Climate change loss and damage

Call for case studies: capturing evidence on non-economic loss and damage from the local level

1. Context

Loss and damage is an urgent concern, driven by the increasingly harmful effects of climate change. Beyond the direct loss of livelihoods, assets and infrastructure, climate change loss and damage has other consequences, often referred to as **non-economic loss and damage**. For example, in some countries loss and damage is having far-reaching social impacts, such as loss of cultural heritage, language and a sense of identity, eroding the social fabric and further undermining the resilience of communities.

Climate shocks increase inequality, social conflict and expose women, girls and people living with disabilities to new forms of exploitation, slavery and trafficking. Recurring impacts and loss of livelihoods and displacements are leading to psychological impacts, such as stress, trauma, and mental health disorders, which is affecting the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Loss and damage is happening now. We urgently need to develop new approaches or build on existing ones to manage the more diverse climate risks countries and communities are facing, and those they expect to face in the future. However, loss and damage issues cannot be adequately addressed unless we close the existing knowledge gaps and understand the range of impacts it is creating, particularly the non-economic loss and damage and use that knowledge to inform decision making and financing.

2. Call for case studies

IIED in partnership with ICCCAD has initiated a project on climate change loss and damage. This initiative aims to support least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other actors from climate-vulnerable developing countries to tackle the current policy bottlenecks on loss and damage by leveraging evidence to catalyse policy action and by shaping a new collective vision for action on loss and damage.

**As part of this initiative, IIED and ICCCAD are issuing this call for case studies to gather local level evidence on non-economic loss and damage from vulnerable countries.**

We encourage civil society organisations, local experts, university researchers and NGOs from developing countries vulnerable to climate change to share case studies based on primary data and local knowledge, reflecting a range of experience of the LDCs and SIDS, and provide grounded evidence about the non economic loss and damage caused because of climate change, explain the monetary or non- monetary value that community attaches to those losses and damages, how it impacts them and it can be dealt with, and what support would be needed for it.

**Each shortlisted applicant will be offered an honorarium of US$500 for their efforts towards the development of the full case study**

The purpose of this work is to use an iterative, collaborative and bottom-up approach for gathering evidence through case studies from countries and communities that are exposed to loss and damage, and to leverage this evidence to (i) influence policy discourse around loss and damage (ii) deepen the understanding of options for tackling loss and damage, and (iii) to inform the thinking on how loss and damage support should be designed.

The case studies can be submitted in one of the following categories of non-economic loss and damage (NELD):

1. **Loss of cultural heritage:** climate change can threaten the survival of traditional ways of life, including Indigenous cultures, and can lead to the loss of important cultural practices, artefacts, and languages. This can have a significant impact on the cultural identity of affected communities. It can also lead to spiritual and cultural impacts where communities are not able to practise their religious/spiritual practices in the same way or lose their places of worship, burial grounds etc.
2. **Loss of quality of life (shelter, food, health, skills, education):** climate change can impact the traditional ways of life and impact the quality of life of communities as the resources on which their lifestyle were dependent are either degraded or lost due to climate impacts or they are forced to move in other areas. For instance, this can have an impact on their food habits as they are no longer able to find the same ingredients to cook or they don’t find them in the new areas to which they move. This can impact their food security and nutritional status. Similarly people may not have access to safe drinking water due to climate impacts or they may have to walk longer distances to get safe drinking water, creating drudgery and potential risk to personal security.
3. **Mental and physical health impacts:** climate change can have direct physical health impacts, such as increased heat-related illnesses, respiratory problems caused by air pollution, and the spread of infectious diseases. The stresses and uncertainties associated with climate change can also have significant impacts on mental health, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. There could also be relationship between lack of mental health and psychological safety and areas like lack of confidence, lack of risk taking, lack of generosity and sharing, lack of innovation and experimentation.
4. **Social disruption (migration and displacement):** climate change can lead to social disruption due to forced displacement and distress migration, which can lead to loss of social support network, traditional ways of life, cultural heritage as well as create mental and physical health problems. It can expose communities moving in distress to trafficking and modern slavery. Migration to new areas can also lead to conflict with the native community.
5. **Loss of ecosystem and biodiversity:** climate change can lead to the extinction of certain species, as well as shifts in the distribution and abundance of other species. This can have impacts on ecosystems and the services they provide, such as pollination and pest control. Similarly, many Indigenous communities treat many ailments based on medicinal plants available locally.

Some case studies may seem to cover more than one of the categories defined above. In such circumstances, please submit your case study in the category where the non-economic loss and damage seems most substantive. In the case study submission format, there will be option to identify other categories of NELD where the case study impacts are also seen.

The case studies might cover the following aspects of loss and damage:

1. Highlight the loss and damage impacts of climate change related hazards such as droughts, floods, soil degradation, glacier melt, sea-level rise, salination, coastal erosion and biodiversity loss from the case study location.
2. Explain the different NELD impacts these climate hazards are having on the lives, living conditions and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people (considering women and men, disabled people, children, young people, older people, marginalised and Indigenous groups) and at the level of community and society (such as loss of customs, places of rituals, cultural heritage).
3. Highlight how NELD impacts exacerbate other risks (poverty, health, marginalisation etc).
4. Illustrate the coping mechanisms/measures being employed by households and communities to manage NELD.
5. Explain the priorities for action for tackling loss and damage and NELD in particular from the case study local and suggestions, if any, for action needed at national and international level.

The case studies will be used to develop and publish a compendium of case studies that can inform the policy debates on loss and damage at COP28.

3. Case study submission timeline and process

The timeline and process for case study submission, development and final publication will be as follows:

1. Issue of the call for case studies from vulnerable country stakeholders – Tuesday 31 January 2023
2. First stage submission: interested applicants are requested to submit a one-page abstract of the case study by Tuesday 28 February 2023. The format for submission of abstract is provided at Annex 1.
3. Shortlisting of case studies abstracts covering a range of NELD in different country contexts and intimation to shortlisted applicants by Monday 20 March 2023.
4. Virtual training sessions, guidelines (particularly on research ethics) and mentoring support by experts to the shortlisted applicants to finalise the detailed case study: training sessions completed by 14 April 2023 and mentoring support throughout the case study development process
5. First draft of case study submitted by authors: Monday 26 June, 2023
6. Second draft submitted by authors after addressing suggestions and feedback of peer reviewers and mentors: Friday 14 July, 2023
7. Publication of a compendium of at least 10 high quality case studies covering different types of NELD – by 30 September 2023

4. How to submit case study abstract

Interested applicants are requested to submit their case study abstract on or before 28 February 2023 in the format provided in Annex-1 through email to: benedicte.piton@iied.org, mentioning ‘L&D case study abstract submission’ in the subject line.

Annex-1

Form for submitting case study abstract on

non-economic loss and damage (NELD) from climate change

Name of applicant:

Email:

Category under which the case study is being submitted: (choose one category)

1. Loss of cultural heritage
2. Loss of quality of life (shelter, food, health, skills, education)
3. Mental and physical health impacts
4. Social disruption (migration and displacement)
5. Loss of ecosystem and biodiversity

Indicate other case study category/ies that also intersect with the NELD suffered by the community:

Provide details about the case study (in no more than one page in Arial font size 10)

1. Region/country covered under case study:

Country/region:

Sub-national region/villages (as applicable):

1. What are the type of loss and damage impacts being experienced in case study area, eg sea level rise, drought, erratic monsoon, increased frequency and intensity of cyclones, coastal erosion etc. (in 3-4 bullets or 4-5 lines)?
2. Nature of NELD created due to these climate hazards on the lives, living conditions and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people (considering women and men, disabled people, children, young people, older people, marginalised and Indigenous groups) and at the level of community and society (such as loss of customs, places of rituals, cultural heritage) (in 3-4 bullets or 4-5 lines):
3. Briefly explain the existing coping measures (including traditional) to deal with these NELD and climate impacts (in 3-4 bullets or 4-5 lines):
4. Has the content of this case study been published anywhere else already, even if in a different format (Yes/No): If yes, please share a reference or link to the case study: