Loss & Damage

Loss & Damage: Evidence from the Front Lines

Vulnerable communities beyond adaptation?

Side Event at COP18
Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative

Monday, 26th November 2012, 13:15 to 14:45
Side Event Room 8, QNCC

26 November 2012

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Why is understanding loss and damage important now?

Loss & Damage

How do the impacts of climate change on society lead to loss and damage among vulnerable households?





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5 things you need to know about loss & damage

Loss & Damage

1. **What causes it?** Climate change impacts interacting with social vulnerability
2. **Loss & Damage continuum:** Loss and damage impacts fall along a continuum, ranging from "events" associated with variability around current climatic norms (e.g. weather-related natural hazards) to "processes" associated with future anticipated changes in climatic norms in different parts of the world
3. **Working Definition:** Loss and damage refers to negative effects of climate variability and climate change that people have not been able to cope with or adapt to
4. **Mitigation can stem loss and damage:** Climate modeling suggests that future greenhouse gas concentrations could drive temperatures beyond the 2 degree limit, with serious implications for societal impacts
5. **Important at COP18 in Doha because** there is a mandated decision on loss and damage under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

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A household's potential loss & damage from climate change depends on:
(1) mitigation efforts (not in figure);
(2) livelihood context (blue circle);
(3) its vulnerability profile;
(4) its coping and adaptive capacity.

Climate Variability & Change
- Slow-onset processes
- Extreme weather events

Societal impact, e.g. in agriculture, health, food security. Varies between HOUSEHOLDS according to their vulnerability

Natural Environment

Natural resources, hazard-proneness

Political environment

Willingness and ability of governments to protect their citizens from the impact of climate change

Current household strategies to cope with extreme events & adapt to climatic changes

Loss & Damage because:

1. Coping or adaptation measures are not (effective) enough to avoid L&D
2. Coping or adaptation measures have costs attached that are not regained
3. Coping or adaptation measures are helpful in short-term but have adverse long-term consequences
4. No measures were adopted (or possible) at all

Economy

Natural resource dependency, level of economic development

Human & social capital

Education, health, social networks, population structure

Case study countries & focus
(CDKN)

Loss & Damage

Country	Climate threat	Impact
Bhutan	Changing monsoon	Rice production
Bangladesh	Salinity intrusion	Rice + drinking water
The Gambia	Drought	Millet production
Kenya	Flooding	Crops, livestock + fish
Micronesia	Coastal erosion	Housing, cultural values

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Bangladesh

Golam Rabbani, BCAS

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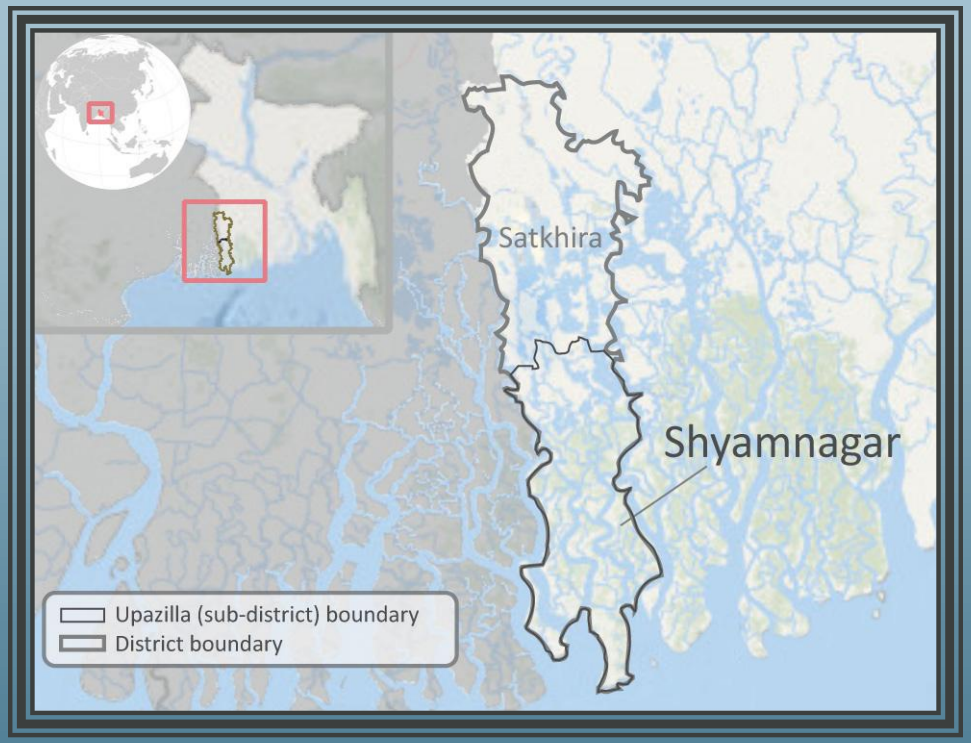

The limits of adaptation in Shyamnagar, Bangladesh: loss and damage associated with salinity intrusion

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Bangladesh: Golam Rabbani, BCAS

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Households interviewed	360
Experienced medium or high soil salinity	Yes: 99%; No: 1%
Impact on household economy?	Yes: 99%; No: 1%
Impact per sector	Rice production: 98%; Drinking water: 90%
Adopted adaptation/coping measure?	Yes: 81%, No: 19%
Coping/adaptation measure to deal with stressor	Salt tolerant varieties: 39%; Migration: 29%; 'Wash' rice field to reduce Salinity: 27%; Seek non-farm income: 60%
Suffered adverse effects despite coping/adapting	70%
No measures adopted, why not?	Lack of knowledge/skills: 68%; Lack means/resources: 30%

Bhutan

Norbu Wangdi & Koen Kusters

Loss & Damage

The costs of adaptation in Punakha District, Bhutan:
loss and damage associated with changing monsoon patterns

Bhutan : Norbu Wangdi & Koen Kusters

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Households interviewed	273
Experienced changes in monsoon patterns	Yes: 91%; No: 9%
Impact on household economy?	Yes: 89%; No: 11%
Impact per sector	Crops: 97%; Livestock: 12%; Tree crops: 23%
Adopted adaptation/coping measure?	Yes: 88%, No: 12%
Coping/adaptation measure to deal with stressor	Perform rituals: 71%; Adjust water sharing: 48%; Better maintenance of Irrigation channels: 37%; Changes in crop mix: 30%
Suffered adverse effects despite adapting	87%
No measures adopted, why not?	Lack of knowledge/skills: 68%; Lack means/resources: 16%; Not my task: 4%; No priority: 12%

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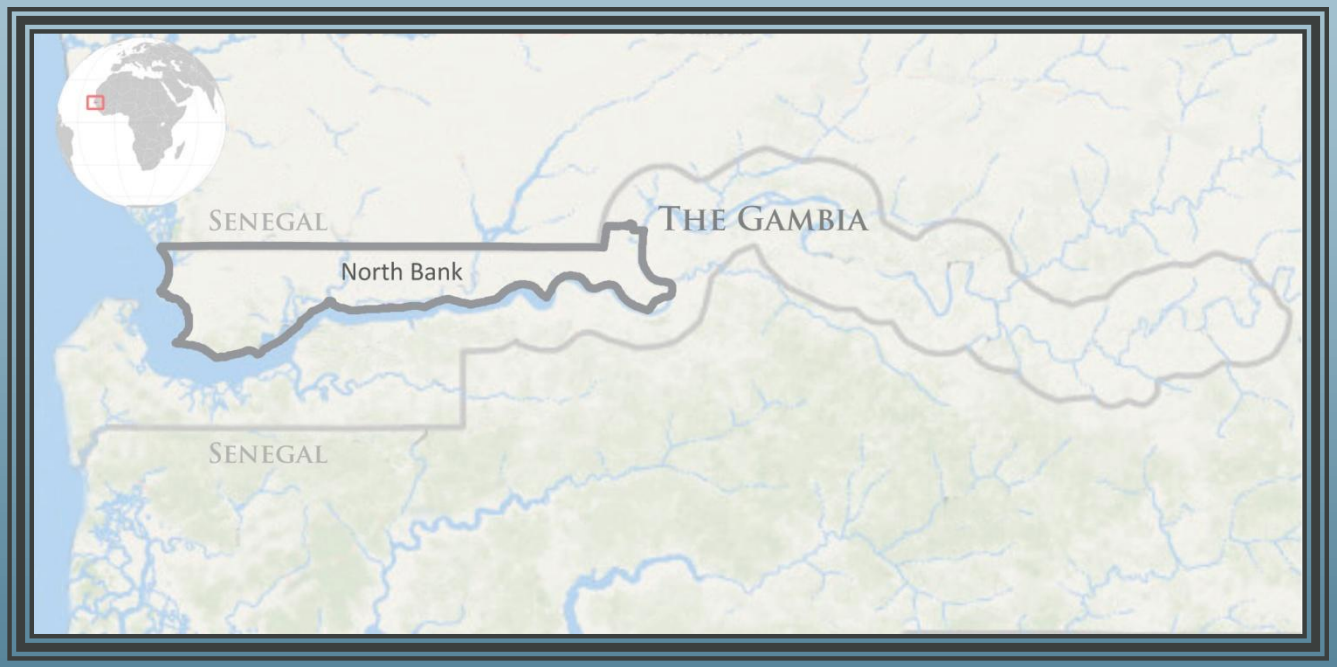
The Gambia

Dr. Sidat Yaffa



Limited coping capacity in the North Bank Region, The Gambia: loss and damage associated with drought

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The Gambia: Dr. Sidat Yaffa

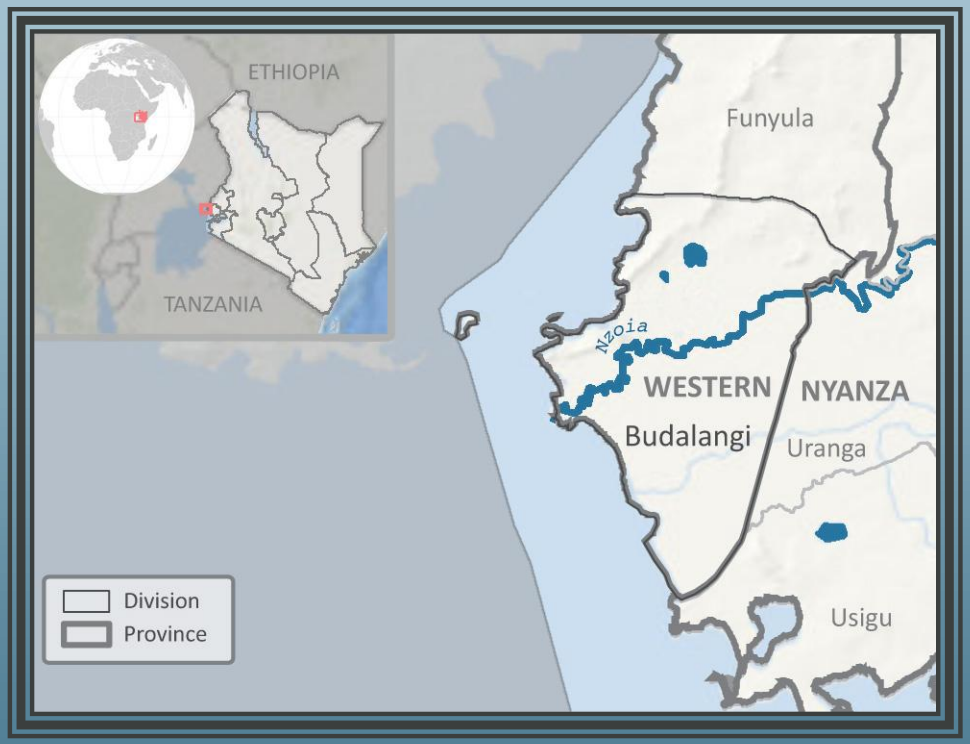
Loss & Damage

Households interviewed	373
Climate stressor	Drought in 2011
Impact on household economy?	Yes: 97%; No: 3%
Impact per sector	Crops: 98.6%; Livestock: 73.6%; Food prices: 88.5%
Adopted adaptation/coping measure?	Yes: 93%, No: 7%
Coping/adaptation measure to deal with stressor	Alternative income to buy food: 58%; Sell assets to buy food: 58%; Ask relatives for food or money for food: 57%; Reliance on aid: 55%; Displacement/migration: 23%
Suffered adverse effects despite coping	66%
No measures adopted, why not?	Lack of knowledge/skills: 58%; Lack means/resources: 28%

Kenya

Denis Opiyo Opono

Loss & Damage



Erosive coping in Budalangi Division, Kenya: loss and damage associated with the 2011 floods

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Kenya: Denis Opiyo Opono

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Households interviewed	400
Climate stressor	Flood in 2011
Impact on household economy?	Yes: 98%; No: 2%
Impact per sector	Crops: 98%; Food prices: 95%; House/properties: 66%
Adopted adaptation/coping measure?	Yes: 93%, No: 7%
Coping/adaptation measure to deal with stressor	Reliance on aid: 91%; Migration & camps: 64%; Alternative income to buy food: 39%; Ask relatives for assistance: 37%; Sell assets to buy food: 22%
Suffered adverse effects despite coping	72%
No measures adopted, why not?	Lack of knowledge/skills: 40%; Lack means/resources: 31%; Not my task: 10%; No priority: 4%

Micronesia

Simpson Abraham & Iris Monnereau

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The limits of adaptation in Kosrae, Micronesia: loss and damage associated with coastal erosion

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Micronesia: Simpson Abraham & Iris Monnereau

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Households interviewed	363
Experienced coastal erosion	Yes: 87%; No: 13%
Impact on household economy?	Yes: 80%; No: 20%
Impact per sector	Crops: 69%; Tree crops: 70%; Housing: 53%
Adopted adaptation/coping measure?	Yes: 60%, No: 40%
Coping/adaptation measure to deal with stressor	Build sea walls: 29%; 'Landfill to fortify coast: 29%; Plant trees along coastline: 15%; Elevate house:11%
Suffered adverse effects despite adapting	92%
No measures adopted, why not?	Lack of knowledge/skills: 47%; Lack means/resources: 74%; Not my task: 3%

Four additonal case studies in 2013

Loss & Damage

- Ethopia
- Mozambique
- Burkina Faso

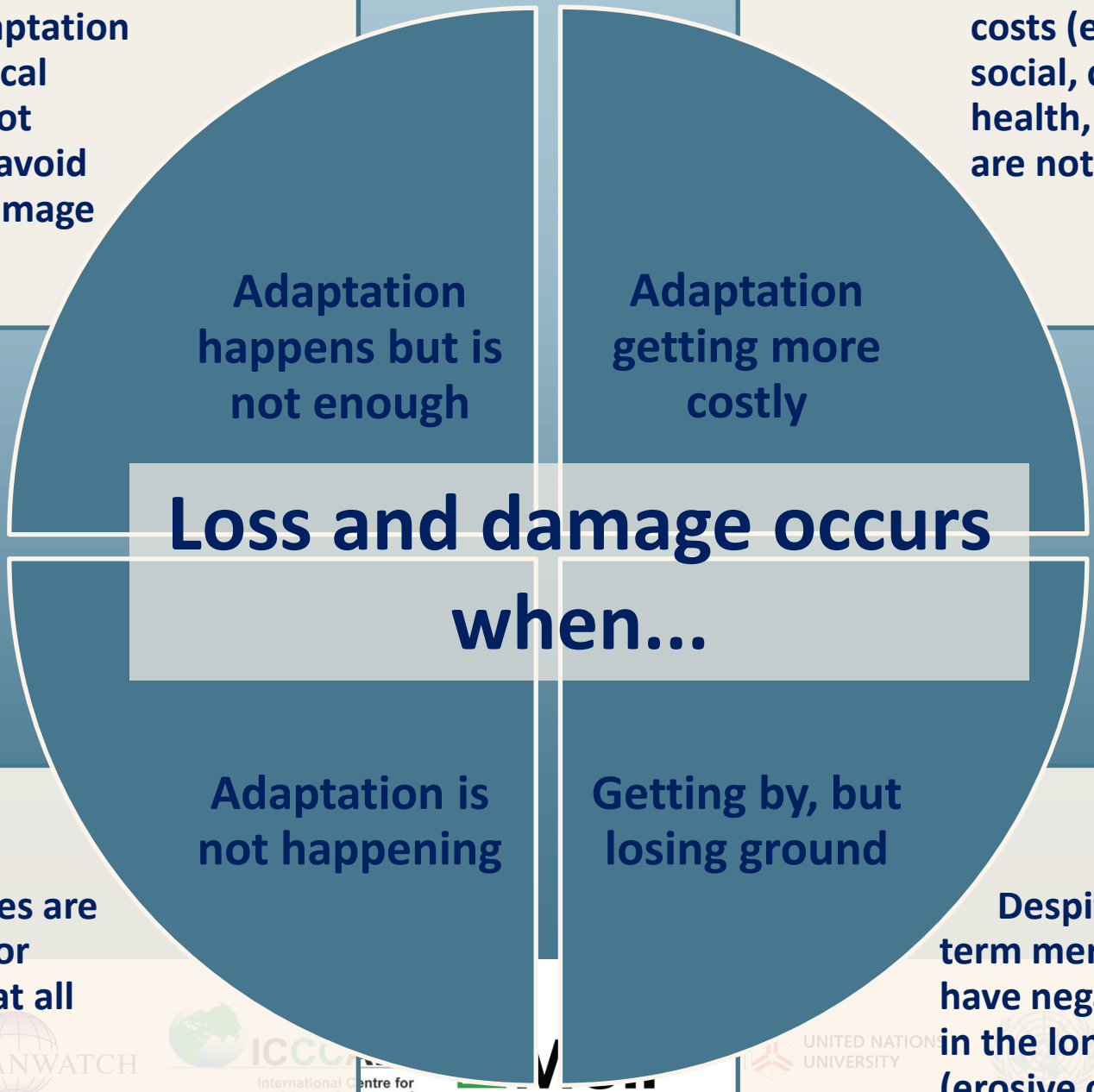
Supported by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).
Status: fieldwork complete. Reporting in progress.

- Nepal → Supported by CDKN. **Status**: Fieldwork starts in December.

Country	Climate threat	Impact
Ethiopia	Flooding	Habitability + livelihood
Burkina Faso	Drought	Livestock + crops
Mozambique	Floods & Drought	Staple crops
Nepal	Floods	Agricultural livelihoods

- Existing coping/adaptation to biophysical impact is not enough to avoid loss and damage

- Measures have costs (economic, social, cultural, health, etc.) that are not regained



- No measures are adopted – or possible – at all

Despite short-term merits, efforts have negative effects in the longer term (erosive coping)

Outlook: Decisions & consequences

Loss & Damage

- How we address loss & damage will affect how society manages the negative impacts of climate change while pursuing other goals, such as resilient and low-emission development.

- Possibilities and constraints for society today will play out against our collective success or failure in stemming the pathways to loss and damage

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Thank you.

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- Policy report with case study findings & policy reflections

  http://www.loss-and-damage.net/download/6815.pdf
- Fact sheet

  http://www.loss-and-damage.net/download/6816.pdf

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-- Climate Development Knowledge Network
-- Africa Climate Policy Center (ACPC)

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