

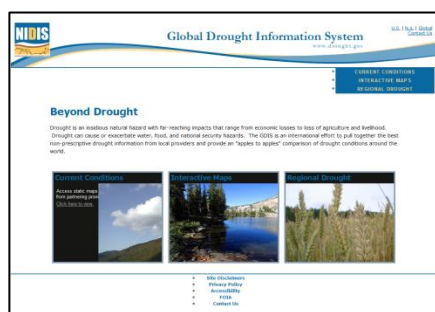
Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



March 2014 Issue

Special Topic

Global Drought Information System



Drought is an insidious natural hazard with far-reaching impacts that range from economic losses to loss of agriculture and livelihood. Drought can cause or exacerbate water, food, and national security hazards. The Global Drought Information System is an international effort to pull together the best non-prescriptive drought

information from local providers and provide an "apples to apples" comparison of drought conditions around the world. It is managed by the U.S. The National Integrated Drought Information System.

Some of the main resources offered by the Global Drought Information System include:

- **Current Condition:** This page offers the static maps of global drought indicators provided by various partners, including the Standardized Precipitation Indexes and vegetation health index;
- **Interactive Maps:** This page provides interactive Web Mapping Service-based drought maps from participating partners for the earth and for selected regional drought indicators chosen by Regional Drought providers (including Africa, Australia, Europe and North America); and
- **Regional Drought:** This page provides information from Regional Drought providers which include more specific indicators and information on a regional and smaller spatial scale. In Africa, information is provided by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre and the Land Surface Hydrology Group at Princeton University. Information in Australia is provided by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Meteorology, Government of Australia.

For more information on the Global Drought Information System and the resources provided by the system, please visit <http://www.drought.gov/gdm/>.

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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

Global Soil Partnership



Soil is under pressure. The renewed recognition of the central role of soil resources as a basis for food security and their provision of key ecosystem services, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, has triggered numerous regional and international projects, initiatives and actions. The mandate of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is to improve governance of the limited soil resources of the planet in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils for a food secure world, as well as support other essential ecosystem services, in accordance with the sovereign right of each State over its natural resources. It intends to become an interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership, open to governments, regional organizations, institutions and other stakeholders at various levels.

Efforts are ongoing to form the Regional Soil Partnerships (RPSs) among interested and active stakeholders in the regions. These RPSs will work in close coordination with the Regional Offices of FAO, the GSP Secretariat, and will establish an interactive consultative process with national soils entities and relevant regional institutions. Under the framework of GSP, FAO Soils Portal has also been established at <http://www.fao.org/soils-portal/en/> to bring together and provide easier access to FAO's work on soils across the various technical departments and decentralized offices. The Portal contains soil legacy data and information concerning soil survey, soil assessment, soil biodiversity, soil policies and governance, etc., produced by various FAO projects over many years.

Please visit <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/> for further details on GSP and its progresses to date.

Water Climate Risk Knowledge



Water resources face increased demands from population growth, changing lifestyles, and shifting land use patterns, particularly in developing countries. Many water supply systems are also exceptionally sensitive to variability in climate conditions. The combination of climatic uncertainty and heightened demands leaves water resources increasingly vulnerable to climate shocks and

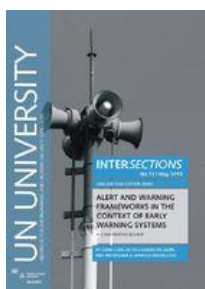
changing climate conditions. Although climate information is only one input in the decision-making process, it can have a significant impact on outcomes for a water system. Advances in hydro-climatic science provide rich new opportunities for "climate-smart" water management. A robust approach to climate risk management includes improved data sets, new management practices, more accurate models, and better forecasts. Ultimately, successful climate risk management relies on the integration of high quality, reliable climate information into relevant decision tools and incorporation of this information into decision-making, including relevant policies, regulations, and other institutional processes.

Water Climate Risk Knowledge website was established by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University with the aim to provide various resources and educational opportunities to aid water resources managers in implementing a climate risk management approach to improve resiliency to droughts and floods, resolve

multi-user conflicts, and contribute to the sustainable achievement of development goals. The goal is to provide the foundation for developing knowledge and tools to effectively approach climate risks and opportunities in water resources management, and to facilitate the creation of a network within which to share and exchange this knowledge and information. This approach benefits from the engagement of all stakeholders, including water resources professionals, climate scientists, policy makers and other relevant actors. Developing effective channels for the transfer of knowledge and skills necessary to manage climate risks in water supply systems is a dynamic process, and it is hoped that the resources on this site can facilitate that process.

Please visit <http://crk.iri.columbia.edu/water/> for more information on Water Climate Risk Knowledge website.

Alert and Warning Frameworks in the Context of Early Warning Systems: A Comparative Review

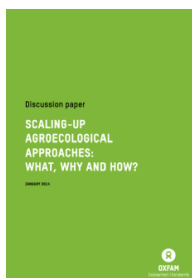


The growing frequency and magnitude of extreme environmental events such as floods, droughts, tsunamis and earthquakes is increasingly becoming a threat to sustainable development, particularly in less wealthy countries or regions. Within a broad set of measures for disaster risk reduction, early warning systems are particularly attractive for at least two reasons: first, they generally have a favourable cost-benefit ratio; and second, their flexibility making them particularly attractive in view of adaptation to different future climate change scenarios.

This United Nations University publication series (InterSections No. 12) present a comparative review of early warning systems which have been established by the Member States around the world for various hydro-meteorological, geological and biological hazards from the perspective of their alert and warning frameworks. Special focus has been placed on: 1) severe weather in general; 2) tropical cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons; 3) severe thunderstorms; 4) floods; 5) winter storms/extreme cold; 6) extreme heat; 7) tornadoes; and droughts and food insecurity. Based on a review of more than 150 early warning and alert frameworks implemented by local, national, regional, and international agencies around the world It urges us to recognize existing differences among these systems which arise as a consequence of the need to adapt such systems to the dynamics of environmental events. These differences are manifested in the number of danger and risk levels which are employed within different systems, the criteria used to define such levels as well as the nomenclature employed to differentiate the levels.

The full publication is available for download at <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/download/11123.pdf>.

Scaling-up Agroecological Approaches: What, Why and How?



This discussion paper was developed with the objectives to: 1) contribute to ongoing debates on agroecological approaches and their centrality for achieving truly more sustainable agricultural and food systems; and 2) provide key evidence and arguments for supporting advocacy work of civil society organizations calling for the scaling-up of agroecological approaches in various social and political arenas at national and/or international levels. The paper explains what agroecology is in light of three interconnected dimensions as a science, an agricultural approach and a movement, clarifies how scaling-up an agroecological transition can contribute to achieving sustainable agricultural and

food systems. It also identifies the main challenges to be met for scaling-up at a higher stage agroecological approaches and formulates recommendations that help in addressing major challenges involved in scaling up agroecological approaches.

Agroecological farming is perceived to be climate resilient as it allows farmers to cope with severe environmental stress whose occurrence are expected to become more frequent as a consequence of climate change, such as severe droughts and floods, temperatures fluctuations, drought and stress tolerant crops. The paper introduces some techniques, such as the development of drought and stress tolerant crops and the management of soil organic matter. For example, while the severe drought to which farmers have been faced with during the 2008-2009 season has induced an average yield loss of 50% for conventional maize producers in Santa Catarina, Brazil, producers who had switched to no-till agroecological practices experienced a loss of only 20%, confirming the greater resilience of these systems.

The full report is available for download at <http://www.agriculturesnetwork.org/library/253900>.

Event and Training Opportunities

E-Learning Course: Sustainable Agricultural Land Management – Soil Carbon Monitoring (Online; 24 March – 11 April, 2014)



Climate-smart agriculture enhances food security and climate change resilience while mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration. Sustainable agricultural land management practices (SALM) help realize this triple-win. The newly Verified Carbon Standard approved SALM methodology bridges the gap

in knowledge about accounting for soil carbon in such sustainable agricultural land management projects. The World Bank Institute, working closely with the BioCarbon Fund developed this e-learning course.

This e-course, based on the new SALM carbon accounting methodology, presents how soil carbon is monitored and accounted in an agricultural land management project, how the SALM methodology is applied in Kenya, and how it benefits thousands of smallholder farmers by generating the triple wins as mentioned above. It aims to equip learners with basic knowledge and skills in developing and monitoring an agricultural soil carbon project with easy-to-understand course contents and visual learning tools throughout the course. The course contains 4 modules (8 hours in total): agriculture sector's potential to reduce climate change impacts; SALM – a new agricultural carbon accounting methodology; soil organic carbon accounting in agricultural projects; the Kenya case.

For further details on this online course, please visit <http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/developing-and-monitoring-agriculture-carbon-projects>.

World Day to Combat Desertification 2014 (Worldwide; 17 June, 2014)



The World Day to Combat Desertification (WCD) has been observed since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought. The theme of 2014 WCD is ecosystem-based adaptation. With the slogan 'Land Belongs to the Future, Let's Climate Proof It', the 2014 WCD highlights the benefits of mainstreaming sustainable land management policies and practices into our collective response to climate change. Sustainable land management increases both community and ecosystem resilience while improving the human condition particularly in the drylands. The objectives of the 2014 WCD are to:

1. Increase the attention given to land and soil within climate change adaptation
2. Mobilize support for sustainable land management
3. Call for the inclusion of land and soil and their significance in food security into national climate change adaptation policies.

The 2014 WCD campaign kicked-off on the African Environment Day/Wangari Maathai Day on 3 March. The events planned for the global observance include: various exhibitions; the announcement of the 2014 Land for Life Award winners; announcement of the 2014 National Drylands Champions; and release of videos and infographics. Those who plan to host an event are encouraged to visit the WCD site at <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/WCD/Pages/WCD-2014.aspx>, which provides the tips on activities and further background on the theme.

The World Weather Open Science Conference: The Weather – What's the Outlook? (Montreal, Canada; 16-21 August, 2014)



The World Weather Open Science Conference (WWOSC2014), to be held in Montreal, Canada, 16 - 21 August 2014, will examine the frontiers of knowledge, define new scientific goals and challenges, and explore improved ways of applying our understanding for the betterment of society. The World Meteorological Organization, international Council for Science, Environment Canada, and the National Research Council, Canada, are co-organizers. There will be special sessions on high-impact weather such as the recent heatwaves, droughts, cold snaps and flooding events in different parts of the world. The overarching theme is 'Seamless Prediction of the Earth System: from minutes to months'. The Conference has two programs, joined through combined plenary and special sessions:

- The Science Program will cover basic weather research that extends our knowledge of processes and systems as well as the applied research needed to put prediction systems together – including most recently in polar regions - and assess the impacts of weather and climate events.
- The User, Application & Social Science Program will consider the challenges and opportunities associated with communicating and utilizing weather information, science, and services for social and economic benefit.

With more than 50 interactive paper, panel, and poster sessions, WWOSC2014 will provide valuable networking opportunities with scientific experts, young scientists, practitioners, and service-providers from more than 50 countries.

For more information on WWOSC2014, Please visit <http://www.wwosc2014.org/>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Consultant for Collection of Good Practices in Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in South and South East Asia – Handicap International (Closing date: 10 March, 2014)

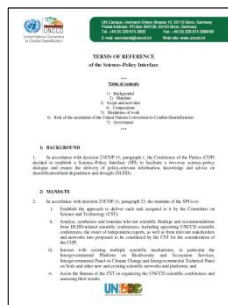


Persons with disabilities, women, children and other socially excluded groups are at higher risks of being negatively impacted by natural hazards. Reduced social participation represents a barrier to participation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities, as well as basic access to information and services. Handicap International (HI) got involved in Inclusive DRR in 2001 in order to promote DRR policies and practices aiming at building resilience for everyone, not leaving aside members of a community based on gender, age or disability. HI is planning to review and update the 2013 Good Practices publication with the support of Disability Inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN) members, and adding good practices from HI and its partners. In this regard, HI and the DiDRRN require the service of a skilled consultant to collect data on best practices in Inclusive DRR in South and South East Asia, and produce a document that will be published and disseminated across the DRR community. In particular, the consultant will be asked to:

- Collect already identified good practices amongst Handicap International and DiDRRN members and partners' practices in South and South East Asia;
- Identify good practices from Handicap International and its partners in the Philippines; and
- Write a 'good practices' publication and, once validated by Handicap International and the DiDRRN, coordinate the lay-out and production of the document, which should be printed by June 1st, 2014.

Further details on the position and the application procedure are available at <http://handicap-international.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ToR-collection-of-good-practices-Feb-2014.pdf>.

Call for Scientists to Join the Science-Policy Interface (Closing date: 6 April, 2014)



The establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) was decided at the 11th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The aim of SPI is to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on the inter-linked issues of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). The SPI is being created to make science effective in the policy-making process of the UNCCD. It will comprise a body of globally renowned DLDD and political scientists, who will identify the needs for scientific knowledge, explore mechanisms for addressing them and present findings to policymakers in a language that can be used to mold effective and sustainable land use policies to secure land productivity.

The secretariat of the UNCCD is currently inviting scientists to apply to become members of the SPI. Candidates fulfilling the competence requirements listed in the call for scientists are invited to submit the application form together with a copy of their English curriculum vitae to scientific.advice@unccd.int. The secretariat of the UNCCD is also inviting international organizations (IOs) and United Nations (UN) organizations to apply to become observers of the SPI. Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/International-Scientific-Advice/Pages/SPI.aspx> for more information on the SPI, including the Terms of Reference and the application procedures.



Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2013)

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, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. This draft document is a result of the ongoing effort to develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology, i.e. CoBRA, with which to define the key factors and indicators affecting local resilience levels and measure the impact of various sector-based interventions on resilience enhancement quantitatively. The CoBRA model will strengthen the existing monitoring framework, helping track progress along a resilience pathway in a given context systematically and guiding holistic planning processes. At present, the latest CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology is under field testing in the Horn of Africa region with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The document is available for download at:

http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/templates/drought/east_central_africa_review/imgs/drought-online/Documents/CoBRA_Implementation2.pdf.



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.

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>