



Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

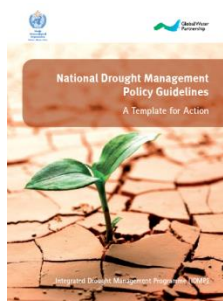


Newsletter

Special Topic

June 2014 Issue

Integrated Drought Management Programme



Whether due to natural climate variability or climate change, the likelihood of extreme weather conditions is increasing. In terms of precipitation the impacts include more frequent and severe floods and droughts, which affect the lives of millions of people and cause great economic losses. Building resilience to these events and helping countries to become more water secure requires an integrated approach to water resources management.

Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) was established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership together with other partners with the aim to build climate resilience, reduce economic and social losses and alleviate poverty in drought-affected regions of the world through an integrated approach to drought management, which cuts across sectoral, disciplinary, and institutional jurisdictions and is responsive to specific regional and national needs and requirements. The programme intends to support stakeholders at all levels by providing policy and management guidance and by sharing scientific information, knowledge and best practices for IDM.

The first IDMP knowledge product, the *National Drought Management Policy Guidelines – A Template for Action* was recently released and is available at <http://www.droughtmanagement.info/guidelines-tools/guidelines/>. It provides 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.

For more information on the IDMP including its regional activities and knowledge library, please visit <http://www.droughtmanagement.info/>.

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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 Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition

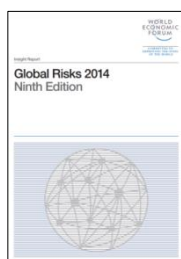


The Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) is a worldwide network of experts on food security and nutrition facilitated by FAO in 2007. FSN Forum members engage in online discussions which are either raised by fellow members or can be initiated by the FSN Forum team, share knowledge and take part in policy dialogue. The broad range of views gathered influences the global debate on key issues affecting food security and nutrition, including climate disasters and drought. The discussions can explore food security and nutrition topics from a practitioner's point of view, can provide input to policy formulation processes and can be used to validate technical work.

In addition to its debates at global level, the FSN Forum facilitates networks and online platforms targeted at specific geographic areas that provide a channel for stakeholders to discuss regional priorities and take part in the drafting of regional food security policies. The FSN Forum has a regional strategy which aims to develop networks and online platforms targeted at specific geographic areas in order to provide a space for engaging with regional priorities and policy processes, relevant to the region. At present regional forums are active for Europe/Central Asia and West Africa.

For more information on the FSN Forum, please visit <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/>.

Global Risks 2014

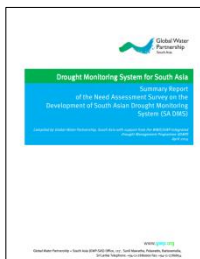


Since 2006, the Global Risks report has been calling attention to global risks that can be systemic in nature, causing breakdowns of entire systems and not only their component parts. The Global Risks 2014 report, as in past editions, represents a step in a continuous process of improving how global risks and their interconnections can be put on decision-makers' radar screens, to provide a basis for dialogue on how governments, business and civil society can work together effectively to build resilience and mitigate any negative effects accruing from them.

Part 1 of the report presents the results of this year's Global Risks Perceptions Survey, enumerating the 10 risks that respondents nominated as being of highest concern and also those they thought were most likely and potentially impactful. It also maps the strength of perceived interconnections among these risks to provide a holistic picture of the complexity and broad framework needed to understand their full potential impact. Part 2 selects and explores in detail three constellations of global risks from the Risks Interconnections Map. Water crises and greater incidence of extreme weather events rank 3rd and 5th highest concern in 2014 respectively. The report stresses the importance of considering the combined implications of these environmental risks on key development and security issues, such as food security (ranked 8th), and political and social instability (ranked 10th). For example, drought in Russia in 2010 which led to restrictions on agricultural exports, causing the price of staple grains to rise across North Africa and the Middle East. The resulting food shortages and price rises aggravated the tensions that led to the Arab Spring.

Please visit http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalRisks_Report_2014.pdf for downloading the full report.

Drought Monitoring System for South Asia: Summary Report of the Need Assessment Survey on the Development of South Asian Drought Monitoring System



Over one billion people of South Asia (SA), dependent on agriculture related livelihoods and predominantly poor, are exposed to high levels of vulnerability to drought. In order to gain a better understanding of drought processes, the characteristics of their occurrence need to be systematically formulated. At present countries in the South Asian region, mainly use traditional methods in applying climate indices like SPI in drought assessment and monitoring that are based on rainfall data. The International Water Management Institute developed a drought monitoring system for South West Asia that uses vegetation indices to monitor the health of vegetation, i.e., a prototype model for a South Asian Drought Monitoring System (SA DMS). With SA DMS, the project aims to deliver a newly integrated drought monitoring method by selecting the best combination of variables with better accuracy, in order for decision-makers in the region to have a clear understanding of drought risk and take preventive action.

This publication provides the summary of the recently conducted needs and capacity assessment survey for the development of SA DMS in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It revealed that there is no validated system of early warning on drought that could meet the requirement for a high spatial resolution in any of the surveyed countries. Challenges facing the countries include lack of hydrological/meteorological measurement stations, missing access to satellite data, insufficient rainfall prediction capability or lack of staff capacity.

The full report is available for download at

http://www.gwp.org/Global/Activities/News/May%202014/Drought%20Monitor%20System%20for%20South%20Asia_Summary%20Report.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

7th International Scientific Conference on the Global Water and Energy Cycle (Hague, Netherlands; 14-17 July, 2014)



The increasing demand for fresh water and the impacts of climate change on water availability and extreme events, such as drought and flood, highlight why water is a current major global concern and is “Trending Now.”

The 7th International Scientific Conference on the Global Water and Energy Cycle will celebrate 25 years of Global Energy and Water Exchange Project and set the stage for the next phase of research addressing the World Climate Research Programme Grand Challenges on water resources, extremes, and climate sensitivity through observations and data sets, their analyses, process studies, model development and exploitation, applications, technology transfer to operational results, and research capacity development and training for the next generation of scientists.

The conference topics will include, among others:

- Observations and changes in climate extremes: This session focuses on observationally-based studies of the occurrence and change of hydro-meteorological extremes including the development of appropriate metrics and datasets and the interpretation of factors driving change.

- Use of climate information and predictions in hydrology and water resources management: The session focuses on advances in regional and global water cycle information systems and their usefulness in understanding water cycle variability and change important for water management over all time scales.
- Land precipitation and drought: observations, modelling, errors and uncertainty: The session focuses on changes and variability in land precipitation (including temporal and spatial accumulation and statistical distribution) across different scales from local to global, as seen in both models and observations.

For further details on the conference and its topics and sessions, please visit <http://gewex.org/2014conf/home.html>.

Community Based Adaptation and Resilience in East and Southern Africa's Drylands: A Learning Event for Practitioners, Researchers and Policy Makers (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 1-4 September, 2014)



The impacts of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of already vulnerable communities in East and Southern African drylands, reversing or undermining development progress. Pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, farmers and other people who depend on dryland natural resources for their livelihoods face increasing challenges in these regions. Changing climate, markets, conflict, land use management and other risks threatens their capacity to adapt to already longstanding harsh living conditions and recurrent drought.

Bringing together stakeholders from a diverse range of disciplines working with dryland communities across East and Southern Africa, the aim of the event is to facilitate learning from experiences and evidence on climate change adaptation, in particular community based adaptation (CBA), and resilience. Participants will co-generate new insights on the links between CBA and achieving resilient development on an ongoing basis across disciplines. The event will take a social learning approach, providing space over 4 days for a variety of learning and sharing sessions using a mixture of structured panel discussions, small group discussions and open space sessions. Sessions will build on each other, exploring the learning questions through sharing and learning from practical experiences in specific themes, identifying successes and challenges, raising critical questions and reaching consensus on good practices and new knowledge on how to address critical issues.

Please visit <http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/community-based-adaptation-and-resilience-east-and-southern-africa%E2%80%99s-drylands#.U5gXH2CKDnM> for further details on the event.

International Conference on Drought: Research and Science-Policy Interfacing (Valencia, Spain; 10-13 March, 2015)



Among natural hazards, droughts are singular in many ways (e.g.: slow onset, difficult to recognize, non structural impacts). Usually, droughts do not directly cause fatalities, but they have large socio-economic and environmental impacts affecting many sectors, and, depending on the regions, be triggering water and food related diseases and casualties. The International Conference on Drought

Research and Science-Policy Interfacing is the final event of the EC-funded project entitled Drought-Research and

Science-Policy Interfacing (DROUGHT R&SPI). The event aims to discuss drought related research and the advances on response policies in order to foster the development of a common EU Drought Policy. Specific objectives of the conference are to:

- Introduce the results of the DROUGHT-R&SPI project
- Give the floor to contributions that deal with the three drought aspects: identification, assessment and policies
- Integrate those aspects focusing on (i) the development of drought research, and (ii) policy implementation.

This conference will serve as a forum for discussion among scientists working on drought, stakeholders, water managers, experts and representatives of authorities on experiences, about the needs and challenges for drought management. Particularly, the conference will address the topics of: drought identification and characterization; drought indicators, monitoring and forecasting; assessment of past and future drought impacts; drought risk perception and vulnerability; water management and governance under drought conditions; drought preparedness and mitigation strategies; and development and implementation of Drought Policies from the local to the regional, national and international levels.

For further details on the conference, please visit <http://www.icdrought2015.upv.es/info.html>. Interested participants in the conference paper, which is expected to be published in a book with ISBN, are required to submit a 200-300 words abstract to: icdrought2015@upv.es before July 31st 2014.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Programme Director of Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters Programme: Christian Aid (Closing date: 16 June, 2014)



Adaption to climate change and coping with flood and droughts are daily challenges for people in Burkina Faso. The Programme Director will lead and manage the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) Burkina Faso programme, a 3 year DFID funded resilience and climate adaptation programme involving a consortium of international NGOs, UK institutions and local and technical partners. The BRACED programme supports the Burkina Meteorological Services and local media (radio) to co-produce reliable, regular and user friendly climate forecasting and programming tailored for at risk communities, particularly women and girls, establish participatory listening groups and work with them to develop practical solutions for transformational change to climate variability and disasters.

The roles of the Programme Director will include managing a team with some technical input, ensuring effective liaison with the donors, leading the development and management of systems across the partnership necessary for the long term management of the programme, developing work-plans, networking, supporting the development and implementation of consortium management structures and representing the programme externally. It is essential that he/she is fully fluent in written and spoken French and English.

More details on the position and the application procedure is available at <https://jobs.christianaid.org.uk/vacancy/103/description/>.

Programme Coordinator: Climate Change Adaptation – Oxfam GB (Closing date: 20 June, 2014)



Climate Change Adaptation in Drylands: What are the specific, current, and future climate risks drylands and its people face? What are the consequences of drought and floods in these areas? How can vulnerable groups adapt and respond to longer-term climate change risks? What are the barriers and enablers for effective, long-term adaptation, and what interventions/investments are required to enable more widespread, sustained adaptation? These are some of the research questions being asked by the 'Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions' (ASSAR) programme, part of 'Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia' (CARRIAA) that aims to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and their livelihoods by supporting collaborative research to inform adaptation policy/practice.

The role of the Programme Coordinator requires programme management expertise to manage and coordinate the delivery of the programme including smooth running of reporting, contract management, financial and administrative aspects as well as communication with ASSAR and CARRIA consortium partners. He/she will engage in thematic discussions and implementation relating to social learning and scenario planning, social-ecological systems, political economy risks and vulnerabilities in drylands and gender equality. He/she will also have the opportunity to contribute to Oxfam GB's strategy to create sustainable impact through research into use, knowledge management and learning.

Please visit <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/954/description/> for more information on the position.

Postdoctoral Research Assistant: Changing Risks of Droughts, Water Scarcity and Heatwaves Using Ensemble Climate Modelling – Environmental Change Institute (Closing date: 10 July, 2014)

Environmental *Change* Institute



The Environmental Change Institute (ECI), School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, is leading a major research project "Managing the Risks, Impacts and Uncertainties of droughts and water Scarcity (MaRIUS)" 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 Assistant with demonstrable expertise in the analysis of climatological data and the implementation and interpretation of climate model projections.

The particular focus of this work is to develop event sets of droughts and heat waves within the framework of probabilistic event attribution. This includes two main tasks: (1) Design a fast-track event set using the existing modelling set-up and (2) to improve the modelling framework to allow for important feedbacks relevant to droughts. Applicants may come from a range of backgrounds including natural sciences, engineering, statistics or applied mathematics and will have a doctorate or equivalent research experience in a relevant subject. You will be able to propose and develop new theoretical approaches and implement them in computer code.

For further details regarding the position, please visit

<http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AIX959/postdoctoral-research-assistant-in-changing-risks-of-droughts-water-scarcity-and-heatwaves-using-ensemble-climate-modelling/>.

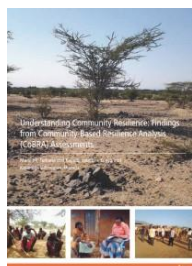


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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>