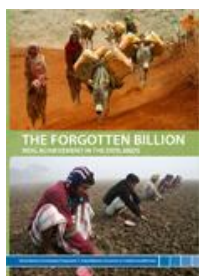




November 2011 Issue

Special Topic

The Forgotten Billion: MDG Achievement in the Drylands



They are marginal and marginalized. There are one billion of them and they struggle to subsist in the world's drylands. They are the poor the world forgot. Initially unveiled for consultation in 2010, the publication, entitled *The Forgotten Billion: MDG Achievement in the Drylands*, was formally launched today at the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) where leaders, scientists, civil society organizations and others are striving to reach agreements to combat desertification, land degradation and drought.

The joint assessment report says that "in certain regions, human well-being, particularly female adult literacy and child survival, decline in parallel with the aridity gradient," which is related to water scarcity. It stresses development challenges faced by people in the drylands and states that, "It will be impossible to halve the world's poverty and hunger by 2015 unless life is improved for the poor people of the drylands."

Supporting the "Forgotten Billion" will require concerted political will and a coordinated commitment of all development partners. Impressive successes can be attained with the right mix of leadership, policy and financial investments. The time has come for governments, donors and private sector partners to step up together to support lasting MDG achievement in the drylands and beyond. For the full report, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/docs/Forgotten%20Billion.pdf>.

Drought Adaptation Forum Reports and Presentations

A summary report and all the presentation slides from the **AADP's First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum** (June 14-15, 2011) are now available at <http://www.undp.org/drylands/AADP-Forum-11.html>.

Presentation slides from the **ADDN's Fourth Africa Drought Adaptation Forum** (October 13-14, 2011) are also available for download at http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/events/detail/en/?page=1&ipp=10&dyna_fef%5bbackuri%5d=%2Feast-central-africa%2Fevents%2Fen%2F&dyna_fef%5buid%5d=93133.

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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 \(ADDN\)](#).

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

Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme (REGLAP)



Regional Learning & Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities

The Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme (REGLAP) for vulnerable dryland communities is a consortium of NGOs led by Oxfam GB, which includes Save the Children (UK), Veterinaires sans Frontiers-Belgium, Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), CARE and Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE). It has been running since 2007 and is now in its third phase funded by European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil

Protection (ECHO) as part of the Drought Cycle Management Programme in the Greater Horn of Africa (DCM). The project aims to promote resilience among vulnerable dryland communities in the region through policy and practice change. The key areas the programme works in include:

- Civil society advocacy capacity: Increase civil society capacity for documenting and sharing lessons learnt and conducting advocacy work around disaster risk reduction (DRR);
- Knowledge gathering and lessons learnt: Harness and package existing knowledge, good practice and lessons learnt from community based actions and disseminate to key practitioners in the forms of newsletter, study reports, technical briefs, etc.; and
- Policy dialogue: Utilize learning to influence the development and implementation of national and regional DRR and related policies including those of NGOs.

In order to build a shared understanding of what constitutes good DRR practice and promote improved implementation, REGLAP, together with other DRM partners, recently drafted the good practice principles in various dryland DRR fields, such as community managed disaster risk reduction, water development, cross border programming, conflict sensitive programming, pastoral field schools, community linked early warning, village savings and loans and irrigated fodder production. These principles, all available for review at <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/library/?category=goodpracticeprinciples®lap=1>, are in draft form and the authors welcome comments and good practice examples and documentation to further enrich them.

For further information on REGLAP, please visit <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/reglap> or contact Catherine Odhiambo at codhiambo@oxfam.org.uk.

Network on Drought Management for the Near East, Mediterranean and Central Asia



Network on Drought Management for the Near East, Mediterranean and Central Asia (NEMEDCA) was established jointly in 2001 by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the main purpose to promote cooperation in the field of drought management between countries in the regions. In 2007, this network was adapted to the new scenario drawn up by the European Union-funded Mediterranean Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Planning project (MEDROPLAN), which, through the development

of *Drought Management Guidelines*, provide a methodology for the preparation of proactive drought management plans that could be adapted to different geographical and socio-economic contexts.

When the MEDROPLAN project ended in June 2008, the NEMEDCA network took over the task of ensuring ongoing cooperation on drought and thus enabled members of the MEDROPLAN consortium, together with scientists, stakeholders and officials in other Mediterranean countries, to maintain the cooperative links established through their participation in the programme. Members of the consortium have thus been able to continue sharing experiences and findings.

For more information on the NEMEDCA and its activities, please visit <http://www.ciheam.org/index.php/en/cooperation/networks/nemedca> or http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/en/pages/paginas/pag_investigacion4.htm. MEDROPLAN's Drought Management Guidelines document is available for download at http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/medroplan/guidelines/archivos/guidelines_english.pdf.

Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation



PROVIA

Climate change is one of the most important environmental, social and economic issues facing the world today. Despite growing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, some impacts such as higher temperatures, more intense droughts, floods, wildfires, and rising sea levels are now inevitable. We must plan for and adapt to these changes, to minimize the negative impacts and enhance the benefits to natural systems, societies, and human activities and well-being. The Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) is a global inter-agency initiative which aims to provide direction and coherence at the international level for research on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation (VIA). Launched with the support of leading scientists and decision-makers, PROVIA responds to the urgent call by the scientific community for a more cohesive and coordinated approach, and the critical need to harmonize, mobilize, and communicate the growing knowledge-base on VIA.

To this end, PROVIA will act as a new and growing network of scientists, practitioners and decision-makers working towards identifying research gaps and meeting policy needs in climate change vulnerability, impact and adaptation research. Acknowledging emerging policy strategies, new scientific developments and lessons learnt from past programmes, PROVIA promises to deliver, in collaboration with its implementing partners, improved coordination of international research on the impacts of and responses to climate change, and provide the credible scientific information that is being increasingly requested by the world's decision makers. The PROVIA Secretariat is currently hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi.

For more information on PROVIA, please visit <http://www.provia-climatechange.org/HOME/tabid/55173/Default.aspx>. Please contact the Secretariat at provia@provia-climatechange.org for any feedback or suggestions about PROVIA or the new website.

Improved Drought Early Warning and Forecasting to Strengthen Preparedness and Adaptation to Droughts in Africa

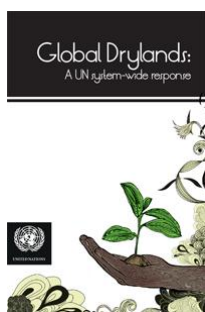


The Improved Drought Early Warning and Forecasting to Strengthen Preparedness and Adaptation to Droughts in Africa (DEWFORA) project was launched in January 2011 with the principal aim to develop a framework for the provision of early warning and response through drought impact mitigation for Africa. This framework will cover the whole chain from monitoring and vulnerability assessment, to forecasting, warning, response and knowledge dissemination. DEWFORA has been designed to achieve four key targets within the project duration of 3 years:

- *Assessing existing capacities* in Africa in terms of drought monitoring, forecasting and warning, enhancing drought monitoring methods through improved indicators and understanding the relationship between drought hazard and vulnerability in the current climate and how this will change as a result of climate change;
- *Improving performance* of methods used for forecasting droughts in Africa by implementing state-of-the-art in (seasonal) meteorological, hydrological and agricultural forecasting;
- *Improving early warning* of droughts through appropriate thresholds for initiation of mitigation activities, and establishing strategies to increase resilience to drought at seasonal and longer time scales; and
- *Transferring knowledge* to practitioners and building capacity in Africa to ensure that knowledge developed continues to be exploited beyond the project.

Please visit <http://www.dewfora.net/english> for more information on DEWFORA.

Global Drylands: A UN System-Wide Response



Ninety percent of the world's drylands populations live in developing countries where women and children are most vulnerable to the impacts of land degradation and drought. A stark illustration can be seen in the severe famine in drought-affected parts of the Horn of Africa. *Global Drylands: A UN System-Wide Response* sets out for the first time a coherent strategy by the United Nations to address the special needs of drylands from the perspective of the environment and human settlements. Prepared by members of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG), the report responds to calls by governments for a UN system-wide response to the challenges faced by drylands populations and ecosystems. It sets out a common vision and agenda for UN-wide action on dryland management and its role in addressing climate change and food security through a positive development and investment approach, with particular focus on response at national level.

The report's key findings was made available to the UN General Assembly High-level event on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in New York, USA, in September 2011. The report was later launched at the UNCCD COP 10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea, in October 2011.

The full report is available for download at

<http://www.unemg.org/Portals/27/Documents/IMG/Land/Global-Dryland-BAT.pdf>.

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction: Experiences from the Horn of Africa



The Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction: Experiences from the Horn of Africa is a book that captures lessons in three Horn of Africa countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. These lessons are based on implementation of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) programmes between 2008 and 2010. In the three countries, drought is a crosscutting hazard and mainly affects pastoralists, while the same communities are also repeatedly struggling with conflict and loss of lives and property through floods. As a global leader of innovative development approaches, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in collaboration with Cordaid developed CMDRR as a practical and community centred approach to deal with threat of disasters.

This book captures key successes registered by communities exposed to risks of drought and other disaster risks through CMDRR. It provides a context within which the communities exist but most important, their journey from hopelessness to restoration and resilience. It gives a voice to the poor in society who are doing small things in great ways with evidence-based impacts. The cases were written by partner staff, community leaders and individual beneficiaries to share stories of how they have reduced their risk levels. In spite of the achievements, significant effort was made to change mindsets of both development actors and the community members. Community members who after sensitization, drew on their own capacities to plan DRR interventions and overcame dependency syndrome proved that the will to survive is the most important ingredient of resilience. With wider acceptance of CMDRR, these pioneer communities will serve as beacons of hope and learning centres.

The full report is available for download at

http://www.cordaid.nl/site_content/CMDRR,%20experiences%20from%20the%20Horn%20of%20Africa.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

Training on the Use of GIS and Remote Sensing in Food Security Analysis (Nairobi, Kenya; November 21-25, 2011)



Indepth Research Services (IRES) is an international training and professional consultancy organization in geographical information system (GIS), remote sensing (RS) and research services, with its head office in Nairobi, Kenya. IRES will organize a 5-day Training on Use of GIS and RS in Food Security Analysis in Nairobi, Kenya, on November 21-25, 2011. The main purpose of the course is to enhance the capabilities of technical staff involved in Food Security Analysis (FSA) by providing them with an understanding on the use of spatial and Earth Observation information as a complimentary tool in FSA.

Participants acquire hands-on skills in application of GIS and RS in FSA, and learn to work with, aerial photographs, satellite images and digital maps that are the key to a better understanding of food (in) security scenarios. This leads to better informed decision making, whether it is at the community, provincial, national, NGO, private sector enterprise or public sector institutions. The training will be facilitated by experienced GIS, Remote Sensing and FS Analysts, with many

years of experience working with renowned organizations in FS Analysis. Program content includes food security early warning systems and drought monitoring.

For more information on the course, please visit

http://www.indepthresearch.org/index.php?view=details&id=4%3Ause-of-gis-and-remote-sensing-in-food-security-analysis&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=42#axzz1c5O4zHDK.

Session on Drought Definition, Analysis, Impacts, Prediction, and Management at 92nd American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting (New Orleans, USA; January 22-26, 2012)



The American Meteorological Society (AMS) will organize its 92nd Annual Meeting on 22–26 January, 2012, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, the USA, around the broad theme of “Technology in Research and Operations—How We Got Here and Where We’re Going.” During the meeting, a Session on Drought Definition, Analysis, Impacts, Prediction, and Management will be held as part of the 26th Conference on Hydrology, with joint sponsorship from the 24th Conference on Climate Variability and Change.

While most evident in semi-arid to sub-humid environments, drought can occur anywhere and anytime, even in deserts and arctic climates. The impacts and causes of drought, the indices and indicators used to monitor and analyze drought, and even the very definition of drought all vary across these diverse climates. This variation is a significant challenge for drought research, analysis, modeling, monitoring, and forecasting, and complicates the responses of state, regional, national, and international programs, especially in a changing climate. This session will focus on scientific and operational issues related to this challenge, including the formulation and use of drought indices and definitions, and the characterization of drought impacts across the diverse climates of North America and the world.

All the abstracts submitted to and approved for the session are available at <http://ams.confex.com/ams/92Annual/webprogram/Session29347.html>. For more information on the AMS Annual Meeting, please visit <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2012/>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Country Director: Kenya - Merlin (Closing Date: November 3, 2011)



Today, Merlin is the UK's leading charity specializing in international health, sending medical experts to the frontline of global emergencies. Each year, Merlin helps more than 15 million people in up to 20 countries. Merlin has been working in Kenya since 1998 and currently runs programmes in two regions of the country – the Nyanza Province in the Western Highlands and Turkana in Northern Kenya – in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

In Turkana, Merlin offers essential primary health and nutrition services to the drought affected population. Merlin supports 72 outreach sites, 66 clinics, 10 health centres and 5 hospitals. Because of the area's high maternal mortality rate, Merlin also provides maternal health services to improve safe motherhood. In Nyanza province, Merlin has been supporting the Ministry of Health in the provision of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria preventative and curative services.

As the Country Director you will be responsible for the overall leadership, strategic direction and operational management of the country programme. You will also assume responsibility for the smooth running and development of Merlin programs through the development and implementation of a strategic plan, analysis of the humanitarian and transitional context, needs assessments and the appropriate responses. The post also includes responsibility for identifying and securing donor funding and an expectation to increase Merlin's profile through representation to external actors and advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable population Merlin supports. You will be working very closely with the Country Director Somalia as well as the shared Support Unit structure.

Please visit <https://jobs.merlin.org.uk/VacancyDocumentation.aspx?olebit=1053> for more information on the position.

Request for Proposals – The New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research (Closing Date: November 7, 2011)



The New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research (the Fund) is a contestable international research fund set up by New Zealand in support of the objectives of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and its Livestock Research Group. It was launched by the New Zealand Agriculture Minister, Hon David Carter, on 24 June 2011 at a Summit of Alliance Ministers in Rome, Italy. The Fund is aimed at accelerating global research in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

from pastoral livestock farming by seeking solutions to four grand Research Challenges. The Fund is worth NZ\$25 million over four years (ending 30 June 2016). The portfolio of projects that the Fund will support will balance innovative science with the achievement of cost-effective, practical and sustainable solutions for pastoral livestock farmers.

It is open to international scientists, and it is hoped that multi-stakeholder/country consortia bids will be put forward. International co-funding is a requirement. Projects can be led by a New Zealand participant or one from an Alliance member country but must include a New Zealand partner. The Fund will seek proposals in response to a set of high-level research challenges in the areas of:

- Manipulating rumen function;
- Reducing nitrous oxide emissions from soils in predominantly grazing livestock systems;
- Manipulating the rates of soil carbon change in predominantly grazing livestock systems; and
- Improved tools for farmer decision making in predominantly grazing livestock systems.

Further details on the Fund and the information on the application process can be obtained from <http://www.maf.govt.nz/nzlivestockemissionsfund>.

Junior Professional Assistant – International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Closing Date: November 9, 2011)



The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), was founded in 1948 and brings together nearly 1,100 members (States, government agencies, NGOs and affiliates) and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office covers twenty three countries in the

Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean and is inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following position of Junior Professional Assistant under its World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism programme (WISP):

The Junior Professional Assistant will support the Team Leader to manage projects, project components and programmatic activities under the Drylands Programme Portfolio with a specific focus on but not limited to WISP. He/she shall be responsible for providing programmatic administrative support to the WISP programme, including:

1. Assist with the development and administration of annual work-plans, budgets, internal agreements, contracts and progress reports as required by collaborating partners, steering committee and donors;
2. Ensure due diligence in the planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of assigned project activities;
3. Assist the management of portfolio-related expenditures in accordance with IUCN procurement procedures; Compiling the WISP monthly newsletter, facilitating the translation into French, Spanish and Arabic and sending it out through WISPnet with the guidance of the WISP GC;
4. Managing the production of WISP outputs, including proof reading, recommending amendments to the products and getting them translated and finalized using the in house production team.

Please visit https://hrms.iucn.org/iresy/index.cfm?event=vac.offline.download&offline_vacancy_id=53 for more information on the position and the application procedure.

Emergency Coordinator in Afghanistan: Drought Response – People in Need (Closing Date: November 30, 2011)



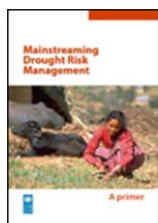
People in Need (PIN) is a Czech organization that provides relief aid and development assistance, while working to defend human rights and democratic freedom. PIN is one of the largest organizations of its kind in post-communist Europe, and has administered projects in thirty-seven countries over the past fourteen years.

PIN's permanent mission in Afghanistan was founded at the end of 2001. Currently it is one of PIN's largest missions and it plays an important role in defining PIN's policies and strategies in relief and development overseas. PIN programs in Afghanistan focus mainly on education and rural development. PIN's response to the drought which severely struck Northern Afghanistan consists of several complementary projects targeting the most vulnerable population. Therefore PIN seeks for senior experienced emergency coordinator. Emergency coordinator's main responsibilities include:

- Overall responsibility for a relief projects - national staff recruitment , implementation;
- Coordination with other stakeholders;
- Reporting to the HQ and to donors;
- Communication with partners and donors; and
- Regular monitoring.

For information regarding the position and the application procedure, please visit

<http://www.clovekvtisni.cz/index2en.php?id=587&idAd=63>.



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 drought risk reduction concepts and practices into development planning and programming at different levels. It 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/

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