

ECOSOC

ROTAMUN'25

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LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear participants of ROTAMUN

On behalf of ROTAMUN Secretariat team it is my honor to welcome you all to our very first ROTAMUN conference and we are so proud to make this dream happen.

My name is Damla AKKAYA a junior student in Rota ... I will be serving as your Secretary-General for our first ROTAMUN conference.

ROTAMUN's mission is to provide education and training services to all students with the aim of raising individuals who are committed to the fundamental principles of the Republic of Turkey, have internalized Atatürk's principles and reforms, are aware of national and universal values, respectful, proficient in their native language, fluent in foreign languages, guided by reason and science, aspiring for a better world, following technological advancements, environmentally conscious, and engaged in sports and the arts. With this mission, our main purpose in preparing this conference, simulating debate atmosphere, discussing the latest events and taking little steps for solving critical global issues by prioritizing equity, diplomacy, peace and creativity.

Although it is our first MUN conference I'm sure that ROTAMUN will provide a unique and pleasant experience to all of you.

If you happen to have any problems, feel free to contact any member of the academic team.

Sincerely yours,

Damla akkaya
Secretary General

LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great honour and pleasure that I welcome you as the Under Secretary General of ECOSOC. I cannot wait to spend these 3 incredible days together.

I started my MUN journey 2 years ago as a scared thirteen year old, unaware of what experience I was stepping into and how much it would grow in importance for me. The world of MUN's has played a pivotal role in improving my communication and leadership skills, and has allowed me to cultivate enduring friendships. I hope it will be the same for you.

If this is your first MUN conference, I see you and I understand if you feel nervous. I will work my hardest to make sure you have the best first experience you can have.

I kindly request that you thoroughly read the study guide and extract as much valuable information from it as possible. This study guide has been written for you to be aware of the agenda. Even though you will be finding enough information in this guide, I want you to check out "Further Reading" and do research on your own. The important thing is to realize the main problems and talk about them and their probable solutions in the sessions.

Please feel free to contact me in case you have any questions

With love, Ü. Defne Aslan

Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was created by the United Nations Charter in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations System. ECOSOC has the powerful mandate to promote international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related issues. Specifically, it is tasked with the promotion of:

- Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development;
- Solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems, and international cultural and education cooperation;
- Universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

The principle functions of ECOSOC include:

- Assist the General Assembly
- Assist the Security Council when requested
- Create commissions
- Convene international conferences
- Conduct follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other UN Summits and Conferences
- Coordinate the work of specialized agencies, with funds & programmes
- Provide a platform for engagement with non-governmental organizations
- Commission studies and reports

History of the Committee

ECOSOC was established by the UN Charter (1945), which was amended in 1965 and 1974 to increase the number of members from 18 to 54. ECOSOC membership is based on geographic representation: 14 seats are allocated to Africa, 11 to Asia, 6 to eastern Europe, 10 to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 13 to western Europe and other areas. Members are elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council have been continuously reelected because they provide funding for most of ECOSOC's budget, which is the largest of any UN subsidiary body.

Introduction to the Agenda Item

Throughout history, a series of natural disasters have caused serious socio-economic problems. Economic and social development throughout the world is frequently interrupted by extreme events. Although disaster events impact both developed and developing countries, in the latter, they can cause a sharp increase in poverty. Future natural disaster losses are expected to increase due to a continued increase in economic exposure and climate change. This highlights the importance of designing policies that can mitigate the impacts of these disasters on the economy and society.

ECOSOC has taken and continues to take action regarding these matters. ECOSOC deals with humanitarian issues by collaborating with member states, NGOs, other UN organisations, human rights defenders and other actors in the humanitarian field as well as establishing projects, laws and reports to be able to ensure the availability of humanitarian needs in conflict areas.

Most economic assessments of the impacts of disasters have concentrated on direct losses—that is, the financial cost of physical damage. Equally important are indirect and secondary impacts of disasters, including the destruction of communities and their negative impacts on families.

Since natural disasters are very common all round the world and many people are affected by them, providing a proper solution plays a vital role. The United Nations is expected to coordinate and cooperate with countries to maintain or reestablish a more peaceful environment, to advocate for the protection of all the affected people, to provide humanitarian aid to affected areas while keeping the economic state of the world stable.

It is expected that concerted action on risk management will help create an increased awareness of the economy-wide significance of natural disasters and the problems they pose for long-term development.

With this agenda item, our purpose is to figure out how the expectations and needs can be achieved and how socio-economic problems caused by natural disasters can be solved.

Past Actions to Solve the Agenda

ECOSOC plays a role in coordinating disaster risk reduction efforts. This includes facilitating discussions and providing a platform for countries to share best practices and strategies to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters. Through these actions, ECOSOC has helped raise awareness of the profound socio-economic and peace-related impacts of natural disasters, while fostering international collaboration to address the underlying vulnerabilities that exacerbate disaster risks.

a. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is a United Nations body established in December 1991 by the General Assembly to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. Through their public and private advocacy, OCHA raises awareness of humanitarian crises and the needs of affected people. They advocate for the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law. During an emergency, at the request of the affected country's Government, they coordinate the flurry of response efforts to ensure they reach the people most in need.

b. The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

ECOSOC holds a specific Humanitarian Affairs Segment, where it convenes discussions on humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The segment focuses on the social and economic effects of disasters, and how these impact the peacebuilding process. It encourages member states and stakeholders to strengthen resilience in disaster-prone regions, emphasizing the link between humanitarian efforts and long-term socio-economic development.

c. Annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF),

The HLPF, convened under the auspices of ECOSOC, discusses various sustainable development goals (SDGs), including SDG 13, which focuses on climate action. The forum brings together policymakers and experts to address the impacts of natural disasters on socio-economic development and peacebuilding.

ç. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

It aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years.

Definition of Key Terms

Natural Disaster: a natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life.

Disaster Risk Reduction: Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.

Community Development: A process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems.

Economic Resilience: Efficient use of remaining resources at a given point in time to produce as much as possible.

Livelihood Restoration: The process of mitigating adverse impacts and enhancing benefits as a result of physical and/or economic displacement.

Discussion of The Agenda Item

1. Natural Disasters

- a. International laws and agreements regarding natural disasters
 - a. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

This framework is a comprehensive global agreement adopted by the UN member states to reduce disaster risks and build resilience. It focuses on the reduction of disaster risk, and the reduction of loss in lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. It emphasizes a proactive approach to disaster risk management, the importance of understanding disaster risks, improving early warning systems, and increasing international cooperation.

- b. The International Disaster Response Law (IDRL)

IDRL refers to the legal frameworks that govern international disaster response, ensuring that international assistance is provided in an efficient, timely, and effective manner. It provides guidelines on facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid across borders, including visa exemptions for aid workers, the rapid clearance of goods, and ensuring the safety and access of humanitarian actors in disaster-affected regions.

- c. Kampala Convention

The Kampala Convention is a treaty of the African Union (AU) that addresses internal displacement caused by armed conflict, natural disasters and large-scale development projects in Africa.

- c. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Principles

The IFRC provides guidelines and sets the standard for humanitarian aid during disasters. It ensures that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can respond to disasters in a way that respects human dignity, alleviates suffering, and promotes independence. It focuses on neutrality, impartiality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality during disaster response.

- d. 1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

b.Types of Natural Disasters

Types of natural disasters are divided into two categories. Disasters caused by geological hazards include: landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, sinkholes, coastal erosion, volcanic eruptions, and tsunami. Disasters caused by extreme weather hazards include: Heat waves, droughts, dust storms, firestorms, wildfires, floods, thunderstorms, tornadoes and cyclones, blizzards, and hailstorms.

c. Causes of Natural Disasters

i. Global Warming

Global warming is a serious contributor to natural disasters because it affects our globe in so many areas. As hurricanes draw their energy from seawater, global warming causes ocean temperatures to rise, resulting in more and larger hurricanes and tropical storms.

ii. Natural Activities in the Earth's crust

Natural disasters are often triggered by natural events in the earth's crust. Tension can build up inside the earth's crust due to natural processes, which can be released through earthquakes.

iii. Tectonic Movement and Seismic Activity

Because the globe is made up of several plates sliding on our planet's underlying mantle rather than a single surface, a relocation or colliding of these plates might have disastrous consequences. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis are all possible outcomes.

iv. Deforestation

Forests normally mitigate floods and droughts by balancing and holding back natural groundwater resources, so deforestation might lead to an increase in natural catastrophes.

v. Soil Erosion

Soil erosion can result in significant soil degradation, which can result in a loss of fertility and, as a result, hunger for local inhabitants. Soil erosion also can result in landslides, which can be devastating to both nature and humanity.

2. Economic Perspective of Natural Disasters

The destructive effects of natural disasters are felt more in poorer countries than in more prosperous ones. While both rich and poor nations are subject to natural hazards, most of the 3.3 million disaster-related deaths over the last 40 years occurred in poor countries. For instance, the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Haiti in 2010 resulted in an estimated 140,000 deaths and ruinous economic losses, while the magnitude 9.1 earthquake in Chile in the same year killed 500 people and had a relatively small negative impact on the national economy.

The economic damage caused by disasters varies. Capital assets and infrastructure such as housing, schools, factories and equipment, roads, dams and bridges are lost. Human capital is depleted due to the loss of life, the loss of skilled workers and the

destruction of education infrastructure that disrupts schooling. A country's natural resources may also be affected—hurricanes destroy forests, hurricanes and droughts decrease soil fertility. Recurrent natural disasters can result in “adaptive behaviour” by individuals and communities that brings on further economic loss. Farmers may invest less to increase productivity of their land in drought-prone areas for fear of their investment being lost.

The poor are the hardest hit by natural disasters. Mortality rates are typically highest among those with the lowest incomes. They are more likely to live in hazard-prone areas or to have fragile housing. When Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar in 2008, one in two families had their homes completely destroyed by wind and flooding. In Haiti, mortality from the earthquake of 2010 was highest among the urban poor of Port-au-Prince, who lived in poorly constructed, crowded housing.

The poor also suffer disproportionately from the loss of economic assets. Natural disasters destroy farms, livestock, workshops and equipment. Families may be forced to sell off assets to meet basic needs—rural families in drought-stricken regions often sell cattle to purchase food. Because the poor are less able to replace these income-providing assets, they may fall into long-term “poverty traps”, from which they would be unable to emerge. Evidence from around the world—from the Philippines to Ethiopia to Colombia—shows that poverty rates among disaster-affected communities often increase.

These economic shocks experienced by the poor can have harmful effects that span generations. School enrollment may fall as parents pull children out of school to help boost family income. Even if this is intended to be temporary, it can become permanent, as it did during the droughts in Central Mexico in the late 1990s. When droughts and food deficits cause malnutrition in young children, cognitive ability and potential productivity suffers in later years. In Tanzania and Zimbabwe, children malnourished during droughts have lower lifetime earnings.

Devising and implementing policy and action for economic recovery in the wake of a natural disaster is messy and complicated. Destroyed assets need to be rebuilt and replaced. Lost livelihoods must be revived or new ones created. Swift and effective measures are needed, both to sustain economic growth and general welfare in disaster-struck countries, and to ease the suffering of individuals and communities directly affected by these terrible events.

There is no universal blueprint for recovery—for individuals, communities or nations. The process of economic rebuilding is unique to each country that is affected by a natural disaster. There are challenges and difficulties that are common to most countries, however, and understanding them is important if policies and actions are to reduce the human suffering that occurs when disasters strike.

Economic rebuilding after a disaster never completely recovers what was lost and does not return communities to a “normal” state that existed before. There is often a “new normal”, as societies and economies are forever altered. Effective economic reconstruction in this new normal can ease the suffering of individuals and communities and can boost economic growth and welfare in the future. But we must be alert to the difficulties and potential pitfalls of rebuilding. Policy and action by countries and donors should not exacerbate the trauma and tragedy of natural disasters.

3. Social Perspective of Natural Disasters

Emergency situations can be an incredibly stressful, disruptive and traumatic time for those affected. Whole communities can be uprooted, friends and family divided, homes, livelihoods and, of course, lives can be lost. In the aftermath of such a disaster, people may experience a range of physical, psychological, emotional or behavioural reactions that, while perfectly natural, can significantly impact their ability to cope with the situation.

a. The Affected Population

After a natural disaster, the affected population may be divided into 3 categories:

The primary population suffers the direct effects of the disaster, the impact on this group includes death, homelessness, injury, and trauma. The secondary population suffers the indirect effects of the disaster, these people may include, caregivers who were not directly affected and family members who take in relatives as a result of the disaster. The tertiary population can be found outside of the disaster zone but may be affected. These persons may suffer injury or other damages due to panic, loss of social services, or any other severe disruption or inconvenience due to the disaster.

b. Migration

Migration, whether permanent or temporary, has always been a traditional response or survival strategy of people confronting the prospect, impact or aftermath of disasters. To the degree that disasters force people to relocate either temporarily or permanently, disaster victims have been seen as a subset of the category of environmental refugees, a term that has generated a considerable amount of recent debate. As associated with disasters, the phenomenon of forced migration is also complex. Unless explicitly limited to referring to permanent, involuntary transfer to distant locations, the concept of forced migration refers to a variety of demographic movements, such as: flight, evacuation, displacement, resettlement, as well as forced migration. Most local displacement by disaster tends to be temporary, but may become permanent, particularly if the disaster permanently alters or destroys a local economic base. However, that outcome is usually not entirely the result of the agent alone, but rather a government response. The combination of increasing population, population density, increasing poverty, and occupation of hazardous sites has accentuated vulnerability to both natural and technological hazards and increases the

probability of forced migrations. We need to emphasize the need for more integrated disaster recovery planning at the local level to lessen disaster effects and improve household livelihoods in order to prevent urban migration. Even if one member migrates, alternative livelihood training, particularly for women, can improve the socioeconomic position of a family. Developing an efficient plan for post-disaster recovery may stimulate return migration once the effects of the disaster have subsided, hence restricting urban population growth, ultimately minimizing any unwanted social result.

c. The Aftermath On the Public

Emergency situations can be an incredibly stressful, disruptive and traumatic time for those affected. Whole communities can be uprooted, friends and family divided, homes, livelihoods and, of course, lives can be lost. In the aftermath of such a disaster, people may experience a range of physical, psychological, emotional or behavioural reactions that, while perfectly natural, can significantly impact their ability to cope with the situation. For instance, after the Black Saturday Bushfires in Australia, a report was prepared in order to estimate the social effects of the fires. It was found that the main social costs were as follows:

- Mental health issues
- Risky/high risk alcohol consumption
- Chronic disease/non communicable diseases
- Family violence
- Environmental damage

The report also showed that social costs of the bushfires would be significantly higher than economic costs.

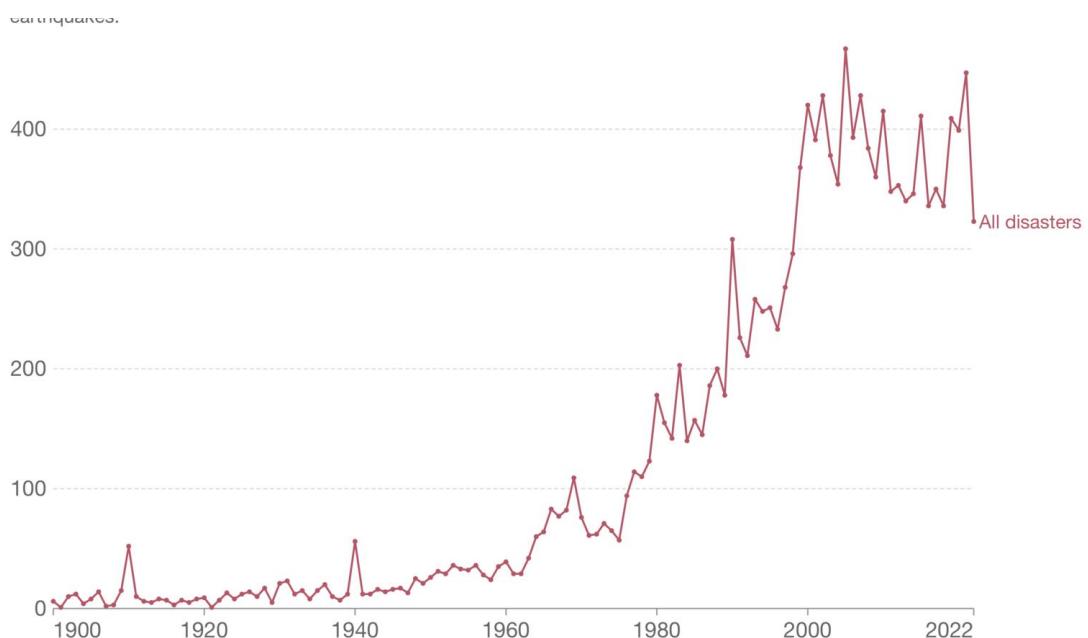
While recovery is positive for most there remains a group of people that are struggling with their recovery. Many of these will take a number of years more to regain their previous state of health, welfare and happiness and to fully re-engage with their lives, while many will not recover at all. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for communities to be made more resilient. In order for this to happen; Pre- and post-disaster funding should better reflect the long-term nature of social impacts, a collaborative approach involving government, business, not-for-profits and community is needed to address the medium- and long-term economic costs of the social impacts of natural disasters, governments, businesses and communities need to further invest in community resilience programs that drive learning and sustained behaviour change, further research must be done into ways of quantifying the medium- and long-term costs of the social impacts of natural disasters.

5. Statistics

a. Damage Rates in Different Countries

Country	Total (deaths, injuries)	Average Economic Damage ('000 US\$)	Population	Damage Index
Dominica 🇩🇲	26K	\$1,958,810.00	66,205	68.21
Bahamas 🇧🇸	116.6K	\$6,027,000.00	401,283	42.58
USA 🇺🇸	5.2K	\$13,743,060,360.00	345,426,571	40.86
Solomon Islands 🇸🇧	236K	\$30,000.00	819,198	26.97
Puerto Rico 🇵🇷	72.2K	\$72,272,800.00	3,242,204	24.98
Japan 🇯🇵	543.00	\$2,346,308,800.00	123,753,041	19.47
Grenada 🇬🇩	620.00	\$1,319,000.00	117,207	12.05
Tonga 🇴🇳	9.1K	\$323,800.00	104,175	11.44
New Zealand 🇳🇿	179	\$35,335,600.00	5,213,944	6.96
Guatemala 🇬🇹	849K	\$3,124,132.00	18,406,359	4.49

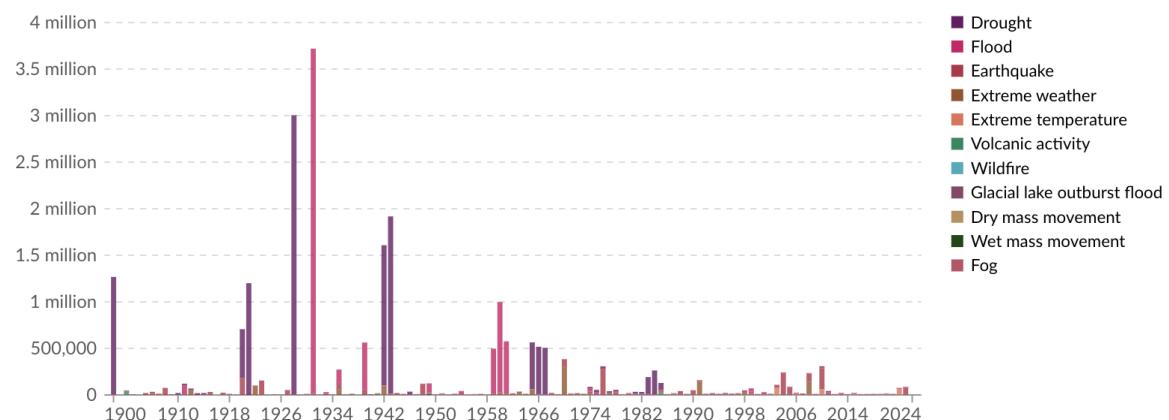
b. Number of Recorded Natural Disaster Events, 1900 - 2022



- c. Deadliest natural disasters by highest estimated death toll excluding epidemics and famines

	Death toll (Highest estimate) ♦	Event ♦	Location ♦	Date ♦
1	4,000,000 ^{[1][a]}	1931 China floods	China	July 1931
2	2,000,000 ^{[2][3][4]}	1887 Yellow River flood		September 1887
3	655,237 ^[b]	1976 Tangshan earthquake		July 28, 1976
4	500,000 ^{[8][1]}	1970 Bhola cyclone	East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)	November 13, 1970
5	316,000 ^[9]	2010 Haiti earthquake	Haiti	January 12, 2010
6	300,000 ^[10]	526 Antioch earthquake	Byzantine Empire (now Hatay/Turkey)	May 526
7	≈300,000 ^[11]	1839 Coringa cyclone	Andhra Pradesh, India	November 25, 1839
8	≈300,000 ^[12]	1737 Calcutta cyclone	West Bengal and Bangladesh	October 1737
9	273,407 ^[13]	1920 Haiyuan earthquake	China	December 16, 1920
10	230,000 ^[14]	1139 Ganja earthquake	Seljuk Empire (present-day Azerbaijan)	September 30, 1139

c. Number of deaths by natural disaster by type



d. Most Affected Countries by Natural Disasters

Rank	Country	Total No. of People Affected	Total Economic Damages (% of GDP)	Overall Index Score
1	China	3,267,004,054	34.49%	9.73
2	Haiti	18,923,317	133.33%	8.93
2	India	2,347,997,818	18.26%	8.93
2	Philippines	243,892,796	19.74%	8.93
3	Vietnam	96,770,784	26.39%	8.92
4	Thailand	110,341,356	19.81%	8.84
5	Cuba	23,964,088	33.88%	8.75
6	Iran	59,454,169	17.47%	8.30
7	Chile	9,881,688	29.68%	8.12
8	Indonesia	35,178,461	12.60%	8.04
9	United States	115,224,033	10.28%	8.03
10	Australia	16,288,424	12.99%	7.59

Questions to Ponder

1. How do natural disasters affect countries?
2. What are some examples of successful efforts for natural disasters?
3. What role does international cooperation play in the minimization of challenges caused by natural disasters ?
4. How can individuals, businesses, and governments collaborate to establish basic needs in natural disaster affected zones?
5. What measures, rules, and legal decisions should be implemented to safeguard against social difficulties in the aftermath of a natural disaster?
6. What appropriate policies should be implemented to guard against economical issues caused by natural disasters?
7. How can international organizations and initiatives work together to provide proper infrastructure?
8. How can communities be uplifted psychologically after a natural disaster?
9. How can migration after natural disasters be properly tackled?

Further Reading

<https://ecosoc.un.org/en/about-us>

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1093/reep/rez004>

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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772655X22000131#sec0014>

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