



Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

Monthly Newsletter



May 2013 Issue

Special Topic

UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) new Capacity Building Marketplace was launched during the Eleventh Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on April 15, 2013. The Marketplace is an innovative, dynamic and interactive one-stop shop for all matters related to capacity building within the framework of the UNCCD. All parties, organizations and individuals with an interest in building capacity in the field of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) are welcome to participate and make full use of the space.

The Marketplace goal is to be that central place where all demands and supply as regards capacity building as concerns the implementation of the UNCCD are brought together, thus facilitating easy, rewarding and relevant exchange and interchange. This goal will be achieved through among other measures, collecting and diffusing globally, the DLDD capacity building needs identified by Parties and other stakeholders in the UNCCD process. It shall also collect and disseminate all available and emerging opportunities, helping to match these opportunities directly with the identified needs.

The offerings on the Marketplace include possibilities to secure scholarships, fellowships, internships and to become a volunteer, as well as e-learning, university courses, and a tremendous amount of opportunities for knowledge sharing. It is designed as an interactive and user-friendly platform, inviting participation in different ways, including through sharing success stories and using the available partnerships opportunities to deepen and widen cooperation and collaboration at all levels. Various training, courses, internships and networking opportunities from all over the world have already been posted on the web.

For more details on the UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Capacity-building/CBW/Pages/default.aspx>.

Contents

Special Topic: UNCCD Capacity Building Marketplace	1
Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities	2
Event and Training Opportunities	4
Employment/Grant Opportunities	6
AADP Publications Information	7
Useful Links on Drought Status Updates	7

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

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network



The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) is an initiative which has been supporting decision-makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management in support of locally owned and managed policy processes since 2010. CDKN is managed by an alliance of organisations lead by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and working in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally.

Within the broad scope of climate compatible development, the network works across four strategic themes of 1) climate compatible development strategies and plans; 2) improving developing countries' access to climate finance; 3) strengthening resilience through climate-related disaster risk management; and 4) supporting climate negotiators from the least developed and most vulnerable countries. It provides:

- Tailored and demand-driven technical assistance services to developing country decision-makers in the design and delivery of climate compatible development policies and practices;
- Policy advocacy support to ensure that international climate negotiation processes and agreements should reflect and respond to the positions and challenges articulated by the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries; and
- Policy-relevant, applied research support, led and implemented by a wide range of universities, private sector partners, NGOs and international agencies.

Please visit <http://cdkn.org/> for more information on CDKN, its projects and resources.

Synthesis Report on Consultations on the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction



This Synthesis Report provides countries and all stakeholders with an overview of the issues emerging to date on the consultations and development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (DRR), including drought, as the successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action [HFA] or HFA2. The key purpose of this Report is to provide the basis for continued consultations, and to inform a draft HFA2 following the [Fourth Session of the Global Platform](#) in May 2013. The report compiles the varied views expressed over the first year of the consultation, including: the 2011-13 cycle of the National HFA Monitor where countries were asked to identify the most important elements for a HFA2; reports from national consultations; views of countries engaged in various international processes that included deliberations on the HFA2; regional (and sub-regional) platforms on disaster risk reduction in Africa, Asia, Pacific, Europe, the Americas, Arab States, and Central Asia and the Caucasus; consultations with communities and NGOs, etc.

The report is divided into four sections. The background describes the context of the consultations and the sources of information in the report. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNISDR) observations suggest an overview and analysis of main points for the HFA2 consultations to consider. The synthesis orders the ideas and suggestions in the



consultations to date into three categories of: local action; integrated approaches; and enabling environment. The final section describes the way forward on the consultation process for HFA2.

The full report is downloadable at: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/32535_hfasyntesisreportfinal.pdf.

The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012



“The Year of Recurring Disasters: A Review of Natural Disasters in 2012” was produced as part of the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement. For nearly a decade, the Project has made important contributions in highlighting the human rights of communities affected by natural disasters. This Review is intended to deepen the understanding of current trends in disasters and international disaster response. The 2012 report provides a narrative and statistical overview of some of the major disasters in the year and places a particular focus on the role of regional organizations and women in disaster risk management.

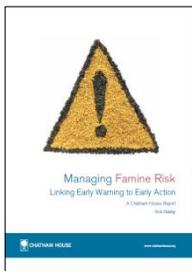
Some of the highlights from the 2012 review include:

- Recurring disasters have severe negative effects on human development by undermining the resilience of affected individuals and communities. The implementation of sound disaster (and displacement) laws and policies can play an important role in mitigating the negative effects of recurring disasters and can contribute to the development of more resilient societies.
- Statistically, 2012 was an ‘average’ year, with lower fatalities and average amount of economic losses. Drought/flood crisis in the Sahel region is perceived as the disaster affecting the most people in the year.
- Regional organizations play an increasing and diverse role in disaster risk management.
- The growth of urban sprawl and climate change, a hotter and drier climate in many parts of the world, fuelled by global warming, are major factors in changing wildfire risks.
- The effective and meaningful participation of women in policy-making, programming and implementation is crucial to increasing the success of disaster risk management in all phases.

The full report is available for download at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/03/natural%20disasters%20review/Brookings_Review_Natural_Disasters_2012.pdf.

Managing Famine Risk: Linking Early Warning to Early Action



This document reports on the Chatham House project *Translating Famine Early Warning into Early Action*. It builds on the author’s earlier report “Famine Early Warning and Early Action: the Cost of Delay” and defines famine as a process beginning with a particular shock or stress such as drought, precipitating a livelihood crisis that may eventually lead to a humanitarian emergency. It explores the barriers that hinder appropriate response to early warning of slow-onset food crises. Its purpose is to identify problems and consider opportunities to address the challenges of preventing and responding to humanitarian crises with scarce resources.

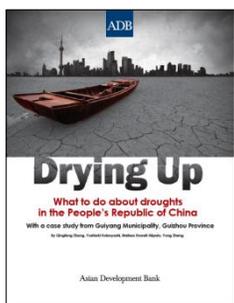


Among its key findings, the report asserts that risk reduction efforts are not commensurate with the scale of risk and that famine early warning systems have a good track record of predicting food crises but a poor track record of triggering early action. Its recommendations include: (i) improvement of the official early warning capacity and effectiveness, including a review of existing capabilities and needs in at-risk areas, capacity building and scientific approaches; (ii) enabling vulnerable communities to take early action themselves; (iii) operational reform; (iv) funding reform; and (v) institutional reform.

The full reports are available for download at

http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/public/Research/Energy,%20Environment%20and%20Development/0413r_earlywarnings.pdf.

Drying Up: What to Do about Droughts in the People's Republic of China



Rare and severe droughts gripped the Southwest region of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 2010 and its Yangtze River Basin in 2011, proving that even one of the largest basins in the world, and one known for its high rainfall, is not immune from the effects of climate change and unsustainable water consumption rates. The recent publication by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), entitled "Drying Up: What to Do about Droughts in the People's Republic of China", addresses the issue of droughts and water management in the PRC for environmentally sustainable development.

The publication consolidates the highlights from several recent ADB strategic studies that relate to improving disaster risk management and water resources management in the PRC, and represents current policy direction in the Ministry of Water Resources, with whom ADB worked closely in developing this knowledge product. It reflects the ministry's own sense of what the country's biggest challenges are and where the country is situated along the road to developing efficient institutions, lost and damaged resources, and responsible water usage. With a high level of government awareness, desire, and urgency to build resilience to droughts and consume resources at a more sustainable rate, the question becomes how to achieve this at the municipal level.

The full reports are available for download at <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2012/drying-up-prc.pdf>.

Event and Training Opportunities

Water for Food 2013 Global Conference (Lincoln, NE, USA; May 5-8, 2013)



Recent years have seen major droughts, floods and extreme temperatures affecting vast areas of the globe, including some of our most productive agricultural regions. How can we increase the capacity of our food, water and natural ecosystems to adapt to a changing climate? The 2013 Water for Food Conference, "Too Hot, Too Wet, Too Dry: Building Resilient Agroecosystems," will be organized by the Robert B. Daugherty Water

for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on May 5-8, 2013, at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.

The annual Water for Food Conference brings together experts from around the globe to discuss one of the greatest challenges facing our world today: how can we double our agricultural production by 2050 to feed an expected population of 9 billion people and do it using less water than we use today? Since 2009 more than 1300 people from 28 countries including farmers, scientists, policy-makers, students, educators, politicians, conservationists, industry leaders, and philanthropists have gathered to discuss how innovations in science, technology and policy will enable agriculture to sustainably feed an increasingly hungry and thirsty world. The conference will provide, among others:

- Surviving the 2012 Drought: 80 Years of Innovation session
- “A View from the Field” panel featuring an international group of agricultural producers
- Technical sessions on “Resilience in Working Agricultural Systems” and “Livestock and Water — Global Perspectives”
- Case studies on Drought Preparedness and Planning
- “Communicating about Climate” roundtable discussion
- “Cool Tools and Technologies for Agricultural and Water Research” exhibition

Please visit <http://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/wff2013/> for further details on the conference.

Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation (Ghent, Belgium; June 17-18, 2013)



Climate change at a global, regional or local (micro) scale, with its unstable and varying weather conditions, is reflected in the occurrence of extreme events with either excess or with scarcity (deficit) of water, i.e. drought. Human impacts additionally bring about the land and its habitants to face and suffer from this environmental instability. Desertification and Land Degradation have adversely affected 70% of the world's drylands as a result of extended droughts as well as mismanagement of range and cultivated land. The Conference on Desertification and Land Degradation, or the DesertLand Conference in short, brings together scientists, volunteers, research and service institutions, NGO's and corporations that help cope with the problems and

find appropriate solutions.

It is a unique opportunity to find out how projects of the past (since RIO 1992 conventions) have made a difference and how the future problems should be tackled. Time has come to show what has been done (successes and failures) to combat and prevent desertification and land degradation occurring in different climate zones. It is time to show the community how those problems of land degradation not only can be assessed or identified and downscaled, but also how they can be (or have been) tackled and prevented. Among the objectives of the conference is taking stock of not only the current scientific knowledge but also of the current strategies of management of drylands and of drought affected areas as well as in combating land degradation under different climatic conditions where water is the key issue. The strategies can be for national, regional and community levels. It will act as a platform and a catwalk for showing actions that have been taken and projects undertaken since RIO 1992 (RIO+21) for combating desertification and land degradation.

For further details regarding the DesertLand Conference, please visit <http://www.desertland.eu/index.asp>.



Employment and Grant Opportunities

Consultant for Asia Regional Office Disaster Preparedness Process – Plan International (Closing date: May 10, 2013)



Asia is one of the most disaster prone continents in the world. Between 2000 and 2011, 85% of people affected by disasters lived in Asia. Plan International's Asia Regional Office (ARO) would like to develop clarity on roles and responsibilities across functions and offices about supporting country offices in case of major emergencies and facilitating humanitarian aid in countries where Plan is not operational. In this view, Plan is currently looking for a consultant to organize a regional level leadership and management in emergencies training for new recruits with the key objectives to identify roles and responsibilities of different functions in ARO to: 1) support country offices in implementing emergency response as well as improving their preparedness; and 2) initiate response in non-operational countries.

Key expected outputs of the training include: 1) regional hazard analysis and disaster hotspots mapping, 2) Disaster Risk Seasonal Calendar for Asia region; 3) protocols covering roles and responsibilities of different ARO functions in supporting emergency response in Plan operational countries; 4) action plan to improve preparedness of regional office to better support countries carrying out response work; and 5) protocols covering different ARO functions in responding to emergencies in non-operational countries.

For further details on the position, please visit <http://reliefweb.int/job/573268/asia-regional-office-disaster-preparedness-process>.

Regional Director for East Africa – Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (Closing date: May 18, 2013)



In Africa, millions of people survive by their livestock. Yet veterinary care is often insufficiently available. When farmers lose their herds to disease, drought or conflict, they lose everything: their pride, their culture, their savings and their livelihood. By helping to care for livestock and improve production, the NGO Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Belgium supports local populations in their struggle against hunger and poverty. In East Africa, our programs focus on livestock dependent communities in Kenya, Uganda and South-Sudan.

The role of the Regional Director for East-Africa is to develop and implement the strategy for East-Africa in line with the mission, vision, values and global strategy of VSF-BELGIUM. His/her responsibilities include, among others:

- Develop the regional strategy and program within the VSF-BELGIUM framework and contribute to the development of the overall strategy of VSF-BELGIUM;
- Implement the 3 year regional strategy and defining subsequent annual plans and monitor the quality of regional program in the region;
- Develop a professional technical Regional support unit to provide monitoring support and guidance; and
- Ensure knowledge/expertise is capitalized within the region and shared with teams across VSF-BELGIUM.

Please visit <http://www.vsf-belgium.org/en/jobs> for more information on the position and the application procedure.



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/drought-online/documents/detail/en/c/2693/>.



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://www.acmad.ne/index.htm>

Experimental African Drought 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>