



Special Topic

June 2015 Issue

Earth Journalism Network



The Earth Journalism Network (EJN) was developed by the Internews Network and Internews Europe to empower and enable journalists from developing countries to cover the environment more effectively. EJN establishes networks of environmental journalists in countries where they don't exist, and builds their capacity where they do, through training workshops and development of training materials, support for production and distribution, and dispersing small grants.

From 2006 to 2013, EJN trained over 3,300 journalists from dozens of developing countries in a wide variety of environmental issues, including climate change and related climatic disasters including drought, biodiversity, water, environment health, and oceans and coastal resources. As a direct result of our activities, these journalists – working in print, radio, TV and online – have produced over 4,500 stories, not to mention all the environmental coverage they go on to produce afterwards. Several of these stories, in countries including China, Vietnam, India and Pakistan, have won national and international awards after uncovering scandals such as wildlife smuggling rings and illegally polluting factories.

EJN has also organized its own Earth Journalism Awards program, in which over 900 journalists from 148 countries participated, and 15 journalists were honored for producing some of the year's best climate change stories, focusing on key related themes, and hailing from different regions of the world. Further, the network partnered with other non-profits to carry out Fellowship programs to crucial events – including summits on climate change, biodiversity and water – where journalists from developing countries benefit from capacity-building activities and reporting opportunities. Finally, our online network connects hundreds of journalists from around the world with an interest in covering environmental issues.

By combining increasingly available environmental data with the use of new mapping and data visualization tools, EJN and its partners are launching regionally based platforms that add all kinds of context to journalists' stories.

For more information regarding EJN and its activities and stories, please visit <http://earthjournalism.net/>.

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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

Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation



ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Enhancing Capacity, Knowledge and Technology Support
to Build Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Developing Countries

The negative effects of climate change are being experienced by local communities within a wide range of economic sectors in developing countries across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Multiple factors make these countries particularly vulnerable to observed

and expected climate change impacts, including extreme weather events such as droughts and floods. These include poverty, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, as well as limited capacity of regional and national institutions to plan and implement adequate adaptation technologies and practices. Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EBA-SSC) aims to assist vulnerable communities in Africa and Asia-Pacific to adapt to the impacts of climate change, by improving their capacity to plan, implement, finance, research and legislate in support of EBA.

EBA-SSC seeks to build climate resilience in developing countries by increasing institutional capacity, mobilizing knowledge and transferring appropriate adaptation technologies. In addition to interregional activities, the project is leading concrete, on-the-ground adaptation interventions in three pilot countries; Mauritania, Nepal and Seychelles, representing three different vulnerable ecosystems (dryland, mountain and coastal respectively). Moreover, EBA-SSC seeks to establish an interactive, dynamic web-based platform to disseminate information, facilitate learning and promote dialogue on EBA. EBA-SSC's good practice database, for example, contains a number of EBA-related project and initiative case studies and lessons learned documents based on concrete, on-the-ground interventions.

More information on EBA-SSC and its good practice database, please visit <http://www.ebasouth.org/>.

Africa Adaptation Knowledge Network



AAK Net

Knowledge for Adaptation

All global reports put Sub Saharan Africa at the front-line of climate change impacts for a region that lacks the capacity and resources to face the challenges. New climate related risks, as witnessed by increasing frequency duration and extent of drought in some regions, for example, are adding to the existing challenges of tackling poverty and promoting human development which cannot be resolved without tackling the other. Africa Adaptation Knowledge Network (AAKNet) is a platform aimed at building a shared knowledge base intended to help build an innovative community of practice which enhances adaptive actions through sharing lessons, knowledge and information in adaptation.

The AAKNet platform functions as a knowledge hub on adaptation, promoting cooperation and collaboration in seeking robust solutions to climate change impacts using experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of independent actions in different locations. Practitioners, policy makers, researchers and community members will be brought together through this so as to compare, contrast and collate the lessons learnt from their actions addressing climate risks. The Network will allow the various actors to collaborate and complement each other in concretizing and up-scaling solutions to a common problem. It provides its services by aggregating knowledge in addressing pertinent climatic risks, shared across region and across countries in addressing short, medium and long term adaptation needs; harnessing knowledge for strategic planning processes including knowledge generated as pilots and also knowledge managed by other platforms; and providing tailored support in knowledge needs structured and packaged in a useable format to serve strategic planning processes.



For more information on AAKNet and its past and ongoing projects, please visit <http://www.aaknet.org/>.

Aid & International Development Forum



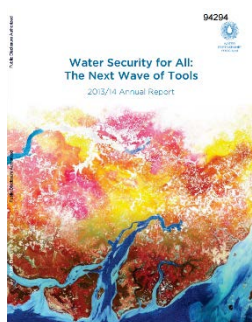
The Aid and International Development Forum (AIDF) is the world leading forum specialising in disaster relief, mobile for development, food security and water security. AIDF strives to bring the escalating issues of food security, water security and disaster relief to the forefront of agendas in a cumulative and engaged environment, with the objectives of improving co-ordination

across the regions and maximising existing opportunities by increasing the involvement of the private sector.

AIDF unites all stakeholders from government, UN agencies, intergovernmental agencies, NGOs and the private sector by providing a platform for independent debate and knowledge exchange, and for establishing long-lasting partnerships. For over 13 years, AIDF has been committed to improving aid and international development through research and high profile events in Geneva, Bangkok, Nairobi, Washington DC, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, based on the belief that collaboration and partnership across regions and sectors is key for aid and sustainable development goals to be met. The AIDF events highlight a need for ongoing networking, targeted dialogue and an exploration of strategic alliances on a more intimate level and are organised to attract the world's attention through forming an exclusive platform of global expertise and cross-sector engagement.

Please visit <http://www.aidforum.org/> for more information on the AIDF, including past/upcoming event information and research publications.

Water Security for All: The Next Wave of Tools



Water Security for All: The Next Wave of Tools is the annual report of the World Bank's Water Partnership Program (WPP), summarizing the achievements and impact of WPP Phase II from January 2013 through June 2014 in 44 countries. Water insecurity is already affecting millions of people around the world, especially the poor and most vulnerable. For example, Northern Brazil is going through one of the most severe multi-year droughts in decades since 2010. Africa's massive Sahel region is plagued by a prolonged drought that is leaving a trail of hunger and affected the livelihoods of millions of people. By 2025, about 1.8 billion people will be living in regions or countries with absolute water scarcity.

The report showcases a number of cutting-edge tools and knowledge related to disaster risk management, remote sensing, cold weather sanitation, and results-based financing, which have the potential to transform economies and livelihoods. Innovative climate change tools such as the Climate Change Decision Tree, for example, provides guidance to decision-makers on how to climate-proof investments through a risk-based, bottom-up approach. Tools that incorporate water in managing disaster risks can enable countries to pinpoint the location and impacts of potential water-related hazards, and focus resources in high-risk areas.

The full report is available for download at http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2015/02/12/000350881_20150212155839/Rendere d/PDF/942940WSP0Box30rt0201301400low0res0.pdf.



Event and Training Opportunities

AIDF Asia: Aid & Response Summit 2015 (16-18 June, 2015; Bangkok, Thailand)



Aid & International Development Forum (AIDF) Asia's Aid & Response Summit 2015 will gather 400+ leading experts and senior representatives and advisors from regional governments, investors, UN agencies, NGOs, research institutes and the private sector, focusing on three timely topics: 1) mobile for development; 2)

disaster risk & resilience; and 3) aid & response operations. Mobile phones have transformed lives in rich and poor countries alike. Current estimates from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) indicate that of the seven billion people on Earth, over six billion now have access to a working mobile device. Mobile technology is a promising vehicle for improving financial inclusion, education and community engagement while also enabling faster payments, data collection and health advice to assist aid work and meet development goals.

Asia-Pacific is the world's most disaster affected region, accounting for 75 per cent of global human losses and 45 per cent of economic losses and damages due to disasters, including drought. This has affected local, national and global economies and prevents poverty eradication and sustainable development in the region. The AIDF summit discusses how new technologies and initiatives help build resilience to disasters and climate change in the region. The event comes at an opportune time as the global community is discussing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the climate change agenda. As the event will also fall on the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June), discussion will focus on balanced development projects and risk sensitive planning, questioning how to better utilize data for drought and other climatic disaster early warning and support at-risk groups.

For further details regarding the Aid & Response Summit 2015, please visit <http://asia.aidforum.org/>.

International Scientific Conference: Our Common Future under Climate Change (7-10 July, 2015; Paris, France)



The International Scientific Conference "Our Common Future under Climate Change" is the largest forum for the scientific community to come together ahead of the 21st Conference of the Parties for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference will address key issues concerning climate change in the broader context of global change. It will offer an opportunity to discuss solutions for both mitigation and adaptation issues. Through Plenaries and Parallel Sessions, all major issues are explored through overarching daily themes, moving from present knowledge to future solutions.

A large emphasis is placed on exploring climate change issues through transdisciplinary and integrative approaches, underscoring the need for solutions that cut across sectors and systems and that join stakeholders and communities. The conference sessions encourage multi-disciplinary and multi-lateral thinking to explore the wide range of topics that cut across climate change issues, from physical feedbacks to social and economic impacts. Bringing together the latest knowledge from both natural and social sciences, the conference will address the cross-cutting issues related to observed changes in the climate system. It explores drivers and impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, climate variability, extreme events, and physical-ecological-social interactions, connecting both advances and gaps in knowledge



across sectors and regions. It will also look at possible impacts across and between systems and sectors both in the medium and long term and explores transformative solutions to climate change from a cross-sectoral perspective in order to reach integrated solutions especially through collaboration.

Please visit <http://www.commonfuture-paris2015.org/> for more details regarding the conference.

2nd Africa Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Conference 2015 (30-31 July, 2015; Nairobi, Kenya)



Diversifying sources of growth, to include a strengthened agriculture sector that works with nature and not against it, will go a long way to improving livelihoods, considering that the sector currently employs about 60% of Africa's labour force, most of it rural. Despite the importance of the agricultural sector to Africa's development the continent had a food import bill of over USD35 billion in 2011. Additionally it is estimated that some 65% of the agricultural land in Africa is classified as degraded. Focusing on ecosystem based adaptation (EBA) driven-agriculture and building climate resilience could unleash the hidden economic assets that can spiral growth, improve food and nutrition security, and create employment to unprecedented levels.

Some of the key objective of the 2nd Africa EBA conference are to determine how EBA can be harnessed to protect and restore Africa's ecosystems as well as integrate it into policy framework to enable improved agricultural production and productivity, and to identify scalable and inclusive business models for EBA driven agriculture that can create opportunities in the entire agricultural value chain. Using the perspectives and experiences of the participants to map gaps and build inroads between important initiatives, programmes and institutions, the conference will amplify the voice of the unheard and demonstrate the opportunities for ecosystem-based climate-smart, resource-efficient practices that can truly catapult Africa out of the pack of food insecurity, in the face of growing risks of climate variability and change including drought.

Please visit <http://www.afsac2.aaknet.org/> for more information on the objectives, scope and format of the conference.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

National Emergency Preparedness & Response Officer – World Food Programme (Closing date: 2 June 2015)



The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency, fighting hunger worldwide. WFP is currently seeking to fill the position of National Emergency Preparedness & Response Officer, in support of the Regional Bureau for East & Central Africa, based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Regional Bureau provides strategic guidance, policy/technical support and direction to WFP operations and activities in nine countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.



The Regional Bureau Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team is responsible for enhancing WFP's preparedness and response capacity in emergencies including early warning, preparedness planning, crisis support and information management. Specific focus is put on emergencies with cross border implications, where coordinated preparedness and response is crucial. The EPR team further provides strategic and normative guidance, technical support and capacity building to Country Offices, as well as Inter-Agency coordination. The incumbent will be part of the Regional Bureau EPR team and will be expected to maintain close functional links with the Headquarters, Regional Bureau and Country Office (CO) colleagues, as well as partner agencies. Some of the duties include emergency preparedness and support at country level and support in the formulation and design of programme frameworks to support National Disaster Management Authorities, both at the policy level and the implementation level.

Please visit <http://i-recruitment.wfp.org/olcv/FileReqDesc?reqcode=15-0017833> for more information on the position and the application procedure.

Consultancy for Communication Evaluation – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Closing date: 10 June 2015)



Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. Its 10-Year Strategy states as the vision to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Communication Strategy, the UNCCD Secretariat's communication activities include the maintenance of the UNCCD website, media relations, production of

publications and brochures, library service, regular dissemination of news alerts and information, organization of awareness campaigns and events, and production of promotional material, among others. Some of these activities are conducted through collaboration and coordination with other UN entities, and some have been mandated by the UN General Assembly.

The UNCCD Secretariat is seeking an evaluation consultant who will assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and, as possible, impact of the UNCCD communication. He/she will look at the responsiveness of the UNCCD communication to the priorities and values of the target audiences, with the aim to support the secretariat and the GM to better understand, and engage with, intended audiences, and to update their communication strategies and tactics where useful. The evaluation will also consider the resource efficiency of the UNCCD communication. Furthermore, the evaluation will facilitate further measuring of communication effectiveness by establishing related baselines and benchmarks and identifying ways to collect feedback. The evaluation findings and recommendations will be used by the secretariat and the GM to further develop their communication, in terms of both the strategic approach and the products and services generated.

For more information concerning the position, including the application procedure, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/The-Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/19%20VA%20Consultancy%20-%20Communication%20Evaluation.pdf>.

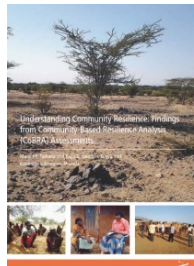


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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>