

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



March 2011 Issue

Special Topic

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertifications



Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is one of the three major environment related agreements of the UN, together with the Climate Change Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment, development and the promotion of healthy soils. The purpose of the UNCCD is to prevent desertification and ease damages from drought through international financial and technical support to the effected countries and contribute to their sustainable development. The convention's 194 signatory countries, or Parties, work to alleviate poverty in the drylands, maintain and restore the land's productivity and mitigate the effects of drought.



The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the UNCCD will take place on 10-21 October, 2011, in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea. Building on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) adopted at COP 8 in 2007, it is expected that COP10 will engage in the long awaited process of target setting, for the implementation of the Convention. It will embrace a number of critical agenda throughout the session, from linking the scientific knowledge with policy to revisiting the commitments made by Parties on forging a global partnership for the implementation of The Strategy. For further information regarding COP10, please visit <http://english.unccdcop10.go.kr/main/>.



UNCCD Secretariat also plays a leading role in coordinating the implementation of the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification (UNDDD). The Decade was launched in Fortaleza, Brazil, in August 2010, and will run to December 2020. A wide range of events and activities are expected to be undertaken throughout the decade at various levels, targeting different segments of actors, in order to raise awareness about the threat desertification, land degradation and drought pose to sustainable development promote actions that will protect the world's drylands from further deterioration. For more information on the UNDDD, please visit <http://unddd.unccd.int/index.htm>.

Contents

Special Topic: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1
Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Employment/Grant Opportunities	6

About AADP

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network (AADP) is 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 DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs. It builds on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network](#) initiative.

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

Resources and Networking Opportunities

Integrated Regional Information Network / Nouvelles et Analyses Humanitaires

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) is an award-winning humanitarian news and analysis service covering the parts of the world often under-reported, misunderstood or ignored. Since 1995, IRIN has been delivering unique reporting from the frontlines of humanitarian (both natural and man-made) action to over a million online readers in English, French, and Arabic. IRIN has its head office in Nairobi, Kenya, with regional desks in Nairobi, Johannesburg, Dakar, Dubai and Bangkok. The bureaux are supported by a network of local correspondents, an increasing rarity in mainstream newsgathering today. IRIN contributes to improving the humanitarian community in three major ways:

- humanitarian makers allocate resources more wisely;
- Humanitarian workers are better informed; and
- The media and the public in general are informed and engaged.

At its core, IRIN's coverage is about how people's lives and livelihoods can be better protected. That means providing sustained rather than parachute reporting, informed analysis, and a voice for those at the sharp end of circumstance. As the news service of the aid industry, IRIN operates like a regular news operation, but with the advantage of privileged access. That gives a unique close-up perspective on the humanitarian enterprise, on-the-ground reporting on crisis and vulnerability, and early warning on brewing emergencies.

For further information on IRIN and its most updated humanitarian news, please visit <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx> (Africa) and <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx> (Asia).

Nouvelles et Analyses Humanitaires (IRIN), lauréat de plusieurs prix, est un service d'analyses et de nouvelles humanitaires qui couvre des régions du monde souvent négligées par les médias, mal comprises ou ignorées. Le service offre des reportages uniques réalisés au cœur de l'action humanitaire à plus d'un million de lecteurs en ligne. Le siège d'IRIN se trouve à Nairobi, au Kenya, mais le service dispose de bureaux régionaux à Nairobi, à Johannesburg, à Dakar, à Dubaï et à Bangkok, ce qui lui permet de couvrir quelque 70 pays. Les bureaux sont soutenus par un réseau de correspondants locaux, un fait de plus en plus rare dans le traitement de l'information aujourd'hui. L'information est publiée en anglais, français et arabe. Elle est diffusée par le biais d'un service d'abonnement électronique gratuit et relayée par les médias sociaux. IRIN contribue à l'amélioration du milieu humanitaire de trois façons principales:

- Les décideurs humanitaires allouent plus judicieusement les ressources
- Les travailleurs humanitaires sont mieux informés
- Les médias et le public de façon générale sont informés et engagés

Les reportages d'IRIN portent principalement sur la façon dont la vie des gens et leurs moyens de subsistance peuvent être mieux protégés. Ce qui veut dire fournir une couverture médiatique stable et soutenue plutôt que de l'information instantanée, ainsi que prêter la voix à ceux qui se trouvent au cœur des bouleversements. En tant que service d'information du secteur humanitaire, IRIN fonctionne comme un média normal, mais avec les avantages d'un accès privilégié. Ainsi, il offre une perspective unique sur le monde de l'humanitaire qu'il examine de près, des reportages de terrain sur les crises et les points sensibles, et des signes précurseurs de crises humanitaires.

Pour de plus amples informations sur les IRIN, merci de vous rendre sur <http://www.irinnews.org/fr/>.

PreventionWeb

PreventionWeb is an information portal on disaster risk reduction (DRR) managed by the Secretariat of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). The primary purpose of this website is to provide a common tool for both specialists and non-specialists interested or working in DRR, facilitating the work of DRR professionals involved in DRR, while promoting an understanding of the subject by non-specialists.

PreventionWeb aims to provide a common platform for institutions to connect, exchange experiences and share information on DRR. The system will be designed to allow distributed data entry as well as provide options for content syndication to partner sites. The site will be updated daily, and contain news, DRR initiatives, event calendars, online discussions, contact directories, policy documents, reference documents, training events, jobs, terminology, country profiles, factsheets as well as audio and video content.

Drought hazard thematic page (<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hazards/drought/>) provides the drought disaster related news and statistics. For region specific information on DRR, please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/> (Africa) and <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/> (Asia).

ReliefWeb

ReliefWeb is an on-line gateway to information on humanitarian emergencies and disasters. As an independent vehicle of information, designed specifically to assist the international humanitarian community in effective delivery of emergency assistance, it is dedicated to provide information as events unfold, while emphasizing the coverage of "forgotten emergencies" at the same time. Since its launch in 1996, the initiative is administered by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).

ReliefWeb team scans the websites of international and non-governmental organizations, governments, research institutions and the media for news, reports, press releases, appeals, policy documents, analysis and maps related to humanitarian emergencies worldwide, and deliver the most relevant content available on ReliefWeb to the users through their preferred channel (e.g. RSS, e-mail, mobile phone, Twitter or Facebook).

In addition, the team produces maps and infographics to illustrate and explain humanitarian crises. To ensure ReliefWeb is updated around the clock, ReliefWeb maintains offices in three different time zones: Kobe (Japan), Geneva (Switzerland) and New York (USA). For region specific humanitarian issues and operations, please visit <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1> (Africa) and <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3> (Asia).

Pacific Disaster Center – World Natural Hazards Website

Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) is an applied science, information and technology center, working to reduce disaster risks and impacts to peoples' lives and property by bridging the divide between the scientific communities and the disaster

management professionals. PDC works to foster disaster resiliency through the use of science, information and technology for sound, evidence-based decision-making.

Located in the State of Hawaii in the United States, PDC provides information research, products and services for disaster and crisis management professionals and executive decision-makers in the fields of natural and technological hazards, and stresses to social, cultural and economic wellbeing. The Center's products and services are used in disaster response and civil-military humanitarian assistance operations, as well as in disaster risk reduction, mitigation and planning, locally and globally by disaster managers, national governments, regional organizations and international and non-governmental organizations. PDC's primary area of responsibility encompasses the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, Hawaii and Alaska, but the Center has performed work all over the globe.

For more information on PDC and its products and services, please visit <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>.

Measuring the Value of Land: The Economics of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

The economic dimension of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) is increasingly gaining importance. For this reason, the UNCCD has launched an initiative to help make the economic side of DLDD an integral part of policy strategies and decision-making. An important step in this direction was the Partnership meeting on the Assessment of the Economics of DLDD, held in Bonn, Germany, on December 14-15, 2010. It took the first steps towards the creation of a global alliance to provide a more robust scientific basis for good policy on land use, to secure food supplies for all and to raise public awareness of the importance of productive land systems.

This publication contains a summary of the discussions and recommendations from the Partnership meeting. It is the first step of a long-term initiative to raise awareness of the economic aspects of DLDD, and of the costs and benefits of sustainable land management. Bonn initiative aims to evaluate the socioeconomic costs of land degradation and the added value of better land management, and assess scientifically the benefits of restoring soil to productive use and help guide policies that permit the world to manage land in sustainable ways.

The Bonn Partnership meeting publication is available for download at <http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/docs/ATT4J7FE.pdf>.

Event and Training Opportunities

Disaster, Risk and Vulnerability Conference 2011 (Kerala, India; March 12-14, 2011)

The School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University is organizing a Disaster Management Conference entitled Disaster, Risk and Vulnerability Conference 2011 (DRVC 2011) on 12 -14, March 2011. The conference aims to bring together specialists, practitioners, academics, students and the public to a common platform and update their knowledge base by facilitating the communication on the latest practices and developments evolved in various parts of

the globe. The conference will evolve around the following thematic areas: 1) Science and facts of Disasters; 2) Disaster Management and Public Administration; 3) Disaster Response and Emergency Management; 4) Technological Applications; 5) Community Participation and Education; 6) Cross-cutting themes Discussions on disaster management. Discussions on disaster management, risk and vulnerability reduction can lead to increased awareness of disasters and its various hues, strategies for resiliency, and newer technologies for disaster management.

DRVC 2011 provides an ideal venue for networking amongst disaster management enthusiasts, and the conference aims to throw up newer ideas that could go a long way in streamlining disaster management activities of the nation. It would be a premier event for disaster management professionals, scholars and students offering unique educational and operational knowledge sharing within the broad spectrum of disaster management. The conference will provide an opportunity to gain valuable education, training and best practices to assist you and the community to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

For more information on DRVC 2011, please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/geometoceahome/news/workshop-n/disasterriskandvulnerabilityconference2011drc2011>.

International Workshop on Making Social Protection Work for Pro-Poor Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; March 14-17, 2011)

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS), the Social Dimensions of Climate Change (SDCC) cluster at the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are hosting a four-day international workshop entitled 'Making Social Protection Work for Pro-Poor Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' on March 14-17, 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The aim of the workshop will be to engage development policy-makers and practitioners in a dialogue on how social protection can be used to help poor and vulnerable people adapt to climate variability and change in developing countries. It will address the following issues:

- Delivering adaptation: using social protection to deliver disaster risk reduction (DRR) and adaptation assistance to poor and vulnerable people;
- Spreading risk: using social protection to spread livelihoods risk as a mechanism for long-term climate adaptation;
- Supporting graduation: ensuring social protection supports graduation from social protection systems in a changing climate; and
- The geographical focus of the workshop will be south Asia and east Africa, although projects and initiatives from other regions of the world will also be featured. Social protection in both urban and rural areas will be considered.

The conference language is English. For more information on the workshop, please visit <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/events/making-social-protection-work-for-pro-poor-disaster-risk-reduction-and-climate-change-adaptation-international-workshop>.

5th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change (Dhaka, Bangladesh; March 24-31, 2011)

The 5th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on March 24-31, 2011. It consists of three days of field visits to CBA projects in different ecosystems and three days of interactive discussions on different thematic areas.

The conference aims to share the latest developments in adaptation planning and practices, priority sectors and measures at different levels and disseminate knowledge among stakeholders and communities. Each day will consist of a plenary session and a number of parallel interactive discussions relating to the following areas within the 'Scaling Up: Beyond Pilots' theme:

- Evidence of Change: impacts at local to global levels, understanding climate change adaptation planning and practices;
- Partnerships in Adaptation: global, regional, national and local levels;
- CBA in Practice in Sectors and Regions: water, agriculture, biodiversity, human health, infrastructure, urban, coastal zone, dryland, drought, mountain, floodplain; and
- Knowledge, Education and Awareness on Climate Change: challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming adaptation.

For more information on the conference, please visit <http://www.iied.org/climate-change/key-issues/community-based-adaptation/cba-conference-2011>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Regional Disaster Risk Management Project Coordinator – Handicap International (Closing Date: March 04, 2011)

Handicap International (HI) is an independent and impartial international aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. HI has been working in South Asia for an extended number of years. The project has a duration of 18 months and is expected to be funded by DIPECHO and co-funded by HI. Drawing on HI's experience in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction, this action proposes to develop a regional dynamic throughout 5 countries of the South Asia region: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In this context we are looking for a Regional Disaster Risk management Project Coordinator.

Duties and responsibilities of the Regional Disaster Risk management Project Coordinator include:

1. Oversight of regional project cycle management framework: Preparing the overall detailed project Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and budget forecast; Coordinating all project activities for coherence, particularly the coordination and monitoring of activities for enhancing the capacity, knowledge and skills of partners in the target countries; Coordinating the operational resources required for the implementation and monitoring of the project; Providing support to the national teams on the topic as well as on the methodology, in consultation with the relevant technical advisers; and Preparing internal and donor reports as required and developing financial and control mechanisms.

2. Implementation of regional DRM activities: Implementing mechanisms and means to disseminate and exchange information as planned by the project; Producing regional documents and technical tools in consultation with the relevant technical advisors, Regional Technical Coordinator and the Steering Committee; and Supporting regional advocacy strategy.
3. Overall regional coordination: Coordination of communications on the regional project between the different project sites through implementation of the communication protocol to reinforce regional dynamic; Capacity building, training and monitoring of national teams as planned by the project, in consultation with the Steering Committee; Recruiting and directly managing the regional team; Maintaining relations with the donor, upon delegation of the SA Desk Officer and in close coordination with the DP of Bangladesh Programme (host programme); Representing HI and managing relationships with partners and stakeholders; and Contributing to the development of the longer-term regional strategy in DRM and new projects.

For more information on the position and the application procedure, please visit http://www.handicap-international.fr/uploads/tx_dechirh/RegionalDRMprojectcoordinatorBangl0211_01.doc.

Consultant to Lead the Development of *Building Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation: A Practitioner's Guide And Training Package* – Emergency Capacity Building Project (Closing Date: March 11, 2011)

The Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project is a collaborative capacity building initiative led by 6 international humanitarian NGOs with the overall goal of improving humanitarian preparedness and response. In 2010, the ECB conducted a study in which 28 stakeholders invested in disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) were interviewed to understand the perspectives of a variety of key stakeholders of issues related to DRR/CCA and identify the current gaps in DRR field guides. The study indicated that there is an absence of materials with a combined focus on DRR/CCA and that there would be value in the development of such a guide.

The main objective of this consultancy is to develop a Comprehensive Practitioner's Guide on DRR/CCA in consultation with ECB stakeholders. Major activities include: 1) gather input and expertise from ECB Stakeholders; 2) plan and facilitate the 1st Summit Workshop; 3) produce the first draft of the guide; 4) manage the process of first draft review by the consortia members and other key stakeholders; 5) plan and facilitate the 2nd Summit Workshop; 6) produce the second draft of the guide; 7) manage the process of second draft review with an editorial committee; 8) produce final draft of the guide; 9) depending on funding, the Guide may go through light or extensive field testing at the sites; and 10) manage translations of the final draft guide.

For further information on the position, please visit <http://www.alnap.org/pool/vacancies/ecb-consultant-tor-final.pdf>.

Advanced Degree in Climate and Society – Columbia University (Admission Closing Date for Fall 2011: April 01, 2011)

Columbia University is home to leading researchers in the fields of climate change, climate prediction, and earth and atmospheric sciences. We have unparalleled experience in training policymakers, leaders, and thinkers in the heart of New York City, home to the United Nations and the seat of world politics.

At the nexus of climate science and policy, the aim of the Master of Arts Program in Climate and Society is to train professionals who can bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and the societal action to address both natural climate variability and climate change. A set of tailor-made core courses provides a scientific basis for inquiry and stress interdisciplinary problem solving.

The core modules include: Dynamics of climate variability and change; Regional climate and climate impacts; Quantitative models of climate-sensitive natural and human systems; and the Integrative Seminar: Managing Climate Variability and Adapting to Climate Change. A professional development seminar and a choice between a summer internship or research thesis complete the required core.

For more information about this unique 12-month program or to apply for fall admission, visit our website at: www.columbia.edu/cu/climatesociety.

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

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>

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>

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>