



Special Topic

February 2015 Issue

Sustainable Development Goals



At Rio+20 - the UN Conference on Sustainable Development - countries agreed to establish an intergovernmental process to develop a set of "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate" sustainable development goals (SDGs) to help drive the implementation of sustainable development.

The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, also calls for the goals to be coherent with the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly, established in 2013, is tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs.

[OWG Proposal for SDGs](#) was released in September 2014, which is articulated in 17 goals, each accompanied by targets (169 in total). Many goals are closely linked to the issue of drought and some targets aim to address drought-related challenges from different entry points, such as sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices (Goal 2 Target 4) and combating desertification and restoration of degraded land and soil (Goal 15 Target 3).

In January 2015, building on the OWG document, a report entitled [Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for SDGs: Launching a Data Revolution for the SDGs](#) was published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), an independent global network of research centers, universities and technical institutions aiming to mobilize scientific and technical expertise for problem-solving in relation to sustainable development. Presenting a proposed set of 100 indicators, including those related to drought, the SDSN report stresses the need for a well-defined monitoring framework with indicators and sufficient resources to implement the goals to be immediately ready in 2016. The publication proposes such a framework of indicators and principles for effective monitoring of the SDGs, while identifying gaps in the "SDG road-map" and ways to promote a data revolution.

The UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda is scheduled to be held on 25-27 September 2015 in New York. For more information on the latest news, information and expert analysis around the global decision-making process around SDGs and SDGs-drought nexus, please visit Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network](#) (AADP) is a network established under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*. The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative](#) (ADDN).

AADP's [Drought Online website](#) aims to offer an easy access to a growing collection of DRM related resources... [More >](#)

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



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

AquaKnow



AquaKnow is a European Commission initiative managed by the Joint Research Centre of Ispra and designed for experts and practitioners of the institutions involved in the water sector. It is a collaborative workspace and content management system dedicated to technical and scientific

knowledge for the sustainable development of the water sector. One of the most recent products generated by AquaKnow platform is the Water Project Toolkit application (WPT App). WPT App provides guidance and information on best practices and sound operational guidance for implementing water and sanitation projects in the developing world. The WPT App gives access to the analytical tools necessary to evaluate the specific context, issues and needs in your project area, as well as operational checklists to guide you throughout the project lifecycle.

Use the WPT navigator to quickly find appropriate advice on your project by selecting your sector (Water Resource management, Basic services, Municipal services, Agriculture, Energy and Sector performance) and project phase (Programming, Identification, Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation-Audit). Once it is installed, the WPT is also accessible offline. The Water Project Toolkit (WPT). Based on internationally agreed principles, the WPT helps users apply sound and environmentally sustainable practices in areas such as institutional management, socio-economic and public governance, finance, the environment, education, capacity building, communications and technology. It consists of step-by-step suggestions for the planning, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation of water-development activities.

For more information on AquaKnow in general and WPT App more in specific, please visit <http://www.aquaknow.net/en/news/release-water-project-toolkit-app-ios-and-adroid>.

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture



The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 42 universities in 19 countries of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. It was established in 2004 with the aim to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers, including those in drought prone part of the region, through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the

maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions, and governments.

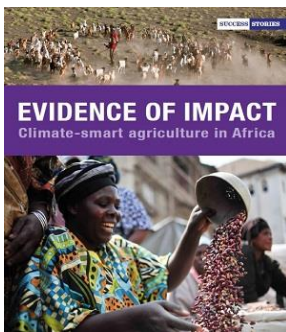
RUFORUM recognizes the important and largely unfulfilled role that universities play in contributing to the wellbeing of small-scale farmers and economic development throughout sub-Saharan Africa and is dedicated in fostering innovative and responsive research; high performing and proactive graduates; a dynamic platform for university networking; advocacy for agricultural higher education; and university transformation for relevance. The forum trains a critical mass of Masters and PhD graduates, who are responsive to stakeholder needs and national/regional development goals,



develop collaborative research and training facilities that achieve economies of scope and scale, and improve the adaptive capacities of universities to produce high quality and innovative training, research and outreach activities that can contribute to policy and development practice.

RUFORUM is registered as an International Non-Governmental Organisation and has mandate to oversee graduate training and networks of specialization in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Please visit <http://www.ruforum.org/> for more information regarding RUFORUM.

Evidence of Impact: Climate-smart Agriculture in Africa



Africa's climate is changing. Across the continent rainfall patterns are set to alter. In many areas droughts will become more frequent, more intense, and last longer. In others, new patterns of rainfall will cause flooding and soil erosion. Climate-smart agriculture includes practices and technologies that sustainably increase productivity, support farmers' adaptation to climate change, and reduce levels of greenhouse gases. It can also help governments to achieve national food security and poverty reduction goals. Climate-smart approaches can include many diverse components from farm-level techniques to international policy and finance mechanisms.

Many innovative climate-smart agriculture practices take place in Africa with the capacity to increase productivity and build resilience. Yet they remain largely unknown at the continental, or even regional, levels. This publication aims to inspire farmers, researchers, business leaders, policy makers and NGOs to take up the mantle of climate-smart agriculture and accelerate the transformation of Africa's agriculture into a more sustainable and profitable sector. It highlights just some of the array of climate-smart agriculture practices that exist across Africa's diverse farming systems and climatic conditions. The case studies illustrate many impacts and challenges of different approaches to climate-smart agriculture. These strategies and practices can provide the impetus and the models for transforming Africa's agriculture.

The full document is available for download at https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/51721/climate_smart_farming_successes_Africa.pdf.

2014 Annual Global Climate and Catastrophe Report: Impact Forecasting



This report evaluates the impact of the natural disaster events that occurred worldwide during 2014 and loss trends with: the global economic losses, global insured losses, global fatalities, natural disasters defined and total events and factors that drive weather loss trends. It reveals that 258 separate global natural disasters occurred in 2014, compared to a ten-year average of 260 events, causing a combined total economic losses of USD132 billion – 37 percent below the ten-year average of USD211 billion.

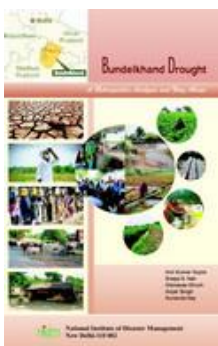
The report comprises the detailed 2014 catastrophe review in different regions including Africa and Asia Pacific. Droughts in China, Brazil and the United States ranked among top 10 global economic loss events listed in the report, which led to the economic loss of approximate USD5.2 billion,



USD4.3 billion and USD4.0 billion respectively. In terms of human fatality, Drought in Pakistan is listed in the top 10.

The full document is available for download at http://thoughtleadership.aonbenfield.com/Documents/20150113_abif_annual_climate_catastrophe_report.pdf. Along with this report, users can access current and historical natural catastrophe data and event analysis on Impact Forecasting's Catastrophe Insight website at www.aonbenfield.com/catastropheinsight. The website is updated bi-monthly as new data becomes available.

Bundelkhand Drought: Retrospective Analysis and Way Ahead



Drought in India has resulted in tens of millions of deaths over the course of the last few centuries. About 329 million hectare of land covering 103 districts and 16 states of India are chronically drought prone as per the National Drought Manual, 2009. Among them, Bundelkhand is historically known drought affected region of the country. This case study is designed to understand the drought patterns and differential role of mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand, India, in order to suggest strategies for the future.

The study of Bundelkhand presents a peculiar example of 'lack of appropriate vision' and 'lack of integrated planning process' at various levels, sometimes referred as 'drought of vision'. As frequency and intensity of drought in Bundelkhand region has increased over past decades, it aims to assess and develop comprehensive programmes in relation to drought disaster risk management for the region involving local people and experts. More specifically, it attempts to identify the areas prone to different types of drought, i.e., meteorological, hydrological and agricultural droughts. It also presents a detailed scientific analysis of the spatial, temporal and typological distribution of drought at district level for the period during 1998-2009 in the region of Bundelkhand. Further a detailed analysis based on interaction with officials of disaster management authority, statistical data and existing literature has been carried out for drought impact and mapping the ongoing mitigation measures.

The full document is available for download at <http://nidm.gov.in/PDF/pubs/Bundelkhand%20Drought%202014.pdf>.

Event and Training Opportunities

International Drought Management Workshop 2015 (Karaj, Iran; 16-17 February, 2015)



Drought affects virtually all climatic regions and more than one half of the earth is susceptible to drought each year. Droughts can have serious ecological and economic consequences and will pose an increasing challenge as the global climate is changing. Droughts are among the greatest natural disasters threatening the human population in the world, whose negative impacts span ecological, economic and social aspects. Successful water management to cope with drought requires the understanding of the governing processes and causes. To quantify the impact and the provision for abatement of drought, it is necessary to understand its characteristics, such as duration, severity,



and frequency of occurrence of droughts. There is an urgent need to improve drought preparedness through increased knowledge, drought management plans and an improved science-policy interfacing that will reduce vulnerability to future drought and the associated risks.

International Drought Management Workshop 2015 is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of all aspects of drought modelling and management. It is the premier forum to present and discuss issues, trends, recent research, experience and ideas related to drought issues. The workshop affords an opportunity for researchers, graduate students, policy makers and managers to come together for discussions and sharing new ideas and information on this topic. It will be a two-day event which will consist of technical topics and panel sessions during which research ideas and results of national and international projects related to drought modelling and management will be presented and discussed.

Please visit <http://utcan.ut.ac.ir/news/The%20International%20Workshop%20on%20Drought.pdf> for more information regarding the workshop.

DesertLand II: 2nd Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation (Ghent, Belgium; 16-17 June, 2015)



Climate change at a global, regional or local (micro) scale, with its unstable and varying weather conditions, is reflected in the occurrence of extreme events with either excess or with scarcity (deficit) of water. Human impacts additionally bring about the land and its habitants to face and suffer from this environmental instability. The DesertLand Conference brings together scientists, volunteers, research and service institutions, NGO's and corporations that help cope with the problems and find appropriate solutions. It is a unique opportunity to find out how projects of the past (since RIO 1992 conventions) have made a difference and how the future problems should be tackled.

Building on the first DesertLand conference in 2013, among the objectives of DesertLand II is taking stock of not only the current scientific knowledge but also of the current strategies of management of areas affected by drought and by degradation of land (water erosion, wind erosion, physical and chemical degradation) and pastures, and this at a national, regional and community level. Downscaling is the issue! Some of the topics to be discussed include: land management and land degradation; water harvesting and water saving techniques in drylands; aridity and drought: modelling, mapping and prediction; soil hydrology - modelling and applications in drylands; sediment transport and overland flow; GIS applications in wetlands and drylands; and soil and water management.

Please visit <http://www.desertland.eu/index.asp> for further details on DecertLand II, including the program and the registration procedure.



Employment and Grant Opportunities

Regional Operational Coordinator for Indonesia & Timor Leste – Handicap International (Closing date: 15 February, 2015)



Handicap International (HI) is an independent and impartial international aid organisation working alongside persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. HI developed the regional program for Indonesia and Timor-Leste, which are both prone to drought as well as other natural disasters, with the overall objective to ensure that persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups have better access to services and have increased their political and public life participation in emergency and development setting.

The Regional Operational Coordinator is in charge of the implementation of the operational strategy of the program, of converting it into action, and contributes to the definition of the future operation strategy. To reach the set objectives, she/he manages, supervises and trains the operational team (including on project methodology, engineering, donors' proposal and reporting). Under delegation of the Regional Program Director, she/he represents the organisation in her/his field of expertise and manage financial and human resources allocated to the projects implementation.

More details on the position is available at <http://reliefweb.int/job/816501/regional-operational-coordinator-indonesia-timor-leste>.

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Economic Analysis of the Impacts of Droughts – School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford (Closing date: 23 February, 2015)



School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will work to analyse the economic impacts of drought. This is a fixed-term post for 20 months.

The successful candidate will have extensive knowledge of economic impact assessment and risk analysis. He/she must have a Doctorate and have published innovative research on relevant topics in the academic literature. He/she will have experience of empirical analysis of heterogeneous and sparse datasets, the implementation and application of economic models at different scales; demonstrable capability to devise and implement innovative modelling solutions; a sound understanding of probabilistic risk analysis, uncertainty analysis and decision analysis, and the implementation of these methodologies in the context of economic modelling. The postholder will be expected to publish their research work in the international academic literature. He/she will be expected to participate enthusiastically in the multidisciplinary research consortium of Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of drought and water Scarcity, or MaRIUS in short, including engagement with project stakeholders in government and industry.

For further details on the position, please visit

https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk/pls/hrsliverecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.display_form?p_company=10&p_internal_external=E&p_display_in_irish=N&p_applicant_no=&p_process_type=&p_form_profile_detail=&p_display_apply_ind=Y&p_refresh_search=Y&p_recruitment_id=116695.

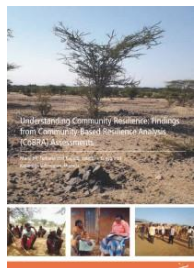


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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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Produced by UNDP Global Policy Centre Nairobi

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<http://www.undp.org/drylands/>

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