

# Promoting science for disaster risk reduction

**Authors:** Sally Tyldesley<sup>1</sup>, Emma Woods<sup>1</sup> and Emma Cavan<sup>1,2</sup>. **Affiliations:** 1) The Royal Society and 2) University of Southampton.

The Royal Society promotes the use of science for disaster risk reduction. In particular, our work highlights the important role that science can play in helping build people's resilience to extreme weather.

## What is the Royal Society?

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Royal Society's Science Policy Centre provides independent, timely and authoritative advice to UK, European and international decision-makers.

## Implementing the Sendai Framework

We will continue to:

- promote the importance of scientific evidence in policy-making and practice, and ensure that existing knowledge is fully utilised;
- promote co-design, co-production and co-delivery of knowledge, to ensure that science delivers for those that need it;
- encourage close alignment between the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on climate change and Sustainable Development Goals;
- work with partners in the UK and overseas.

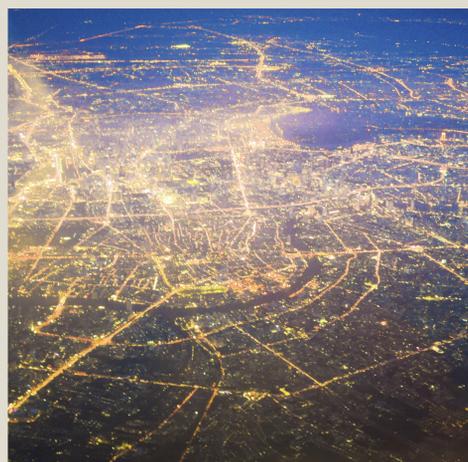
## Examples of our work on disaster risk reduction



### Analysing evidence

**Publishing in-depth reports and short statements.**

In November 2014, we published an in-depth policy report on '*Resilience to extreme weather*'. The report looks at the impact of extreme weather on people's lives around the world today, how that might change in the future, and how people can build their resilience in the face of these challenges. In March 2015, we published a short statement on '*Taking joint action on disasters, development and climate change*'<sup>1</sup>.



### Convening

**Bringing together decision-makers and scientists.**

On 24 – 25 June 2015, we hosted a meeting in collaboration with UNISDR, the International Council for Science (ICSU), its Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme, and the UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS). This brought together international disaster risk experts to discuss the role of the scientific community in delivering the Sendai Framework<sup>3</sup>.



### Collaborating

**Working with other organisations in the UK and overseas.**

In May 2012, we produced a joint statement with the science academies of the G7 on '*Building resilience to disasters of natural and technological origin*'<sup>4</sup>.



### Public engagement

**Broadening the debate on the role of science in disaster risk reduction.**

We hold a number of public events at the Royal Society and at science festivals around the UK. Previous events have addressed topics such as how to make a weather forecast, research on volcanic eruptions, and the outcomes of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

To find out more about the Royal Society's work on disaster risk reduction, visit: [royalsociety.org/resilience](http://royalsociety.org/resilience)  
Visit our blog [royalsociety.org/in-verba/tag/resilience-to-climate-change](http://royalsociety.org/in-verba/tag/resilience-to-climate-change), or tweet [#RSresilience](https://twitter.com/RSresilience)

#### References

- 1 See [royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/resilience-extreme-weather](http://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/resilience-extreme-weather)
- 2 See [royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/taking-joint-action-on-disasters-development-climate-change](http://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/taking-joint-action-on-disasters-development-climate-change)
- 3 See [royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/sendai-framework-meeting-note](http://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/sendai-framework-meeting-note)
- 4 See [royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2012/resilience-disasters](http://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2012/resilience-disasters)