



# WEATHERING RISK

## **Weathering Risk:** towards better policy and operational responses to climate-related conflicts

The flagship climate security initiative **Weathering Risk** unites state-of-the-art climate impact data and expert conflict analysis to provide **analysis, capacity support tools, dialogues** and **trainings** to promote peace and resilience in a changing climate.

**Why it matters:** Sustaining peace requires decisions informed by climate-security risks. The climate crisis is one of the most serious risks to global peace and stability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Failure to understand and address interacting climate and conflict risks will undermine the sustainability of both peace and climate policies.

The impacts of climate change are creating hitherto unprecedented levels of uncertainty. A lack of systematic evidence on the interlinkages between climate change and instability has resulted in a gap in knowledge, and a corresponding gap in confidence when it comes to approaching these interactions.

Weathering Risk addresses these gaps by providing an integrated methodology and building an evidence base that systematically analyses the interactions between climate change and instability. Both its methodology and empirical research are developed with key stakeholders and organized around policy needs. Analysis is forward-looking, using scenarios, modelling and machine learning methods to facilitate policies and interventions that are informed by climate-security risks.

**What we do:** analysis, dialogue and training for better decisions in the face of uncertainty. Over three years, and together with expert institutions from around the world and across relevant sectors, our multilateral initiative is developing **analysis, tools** and **trainings**. These are grounded in geographically and thematically focused climate security risk assessments.

- **Research and analysis:** Innovative climate data and state-of-the-art quantitative methods, such as causal inference and machine learning, identify current and future impacts of climate change and help improve understanding of when and how these threaten peace and security. This is combined with on-the-ground qualitative research at different scales and from diverse geographies to build up a comprehensive analysis of compound climate and security risks.

Our research and analysis outputs translate scientifically rigorous analyses, some of them already published in renowned scientific journals, into actionable entry points for policy and operational responses. They are tailored to specific stakeholders across the diplomacy, development, defence, humanitarian aid and climate communities. For example, our **Mali analysis supports UN agencies** and offers specific guidance for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

- **Capacity support tools:** Our climate-security risk analysis is used to produce politically and programmatically relevant information and tools that support decision making by identifying the right questions to ask and how to make use of the available information. For example, our replicable assessment methodology is being used by **peacebuilding partners on the ground** in Somalia and will be included in the new **UN Resident Coordinators handbook**. We are also working with national intelligence experts to develop a **strategic foresight game** using our risk analysis. The game will help high-level decision makers formulate strategies that respond to climate security risks in a given mission setting, supporting a deeper understanding of the issue as well as what action on the ground would look like.
- **Dialogues and trainings:** Weathering Risk works to convene, connect, and bolster the growing **community of practice** on this issue. Using our analysis to inform the discourse, we initiate timely, politically pertinent **discussions**, for example the Climate Security in 3D dialogue series and the first ever ministerial roundtable on climate and security at COP26. To support the translation of dialogue to action, we draw on our analysis to develop **tailored trainings** that support policymakers and implementing partners in integrating climate security risk analysis into strategic and operational processes.

### **Who we are:** A multilateral initiative for a global challenge

Commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office, Weathering Risk is Germany's flagship Climate and Security initiative and operationalises Germany's political leadership in the field of climate security. The initiative is co-led by adelphi and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impacts Research (PIK). It is supported by Denmark, Norway, Ireland, the UK and Colombia. Partnerships with world-leading research and policy organisations ensure that the best possible inputs inform the initiative's work. Weathering Risk is guided by a Strategic Advisory Board of prominent global experts from across the international climate, development and security communities.

### **Where we work**

Over three years, the initiative will respond to demand from policymakers and implementers to produce focused case studies on specific geographies and themes, as well as identify global trends. The first focuses on Mali and is planned for launch in March 2022. Subsequent studies include the Pacific, Somalia and the Arab States region. However, the initiative is not limited to certain geographies, but provides policymakers and implementers with an easily applicable methodology to conduct their own analyses of climate-linked conflicts. With this, Weathering Risk will prove to be a valuable tool for peace-makers and -builders in the era of global warming. The **Weathering Risk Peace Pillar**, launched in January 2022, adds a direct implementation component by designing, piloting and evaluating peace programmes that integrate climate security risk analysis.