

A photograph of a coastal village with stilt houses and a boat in the water. The houses are built on wooden stilts over a body of water. One house in the foreground has a blue corrugated metal roof and light-colored walls. A green boat is docked in front of it. The sky is overcast.

Linking Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Loss & Damage

Edited by

Vositha Wijenayake · Linda Anne Stevenson
Akio Takemoto · Amit Ranjan
Dennis Mombauer · Nafesa Ismail



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We dedicate this book to Professor Saleemul Huq, who left the world on 28 October 2023. Saleem's most notable legacy lies in his dedication to addressing climate-induced loss and damage. He passionately championed this cause, ultimately ensuring the inclusion of loss and damage in the Paris Agreement in 2015, and the establishment of a finance mechanism for loss and damage at COP27 in 2022. Saleem has written the foreword to this book.

FOREWORD

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and its impacts are becoming increasingly visible and alarming. The urgency to act on available scientific evidence and generate more evidence on these impacts, particularly loss and damage, cannot be overstated. This publication aims to delve into evidence-based approaches in the Asia-Pacific region to effectively tackle climate-induced loss and damage (L&D) and its interlinkages with climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global initiatives and frameworks.

The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) recently published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides a comprehensive assessment of our current understanding of climate change, including the topics of L&D and CCA. The report highlights various types of climate-induced L&D, ranging from extreme weather events like floods, cyclones and wildfires, to slow-onset impacts such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification and desertification. As indicated by climate science and evidence from the ground level, the impacts of climate change are expected to worsen in the future, particularly in areas with high vulnerability and exposure. It is essential to recognize that different countries face these impacts differently, underscoring the need to build resilience, capacities and means of implementation.

Furthermore, it is crucial to acknowledge the interconnections between national and global policy processes, including those under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),

such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and various other plans and policies relevant for addressing climate-induced L&D. A holistic approach to addressing these challenges necessitates leveraging synergies between different frameworks and initiatives. The SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) provides avenues for entry points for creating scaled-up impact related to L&D policy and action, by building on national, regional and global actions through forging initiatives built on commonalities. By engaging multiple stakeholders and embracing inclusive and participatory approaches, we can drive transformative change at the local, national and global levels.

Scientific evidence must play a pivotal role in guiding our actions to effectively address L&D. It is imperative to emphasize science-based approaches and leverage evidence, research and capacity building to accelerate transformative action. In this regard, this publication by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) in partnership with SLYCAN Trust contributes to generating evidence that highlights the power of scientific knowledge generation involving government entities, civil society organizations, academia and multilateral institutions.

Looking ahead, this publication aims to serve as a catalyst for change. Through the dissemination of knowledge and the facilitation of a stronger science-policy-stakeholder dialogue, we aspire to create tangible and positive impacts on the ground. Effectively addressing L&D in the Asia-Pacific region necessitates collective efforts and synergies among diverse processes. It is through integrated and collaborative endeavours that we can achieve scaled-up impacts, empower communities and safeguard our shared future.

To achieve this transformation and uphold efforts for resilience-building that leaves no one behind, it is crucial to address key aspects such as building capacities, bridging gaps and identifying policy interventions. By acknowledging and acting upon these imperatives, a path towards resilience-building could be forged through collective efforts that deliver transformative change. By integrating the principles of leaving no one behind, climate change policy and action could prioritize inclusivity, equity and justice, empowering vulnerable communities to thrive

amidst environmental challenges and creating an enabling environment that fosters sustainable development leading to an equitable future.

Saleemul Huq
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Saleemul Huq was the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and professor at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), as well as a senior associate of the International Institute on Environment and Development (IIED) in the United Kingdom. In addition, he was the chair of the Expert Advisory Group for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and also a senior adviser on Locally Led Adaptation with Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) headquartered in the Netherlands. He was an expert in adaptation to climate change in the most vulnerable developing countries and a lead author of the third, fourth, and fifth assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and he also advised the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, he was affiliated with the UN Food System Summit for 2021 as co-chair of the Action Track 5 on Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks & Stress. He published hundreds of scientific as well as popular articles and was recognized as one of the top twenty global influencers on climate change policy in 2019 and top scientist from Bangladesh on climate change science. Recently, he had been appointed the officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2022 New Year Honours for services to combating international climate change. In 2023, he had been ranked as one of the top ten scientists in *Nature*, one of the leading scientific journals.

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Introduction

Vositha Wijenayake

Abstract Climate change has become one of the key issues the planet is facing today. With impacts being felt across the world, identifying ways to build long-term resilience to its impacts has become a crucial component for a sustainable and resilient planet. This chapter discusses the approaches for ensuring that synergies and interlinkages across key global and national processes are generated to ensure that inclusive and collective actions can be generated through community-centred, evidence-based, inclusive and multi-stakeholder processes. With case studies and examples from projects conducted in the Pacific region, the chapter demonstrates the importance of integrating processes and relevant mechanisms on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate-induced loss and damage, and sustainable development and builds on the evidence provided through insights from the case studies to provide recommendations for holistic policy and action for enhanced impact through forward-thinking synergized actions across processes.

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