



Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



July 2012 Issue

Special Topic

Building Drought Resilient Dryland Communities in the Horn of Africa Project

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

We are pleased to announce the commencement of the the **Building Drought Resilient Dryland Communities in the Horn of Africa Project** with financial support of the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). ECHO has long been assisting the governments and communities in the Horn of Africa (HoA) region to respond swiftly to and recover effectively from recurrent drought hazards based on the corporate Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan (DRRAP). This project is an integral part of the 2012 DRRAP and aims to reduce drought disaster risks and improve human livelihoods in the affected communities, inter alia Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti. More specifically, in partnership with the other DRRAP partners, the Project intends to:

- Develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology for measuring and assessing the short- and long-term impacts of community-based DRR interventions on local/national resilience building;
- Improve the capacity of local/national/regional disaster management institutions to plan, implement and monitor drought interventions against their contributions to long-term community resilience building, particularly for the most vulnerable populations; and
- Raise awareness among decision-makers at local, national and regional levels in the potentials of community-based DRR for drought vulnerability reduction in the HoA and enhancing their capacity to integrate proven practices into policy and planning processes.

Co-financing support will be provided by AADP to link the project and other DRRAP partners operating at local and national levels in the HoA with a wider pool of DRR expertise and knowledge, and help them better participate in drought policy dialogue and communication, at Africa, Africa-Asia and broader levels. Project updates will be posted on the DRRAP website in the future at <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/>.

UNDP DDC is currently seeking to fill the two project positions, i.e. **International Technical Advisor** and **Project Coordinator**. Please see Employment and Grant Opportunities section below for more information on the positions.

Contents

Special Topic: Building Drought Resilient Dryland Communities in the Horn of Africa Project	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Employment/Grant Opportunities	5
AADP publications Information	8
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	8

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).

For more information, please visit the [AADP project website](#).

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Rio+20 Outcome Document: The Future We Want



The negotiated outcome text of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or more commonly called Rio+20 Conference, entitled “the Future We Want”, was released. The document calls for a wide range of actions, among many other points, including: launching a process to establish sustainable development goals; detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development; taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country; developing a strategy for sustainable development financing, etc.

With regard to the issue of drought, the nearly 100 world leaders agreed to curb the growing gap between land degradation and its restoration, monitor land degradation globally and improve the science that guides these actions in order to address desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. *Inter alia*, the document expresses deep concern for the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and call for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels and reiterates the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, inviting States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems.

The full outcome document is available for download in all official languages of the United Nations at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html>.

Desertification Mitigation and Remediation of Land Project: DESIRE



Fragile arid and semi-arid ecosystems are in urgent need of integrated conservation approaches that can prevent and reduce widespread degradation such as erosion, flooding, overgrazing, drought, salinization and desertification. The Desertification Mitigation and Remediation of Land

(DESIRE) project aims to establish promising alternative land use and management conservation strategies based on a close participation of 28 research institutions, NGOs and policy-makers.

The team of researchers has been working in 18 degradation and desertification hotspots around the world, including Africa and Asia, covering a wide range of problems, from soil erosion by wind or water, to salinization and droughts or flash floods. These hotspots will be the 'global laboratory' for researchers to apply both tested conservation techniques and remediation measures, and find new and innovative approaches to combat desertification. The Project's online Harmonised Desertification Information System (HIS) comprehensively archives and brings together the materials developed in the DESIRE project and makes them available as key messages for all those interested in combating desertification locally, nationally and internationally.

For further details on the DESIRE Project and HIS, please visit <http://www.desire-project.eu/index.php>.

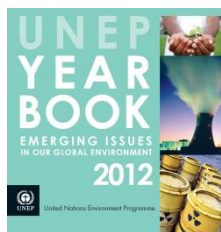
DesertNet International



DesertNet International (DNI) is a multidisciplinary membership-based scientific association, established in 2009 in replacement of the former network known as European DesertNet with the aim to encourage research and promote concerted efforts in all disciplines concerning human and bio-physical issues of dryland development and degradation. As a multidisciplinary network, DNI provides a platform for scientifically based discussions and exchange of ideas. It also addresses knowledge gaps, and identifies research areas. As a think tank, DNI also communicates with stakeholders and policy-makers by identifying issues and priorities for them. The network responds to demands for assessment and information needs and translates knowledge into laymen's terms to improve public awareness of desertification, its costs and implications beyond drylands.

DNI website at <http://www.european-desertnet.eu/index.php> provides the databases on the past/upcoming events related to desertification, land degradation and drought as well as on the publications produced through the DNI operations by the network members from 45 countries. DNI also publishes quarterly electronic newsletter to inform the scientific community about dryland-relevant research matters. All the past issues of the DNI newsletters are available for download at http://www.european-desertnet.eu/newsletters_dni.php.

UNEP Year Book 2012: Emerging Issues in Our Global Environment



The UNEP Year Book is an annual publication that highlights emerging issues and environmental trends, providing an update on new science and developments that are relevant for policy makers. Since 2003 the UNEP Year Book series has contributed to strengthening the science-policy interface by bringing the latest environmental science and emerging issues to the attention of governments and by supporting science-based decision making.

The Year Book 2012 focuses on the vital role of soil carbon and the critical need to maintain and enhance it, in order to sustain its multiple economic, societal and environmental benefits. It also brings to the forefront some of the complexities and implications of the expected rapid increase in the number of nuclear reactors to be decommissioned in the next decade. Year in Review Chapter of the document summarizes the series of record-breaking extreme climate and weather events, as were witnessed by major droughts and floods which were prominent in the news. Some of the major drought events outlined include:

- Africa: La Niña episode has adverse impacts on seasonal rains in the Horn of Africa, leading to a severe drought and food crisis. At least 13 million people are affected.
- Asia: Drought beginning in April affects 3.29 million people and 950,000 livestock in China. This is the most serious drought ever known in five provinces.
- The Caribbean: Early in the year Cuba experiences worst drought in nearly half a century. Reservoirs are at one-fifth of normal levels. Government delivers water by road to more than 100,000 people.
- North America: Strong winds from Tropical Storm Lee, together with high temperatures and the state's worst one-year drought, contribute to wildfires in Texas. Nearly 21,000 fires, the most destructive in the history of Texas, destroy more than 1,500 homes.

The full publication is available for download at http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2012/pdfs/UYB_2012_FULLREPORT.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

4th International Disaster and Risk Conference (Davos, Switzerland; August 26-30, 2012)



Today's societies are faced with numerous interconnected, complex and emerging risks. Environmental/ecological (e.g. desertification, land degradation, drought), technical (e.g. infrastructure), social (e.g. public security, terrorism) and economic risks are often closely linked and can result in successive impact. Risks and disasters explored at the International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) include, amongst others, natural hazards, failures of critical infrastructure and services, pandemics, acts of terrorism and financial crises. All can severely impact and influence human beings and collective societies. The complex and multi faceted nature of risks demands an innovative, holistic and problem oriented approach to risk and disaster management. The 4th IDRC (or IDRC Davos 2012) theme "Integrative Risk Management in a changing world" will further establish and develop the approach to integrative risk management. The aim is to globally increase resilience and reduce vulnerability.

IDRC Davos 2012 will address the Integrative Risk Management Approach within the following context:

- Disaster prevention, preparedness, emergency response, vulnerability and resilience;
- Extreme events, climate change adaptation, migration;
- Critical infrastructures and services;
- Na-tech hazards, cascading risks, technological risks;
- Health impacts, medical response, One Health;
- Capacity building, education, communication and training;
- Economics of disaster, financial tools for risk management; and
- Risk and society, risk governance, risk culture.

For more information on the IDRC Davos 2012, please visit http://idrc.info/pages_new.php/IDRC-Davos-2012/831/1/.

2nd Conference on Modelling Hydrology, Climate and Land Surface Processes (Oslo, Norway; September 10-12, 2012)



The integration of hydrology and meteorology is crucial for understanding present and future climate and its effects on various aspects of society. Extreme weather may cause increased frequency of floods, droughts, landslides and damages to infrastructure. The demand for and the production potential of renewable energy are also strongly linked to the hydro-meteorological system. The Norwegian Hydrological Council recognizes the need to bring together hydrologists and meteorologists to discuss the integration of meteorology and hydrology in all modelling activities that includes weather and water (e.g. weather forecasts, climate prediction, hydrological impact simulations including influence on water quality, climate and hydrological model coupling, environmental hazards).

The conference aims to address topics related to modelling the climate system and the interface with the land surface processes and hydrological impacts of changed climate. It will be organized in four sessions: hydrological processes; atmosphere and land surface; nature, risk and extremes; and climate and water resources management.

Deadline for registration is August 10, 2012. For more information regarding the conference, please visit http://www.hydrologiraadet.no/modules/module_109/publisher_view_product.asp?identityID=24017.

International Research Workshop on Institutions for Inclusive Climate-Smart Agriculture (Nairobi, Kenya; September 10-14, 2012)



International Research Workshop on Institutions for Inclusive Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on September 10-14, 2012. During this period, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Systemwide Programme on Collective Action and Property Rights and Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security will hold a research workshop on the topic of "Institutions for Inclusive CSA." A growing recognition of agriculture's central role in efforts to increase global food security, enhance farmers' ability to adapt to a changing climate, and mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases has led to a converging agenda of CSA. While innovations such as improved (e.g. drought and/or heat tolerant) seed varieties can be adopted by an individual farmer on a single plot for a single growing season, many CSA practices require an ecosystem perspective, working at the landscape scale in a coordinated manner across localities and sectors over an extended period of time.

The workshop will focus on the following question: what kinds of institutional arrangements are effective in supporting and encouraging inclusive climate-smart agricultural activities? Its purpose is to strengthen the capacity of the CGIAR and partners to address institutional issues for inclusive CSA by: 1) raising awareness and recognition of the most salient institutional issues related to CSA; and 2) providing insight on how researchers and practitioners can best account for and address these issues in their activities. The workshop will be an opportunity to present empirical and action research studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

For more information on the workshop, please visit http://www.capri.cgiar.org/wks_0912.asp.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Protection Advisor – Danish Refugee Council (Closing Date: July 4, 2012)



The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is looking for a very experienced and capable Protection Advisor to support and manage/develop protection related initiatives in Afghanistan. Three decades of conflict have left Afghanistan as one of the world's poorest countries, despite modest progress reported in the health and education sector. The country's limited resources are further strained by the return of over five million refugees since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001, and by the large number of IDPs, who have been forced from their lands due to conflict and drought amongst other causes.

Protection, being a global key sector/integrated approach for DRC, is emerging in the activity portfolio for DRC Afghanistan and a key task of the incumbent will be to further develop and strengthen DRCs work in that area. Overall responsibilities of the Protection Advisor include:

- a) Programme development – Be a driving force in terms of developing the Protection activities within the DRC programme objectives;
- b) Strategic development – In coordination with senior management staff, lead the process of adapting DRC's protection focus to the circumstances in the field; and
- c) Management – Manage needed change process at project level including direct manager for designated national staff members. This includes coaching, ensuring coordination among national staff, recruiting, and development of staff, as well as it may be required to engage in project administration, reporting and proposal development as well as ensuring accountability compliance according to DRC guideline and programme handbook.

For further details on the position, please visit

https://www.epos.dk/REK/DKFlygtHj/Joblist/ShowJobOffer.aspx?dbalias=EposREC_DKFlygtHj&lang=en&jobOfferEntityId=578&joblistId=3 for more information regarding the position and the application process.

Project Manager – United Nations Office for Project Services (Closing Date: July 6, 2012)



UNOPS

Current climatic variability within the Arab region indicates a trend towards an increase in surface air temperature and a decrease in rainfall. Hotter and drier conditions will likely exacerbate the frequency of extreme climate events, such

as sand and dust storms, droughts and heat waves and will hamper agricultural production, particularly rain-fed agriculture. Resultant accelerated desertification rates will have direct negative effects on food security and income streams. These negative impacts are likely to jeopardize hard-won development progress across multiple sectors in all countries of the Arab region unless timely and integrated adaptation and mitigation interventions are implemented.

Responding to these challenges and the development needs of the countries of the Arab region, the Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI) has been developed following a series of regional consultation meetings held on the priority climate change impacts and challenges in the countries of the region, namely on water security, drought and desertification, sea level rise, energy efficiency and renewables, the territorial based approach to climate change adaptation. The project intends to assist the target countries to build knowledge related to climate change priorities, develop capacity to implement strategic programmes and policies in the identified priority areas and establish partnerships to undertake joint work to address these local, regional and global challenges. The Project Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management and timely delivery of ACRI and associated outputs in accordance with agreed timelines, standards and budget.

Please visit <https://gprs.unops.org/pages/viewvacancy/VADetails.aspx?id=670&media=print> for more information regarding the position and the application process.

Technical Expert for Development of Quantitative Impact Assessment Methodology for Community Drought Risk Reduction Initiatives – UNDP DDC (Closing Date: July 10, 2012)



DDC is one of the three UNDP Thematic Centres around the world. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, DDC aims to contribute to poverty reduction through the sustainable development of drylands leading to reduced vulnerability and improved livelihoods. UNDP DDC seeks to fill the Technical Expert position for the recently commenced Building Drought Resilient Dryland Communities in

the Horn of Africa Project funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO).

Under the direct supervision of the Project Manager and in close collaboration with other partners operating under the ECHO's 2012 Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan (DRRAP), the Technical Expert will be responsible to:

- Prepare a draft conceptual framework and standardized methodology for measuring and assessing the impacts of community-based DRR on local and national drought resilience enhancement in a participatory manner, test it in selected DRRAP pilot operation sites in Ethiopia, Kenya and/or Uganda, and present the results at the 2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum for collective review and validation;
- Prepare a step-by-step, practical and user-friendly training manual for resilience driven community-based drought risk reduction and quantitative impact analysis, applicable specifically to the unique national/regional policy, institutional and socio-economic contexts in the Horn of Africa; and
- Develop a draft policy brief based on the outputs and findings from the above activities, highlighting practical policy recommendations in regards to how to improve the policy, institutional and planning frameworks in the HoA to spur innovative and entrepreneurial capacities of drought-affected dryland communities.

For further details of the duties and responsibilities of position as well as the application procedure, please visit http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=30278.

Project Coordinator (Post Open for Kenya Nationals Only) – UNDP DDC (Closing Date: July 11, 2012)



UNDP DDC is looking for a Project Coordinator for the ECHO-funded Building Drought Resilient Dryland Communities in the Horn of Africa Project. S/he is expected to coordinate the implementation of various project activities to ensure quality and timeliness in delivery of outputs, in accordance with the project workplan and provide early warning advice on risks to project implementation and make recommendations for risk mitigation measures.

Other key functions of the position include to:

- Prepare quarterly progress reports in correspondence with the logical framework;
- Liaise closely with DRRAP partners, including participation in regular Regional Learning Group meetings, to present progress and perspectives of the project's implementation and enhance coherence and complementary implementation among the DRRAP projects;
- Maintain positive and effective networks and working relationship with key government/inter-governmental bodies, international organizations, civil society organizations and other stakeholders working in the area of DRR in the HoA; and
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and support dissemination of project outputs/publications to target partners through various channels based on the project communication and visibility plan.

This position is open for Kenya Nationals only. More information on the position and the application procedure is available at http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=30192.

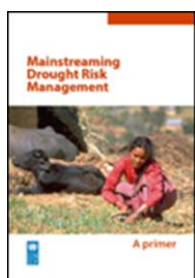


Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)

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.



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/

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>