



Norwegian University  
of Life Sciences



## International Conference: Humanitarian Policy and Practice in a Changing Climate

1-2 December 2016, Felix Conference Centre, Oslo

The aim of this conference is to stimulate lively debate between the humanitarian and climate change communities. The world is facing two increasing challenges that are re-shaping development and well-being: first, huge humanitarian crises and resulting internal displacement and flows of refugees; and second, climate change. Both these challenges introduce new uncertainties and vulnerability patterns. New thinking is required about how we meet these related challenges. The conference aims to provide such thinking through dialogues between policy makers, practitioners and researchers, drawing on lessons from research carried out under the *Courting Catastrophe* project. A key question that the conference addresses is: Can humanitarian aid help drive transformational adaptation?

### Thursday 1 December

- 09:00 Opening of conference - *Marit Berger Røslund* (State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- 09:10 Welcome - *Mari Sundli Tveit* (Rector, Norwegian University of Life Sciences)
- 09:20 Key questions and dilemmas in the interface between humanitarian aid and climate change adaptation (Introduction to the conference and overview of the *Courting Catastrophe* project) - *Siri Eriksen* (Project Leader, Noragric, NMBU)

### Session 1: Climate change and humanitarian work

- 09:30 Keynote: What does climate change mean for humanitarian work and what does humanitarian work mean for climate change? - *Lisa Schipper* (Associate Editor, *Climate and Development Journal*, and Adaptation, Vulnerability, Development Researcher and Consultant, Vietnam)  
Question session.
- 10:15 Coffee break
- 10:45 Panel discussion (10 minutes per item, then 40 minute panel discussion):

- *Resilience*: Climate resilient development pathways - A way of establishing institutional linkages? *Lars Otto Næss* (IDS, University of Sussex)
- *Preparedness*: Preparing for uncertainties - moving from crisis response to emergency preparedness? *Ruth Haug* (Noragric, NMBU)
- *Relief*: Reproducing vulnerability in Nepal – can food aid enhance capacity to adapt to climate change? *Sigrid Nagoda* (Noragric, NMBU)
- *Practice*: Combining humanitarian work and climate change adaptation in practice? *Marit Aakvaag* (Save the Children Norway)

12:00 Plenary discussion

12:30 Poster session

13:00 Lunch

### **Session 2: Adaptation in Conflict? Coping with fragile states and complex social and political settings.**

Objective: Politically contentious and complex contexts present particular challenges for the humanitarian and climate change communities. This section probes the importance of unstable contexts in how humanitarian, adaptation and development efforts are implemented. The core questions addressed are whether short term humanitarian needs and longer term adaptation efforts can work towards the same goals; and whether unstable political and economic contexts present particular challenges for achieving synergies between humanitarian efforts and adaptation.

14:00 Climate and Human-Induced Crises in Pakistan: Vulnerability reduction in Humanitarian Response and Local Adaptation - *Ingrid Nyborg* (Noragric, NMBU)

14:10 Cyclones in Bangladesh: from saving lives to protecting and creating livelihoods - *Maxmillan Martin* (University of Sussex)

14:20 Building resilient livelihoods in Kenya - *Andrei Marin* (Noragric, NMBU)

14:30 The missing links in empowering women to adapt climate change - experiences from Afar region, Eastern Ethiopia - *Fetien Abay* (Mekelle University)

14:40 Debate: Coping with conflict versus managing resilience?  
Discussion introduced by *Ed Carr* (Director, International Development, Community, and Environment Department, Clark University)

15:20 Coffee break

### **Session 3: Key issues and dilemmas in the humanitarian aid and adaptation interface.**

15:30 Panel discussion

The discussion is to identify some key implications for the humanitarian sector: What does contributing to climate resilient pathways mean in terms of what the sector must do different? What is the practical operating space for humanitarian actors and what are entry points for transformative change?

Panel: *Øivind Hetland* (Norwegian Red Cross); *Rosalba Ortiz* (Development Fund); *Semund Haukland* (NORAD); *Fetien Abay* (Mekelle University)

16:30 Reception

**Session 4: Can humanitarian actions create space for transformational change?**

Both the humanitarian and climate change policy landscapes are shifting dramatically. How are these developments affecting how humanitarian aid and climate change adaptation can be carried out? Can humanitarian aid drive transformative adaptation?

09:00 Keynote: Can humanitarian actions create space for transformational change? - *John Handmer* (Professor, RMIT University, Australia)

Questions session

09:45 Guiding principles for climate change adaptation in humanitarian aid. How do we meet the challenges identified at this conference? - *Siri Eriksen* and *Sigrid Nagoda* (Noragric, NMBU)

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 Scalability and sustainability: Can new approaches in anticipatory action and social protection offer an entry point for reducing vulnerability to recurrent crises? - *Cecilia Costella* (Red Cross Climate Centre, the Netherlands)

10:45 Transformational adaptation in Ethiopia? Local vulnerability knowledge and development decisions in the Afar region - *Lutgart Lenaerts* (Noragric, NMBU)

11:00 *Lisa Schipper* interviews the morning's presenters (*Handmer, Eriksen/Nagoda, Costella, Lenaerts*)

11:20 Group discussions: An emerging research and policy agenda

- Humanitarian and climate change adaptation - where now?
- Publications? Research programmes?
- How do the themes of this conference inform larger agendas?
- What are the key research questions to be addressed, and how?

12:00 Closing discussion, led by *Ed Carr* (Clark University).  
Rapporteur noting points for a one-page brief/manifesto from the conference.

12:30 The way ahead - *Jan Haakonsen* (Research Council of Norway)

12:45 Closing remarks - *Poul Wisborg* (Noragric)

13:00 Lunch

[Map of the venue \(click to enlarge\)](#)

Felix Conference Centre, Bryggetorget 3, 0125 Oslo (9 minute walk from Nationaltheatret train station)

