



Africa-Asia Drought Risk Reduction Peer Assistance Network



Newsletter



August 2012 Issue

Special Topic

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2nd Scientific Conference – Call for Abstracts



There is a widespread consensus that the pressing issues of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) are not yet properly included and addressed in today's political and private sector agendas on a global, national and local level and that it is

therefore of vital importance to raise awareness of the effects - costs and benefits - that decisions related to land management and ecosystems have. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) 2nd Scientific Conference: Economic Assessment of Desertification, Sustainable Land Management and Resilience of Arid, Semi-Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas will be held in Fortaleza in Brazil on February 4-7, 2013, during the Third Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The conference aims to gather a broad range of stakeholders - academics, policy makers, civil society actors and the private sector - to approach DLDD from an economic perspective. It will provide guidance to governments and non-governmental actors alike, on why they should and how they can, together, reverse current DLDD trends, support affected countries and communities to improve their land management practices and increase resilience. In particular, the conference will be structured around the two key topics of the White Papers, namely: 1) economic and social impacts of DLDD; and 2) costs and benefits of policies and practices addressing DLDD. UNCCD cordially invited interested institutions to submit an abstract for a contribution to be included in the conference programme. Short abstracts can be submitted for the following types of contribution: oral presentation; poster presentation; special session (you are fully responsible for topic, speakers, etc.); and workshop (you are fully responsible for topic, speakers, participants). Closing date for the abstract submission is August 31, 2012.

Please visit <http://2sc.unccd.int/home/> for more information on the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference. Timeframe and venue of the conference as well as the information on the registration procedure will be announced in the near future on the same website.

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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

African Risk Capacity



The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is a ground-breaking project of the African Union designed to improve current responses to drought food security emergencies and to build capacity within AU member states to manage drought risks. As an African-owned, continental index-based weather risk insurance pool and early response mechanism, ARC offers an African solution to one of the continent's most pressing challenges. By bringing together the concepts of insurance and contingency planning, ARC aims to create a new way of managing weather risk by transferring the burden away from African governments, and their vulnerable populations who depend on government assistance, to international financial markets that can handle the risk much better.

As a pilot initiative which is expected to be operational by mid-2013, ARC will use advanced satellite weather surveillance and software, called Africa RiskView, to estimate and trigger quick-disbursing funds to help African countries hit by severe drought implement effective and timely responses to assist those affected. Combining existing operational rainfall-based early warning models on agricultural drought with data on vulnerable populations, RiskView provides decision-makers with expected and probable maximum costs of drought-related responses before an agricultural season begins and as the season progresses for every first-level administrative district in every country in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to providing a financial early warning tool, identifying and quantifying risk in this objective way can also help countries and their partners direct appropriate drought response actions and target food security investments.

Please visit <http://www.africanriskcapacity.org/index.html> for further details on ARC and RiskView Software.

Drought-Tolerant Yielding Plants



Drought-Tolerant Yielding Plants (DROPS) is a research consortium of 15 public and private partners in eight European countries, Australia, Turkey and the United States running between 2010 and 2015. It is sponsored by the European Commission and coordinated by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research. The primary objectives of the DROPS project are to

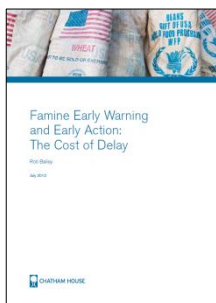
develop novel methods and strategies for preserving crop yields under fluctuating water deficit and in periods of drought and improving the use of water resources by the plant and to test the comparative advantages of the different drought-tolerant lines in the field in various water deficit scenarios.

This project uses a multi-disciplinary approach combining physiology, genetics, modelling with field tests and phenotyping platforms in the development of drought-resistant corn, wheat, durum wheat and sorghum. It studies the following characters: reduction in seed abortion, vegetative growth maintenance, root system architecture and transpiration/water use efficiency (biomass/transpiration ratio). The project activities are performed via field experiments and by developing a new generation of crop model able to estimate the effects of alleles on crop growth, yield and water-use efficiency. Results and methods are expected to be diffused: (i) to breeders via the participation of seed companies and a partnership with a breeder association; and (ii) to scientists and students via academic publications, and via practical courses and virtual courses in its website.

For more information regarding DROPS, please visit

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=proj.document&PJ_RCN=11409710.

Famine Early Warning and Early Action: The Cost of Delay



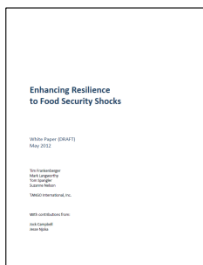
Generally, delay is a defining characteristic of food emergencies over the last three decades in both the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. In the case of 2011 Somalia famine, early warnings of the impending drought catastrophe accumulated over the course of the preceding year, yet the humanitarian system remained dormant. Had donors and agencies mobilized sooner, early interventions could have been undertaken to protect livelihoods and prevent the downward spiral into destitution and starvation. Recent failures to prevent food crises have led to a renewed focus on early warning and early action. This is to be welcomed; however, the stark fact that decades of investment in early-warning systems have not led to early action should caution against a myopic focus on operational and technical improvements alone. Although these may be intuitive and straightforward to implement, they will fail to deliver unless fundamental barriers to early action are removed.

The purpose of this report is to identify problems and consider opportunities to address them. Inevitably this leads to a focus on things that are not working well, but the tone should be interpreted as constructive rather than critical. The report draws on the results of interviews with 30 donor, agency and early-warning staff, and a two-day expert workshop at Chatham House in London, the UK, to examine why these decisions tend to generate delay rather than early action. It begins by examining the initial decision about whether to respond: within agencies, within donor organizations and then collectively. It then considers decision-making about how to respond before finally exploring what a more effective decision-making process might look like.

The full publication is available for download at

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/Energy,%20Environment%20and%20Development/0712pr_bailey.pdf.

Enhancing Resilience to Food Security Shocks: White Paper (Draft)



In recent decades the Horn of Africa has faced continuous cycles of crisis. In spite of efforts to respond to these interactions, the most recent drought crisis (2011) coupled with conflict and chronic poverty in the region is estimated to have threatened the lives of thirteen million people. During the Food Security and Nutrition Network Regional Knowledge Sharing Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June 11-13, 2012, Tim Frankenberger, President at Tango International, shared the draft White Paper on Enhancing Resilience to Food Security Shocks and discussed the key constraints to building household and community resilience in the region, highlighting several of the policy and implementation issues that must be addressed in order to enhance resilience to future climate variability and drought-induced food security shocks.

Some characteristics of programs that successfully incorporate resilience into their interventions including:

- 1) Integrated and complementary partnerships, networks, and strategies;

- 2) Achievement of sustainable impact through adequate scale and duration;
- 3) Promotion of healthy ecosystems including climate-smart agricultural practices;
- 4) Effective formal and informal governance, ensuring that it is responsive, transparent, accountable and participatory;
- 5) Gender equity; and
- 6) Social protection including the provision of resources (both food and non-food) to enable households to positively respond to shocks and work towards long-term food security.

Draft white paper is available for download at

http://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/revised_resilience_paper_may_28.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

An International Conference about the Future of Livestock Keeping in Its Global and Social Context (Bonn, Germany; September 6-7, 2012)



The livestock sector has reached a critical junction. Much attention has focused in recent years on the negative impacts of the sector on the environment, soil fertility, climate, and biodiversity. At the same time, livestock is still portrayed as an important means of "lifting people out of poverty." However, there is some concern that the standard approaches used for poverty alleviation of livestock keepers often do not have the desired effects. All these developments call for a fundamentally new approach to looking at the livestock sector and re-examining our notion of growth and how to support sustainable livestock development. This is the rationale behind the International Conference about the Future of Livestock Keeping in Its Global and Social Context. The emphasis of the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, an organizer of the conference, will be on providing a platform for this important stakeholder group to express their opinions and share their experiences. A list of international speakers and representatives of major organisations will present their visions for the livestock sector and how to set it onto a sustainable path.

The purpose of the Livestock Futures conference is to:

- Take stock of the current scenario and its impacts on people, animals, and the environment;
- Investigate the problem from a global and systematic perspective rather than "developed countries versus developing countries";
- Analyse the driving policy factors that have created the current situation;
- Identify promising policies and practices for globally and socially sustainable livestock farming;
- Highlight the need for concerted action at the international level and provide inputs to the Global Agenda of Action for a Sustainable Livestock Sector; and
- Define the cornerstones of a global framework for a resilient livestock sector.

Please visit http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/12_05_04_Liga_Konferenz_E.pdf for further details on the Livestock Futures Conference.

International Course on Regional Climate Prediction and Drought Monitoring and Warning (Beijing, China; September 17-27, 2012)



The International Training Course on Regional Climate Prediction and Drought Monitoring and Warning is organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Beijing, sponsored by China Meteorological Administration. The course is designed to help trainees to learn the knowledge of drought monitoring and warning and climate prediction, improve the climate adaptation and drought monitoring and forecasting ability in developing countries.

Topics to be covered by the course includes, among others:

- Basic knowledge of drought and drought characteristics – Hydrology cycle and water balance;
- Drought monitoring – land data assimilation system, leaky bucket model, difference faces of drought;
- Drought mechanisms – sea surface temperatures and soil moisture, El-Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and sea surface temperature anomalies impact on drought;
- Modelling drought – climate model to simulate drought, statistical downscaling;
- Drought prediction, dynamic downscaling, multi model ensemble overview;
- Introduction of Climate Prediction Center's climate prediction; and
- Madden-Julian Oscillation/ENSO influence on global drought, real-time global monsoon monitoring and forecast.

The course will be conducted in English, combining the formats of lecture, lab practice, group discussion, individual presentation, study tour, etc. Application shall be submitted and reach RTC-Beijing no later than September 5, 2012, with copy to WMO Secretariat. For more information on the training course, please visit http://www.cma.gov.cn/en/Training/TrainingNews/201206/t20120619_176240.html.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Post-Doctoral Fellow or Associate Scientist for Wheat Improvement – International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Closing Date: July 29, 2012)



The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is a not-for-profit research and training organization with partners in over 100 countries. The center works to sustainably increase the productivity of maize and wheat systems and thus ensure global food security and reduce poverty. The center's outputs and services include improved maize and wheat varieties and cropping systems, the conservation of maize and wheat genetic resources, and capacity building. Scores of CIMMYT efforts have saved or enriched millions of lives, from releasing disease-resistant varieties and varieties resistant to drought and heat and soil deficiencies, to dispersing techniques to reduce farmer costs and post-harvest losses.

CIMMYT is seeking an enthusiastic plant scientist to join as a post-doctoral fellow/Associate Scientist in the Global Wheat Program. The position offers an outstanding career opportunity for a researcher interested in global wheat research. This position is available initially for 3 years. The main focus of this position is to test and develop heat and drought tolerant spring wheat germplasm with adaptation to early sowing under conservation agricultural practices in wheat growing environments of South Asia along with other important traits such as high yield potential, durable resistance to Ug99 and other rusts and end-use quality. The successful candidate will be based in India. Extensive travel to field sites of collaborating institutions in India will be necessary.

For further information regarding the position, please visit <http://www.cimmyt.org/en/about-us/job-opportunities/1406-201234-post-doctoral-fellow-or-associate-scientist-for-wheat-improvement-based-in-india>.

Final Evaluation: East Africa Drought Appeal – The Humanitarian Coalition (Closing Date: August 7, 2012)



In response to the most profound drought crisis in East Africa region, on July the 6th 2011, the Humanitarian Coalition (HC) launched an appeal to the Canadian public for funds to enable its member agencies to scale up the humanitarian response across 3 countries, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. The total raised by the appeal stands at \$14 million; \$7 million by the HC and rest by the member agencies.

The objective of the final evaluation is:

- To assess the overall impact of member interventions;
- To confirm findings of the real-time evaluation (RTE) conducted jointly with the Disasters Emergency Committee in October-November 2011 and to evaluate to what extent lessons or recommendations from the RTE have been taken into account and applied to programming;
- To evaluate gender dynamics of program impacts and how gender was factored in all areas of the crisis response. Gender will serve as a cross-cutting theme in the evaluation methodology and findings; and
- To document a comparative analysis of best practices in cash-transfer programming in affected communities. This element of the evaluation will be documented as a separate (stand-alone) annex to the evaluation findings.

The HC is open to receiving proposals from consultants and consultant agencies for either or both countries. Each team should comprise at least one local member and demonstrate gender balance, in order that the views of both men and women are easily accessed in the field. Interested parties should submit: 1) CVs for each member of the team (maximum of 3 pages each); 2) an indication of availability [Optimal time for the mission is September-October, 2012]; 3) proposal to include evidence of how the team meets the requirements above and setting out the conceptual framework on how the work is to be undertaken; 4) affirmation of acceptance to be accompanied by a HC Secretariat staff member; 5) work plan and schedule; 6) budget; and 7) two references with contact details of referees. The HC may also wish to see substantive pieces of previous work.

Please visit <http://reliefweb.int/job/final-evaluation-east-africa-drought-appeal-terms-reference> for more information on the position.

Programme Officer – United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (Closing Date: September 9, 2012)



United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UN-ISDR) seeks a Programme Officer with a minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in project or programme management, administration, development, economics, environment, humanitarian, coordination or related areas. This position is located in the UN-ISDR Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Some of the responsibilities of the position include:

- To participate in development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of assigned programmes/projects;
- To provide guidance to national governments on development and strengthening multi-stakeholder national platforms in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Africa Ministerial Declaration and Programme of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), existing national development programmes, United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other related strategies;
- To provide guidance for the implementation of DRR and climate change adaptation, prioritizing long term multi sectoral and holistic DRR resilience initiatives and the use of science and technology tools;
- To contribute substantively to partnership development and to the implementation of the Africa Strategy and Programme of Action and support the mechanism for coordination; and
- To undertake outreach activities and represent the UN-ISDR in Africa, by conduct training workshops, seminars, making presentations on assigned topics/activities, organizing events and conferences and identifying agenda topics relevant to DRR, actors and participants, preparation of documents and contribute to report.

For more information on the position, please visit http://www.preventionweb.net/files/27575_jo23735.pdf and <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/jobs/v.php?id=27575>.

Agricultural/Livelihoods Program Manager for Mali – Mercy Corp (Closing Date: September 15, 2012 – Contingent on Funding)



Mercy Corps has been present in Niger since 2005 and is currently working to stabilize the hard-hit pastoral population by helping re-establish their animal stocks and improve their access to animal health care and feed. In 2012, Mercy Corps also initiated its operations in Mali with the aim to help meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the most food insecure, conflict-affected people, while promoting food security and building their resilience to future cycles of drought and famine. The organization is planning a 12-month cross-border program, entitled the Espoir pour les Eleveurs du Sahel (EESA), to protect the lives and rebuild the livelihoods of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in western Niger and North Eastern Mali. This will be achieved through a comprehensive intervention package targeted at 4,700 households.

The Program Manager is responsible for coordinating and implementing the delivery of EESA including the daily management of program activities and program staff, and ensuring appropriate systems and support mechanisms are in place to track, analyze and report on results. The thematic areas of the Project Manager's job functions include strategy and vision, personal leadership, representation, team management, programme management and security. S/he is a

strong team leader, able to develop and mentor team members in both Niger and Mali and is an effective communicator, able to work with internal and external stakeholders to achieve common objectives. S/he is responsible for contributing to the achievement of country goals through innovation and program development and displaying expertise across the various sectors and regional experience to the field team.

For further details on the position, including the qualification requirements and the application procedure, please visit https://mercycorps.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.dspjob&jobid=218164&company_id=15927&jobboardid=479.

Call for Proposals under the Thematic Programme for the Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy – European Union (Closing Date: September 25, 2012)



The European Union's (EU) Call for Proposals under the Thematic Programme Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP) was published on the EuropeAid website. The objective of the ENRTP is to integrate environmental protection requirements into the EU Community's development and other external policies as well as to help promote the Community's environmental and energy policies abroad in the common interest of the Community and partner countries and regions.

The EU policy priorities to be addressed through the ENRTP Strategy 2011 - 2013 are:

- 1) To help partner countries, in particular the most vulnerable ones, to adapt to the impacts of climate change; support the development of mitigation actions including on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and key implementing tools; promote the conclusion of an ambitious and global climate agreement; and provide a framework for supply of sustainable energy in developing countries;
- 2) To support sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risks with a focus on forest governance through implementation of the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and the EU's Biodiversity Strategy as well as to reduce the ecological footprint of the growing population and protect human health by promoting the green economy; and
- 3) To implement the international environmental and climate dimension of the EU's 2020 vision.

This Call for Proposals concentrates on a limited range of themes identified under the multi-annual priorities: it focuses on some of the challenges associated with a) the role of forests in climate change mitigation, b) the rapidly degrading key ecosystems and c) the efforts to improve forest governance and combat illegal logging and associated trade. Deadline for submission of the concept notes is September 25, 2012. The submission of the concept notes is exclusively by e-mail. For further details on the priority issues for the Call for Proposals, eligibility of applications and the application procedures to be followed, please visit <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=132763>.

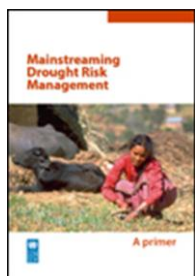


Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)

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 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/

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>