

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



April 2014 Issue

Special Topic

PreventionWeb Transition



PreventionWeb is the participatory platform of the disaster risk reduction (DRR) community. It aims to help over 40,000

regular weekly users understand and do DRR more easily by giving them a place to share knowledge and information, and connect. Based on users' request, PreventionWeb team has been redesigning the site and services to be more:

- **Visual:** In response to users' feedback, PreventionWeb's design has been brought to a new level. It's modern, clean and easier to read;
- **Social:** The updated site will allow users to comment on content, create and share lists of top picks, self-publish own DRR content, connect with others on the platform, and become a "Top Partner" on the platform;
- **Responsive:** The PreventionWeb site will become usable from any device: Tablet, Mobile or Desktop;
- **Discoverable:** The new design will help find important content more easily through improved feature modules, search and query builders; and
- **Topical:** PreventionWeb will offer special sections to feature major events, and trending topics to help DRR professionals keep up to date.

Some of the new site sections and services to be offered will include:

- **Risks & Hazards section**, which helps users easily understand disaster risk by providing a quick snapshot of key concepts, analysis and access to up-to-date data and information in plain language.
- **Country & City Profiles**, where visual representations will help users understand hazard distribution and risk levels, as well as DRR progress at country and city levels. Resources will also be added in local languages.
- **Expert Services**, which will give users, who have specific questions or want to know the most important DRR trends, access to the world's DRR experts and allow them to share their expertise.

In addition, PreventionWeb is seeking experienced DRR professionals to join for weekly 'Ask a DRR Expert' slots and share knowledge on specific topic with the DRR community by answering their most pertinent questions online.

Please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/about/design/> for more information on PreventionWeb Redesign 2014.

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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).

AADP's [Drought Online website](#) aims to offer an easy access to a growing collection of DRM related resources... [More >](#)

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

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative



Recurrent droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns are characteristic features of the arid and semi-arid lands that comprise the Horn of Africa. Concerned by the severity and frequency of drought disaster emergencies in the region; and seeking to urgently address this problem in a sustainable manner, the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East

African Community member states and international development partners convened a Summit in Nairobi in September 2011 to discuss the drought crisis. Following the summit, a regional initiative to end drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa, entitled IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), was established.

IDDRSI serves as a strategic framework under which the IGAD member states and their development partners would work together to put in place coordinated long-term policies, programmes and interventions aimed at addressing food security and building drought resilience on a sustainable basis. IGAD Member States developed their Country Programming Papers for interventions to be undertaken at the national level and the Regional Programming Paper for identified activities to be undertaken at the regional level. In March 2014, the Second Drought Resilience Summit “Investing Differently to End Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa” was organized in Kampala, Uganda, to review the progress made in the implementation of IDDRSI since 2011 and renew the political joint commitments to do things differently towards ending drought emergencies in the region in the face of various emerging risks and challenges such as peace and security.

For further details on IDDRSI, please visit <http://resilience.igadhost.com/>.

PRACTICE NetWeb

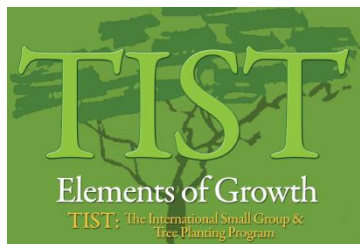


The PRACTICE NetWeb is a place where people involved in or affected by desertification/land degradation mitigation and restoration actions can connect, share their stories and learn from each other. Drylands make up 41% of the world’s land area; 70% are under threat of severe land degradation known as desertification. People are taking action to control desertification and restore damaged landscapes all over the world. There is a wealth of undocumented knowledge on what is working, what is not working, and why. Too often our past efforts are not assessed, and even when they are, too often local perspectives are missing. Too often valuable knowledge is lost, or not shared. We can learn from each other so today's decisions are better informed and tomorrow's efforts are more effective. The NetWeb makes sharing and learning easy.

PRACTICE NetWeb is about exchanging knowledge. It is for all stakeholders: local people living and working the land, visitors who use the land, managers working to protect the land, policy makers and scientists working to understand land degradation, its impacts and its solutions. The PRACTICE Project team encourages the interested stakeholders to joining the NetWeb and sharing their experience and views. For example, the Stories page of the NetWeb allows the PRACTICE participants from around the globe to post and disseminate their stories, such as articles and videos, related to land degradation and desertification management.

For more information on PRACTICE NetWeb, please visit <http://practice-netweb.eu/>.

The International Small Group & Tree Planting Program

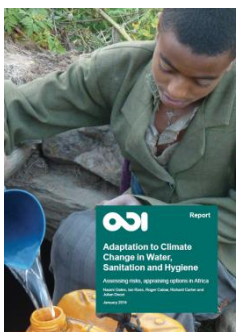


The International Small Group & Tree Planting Program (TIST) empowers small groups of subsistence farmers in countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and India to reverse the devastating effects of deforestation, drought, and famine. Since 1999, TIST participants have been identifying local sustainable development goals that include tree planting and sustainable agriculture. From their successes and failures, small groups develop "best practices" and then encourage other groups to adopt them. Groups adopt new farming practices using existing hand tools and natural fertilizers that increase food production. They develop practices for starting nurseries and caring for the seedlings and share what works best for germinating and transplanting different tree species. TIST has grown from 40 groups in one region in Tanzania in 1999 to over 9,000 Small Groups with over 60,000 members across eight regions and six countries in 2011. Its works build on the evidence-based understanding that:

- Sustainable Agriculture protects soil and increases crop yield in years of good and poor rainfall;
- Adequate nutrition improves health and provides energy for other economic efforts;
- Trees provide a new "virtual cash crop" in greenhouse gas credits; and
- Sustainable forestry and conservation farming assure other durable economic benefits.

TIST also creates a communication and administrative structure that also addresses health (including HIV/AIDS), education, and nutrition. Furthermore, TIST expects to provide long-term revenue for the Small Group participants through the sale of greenhouse gas credits. For more information regarding TIST, please visit <http://www.tist.org/i2/>.

Adaptation to Climate Change in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Assessing risks, appraising options in Africa?



This report presents the findings of research into the risks to delivery of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) results posed by climate change in Africa, drawing on rapid case study reviews of WASH programming in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. A separate Case Study Report provides further detail on country background and findings. Water is predicted to be the main channel through which the impacts of climate change will be felt by people, ecosystems and economies. However, predicting impacts on the availability and quality of freshwater resources, and more so water-dependent services and sanitation, remains difficult.

The report looking at the WASH landscape, not only the gains made but also some of the bottlenecks that hold back progress, and examines the risks to delivery of WASH results in three countries: Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. In the Tanzania case, the best practice intervention involves improved, drought-resistant construction of boreholes for rural water supply. This incurs additional upfront costs in the form of deeper drilling and the supervision of contractors, but results in an uninterrupted stream of benefits over a 10 year period, compared with a baseline in which drought results in the failure of the source, loss of benefits and extra rehabilitation costs. It also looks at the use of cost-benefit analysis as a means of appraising the adaptation options

prioritised through the risk screening process, with special focuses on potentially low regret interventions that could be expected to offer significant economic benefits under a range of different climate futures.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8858.pdf>.

Event and Training Opportunities

E-Learning Course: Drought Forecasting and Warning – Principles and Applications (Online; Open)



The e-learning course on Drought Forecasting and Warning: Principles and Applications was developed by DEWFORA (Improving Drought Early Warning and Forecasting to Strengthen Preparedness and Adaptation to Droughts in Africa), a 3 year research project funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme. The course is based on the three sessions organized by DEWFORA project: i) "Drought forecasting and its use in informed decision making" (Zaragoza, Spain, 23-27 September 2013); ii) "Implementation of drought early warning systems and developing the institutional framework for effective response in Africa" (Johannesburg, South Africa, 27-30 August 2013); and iii) "Drought hazards, vulnerability and risk analysis tools in Africa" (Nairobi, Kenya, 7-11 October, 2013). The approach to this e-learning course is based on three main concepts:

- Risk and vulnerability assessment (scarcity diagnostic: who and what is at risk, at what level and why)
- Monitoring, prediction and early warning (Drought indices and indicators, drought forecasts and monitoring)
- Mitigation and response (Pro-active programs and actions to reduce risks)

Structured into 7 modules with a total of 17 lectures, the course is centred on the following four key questions that DEWFORA proposes as a protocol for the design and the implementation of drought forecasting and early warning: 1) what is the science available?; 2) what are the societal capacities?; 3) how can science be translated into policy; and 4) how can society benefit from the forecast? For further details on DEWFORA and the e-learning course, please visit <http://intranet.iamz.ciheam.org/dewfora-e-learning/index.php>.

GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (Nairobi, Kenya; 12-21 May, 2014)



Human population growth and rapid urbanization coupled with climate change are causing increased vulnerability of communities exposed to hazardous events all over the world. Consequently, disasters are increasingly taking heavy loss of life and destruction of property. In Africa, and developing countries in general, unplanned growth and poor infrastructure both in urban and non-urban areas makes imperative that adequate preparation to reduce the impact of disasters be put in place. Climate change has implications for disaster risk management as it

impacts on the exposure to hydro-meteorological hazards (e.g. storms, floods and droughts), and also modulates underlying risk factors, which influence the vulnerability to environmental hazards and therefore the probability of a disaster occurring. There is therefore great need to utilize climate change, early warning and disaster risk information in planning for effective coping mechanisms of disaster risk reduction.

This training aims to develop the capacity of professionals mainly working in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Impact and Adaptation to design, manage, evaluate and undertake improvements in people-centered early warning systems for hydro-meteorological & geological hazards and extreme events associated with climate change and variability. Participants will acquire hands-on skills in application of Geographical Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing in climate change, early warning systems and disaster risk management interventions, and learn to work with, spatial data, satellite images and Public Participatory GIS tools, that are the key to a better understanding of hazard, vulnerability and risk.

For further details concerning the training, please visit

http://www.indepthresearch.org/index.php/internationaltraining/gisremotesensing/details/694-Disaster%20Management_Climate%20Change.html.

United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction (Bonn, Germany; 5-6 June, 2014)



This year's United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information for flood and drought risk reduction will focus on the use of space technologies to improve disaster risk reduction (DRR). Floods and droughts will serve as examples for hazard types that have recently affected countries around the globe. In its current Situation and Outlook issued in January 2014, WMO foresees an enhanced possibility of the development of a weak El Niño around the middle of 2014. Its effects on floods and droughts

need to be taken into account in national plans targeting DRR. A recent article in Nature stated that El Niño events may start coming once every decade, doubling their frequency.

The main objective of the expert meeting is to promote the use of space-based applications to assess and to manage flood and drought risks. Expected outcomes include:

- Recommendations for the improvement of flood and drought risk management through the use of space based information;
- Elements to contribute to the Post 2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2) and to sustainable development;
- Elements to contribute to the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to take place in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

Please visit <http://www.un-spider.org/BonnExpertMeeting2014> for more information on the meeting.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Call for Proposals: 1) IGAD Regional Civil Society Drylands Governance Facility and 2) A Competitive Grant for Applied Research in Drylands in the IGAD Region (Closing date: 11 April, 2014)



The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has initiated the two competitive grants: namely 1) IGAD Regional Civil Society Drylands Governance Facility; and 2) A Competitive Grant for Applied Researches in Drylands in the IGAD Region. The IGAD Regional Civil Society Drylands Governance Facility aims to support CSOs within the IGAD region to engage effectively with regional environment, water and natural resource governance issues in order to promote resilience in the drylands and to participate effectively in the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). The three priority intervention areas of the facility include: i) access to natural resources particularly land, water, forests and pastures/rangelands; ii) sustainable Natural Resource Management in ASALs in particular Water Resource Management; and iii) environment and sustainable livelihood development.

The Competitive Grant for Applied Researches in Drylands in the IGAD Region is funded by the Danish Government through a development cooperation for Regional Drylands Resilience, Coordination, Governance and Applied Research. The first Call of this fund will focus on the application of the existing drylands research results, where more female and male agro-pastoralists and pastoralist would be covered through scaling out. The research results to be scaled out would target natural resources management, including improved pasture and water, improved access to markets, improved livelihood through application of enhanced technologies and supporting innovations. Please visit http://igad.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=93&Itemid=196 for further details on the calls and the guidelines for applicants for the two separate grants.

Humanitarian Research and Innovation Grant Programme (Closing date: 1 May, 2014)



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (OCHA) Policy Development and Studies Branch invites applications to its 2014 Humanitarian Research and Innovation Grant Programme. The programme encourages and enables original research and writing on issues and trends relating to humanitarian needs and response. All research projects must be completed within five months and result in a 20 to 40-page paper and a possible presentation at an OCHA policy forum. The final papers will be published on the OCHA website. Field research in countries with humanitarian response activities is strongly encouraged. The maximum grant payable under this programme is US\$4,000. The exact disbursement will be determined by the nature of the work and the number of selected projects.

The programme is open to people of any nationality who are interested in improving humanitarian assistance. Applicants should either have relevant academic credentials, such as an MA or a PhD, be currently enrolled in an advanced degree programme or have work experience relevant to their proposal. Applicants proposing field research are generally expected to be residents of that country or to have extensive experience working in that context, as well as relevant language skills. Organizations are not eligible to apply.

For more information on the grant programme and the application procedure, please visit <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/policy/humanitarian-research-and-innovation-grant-programme>.



Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2013)

In order to ensure that drought prone communities move onto a path of resilience building and sustainable development, rather than being pushed back to poverty trap, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. This draft document is a result of the ongoing effort to develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology, i.e. CoBRA, with which to define the key factors and indicators affecting local resilience levels and measure the impact of various sector-based interventions on resilience enhancement quantitatively. The CoBRA model will strengthen the existing monitoring framework, helping track progress along a resilience pathway in a given context systematically and guiding holistic planning processes. At present, the latest CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology is under field testing in the Horn of Africa region with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The document is available for download at:

http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/templates/drought/east_central_africa_review/imgs/drought-online/Documents/CoBRA_Implementation2.pdf.



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.

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>