



February 2013 Issue

## Special Topic

### Drought Online – Resilience Discussion Forum



We are pleased to announce that the Drought Online website was launched as a run up to the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Africa Drought Adaptation Forum (ADAF5) on

February 11-12 2012 in Arusha, Tanzania. This website is developed jointly by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the UNDP-DDC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as the latest venture of the ADDN and AADP. Hosted under the Disaster Risk Reduction Net, Drought Online represents the aim of offering an easy access to a growing collection of drought risk management (DRM) related resources and providing an avenue for continued dialogue and interaction among the interested network participants beyond geographical boundaries. For more information regarding the Drought Online, please visit <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/en/>.

One of the main features of Drought Online is the discussion forum. It will allow like-minded DRM practitioners from around the world to network and communicate with each other directly by posting questions, sharing ideas, prior experiences and lessons learnt and getting help finding a specific DRM resources and/or contacts. The following pilot topics were posted on the discussion forum page:

- What are the examples according to your view of good practice and interventions that have shown impact in building community resilience?
- How does a resilient community in the dry lands look like?
- Why are communities resilient, or not resilient in the dry lands?

The idea is to broaden the exchange of experience among the community of practice and ensure that experts or practitioners who cannot attend the ADAF5 in person can still be part of the discussion and their views be featured in the event. As the facilitator of the forum, we welcome you to participate in the discussions and contribute your ideas, opinions and comments. Registration to the discussion forum can be done at <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/discussion-forum/en>.

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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

### Economics of Land Degradation Initiative



Land degradation and desertification threaten fertile land throughout the world. The consequences are alarming: smaller harvests, reduced availability of clean water, increased vulnerability of the affected areas to climate change and, not least, food insecurity and poverty. The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) is an initiative for a global study on the economic benefits of land and land based ecosystems. The initiative highlights the value of sustainable land management and provides a global approach for analysis of the economics of

land degradation. It aims to make economics of land degradation an integral part of policy strategies and decision making by increasing the political and public awareness of the costs and benefits of land and land-based ecosystems.

The ELD reports, based on state of the art research provided by a world-wide network of researchers and practitioners seeks to establish a global approach for analysis of economics of land degradation. The ELD methodological approach will translate economic, social and ecological knowledge into topical information and tools to support improved policy-making and practices in land management suitable for policy makers, scientific communities, local administrators and practitioners and the private sector. This will enable informed decisions towards strengthening sustainable rural development and ensuring global food security. Reports will be produced based on the target audiences between 2014 and 2015 with a view to impact the debate about development policy, food security, green growth and rural development in a post Millennium Development Goal environment.

For further details on the ELD, please visit <http://eld-initiative.org/>.

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### Drylands Coordination Group



The Drylands Coordination Group (DCG) is a network for capacity building through exchange of practical experience and appropriate knowledge on food security in the drylands of Africa. DCG facilitates mutual exchange of practical experiences between NGOs and research - and policy-making institutions. DCG activities, which are carried out by DCG members in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali and Sudan, aim to contribute to improved food security of vulnerable households in the drylands of Africa. DCG intends to reach this goal by:

- Addressing core challenges related to the increased pressure on natural resources which leads to food insecurity in the drylands;
- Contributing to strengthening access to natural resources for vulnerable households and communities; and
- Enhancing the capacity of member organisations, networks and other stakeholders to address the core challenges related to increased pressure on natural resources in the drylands.

DCG projects include action research, studies, workshops, capacity building and policy work. The projects are designed and implemented by the national DCG groups, and aim to create synergy effects, build capacity and be relevant and applicable also outside of DCG.

For further details on the DCG, please visit <http://www.drylands-group.org/>.

## Drought in Australia: Context, Policy and Management

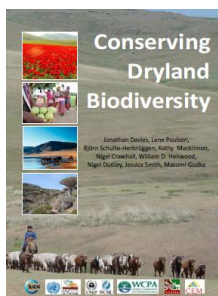


This report presents one of a series of reports for the Countermeasures for Addressing Long-lasting Severe Drought in Australia and China project that explore the context, policy and management of drought and water resources in China and Australia. The report will contribute to a plan for collaboration between the project partners: the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) and China's Remote Sensing Technology Application Center. This report details the Australian context of drought policy and management.

The report asserts that the agriculture in Australia has had a long history of dealing with drought. Australian farmers manage drought in a number of ways, including diversifying their production risks, building reserves for when conditions are unfavourable and increasing or decreasing their production based on climatic conditions. However, there are times when severe drought is considered by government to be outside of the scope of 'normal' risk management. In these 'exceptional circumstances', government intervention may be warranted in order to keep viable farmers on the land. This document explores the context of drought in Australia, the evolution of Australian drought policy and the role of government in providing information to help manage climate risks.

The full report is viewable at [http://www.daff.gov.au/media/documents/abares/publications/client\\_reports/drought-in-australia-2012.pdf](http://www.daff.gov.au/media/documents/abares/publications/client_reports/drought-in-australia-2012.pdf).

## Conserving Dryland Biodiversity



Dryland biodiversity is of tremendous global importance, being central to the well-being and development of millions of people in developing countries. Poverty, climate change, land degradation and drought are all reported to be important drivers of dryland biodiversity loss. However, the reverse is also true; loss of biodiversity contributes to land degradation, drought and poverty and can increase vulnerability to climate change. Food security is particularly compromised by the loss of provisioning ecosystem services and the loss of species that can be harvested for food. Conversely, protecting and restoring biodiversity can contribute to climate resilient livelihoods, sustainable development and climate change mitigation as well as reducing desertification and land degradation. Although drylands were implicitly recognised, there continues to be inadequate

attention to this major biome that covers such a vast part of our world's terrestrial surface. Yet, as this book conveys, conservation and sustainable management of drylands biodiversity offers a viable pathway to deliver international conservation and development targets. This book is a global resource aimed to aide dryland management as it is the first comprehensive analysis of dryland biodiversity that is of global importance and significance.

The book highlights many unique characteristics of drylands biodiversity: features that have implications for the way drylands should be managed or conserved, as well as for the way they contribute to economic development. We present examples of how dryland biodiversity has been successfully conserved and emphasise the importance of dryland peoples to biodiversity conservation, and of biodiversity conservation to the livelihoods of drylands peoples.

The full publication is viewable at [http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/drylands\\_bk\\_2.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/drylands_bk_2.pdf).

## Event and Training Opportunities

### Short Course: Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction and Response (Cape Town, South Africa; February 6-8, 2013)



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
UNU-EHS**  
Institute for Environment  
and Human Security

Worldwide growing frequency and magnitude of extreme environmental events (such as floods, landslides and drought) have intensified research interest in these events, in particular regarding the level of risk they pose in different locations, the vulnerability of communities and their response capabilities. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and University of the Free State Disaster Management Training and Education (UFS-DiMTEC) explores on how to investigate the

threats that environmental degradation, unsustainable land use practices, and natural and man-made hazards pose to human security. Their research work is devoted to developing capacity in particular in disaster risk reduction and giving advice to strategy and decision-makers.

The aim of the course is to provide participants with a broad overview of space-based and other technologies for disaster risk reduction and response. This will include available various tools and methods, analysis of existing international response and support mechanisms as well as the best international practices. This course is oriented to postgraduate students who are in the second phase of their studies in Disaster Management area or PhD students in the starting phase of their studies; practitioners that work in matters related to disaster risk reduction and risk management and in particular on early warning, prevention, response and mitigation. This course would also be of interest to government officials. It assumes that the applicant has already some background in geography, economics, social science, engineering, anthropology, environmental and/or natural science or related disciplines.

For more information on the course, please visit: <http://www.ehs.unu.edu>.

### High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (Geneva, Switzerland; March 11-15, 2013)



Drought is widely recognized as a slow creeping natural hazard that occurs as a consequence of natural climatic variability, but not many people know how to manage drought by mitigating its effect on people and eco-systems. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization, FAO and others is organizing the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) from 11-15 March in Geneva, Switzerland. The HMNDP will provide practical insight into useful, science-based actions to address the key drought issues being considered by governments and the private sector under the UNCCD and the various strategies to cope with drought. National governments must adopt policies that engender cooperation and coordination at all levels of government in order to increase their capacity to cope with extended periods of water scarcity in the event of a drought. The ultimate goal is to create more drought resilient societies.

The HMNDP will start with a half day opening plenary (with a major keynote address) followed by three days of scientific segment and one and half days of the High Level segment for ministers. During the scientific segment, a series of side events are planned. Organizations/participants are invited to organize a side event on the following topics: Drought



Monitoring, Early Warning and Information Systems; Drought Prediction and Predictability; Drought Preparedness and Mitigation; Drought Vulnerability and Impact Assessment; Planning for Appropriate Drought Response and Relief; and Examples of National Drought Policies. The deadline for submissions is 15 February 2013.

Please visit <http://www.hmndp.org/> for more information on the HMNDP.

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



**Global Platform**  
for disaster risk reduction

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was established in 2007 as a biennial forum for information exchange, discussion of latest development and knowledge and partnership building across sectors, with the goal to improve implementation of DRR through better communication and coordination amongst stakeholders. The 4th Session of the Global Platform for DRR aims to continue the momentum of the prior Global Platform meetings, into a durable and sustained effort from all actors to take shared responsibility in reducing risks and reinforcing resilience in our communities.

Key outcomes to achieve during the 4th Session include:

- A stronger and more sustainable ISDR 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 DRR.
- Directions and new alliances for the development and use of new tools and methodologies aimed at understanding and applying the economics and investment in DRR.
- A forum to discuss progress and consult over a post-Hyogo Framework of Action.
- Events that follow-up and progress on the 2011 Global Platform (examples may include an update on disaster loss in schools and hospitals, accounting for disaster losses, the status of National Platforms, and progress of the Children's Charter for DRR).
- Priorities and directions reflected in the outcome document - the Chair's Summary.

Please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013/> for more details on the 4th Session of the Global Platform.

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## Employment and Grant Opportunities

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### Consultant for a Livelihood Assessment in Djibouti – Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. (Closing date: February 17, 2013)



Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. is a German Christian non-governmental organisation, dedicated to excellence in the field of first aid, ambulance services, social service programmes and other projects in the medical and social field. Several years of drought and the rise in global food and fuel prices are the cause of a protracted humanitarian crisis in Djibouti. Beyond the direct humanitarian assistance to save

lives of malnourished children in Djibouti, Johanniter strives to engage in early recovery activities to strengthen the population's resilience and support livelihood activities. The assessment hence aims to identify livelihood opportunities of the local population in Djibouti to minimize the effects of the drought and to strengthen their capacities to respond to future crisis. This approach is in line with the strategic objectives of local authorities and relevant UN clusters, as defined in the Consolidated Appeal Process 2013

The objective of the consultancy is to identify sustainable livelihood opportunities of the local population in Djibouti to minimize the effects of the drought and to strengthen their capacities to respond to future crisis. The tasks include the study and analyses of the communities' coping mechanisms; identification of local organizations as potential partners; and development of concrete plans to design, implement and follow up on livelihood activities.

Interested applicants are required to send proposal specifying the methodological approach and time frame, including CV to [staff@johanniter.de](mailto:staff@johanniter.de). Please visit <http://reliefweb.int/job/552700/consultant-livelihood-assessment-djibouti> for more information on the position.

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## 2013 Land for Life Award (Closing date: March 15, 2013)



Every minute, land equivalent to the size of a football field becomes unproductive, lost to degradation through desertification and drought. At the same time, world population is growing rapidly, estimated to reach nine billion by 2050. There are only two options to meet the needs of future generations: to further cut down forests, or to make degraded land productive. Solutions for restoring degraded lands already exist- communities, scientists, policy makers and others are already at work, but their efforts are under appreciated, and therefore, underutilized.

The Land for Life award will recognize innovation and excellence in sustainable land management, particularly efforts that enhance soils' natural health and yield, and promote collaboration between policy makers, scientists and communities. The goals of the Land for Life Award are to:

- Recognize excellence and innovation in sustainable land management;
- Provide winners with visibility and support to expand their work;
- Inspire leadership for the restoration of soils' natural health and the transformation of degraded land;
- Encourage international cooperation in support of sustainable land management, particularly in the drylands;
- Encourage political measures that foster sustainable land management and enhance soils;
- Raise awareness of the global benefits of soil generation and preservation;
- Promote understanding that the drylands are part of the solution to today's most pressing problems; and
- Reward sustainable land management efforts that foster gender equality, cultural diversity and social inclusion.

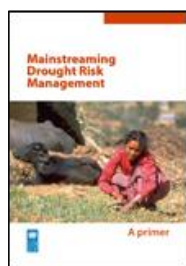
The application process for 2013 Land for Life Award is now open with the deadline on 15 March 2013. Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/LandForLife/Pages/default.aspx> for the award application procedure and the detailed information on the winners as well as the semi-finalists for 2012.



### **Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)**

This report reviewed the current institutional and programmatic landscape in the realm of drought risk management (DRM) in the two regions and mapped out some of the main DRM capacity gaps and gap-filling opportunities. The exercise is based upon the consultations with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 practitioners working in drought-related fields and focused discussions at the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011. It highlighted important similarities in DRM issues across Africa and Asia and identified priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add value. The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable\\_land\\_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html).



### **Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer / Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif (2011)**

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/](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>