



LUND  
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# Climate Resilience

## A CONVERSATION BETWEEN DISASTERS AND DEVELOPMENT

The baseline for resilience in the face of climate change is good development and sound resource management. The first step on a continuum of action is to prepare for and reduce the impacts of weather-related disasters. While these are universally recognized entry points the dialectic between climate resilience as good development and climate protection from extreme weather events reveals much about the state of play in climate resilience. Three stories from Syria set the scene for a conversation between Tom Downing and Mo Hamza,

chaired by Emily Boyd and including active engagement with the audience. The conversation begins with Tom noting the uncomfortable location of climate resilience as the interspace between the many big data of climate-impacts science and the complexity and shifting sands of decision-making. We will conclude the conversation with three things we must know and act on. An emergent property of the conversation with the participants.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

#### Thomas E Downing

My professional career began as the first (acting) director of the Natural Hazards Information Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Guided by my first mentor, Gilbert F White, I led the team organizing the first of what continues some 35 years later as the premier national workshop on natural hazards in the US. With appointment of the first director, I completed my Masters degree "A risk assessment of flooding in Boulder, Colorado". I returned to Boulder after the flood of record in 2013? And saw how our early work had matured and resulted in a city that faired relatively well compared to similar towns in the Front Range of Colorado.

A PhD at Clark University in Geography was based on my work in Kenya on coping with drought. I spent four years in national government working on district environmental assessments. The severe drought across Africa of 1984 saw much-improved responses compared to the 1970s catastrophes. My work informed the first multi-national study of climate change impacts, using drought as an analogue of future climate impacts. I returned to East Africa regularly, including a series of studies on the economics of climate adaptation.

Brief spells at the World Hunger Programme at Brown University and the National Center for Atmospheric Research segued into one of the founders of the Environmental Change Institute in Oxford and then the Oxford Office of the Stockholm Environment Institute. This experience in the start-up teams for four major multi-disciplinary units was helpful but not sufficient in setting up the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership. GCAP is unique in linking consulting practice to learning (through our Adaptation Academy) and technology (online tools including the Climate Safeguard System for the African Development Bank).

My approach to climate resilience? What works emerges from practice and practice requires learning. Protocols and platforms require people who embody evidence in effective practice.

**TIME: 13:00–14:00, 16 JANUARY 2018**

**PLACE: PALAESTRA HÖRSAL, PALAESTRA  
ET ODEUM, PARADISGATAN 4**

