



Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

January 2014 Issue

Special Topic

World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction



World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction

On 20 December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to hold the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) from 14 to 18 March 2015 in

Sendai, Japan, outlining the modalities for the preparations of the conference. Several thousand participants are expected, including at related events linked to the WCDRR under the umbrella of building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

In 1994, the 1st World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction adopted the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World. In 2005, the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA). The 3rd WCDRR is expected to result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document and will have the following objectives:

- To complete assessment and review of the implementation of HFA;
- To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations as well as relevant regional agreements within the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action;
- To adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
- To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction; and
- To determine modalities to periodically review the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Two preparatory committee meetings (PrepComs) are proposed to Member States in Geneva in July and November 2014. The PrepComs will further elaborate the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and organize the 3rd WCDRR. The official WCDRR website at <http://www.preventionweb.net/wcdrr/home> provides the detailed information on the preparatory process and other practical information including the registration procedure. The website will also post important announcement on the conference and the development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

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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

Climate Action Publication

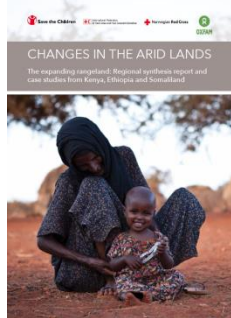


Launched in 2007 at 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali and now in its sixth edition, the Climate Action publication is read and referred to consistently throughout the year and features world-class thought leadership from some of the most influential political, environmental and business commentators. The publication assists governments by highlighting the latest business solutions and technologies, and offers the opportunity for policy-makers to outline new initiatives, programmes and options for climate resilience building and green economy and the future challenges that governments and are facing in driving their nations and communities towards sustainability. For international business, Climate Action provides in-depth analysis on the latest developments, trends and opportunities within sustainable markets and industries, and provides a platform across which they can showcase their sustainable solutions and innovations directly to an audience of senior decision makers within both government and the wider corporate supply chain.

Following its annual launch at COP, Climate Action is then distributed via hardcopy and electronic formats to a bespoke and regularly updated database of over 18,500 named contacts in businesses, governments and public corporations worldwide. Supported by the Climate Action website, monthly e-bulletins to a community of over 12,000 subscribers and a wide-variety of video interviews from business and governmental leaders, the Climate Action portfolio is designed as a multi-media platform for the international sustainability community.

All the past editions of the Climate Action Publication will be available for download at <http://www.climateactionprogramme.org/climate-action-publication>.

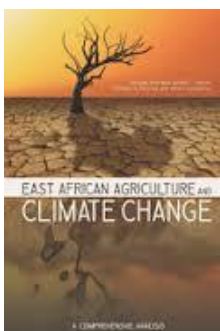
Changes in the Arid Lands: The Expanding Rangeland – Regional Synthesis Report and Case Studies from Kenya, Ethiopia and Somaliland



There is an increasing awareness that enormous change is on-going in the arid lands in the Horn of Africa region. The next ten years will be a period of transition and new opportunities, as families who struggle to make ends meet, continue to try to educate and feed their children and search for jobs in the rural towns. Future aspirations are being shaped by the on-going changes. In the aftermath of the drought and famine of 2011, capturing and understanding these changes was a starting point in efforts to work differently and better. The Red Cross, OXFAM and Save the Children agreed to undertake a research study that would take a snapshot of changes affecting people's lives today, but also look at how, over time, those changes may transform their lives. This research had us speaking with people in Shinile and Jijiga (Ethiopia), Togdheer (Somaliland) and Turkana (Kenya), about their current situation and their hopes for the future. Fundamental questions looked at the changes in the dry lands, what we expect to see ten years from now and what our role is in supporting people to achieve their desired future. Aspirations themselves may not translate into plans or reality, but they do indicate a direction that people intend to take. The research findings show certain common elements of the direction towards a better future in the different research locations.

The key question generated from the research is: “are we programming based on past assumptions?” Through the voices of the respondents, the research changes a picture from one of famine, drought and conflict to one of an area undergoing social, political, economic and environmental change with related risks and opportunities. Our ability to engage with this change, listen to communities, and work with them to achieve their aspirations is the challenge we must take up. This research is a step towards understanding the on-going changes and supporting vibrant and optimistic communities to achieve their future aspirations. The research findings indicate that it is not what we do, but how we do it that is important. This suggests certain adjustments to our programming and it raises key questions for us, within the aid sector. The full report is available for download at http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/Interagency%20Report%20Arid%20Lands%20V2.pdf.

East African Agriculture and Climate Change: A Comprehensive Analysis



This is the second of three publications (covering West, East, and southern Africa) that make up International Food Policy Research Institute’s *Climate Change in Africa* series. The publication provides the most comprehensive analysis to date on the scope of climate change as it relates to food security in East and Central Africa, including who will be most affected and what policymakers can do to facilitate adaptation, with particular focus on Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Augmenting the text are dozens of detailed maps that provide graphical representations of the range of food security challenges and the special threats from climate change, including rainfall deficiency and drought.

Using comprehensive empirical analysis, the authors have placed climate change in the forefront of national development issues and have suggested that policymakers take into account (1) the need for more research and development programs across diverse disciplines; (2) the urgency of rehabilitating degraded agricultural land to enhance agricultural productivity; (3) the need for improved coordination and implementation of climate change policies and strategies; and (4) the need to build capacities in terms of human resources, institutions, and infrastructure.

The full publication is available for download at <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rr181.pdf>.

World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism: Call for Contributions

WISP

World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism



The World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) is a global initiative that supports the empowerment of pastoralists to sustainably

manage drylands resources. WISP enables pastoralists to demonstrate that their land use and production system is an effective and efficient way of harnessing the natural resources of the world’s drylands. It is now 10 years since WISP was conceived, at the World Parks Congress in Durban, 2003. During that time WISP has evolved from a small informal network to a portfolio of projects that has contributed to progress in promoting sustainable pastoralist development, benefiting from the rich expertise and experience of a network of around 2000 people worldwide. The current cycle of funds are drawing to an end and WISP-net wishes to reflect on how sustainable pastoralist development has changed over the past decade, in order to better inform the future actions and the nature of the initiative. The WISP-net team would therefore like to request your advice and insights on the following:

1. In your experience how has pastoralist development succeeded over the past 10 years?
 - a) What have been the most significant improvements in sustainable pastoralist development?
 - b) What evidence can you give for these changes?
 - c) What has contributed to these improvements?
2. In your experience how has pastoralist development failed?
 - a) What evidence do you have of this failure?
 - b) What key steps must be taken to reverse the current situation and move towards sustainable pastoralism?

Please email your thoughts on these questions, or to send us relevant documents and examples, at wisp@iucn.org. Your contribution will be acknowledged in any report on this discussion.

Event and Training Opportunities

Training Course: Disaster Risk Reduction in Emergencies (London, The United Kingdom; 3-7 February, 2014)



Set amidst the context of global climate change and population growth, the number of natural and human-made emergencies every year has increased drastically in the past decade. Although floods, earthquakes, droughts, and other natural hazards cannot be prevented, their impact on communities can

be limited through disaster risk reduction (DRR) practices. Through the Training Course on DRR in Emergencies, you will learn the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematically analysing and managing the causal factors of disasters. For example, the course examines reducing exposure to hazards, lessening vulnerability of people and property, wisely managing land and the environment, or improving preparedness for adverse events.

Blending theory with practice, this workshop takes you through good practices in the stages of the disaster risk management cycle and the commonly used terminology, frameworks, tools and approaches to effective DRR. The curriculum also covers a selection of global DRR documents and frameworks, including the United Nations-endorsed Hyogo Framework for Action and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system.

Further details on the training course are available at <http://www.redr.org.uk/en/Training-and-more/find-a-training-course.cfm?url/DRRFEB14>.

2014 Symposium: Drought in the Life, Cultures, and Landscapes of the Great Plains (Lincoln, United States of America; 1-4 April, 2014)



2011 and 2012 witnessed two of the worst Great Plains droughts in recent memory, a tragic counterpoint to the damaging floods of 2011 and a return to the stressful times of 1998-2006. Drought is a recurring pattern in this semi-arid region, with severe droughts in the 1890s,

1930s, 1950s and 1980s. Indeed, using tree ring, lake sediment, and dune records, scientists have documented the periodic return of severe droughts. Based on such evidence, some scientists have observed that drought was the dominant feature of climate rather than the exception. Drought has been and will continue to be a normal part of the climate of the Great Plains and may increase in frequency and severity in the future as a result of projected changes in climate.

Drought or the ever-present threat of it has had a pervasive effect on the region and its people. It moulded the region's settlement patterns, agriculture and commerce, stimulated innovation, aroused conflict between agriculturalists and environmentalists, and fuelled litigation between states. Drought shaped how the people of the Great Plains think of themselves and their region and influenced their culture, literature, and art. Today it raises concern about whether the region will have sufficient water for its future. 2014 Symposium: Drought will be held in this context. Scientists, scholars, corporate leaders, writers, agency officials, farm leaders, and others from across the full spectrum of disciplines and organizations will be sharing their expertise and perspectives as the symposium explores all aspects, causes, impacts, projections, social and cultural consequences, and ramifications of drought.

For more information on the 2014 Symposium: Drought, please visit <http://www.unl.edu/plains/2014-symposium>.

Short Course: Spate Irrigation and Water Management under Drought and Water Scarcity (Delft, Netherlands; 8-19 September, 2014)

UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education



UNESCO's Institute for Water Education will organize a short course on spate irrigation and water management under drought and water scarcity in September 2014. The course consists of lectures, case studies and group work assignments. It is organized into six modules: Introduction (overview of spate irrigation system development and management concepts and practices); spate hydrology and engineering; soil and water conservation and management; organization and water governance; spate irrigation agronomy; and case studies and group assignments.

The main objectives of the course, among others, are to:

- comprehend best global and regional practices in spate irrigation, taking a broad integrated water resource management view;
- draw spate irrigation development and management plans covering technical designs, institutional arrangements, socio-economic, environmental and legislative attributes;
- grasp various experiences of groundwater recharge in spate irrigation - in particular, the effect (positive or negative) of different water distribution and spreading hydraulic structures and strategies on groundwater levels;
- design and manage, operate and maintain alternative on farm structures the likes of controlled field intakes, overflow structures, in-field ditches and bunds and assess their effects on field water management and soil moisture conservation; and
- link engineering and management improvements with changes in water governance and local organization.

Please visit <https://www.unesco-ihe.org/spate-irrigation-and-water-management-under-drought-and-water-scarcity> for more information on the course.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Assistant to the Coordinator: Technical Consortium – International Livestock Research Institute (Closing date: 15 January, 2014)



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to enhance the roles livestock play in pathways out of poverty in developing countries. ILRI is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a global research partnership of 15 centres working with many partners for a food-secure future. ILRI has two main campuses in East Africa and other hubs in East, West and southern Africa and South, Southeast and East Asia.

ILRI seeks to recruit an Assistant to the Coordinator for The Technical Consortium (TC) for Building Resilience to Drought in the Horn of Africa based in Nairobi, Kenya. TC was formed to provide support to IGAD in developing regional and national investment programmes (Country Programme Papers, Regional Programming Framework) for the long term development of the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). The long-term focus of the TC is on enhancing resilience to drought in the Horn and aims to coordinate and provide technical support to IGAD and Member States in the Horn of Africa on evidence-based planning and programming for investments contributing to enhanced resilience of ASAL communities.

For further details on the position including the application procedure, please visit <http://ilri.simplicant.com/job/detail/16130-assistant-to-the-coordinator-technical-consortium>.

Executive Director of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme – International Council for Science (Closing date: 20 January, 2014)



Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR) is an exciting decade-long, internationally integrated, all-hazards research programme bringing together the talents of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences in a way not attempted before. Its objectives are the scientific characterization of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, vulnerability and risk; the understanding of decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and the reduction of risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions.

The Executive Director heads an International Programme Office (IPO) for IRDR being hosted by the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, with core funding coming from the China Association for Science and Technology. The Executive Director will oversee a team and will direct all activities of the IPO, especially in respect of the preparation for, and conduct of, meetings of the SC-IRDR and of the implementation of actions decided upon by the Committee. He/she will have responsibility for drawing up annual programme and budgets of the Office, and ensuring that they are implemented. He/she will also maintain effective cooperation on administrative and technical matters with the host institution and relevant local organizations and have responsibility for organizing biennial IRDR Conferences in China.

Please visit <http://www.irdrinternational.org/2013/12/02/irdr-ipo-executive-director-re-advertised/> for more information on the position.



Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2013)

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, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. This draft document is a result of the ongoing effort to develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology, i.e. CoBRA, with which to define the key factors and indicators affecting local resilience levels and measure the impact of various sector-based interventions on resilience enhancement quantitatively. The CoBRA model will strengthen the existing monitoring framework, helping track progress along a resilience pathway in a given context systematically and guiding holistic planning processes. At present, the latest CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology is under field testing in the Horn of Africa region with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The document is available for download at:

<http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/documents/detail/en/c/2693/>.



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.

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>