

Biennial Global Research Update on Non-Economic Losses

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Outline Presentation Page:

- Title of the technical guide or knowledge product: Global Research Update on Non-Economic Losses (2023-2025)
- Workstream/expert group: NELs Expert Group
- Plan of Action Activity: NELs Expert Group Draft Second Plan of Action (2025-2027), under the desired impact of: ‘Increasing awareness and understanding of NELs and effective ways to respond to them’.
- Lead experts/organization. Contact information (optional): Professor Karen McNamara (The University of Queensland, Australia), karen.mcnamara@uq.edu.au
- Target audience: This would include policy makers and government officials, researchers and academics, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, community leaders and local authorities, and the private sector.
- Timeline for producing a final document for the endorsement by the ExCom: 30 March 2026 (for ExCom 24)
- Is stakeholder consultation planned for preparing this product? If yes, in which format? We can consult with the NELs Champions and Expert Group regularly on approach, format, data sources, findings and trends, and key messaging.
- How does the product take into account perspectives of gender, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, and persons with disabilities? We will undertake specific searches for NEL academic papers and studies that incorporate these perspectives. By undertaking these targeted searches, the Global Research Update can provide a comprehensive and inclusive overview of NELs research that ensures the perspectives of diverse groups are well-represented.
- Any other relevant information, e.g. Are there plans to connect this product to a capacity-building activity? Are there plans to launch or advertise the product? Do you have recommendations for how ExCom could help launch and advertise the product? ExCom members can endorse the product and advocate for its use in relevant forums and meetings. We can utilise social media to engage with a wider audience and highlight key findings and facilitate stakeholder engagement by organising a launch discussion panel later in the year.
- Specific guidance that might be needed from the ExCom to advance the work: Inviting other members of the NELs expert group to contribute would broaden the scope and help share the burden of work.

To ensure the most up-to-date and impactful decision-making, we propose that the Non-Economic Losses (NELs) Expert Group produce a *Global Research Update* on NELs every two years. This would be a ‘Type A’ ExCom product, with UNFCCC ownership.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of NEL research, along with the increase in policy discussions and international dialogues, a biennial update allows us to stay abreast of emerging findings. This strategic approach keeps stakeholders consistently engaged and informed, while enabling the observation and analysis of significant trends and changes in the research landscape. Additionally, biennial updates ensure the timely integration of new evidence into ongoing policy development and review, driving more relevant and effective decision-making.

Several organisations provide regular research updates on various climate change themes, summarising the latest findings over recent years, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, World Resources Institute, and The Lancet, among others. By following this model, the NELs Expert Group can ensure their updates are comprehensive, relevant, and impactful for the climate policy and practice communities.

The aims of the biennial research update on NELs would be to:

1. Compile and synthesise the latest research findings from across the globe on NELs, providing a comprehensive overview of developments over the past two years.
2. Analyse emerging trends, patterns, and shifts in the research landscape, offering insights into how NELs are evolving and what new challenges or opportunities are arising.
3. Provide policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders with timely and relevant information that can inform decision-making, policy development, and implementation strategies.
4. Identify research gaps and highlight priority areas for further study, strengthening the foundation and direction of future investigations into NELs.
5. Raise awareness about the importance of NELs and further advocate for their inclusion in global climate discussions and frameworks.
6. Share examples of effective strategies and interventions for addressing NELs, promoting best practices and lessons learned from diverse contexts and regions.

By achieving these aims, the biennial research update would serve as a valuable resource to enhance understanding, inform action, and support global responses to address the non-economic impacts of climate change. The update would be an important deliverable in the Plan of Action under the desired impact of: 'Increasing awareness and understanding of NELs and effective ways to respond to them'.

The research update would encompass a diverse range of sources, including academic papers, policy reports, and grey literature, and Indigenous Peoples knowledge, ensuring a comprehensive and well-rounded perspective. The length of the update would vary based on the depth and breadth of the content, typically ranging between 4,000-6,000 words. A proposed structure could include:

- **Executive Summary:** A concise overview of the key findings, trends, and policy-relevant insights.
- **Introduction:** Providing context on NELs, the rationale for the biennial update, and its aims.
- **Method:** Detailing the approach and data collection methods, including data sources, selection process, and any analytical frameworks used.
- **Overview of the Literature:** Summarising the key developments, organised by key thematic areas.
- **Findings:** Presenting the main results and analyses with visuals and case study boxes or profiles to highlight key trends or best practice interventions.
- **Discussion:** Interpreting the findings in light of broader climate policy debates and exploring their implications for practice and future research.
- **Conclusion:** Wrapping up with a summary and future directions.
- **References:** Citing all sources used in the update.

This structure ensures that the research update is both thorough and accessible, providing valuable insights for a wide audience. It is important that content is readable and practical for policy makers and practitioners.

To ensure the success of this initiative, one or more members of the NELs Expert Group would need to volunteer to produce the research update every two years. If the NELs Champions find this initiative valuable, we are ready to take the lead to produce the first update by mid 2026, with support from other interested members of the NELs Expert Group.