



# AFRICA ASIA DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

April 2013 Issue

## Special Topic

### High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy Final Declaration



The High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) was held on 11-15 March, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland, with more than 300 participants drawn from government decision-makers, development agencies, and leading scientists and researchers. The meeting has, for the first time, laid the foundations for practical and

proactive national drought policies to increase resilience to the world's most destructive natural hazard, which is being aggravated by climate change. It issued a consensus declaration stressing the need for national drought management policies. Specifically, it encouraged governments to:

- Develop proactive drought impact mitigation, preventive and planning measures, risk management, fostering of science, appropriate technology and innovation, public outreach and resource management as key elements of effective national drought policy.
- Promote greater collaboration to enhance the quality of local/national/regional/global observation networks and delivery systems.
- Improve public awareness of drought risk and preparedness.
- Consider, where possible within the legal framework of each country, economic instruments, and financial strategies, including risk reduction, risk sharing and risk transfer tools in drought management plans.
- Establish emergency relief plans based on sound management of natural resources and self-help at appropriate governance levels.
- Link drought management plans to local/national development policies.
- Better drought management is one of the priorities of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). Climate services aim to increase drought resilience by improving climate information and services, especially for the most vulnerable. They will build on fast improving climate prediction capabilities.

The GFCS aims to give global access to improved services for four initial priority sectors – food security and agriculture, water, health and disaster risk reduction – by the end of 2017. The HMNDP declaration is available for download at <http://www.hmndp.org/node/335>.

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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

### UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative to Support National Drought Management Policies



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) jointly established a UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative to support

National Drought Management Policies. The goal of the initiative is to enable participating nations to assess their national situation on disaster management, the position of drought management therein, and to familiarize themselves with a suite of strategies which allow them to develop risk based National Drought Management Policies. It was launched with an international kick-off in the framework of HMNDP. It will be followed by a series of regional workshops in several drought-prone regions of the world throughout 2013 and 2014 and a final wrap-up conference in late 2014.

Risk based drought management is multifaceted and requires the involvement of a variety of stakeholders, and, from a drought management policy perspective, capacities in diverse ministries and national institutions are needed. Based on the identification of capacity needs from national to local levels, the initiative aims to develop such capacities to enable countries develop pro-active, risk-based drought management policies and overcome prevailing structures of reactive and post-hazard management strategies. Supporting the development of such capacities is at the core of this joint initiative under UN-Water.

For more information on the UN-Water Capacity Development Initiative to Support National Drought Management Policies, please visit <http://www.ais.unwater.org/ais/course/view.php?id=37>.

### Integrated Drought Management Programme: Building Drought Resilience to Support Global Poverty Reduction



The Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) was launched on March 13, 2013, at the HMNDP to improve monitoring and prevention of one of the world's greatest natural hazards. The programme intends to capitalize on the ten years of success with the Associated Programme on Flood Management, a joint project of WMO, the Global Water Partnership, Japan, Switzerland and many other partners and will focus especially on sharing scientific information, knowledge and best practices to advise policies and management approaches.

In particular, IDMP will develop a coherent global framework for drought management, prediction and monitoring by networking new and existing programmes and activities worldwide. The framework will be accompanied by a set of guidelines and tools, including a Drought HelpDesk for the development of sound and appropriate drought policies and management plans by countries and regions, as well as the improved use of drought prediction services. At global level, the IDMP will contribute to best practices related to drought risk management through:

- Better scientific understanding of, and inputs for, drought management;
- Improved knowledge base, with better access to information and products;
- Drought risk assessment, monitoring, prediction, and early warning;
- Policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors; and
- Drought risk reduction and response.

For further details on the IDMP, please visit [http://www.gwp.org/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/Responding-to-Drought--WMO-GWP-Integrated-Drought-Management-Program-Launched/?utm\\_source=utm\\_source%3Dnewsflow&utm\\_medium=utm\\_medium%3Demail&utm\\_content=utm\\_content%3Dtextlink&utm\\_campaign=utm\\_campaign%3DMarch2013](http://www.gwp.org/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/Responding-to-Drought--WMO-GWP-Integrated-Drought-Management-Program-Launched/?utm_source=utm_source%3Dnewsflow&utm_medium=utm_medium%3Demail&utm_content=utm_content%3Dtextlink&utm_campaign=utm_campaign%3DMarch2013).

## Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies & Layers of Resilience



"Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience" is project implemented by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics with the financial support by the Asian development Bank. It aims to provide science-based solutions and pro-poor approaches for adaptation to climate change for the rural poor and most vulnerable farmers in semi-arid regions of Asia especially in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, People's Republic of China, Thailand and Vietnam. The overall objective of the project is to identify and prioritize the sectors most at risk and develop gender equitable adaptation and mitigation strategies as an integral part of agricultural development in the most vulnerable areas. This will include innovations and understanding of agricultural formal and informal institutions, crop and resource management, the role of women, social capital and social networks.

The focus of the project is on ground level realities linked or integrated with macro level factors to evolve adaptation strategies that will address the issues of vulnerability in the most vulnerable sites of Semi-Arid Tropics and identify various layers of resilience. The findings from the project activities have been incorporated into the series of policy briefs to contribute to the improved databases, information and training leading to enhanced capacity for adaptation strategies and policy research in national programs.

For further information on the Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience, please visit <http://www.icrisat.org/impi-climatechange-welcome.htm>. All the project policy briefs area available for download at <http://oar.icrisat.org/view/subjects/s2=2E8.html>.

## UNCCD 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Conference: Economic Assessment of Desertification, Sustainable Land Management and Resilience of Arid, Semi-Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas



The second International Scientific Conference and the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the UNCCD will be held in 15-19 April, 2013 under the theme of "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas". The conference is expected to produce sound scientific outputs and policy-oriented recommendations based on the analysis and compilation of peer reviewed and published literature that informs policy formulation and dialogue.

As a background for the conference, two complementary White Papers have been prepared to present the current scientific understanding and knowledge on: 1) economic and social impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD); and 2) costs and benefits of policies and practices addressing land degradation and drought in the drylands. White Paper I identifies the different types of costs - economic, social as well as environmental - related to DLDD and evaluates various methods for measuring and addressing them. This economic and social impact assessment was conducted through the analysis and compilation of peer-reviewed literature as well as case studies from different geographical regions. Based on the results of this assessment a tool box of methodologies has been established, which shall inform decision makers on how to issue effective policies and develop strategies to take national methodologies to a regional and global level.

Based on a system approach, White Paper II provides analyses of resilience management options and ecosystem services approaches as critical means to achieve sustainable dryland and drought risk management. The paper highlights the challenges that exist, the different opinions about the best way to address environmental economic valuations, and the many assumptions that need to be clearly identified for each exercise in order to communicate the results efficiently to decision-makers at all levels.

The full reports are available for download at

[http://2sc.unccd.int/fileadmin/unccd/upload/documents/WhitePapers/White\\_Paper\\_1.pdf](http://2sc.unccd.int/fileadmin/unccd/upload/documents/WhitePapers/White_Paper_1.pdf) (White Paper I) and

[http://2sc.unccd.int/fileadmin/unccd/upload/documents/WhitePapers/White\\_Paper\\_2.pdf](http://2sc.unccd.int/fileadmin/unccd/upload/documents/WhitePapers/White_Paper_2.pdf) (White Paper II).

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## TED: Allan Savory - How to Green the Desert and Reverse Climate Change



Alan Savory, the co-founder of the Africa Center for Holistic Management and the President of the Savory Institute, made a presentation entitled "How to Green the Desert and Reverse Climate Change" at TED 2013 global conference in late February. The presentation reviewed the devastating effects of desertification on the earth and our civilizations and the consistent failure of current approaches to stop desertification. He shows dramatic examples of how livestock are the best (and only) tool that can permanently reverse these processes. Quotes from the presentation:

"Desertification is a fancy word for land that is turning to desert...the fate of water and carbon are tied to soil and organic matter. When we damage soils, we give off carbon."

"There is only one option left to climatologists and scientists. That is to do the unthinkable: to use livestock, bunched and moving, as a proxy for the herds."

"Even worse, we might think that only arid and semi-arid land is becoming desert, but tall grasslands are in danger as well. They can have a cancer "that we don't recognize until it's terminal form."

So far his message is resonating. In less than three weeks, the online video of his 20-minute TED talk has had more than 600,000 views and nearly 900 comments. To see a video recording of Allan Savory's TED2013 presentation, please visit [http://www.ted.com/talks/allan\\_savory\\_how\\_to\\_green\\_the\\_world\\_s\\_deserts\\_and\\_reverse\\_climate\\_change.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/allan_savory_how_to_green_the_world_s_deserts_and_reverse_climate_change.html).

## Event and Training Opportunities

### Second International Drought Initiative Meeting (Tehran, Iran; May 14-16, 2013)



International Drought Initiative (IDI) is a network platform initiative, which aims to prepare and compile the World Report on Drought Management based on the survey of the current situation of drought management planning and measures at national, regional and international levels. The

interim Secretariat of the IDI, the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management under the auspices of UNESCO, will organize the Second IDI Meeting in Tehran, Iran, on 14-16 May 2013 with the support of the Iranian Ministry of Energy and the International Hydrological Programme's Iranian National Committee in collaboration with a number of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and key national agencies.

The main purpose of this meeting would be finalizing the IDI road map and determining its future activities and action plan. The meeting aims at providing and exchanging information on lessons learnt and improving responsiveness towards droughts. As designed, the target audience will be top and mid-level managers, professionals, and decision makers in the domains of drought as well as disaster management from selected entities around the world as well as national entities from Iran.

For more information regarding the IDI, please visit [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/natural-sciences-events/?tx\\_browser\\_pi1\[showUid\]=11745&cHash=ea9d347e76](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/natural-sciences-events/?tx_browser_pi1[showUid]=11745&cHash=ea9d347e76). Please also visit <http://www.idi-drought.com/> for further details on the DID.

### First World Irrigation Forum: Irrigation Management under Drought Conditions (Mardin, Turkey; September 29 – October 5, 2013)



As a result of global climate change effect, water related natural disasters, such as flood and drought, are being experienced on a larger scale and more devastating in many parts of the world compared with the past. These adverse effects are felt more intensely in some countries which's economies based on agriculture rather than the other sectors.

The increasing demand of water for domestic, industry and nature has put pressure for more efficient use of water in agriculture through better irrigation and drainage management. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage together with FAO and other partners has been actively involved in championing the agenda of efficient use of water for agriculture at the forums. Under the main theme of "Irrigation Management under Drought Conditions", the World Irrigation Forums would provide the National Committees (NCs), which are centred around the irrigation management authorities within the countries, opportunities to interact with various stakeholders. The recommendations and inputs generated by interactions at the World Irrigation Forums would enable NCs to conceive sustainable solutions as part of their national plans. At the same time the Forums would help make a case for management of irrigation as a tool to mitigate the adverse impacts of greater variability of climate under changing climate.

Please visit <http://www.worldirrigationforum.org/en/default.asp> for further details on the forum.



## Employment and Grant Opportunities

### Regional Director Africa – Diakonie Emergency Aid (Closing date: April 10, 2013)



Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) / Diakonie Emergency Aid is the non-governmental organisation of the German protestant church providing worldwide humanitarian aid. Since his beginning in 1955, DKH has been working in Africa, having implemented relief, recovery and rehabilitation operations in many African countries. It has also provided large emergency relief operations in Somalia and Horn of Africa after the devastating drought in 2011.

DKH has been running a regional office in Africa for more than ten years in Kenya covering the wider horn of Africa region plus South and parts of Central Africa. The tasks of the Regional Director include overall office management, coordination and accompaniment of the programme on the ground in cooperation with local partner organisations and the ACT Alliance, support with regard to fundraising (back donors) and PR-work as well as advocacy and campaign-work together with DKH Headquarters in Berlin. The Regional Director guarantees, on the basis of the overall mandate of DKH and in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other self-commitments, the completion of the set tasks.

Please send application letter, CV and relevant documents via e-mail to Ms. Graziela Voica at DKH Headquarter: [graziela.voica@diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de](mailto:graziela.voica@diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de). For detailed information about the tasks and the necessary qualifications, please visit <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Regional%20Director-Nairobi-03-2013.docx>.

### National Project Coordinator – Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment in Cambodia (Closing date: April 12, 2013)



Due to climate change, erratic rainfall patterns and prolonged periods of drought followed by destructive rainfall and heavy flooding has caused soil erosion and major losses in topsoil, adversely affecting the agricultural sector and the environment in Cambodia. Adaptation Fund resources are provided to the Government of Cambodia to implement the project “Enhancing climate change resilience of rural communities living in protected areas in Cambodia” which seeks to enhance the climate change resilience of communities living around five Community Protected Area intervention sites, as well as downstream communities, to the climate change-induced hazard of erratic rainfall.

A National Project Coordinator (NPC) will be a locally recruited based on an open competitive process. He/She will be responsible for the overall day to day management of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. The NPC will report to Executing Agency for all of the project’s substantive and administrative issues. The NPC will report on a periodic basis to the Project Steering Committee. He/She will perform a liaison role with the Government, UNEP and other UN Agencies, NGOs and project partners, and maintain close collaboration with other donor agencies providing similar kind of support to the country on which the project is build.

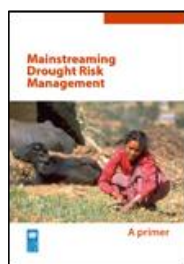
Please visit <http://www.camclimate.org.kh/index.php/vacancies/102-national-project-coordinator.html> for more information on the position including the application procedure.



### **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](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 introductif (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/](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>