

Managing Environmental Risks



What is the NGO Message?

How Can They Help?

A Survey Discussion

with

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Our Message

- NGO's already play a vital role in disaster response, recovery and risk reduction around the world
- NGO's should be an essential player in developing and implementing environmental disaster management policies.
- While our focus is often narrower than a government's mandate, we offer creative, new approaches which can't be ignored – and a local relevance and focus.

Who is at Risk?

Mr. Gore is right. The whole planet is at risk, especially due to climate change; but in this discussion, I propose a focus on the poor, those who depend on animals for a living and indigenous populations as a group especially vulnerable to environmental hazards and whom NGO's can and should serve.

- The poor, the indigenous and migrants often live in:
 - In risk-prone regions.
 - Without access to appropriate resources – especially in the developing world.
 - Often with poor shelter.
 - Often without proper early warning or telecommunications.
 - Virtually never with access to insurance in the developing world.
- As a result, natural hazards that otherwise might not be tragedies turn into disasters.
- Recovery can thus be slow and create a cycle of disasters, sustained poverty and hunger.





Bangladesh Floods 1998 Alarm Bell for the Poor

- Homes destroyed, crops washed away.
- The poor owned few assets that could help them recover to a pre-disaster level;
- Jobs were lost so the poor had to borrow to cover basic needs. Borrowing took some time to dissipate.
- Food security was weak. Lack of disposable income meant inability to buy food (which increased in price, particularly rice).
- Disease and malnutrition worsened. Illnesses of the main earner rose in the worst hit areas from 10% to 38% later in the year, and only returned to normal levels six months later.

Examples of where NGO's Can Make a Difference



- **Hurricane Katrina** and the plight of the poor – left behind to fend for themselves. Livestock and Poultry often poorly protected, creating food security and poverty issues.
- **Argentina and Uruguay:** Tens of thousands of cattle lost every year to flooding.
- **Native America** -- Tribes often suffer from flooding, fires and slides; yet they have minimal telecommunications, making early warning and response difficult. Good risk reduction plans often weak.
- **Developing World Pastoralists** and Farmers. Nearly 850 million of the world's most poor depend on animals for jobs or food, yet as in Pakistan during the recent earthquake, they have nothing to fall back on if their property is lost. Unlike in America and Europe, limited or non-existing support platform.



In conclusion

- NGO's have the scientific knowledge and local knowledge of customs and risks to be a critical partner to the UN and governments on reducing the threat of environmental risks.
- Let us be your partner for success.

Thank you.
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