

PEDRR

Ecosystems for Adaptation
and Disaster Risk Reduction

The Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) is a global partnership comprised of UN agencies, international and regional NGOs as well as specialist institutes that collectively aim to influence policy, enhance implementation and better coordinate efforts in environmental management for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. It promotes ecosystems management as the key strategy to reduce disaster risk, increase local resilience and adapt to a changing climate.



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) • Council of Europe • Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) • Global Risk Forum • International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • ProAct Network • Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) • Swiss Helvetas Intercooperation • The Nature Conservancy (TNC) • UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) • United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) • World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

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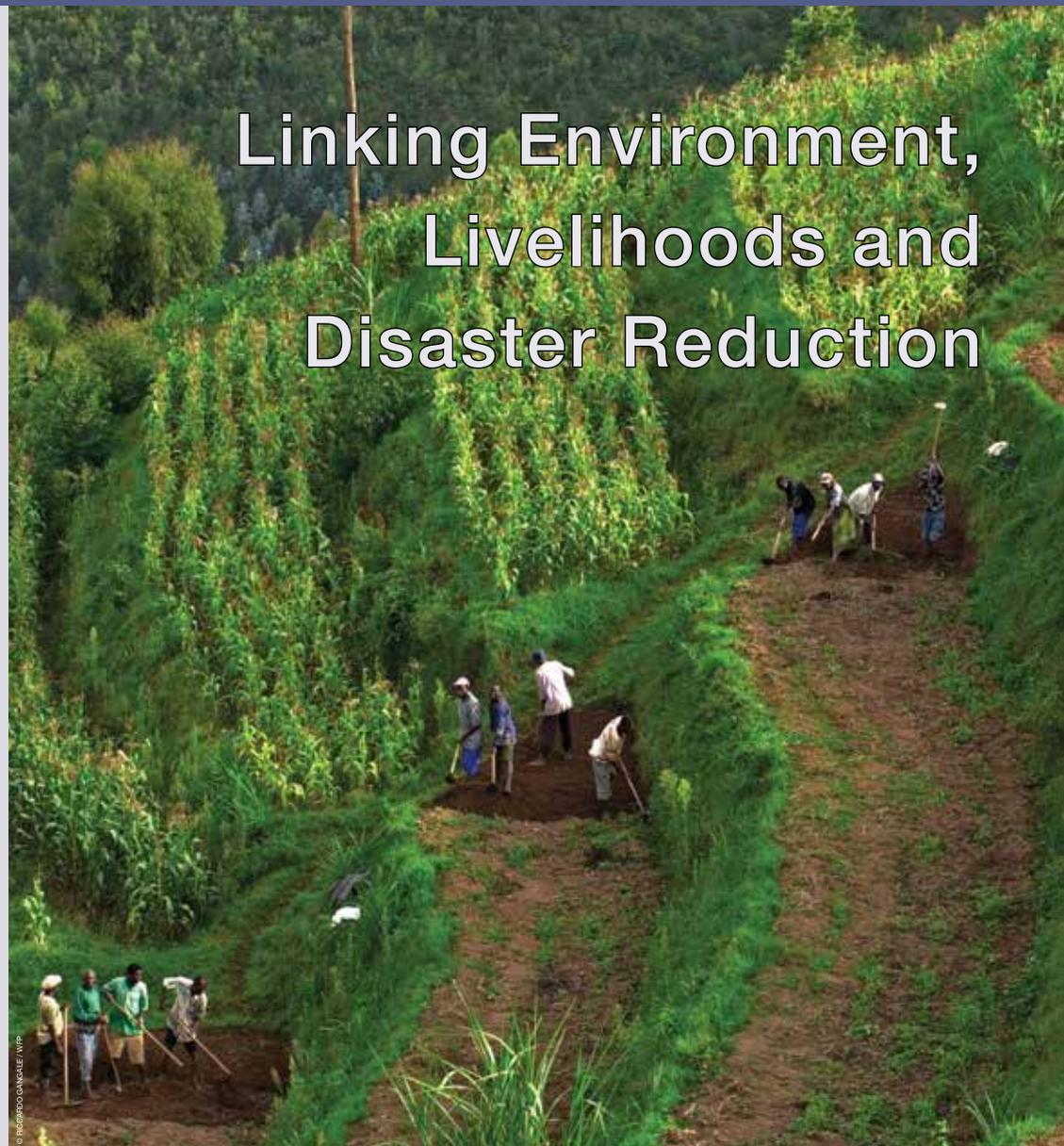
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Linking Environment, Livelihoods and Disaster Reduction



Ecosystems, livelihoods and disasters: Reducing disaster risk through ecosystem management

Linkages between environment and disasters are now well-acknowledged, yet are still poorly reflected in disaster management and development plans.

Disasters due to natural hazards, such as tropical cyclones, floods, landslides and wildfires, can have adverse environmental consequences. On the other hand, degraded environments can cause or exacerbate the negative impacts of disasters. Global climate change will magnify existing vulnerabilities to disasters, that are already driven by increased population exposure and land-use changes.

Linking environment and disasters also present an opportunity. Healthy and well-managed ecosystems—such as coral reefs, mangroves, forests and wetlands—reduce disaster risk by acting as natural buffers or protective barriers, for instance through flood and landslide mitigation, water filtration and absorption. At the same time, healthy ecosystems build local resilience to disasters by sustaining livelihoods and providing for food, water, fuel and construction materials.

Adopting an integrated approach to ecosystem management for sustainable livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is a no-regret investment.



Source: PEDRR Training, adapted from: Sudmeier-Rieux and Ash. 2009. Environmental Guidance Note for Disaster Risk Reduction. IUCN: Gland.

About PEDRR

As a global thematic platform of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), PEDRR works to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action which was signed by 168 countries in 2005.

PEDRR focuses on reducing underlying risk factors related to the environment and mainstreams ecosystems-based disaster risk reduction in development planning processes at global, regional, national and local levels.

Our vision

Resilient communities as a result of improved ecosystem management that reduces disaster risk and enables adaptation to climate change.

Our purpose

- **Provide expertise** and the latest information on ecosystem management for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
- **Apply and advocate for best practices** in ecosystems-based approaches at national and community levels
- **Coordinate and mainstream environment initiatives** within the ISDR system

What we do

- **Advocacy:** PEDRR raises awareness of the role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction and promotes innovative natural resource management approaches, such as integrated flood management, for risk management. It provides technical expertise to influence global and national policies and to support the ISDR system.
- **Capacity development:** PEDRR seeks to enhance knowledge and skills, particularly at the national level, in applying ecosystem management solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mainstream these approaches in national and local development planning.
- **Exchange of knowledge and practices:** Drawing from science, practitioners' experience and indigenous knowledge systems, PEDRR pulls together cutting-edge research and field-based examples that demonstrate ecosystems-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and adaptation.
- **Networking:** PEDRR promotes partnerships at global, regional and national levels and fosters collaboration between the environmental science and development communities.



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