



WWF COP21 Briefing Paper:

Loss and Damage

1. BACKGROUND

In the context of climate change “loss” is often understood as irreversible (e.g. loss of lives, species or habitats, etc.), while “damage” can be repaired (such as roads, embankments etc.). Loss and damage due to climate change happens when there has been inadequate mitigation and adaptation. At less than 1°C of warming climate impacts, including losses and damages, are already being felt across the world, but particularly acutely in vulnerable developing countries; the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African Countries. If the planet undergoes more than 2.7°C of warming, which is a real danger with the current climate action plans (INDCs) on the table¹, the scale of loss and damage could be catastrophic.

It is clear that, in Paris, Parties have to take strong decisions to ensure that there will be an adequate international response and framework to address loss and damage due to climate change. This is a survival issue for the many countries, people, communities and ecosystems that are most affected by climate change yet least responsible for causing it. It is an issue of climate justice and equity that has to be addressed at COP 21.

2. KEY ASKS:

Loss and damage must be a central component of the Paris Agreement captured in the following ways (in Article 5):

1. Parties must recognise that irreversible loss and damage due to climate change will increase where adaptation and mitigation actions are not sufficient to curb the most severe impacts of climate change.
2. Loss and damage occurs where adaptation is no longer possible and therefore it should be a stand-alone article, treated distinctly from adaptation.
3. An international mechanism, including the financial and technical support structure for dealing with Loss and Damage, should be integral to the core Agreement rather than just captured in the parallel decisions.

The current draft text² contains options that capture all the major elements listed above, but parties need to ensure that the right options are retained and placed in the appropriate places, while the language should be strengthened where necessary, during negotiations at COP21.

¹ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/indc-synthesis-report-press-release/>

² Draft agreement and draft decision on workstreams 1 and 2 of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action - Edited version of 6 November 2015

3. KEY TEXTS:

Below, WWF outlines the loss and damage provisions (in both the main agreement and the accompanying COP decisions) that have to be retained and/or strengthened in order to ensure that the Paris agreement protects vulnerable people, communities and ecosystems. Proposed deletions appear in strikethrough while additions are underlined.

Text	WWF Input
A: DRAFT AGREEMENT	
ARTICLE 5: LOSS AND DAMAGE	
<p>Option I:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. {An international mechanism to address loss and damage is hereby <u>established and</u> defined under this Agreement/Protocol and shall be bound by the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. 2. The purpose of the mechanism shall be to promote and support the development and implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. 3. The international mechanism on loss and damage shall draw upon, further develop and elaborate on the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts pursuant to relevant decisions of the COP, including the development of modalities and procedures for the mechanism's operation and support. It can involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, and be informed by relevant precedents in international law. 4. The international mechanism on loss and damage shall be subject to the authority and guidance of the {governing body}{CMP}{CMA}—and supported through the Financial Mechanism of the Convention. 5. The {governing body}{CMP}{CMA}—shall, at its first session, establish a climate change displacement coordination facility to help coordinate efforts to address the displacement of people as a result of extreme impacts of climate change. 6. The {governing body}{CMP}{CMA}—shall, at its first session, initiate a process to develop approaches to address irreversible and permanent damage resulting from human-induced climate change, and shall endeavour to complete this process within four years.] <p>Option II: [No reference to loss and damage (no Article 5).]</p>	<p>Loss and Damage should be a stand-alone article, separate from adaptation, and it needs to be integral part of the new agreement.</p> <p>The agreement should establish the international mechanism including the technical and financial support to address loss and damage.</p> <p>Irreversible loss and damage due to climate change will increase where adaptation and mitigation can no longer curb the most severe impacts of climate change. Thus, WWF supports option 1 in this Article.</p>

B: DRAFT DECISION

LOSS AND DAMAGE

[Option 1: (paragraphs 65-65septies)]

59. *Recalls* decisions 2/CP.19 and 2/CP.20 on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;

~~65bis. Invites all Parties to reduce the risk of and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;~~

~~65ter. Encourages all Parties to strengthen early warning systems and comprehensive risk management planning for both extreme and slow onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change;~~

65quater. *Decides* that the Warsaw International Mechanism will, following its review in 2016, continue to serve as the mechanism for loss and damage;

~~65quinquies. Requests the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, which guides the implementation of the functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism, to develop guidance for a comprehensive approach to climate risk management;~~

~~65sexies. Also requests the Executive Committee to establish, as part of its work plan, a clearing house for risk transfer that serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer that serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer, in order to facilitate Parties' efforts to develop and implement comprehensive risk management strategies;~~

~~65septies. Further requests the Executive Committee to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention, as well as that of relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to displacement, migration and planned relocation in the context of climate change, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels;}~~

[Option 2: (paragraphs 65-65quinquies)]

65. Encourages Parties to develop early warning systems and risk management plans for both extreme events and slow onset events and to communicate them to the secretariat as part of their national communications, in accordance with the modalities and procedures to be developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

65bis. *Agrees* that, as part of its work, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts shall develop guidelines for a comprehensive approach to climate risk management;

65ter. *Establishes* a financial technical panel under the Warsaw International Mechanism, which shall explore approaches for:

- (a) Establishing regional and sub regional pools to

A Decision on Loss and Damage at COP 21 is critical to ensure that the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) will be further developed and improved and that it can be operationalised.

WWF favors option 2 of this decision text, incorporating some elements from option 1.

<p>support regional and sub regional risk transfer schemes;</p> <p>(b) Providing support for microfinance initiatives;</p> <p>(c) Exploring finance for slow onset events;</p> <p>65quater. <i>Decides</i> to develop interim modalities and procedures for the operation of a climate change displacement coordination facility, which shall:</p> <p>(a) Assist in developing arrangements for emergency relief;</p> <p>(b) Assist in providing organized migration and planned relocation;</p> <p>65quinquies. <i>Establishes</i> under the Warsaw International Mechanism a clearing house for risk transfer, which shall:</p> <p>(a) Provide a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer;</p> <p>(b) Assist Parties in developing risk management strategies and finding the best insurance schemes;</p> <p>(c) Facilitate financial support for rehabilitation;]</p>	
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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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