

TEASER 3

# Technical guides to address loss and damage associated with slow onset events



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## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WARSAW INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE IS WORKING ON LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH SLOW ONSET EVENTS

The impacts of climate change include those associated with slow onset events, including increasing temperatures, desertification, loss of biodiversity, land and forest degradation, and glacial retreat, which may result in significant loss and damage.



Increasing temperature



Desertification



Loss of biodiversity



Land & forest degradation



Glacial retreat



Ocean acidification



Sea level rise



Salinisation

Impacts from these events and processes unfold gradually and, in some cases, far-reaching or irreversible losses on livelihoods, society, and the environment over an extended period. The interplay and scales of these intricate processes often add to the complexity of developing effective long-term risk management strategies for given territories or connected landscapes.

The Executive Committee established an expert group to convene expertise from diverse communities of practice to unpack the compounded play-out of selected slow onset events and processes and their combined damaging effects. For the current phase of the expert group, these will be technical guides developed for three water-related slow onset events: glacial retreat, sea level rise and desertification. Thereby, interrelated processes and cascading effects that lead to losses or damages, e.g. land degradation, water scarcity in urban and other contexts, and human mobility, will be taken into account.

## WHAT IS THIS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT, AND HOW WILL IT BE USED?

### Mandate:

[Plan of action](#) of the Expert Group on slow onset events, five-year rolling [workplan](#) of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (Activities 8, 10, 13, 17, 22, 30).

### What is it?

This set of technical guides aim to provide a shared understanding of how to deal with these slow onset events in a systemic manner through examples of projected risks and impacts. These events and processes are complex, and lead to compounded and cascading impacts, affecting livelihoods in the varying contexts of particularly vulnerable developing countries and steps that governments can take to respond to these risks in a timely manner, taking into account regional particularities, traditional knowledge and local practices.

The guides will provide information on policy options, user-friendly tools and approaches to respond to these types of slow onset events in a manner that can be tailored to the needs of stakeholders at various levels. In this context, the guides will also shed light on key challenges in the specific regional context and ecosystems resulting from the focal slow onset events.

### How will it be used?

Consolidating a wide range of existing information, tools and approaches, along with success factors and lessons learned from associated practices, the guides will serve as a toolkit for policymakers and other stakeholders at different levels and social contexts to help develop policies and interventions to anticipate and manage potential losses associated with the selected slow onset events in given territories and landscapes.

Under the [Warsaw International Mechanism](#) for Loss and Damage, knowledge, expertise and support are mobilized from a broad range of expert organizations and networks through the five thematic expert groups to advance work on slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management, displacement, and action and support. The [Executive Committee](#), which comprises 20 representatives from Parties, guides the implementation of the Mechanism. The thematic expert groups co-create knowledge products and undertake activities jointly with the Executive Committee of the Mechanism to promote integrated and coherent approaches to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

## CONTENT OF THE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT

The set of technical guides comprises an overarching section on risks and thematic sections covering a range of approaches, available resources for supporting the implementation, and monitoring the effectiveness of these approaches, following the mandate for the structure of technical guides as contained in decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 26:

- Risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts
- Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with these risks
- Resources available for supporting such approaches
- Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches

An overarching Risks section will draw on the latest science on how global warming trends interact with lands, oceans and glaciers, leading to cascading impacts on livelihood, society and environment across spatial and temporal scales. It will place a strong emphasis on risk assessments of systemic and long-term impacts on society and ecosystem services that livelihoods depend upon.

Thematic sections will deep-dive into specific aspects concerning sea level rise, glacial retreat and desertification. The information in the thematic sections will draw from a series of existing practices aimed at anticipating, responding to, recovering or rehabilitating from loss and damage to illustrate a diverse array of approaches and interventions that are region-, geographic-, context-specific examples, challenges and opportunities. The examples will serve as case studies to tease out successful systemic interventions for protecting at-risk populations, livelihoods, and critical ecosystem services, as well as key enabling factors, including institutional arrangements, governance, capacity-building and other support mechanisms, essential processes and tools, with a view to presenting reference resources for scaling up good practices.

Each thematic section will be complemented with information on resources available for supporting the implementation of these approaches. Recognizing the importance of monitoring and learning, thematic sections will also include information on strategies, frameworks or indicators for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches to extract challenges and emerging lessons from interventions across the risk management spectrum.

## GET INVOLVED

The Executive Committee invites relevant organizations, networks, and experts to express their interests in contributing to the development of this knowledge product in 2024.

Contact [loss-damage@unfccc.int](mailto:loss-damage@unfccc.int)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- For more information on slow onset events, visit the UNFCCC website on the [Expert Group on slow onset events](#).
- For more information on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, visit the UNFCCC website on the [Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism](#).



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