



September 2012 Issue

Special Topic

2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum



The UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC) is organizing the Second Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum on 1-2 October 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the financial support from the Government of Japan and the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission. The forum will bring together a dynamic and diverse set of participants engaged in different aspects of drought risk reduction (DRR) issues in Africa and Asia, which encompass policymakers, NGO/CSO practitioners, researchers, development partners and donor communities.

The overall objective of the forum is to provide DRR decision-makers, practitioners and experts with a platform to dialogue, share knowledge and expertise and network to develop a common vision and strengthened partnership towards sustainable drought-resilient development in the Horn of Africa (HoA) specifically as well as at Africa and Asia levels more broadly. The challenge of limited up-/out-scaling of DRR good practices is apparent in most drought affected countries and regions including the HoA. A joint effort is currently ongoing to introduce the broadly applicable and comparable analytical tools through which to measure the socio-economic and environmental impacts of community-level DRR initiatives in short and long terms systematically in quantitative as well as qualitative values. In this context, the specific objectives of the forum are to:

- i. Review and identify gaps in ongoing studies and analytical efforts to define drought resilience and integrate resilience indicators into DRR impact assessment at different levels;
- ii. Verify collectively the results and findings of the participatory quantitative DRR impact assessment exercise to date and refine the conceptual framework and methodology to fill in gaps and increase its practicality and applicability; and
- iii. Demonstrate compelling evidence of DRR for sustainable drought-resilient development by showcasing various innovative experiences from both Africa and Asia and identify the opportunities for continuous DRR learning and south-south cooperation at local, regional and inter-regional levels.

For more information on the forum, please contact ddc@undp.org.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network](#) (AADP) is a network established under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*. The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative](#) (ADDN).

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Towards a post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Online Dialogue



As we head toward 2015, significant progress against the objectives, goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters is being made. The big question is what will happen in 2015, after the end date of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015? Even if global efforts to reduce disaster risk and reinforce resilience are accelerating, there are still many challenges in building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster.

The widest possible consultation is required on a post-2015 framework for disaster reduction. The views of governments, citizens, communities, private businesses, NGOs, specialists, and practitioners are important in the design and scope of a new framework. The first online dialogue began on 27 August 2012 and will continue over a period of three months until 30 November 2012. This first dialogue is structured around a set of questions, with each set spanning a period of two weeks. In the early stages, the aim is to set the context and determine the scope of issues to be addressed. The outcome of this first dialogue contributes to the first phase (March 2012 to May 2013) of the consultation process towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/dialogue/> for further details on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction online dialogues.

European Drought Centre



The European Drought Centre (EDC) is a virtual centre of drought research and drought management organisations established originally with the aim to promote collaboration and capacity building between scientists and the user community in Europe and thereby increase preparedness and resilience of society to drought.. The long term objective of the centre is to enhance European co-operation in order to mitigate the impacts of droughts on society, economy and the environment. Although the EDC primarily has a European dimension, it has also been extending link with other international projects, organisations and experts outside Europe, including Africa and Asia regions.

In particular, EDC intends to work towards a better understanding of the drought phenomenon, acting as a platform to initiate and discuss scientific progress on drought research within the academic society and as a forum for discussion on policy issues related to sustainable water resources management in a pan-European context. It also works towards establishing a European as well as World Drought Watch System to help enhance regional and global capacity in drought forecasting and monitoring. In addition, the centre provides support in developing of national drought mitigation plans based on best practice guidelines.

Please visit <http://www.geo.uio.no/edc/> for more information on EDC, including its activities and knowledge resources.

Food Price Watch



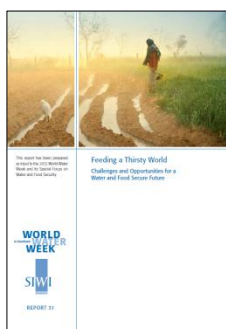
Food Price Watch (FPW), produced by the Poverty Reduction and Equity group, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, at the World Bank on a quarterly basis, is a series that aims at drawing attention to trends in domestic food prices in low- and middle-income countries and their policy implications. The latest (August 2012) issue of FPW highlights the World Bank's Food Price Index soared by 10% in July 2012, pushing the prices of internationally traded maize and soybean to all-time peaks after two months of consecutive declines in May and June. Weather is perceived as the critical factor behind the abrupt price increases observed, including heat and lack of rainfall in the U.S. Plains and Corn Belt, dry summer in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, drier monsoon in India with July rainfall 20% under average, among others.

August 2012 issue also provides an analysis on economic, poverty and nutritional impacts of droughts. It discusses that household decisions before (date of planting, fertilization practices), during (seeking nonfarm employment opportunities), and after the drought (liquidation of productive assets, outmigration) partially offset the socioeconomic impacts of the drought. Furthermore, public policy has a critical role in remedying and preventing the impacts of droughts. For example, the adoption of drought-resistant varieties in drought-prone districts in India improved groundnut average yields by 23%, and reduced by 30% their yield variability compared to the prevalent varieties.

To view the latest and past issues of FPW, please visit

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:22838758~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:336992,00.html>.

Feeding a Thirsty World: Challenges and Opportunities for a Water and Food Secure Future



Today, in 2012, nearly one billion people still suffer from hunger and malnourishment, in spite of the fact that food production has been steadily increasing on a per capita basis for decades. Producing food to feed everyone well will place greater pressure on available water and land resources. This report provides input into the discussions at the 2012 World Water Week in Stockholm, which was held under the theme of Water and Food Security, and features brief overviews of new knowledge and approaches on emerging and persistent challenges to achieve water and food security in the 21st century. Each chapter focuses on critical issues that have received less attention in the literature to date, such as: food waste, land acquisitions, gender aspects of agriculture, and early warning systems (EWS) for agricultural emergencies.

Especially in the chapter of early warning for water in agriculture, an in-depth analysis is made on how EWS can bolster food security by reducing damages caused to agriculture by water scarcity and drought. Monitoring of rainfall, soil moisture and other hydro-meteorological parameters provides the basis for the development of water availability scenarios and forecasting of drought. However for large parts of the world suffering from droughts, EWS are often inadequate, non-functional or non-existent. The report highlights the importance of ensuring effective communication of information throughout the end-to-end chain as the most critical component for a EWS so as to help decision-makers on different levels take timely actions on these warnings.

A full report is available for download at

http://www.siwi.org/documents/Resources/Reports/Feeding_a_thirsty_world_2012worldwaterweek_report_31.pdf.

Natural Hazards Risk Atlas 2012



This atlas is designed to help business, investors and international organisations compare the risks of natural hazards within 197 countries and assess their resilience during and after the occurrence of a natural hazard. The Atlas includes indices which analyse 12 major natural hazard risks worldwide, including drought, as well as country scorecards which provide a summary of the major natural hazards exposure of each country and enable the easy comparison of risks. Subnational mapping of each index allows the identification of natural hazards risks down to local levels, allowing risk managers to pinpoint risks to individual assets. Each subnational map is interactive and has been developed to enable users to view natural hazards risks down to levels as low as 5 km² worldwide.

In addition, the Atlas measures countries' overall economic exposure, providing insights into how major natural disasters could impact a country's economy and the wider implications for the global economic system. It has also designed a unique socio-economic resilience index, which assesses the factors that combine to increase the chance that occurrences of natural hazards will become major natural disasters.

For further details on the Natural Hazards Risk Atlas 2012, please visit <http://maplecroft.com/themes/nh/>.

UN Agencies Call for Stronger National Drought Policies



A joint press release was issued by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 21 August 2012, calling for stronger national drought policies. The ongoing drought gripping the United States of America and the ripple effects on global food markets underline the vulnerability of our inter-connected

world to a natural hazard that is expected to increase in future. In addition to the situation in the United States, the latest report from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration highlighted the weak Southwest monsoon in India.

In this context, effective long-term solutions to mitigate the effects of drought, and address desertification and land degradation urgently need to be mainstreamed in national development plans and policies. UN agencies are stepping up efforts to develop more coordinated and proactive policies for managing drought risk to fill the existing vacuum in virtually every nation. In support of these efforts, WMO and UNCCD together with other U.N. partners are organizing a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy: Towards More Drought Resilient Societies in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11-15 March, 2013. New information regarding the meeting will be updated at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/drought/hmndp/> as it becomes available.

The full press release is available for download at http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Media/NewsHighlight/WMO%20Joint_final.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

GEOSS Workshop on Agricultural Drought and Water Resources (Beijing, China; October 24-26, 2012)

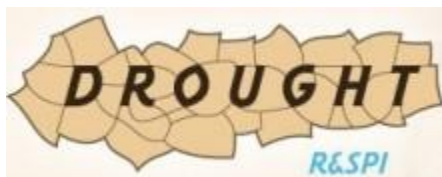


The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is fostering international cooperation on earth observations with a number of societal benefit foci, including agricultural monitoring and water resources. The research community has been studying the role of earth observations in monitoring crop growth processes under water stress conditions. A number of techniques and models have been developed for monitoring agricultural drought and are being used operationally. The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Workshop on Agricultural Drought and Water Resources aims to serve as a platform for researchers in agriculture and water resources from the international community to come together to share experiences and discuss recent advances in our understanding of the interactions between water use, agricultural drought, agricultural development and climate change. The workshop will focus especially on topics such as:

- background and challenges for global agriculture and water resources;
- progress in the development and application of agriculture drought models and earth observations;
- modelling impacts of climate change on agriculture and water resources;
- the impacts and evaluation of drought on agriculture production and food security; and
- international cooperation for the implementation of a global agricultural drought monitoring system of systems.

Anticipated outcomes from the workshop include understanding requirements from a global agricultural drought information system, the potential design of a joint sub-task between the GEO Agriculture and Water social benefit areas, and inclusion of Chinese drought monitoring. For further details on the workshop, please visit <http://www.cropwatch.com.cn/agrworkshop/20121024/index.htm>.

First Pan-European Drought Dialogue Forum (Nicosia, Cyprus; October 30-31, 2012)



The 1st pan-European Drought Dialogue Forum (1st pan-EU DDF) will be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 30-31 October. The Forum is under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the EU. The 1st pan-EU DDF will enable a live dialogue between researchers, policy makers and water actors. The dialogue will centre around drought to support further elaboration of policy options mentioned in the

Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters and the implementation of the EU Water Framework (2nd cycle of River Basin Management Plans).

In particular, the Forum will discuss drought issues linked to the three main policy phases (design, implementation, review). Drought in each policy phase will be introduced by a key talk followed by a dialogue. It will also discuss the targeted (pragmatic) responses for a Mediterranean drought case, often already facing water scarcity (insufficient water resources are available to satisfy long-term average requirements). These responses will come from an array of different invited projects leads of drought-related EU projects and other international projects. The DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impacts, and Responses) framework and some specific WFD articles will be leading for the dialogue.



Please visit http://www.geo.uio.no/edc/downloads/1st_panEuropeanDroughtDialogueForum_Nicosia_Cyprus_2012.pdf for further details regarding the 1st pan-EU DDF.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Senior Campaigns and Policy Advisor: Dry Lands Resilience and Ending Drought Emergencies – Oxfam GB (Closing Date: September 7, 2012)



OXFAM

Oxfam is one of the world's leading development and humanitarian agencies assisting people affected by natural disasters and conflict throughout the world. The Horn, East, and Central Africa (HECA) Region is the largest region within Oxfam, covering 8 countries. The Regional Centre is based in Nairobi and is mandated to provide leadership and support to the Oxfam country programmes in delivering their strategies within the context of programme quality, and efficiency. Oxfam now seeks a Senior Campaigns and Policy Advisor to lead and project manage the development of Oxfam's campaigning and media work on ending drought emergencies and dry lands resilience work, using research, policy development, media, popular mobilization/communications and alliance building to achieve sustainable and lasting changes.

Key responsibilities of the position include, among others:

- To give guidance and vision on HECA strategic vision to ending drought emergencies, sustainable livelihoods and resilience and develop a regional strategy for rapid and long term response;
- To line manage drylands policy officer and any short term drought emergency staff as may be deemed fit by line manager;
- To coordinate and lead Oxfam's advocacy work in the HECA region on the ending drought emergencies, sustainable livelihoods and resilience bringing together and ensuring synergies across Oxfam GB's works; and
- Mobilise and manage internal and external financial and other resources to implement agreed advocacy and media strategies and plans on the ending drought emergencies campaign and drylands work including sustainable livelihoods and resilience work in HECA.

Please visit http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?newms=jj&id=39026&rss=1 for a detailed job description, qualification requirement and application procedure.

Alternative Basic Education Project Director – Save the Children (Closing Date: September 7, 2012)



Save the Children

In 2011, an estimated 3.8 million people in Kenya were affected by drought, many living in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and about 144,000 drought -affected Somalis (of which 60,000 were children) fled to Kenya's Dadaab refugee camps. CIDA agreed to fund a three year project to assist the host communities in Lagdera and Fifo and refugees in all Dadaab camps to contribute to the improved learning outcomes for girls and boys in these marginalized and drought-affected areas.

The Alternative Basic Education (ABE) Project Director will be responsible for ensuring high-quality execution of the CIDA funded project activities in both the host community and refugee camps. The ABE Project Director's main responsibilities will be:

- Providing overall strategic guidance on all project components to achieve results on time according to approved annual detailed implementation plans ensuring delivery of project activities in a smooth, coordinated manner;
- Managing project costs following approved budgets and in compliance with all relevant agreements and policies;
- Managing the Project Steering Committee to ensure effective communication between CIDA, UNICEF, UNHCR, GOK and other stakeholders;
- Advocating the Ministry of Northern Affairs, Ministry of Education and other government of Kenya institutions for adherence to Nomadic Education Policy; and
- Collecting and disseminating learnings from this initiative by appropriate methods. This position will be line managed by Operations Director but receive technical support from the Kenya-based Education Technical Advisor and guidance from Toronto-based Education Advisor.

Further details on the position and the application procedure are available at http://www7.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_savethechildren01.asp?s=PyAxDifSqHTyVvHqn&jobid=35303,3487650212&key=35546814&c=355435659835&pagestamp=sefoxxnxgakacmhvmb. Please note that this position is only open to Kenyan Nationals.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordinator – Action Contre la Faim (Closing Date: September 17, 2012)



Action Contre la Faim (ACF) seeks to fill the vacant position of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Coordinator to ensure the quality of ACF's WASH programming in Indonesia. WASH Coordinator shall perform various tasks, which include: strategy and programme development; programme oversight and technical backstopping; team management, capacity building and staff development; monitoring, capitalization and departmental learning; coordination; and advocacy, partnership development and research and development.

Inter alia, he/she will be responsible to:

- Define ACF WASH country strategy and contributes to integrated approaches in Indonesia;
- monitor humanitarian issues in the country including drought, flooding, earthquake and epidemic disease outbreak risks and proposes updates of the operational strategy including emergency response;
- Design interventions for WASH and integrated programming;
- Be responsible for coherent needs assessments, feasibility studies, project strategy and proposal writing; and
- Monitors donor opportunities for WASH funding in Indonesia

For further details on the position, please visit <http://www.actioncontrelafaim.org/en/content/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-coordinator>.



Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)

This report reviewed the current institutional and programmatic landscape in the realm of drought risk management (DRM) in the two regions and mapped out some of the main DRM capacity gaps and gap-filling opportunities. The exercise is based upon the consultations with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 practitioners working in drought-related fields and focused discussions at the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011. It highlighted important similarities in DRM issues across Africa and Asia and identified priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add value.

The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html.



Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer / Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductive (2011)

The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming drought risk reduction concepts and practices into development planning and programming at different levels. It outlines a stepwise approach to define the drought risks within a given context. It also presents a methodology for translating the risk assessments and metrics into specific policy measures, planning instruments and measurable interventions.

The full publication is available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-English.pdf> (English)

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-French.pdf> (French)

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://www.acmad.ne/index.htm>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project_global_monitor/

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>

Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>

Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

UNOCHA (Southern & East Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/rosea/LatestUpdates/tabid/6652/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

UNOCHA (West & Central Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/Bulletinshumanitaires/tabid/3099/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>

East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>

FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>

Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>

Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>

SAARC South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network Weekly Disaster News: <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/about.aspx>