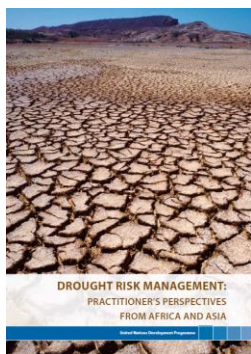




March 2012 Issue

## Special Topic

### Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia



I have the pleasure of sharing with you our latest publication entitled “**Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia**”. This publication is one of the main outputs from our activities of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network, funded by the Government of Japan, in 2011. Drought is not a new phenomenon: a large part of Africa and Asia have been facing increased climate variability and extreme events. The terms such as risk reduction, vulnerability reduction and resilience building are increasingly becoming the new hot topic being highlighted at various drought discussion fora. The fact that the regions continue to have repeated drought crisis every few years and that the situation continues to exacerbate proves that a durable solution has not yet been fully put in place.

The 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. It highlights the priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add values, based upon the interviews with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 people working in drought related fields and the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011.

The full publication is available for download at [http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/drought/docs/Drought%20Risk%20Management%20-%20Practitioners%20Perspectives%20from%20Africa%20and%20Asia.pdf](http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/Drought%20Risk%20Management%20-%20Practitioners%20Perspectives%20from%20Africa%20and%20Asia.pdf).

#### Drought Adaptation Forum Reports and Presentations

A summary report and all the presentation slides from the **AADP's First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum** (June 14-15, 2011) are now available at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/AADP-Forum-11.html>.

Presentation slides from the **ADDN's Fourth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum** (October 13-14, 2011) are also available for download at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/drought-workshop-11.html>.

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#### About AADP

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network (AADP) is a network established under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*. The project is designed to mitigate the risks of drought and improve human livelihoods in Africa and Asia by creating an enabling environment for inter-regional knowledge sharing among drought-prone countries and facilitating the up-scaling of proven drought risk management (DRM) practices.

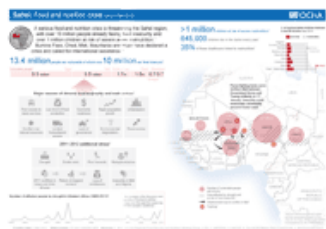
AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative \(ADDN\)](#).

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

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

## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Food Insecurity and Humanitarian Crisis in West Africa and the Sahel



In 2011, sporadic rainfall, insufficient local harvests, high food prices and the consequences of the crises across the region had a serious impact on already vulnerable communities in the Sahel. Given the combined effects of these factors, it is estimated that more than 10 million people are food insecure and over 1 million children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition.

The increase in the frequency and severity of food and nutrition crises over the past few years has eroded the resilience of people, undermining their capacity to respond to recurrent crises in the Sahel. Households have been unable to restore their livelihoods before the next shock. Children in the Sahel region suffer from a high rate of malnutrition, not only at the peak of the lean season, but also in post-harvest periods. It is estimated that about 226,000 children die of malnutrition and health related consequences each year in the eight countries of the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad, northern Nigeria and northern Cameroon).

For the most updated information on West Africa/Sahel food insecurity and humanitarian crisis, please visit ReliefWeb's dedicated page at [http://reliefweb.int/sahel-food-insecurity2012?sl=environment-term\\_listing%252Ctaxonomy\\_term\\_data\\_field\\_data\\_field\\_primary\\_country\\_tid-36%252Ctaxonomy\\_index\\_tid\\_source-2459](http://reliefweb.int/sahel-food-insecurity2012?sl=environment-term_listing%252Ctaxonomy_term_data_field_data_field_primary_country_tid-36%252Ctaxonomy_index_tid_source-2459). Please also refer to the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group and the Inter Agency Standing Committee's [2012 Strategic Document \(Version 2\): Response Plan Addressing the Food and Nutrition Crisis in the Sahel](#); WFP and FAO's joint information note on [Food Security and Humanitarian Implications in West Africa and the Sahel](#); and UNAID-DCHA's [Sahel Food Insecurity Fact Sheet #2](#).

### Drylands Ambassadors



The objective of the Drylands Ambassador programme is to raise awareness among the public at large as well as decision makers on the importance of combating desertification, land degradation and mitigating the effect of drought to cope with major global challenges such as poverty alleviation, sustainable water management, food security and greening energy. The programme is also aimed at reaching specific

target groups such as youth, children and women. The emphasis is placed on the opportunities generated by sustainable land management (SLM), land rehabilitation and reclamation. Through the programme, it is expected that more policy makers, as well as the public, gain a broader understanding on the issue of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) so that, on one hand, decision makers consider SLM as a real priority in policy-making and/or increasing investment opportunities and, on the other, the public at large is sensitized with the cause of DLDD.

Drylands Ambassadors are public personalities playing important role in sustainable development issues, raising awareness on the problems of land degradation, desertification and drought. Some are targeting the public at large; others are drawing the attention of decision makers on the importance of topics such as land management with the relevant policy agendas. Currently appointed Drylands Ambassadors are:

- Byong Hyon Kwon, Former Korean ambassador and chairman of the NGO "Future Forest"
- Deborah Fraser, South African singer
- Dennis Garrity, Former Executive Director of ICRAF
- Carlos Marchena, Spanish football player and World Cup winner
- Jeffrey Sachs, Economist and Director of the Earth Institute
- Leila Lopez, Miss Universe 2011.

Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/event-and-campaigns/dryland-amb/Pages/default.aspx> for more information on the Drylands Ambassadors programme and the profiles of the appointed ambassadors.

## 2012 Land for Life Award



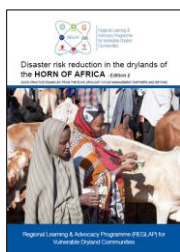
The Land for Life Award recognizes excellence in sustainable land management. Individuals and organizations of all sizes whose work has made significant and innovative contributions to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) are eligible to apply. The 2012 Land for Life Award will go to inspiring initiatives which secure the health and productivity of soil for the well-being of present and future generations.

The prize will be awarded to those efforts which reduce land degradation through SLM, or are outstanding examples of political leadership, policy, business, advocacy campaigns or scientific research. The Jury particularly welcomes nominations of candidates whose work is: innovative, collaborative, achieved in partnership across sectors, supports free knowledge sharing and capacity building, empowers vulnerable and marginalized groups, and fosters gender equality, cultural diversity and social inclusion.

Three awards will be granted in 2012 from a total prize fund of up to USD 100,000. The deadline has been extended to encourage more applications; the new deadline to apply or nominate a candidate is March 30, 2012. Nominations are welcome from individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society, private sector, academic and research organizations, policy makers, journalists and media.

Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/LandForLife/Pages/default.aspx?HighlightID=59> for more information regarding the 2012 Land for Life Award.

## Disaster Risk Reduction in the Drylands of the Horn of Africa - Edition 2: Good Practice Examples from the Echo Drought Cycle Management Partners and Beyond



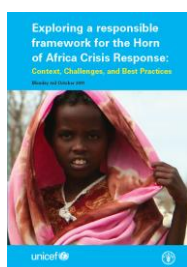
This is the second issue of the Regional Learning and Advocacy Project's (REGLAP) good practice journal. The first section of the journal highlights some examples of where the partners in the Drought Cycle Management (DCM) programme funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) are responding to drought by improving resilience among communities. The second section of the journal we look at ways in which the ECHO DCM partners are trying to build resilient livelihoods. The final section of the newsletter looks at the policy solutions.

Getting the financial commitments in place to secure the long-term development of the drylands, at the scale in which it is required, is now the challenge ahead. The newsletter concludes with some reflections on the emerging evidence of the impact of the recent drought, and the positive (and not so positive) changes now on the horizon.

Full report is available for download at

[http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/drought/docs/REGLAP%20magazine.pdf](http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/REGLAP%20magazine.pdf).

## Exploring a Responsible Framework for the Horn of Africa Crisis Response: Context, Challenges, and Best Practices



“Exploring a Responsible Framework for the Horn of Africa Crisis Response: Context, Challenges, and Best Practices” provides the summary and the key outputs from the UNICEF-FAO Experts/Academics Seminar for Practitioners on the Horn of Africa Crisis held in Nairobi, Kenya, on October 3, 2011.

UNICEF and FAO conceptualized this seminar for practitioners engaged in the current Horn of Africa crisis response – some of which have only arrived as part of the humanitarian surge capacity. The seminar was meant to provide the necessary background information on the Horn of Africa including: 1) the latest data on the situation and outlook, and 2) the political economy and pastoralist livelihoods that define the way of life in the region. The seminar included a review of the lessons learned from past humanitarian responses in the region and will concluded with recommendations of ways forward. The various presentations were expected to evoke reflections on what a responsible humanitarian framework for the current Horn of Africa crisis should be and how this could be translated into tangible programming results.

Full report is available for download at <http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/1378.pdf>.

## Event and Training Opportunities

### 2nd Policy Seminar on Achieving Solutions for Water Scarcity and Drought: Using Policies to Promote Concrete Implementation of Innovative Technologies to Reduce Water Consumption (Marseille, France; March 13, 2012)



STREAM 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Seminar “Achieving solutions for water scarcity and drought – using policies to promote concrete implementation of innovative technologies to reduce water consumption” will take place on the 13th of March in Marseille, France, as a side-event of the 6th World Water Forum, the world's largest meeting around water.

Water scarcity and drought are crucial challenges all around the world. In Europe, mainly the Southern and Eastern European regions are affected and climate change will only further exacerbate the severity and effects of water scarcity and droughts. European research shows that innovative technologies can be a great asset in addressing these challenges,



reducing water consumption by up to 40%. A lot of these technologies do exist, but they face challenges to actually reach the market.

This STREAM Policy Seminar will address the question how to use policy frameworks to promote the implementation of innovative technologies to reduce water consumption and thereby address water scarcity and droughts. For more information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Policy Seminar, please visit <http://www.stream-project.eu/policy-seminars/innovative-technologies>.

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### World Climate Research Program Global Drought Information System Workshop (Frascati, Italy; April 11-13, 2012)



Among the key recommendations of the 2011 World Climate Research Program (WCRP) Workshop on Drought Predictability and Prediction in a Changing Climate is the development of an experimental global drought information system (GDIS). The timeliness of such an effort is evidenced by the wide array of relevant on-going national and international (as well as regional and continental scale) efforts to provide drought information, including the US and

North American drought monitors, and various integrating activities such as GEO and the Global Drought Portal. In addition to the evolving drought information systems, there are a number of other emerging capabilities that could become important components of any GDIS. Also relevant are two additional action items that arose from the WCRP drought workshop to, develop a drought catalogue, and to conduct coordinated research on specific high-profile case studies of past droughts.

WCRP Global Drought Information System Workshop will focus on the steps necessary to develop a GDIS that builds upon the extensive world-wide investments that have already been made in developing drought monitoring, drought risk management, and short term climate prediction capabilities. The success of a GDIS will be measured by its ability to provide timely drought-related information and predictions that can inform decision-making. It is anticipated that the workshop goals and participants will be further guided by a questionnaire currently being developed by WCRP to assess the “World-wide needs and existing capabilities for a Global Drought Information System”.

For more information on the WCRP Global Drought Information System Workshop, please visit <http://www.clivar.org/organization/extremes/activities/GDIS-workshop>.

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### The Sixth International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation (Hanoi, Vietnam; April 16-22, 2012)



Community-based adaptation (CBA) recognizes that environmental knowledge, vulnerability and resilience to climate impacts are embedded in societies and cultures. This means the focus is on empowering communities to take action based on their own decision-making processes. Increased resilience to climate stresses can be achieved by enabling communities to enhance their capacity to cope with climate extremes and surprises, such as hurricanes, floods or droughts.

The Sixth International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change will be organized by the Disaster Management Centre, of the General Directorate of Water Resources, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam; the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, in association with other partners.

The primary aim of the conference is to share and consolidate the latest developments in CBA planning and practices in different sectors and countries in Asia and globally, and disseminate this knowledge more broadly. It will consist of a three-day field visit to CBA projects in different ecosystems in Viet Nam followed by three days of interactive discussions. The discussions will be divided into a number of thematic areas. Those identified so far include:

- Understanding adaptation planning and practices to climate change, from local to global levels;
- CBA in practice, in different sectors and regions, including water, agriculture, biodiversity, human health, infrastructure, coastal zones, dry lands, drought, mountains, floodplains and urban areas;
- Knowledge, education and awareness building: challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming CBA.
- How to communicate CBA.

For more information regarding the conference and possible registration, please visit the conference homepage at <http://aits.vn/aits/1/2/3/dmc/index.php>.

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## Workshop on Disaster Law and the Drought Relief Operations in the Horn of Africa (TBA, Kenya; April 17-19, 2012)



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The drought in the Horn of Africa began in November 2010 and food shortages are expected to be experienced until the next harvest season in September 2012. With operations to assist the population suffering the consequences of this disaster well underway, several regulatory complications relating to – amongst others - the clearance and transit of humanitarian goods, entry and registration of humanitarian personnel and coordination of assistance by the many humanitarian actors involved, have led to challenges in the speedy delivery of food aid.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will be hosting a 3-day workshop to analyze the regulatory complications around the delivery of food aid, and to develop tools and strategies to avoid these issues in future. The event is designed to assist key stakeholders, such as lawmakers and disaster management officials of the governments of East Africa and their humanitarian partners to make best use of the International Disaster Response Laws Guidelines and related norms for cross-border and international disaster assistance in the context of the Horn of Africa.

The workshop is scheduled to take place in Kenya. For further details, please contact the Disaster Law team at [disaster.law@ifrc.org](mailto:disaster.law@ifrc.org) or visit <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/idrl/latest-news/disaster-law-newsletter-february-2012/horn-of-africa-regional-3-day-workshop/>.

## Employment and Grant Opportunities

### Project Development Manager in Kenya – Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (Closing Date: March 11, 2012)



Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is an independent international, private, non-partisan and non-profit organization that operates in 30 countries worldwide over 350 projects spanning 8 sectors of intervention; including emergency relief, food security, health promotion, economic

development, education & training, microfinance, local governance & institutional support, and cultural promotion. ACTED's mission in Kenya/Somalia seeks to address the needs of pastoralist and farmer communities of North Central Kenya and South Somalia arising from multiple shocks such as adverse climatic conditions and disease outbreaks, through emergency food and non-food items distribution as well as the adoption of sustainable community-based solutions, emphasizing livelihood strengthening and diversification, natural resource rehabilitation and management, good hygiene practices and access to sanitation facilities.

The Program Development Manager is responsible for developing tools for appraisal, monitoring and evaluation (AME) in-country, as well as ensuring the production of timely reports for Donors and for developing a country communication strategy, both internal and external. He/she is in charge of: 1) facilitating the development and implementation of project cycle management; 2) working with all departments to follow up project and programmes databases incl. work on the nomenclature used; 3) ensuring that local partners, when appropriate, engaged in appraisal for and/or with ACTED are trained and given advice in participatory approaches, minimalizing bias, and other key methodologies for information gathering; and 4) Manage the AME staff in cooperation with Area Coordinators and Programme Managers.

For more information, please visit <http://www.acted.org/en/project-development-manager-kenya>.

### Call for Applications – African Institutions Innovation Mechanism (Closing Date: April 1, 2012)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**EAST AFRICA**

USAID/East Africa is seeking applications from regional organizations in East Africa for programs to support the U.S. Government's Feed the Future (FTF) strategy for

East Africa. A new Annual Program Statement, the African Institutions Innovation Mechanism, is intended to expand and diversify the pool of partners USAID collaborates with by providing grants or cooperative agreements to regional indigenous African institutions.

USAID/East Africa anticipates that a total of approximately \$2.5 million will be available for the first round of this funding opportunity. Additional funds may be available in subsequent rounds. Individual applications for this round should be in the range of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, with project length of a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of up to the remaining life of the FTF Strategy (2016). Successful applicants must be operational in at least two of the following countries and legally registered in one: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and/or Uganda. Applicants must have the experience, presence and organizational

mandate to operate in a regional context and contribute to the regional goals and objectives of the East Africa Feed the Future strategy. The strategy can be found at:

<http://www.feedthefuture.gov/sites/default/files/country/strategies/files/EastAfricaFTFMulti-YearStrategy.pdf>.

Please visit <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=147073>. For more information on the African Institutions Innovation Mechanism. Applications will be reviewed quarterly. Submissions for the first batch are due no later than 5:00 pm on April 1, 2012 and must be sent electronically to [AIIM@usaid.gov](mailto:AIIM@usaid.gov).



We are pleased to announce the release of the UNDP-DDC's new publication: **Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer** (English) and **Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif** (French). The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming drought risk reduction concepts and practices into development planning and programming at different levels. It outlines a stepwise approach to define the drought risks within a given context. It also presents a methodology for translating the risk assessments and metrics into specific policy measures, planning instruments and measurable interventions.

The full publication is available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-English.pdf> (English)

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-French.pdf> (French)

### Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

#### Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://www.acmad.ne/index.htm>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: [http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project\\_global\\_monitor/](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/dmc/>

UNOCHA (Southern & East Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/rosea/LatestUpdates/tabid/6652/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

UNOCHA (West & Central Africa): <http://ochaonline.un.org/Bulletinshumanitaires/tabid/3099/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx>

#### Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>

East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>

FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>

Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>

Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>

SAARC South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network Weekly Disaster News: <http://www.saarc-sadkn.org/about.aspx>