



Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network

# Introduction to Loss & Damage

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## *Approaches to Address*

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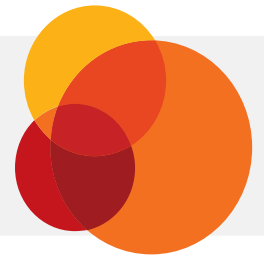
August 21, 2013



*Addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change requires comprehensive, inclusive and strategic responses and the Parties agree that the Convention has the important and fundamental role to enable coherent and synergistic approaches.*

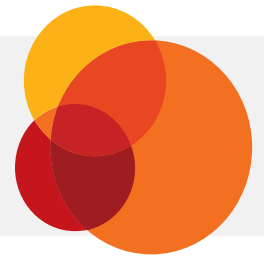
~ UNFCCC

# Loss and damage is a new challenge



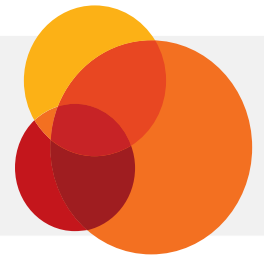
1. The limits of adaptation are **poorly defined** and as a consequence the elements of loss and damage are unclear.
2. There is relatively little experience of how to address loss and damage associated with **slow onset impacts** and **non-economic costs**
3. A newly emerging science, the **technical understanding** on loss and damage needs to be enhanced
4. The upcoming institutional arrangement should aim to **coordinate** with other institutions to develop **coherent** approaches to address loss and damage

# The UNFCCC Work Programme



- Established in 2010 under the UNFCCC to enhance understanding of loss and damage and the possible means to address it.
  
- The work programme has the following three thematic areas:
  - ✓ **Assessing** the risk and current knowledge of loss and damage,
  - ✓ Exploring a range of **approaches to address** loss and damage, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset event
  - ✓ Determining the **role of the Convention** in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage.

# Concept has no meaning if the impact is ignored



- No universally agreed definition for 'loss and damage'
- Discussed and debated within the global climate change negotiations
- While loss and damage is being discussed at the global level, it is being incurred at the local level – ***concept has no meaning but impact does***
- Important to understand how loss and damage is being experienced by communities and how it can be addressed and ultimately reduced



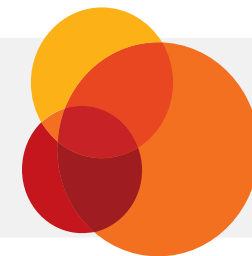
# Approaches to Address



Grouped into 4 overarching categories:

- ✓ Risk reduction (Structural, non- structural)
- ✓ Risk retention (Social Safety nets and contingency funds)
- ✓ Risk transfer (Insurance)
- ✓ Specific approaches to address loss and damage from slow onset processes

# Lessons Learnt



- **Risk assessment** from the loss and damage angle must be better understood
- Risk reduction approaches exist, but need to bring in the **climate change perspective**, and integrate with development policies
- Risk retention **lacks scale and the loss and damage perspective**
- Risk transfer approaches **not widely employed**: limitations with respect to slow onset events and non economic losses
- Slow onset events: Migration an adaptive strategy?
- **Robust institutions** must be in place at different levels
- Adequate **funding, technology, and capacity** at the national level must be available in order to implement approaches

**No single approach can effectively address loss and damage on its own...**



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