



Initiative for Peacebuilding: From Early Warning to Early Action

Research Framework:

Climate Change and Vulnerability to Conflict in Argentina and Mexico

Partners for Democratic Change International

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The climate change cluster of the **Initiative for Peacebuilding – Early Warning** project aims to explore linkages between climate change, conflict and fragility, the challenges of responding to climate change-related risks in ways which avoid violence and violent conflict, and the role of governance in managing and preventing conflict.

It is increasingly recognized that climate change – whether induced by natural environmental factors, human activity, or a combination thereof – is already having an impact on communities, regions and countries across the globe. With climate change, and its attendant political and socio-economic impacts, come new and potentially de-stabilizing influences that, if not properly addressed, can lead to conflict, and, in its worst manifestation, violent conflict.

The potential for climate change-induced conflict is especially acute where existing vulnerabilities among different social groups are not adequately addressed by political and institutional frameworks, policies, processes and mechanisms. In particular, where certain groups are systematically marginalized or discriminated against in terms of access to resources and decision-making.

Nowhere is the potential for conflict more significant than in access to, and control over, the world's most precious natural resource: water. In the water sector, the interface between water access, availability, governance, and vulnerability is complex. Add in the impact of climate change affecting access to and availability of water resources, and the potential for conflict increases dramatically. The water sector consists of both water users and water managers, who possess different interests. Sets of water users are further differentiated by ethnicity, livelihood, socio-economic status, geographic location, access to and control over resources and decision-making, and other factors.

Climate change is already impacting water user groups in different ways. When these impacts are not properly managed or addressed by water management groups and broader governance structures, leading to increased discrimination or marginalization, the potential for conflict and violence is exacerbated. Yet, climate change can also create a window of opportunity to strengthen co-operation between different groups of water users, and between water users and managers.

The research to be undertaken in Argentina and Mexico will look more closely at the linkages between climate change, governance, and conflict potential in selected case study areas.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of Research Framework

This research is designed to identify the scope of climate change impacts in the target countries, specific climate change-related vulnerabilities, the potential for climate change-related conflicts, and available cooperative efforts among sectors and responses, programs and actions at national and community levels which aim to build resilience to climate change and conflict. A focus on water resources will allow for a more in-depth exploration of the linkages between the management, access and control over resources and conflict dynamics.

The purpose of this research framework is to provide a standard methodology that allows for a comprehensive and comparative analysis across different geographic areas under study in Argentina and Mexico, and of the different actors experiencing, and responding to, the impacts of climate change. The specific components of the research framework, which will consist of desk research, field research, consultations with stakeholders, and validation of results, are described in greater detail in Section 2 and 3.3 below.

It should be noted that the authors are not expected to answer all the questions contained in each section of the research framework; the questions are included to provide guidance as what sort of information and data the authors should be seeking, to develop a comprehensive and informative report on the linkages between climate change, governance and conflict.

1.3 Key Definitions and Concepts

The Research Framework uses and refers to various key concepts relating to conflict, climate change and vulnerability. The nature of the research is a complex mixture of scientific and sociological (both qualitative and quantitative) perspectives, yet it is the interface between these two disciplines that can provide a richer, more comprehensive understanding how climatic shifts influence, and are influenced by, human behaviour, processes and institutions.

Some of the key concepts referred to include:

Climate Change: The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992, defines the phenomenon of climate change as “*a change in the climate which is directly or indirectly attributed to human activity that alters the composition of the planet’s atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed*”

over comparable time periods.” More simply, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate change as *“any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.”*

Importantly, both definitions highlight that climate change can be caused by human activity or natural environmental shifts, or a combination of both factors.

Adaptation: Resilience (defined below) and adaptation are closely linked concepts. However, whereas resilience is an approach that is both reactive and proactive, adaptation is essentially reactive; the IPCC therefore defines adaptation as *“adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.”*

Conflict: There is no single definition of “conflict”. It is complex and multi-dimensional, and its’ origins and consequences are influenced by interlinking factors. For the purpose of this assessment, the following definition of conflict will be used: *“a conflict arises when parties disagree about the distribution of material or symbolic resources and act on the basis of these perceived incompatibilities.”* In the context of this research, where social vulnerabilities and identities are of significance, it is useful to keep in mind the definition development by sociologist Lewis Coser, who defines social conflict as *“a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources”*.

Conflict Resolution: There are also a multitude of definitions of conflict resolution. The United State Institute for Peace suggests that conflict resolution involves *“efforts to address the underlying causes of a conflict by finding common interests and overarching goals. It includes fostering positive attitudes and generating trust through reconciliation initiatives, and building or strengthening the institutions and processes through which the parties interact peacefully.”*

Conflict Sensitivity: Conflict sensitivity refers to an *“awareness of the causes of historical, actual or potential conflict, and of the likelihood of further conflict and its severity; and the capacity to work with all parties to reduce conflict and/or minimize the risk of further conflict.”*

Marginalization: UNESCO has stated that *“marginalization occurs when people are systematically excluded from meaningful participation in economic, social, political, cultural and other forms of human activity in their communities and thus are denied the opportunity to fulfil themselves as human beings.”*

Resilience: The concept of resilience is often associated with disaster risk reduction. Accordingly, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) has defined resilience as *“the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of hazards in a timely and efficient manner.”*

However, it is recognized that the concept is also helpful in the context of identifying responses to climate change impacts. Therefore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change (IPCC) defines resilience as “*The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change*”. Resilience is both reactive and proactive, describing the ability of a community or society to adjust its modes of functioning prior to, during and after environmental changes.

Vulnerability: The UNISDR defines vulnerability as “*the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards*”, while UNDP describes vulnerability as “*a human condition or process resulting from physical, social, economic and environmental factors, which determine the likelihood and scale of damage from the impact of a given hazard.*”

Both stress how communities are impacted by different factors or processes, while UNDP focuses on the human as the reference point. Sociologists have stressed that vulnerability is multi-dimensional and dynamic, however, lacking a common definition.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study will be carried out through a combination of desk research (content analysis of documents), media analysis (messages communicated by media) and qualitative data collection through interviews and focus groups with CSOs, experts, governmental, academic, community and business representatives. The methodology for this research project should consist of four components:

- 1) **Desk Research**
- 2) **Field Research**
- 3) **Analysis and Recommendations**
- 4) **Research Validation**

The **desk research** should consist of the collection and analysis of relevant international conventions and standards the country has signed up to, national policy and legislative frameworks, statistics, meteorological data, government, NGO and international organization reports, and academic articles.

This component will also consist of a media analysis, an analysis of a set number of news papers over a defined period of time to determine whether and how climate change and its impacts are covered by media sources. The analysis is aimed at determining whether the media can exacerbate the potential for climate change-related conflict, or act as an entry point for managing conflict. The media analysis methodology is included in Annex 1.

The **field research** should consist of the following:

- At least 10 interviews with climate change experts, government officials, relevant CSOs, and representatives of academia, business and the community (e.g. community elders, representatives, conflict-resolution actors);
- At least one focus group sessions with stakeholders in the target region, in order to verify data collected and gather qualitative research input.

The data collected may be a mixture of science, policy and sociological findings. The analysis, however, should be channeled to the development of **policy-oriented recommendations**. In this way, the data becomes an evidence-base to justify policy recommendations.

Importantly, both the desk research and field research should aim at assessing the capacity of existing governance frameworks at both national and local (case study) level, to respond to climate change through enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience, as well as the degree to which the governance framework can manage and/or resolve actual and potential conflict in the water sector.

An important part of the research process concerns **validation of research findings and results** using participatory, multi-stakeholder processes. It may take the form of a focus group, roundtable or workshop. It should include representatives interviewed for the study, representing, *inter alia*, local government, national government, different groups of water users and water managers, including marginalized and vulnerable water users, and experts.

III. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

3.1 Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should contain an overview of the main findings of the research, including the main impacts of climate change on the country and/or target region, the capacity of the governance framework to respond to the actual and potential impacts of climate change, the potential for conflict emerging in the water sector in the target region, and the main recommendations.

3.2 Introduction

In the Introduction, the author will set out the scope of the research undertaken and why it was undertaken, and highlight the vulnerability of the country to climate change. The Introduction should set out the main arguments of the paper according to the authors, and highlight its link to the Initiative for Peacebuilding-Early Warning climate change cluster.

3.3. Methodology

In this section, the author will explain how the research was carried out, and describe in detail the four phases of research, including:

a) Desk Research and Resources:

The author may collect and analyze resources from among the following groups of sources:

- International conventions, treaties and organizations the target country has ratified, signed up to or belongs to

- Existing policies, legislation and strategies on climate change, such as National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)
- Reports to international bodies, such as National Communications to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Reports of international bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UN agencies, and other independent bodies
- Meteorological data, including seasonal forecasts and relevant maps
- Government statistics
- Academic reports and articles
- NGO reports

Remember to include resources and data sources for the target regions, including relevant local policies and strategies deriving from national policy frameworks, data and statistics for the target region (seasonal forecasts, maps, government statistics, environmental impact assessments, etc).

The media analysis will be undertaken using methodology developed by PDCI (see Annex I).

b) Field Research

For the field research, the author will need to define at least one specific region and/or community he/she will focus on within the target country, in order to analyse in greater detail the linkages between climate change, vulnerability and conflict in the water sector.

Field research will consist of interviews with identified stakeholders at national level and in the target region(s) selected as case studies for the research, as well as a focus group session to gather qualitative input and verify data collected. The interviews will look at:

- Actual and potential impacts of climate change in the target region, including on the water sector;
- Vulnerabilities of social or identity groups to climate change in the water sector, with a specific focus on women, different ethnic groups or communities, minorities, socio-economic groups, and/or age groups (such as youth or the elderly);
- Existing formal and informal governance mechanisms (policies, processes, structures) for climate change and conflict resolution at both national and local levels, to assess possibilities for such mechanisms to: a) help prepare for and/or respond to climate change or b) exacerbate impacts of climate change and potential for conflict.

c) Analysis and Recommendations

The desk and field research findings will be analyzed by the author in order to develop recommendations for different stakeholders on the linkages between climate change, governance and conflict. The recommendations should be policy-oriented and evidence-based.

d) Research Validation

The research, and particularly the conclusions and recommendations emerging from the research, should be validated through a participatory event that brings together representatives of different stakeholder groups (e.g. representatives of different groups of water users, including women and representatives of indigenous groups), water managers, local

government, national government, climate change experts, conflict experts, and governance experts.

Such an event – whether a focus group, roundtable or workshop – should aim to build awareness of the linkages between climate change, governance and conflict, as well as identify concrete of using and enhancing existing policy frameworks, governance mechanisms and traditional/local practices in ways that help reduce the potential for climate-change induced conflict.

3.4 Conflict and Climate Change: An Overview

In this section, the author should also introduce the main concepts and definitions you will be using in the next sections to describe the impact of conflict change, explain the linkages between conflict and climate change, and identify specific vulnerabilities to climate change-induced conflict.

The author may also introduce the specific conflict definitions as well as approaches to conflict management/resolution that will be applied within the framework of the report. At this point, the authors will not yet be looking at the specificities of conflict as applied to the water sector, but rather on creating a picture of the broader conflict environment. This can include asking questions such as:

- Is there a history of conflict?
- What are the structural causes of conflict?
- Are the governments legitimate?
- What issues can be considered as proximate causes of conflict?
- What triggers can contribute to escalation of conflict?

3.5 Climate Change: The Governance Aspect

The extent of the impact of climate change on different social groups, as well as livelihoods, the economic sector, the political system and the environment, is greatly influenced by the system of governance in place in the target country, including at local/regional levels.

Therefore, before engaging in an in-depth analysis of specific climate change impacts, it will be useful to provide an overview of policy and legislative framework for climate change, as well as the institutional framework for climate change. The *aim* of this Chapter is to analyse whether the existing policy and institutional framework for climate change and the water sector enables or hinders the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change impacts. It should give a better picture of how governance factors in the country impact on and are impacted by climate change, as well as how modes of governance can help address or exacerbate the potential for climate change to induce conflict.

3.5.1 The Policy Framework for Climate Change

In this section, the author will identify and assess the policy framework in place (if any) in regard to climate change and managing its impacts, how well it is integrated into the broader policy framework, and linked to other relevant policy sectors, as well as the degree to which the policy framework is adapted to local contexts. The author should make mention of any attempts to link climate change policy with water sector policies at both national and local levels.

- ✓ How is climate change understood by policymakers? By different social groups?
- ✓ Are linkages between natural factors, human behaviour/activity, and environmental shifts considered and explored?
- ✓ Is there a climate change policy?
- ✓ Is the climate change integrated into relevant sectoral policies, particularly water sector policies?
- ✓ If so, is the climate change policy integrated into the poverty reduction strategy or other development policies?
- ✓ Are there special policies regarding the rights and traditions of indigenous groups, as well as other marginalized groups such as women and minorities?
- ✓ Are existing climate change and water management policies transferred and adapted to the local level?
- ✓ How do regions and local communities plan and implement climate change policy?
- ✓ How inclusive and participatory is the policymaking process? Are representatives of different social and identity groups involved in policymaking?
- ✓ Are any social groups systematically excluded from policymaking and/or decision-making processes?

3.5.2 The Institutional Framework for Climate Change

In this section, the author will build on the policy framework by identifying the institutional bodies, mechanisms and processes established to implement climate change policy as well as respond to climate change impacts, with a focus on early warning systems, disaster risk reductions mechanisms, and related processes. Here, the author will want to determine whether the institutional framework is sufficient for managing and adapting to climate change impacts.

- ✓ Which institutions are engaged in research, planning and implementation of climate change policies and adaptation strategies?
- ✓ Which institutions facilitate or constrain adaptation?
- ✓ Is the government engaged in disaster risk management?
- ✓ Are there early warning systems (EWS) in place at national, regional and community levels?
- ✓ Is the government monitoring and analyzing climate change information and disaster risk information?
- ✓ Does the government have the capacity to monitor information on climate risks?
- ✓ Is information accessible to the public? What are the mechanisms to disseminate it?

3.5.3 Governance in the Water Sector: The Policy and Institutional Framework

This section looks specifically at the policy framework for the water sector, as well as both formal and informal water management institutions and procedures responsible for determining access to, availability of, and control over water resources. In this section, the

focus is on determining whether the institutional and policy framework for the water sector is sufficient for addressing and responding to the potential impacts of climate change on the water sector in a fair and equitable manner.

- ✓ What formal water management mechanisms have been established to govern/ manage the water sector?
- ✓ How do these mechanisms control access to water resources?
- ✓ How are water resources allocated to different user groups? Are the principles for allocation fair, equitable and transparent?
- ✓ Are there special provisions for water access for indigenous groups, or for women (often responsible for collecting water)?
- ✓ Are there informal mechanisms, relationships or processes for water management? Do these conflict with, or hold more influence than, formal structures?
- ✓ What policies are in place to manage access and availability of water resources?
- ✓ Is the policy framework for the water sector implemented? Selectively implemented? Not implemented at all?
- ✓ How is the policy framework for the water sector tailored to the local level?
- ✓ Are representatives of different water user groups involved in policy- and decision-making regarding water management?
- ✓ Are any water user groups systematically excluded from policy- and/or decision-making processes?
- ✓ Do aspects of water sector policies conflict with other policy sectors, e.g. in the realm of economic development or enterprise?

3.5.4 Water Sector Governance: Impact on Water Users

In this section, the author will be looking at how the institutional and policy framework for the water sector actually impacts on different groups of water users and water managers. Where institutions and policies are fair, transparent and equitable, potential for conflict induced by climate change should be minimized; where policies and institutions enshrine discrimination, or result in discrimination in practice, the potential for conflict in the water sector may be augmented.

The author should pay special attention to what groups of water users are marginalized, and whether marginalization in the water sector is linked to broader societal marginalization.

- ✓ Who are the water users and water managers identified by policy frameworks? Are all actual groups of water users/manager identified?
- ✓ Does the policy framework for water management institutionalize discrimination against certain social groups and/or specific groups of water users?
- ✓ Have water management policies created unequal access for certain groups of water users?
- ✓ Are different groups of water users aware of their rights and the applicable policy framework?
- ✓ Have different water user groups been involved in the policymaking process, or in decision-making processes regarding water access?
- ✓ Is there corruption in the water sector? How does this impact on water users and water managers?

- ✓ Are there any conflict-resolution mechanisms in place to manage and resolve conflict between different groups of water users and water managers (either formal or informal)?
- ✓ What factors influence access to and availability of water resources for different groups of water users (at local, national and international levels)?

3.6. Climate Change Impacts and Consequences

In this Chapter, the author will look at the specific impacts of climate change on the target country of research, and specifically in the case study regions. This Chapter provides the foundation from which to explore, in further chapters, vulnerabilities to climate change and conflict, as well as existing and potential entry points for adaptation and enhancing resilience.

In this section, the author will highlight the major actual and forecast impacts of climate change on the environment in the target country, with an emphasis, where relevant, of the impacts on water-related environmental dimensions. The aim of this section is to provide an overview of climate change hazards and impacts, according to scientific experts and those impacted by the changes.

- ✓ What are the most important climate-related risks and hazards the country must deal with?
- ✓ What are the trends in terms of these risks and hazards (increasing/decreasing/stay the same) over time? Why?
- ✓ What are the expected impacts of climate change on:
 - Agriculture
 - Ecosystems and biodiversity
 - Coastal Zones
 - Water systems
- ✓ What is their weight in comparison with non-climate related (economic, social, demographic risks etc.)?
- ✓ Are there changes in frequency, duration, and/or intensity of:
 - Rainfall
 - Storms
 - Storm surges/floods
 - Levels of water bodies
- ✓ What are specific risks and hazards related to water management created by climate change?
- ✓ What are the impacts of climate change on the availability of and access to water for different user groups?

3.7 Climate Change Vulnerabilities in the Water Sector: Identifying Potential for Conflict

To a certain extent, this Chapter “mirrors” the topics addressed in the previous Chapter, but with a specific emphasis on vulnerability. In other words, it shifts the focus from the impact of climate change on the environment, to an identification of vulnerabilities of different sets of social groups to climate change impacts, with a focus on vulnerabilities among water users and water managers.

In this Chapter the author should look in greater detail at political/institutional vulnerability, economic and socio-economic vulnerability, and social vulnerability to climate change. A study of vulnerability opens the door to a more comprehensive understanding of potential for conflict. Therefore the *aim* of this Chapter is to identify the vulnerabilities of political and economic systems as well as of different social groups to climate change. In addition, it will look at what types of vulnerabilities will be increased as a result of climate change, in order to better recognize potential roots of conflict.

Before looking more closely at specific types of vulnerabilities, the author should identify the main sets of water users and water managers operating in the target region:

- ✓ What are the main interests, goals, positions, capacities and relationships of each of the different groups of water users and water managers?

3.7.1 Governance/Institutional Vulnerability

In this section, the author should analyze weaknesses of the governance system that can exacerbate the impacts of climate change on water users and water managers. Attention should be focused not only on national-level policy frameworks and government mechanisms for climate change, conflict resolution and consultation, but also how these interact with the equivalent mechanisms that function in the target region.

- ✓ Do authorities and institutions responsible for water management demonstrate understanding of the link between poverty and climate change vulnerability?
- ✓ How do political actors (e.g. political parties, parliamentarians, government officials) speak about/frame climate change?
- ✓ Do those responsible for climate change policies and programs and specifically for water management demonstrate understanding on situation of vulnerable groups, women and children?
- ✓ Do climate change and water management policies and institutions have the capacity to support adaptation, or have they contributed to an exacerbation of the potential impacts of climate change?
- ✓ What are the weaknesses in the political system that can be exacerbated by climate change?
- ✓ Have national-level policies and legislation (regarding climate change and/or the water sector) been adapted to and applied at local level/in the target region in an effective, fair and equitable manner?
- ✓ Have there been any conflicts between national-level policies and local customary laws and traditions?

- ✓ Have national-level policies and laws related to climate change and the water sector, when applied at local level, led to an exacerbation of inequalities between different water user groups and/or between water users and water managers?

<p>Potential for Political/Institutional Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict potential exacerbated by lack of or insufficient policy framework for climate change, including with respect to management of water resources - Conflict potential exacerbated by lack of or insufficient institutional framework for climate change, including with respect to management of water resources - Conflict potential exacerbated by incoherence across relevant policy sectors (e.g. development plans, economic development, tourism, water management, etc) - Conflict potential created due to lack of co-ordination among relevant government agencies or institutions - Conflict potential created due to lack of institutional response to the problems created by climate change-induced displacement - Conflict potential created by incoherence between policies at regional/local levels (inter-jurisdictional) - Conflict potential created by lack of/insufficient conflict resolution mechanisms, or mechanism lacking legitimacy - Conflict potential exacerbated by institutionalized/systemic discrimination against or marginalization of certain groups of water users - Conflict potential exacerbated by diverging interests on water managers versus water users as a result of climate change impacts - Conflict potential created due to lack of dissemination to the public about climate change - Conflict potential exacerbated due to lack of participation of different groups of waters users in policy- and decision-making processes - Conflict potential exacerbated by tension between national policies on climate change and/or water management, and local traditions and practices
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3.7.3 Economic and Socio-Economic Vulnerability

This section looks at the vulnerabilities of economic systems to climate change, and how climate change may affect availability of resources, as well as impact on livelihoods and traditional patterns of production. It also looks at actual and/or potential socio-economic vulnerabilities of different groups, particularly as a result of displacement and impacts on livelihoods.

- ✓ What has been and what is the expected impact of climate change on the economic sector?
- ✓ How is and how might climate change affect production chains?
- ✓ Has climate change or is climate change expected to create food shortages, affecting food security and potentially causing food scarcity?
- ✓ Has climate change impacted on the livelihoods of different social groups and/or communities?
- ✓ Which regions/communities are most vulnerable? Which groups or economic sectors are most vulnerable?

- ✓ Has climate change created displacement of different social groups? If so, in what ways? Has this displacement affected certain groups more than others?
- ✓ Has displacement created new groups of water users in certain areas?
- ✓ Have national-level policies and laws related to climate change resulted in or required a change in local development policies in ways that affect traditional livelihoods or productive practices?

Potential for Economic/ Socio-Economic Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflicts created by displacement of certain social groups, resulting in increased competition over resources - Conflict due to creation of new groups of water users (including as a result of displacement) - Conflict between different groups of water users by increased scarcity of resources, particularly water resources - Conflict created as a result of decreased or changed livelihoods - Conflict potential created by increased discrepancies in income between different groups of water users due to climate change impacts - Conflict over the proper socio-economic policy response to address the impacts of climate change - Conflict between policy sectors, particularly local development, climate change and water management policies - Conflict between water users and water managers over the supremacy of conservation, preservation, and adaptation policies and mechanisms - Conflicts between water users and other economic sectors, including energy users, private enterprise, developers, etc. - Conflicts between indigenous water users and those adhering to traditional practices, and water users groups wishing to embrace new technologies
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3.7.2 Social Vulnerability in the Water Sector

In this section, the author will look at the specific social vulnerabilities of water users in particular, and how climate change may exacerbate social vulnerabilities, particularly where such vulnerabilities are rooted in inequality between different social groups of water users.

- ✓ Is there unequal access between different groups of water users in the target region? Why? Do certain social groups have greater or privileged access to water resources?
- ✓ Are there socio-economic differences between different types of water users?
- ✓ How are rights to water access allocated to indigenous groups?
- ✓ Are there other factors that result in unequal access to water resources for different user groups? What are these?
- ✓ Is there unequal access between water users and water managers in the community?
- ✓ How has climate change impacted on different groups of water users and water managers? Has climate change created or exacerbated unequal access to water resources for different groups of water users?
- ✓ Are different water user groups aware of climate change and its consequences?
- ✓ How do different water user groups perceive the impact of climate change? What do they attribute it to?
- ✓ Has climate change exacerbated the marginalization of any water user groups, e.g. indigenous groups, women, minorities?

<p>Potential for Social Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict among different water user groups due to increased inequalities in access to and/or availability of water resources - Conflict among different groups of water users due to increased marginalization of certain groups - Conflict among different groups of water users as marginalized groups, previously unaware of their status, begin to recognize their marginalization - Conflict among different water user groups as a result of discrimination enshrined within climate change and water management policies - Conflict among indigenous water users and other water user groups due to displacement of indigenous water users, destruction of their habitats and livelihoods, or violation of their traditions and/or customs - Conflict potential exacerbated due to the traditional or other conflict resolution mechanisms that discriminate against or exclude certain groups of water users
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3.8 Potential for Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation

This Chapter looks at the existing framework for conflict resolution at national and local levels, including the policy framework, institutional mechanisms and traditional practices that can be mobilized to respond to, as well as better prepare for, the impacts of climate change on different social groups in the water sector.

This Chapter does not look at the adaptive capacities per se, which is outside the scope of this report, but rather at the mechanisms, processes and practices for conflict resolution and management. However, it should be recognized that such mechanisms can be used to build adaptive capacity. In general, the *aim* of this Chapter is to look at the capacity of existing formal and informal governance structures for conflict resolution, to adequately prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

3.8.1 Existing Conflict-Resolution Mechanisms and Processes

This section looks at the formal and informal conflict-resolution mechanisms and processes in existence at national and local levels. The author should assess whether these mechanisms are regarded as legitimate by representatives of different water groups, as well as the potential for both formal and informal processes to be mobilized to more comprehensively respond to the impacts of climate change.

- ✓ Have formal and/or informal conflict-resolution mechanisms or institutions been established to manage and resolve water-related conflicts or disagreements?
- ✓ Are these mechanisms inclusive and representative of all water user and manager groups?
- ✓ Are these regarded by all groups of water users, including indigenous groups, women and minorities, and managers as legitimate?
- ✓ Are any water user groups systematically discriminated against or excluded from representation or participation in conflict-resolution mechanisms?

- ✓ Do traditional conflict-resolution mechanisms, such as traditional leaders, exist? Are these regarded as more legitimate by certain groups of water users?
- ✓ Have water users developed alternative processes for resolving disputes, outside official or traditional mechanisms?
- ✓ Can these compliment official and traditional mechanisms and processes in a way that more comprehensively prepares communities and water users for the impacts of climate change?

3.8.2 Opportunities for Co-operation

Lastly, the author should look at the potential for co-operation among water users and water managers, should climate change impacts on the water sector increase. This is a preventative approach – identifying the windows of opportunity from among different mechanisms, processes, traditions, practices, and social groups, to identify which will be most effective in addressing conflict. It is also looking at interests, to better understand how common interests can be forged as a foundation for conflict resolution once availability of and access to water resources are affected by climate change.

- ✓ Are there common interests among all groups of water users and managers? What are these? If none currently exist, can these be created?
- ✓ Are there broader, non-water related common interests among water users that can be used as a starting point for co-operation and dialogue?
- ✓ Are there actors, such as traditional or religious leaders, that are considered objective and non-discriminatory, that can be called on to help manage climate change more fairly?
- ✓ Are there “windows of opportunity” that can be used for peaceful management of community conflicts/disputes over water resources and water management?
- ✓ Are there good practices elsewhere that can be replicated in the target region in order to develop common interests and joint co-operation on water issues?

3.9 Media and Perceptions

This section explores the role of media in communicating risks related to climate change. For this section, the author can draw on the media analysis methodology developed by PDCI, and contained in Annex 1. The *aim* of this Chapter is to determine how the media can serve as a conflict-resolution mechanism, by raising awareness about climate change impacts, but also how it can serve to exacerbate the potential for conflict, by communicating climate change risks and impacts in alarmist, inaccurate, or destabilizing ways.

Specific questions:

- ✓ Is the media active in communicating issues related to climate change impact, policies and issues at national, regional and community level?
- ✓ What is the weight of climate change information in relation to other environmental and other (economic, social, culture etc,) issues?
- ✓ How important is the media as a source of information for citizens in the target country and in target communities?

- ✓ Is the information alarming than reassuring; based on facts than on opinion, technical than descriptive?
- ✓ Who are those identified as responsible for climate change risks and hazards? What is the source of information?
- ✓ Do the local and national media cooperate with government and other institutions to disseminate information related to water management and climate change issues?

3.10 Conclusions and Recommendations

In this section, the author will draw conclusions from the report findings and, importantly, develop recommendations for different stakeholders based on the data, interviews and research undertaken. The recommendations should be policy-oriented and evidence-based.

The conclusions and recommendations should be shared during validation workshops with stakeholders, in order to determine whether these are feasible, sound and useful. Additional recommendations suggested by stakeholders should also be included, if relevant and appropriate.

3.11 Select Bibliography / Further Reading

The author should include any resources referred to in the report and that formed the basis of the desk research. Suggestions for further reading may be useful for readers wishing to learn more about specific sections of the report, or the linkages between conflict and climate change more generally.

3.12 Annex 1: Media Analysis Methodology

This is the methodology developed by PDCI in order for the authors to undertake an analysis of how different media sources cover climate change and climate change impacts in the country and/or target region. This analysis looks at different aspects of media communication and the quality of messages, e.g. is the article alarming or reassuring, is the message technical or rather opinion based, what is the level of probability the risk of harm to occur, who is considered responsible for the risky situation etc.

The findings of the media analysis can be included in Section 3.9 of the report.