

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



June 2013 Issue

Special Topic

World Day to Combat Desertification 2013



The theme of the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June 2013) is drought and water scarcity. Freshwater is valuable. Of all the water on Earth, only 2.5 per cent is freshwater. And of all this freshwater, the total usable supply for ecosystems and humans is less than 1 per cent. When demand for water exceeds available supply, it results in water scarcity. Drylands are particularly vulnerable to water scarcity. The projected intensification of freshwater scarcity

will cause greater stresses in drylands. While each person needs at least 2,000 cubic meters of water for human well-being and sustainable development every year, on average, people in the drylands have access to only 1,300 cubic meters.

The goal of the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification is to create awareness about the risks of drought and water scarcity in the drylands and beyond, calling attention to the importance of sustaining healthy soils as part of post Rio+20 agenda, as well as the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. This year's slogan, "Don't let our future dry up" calls for everyone to take action to promote preparedness and resilience to water scarcity, desertification and drought. The slogan embodies the message that we are all responsible for water and land conservation and sustainable use, and that there are solutions to these serious natural resource challenges. Land degradation does not have to threaten our future.

2013 World Day to Combat Desertification was kicked off on 11 March 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, during the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, in which the AADP Secretariat also participated as the panel member to share insights on building resilience to desertification and drought. Activities to mark World Day to Combat Desertification are planned around the world and listed on the UNCCD website. Everybody is invited to contribute and celebrate World Day in their community, school, ministry, research institution, NGO or international organisation. For more information, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WDCD/WDCD2013/Pages/default.aspx?HighlightID=168>.

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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 (DDC).

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

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2013

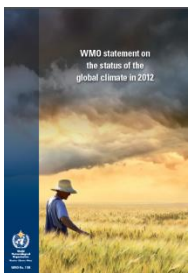


This 2013 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, From Shared Risk to Shared Value: The Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR13), is the third biennial report coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Building on the findings of GAR09 and GAR11, GAR13 explores why increasing disaster risks represent a growing problem for the economic and business community at different scales. The report examines how paradoxically business investments that aimed to strengthen competitiveness and productivity may have inadvertently contributed to increasing risk.

In particular, Chapter 6 of the publication features an analysis of the scale of economic losses associated with the risks to natural capital posed by wild-land fires, land degradation and agricultural drought. GAR13 also has augmented reality (AR) icons sprinkled throughout it, which facilitate connection with its companion application GAR for Tangible Earth (GfT). GfT, or “gift”, is a fully interactive stand-alone application for the tablet computer users, which features a 3D globe interface that contains decades of dynamic earth science data sets, including drought disaster events from all GARs.

The full report is downloadable at <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2013/en/home/download.html>. To learn more about GfT, please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2013/en/home/gft.html>.

WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate in 2012



Since its initial publication in 1993 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the annual “WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate” has continued to gain in popularity and importance. The Statement is produced by the WMO Commission for Climatology in cooperation with the 191 Members of WMO. It gathers together the key climate events of each year. The series stands today as an internationally recognized, authoritative source of information for the scientific community, the media and the public at large.

The 2012 global land and ocean surface temperature is estimated to be $0.45^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.11^{\circ}\text{C}$ above the 1961–1990 average of 14.0°C . That makes it the ninth warmest year since records began in 1850. It is also the twenty-seventh consecutive year that the global land and ocean temperatures were above the 1961–1990 average. The years 2001–2012 were all among the top 13 warmest years on record. Notable climate anomalies and events were observed worldwide in 2012. Some parts of the northern hemisphere were affected by multiple extremes, such as major heatwaves and extreme high temperatures, drought and wildfires, extreme precipitation and floods, snow and extreme cold, and tropical cyclones. It is estimated that 164 million people were affected by drought in 2012 which resulted in the loss of multi-billion USD according to the report.

The full publication is available for download at http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/documents/WMO_1108_EN_web.pdf.

Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism



Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African pastoralism (CELEP) is an informal advocacy coalition of European organisations, groups and experts working in partnership with pastoralist organisations, groups and experts in Eastern Africa. Pastoralism is an extensive form of livestock keeping practised in (semi-)arid lands in which – among others – seasonal livestock mobility and the strategic use of key natural resources are crucial elements. CELEP seeks to influence their national governments, EU bodies (Council, Parliament and Commission) as well as other policy formulating bodies/agencies in Europe to recognise and support Eastern African pastoralism as a

sustainable viable livelihood system. The Coalition's mission is focused on Europe but CELEP is not able to work without closely cooperating with pastoralist networks, experts, partners and organisations working in eastern Africa, since these actors are able to provide grassroots information and able to formulate the problems/needs of pastoralism/ists. Therefore, the Coalition is based on close cooperation and information sharing between European CELEP members and Eastern African CELEP partners.

In its efforts to lobby and inform the EU and its Member States on pastoral issues, CELEP focuses on:

- 1) Recognition of pastoralism as a valuable and viable livelihood system that contributes to national and regional economies, food security, employment and sustainable management of natural resources;
- 2) Mobility as a crucial condition for sustainable pastoralism and for community security in (cross-border) conflict areas;
- 3) Pastoralists' rights of access to and management of natural resources (land, vegetation, water etc), also as a contribution to community security in (cross-border) conflict areas; and
- 4) Pastoralism as a positive example of climate change adaptation.

Please visit <http://www.celep.info/> for more information on CELEP and its activities.

UNCCD News – Issue 5.1



UNCCD News is the bi-monthly update on the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The latest issue (5.1) of UNCCD News focuses on drought and water scarcity. Building resilience to drought is not only a mitigation measure, but a smart investment with guaranteed high returns. Post-disaster relief is far more costly than drought preparedness and risk management.

The newsletter highlights the major outcomes produced from the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy that took place in Geneva from 11-15 March, 2013, and introduces some of the latest reports, web articles and videos addressing the issues related to drought. It also offers insights into useful science-based actions that can successfully address drought. Although we cannot stop droughts from happening, we, the actors from the international community, do have the knowledge and the experience to put in place measures that will help to prevent the associated crises.

The latest and the past issues of UNCCD News are viewable at <http://newsbox.unccd.int/>.

Event and Training Opportunities

3rd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum (Xinjiang, China; July 14-20, 2013)



The Third Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum (AADAF2013) will be organized on 14-20 July 2013 in Xinjiang, China, with the financial support from the Government of Japan and AusAid. The forum will bring together the government and non-government organization representatives from selected countries in Africa and Asia. Combining the desk-based discussion sessions and the field study tour, the AADAF2013 will provide the participants with the opportunities to learn from each other's drought risk management (DRM) expertise and experiences, identify the specific DRR capacity support needs of mutual interest, and agree on the target areas of inter-regional south-south cooperation (SSC) to be pursued under the future framework of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network. The forum will be facilitated jointly by UNDP, the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges, and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of Chinese Academy of Sciences in China.

The participants will not only share/listen to various DRM initiatives, programmes and projects through presentations and discussions but also actually see some of these initiatives on the ground thus gaining an in-depth understanding of applicability of different models to different local contexts. Taking into account the diverse interests of a dynamic set of participants, the field visit is going to showcase the Chinese experiences in water harvesting and small-scale irrigation techniques, climate monitoring and early warning technologies and dryland rehabilitation and restoration approaches, etc. The AADAF 2013 will prepare the ground for the formulation of longer-term initiatives aimed at increasing the inter-regional transfer and replication of proven DRR practices under the framework of the AADP. Lively discussions during the meeting and in the field are expected to help: 1) clarify the strengths and requirements of the participating countries in terms of knowledge, expertise, technology, etc.; and 2) identify the ways and means for specific inter-regional bilateral/multilateral DRR technical cooperation based on the situation analyses.

For more information on the 3rd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum, please visit http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/sustainable%20land%20management/AADAF3/Concept_Note.pdf.

INTERDROUGHT-IV (Crown Perth, Australia; September 2-6, 2013)



The objective of INTERDROUGHT is to serve as a platform for presenting and debating key issues and strategies relevant for increasing the yield and stability of crops under drought conditions by genetic and crop management approaches. Great advances have been made in recent years in understanding the molecular basis of plant responses and plant tolerance to drought stress. Hundreds of drought responsive genes have been identified and the function of some of these has been resolved at the cellular level. However, there is a huge gap between the molecular level science and the interpretation and application of this knowledge at the whole plant level in the field. There is an increasing demand in both public and private research sectors for crosstalk between disciplines involved with the molecular science and those involved with whole plant problems aimed at solving issues at the farm and field level in order to advance practical solutions to drought prone farming. INTERDROUGHT-IV offers a unique and timely platform for this purpose.

Thus, the main mission of INTERDROUGHT-IV is to explore the possibilities of scientific and technological applications to crop improvement and crop management under drought-prone farming by linking progress made at the molecular level to that at the whole plant and crop levels in the field. This conference will provide recommendations on the most effective approaches to achieve better crop productivity under drought conditions as well as the research needed to move forward in this direction.

A number of world renowned speakers have been confirmed to present at the conference, with a range of themes being addressed throughout the program. Please visit <http://www.interdrought4.com/> for more information on INTERDROUGHT-IV.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Logistics Delegate – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Closing date: June 7, 2013)



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, reaching 150

million people each year through its 187 member National Societies. Although not directly in the path of Hurricane Sandy, Haiti suffered three consecutive days of rain between October 23-26 that caused severe flooding in the country, damaging homes, schools, public infrastructure and causing a severe damage to livelihoods previously affected the tropical storm Isaac and a prior drought. A total of 33,760 homes were damaged and more than 2,298 people were left homeless. Potable water networks and cholera treatment centres were also damaged in the storm, raising the possibility of new cholera outbreaks in the weeks and months ahead. The government of Haiti estimates that 90,356.7 hectares of agriculture land which had been spared by Tropical Storm Isaac were destroyed by hurricane Sandy. OCHA further estimates that the combined effects of Tropical Storm Isaac, Hurricane Sandy and the drought earlier on in the year will impact negatively on 1,5 million people who are already food insecure.

The Logistics Delegate is responsible for the entire Logistics and certain aspects of the Administration department in the Sub-delegation. He/she integrates the Sub-delegation and is accountable, under the direction and guidance of the Sandy Operations Coordinator, for coordinating and managing the IFRC's logistics and administration related to the Sandy operation and ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of goods and all related services. Further details on the position are available at https://jobnet.ifrc.org/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?jobinfo_uid_c=3262&vaclng=en.

Project Coordinator – Merlin (Closing date: June 18, 2013)



Merlin is an international health charity, saving lives in the world's toughest places. Merlin responds with healthcare, when people are overwhelmed by natural disaster, conflict or disease and in need of immediate help. Ethiopia remains one of Africa's poorest states, with a very low income per capita and a population that is almost two-thirds illiterate. The agricultural sector has suffered from frequent

drought and poor cultivation practices. Merlin has been working in Ethiopia since March 2003 when the devastating drought led to widespread malnutrition and diarrhoeal disease, and resulted in more than 8 million people becoming dependent on international agencies for food. Nearly half the population of Ethiopia is without access to healthcare.

The Programme Coordinator will be responsible for all Merlin activities in Bale Zone. They will have a specific focus on overseeing project implementation, reporting, financial monitoring, human resources, representation, coordination, logistics and supervising the administrative functions of relevant departments, specifically logistics and finance. The context in Oromiya Region requires good analytical skills, the ability to develop strong relationships with community and stakeholders, and experienced security management. The overall objectives of the position include to: 1) be an effective and efficient manager of the project consistent with the project management cycle, program objectives, activities and indicators; 2) develop and maintain an effective team; 3) ensure team safety, compliance with security regulations and sound contextual analysis; 4) represent Merlin to the Regional and Zonal government offices, other NGOs, UN agencies and other relevant parties; and 5) ensure appropriate Merlin administrative, financial and logistical systems/procedures are in place, maintained and adhered to so that all support functions are carried out effectively and efficiently.

For further details on the position and the application procedure, please visit

<https://jobs.merlin.org.uk/VacancyDocumentation.aspx?olebit=1635>.

Executive Director – Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (Closing date: June 30, 2013)



The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), established in 1986, is a regional non-profit foundation with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand supporting the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development, through implementing programs that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific. ADPC has more than 26 years of working experience in Asia along with the national and local Government of its charter member countries as well as countries of the Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management. ADPC addresses the region's preparedness needs in development of capacities and promotion of learning; dissemination of information and knowledge management; provision of technical and advisory services; implementation of pioneering regional programs; preparations and follow up of global and regional mechanisms; establishment of new regional mechanisms; support for inter-agency coherence and coordination and catalytic facilitation and partnership to sub-regional mechanisms.

The Executive Director provides leadership and strategic direction to the organization for achievement of its Vision and Mission for the safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction. The position calls for a dynamic visionary who can create a positive, enthusiastic, organisational culture that encourages efficiency, innovation, professionalism for meeting the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation needs in the region in line with country needs and donor priorities.

Please visit http://www.adpc.net/2012/Career_Opportunities/Default.asp for more information on this vacancy.



Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2013)

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, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. This draft document is a result of the ongoing effort to develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology, i.e. CoBRA, with which to define the key factors and indicators affecting local resilience levels and measure the impact of various sector-based interventions on resilience enhancement quantitatively. The CoBRA model will strengthen the existing monitoring framework, helping track progress along a resilience pathway in a given context systematically and guiding holistic planning processes. At present, the latest CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology is under field testing in the Horn of Africa region with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The document is available for download at:

<http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/documents/detail/en/c/2693/>.



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.

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>