

Loss and Damage at the UNFCCC

Second conference on Climate Change and Development
in Africa (CCDA-II)

Addis Ababa 19-20 October 2012



Framing

- **History and mandates**
- **Work programme – flow of activities**
- **Understandings, misunderstandings**
- **What kind of approaches**
- **What has been learned? Themes and messages**
- **Way forward**

Cancun Agreements – Decision 1/CP.16

25. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise in order to **understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events;**
26. *Decides* to hereby establish a work programme in order to consider, including through workshops and expert meetings, as appropriate, **approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;**
27. *Requests* the **Subsidiary Body for Implementation** to agree on activities to be undertaken under the above-mentioned work programme;



Work programme on loss and damage

Three thematic areas

- **Thematic area 1: Assessing the risk of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same;
- **Thematic area 2: A range of approaches to address loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels;
- **Thematic area 3: The role of the Convention** in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

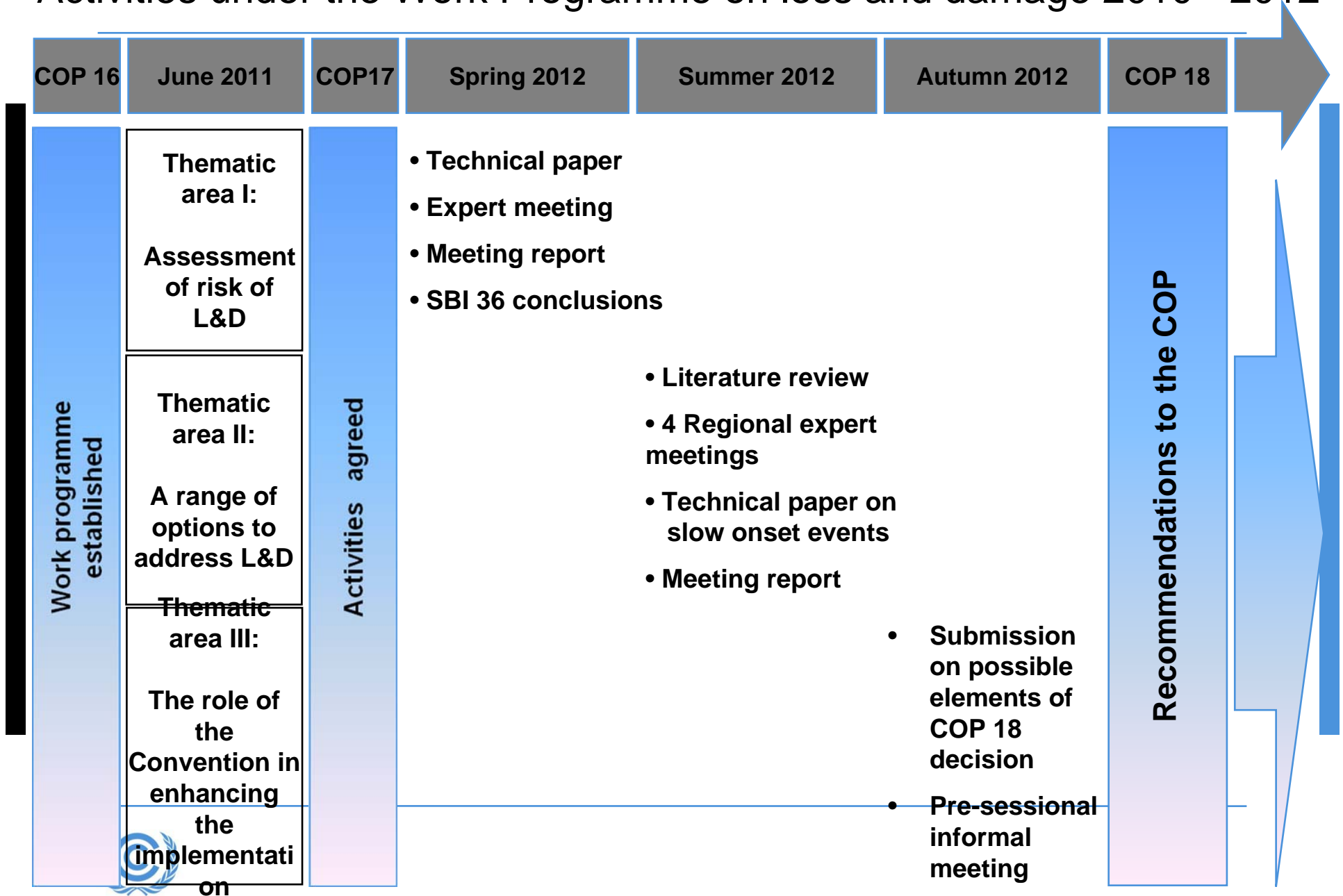


Work programme- 2012 - secretariat activities under SBI

- Five expert meetings and three papers
 - Assessing the risk of loss and damage x 1 (thematic area 1)
 - Technical paper
 - A range of approaches to addressing loss and damage... x 4 - one for each region (thematic area 2)
 - Literature review
 - Technical paper on slow onset (incl outcomes of technical meetings)
- Compile submissions from Parties and relevant stakeholders and organisations...
- Reporting for presessional and COP 18 negotiations



Activities under the Work Programme on loss and damage 2010 - 2012



Mandate for regional expert meetings

- To organize four expert meetings,..., reflecting regional priorities and experiences, ..., to address issues related to **‘A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels’**, taking into account the outcomes of the expert meeting (held under Thematic area 1) and the inputs from relevant organizations and other stakeholders within and outside the Convention (*Decision 7/CP.17, annex*)
- *Guiding questions*
 - a) What is the **full range of approaches and tools...** What is known about the relative **cost-effectiveness** of these tools...
 - b) What are the foundational **resource requirements** ...
 - c) What are the **lessons learned** from existing efforts within both the public and private sectors...
 - d) What are the **links and synergies** between risk reduction and other instruments such as risk transfer? How can **comprehensive risk management** ...
 - e) How can **risk management approaches** be tailored to **national contexts**?

How can **Parties and other stakeholders** evaluate ...



Understandings and misunderstandings

a) Losses vs damages –
irreversible vs
recoverable??

- L and D due to CC vs L and D due to human induced CC
- Baseline?

b) Extreme events vs slow
onset events

- The climate dimension

c) Economic losses vs
non-economic losses



What kind of approaches

- Type of approach
 - a) Risk reduction
 - b) Risk retention
 - c) Risk transfer
 - d) Slow onset?
- Level of approach
 - a) Local and sub-national
 - b) National
 - c) Regional ??
- Ecosystem approach?
- Crosscutting issues
 - a) Assessment, M and E
 - b) Institutions and governance
 - c) Data, information, knowledge, knowledge capital
 - d) Communications



What has been learned? – some common themes

- Importance of access to **accurate and usable data and information for sharing** between countries, agencies and institutions, must be seen **as a public good**;
- Need for **comparative assessment of successful approaches**, particularly in complex fields such as insurance;
- Value of **comprehensive and combinative approaches** that consider **non-economic as well as economic losses and damages**, these may include risk reduction, risk retention and risk transfer (insurance) as well as **other types of approach, beyond adaptation**;
- Need for **synergy** and the need to **tailor approaches to national contexts**;
- Value added of involvement of **governance at all levels**;
- **Key role of institutions** in building enabling environment;
- Strategic role of **understandable and usable knowledge, especially local/indig. knowl**;
- Need for **effective knowledge sharing and management**
- **Effective communications strategies** to disseminate key elements necessary to approach loss and damage at all levels;
- Need for **enhanced understanding of slow onset and relationship with extreme events**,
- Need to understand **relation between adaptation as well as other types of approach** to ;
- **Diversity of capacity**, some countries demonstrating comparatively well-developed risk management strategies while others need considerable support.



What has been learned – some key messages

1. Losses and damages occurring now and increasing
 2. Relationship between extreme weather events and slow onset events
 3. Cascading impacts – across sectors
 4. Magnitude of loss and damage vs resources/capacity
 5. Economic and non-economic losses and damages
 6. Diversity of capacity – need for sharing
 7. Value and limitations of insurance
 8. Relevance of institutions and governance at all levels
 9. Data, information, knowledge, knowledge capital interface
 10. Loss and damage beyond adaptation?
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Way forward

- **Doha and beyond**
 - a) Negotiations
 - b) Work programme on loss and damage
- **Cancun Adaptation Framework**
 - a) Links and synergies including other work programmes at UNFCCC
 - NAPs, Adaptation Committee, Nairobi work programme



National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

- Under the *Cancun Adaptation Framework*, a process established to enable LDCs to formulate and implement NAPs:
 - Will **build upon** their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs,
 - A means of **identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs**
 - A means of developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.
- Other developing country Parties are also invited to employ the modalities formulated to support the NAPs in the elaboration of their planning efforts



Adaptation Committee

- Durban Outcome agreed:
 - On the **composition** of, and modalities and procedures for the Adaptation Committee (AC)
 - The AC is requested to **engage with, and draw on the expertise of, relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention**, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels;
 - The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, where possible in conjunction with other adaptation-related UNFCCC meetings, while retaining its flexibility to adjust its number of meetings to suit its needs;
 - **Meetings shall be open to attendance by accredited observer organizations**, except where otherwise decided by the AC, with a view to encouraging a balanced representation.
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Adaptation Committee

- The AC will thus be:
 - A **body of 16 experts** tasked with:
 - Promoting the implementation of adaptation in a **coherent** manner under the Convention;
 - Providing **technical support** and guidance to the Parties.
- Activities it will undertake include the preparation of **periodic overview reports** on the state of adaptation;
- Next steps:
 - Inaugural meeting – Bangkok
 - Devise 3-year work plan and activities



Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change

- **Objective**
 - Improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; and
 - Make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.
- **Durban outcome**
 - requested the SBSTA to reconsider, at its session at SBSTA 38 (May/June 2013), **work areas** of the NWP with a view to making recommendations to COP 19 (December 2013) on how best to support the objectives of the work programme, and support work of the Cancun Adaptation Framework;
 - The COP **invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit, by 17 September 2012**, their views on potential future areas of work under the NWP for consideration by SBSTA 38.



Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change

- SBSTA 34 agreed to discuss **the impacts of climate change on water resources and integrated water resource management** under the NWP
- Technical paper on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies (for COP16)
- The COP also requested the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations, 2 **technical workshops** on:
 - **Water** and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies (23-25 July, Mexico)
 - On **ecosystem-based approaches** for adaptation to climate change (To take place before SBSTA 38, early next year)



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 - NAPs, Adaptation Committee, Nairobi work programme
- Africa and the work programme on loss and damage
 - a) Perceptions, aspirations, needs and realities
 - Multiple Africas, multiple needs?
 - b) Stakeholder engagement - African and global



Thanks!

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