Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



May 2014 Issue

Special Topic

Community Based Resilience Analysis



In the last few years, as natural disasters 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. It is in this context that the UNDP Drylands Development Centre initiated the Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) project, with financial support from the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). CoBRA is one of the first practical

analytical tools developed to identify indicators for measuring community resilience in the HoA as part of ECHO's wider Drought Risk Reduction Action Plan.

CoBRA uses participatory qualitative resilience measurement approaches and tries to understand 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 through the combination of focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The four broad objectives of the CoBRA methodology are to:

- Identify the priority characteristics of disaster resilience for a target community;
- Assess the communities' achievement of these characteristics at the time of the assessment and during the last crisis or disaster;
- Identify the characteristics and strategies of disaster-resilient households; and
- Identify the most highly rated interventions or services in building local disaster resilience.

<u>CoBRA Conceptual Framework and Methodology</u> presents the conceptual background that underpins the CoBRA model and describes in brief the methodology that supports the model. <u>Understanding Community Resilience:</u> <u>Findings from CoBRA Assessments</u> 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.

For further details on the CoBRA, please also visit the ECHO-CoBRA project site at http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/cobra/en/.

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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 <u>Drought Online website</u> aims to offer an easy access to a growing collection of DRM related resources... <u>More ></u>

Click <u>here</u> to view past issues of AADP newsletter.



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Agricultural Production Systems



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Dryland Systems The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Research Program on Dryland Agricultural Production Systems, known as Dryland Systems, embodies a new approach to integrated and 'holistic' agricultural research in drylands, which are typically characterized by persistent water scarcity, frequent drought, high climatic variability, and various forms of land degradation. The goal of

Dryland Systems is to identify and develop resilient, diversified and more productive combinations of crop, livestock, rangeland, aquatic and agroforestry systems that increase productivity, reduce hunger and malnutrition, and improve quality of life for the rural poor. Dryland Systems engages in large-scale action research to identify innovative intervention packages - developed together with stakeholders - to sustainably improve agricultural productivity. The aim is to reduce the vulnerability of rural communities and entire regions across the world's dry areas.

Targeted outcomes and impact of the programme include: 1) developing strategies and tools to minimize risk and reduce vulnerability in low-potential and marginal dry lands; and 2) supporting sustainable intensification of agricultural production systems in higher-potential dry lands regions. An agro-ecosystems approach is taken because of the marginal, complex and integrated nature of the dry areas, the need to address broad research questions that compare and contrast dryland systems of the world, and the challenge of scalability when expanding promising research outputs to different regions. To develop solutions, research teams will validate the effectiveness of interventions in representative agro-ecosystems, and promote their scaling-out in the dry areas of five target regions: West Africa Sahel and the Dry Savannas; East and Southern Africa; North Africa and West Asia; Central Asia and the Caucasus; and South Asia.

Please visit <u>http://drylandsystems.cgiar.org/</u> for further information on the CGIAR's Drylands Systems initiative.

PREVIEW Global Risk Data Platform



The PREVIEW Global Risk Data Platform is a multiple agencies effort to share spatial data information on global risk from natural hazards. Users can visualise, download or extract data on past hazardous events, human and economical hazard exposure and risk from natural hazards. Following all standards for Spatial Data Infrastructures and providing all the web services in compliance with the Open Geospatial Consortium, it covers tropical cyclones and related storm surges, drought, earthquakes, biomass fires, floods, landslides, tsunamis and volcanic

eruptions. The collection of data is made via a wide range of partners. This was developed as a support to the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction and replaced the previous PREVIEW platform already available since 2000.

The outcomes presented in the PREVIEW Global Risk Data Platform application were developed by a large, interdisciplinary group of researchers from around the world, makes global disaster risk more visible - a key step towards mobilizing the political and economic commitment needed to reduce it. For example, methodologies on hazards modelling have been reviewed by a team of 24 independent experts selected by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Education and Scientific Cultural Organization. The Global Risk Data Platform allows the visualisation of data on natural hazards, exposure (both human and economic) and risk. Users may perform zooms, pan



to a particular area, add different layers of general data including cities, national parks, etc. Different backgrounds can be chosen to highlight different components reflecting vulnerability, such as population distribution, GDP per capita, elevation, land cover. Layers of natural hazards can be added for both events and yearly average for tropical cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, biomass fires, floods, landslides and tsunamis.

Please visit <u>http://preview.grid.unep.ch/index.php?preview=map&lang=eng</u> to access to, download and extract various graphics and data provided by the PREVIEW Global Risk Data Platform.

Vulnerability to Climate Induced Drought Scenario and Impacts: Study Report



Bangladesh is a hotspot for geophysical and climatic hazards. This report is the result of the study conducted as part of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, with the aim to make significant technical contribution as a part of strengthening the socio-economic status of the drought vulnerable population of Bangladesh by assessing the vulnerability of drought, enumerating the effect of climate change on drought spatially and temporally and proposing alternative adaptation options to combat the disasters to increase resilience. More specifically, the study assessed the present condition of drought in the country considering the different climate change scenarios predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with relevance to Bangladesh. The

study also focused on the formulation of strategic adaptations and conceptualization of a drought monitoring protocol.

The report analyses and addresses the risks and vulnerability associated with disaster and climate change, and identifies the drought vulnerable hot spots in Bangladesh. It also suggests alternative adaptation options to combat the disasters to increase resilience. It proposes a framework based on five key components which will act as an effective tool for designing integrated adaptation option menu in national level. The development of National Drought Information System (NDIS) will be a complete resource for adaptation related to drought, compiling trace of every individual adaptation tool, research, studies in agricultural field related to drought. It will also provide input and act as a catalyst for field-level demonstrations of viable adaptation options with potential to improve the capacity of rural livelihoods to adapt to climate change.

The full report will be available for download at

http://203.83.183.19/bitstream/handle/123456789/15/142.%20Vulnerability%20to%20Climate%20Induced%20Drought %20SCENARIO%20AND%20IMPACTS.pdf?sequence=3.

Planet@Risk Journal



Planet@Risk is the Global Risk Forum (GRF) Dovos's innovative e-journal which aims to support the establishment of a worldwide risk community, committed to sharing know-how and expertise by a constant process of dialogue – a crucial but still insufficiently implemented element of a truly integrative approach to risk reduction and disaster management. Planet@Risk provides:

- inter-sectorial and inter-disciplinary information on environmental, economic, geopolitical, societal and technological risks and disasters;
- theories, methods and tools for analysing, modelling and addressing these risks and disasters; and
- measures for integrative risk and disaster management.



Vol2, No1 (2014) of Planet@Risk focuses on the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). DLDD resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities are the most threatening ecosystems' change impacting the livelihood of whole mankind and the poor in particular. The papers in this Special Issue on Desertification present state-of-the-art research reports, case studies for good practices, scientific reports and working papers in the field of economic assessment of DLDD, of sustainable land management practices of drylands, and of resilience building. Based on presentations given during the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2nd Scientific Conference on "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas", held 9-12 April 2013 in Bonn, Germany, this Special Issue shall provide guidance to governments and non-governmental actors alike, on why they should and how they can, together, reduce the impacts of DLDD and support affected countries and communities to improve land management practices for increased resilience and sustainability.

All the articles posted on the Planet@Risk Special Issue on Desertification are viewable at <u>http://www.planet-risk.org/index.php/pr/issue/view/5%20</u>.

Event and Training Opportunities

International Science – Policy workshop 2014 (Jakarta, Indonesia; 16-18 June, 2014)



Four years after its first workshop held in Bonn, 2010, which led to the publication "The Role of Ecosystems in Disaster Risk Reduction" (2013), the International Science-Policy Workshop 2014 will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 16-18 June, bringing together the researchers, policy makers and practitioners to share success stories and discuss how the science and evidence-base of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (DRR)/climate change adaptation (CCA) could more

effectively inform and influence development decisions. The workshop is being held at a time when three major global policy agendas are being negotiated, namely the post-2015 global framework on disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, and the post-2015 global climate change agreement. Discussions and outputs will have clear relevance to these major policy processes. The workshop will also aim to identify a research agenda for the next 10 years which would have direct relevance to policy and decision-making.

The workshop will examine how to maximize integration of DRR and CCA through ecosystem based approaches and how these integrated strategies can help inform policies and programming that aim to build local and national resilience to disasters, including drought. While the inter-linkages between climate change and DRR are now widely acknowledged, these two domains continue to develop in silos with different stakeholders, expert groups, funding mechanisms and processes. One way to promote the integration of DRR/CCA is through the adoption of ecosystem-based approaches. Ecosystem-based approaches to DRR and CCA integrate the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into an overall strategy to reduce people's vulnerability and increase their resilience to natural hazards and climate change. They refer to the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help people cope with and adapt to natural hazards, climate variability, and impacts of climate change.

Please visit <u>http://ehs.unu.edu/article/read/call-for-abstracts-international-science-policy-workshop</u> for further details on the International Science-Policy Workshop 2014.



International Disaster and Risk Conference Davos 2014 (Davos, Switzerland; 24-28 August, 2014)



The International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) is the world leading conferences on integrative risk management. It is an unique community of business leaders, decision makers, practitioners, UN-, IO- & NGO-agents, and scientists that shares and discusses new findings and experiences about the broad spectrum of risks societies are facing today. The conferences are structured in plenary & parallel sessions, workshops & training courses, and poster exhibitions.

IDRC Davos 2014, with the theme of Integrative Risk Management: The Role of Science, Technology & Practice", attempts to find solutions to today's challenges by managing risks, reducing disasters and adapting to climate change. Focussing on a multi-sectors, multi-

stakeholders and multi-disciplines approach IDRC helps to build stronger ties with adequate public-private partnership models among risk management communities and sectors, enabling a move towards a truly integrative way of thinking about disasters and risks. The outcomes aim to influence the post 2015 agenda such as the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Millennium Development Goals or the replacement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Kyoto Protocol. IDRC Davos 2014 will have a special focus on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). In particular the conference will discuss the issues concerning DLDD and climate change nexus; economic and social assessment of DLDD; sustainable land management; drivers of change and resilience increase; and DLDD risk assessment and mapping.

For more information on the IDRC Davos 2014, please visit <u>http://idrc.info/home/?L=/etc/passwd�</u>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Consultancy on Innovative Finance in Cambodia – Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Closing date: 9 May, 2014)



United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification The Global Mechanism (GM) is an organ of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) mandated to support country Parties to the Convention in the mobilization of financial resources for UNCCD implementation. Cambodia is a signatory to the UNCCD and has recently prepared a National Action Programme (NAP). The NAP is intended to lead to the formulation of strategic and technical recommendations for halting and alleviating the impact of desertification and land degradation as well as drought and

other dryland disasters through the identification of a long-term programme to address the root causes of land degradation.

Land degradation in Cambodia has major socio-economic impacts on the national economy as well as on the livelihoods of rural communities. Yet, several constraints impede the fight against land degradation and the full implementation of the UNCCD relating to environmental, institutional, socio-economic, political and financial obstacles. Within this context, the GM agreed to support the Government of Cambodia in designing an Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) for Sustainable Land Management as a vital component of the NAP. The overall objective of this consultancy assignment is



to support key areas of intervention in the IFS and the recommendations of the Integrated Investment Framework, as well as to contribute to other relevant programmes and processes in Cambodia.

http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/Theinformation visit For more on the post, please Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/TOR%20consultancy_Innovative%20Finance%20Cambodia.pdf.

Regional WASH Advisor – Oxfam (Closing date: 15 May, 2014)



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, which are undermined by cyclical drought, floods and disease outbreaks. WASH has a major role to play in addressing

issues of food security, livelihoods and emergencies. To date Oxfam in West Africa has had a moderately sized WASH programme in the region. However we now have an opportunity to increase the scale of our WASH work, and more importantly to increase the impact of the programme, by ensuring that it is structured to most appropriately respond to the real underlying problems and to ensure that it integrates more effectively with other existing programmes. Oxfam's WASH work in West Africa also includes using water for livelihoods - including water harvesting and appropriate irrigation. We also aim to build on approaches to WASH that can lead to risk reduction in regard to potential emergencies in the region.

Oxfam in West Africa is seeking to have a much more significant impact in the region through its WASH Work. This is an opportunity to lead on the process of change required to help Oxfam achieve this aspiration. The Regional WASH Advisor is expected to leads on strategic thinking for WASH programmes for the region and develops and manages regional programmes as appropriate, while overseeing and directing budget as appropriate and managing staff mateix in at least 5 countries.

Further details regarding the position including the application available procedures are at https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/823/description/.

Drought Analyst and Modeller – Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (Closing date: 20 May, 2014)



Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

The Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) is the UK's Centre of Excellence for the integrated research in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL with the atmosphere. As part of the Natural Environment Research Council, and working in partnership with the research community, policy-makers,

environmental practitioners, industry and society, CEH delivers world-class solutions to the most complex environmental challenges facing humankind. CEH is currently seeking an enthusiastic and committed hydrologist to join the CEH Hydrological Status and Reporting Group, to develop and support scientific research on drought and to become a recognised drought expert at CEH, nationally and internationally.

The post-holder will contribute to a range of science initiatives, including the strategic development of analysis and modelling tools to support drought research across CEH, as well as emerging research projects focused on drought. In the first instance, this will include two high profile Research Council UK funded projects on historical droughts and the



seasonal forecasting of drought in the UK. The successful candidate will take the lead on tasks within these projects, and will be responsible for supervising other science staff. The role will involve wide scientific collaboration with other CEH researchers working on related projects. The post will also involve liaison with counterparts in external organizations (e.g., the Met Office, British Geological Survey, the Environment Agency) and collaborators in UK academia and the international research community.

Please visit <u>http://www.ceh.ac.uk/personnel/index.html</u> for more information regarding the post.

Research Fellow in Agricultural and Environmental Drought Impacts – Cranfield University School of Applied Sciences (Closing date: 28 May, 2014)



An opportunity has arisen for two Research Fellows to join the Cranfield Water Science Institute at Cranfield University. The roles support the Institute's contribution to two major projects funded by the Natural Environment Research Council's Drought and Water Scarcity programme. They will explore the historical impacts of droughts and water scarcity

(D&WS) on UK agriculture and evaluate the effectiveness of improved risk-based water management strategies to reduce future impacts. The post-holders will also support the delivery of other research contracts for clients on a range of water resource management issues including water security, catchment processes, and agricultural water use.

These posts offer an exciting opportunity for talented and energetic early career researchers to extend their academic profile. You will have a relevant PhD, strong data analysis, GIS and/or modelling skills in an appropriate field, a growing publication track record and well-developed written and oral communication skills. For an informal discussion please contact Dr. Ian Holman, Cranfield Water Science Institute, at <u>i.holman@cranfield.ac.uk</u>.

For further details on the post, please visit <u>https://jobs.cranfield.ac.uk/wd/plsql/wd_portal.show_job?p_web_site_id=4009&p_web_page_id=186795</u>.





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

Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: http://drought.icpac.net/ 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.sadc.int/english/regionalintegration/is/csc/

<u>Asia</u>

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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