



Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network Newsletter

August 2013 Issue

Special Topic

DesInventar: Disaster Information Management System



The Disaster Information Management System, or DesInventar in short, one of the very few existing proven methodologies and tools for building disaster databases. It is a sustainable arrangement within an institution for the systematic collection, documentation and analysis of data about losses caused by disasters associated to natural hazards.

DesInventar is a conceptual and methodological tool for the generation of National Disaster Inventories and the construction of databases of damage, losses and in general the effects of disasters. It aims to make visible disasters from a local scale (town or equivalent), help to analyze the disaster trends and their impacts in a systematic manner and facilitates dialogue for risk management between actors, institutions, sectors, provincial and national governments. With increased understanding of the disaster trends and their impacts, better prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures can be planned to reduce the impact of disasters on the communities.

The DesInventar methodology includes a software product with two main components:

- 1) The **Administration and Data Entry module** is a relational and structural database through which the database is fed by filling in predefined fields (space and temporal data, types of events, including drought, and causes, sources) and by both direct and indirect effects (deaths, houses, infrastructure, economic sectors).
- 2) The **Analysis module** allows access to the database by queries that may include relations among the diverse variables of effects, types of events, causes, sites, dates, etc. This module allows at the same time to represent those queries with tables, graphics and thematic maps.

As of August 2013, datasets for 39 countries, including 13 Asian countries and 6 African countries, and 3 Indian states are viewable at <http://www.desinventar.net/index.html>.

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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

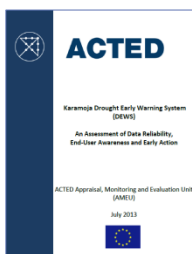
Reports on the Observance of the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification



The World Day to Combat Desertification was held on Monday, 17 June 2013, with the special thematic focus on water scarcity and drought and the slogan of “Don’t let our future dry up”. 31 events were reported to be held so far and media reports of the day were covered by 62 parties. This brief overview highlights the scope of the activities and coverage of the Day by mainstream, alternative and social media. The information was mainly gathered through submissions by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification’s (UNCCD) National Focal Points and Regional Coordination Units and web searches and tools.

For example, in Kenya, various observance activities such as tree planting and the exhibition of the best practices to combat desertification and drought were organized in the semi-arid Elgeyo Marakwet Country. In China, a seminar on combating desertification for African countries was held as part of the Chinese Governmental Capacity Building Programme. Further details on the activities undertaken by various countries are posted on the UNCCD website: <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WDCD/WDCD2013/Pages/Events-around-the-world-2013.aspx>. [Annex 1](#) of the report outlines on the social media activities and [Annex 2](#) provides links to the over 450 reports published.

Karamoja Drought Early Warning System: An Assessment of Data Reliability, End-User Awareness and Early Action



Between 2006 and 2009, Uganda’s Karamoja sub-region experienced three years of consecutive drought, which drastically reduced the capacity of the population to cope with the usual unfavorable conditions of their environment. As a critical first step to develop the adaptive capacity and resilience of the population of Karamoja, a Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) was established in the seven districts in Karamoja to improve the access of the local government and communities to accurate and timely information on the risk of coming drought, through which to inform and support drought preparedness and early response.

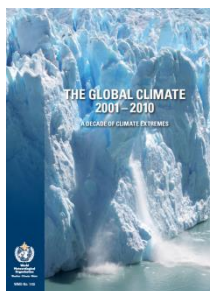
This report presents the results of a second comprehensive assessment of the Karamoja Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) conducted by the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development’s Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (AMEU), which took place in September 2012. The assessment was conducted with two separate, yet complementary objectives:

- To better understand how communities are accessing DEWS information and whether such access has led to concrete action.
- To assess the reliability and relevance of the DEWS indicators with a view to simplify the data collection and analysis process.

Part 1 and part 2 present the results of the end-user survey, which focuses on how DEWS information is accessed and used by all relevant stakeholders in the region and the country. Part 3 presents the results of the indicator reliability assessment, which focuses on assessing the relevance and reliability of the indicators currently being used to collect information under the DEWS. To view the full report, please visit

http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/ACTED%20Uganda%20DEWS%20Assessment%20Report%202013.pdf.

The Global Climate 2001-2010: A Decade of Climate Extremes



The Global Climate 2001–2010 is a new publication of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) summarizing the state of the climate for the decade 2001–2010 and its assessment in the historical context. It complements the annual WMO statements on the status of the global climate and the more comprehensive annual report State of the Climate, which is published regularly in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Climate Data Center of the United States of America. The data and information used in this publication are based on international datasets that are maintained by advanced climate data, monitoring and research centres which collaborate with WMO and the data and climate information collected directly from Member countries through a special WMO survey.

Among other information, Chapter 4 maps out the location and timing of droughts and other extreme climate events and provides a few case studies focusing on the observed impacts on lives and goods caused by some of the major drought incidences which occurred in the different parts of the world. According to the publication, there was a decrease of about 34 per cent in the amount of economic losses owing to drought for the decade of 2001–2010 compared to that of 1991–2000, while droughts have been demonstrated to have acute and long-lasting impacts on health, such as malnutrition and dehydration owing to the decreased availability of food.

The full publication is available for download at http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1119_en.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

Ministerial Conference on Water for Food Crops and Food Security to Address Climate Change and Drought through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Muscat, Oman; September 21, 2013)



The Ministerial Conference on uses of Water for agricultural purposes, Food Crops and Food Security to Address Climate Change and Drought through the International Treaty will be organized by the Sultanate of Oman on 21 September, 2013,

immediately prior to the opening of the fifth session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) Governing Body. At present, the ITPGR is the only United Nations body specifically dealing with biodiversity for food security and climate change that has developed an international system of exchange and benefit-sharing for genetic resources, which is fully functional worldwide.

Water and drought are increasingly critical issues for plant genetic resources and food production in numerous regions. There is a need to conserve indigenous plant genetic resources, their economic value and the knowledge and rich cultural heritage that have been inherited for generations since ancient times. In this context, the conference intends to provide the relevant ministers from the concerned countries to discuss concrete actions on how to sustain food security and crop production under drought conditions and under the impact of climate change on smallholder farmers.

Please visit <http://www.planttreaty.org/news/sultanate-oman-will-host-ministerial-conference-international-treaty-september> for further details on the conference.

Third Annual Conference on Climate change and Development in Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; October 21-23, 2013)



The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) is organizing the Third Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-III) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21-23 October, 2013. The Conference is organized each year under the auspices of the Climate for Development in Africa Programme,

which is a joint programme of key African development institutions including the United Nations Economic Commission, the African Union Commission and African Development Bank. The theme of this year's Conference is: *Africa on the run: can the opportunities from climate change spring the continent to transformative development?* The Conference will have four sub-themes that aim to share experiences and disseminate research results and assess how Africa is coping with impacts of climate change. It will also seek ways of strengthening Africa's ability to seize opportunities from climate change to better prepare the continent for transformative development.

ACPC invites researchers, scientists, policy makers and practitioners to submit research paper abstracts not exceeding 300 words before August 15, 2013, on any of the following main topics:

- Climate Science, Data and Services for Africa's Adaptation and Mitigation;
- The Role of Policy in Building Africa's Resilience to Climate Change Impacts;
- Green Economy and Climate Finance Opportunities in Africa; and
- Is the Global Climate Change Framework working for Africa?

Please visit <http://www.climdev-africa.org/ccda3> for more information on the CCDA-III and the call for papers.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Regional Policy and Advocacy Advisor – Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities (Closing date: August 11, 2013)



Regional Learning & Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities

Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities (REGLAP) is a Consortium that works in three countries - Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. REGLAP is housed in Oxfam's Regional Centre and seeks to promote lesson learning

and good practice documentation of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches in the drylands, and to carry out advocacy for Governments, NGOs and other Stakeholders on key issues in relation to drought and the drylands.

REGLAP is currently seeking a Regional Policy and Advocacy Advisor to lead on the development of policy and advocacy work on REGLAP issues for use at regional and global level. He/she will lead the policy advocacy in Kenya. Country leads and regional leads will rely on his/her support in implementation of the strategies and plans. The advisor will also support REGLAP Consortium members to develop regional and country lobby and advocacy strategies on resilience, DRR and future of pastoralism with reference to humanitarian and development programmes. His/her delivery must be high quality and this will reflect in your research work on the different options for sustainable livelihoods in the region. The ability to work collaboratively will be key as the advisor will be working with colleagues from the REGLAP Consortium Members and UN agencies. Furthermore, the advisor will work with the REGLAP Communications and Learning team in the development of REGLAP media statements, briefings and press releases (at regional level) and manage and develop the use of new media in REGLAP communications strategy.

For more information on the position and the application procedure, please visit <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/working-at-oxfam> using the job reference No. INT6423. The same is also be viewable at http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?s=4A515F4E5A565B1A&jobid=41411,8868215433&key=456647&c=3412599861&pagestampa=semjktynrhvvyrdtip.

Resiliency Specialist for USAID Resilience Learning Project – Management Systems International (Closing date: August 21, 2013)



Management Systems International (MSI) is a Washington, D.C.-based international development firm providing specialized short- and long-term technical assistance. The Resilience Learning Project will be a key component of USAID's expanding portfolio in the drylands of the Horn of Africa. This project is linked with several multi-layered, multi-institutional initiatives to build resilience

and growth, and to break the accelerating cycle of droughts and humanitarian emergencies. Its objective is mutual learning and knowledge management among partners, which will lead to a supportive policy environment and more effective programming on drought resilience and growth. The Resiliency Specialist shall be responsible for leading the achievement of two of the five Intermediate Results (IRs) under the Resilience Learning Project. These include:

- Facilitate the adoption of resilience-enhancing technologies and innovations; and,
- Develop and test models for integrating humanitarian and development assistance. The Resiliency Specialist shall receive technical direction from the project Chief of Party, and receive technical support and guidance from the project Technical Director and others based at MSI headquarters. This will be a full time, five year position based in Kenya that will involve intensive travel within the East Africa region.

Under these IRs, the Resiliency Specialist will provide intellectual leadership involving the topic of "resiliency" as currently defined/understood by the international development community, and particularly those working in the Horn of Africa; plan and oversee the work of short-term technical assistance providers related achievement of the two IRs noted above; liaise closely with other project senior staff responsible of achievement of the other three project IRs; build collaborative relationships with USAID and other resiliency stakeholders, including participating governments, development partners, NGOs, and the private sector; and interact professionally with senior USAID Mission staff, partner organizations, government officials, and other project stakeholders.

Further details on the position including the qualification requirements will be available at http://ch-tbe-taleo-net.careerliaison.com/CH08/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=MSI&cws=2&rid=3774&CL_SOURCE=6836975&jtsrc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ereliefweb%2Eint%2Fw%2Fres%2Ens%2Fdoc212%3FOpenForm&jtsrcid=11579&jtrfr=http%3A%2F%2Freliefweb%2Eint%2Fjob%2F590719%2Fresiliency%2Dspecialist%2Dresilience%2Dlearning%2Dproject%2Dusaid%2Dkenya.

Capacity Development Advisor: Disaster Risk Reduction – Civilian Technical Assistance Programme (Closing date: August 23, 2013)



Afghanistan is a landlocked country where the climate is mostly dry with extremes of cold winters and hot summers. Nature's destructive patterns routinely affect and wreak havoc in the country. In the last ten years Afghanistan has also been suffering a prolonged drought, which affects over 6 million Afghans mainly in the southern and eastern regions. Other common hazards include agricultural pests, such as caterpillars and locusts, and dust and sandstorms.

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is looking for a dynamic and result oriented Capacity Development Advisor - Disaster Risk Reduction to review the existing Laws/Acts related to disaster risk management (DRM) and draft new Laws/Acts as per the need of the country. This assignment involves supporting a government-led capacity development programme within the ANDMA. Under the supervision of the Director General ANDMA, the successful candidate will provide technical advice, management support and technical inputs required to allow the ANDMA to achieve its objective of having sufficiently qualified and trained employees. He/she will be expected to work with and through his/her Afghan national counterpart, and to progressively transfer skills and responsibilities to them. More specifically, he/she will

- Review prevailing Laws to avoid duplications of responsibility and develop a clear and specific DRM Law for Afghanistan; Complete and incorporate early warning strategy/mechanism as part of the Disaster Management/Risk Reduction Law/Act;
- Review status of procedures for disaster/emergency response and preparedness and related materials of the country and countries from the region; and
- Review modalities and purpose a mechanism to effectively use the National Emergency Fund. This position does not involve management or line responsibilities.

Please visit <http://reliefweb.int/job/501189/capacity-development-advisor-disaster-risk-reduction> for more information regarding this vacancy.



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/drought-online/documents/detail/en/c/2693/>.



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://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>