

## Special Topic

August 2016 Issue

### First Review of Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals



Six months after the historic event of the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, evidence abounds that the SDGs are coming to life. On the occasion of the United Nations' [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF 2016), voluntary and thematic reviews of progress already made toward the Goals were undertaken.

The UN's inaugural report on the SDGs, [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016](#), is a first accounting of where the world stands at the start of our collective journey to 2030. The report analyses selected indicators from the global indicator framework for which data are available as examples to highlight some critical gaps and challenges. Among the achievements illustrated in the report is the "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" (INDCs) submitted by parties to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Many parties identified drought as the top climate hazard and proposed various drought adaptation works in their plans for climate action.

The UN Development Group also released a report, [The Sustainable Development Goals are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support](#). By featuring 16 country stories, the report illustrates how the 2030 Agenda has started to be integrated into visions, strategies and plans at national, sub-national and local levels. Part of the good practices observed in the countries' early efforts to mainstream the SDGs is risk-informed and adaptive approach. Identifying risks and emerging issues such as climate change, economic crises and pandemics will be critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the report recommended the early efforts to ensure that the national development plan addresses the adverse impacts of climate change and considers management of anticipated climate risks, including drought.

Meanwhile, the new [SDG Index and Dashboards](#) created for the first time a measure of the SDG starting point for 2015 at the country level. It will help every country, including drought prone countries, identify priorities for early action, understand the key implementation challenges and identify the gaps that must be closed in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

#### Contents

Special Topic: First Review of Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals	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.

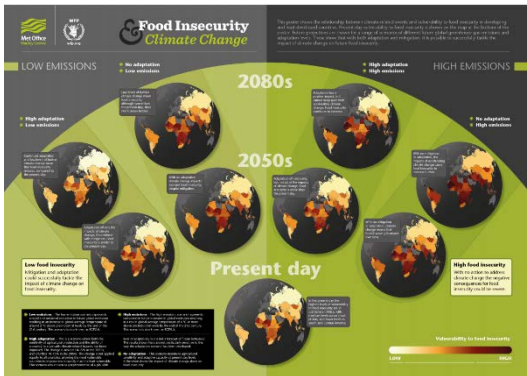
AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

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



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Food Insecurity and Climate Change Vulnerability Index

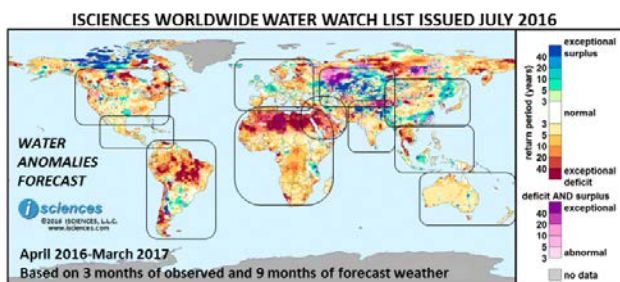


The Food Insecurity and Climate Change Vulnerability map, produced by the UN World Food Programme and the Met Office Hadley Centre, illustrates how strong adaptation and mitigation efforts will prevent the worst impacts of climate change on hunger globally and help make people less vulnerable to food insecurity. Zero Hunger cannot be achieved without urgent and ambitious action to address the challenge of climate change. The website allows users to explore how different scenarios of global greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change could change the geography of food insecurity in developing and least-developed countries.

The website maps an index of vulnerability to food insecurity at national level. This is calculated based on exposure to climate-related hazards such as droughts, sensitivity of agricultural production to those hazards, and the capacity of countries to cope with climate-related food shocks. By altering the levels of future global greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., low, medium and high) and/or the levels of adaptation (i.e., high, low and none), users can see how vulnerability to food insecurity changes over time in different countries up to the 2080s, and compare and contrast these different future scenarios with each other and the present day.

Please visit <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/food-insecurity-index/> to learn more about the Food Insecurity and Climate Change Vulnerability Index.

### ISciences - Global Water Monitor & Forecast



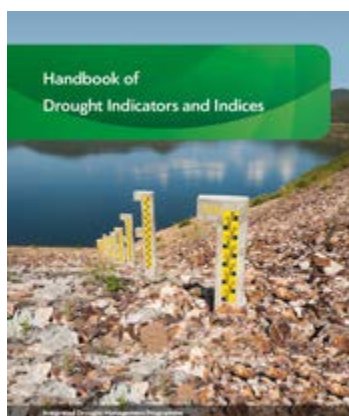
ISciences monitors fresh water resources worldwide and forecasts changes with the Water Security Indicator Model (WSIM). Each month, WSIM documents current anomalies and provides forecasts with lead times from 1-9 months worldwide and regionally in the form of 'Water Watch List.' Since April 2011, WSIM has been producing data, visualizations and reports to identify regions with significant water anomalies, either deficits or surpluses relative to historically expected quantities using a 1950-2009 baseline period.

WSIM expresses anomalies in terms of return period. This describes how rare the surpluses (increasing intensity of blue) or deficits (increasing intensity of red) are relative to expectations. The model's historical data starting in 1950 allows to assess current and forecast anomalies in historical context. For example, Brazil is not typically considered drought prone. However, the past 15 years are a clear departure from past trends with frequent large exceptional droughts. The 2014 drought forced water rationing in Sao Paulo, required extensive use of imported natural gas to generate electricity that would normally have been provided by hydropower, and significantly reduced production of several agricultural products.

For more information on ISciences and its monthly WSIM water watch list, please visit <http://www.isciences.com/>.



## Handbook of Drought Indicators and Indices



This handbook covers some of the most commonly used drought indicators/indices that are being applied across drought-prone regions, with the goal of advancing monitoring, early warning and information delivery systems in support of risk-based drought management policies and preparedness plans. The handbook is aimed at those who want to generate indicators and indices themselves, as well as for those who simply want to obtain and use products that are generated elsewhere.

It is intended for use by general drought practitioners (for example, meteorological/hydrological services and ministries, resource managers and other decision-makers at various levels) and aims to serve as a starting point, showing which indicators/indices are available and being put into practice around the world. In addition, the handbook has been designed with drought risk management processes in mind. Please note that this publication is a living document which does not aim to recommend a 'best' set of indicators and indices. Rather, the choice of indicators/indices is based on the specific characteristics of droughts most closely associated with the impacts of concern to the stakeholders.

The full report is available for download at [http://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/wmo\\_1173\\_en.pdf](http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1173_en.pdf).

## Introducing the Transnational Climate Impacts Index: Indicators of Country-level Exposure – Methodology Report



This paper produced by the Stockholm Environment Institute presents a framework for analysing countries' exposure to transnational climate impacts – which occur in one country as a result of climate change in another place. Climate change mitigation is widely regarded as a global problem, but climate change impacts and adaptation are typically described as regional or local issues. This reflects the location-specific nature of physical impacts, but it fails to recognize the many interconnections among countries and regions, particularly in an increasingly globalized economy, e.g., droughts in the upper basin reduce water availability in delta cities; drought-decimated harvests in producer countries affect commodity price acutely in import-dependent countries thousands of miles away.

This paper introduces a new framework for examining climate change impacts and adaptation needs from an international perspective. Transnational climate impacts reach across borders, affecting one country – and requiring adaptation there – as a result of climate change or climate-induced extreme events in another country. Analyses carried out in the report include the countries' exposure to climate/drought-related water risk.

The full report is available for download at <https://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/SEI-WP-2016-07-Introducing-TCI-Index.pdf>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### Regional Training Course on Combating Desertification (23-27 August, 2016; Konya-Mersin, Turkey)



Each year Turkey's General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion organizes an International Training Course on Combating Desertification. This year, the training will take place from 23-27 August in Konya-Mersin for experts from Central Asia and the Balkans with

the support of Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency. As a predominantly arid and semi-arid country, Turkey has become a leader in land management especially in areas vulnerable to drought. The training course covers technical issues such as causes of desertification/land degradation, seed and seedling production, forestation, erosion control and participatory approach with the aim of increasing the level of regional collaboration among the countries of the region and enabling each country in the region to share the technical experience.

The training course is open for representatives from selected Balkan States and Central Asia Caucasus countries. The course has been developed for decision makers, forest engineers and NGO's involved in the management of environmental problems related to desertification, land degradation, afforestation, erosion control and forestry. The course will provide the participants with an opportunity to exchange information/knowledge and experience on combating desertification and promote effective cooperation and transfer of technology and know-how on the fields.

Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/media-center/MediaNews/Pages/highlightdetail.aspx?HighlightID=458> for further details on the regional training course.

### AIDF Global Disaster Relief Summit (7-8 September, 2016; Washington, D.C., USA)



**AID & INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FORUM**  
Building Global Partnerships In  
Disaster Relief, Food & Water Security

The Aid & International Development Forum's (AIDF) annual Global Disaster Relief Summit is the world leading gathering for international humanitarian experts involved with delivering aid relief and resilience programmes with an aim to address challenges related to enabling quicker and better response during crisis and catastrophes. The summit strives to

enable quicker and better response during crisis and catastrophes in a more effective, sustainable and cost-efficient way.

The Global Disaster Relief Summit 2016 will focus on best practice in logistics and transport, procurement & supply chain management, partnerships & financing, security & logistical challenges in the Middle East, emergency communications & operations. The summit will provide participants with an opportunity to hear the latest trends in relief and crisis management based on the recent experiences such as Nepal earthquake and El Niño drought and floods; discover new innovations and practical solutions; compare their approaches; benefit from first-hand insight from peers and partners; and build long lasting partnerships and more effective collaborations.

More information concerning the Global Disaster Relief Summit 2016 is available at <http://disaster-relief.aidforum.org/>.





## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### Policy Advisor on Food & Agriculture – Oxfam GB (Closing date: 7 August 2016)



This is an amazing opportunity to make waves in Oxfam, as the person leading the Oxfam GB's policy advocacy on food and agriculture, working with colleagues in more than 30 countries, both north and south, as part of Oxfam's GROW campaign. This year, our team will be working alongside some of the poorest farmers on the planet, standing up for those most impacted by drought and floods, and taking on powerful interests to ensure that everyone on the planet can grow and buy enough to eat.

The Policy Advisor will play a central role in e in Oxfam GB's Food and Climate Policy and Campaigns Team, undertaking high quality political and policy analysis on issues relevant to the GROW campaign (particularly agriculture investment and climate change). He/she will design and implement advocacy strategies to influence decision-makers and build global movements for change on priority campaign issues, and Work with country and regional colleagues to build a global movement on food and climate change as part of Oxfam's Worldwide Influencing Network.

For more information concerning the position, please visit <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/policy-adviser---food--agriculture-cap0220/4453/description/>.

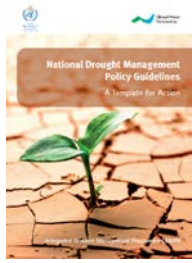
### Consultant for a Report on the Potential of Sustainable Land Management Practices – UNCCD (Closing date: 26 August 2016)



The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) was developed under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) with the goal to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD). The UNCCD/SPI is currently seeking a qualified institution or a consortium that will lead the elaboration of a report on the potential of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices to create synergies between addressing DLDD and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

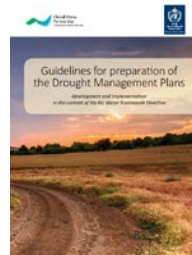
An assessment process is needed that extracts, evaluates and synthesizes knowledge on SLM and restoration/rehabilitation practices and their potential to contribute to land-based climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the Report should assess synergies and trade-offs of SLM strategies regarding their potential to simultaneously address DLDD, climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as identifying pathways to create an enabling environment for adoption of SLM.

Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/The-Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/43%20TOR%20Consultancy%20on%20SLM%20synergies%20in%20addressing%20%20land%20degradation%20and%20climate%20change.pdf> for further details on the position including the application requirements.



### 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>