

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISASTERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Response, Recovery, Adaptation

Edited by Andreas Neef
and Natasha Pauli

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT
AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

VOLUME 22

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISASTERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

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COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER
RISK MANAGEMENT VOLUME 22

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISASTERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: RESPONSE, RECOVERY, ADAPTATION

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PREFACE

Asia-Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region, accounting for about half of the climate-related displacements of 19 million people that occurred globally in 2017. Climate-related, fast-onset hazards, such as floods, cyclones and typhoons, have claimed more lives, displaced a higher number of people and caused more damage than in any other world region over the past 20 years. In addition, Asia-Pacific countries are extremely prone to slow-onset climate-induced processes, such as sea level rise and extended droughts, as global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise. Among these countries are several low-income nations, with persistent poverty in rural and coastal areas. The cost of short-term response to and medium- to long-term recovery from climate-induced disasters falls disproportionately on the poorest and most marginalised communities within the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, long-term adaptation processes to climate-related hazards at the household and community level remain poorly understood. Increasingly, adaptation strategies need to address the challenges of multi-risk environments, whereby climate-related disaster risk is just one of many risk factors, alongside other potential environmental hazards as well as socio-economic and political-institutional risks.

This volume presents richly detailed qualitative research from diverse contexts across the Asia-Pacific region and adds to scholarship on the trajectory of community resilience and adaption to climate-related hazards. Drawing on case studies from Cambodia, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Samoa, the chapters examine various response, recovery and adaptation strategies at the local level, incorporating the perspectives and knowledge of affected individuals, households and communities.

The main questions addressed by the contributions in this volume are as follows:

- What are the perceptions among individuals, households and communities regarding the impacts of climate-induced disasters on their livelihoods?
- Is the post-disaster context the right time for implementing new development agendas and effecting social change?
- Which groups within coastal and rural communities are most vulnerable to climate-induced disasters? Are vulnerability and resilience gendered?
- Are disaster-affected communities involved in decision-making by humanitarian NGOs around post-disaster response and recovery processes?
- What are the factors that enhance or constrain disaster response and recovery by communities and organisations?
- Can scientific/expert knowledge and Indigenous/local knowledge be integrated to enhance community-based disaster risk management and climate adaptation?

- What types of adaptation practices and strategies have individuals, households and communities developed over time and how effective are these in a multi-risk environment?
- Are there trade-offs between individual adaptation mechanisms and community-based approaches to climate adaptation?
- How has planned relocation been constructed as a climate adaptation strategy among government actors and within intergovernmental agencies?

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We are particularly indebted to the scholars who made invaluable contributions to this volume by reviewing the various chapters, namely, Alexandra Peralta, Chanrith Ngin, Clare Mouat, Jamie Gillen, Karen Paiva Henrique, Lucy Benge and Sarah Prout Quicke.

A common message from the chapters of this book is for greater recognition and acknowledgement of local preferences and practices in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. We hope that this volume gives voice to the wealth of local knowledge and views expressed by participants in the research, and demonstrates the importance of the social and cultural context in which post-disaster response and recovery efforts and community-based climate adaptation approaches take place.

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Natasha Pauli
Editors