



Special Topic

April 2017 Issue

WeFarm



There are 500 million smallholder farmers in the world, most of whom live on less than \$1 a day. Small-scale farmers are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and they face many challenges including lack of access to traditional markets, agricultural inputs and finance. Every day

small-scale farmers develop a diverse range of innovative, low-cost solutions in response to the many challenges that they face. But with the majority of farmers living in remote areas without internet access, they cannot share this information with other farmers. WeFarm is a free peer-to-peer service that enables farmers to share information via SMS, without the internet and without having to leave their farm. Farmers can ask questions on farming and receive crowd-sourced answers from other farmers around the world in minutes.

“WeFarm Connect” is a one-off process of on-boarding farmers, which enables them to improve their livelihoods through tailored information. Once farmers have registered, they will have unlimited free access to WeFarm. A selection of lead farmers will attend a ‘WeFarm Ambassador training workshop’ to receive training from a WeFarm staff member on how to use the system, and how to teach other farmers to use the system. Full and unlimited access to Q&A platform will be granted for participating farmers also to improve farming practices and livelihoods.

“WeFarm Insights” is the compilation of information and data provided in monthly or quarterly reports on analysis of the real challenges faced by smallholder farmers and map trends and issues such as drought, disease or crop diversification. These reports make it possible for businesses to understand issues and requirements of isolated suppliers.

“WeFarm Reach” allows to communicate with isolated farmers without internet. It can be linked to WeFarm Insights to allow businesses to engage with their suppliers. Businesses that want to promote products or services to small-scale farmers can also benefit from WeFarm Reach, by connecting with new customers through our platform.

Please visit <http://wefarm.org/> for more information on WeFarm and various services it offers.

Contents

Special Topic: Start Network	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Positions and Grant Opportunities	5
Drought Publications Information	6
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	6

About AADP

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

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



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

African Risk Capacity



Agricultural production in many parts of Africa is affected by natural climate variability and is likely to be significantly compromised by climate change through the higher incidence of drought, erratic rainfall and damaging high temperatures. Drought accounted for an average 36% of all responses between 2002 and 2009. Analysis by the ARC suggests that a widespread catastrophic drought in sub-Saharan Africa today could cost upwards of US \$3 billion in emergency assistance, which would put an unprecedented financial strain on African countries and donor countries' aid budgets.

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) was established as a Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) to help Member States improve their capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, therefore protecting the food security of their vulnerable populations. ARC uses Africa RiskView, an advanced satellite weather surveillance and software to estimate and trigger readily available funds to African countries hit by severe weather events. By merging the traditional approaches of disaster relief and quantification with the concepts of risk pooling and risk transfer, ARC will help create a pan-African disaster response system that meets the needs of those affected in a timelier and more efficient way and provides an important step forward in creating a sustainable African-led strategy for managing extreme climate risks.

Please visit <http://www.africanriskcapacity.org/> for more information regarding ATC, Africa RiskView and other products.

NDC Partnership



In 2015 the world endorsed the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the landmark Paris Agreement to address climate change. In order to implement the commitments reflected in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries must devise new approaches to overcome barriers that stand in the way of achieving these goals.

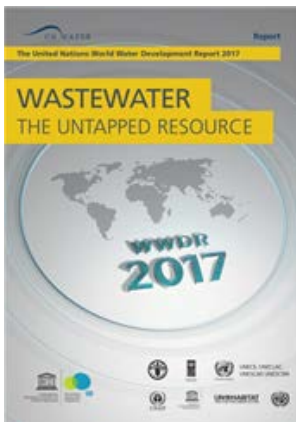
The NDC Partnership is a new coalition of developed and developing countries and international institutions working together to ensure countries receive the technical and financial support they need to achieve ambitious climate and sustainable development targets as fast and effectively as possible. For these efforts to succeed, governments, international institutions and non-state actors must find new ways to share information, to learn from each other and to coordinate their actions achieve towards long-term climate-resilient, low-emission development, globally and at the country level. In collaboration with its members, the NDC Partnership seeks to:

- Create/disseminate insightful knowledge products through Knowledge portal to fill information/knowledge gaps.
- Facilitate technical assistance and capacity building.
- Facilitate enhanced financial support for NDC implementation.

Please visit <http://www.ndcpartnership.org/> for further details on the NDC Partnership and its resources.



2017 UN World Water Development Report: Wastewater, the Untapped Resource



The 2017 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report demonstrates how improved wastewater management generates social, environmental and economic benefits essential for sustainable development. In particular, the report seeks to inform decision-makers, government, civil society and private sector, about the importance of managing wastewater as an undervalued and sustainable source of water, energy, nutrients and other recoverable by-products, rather than something to be disposed of or a nuisance to be ignored.

The report's title reflects the critical role that wastewater is poised to play in the context of a circular economy, whereby economic development is balanced with the protection of natural resources and environmental sustainability, and where a cleaner and more sustainable economy has a positive effect on the water quality. Having too much (floods) or too little (drought) water, which is often accompanied by too dirty water (higher pollution concentrations in both extremes), make the necessity for wastewater use even greater. Some of the measures to increase the resilience to drought events include the acceptance of wastewater as a reliable source of water for agriculture and many other uses.

The full report is available for download at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002471/247153e.pdf>.

Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to promoting development in a balanced way – economically, socially and environmentally – in all countries of the world, leaving no one behind, and paying special attention to those people who are poorest or most excluded. While the future is impossible to predict, there are clear directions on several economic and social aspects that will influence our ability to meet SDGs. This report reviews recent trends in six areas that are fundamentally important to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

One of the 'mega-trends' covered by the report is environment degradation and climate change. More extreme and frequent extreme weather events, including heat waves, droughts and sea-level rise have been witnessed as a result of rapid change in the world's climate. severe droughts related to El Niño effects caused a sharp decline in agricultural output and localized spikes in food prices in parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, leading to monetary tightening in several economies. These negative trends pose a significant risk to the realization of the SDGs. The report explores these and other trends in more detail and discusses policy implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/global-trends--challenges-and-opportunities-in-the-implementation.html>.



Event and Training Opportunities

Global Disaster Relief & Development Summit 2017 (6-7 September 2017; Washington D.C., USA)



The Global Disaster Relief & Development Summit strives to enable quicker and better response during crisis and catastrophes in a more effective, sustainable and cost-efficient way. Now in its 9th year, the Global Disaster Relief & Development Summit 2017 will expand its scope beyond disaster relief operations and will look into emerging global challenges, technological innovations and opportunities in

international aid and development sector. The Summit will provide updated information on emergency procurements, disaster risk reduction and resilience, the refugee crisis, data & ICT strategies, innovations in humanitarian logistics, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and the financing of disaster relief.

This summit has been designed to attract the world's attention through forming an exclusive platform of global expertise and cross-sector engagement, including senior representatives from UN and government agencies, development banks, civil societies and the private sector. The participants will hear the latest trends in relief and crisis management, discover new innovations and practical solutions, compare your approaches and benefit from first-hand insight from your peers and partners. The summit will also provide the participants with an opportunity to build long lasting partnerships and more effective collaborations.

Please visit <http://disaster-relief.aidforum.org/> for more information concerning the

2017 World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June 2017; Worldwide)

OUR LAND. OUR HOME.



OUR FUTURE.



The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCD) has been observed since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought. The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow rapidly over the past fifteen years – reaching 244 million in 2015, up from 222 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000. Behind these numbers is the links between migration and development challenges, in particular, the consequences of environmental degradation, political instability, food insecurity and poverty.

With the slogan, “Our land. Our home. Our Future.”, the 2017 WDCD will look closely the important link between migration and land degradation by addressing how local communities could build the resilience against existing multi-fold development challenges through combating desertification and land degradation. It will be the Day to remind everyone of the importance of productive land for securing food, generating local employment and contributing to the sustainability and stability, security of desertification-affected places.

Further details on the 2017 WDCD is available at <http://www2.unccd.int/17-june-observance-our-land-our-home-our-future>.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Consultancy: Planning and Monitoring Specialist, Kenya – UNICEF (Closing date: 6 April 2017)



On February 10th, 2017, the Government of Kenya declared the current drought affecting 23 arid and semi-arid counties and pockets of other areas a national disaster, and called on all stakeholders to support the government by upscaling drought mitigation programmes. In line with this, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

programme teams have designed lifesaving interventions targeting women and children in the affected areas. Within this time span, an increased work load is expected within the section, particularly within the planning and monitoring functions as Kenya Country Office develops its new country programme, alongside responding to the drought.

The purpose of this individual contractor consultancy is to provide technical support to County Office on (a) the design of the Country Programme Document for 2018-22, and (b) in the coordination of Emergency M&E protocol relating to the 2017 drought as well as (c) additional activities relating to quality assurance, Results Based Management and M&E. The contractor is expected to provide technical support to programme sections in the formulation and development of the Theories of Change, results frameworks, strategy notes, strategic moments of reflections and alignments of Kenya Country Office planning with the UN Development Assistance Framework and the Kenyan Government's third Medium Term Plan.

For more information concerning the position, please visit <https://www.unicef.org/about/employ/?job=503664>.

Project Coordinator: South Sudan Drought Response – Polish Humanitarian Action - Polska Akcja Humanitarna (Closing date: 10 April 2017)



Polish Humanitarian Action - Polska Akcja Humanitarna (PAH) is a Polish non-governmental organisation established in 1992 with the aim to help people in crisis situations to become self-reliant and regain responsibility for their future as soon as possible. PAH is currently seeking a Project Coordinator: South Sudan Drought Response. Core tasks of the Project Coordinator include, among others:

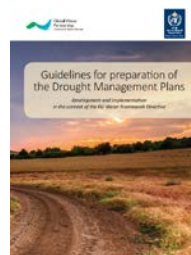
- Planning emergency interventions together with the team - participating in Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessments or overseeing involvement of the team, preparing activity plan according to PAH approach and both clusters (FSL and WASH), planning monitoring activities with M&E Coordinator, ensuring timely reporting to FSL and WASH clusters, representing PAH in FSL and WASH clusters.
- Preparing documents and reports for FSL/WASH interventions conducted by the team.
- Manages the project team, trains employees and volunteers participating in the project.
- Oversees the project budget. Cooperates with finance officer in the mission and in HQ.

Please visit <http://reliefweb.int/job/1958314/project-coordinator-south-sudan-drought-response> for further details on the position, qualification requirement and application procedures.



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/>
 Experimental African Drought Monitor: <http://drought.icpac.net/>
 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/>

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