

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



August 2017 Issue

Special Topic

Thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP13)



Established in 1994, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention's 195 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects

of drought.

The Thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to UNCCD will be held in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China from 6-16 September 2017. The main theme of the conference is "Join hands to combat desertification and promote the welfare of mankind". This year's conference will be participated by around 1,400 representatives from 196 parties to the UNCCD, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations. It will be organized under four basic principles, namely:

- **Innovation:** to use the "Internet plus" and modern technologies such as sound, light, and electricity to design the conference with global and domestic characteristics;
- **Frugality:** to improve the facilities and equipment based on the existing resources according to the requirements of the conference, in order to hold a magnificent yet simple event;
- **Openness:** to welcome more countries to bring their cutting-edge technologies and products, and help the world understand China and connect China with the world; and
- **Green:** to uphold the principles of low-carbon, high-efficient and green development in venue placement, event organization, participation, transportation, accommodation, catering and event publicity.

At the end of the conference, the Ordos Declaration will be released, with focus on the Parties' general consensus, ecological civilization, as well as China's development path of innovation, coordination, green, openness and sharing to better address desertification, land degradation and drought. Please visit <http://en.goordos.com/> for further details on UNCCD COP13.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [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

Global Landscapes Forum



The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) was created in 2013 by merging two earlier global events — Forest Day and Agriculture Day – and is serving as the world's largest and only science-led multi-sectoral platform designed to produce and disseminate knowledge and accelerate action to build more resilient, climate friendly, diverse, equitable and productive landscapes. The GLF platforms connects diverse stakeholders; provides learning opportunities; gathers and shares knowledge; and accelerates action to produce positive, sustainable impact.

Landscape approaches embrace compromise amongst competing social, environmental, political and economic demands to produce multiple benefits from limited resources. The GLF utilizes this approach around five broad themes; Restoration; Financing; Rights; Measuring Progress; and Food and Livelihoods. The GLF has already served as a platform for government and corporate pledges to restore 148 million hectares of degraded lands in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It aims to raise that figure to 400 million hectares by 2020.

More details on the GLF and its activities are available at <http://www.landscapes.org/>.

Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network



Founded in 2009, the Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network is brought together by a common concern for the science of, and social responses to, climate change and their impacts including drought. Thematic foci of the network include building scientific evidence related to climate change, assessing impacts of climate

change in divergent ecosystems, examining the human impacts on climate change and climate change impacts on human, and identify options of technical, political and social responses to climate change.

The network undertake various activities under these themes, including, among others:

- Annual conference attended by leaders and emerging scholars in the field, to share their work, discuss key issues in the field, and build relationships;
- Issuance of the International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses and the Climate Change Book Imprint to set new standards in participatory knowledge creation and scholarly publication; and
- Network member updates on conferences, publications and news from the fields through video presentations, monthly email newsletters, etc.

For more information the concerning Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network, please visit <http://on-climate.com/>.



DIMA Connect



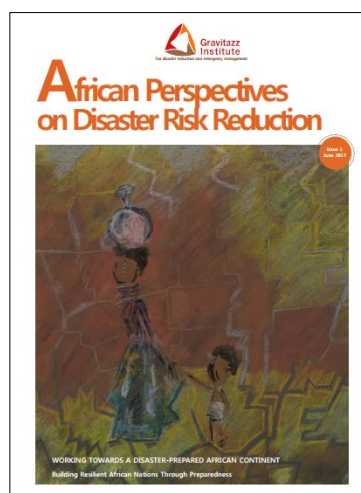
DIMA Connect is a 'one stop shop on disaster reduction and emergency management in Africa. It provides a platform for information-sharing, skills market, skills exchange, events happening in different parts of the continent and the world, training, interaction and best practices from an African perspective. It is a platform from which Africans in the field can discuss ideas, share experiences and find opportunities. Its main goal is to connect Africans

to each other and create a space for regular interaction on various topics related to disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Disaster in this case is not limited to natural disasters but also to emergency relief operations of all kinds, including drought.

The idea of the platform originated from the position that even though Africans are involved in disaster management at different levels and with different organisations across the world, there is no structural/strategic platform for growth, for sharing, for showcasing of experience, best practices and for publication of these experiences. DIMA Connect will be a repository on everything disaster-related for the purposes of knowledge management on the African continent with a cartographic representation for each and every country. This can be shared or even donated if and when necessary. Members to DIMA Connect through Facebook, WhatsApp group, etc., would have exclusive advantages in accessing some of this information. It shall connect to other sites with similar goals as part of the world wide disaster management web.

For more information concerning DIMA Connect, please visit <http://www.joburgcitynetwork.com/show/dima-connect-johannesburg-gauteng-2>.

African Perspectives on Disaster Risk Reduction (Issue 1: June 2017)



This document is the first edition of the quarterly series presents selected articles, representing expert views, experiences and best practices in disaster risk reduction (DRR) drawing from the Gravitazz Institute's extensive network of experts on the African continent. The purpose the series is to provide compelling research-based knowledge on DRR in order to inform the scientific community, media, policy and decision-makers as well as the broader public on pressing topics and future research areas in this particular field.

The peer-reviewed series seeks to spur knowledge exchange through evidence-based, policy-relevant and applied research and to address pressing questions relating to disaster risks, environmental hazards and climate change. Issue 1 of the African Perspectives on Disaster Risk Reduction series showcases a selection of four papers, which address the impacts of droughts and floods, disaster resilience, and the role of Technical Vocational Education and Training in disaster management.

The full report is available for download at <http://gravitazzcontinental.com/wp-content/uploads/largeFiles/Gravitazz%20Publication%201-African%20Perspectives%20on%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction.pdf>.



Event and Training Opportunities

Resilience 2017 (20-23 August 2017; Stockholm, Sweden)



Following previous Resilience conferences held on triennial basis since 2008, Resilience 2017 will discuss resilience as a key lens for biosphere-based sustainability science. The conference will reflect back on the scientific progress made, and aim to set out exciting future directions for research on resilience. A main focus will be on global sustainability challenges and opportunities, which today are heavily influenced by the speed, scale and connectivity of the Anthropocene. Five major conference themes include:

- **Social-ecological transformations for sustainability**, focusing on the frontier of deliberate transformations to sustainability by exploring solutions compatible with both people and planet;
- **Connectivity and cross-scale dynamics in the Anthropocene**, exploring global complex interactions, effects and activities that in the context of increasing biosphere-disconnect, aim to reconnect people to the planet;
- **Multi-level governance and biosphere stewardship**, exploring how people in various contexts can strengthen the capacity of the biosphere to support human wellbeing in the face of change;
- **Approaches and methods for understanding social-ecological system dynamics**, focusing on inter-/trans-disciplinary scientific approaches that can support research/understanding of social-ecological interactions; and
- **Cross-cutting perspectives on resilience**, explore a number of cross-topic themes, each illustrating recent developments in resilience thinking.

Please visit <http://resilience2017.org/> for more information on Resilience 2017.

Adaptation Futures 2018 (18-21 June 2018; Cape Town, South Africa)



Adaptation Futures is the biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). It is the premiere international climate change adaptation conference where people from countries around the world go to connect, learn and inspire. Adaptation Futures 2018 provides an opportunity for international networking and dialogue with more than 1000 participants from academia, government, civil society and business, all aiming to take climate adaptation forward. Adaptation Futures 2018 aims to use our setting on the African continent to attract more African and Global South delegates than ever before to the conference and forefront developing country adaptation contexts.

Adaptation Futures 2018 aims to facilitate dialogue between research and government, civil society, international agencies and business, continue the shift from problem diagnosis to solutions and innovation, and link adaptation action to sustainable development, investment and planning.

For more information on Adaptation Futures 2018, please visit <http://adaptationfutures2018.capetown/>.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Consultants: Drought Vulnerability and Impact Assessment for Tunisia – International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (Closing date: 2 August 2017)



Drought is a worldwide threat to food and water security and is a constant presence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Current droughts reveal the gaps and limitations in drought management in the region. In this context, an effort is ongoing to set up the Regional Drought Management System (RDMS) for MENA in order to establish a regional drought monitoring and early warning system and associated information delivery systems, provide assessment of drought vulnerabilities and impacts, and develop actions and measures to mitigate and respond to drought impacts.

Under the framework of MENA RDMS, the purpose of this assignment is to carry out a vulnerability and impact assessment for Tunisia through a mixed/ combined methods approach. Envisaged tasks under this assignment include: 1) assemble/share primary and secondary data on the impacts of past droughts at different levels and in various sectors; 2) assess underlying drought vulnerability through literature review and stakeholder consultations; and 3) assemble/share existing drought risk management policies/strategies and adaptive capacity of societies, regions and sectors.

For further details regarding the position, please visit <http://www.biosaline.org/vacancies/consultant-drought-vulnerability-and-impact-assessment-tunisia>.

Regional Advocacy Coordinator for East Africa – Action Against Hunger USA (Closing date: 12 August 2017)

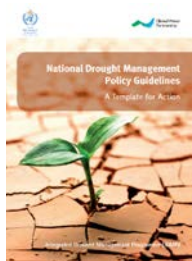


Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organization committed to ending world hunger. The organization helps malnourished children whilst providing communities with access to safe water and sustainable solutions to hunger. Action Against Hunger USA is currently seeking a Regional Advocacy Coordinator for East Africa, who will be responsible for developing, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Action Against Hunger Regional Advocacy Strategy for East Africa as part of the Action Against Hunger International Advocacy Strategy and with the support of the wider Action Against

Hunger International advocacy team. Key activities in his/her role will include:

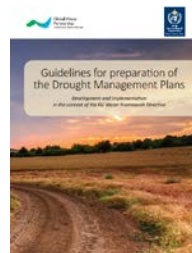
- Horn of Africa Drought advocacy
- Strategy development and implementation
- Technical assistance and Capacity building
- Grant management.

Please visit <https://action-against-hunger.workable.com/jobs/527266> for more information concerning the position.



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/>
 African Flood and Drought Monitor: <http://stream.princeton.edu/AWCM/WEBPAGE/interface.php?locale=en>
 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/>
 Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/africa>
 Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>
 Relief Web Africa: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/services-centres/climate-services-centre/>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>
 FEWS NET Central Asia: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>
 Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/>
 Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>
 Relief Web Asia: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>