

Testimonials of Loss and Damage

The Solomon Islands



Gladys Habu and Solomon Yeo share their experience of the impacts of the climate crisis through rising sea levels and increased cyclones.



They call on governments to recognize loss and damage and provide urgently needed financial and technological support to those most affected.

Gladys: We used to cope with storms. We build coastal walls of stone, planted mangroves and constructed houses on higher stilts but these efforts had their limits. Now cyclones hit the Solomon Islands every season, powerful enough to cripple our economy overnight. With rising sea levels, our Islands are sinking some completely submerged and with them fundamental parts of our history, identity and culture. Trapped underwater, gone forever.

Solomon: Climate change, is often called the biggest injustice of our generation. The Least Developed Countries, like ours, have emitted the tiniest fraction of the planet-warming gases that drive climate change. Yet we are five times more likely to lose our lives from climate related disasters.

Gladys: Salt from the encroaching waves poisons our freshwater and forces people to travel great distances to find water for drinking and cooking.

Solomon: Our coral reefs, home to thousands of marine species, are dying and with them the protein that sustains us. The losses we are experiencing from climate change are irreplaceable. This damage is irreparable. As our water and land disappears, whole communities are forced to relocate.

Gladys: Some are forced to squat illegally, exacerbating tensions between ethnic groups, which makes us afraid we will revisit the violent conflicts of the past that labelled our country a failing state.

We are worried about our country's future. Recognizing our deep and personal losses, governments must prioritize the climate crisis and agree a clear plan to address Loss and Damage that provides desperately needed support through finance and technology.



Solomon: We must avert conflict and safeguard humanity. We cannot let climate change to cause more states to fail. We must act now.

You can hear more from Gladys over on her blog: caid.org.uk/gladysblog