

# Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



March 2018 Issue

## Special Topic

### 2018 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought



Land has true value.  
**Invest in it**

from unsustainable land use and make a difference by investing in the future of land under the slogan, “Land has true value – invest in it.”

We often use land as if it were a limitless resource, ignoring its role in our everyday lives. This negligence threatens food and water supply, biodiversity and even human security itself. Short-sighted economic gains such as land grabbing, unplanned urban sprawl, unsustainable agriculture and over-consumption lead to unsustainable land use, which eventually causes degradation and loss of critical ecosystem services. As a result, consumption of the Earth’s natural reserves has doubled in the last 30 years, with a third of the planet’s land already severely degraded.

By turning land degradation into land restoration, we can realize the land’s full potential. Healthy and productive land can bring not only environmental, but also significant economic gains. We can all contribute to and benefit from investing in sustainable land management (SLM) – whether we act as consumers, producers, corporations, or governments. Changes in behavior and adoption of more efficient planning and practices can guarantee that sufficient land resources are available long-term to meet our ambitions for and to provide sustainable livelihoods. The 2018 WDCD global observance will be held in Ecuador, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, showcasing its nation-wide efforts in making SLM the principal tool to development bio-economy.

For more information on #2018WDCD, please visit <https://www2.unccd.int/actions/17-june-world-day-combat-desertification/celebrate-2018wdcd>.

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## About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-RED\)](#) under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*.

The network 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 based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative (ADDN).

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



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### DisasterReady.org



DisasterReady.org, a signature program of the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, is an open online learning community built to empower humanitarians working in relief and development. Due to the growing frequency and complexity of relief and development operations, effective training for humanitarians is more important than ever. But

studies show that most relief and development workers lack access to professional development opportunities due to the significant costs – in both time and money – involved. DisasterReady.org is specifically designed to help bridge this gap.

Trusted by more than 100,000 humanitarians and developed in collaboration with leading aid agencies and humanitarian experts, DisasterReady.org makes cutting-edge professional development resources available to relief and development workers and volunteers - anywhere, anytime, at no cost. DisasterReady.org's online learning library of more than 600 training resources is constantly expanding and covers core topics such as Humanitarianism, Program/Operations, Protection, Staff Welfare, Management and Leadership, Staff Safety & Security, and Soft Skills.

Please visit <https://www.disasterready.org/> for more information on DisasterReady.org and training courses offered.

### Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action



The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) is a global network of NGOs, UN agencies, members of the Red Cross/Crescent Movement, donors, academics and consultants. It is dedicated to improving the accountability and performance of humanitarian action by

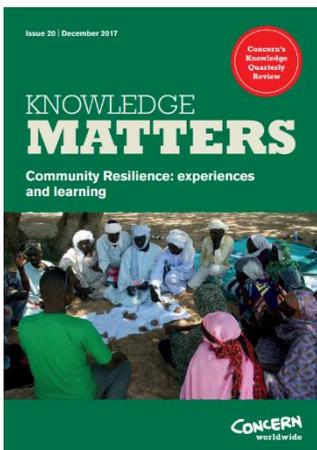
strengthening the humanitarian evidence base through sharing lessons, identifying key issues and, where appropriate, providing leadership to find collective approaches and solutions. The genocide in Rwanda in 1994 led to demands for increased professionalisation of the humanitarian sector. There was a sense that the system had failed in its response to this crisis. The need for much more rigour when evaluating what was working and what was not, as well as better communication of learning and good practice within the sector also became apparent.

ALNAP was formed to fill that gap. From only a few Members in 1997 to 100 Members now, we continue to believe that by improving the quality, availability and use of knowledge and evidence from previous responses we can make the system perform better and be more accountable. In addition to providing ways for Members to connect and learn from each other, the ALNAP Secretariat undertakes research to improve performance in humanitarian action. ALNAP's research is drawn from suggestions provided by the Membership, and is frequently conducted with their assistance in the fields of earthquakes, floods, urban conflicts and disasters, and droughts, among others.

For further details on ALNAP and its activities, please visit <https://www.alnap.org/>.



## Knowledge Matters: Community Resilience – Experiences and Learning



*Knowledge Matters* is the series of Concern Worldwide's internal organisational peer reviewed publication. It offers practice-relevant analysis relating to the development and humanitarian work of Concern Worldwide, and provides a forum for staff and partners to exchange ideas and experiences. The publication is committed to encouraging high quality analysis in the understanding of Concern's work. Concern staff and partners document their ideas and experiences through articles.

20<sup>th</sup> (December 2017) issue of *Knowledge Matters* starts with an overview of how Concern understands community resilience and goes on to share learning emerging from its programmes across the drought-prone drylands of the Sahel and East Africa including Chad, Sudan, Niger, Kenya and Somalia as well as the more flood and earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. It shares new programme models and tools being used by Concern such as the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition Surge Approach and the Flood Resilience Measurement Tool. Finally, its approach to influencing overarching political systems and stakeholders to build resilience of the most vulnerable is outlined.

The full publication is available for download at

[https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/resource/2017/12/knowledge\\_matters\\_-\\_community\\_resilience.pdf](https://www.concern.net/sites/default/files/resource/2017/12/knowledge_matters_-_community_resilience.pdf).

## Action on Climate and Security Risks: Review of Progress 2017



This report by the Planetary Security Initiative (PSI) looks at progress made on policy and practical responses to climate-security risks for 2016-2017. Using the independent G7 commissioned report, *A New Climate for Peace*, as a basis, and building on last year's PSI report, *Towards A Global Resilience Agenda*, the report sets out the key achievements, pitfalls and new challenges facing the foreign policy community working to reduce climate-fragility risks.

The scan of the 2017 horizon shows that climate fragility risks persist and are worsening. The world is facing more climatic extremes: devastating hurricanes, floods and tropical storms buffeted the Caribbean, North America and South Asia, whilst drought and desertification push thousands more towards extreme hunger in the Sahel and the Middle East. The world also witnessed a greater number of increasingly internationalised conflicts, the highest levels of hunger and displacement since World War II, and an increasingly volatile geopolitical landscape. A review of progress presents a mixed bag but, on balance, offers more grounds for optimism than for pessimism. There have been positive steps towards new and deeper partnerships for resilience, for example, between the EU and China, across 14 US states following the U.S. Government's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and between municipal authorities around the world. There has been greater acknowledgement of climate-fragility risks in national and global fora, policies and strategies.

The full report is available for download at <https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/news/action-climate-and-security-risks>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Global Conference for Prosperity through Hydrological Services (HydroConference) (7-9 May 2018; Geneva, Switzerland)



The Global Conference for Prosperity through Hydrological Services (HydroConference) seeks to create better interfaces between the providers of hydrological services and the users who need such services for a wide range of decision-making in order to generate increased benefits for society. More specifically,

HydroConference aims to foster collaboration on improving the availability and use of hydrological services worldwide by:

- Promoting collaboration for new and ongoing initiatives, including the establishment of data exchange;
- Leveraging the knowledge and expertise of the full range of water stakeholders to coordinate efforts towards greater impact; and
- Mobilizing public and private sector leaders to leverage support for key initiatives.

Improved availability of hydrological information can help answer questions like What the quantity, quality and distribution of water resources are in our country, river basin and sub-catchment; and how we can protect people, property and ecosystems from water-related hazards, particularly floods, droughts and pollutants.

For more information concerning HydroConference, please visit <http://hydroconference.wmo.int/en/conf>.

### Climate Change and Health Online Course (Course open till 30 June 2018; Online)



Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK  
for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response  
CCOUC 災害與人道救援研究所

Climate change is an important topic for public health practice. As the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters increase including drought, in order to protect health and well-being,

the need to understand and prepare for unforeseeable events is rapidly growing. This free online course, offered by the Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Response, will provide participants with an overview of issues in relation to climate change and health in the context of public health practice. Furthermore, it introduces important concepts of how to tackle climate change related health impacts and how to support community preparedness, response, policy formulation and implementation.

Registration for the course is open till 31 May 2018 and the registered participants are allowed to study the course until 30 June 2018 at their own pace. Upon completion of the course, participants are expected to understand and discuss climate change impact on health in the context of public health and be able to explore what has been and can be done to minimise health impacts of climate change from public health perspectives: adaptation and mitigation.

Please visit <http://ccouc.org/climate-change-and-health> for more information on the online course and the registration procedure.



## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### National Consultants for the Preparation of National Drought Plan – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Closing date: 15 March 2018)



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

Established in 1994, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) the only legally binding international agreement on land issues and aims at protecting our land, from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide us all with food, water and energy. Attention towards enhancing drought preparedness has increased in recent years. Against this

backdrop, the 13<sup>th</sup> UNCCD Conference of Parties requested the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies within their respective mandates to implement a drought initiative in the biennium 2018-2019.

Within the Drought initiative, three work areas are identified: i) drought preparedness systems; ii) regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and iii) a toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought. The objective of this national consultancy is to develop a national drought plan based on the principles of risk reduction. The consultant will be responsible for the preparation of a national drought plan, by collecting, compiling and analyzing existing drought policies and other relevant documentation and liaising with key regional and national stakeholders.

Further details on the position is available at [https://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/vacancies/2018-03/05%20TOR%20-Drought%20Initiative%20Consultancy%20various%20countries\\_0.pdf](https://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/vacancies/2018-03/05%20TOR%20-Drought%20Initiative%20Consultancy%20various%20countries_0.pdf).

### Consultancy for the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) Disaster Relief Fund – IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (Closing date: 16 March 2018)



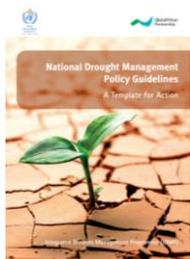
**IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre**  
"Fostering Climate Prediction and Applications"

The IGAD Climate Predictions and Application Center has received financing from the European Union through the World Bank toward the cost of the Building Resilience through Disaster Risk

Management and Climate Change Adaptation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Specific objective of the consultancy assignment or the main deliverable is the operationalization of the IGAD Disaster Response Fund (IDRF) through a comprehensive proposal for resource mobilization mechanism for IDRF based on engaging the three main sources of resource mobilization identified by the IDRF establishment document.

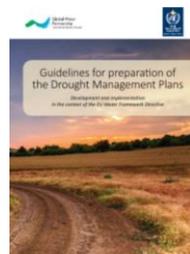
More specifically, the consultant is required to develop a summary of good practices from across the world that would inform the development of a practical fundraising mechanism for IDRF on a sustainable basis as well as a roadmap on raising funds from IGAD member states emerging from efforts of engaging various national institutions at high level. He/she is also expected to engage development partners and private sector for raising funds from them and obtain commitment in monetary terms, and present the comprehensive proposal for resource mobilization mechanism at a Regional Validation workshop and produce brief workshop report.

Please visit <http://www.icpac.net/wp-content/uploads/REOI--IDRF-23--Feb-2018-FINAL.pdf> for further details on the post.



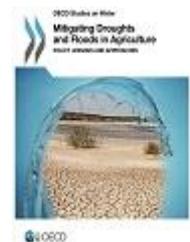
### National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



### Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



### Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

## Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

### Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>

African Flood and Drought Monitor: <http://stream.princeton.edu/AWCM/WEBPAGE/interface.php?locale=en>

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <https://www.fews.net/>

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

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

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

Relief Web Africa: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/services-centres/climate-services-centre/>

### Asia

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

FEWS NET Central Asia: <https://www.fews.net/>

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

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

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

Relief Web Asia: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>

South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>