



AFRICA ASIA DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

January 2017 Issue

Special Topic

UNCCD COP 13



United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

An official announcement was made that the thirteen session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held at Ordos International Convention and Exhibition Center, Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China from 4-15 September 2017.

Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment, development and the promotion of healthy soils. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. 195 Parties to the Convention work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.

The COP was established by the Convention as the supreme decision-making body. One of the main functions of the COP is to review reports submitted by the Parties detailing how they are carrying out their commitments; the COP makes recommendations on the basis of these reports. It also has the power to make amendments to the Convention or to adopt new annexes, such as additional regional implementation annexes. In this way, the COP can guide the Convention as global circumstances and national needs change.

Building on the discussions and achievements at COP12 in Ankara, Turkey, and other past conferences, at UNCCD COP13, the Parties will decide on the Strategic Framework that will guide action under the Convention from 2018-2030. COP 13 The COP is also expected to adopt a corresponding reporting and monitoring framework and discuss how to secure additional financial resources to meet the Convention's goals. The event will be held along with the UNCCD's sixteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC16) and the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST13).

Please visit <http://www2.unccd.int/cop13> to be updated on the latest information concerning the UNCCD COP13.

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About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [the UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-RED\)](#) 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

European Drought Centre



The European Drought Centre (EDC) is a virtual centre of European drought research and drought management organisations to promote collaboration and capacity building between scientists and the user community. The long term objective of the centre is to enhance European co-operation in order to mitigate the impacts of droughts on society, economy and the environment. Although the EDC primarily has a European dimension, it will also link with other international projects, organisations and experts outside Europe.

The EDC promotes collaboration and capacity building between scientists and the user community and thereby increase preparedness and resilience of society to drought. In particular, the Centre seeks to act as a platform to initiate and discuss scientific progress on drought research within the academic society, but as important be a meeting place between multi-disciplinary experts in drought research, policy and operational management. It interacts with the scientific and operational communities as well as policy makers and society to raise the awareness of the drought hazard.

Please visit <http://europeandroughtcentre.com/> to find more information on the EDC and its resources as well as activities.

Centre for Humanitarian Leadership



Almost 60 million people are displaced around the world due to conflict and disaster, including drought, and with the severity and frequency of disasters increasing, the humanitarian sector is facing significant challenges. The Centre for Humanitarian Leadership works towards addressing some of humanity's biggest challenges. Through teaching, research, policy development and innovation for the humanitarian sector, the Centre aims to better serve communities affected by crisis with more responsive, efficient and relevant actions.

In the fields of teaching and learning, the Centre is committed to engaging and developing current and future humanitarian leaders as innovative thinkers and dynamic achievers, offering unparalleled academic and practice excellence with these programmes and courses for experienced humanitarian practitioners, graduate students and the general public. In the fields of research and policy, the Centre provides for practitioner rotations to carry out research on specific thematic areas in the humanitarian sector, and facilitates practitioner support including coaching and advice to graduates, partner organisations, researchers and research students. Built on a foundation of strong partnership between academic and humanitarian organisations, the Centre also extends this philosophy of open engagement to the private sector so the best ideas and systems available can be applied in humanitarian response.

Please visit <http://centreforhumanitarianleadership.org/> for more information concerning the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership and its various activities.



Youth Beyond Disasters

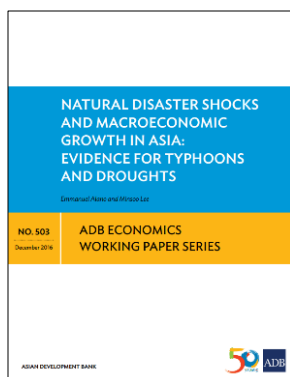


Youth Beyond Disasters is a registered not-for-profit association which exists to amplify the many great examples of youth led disaster risk reduction (DRR) and mobilise thousands of young people to roll up their sleeves and take real action. It seeks to instill confidence and a sense of permission in young people, to take sensible actions in a disaster or emergency help save lives.

Youth Beyond Disasters an open and free network of young people taking action on the risk we face to disasters, including drought. Working in close partnership with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and NGO partners, Youth Beyond Disasters are committed to ensuring strong participation from children and youth especially in the implementation and evaluation of the Sendai Framework for Action on DRR (SFDRR) and outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit. Anyone ages 18 to 30 can be a member to the network by simply making an annual voluntary membership commitment online. Registered members receive updates on upcoming events and opportunities and can share examples of their DRR works.

Please visit <http://youthbeyonddisasters.org/> for more information concerning the Youth Beyond Disaster network.

Natural Disaster Shocks and Macroeconomic Growth in Asia: Evidence for Typhoons and Droughts



Climate-related natural disaster shocks are expected to rise as the earth is getting warmer, which will adversely affect growth prospects globally. This working paper published by the Asian Development Bank discusses how current estimates of the effects of typhoons and droughts point to declines in national income compared to pre-disaster trends, with economic effects likely to persist up to two decades. Using typhoon landfall and damage data in Asia, it analyzes the wind–damage relationship and finds that damages to gross domestic product increase by 2.3% with an increase in maximum wind speed. The extreme projected temperature rise in Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 will result in higher damage by more than 50% in 2100.

Developing Asian economies could expect dampened growth with significant impacts on agriculture and tourism, a concern that may roll back years of development gains and exacerbate inequality. To cope with increasing disaster risks, both short-term adaptation strategies like relocation, government transfers, and other social safety nets, as well as long-term strategies like disaster insurance or similar ex-ante mechanisms are needed.

The full report is available for download at <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/218461/ewp-503.pdf>.



Event and Training Opportunities

Pan-European Symposium on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning and Extreme Weather Events (6-7 April 2017; Amsterdam, The Netherlands)



Floods, droughts and heavy precipitation, together known as extreme weather events, are becoming more frequent as a result of climate change. Between 1998 and 2007, in Europe alone, these events caused approximately € 13.7 billion in terms of economic losses, which were largely uninsured. The symposium aims to provide a platform for sharing information, presenting research and exchanging experiences on dealing with climate-change-induced extreme weather events and the effects on – and options for – water and waste water service providers in the pan-European region on how to effectively manage systems in light of these pressures.

The focus of the symposium will be on the relation between extreme weather events and water services, and their affiliated health implications. Presentations and workshops will be organised with the goal of presenting achievements, experiences and challenges of water and sanitation professionals and regulators, in addressing extreme weather events, with a special focus on cases from the pan-European region. Presentations from throughout the world are welcomed.

For more information concerning the event, please visit <http://www.iwcconferences.com/wssp-and-extreme-weather/>.

2017 Water for Food Global Conference (10-12 April 2017; Nebraska, USA)



2017 Water for Food Global Conference, April 10-12 at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. The three-day event will bring together experts from around the world to discuss, “Water for Food Security: From Local Lessons to Global Impacts,” addressing the common aspects of this global challenge in different contexts and scales. Together with our partners in academia, non-profit organizations, government agencies and private industry, we’ll share best practices, innovations and lessons learned that can help improve water and food productivity.

Topics developed in collaboration with public and private partners include, among others:

- Closing water and agricultural productivity gaps;
- Improving groundwater governance and management for agricultural production, highlighting the great river basins of the world;
- Market-based approaches to drought management;
- Enhancing high productivity irrigated agriculture, highlighting the challenges and opportunities from the Great Plains to Sub-Saharan Africa; and
- Advancing drought management, including market-based approaches and water variability extremes in the Middle East and North Africa.

Further details on the event is available at <http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/2017-water-for-food-global-conference/>.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Humanitarian Surge Team: Field Manager – Save the Children (Closing date: 15 January 2017)



Save the Children
Australia

Save the Children Australia's Humanitarian Surge Team (HST) is a dynamic and highly skilled cohort of emergency personnel with a range of technical and operational skill areas: if there's a disaster - like an earthquake, drought or conflict - HST is there on the ground at the forefront of saving children's lives. As part of a globally deployable team, the successful

candidate will generally be deployed as a field level manager for a large field base or area, in a small to medium scale emergency or the second phase of a large emergency.

The Field Manager will be expected to lead on all aspects of managing large or multiple field bases including budget development and management, agency coordination and representation, security, logistics and management of multiple teams. He/she will play an important role in the effective scale up and management of Save the Children emergency programs to increase impact and enable positive change for children. On occasion he/she may also be asked to gap fill a key operations role in a chronic humanitarian country program. He/she is expected to be willing to travel for up to 70% of the year, with deployment lengths of up to 3 months.

For further details on the position and the application procedure, please visit <https://stc-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=1442&version=1>.

Consultant for Desalination Road Map for Asia Region – Oxfam (Closing date: 17 January 2017)

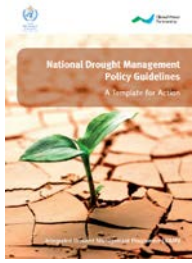


OXFAM

Southeast Asia is one of the hardest hit areas in the world in terms of intrusion of saline groundwater. Countries are now turning to technological solutions to desalinate water, such as reverse osmosis (R.O.). Meanwhile, major droughts in recent years have encouraged research and development on the technology with lower energy requirements, lower running costs and less complex maintenance procedures than R.O. In this context, Oxfam aims to facilitate the introduction of low-cost, low-energy consumption desalination options into market chains in Southeast Asian countries affected by intrusion of saltwater into drinking water sources (specifically: Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, India).

The objective of the assignment is to produce a 'Desalination Road-Map' for Oxfam in Asia. This road map shall enable Oxfam to review lessons learned from previous projects in the region which have introduced desalination technology for low-income or remote populations; prioritize specific desalination technologies; and identify potential partnerships with academic institutions, private sector actors and foundations for future work on introduction of technology.

More information on the position is available at <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/consultant-for-desalination-road-map-for-asia-region-int3135/5244/description/>.



National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

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>