



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE



PEDRR
Ecosystems for Disaster Risk Reduction
and Adaptation

EVENT REPORT

Building Bridges for Land

RESPONSE TO RESILIENCE 15 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Date: 15 September 2023 | Time: 12:30 to 13:30 CEST
Online and in-person at UN Bonn Campus

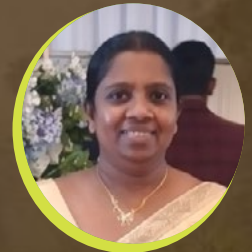
Guest Speakers:



Ms Marisol Estrella
Programme Coordinator, United
Nations Environment Programme



Dr Muralee Thummarukudy
Director, G20 Global Land
Initiative Coordination Office



Ms Anoja Seneviratne
Director, Sri Lanka's Disaster
Management Centre



Dr Zita Sebesvari
Deputy Director, UN University-
Institute for Environment and
Human Security

Host:



Ms Song Kim, Communications
team, G20 Global Land Initiative
Coordination Office

"I have really gained a lot from this BBL. Thank you."
- BBL attendee



**ENHANCING
RESILIENCE:
INSIGHTS FROM LEADING
EXPERTS ON CLIMATE-
INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION AND COLLABORATIVE
GOVERNANCE**

In our ever-shifting world, the field of disaster management has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last 15 years. The historical approach to disaster management, which primarily focused on reacting to emergencies, has now pivoted towards a renewed emphasis on proactive measures aimed at building resilience against disasters. A central catalyst in this paradigm shift has been climate change, which has heightened vulnerability and unpredictability, prompting a fundamental reassessment of disaster management strategies and preparedness measures.

To bolster resilience in the face of these evolving challenges, the 6th Building Bridges for Land (BBL6) convened experts, practitioners, policymakers and stakeholders to deliberate on ways the global community can proactively arm itself with the essential tools, strategies and partnerships required. BBL6 underscored the significance of building bridges between various sectors and stakeholders and between the traditions of the past and the future trajectory of disaster management.

This year, the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) celebrated its 15th anniversary at the PEDRR science-policy workshop which took place from 13th to 15th September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. At the workshop, PEDRR shaped a 15-year science-policy agenda for ecosystem-based approaches aligning with the 2030 Global Agenda. Following the conclusion of this workshop, the G20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office (G20 GLI CO), a partner of PEDRR hosted the BBL6. This gathering aimed to provide an overview of PEDRR's 15-year journey in disaster risk reduction, offer insights into its prospects, spotlight national-level disaster resilience initiatives and underscore the vital importance of partnerships.

Dr Zita Sebesvari, the Deputy Director of the United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), outlined the history of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience efforts introduced after PEDRR was set up.

“PEDRR wouldn't have achieved what they have achieved had it not been for the development in DRR which now integrates climate change into DRR agenda.”

- Dr Sebesvari

PEDRR, established in 2008 at the inception of the term “Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)”, has evolved significantly over the years. In 2015, with the establishment of the ecosystem-based network known as Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA), PEDRR expanded its focus to include adaptation in its agenda. This expansion brought in more members, who actively collaborated on adaptation initiatives.

During her presentation, Dr Sebesvari emphasized that since the development of the Sendai framework, it has become increasingly challenging to consider EbA in isolation from Eco-DRR (Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction) and NbS (Nature-based Solutions). The UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) has made significant efforts to efficiently implement these approaches, along with sustainable land management and Eco-DRR. These tools provide member states with diverse options to demonstrate progress towards their broader agendas.

An author of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), which also had a foundation in EbA, Dr Sebesvari highlighted that PEDRR’s accomplishments are closely tied to the evolving landscape of disaster risk reduction, which now seamlessly integrates climate change into the agenda.

Ms Marisol Estrella, a Programme Coordinator at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), summarized the results of the PEDRR science-policy workshop. This event served as a platform to unite various communities, encompassing scientists, scholars, on-the-ground practitioners and decision-makers, fostering constructive dialogue to tackle interrelated challenges and pinpoint areas for improvement and solutions.

The central theme was to anticipate future climate trends and projects, with a focus on empowering youth and discussing non-economic losses and damages due to climate impacts. PEDRR has effectively highlighted subjects such as Nature-based Solutions (NbS), resilience enhancement, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and adaptation in the policy agenda. Despite advancements made, the escalating climate crisis underscores the need for further efforts. It is acknowledged that ecosystems now have limitations in their capacity to shield individuals from the impacts of climate change and disasters.

Over the years, PEDRR has bridged science, knowledge and practice with policymaking through impactful publications, including policy briefs, discussion papers, books and training materials. The organization’s future goals include looking ahead to address emerging issues over the next 15 years and beyond, fostering private sector dialogues, nurturing young entrepreneurs to contribute to global climate resilience and deepening their understanding of non-economic loss and damage related to climate impacts while aligning policies with these considerations, especially in the face of ecosystem limitations for adaptation.

Dr Muralee Thummarukudy, Director, G20 Global Land Initiative Coordination Office (G20 GLI CO) at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), delivered an insightful presentation on the DRR, highlighting its shift from disaster response to resilience.

With over three decades of expertise in disaster response, Dr Thummarukudy shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive experience, particularly in comparison to the situation 15 years ago.

“Successful DRR governance necessitates partnerships and cooperation among individuals and institutions due to the multidisciplinary nature of Disaster Risk Management. Also, to enhance resilience, national-level partnerships need to be strengthened.”

- Ms Seneviratne

“PEDRR, in line with its mission to bridge science, practice and policy, envisions a future addressing emerging needs, engaging the private sector and supporting young entrepreneurs in global climate resilience efforts.”

- Ms Estrella

First, he emphasized that the concept of DRR and investments in it tend to gain attention only after an accident or disaster has occurred. This poses a challenge in convincing people to prioritize DRR before disasters strike.

Second, he pointed out the issue of resource allocation. DRR often doesn't receive adequate resources until after a disaster, whereas recovery and relief efforts consistently require funding.

Third, Dr Thummarukudy stressed the importance of engaging young people in DRR. Encouraging youth involvement in this field not only holds the promise of creating future careers but also has a potentially greater economic impact on land restoration compared to disaster response or land-use planning from a moral perspective.

Ms Anoja Seneviratne, Director of Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Centre (DMC), discussed the nation's journey in DRR and its advancements. Historically, Sri Lanka primarily focused on humanitarian relief activities with military support. However, it has transitioned to a community-driven emergency response model empowered by volunteers and early warning systems, facilitating data collection, including hazard profiles and risk indices, making this information widely accessible. Also, Sri Lanka has updated its DRR policy to include Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Eco-DRR.

Social safety network integration has broadened DRR beyond the ministry, involving various ministries and public finance at different levels. Since 2009, Sri Lanka has been mainstreaming DRR across development sectors, beginning with Housing and expanding to Road and Health sectors in collaboration with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). Challenges remain in DRR, including the need for stronger horizontal coordination, mainstreaming DRR and governance, improved knowledge management, risk-informed decision-making and increased attention to humanitarian assistance.

Ms Seneviratne stressed that effective DRR governance relies on cooperation between individuals and institutions, along with the formation of strong partnerships at the national level. To enhance resilience, the DMC has been actively transferring DRR responsibilities to various organizations in both the private and public sectors. This includes offering assistance such as business continuity plans, awareness campaigns, capacity-building training and supporting academic programs, including master's and PhD courses at universities, to strengthen the DRR sector.

“Delayed attention to DRR and insufficient resource allocation present hurdles to effective DRR management. It is important to engage young people for future careers and enhanced economic impact.”

- Dr Thummarukudy

“Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the seminar and hear opinions on this important issue.”

- BBL attendee

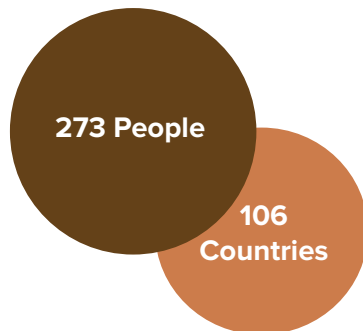
“Congratulations and thank you for the concise and straightforward presentation of all speakers.”

- BBL attendee

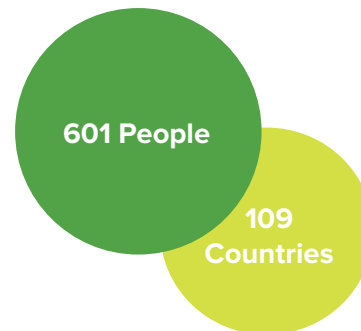


The 6th Building Bridges for Land (BBL6) event attracted over 601 registrants from 109 countries, with 271 people from 35 countries eventually joining.

Attendees



Registrants



Replay the webinar on YouTube, [here >>](#)