

Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



Special Topic

March 2015 Issue

Index for Risk Management



Index for Risk Management (INFORM) is the first global, objective and transparent tool for understanding the risk of humanitarian crises. When all those

involved in crisis prevention, preparedness and response use a shared risk assessment, they can work more effectively together. That is why INFORM is open-source. It has been developed in response to recommendations by numerous organisations to improve the common evidence basis for risk analysis, as well as the real demands of INFORM partner organisations.

INFORM can help identify where and why crises and disasters are likely to occur so we can reduce the risks, build people's resilience and prepare and respond better by providing an open methodology for quantitatively assessing crisis risk at global, regional or national level. By doing this, INFORM aims to contribute to reducing the human suffering caused by crises and disasters, as well as to protecting investments in development. More specifically, INFORM is:

- **Global:** INFORM covers 191 countries at the national level and techniques for local level analysis are being developed.
- **Open:** All the data used in INFORM is in the public domain and the INFORM partnership includes many data source organisations.
- **Continuous:** INFORM is always available, regularly updated and includes at least five years of data to allow for trend analysis.
- **Transparent:** INFORM's methodology and sources are published.
- **Reliable:** INFORM is based on scientific concepts and methods, and the data used is the best available.

The objective of INFORM is to answer several simple questions, like: which countries are at risk of crises that will require humanitarian assistance?; what are the underlying factors that could lead to crises in each country?; and how does the risk change with time? INFORM is a risk-analysis tool that is designed to support decisions about crisis and disaster prevention, preparedness and response. INFORM is not predictive, but it is a good way to take account of complex risk information in the decision-making process.

For more information on INFORM, please visit <http://www.inform-index.org/>.

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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

Stockholm Resilience Centre: Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship



Stockholm Resilience Centre
Sustainability Science for Biosphere Stewardship

The Stockholm Resilience Centre was created in 2007 as a joint initiative between Stockholm University and the Beijer International Institute of Ecological Economics at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to advance research on the governance of social-ecological systems with a special emphasis on resilience - the ability to deal with change and continue to develop. The research agenda of the center is currently organized in seven interacting clusters/themes, which have collaborative leadership and serve as dynamic platforms for collaboration, namely: 1) water, food and ecosystem services in social-ecological landscapes; 2) global and cross-level in the Anthropocene; 3) coastal and marine social-ecological systems; 4) multilevel and adaptive governance, learning and transformation; 5) regime shifts and their implications in social-ecological systems; 6) urban social-ecological systems; and 7) Baltic sea ecosystem management.

One of the recent publications released recently under these research themes includes “The Potential Connectivity of Waterhole Networks and the Effectiveness of a Protected Area under Various Drought Scenarios”. Landscape connectivity is considered a priority for ecosystem conservation because it may mitigate the synergistic effects of climate change and habitat loss. The study assessed the effect of drought on waterhole availability and connectivity in a forested landscape, using Greater Calakmul Region of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico as a case study site, and revealed that drought dramatically influenced spatial structure and potential connectivity of the network.

For more information regarding the Stockholm Resilience Centre including the above mentioned and other drought related research works of the centre, please visit <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/>.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standard



The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standard (LEGS) Project is an independent initiative that aims to improve the quality and livelihoods impact of livestock-related projects in humanitarian situations. The key activity of the LEGS Project is the production and dissemination of the LEGS Handbook, as a companion to the

Sphere Handbook, supported by a global training programme and other awareness raising activities. From early 2000, various agencies and individuals involved in livestock relief work began to question the quality and professionalism of their interventions. The LEGS process began to produce a single set of international standards and guidelines for appropriate and timely livestock-based livelihoods responses in emergencies, using a participatory and evidence-based approach. From a global perspective, the most pressing need is to improve livestock relief programming with communities who rely heavily on livestock for their social and economic well-being. LEGS covers livestock interventions in these areas, but also addresses livestock support to settled farming communities and livestock kept by people in urban areas.

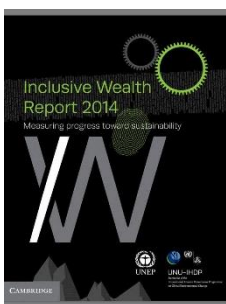
The publication of the first edition of LEGS in 2009 responded to the need to help donors, programme managers, technical experts, and others to design and implement livestock interventions in emergencies. At the same time, LEGS recognized



the need to plan for climatic trends affecting communities that rely heavily on livestock. The first edition drew on multi-agency contributions, on wide-ranging reviews, and on collations of practitioner experiences of using evidence-based good practice. The second edition of LEGS, which was released in 2014, builds on the first edition by incorporating new experiences and evidence obtained since 2009 as well as user feedback provided as a result of a broad consultation process.

Please visit <http://www.livestock-emergency.net/> for more information regarding LEGS Project. The second edition of LEGS Handbook is available for download at <http://www.livestock-emergency.net/resources/download-legs/>.

Inclusive Wealth Project



Inclusive Wealth Project is a joint initiative of UN University, UNEP and UNESCO, and supported by a group of researchers and economists who want to redefine what nations regard as wealth: as the potential to create and sustain humanity's well-being. In the effort to generate wealth and well-being for the Earth's 7 billion human inhabitants, we have inadvertently created global crises, which encompass social crisis, economic crisis and environmental crisis. They involve every nation, and have the potential to affect every human life. The project aims to provide countries with a realistic understanding of their wealth, and their prospects for long-term sustainability.

The project proposes the Inclusive Wealth Index, which is expected to act as a reset button for our priorities by presenting the wider value of goods and services to society, not the price for which they could be bought or sold. An inclusive wealth approach assesses countries' wealth by carrying out a comprehensive analysis of a country's productive base. That is, it measures all of the assets from which human well-being is derived, including manufactured, human and natural capital. In this, it measures a nation's capacity to create and maintain human well-being over time. The most recent 2014 Inclusive Wealth Report (IWR2014) provides quantitative information and analysis on long-term trends in global inclusive wealth, and in doing so paint a picture of how nations are performing in their efforts to sustainably improve the well-being of their citizens.

Further details on the Inclusive Wealth Project are available at <http://inclusivewealthindex.org/>. The full IWR2014 is available for download at <http://mgiep.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/IWR2014-WEB.pdf>.

The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership



The One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn) is a collaborative initiative involving 33 multilateral organizations which supports countries in designing and implementing country-driven, results-oriented and sustainable learning to address

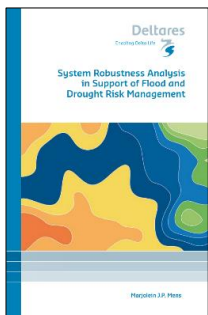
climate change. The initiative was launched at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Summit. The overall goal of UN CC:Learn is the creation of sustainable individual and institutional capacities, in developing and transition countries, to plan and implement effective climate change actions. This platform provides quality e-learning resources on climate change. Each course builds on the expertise of relevant UN partners. All courses are freely available as a public good. The platform was launched in 2014 and additional courses will be added over time.



One of the courses currently offered is the Introductory e-Course on Climate Change. This free self-paced e-learning course covers six modules including climate science, policy, adaptation, mitigation, finance and planning. It provides 10-12 hours of interactive learning and uses a mix of different approaches including visuals, explanatory text, videos, and quiz questions in English and French. Learners receive a certificate once they have completed and successfully passed all six modules. It also comes with downloadable power point presentations that can be used as an instructional tool.

Please visit <http://www.unccelearn.org/> for more information on UN CC:Learn. Ongoing and upcoming learning courses are available to be viewed at <http://unccelearn.org/course/>.

System Robustness Analysis in Support of Flood and Drought Risk Management



Floods and droughts cause increasingly large impacts on societies worldwide. The probability of these extreme events is also expected to increase due to climate change. This document describes a decision support method that helps avoid unacceptably large impacts from flood and drought. This method proposes three criteria with which water managers and policy makers can verify measures for their contribution to the creation of a robust system for water management, that is, a system that can deal better with extremes. Higher river discharges and longer droughts will occur more often as a result of climate change, and therefore they will cause more damage. In water management, the awareness concerning robustness of areas for floods and droughts should be increased and besides the prevention of floods and water shortages, the focus should be on the prevention of irreparable damages.

This new perspective gives inspiration for a new approach. Applying these criteria can lead to new preferences choosing from a set of alternatives supporting the assessment of impacts from extreme events. A robustness perspective supports decision makers in exploring low-probability/high-impact events and considering whether these impacts are societally acceptable. Quantifying robustness inspires the development of strategies that reduce flood and drought risk in a way that disasters are avoided.

The full report is available for download at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/42292_42292phdthesismarjoleinmenswithcove.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

9th World Congress of European Water Resources Association: Water Resources Management in a Changing World – Challenges and Opportunities (10-13 June, 2015; Istanbul, Turkey)



Up to now, the European Water Resources Association (EWRA) has organized 8 international conferences and a large number of regional symposia, focusing on various issues related to water resources management. Instead of another conference, this global scientific multidisciplinary event is upgraded to a World Congress, incorporating a number of conferences covering a variety of subjects related to Global issues in water resources and the environment. This will facilitate more



scientists to participate in EWRA activities, and lead to a more fruitful interaction between scientists from various disciplines from many countries of the world.

The main theme of the 9th World Congress will be “Water Resources Management in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities”. It will encompass six different conferences, instead of a single conference, to cover a wide range of relevant topics. They include: 1) hydrological processes and evolving hazards; 2) geo-information and water resources; 3) technological advances in water distribution, purification and desalination; 4) water pollution and eco-systems conservancy; 5) multicriteria sustainability of water systems; and 6) social, political, institutional and legislative aspects. Cross-cutting Issues of drought will be addressed at conferences, including drought management (Conference 1) and drought mapping via geo-information technology (Conference 2).

Please visit <http://www.ewra2015istanbul.org/index.html> for more information regarding the 9th World Congress of EWRA including the logistical information.

3rd Resilience Academy: Enhancing Resilience to Minimize Loss and Damage - Providing Knowledge for the UNFCCC (Dhaka, Bangladesh; 6-12 September, 2015)



In the most vulnerable regions of our planet, the impact of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and cyclones threaten lives and livelihoods. The most affected regions include large deltas, small islands and exposed coastal regions as well as arid and semiarid lands, and areas affected by glacier and permafrost melt. The Resilience Academy will provide a platform for connecting communities of expertise (early phase practitioners, academics and policy analysts), examining livelihood resilience in the face of extreme weather events and slow-onset environmental changes.

The Resilience Academy 2015 in Bangladesh will produce, combine and share knowledge about enhancing livelihood resilience to minimize loss and damage (L&D). L&D is an emerging topic in climate change negotiations, research, policy and implementation of climate change action, and is expected to grow in importance after the establishment of the "Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts" in December 2013. Questions and sub-themes addressed in the 2015 Resilience Academies include, but are not limited to: how can building livelihood resilience help minimize avoidable L&D?; how can unavoidable L&D be addressed without undermining livelihood resilience?; how do slow-onset environmental changes lead to L&D?; what methods exist for valuating non-economic L&D?; what limits and constraints to adaptation exist in different parts of the world?; what L&D can be attributed to global warming?; what are acceptable and intolerable climate risk?; what are tipping points and how can we detect them?; how can migration and insurance help address L&D?; what is transformative adaptation and how can it help?; how can the activities of the Warsaw International Mechanism be made most effective for addressing L&D?; and how should finance for addressing L&D in vulnerable countries be organized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?

For further details on the 3rd Resilience Academy, please visit <http://ehs.unu.edu/file/get/11927>.



Employment and Grant Opportunities

Regional WASH Advisor – Oxfam (Closing date: 22 March 2015)



West Africa is experiencing a deepening cycle of chronic poverty, whose roots lie in a number of complex issues. In many ways, West Africa's crisis is a crisis of decreasing livelihoods options and decreasing food security. Other issues also play their part, including cyclical drought, floods and disease outbreaks, which further undermine people's capacity. Oxfam in West Africa is seeking to increase its impact in the region through its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Work. This is an opportunity to lead on the process of change required to help Oxfam achieve this aspiration.

Regional WASH Advisor will leads on strategic thinking for WASH programs for the region and develops and manages regional programs as appropriate. He/she will also represents Oxfam externally in WASH at regional level, form part of the regional program advisory team and contributes to all regional program design, lead on knowledge management and lesson learning for the region on WASH issues, and contribute to Oxfam globally in terms of innovation, learning and program development.

Please visit <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/2233/description> for more information regarding the position.

Grant for Graduate Studies Program – West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (Closing date: Not Specified)



The West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is a partnership of German and West African institutions for research and science-based advice on impacts, mitigation, and adaptation measures related to climate change. This Graduate Studies program offers scholarships and research support to qualified candidates in WASCAL member countries. This program supports and facilitates academic education amongst West African universities in association with German counterpart institutions.

WASCAL focus on the training of Doctoral and Master's students. Each of the six Doctoral Programs and four Master's Programs is autonomous and based at one lead university selected in a consultative process among the candidate countries. The programs pool the scientific and educational strength of related faculties in the region and thereby facilitate high quality research and education. A significant part of the WASCAL effort is the strengthening of this trans-national communication and capacity building. Added value is gained by cross-linking experts and university institutes between the ten identified priority fields, thus enabling an interdisciplinary working approach. This involves teaching, student supervision, and exchange of cross-border experiences.

For more information regarding WASCAL, please visit <https://icg4wascal.icg.kfa-juelich.de/project-overview/graduate-schools/the-graduate-studies-program>.

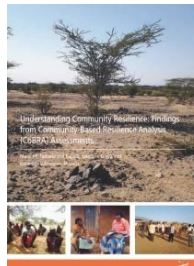


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

In order to ensure that drought prone communities move onto a path of resilience building and sustainable development, rather than being pushed back to poverty trap with increased vulnerability, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) is a tool which intends to measure and identify the key building blocks of community resilience, or "resilience characteristics", and assess the attribution of various development/humanitarian interventions in attaining these resilience characteristics. In disaster affected areas, where protracted crises with spikes in need are the norm, resilience measurement tools are required through which to document evidence of groups of interventions that have high impact and spur positive changes at household and community levels. This publication presents the

conceptual framework that underpins the CoBRA model and describes in brief the methodology that supports the model:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/cobra-conceptual-framework/.



Understanding Community Resilience: Findings from CoBRA Assessments in Kenya and Uganda (2014)

In the last few years, as natural disasters, particularly drought, and other crises have pushed communities to the limits of their adaptation and coping capacity, 'disaster resilience' has emerged as a key goal for governments and other development and humanitarian stakeholders in the Horn of Africa. This report summarizes the findings of the first round of CoBRA field testing in four drought-prone locations in Kenya (Marsabit, Turkana and Kajiado counties) and Uganda (the Karamoja sub-region). Individual assessment reports for each location are attached as Annexes to this report. The CoBRA approach is largely qualitative, based on understanding resilience from a community perspective. It does not identify any preconceived components of resilience but rather allows communities to define it, assess their progress in achieving it, identify households that are more (or fully) resilient and specify the interventions they believe best build resilience:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/CoBRA_assessment/.

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: <http://drought.icpac.net/>

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>

Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>

Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

Asia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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<http://www.undp.org/drylands/>

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