



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Loss and Damage

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IPCC AR 6 WGII

- The Working Group II of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report focused on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability to Climate Change.
- The report looked at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change.

The planet has already warmed by 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) due to human-induced climate change. Millions of people today are facing the real-life consequences of higher temperatures, rising seas, fiercer storms and unpredictable rainfall.

IPCC AR6 WGII: Key Messages

- Human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability.
- Some development and adaptation efforts have reduced vulnerability. Across sectors and regions the most vulnerable people and systems are observed to be disproportionately affected.
- The rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt (*high confidence*).
- Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change (*high confidence*).

IPCC AR6 WGII: Key Messages

- A high proportion of species is vulnerable to climate change (*high confidence*).
- Human and ecosystem vulnerability are interdependent (*high confidence*).
- Current unsustainable development patterns are increasing exposure of ecosystems and people to climate hazards (*high confidence*).
- The magnitude and rate of climate change and associated risks depend strongly on near-term mitigation and adaptation actions, and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming (*very high confidence*).
- Climate change impacts and risks are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage. Multiple climate hazards will occur simultaneously, and multiple climatic and non-climatic risks will interact, resulting in compounding overall risk and risks cascading across sectors and regions. Some responses to climate change result in new impacts and risks (*high confidence*).

IPCC AR6 WGII: Loss and Damage

The IPCC WG II report differentiates between 'losses and damages' and 'Loss and Damage'.

- 'Loss and Damage' refers to “political debate under the UNFCCC following the establishment of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage in 2013”.
- The term 'losses and damages' refers to “harm from (observed) impacts and (projected) risks and can be economic or noneconomic.”

Loss and Damage Defined

- To date, there is no official definition of loss and damage under the UNFCCC
- In UNFCCC climate negotiations, “Loss and damage” is used to refer to the consequences of climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to, or when options exist but a community doesn’t have the resources to access or utilize them.
- Loss and damage can result from both extreme weather events like cyclones, droughts and heatwaves, as well as slow-onset changes such as sea level rise, desertification, glacial retreat, land degradation, ocean acidification and salinization.
- In some cases, damages may permanently alter places; for example, rising seas encroaching on low-lying islands, or drought shrinking freshwater resources and turning once-productive farmland into barren land, or the loss of homes and lives during extreme floods.
- Loss and damage is and will continue to harm vulnerable communities the most, making addressing the issue a matter of climate justice

IPCC AR6 WG II: Loss and Damage

- Human-induced climate change has already caused losses and damages to both nature and people
- Losses and damages are unequally distributed across systems, regions and sectors and are not comprehensively addressed by current financial, governance and institutional arrangements, particularly in vulnerable developing countries
- Losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming
- Near-term action that would limit global warming to 1.5°C would reduce future losses and damages but cannot eliminate them all
- Even effective adaptation cannot prevent all losses and damages

IPCC AR6 WG II:

- Adaptation and mitigation are not enough to prevent losses and damages – losses and damages need separate and additional support and finance.
- The need for increased support and finance for loss and damage is clear.
- Current financial, governance and institutional arrangements to address losses and damages are insufficient.
- This lends support to advocating for strong outcomes from the current negotiations on the Santiago Network and the Glasgow Dialogue, both of which aim to increase tangible support and finance for loss and damage in developing countries.
- It is the scientific basis of the position of developing countries on L & D:-
 - That the UNFCCC and developed countries must do much more to address loss and damage, including through providing new and additional finance.

Estimating Loss and Damage

- UNECA: All of the African countries have experienced significant reductions of the per capita GDP due to climate change,
 - Liberia, Sudan, Tunisia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, DR Congo in the order of or above 5%.
 - South Sudan tops the list with losses of over 15%.
- Carbon Brief: extreme weather events in Africa have killed at least 4,000 people and affected a further 19 million since the start of 2022. - However, the impacts of African extreme events often go unrecorded – especially for heatwaves – and so the true figures are likely to be much higher.
- Current and projected costs to address loss and damage are enormous, -
 - projected economic costs in developing countries between 290 billion and 580 billion USD annually by 2030.
 - Even if the adaptation is massively scaled-up and the immediate 100bn goal realized, Africa will still suffer large “residual” damages with the potential to double the adaptation costs.
- Current estimates are that developing and emerging countries will need \$2 trillion (€1.98 trillion) per year by 2030 to cope with climate breakdown

Loss and Damage: COP27 Outcome

- While developed countries agreed at the COP27 UN climate summit in 2022 to create a fund for addressing losses and damages in particularly vulnerable nations, many questions remain around
 - What counts as loss and Damage?
 - How will the fund work ?
 - How will Losses and Damages be assessed?
 - How much money will wealthy nations provide?

Loss and Damage in Africa's NDCs

- Loss and damage is largely a blind spot in Africa's NDCs
- A 2017 study found that only around 14% of the African NDCs addressed loss and damage in one or the other way.
- Most of the current, 2021 and 2022 African NDCs provide a quantification of the estimated adaptation costs (sometimes including conditional contributions), but give little prominence to loss and damage.
- Could be due to:
 - Complexity of assessment of climate-related risk, with standard methodologies not yet in place,
 - Absence of clear guidance on how to include L&D in the NDCs.

What is to be done?

- Proposals for a loss and damage gap report, or an IPCC special report on loss and damage, as proposed by the Climate Vulnerable Forum in its recent [Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué](#)
- African States need:-
 - more tools,
 - capacity and
 - knowledge generation to provide details and specificity about national loss and damage impacts and underlying initiatives including institutional arrangements at national level.