

Newsletter Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

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Special Topic

Resilience: New Utopia or New Tyranny?



Resilience is becoming influential in development and vulnerability reduction sectors such as social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Policy makers, donors and international development agencies are now increasingly referring to the term and exploring how to implement resilience into their programming.

Analysis by Canter for Social Protection and Institute of Development Studies on Reflection about the Potentials and Limits of the Concept of Resilience in Relation to Vulnerability Reduction Programmes suggests the following messages for policy makers and practitioners working on resilience:

- Resilience thinking can help better incorporate the social-ecological linkages between the vulnerable groups and ecological services on which they depend, thus contributing to a more adequate targeting of (future) vulnerable groups.
- By emphasizing the importance of scale and boundaries, resilience also offers some value for social protection in relation to 'spatial' processes, such as rural-urban, or trans-boundary, migration.
- Being a term that is used (loosely) in a large number of disciplines, resilience can be a very powerful integrating concept that brings different communities of practice together.
- Although it is appealing, one should not rely on the term too heavily. It is not a panacea and certainly not the new catch all for development. Instead, it needs to be considered more carefully, especially with the recognition of 'good' and 'bad' resilience.
- On the basis of this, practitioners need to step back, consider the objectives of their interventions and then consider how resilience may support or actually hinder these objectives.
- The politics of resilience (who are the winners who are the losers of 'resilience interventions') need to be recognised and integrated more clearly into the current discussion.

For more information, please visit
<http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/Wp405.pdf>.

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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

Using ICT for Adaptation Rather Than Mitigation to Climate Change



To date most efforts addressing climate change have been focused on mitigation strategies such as increasing energy efficiency and/or using renewable energy sources. The fundamental philosophy of mitigation strategies is that we can still prevent the onset of climate change or at least keep the global average temperature below 2°C to prevent more severe outcomes.

Unfortunately, despite the best intentions of many committed individuals and organizations, we are currently headed in the opposite direction. We are already committed to a 2°C average global temperature increase from the greenhouse gases that have been injected into the atmosphere since the dawn of the industrial age. Total carbon dioxide emissions now exceed 392 parts per million and are accelerating with the increased emissions from newly industrializing nations such as China and India.

Many scientists believe that we need to keep carbon dioxide emissions below 450 parts per million if we are to avoid catastrophic climate disruption. There appears to be little political will in most countries to address this challenge. In many ways, concern and addressing the reality of climate change has gone almost in the exact opposite direction to the severity of the problem. “Denialism” now largely shapes the debate about climate change.

For more information: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2012/com_icts_starnaud.pdf.

Turn down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided



This report provides a snapshot of recent scientific literature and new analyses of likely impacts and risks that would be associated with a 4° Celsius warming within this century. It is a rigorous attempt to outline a range of risks, focusing on developing countries and especially the poor. A 4°C world would be one of unprecedented heat waves, severe drought, and major floods in many regions, with serious impacts on ecosystems and associated services. But with action, a 4°C world can be avoided and we can likely hold warming below 2°C.

Without further commitments and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the world is likely to warm by more than 3°C above the preindustrial climate. Even with the current mitigation commitments and pledges fully implemented, there is roughly a 20 percent likelihood of exceeding 4°C by 2100. If they are not met, a warming of 4°C could occur as early as the 2060s. Such a warming level and associated sea-level rise of 0.5 to 1 meter, or more, by 2100 would not be the end point: a further warming to levels over 6°C, with several meters of sea-level rise, would likely occur over the following centuries. Thus, while the global community has committed itself to holding warming below 2°C to prevent “dangerous” climate change, and Small Island Developing states (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have identified global warming of 1.5°C as warming above which there would be serious threats to their own development and, in some cases, survival, the sum total of current policies—in place and pledged—will very likely lead to warming far in excess of these levels. Indeed, present emission trends put the world plausibly on a path toward 4°C warming within the century.

This report is not a comprehensive scientific assessment, as will be forthcoming from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2013–14 in its Fifth Assessment Report. It is focused on developing countries, while recognizing that developed countries are also vulnerable and at serious risk of major damages from climate change. A series of recent extreme events worldwide continue to highlight the vulnerability of not only the developing world but even wealthy industrialized countries.

Link: <http://climatechange.worldbank.org/content/climate-change-report-warns-dramatically-warmer-world-century>

Training Package on Natural Hazards and Early Warning for Training of Trainers' in Kenya



The overall aim of the training package is to increase awareness on natural hazards and disaster risk reduction (DRR) to key stakeholders with knowledge on disaster management to empower the actors to support their organizations in developing disaster resilient programs and projects.

This training manual is for use in DRR training aimed at building the capacity of sub-national government officials, NGOs, academia and other actors responsible for delivering, implementing, planning, researching or coordinating programs/policies and projects by raising awareness on DRR issues. The knowledge shared through this toolkit will help participants increase their knowledge of preparedness, response, recovery, rehabilitation and development projects programs that incorporate DRR concerns.

At the same time, the package also aims at raising awareness of DRR practitioners on various hazards in Kenya, their potential impacts, temporal and spatial distribution and possible mitigation measures

The full report is available for download at http://www.unisdr.org/files/26445_trainingpackageonnaturalhazardslow.pdf.

Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change: Experience from German Development Cooperation



This publication aims to pinpoint commonalities between disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change. It describes the experience gathered from German development cooperation's work in seven countries, which we see as a stimulus to aim for more effective and efficient interaction between the two fields and to work towards a significant reduction of risk in our partner countries by implementing risk management measures adapted to the respective conditions.

It features the following experiences: (i) Establishing the first urban early-warning system in Mozambique; (ii) Early warning and its many benefits, taking Nicaragua as an example; (iii) Risk analysis as the starting point for disaster risk management and food security in the context of climate change in Sri Lanka; (iv) Protection of coastal zones in Viet Nam; (v) Adaptation of urban infrastructure for disaster risk management in the context of a decentralisation project in Ethiopia; (vi) Integration into public budgetary planning in Peru; and (vii) Study on micro-insurance for weather-related hazards in the Caribbean.

Link:

<http://star-www.giz.de/fetch/a0k0m4Lg01o0QH00aX/giz2012-0275en-disaster-risk-management-climate-change.pdf>

Adaptation to Climate Change – Are Governments Prepared? – A Cooperative Audit



The recent joint report of the EUROSAI WGEA's Cooperative Audit on Adaptation to Climate Change shows that governments are not sufficiently prepared for the expected impacts of climate change and do not have adequate actions in place to deal with these unavoidable negative effects. The SAIs of Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia and Ukraine, and the Europeans Court of Auditors (ECA) were partners of the cooperative audit.

The national audits also revealed that most countries have prepared risk and vulnerability assessments of sufficient quality. Up to the time of concluding the national audits, only two of the eight countries had developed a comprehensive adaptation strategy. In most countries, weaknesses in coordination of adaptation are identified. There is also a general lack of cost estimates of impacts of climate change or adaptation measures in policy documents. This increases the risk that climate change and adaptation issues are not being sufficiently addressed in decision-making processes. It is recommended that:

- Countries use adequate risk and vulnerability assessments for policy-making and consider the impacts of likely climate change scenarios with higher expected temperature increases than the 2-degrees scenario
- Adaptation strategies and action plans should be developed and implemented at the government level
- the strategies should clearly specify the time-frame for implementation and the roles and responsibilities of all the parties involved
- Governments should ensure coordinated adaptation policy and its implementation
- Governments should provide knowledge, to the extent possible and meaningful, of the costs and benefits of climate change impacts and adaptation measures to ensure cost-effective implementation.

View full document: <http://www.eurosaiwgea.org/Environmental%20audits/Air/Documents>

Reducing Risk of Future Disasters: Priorities for Decision Makers



This report offers a strategic overview of the present and future potential of science to inform and enhance disaster risk reduction (DRR) over the next three decades. It considers disasters whose primary causes are natural hazards. Its focus is on disasters that occur in developing countries, but lessons from past disasters in developed countries are also drawn upon. It explores the diversity of impacts, and the extent to which these are, or should be, considered by decision makers but does not review in detail the scale of past and present disasters.

The hazards considered include those that are rapid-onset such as major earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and hurricanes and those that are slow-onset such as droughts and infectious disease epidemics. They are divided for ease into hydrometeorological (storms, floods and droughts), geophysical (earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and tsunami) and biological (disease outbreaks in human, plants and animals). While the focus is on those hazards that cause the majority of mortality and economic loss, the conclusions of the report are applicable to a wider range.

The work has involved the direct input and advice of some 200 independent leading experts and stakeholders. As such it presents an independent view, and does not represent the policies of the UK Government or any other government.

Link:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/foresight/docs/reducing-risk-management/12-1289-reducing-risks-of-future-disasters-report.pdf>

Event and Training Opportunities

Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: First Online Dialogue (Online; 27 August - 7 December, 2012)



This series of online dialogues aims to engage a wider range of stakeholders in the consultative process towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Join now to contribute your insights and complement the consultative meetings. As we head toward 2015, significant progress against the objectives, goals and priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters is being made. One example is the measurable progress in

the reduction in the number of deaths linked to hydro-meteorological hazards as a result of better understanding and improved preparedness and early warning systems.

The big question is what will happen in 2015, after the end date of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015? Even if global efforts to reduce disaster risk and reinforce resilience are accelerating, there are still many challenges in building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The accumulation of wealth and populations in disaster prone areas, climate variability, rapid urbanization, and the vulnerability of the poor are just a few issues to consider. Why an online consultation? The widest possible consultation is required on a post-2015 framework for disaster reduction. The views of governments, citizens, communities, private businesses, NGOs, specialists, and practitioners are important in the design and scope of a new framework. The dialogue is also an opportunity to share concrete examples, experiences, lessons learned and challenges encountered in reducing risk of disasters and building resilience.

Link: <http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/dialogue/>

Africa - Asia: Training-Workshop on Iterative Risk Management for Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Practice (Bangkok, Thailand; 22-26 April, 2013)



Rationale: Governments around the world are starting to acknowledge and prepare for the impacts of climate-related risks. During the last decade, climate change adaptation policies are being established and integrated in disaster risk reduction and/or development programs. However, many of these strategies remain relatively 'static' vis-à-vis the varying complexities and uncertainties surrounding climate change. To address this, the IPCC highlights the concept of iterative risk management. Accordingly, decisions in relation to climate change are not a once-and-for-all event.

They are likely to take place over decades in what is called an iterative risk-management process, learning from and taking advantage of new information for midcourse corrections.

The concept of iterative risk management is not new, but its application in climate change adaptation policy and practice remains limited. This training, therefore, builds on, and expands, the use of the concept in present and future planning and policy decisions. Frameworks and principles from such disciplines as disaster risk reduction and development are integrated in a risk-based approach to guide policy and action. The training shall assist participants in designing and implementing iterative and flexible risk management plans. It specifically helps them:

- Understand the iterative risk management process in view of the complexities and uncertainties inherent in climate-related risks; and
- Establish ways to ensure continuous re-evaluation of their risk management plans so that new information is considered and incorporated at regular intervals

For more information visit: <http://www.rimes.int/em/?p=1159>.

2013 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, Switzerland; 19-23 May, 2013)



Global Platform for disaster risk reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform will be held in Geneva at the International Conference Centre from Sunday 19 May to Thursday 23 May 2013. The aim of the Fourth Session will be to continue the momentum into a durable and sustained effort from all actors (governments, NGOs and civil society, international agencies and organizations, academic and technical institutions, and the private sector) to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in our communities. The Fourth Session will also be an opportunity to progress and consult on the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Key outcomes to achieve during the Fourth Session are:

- A stronger and more sustainable disaster risk reduction and resilience movement world-wide that leads to increased responsibility for reinforcing resilience to disasters.
- A dynamic and trend-setting forum for decision makers, partners, experts and practitioners to announce initiatives, launch products, share information, promote campaigns, and provide evidence around disaster risk reduction.
- Directions and new alliances for the development and use of new tools and methodologies aimed at understanding and applying the economics and investment in disaster risk reduction; building resilience in communities; and, climate change adaptation.
- A forum to discuss progress and consult over a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (post-HFA), including on issues raised in consultations.
- Events that follow-up and progress on the 2011 Global Platform (e.g. update on disaster loss in schools and hospitals, accounting for disaster losses, the status of National Platforms, and the Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction).
- Priorities and directions reflected in the outcome document - the Chair's Summary.

For more information: <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Climate Risk Management/Early Warning Specialist (Closing Date: December 16, 2012)



The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) welcomes applications from qualified practitioners and professionals from the field of Meteorology / Hydrology / Agriculture with experience in Early Warning system development, Climate Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation interventions to strengthen its professional team. The ADPC is a regional non-profit foundation with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand supporting the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development, through implementing programs that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific. The Center is looking for the service of Climate Risk Management Specialist/Early Warning Specialist to undertake various duties and responsibilities, which include:

- Analyze relevant subject specific science based information to generate hazard specific decision support products to suit the needs of vulnerable sectors for utilization by stakeholders at all levels.
- Analyze hazard, vulnerability and risk and potential impacts to vulnerable sectors based on subject specific information to design appropriate climate risk reduction interventions and climate change adaptation measures.
- Generate / prepare advance hazard specific early warnings, end-to-end EW system development and dissemination of relevant information to communities at risk as well as to sector specific stakeholders.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures, Concept of Operations, Decision Support Systems for effective dissemination of Early warnings to communities at risk.
- Develop Climate Risk Management/Climate Change Adaptation strategies and identification of risk management opportunities to address residual risk within different eco-systems to minimize socio-economic effects on lives, livelihoods, economic assets and infrastructure.

Find additional information at http://www.adpc.net/2012/Career_Opportunities/Default.asp.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Coordinator (Closing Date: December 30, 2012)



Based in Nairobi, Kenya, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood Coordinator will be responsible for the integration of DRR in the existing and future programs as well as supporting the strengthening of country program's emergency preparedness and responses. The position has linkages with all program departments, technical units and field offices to support IRC's programming in Kenya, in particular networking with external actors, government line ministries, DRR, environmental and climate change working groups, donors, and other IRC county programs.

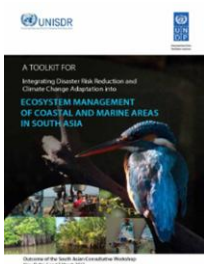
The position is also responsible for providing overall technical guidance and support in IRC's disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptations, environmental and emergency programming across the Kenyan programs. She/he is also required to work in collaboration with other field coordinators, sector coordinators and field teams to ensure that DRR, environment, emergency responses are implemented according to the IRCs' Country Strategy, Disaster risk reduction strategy, environmental strategy, emergency preparedness and response strategy and approved work plans and in accordance with the IRCs' program strategic plan and program frame works.

For more information visit: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/jobs/v.php?id=29406>.



Gender and Climate Change - Africa

One of the pressing challenges in addressing the gender dimensions of climate change in developing countries is the need for greater national expertise on gender and climate change and on broader issues of sustainable development. In response to this challenge, UNDP has developed a series of policy briefs and training modules on gender and climate change for practitioners and policy makers in Africa. The themes are of specific relevance to Africa, and include a general overview of climate change issues, adaptation, agriculture and food security, equitable energy access, and climate finance. These materials draw on the capacity development work being undertaken in partnership with other members of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and complement existing GGCA training modules, resource guides, and related knowledge products. The materials are designed to facilitate the work of the regional and national cadres of experts and other partners in Africa in mainstreaming gender into climate change policy and programming.



UNISDR and UNDP Toolkit: Ecosystem Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in South Asia

This toolkit offers a step-by-step guide for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into the coastal and marine ecosystem management that will be quite useful for the field practitioners of coastal areas in the sub-region. This publication builds on UNDP's new Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework, titled The Future We Want: Biodiversity and Ecosystems – Driving Sustainable Development that calls for a shift in focus towards the positive opportunities provided by biodiversity and natural ecosystems, in terms of harnessing their potential for sustainable development.

This publication is an outcome of a South Asian Regional Consultation of Experts held in New Delhi in March 2012 organized jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Asia and the Pacific Secretariat.

The full publications are both available for download at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/>.

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>