

# Weathering Risk: A Climate and Security Risk and Foresight Assessment Project Overview

In response to the [Berlin Call to Action](#), in June 2020, the German Foreign Minister announced this **multi-disciplinary, innovative initiative** to tackle the risks that climate change poses to global peace and security. This flagship multilateral programme has three concrete goals:

1. **Risk-informed planning:** to create a better understanding and sound analysis of how climate change exacerbates conflicts.
2. **Enhanced capacity for action:** to strengthen the abilities of governments and international institutions to act in the area of climate and security in affected regions.
3. **Improving operational responses:** to enhance consideration of climate, sustainable development, security and peacebuilding as related issues in all programmes.

adelphi and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) jointly lead a partnership of leading institutions in **developing a climate and security risk assessment approach** to advance these goals.

**Our objective** is to ensure that local, national and international diplomacy, development and defense strategies, policies and decision-making have access to, and thus can be better informed by, **evidence-based analysis on climate change related security risks**.

Our target user groups include:

- National governments and international organisations looking to carry out large scale, regional or local-level risk assessments;
- International Institutions such as UN agencies, who can use the methodology to complement their own efforts;
- Peacebuilding actors looking to integrate climate change into their work;
- Actors carrying out programming in climate change mitigation, adaptation, resilience building, or development who want to ensure that their programmes take the impact of climate-security linkages into account and are suitable for conflict-affected contexts.

## Why?

Climate change is one of the most significant foreign policy challenges of the 21st century. It is widely accepted that climate change will affect peace and security through a number of context-dependent, interacting pathways. Addressing the diverse security risks of climate change calls for a better understanding of the risks and pathways. From consultations with decision-makers, there is a clear signal that policy-makers and practitioners alike need information on the full range of impacts of climate change on human security, encompassing the breadth of economic, social and environmental policy, different scales and likelihoods.

## How we work

Our programme will be guided by our **Strategic Advisory Board** who will offer direction on strategic relevance, take-up and outreach of outputs.

- **Achim Steiner**, Administrator, UNDP
- **Adriana Abdenur**, Executive Director, Plataforma CIPÓ, Brazil
- **Inger Andersen**, Executive Director, UNEP
- **Shenggen Fan**, Former Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute, China
- **Saleemul Huq**, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Bangladesh
- **Wolfgang Ischinger**, Chairman, Munich Security Conference, Germany
- **Rob Malley**, President and CEO, International Crisis Group, USA
- **Ottília Anna Maunganidze**, Head of Special Projects, Office of the Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa
- **Tom Middendorp**, Former Chief of Defence of the Netherlands; Chair, International Military Council on Climate and Security, Netherlands
- **Federica Mogherini**, Rector, College of Europe, Former EU High Representative/Vice-President, Italy
- **Coral Pasisi**, Director, Sustainable Pacific Consultancy; Former Regional Advisor on the Pacific to the Green Climate Fund, Niue

The overall course of the project will also be guided by our Steering Board, which is made up of the directors of the lead institutions and core donors.

Our **partners** include **CGIAR**, **Chatham House**, **Economist Intelligence Unit**, **Igarapé Institute**, **Institute for Security Studies (ISS Africa)**, **International Crisis Group**, and **United Nations University**.



Over three years, we will **develop and pilot an approach to conducting climate and security risk assessments** at different scales and across different contexts. We will identify **short and medium-term threats** posed by climate change to **peace, prosperity and wellbeing**, and in the **medium to long term** to **geopolitical** and **diplomatic relationships**. Drawing on the breadth and depth of expertise and insights from across the consortium, we will **track, assess** and **model** a broad range of socioeconomic, biophysical and political impacts of climate change, their interactions, as well as possible entry points for political and preventive action. Using this analysis we will identify global trends in and entry points to address climate security risks, and develop bespoke support tools for specific user needs.

Global engagement and outreach with both affected groups and intended users of the approach will be a core part of our efforts to ensure our outputs are relevant and useable.

### Timeline

**Phase One** (2020-2021) will establish how general principles of risk assessments and foresight can be applied in relation to climate change and security. Building on existing best practice, we will pioneer and aim to standardise a mixed methods approach that combines cross-sectoral climate impact modelling, machine learning and data analysis with stakeholder-focused methods, such as interviews, consultations and scenario co-development. The risk assessment approach takes the global, regional, national and subnational scale into account.

The methodology will be accompanied by tailored outputs to apply the assessment approach to specific institutional or sectoral processes.

**Phase Two** (2021-2022) will test the methodology and approach through regional and sectoral climate-security risk assessments. The pilots will involve different scales of assessment, from sub-national to continental. Learnings from the piloting process will contribute to an iterative process of reviewing and revising the methodology and approach.

**Phase Three** (2022-2023) will see the consolidation of Weathering Risk, comprising the finalized assessment approach, regional and thematic risk assessments and an overarching assessment of global trends and learnings.

