

COP27: Reflections on Adaptation and Loss and Damage

12 December 2022: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (IST)

The Global South has been acutely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Wildfires, heatwaves, unseasonal rains, and floods inundating large swathes of countries have resulted in the loss of lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. With studies indicating that we are reeling from the impacts of climate change because of the carbon emitted decades ago by the developed nations, who accounts for the losses and damages (to lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, cultures, etc.) in countries that have had and continue to have minimal per-capita emissions?

While mitigating carbon emissions is crucial to reducing the impacts of climate change in the future, it is imperative that countries in the Global South are adequately financed to implement adaptation solutions that prevent future loss and damage. There have been isolated efforts from civil society organisations, para-state agencies, and state governments in India to implement local adaptation projects, which have largely generated a net-positive outcome. That being said, in a country of 1.3 billion people with the threats of worsening climate change impacts, there is a real urgency to scale up adaptation, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

The Climate, Environment and Sustainability team at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) seeks to reflect on the conversations at COP27 and open a dialogue around scaling up adaptation to prevent current and future loss and damages. The discussions are aimed to foster ideation and collaboration among the climate community in India to hasten our adaptation processes to ensure a future with minimal loss and damage.