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Resilient Ecosystems
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AFRICA

ASIA

DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT

PEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK



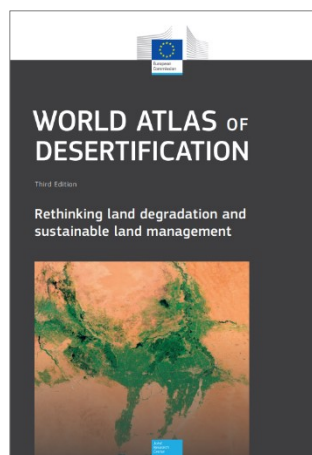
July 2018 Issue

Special Topic

World Atlas of Desertification: Rethinking land degradation and sustainable land management

Two decades after the publication of the 2nd edition of the World Atlas of Desertification (WAD), the third edition of WAD focuses on land degradation and global environmental change under five major subject headings:

- 1) *Global Patterns of Human Domination*: The chapter highlights the role of Homo sapiens as the major driving force of global environmental change;
- 2) *Feeding a Growing Global Population*: The ability to feed 10-12 billion humans by the end of the century is one of the great challenges facing humanity, creating enormous burdens on the land;
- 3) *Limits to Sustainability*: The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development as “development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. There are numerous obstacles that must be overcome to achieve this goal, including aridity and drought;
- 4) *Convergence of Evidence*: Many of the anthropogenic induced environmental changes can be measured and their combined effects are indicative of the multiple stresses humans exert on the land. WAD3 draws on this complexity by adopting the concept that evidence or signals from multiple sources may “converge”, thus leading to the development of testable hypotheses and/or conclusions that are supported by data. Convergence of evidence maps replace the ‘maps of desertification’ of WAD1- WAD2;
- 5) *Solutions*: Potential solutions to land degradation need to be identified and implemented within the context of local social, economic and political conditions.



WAD3 presents examples of the extent of human presence on Earth. Increasingly, the Earth is transforming into the “urban planet”: by 2050, over two-thirds of the world’s population will reside in cities.

The full report is available at <https://wad.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>.

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About AADP

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

The network 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 based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative (ADDN).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER)



Africa's increasingly variable weather and climate threatens development. Agriculture and food security, water, energy, infrastructure, and health are already sensitive to weather related shocks. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and climate-related disasters (especially floods and droughts) will erode gains in poverty reduction and set back economic development. The Weather

and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme was developed in 2015 with the financial support of the UK Aid.

The programme's mission is to deliver transformational change in the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services at all levels of decision making for sustainable development in Africa. With the aim to stimulate the uptake of climate information by policy makers and vulnerable groups including the youth and women, WISER is divided into two components:

- The East Africa component whose implementation is led by the UK Met-Office, focusing on improving the quality and relevance of weather and climate information and support its uptake and use; and
- The Pan Africa component led by the Africa Climate Policy Centre, focusing on improving the governance and enabling environment for weather and climate services.

For more information on WISER programme, please visit the [East Africa component page](#) and the [Pan Africa component page](#).

Humanitarian Practice Network



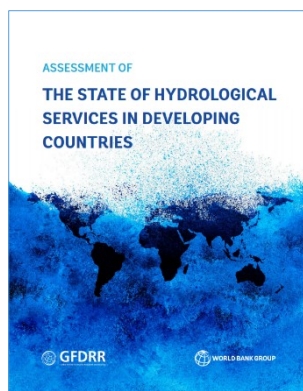
The Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) was established in 1994 to provide an independent forum for policy-makers, practitioners and others working in or on the humanitarian sector, encompassing conflict, extreme weather events, including drought, economic crisis among others, to share and disseminate information, analysis and experience, and to learn from it. The only network of its kind, HPN plays a key role in examining policy developments and distilling practice.

It is fast in capturing major new initiatives and good practice from a wide range of players, and documenting and disseminating this information to field staff and policy-makers. HPN's aim is to improve the performance of humanitarian action by contributing to individual and institutional learning. HPN's audience comprise individuals and organisations engaged in humanitarian action who work in over 130 countries worldwide, in northern and southern NGOs, the UN and other multilateral agencies, governments and donors, academic institutions and consultancies.

Please visit <https://odihpn.org/> for further details concerning HPN.



Assessment of the State of Hydrological Services in Developing Countries

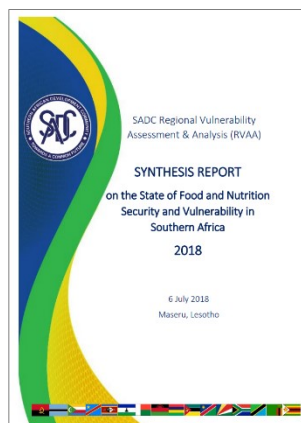


The core business of hydrological services is the provision of information about the water cycle and the status and trends of a country's water resources. Most typically, this focuses on assessing water resources, including drought monitoring and outlooks and flood forecasting and warnings. This assessment aims to summarize the collected evidence, analytics, and recommendations and to provide an overview of the status of hydrological information and service delivery systems, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. While illustrating why hydrological services (HSs) in most countries cannot meet the needs of their populations, the assessment emphasizes the benefits of modernizing and maintaining robust HSs while charting a path for sustainable investment. Modernization of HSs should enable nations to reach minimum standards to effectively manage water resources and disaster risks.

This assessment intends to provide a basis from which the World Bank Group and other development partners can assist countries to strengthen the capacity, sustainability, and service delivery of HSs. Where possible, quantitative measures of services and infrastructure highlight the status in low- and middle-income countries. More qualitative and indirect metrics, such as user satisfaction and level of confidence in provided services, also inform the assessment.

The full report is available at https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/state-of-hydrological-services_web.pdf.

SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis: Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2018



Since its establishment in 2005, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme has facilitated the strengthening of a RVAA system. This document provides a regional assessment of food security and vulnerability for SADC member countries, and aims to synthesise national level vulnerability assessments, facilitate discussions and a shared vision for reducing vulnerability, and discuss emerging trends in vulnerability assessments.

This document describes the regional food and nutrition security outlook for 2018/19 and analyses the factors that influence this security, including an assessment of the 2017/18 rainfall season, food production, agricultural employment and household income, water, sanitation and hygiene, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and gender. The RVAA estimates show that almost 16% of SADC's rural population have been consistently designated food insecure over the past 5 years. This is despite improved production in some Member States. Climate change, actualized as increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters (especially drought and flooding) contributes to the situation. It also presents current acute needs, structural constraints and recommendations for addressing the vulnerability to food and nutrition security across the region.

The full report is available at https://www.sadc.int/files/1715/3114/9162/2018_SADC_RVAA_Synthesis_Report_060718.pdf.



Event and Training Opportunities

2018 Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar (24-25 September 2018; Bangkok, Thailand)



The ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Thammasat University will be jointly organizing the 2018 Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Governance Academic Seminar. The main theme of the seminar is effective legal frameworks for inclusive and climate smart disaster risk governance, while the sub-themes include: 1) climate and disaster risk-informed policymaking; 2) gender and diversity mainstreaming in disaster risk management systems; 3) institutional structures and mechanisms for inclusive disaster risk governance; and 4) mechanisms for regional cooperation towards climate smart disaster risk management systems.

The intended outcome of this seminar is to enhance knowledge sharing on different climate smart and inclusive disaster risk governance legal frameworks, policies and tools implemented across Southeast Asia, based on best practices in the region, for the benefit of policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders.

For further details concerning the seminar, please visit <http://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/call-for-papers-2018-southeast-asia-disaster-risk-governance-academic-seminar/>.

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (10-14 December 2018; Washington D.C., U.S.A)



The American Geophysical Union (AGU) meetings, open to AGU members and those interested in the geosciences, are among the most respected scientific meetings in the Earth and space science community. AGU's Fall Meeting to be held in Washington D.C. will session focusing on Interdisciplinary

Perspectives on Drought and Drought Decisions. Across the world, there has been significant investment in understanding social science dynamics of drought in particular locations, yet we still lack understanding of how human dimensions of drought are similar and different across cases and regions. . Shifts in winter precipitation from snow to rain, early snowmelt, rapid onset of drought, more intense but less frequent rainfall events, declining groundwater levels, and other alterations to the hydrologic cycle are contributing to how communities experience drought under a changing climate.

How do people define and experience drought? What are the types of drought decisions and which actors make these decisions? To what extent do decision makers enable or constrain each other? This session will present findings of drought impacts, information use, adaptive capacity, and institutional context that represent interdisciplinary perspectives (social-ecological systems, institutional analysis, water resource management, political ecology, rural sociology, etc.) and scale from place-based analyses to broader analytical frameworks. The deadline for abstract submission is 1 August 23:59 EDT.

Please visit <https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm18/prelim.cgi/Session/48923> for more information on the session.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Natural Resource Management Project Manager for Mandera Triangle – CARE Somalia (Closing date: 20 July 2018)



In mid-2010 CARE Somalia initiated a change in its program structure and strategy - from working in technical sectors to working in more holistic programs focusing on the needs of particular 'impact groups.' One of the categories of vulnerable groups are urban youth. This is an increasingly large group of people, due to drought, conflict and marginalization. At present, the focus of much of CARE's work with urban youth is on education, inclusive governance and livelihoods with an emphasis on technical and vocational education and training. The aim of this program is to promote the economic and private sector development, and greater resilience, particularly among vulnerable groups (e.g. youth, women, and displaced people).

Serving on a three year fixed term contract, the Natural Resource Management Project Manager (NRM-Manager) will be directly responsible for the overall management of the Mandera triangle project, which involves Tri -border activities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia focusing on resilience and Natural Resource Management activities, grant management, staff oversight, and liaison with Lead agency and other consortium members, regional and local government and other stakeholders who are key to achieving the results of the program. She/he will report to the Programme Coordinator Urban Youth.

For more information regarding the position, please visit <https://reliefweb.int/job/2694094/natural-resource-management-project-manager-mandera-triangle>.

Specialist II - Strategic Communication and Stakeholder Outreach – International Rice Research Institute (Closing date: 20 July 2018)



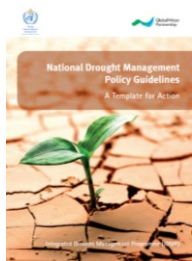
The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI is an independent, nonprofit, research and educational institute, founded in 1960

by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 17 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and over 1,000 staff. Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other harmful effects of climate change.

In collaboration with the IRRI's Healthier Rice Program team, the Specialist II will design, refine, and implement a comprehensive communication and engagement strategy to support and actualize the goals of the Healthier Rice Program in the target countries of Bangladesh and the Philippines, and globally.

Further details on the position is available at:

<http://irri.org/talentlink/details.html?id=Q7LFK026203F3VBQB79QWQWAS&nPostingID=925&nPostingTargetID=1777&mask=irriext&lg=EN>.



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/>
 African Flood and Drought Monitor: <http://stream.princeton.edu/AWCM/WEBPAGE/interface.php?locale=en>
 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/>
 Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/africa>
 Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>
 Relief Web Africa: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/services-centres/climate-services-centre/>

Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>
 FEWS NET Central Asia: <https://www.fews.net/>
 IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>
 Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/>
 Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>
 Relief Web Asia: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>



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Produced by:
UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient
Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED)

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