



# Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

March 2013 Issue

## Special Topic

### Community Based Resilience Assessment (CoBRA): Request for Peer Review



UNDP Drylands Development Centre has been commissioned to facilitate the development of a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology for

Community Based Resilience Assessment (CoBRA), a tool to measure the impacts of community-based drought risk reduction interventions on local/national resilience building – with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). Under the framework of 2012 Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan (DRRAP), CoBRA intends to introduce broadly applicable and comparable indicators/indexes that evaluate and aggregate short- and long-term changes and trends in drought resilience as a result of various interventions comprehensively in quantitative values.

After the extensive literature review and the rounds of key resource persons interviews and group discussions, the draft CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology was presented at the [2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum](#) held on October 1-2, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya, for joint review and analysis. The refined methodology based on the forum recommendations was trialled in selected pilot communities in Marsabit, Kenya, and Karamoja, Uganda. The results and the findings of the pilot field testing exercises were shared at the [5th Africa Drought Adaptation Forum](#), which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, on February 11-12, 2013, back to back with the [4th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction](#).

The Project team is currently seeking the broad participation of the AADP newsletter subscribers in a peer review of the draft CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology. The latest draft document is available for download from [here](#). Please provide us with your views and comments by email at [francis.opiyo@undp.org](mailto:francis.opiyo@undp.org).

We also welcome you to participate in the ongoing online discussion forum and share your knowledge and experiences on drought resilience building at [Drought Online](#).

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## About AADP

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

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

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

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

## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth



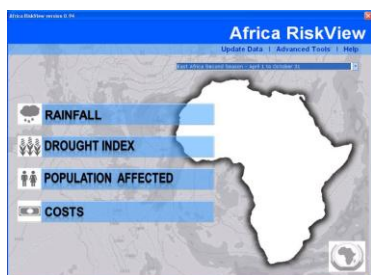
In April 2012, the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth was launched by the African governments together with over 50 donors and international partners to strengthen a shared commitment to build resilience in areas in Africa plagued by chronic crisis. The purpose of

the group is to work with local leadership to change the way the international community does business and put resilience at the heart of development efforts in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and Sahel. It brings together relief and development actors and resources to take joint action in support of effective country-led plans. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is serving as the “convener” for the alliance.

The Global Alliance is charged with articulating and institutionalizing a common vision of improved communication, coordination, and collaboration within and between its member organizations to increase aid effectiveness in drought-prone areas of the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. It commits to support key priorities to advance the drought resilience agenda, including: 1) support for the development of common programming frameworks; 2) common monitoring and evaluation frameworks/knowledge management; and 3) capacity development for strong African leadership working side-by-side with the East Africa’s intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and regional organizations.

For more information on the Global Alliance, please visit <http://globalallianceforaction.com/default.html>.

### Africa RiskView: Climate and Disaster Risk Solutions



Africa RiskView is a software platform that aims to quantify and monitor weather-related food security risk in Africa. To date it focuses on drought, but inclusion of other weather risks is planned. Africa RiskView translates satellite-based rainfall information into near real-time impacts of drought on agricultural production and grazing. By overlaying this data with vulnerability information, the software also produces a first order estimation of the drought-affected population and, in turn response cost estimates. Through this process, the software combines four well-established disciplines: crop monitoring and early warning; vulnerability assessment and mapping; humanitarian operational response; and, financial planning and risk management.

Africa RiskView has the ability to prioritize and interpret different types of weather data and remote sensing products such as rainfall estimates and information about crops, soils and cropping calendars. These data are updated every ten days and fed into the software for each of the 261,135 satellite pixels (or squares of about 10 km<sup>2</sup> near the equator) covering Africa, and can be converted into meaningful indicators for agricultural production and for vulnerable populations dependent on rainfall for crops and rangeland. Africa RiskView allows users to see how the rainfall season is evolving in the countries or regions of interest, observe weather impacts on agriculture and rangelands and estimate how many people could potentially be affected and in need of food assistance as a result.

Interested users can register to Africa RiskView at <http://www.africariskview.org/login.jsp>. Please also visit <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/uploads/files/fa08d48b-08ef-4fc7-8991-4872f6e929b0-africa.pdf> for more information on the software.

## The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program



The Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (DRSLP), FEED MY COW, will develop regional systems to alleviate the negative impacts caused by the deteriorating environmental conditions in the Horn of Africa. Mechanisms will be established to enhance the availability of infrastructure for natural resources management (water and pastures) at the regional level (given the mobility of pastoralists across borders) and ensuring stability of the environment as well as the harmonious sharing of the resources in a sustainable manner.

The DRSLP will be carried out in phases, with the first phase beginning in 2013. Three countries – Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya – and IGAD will be financed in the first phase for an amount of US \$125 million. The first phase of the program has four components: 1) natural resource management component focusing on enhanced water infrastructure for humans, agriculture and livestock, and enhanced regional water basins cooperation and coordination; 2) improvement of livestock infrastructure and management component; 3) project management and capacity building component aimed at national and regional capacity building activities to strengthen operational capabilities in the region; and 4) support to IGAD Secretariat for technical assistance and capacity building component.

Please visit <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/the-drought-resilience-and-sustainable-livelihoods-program-10235/> for further details of the DRSLP.

## Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis: USAID Policy and Program Guidance



While we cannot stop shocks from happening, the USAID can – and must – do more to help people withstand them. USAID has been in the vanguard of international momentum to support country and regional plans and build resilience to recurrent crisis. This policy and program guidance draws on decades of experience providing humanitarian relief and development assistance to identify:

- A conceptual framework to inform resilience programming;
- The operational changes we seek, including operational changes to better coordinate our humanitarian and relief and development teams around resilience; and
- The impact we seek. Through these efforts, we aim to reduce chronic vulnerability and promote more inclusive growth in areas of recurrent crisis.

At the heart of this policy and program guidance is USAID's commitment to empower solution-holders close to the problem; leadership at every level will remain committed to addressing unnecessary roadblocks that stand in the way of meeting our objectives. The full document is available for download at <http://transition.usaid.gov/resilience/USAIDResiliencePolicyGuidanceDocument.pdf>.

## Disaster Risk Reduction in the Drylands of the Horn of Africa - Edition 3



This is the third journal of the Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme (REGLAP) on the disaster risk reduction in the HoA drylands. It contains examples of good practice from the partners of the 2012 Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan funded by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) and beyond.

The journal is divided into three parts. The first part is on initiatives focused on disaster preparedness and mitigation. The second part covers some of the initiatives that are building resilient livelihoods. Finally the third part of the journal looks at progress being made in coordination, capacity building and advocacy. This section ends with the article on the recent debate about resilience, what it means for practice, and what's still needed to ensure that key constraints in development and resilience building in the drylands can be overcome.

The full journal is available for download at

[http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/drought/docs/REGLAP%20Newsletter%20Edition%203%2022%20Feb%202013.pdf](http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/REGLAP%20Newsletter%20Edition%203%2022%20Feb%202013.pdf).

## Event and Training Opportunities

### European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2013 – Disciplinary Session on Drought and Water Scarcity (Vienna, Austria; April 7-12, 2013)



The European Geosciences Union's (EGU) General Assembly 2013 will be held on April 7-12, 2013, to bring together geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. One of the disciplinary sessions on hydrological science to be held during the General Assembly is a session on drought and water scarcity: hydrological monitoring, modelling and forecasting to improve water management.

The session will address statistical and/or physically-based modelling techniques, aimed at monitoring and medium to long-term forecasting of hydro-meteorological variables that describe and govern situations of drought and/or water scarcity. Examples are precipitation, snow cover, soil moisture, streamflow and groundwater. The translation of these variables into indicators meaningful for decision making and ways of presenting these to relevant water management and policy levels are further issues to be addressed. The session aims to bring together scientists and practitioners in the fields of hydrology and meteorology as well as stakeholders and practitioners in the field of water resources management, interested in monitoring, modelling and forecasting the interrelationships between drought and water scarcity and their hydrological impacts. Particularly welcome are applications and real-world case studies in regions subject to significant water stress, where the importance of forecasting long-term water resources availability is likely to become more important in the future.

Please visit <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2013/session/11754> for more information on the EGU and the session on drought and water scarcity.



## 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification (Worldwide; June 17, 2013)



The theme of the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification is drought and water scarcity. Freshwater is valuable. Of all the water on Earth, only 2.5 per cent is freshwater. And of all this freshwater, the total usable supply for ecosystems and humans is less than 1 per cent. When demand for water exceeds available supply, it results in water scarcity. Drylands are particularly vulnerable to water scarcity. The projected intensification of freshwater scarcity will cause greater stresses in drylands. While each person needs at least 2,000 cubic meters of water for human well-being and sustainable development every year, on average, people in the drylands have access to only 1,300 cubic meters.

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

For further details on the 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification, please visit

<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WCD/WCD2013/Pages/default.aspx?HighlightID=168>.

## Employment and Grant Opportunities

### Call for Proposals: Formulation of National Engagement Strategies in African Countries – The International Land Coalition (Closing date: March 8, 2013)



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND  
COALITION

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is inviting ILC members and partners to express their interest and motivation to engage in the formulation and implementation of a National Engagement Strategy (NES) under the umbrella of the current Strategic Framework.

The first Strategic Objective in the 2011-2015 framework is to influence the formulation and implementation of national land policy for the benefit of rural people. Taking a goal-oriented approach, ILC and its members are collaborating to formulate and implement a selected number of National Engagement Strategies. These will strategically build on the expertise and current efforts of ILC members (and the ILC network at large) working at the national level to formulate and implement a coherent strategy for pro-poor change. The aim of the NES, therefore, is to formulate and implement a medium to long term national level action plan in a collaborative manner with the active participation of a wide range of land sector stakeholders. Building and strengthening synergies within the ILC network will be an essential component of the NES, as well as utilizing existing financial and human resources effectively.

For more information on the ILC and NES, please visit <http://www.landcoalition.org/opportunities/call-proposals-formulation-international-land-coalition%E2%80%99s-national-engagement-strategy>.

## Call for Proposals – Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (Closing date: March 31, 2013)



The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative is now calling for proposals for new case studies on the economics of land degradation and sustainable land management. ELD is also calling for information on existing case studies, which will be included on the ELD website and presented at relevant events. The case studies should be linked to the benefits of sustainable land management and the costs of land degradation.

Proposals for new case studies should be submitted in English before 31 March, 2013, and be less than 3,000 words long. Proposals for one or several countries or regions may be submitted. Budgets should be in the range of 100,000-200,000Euro. Special consideration will be given to projects with a larger budget depending on their overall value including scale and number of partners. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: a) scientific quality and "value for money"; b) use of top-down or bottom-up approaches or innovative aspects of both; c) use of non-market valuations as well as market valuations; d) potential for integration of results across scales; e) consideration of land rehabilitation, prevention of land degradation and alternative livelihoods for action; f) capacity to involve and/or reach out to a range of audiences (scientific community, decision-makers, private sector); g) selected location(s) is (are) representative of its (their) specific region(s) of the world; h) addresses one or more of the identified gaps (list in annex of this document); and i) well-defined time plan and adequate proposed budget.

For more information on the ELD and the application procedure, please visit [http://eld-initiative.org/index.php?id=51&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=30&cHash=8ba2f29a601ddd2cad635514ea99ac47](http://eld-initiative.org/index.php?id=51&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=30&cHash=8ba2f29a601ddd2cad635514ea99ac47).

## Global Campaign Assistant for GROW campaign – Oxfam GB (Closing date: March 7, 2013)



It's not just drought. Or famine. Or a bad harvest. A whole host of factors are stopping nearly 900 million people worldwide from having enough to eat. Oxfam is working hard to change this figure. GROW is a global campaign at the forefront of our efforts and aims to eradicate hunger and suffering across 40 countries. Oxfam is currently looking for a Global Campaign Assistant who will provide project delivery and administrative support to Oxfam's global GROW campaign. Working closely with a team of global campaigners, the post will be responsible for working across Oxfam GB and Oxfam International campaign teams to support the delivery of global GROW public campaigning.

The position is a wide-ranging role ensuring a high-level of support as part of the team who are delivering the GROW campaign worldwide. Day-to-day that means taking on a variety of important support tasks - from leading internal communications and building relationships with key in-country stakeholders to coordinating and recording meetings - as well as providing logistical support, reports and other paperwork to the Head of the GROW campaign. And with our finances in mind, we'll look to the Global Campaign Assistant to pro-actively monitor our budget, support grant administration and keep Oxfam and our external donors up to date with the figures. The Assistant will also get involved in project management and support the delivery of campaigns as and when needed.

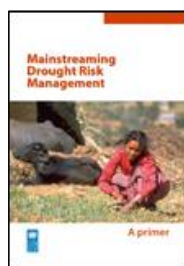
For further details on the position, please visit [http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl\\_oxfam.asp?s=PyAxDIqSqHTyVvHqn&jobid=40193,9815544898&key=27153269&c=214812686576&pagestamp=seioalmidrlwmpemu](http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?s=PyAxDIqSqHTyVvHqn&jobid=40193,9815544898&key=27153269&c=214812686576&pagestamp=seioalmidrlwmpemu).



### **Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)**

This report reviewed the current institutional and programmatic landscape in the realm of drought risk management (DRM) in the two regions and mapped out some of the main DRM capacity gaps and gap-filling opportunities. The exercise is based upon the consultations with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 practitioners working in drought-related fields and focused discussions at the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011. It highlighted important similarities in DRM issues across Africa and Asia and identified priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add value. The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable\\_land\\_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html).



### **Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer / Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif (2011)**

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/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

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

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

### **Asia**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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