

The African Drought Risk & Development Network

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UNDP Drylands Development Centre

www.droughtnet.org

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African Drought Risk and Development Network

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Quick info Countries Issues Lessons Meetings Discussion Practitioners Resources

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How can this site help me?

This site is designed as a resource for drought reduction in Africa.

It addresses planners, journalists, students and other interested parties in drought / drylands issues.

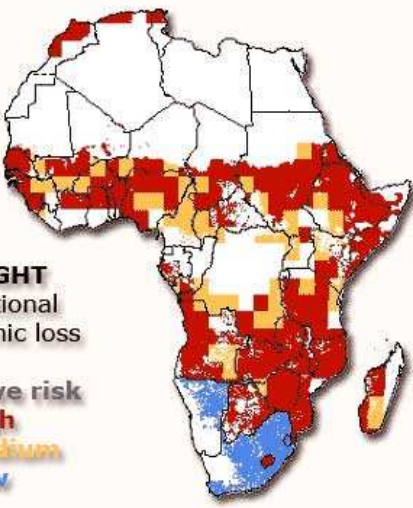
It will show users how the impact recurring droughts in Africa can be reduced with proper planning.

Click on the links above or to the right to find the information that you are looking for.

DROUGHT
Proportional economic loss

Relative risk

- High
- Medium
- Low



CLICK HERE FOR RISK MAP EXPLANATION

Country information gives an overview of drought risk in African countries.

Articles describes current developments in drought management, related hazards and disaster reduction.

Best practices is the showroom for successful drought mitigation projects

Discussion forum is the place to pose questions, cite examples and otherwise talk to other users of the drought network.

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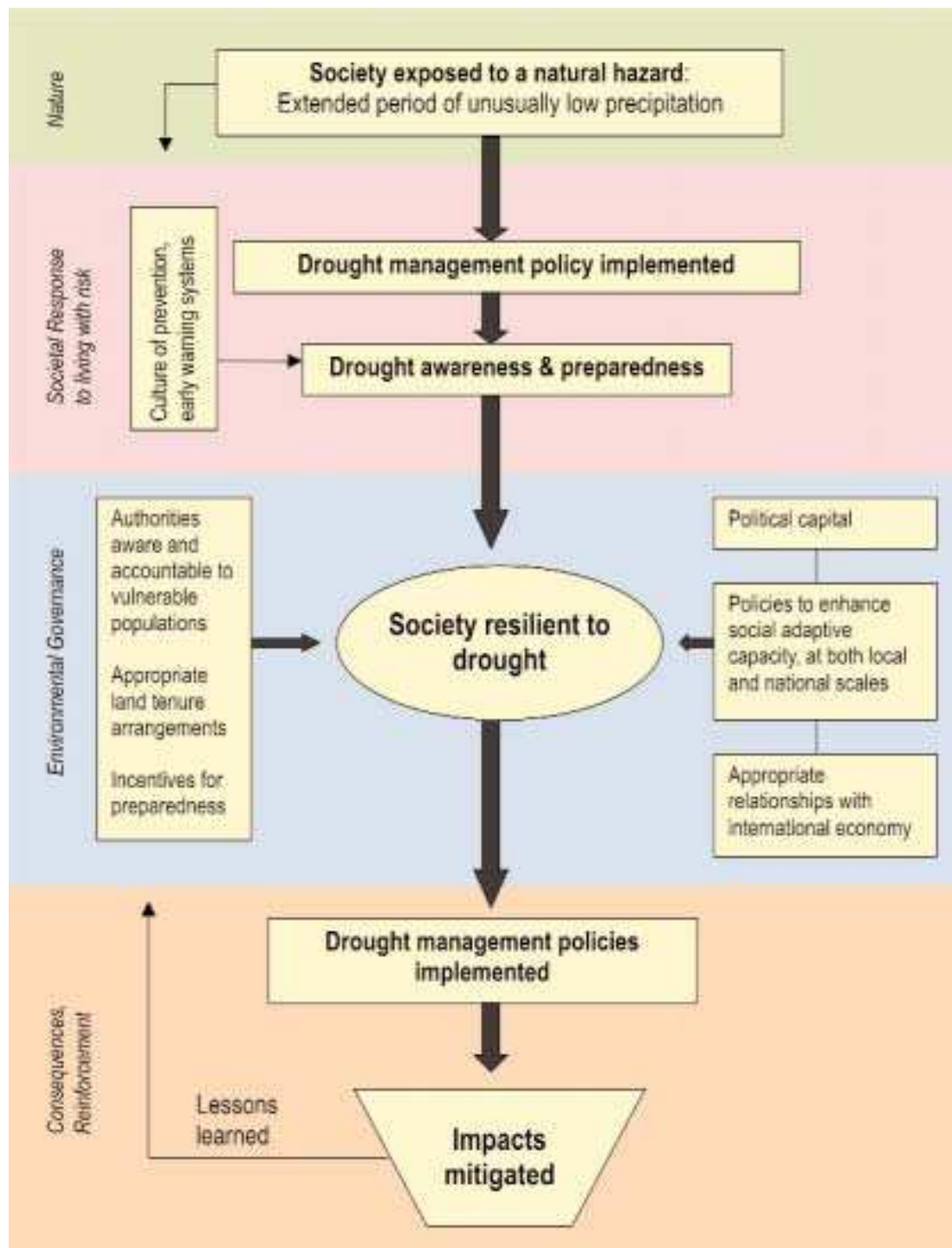
Origin & Overview

- **ADD Network:**

- Emerged from Inter-Agency ad hoc Working Group on Drought 2003
- Recognition that many institutional resources in Africa on meteorological drought but little networking between sub-regions on socio-economic & policy dimensions
- Recommendation: network be facilitated by UN ISDR, UNDP's DDC & BCPR
- Welcome your participation

- **Annual Face-to-Face Drought 'Forums':**

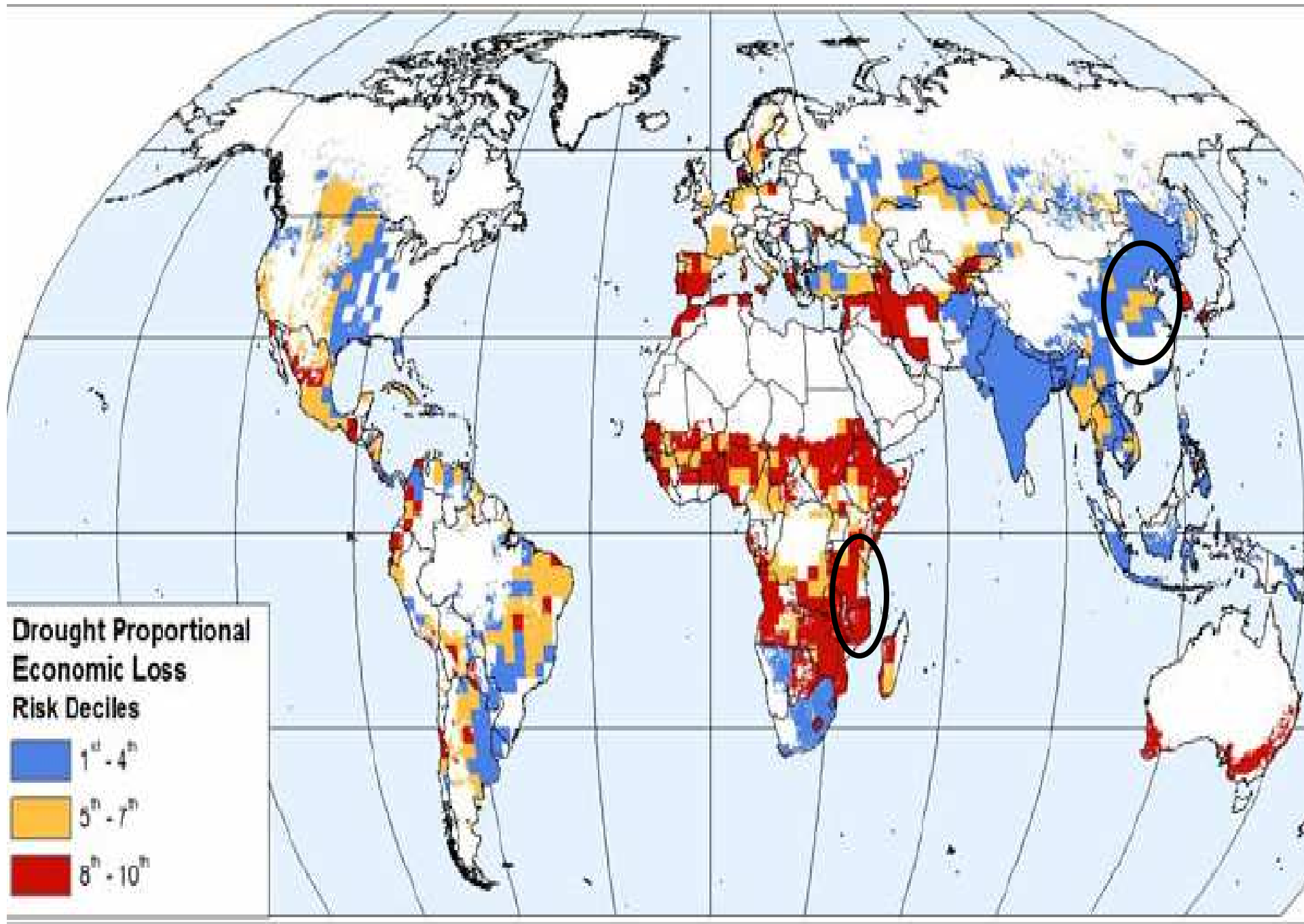
- Sub-Regional Focus (CD AVAILABLE OR WEBSITE)
- Aprox. 75 practitioners & policy makers based in Africa & Asia debate cutting edge issues & share good practices
- Help define user demand for services and products such as a web portal and guidelines (under development)



ADDN focus: applied knowledge networking which has policy implications for reducing systemic vulnerability to drought impacts

Factual Premise:

- Africa is not the most drought EXPOSED continent, in terms of numbers of persons (Asia);
- but has by far the highest relative VULNERABILITY to drought, in terms of:
- IMPACT (**mortality** of livestock and humans, *proportional* effect on **economy**)



Multiple economic policy dimensions of drought and ADDN activities

- Economic knock-on impacts; ie Zimbabwe 1991/2:
Agriculture – 45%; Power – 15%; Manufacturing – 9%;
Stock market – 62%; **GDP** – 11%
- So *economic* diversification is not good enough; need **viable strategies** of diversification away from weather dependence of value added; ie risk to Ethiopia's invest \$1.5b hydro-power? Knock on effects urban / industry?
- Therefore ADDN **advocacy** for DRM as a *national* development investment priority > humanitarian imperative to save unfortunate individuals
- But is food aid an externalization of the cost of under-investment in politically marginal populations? If so, then how to change **perverse incentives**?; ADDN Forums opportunity to identify **politically viable options**

ADDN Forums focus on multiple dimensions of drought in Africa & their policy implications

- Drought impact often mediated through ‘dysfunctional’ socio-economic systems, which may even amplify the natural impacts of drought; **‘socio-economic droughts’**
- Growing of maize in semi-arid areas may be due to *market* risk of NOT growing maize (due to maize focus of input / output structures) > *weather* risk of growing maize; **‘policy drought’**
- Food as a weapon: **‘policy famines’**
- HIV: **‘new variant famines’**; most productive out, shift ratio of consumer : producer

ADDF2: Key Recommendations

(see report for details: sarah.anyoti@undp.org)

- Investing in building the **right kind** of capacity at the **right levels**
- Establishing mechanisms to **identify, analyze and synthesize** information that has specific uses
- **Advocate** for the use of innovative practices
- **Develop** tools for decision support to enable commitments to drought issues, including costing of risk for advocacy purposes
- Ensure **monitoring of impact at the grassroots level** (focusing on pastoralist communities)
- Create an **action plan** for collaborative work around applied drought risk networking

Ways forward

- Better integration between **francophone and anglophone** African experiences
- Better linkages into **African sub-regional** institutional programmes (started with IGAD's ICPAC) and AU
- More **partnerships within UN** in context of UN reform agenda
- Better integration with **non African experience** (China experience greatly appreciated at ADDF2), possibly under Hyogo Framework &/or Desertification Convention
- More **systematic capture** of practitioner knowledge, product development (currently with ISDR)
- Better integration with **on-the-ground project activities** (currently integration with GEF Coping with Drought UNDP and World Bank adaptation projects)
- Vehicles for **systematic influence** of applied policy processes