



“Changing the Risk Paradigm” Reducing losses and exploiting opportunities

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“Changing the Risk Paradigm”

Reducing losses: Experiences of using risk data for infrastructure investments and regional planning.

Exploiting opportunities: A discussion on the ‘benefits of DRM beyond loss reduction’.



About this guide

- CDKN aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development.
- Managing climate-related disaster risk is a high priority for CDKN's core audience: national planners and policy-makers in developing countries.
- This CDKN guide aims to support national planners and policy-makers and to strengthen their disaster risk management efforts, particularly in the context of the new international disasters agreement, to be finalised in 2015.

Risk-informed decision-making: An agenda for improving risk assessments under HFA2

Summary

More frequent and intense climate extremes are expected as the climate changes; this, combined with changing patterns of exposure and vulnerability, is creating new geographic distributions of risk that need to be addressed explicitly through public policy. Disaster risk assessments are produced and promoted on the basis that they provide the information, analysis and knowledge needed to make sound choices and investments that reduce the human impact of environmental hazards. The analysis in this paper derives from research conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with additional material from CDKN's experience in Ghana, India and Pakistan. Based on a CDKN research project carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013 by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and three mini case studies conducted by CDKN regional offices in Africa and Asia, the results presented here provide useful insights into the use of risk-related information in public investment decisions to manage risk, adapt to climate change and promote development. This paper is therefore of relevance to the global disasters agreement, which is currently in preparation to succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015 – referred to in this paper as 'HFA2'. These findings will be particularly relevant to national and local government officials who are responsible for risk management decisions; their international development partners who commission and finance the research; and the scientists and consultants hired to conduct the assessments.

Results from these studies suggest that there are technical, operational and institutional obstacles to the uptake of recommendations. These need to be recognised and understood when designing and implementing risk assessment projects. Technical capacities and alignment with other development priorities and political cycles all need to be taken into account, if risk assessment data are to have a positive influence on development, adaptation, and risk management policies and practices.

This paper discusses the technical, operational and institutional influences on the use and application of risk information related to climate extremes and other hazards, embedding its analysis in a broader set of challenges around implementing disaster risk management and adaptation policies. It presents a number of recommendations on how to conceive and conduct risk assessments that can clearly convey the main messages – and thus be more easily translated into effective risk management decisions.

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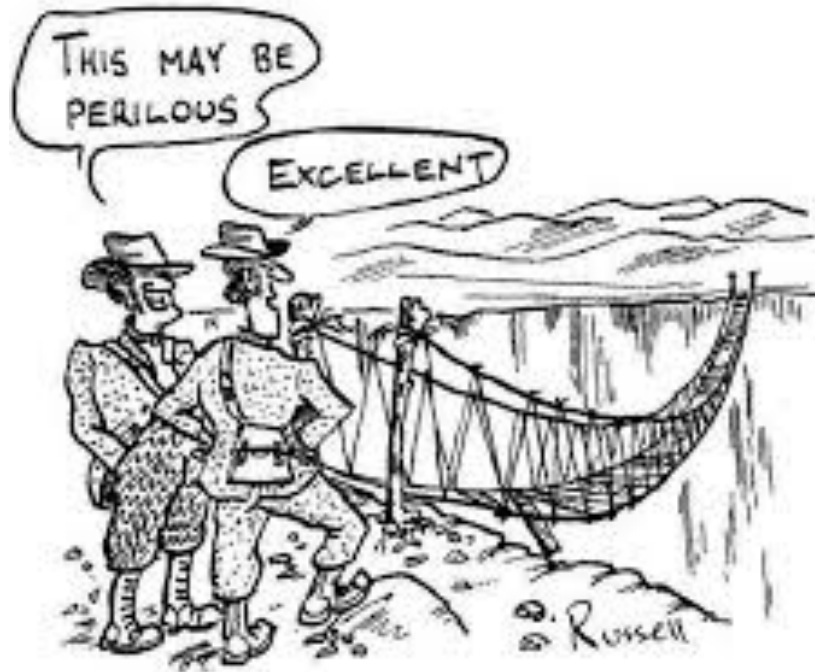
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Sociales (FLACSO)





Purposes of risk assessments

Victorian risk assessment



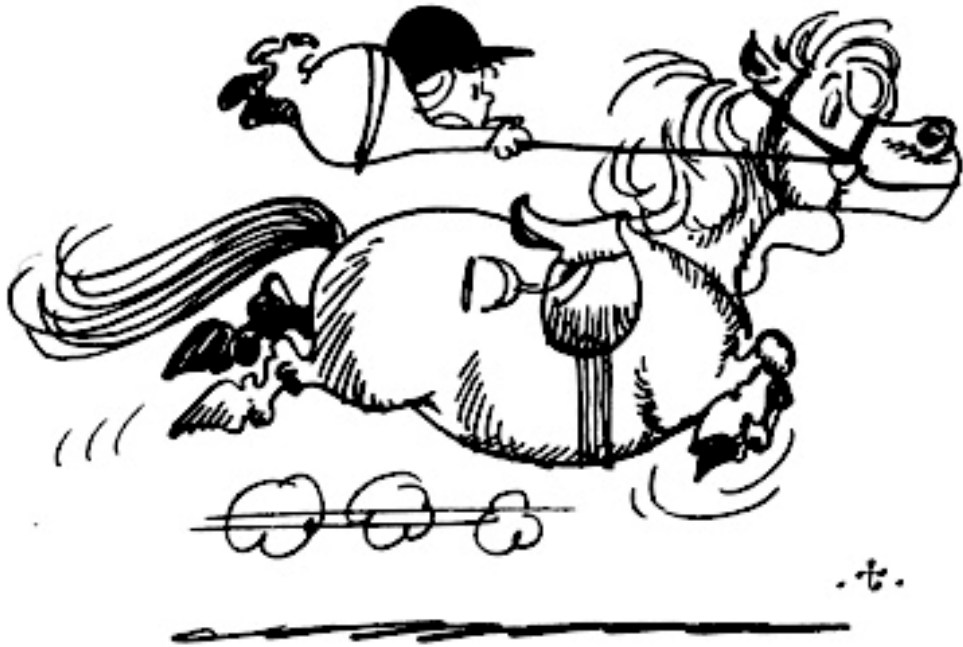
- Increase awareness
- Financial applications
- Guide and DRM and CCA policies
- EWS and contingency planning
- Spatial planning decisions



Obstacles to effective use of risk assessments



- Lack of conceptual clarity
- Lack of data
- Low technical capacity



- Difficulties in interpreting results
- Mismatch between scales



- Low salience
- Short political timescales

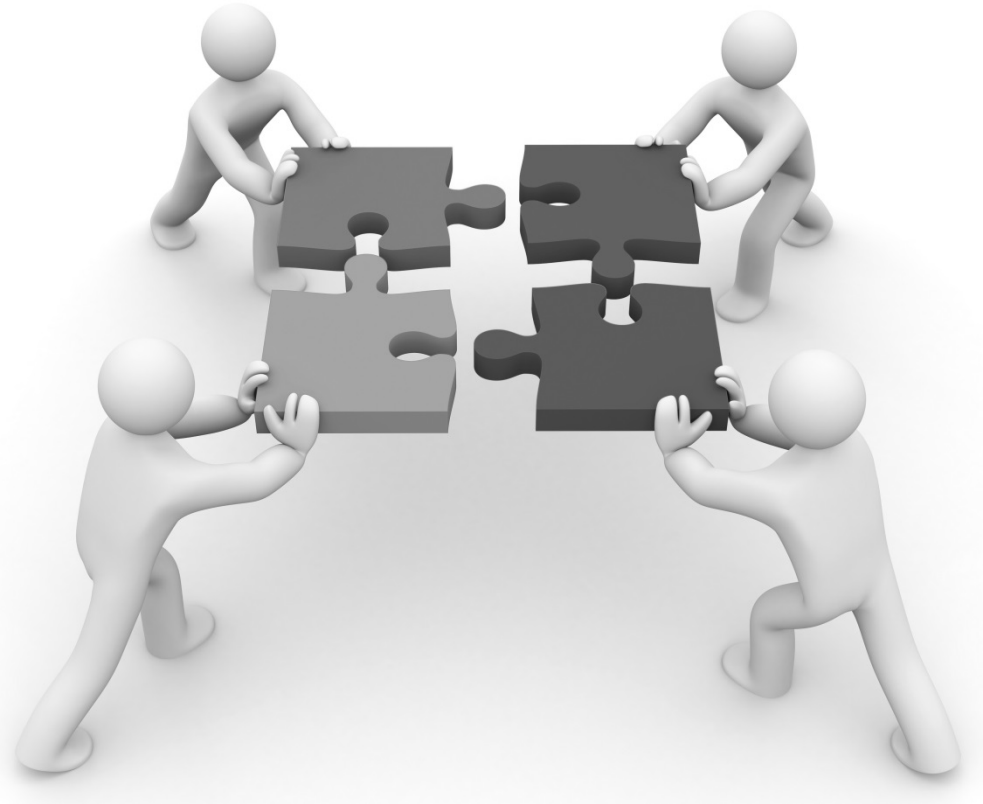
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Improving uptake of risk assessments



1. Process not projects
2. Engage end users in design
3. Build capacity



4. Promote partnerships across scales
5. Target sectors
6. Build inter-sectoral collaboration



7. Interpret outputs
8. Link risk to development needs
9. Tie to political timescales



The economic benefits of DRR

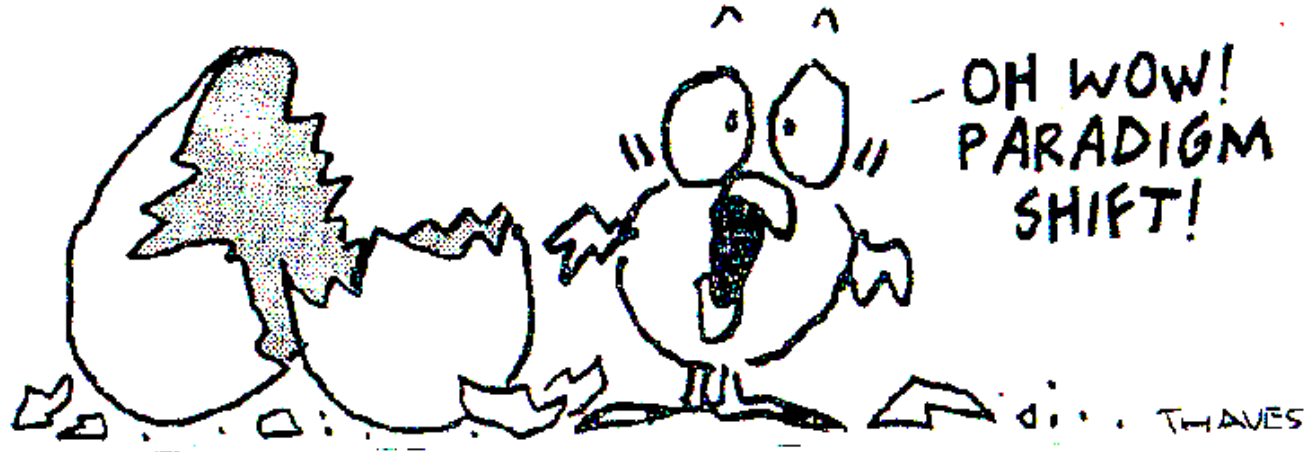
- Beyond loss avoidance -

or “the resilience dividend”



- Cost-benefit is confusing
- Loss avoidance is avoiding benefits

Frank and Ernest





Searching for a
resilience dividend...



Economic benefits of DRR



Changing the risk paradigm - a debate



DISASTER RELIEF

Chair: Tom Mitchell, Head of Climate Change, ODI

Panellists:

- Jolanta Kryspin-Watson, WB East Asia
- Nick Haigh, Defra, UK
- Salvador Pérez Maldonado, Ministry of Finance, Mexico
- Kamal Kishore, UNDP BCPR
- Emily Wilkinson, ODI
- Swenja Surminski, LSE



Thank you!