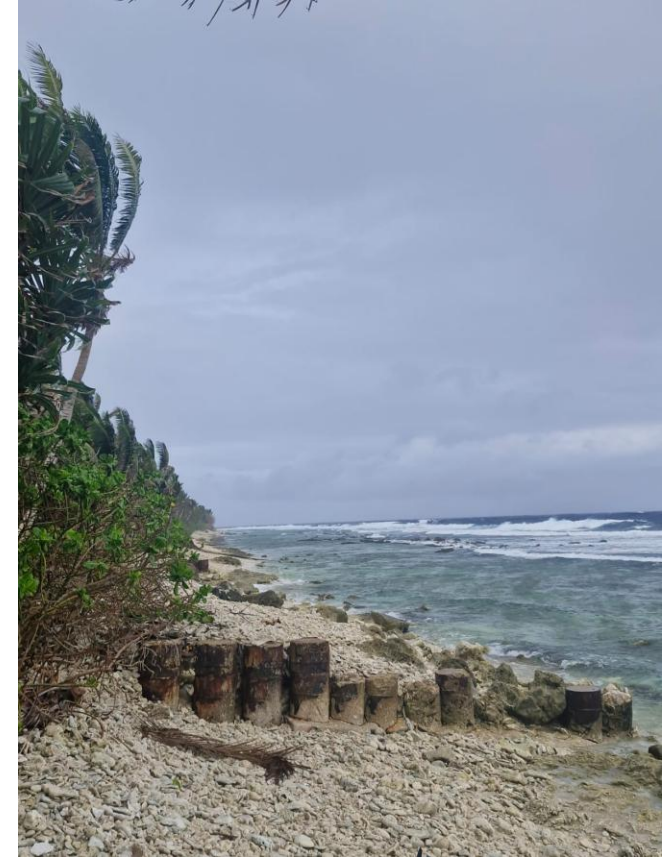
Discuss adaptation options that may be taken to mitigate impacts.

Discuss impacts that arise once adaptation limits may have been reached.

Explore the impacts arising beyond adaptation as Loss and Damage.

Way forward

- Ongoing work to develop assessment methodologies is vital
- Different approaches to L&D assessment can bring distinct and complementary perspectives
- This should be balanced with the risk of a proliferation of tools and methods causing confusion and inconsistency
- We need pragmatic and practical approaches – the sensitivity of the topic means that tough conversations must lead to meaningful responses



KOMMOL TATA
