



A Review of the Least Developed Countries in the IPCC AR5 WGII

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Main findings

- Little reference is made specifically to the LDCs and not all LDCs are referenced
- LDCs examined with reference to institutional processes for supporting adaptation
- Adaptation experience is limited – there is more focus on impacts and vulnerabilities
- The content of the IPCC AR5 WGII may reflect the availability/lack of availability of quality research products

The 'Least Developed Countries'

- References focus on socio-economic vulnerability
- Large and growing populations living in urban areas
- Discussions refer to processes supporting adaptation - e.g. financial mechanisms, NAPAs and NAPs

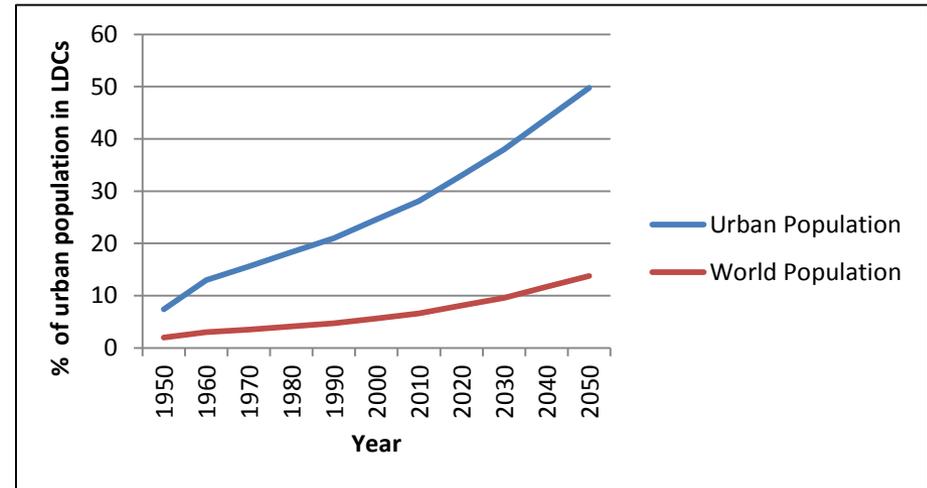


Figure: Past/predicted urban populations as percentage of total global urban population total world population

LDCs in Africa

- Africa has 34 LDCs, 30 directly cited in IPCC AR5 WGII
- Main impacts in Africa: drying, precipitation, SLR
- LDCs mostly referred to in rural/terrestrial context
- Shared impacts highlighted: increased malaria, landslides and flooding, vegetation shifts, fishery vulnerability
- Adaptive responses discussed on local/national levels are subject to multiple barriers

LDCs in Asia

- Asia has 9 LDCs, including adaptation leaders e.g. Bangladesh, Nepal
- Varied impacts: high precipitation, SLR, extreme events, drying
- Differential issues and varied responses highlighted
- Bangladesh: most cited LDC in the report, references reflecting vulnerability and successful and advanced responses e.g. disaster response mechanisms, CBA
- Nepal's LAPA highlights this LDC as another leader

LDCs in the Small Islands

- Small Island LDCs highlighted as diverse in their geomorphology, culture, ecosystems and populations
- Similarities in impacts: SLR, flooding, critically affected marine resources
- Four LDCs are among the Small Islands, which are viewed as being particularly vulnerable
- Little successful adaptation experience is cited
- Communities are central to much research
- Cultural impacts differ between islands, both helping and hindering adaptive responses

LDCs in the Americas

- Haiti is the only LDC in the Americas
- It is only briefly referred to regarding the challenges faced in governance, coping with extreme climatic events and in supporting citizens to cope and adapt



Saplings bound for a tree nursery in Thiotte. Deforestation has increased the landslide risk in Haiti and taken an environmental toll. Photograph: Kate Ferguson/Christian Aid (Source: [The Guardian Online](#))

Discussion

- This review gives an indication of the current state of knowledge of the impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation within the LDCs
- The IPCC report does not give a comprehensive picture of each LDC
- Shortfalls in research availability can give a distorted understanding of the LDCs
- Heightened exposure of LDCs to climate change means reflection upon how to support the LDCs is crucial
- More direct and comprehensive information about each LDC in future IPCC reports can assist this

Thank you