

# Conclusion

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Karla Lamesic is pursuing a PhD in Finance at the University of St. Gallen (CH). Her research focuses on climate change, environmental issues, and security challenges. Driven by a commitment to integrating diverse economic and political perspectives, she aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues and their broader implications.



## EPIS Report Conclusion

The intersection of natural disasters, climate change and international relations in South-East Asia presents a rapidly evolving challenge that grows more urgent with each passing day. This report shows how complex and diverse the challenges surrounding Natural Catastrophes (NatCats) can be. There is no off-the-shelf solution for these issues, as each case is highly specific to the countries and circumstances involved. When it comes to disaster management, it is important to not only think about the quantifiable damages, like destroyed infrastructure, but also all other implications that follow from it.

So the questions we need to answer are: how can we assure security after a NatCat? How can we inform societies in the event of a NatCat? How do we stand together in a catastrophe with our neighbouring countries and build our connection, or how do we engage in amicable disaster management despite our differences?

One overarching lesson from this report is that natural disasters embody a dual nature, where they are both disruptors and potential catalysts for cooperation. In politically volatile regions like the Korean Peninsula, disasters intensify existing tensions but also highlight the need for effective conflict management strategies. Similarly, trade disruptions caused by disasters reveal the fragility of global supply chains while emphasizing the value of multilateral frameworks, such as ASEAN, in strengthening resilience.

Another lesson we take away is that disaster diplomacy can be a meaningful tool for navigating the natural disaster related aftermath. However, the capacity for nations to use disaster relief and recovery efforts to build trust and strengthen alliances depends on pre-existing relationships and shared priorities. Human and digital social networks intensify these efforts by allowing for real-time communication and grassroots mobilisation. Still, the issues of misinformation and unequal access must be addressed in order to take full advantage of these networks' resilience.

Another takeaway from this paper is the revolutionary role of technology, such as drones and data analytics, in disaster management. These tools improve efficiency and response times, as seen in India, but they also raise ethical concerns about privacy. Robust governance is required to ensure that these technologies benefit the public while upholding democratic norms.

Ultimately, addressing the challenges posed by natural disasters requires collective resolve, innovative solutions, and a commitment to building bridges, not barriers. By turning crises into opportunities for collaboration, we can create a future that is not only more resilient but also more united.