

Climate change, food security and disaster risk management

**Issues paper for an expert meeting on climate
change, food security and disaster risk
management, FAO, Rome, 28-29 February**

Thomas Tanner (IDS)



**Institute of
Development Studies**

Messages

- Looking beyond food availability
- Social vulnerability
- Adaptation as process and continuum

The climate change challenge

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) finds that:

- Global temperatures are rising
- Sea levels are rising consistent with warming of oceans
- Varied effects on precipitation, but increased area affected by drought
- Extreme weather events correlated with climate change

...and these changes are projected to increase in the future

Defining adaptation

‘the ability to respond and adjust to actual or potential impacts of changing climate conditions

in ways that moderate harm or take advantage of any positive opportunities that the climate may afford’

Adaptation is about reducing the risks posed by climate change to people’s lives and livelihoods

An adaptation process and continuum



Conceptual framework 1

Food security analysis

● Availability

● Stability

● Utilisation

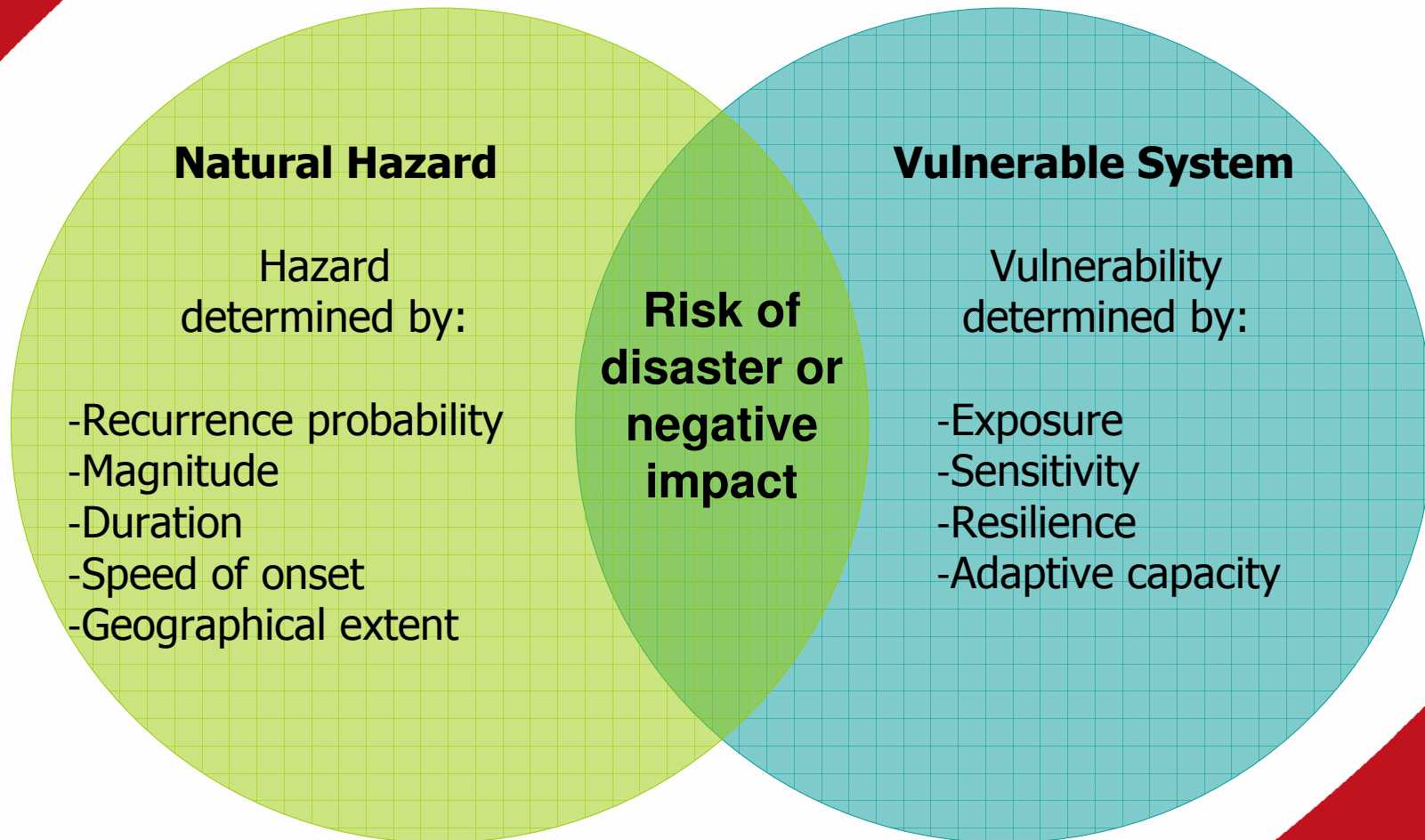
● Access

Conceptual framework 2

Entitlement analysis

- Production-based
- Labour-based
- Trade-based
- Transfer-based

Conceptual framework 3



Conceptual framework 3

Vulnerability assessment and analysis

● Biophysical vulnerability

+

● Social vulnerability

● The who, where and why of vulnerability

Disasters and adaptation

- Both aim to reduce vulnerability
 - Awareness/preparedness
 - Mitigation of impacts
 - Prevention of impacts
- Gaps between communities
 - Timescale of concern
 - Humanitarians vs natural resources
 - International frameworks and institutions

Institutions and adaptation

- Redesigning institutions to respond to climate change and disasters is key
 - Longer term approach to risk reduction rather than post-event response
 - Linking various stakeholders (govt departments, NGOs, civil society groups)
- Finance
 - Sufficiency
 - Equity
 - Delivery

Issues for FAO consideration

- Implementation
 - Agricultural technologies, disaster risk reduction (social protection, alternative livelihoods)
- Research and information
 - Climate change impacts on food crops, building adaptive capacity, strengthening institutions
- Institutions and partnerships
 - International, national, sub-national