SESSION DESCRIPTION

H3 Beyond adaptation: The reality of Loss and Damage for cities

Presentations

Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2015
Time: 14:00-15:30
Rooms: S01-02

Language: English
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Organized by: ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

Loss and damage refers to both sudden and slow-onset climate change impacts that occur in the absence or in spite of mitigation and adaptation efforts. The establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage by the UNFCCC in 2013 focused global attention on this issue and the need for improved data, planning, and resources at all scales. Several cities in the global south, unable to adapt to the rapid pace of change, have already begun to shift to a loss and damage approach to cope with irreversible land loss, property damage, and increased physical and socio-economic insecurity. In addition, damages to culture (physical or perceptive) and losses of homeland are an extreme, but already a very tangible experience for several coastal cities and regions in the Pacific.

This session opened with the presentation of a framework and policy recommendations based on the current gaps, challenges and opportunities for loss and damage planning in the Philippines. The next presentation focused-in on an award-winning project entitled “Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Choiseul Bay Township, Solomon Islands” and gave an inspiring example of a community whose only viable option is to relocate their capital city to safer ground. Lastly, the city of Fort Lauderdale presented their experience of loss and damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

OUTCOMES

- Participants were exposed to the Loss and Damage climate debate for cities and learned about conceptual frameworks to link DRR, CCA and L&D in their urban planning;
- They were introduced to concrete tools for potential assessment of future loss and damage and gained valuable knowledge on how to integrate knowledge in policy; and
- Through the Solomon Islands example, they learned about the various factors that led one community to choose relocation and how they were implementing this decision.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(3 x 15 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers. **(35 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Raf Tuts, Chief, Urban Environmental Planning Branch, UN-HABITAT*

Presenters *Perlyn Pulhin, Program Manager, Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Pasig, Philippines*

Ana Veronica Gabriel, Research Assistant, Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Pasig, Philippines

Assessing the linkages between CCA, DRR, and loss and damage in the Philippines

The Philippines has been experiencing and will continue to experience devastating climate-related disasters given the current and projected impacts of climate change. Loss and damage (L&D) is inevitable. This study aims to create a framework that links loss and damage with climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. It will introduce a holistic approach with emphasis on the importance of loss and damage knowledge for effective policy-making and action. The study presented aims at improving the current state of the loss and damage system in the Philippines through a set of research, development, and policy recommendations.

Presenters *Shannon McGuire, Principal Planner, Buckley Vann Town Planning Consultants, Brisbane, Australia*

A Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Choiseul Bay Township, Solomon Islands

This presentation will introduce the award-winning Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Choiseul Bay Township, Solomons Islands. The community is setting an inspiring example by relocating their provincial capital to safer ground as the only viable option to improve their resilience to climate change impacts, particularly sea level rise. This is the first provincial capital in the Pacific Region to relocate because of climate change. The adaptation plan presented has a broad range of actions and offers a transferable approach to climate change adaptation in similar settings and integrates all elements of risk and planning into an easy to follow action plan.

Input from *Ms. Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant City Manager, City of Fort Lauderdale on the loss and damage in the city from "Superstorm" Sandy in 2012.*

Inge Leuverink, DRR & Disaster Response Expert, Cordaid, The Hague, Netherlands