

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



Special Topic

July 2014 Issue

Equator Initiative – Equator Prize 2014

EQUATOR INITIATIVE The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. The Equator Initiative seeks to:

- Recognize the success of local and indigenous initiatives;
- Create opportunities and platforms to share knowledge/good practice;
- Inform policy to foster an enabling environment for local and indigenous community action; and
- Develop the capacity of local and indigenous initiatives to scale-up their impact.

The Equator Prize for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Sub-Saharan Africa recognizes and celebrates local grassroots organizations that are improving the livelihoods of rural communities in dryland ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa region through SLM. The prize seeks to improve the socio-economic development of rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa through SLM, and to empower local grassroots organizations in the region to participate and influence various processes, programmes and policies related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), including the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, TerrAfrica, among others.

12 organizations won the Equator Prize for SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa 2014, many of which applies innovative methods and approaches to tackle the daunting challenges of drought. Association Tchadienne des Volontaires pour la Protection de l'Environnement in Chad, for example, has been addressing land and resource rights for women by providing training support in ecosystem restoration, drought preparedness, and agroforestry. Heiveld Co-operative in South Africa works with small-scale rooibos tea farmers to provide organic and fair trade certification, as well as support with market access. In response to climate variability, farmers are cultivating drought-resistant varieties of rooibos.

Please visit <http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php?lang=en> for more information on the Equator Initiative and the Equator Prize for SLM.

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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

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Civil Society Organization Panel



As a crucial partner of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can play a leading role in policy process and practice on the ground. In this regards, CSOs are invaluable for partners to amplify the voices of vulnerable populations in policy process and to check its reality, given their understanding of on-the-ground realities. In order to foster the involvement of the CSOs, the UNCCD has established a new platform designed to magnify the work of the CSOs, build their capacities, enable information exchange, establish new and innovative partnerships and represent the civil society in the UNCCD process.

The CSO panel brings together representatives from different existing networks working in the fields of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). The main focus during the current biennium is to strengthen the capacity of the network to expand its representativeness at the sub-regional and national level and to become a network of networks that can work with a unified voice in combating DLDD. The members of the CSO panel prepared the first issue of the electronic newsletter to inform the interested stakeholders on about the latest news of their work, the activities related to the UNCCD in specific and DLDD more broadly.

The July issue of the UNCCD CSO panel is viewable at

http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/CivilSociety/CSO%20Newsletter/UNCCD%20CSO%20panel%20e-newsletter_0807.pdf. For any inquiries regarding the panel, please contact cso.panel@unccd.int.

Land Portal



A lot of information exists on the internet about land. This information, however, is generally very fragmented and difficult to locate. There is a need for an access point that links those searching for reliable, updated land information with those offering it. The Land Portal is the global gateway for land related information, aggregating information on land from multiple sources and building a specialized community of land experts from civil society organisations, governmental and intergovernmental institutions and academia. The long-term objective for the Land Portal is to become the reference point on land related information on the internet through which to help monitor trends and identify information gaps to promote effective and sustainable land governance.

The information and resources on the Land Portal can be browsed and searched by region or country, organization and topics. The filter functions will help one user find specific documents, news, events, multimedia and publications uploaded or linked by other users on a whole range of issues, including the land resource management and governance issues related to drought. The users are also allowed to upload content and post comments on the contents.

For further details on the Land Portal, please visit <http://landportal.info/>.

Community of Practice on Seed Security Assessment



Seeds are critical for addressing the dual challenges of food insecurity and climate change. Farmers depend on quality seed of appropriate varieties to attain food security. However, in recent times, natural disasters, such as droughts, floods and hurricanes, and human-caused disasters, such as wars and civil conflicts, have had an increasingly devastating impact on rural livelihoods and crop production systems, by halting crop production, destroying agricultural assets, hindering farmers' access to agricultural inputs and decreasing food security. There is an increasing demand to create a platform for information and knowledge exchange on seed security assessments so that practitioners can share experiences and ask questions. There should be a repository of tools for conducting seed security assessments as well as sharing assessments reports.

In consultation with stakeholders, the FAO-led Food Security Capacity Building Project developed the seed security assessments Community of Practice (CoP) communications architecture. Activities included the compilation of a list of practitioners and decision-makers in the eight pilot countries as well as at the global level; and the organization of objectives and scope of the CoP. The CoP is currently active. The first discussion has taken place from 21 to 31 May, 2014 and members have given their views on the draft report on a meta analysis of past and current seed security assessments. [Click here](#) to download the summary of the discussion.

For more information on the Seed Security Assessment CoP, please visit <http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-security-capacity-building/project-components/seeds/strengthening-the-ssa-network/en/>.

Disaster Resilience Measurements: Stocktaking of Ongoing Efforts in Developing Systems for Measuring Resilience



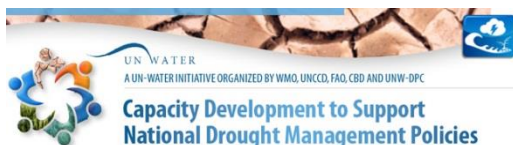
'Resilience' was selected the global development buzzword of 2012 by an aid industry website. There is currently an 'explosion of consultations and initiatives on resilience, happening at global, regional and national levels, with a multitude of interpretations on what resilience is, that is largely uncoordinated. In this context, in recent years, efforts have been undertaken by various organizations to design indicators for measuring resilience more broadly. This review takes stock and provides an overview of ongoing efforts at developing and applying measurement frameworks for disaster resilience. In addition, it attempts to identify lessons from measurement systems that have already been in place. This will inform measurement efforts in countries where efforts are being made to provide added impetus to building disaster resilience.

This review is concerned with measurements of resilience against natural disasters. It includes measurements that focus – partially or fully – on tropical cyclones and related storm surges, droughts, earthquakes, biomass fires, floods, landslides, tsunamis and/or volcanic eruptions. The review also includes issues which are closely linked to disaster resilience such as disaster risk management, vulnerability to disasters and food and nutrition. It does not cover the more narrowly focused forms of resilience, such as psychological resilience, limitation to physical resilience from an engineering point of view, cyber resilience, and supply chain resilience. It touches upon the Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) tool, which was developed based on the stimulating discussions at the 2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held by the AADP Secretariat in October 2012 and the subsequent stakeholders consultations.

Please visit http://www.preventionweb.net/files/37916_disasterresiliencemeasurementsundpt.pdf for the full report.

Event and Training Opportunities

Eastern Africa Regional Workshop of the UN-Water Initiative “Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies” (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 5-8 August, 2014)



It has been estimated that droughts are the world's costliest natural disaster, accounting for a cost of 6-8 billion US dollars annually, and affect more people than any other form of natural disaster. They are considered to be the most far-reaching of all natural disasters, causing short and long-term economic losses as well as significant secondary and tertiary impacts,

particularly in the food, water and energy sectors. Droughts are considered to impact nations and countries around the world with dramatic economic and ecologic damage.

To reduce the societal vulnerability to droughts, the UN-Water Initiative “Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies” aims to reinforce a paradigm shift to overcome prevailing structures of reactive, post-hazard management and implement proactive, risk based approaches of disaster management. Risk based drought management is, however, multifaceted and requires the involvement of a variety of stakeholders, and, from a drought management policy perspective, capacities in diverse ministries and national institutions are needed. The project was launched by an international kick-off workshop in Geneva in March 2013, and will be followed by a series of regional workshops in several drought-prone regions worldwide in 2013-2014. The fourth regional workshop focusing on Eastern and Southern Africa will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 5-8 August 2014. After the workshop series, the initiative will close with a final wrap-up conference.

For more information on the UN-Water Initiative and the Regional Drought Workshop for Eastern and Central Africa, please visit <http://www.ais.unwater.org/ais/course/view.php?id=37>.

United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment (Beijing, China; 15-17 September, 2014)



Recent disasters around the world have highlighted shortfalls in efforts of the governments and communities, including development partners, in reducing disaster risks. Although early warnings of hydrologic hazards (e.g., drought, floods, storm surges, etc.) and meteorological hazards (e.g., cyclones, tornadoes, windstorms etc.) are able to save human lives in some cases, the economic and environmental losses are often huge and recovery will usually take years to normalize. Therefore, countries need to have an increasing focus on economic, environmental and human costs of

disasters and develop approaches to lessen the risks and reduce loss of lives and property. All the elements of disaster risk are spatial in nature. Earth observation and geospatial data provide critical information on elements of risk delivered in the form of maps. These help in predicting and identifying risks more accurately as well as planning responses in a timely manner when they degenerate into a disaster.

The purpose of this conference is to promote the role of space-based and geospatial information in a multi-hazard disaster risk assessment. It seeks to bring together experts and end-users to a single platform to ensure that space-based information is effectively employed in decision-making towards saving lives and reducing economic losses. The conference will cover various topics including: disaster risk management and space-based information; approach and methodology in using space based information in multi-hazard identification and risk assessment; space-based information resources for hazard identification and risk assessment; space-based information for damage and loss estimation, among others.

Please visit <http://www.un-spider.org/BeijingConference2014> for more information on the conference.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Humanitarian Evidence Systems Mapping Research Study – The United Kingdom Department for International Development (Closing date: 11 August, 2014)



The UK Department for International Development (DFID) wishes to commission a study on the humanitarian research and evaluation systems in East Africa, with a country focus in up to 3 countries in the region. Evidence has an increasingly active role to play in DFID's efforts to improve responses to natural and man-made humanitarian crises, including drought, at a regional and country level. However, very little is known about the in-country or regional research and evidence landscape in which the humanitarian programmes of DFID, and others, operate in. The wider literature on research uptake indicates that there are a number of broad factors that determine the consideration and use of evidence by decision-makers:

- To what extent the research itself is relevant, credible and meets the needs of users;
- The extent to which policy-makers and practitioners are willing and able to use research;
- The degree of linkages between research and the policy and practice communities; and
- The context in which research use takes place.

There is some evidence and strong inference that these factors are relevant for the humanitarian sector. However, there are no known studies that look at humanitarian research/evidence systems grounded in particular country contexts or regions. In response to this, the DFID Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Programme is seeking a research organisation to conduct a humanitarian mapping and political economy study of research and evidence systems in East Africa, where this is a high concentration of humanitarian activity. The objective of this research project is to carry out:

- A mapping exercise that describes and analyses the humanitarian research and evaluation landscape in East Africa;
- An analysis of the political economy of commissioning, undertaking and uptake of humanitarian research and evaluation in East Africa; and
- Provide recommendations on the opportunities to support the strengthening of regional or national research and evaluation capacity on both the user and producer-side.

For further details on this call for new funding opportunity in development research, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-development-research>.

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Water Resource Systems Modelling for Drought Risk Assessment – University of Oxford (Closing date: 20 August, 2014)



The Environmental Change Institute (ECI) in the University of Oxford is leading a major research project “MaRIUS: Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of droughts and water Scarcity” within the UK Droughts on Water Scarcity Programme. MaRIUS is an interdisciplinary project examining the impacts of droughts from economic, social and environmental perspectives.

ECI is currently seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate who will work with us to develop eco-hydrological and ecological niche models for water scarcity and drought risk assessment at catchment and national scales. The research associate is expected have experience of implementation, and ideally also design and development of eco-hydrological and/or ecological niche models as well as a flair for the development of innovative system-modelling solutions. He/she must have excellent programming skills - demonstrated through the implementation of data manipulation in computer models, and ideally also experience of ecosystem services, environmental flows and visualisation, a sound understanding of the interaction between hydrological and ecological processes and preferably uncertainty analysis. He/she will be expected to publish your research work in the international academic literature and to participate enthusiastically in the multidisciplinary MaRIUS research consortium, including engagement with project stakeholders in conservation and other sectors.

Please visit https://www.recruit.ox.ac.uk/pls/hrsliverecruit/erg_jobspec_version_4.display_form for further details on the post.

Nomination for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction – Environmental Change Institute (Closing date: 31 October, 2014)

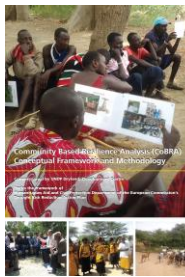


Nominations are now open for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), under the theme “Shaping the Future.” The purpose of the theme “Shaping the Future” is to bring out cases of individuals or organizations that have shown convincing examples of leadership to guide our actions in ways that will make us more safe, healthy, wealthy and resilient now and in the years to come. The 2015 award seeks nominations for individuals or organizations that are visionary and able to anticipate future needs. Ideal nominees collaborate with others to manage

disaster risk whether at the national, local or community level. They are practical and strive to make the best use of assets – such as funds, human resources, intellectual property, institutions and systems – that are currently at their community’s disposal.

Jury members will focus on evidence of concrete performance and material advances. When evaluating the received nominations, the jury will be on the lookout for distinguishing characteristics that include: being agents of change; acting ahead; tackling uncertainty; being able to manage resources sustainably; being including by stimulating cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary solutions; and listening to new voices. To nominate candidates, download the nomination packet and read the tips on how to submit a nomination.

Please visit <http://www.wcdrr.org/sasakawa/> for more information on the for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for DRR.

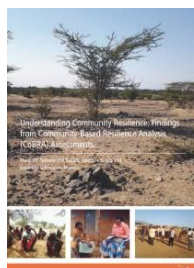


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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>