



## **Disaster Management, Rapid Environmental Assessment Response and Climate Change**

Charles Kelly

[disasterkelly@yahoo.com](mailto:disasterkelly@yahoo.com)

**Abstract:** The global humanitarian and environmental communities increasingly perceive climate change as one of the most significant current immediate threats to lives and livelihoods. While debate continues on the scope, scale and response to climate change, environmental, development and humanitarian organizations are facing, with the affected communities, the impacts of extreme weather events on a daily basis. This session will present the results of a one-day consultation of international humanitarian, development and international environmental conservation practitioners on three topics: (1) Impact Assessments and Disaster Response in a Changing Climate: Current Challenges, (2) Impact Assessments and Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate: Current Challenges, and (3) Linking Disaster Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Impact Assessment: Emerging Challenges from Climate Change. The session will present a summary of (1) What do we know and are doing about disasters and climate change, (2) What gaps do we need to fill and (3) What are the policy and implementation implications of improving the integration of climate change into disaster response and risk management? The session will consider theoretical issues raised in the consultation, but also discuss the practical challenges of better assessing and addressing the impacts of climate change. While the session will focus on the humanitarian/environmental or development perspective in climate change and disaster, the consultation results will be useful to defining the range of developmental as well as disaster management approaches needed to reduce the risk and impact of climate change on lives and livelihoods.

**Summary:** Climate change is an immediate threat to lives and livelihoods. The session reports on consultations between international humanitarian, development and environment communities on the links between climate change, disaster response, risk reduction and impact assessment. The session provides insight into reducing the immediate impact of climate change on lives and livelihoods.