



Special Topic

July 2016 Issue

The 'Belt and Road' Joint Action Initiative



The global observance event for World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) was held on 17 June 2016 in Beijing, China, with the slogan of "Protect Earth. Restore Land. Engage People." The 2016 WDCD advocated for the importance of inclusive cooperation to restore and rehabilitate degraded land and contribute towards achieving the overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the 2016 WDCD global observance, the Government of China and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) jointly launched the *Joint Action Initiative to Combat Desertification, Rehabilitate Degraded Land and Mitigate the Effects of Drought (JAI)*, or 'Belt and Road' JAI in short. The Silk Road Economic Belt starts from China and runs to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean via Central and West Asia, geographically linking the continents of Africa, Asia and Europe. The initiative aims to make the whole region along the Silk Road environmentally sound and ecologically sustainable through the strengthened cooperation among countries primarily in Eurasia.

The countries along the belt are required to prepare adequately for drought, create ecosystem stability and protect desert, steppe, pasture and oasis biodiversity and developing green and low-carbon infrastructure. JAI will provide the framework for conducting joint research and technical exchanges and for sharing information and demonstration projects. Together, the neighbouring countries will monitor and evaluate sand and dust storms. They will rehabilitate new and emerging source areas and those affected by disaster. They will revegetate mining and industrial wastelands and create shelter belts to protect vital infrastructure.

JAI is linked to the 2030 global target of achieving land degradation neutrality agreed under the SDG 15. Through actions that promote healthy and productive land, the initiative also aims to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of the people in the region. In line with this year's theme for WDCD, a core principle of JAI is "people's engagement at all levels, in particular land users at community level, in a participatory process."

Further details on JAI is available at <http://www.unccd.int/en/media-center/MediaNews/Pages/highlightdetail.aspx?HighlightID=456>.

Contents

Special Topic: The 'Belt and Road' Joint Action Initiative	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Positions and Grant Opportunities	5
Drought Publications Information	6
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	6

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

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook #AgOutlook

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook is the collaborative work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The purpose of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook is to bring into the public domain information used and generated by the two of the leading organizations in agriculture and policy research in the field of agricultural market outlook. The final product of this collaboration is an annual publication presenting projections and related market analysis for some fifteen agricultural products over a ten year horizon. In addition to highlights from the outlook publication, the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook website also provides the database that has been used in the analytical process. For the commodity markets analysed in the Outlook, detailed supply and use balances are available, as well as domestic and international commodity prices.

The latest Agricultural Outlook for 2016-2025 provides the latest overview of global agriculture and prospects as well as an in-depth analysis of the outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa agriculture and a consideration of some of the challenges facing the sector. It assesses the effect of droughts and other recent market events on near term price projections, including the impact of 2015-2016 drought on agricultural production in Eastern Southern Africa.

The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook's online database is accessible at <http://www.agri-outlook.org/database/>. The latest Agricultural Outlook 2016-2025 is available for download at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5778e.pdf>.

The Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2): Resolution on Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands



The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) took place at the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, on 23-27 May 2016 under the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The Assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, culminated in resolutions and a global call to action to address the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.

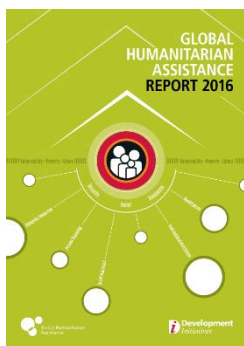
Within a package of 24 resolutions and two decisions approved at the UNEA-2 is a new resolution L.24 on *Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands*. This resolution encourages the UNEP Member States and their partners to increase efforts to invest in programmes that address problems of desertification, deforestation, drought, biodiversity loss, degradation of rangelands, invasion of alien species, and water scarcity, in order to maintain and improve the productivity and sustainable management of land, through national development policies, strategies and programmes developed in consultation and/or in cooperation, with key stakeholders, as appropriate. It further urges Member States to build the capacity of and continue or increase investment in the pastoral



livestock sector in order to improve productivity, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and maintain and enhance biodiversity.

For further details on UNEA-2, please visit <http://web.unep.org/unea>. The full UNEA-2 resolution L.24 is available http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/cpr_portal/Portals/50152/UNEA%202/24.pdf.

Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2016

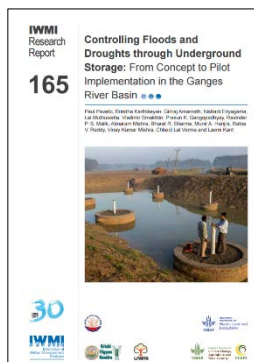


Poverty, vulnerability and humanitarian need continue to challenge the world's capacity to prevent, respond to and rebuild after crises. This year's Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report is designed to respond to exactly that challenge. The GHA Report 2016 provides a clear guide to the critical questions of how much humanitarian assistance there is, where it comes from, where it is spent and how it gets there. It also provides analysis on other areas that are critical in the context of the global shifts outlined above.

The GHA Report 2016 analyses that disasters caused by natural hazards appear to have affected fewer people in 2015 than the previous year – 89 million people compared with 142 million in 2014. However, smaller-scale extreme events related to climate change and the El Niño weather phenomenon have undoubtedly disrupted the lives and livelihoods of many more, as witnessed, for example, by a sharp increase in numbers of drought- and flood-affected people in the South of Sahara region. The report provides a strong independent evidence base for all those involved in making decisions that lead to better outcomes for people affected by crises. It also aims to contribute to and prompt further efforts to improve the quality of information and its use.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Global-Humanitarian-Assistance-Report-2016.pdf>.

Controlling Floods and Droughts through Underground Storage: From Concept to Pilot Implementation in the Ganges River Basin



Floods and droughts, along with over-exploitation of groundwater, are major issues of concern across much of the developed and developing world. This report presents an approach – referred to as 'Underground Taming of Floods for Irrigation' (UTFI) – for tackling these challenges in a novel and integrated manner. This approach involves interventions at the river basin scale to strategically recharge aquifers upstream during periods of high flow, thereby preventing local and downstream flooding and simultaneously providing additional groundwater for irrigation during the dry season for livelihood improvement.

Three key stages in moving UTFI from the concept stage to mainstream implementation are discussed in this document. The publication provides an analysis of prospects in the Ganges River Basin, one of the world's largest and most heavily populated transboundary river basin, that extends over four countries in South Asia, from the earliest stage of mapping of suitability at the watershed level through to the latest stages of identifying and setting up the first pilot trial in the Upper Ganges, where a comprehensive evaluation



is under way. If the benefits of UTFI can be verified, then there is enormous potential to apply it to address climate change adaptation/mitigation and disaster risk reduction challenges globally.

The full report is available for download at

http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/IWMI_Research_Reports/PDF/pub165/rr165.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

6th Africa Water Week (18-22 July, 2016; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)



The Africa Water Week (AWW) is convened biannually by the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) in conjunction with the African Union Commission and organized with other development partners. It represents a political commitment at the highest level with over 1000 participants from governments, regional institutions, international partners, the private sector, the scientific community, civil society, and the media from all over the world, and in particular Africa,

meeting to discuss and collectively seek solutions to Africa's water resources, and sanitation challenges.

The theme of the 6th AWW (AWW-6), "achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Water Security and Sanitation", is driven by the recognition of the importance of laying the building blocks for Africa to achieve the SDG6 on Clean Water and Sanitation as well as other inter-linking SDGs connected with water resources management and improved sanitation service delivery. It also represents the quest in the continent to place emphasis on matching commitments and plans with concrete actions with impact on the ground, particularly in the face of steadily increasing occurrence of climate-related natural disasters such as droughts, floods, storms and heat waves over the past decades. With over 60 plenaries, technical sessions and side events, AWW-6 will come up with a roadmap for developing a comprehensive plan of action for Africa aimed at immediate translation of the high-level commitments including N'gor Declaration on Water Security and Sanitation into implementation at country, sub-regional and continental levels.

Please visit <http://africawaterweek.com/6/> for more information concerning AWW-6.

12th Annual Meeting of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium (IWREC) (11-13 September, 2016; Washington, D.C., The United States)

International Water Resource Economics Consortium



The International Water Resource Economics Consortium (IWREC) was established in the early 1990's with the goal of forming a platform for water economists that would promote economic work on water resources, exchange of information and research findings, initiate joint research, disseminate individual and joint work, and create a core of experienced teachers that may provide support for training and short courses, both at the academic and policy levels.



The 12th Annual Meeting of IWREC will be hosted by the World Bank in Washington, D.C. with the overall theme of “Water Security in a Changing World.” Among the topics to be discussed during the meeting include:

- Addressing the food-energy-health environment and water nexus;
- Assessing large- and small-scale irrigation investments;
- Moving toward integrated urban and basin management;
- Dealing with groundwater depletion;
- Ensuring environmental flows;
- Managing floods and droughts and their economy-wide impacts; and
- Improving transboundary water management.

Please visit <http://iwrec.ok.ubc.ca/> for more information regarding the IWREC and the Consortium’s 12th Annual Meeting.

Positions and Grant Opportunities

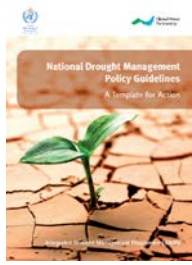
Junior Consultant for Support to the Global Mechanism (GM), Great Green Wall (GGW) Sub-Programme – UNCCD (Closing date: 5 July 2016)

The Global Mechanism (GM) is an institution of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of financial resources from the public and private sector for activities that prevent, control or reverse desertification, land degradation and drought. The GM is currently working on ‘the Great Green Wall (GGW)’ programme, a major African-led initiative with the bold ambition to restore the productivity and vitality of the Sahel region, whilst growing solutions to the Continent’s most urgent development challenges.

The Junior Consultant will support the implementation of the Sustainable Land Management project under the GGW Programme. More specifically, under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the GM and the Programme Coordinator of the GGW for Sahara and Sahel Initiative, the Junior Consultant will contribute to the following areas of work:

- Support the overall implementation of the Project, including day to day communication with implementing partners;
- Create synergies between the project and other activities implemented by the GGW Programme; and
- Perform other duties as requested.

This position focuses on West Africa and thus fluency in oral and written English and French is required. More information on the position is available at <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/The-Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/33%20TOR%20Junior%20Consultant%20GM-GGW.pdf>.



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>