

Expert Group on slow onset events of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, 1st meeting (12–19 April 2021)

As an outcome of its first meeting, the expert group on slow onset events (SOEs EG) decided to take the following overarching approach to its first rolling plan of action (PoA).

Recognizing the far-reaching impacts of slow onset events across livelihoods and economies, characterized by their simultaneous occurrence in given territories or even different but connected landscapes, the SOEs EG will focus the initial phase of its first rolling PoA on unpacking the compounded play-out of selected SOEs and their combined damaging effects. For the first phase these will be the three water-related slow onset events **glacial retreat, sea level rise and desertification**. Thereby, interrelated processes (e.g. salinization) and cascading effects that impact e.g. agricultural practice, and lead to e.g. loss of biodiversity, land degradation, water scarcity in urban and other contexts and human mobility will be taken into account.

The overarching aim of the first phase of the PoA will be the identification of 1) examples of projected risks and impacts associated with the compounded play-out of the selected SOEs on livelihoods in varying contexts of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change; and 2) steps that governments can take to respond to these risks in a timely manner, taking into account regional particularities, traditional knowledge and local practices.

Thematic Lead/Co-leads

Glacial retreat: **Ruben Basantes**/ Parashram Jakappa Patil

Sea level rise: **Jaroslav Mysiak**/ Albert Salamanca, Akhilesh Surjan

Desertification: **Bettina Koelle**/ Musonda Mumba, Akhilesh Surjan

The SOEs EG will review the progress of its PoA annually and update/adjust as needed.

Activity	Indicative timeline
<p>1. Convene three expert meetings, using SLR and salinization, glacial retreat, desertification, as entry points to collect evidence of impacts on livelihoods and implications on critical systems in countries. Experts to ‘pitch’ policy and practical solutions to problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Desk review/targeted stocktaking exercise to complement/support the findings at the expert meetings. This will include the reviewing of the SOEs Special journal issue articles, NAPs, NDCs, and knowledge products under the NWP and work under the WIM.</i> <p>Deliverable: compilation of data, information, mapping of key stakeholders</p>	<p>by end of September 2021</p>
<p>2. Develop scenarios/guidance/strategy on necessary steps to understand and plan for practical action and policy responses to those impacts/implications unpacked under activity # 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>At the regional, national and community levels;</i> - <i>Taking into account the full spectrum of the climate risk management process -- impacts assessment and identification of options to reduce the impacts, practical solutions to manage risks, assessing capacity gaps and needs, identification of resources, including finance, for implementation of solutions;</i> - <i>Possibly using a case study approach.</i> <p>Deliverable: key messages/pitch, guidance material, webinars and other types of learning events, catalogue of approaches, a set of recommendations for targeted stakeholders (possibly in response to specific requests)</p>	<p>Second half of 2021 and onward</p>

<p>3. Provide technical advice and support to developing countries on integrating considerations of impacts associated with SOEs and applicable responses into national planning and policy-making processes, taking into account regional particularities, traditional knowledge and local practices.</p>	<p>2022 and onward</p>
<p>Activities from the ToR to be further defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define <i>topics of the technical guides of the SOEs EG (to be endorsed by the ExCom; ExCom to suggest additional topics as necessary)</i> - Produce <i>guide(s)</i> 	<p>Tbd.</p>