**Response to the OHCHR Questionnaire**

**Draft (Internal Circulation Only)**

**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 by UNDP. 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 UNDP.**

The implications of loss and damage have been observed at the grassroots level, particularly in Country Offices (COs) where UNDP operates, emphasizing its relevance at the local level, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). UNDP recognizes the pervasive nature of loss and damage resulting from climate change, considering it a cross-cutting issue with repercussions extending to various domains, such as the Right to a Healthy, Clean, and Sustainable Environment (R2HE), Indigenous people’s rights, biodiversity, forest conservation, and human rights more broadly.

This recognition opens avenues for integrated approaches to address interconnected global challenges. By working cohesively, there is an opportunity to enhance the resilience of communities grappling with disasters and climate-related crises. Embracing a human rights based (HRBA) and community-based approach to addressing loss and damage from climate change impacts ensures the protection and promotion of the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

A notable initiative that has helped to illustrate and address the evolving and persistent nature of the issue of L&D is the **Small Grant Programme (SGP),** which has been in operation for over three decades. Sponsored by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNDP, SGP is designed to provide financial and technical support to civil society and community-based organizations at the local level. The programme empowers these entities to spearhead initiatives that tackle global environmental issues while simultaneously enhancing livelihoods.

The success of SGP underscores the effectiveness of a decentralized approach to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change. Directly channeling funding to local communities allows them to conceive, implement, and deliver innovative solutions tailored to their cultural context, thereby emphasizing a community-centered perspective.

Beyond the SGPs project, UNDP is actively addressing the issue of loss and damage across various cross-cutting areas. Based on our experiences, below are some of the most pertinent examples on how UNDP is addressing the impacts of L&D and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights:

**1.** **Climate Change Adaptation**: UNDP supports countries in their efforts to integrate climate change adaptation measures into national and local development plans, policies, and strategies. This helps communities to better prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, thus safeguarding human rights.

**2. Disaster Risk Reduction**: UNDP works on reducing the vulnerability of communities to climate-induced disasters by promoting early warning systems, risk assessments, and capacity building. By minimizing the effects of climate-related disasters, UNDP contributes to the protection of human rights.

**3. Climate Finance:** UNDP assists countries in accessing climate finance for adaptation and mitigation projects, which can help to address the negative effects of climate change on human rights. This includes support for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). UNDP is also supporting interim secretariat arrangements for the loss and damage fund operationalized at COP28.

**4. Climate Resilient Livelihoods**: UNDP promotes the development of climate-resilient livelihoods to support communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change. This includes promoting sustainable agriculture, water management, and other practices that contribute to preserving human rights.

**5. Environmental Justice:** UNDP engages in policy dialogue and advocacy at the national, regional, and global levels, to promote policies and practices that advance environmental justice, including justice and human rights dimensions of the impacts of climate change. This includes supporting justice actors, National Human Rights Institutions, businesses, civil society and other actors in integrating human rights and justice in climate actions.

**6. Partnerships and Coordination:** UNDP collaborates with various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, and other UN agencies, to address the human rights impacts of climate change. This includes working with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other UN human rights mechanisms.

**7. Capacity Development:** UNDP supports the development of institutional and technical capacities to address the human rights implications of climate change. This includes training and knowledge-sharing initiatives that help countries and communities to better understand and address the linkages between climate change and human rights.

Below are concrete examples on the impacts of loss and damage on communities where UNDP is engaged in development programming to address such impacts through the SGP:

1. **Armenia. R2HE and Right to Water.**

Armenia faces severe water insecurity, worsened by a predicted 39% decline in water availability by 2100. The country's high baseline water stress and reliance on irrigation for over 80% of crop production pose challenges. In the Lori region, water scarcity leads to unproductive land, migration, and increased vulnerability, exacerbated by the global pandemic and armed conflict.This significantly affects various rights, primarily the **Human Right to Water and Sanitation,** which is considered fundamental. The SGP supported the introduction of efficient water management systems in Lernavan and Shenavan settlements. This was done through the construction of low-cost water reservoirs, with a total capacity of 16,000m3 and fully equipped for collecting water from low-volume, dispersed sources, such as mountain seeps and springs. The water reservoirs fit into the natural landscape and use innovative and low-cost technologies and approaches, including the application of a waterproof membrane as an alternative to the traditional use of reinforced concrete. Furthermore, a 17,000m irrigation system was built in both settlements to help rehabilitate degraded land, with the addition of an energy-efficient pumping station in Lernavan.[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. **Belize. R2HE and Cultural Rights.**

Monkey River in Belize faces severe coastal erosion and loss due to industrial activities and climate change impacts. Besides the tremendous effects on the ecosystems, there is also a huge **loss in terms of cultural heritage and, thus, of cultural rights,** that calls for an approach grounded in climate justice. With support from SGP, the local community started a pilot project to stabilize the coastline with large synthetic sandbags known as geotubes, which form a physical barrier that absorbs wave energy, thus reducing coastal erosion and allowing the beach to naturally replenish itself. One year after the installation of five geotubes along 400 feet of shoreline in 2018, the beach had recovered to a width of more than 30 feet.[[2]](#footnote-3)

1. **Cabo Verde. R2HE and Women’s Rights.**

Cabo Verde, a Small Island Developing State, faces severe climate impacts despite minimal emissions. The East Planalto Women's Association (AMUPAL) initiated a project in Santo Antão's natural park, supported by SGP. Focused on agroecosystem resilience and food security, the project engaged locals in workshops, training, and agroforestry,in order to respond to some of the climate change impacts affecting local women. **As a result, AMUPAL was able to set up a seed bank of local crops and endemic species. The project also built a nursery garden with 10 significant endemic species, which were used to restore 18.4 hectares of degraded park lands.[[3]](#footnote-4)**

1. **Mexico. R2HE and Right to Food.**

In Mexico, SGP works to strengthen the climate resilience and accelerate the early post-disaster recovery of Indigenous and rural communities in the Yucatán Peninsula. This fills a much-needed gap since resources for recovery following events such as hurricanes and severe droughts usually focus only on infrastructure, with limited focus on supporting the re-establishment of livelihoods. Supported by SGP, Mexican civil society organization Misioneros A.C. carried out a project to set up the delivery of financial support through community resilience mechanisms with strong local governance systems. For example, seed banks such as *Casa de la Buena Semilla* (House of the Good Seed) can share native seeds through in-kind loans to help local farmers recover.[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. **Reducing flood risks in Fiji. R2HE and Right to Food.**

In Fiji, SGP has supported the climate resilient conservation project Maroroi Dreketi, coordinated by the Navotu Youth Club from Vunisinu, one of five villages in Dreketi district located at the mouth of the country’s largest river, the Rewa. Vunisinu and another village in Dreketi district, Nalase, are among 40 communities in Fiji that have been earmarked for relocation due to climate change. The project involves the removal of invasive species is important for the conservation and restoration of Dreketi’s native mixed mangrove forest, which provides habitats for crabs, fish and plants. The Maroroi Dreketi project has an enormous potential to be replicated in other districts in the province of Rewa and delta areas that suffer from the same problems. It has already benefitted more than 1,000 Indigenous Peoples, roughly half of the district’s population.[[5]](#footnote-6)

**2.** **Please describe any relevant quantitative and qualitative data as well as mechanisms and tools that UNDP utilized 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.**

UNDP employs various mechanisms, tools, and data sources to measure, monitor, report on and evaluate the impact of loss and damage, considering the full enjoyment of human rights and the disproportionate effects on vulnerable groups. Many of these tools are in the process of being updated to better reflect loss and damage areas that require further information and analysis, such as non-economic losses and slow-onset events.

While the existing global infrastructure includes national disaster loss and damage data management systems, capturing key statistics on hazardous events and their impacts, UNDP collaborates with designated disaster management agencies to finalize data collection formats, ensuring inputs from various ministries and agencies. The collected data is then analyzed and used for planning, decision-making, and risk reduction processes at the national and local level.

A parallel strategy involves establishing data tracking systems or assessment plans in conjunction with other UN agencies or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). These tools are either created and subsequently adapted to specific contexts or drawn from established good practices. Some of the most relevant mechanisms and tools that UNDP utilized, or will utilize, include:

1. National [**Disaster Loss and Damage Database:**](https://www.undp.org/publications/loss-and-damage-database) UNDP works with governments and other partners to develop and institutionalize national databases that collect disaggregated data and information at local levels on the human and economic losses caused by disasters, including climate-related events. These databases contain long time series data at local levels and could help to analyze the impacts of loss and damage on different population groups, identify trends and patterns of losses and inform decision-making. Examples include: [BDDTL](http://tldd.mss.gov.tl/DesInventar/profiletab.jsp) in Timor Leste, [DIBI](https://dibi.bnpb.go.id/) in Indonesia, [CAMDI](https://camdi.ncdm.gov.kh/) in Cambodia.
2. [**Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA):**](https://www.undp.org/publications/post-disaster-needs-assessment) To address the increasing impacts of both rapid and slow-onset events, UNDP advocates leveraging national data systems, especially in post-disaster scenarios. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) serves as a joint mechanism for assessing disaster impacts and planning recovery. The PDNA, guided by international agreements, estimates financial resources required for reconstruction.
3. [**Disaster Losses and Damages tracking system:**](https://www.undp.org/press-releases/undp-wmo-and-undrr-issue-statement-tracking-hazardous-events-and-disaster-losses-and-damages) Given the relevance and importance of recording loss and damage in affected countries, UNDP, UNDRR and WMO along with other partners are collaborating to develop the next generation of disaster loss and damage tracking system aligned with the digital maturity of countries and utilizing the latest technologies to record and analyze data. The new system will be open source, interoperable, and fully aligned with the Sendai Framework and related SDG targets and indicators.

1. **[Gender Inequality Index (GII)](https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII):** The GII is a composite measure reflecting inequality between women and men along three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market. The GII can be employed to understand and track the impacts of loss and damage on women’s rights as well as its relation with gender inequality.

1. **[Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI)](https://www.undp.org/publications/mapping-climate-change-vulnerability):** The CCVI assesses the vulnerability of countries to the impacts of climate change based on various indicators such as exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. UNDP used this index to identify countries and populations affected by loss and damage, including indigenous people and other vulnerable groups. Here, you'll find a pertinent example of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) applied in the context of [Bangladesh.](https://www.undp.org/publications/mapping-climate-change-vulnerability)
2. **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative**: UNDP partners with other international organizations (including WMO and UNDRR) to support the implementation of the CREWS Initiative, which aims to improve the capacity of vulnerable countries to generate and communicate effective early warning information. This initiative focuses on the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and indigenous people, and constitutes a possible good practice in the identification and monitoring of potential negative loss and damage impacts brought out by climate changes. UNDP has utilized this initiative to launch a country programming to improve climate monitoring and early warning systems through a series of [targeted interventions in Sierra Leone](https://www.undp.org/sierra-leone/projects/climate-information-and-early-warning-systems) since 2013.
3. **Collaboration with Research Institutions and NGOs**: UNDP works with academic institutions, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations to conduct research and evaluations on the impacts of climate change and loss and damage on vulnerable populations. These partnerships help to generate evidence and insights that inform UNDP's strategies and interventions. Examples are as followings:

* [Collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD):](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/GetUrlReputation) UNDP has partnered with ICIMOD to implement projects related to climate change adaptation and resilience in mountainous regions, such as the Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP). The partnership involves joint research, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in these areas.

* [The Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (](https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/10100IIED.pdf)[TAMD) Framework:](https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/10100IIED.pdf) UNDP collaborated with The World Resources Institute (WRI) and other partners to develop the TAMD framework, a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of climate change adaptation interventions and their contribution to development outcomes. This collaboration involved joint research, workshops, and pilot projects to test and refine the framework. UNDP has held a training workshop on TAMD regarding Building Resilience in the Agriculture and Water Sectors to the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change in [Sudan](https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/ldcf-sudan).
* [The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA):](https://gca.org/about-us/the-global-commission-on-adaptation/) UNDP is a managing partner of the GCA, which is a collaboration between governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector. The GCA aims to accelerate adaptation action and support by elevating the political visibility of adaptation and focusing on concrete solutions. The GCA has published a flagship report, "Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience," which includes research on the impacts of climate change and loss and damage on vulnerable populations.

**3. Please describe any specific measures, including public policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements that UNDP 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.**

UNDP's Climate Promise is supporting countries to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage by using the NDC process to identify actions that will help prevent and/or respond to loss and damage in a holistic way.

UNDP’s work in the area of environmental justice, including climate justice, is guided by UNDP’s strategy on ‘Environmental Justice: Securing Our Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment’, published in 2022.

A recently published [report](https://www.undp.org/maldives/press-releases/new-report-loss-damage-and-climate-litigation) underscores UNDP's focus on accountability, recognizing it as a pivotal element within the realm of loss and damage.[[6]](#footnote-7) The report casts light on the intricate connections between climate litigation and the repercussions of loss and damage, particularly from the perspective of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Advocating for augmented funding for SIDS grounded in the principles of loss and damage, the report anticipates a transformation in existing climate governance and accountability mechanisms, propelled by the rise of climate litigation. The report extends practical recommendations tailored for both the public and private sectors in SIDS.

While there isn't a specific mechanism within UNDP solely dedicated to ensuring accountability for human rights violations linked to loss and damage, the organization actively integrates human rights principles into its initiatives through a myriad of programming areas, policies, strategies, and partnerships. This concerted effort contributes significantly to fostering accountability. The following approaches and partnership are to be considered as relevant in this context:

1. **Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA):** UNDP adopts a human rights-based approach in its programs and projects, ensuring that human rights principles such as participation, non-discrimination, and accountability are integrated into all aspects of its work. This approach also helps identify and address human rights violations in the context of loss and damage.
2. **Social and Environmental Standards (SES**): UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards provide a framework for assessing and managing the social and environmental risks and impacts of UNDP's projects, including those related to loss and damage. The SES includes provisions for stakeholder engagement, Indigenous Peoples, gender equality, and human rights, which contribute to ensuring accountability in UNDP's work.
3. **Partnerships with human rights mechanisms:** UNDP collaborates with various human rights mechanisms, such as OHCHR, the UN Human Rights Council, and other UN human rights bodies, to promote accountability for human rights violations in the context of loss and damage.
4. **Capacity development and technical assistance:** UNDP supports governments and other stakeholders in strengthening their capacity to design, implement, and monitor policies and programs that protect human rights in the context of loss and damage. This includes providing technical assistance on integrating human rights into climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, which can contribute to preventing and addressing human rights violations.
5. **Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting**: UNDP regularly monitors, evaluates, and reports on the progress and impact of its projects and programs, including those related to loss and damage. By incorporating human rights considerations into these processes, UNDP can identify and address any potential human rights violations and ensure accountability.
6. **Grievance mechanisms:** UNDP has established grievance mechanisms, such as the Social and [Environmental Compliance Unit](https://www.undp.org/accountability/audit/secu-srm/social-and-environmental-compliance-review) (SECU) and the [Stakeholder Response Mechanism](https://www.undp.org/accountability/audit/secu-srm/stakeholder-response-mechanism" \l ":~:text=The%20Stakeholder%20Response%20Mechanism%20helps,jointly%20resolve%20concerns%20and%20disputes.) (SRM), which allow affected stakeholders to raise concerns about UNDP-supported projects and seek redress for potential adverse impacts, including human rights violations.

In the context of UNFCCC, discussions on loss and damage often revolve around the need for innovative financial instruments and mechanisms to support adaptation and resilience efforts. Insurance and risk financing play a significant role in this discourse by offering risk transfer solutions that can help cushion the financial blows of climate-induced disasters and crowd in private sector capital. One key initiative in this regard is the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), established in 2013 at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) to the UNFCCC. The WIM aims to enhance understanding of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and to facilitate support, including financial assistance and insurance-related mechanisms, for vulnerable countries and communities.

UNDP, through the Insurance and Risk Finance Facility, is working across over 30 countries, crowding in insurance sector technical and financial resources to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations, businesses and governments in the face of shocks, including climate change impacts. In particular, UNDP’s joint work with insurance industry to develop parametric insurance policies, designed to rapidly trigger payouts in the event of loss and damage events, strengthens the resilience of communities and governments to withstand such shocks. Underpinning this work is a comprehensive programme implemented with government partners to strengthen the institutional capacity for insurance and risk finance, insurance market development and the integration of risk financing into policy decision-making, including the integration of insurance and risk financing into national adaptation planning and climate policies.

**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.**

UNDP actively engages in multilateral cooperation and fosters innovative strategies to tackle the complexities associated with protecting human rights in context of climate change-induced loss and damage. The exacerbation of vulnerabilities, both pre-existing and newly emergent, due to the global pandemic and armed conflicts underscores the urgency of robust multilateral efforts at both global and regional scales. The following practices exemplify the relevance and effectiveness of such efforts:

1. **Collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** UNDP works closely with the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies, such as the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), to incorporate human rights considerations into climate negotiations, policies, and actions.
2. **Partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**: UNDP and OHCHR cooperate to mainstream human rights in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. They work together on initiatives like the [UN Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth, and Climate Change](https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-initiative-on-children-and-youth-highlights-young-peoples-climate-change-work/), which aims to ensure that the rights of children and youth are considered in climate policies and actions.
3. **Support for the** **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030**): UNDP supports countries in implementing the [Sendai Framework](https://www.undp.org/myanmar/publications/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiA6vaqBhCbARIsACF9M6lyJ7G9qOTQETzEzdkJeQ2Hpq3kREqWQXcGVuPUbYQzV1QBWKhIOXgaAvJ2EALw_wcB), which recognizes the need to address the underlying drivers of disaster risk, including climate change, and emphasizes the importance of a human rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction.
4. **Engagement with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** UNDP works to ensure that the linkages between climate change, loss and damage, and human rights are considered in the implementation of SDGs. This includes support for SDG 13 (Climate Action) and other relevant goals, such as SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).
5. **Cooperation with other UN agencies and initiatives:** UNDP collaborates with other UN agencies, such as the UNEP, FAO, WHO and UNICEF to address the human rights impacts of climate change in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. This includes participating in initiatives like the [United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation](https://www.un-redd.org/about/programme) (UN-REDD). UNDP is also part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations system. IASC advocates for common humanitarian principles and makes strategic, policy and operational decisions with a direct bearing on humanitarian operations on the ground.
6. **Partnerships with regional and international organizations**: UNDP works with regional and international organizations such as the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to promote regional cooperation on climate change and human rights.
7. **Involvement in global climate finance mechanisms:** UNDP plays a crucial role in helping countries access climate finance from sources like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). By supporting climate adaptation and mitigation projects, UNDP contributes to the protection of human rights in the face of climate change.

**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.**

Addressing the critical challenges related to loss and damage impacts on human rights requires concerted efforts from various stakeholders at the local, country, regional, and global levels. Here are some specific recommendations:

**1. Integrate human rights into climate policies and actions:** Governments should ensure that their climate change policies, strategies, and actions integrate human rights principles, such as participation, non-discrimination, transparency, and accountability. This can be done by conducting human rights impact assessments using specific toolkits and indexes, such as the Human Rights Marker, to ensure coherency in evaluation and implementation, and consulting with affected communities when designing and implementing climate actions. Businesses should integrate human rights in their climate action policies and practices, including in particular conducting human rights due diligence to identify and prevent risks related to the protection of the right to a healthy environment, in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**2. Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks:** Governments should review and strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks to ensure that they adequately address the human rights implications of loss and damage. This may involve developing specific legislation, policies, or guidelines on loss and damage, as well as establishing dedicated institutions or mechanisms to address these issues.

**3. Enhance capacity building and technical assistance:** Development agencies, such as UNDP, should continue to provide capacity building and technical assistance to governments and other stakeholders on integrating human rights into their climate change efforts.

**4. Improve data collection and monitoring:** Governments, development agencies, and research institutions should collaborate to improve the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on the human rights impacts of loss and damage. This includes developing indicators and monitoring systems to track progress and inform decision-making.

**5. Promote inclusive and participatory decision-making**: Governments and other stakeholders should ensure that the voices of vulnerable and affected communities, including women, children, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities, are included in decision-making processes related to loss and damage. This can be achieved by involving these groups in consultations, policy development, and implementation processes.

**6. Mobilize financial resources:** Financing institutions, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), should prioritize funding for projects that address the human rights impacts of loss and damage incurred by climate change. This includes providing financial support for adaptation and mitigation efforts that benefit vulnerable and marginalized communities. More recently, the new loss and damage fund and funding arrangements should help ensure human rights protections in loss and damage response efforts.

**7. Strengthen regional and global cooperation:** Governments, regional organizations, and international institutions should collaborate to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices on addressing the human rights impacts of loss and damage. This may involve establishing regional platforms or networks for exchange and coordination, as well as participating in global initiatives such as the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM). Meanwhile, academic institutions, think tanks, and NGOs should continue to conduct research on the human rights impacts of loss and damage and collaborate with governments, development agencies, and other stakeholders to disseminate their findings and inform policymaking.

**8. Support community-based adaptation and resilience-building**: Governments, development agencies, and NGOs should work together to support community-based adaptation and resilience-building initiatives that empower vulnerable communities to address the human rights impacts of loss and damage, such as through livelihood diversification, ecosystem-based adaptation, and social protection. As the international community has developed the architecture for the operationalization of a loss and damage fund at COP28, it is critical to ensure it includes adequate mechanisms to provide direct access, that ought to be culturally appropriate and locally-led, to local communities in developing countries.

**9. Make resources available to fund local climate action.** Resources are rarely available to fund local climate action. Recent analysis indicates that Indigenous Peoples receive significantly less than 1% of international climate finance. New loss and damage funding mechanisms should address this by enabling civil society and community-based organisations, women’s groups, Indigenous Peoples and others to directly access finance, in accordance with the [locally led adaptation principles](https://www.wri.org/initiatives/locally-led-adaptation/principles-locally-led-adaptation) endorsed by over 40 governments, civil society and international organisations.

**10. Raise awareness and advocacy**: Civil society organizations, media, and other stakeholders should raise awareness and advocate for the protection of human rights in the context of loss and damage, including by highlighting the stories and experiences of affected communities and promoting accountability for human rights violations.

**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.**

Supporting a just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient societies that can mitigate global temperature rise is crucial for limiting climate-related loss and damage and promoting human rights in the context of loss and damage. This not only entails ensuring that workers and communities affected by the transition are provided with adequate support, such as skills development, social protection, and alternative livelihood opportunities, but also taking into account and addressing unique challenges faced by other vulnerable groups, including Indigenous people, women and children. This encompasses, but is not limited to, a comprehensive consideration of broader human rights impacts, such as the right to education, indigenous rights, and the right to participate in decision-making processes.

Moreover, ensuring access to justice during the just transition toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient future is equally critical for scaling up climate action and justice. An emerging facet of climate justice involves leveraging litigation to hold governments and corporations accountable for their contributions to climate change and the resulting human rights impacts. Supporting and expanding such litigation efforts becomes instrumental in fostering human rights-based climate action and effectively addressing loss and damage.

1. SGP Armenia, Water Reservoir in Lernavan: <https://sgp.am/en/pages/news/97> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Evaluation UNDP Re-granting Partnership Phase II: Towards Sustainable Management of Belize`s Seascape: <https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/12708> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Climate Change, Loss and Damage: An Evolving Challenge, UNDP (SGP), GEF: <https://api.sgp.am/storage/media/original/2023/12/01/65698c34ea234.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Aportaciones de los guardianes de semillas de la Península de Yucatán en el primer Congreso Mexicano: <https://www.ppdmexico.org/post/aportaciones-de-los-guardianes-de-semillas-de-la-pen%C3%ADnsula-de-yucat%C3%A1n-en-el-primer-congreso-mexicano> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Solidarity in disaster: Stories of the GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP: <https://undp.shorthandstories.com/gef-sgp-solidarity-in-disaster/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. UNDP (2023). Loss and Damage and Climate Litigation: How can the Maldives and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) position for greater climate action?. New York, New York. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)