

# Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



May 2011 Issue

## Special Topic

### Request for AADP Survey Participation



As an acknowledged professional with experience in relation to drought, the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (UNDP-DDC)

would like to request your participation in a short online survey.

This survey has been developed in support of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network (AADP). Information gathered from the survey is crucial in providing a baseline regarding the DRM landscape within Africa and Asia and ideas for the uptake of good practices that the network could focus on.

The questionnaire has 12 questions divided into 3 short sections. It provides a clear explanation of what is required, and in most cases offers a range of multiple choice answers that can simply be ticked in the box. The survey should take **only about 10 minutes** of your time. The survey will be open for inputs through **May 31, 2011**. To complete the survey, please click the link below:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRZP9DJ>.

The findings of the survey will be presented at the upcoming Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum and compiled into a report, where your participation will be acknowledged. Specific question responses however will be kept confidential. The report will be distributed to all survey participants via email. It will also be published on the UNDP-DDC AADP website at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>.

If you have any questions or would be interested in discussing this initiative further, please feel free to contact Paul Venton at [paul.venton@highestwater.com](mailto:paul.venton@highestwater.com). Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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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.

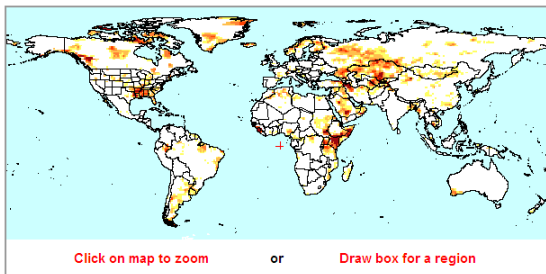
AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative](#).

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>.

## Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Global Drought Monitor



The Global Drought Monitor is a free internet application which monitors the severity of drought worldwide on an ongoing basis. The product will aid humanitarian relief by assisting warnings of potential food, water and health problems. The Global Drought Monitor will also benefit the general public, government and industry by improving awareness of droughts and their impacts.

Drought is a deficiency in rainfall over an extended period of time. It is a recurrent feature of climate which happens almost everywhere. During

2005, for example, several countries in Western Europe experienced extreme or exceptional drought. Severe droughts also affected countries in eastern and southern Africa, Niger, Thailand, Brazil and Australia. Droughts can have devastating effects on agriculture, livestock and water supplies. They also lead to other disasters, namely famine, malnutrition, epidemics and displacement of populations from one area to another. To mitigate the impacts of drought and to help save lives humanitarian aid agencies require early access to clear information on the geographic scale of drought, its strength and how many people are being affected.

Previous drought monitoring information has only been issued routinely on a regional basis. The Global Drought Monitor provides a clear summary of current hydrological drought conditions worldwide. The product is updated monthly and has a spatial resolution of ~100km. Interactive elements allow users to select the prior period for drought assessment (1 to 36 months), to zoom in at several levels, to display the number of people affected by exceptional drought within a user-defined area, and to choose whether to display city names, rivers and lakes. Hydrological drought conditions are displayed based on the two leading drought indices called the Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) and the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI).

The Global Drought Monitor is created and maintained by the award-winning Meteorological Hazards and Seasonal Forecasting group at the Benfield University College London Hazard Research Centre. The product builds on the group's expertise in drought assessment, drought prediction and on-line tracking and display of severe weather.

For more information regarding the Global Drought Monitor and its database, please visit [http://drought.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/drought.html?map=%2Fwww%2Fdrought%2Fweb\\_pages%2Fdrought.map&program=%2Fcgi-bin%2Fmapserv&root=%2Fwww%2Fdrought2%2F&map\\_web\\_imagepath=%2Ftmp%2F&map\\_web\\_imageurl=%2Ftmp%2F&map\\_web\\_template=%2Fdrought.html](http://drought.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/drought.html?map=%2Fwww%2Fdrought%2Fweb_pages%2Fdrought.map&program=%2Fcgi-bin%2Fmapserv&root=%2Fwww%2Fdrought2%2F&map_web_imagepath=%2Ftmp%2F&map_web_imageurl=%2Ftmp%2F&map_web_template=%2Fdrought.html).

## Experimental African Drought Monitor



The experimental African drought monitor is operated by the Land Surface Hydrology Group at Princeton University with support from the International Hydrology Program of UNESCO.

The system provides near realtime monitoring of land surface hydrological conditions. The hydrologic cycle is modeled using the Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC) model which is forced by a combined model/observation dataset of meteorological forcings (precipitation, temperature, etc). Precipitation is currently taken from the Precipitation Estimation from Remotely Sensed Information using Artificial Neural Networks (PERSIANN) and Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) datasets. Temperature and windspeed are taken from GTS gauge reports. The monitor is updated every day at 2 days behind realtime.

The database provides the daily conditions of soil moisture, precipitation, temperature, evapo-transpiration, runoff and snow in the continent, historic hydrological records in Eastern, Southern and Western sub-regions up to 10 years ago, and derived products such as current drought conditions.

For more information on the Experimental African Drought Monitor, please visit [http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project\\_global\\_monitor/](http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~justin/research/project_global_monitor/).

## Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network



The Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN) is a network consists of 34 national NGOs from 16 countries across the Asia-Pacific region. The main aim of ADRRN is to promote coordination, information sharing and collaboration among NGOs and other stakeholders for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response in the Asia-Pacific region. With a strong footprint in the region, the network members are constantly engaged with local communities strengthening their ability to combat disasters, providing humanitarian aid like food, water, shelter and health care, protecting critical facilities like schools and hospitals, creating awareness, advocating for policy changes and improving the capacity of community based organizations. The secretariat is based out of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ADRRN has developed and promoted partnerships among its members to implement a wide range of projects on strengthening and enhancing disaster management capacities of NGOs and local communities in Asia. These activities were made possible through the exchange of expertise as well as among well as experience and knowledge sharing among its members. Currently several collaborative projects have been conducted in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar involving the network members. One of the major activities of the network is providing learning opportunities through meetings, workshops and training on emerging development issues, disaster reduction and response and organizational development and management.

In addition, ADRRN disseminates a rich insight on humanitarian aid, risk reduction and development issues in the Asian region through stories, research papers, books, photo essays and videos. For more information on the ADRRN, please visit <http://www.adrrn.net/index.html>.

## Special Issue of the Land Degradation and Development Journal: Understanding Dryland Degradation Trends



*Land Degradation and Development* is an international journal which seeks to promote rational study of the recognition, monitoring, control and rehabilitation of degradation in terrestrial environments. The journal focuses on what land degradation is; what causes land degradation; the impacts of land degradation; the scale of land degradation; the history, current status or future trends of land degradation; avoidance, mitigation and control of land degradation; remedial actions to rehabilitate or restore degraded land; and sustainable land management. The Special Issue of the *Land Degradation and Development* Journal (Volume 22, Issue 2) is now formally published online.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) commissioned its First Scientific Conference in 2009 to deliberate on ways to improve the global monitoring and assessment of dryland degradation to support decision-making in land and water management. The papers included in this special issue elaborate the reasoning behind the 11 recommendations that emerged from the Conference and were formally submitted to the UNCCD. These papers argue for a more holistic, harmonised and integrated approach to dryland monitoring and assessment, and describe scientific and institutional approaches for achieving this goal. All articles are free to download at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ldr.v22.2/issuetoc>.

The UNCCD Second Scientific Conference on “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas” shall take place in 2012.

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## Coping with Drought: Research findings from Bulilima and Mangwe Districts, Matabeleland South, Zimbabwe



The research undertaken in this study aimed to profile the history and occurrences of droughts in Bulilima and Mangwe districts (Zimbabwe); identify and analyse drought coping and risk reduction mechanisms; identify institutions and their roles in drought coping and risk reduction; define policy recommendations for drought risk reduction programming in Bulilima and Mangwe districts.

It asserts that the increasing prevalence of drought in Zimbabwe has had a devastating impact on people's livelihoods, particularly in arid and semi arid parts of the country. This has been exacerbated by the fact that most communities are dependent on rain-fed agriculture. In order to reduce their vulnerability, communities in Bulilima and Mangwe Districts prepare for and adopt drought mitigating strategies.

This study was undertaken with a need to understand the factors that make communities vulnerable to drought and identify current community efforts to mitigate the impacts of drought, so that programs by Practical Action, other NGOs and Government departments can build upon these initiatives to increase their resilience.

The full document is available at [http://practicalaction.org/docs/southern\\_africa/Zimbabwe-coping-with-drought.pdf](http://practicalaction.org/docs/southern_africa/Zimbabwe-coping-with-drought.pdf).

## Event and Training Opportunities

### Workshop on Drought Monitoring and Early Warning (San Diego, United States; May 10, 2011)



A one day workshop on Drought Monitoring and Early Warning will be held on May 10, 2011, as part of the part of the 2011 National Hydrologic Warning Council Training Conference in San Diego, California, USA. The goals of the Drought workshop are twofold. Our first objective is to confer with emergency managers, decision makers, and agency and organizational representatives on drought management tools, resources, and current projects. The workshop will highlight existing drought management tools housed at the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) and will provide an opportunity for workshop participants to contribute input to products currently in development.

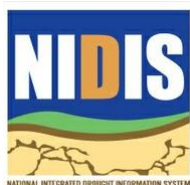
The second half of the workshop will introduce participants to the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). NIDIS, established by federal law in 2006, is responsible for improving drought early warning, both through research and targeted information dissemination. The US Drought Portal (USDP) ([http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/drought\\_gov/202](http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt/community/drought_gov/202)) is the resource through which NIDIS provides information, tools, and services at the national, regional, and local levels to enable decision making to mitigate and adapt to drought impacts.

This workshop will provide an opportunity for drought researchers to learn more from stakeholders about (1) their drought risk management activities, (2) what tools they use and their usefulness, and (3) additional information and data needs. It is also a chance for stakeholders to get to know the NDMC and NIDIS communities and to have NIDIS better understand how partnerships and early warning systems can be improved.

For more information about the workshop, please visit

<http://documents.clubexpress.com/documents.ashx?key=boxVSa5enuK1j6GSI24RHpp%2bpRvCTaQUE9MzdQLzCLkwuocKLulPJowJCbb5IYffGBPUURmpL5zSkZzU58GQnyaYDUiXhGeUpdYGyIpMLdhLaDe8jilwMA%3d%3d>.

### Building a Sustainable Network of Drought Communities 2011 Workshop (Chicago, United States; June 8-9, 2011)



The National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) Engaging Preparedness Communities (EPC) Working Group and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) will organize the Building a Sustainable Network of Drought Communities 2011 Workshop at the Summit Executive Centre in Chicago, USA, on June 8-9, 2011. This workshop is designed to expand communication and increase collaboration among drought and water management professionals across the national drought preparedness community. The workshop is being tailored to address the drought planning and mitigation needs of attendees. Discussions will address measures that can be taken before, during and after a drought event.

Workshop discussions will include:





- Assessing the drought knowledge of our communities
- Building a cooperative network of drought professionals
- Launching an effort to put drought planning information into practice
- Applying lessons learned based on example successes and failures

The workshop is meant to be interactive and informative while bringing together the drought community so that we can learn from and assist one another. Please visit <http://www.icleiusa.org/news-events/building-a-sustainable-network-of-drought-communities-2011-workshop/> for more information regarding the workshop and registration.

## M.A. in Drylands Policy and Climate Change Adaptation (Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Ireland and Sokoine University, Tanzania; 16 months from September 2011)



Commencing Sept 2011, the MA is being offered by Kimmage Development Studies Centre ([www.kimmagedsc.ie](http://www.kimmagedsc.ie)), based in Dublin, Ireland, in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania ([www.suanet.ac.tz](http://www.suanet.ac.tz)), with support from Mekelle University, Ethiopia, University of Nairobi, Kenya, and the International Institute of Environment and Development, UK.

Breaking the cycle of impoverishment of vulnerable communities in the drylands of Africa in the face of climate change is the ultimate goal of this new MA. This is of particular urgency not only because geographical location puts drylands' communities on the front-line of global climate change, but also because of the acute lack of understanding policy-makers have of the dynamics of local livelihood systems in these areas and the opportunities they offer for adaptation to climate change. For the future development and realization of rights in drylands areas, it is critical that the capacities of both communities and advocates are built. This will help to challenge prevailing misconceptions about livelihoods to shape policy and to enable more effective participation in decision-making. The MA in Drylands Policy and Climate Change Adaptation will contribute to this important process.

Participants are accepted on to a common postgraduate programme commencing in mid September. Participants will be expected to attend the first semester in Kimmage DSC in Dublin and the second in Sokoine University, Tanzania. They then have an additional 7 months to undertake research in a drylands area, with the support of one or more of the partner institutes and to complete a final dissertation.

For further details on the course content, admission requirements and applications, please visit [www.kimmagedsc.ie/madrylands.html](http://www.kimmagedsc.ie/madrylands.html).

## Employment and Grant Opportunities

### Senior Climate Adaption Advisor – Handicap International (Closing Date: May 27, 2011)



DAI works at the cutting edge of international development, combining technical excellence, professional project management, and exceptional customer service to solve our clients' most



complex problems. DAI has worked in 150 developing and transition countries, providing comprehensive development solutions in various areas. Clients include international development agencies, international lending institutions, private corporations and philanthropies, and host-country governments.

DAI seeks a candidate to serve as Senior Climate Adaptation Advisor for a USAID climate change program in South and South East Asia. The program aims to increase regional capacity and knowledge on climate change adaptation, with a focus on building the capacity of national government agencies to prepare proposals for GCC adaptation funding. The Advisor will oversee a technical assistance program to support governments in developing proposals that are technically sound and that meet the eligibility criteria and priorities of the various international climate adaptation funds. Applicants must be willing to relocate to Bangkok. This position is for submission in an upcoming proposal and is contingent upon successful award of funding.

Responsibilities of the position are to provide assistance to regional government offices to help them address technical and other eligibility requirements and fill gaps in preparation of climate adaptation funding proposals to multilateral and bilateral funders; provide input into the evaluation of existing relevant courses and the development of improved training curriculum, particularly related to technical aspects of developing climate adaptation projects; and under the guidance of the COP develop and maintain communications with climate adaptation fund representatives in the region to identify projects of interest to all parties and technical gaps that ADAPT can help address.

For more information regarding the position, please visit <http://www.cytiva.com/daipro/detail.asp?jobid=daipro2238>.

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## Regional Disaster Risk Management Project Coordinator – Handicap International (Closing Date: May 27, 2011)



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

Based at the project office in Dhaka/Bangladesh, Regional DRM Project Coordinator will coordinate with the Programme Technical Coordinators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka and will technically advice, on inclusive DRM issues all in-country staff, working with the regional project. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reducing the vulnerability of South Asian populations living in areas most affected by natural disasters, by increasing the awareness and the response capacities of local communities to potential and frequent natural disasters and to reduce the effects on the most vulnerable. The specific objective of the project is for enhanced inclusive community based disaster risk management practices, at community level in South Asia, to serve to advocate at national and regional levels for inclusive disaster risk management.

Regional DRM Project Coordinator will be the goal owner of the technical quality of the activities at local, national and regional level, whose responsibilities will be to:

- Ensure the regional project technical quality

- Oversee technical implementation of regional DRM activities
- Coordinate the Overall region on technical aspects

For more information regarding the position, please visit

[http://www.preventionweb.net/files/19743\\_hiregdrmadvisor.doc](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/19743_hiregdrmadvisor.doc).

## 18 months Post Doc Scholarship – GrassNet: Cross-continental network for sustainable adaptation of grassland systems vulnerable to climate change (Closing Date: Not specified)

In the frame of the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (German Academic Exchange Service; DAAD) funded GrassNet project (<http://www.grassnet.info/>), we offer a Post doc scholarship for a total of 18 months during a period of three years (2011 – 2013) for a Kenyan scientist at the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) in Witzenhausen / Germany (<http://www.ditsl.org/>). Timing of the post doc periods in Germany can be flexible, however, preference is for longer durations of 6 months up to 1 year in one go.

The Post Doc will join the research group “Social ecology in agriculture”. Within this group, we analyze pastoral systems as human activity systems, and do research on pastoral livelihoods focusing on resilience and adaptive capacity of the systems. This implies a focus on range and livestock management and the underlying knowledge to achieve the respective production purposes. We use action research approaches for knowledge production and collaborative learning in transdisciplinary set-ups. The Post doc research topic will be discussed during the application process, since it also depends on the qualification and interest of the candidate.

The position can be filled as soon as possible, however latest by July 2011. Interested applicant shall send his/her CV, certificates, a motivation letter, a pdf copy of your Phd thesis, and a tentative time table for the Post doc periods in Germany to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kaufmann [b.kaufmann@ditsl.org](mailto:b.kaufmann@ditsl.org). Further details regarding the qualification requirements and the application procedure are available at <http://www.grassnet.info/infopositions.html>.

## International Emergency Response Roster – Human Relief Foundation (Closing Date: March 31, 2012)



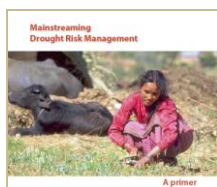
The Human Relief Foundation (HRF) (<http://www.hrf.co.uk/index.asp>) is a UK-based registered charity that provides emergency relief aid and assistance to ordinary people caught up in extraordinary, life-threatening situations. We work in areas affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts and famines. We also support people who are suffering through man-made catastrophes such as wars.

HRF aims to enhance its emergency response team to strengthen its Humanitarian response to crises by deploying highly qualified, experienced, pre-selected and pre-trained individuals with needs assessment profiles. To this end, HRF is currently seeking an International Emergency Response Roster. Candidates will be expected to travel to affected areas and work under pressure, on occasions in a highly stressful environment and be able to cope in a competitive international environment and to manage conflicting priorities. If selected for mission deployment, candidate will be expected to deploy for short term missions of approximately six weeks at a time. Deployments may include:



- In an emergency response where we are scaling up and need immediate emergency expertise;
- Providing surge capacity to a country programme by filling a vacant position and/or adding further skills and experience; and
- Capacity building of individuals and/or country programmes to increase programmes effectiveness.

There is a selection process for the Roster. If you are selected you will not necessarily be deployed. Deployments will depend on your availability and suitability for that emergency. Deployments will be on short term contracts and you will not be a permanent staff member of Human Relief Foundation. For more information on the Roster, please visit <http://reliefweb.int/node/387354>.



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 DRM into development planning and programming at different levels. It suggests and 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: Contact [fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org](mailto:fsn-gha-workinggroup@fao.org) for monthly FSNWG Updates

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

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

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

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

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Drought Monitoring 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 Disaster Management Center (SDMC): <http://saarc-sdmc.nic.in>