

Special Topic

Realising the Potential of Adaptive Social Protection



The concept of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) – an approach that promotes greater integration between Social Protection, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster

Risk Reduction to make a meaningful contribution towards sustainable development – is well understood. Are there enough synergies between the three communities of practice to make ASP work? Or are there too many challenges to overcome? Analysis of new survey data has revealed differences and similarities between the three communities and has generated helpful conclusions and policy recommendations that will inform the future of ASP. At a glance

- Climate change is increasing uncertainty in programme planning: There are different levels of awareness of the impacts of climate change and disasters between the three communities of practice, with many feeling poorly informed.
- Climate change is expected to have serious impacts on the lives of social protection beneficiaries: increasing the vulnerability of those who are already ill-equipped to cope.
- Social Protection (SP) is a key instrument for building disaster- or climate-resilient livelihoods: But social protection policies are less likely to be combined with either disaster risk reduction (DRR) or climate change adaptation (CCA).
- Integrating SP, DRR and CCA policy and interventions should be a key priority for increasing resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable people: Integration is not a matter of choice if poor people are to be effectively supported.
- A lack of information is one of the main challenges and constraints in combining SP, CCA and DRR: ASP has a key role to play in documenting empirical evidence and sharing cases of successful ASP programmes.

For more information: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/IF28.pdf>

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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 (DDC).

Click [here](#) to view past issues of AADP newsletter.

Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

Child-Led Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation



Efforts to link children, climate change and disasters have mainly focused on ensuring a child's basic right to survival and development. This has led NGOs, UN agencies and governments to focus their actions on disaster preparedness, ensuring sensitivity to child protection during relief and rehabilitation efforts.

However, climate change and disaster events also affect children's right to participate and for decisions to be made in their best interests. Child-centred approaches therefore recognise the role and rights of children themselves as citizens and agents of change

Child-centred DRR and adaptation therefore covers both:

1. Child-sensitive policy and programming which responds to the needs of children as recipients or beneficiaries. This may be achieved through measures such as school feeding programmes, social protection/cash transfer programmes for families to reduce existing vulnerabilities, structural strengthening of school buildings, contingency planning for education and service provision, or preparedness planning for disaster events that explicitly caters for child protection or psychological trauma.
2. Participatory policy and programming where children are actively engaged in decision-making, planning and accountability processes for prevention, preparedness and response. This includes child-led DRR where children are supported to be lead agents of change in their spheres of influence – household, school, and community and beyond.

For more information: <http://www.plan-uk.org/resources>.

The Princeton African Drought Monitor

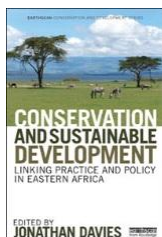


The African Drought Monitor contains both data from a historic reconstruction (1950 – 2008) and real-time monitoring (2009 –Present) of the hydrologic cycle and drought events. The system is updated daily and provides multiple hydrologic variables at continental and basin scales. The monitor data are made available to the public through the web-based interface. This interface enables quick access to the data and plots of current and past conditions for the whole of Africa and a set of river basins. The Monitor is a stable and robust system, which provides consistent and continuous hydrologic data.

The system has been calibrated to available stream flow data for several hundred gauges across Africa and so provides a reasonable estimate of the hydrological cycle and drought occurrence. The experimental African drought monitor is operated by the Land Surface Hydrology Group at Princeton University with support from the International Hydrology Program of UNESCO. The system provides near real time monitoring of land surface hydrological conditions. The monitor is updated every day at 2 days behind real-time. Available outputs include water budget components (precipitation, evapotranspiration, runoff, and snow and soil moisture) and derived products such as current drought conditions.

The full report is available for download at http://hydrology.princeton.edu/~nchaney/Africa_Drought_Monitor.

Book Extract: Conservation and Sustainable Development

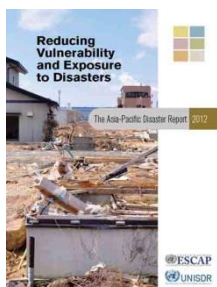


The links between policy and practice in natural resource management are often depicted as a cyclical and rational process. In reality, policy making and implementation are often irrational, unpredictable and highly political. Many science- and knowledge-based institutions undertake rigorous research with the aim of influencing policy, but often their influence is much less than intended. Understanding who influences policy at different levels and how is crucial to ensure that science is deployed most effectively to have an influence on conservation and natural resource management.

This book presents a variety of innovative ways that have been used to influence policy processes, from community pressure groups through elected and unelected leaders, to scientific discourse at the levels of directors of economic planning and conservation. The book analyses experiences from a variety of conservation interventions by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other agencies, primarily in Eastern Africa, and challenges the notion of policy making as a cyclical process. This book elaborates on this theme and presents an array of examples of how communities have influenced government, through direct lobbying, influence of parliamentarians, wielding of science and research, and inter-community dialogue, networking and solidarity. The authors present a framework for understanding and strategizing such work so that other institutions can identify where they can best add value.

Link: <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/Pages/IDRCBookDetails.aspx?PublicationID=1111>.

Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2012: Reducing Vulnerability and Exposure to Disasters



The ESCAP/UNISDR Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2012, Reducing Vulnerability and Exposure to Disasters provides an analysis of the impact of disasters on Asian and Pacific countries between 1970 to 2011, and discusses the twin challenge faced by the region of increasing exposure of its people and economic assets, and heightened vulnerabilities experienced by the poor and other disadvantaged groups to disasters. Pressures resulting from rapid urban development and economic growth has resulted in people and economic activities expanding into increasingly exposed and hazard-prone land. It also highlights that smaller economies, those that have less diversified economic structures, and countries with high fiscal deficits, show greater strains of vulnerability even when faced with relatively small-scale disasters. The Report discusses how the poor or most vulnerable are often at risk, as they are increasingly forced to live in fragile or hazardous areas. Several recommendations are made on how to reduce this growing exposure and vulnerability including the need to strengthen the socio-economic evidence base for more informed policy making and enhanced integration of disaster risk reduction into broader development issues, a minimum level of universal social protection and improved land use planning.

Link: <http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=1512>.

Event and Training Opportunities

2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum



Between 1 and 2 October 2012, the UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC) organized the 2nd Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum (AADAF2012) in Nairobi, Kenya, with the financial support from the Government of Japan and the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The forum brought together a dynamic and diverse set of participants engaged in different aspects of Drought Risk Reduction (DRR) issues in Africa and Asia, which included policy-/decision-makers, NGO/CSO practitioners, researchers, development partners and donor communities. The forum was held as part of the Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project.

The two days forum was attended by participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and America and was a follow through of the first forum which was held in June 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. After much discussions and dialogue during the first forum, there came out clearly a need to identify good practices and measure impact of DRR interventions at the household level. It is based on this that the agenda of 2nd forum was designed as continuity to the first forum with emphasis on developing a conceptual framework and measurements for resilience. Participants were taken through a detailed and participatory process of identification of components and indicators that would form the foundation of the conceptual framework as well as the methodology and application of a Quantitative Impact Assessment of Resilience. The process made reference to widely used practices and standards as well as looking at other conceptual frameworks including Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and DFID/TANGO.

The presentations download are available at:

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/focus_areas/sustainable_landmanagement/drought_risk_management/aadp/AADP-Forum-12.html.

Doha 2012 United Nations Climate Change Conference (Doha, Qatar; November 26-December 7, 2012)



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

The 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from Monday, 26 November to Friday, 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha, Qatar.

The conference will be hosted by the Government of Qatar and supported by the UNFCCC secretariat. As nominated by the Asia-Pacific Group, H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah is the President-Designate for COP 18 and CMP 8.

For more information: http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha_nov_2012/meeting/6815.php.

Impact World 2013: International Conference on Climate Change Effects (Potsdam, Germany; May 27- 30, 2013)



The IMPACTS WORLD 2013 conference in Potsdam, Germany between May 27 – 30 aims to develop a new vision for climate impacts research by laying the foundations for regular, community-driven syntheses of climate change impact analyses. The conference will for the first time bring together the wealth of climate change research and researchers and decision makers from local to international levels from around the world, with the goal of setting a state-of-the-art agenda for climate impact research. It will lay the foundation for regular, community-driven syntheses of climate change impact analyses.

A broad array of scientific knowledge about the impacts of climate change has been gathered over the last decades. Yet, in many respects it remains fragmentary, and a quantitative synthesis of climate impacts, including consistent estimates of uncertainties, is still missing. In light of the great wealth of existing knowledge and continuous need for policy-relevant research results, our community is perfectly placed to combine our individual contributions to initiate a coordinated climate impact research agenda. More information: <http://www.climate-impacts-2013.org/>

Disasters Risk Reduction Training (London, United Kingdom; February 11-15, 2013)



The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events. A comprehensive approach to reduce disaster risks is set out in the United Nations-endorsed Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted in 2005, whose expected outcome is “The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.” The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system provides a vehicle for cooperation among Governments, organizations and civil society actors to assist in the implementation of the Framework.

- Who should attend: INGO's, NGO's, CBO's and Field Practitioners and Government Departments responsible for DRR
- What does the course cover: Basic Disaster Management Terms and Concepts Hyogo Framework CBDRM Framework for DRR Introduction to HVCA Introduction to Community participatory tools and techniques

For further information and to book your place on the course, please visit <http://www.redr.org.uk/en/Training>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, Thailand (Bangkok) (Closing date November 20, 2012)



The mandate of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is to promote regional cooperation for inclusive economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region. ESCAP's role as a regional development arm of the United Nations

Secretariat is to support its membership, through its analytical, normative and technical cooperation, to respond to the development priorities and changing needs of the Asian and Pacific region.

The objective of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction subprogramme of ESCAP is to promote applications of information and communications technology and to enhance regional cooperation for improved disaster risk reduction and management, as well as for improved management of the associated socio-economic risks, for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/jobs/v.php?id=28614>.

Project manager - Climate change adaptation/disaster risk reduction, Uganda (Closing Date: November 25, 2012)



The German Red Cross (GRC) is part of a worldwide movement assisting victims of conflict and disaster and people affected by social or health related crisis. The Red Cross Movement provides vulnerable people with assistance without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions and adheres to the seven principles of the Red Cross Movement: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. The German Red Cross assists in disaster response, rehabilitation and capacity building projects internationally on appeals of their sister organizations within the Movement.

The German Red Cross is currently looking for an experienced Project Manager in the field of Climate Change Adaptation/ Disaster Risk Reduction. Further information on the recruiting procedure can be found on the following page: <http://www.drk.de/ueber-uns/stellenboerse/drk-international-vacancies.html>

Rangeland Ecologist – Drylands (Closing date: November 30, 2012)



ILRI seeks to recruit a rangeland ecologist to contribute to its research on Dryland Systems, within its People, Livestock and the Environment Theme. This research will contribute to developing environmentally sound strategies to sustainably increase productivity, reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of pastoral and agro pastoral livestock-based livelihoods to hazards like weather conditions and climate change, market fluctuations and insecurity. Current research includes options to reduce vulnerability, such as early warning systems which monitor rangeland conditions, and options for diversifying livelihoods through payment for ecosystem services for biological conservation and climate change mitigation. Much has changed in terms of ecosystem dynamics in rangelands in the last 20 years, and hence new interventions such as livestock insurance and restoration of degraded lands will have unknown ecosystem feedbacks, and ILRI needs the tools to evaluate these. We also work on rangeland and climate impact models, where a sound and up to date understanding of rangeland dynamics is required. ILRI seeks someone with a strong livestock, natural resource or rangeland research background to work within multi-disciplinary teams and contribute to or lead resource mobilisation. The successful candidate will be well networked in pastoral/agro-pastoral areas, with international recognition for their knowledge in this area. S/he will have a broad understanding of livestock research for development issues.

To find out more at ILRI website at <http://ilrijobs.wordpress.com/2012/10/25/ilri-vacancy-rangeland-ecologist-drylands-closing-30-november-2012/>

UNISDR

UNDP

UNISDR and UNDP Toolkit: Ecosystem Management of Coastal and Marine Areas in South Asia

This toolkit offers a step-by-step guide for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into the coastal and marine ecosystem management that will be quite useful for the field practitioners of coastal areas in the sub-region. This publication builds on UNDP's new Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework, titled *The Future We Want: Biodiversity and Ecosystems – Driving Sustainable Development* that calls for a shift in focus towards the positive opportunities provided by biodiversity and natural ecosystems, in terms of harnessing their potential for sustainable development.

This publication is an outcome of a South Asian Regional Consultation of Experts held in New Delhi in March 2012 organized jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Asia and the Pacific Secretariat.

The Power of Local Action for Sustainable Development: Lessons from 10 Years of the Equator Prize

The publication is structured around key lessons which concern: prioritizing the social strand of sustainable development; environment as a platform for community-driven development; local organizations as delivery mechanisms for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the fusion of modern and traditional knowledge, institutions, and management approaches; the importance of communications and networks in behavior change; the centrality of land tenure security and resource rights; the delivery of good governance at the local scale; the potential for scaling; the potential and imperative of scaling-up success; and the importance of partnerships.

The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/>

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>