

## “Enhancing Resilience by Bringing Together Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, and Loss and Damage” Workshop Report

16 March 2015  
Sendai, Japan

On March 16th the Asia Pacific Forum on Loss and Damage hosted a workshop in Sendai, Japan together with partners ActionAid International, the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), and LEAD Pakistan with support from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). The theme of the workshop was enhancing resilience through the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate change adaptation (CCA), and loss and damage (L&D).

The aim of the workshop was to bring together researchers, practitioners and others conducting research on loss and damage. The workshop was held during the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) that took place from March 14th to 18th, 2015. The workshop provided organisations with a unique opportunity to share knowledge of how DRR, CCA, and L&D can be harmonised and integrated to enhance resilience in vulnerable communities and countries. In addition, discussions were facilitated to better understand the relevance of Hyogo Framework for Action 2 (HFA2) in addressing loss and damage and how the actions undertaken under the HFA2 can contribute to building resilience.

### Workshop Programme

Time	Activity
13:30-14:00	<b>Refreshments and Snacks</b>
14:00-14:45	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Erin Roberts (ICCCAD), Harjeet Singh (ActionAid International), Hina Lotia (LEAD Pakistan), Netatua Pelesikoti (SPREP)
14:45-16:00	<b>Round of Introductions from Participants</b> Participants to provide a short 5-minute introduction about themselves, their organisation and relevant research they are conducting.
16:00-17:00	<b>Open Session</b>
17:00-17:15	<b>Next Steps</b> Harjeet Singh (ActionAid International)

## Summary

The workshop began with welcome introductions from all of the co-organisers: Harjeet Singh (ActionAid International), Erin Roberts (ICCCAD), Hina Lotia (LEAD Pakistan), and Netatua Pelesikoti (SPREP). After a round of introductions from the participants as well, Mr. Singh explained the importance of integrating climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk reduction (DDR), and loss and damage (L&D). Beginning with the origins of the term “L&D”, he described the importance of engaging communities into such discussions.

Erin Roberts then explained the history of L&D. She also gave an update of the Warsaw International Mechanism on L&D (WIM) and the two-year work plan that was agreed upon last year at the UNFCCC twentieth conference of the parties (COP 20).

Stephanie Andrei followed with an introduction on ICCCAD’s work on L&D that started with CDKN’s Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative that has since expanded to the Asia Pacific Forum on Loss and Damage. She also mentioned the study that has been completed for the Asia Development Bank on non-economic L&D in Southwest Bangladesh.

Arif Rahman from LEAD Pakistan described work they have been undertaking on L&D as funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). He explained that the discussions at LEAD have centred on trying to figure out what factors are causing L&D and whether they are driven by climate change or other issues such as governance. He mentioned that one area being ignored is that of governments’ understanding of L&D and how they need to carry the conversation forward. To inform this process, LEAD has considered creating information packs to educate policy makers.

A key issue that was mentioned was attribution of L&D to climate change and it was suggested in the discussion that followed, that this could be part of the reason why the CCA and DRR communities have not yet engaged with one another.

Netatua Pelesikoti from SREP then explained that Pacific Island States have become global leaders on integrating DRR and CCA at the national level. In the Pacific, terminology that can be used by both DRR and CCA communities has been developed (for example risk reduction is implemented before an event regardless of the cause, while adaptation is focused on climate change). She went to describe that the greatest limits to adaptation in the region are mitigation ambition, transfer of technology and difficulty in accessing resources. Such items would otherwise fall into L&D since they are all impacts that overwhelm the capacity of the pacific island states to adapt. Ms. Pelesikoti also raised the question: How are we going to reflect the language of L&D in the post-2015 framework when we are on different levels??

A representative from LEAD Pakistan described some of the research the organisation has undertaken. Specifically, they explained that, in addition to developing papers and advocacy work, the organisation has been working at the local level to facilitate action on the ground. At the moment LEAD is working with partners to develop a toolkit under an APN-funded project. In addition, the organisation has been working with the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) on a project on slow onset processes that look at the challenges countries are facing and what policy responses are appropriate.

A representative from ActionAid Bangladesh described some of the work that their organisation is involved with. The organisation is currently developing a methodology for community assessment of L&D as part of a five-country case study taking place in five countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, the organisation has been advocating for enhanced funding at the community level.

After some other participants described what research their organisations have been undertaking, a question was raised to the group as to whether there has been progress on the definition of L&D, to which another participant responded that from Bali to Warsaw not much has changed: there is still a lot of fear around L&D, which is preventing important research from going forward. One of the most difficult issues we face now is how to bring in other donors to enhance our understanding. The same participant recommended that the group should begin to think about holding an event to profile research on L&D at COP 21 in Paris and should also endeavour to have more meetings and workshops to share information.

As a follow up, another participant highlighted the positive developments that have happened in the past few years and suggested that the group needs to recognise that we are dealing with a very sensitive subject. Given donor sensitivity, organisations may need to find a way to invest their own money in research on L&D. The participant continued by suggesting that there is not a lot of momentum here in Sendai because the DRR community appears not to be engaging and, therefore, it may be necessary to take into account political realities and then see how best we can use our existing resources.

Despite the caution of many donors, one participant commented that some developed countries are supporting work on L&D. The Japanese government has supported the scientific aspects of L&D through an APN funding stream that focuses on linking CCA, DRR and L&D; and the German government has created a programme on L&D under GIZ. Over the years, the negotiations have opened up a space to conduct scientific research on L&D. Other developed countries have recognised the need to do something that fits the context of L&D. While it's true that the Sendai outcome doesn't include an L&D component there are connecting points and it is up to us to find them and move forward with research.

Another participant suggested that if you compare the text for HFA1 and HFA2, it appears that we are backtracking in terms of making progress in DRR. We also need to bring in the other two post-2015 processes. There is an opportunity to bring disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development together to better understand how to build resilience to climate change while continuing to facilitate development.

Yet, another participant suggested that we need to move a step further and emphasised the importance of educating DRR focal points. The potential for joint research and holding forums that reach a wider audience was also suggested. In response, one participant said that her organisation has recently begun engaging in L&D, which provides evidence that awareness and engagement on the issue is growing.

The discussion then turned to addressing the research gaps that we need to consider: regional level, national level (can we make sure that ministries responsible for environment and disasters work together) and CSO collaboration for the establishment of a strong evidence base to aid policy decisions. To this, the facilitator encouraged others to share in their reflections on possible next steps and actions to take in preparation for COP21 in Paris.

Another participant then mentioned how a group of ASEAN countries met in February to discuss the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) – which are the platform through which countries will make emission pledges in the lead up to COP21 - that may potentially include commitments on both mitigation and adaptation. She mentioned that several organisations have been working to help member countries prepare their INDCs. There is a larger goal to include measures for international cooperation; however, it has been a slow process since many countries do not yet understand INDCs. ASEAN countries have asked for capacity building in these areas, including issues of climate change they are not very aware of. Research on L&D in the region could help policy makers better understand L&D and how it is experienced by households and communities in the region, and policy options to address it. There is a need to raise the collective profile of our research.

UNEP has also been developing a report on L&D and is interested in engaging with CSOs. There has also been interest to include the issue in developing UNEP's Global Assessment Report for 2017.

Ms. Pelesikoti mentioned we are now talking about the extent of L&D but we still do not have a trigger that could clearly demonstrate the highest capacity of our adaptation and the amount of additional effort we would need. This led to a discussion on the lack of evidence-based scenarios and data, particularly in developing countries.

A representative from LEAD Pakistan suggested that there may be some new areas that we can engage in. We need to perform assessments of our projects to determine if they can be showcased. There is a lot of creative and diverse work, even if we can share something midway to Paris, it would be useful. There are three things that are beginning to emerge: (1) the structure of future IPCC reports and the potential for chapters on L&D; (2) L&D in cities that has been under-explored until recently; and (3) a briefing for key donors to articulate that commitment exists to enhance our scientific understanding and make a case for that.

Another participant added to the list the possibility to improve research on non-economic L&D. Christian Aid specifically has been interested at potential strategies that would link with some data agencies so that they can use more data to inform their research. At this moment, however, research capacity in many developing countries is still lacking so there is a lot of potential for training and capacity building. There are three areas: research agenda for technical work (the L&D Forum); our own action plan; and opportunities for coming together and establishing joint actions.

In bringing the discussion to a close Mr. Singh suggested that the group needed to continue to work on the research agenda for technical work under the Forum and determine opportunities for coming together to explore synergies and collaboration. He suggested that under the Forum, a space could be created to gather research ideas together with the institutions that we are working with. If we can capture that in one place it would be a good start. During the June Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) session in Bonn we could hold a meeting to discuss future research needs. Before this, we could even organise some calls and start capturing some early lessons and challenges.

## Follow-Up

The Asia Pacific Forum on Loss and Damage has recognised similar concerns raised by participants in Sendai as from their workshop in Peru last December. For this reason, the Forum will continue to assist researchers to communicate their research and challenges/lessons learned using the following mediums:

- Our newsletter that will now be disseminated based on number of articles received. The purpose of the newsletter is for individuals to share with one another aspects of their research. If you, or someone you know, is interested to submit an article please send an inquiry to: [lossanddamageforum@gmail.com](mailto:lossanddamageforum@gmail.com)
- Our LinkedIn Group has continued to expand over the year however we continue to encourage members to contribute news articles, reports, questions and research. The group is open to all members on LinkedIn and can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Asia-Pacific-Forum-on-Loss-6656898/about>
- Finally, individuals are recommended to share their interests and research to the rest of the group using the following Google Spreadsheet that was developed after our meeting in Peru at COP 20. We expect the information will be used by others in the group to gauge who is working on what and to assess where there might be room for collaboration. The Google Sheet is accessible to everyone with this link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16M4xi0Wv1PeADKp5u7jxtnhMAgliS6BHQv3QsNqyruM/edit?usp=sharing>

## List of Participants

No.	Name	Organisation
1	Erin Roberts	ICCCAD
2	Stephanie Andrei	ICCCAD
3	Harjeet Singh	ActionAid
4	Hina Lotia	LEAD Pakistan
5	Netatua Pelesikoti	SPREP
6	Arif Rahman	LEAD Pakistan
7	Ali Sheikh	LEAD Pakistan
8	Tanjir Hossain	ActionAid Bangladesh
9	Christina Dactor Bercilla	Christian Aid
10	Sönke Kreft	GermanWatch
11	Senaka Basnayake	ADPC Thailand
12	Peeranan Towashiraporn	ADPC Thailand
13	Anam Zeb	LEAD Pakistan
14	Yohei Chiba	IGES
15	Hazel Tanchuling	Rice Watch
16	Dennis Calvin	NGOs for Fisheries Reform
17	Golam Rabbani	BCAS
18	Mahfuza Akter	ActionAid Bangladesh
19	Sabita Rani	ActionAid
20	Alfredo Arquillano	RCE-Cebu