

MAURITIUS

ESTABLISHING
EFFECTIVE
GOVERNANCE AND
INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR
LOSS AND DAMAGE
TRANSPARENCY

2025

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DISCLAIMERS

This is a step-by-step guide for governance and institutional arrangement required for Urban Loss and Damage Transparency.

The findings, suggestions, and conclusions presented in this Summary reflect the discussions held with thematic experts and do not represent UNEP's or UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre's ((UNEP-CCC)) position on Indicators and Reporting Tools for Loss and Damage.

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Part I

Introduction

Part I: Introduction

- **Rationale and Background**

Like many island nations, Mauritius is highly vulnerable to climate change. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, stronger cyclones, and unpredictable rainfall patterns are already affecting lives, infrastructure, and the economy. Despite efforts to adapt, the country still faces significant loss and damage (L&D) from climate-related disasters. However, Mauritius lacks a fully developed system to systematically assess, report, and respond to these impacts.

- **Gaps in Mauritius' Loss and Damage Framework**

Currently, there is no dedicated national framework specifically focused on loss and damage assessment and reporting. The country's climate strategy primarily emphasizes adaptation and mitigation, as outlined in its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). While these documents acknowledge the importance of addressing loss and damage, they do not provide clear mechanisms for:

- Tracking losses from climate events
- Reporting data in a standardized way
- Developing targeted responses to affected communities

Without a structured approach, Mauritius risks missing out on critical international support and financial assistance to help recover from climate-related disasters.

- **Why Strengthening Loss and Damage Governance is Essential**

Building a stronger governance framework for loss and damage would help Mauritius:

- **Make Informed Decisions** – Accurate data on climate-induced losses can guide national policies, disaster response plans, and infrastructure investments.
- **Access Global Support** – Transparent and systematic reporting enhances Mauritius' ability to secure international climate finance and technical assistance.
- **Manage Risks Effectively** – A structured tracking system enables better preparedness and resilience-building efforts.
- **Meet International Commitments** – As climate reporting standards evolve, Mauritius needs to align with global frameworks like the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement.

- **Developing a National Approach for Loss and Damage**

To address these gaps, Mauritius should establish:

- A central coordinating body responsible for loss and damage assessment, reporting, and response strategies.
- Robust data collection and management systems integrated into climate risk governance.
- Collaboration platforms connecting government agencies, local authorities, and community stakeholders.
- Mainstreaming loss and damage considerations into existing climate policies, disaster risk management plans, and national financial strategies.

- **Strengthening Loss and Damage Governance in Urban Areas**

Urban areas in Mauritius, particularly coastal cities, are at the frontline of climate change impacts. Flooding, heat stress, and storm surges pose increasing risks to infrastructure, housing, and public services. Strengthening city-level governance for loss and damage can:

- Provide localized data – City-specific assessments enable targeted climate resilience strategies.
- Build local capacity – Strengthening municipal institutions ensures better disaster response and adaptation planning.
- Prioritize funding – Accurate reporting at the city level helps direct resources to where they're needed most.
- Improve coordination – Stronger governance ensures alignment between local, national, and international climate policies.

By establishing clear governance and assessment systems at the urban level, Mauritius can better understand and address the specific climate vulnerabilities of its communities.

- **The Role of Transparency in Loss and Damage Reporting**

A transparent system ensures that climate loss and damage data is accurate, accessible, and actionable. This builds trust among stakeholders, strengthens decision-making, and improves resource allocation.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement provides a standardized method for reporting climate actions and impacts. Strengthening loss and damage reporting in Mauritius will:

- Show commitment to international climate action
- Improve credibility in climate negotiations
- Increase access to climate finance and technical support

- **Enhancing Readiness for the Loss and Damage Fund**

As the Loss and Damage Fund becomes operational, countries with strong institutional frameworks will be better positioned to secure financial support. By investing in transparent and efficient assessment systems now, Mauritius can:

- Access funding for climate-related recovery and adaptation efforts
- Ensure effective resource allocation at both national and local levels
- Strengthen its resilience against future climate impacts

Taking these proactive steps will not only help Mauritius protect its people and economy but also position it as a regional leader in implementing loss and damage strategies.

Part II

**Framework for Assessing Loss & Damage
Governance in Zambia: Challenges & Solutions**

Part II: Framework for Assessing Loss & Damage Governance in Mauritius: Challenges & Solutions

To strengthen loss and damage (L&D) governance in Mauritius, a structured approach is needed to assess the existing institutional arrangements, identify gaps, and develop solutions. This step-by-step framework provides a roadmap for evaluating national-level governance, ensuring that Mauritius is better prepared to address climate-related losses effectively.

1. Review Existing Frameworks and Policies

Understanding Mauritius' current approach to climate change and L&D is essential for building a strong foundation. This involves analyzing key policies and strategies to identify commitments, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.

Key Actions:

- Examine the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework to assess L&D considerations.
- Analyze the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan to understand current climate commitments.
- Review disaster risk management policies, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

2. Map Key Institutions and Stakeholders

Identifying the main actors in climate change governance and disaster management helps clarify roles, reduce overlaps, and improve coordination.

Key Actions:

- Identify key government bodies, such as the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management & Climate Change, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC).
- Determine which ministries, agencies, and research institutions are involved in L&D assessment and reporting.
- Assess the role of the NDRRMC in coordinating L&D responses and reporting.

3. Evaluate Coordination Mechanisms

Strong coordination is critical for effective L&D assessment and reporting. This step helps identify how different government levels and sectors work together and where improvements are needed.

Key Actions:

- Analyze inter-ministerial coordination on L&D issues.
- Assess the effectiveness of national climate committees and advisory groups.
- Examine coordination between national, regional, and local government levels.

4. Assess Data Collection and Management Systems

Reliable data is essential for tracking climate-related losses. Mauritius needs to evaluate its existing data collection systems, identify gaps, and enhance data-sharing mechanisms.

Key Actions:

- Investigate existing systems for collecting and managing L&D-related data.
- Evaluate the quality and comprehensiveness of available climate loss data.
- Determine whether a centralized database exists for L&D information.

5. Analyze Reporting Mechanisms

A clear reporting framework ensures that Mauritius' L&D data aligns with national priorities and international obligations, such as the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement.

Key Actions:

- Review current reporting processes for climate-related losses and damages.
- Assess alignment with international reporting standards.
- Identify gaps in reporting capabilities or procedures.

6. Evaluate Capacity and Resources

Without adequate technical expertise and funding, effective L&D assessment and reporting will be challenging. This step helps determine the human and financial resources available for L&D governance.

Key Actions:

- Assess technical expertise and human resources available for L&D assessment.
- Evaluate financial resources allocated for L&D-related activities.
- Identify capacity-building needs for government and institutional stakeholders.

7. Examine Stakeholder Engagement

A well-functioning L&D governance framework must involve local communities, civil society, the private sector, and academia. Engaging diverse stakeholders ensures a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

Key Actions:

- Evaluate the participation of local communities in L&D reporting and response.
- Determine collaboration levels between national and local governments.
- Assess public awareness and access to L&D information.

8. Review Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Frameworks

To track progress and ensure accountability, Mauritius needs robust monitoring and evaluation systems that integrate L&D into broader climate governance efforts.

Key Actions:

- Analyze existing M&E frameworks for climate change impacts.
- Assess how L&D is integrated into national and local climate resilience strategies.
- Identify opportunities for improving tracking and reporting mechanisms.

By systematically assessing its governance structures, Mauritius can strengthen its ability to track, report, and respond to climate-related losses. This will not only enhance national climate resilience but also position Mauritius to access international climate finance and meet global reporting commitments. Acting now ensures that Mauritius is prepared for future climate challenges, safeguarding communities, infrastructure, and the economy.

Potential Challenges in Mauritius

- **Fragmented coordination mechanisms** leading to inefficiencies in L&D assessment and response.
- **Limited institutional capacity, particularly at the local level**, affecting implementation and data collection.
- **Insufficient financial resources** to support comprehensive L&D initiatives.
- **Lack of a centralized and systematic data collection and management system** for climate-related losses.
- **Weak inter-ministerial and inter-agency collaboration**, creating overlaps and gaps in responsibilities.

- **Limited public awareness and stakeholder involvement**, reducing community engagement in L&D governance.
- **Inadequate integration of L&D into existing climate change and disaster risk management policies.**

Key Solutions for Strengthening L&D Governance in Mauritius

- **Establish a centralized coordinating body** to oversee L&D assessment, reporting, and response strategies.
- **Develop a national L&D framework** that clearly defines roles, responsibilities, and reporting mechanisms.
- **Implement a centralized data management system** to consolidate and streamline L&D information.
- **Strengthen institutional capacities** through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives.
- **Enhance stakeholder engagement mechanisms**, ensuring active participation from local communities, civil society, and the private sector.
- **Integrate L&D considerations into national climate change and disaster risk reduction policies**, ensuring alignment across sectors.
- **Define clear mandates and responsibilities** for all institutions involved in L&D assessment and governance.
- **Seek international support and funding** to enhance Mauritius' capacity for addressing climate-induced losses.
- **Improve climate risk assessments** to quantify potential losses and enhance disaster preparedness.
- **Regularly review and update institutional frameworks** to ensure adaptability to emerging climate risks and international best practices.

Part III

Step by step guide for city level assessment

Part III: Step-by-Step Guide for Urban-Level Transparency Assessment in Mauritius

Assessing governance and institutional arrangements for Loss and Damage (L&D) transparency and reporting at the city level is essential for ensuring effective climate resilience. Here's a structured approach tailored for cities in Mauritius:

1. Review City-Level Policies and Plans

Understanding the existing city-level policies on climate change and disaster management is the foundation for assessing L&D governance. This step helps identify gaps and ensures that new L&D arrangements align with local priorities.

- Examine the city's development plans and strategies for climate adaptation.
- Review local climate change action plans and resilience frameworks.
- Assess city-specific disaster risk management and emergency response policies.

2. Map Key Local Institutions

Identifying the key stakeholders involved in climate governance helps clarify responsibilities and avoid duplication of efforts.

- Identify the municipal departments responsible for climate action and disaster risk management.
- Determine which local agencies are involved in L&D data collection and reporting.
- Assess the role of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) in city-level response.

3. Evaluate Local Coordination Mechanisms

Effective coordination among city departments ensures streamlined L&D assessment and reporting.

- Analyse how different city departments collaborate on L&D issues.
- Assess the effectiveness of local climate change committees.
- Examine how city authorities coordinate with national agencies.

4. Assess City-Level Data Collection and Management

A robust data collection system is key to accurate loss and damage assessment.

- Investigate existing systems for collecting climate-related L&D data at the city level.
- Evaluate the quality and completeness of the available data.
- Determine if there is a centralized city database for L&D information.

5. Analyse Local Reporting Mechanisms

Cities must ensure that their reporting aligns with both national and international requirements.

- Review how the city tracks and reports climate-related losses.
- Assess alignment with Mauritius' national reporting requirements under climate agreements.
- Identify gaps or inefficiencies in the reporting process.

6. Evaluate City-Level Capacity and Resources

Assessing technical, human, and financial resources helps identify critical gaps in L&D governance.

- Assess the technical expertise and personnel available for L&D assessments in local government.
- Evaluate financial allocations for climate adaptation and L&D initiatives.
- Identify capacity-building needs to enhance institutional effectiveness.

7. Examine Local Stakeholder Engagement

Involving local communities, businesses, and civil society ensures inclusive decision-making.

- Evaluate how local communities, NGOs, and the private sector participate in L&D discussions.
- Assess collaboration between city authorities and academic institutions for research and data validation.
- Determine public awareness levels and access to information on L&D.

8. Review Local Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks

A structured M&E system is vital for tracking climate impacts and assessing policy effectiveness.

- Analyse existing monitoring frameworks for climate change impacts at the city level.

- Assess how L&D is integrated into these local frameworks.
- Identify ways to improve L&D tracking through better indicators and technology.

9. Assess Urban-Specific Vulnerabilities

Urban areas in Mauritius face unique climate risks such as coastal erosion, flooding, and infrastructure strain.

- Identify the most pressing climate-related vulnerabilities in the city.
- Evaluate the resilience of key infrastructure (roads, drainage, utilities) to climate hazards.

10. Analyse City-National Linkages

Ensuring alignment between city-level and national L&D governance is essential for efficiency.

- Examine how city L&D assessment mechanisms align with national frameworks.
- Assess the flow of information and resources between city and national agencies.

Conclusion: Strengthening Urban Loss & Damage (L&D) Governance for a Climate-Resilient Mauritius

As urban areas in Mauritius grow, they are increasingly exposed to climate risks such as rising temperatures, coastal erosion, flooding, and extreme weather events. The concentration of critical infrastructure, economic activity, and population in cities makes them especially vulnerable to climate-related losses and damages. Improving how Mauritius tracks, reports, and responds to L&D at the urban level is not only vital for strengthening urban resilience but also offers the opportunity to build a strong foundation for scaling up these efforts to the national level.

By starting from urban areas, Mauritius can gain valuable experience in data governance and institutional arrangements for tracking and reporting L&D, which can later be expanded across the entire country. Urban areas, being the most vulnerable and complex in terms of infrastructure and population density, provide a unique testing ground to refine data collection systems, reporting mechanisms, and institutional coordination. This localized approach will allow Mauritius to develop and refine systems that are adaptable and scalable to national needs.

Urban L&D Governance and International Climate Commitments

A well-structured, transparent, and data-driven L&D reporting system at the urban level is also key for Mauritius to fulfill its international commitments, including those under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). By accurately tracking urban climate-related losses and damages in its Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), Mauritius can:

- Strengthen its credibility in global climate discussions and advocate for small island developing states (SIDS).
- Enhance its access to international climate finance, which can then be directed toward urban adaptation and resilience initiatives.
- Facilitate regional and global collaborations by sharing lessons learned from urban L&D governance and scaling them to national efforts.

Leveraging L&D Reporting for Climate Finance and Urban Development

As the Loss and Damage Fund becomes operational, Mauritius' urban areas should be positioned to lead the way in securing funding. Demonstrating urban climate risks and losses through accurate and credible data will help the country secure financial support to:

- Enhance urban infrastructure resilience, including flood control measures, climate-adaptive housing, and drainage systems.

- Implement early warning and emergency systems to protect communities from extreme weather events.
- Support the most vulnerable populations in cities, ensuring inclusive and equitable climate adaptation policies.

Scaling Up from Urban to National Level

By starting with urban areas, Mauritius can gain hands-on experience in L&D data collection, governance structures, and reporting frameworks that can be scaled up to the national level. This experience will enable the country to:

- Refine and integrate L&D governance across various sectors and levels of government.
- Develop a centralized national L&D database that aggregates urban data and allows for coherent reporting at the national level.
- Expand stakeholder engagement, including local communities and businesses, and build cross-sector collaboration that can later be applied nationwide.

A Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Urban Future

As Mauritius continues to urbanize, it is crucial to embed climate resilience in urban planning, governance, and policy-making. Strengthening urban L&D governance is a strategic, forward-thinking approach that will:

- Ensure cities are prepared for future climate challenges, reducing economic and social disruptions.
- Foster inclusive urban development, prioritizing vulnerable communities in climate adaptation strategies.
- Improve transparency and accountability, positioning Mauritius as a regional leader in urban climate governance.

By investing in robust urban L&D assessment frameworks, advanced data management systems, and cross-sectoral collaboration, Mauritius can build climate-resilient cities that are prepared, adaptable, and sustainable. More importantly, this urban-focused approach will provide Mauritius with the tools, systems, and experience needed to scale up L&D governance to the national level, ensuring a holistic, nationwide response to the impacts of climate change.

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