

Loss & Damage and Gender

A LITERATURE LANDSCAPE SUMMARY

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The field of climate change loss and damage is rapidly gaining prominence as we recognize the boundaries of adaptation and confront the irreversible harms faced by some communities (*McNamara & Jackson, 2019*). Both activist-led gray literature and scholarly research contribute to the conceptual development of this field, providing diverse perspectives. The recent Pacific Feminist Forum (2023) has also echoed this call to action, urging the need for adequate political will to address the escalating economic and non-economic loss and damage in the Pacific region.

Early discussions sought to define key concepts, sparking debates on whether loss and damage is an entity separate from adaptation (*James et al., 2014*). As the discourse has evolved, proponents advocate for framing loss and damage not just as a matter of technical limits, but as an issue of climate justice and human rights (*ActionAid & Anderson, 2021*).

In recent years, research has expanded to examine non-economic losses, shedding light on the profound cultural and social repercussions borne by communities most at risk (*Tschakert et al., 2019*). Participatory research tools are instrumental in documenting these locally-specific, intangible harms (*van Schie et al., 2022*). Moreover, the focus is increasingly shifting towards the gender implications of climate change, with organizations like ActionAid and the Women and Gender Constituency highlighting the disproportionate impacts borne by women (*Chakma et al., 2022; Women and Gender Constituency, 2021*). It is argued that those on the frontlines of these impacts should wield greater influence in policy-making (*Toussaint, 2018*).

For example, an Oxfam report on Asia found land ownership key in determining eligibility for loss and damage support, with landless people unable to access relocation benefits or compensation (*Wickramaratne & Silva de, 2023*). Secure tenure enables climate-resilient decisions and government assistance. The stories underscored the importance of land rights in addressing loss and damage.

For policy issues, the Heinrich Böll Foundation's briefing papers (*2021a, 2021b*) offer a comprehensive overview of the debates surrounding finance and the need for support. Current analyses reveal that while some national climate plans are beginning to incorporate loss and damage, considerable gaps remain (*Ryder & Calliari, 2021*). Suggestions for dedicated funding mechanisms have surfaced, though their establishment remains pending (*Sharma-Khushal et al., 2022*).

For insights into the human and social impacts, Tschakert et al.'s (2019) study provides insights on intangible losses and van Schie et al. (2022) explores community-level field research. The IPCC also presents a synthesis of scientific knowledge, with Mechler et al. (2020) examining policy implications. Reports on small island developing states (SIDS) and vulnerable countries capture distinct risks they face (Künzel et al., 2018). The existing literature signals an urgent need for increased attention and resources to tackle loss and damage, despite the intricate issues of equity concerning who should bear the costs. A participatory and locally-led research approach may hold the key to formulating effective solutions.

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