

## Call for Papers

Issue Theme

### ***Towards Tackling Loss and Damage: Urban Vulnerabilities and the Climate Crisis***

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#### **Background**

Climate change induced loss and damage (L&D) refers to the permanent and irreversible harm caused by climate change related extreme weather events or slow-onset processes that goes beyond the adaptive capacity of people and systems. Over the past years, L&D emerged as the ‘third pillar’ alongside climate change adaptation and mitigation and has become a core topic of international climate policy. However, despite the establishment of international policy mechanisms and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, questions regarding exact access to support have yet to be clarified. This means that now is the time to define the access for the most vulnerable countries and populations.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 Synthesis Report notes that climate change most critically impacts marginalised *urban* residents, and the outline of the forthcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities includes L&D. Recent research highlights that informal settlement dwellers are highly exposed and particularly vulnerable because of their exclusion from formal urban planning, formalised funding and aid mechanisms as well as disaster risk management processes. This makes economic and non-economic L&D already today a reality with profound impacts on housing, health, and financial security – and serious implications for human rights.

The combination of the increasing probability and intensity of extreme weather events and the rapid growth of vulnerable urban populations lacking disaster preparedness calls for placing them in the center of transformational action: To this end, holistic approaches are required that tackle socioeconomic and institutional root causes of vulnerability and work towards protecting and enabling the full enjoyment of human rights.

#### **Call for contributions**

As an independent journal on urban development issues for more than four decades, TRIALOG has explored the intersection of environment to social vulnerabilities over the years. However, at TRIALOG and elsewhere, scant attention has been paid to urban L&D and related vulnerabilities, including informality and climate injustice -. Therefore, we encourage practitioners and researchers from diverse disciplines to contribute to this special issue. Contributions from international praxis, theoretical reflections and empirical studies based on qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods are equally welcome.

The following are guiding questions for the special issue:

- What is meant by urban L&D? How is it experienced in practice, and how can it be measured?
- How should guiding concepts and approaches for averting, minimizing, and addressing climate change related L&D look like, and how can they be operationalised from the local to international scale?
- In which ways can the root causes of vulnerabilities be addressed holistically? How could approaches for tackling L&D contribute in these efforts?
- How could crucial data gaps on L&D in urban informal settlements be closed? What can be the role of community-based approaches and citizen science?
- What are existing (on the ground) practices for responding to climate change related stresses / losses and damages, and how can they be upscaled?
- How has the discourse on urban environmental and climate vulnerability developed over the decades?
- To what extent do current discourses on urban L&D echo earlier climate and environmental dialogues, including contributions in TRIALOG?

## Procedure, Guidelines and Contact

Interested authors are invited to submit an abstract (max 300 words) by January 31, 2025. Please include your full contact details and a brief biography of each contributing author (up to 100 words per author) and submit as a single document to [editor@trialog-journal.de](mailto:editor@trialog-journal.de).

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors: <https://www.trialog-journal.de/en/journal/authors-guidelines/>

Full papers (up to 5000 words) must be written in English and submitted by May 15, 2025.

- Abstract Submission: January 31, 2025
- Invitation to submit full paper: February 15, 2025
- Full Paper deadline (4,000–5,000 words): May 15, 2025
- Reviewers' Feedback: June 15, 2025
- Revised paper's submission deadline: August 30, 2025  
(*second revision if necessary*)
- Expected date of publication (online/ open Access): November 1, 2025
- Expected date of publication (print): November 15, 2025

For any further inquiries please contact the editors directly: [sandholz@ehs.unu.edu](mailto:sandholz@ehs.unu.edu) and [contactfranziskalae@gmail.com](mailto:contactfranziskalae@gmail.com).

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