**Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 53/6 on human rights and climate change**

**1. Please describe through concrete examples and stories the impacts of loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights in your country. Please indicate whether the impact was exceptional or whether an example of many similarly situated cases. Please estimate the number of cases that may be similar in your country.**

Currently, Argentina is in the process of setting up a national loss and damage mechanism. This challenging task started with an identification and compilation of existing methodologies used or potentially useful for assessing losses and damages at the national level.

As a result of this path that has just begun, Argentina included in its Second National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan[[1]](#footnote-1) (2023) a specific chapter to showcase the results of these first steps. Section 7 Loss and Damage.

Below a description of two cases in Patagonia and the Northen East region of the country can be found. Both are related to climate change, local and indigenous knowledge and cultural rights (art. 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights). Nevertheless, an estimation of the number of cases can’t be done due to the incipient nature of this process.

**Case 1:** Peasant *cantoras* (women singers) of the north of Neuquén, intangible heritage of the province of Neuquén, Law n° 3163/2018

**Climate change related risk: (Water scarcity)** the risk of loss of sources of monetary income due to the impact on the quality and flow of water available for (non-agricultural) production, and ii) the risk of reduced access to safe water for the dispersed rural population for consumption.

**Climate change observed impacts over the cultural heritage:** Droughts modify rural socio-cultural systems, implying a shortage of food for livestock, which affects transhumance and the cultural practice of the *cantoras*. This is compounded by the modification of plow tracks and migration to towns and cities that compromise the continuity of the practice.

**Case 2:** Knowledge, techniques and cultural practices of the Wichí peoples of Formosa in connection with the Pilcomayo River.

**Climate change related risk: (Modification of the course of the Pilcomayo River, drought)** Risk of loss or reduction of livelihoods due to the effects on the riverbanks caused by extraordinary low water levels in the Paraná River and flooding in the Uruguay River.

**Climate change observed impacts over the culutral heritage:** Impacts on the quality of life, food and cultural practices of indigenous communities, with significant cultural losses ranging from subsistence practices (shellfishing) and artisanal production to changes in language and oral tales (loss of linguistic diversity).

**2. Please describe any relevant quantitative and qualitative data as well as mechanisms and tools to measure, monitor, report on, and evaluate the impacts of loss and damage, including from extreme weather and slow-onset events, on the full enjoyment of human rights. Please take into account, inter alia, the disproportionate effects on women and girls, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, persons living in poverty and others in vulnerable situations.**

During 2023 Argentina started the process to establish a National Loss and Damage Mechanism, and carried out three workshops and hired a specialist. As part of this task, some methodologies were identified, even though the country can’t specify any of these as the process is not finished yet. A report on the work undertaken in 2023 is about to be published in the next months, with a clear roadmap that has the identification of quantitative and qualitative methodologies as a key task.

**3. Please describe any specific measures, including public policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements that your Government has undertaken or plans to undertake at a national, sectoral or sub-national level, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including equity-based approaches and solutions. Please also identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability, including means of implementation.**

The Second National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan included a set of loss and damage related measures. It is worth mentioning that Argentina is at the initial stage of a loss and damage policy and expects to benefit from the Santiago Network once it is up and running. Efforts are focuses in preparing the ground, with activities related to identifying stakeholders and existing methodologies; piloting cases of study to build the loss and damage mechanism from a concrete sector or theme, etc. Below there is a list that summarizes the measures committed in the Second National Climate Change Plan:

* Establish a methodology to develop a loss and damage baseline, in coordination with the competent government areas (Ministry of Security and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development): Survey of background information and other methodologies already used, in order to make a first proposal (page 188).
* Develop a national vision and narrative on loss and damage associated with climate change (Ministry of Security and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development): Identification of points of convergence between the IRM community and adaptation for the formulation of a vision and narrative on loss and damage associated with climate change (page 188).
* Conduct a diagnosis of the main physical and transition risks at national, regional and sectoral levels, as well as their degree of exposure to climate change (Ministry of Economy): Identification of the main physical and transition risks at national, regional and sectoral levels according to the degree of exposure to climate change. The focus will be on the risks faced by the financial system and in different value chains of the country's economy (page 212).
* Develop the National Climate Change Information System (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development): Design and implementation of the National Climate Change Information System created by Law No. 27520. This will contain information on losses and damages, vulnerability, sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, technology transfer and development, climate finance and climate change impacts, monitoring and evaluation system and cross-cutting issues, among others (page 223).
* Create lines of work related to climate migrations and strengthen existing ones (Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development): Deepen the lines of research associated with climate migrations, promoting both qualitative work -in particular, consideration of work on internal migrations from rural areas and displacements linked to agriculture with a focus on life histories- and quantitative work, seeking to identify and analyse general patterns (page 224).
* Create origin-destination migration matrices at the census radius or municipality level and superimpose them with layers generated by the Climate Change Risk Mapping System (SIMARCC) (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development): Harmonization of socio-demographic data at the census level with available climate databases. This makes it possible to detect global patterns and, based on these, to consider the possibility of carrying out qualitative case studies (such as life histories) in areas identified as priorities in terms of temporal evolution. It then involves adding the migration layers to the current SIMARCC system (page 224).
* Promote research and development projects aimed at providing support to public agencies in the search for solutions to climate challenges (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation): Search for solutions to challenges of public interest (proposed by public agencies at all levels), such as climate action, that require scientific knowledge or technological development to achieve their resolution and, thus, a positive effect on society (page 225).
* Promote articulation and coordination among scientific and technological institutions to address issues related to climate action (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation): Coordination of complementary capacities of scientific and technological institutions in addressing a strategic issue, in pursuit of the social, economic and environmental development of the country (page 226).
* Promote the financing of scientific-technological knowledge generation and transfer projects of municipal, CABA, provincial and regional scope (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation): Financing of scientific-technological knowledge generation and transfer projects to provide solutions to specific social, productive and environmental problems of municipal, CABA, provincial and regional scope in the Argentine Republic (page 227).
* Provide incentives to university students to train in climate change-related topics (Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation): Training scholarships aimed at increasing the number of graduates in strategic areas for climate change and, thus, increasing the number of qualified professionals in the institutions of the National Science and Technology System (page 227).
* Conserve and reduce the vulnerability of the Calera del Palmar historic site (National Parks Administration and Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development): details on page 243.
* Strengthen the recording of damages and losses due to climatic events (Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries): Development of a National System for the quantification and recording of information on Damages and Losses in the Argentine Agricultural sector due to adverse natural events (page 258).

**4. Please identify and share examples of promising practices and critical challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the full enjoyment of human rights in the context of loss and damage, including examples that highlight multilateral cooperation and approaches, at global and regional levels, including equity-based approaches and solutions.**

We don’t have any specific experience of multilateral cooperation regarding human rights in the context of loss and damage. There is a multilateral cooperation initiative taking place between Argentina and Uruguay under the Uruguay River project, funded by the Adaptation Fund, related to cultural heritage, cultural rights and loss & damage. The climate related events are floods of the Uruguay River, and erosion of the coast and the land. Losses and damages are related to the deterioration and/or destruction of the Jesuit-Guarani and Afro-descendant heritage, with impacts on collective memory, research, and loss of tourist resource.

**Description: Calera del Palmar Historic Site, El Palmar National Park, Entre Ríos province.** The ruins date from the 17th century and are the oldest vestige of the colonial Jesuit presence in the province of Entre Ríos. These ruins are a group of buildings that refer to the Jesuit-Guarani heritage. At the moment, the following have been identified: two ovens used for the elaboration of quicklime, a wharf, three buildings, an oratory, a tunnel dug to the edge of the river and a cemetery, where the remains of the indigenous and enslaved African population that worked in the site are estimated to be found. Currently, a project for structural consolidation of historic buildings, protection of the coastal canyon and enhancement of the Calera del Palmar historic complex is in its initial phase, as a specific measure of a binational program (Argentina-Uruguay) for adaptation to climate change on the coast of the Uruguay River (Adaptation Fund, 2018).

**5. Please provide specific recommendations, if possible, on how to address the critical challenges that have been identified, including actions to be taken at country, regional, and global levels, as well as by different groups of stakeholders, Governments, development agencies, financing institutions, and others.**

No further comments.

**6. Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action and justice that promotes the full enjoyment of human rights in the context of loss and damage.**

No further comments.

1. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/284978/20230424> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)