



December 2011 Issue

Special Topic

IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events/Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation



In parallel to the ongoing climate change negotiations at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is currently leading the development of a Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). SREX is a comprehensive assessment of the role of climate change in altering characteristics of extreme events; and

of experience with a wide range of options used by institutions, organizations, and communities to reduce exposure and vulnerability, and improve resilience, to climate extremes.

With regard to drought, There is medium confidence that droughts will intensify in the 21st century in some seasons and areas, due to reduced precipitation and/or increased evapotranspiration. This applies to regions including southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, central Europe, central North America, Central America and Mexico, northeast Brazil, and southern Africa. Elsewhere there is overall low confidence because of inconsistent projections of drought changes (dependent both on model and dryness index). Definitional issues, lack of observational data, and the inability of models to include all the factors that influence droughts preclude stronger confidence than medium in drought projections.

The Summary for Policymakers of the SREX is available at <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX>. The full report will become available in February, 2012.

Drought Adaptation Forum Reports and Presentations

A summary report and all the presentation slides from the **AADP's First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum** (June 14-15, 2011) are now available at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/AADP-Forum-11.html>.

Presentation slides from the **ADDN's Fourth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum** (October 13-14, 2011) are also available for download at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/drought-workshop-11.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.

For more information, please visit <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>.

Resources and Networking Opportunities

World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies



World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) is an established global network of soil and water conservation specialists, contributing to sustainable land management (SLM). WOCAT's goal is to prevent and reduce land degradation, desertification and drought through SLM technologies and their implementation approaches. The network provides tools that allow SLM specialists to identify fields and needs of action, share their valuable knowledge in land management, that assist them in their search for appropriate SLM technologies and approaches, and that support them in making decisions in the field and at the planning level and in up-scaling identified best practices.

WOCAT supports innovation and decision-making processes in SLM by: 1) building up and coordinating a global network of SLM specialists; 2) developing standardized tools and methods for knowledge management and decision support; 3) managing a global knowledge base on SLM and presenting the information through different media; and 4) enhancing capacity of involved actors (research, training and education). The most important WOCAT outputs comprise:

- A global online database system on SLM practices, including 310 SLM technologies and 170 SLM approaches;
- National and regional maps of degradation and conservation; and
- Books brochures and manuals for tools (knowledge management and decision support).

Please visit <http://www.wocat.net/?id=1> for more information on WOCAT and its knowledge resources.

Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation



Adaptation to climate change and variability is a growing priority for development agencies, governments and vulnerable communities. However, capacity and awareness are often limited, and experiences have yet to be widely shared. In response to this information gap, the UNDP, along with the UNFCCC, UNEP, the World Bank and specialized UN agencies including FAO, launched the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) in 2007, an interactive online portal for sharing adaptation knowledge with improved availability and accessibility of knowledge for adaptation.

The ALM represents a collaborative, global learning process, with leadership, facilitation and strong participation by Southern institutions. The ALM Database system allows users to add text, upload documents, include links and add multi-media. The online ALM knowledge sharing platform features good practice and practical guidance contributed by users based on experience from the ground, including: Case Studies that offer good practices and lessons learned from developing and implementing adaptation projects and initiatives; Country Profiles that help capture current adaptation projects and initiatives in a particular country; Guidance and Tools that address topics such as mainstreaming climate change, sectoral policies, and monitoring and evaluation; Teaching and Training Materials, and more.

Please visit <http://www.adaptationlearning.net/> for further details regarding the ALM and its Database system.

Disaster Risk Reduction Project Portal for Asia and the Pacific



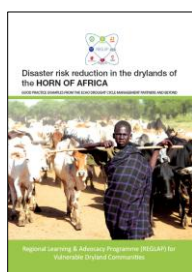
The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Project Portal has been developed by the ISDR Asia Partnership on Disaster Reduction to collect information on all multi-country and national level DRR projects and initiatives in Asia and the Pacific implemented since 2005, with an objective to assist in setting coherent regional strategy and programming on DRR through improved information exchange. The Portal:

- Helps effective planning, programming, cooperation, and collaboration of DRR projects and programmes in the region by facilitating project analysis to identify gaps and overlaps;
- Is essential for governments, organizations and donors involved in implementing and supporting DRR projects and programmes in the region; and
- Is a useful resource for academics, students and the media for obtaining an overview of DRR projects being implemented in the region.

Users are able to search information from the database of over 900 projects by hazards (including drought hazard), themes, countries, implementing organizations, donors, etc., and develop customized graphs, maps and matrix reports to get an idea on the typical trends on DRR implementation in the region and identify some broad gaps.

Please visit <http://www.drrprojects.net/drrp/drrpp/home> for more information on the DRR Project Portal.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Drylands of the Horn of Africa: Good Practice Examples from the ECHO Drought Cycle Management Partners and Beyond



In the drylands of the Horn and East Africa a consortium of NGOs are steadily building up the resilience and adaptive capacities of pastoralist communities coping with repeated episodes of drought and disaster. As partners in European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO)'s Drought Cycle Management (DCM) programme, these agencies are successfully identifying how Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) can work in practice in unforgiving dryland environments—where historically development efforts have been limited. In this first newsletter, produced by Oxfam's Regional Learning and Advocacy Project (REGLAP), selected examples of good practice in DRR have been brought together for sharing across the ECHO DCM partners and with other interested agencies.

By presenting the specific outputs from the programme practices on the ground, the document demonstrates that DRR is capable of building preparedness and viable responses amongst dryland communities, pushing them higher up the development and investment agendas, and ensuring that the livelihoods of these millions of highly productive people can be maintained and expanded for the benefit of East Africa and the Horn as a whole.

The full document is available for download at http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/REGLAP%20NEWSLETTER%202011c.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

5th International Perspective on Water Resources & the Environment (Marrakech, Morocco; January 4-7, 2012)



5th International Perspective on Water Resources & the Environment (IPWE) will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, on January 4-7, 2012 by the Environmental & Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The themes of the conference include, among others:

- Water Supply, Sustainability, and Sanitation – water pricing, desalination, innovative treatment technology, etc.;
- Flood and Drought Management – forecasting, early warning system, hydro-informatics, etc.;
- Water Resources Management – river basin management, urban watershed management, etc.;
- Integrated Planning and Management – integrated surface water-ground water management/modeling, etc.;
- Climate Change Impacts – weather modification, global climate change and effect on the environment, etc.;
- Ecology and the Environment – wetlands restoration, ecological modeling, water quality planning, etc.;
- Sustainable Development – sustainable rural/urban development, energy production and management, etc.;
- Safety and Security Issues – water management for food security and sustainable rural development, etc.;
- Geographic Information System – hydro-informatics, GIS applications in environmental disciplines, etc.; and
- Regional Case Studies (Specific to Africa and Arab Regions) – flood and drought management, etc.

For more information on the 5th IPWE, please visit <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ipwe2012/>.

12th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Environment and Security (Washington, D.C., USA; January 18-20, 2012)



The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) is a not-for-profit organization based in the United States, dedicated to improving the scientific basis for environmental decision-making. NCSE's 12th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Environment and Security will be held in Washington,

D. C., on January 18-20, 2012. The conference will focus on five interconnected themes: 1) Climate Disruption & Security; 2) Food Security; 3) Energy Security; 4) Access to Water and Natural Resources; and 5) Environment & Public Health Security. It will address connections between these themes, with sessions on topics such as the impact of energy demand on food production and prices; food supplies affected by a changing climate, drought or flooding, and non-sustainable water usage; mass population movements caused by food scarcity, disease, or sea level rise; and integrated regional modeling of all environmental variables impacting security and other related topics.

Reduced Arctic summer sea ice (climate change); water supplies to central Chile and droughts in India (water and climate change); deforestation driven by energy needs in Uganda and much of sub-Saharan Africa (energy security); civil unrest around food prices in Indonesia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal, Uzbekistan, and Yemen (food security); Harmful Algal Blooms in Puget Sound (health security); and environmental aspects of U.S. Homeland Security

(water and health). These are just some of many regional case studies that emphasize the important reality of these issues and provide lessons to decision-makers at all levels. The conference will explore such case studies throughout.

Further details on the conference is available at <http://www.environmentandsecurity.org/>.

EuroGEOSS Conference 2012: Advancing the Vision for the GEOSS (Madrid, Spain; January 24-27, 2012)



EuroGEOSS is a large scale integrated project in the Seventh Framework programme of the European Commission. The project builds an initial operating capacity for a European Environment Earth Observation System in the three strategic areas of drought, forestry and biodiversity. It then undertakes the research necessary to develop this further into an advanced operating capacity that provides access not just to data but also to analytical models made understandable and useable by scientists from different disciplinary domains.

EuroGEOSS is hosting a conference on information systems and multi-disciplinary applications of science and technology in Madrid, Spain, on January 25-27, 2012. The Conference will provide a forum for developers, users and decision-makers working with advanced multi-disciplinary information systems to improve science and decisions for complex societal issues. Areas of interest for the Conference include:

- Information systems for supporting multi-disciplinary research
- Data quality and provenance across disciplines
- Information systems and modeling for biodiversity, drought, forestry and related societal benefit areas
- Case studies of multi-disciplinary applications and outcomes
- Impacts and analyses of societal benefits of earth observation information

For more information regarding the conference, please visit <http://www.eurogeoss.eu/conferences/Pages/2012.aspx>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Call for Letter of Intent – 2012 Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan for the Horn of Africa Region (Closing Date: December 4, 2011)



The activities of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO) in the field of Disaster Preparedness are to ensure preparedness for risks of natural disasters or comparable circumstances and use a suitable rapid early-warning and intervention system. *The 2012 Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan for the Horn of Africa* was set up in this context by DG ECHO, with the objective to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in local communities through support to strategies to mitigate and respond to drought, with the overall financial allocation of EUR 20 Million. This objective will be achieved primarily by:

- Fostering appropriate and sustainable preparedness activities which are coordinated with local and national public institutions, and which can be easily replicated in other parts of the region and beyond.
- Reinforcing local response capacities and mechanisms.
- Focusing on the areas most exposed to frequent droughts and with less coping capacities.
- Targeting the most vulnerable communities and categories of population with the lowest coping capacities, using bottom-up participatory methods and relevant local materials/resources. Specific attention will be given to projects addressing gender and children specific needs in line with DG ECHO's overall priority related to support the most vulnerable populations.
- Supporting small-scale mitigation activities which have a demonstrative, complementary purpose and proven impact, and which can be easily replicated in other parts of the region and beyond.
- Supporting actions related to build an evidence-based advocacy and awareness strategy as well as its implementation.

The duration of an action should be maximum 18 months, which can start at the earliest on 1 January 2012. Projects are to be implemented in one or several of the following eligible countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda. Cross border actions between Ethiopia and Somaliland can be envisaged. The awarding of a grant agreement in the framework of the Action Plan will follow 2 steps in terms of documents to be submitted to DG ECHO: 1) Call for the submittal of letters of intent; and 2) Direct and selected invitation to submit a full application (e-Single Form) for those selected after the analysis of the letters of intent submitted. The deadline for the receipt of the letter of intent in electronic formats is December 4, 2011. For further information regarding the selection criteria and application procedure, please visit http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/DG%20ECHO%20Operational%20Recommendations%20DRRAP%20HoA.pdf

Regional Emergency Support Officer, East and Horn of Africa – Christian Aid (Closing Date: December 7, 2011)



The East and Horn of Africa has experienced drought over the last few years and is now facing a severe crisis. Christian Aid is responding on a large scale, over 4 countries – expanding the programmes and enlarging the teams. Regional Emergency Support Officer will support these teams by shouldering a range of different programme support, admin and financial responsibilities.

In particular, he/she will monitor grant allocations, checking that funding from different sources is assigned correctly. he/she will analyze and interpret reports, asking whether objectives have been achieved and raising any questions or concerns with the Emergency Programme Officers. Throughout, he/she will regularly update databases, electronic records and our intranet; and you'll always keep a close eye on budgets. He/she will also keep up to date on policy discussions providing support to the programme teams and advocacy staff on the latest developments and debates. He/she will be required to travel extensively in the region supporting country teams and ensure good communications within the team ensuring regular updates are circulated.

To apply for this post, please download an application pack from http://www.christianaid.org.uk/aboutus/jobs/ukandireland/resoeha_231_job.aspx and email your completed UK & Ireland application form, answering the 4 competency based questions, to: recruitment@christian-aid.org (quoting the reference number).

Call for Proposal – Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (Closing Date: December 15, 2011)



The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) is a US\$120m private sector fund, backed by some of the biggest names in development finance and hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. The aim of the Fund is to encourage private sector companies to compete for investment support for their new and innovative business ideas. Since the launch of the AECF, seven rounds of competition have been held and 39 projects awarded funding in different parts of Africa. Currently three new competitions are open for application:

- *Agribusiness Africa Window* is calling for proposals that combine commercial viability with development impact. Through the provision of grant and repayable grant funding, the AECF Agribusiness window is seeking to promote risk-taking and innovation to encourage established businesses to extend their core activities in ways that create opportunities for the rural poor.
- *South Sudan Window* is calling for proposals that helps transform agribusiness in South Sudan or support the agribusiness value chain.
- *Renewable Energy and Adaptation to Climate Technologies Window* is calling for business ideas that transform rural energy supply or the ways in which smallholder farmers can adapt to climate change. *Inter alia*, The window is keen to encourage business ideas that: (i) demonstrate both adaptation together with low carbon benefits and/or adaptation with underpinning financial services; and (ii) take place in particularly vulnerable ecological zones.

Please visit http://www.aecfafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=100001 for more information on the AECF and different grant windows.

Researcher in Climate Science and Applications – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Climate Center (Closing Date: December 25, 2011)

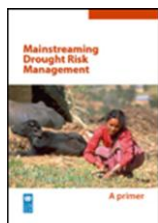


Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Climate Center was established in 2005 with the mandate to provide climate information services to the 21 APEC member economies to promote human security and protect life and property from hazards associated with extreme climate events. APEC Climate Center is planning on hiring researchers in climate science and application areas to expand the areas of research and services to cater to wider socio-economic needs and interests. The positions will cover broad range of research areas including:

- Assessment of regional climate change scenarios and detection of long term changes of various weather events (drought, heavy rain, tropical cyclones, etc.) based on past observations and model simulations, understanding of uncertainty in the climate change projections.
- Analysis of climate information (historic records, current observations, predictions at various time scales) and translate it into quantitative information about impacts in various sectors such as agriculture, water resources, health, natural resources, environmental management, economic development etc.
- Application of climate information in climate sensitive sectors (agriculture, water, health, economics etc) to minimize climate risk, to help APEC member countries' plan for adverse and beneficial climate events, to allocate resources, and to achieve development goals.

- Develop adaptation strategies and risk management opportunities to minimize socio-economic effect on APEC member countries.

More information on the position and the application procedure is available at <http://www.apcc21.net/en/about-us/opportunities/2011/11/21/position-for-researchers-in-climate-science-and-application-areas/>.



We are pleased to announce the release of the UNDP-DDC's new publication: **Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer** (English) and **Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif** (French). 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/dmc/>

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>