



February 2011 Issue

Inauguration of AADP Newsletter

We are pleased to present the inaugural issue of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network (AADP) newsletter. This is a monthly e-newsletter dedicated to informing the practitioners and policymakers working in drought prone countries of drought risk management (DRM) related networking opportunities, projects/programmes and events taking place in Africa and Asia at various levels.

AADP builds on the successful experiences of African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN), which was established in 2005. It intends to scale up the ADDN's drought peer-learning/-assistance efforts from Africa regional to Africa-Asia inter-regional level. All the previous issues of the ADDN e-newsletter are available for download at <http://www.frameweb.org/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=3003&view=k>.

Relative to the population and land productivity, drought is the greatest natural hazard in Africa, in particular drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), in terms of economic impact and loss of life, while Asia has the greatest number of people who are regularly exposed to drought. Since 1980, drought has resulted in some 560,000 deaths, the majority of which occurred in SSA. Where drought is combined with other social stressors such as disease epidemics and/or conflict, this figure would likely be considerably higher. In Asia, while drought-related deaths decreased steadily in the past few decades, trends for persons affected by drought remain considerably high.

A rich collection of knowledge-based resources already exists in Asia on DRM and drought resilience building, both at policy and practice levels, many of which are deemed applicable in the African context, and *vice versa*. Through the e-newsletter and other means of communication, AADP will enhance the cross-regional flow of information, knowledge and technical know-how, and stimulate debate over different DRM tools and options.

In this issue, we highlight some of the organizations and initiatives, which provide useful information online on the status of drought in Africa and Asia from different perspectives, such as rainfall, food security situation and humanitarian activities.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to interested parties and contact us for any feedback you may have.

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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](#).

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre.

Networking and Learning Opportunities

Famine Early Warning Systems Network / Réseau de Systèmes d'Alerte Précoce Contre la Famine

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) is a USAID-funded initiative that collaborates with international, regional and national partners to provide timely and rigorous early warning and vulnerability information on emerging and evolving food security and famine issues both in Africa (Eastern, Western and Southern Africa) and Asia (Central Asia). FEWS NET professionals in various countries monitor and analyze relevant data and information in terms of its impacts on livelihoods and markets to identify potential threats to food security. Once these issues are identified, FEWS NET uses a suite of communications and decision support products to help decision-makers act to mitigate food insecurity. These products include monthly food security updates for 25 countries, regular food security outlooks, and alerts, as well as briefings and support to contingency and response planning efforts.

FEWS NET also focuses its efforts on strengthening early warning and food security networks. Activities in this area include developing capacity, building and strengthening networks, developing policy-useful information, and building consensus around food security problems and solutions. For more information, please visit <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>.

Le réseau du système d'alerte précoce est une activité financée par l'USAID qui collabore avec des partenaires internationaux, régionaux et nationaux pour fournir des informations opportunes et rigoureuses d'alerte précoce et de vulnérabilité sur des questions de sécurité alimentaires en évolution, deux en Afrique (Afrique de l'Est, l'Ouest et Sud) et en Asie (Asie Centrale). Les professionnels de FEWS NET dans divers pays surveillent et analysent des données et des informations appropriées en termes de leurs impacts sur les modes de vies et les marchés pour identifier les menaces potentielles à la sécurité alimentaire. Une fois que ces questions sont identifiées, FEWS NET utilise un ensemble de communications et de produits d'appui à la décision pour aider les décideurs à agir afin d'atténuer l'insécurité alimentaire. Ces produits incluent des mises à jour mensuelles de l'état de sécurité alimentaire pour 25 pays, des perspectives régulières de sécurité alimentaires et des alertes, aussi bien que des briefings et des appuis éventuels aux plans de contingence et de réponse.

FEWS NET concentre également ses efforts au renforcement des réseaux de sécurité alimentaire de détection précoce. Les activités dans ce secteur incluent le développement des capacités, la mise en place et la consolidation des réseaux, ainsi que la préparation des informations utiles de politique et le développement de consensus autour de problèmes et de solutions de sécurité alimentaire. Pour de plus amples informations, merci de vous rendre sur <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx?l=fr>.

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group

The Food Security & Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) is a spontaneous and field-driven coordination 'working group' established in Nairobi in 2005 in response to requests from several international NGOs in Central-East Africa. The group is attended by representatives from organizations engaging in food security, including NGOs, UN agencies, international humanitarian institutions, etc., and technically supported by FAO. It currently covers 12 countries.

The main goal of the FSNWG is to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on disruption of food logistics through natural/man-made disasters, including drought, in the region with a view to keeping all humanitarian actors – donors and governments especially – updated on food security crises developments. One of the outputs of the Group activities is a situation analysis report, i.e. FSNWG Update, produced – with seasonal frequency – in the form of a cartographic representation of food security severity phases in Central and Eastern African region. For more information on the group and FSNWG Update, please contact the FAO Sub-Regional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa (REOA): fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org.

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), formerly known as the Drought Monitoring Centre, Nairobi (DMCN), is a specialized the Institution of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Greater Horn of Africa (GHOA) region. It collects climate and remotely sensed data from 10 member countries and produce early warning information of the space-time evolutions of weather and climate extremes over the sub-region on a regular basis, in the forms of:

- Ten day, monthly and seasonal climate/weather bulletins through the regional climate outlook forum process;
- Climate watch/El Niño updates; and
- Annual climate summaries.

ICPAC is also working on enhanced networking between the National Meteorological and Hydrological institutions in GHOA and regional and international centers for data and information exchange, as well as on capacity building in the generation and applications of climate information and products. For more information on ICPAC and its climate updates, please visit <http://www.icpac.net/>.

Asian Disaster Reduction Center

The Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998, with mission to enhance disaster resilience of 29 member countries, to build safe communities, and to create a society where sustainable development is possible. The Center works to build disaster resilient communities and to establish networks among countries through many programs including personnel exchanges in this field.

On the occurrence of disasters, such as droughts, floods and earthquakes, ADRC releases information on the phenomena that trigger the disasters and the damages, as well as the related links. It also publishes monthly newsletter, entitled ADRC Highlights, research reports/learning materials, such as natural disasters data book and disaster risk management good practices report. For further information on ADRC and its products, please visit <http://www.adrc.asia/publication/index.php>.

SAARC Disaster Management Centre

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) was set up in October 2006 at the premises of National Institute of Disaster Management in New Delhi. The Centre has the mandate to serve 8 Member Countries of South Asia Association of

Regional Cooperation (SAARC) by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia.

SDMC is a sleek body of professionals working on various dimensions of disaster risk reduction and management in South Asia. The Centre is networking through the National Focal Points of the Member Countries with the various Ministries, Departments and Scientific, Technical, Research and Academic institutions within and outside the Government working on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and management.

Besides the weekly disaster news summary and quarterly newsletter (SDMC Informs), SDMC conducts studies and research, organizes workshops and training programmes, publishes its reports and documents and provides various policy advisory services to the Member Countries. For more information on SDMC and its products, please visit <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in/home.asp>.

Event and Training Opportunities

International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation (Durgapur, India; February 17-19, 2011)

Sustainable water resources management and climate change adaptation are increasingly becoming highly recognized global issues. This holds particularly true for a country like India, where water is a scarce resource and adverse impacts on water resources has recently been observed as a consequence of climate change. Due to its multiple benefits and the problems created by its excesses, deficit, and quality deterioration, the conservation and management of water resources requires special attention on the management of environment of the water resources system.

The conference is being organized to broadly cover all aspects of sustainable water resources management and climate change adaptation. Some of the highlighted themes are: weather forecasting and climate change prediction; susceptibility of water resources due to climate change; hydrologic data and its management; surface and groundwater resources management; application of emerging techniques in water sector; hydraulics of rainwater harvesting and recharging system, large-scale water transfer and flow in soil-water-structure interaction, etc.

The conference will be held from February 17 to 19, 2011, at Durgapur, the industrial hub of eastern India. First half of the last day of the conference, February 19, 2011, will be devoted to visit of industrial installations and site for water resources projects. More information on the conference is available at <http://www.nitdgp.ac.in/nit10/ceintconf/home.htm>.

AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium 2011 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; March 9-11, 2011)

This three-day bilingual (French/English) symposium is a landmark event focusing on evolving approaches, tools, methods and philosophies addressing the links between increasing climate change and variability in Africa and sustainable development. It will feature keynote speakers from across the continent, and also provide a space for creative new exchanges and collaboration between African research, media, policy, and community practitioners. This is

an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience of this important subject and work with others to help make a difference.

Themes to be explored include:

- Links between adaptation, mitigation and low carbon, or “climate compatible” development
- Roles of local and indigenous knowledge in addressing climate change
- New thinking on community-led responses: From local to global
- The roles of media and intermediaries in translating, sharing, and advocating
- National and international policy: Linking policy and practice.

The symposium is focused on Africa and we especially encourage submissions from African researchers, community based organizations, advocacy groups, and media. If your topic is not in the examples above, it may still be considered if it is of relevance to the overall subject area of the Symposium. In addition to formal papers, we are very interested to hear from policy and decision makers, donors, researchers, NGOs and community representatives who have knowledge and experiences to share that engage the symposium’s objectives and mission. For more information on the symposium, please visit <http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/ProjectOverview.aspx?PID=NxDcOtqzgiA%3d>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Project Manager for Community managed DRR project – Concern Universal (Closing Date: February 20, 2011)

Bangladesh is a country that has been intrinsically associated with natural disaster vulnerability. It frequently suffers from devastating floods, cyclones and storm surges, tornadoes, riverbank erosion, and drought as well as constituting a very high-risk location for seismic activity. To prepare some of Bangladesh’s most vulnerable communities against the negative impact of natural disasters, Concern Universal has been a DIPECHO implementing partner. CU is also receiving funding from Cordaid to conduct the Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Project. The specific objective of CMDRR is to raise the disaster and climate change awareness and response capacity of local communities in three targeted “disaster high risk” Districts of Dhaka, Patuakhali, and Jamalpur toward multiple natural hazards.

The Project Manager for the CMDRR project will:

- Be responsible for planning, organization, budget management, reporting and implementation of the Project;
- Design, develop and implement the project monitoring system;
- Liaise with other NGOs, relevant government agencies and DIPECHO to ensure a coordination of effort and lesson sharing;
- Conduct internal impact evaluation of the Project;
- Design and conduct Lessons Learned Workshops for all key stakeholders;
- To be responsible for the representation of Concern Universal to Partner organizations, donors, government, line ministries, UN agencies and other NGOs in relation to the project, including participation in two two-day consultative meetings of DIPECHO partners (one National and one Regional);

Please visit <http://www.concernuniversal.org/index.php?/jobs> for more information on the position.



Programme Officer for Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity & Forestry – UNCCD Secretariat (Closing Date: February 28, 2011)

The Policy & Advocacy on Global Issues & Platforms (PAGI) Unit of the UNCCD Secretariat acts to forge global partnerships to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and drought-related (DLDD) in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability through the provision of advocacy on global policy issues and fostering thematic and emerging issues. The PAGI Unit assumes an advisory role within the secretariat in highlighting the need for urgent action with regard to DLDD by emphasizing the accrued benefits for populations of affected countries. Duties and responsibilities of the Programme Officer include:

- Under the direct supervision of the Coordinator, and in the context of sustainable land management and land rehabilitation issues as they relate to climate change, biodiversity and forestry, assists in the preparation of documentation and other substantive thematic inputs on crosscutting global and emerging issues and platforms for the consideration of country parties as well as UNCCD partners through special initiatives or through regular or special meetings. Performs other duties as requested by the Coordinator.
- Under the general guidance of, and in consultation with the Coordinator in the context of the DLDD issues, the incumbent assists in the preparation of documentation, make substantive thematic inputs on crosscutting global and emerging issues and platforms for the consideration of country parties as well as UNCCD partners through special initiatives or through regular or special meetings. Acts as focal point for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Forestry. Performs other duties as requested by the Coordinator.

For further information on the position, please visit

[http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/Program%20Officer%20\(SLM%20&%20Climate%20Change,%20Biodiversity%20&%20Forestry\)%20P-4.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/vacancies/docs/Program%20Officer%20(SLM%20&%20Climate%20Change,%20Biodiversity%20&%20Forestry)%20P-4.pdf).

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group: Contact fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org for monthly FSNWG Updates

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/>

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>

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>

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 Disaster Management Center (SDMC): <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in>

Produced by UNDP Drylands Development Centre

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, 00100, Kenya
<http://www.undp.org/drylands/>

For inquiries, suggestions or contributions for future issues, please contact Yuko Kurauchi at yuko.kurauchi@undp.org.