



Special Topic

May 2015 Issue

United Nations World Water Development Report 2015



The 2015 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2015), titled *Water for a Sustainable World*, was launched at the official celebration of the World Water Day on 20 March 2015. The WWDR 2015 demonstrates how water resources and services are essential to

achieving global sustainability, and how water supports healthy and prosperous human communities, including through measures that reduce vulnerability and improve resilience to water-related disasters such as flood and drought management approaches, maintains well-functioning ecosystems and ecological services, and provides a cornerstone for short and long-term economic development. Taking account of economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability, the report's forward-looking narrative describes how major challenges and change factors in the modern world will affect – and can be affected by – water resources, services and related benefits.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of major and emerging trends from around the world, with examples of how some of the trend-related challenges have been addressed, their implications for policy-makers, and further actions that can be taken by stakeholders and the international community. The report begins by describing a world in the not-so-distant future in which water resources and water-related services are managed in such a way that the benefits derived from water are maximized and shared equitably throughout the world.

This vision is not merely a fictional utopian outlook; it is a future that is entirely achievable, a future in which water is recognized and managed as the fundamental resource that supports all aspects of sustainable development. This vision represents a new and innovative approach to the WWDR, prompting readers to reflect on how our world could be, provided appropriate changes are made to the way water resources are perceived and managed. The full report is available for download at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2015-water-for-a-sustainable-world/>.

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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

UNCCD's Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal – Knowledge Base Interactive Map



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) established the pilot Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP), which provide land managers and other global audiences with an interactive web-based map that illustrates sustainable land management (SLM) knowledge bases in the world. The UNCCD SKBP knowledge base map depicts knowledge bases that have been reported as sources of SLM information by country Parties to the convention in biannual reports submitted to the UNCCD secretariat.

If a knowledge base contains information about a particular country, the knowledge base will be represented as an icon for each country that it references.

Each knowledge base contains a description of the country areas referred to by the knowledge base, a basic list of themes covered by the knowledge base, and the number of languages under which the site is made available. Users can also search for knowledge bases based on specific criteria, namely by : country name and general thematic areas covering the following topics: Soil management, Drought, Crop management, Deforestation/ removal of natural vegetation, Over-exploitation of vegetation, Land tenure, Poverty, War/ conflict, Soil conservation, Agronomy crops, Grazing management, Reforestation, Water harvesting, Soil erosion, Biodiversity, Water degradation, and Climate change.

Please note that the SKBP Knowledge Base Interactive Map is a prototype that will continue to be improved. It is intended to serve as an example of what is to come. Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/Knowledge-Management/Pages/SKBP-Knowledge-Base-Map.aspx> for more information on the SKBP Knowledge Base Interactive Map.

Consortium of International Dryland Research and Knowledge



Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes (GNDRI) is a network of research institutions committed to dryland research, not of individuals, aimed at promoting institutional interactions for increasing cooperation and generating complementarities and synergies in research, education, training and outreach relevant to the sustainable use of the global drylands. More specifically, GNDRI intends to provide mechanisms and tools for the exchange of information by and among the participating institutions; plan and carry out

institutional training, teaching, and student and faculty exchange for promoting dryland research; provide scientific information and advice to policy makers in multilateral, global forums for dryland research advocacy, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and cooperate in the above activities and exchange information with professional networks of individuals working in areas of dryland science and policy advice.

Some of the knowledge resources GNDRI offers include:

- A GNDRI News Bulletin - a tool for current information exchange between Network members



- Access to a data base on availability of research facilities in each of the Network member institutions, for facilitating exchange of researchers and students.
- Access to a global database of information on drylands research institutions and their research activities.
- An outreach platform conveying research results generated by the member institutions, targeting policy-makers and the general public.

For more information regarding GNDRI, please visit <http://www.gndri.net/index.php>.

Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub: Arid Lands Restoration and Combat Desertification



There is great need to restore existing despoiled drylands and to combat increasing risks and impacts of desertification and drought. An essential measure is the planting of and reestablishment of vegetation. The successful establishment of vegetation in arid areas is complex requiring the multi-disciplinary skills of arid land experts with various capabilities, in soils, hydrology, ecology, agronomy, land management etc. However, vegetation restoration techniques in arid areas require review and development. Information on restoration is highly dispersed and often difficult to obtain. The creation of the 'Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub' is thus aimed to bring together the expertise, knowledge and information on vegetation establishment and

management that exists in the European Union (EU) and around the world.

The Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub is the website for COST Action ES1104, an European framework which focuses on practical methods for revegetating and maintaining drylands and combatting desertification. Besides providing specific information to the COST Action ES1104 Action Management Committee and Working Group Members, the hub provides information to 'stakeholders', i.e. all those who have, at any level, (government, NGO, landowner, farmer, consultant, researcher ...) about the Action and about restoration methods and activities through a database. Knowledge collection and dissemination is for stakeholders at all levels and is based on a 'one stop shop' where: gathering traditional knowledge of existing and past land users; gathering scientific information from publications; bringing unpublished knowledge to light; creating a discussion forum on new knowledge; and presenting traditional, published new knowledge for easy access.

Please visit <http://desertrestorationhub.com/> to learn more about the Drylands and Desert Restoration Hub and access to various knowledge resources offered by the hub.

Global Centre for Disaster Statistics



The Global Centre for Disaster Statistics was launched in March 2015 at a special event held on the sidelines of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction jointly by UNDP and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS) at Tohoku University. The result of a long partnership, the new Centre will help deliver quality, accessible and understandable disaster data to Member States as they endeavour to achieve the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). More specifically, the

centre will help countries identify baselines and track progress in DRR by:



- Generating sound evidence and scientific analysis to support the integration of disaster risk reduction information into development planning; and
- Supporting accountability by generating user-friendly data that countries and people can use to monitor and report on progress.

The centre is expected to support partner countries to build up good disaster databases and evidence and provide training services so as to help disaster experts and policymakers make risk-informed decisions. For further details on the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics, please contact carl.mercer@undp.org or toshiya.nishigori@undp.org. Please also visit <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/03/15/undp-and-tohoku-university-launch-global-centre-for-disaster-statistics/>.

Event and Training Opportunities

International Conference on Soil (4-7 May, 2015; Tirana, Albania)

The International Conference on Soil will be held on 4-7 May 2015 at the campus of the Agricultural University of Tirana in Albania. Main topics to be discussed during the conference include:

- Soil ecosystem goods and services in support of human needs;
- Interaction between natural ecosystem components (land, water, biodiversity) and socio-economic indicators affecting soil quality;
- Impacts of human mismanagement on soil resources and examples of best management practices in reducing soil degradation effects;
- Promotion and enhancement of crop production systems that support sustainable soil management and increase productivity;
- Valorisation of indigenous knowledge in ecosystem based soil management;
- Harmonised rural development, tourism sector expansion, environmental protection and soil management;
- Identification of major threats of soil resources at various levels;
- Livestock production and its impacts on both soil and water quality;
- Forestry, agro-forestry, renewable energies and their relations to soil quality.
- Cropping systems, nutrient management and cycling.

For more information on the conference, please visit http://icos.org.al/?page_id=31.

Desertif'actions 2015 Forum (10-13 June, 2015; Montpellier, France)



Desertif'actions is the international forum dedicated to land degradation and combating desertification. The forum will bring together over 300 stakeholders, including civil society organizations, scientists, local government, farmer organizations, private and public institutions, from



over 100 countries. In 2015, a number of decisive international governance encounters will be taking place to address the environment, climate and biodiversity issues. The stakeholders impacted by desertification processes and by the acceleration of these processes are often not asked to participate in international debates. Civil society's purpose in meeting at Desertif'actions 2015 is to reintroduce the testimony and interrogations of these stakeholders into international conversation and debate. It will then be in a better position to make itself heard during the upcoming international summits.

The Desertif'actions 2015 Forum will be articulated around plenary sessions and thematic workshops, intended to assist civil society in putting forth its contribution towards the - now unavoidable - articulation between desertification, land degradation and climate variability/change issues. The forum's three lines of work include: 1) desertification and land degradation – integrating climatic evolutions into decision-making and action-taking; 2) development sustainability in drylands – creating greater synergy between the three Rio Conventions; and 3) a pluralistic and organized civil society – having a true impact and doing what needs to be done.

Please visit <http://www.desertif-actions.fr/en/> for further details on the Desertif'actions 2015 Forum.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Consultants – Intergovernmental Authority on Development Drought Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (Closing date: 5 May 2015)



The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has received financing from the African Development Fund toward the cost of the IGAD Drought Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), and intends to apply part of the agreed amount for this grant to payments under the contracts for Consultancy Services for National IDDRSI Coordinators (Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) and Water and Natural Resource Expert (IGAD-Secretariat). The services included under this project are:

1. National IDDRSI Coordinators, namely: Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.
2. TA - Sector Expert (Water and Natural Resource Expert) for IDDRSI to strengthen the national drought resilience platform coordination mechanisms and ensure optimum linkage with the regional platform.

IGAD now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested individual consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (letter of intention, CV, experience in similar conditions, availability and appropriate skills, etc.). Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Rules and Procedures for the use of Consultants", May 2008 edition, revised on July 2012. For further details on the post and the application procedure, please visit http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Procurement/Project-related-Procurement/EOI_%E2%80%93_Multinational_-_National_IDDRSI_Coordinators_and_Water_and_Natural_Resource_Expert_%E2%80%93_IGADIDDRSI_%E2%80%93_04_2015.pdf.



Call for Proposals for Knowing Our Changing Climate in Africa Project – UNESCO (Closing date: 11 May 2015)



UNESCO's Climate Frontlines initiative is launching a new project for pastoral/herding communities in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The project aims at understanding pastoral peoples' own knowledge of weather and climate, their forecasting skills, and their observations of environmental change. The project goals are to build dialogue between community members and climate scientists, and strengthen local capacities to engage with national policy-makers on climate change adaptation. UNESCO is looking for dedicated, dynamic and reliable individuals who will

work with their communities to achieve the project's goals. Support to successful applicants will take the form of small grants, capacity-building workshops and dialogue sessions involving knowledgeable men and women from herder communities, scientists and policy-makers.

The proposed activities must be carried out in 2015-16 and finish in 2016. The proposal budget can be up to but not exceeding 5,000 USD. Applications from indigenous peoples and local communities are encouraged. Successful applicants will work with their community to document how men and women read the weather and cope with environmental uncertainty and change. We ask that you propose appropriate ways to develop this documentation. You will help build dialogue between knowledgeable community members with natural and social scientists. These exchanges will contribute to climate policies based on both indigenous and scientific knowledge that address the concerns and needs of pastoral communities. You will need both the time and the skills to work with a variety of stakeholders including researchers and policy-makers, supported by UNESCO, our partners and other successful applicants.

Please visit http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/temp/LINKS/Pastoralist-knowledge-proposal_English.pdf for further details on the Knowing Our Changing Climate in Africa Project including the eligibility criteria and the application procedure.

Final Project Evaluator for “WASH and Food Security Support for Drought and Conflict Affected Populations in Galgaduud Region, Central Somalia” – Solidarités International (Closing date: 15 May 2015)



Solidarités International (SI) is implementing a project on WASH and Food Security support for drought and conflict affected populations in Adaado and Abudwak Districts in Galgaduud Region, Central Somalia, with the financial support from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The region has continued to suffer from a range of issues including: long standing clan disputes and conflict, recurrent drought, food insecurity, fluctuating food prices, poor alternative livelihood options, water shortage, poor infrastructure, limited presence of humanitarian actors among other issues. The project aims at addressing serious emergency needs of targeted drought and conflict

affected host and IDPs communities through provision of Food Security and WASH interventions in support of the most vulnerable populations.

The purpose of this final evaluation is to evaluate the results of the project, its impact on the targeted populations and to draw lessons from the experiences and challenges as well as to set up recommendations for future programming. This



evaluation will cover all the dynamics of the project including evaluating each and every activity as per the proposal, as well as measuring the indicators' against the initial targets. The evaluation should be triangulated with findings from baseline and monitoring surveys conducted within the project period on specific activities and other project monitoring tools used. The evaluation will further look into the performance of animal health activity (quality of drugs provided, certification of the source of the livestock drugs, knowledge on usage) and on the performance of long lasting insecticide treated nets distributed in area, in reference to particular aspects as per OFDA letter of issues outlined in the section on deliverables. The evaluation should further analyse the relevance of all the implemented activities and recommend justifiable activities to appropriately address the community needs per livelihood group.

Please visit <http://www.somaliangoconsortium.org/docs/jobs/1429885422.pdf> for more information on the assignment and the procedures for application.

PhD Scholarship Identifying Regions of High Drought Mortality Risk for Tree Species in New South Wales – University of Western Sydney (Closing date: 31 May 2015)



The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at the University of Western Sydney is seeking a highly motivated PhD student to contribute to a new Australian Research Council-Linkages project on drought mortality risk in forests and woodlands of New South Wales (NSW). Severe drought can cause large-scale forest death, transforming landscapes with potentially catastrophic consequences for biodiversity. This project will quantify the risk of drought mortality across NSW for key tree species under a range of future climate change scenarios, enabling management of this risk in conservation planning.

As part of this project, a PhD Scholarship in physiological plant ecology is available for an active, dynamic individual with interests in plant gas exchange, carbon and water relations, plant biochemistry, and quantitative analytical skills within the context of global climate change. The student will undertake a program of research characterising the impacts of rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns on key physiological traits underpinning forest tree growth and susceptibility to drought mortality. Research will be conducted in controlled environmental facilities and at field sites throughout NSW Australia. The student will also work with process-based modellers to develop risk profiles that aid conservation planning and land management.

Please visit <http://www.seek.com.au/job/28556971> for more information on the position.

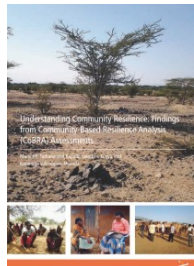


Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

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>