

AFRICA-ASIA DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK



Newsletter

Special Topic

December 2015 Issue

United Nations Conference on Climate Change



United nations conference
on climate change
COP21/CMP11

The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and

the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) are currently taking place from 30 November to 11 December 2015, in Paris, France.

UNFCCC is an international treaty created at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 to tackle the growing problem of global warming and related harmful changes in the climate, such as more frequent droughts, hurricanes and rising sea levels.

According to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a rise in the global temperature of more than 2°C would have serious consequences, such as an increase in the frequency of extreme climate events, including drought, flooding and heat waves, among others. Other impacts predicted include disturbed ecosystems (20-30% of animal and plant species under threat of extinction), failing agricultural production and increased health risks particularly due to the spread of disease-bearing insects.

Besides the Ladders Event, negotiations and High Level Segment, various different drought-relevant activities will be undertaken during the event periods. **Side events and exhibits** will be conducted on various topics linked to climate change and efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. **Climate Generations Areas** is an open space for debates, knowledge-sharing, discussions and conviviality, with a wide range of stands, educational exhibitions, conferences and film screenings.

The main conference website at provides the live video on various different events ongoing in Paris. This website also contains the world map detailing the national contributions with a view to a future agreement. Furthermore, the site presents various different tools and tips for the COP21 participants and other interested stakeholders to use to address the challenges of climate change at individual and more organized levels.

Please visit the host government website at <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en> and the UNFCCC website at <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>.

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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).

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



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R) Initiative



On the opening day of the United Nations climate change conference, i.e., COP21, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and 13 agencies of the UN system launched a new initiative to build climate resilience in the world's most vulnerable counties, called Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R). The A2R initiative aims to help address the needs of the nearly 634 million people, or a tenth of the global population who live in at-risk coastal areas just a few meters above existing sea levels, as well as those living in areas at risk of droughts and floods. The world is now experiencing a strong El Niño event, which could place as many as 4.7 million people at risk from drought in the Pacific alone.

A recent report issued by the UN shows that over the last twenty years, 90 per cent of major disasters have been caused by 6,457 recorded floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and other weather-related events. Over the next five years, the initiative will bring together private sector organizations, governments, UN agencies, research institutions and other stakeholders to scale up transformative solutions. Over 30 countries will be provided with \$2 billion in coverage against drought, flood and cyclones, including \$500 million in adaptation financing. 150 million Africans will be indirectly insured.

For more information on the A2R, please visit the UN News Centre at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52694#.VmEqHLh97IU>.

Global Initiative on Community Based Adaptation



The Global Initiative on Community-Based Adaptation (GICBA) is an open platform aiming to sharing and learning between all organisations (and individuals) working on community-based adaptation to climate change. GICBA is totally free to join, open to anyone, and is a virtual network to enable sharing of project experiences, tools and methods and to catalyse discussion around important issues. The platform aims to: promote collective thinking and engagement around CBA; generate and share evidence based research and experience; create a community of practice with strong learning elements through the CBA exchange; support the series of

International Conferences on CBA to climate change; and strengthen capacity of all stakeholders to design, implement and scale up CBA.

The GICBA platform was launched by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in 2010, and reinvigorated in 2015 on the WeADAPT website. By signing up to the forum using WeADAPT, you can upload case studies, stories and articles and publish them on the platform to access a wider audience. You can also communicate and engage with other individuals and professionals working in areas involving community-based adaptation.

Please visit <https://www.weadapt.org/knowledge-base/global-initiative-on-community-based-adaptation-gicba> to learn more about the GICBA, including the procedure to join the GICBA network.



Inter-Agency Standing Committee Alert, Early Warning and Readiness Report

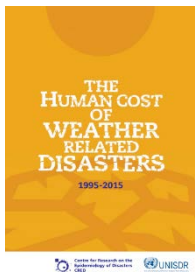


The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. Established in 1992, it is a unique forum involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. The IASC's Alert, Early Warning and Readiness report is produced bi-annually as an inter-agency effort by the Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience for IASC member agencies. The report highlights serious risks that were either identified as being of particular strategic operational concern or as having a high probability and impact on humanitarian needs. In addition to collaboratively assembling the report, the report includes an analysis of the state of readiness, which is compared against each risk.

The report includes a substantial section on El Niño. This is in the form of both an alert for the ongoing El Niño episode and a warning for the potential effects in the lead up to the peak of this El Niño event. According to the IASC's risk assessment, wide spread drought with very high seriousness is forecasted in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and South Pacific & South East Asia in the period of November 2015 and April 2016.

The full report is available for download at https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2015.10.22_-_iasc_alert_early_warning_and_readiness_report.pdf.

The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters 1995-2015



This publication provides a sober and revealing analysis of weather-related disaster trends over a twenty year time-frame between 1995 and 2015, which coincides with a period which has seen the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties become an established high-profile annual fixture on the development calendar. Climate change, climate variability and weather events pose a threat to the eradication of extreme poverty and should serve as a spur to hasten efforts not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also to tackle other underlying risk drivers such as unplanned urban development, vulnerable livelihoods, environmental degradation and gaps in early warnings.

In total, 6,457 weather-related disasters were recorded worldwide by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters' Emergency Events Database, also known as EM-DAT, in the last two decades. Over this period, weather-related disasters claimed 606,000 lives, an average of some 30,000 per annum, with an additional 4.1 billion people injured, left homeless or in need of emergency assistance. The report highlights many key shortcomings in understanding the nature and true extent of disaster losses, particularly from drought despite the fact that it accounts for more than 25% of all people affected by climate-related disasters. It stresses that reducing the size of drought-vulnerable populations should be a global priority given the effectiveness of early warnings and the fact that one billion people have been affected over the last twenty years.

The full report is available for download at

http://www.unisdr.org/2015/docs/climatechange/COP21_WeatherDisastersReport_2015_FINAL.pdf.



Event and Training Opportunities

5th International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes & 7th International Conference on Geo-information Technologies for Natural Disaster Management (8-10 December, 2015; Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates)



5th International Conference on Earth Observation for Global Changes (EOGC 2015) and the 7th International Conference on Geo-information Technologies for Natural Disaster Management (GiT4NDM 2015) are designed to advance the research and development as well as encouraging innovative applications of Geomatics technologies in global change studies, and to specifically address the international aspects of the coupled social, land and climate systems in global change studies using advanced geospatial tools, spatiotemporal models, and earth observation systems. The conference offers an interdisciplinary forum in the fields of remote sensing, surveying and mapping, geodesy and geosciences, geography, marine science, forestry, renewable energy, environment, transportation, natural hazards, disaster management, and climate change science.

The conference will provide a forum to present ongoing research and ideas related to earth observations and global change, natural hazards and disaster management studies, including those of drought hazards/disasters, with respect to geospatial information technology, remote sensing, and global navigation satellite systems. It will hold pre-conference workshops, keynotes, panel discussions and technical sessions

For more information on the EOGC 2015 and the GiT4NDM 2015, please visit the event website at <http://conferences.uaeu.ac.ae/eogc-git4ndm/en/index.shtml>.

E-Learning: Introduction to Disaster Risk Management (26 January–23 February, 2016; Online)



This free online course is the introductory course of the World Bank Institute's e-learning program on disaster risk management (DRM). The objective of this course is to familiarize development practitioners with contemporary concepts and practices in disaster management and contribute to a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive approaches in this cross-cutting field of development. It also aims to establish a common language and understanding among development practitioners in order to improve collaboration among various disciplines and integrate risk reduction considerations in development plans and decisions.

The course addresses basic questions such as: What are considered natural disasters? Where do they strike the most and how? What are the components of comprehensive DRM? It also reviews the institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms of disaster management systems, and identifies the role of national and local actors in processes related to risk assessment, mitigation and financing. This course targets general development practitioners in order to raise their awareness and sensitivity in preventing natural disasters. The built-in learning tools provide an opportunity for participants to monitor their learning progress.



Further details of this e-learning course is available at <http://einstein.worldbank.org/ei/course/introduction-disaster-risk-management-1>.

UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (27-29 January, 2016; Geneva, Switzerland)



The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNISDR) Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 aims to bring together the full diversity of the science and technology (S&T) community, policy makers, practitioners and researchers from all geographical regions, at local, national, regional and international levels to discuss how the S&T community will best support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It responds directly to the Sendai Framework calls to "enhance the scientific and technical work on disaster risk reduction and its mobilization through the coordination of existing networks and scientific research institutions at all levels and in all regions, with the support of the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group."

The conference will promote and support the availability and application of S&T to decision-making in Disaster Risk Reduction, including drought risk reduction. It will launch the UNISDR S&T Partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and discuss and endorse the UNISDR S&T road map. The S&T roadmap will define the expected outcomes of the science and technology work under each of the four Sendai Framework priority areas of actions and the ways to monitor progress and needs.

Please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/partners/academia-research/conference/2016/> for more information concerning the conference.

Positions and Grant Opportunities

Consultant for Preparing Disaster Risk Management Country Status Reports for Bhutan/Bangladesh/Vietnam – Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (Closing date: 18 December 2015)



Over the past 10 years, significant progress has been made into managing disaster risk in Asian countries, under the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). It is important that before the new Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) is implemented, that it is understood what progress has been made during the HFA. The overall objective of the consultancy is to develop the status reports through which

to help enhance the understanding of the disaster risk management (DRM) progresses in the specific target countries, namely Bhutan, Bangladesh and Vietnam.



This status report will include the following in line with the UNISDR guidelines:

- A disaster risk profile of the country
- A DRM status section, broken down into the four priorities of the Sendai Framework: 1) Understanding disaster risk; 2) Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; 3) Invest in DRR for resilience; and 4) Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better”
- A stakeholder mapping of actors involved in DRM
- A section focused on the key issues, challenges and priorities for Sendai Framework implementation.

Further details on this consultant position is available at <http://www.adpc.net/iex/v2/HR/Documents/Jobs/2015/ToR-DRM%20Country%20status%20report.pdf>.

Assistant Professor for the Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Management Group – University of Twente (Closing date: 1 January 2016)



The Department of Earth Systems Analysis (ESA) at the University of Twente focuses on geological remote sensing of earth resources. The department develops remote sensing based methods embedded in geospatial models to support exploration of geothermal systems, or forms (particularly hydrothermal) systems and studies oil and gas seepage in petroleum basins. ESA also focuses on natural hazards and disaster risk management, analysing and simulating natural hazards, their geophysical and climatic drivers, and their impact on society as a result of physical and social vulnerability. In particular, the department aim to understand short term and long term spatial and temporal dynamics of risk (both hazards and vulnerability), to improve disaster management. It has earth scientists expertise in (hyperspectral) reflectance spectroscopy, gamma ray spectrometry and satellite gravity, and has a strong track record in the development of spatial data driven and physical models and decision support systems, and use field, remote sensing and UAV based data in our analyses.

ESA is currently seeking an Assistant Professor for the Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Management Group. The Assistant Professor's excellent research contributes well to the ESA department, resulting in publications in high impact journals. He/she will develop education and teach at MSc level for an international class room, and supervise research at the graduate level (MSc and PhD). You have or are willing to obtain in the near future, a basic teaching qualification. He/she will also join in research and capacity development projects and help in project acquisition.

Please visit <https://www.utwente.nl/en/organization/careers/vacancies/!/vacature/563054> for more information on the position and the application procedure.

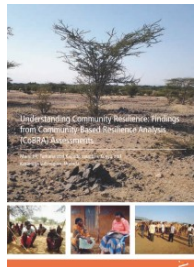


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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 with increased vulnerability, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) is a tool which intends to measure and identify the key building blocks of community resilience, or "resilience characteristics", and assess the attribution of various development/humanitarian interventions in attaining these resilience characteristics. In disaster affected areas, where protracted crises with spikes in need are the norm, resilience measurement tools are required through which to document evidence of groups of interventions that have high impact and spur positive changes at household and community levels. This publication presents the

conceptual framework that underpins the CoBRA model and describes in brief the methodology that supports the model:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/cobra-conceptual-framework/.



Understanding Community Resilience: Findings from CoBRA Assessments in Kenya and Uganda (2014)

In the last few years, as natural disasters, particularly drought, and other crises have pushed communities to the limits of their adaptation and coping capacity, 'disaster resilience' has emerged as a key goal for governments and other development and humanitarian stakeholders in the Horn of Africa. This report summarizes the findings of the first round of CoBRA field testing in four drought-prone locations in Kenya (Marsabit, Turkana and Kajiado counties) and Uganda (the Karamoja sub-region). Individual assessment reports for each location are attached as Annexes to this report. The CoBRA approach is largely qualitative, based on understanding resilience from a community perspective. It does not identify any preconceived components of resilience but rather allows communities to define it, assess their progress in achieving it, identify households that are more (or fully) resilient and specify the interventions they believe best build resilience:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/CoBRA_assessment/.

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>

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