



June 2011 Issue

Special Topic

Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum 2011



UNDP Drylands Development Centre is organizing the first Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum on 14-15 June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, with

the co-sponsorship of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). The forum will bring together a dynamic set of participants engaged in different aspects of drought risk management (DRM) issues in Africa and Asia (policymakers, CSOs/NGOs practitioners, academic experts and development partners) to share various DRM approaches practiced in a broad range of contexts, and help establish effective modalities for identifying, exchanging and up-scaling good DRM practices within and between affected countries in the two regions.

Drought Adaptation Forum has been used as one of the primary communication and peer learning tools. Under the framework of preceding African Drought Risk and Development Network, three Drought Adaptation Forums were convened from 2005 to 2008 in partnership with the UN-ISDR. Each forum stimulated applied discussion and knowledge sharing among the DRM stakeholders from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa on how to adapt to the growing threat of drought, climate change and food insecurity in the continent. Building on the achievements reached and momentum created thus far, AADP will convene the forum on an annual basis. With the expansion of its geographical focus to inter-regional level, the drought adaption forum will provide a platform for sharing and disseminating innovative approaches, best practices and lessons learnt in drought risk reduction and management in Africa and Asia.

Objectives of the Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum 2011 are to:

- Stimulate debate on various DRM tools and options available;
- Review and verify the stocktaking exercise results, and define the scope, shape and implementation modalities of the AADP; and
- Finalize the AADN's thematic foci and priority activities for 2011-12.

For more information on the Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum 2011, please visit the AADP website at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>. The forum report will be posted on the same site.

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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 \(ADDN\)](#).

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UNDP Drylands Development Centre.

For more information, please visit <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>.

Resources and Networking Opportunities

2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction: Revealing Risk, Redefining Development



The 2011 Global Assessment Report on Risk Reduction (GAR11) is the second biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction prepared in the context of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The ISDR, launched in 2000, provides a framework to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Drawing on new and enhanced data, GAR11 explores trends in disaster risk for each region and for countries with different socioeconomic development. At the same time, over 130 governments are engaged in self-assessments of their progress towards the Hyogo Framework for Action, contributing to what is now the most complete global overview of national efforts to reduce disaster risk. It highlights the political and economic imperative to reduce disaster risks, and the benefits to be gained from doing so. Importantly, it offers guidance and suggestions to governments and nongovernmental actors alike on how they can, together, reduce disaster risks.

GAR11 includes a specific focus on drought risk, one that is poorly understood and receives inadequate attention both nationally and internationally. After an overview of the challenges in identifying and measuring drought risk, a set of country case studies examines the development drivers that translate meteorological drought into losses and impacts in agriculture and other sectors. It also points to the adoption of standards for measuring drought risk that can contribute to improving its identification and management.

The full publication is available for download at

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/home/download.html>.

The Global Mechanism's New Scope | Acp Website



Are you searching for information on funding opportunities to promote South-South Cooperation programmes or looking for partners to develop and implement Sustainable Land Management (SLM) programmes? The South-South Cooperation programme of the Global Mechanism (GM) is delighted to announce the launch of its new website www.scopeacp.net which has been designed in the context of scope|acp, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) component of a multi-partner programme

funded by the European Union, entitled, 'Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' (ACP MEAs). Scope|acp is being funded by the European Union, and coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Scope|acp is a South-South Cooperation programme focusing on crucial cross-cutting challenges and opportunities for combating desertification. The programme achieves this objective through capacity-building, knowledge management,

partnership-building and interaction among multi-actors to support resource mobilization. This new website has been designed specifically to engage stakeholders in decision-making processes related to SLM Finance (SLM-F) in ACP countries. The goal of the scope|acp website is to provide national and local actors with the necessary tools to enhance the utilization of existing resources as well as to increase access to new and innovative financial resources for SLM.

Scope|acp offers you a platform to support information flow, exchange of experience and knowledge management in the framework of South-South Cooperation to strengthen the implementation of the UNCCD. It is founded on three pillars: i) capacity building; ii) knowledge management; and iii) strategic partnerships. It offers an overview of relevant experience and talent available, as well as key information to boost development in ACP countries.

Please visit www.scopeacp.net for more information (the French version of the site will be online shortly). If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at the following address: scopeacp@globalmechanism.org.

International Water Management Institute / South Asia Drought Monitor



International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is one of 15 international research centers supported by the network of 60 governments, private foundations and international and regional organizations collectively known as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It is a non-profit organization with a staff of 350 and offices in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa and Headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka. IWMI's research agenda is organized around four priority themes including water availability and access; productive water use; water quality, health and environment; and water and society.

IWMI also maintains the South Asia Drought Monitor (SADM), an evolving drought monitoring tool, which, in its present form is based entirely on remote sensing data. SADM aims to supply timely information on drought onset, progression and areal extent. This near-real-time drought monitoring and reporting system currently covers Afghanistan, Pakistan and western parts of India. The system is based on drought-related indices derived from high resolution remote-sensing data. At present, the SADM web site is an attempt to bring the remote sensing based, drought-related information, via Internet, to all stakeholders in the region. It is also planned to supply short and focused reports which support the on-line drought analysis. SADM is targeting government agencies, research institutions and NGOs involved in drought mitigation and calls for collaborative action in the region and for input (technical and data) from responsible national agencies.

It is envisaged that SADM will evolve into a tool for decision support in regional drought assessment and management and that it could provide useful supporting information at the fine level of spatial resolution. SADM needs to be developed and tested further to suit the specific requirement of each individual country, but the principles on which the system is based are generic and can be reproduced nationally – within and outside the study region. For more information on IWMI and SADM, please visit <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/> and <http://dms.iwmi.org/index.asp> respectively.

Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management



Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management (CSDRM) is an approach developed as the result of the expert input of over five hundred researchers, community leaders, NGO workers and government officials from ten disaster-prone countries, including drought. It responds to a clear call, from those working to build resilience to disasters, for a practical, evidence-based method of incorporating climate change considerations into existing DRM models.

Experience from across East Africa, South and South East Asia underpins 12 components of CSDRM, which are organized into three action-oriented pillars: 1) Tackle changing disaster risks and uncertainties; 2) Enhance adaptive capacity; and 3) Address poverty and vulnerability and their structural causes.

The recent published *Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management in Conflict Affected Areas: The Case of Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka* uses CSDRM approach to learn about the potential for integration of climate change information, disaster risk management and livelihoods protection in a conflict context. This new discussion paper looks at two communities in Sri Lanka that were faced with violent conflict, resettlement and risks such as rising temperatures and rainfall, droughts and floods, among others. It looks at the work of the Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation and Christian Aid after they used a CSDRM to build the community's capacity to prepare for and respond to risks, and to promote secure livelihoods.

For further information on CSDRM and the new discussion paper, please visit <http://community.eldis.org/.59d5ba58/CSDRM-publications.html>.

UNCCD News Special Report: Long-awaited precipitation and irrigation ease drought in China



UNCCD News is a bimonthly newsletter published by the UNCCD Secretariat with the aim to report on progress in the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought in Africa, Asia, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and Europe. In the January-February 2011 issue of the newsletter (Issue 3.1) provides a special report on how China has dealt with the lack of rain and the far-reaching threat of drought.

The report outlines how the 2010 drought severely impacted China's Northern provinces that produce two-thirds of the country's wheat, and how the Chinese Government addressed the issue through the implementation of the comprehensive and concerted anti-drought measures. They entail, among others, construction of wells, water hauling, cloud-seeding which fires 5,800 silver-iodide rockets and flares into the atmosphere to increase rainfall, irrigation and training in practical measures to maintain soil humidity. The report also provides a brief overview of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, which channels water from the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers to three rivers in the arid north.

Issue 3.1 of the UNCCD News is available at <http://newsbox.unccd.int/#Anchor-11481>.

Sustainable Land Management Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa



The International Institute for Environment and Development and the Centre for International Cooperation vrije Universiteit are pleased to be able to offer free copies of the new DVD, entitled *Sustainable Land Management Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa*. These mini-films, of 5-7 minutes each, show two sustainable land management (SLM) technologies that have a proven track record in Africa: Stone Lines and Fanya Juu terracing, both of which are widely practiced in the drought prone semi-arid lands.

The technologies presented can constitute important components within the climate change adaptation strategies of small-scale farmers. Making use of archive and new footage, each technology is presented in a consistent way: this includes construction, views of mature structures/systems and dynamic graphics showing how each functions. This is then complemented by interviews with farmers. Included with the DVD are information cards which provide a summary of each technology - including their range of suitability, input requirements and design specifications, as well as references for further reading.

If you would like a free copy of this DVD please email: newbooks@iied.org.

For more information on the DVD, please visit

<http://pubs.iied.org/G03101.html?k=Sustainable%20Land%20Management%20Technologies%20for%20Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20in%20Africa>.

East Africa Drought Report



The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa released the second issue of the Eastern Africa Drought Report, in May 2011. This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period 01-30 April 2011. The next report will be issued on or around 30 May 2011.

It asserts that the increasing prevalence of drought in Zimbabwe has had a devastating impact on people's livelihoods, particularly in arid and semi arid parts of the country. This has been exacerbated by the fact that most communities are dependent on rain-fed agriculture. In order to reduce their vulnerability, communities in Bulilima and Mangwe Districts prepare for and adopt drought mitigating strategies.

This study was undertaken with a need to understand the factors that make communities vulnerable to drought and identify current community efforts to mitigate the impacts of drought, so that programs by Practical Action, other NGOs and Government departments can build upon these initiatives to increase their resilience.

The full document is available at http://practicalaction.org/docs/southern_africa/Zimbabwe-coping-with-drought.pdf.

Drought Assessment Northern Eastern Kenya (Wajir East, South and Mandera)



This report summarizes the current situation of the poorest and most vulnerable households in drought affected areas of North Eastern Kenya, particularly in Wajir and Mandera districts. It is based on the rapid needs assessment carried out from the 11th-24th of April 2011, after the failure of short rains in mid October up to mid December 2010 and the late arrival of long rains in late March 2011.

The study also assessed the additional needs of children and their families as a result of the extended drought and the impact of recurrent droughts on different livelihoods zones, food security, health and nutrition with an additional focus on child protection, education and WASH. The purpose of the learning resulting from the assessment is for it to guide a response strategy covering emergency, recovery and long-term programming for resilient communities.

The change in weather patterns has caused serious damage to animals such as disease -wasting and malnutrition are evident which undermines the animals' capacity to produce. Increases mortality between 40% up to 70% was also observed. There is also an increase in reported incidences of health, nutrition and hygiene related issues due to the absence of basic sanitation facilities and the unavailability of quality meals. During the assessment it has also become clear that food insecurity is high in most households even in a normal year only 6% of the households grow their food, 22% buy half of their food in the market and 30% are dependent on food aid.

The full document is available at

http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/SC%20Drought%20Assessment%20Report%20-%20Northern%20Eastern%20Kenya-%2011-24%20April%202011.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

First African Drylands Week (Dakar, Senegal; June 10-17, 2011)



From 10 – 17 June, the First African Drylands Week will be held in Dakar, Senegal. It features field level consultation followed by a workshop and a high level panel discussion, which will focus on the different mosaic of land uses (forestry/agroforestry, agriculture, pastoralism/rangeland management, etc.), and on the way forward for the countries of the Sahara and the Sahel. The conference aims to bring together scientists, policy and decision makers, practitioners, local communities, men and women, and development specialists across circum-Saharan countries to:

- Share and discuss the lessons and experiences from the main development programs in achieving suitable resilient land and climate management systems;
- Envision synergies in knowledge-based management, best practices and policy review of resilient communities that achieve both human well-being and ecological sustainability;
- Launch the EU-funded project “Support to the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel initiative” developed by the African Union Commission, FAO and partners; and

- Develop clear plans for collective / coordinated action between the stakeholders in mainstreaming to the implementation of the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC) as regards sustainable land management and climate-related risk management as well as a contribution to the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI).

This first Africa Drylands Week is a contribution to the International year of forests (2011 declared by the UN), to the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. The week will be ended with a press conference involving high level experts and personalities, to celebrate the 17 June, which is the World Day to Combat Desertification, focused this year on “Forests keep drylands working”.

For more information on the African Drylands Week, please visit <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/en/> or contact serigne.mbodji@gmail.com, hbissel@gmail.com, or Nora.Berrahmouni@fao.org.

21st World Conference on Disaster Management 2011 (Toronto, Canada; June 19-22, 2011)



The World Conference on Disaster Management (WCDM) is proud to be the premier annual event for disaster management professionals, providing a global perspective on current issues and concerns in the industry. This coming conference will cover the following topics:

1. Pandemic planning: Planning for a pandemic is essential. Being informed and knowing what to do will help minimize the impact in our daily lives at home and at work.
2. Natural disasters: The frequency and impact of natural disasters are on the rise worldwide. Earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, drought and forest fires, tornados, ice storms and severe rain storms are happening more often than ever before. WCDM will discuss real events and lessons learned that will help organisations with their own disaster preparedness plan to identify available resources and strategies to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.
3. Climate change: Disaster Management professionals should be equipped to understand factors and repercussions that impact business and communities alike. Climate change is no longer a vague threat. The effects of a changing climate are already being felt around the world: powerful hurricanes, floods, droughts, heat waves, increasing forest-fire counts and blizzards.
4. Corporate resilience: To ensure that organizations can bounce back quickly from disaster or crisis large or small they have to ensure that they have a resiliency plan. WCDM will take the “complexity” out of understanding how resiliency plays an integral part of their operations and how they can remain competitive during a disaster or crisis.
5. Corporate planning/preparedness: Every community can be easily disrupted by an emergency. This can seriously affect the lives, economy and environment of its residents. This could take the form of a severe storm, flood, forest or structural fire, chemical spill, pandemic outbreak or similar disasters.
6. Business continuity: Building a framework that not only is simple to implement, but also includes safety, response, risk analysis, recovery strategies, plan development, plan testing, maintenance and awareness programs is sometimes a difficult task.

Please visit <http://www.wcdm.org/Toronto/toronto.html> for more information on the 21st WCDM.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacity Assessments – Mercy Corps (Closing Date: June 8, 2011)



Mercy Corps is implementing a 3 year humanitarian capacity building project aimed at improving the capacity of the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia in effectively preparing and responding to disasters through strengthening capacity, partnership, and coordination among the relevant implementing government agencies.

To this end, Mercy Corps-Ethiopia will be working closely with Humanitarian Coordination Unit (HCU) and Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) to develop disaster preparedness and response capacity assessment,

which will enable HCU & DRMFSS to understand the current capacity against desired future in order to build human skills and societal infrastructures needed to reduce vulnerability and deliver response in a timely manner.

Mercy Corps intends to recruit a consultant to carry out capacity assessment of HCU and DRMFSS and related bureaus in order to strengthen humanitarian response aimed to deliver a more predictable and efficient response and recovery process.

For more information on the objectives, tasks and application procedure, please visit https://mercy Corps.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.dspjob&jobid=217562&company_id=15927&version=4&jobboardid=479.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Molecular Genetics-Drought – Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) (Closing Date: June 15, 2011)



AfricaRice

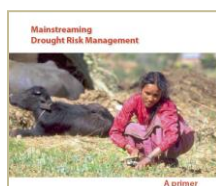
The Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) is an association of 24 African member states and one of the 15 international Centers supported by the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR). The Center's mission is to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security in Africa, through research, development and partnership activities aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of the rice sector in ways that ensure the sustainability of the farming environment. AfricaRice is temporarily headquartered in Cotonou, Benin.

AfricaRice is seeking a highly qualified Postdoctoral fellow (PDF) in Molecular Genetics to work on drought resistance in rice-based systems in Africa as part of the second phase of the STRASA project. The PDF will be based at the AfricaRice station in Ibadan, Nigeria. His/her responsibilities will be to: 1) establish a reliable protocol for drought tolerance on-station; 2) strengthen drought phenotyping capacities at NARS level through training and supply of equipment; 3) evaluate NILs with major drought QTLs at AfricaRice and NARS sites; 4) initiate MAS to introgress at least one major drought QTL into two African mega-varieties; 5) develop mapping populations segregating for drought tolerance; conduct studies on allelic diversity of major drought tolerance QTLs in *O. sativa* and *O. glaberrima* rice accessions; 6)

prepare presentations and publish research results; 7) train NARS partners in use of molecular techniques and genotyping of their samples; and 8) undertake any other duties as requested by the Program 1 Leader.

The PDF Molecular Geneticist - Drought will be part of a multidisciplinary research team. He/She will work under the supervision of AfricaRice's Drought Physiologist in collaboration with rice breeders based in Ibadan.

Please visit <http://www.africarice.org/warda/jobs/PDF-Molecular%20Geneticist%20Drought%20-%20May%202011.pdf> for more information regarding the position.



We are pleased to announce the release of the UNDP-DDC's new publication: *Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer* (English) and *Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif* (French). The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming DRM into development planning and programming at different levels. It suggests and 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: Contact fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org for monthly FSNWG Updates

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) Drought Monitoring Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/dmc/>

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 Disaster Management Center (SDMC): <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in>