

PROGRAMME

Research and Policy Workshop on

**Climate Change, Humanitarian Disasters and International Development:
Linking vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity**

27 April 2007

**CIENS: Oslo Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental and Social Research
Forskningsparken, Oslo**

Organized by:

CICERO

Senter for klimaforskning

Center for International
Climate and Environmental
Research – Oslo



GECHS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE
AND HUMAN SECURITY



**UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO**

**Sponsored by
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Research and Policy Workshop on

**Climate Change, Humanitarian Disasters and International Development:
Linking vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity**

Background

In recent years natural hazards such as hurricanes, floods and droughts have triggered humanitarian disasters that have reversed years of development progress. In the years to come climate change is expected to affect the frequency and magnitude of such hazards, thus increasing the risk of disasters. Vulnerability to both climate change and natural hazards is also increasing due to a range of societal changes, including rising poverty in some areas, urbanization, loss of agricultural incomes, spread of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, and conflict. Climate change presents new challenges to how disasters are managed, and particularly to how vulnerability is reduced in the long term. If local, national and international actors are to successfully prepare for, respond to and recover from weather-related disasters and reduce poverty, then strategies for managing disaster risks and climate impacts must be integrated into international development and humanitarian policies. This workshop will highlight some of the latest international research on natural disasters and complex emergencies in the context of climate change, with the objective of moving toward a more integrated policy framework.

Participants

Keynote presenters and speakers at the workshop will include eight internationally recognized scholars and practitioners who will address various aspects of vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity. Session chairs and local panelists will provide insights within Norwegian contexts. The audience will be open for up to 75 participants from UD, UiO, CIENS and the wider research and practitioner communities.

Location and date

The workshop will be held Friday, 27 April 2007 from 9:00 to 16:00 in the Forum auditorium (main floor) at the CIENS Resource Center, Gaustadalléen 21 in Oslo.

Organization

Coordination and logistics are provided by CICERO and the GECHS International Project Office. Questions should be directed to Lynn Rosentrater: lynn.rosentrater@sgeo.uio.no or Jennifer West: j.j.west@cicero.uio.no.

Registration

Register via email to j.j.west@cicero.uio.no by 22 April 2007.

**Climate Change, Humanitarian Disasters and International Development:
Linking vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity**

27 April 2007

8:30 - 9:00 Registration

Opening session (chair: Lynn Rosentrater, GECHS)

9:00 - 9:15 Welcoming comments from Erik Solheim, Minister of International Development, Norway

9:15 - 9:30 Karen O'Brien, University of Oslo, Norway
What can we expect? Recent findings from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report

9:30 - 9:50 Keynote address by Mark Pelling, Kings College London, UK
Human Security: A meta-framework for bridging disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and development

9:50 - 10:10 Keynote address by Sumaya Ahmed Zaki Eldeen, University of Khartoum, Sudan
The need for improved policy process integration to support climate change adaptation in Africa

10:10 - 10:30 Discussion

10:30 - 10:45 Break

Session 1: Contexts in which disasters occur (chair: Jennifer J. West, CICERO)

10:45 - 11:05 Ian Christoplos, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Climate change and the complexity of emergency response

11:05 - 11:25 Lisa Schipper, START, the global change SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training, Thailand
Development in a Changing World: Challenges for integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning

11:25 - 11:45 Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad
Good Practice in Local Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in South Asia: Lessons from Tsunami Evaluation Coalition

11:45 - 12:15 Discussion

12:15 - 13:15 Lunch

Session 2: Challenges and opportunities for addressing climate change (chair: Lars Otto Næss, CICERO)

- 13:15 - 13:35 Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
Insurance for reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters
- 13:35 - 13:55 Madeleen Helmer, Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate change and Disaster Preparedness, the Netherlands
Mainstreaming climate change into humanitarian disaster management: overcoming institutional barriers
- 13:55 - 14:15 Siri Eriksen, University of Oslo, Norway
Sustainable adaptation and official development assistance
- 14:15 - 14:30 Discussion
- 14:30 - 14:45 Break

Session 3: Panel discussion on integrating development and climate policies (chair: Mark Pelling, Kings College London)

- 14:45 - 14:55 Panelist: Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
- 14:55 - 15:05 Panelist: Sumaya Ahmed Zaki Eldeen, University of Khartoum
- 15:05 - 15:15 Panelist: Knut Christiansen, Norwegian Church Aid
- 15:15 - 15:25 Panelist: Lars Otto Næss, CICERO
- 15:25 - 15:45 Discussion
- 15:45 - 16:00 Gunnar Eskeland, CICERO
Concluding remarks: practical implications for Norwegian development policy, humanitarian aid, and research

Abstracts and speaker bios begin on the following page

Sumaya Ahmed Zaki Eldeen, University of Khartoum, Sudan

The need for improved policy process integration to support climate change adaptation in Africa

Abstract

Global warming is already affecting Africa. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) describes Africa, the world's poorest region, as "the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of projected change because widespread poverty limits adaptation capabilities" (IPCC, TAR). Climate change will have both a *direct* impact on development of climate-dependent activities (such as infrastructure and agriculture) and *indirect* consequences for social systems (such as issues of poverty, conflict, health and education). As a result, climate change has the potential to undermine, and even undo, socio-economic development in many of the African countries.

Despite the inherent link between climate change and development, climate change continues to be unrecognized in many African countries. The impacts of climate change are not just of environmental concern, as they will hamper efforts to tackle poverty and promote national development. Climate risks could seriously obstruct the global efforts and threaten the sustainability of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Current and potential climate risks to developmental projects in Africa (Ethiopia) were found to represent a significant threats to poverty reduction efforts, for many projects the risks are already presents or likely to occur in the near term. Mainstreaming adaptation into development process in Africa is essential because of the urgency of the problem, lack of definitive commitment to climate change adaptation in Africa and because of difficulty of establishing a new stand-alone strategy for adaptation. This paper focuses on some of the available opportunities which are represented in the presence of many directly or indirectly related plans, policies and strategies (such as National sustainable development strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (BSAP), climate-related plans (NAPA, NC), disaster prevention, sectoral policies and plans (agriculture, water management, etc). The measures and activities of these plans and policies illustrate the clear link with climate risk management, disaster prevention and management policies that could be strengthened for proper integration.

Biography

Sumaya Zaki Eldeen holds a PhD degree in plants Eco-physiology and has research experience on climate change, genetic resources and remote sensing. She is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Khartoum and an Executive Committee Member of the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS). She has also been a member of the Sudanese Government Delegation at several United Nations Climate Change Conferences and has been very involved in the NAPA process in Sudan. Sumaya is a member of the CLACC fellowship programme (www.clacc.net) working to strengthen capacity in Least Developed Countries on Adaptation to Climate Change. She has engaged with professionals from both the development, environment and health sectors to coordinate a study on the impacts of climate change on human health in Sudan and disseminate the findings. Currently working on establishing a coalition of environmental and development practitioners in the region to network and work together on the issues of climate change and development.



Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad
Good Practice in Local Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in South Asia: Lessons from Tsunami Evaluation Coalition

Abstract

This good practice summary brings out lessons and recommendations from the recent and comprehensive reviews of the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC). The intention is to share examples of effective action already taken towards climate change adaptation that comply with the high standards set from TEC's review efforts. In terms of disaster risk reduction, climate change has three important aspects: rising global temperature, the possible increase or intensification of natural hazards, and the increase in the human vulnerability of communities and individuals. Increased frequency and irregularity of droughts and floods in Asia are an example of challenges arising. Risk reduction efforts can focus on any of these three areas. If climate risk management wants to leap forward instead of merely moving ahead, it must learn lessons from disaster risk management experience. There is no experience more recent and comprehensive than the TEC. The TEC recommends that the humanitarian system reorient its focus from providing relief to supporting communities in their own recovery. A similar reorientation is necessary for effective risk reduction. The examples provided in this paper are of actions taken to help communities in Asia increase their abilities to be prepared and to cope with future hazards. They are shared here to encourage their replication and improvement. Is it too much to hope that Norway will take the global lead in supporting similar locally-owned practice?

Biography

Mihir R. Bhatt studied and practiced architecture and city planning in Ahmedabad and Delhi, India, and later Cambridge and Washington DC, USA. On returning to India in 1989 he initiated a project on disaster risk mitigation which is now the 63 member strong All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) working in 5 states of India and 3 countries in South Asia. Mihir studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), received Russell E. Train Institutional Fellowship from the World Wildlife Fund, USA (1997), Eisenhower Fellowship, USA (2000), and currently Ashoka International Fellowship, USA (2004). He has set up the risk transfer initiative—including Afat Vimo: a life and non-life disaster insurance and mitigation programme—for the micro-enterprise beneficiaries of Livelihood Relief Fund (LRF) of AIDMI. Recently, he evaluated tsunami recovery for Disaster Emergency Committee, UK; joined Core Management Group of Tsunami Evaluation Coalition, UK as a Member; evaluated Oxfam International response in South India and Sri Lanka; and helped UNDP mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka. Currently he is reviewing Asian Development Bank's work on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia. He is a Senior Fellow at Humanitarian Initiatives at Harvard University, USA. He is a Full Member of ALNAP and a Member of Advisory Committee of ProVention Consortium. Currently he is working on integrating TEC findings in the recovery, upscaling micro-insurance programme, and nourishing risk reduction training and learning in key Asian universities. More information on AIDMI is on website: www.southasiadisasters.net.



Ian Christoplos, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
Climate change and the complexity of emergency response

Abstract

The causes and effects of climate change have rarely been addressed in a concerted manner within response to natural disasters, conflicts or emergencies resulting from combinations of these factors. This stems partly from gaps between approaches and mandates of humanitarian, development and risk reduction actors, and also from the difficulties in communicating the multiple causes and complex solutions that are required to introduce climate change perspectives. The tendency has instead often been to grasp at simplistic solutions, even if these have been shown to fail in the past. This is particularly evident with regard to reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of rural populations. There are intriguing discussions underway of combining economic growth and social protection as a way of addressing these gaps, but more work is needed to determine what this may entail.

Biography

Ian Christoplos is a researcher at the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and an Associate Researcher with the Overseas Development Institute in London. His work focuses on issues related to risk, humanitarian assistance, rural development and agricultural services. His interests focus on policy formation for poverty reduction and supporting the role of local institutions in turbulent contexts. He has worked as a researcher and practitioner in both development cooperation and humanitarian assistance in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Western Balkans. He is the author of the 2006 Tsunami Evaluation Coalition synthesis review of the *Links Between Relief, Rehabilitation and Development in the Tsunami Response*, co-author of the ODI research report *Agricultural Rehabilitation: Mapping the Linkages Between Humanitarian Relief, Social Protection and Development*, together with Catherine Longley and Tom Slaymaker, and co-editor, together with John Farrington, of *Poverty, Vulnerability, and Agricultural Extension: Policy Reforms in an Era of Globalization*, published by Oxford University Press in 2004.



Siri Eriksen, University of Oslo, Norway
Sustainable adaptation and official development assistance

Abstract

There is growing interest in integrating climate change adaptation measures into official development assistance. Efforts so far have focused on managing climate risk, such as early warning and evacuation procedures for flood situations. There is also increasing attention being paid to the need to strengthen the existing adaptation strategies that rural populations use to manage climatic events. This paper argues that in order to address poverty reduction and vulnerability to climate change, the specific societal factors and conditions that make poor people vulnerable must also be addressed. Sustainable adaptation involves measures that specifically target the interface between poverty and vulnerability, that is, climate risk, adaptive capacity of the poor, and causes of vulnerability. This implies a shift from reacting to a physical threat in the short term towards addressing longer term social factors that cause vulnerability, for example by improving health infrastructure and capacity to deal with climate related diseases and target exclusion of poor groups from key adaptation resources including drought grazing areas and forest products. Adaptation efforts that do not take such issues into account can actually serve to exacerbate the vulnerability of poor population groups to climate change.

Biography

Siri Eriksen is postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at University of Oslo. She holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from University of East Anglia, UK (2000). Her main research interests focus on human vulnerability to environmental change, in particular climatic variability and extremes such as droughts and floods. Current research projects include investigating adaptation to climate change in Norway, the interaction between conflicts and vulnerability to climate stress in Kenya, economic change and coping strategies with climatic variability in Mozambique, and investigating linkages between development, poverty and climate change adaptation. She has previously worked for CICERO Center for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo for four years as a senior researcher and is an associate fellow at the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia.



Madeleen Helmer, Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate change and Disaster Preparedness, the Netherlands

Mainstreaming climate change into humanitarian disaster management: overcoming institutional barriers

Abstract

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is since 8 years addressing the risks of climate change to vulnerable people, in particular in the context of disaster management. Since 2002 programs have been developed in a number of developing countries focusing at community level and national capacity building. In the presentation these experiences will be shared, along with some observations regarding institutional barriers around climate change policy and program development. Moving these barriers will be very important to make progress in giving sufficient priority to the risks of climate change within sectors and countries that are almost not engaged at the moment. Current barriers are:

1. The general projections of climate change and the mismatch of these projections (decades) with policy development and planning circles (years).
2. The dominant focus on greenhouse gas emission reduction in climate change policies and measures leading to a disconnect with adaptation and risk reduction strategies.
3. Lack of human and financial resources to mainstream climate change risks in development and disasters risk reduction planning.

Biography

In 2001 Madeleen Helmer initiated and developed the business plan for the Red Cross-Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness with the Netherlands Red Cross. Since 2004 the RC/RC Climate Centre is a joint initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC. She is now the head of the RC Climate centre. A key objective of the RC/RC Climate centre is to support national RC societies to better understand the risks of climate change and to integrate these risks in their ongoing Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk reduction programmes. In 2006 20 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies all over the world were engaged in climate change related programs. The RC Climate Centre aims to stimulate dialogues between the climate change scientists, policy-makers and civil society organisations operational in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction. Understanding climate science, but also making scientists aware of the perceptions and priorities of civil society is a constant element in these dialogues. Madeleen Helmer has participated in a number of international scientific fora on issues like health and climate change and extreme weather events and climate change. She represents the IFRC in international meetings like the UNFCCC, and other related fora.



Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
Insurance for reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters

Abstract

As a possible post-Kyoto strategy for making use of insurance instruments to support climate-change adaptation (and meet the intent of Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC), this presentation suggests the creation of a climate insurance facility specialized in supporting developing country insurance-related initiatives. It would offer capacity building and financial support to nascent (climate-related) disaster insurance systems in highly exposed developing countries. Examples include support to the Malawi groundnut insurance initiative, as well as to sovereign insurance instruments, such as Mexico's recent catastrophe bond. The facility could stand alone or leverage its support by partnering with other donor initiatives. In this way, development agencies and other donors can reorient from reactive disaster assistance to proactive risk prevention and transfer.

Biography

Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer is leader of the Risk and Vulnerability Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria. She is an economist by training, and received a BS and Ph.D. at Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Maryland, respectively. Her current interest is global change and the risk of catastrophic events, and she is investigating options for improving the financial management of catastrophic risks in transition and developing countries. She and her colleagues have carried out extensive research on this topic and are developing options for the donor communities to support proactive disaster assistance. She is an associate editor of the *Journal for Risk Research* and on the editorial board of *Risk Analysis* and *Risk Abstracts*. She has received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the European Society for Risk Analysis and the Scientific Excellence Award, from the International Society for Risk Analysis.



Mark Pelling, Kings College London, UK

Human Security: a meta-framework for bridging disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance and development

Abstract

On 17th April 2007 the UN Security Council held a thematic debate on climate change. Some 52 countries spoke. Chairing the debate, Margaret Beckett argued that “Climate change is a security issue, but it is not a matter of narrow national security - it has a new dimension. This is about our collective security in a fragile and increasingly interdependent world.” Mounting evidence – as well as future predictions – of the impacts of climate change for human wellbeing point to fundamental disruptions in ecological, economic and demographic patterns and processes that will destabilise social and political life. This is likely to be felt through increased severity and frequency of hydrometeorological hazards but also through change in the distribution and nature of vulnerability and coping capacity. Adjustments to human systems under stress will transmit local consequences through trade, migration and conflict. Recent debates on Human Security, many associated with the work of GECHS provide a lens through which we can view the interactions of climate change, disaster management and development. This paper provides an overview of debates on Human Security with particular reference to the UN and then examines climate change and disaster risk management as questions of human security.

Biography

Mark Pelling is Reader in Human Geography, King’s College London. His research interests include disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change with specializations in institutional aspects and in urban contexts in poorer countries. He is lead investigator in a project funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council investigating Human Security and natural disasters. In 2007 he will also begin research on a project examining the negotiation of vulnerability and adaptive capacity to climate change along Mexico’s rapidly urbanizing Caribbean coastline. He is an associate of GECHS and also of UGEC and a member of the UK committee on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change. He is chair of the Climate Change Research Group of the Royal Geographical Society. He is author of *The Vulnerability of Cities* (Earthscan) and *Natural Disasters and Development in a Globalizing World* (Routledge).



Lisa Schipper, Southeast Asia START Regional Centre, Thailand

Development in a Changing World: Challenges for integrating disaster risk reduction into development planning

Abstract

It is no surprise that disasters are of such concern to anyone working with development – disasters roll back progress by years, sometimes even by decades. Disasters are defined by loss of lives and destruction of infrastructure and resources that support livelihoods, including roads, buildings, telecommunications, as well as ecosystems. It is however a surprise that development efforts have scarcely included any mechanisms for reducing the risk posed by extreme hazard events in sensitive areas. Even worse, some development activities can actually increase exposure to disaster risk. Environmental degradation – often a consequence of economic growth in early stages – is a key driver of disaster risk. With global environmental change – especially climate change – now considered to be a major threat to human security globally, there is currently widespread interest in incorporating disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, and especially into efforts to address the Millennium Development Goals, which are the main focus of international development efforts today. But this is easier said than done – there are numerous challenges that stand in the way. There are numerous ways to approach this integration, and no common strategy has yet been identified that is effective and sustainable. To effectively ensure that the risk from disasters is reduced, the main emphasis of any activity should be on reducing those driving forces that are the source of the vulnerability to hazards, such as inequality, physical marginalisation of settlements, and poverty. But these are issues that are difficult to address already. This paper discusses these challenges and examines the key questions that need to be addressed in order to enhance our knowledge on how to approach integration of disaster risk reduction into development in the most effective and sustainable way.

Biography

Dr Lisa Schipper (1975), a dual-national (Sweden and US), is a researcher focused on adaptation and reduction of vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk in the context of development. Lisa holds a Ph.D. in Development Studies from the School of Development Studies and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at University of East Anglia (2004), as well as a BSc in Environmental Sciences from Brown University (1997) and an MSc with distinction in Environment and Development from the School of Development Studies at the UEA (2000). She has consulted for numerous organisations, including the UNFCCC secretariat, IISD, GTZ, DFID, UN/ISDR, UNDP/GEF, UNEP and CIFOR. Lisa spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow at the International Water Management Institute, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She currently works at the Southeast Asia START regional centre in Bangkok, Thailand, focusing on capacity building for adaptation and vulnerability reduction. Lisa has carried out fieldwork in Botswana, Ethiopia and El Salvador and is currently working in Southeast Asia. Lisa can be reached at lschipper@climate-adaptation.info.

