

## Special Topic

### 2018/19 El Niño



The Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO) issued the 2018/19 El Niño advisory in November 2018, warning potential impact of the 2018/19 El Niño on food security and agriculture in Southern Africa, Horn of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America.

El Niño is a recurrent global atmospheric-oceanic phenomenon associated with an increase in sea surface temperatures in the central tropical Pacific Ocean and a sustained weakening of the trade winds. An El Niño event develops approximately every two to seven

years and lasts anywhere from 6 to 24 months. An El Niño event increases the risk of heavy rainfall and flooding in some parts of the world, while in others, it increases the risk of drought through reduced rainfall.

This Advisory provides a historical impact overview and latest forecasts for a better understanding of the El Niño patterns and its potential effects on the agricultural sector in the different regions globally. It also offers specific early action recommendations to promote the understanding that impacts of El Niño can be mitigated before they generate large scale food security emergencies.

The November 2018 official El Niño forecast, released by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University, points to a 80 percent chance of El Niño developing through 2018/19 northern hemisphere winter, with a probability of 55–60 percent into the spring of 2019. The World Meteorological Organization also confirmed a high probability of an El Niño event occurring in the coming months. The intensity of the phenomenon forecasted for the upcoming months is currently uncertain, however a strong event appears unlikely. Further monitoring, analysis and early action are recommended as a matter of priority in the high risk countries.

Please visit <http://www.fao.org/3/ca2530en/CA2530EN.pdf> for more information on the Advisory.

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## About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [UNDP Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification \(GC-RED\)](#) under the *Africa-Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Project*.

The network 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 based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative (ADDN).

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



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Disaster Recovery Institute International



Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRI) is the nonprofit that helps organizations around the world prepare for and recover from disasters, including drought, by providing education, accreditation, and thought leadership in business continuity and related fields. Founded in 1988, DRI International has 15,000+ certified professionals in more than 100 countries and conducts native-language training in more than 50 countries, offering in-depth courses ranging from introductory to master's level, as well as specialty certifications.

The organization's annual DRI Conference brings together leading business continuity professionals from both the public and private sector to share best practices and participate in continuing education and volunteerism. The 8<sup>th</sup> DRI Annual Conference, or DRI2019, will be held on 17-20 February 2019 in Las Vegas, the USA. Furthermore, DRI publishes its Global Risk and Resilience Trends Report on an annual basis, providing a global perspective and comprehensive trends analysis of how resilience professionals view their industry and the external factors that are shaping it. According to the recently published 2018 edition of the report, extreme natural disaster remains one of the top risks.

For more information on DRI and its activities, please visit <https://drii.org/>.

### The Climate Centre: Learning through Games



The Climate Centre, a Public Benefit Organization under Netherlands law, is a specialist reference centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), providing provides strategically important knowledge and advice on climate-smart practice throughout the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and beyond. As part of information sharing, training and technical back-up, the Climate Centre and its partners have designed at least 45 games on humanitarian issues like disaster preparedness, including drought, gender, food security, climate information, health, road safety and the management of urban waste.

Games encourage active learning and active engagement in dialogues in comparison to traditional teaching that casts stakeholders as passive onlookers. They allow to simplify complex systems and provide opportunity for reflection, discovery, exploration and challenge. Across five continents and in at least 40 countries, farmers, schoolchildren, Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers, meteorologists, students, government officials, climate-policy negotiators, city-dwellers, staff of development banks and donors have all experienced the power of game-based learning.

Please visit <https://www.climatecentre.org/resources-games/games> to find out a wide range of games offered by the Climate Centre. Furthermore, please check out [Games for a New Climate](#) video, which shows how games speed up learning, dialogue, and action on climate risks: they involve decisions with consequences, enabling players to inhabit the reality of climate-risk management and test possible future scenarios in a captivating and fun way.



## Drought Stress Testing Tool: Making Financial Institutions More Resilient to Environmental Risks



Water scarcity, or drought, is one environmental factor whose impact can be widely felt and observed throughout an economy. Banks may seem to be far removed from this theatre, but drought affects their clients and the setting in which they operate. If banks are better equipped to understand how a client may be at risk from drought and how drought can affect a sector or region, then a bank can choose to act on this knowledge. However, banks are often ill equipped to understand the impact of environment-related risks on their clients and portfolios. The work that underpins this report developed a framework to allow financial institutions to assess their exposure to environmental risks, specifically water scarcity or drought.

The Drought Stress Testing Tool allows financial institutions to input their own high-resolution loan data, and determine how drought scenario events change expected default rates. The modular design of the Tool allows users to extract interim results and feed them into their own systems. In addition, the framework can be adapted to other environmental risks and is the first consistent approach to modelling environmental risks for the banking sector. The Tool itself incorporates five drought scenarios for each of four countries (Brazil, China, Mexico, United States) to account for direct and indirect impacts of drought on 19 industry sectors. The Tool works by determining how a drought may change the revenue and operating costs for individual companies.

The full report is available at <https://www.globalcanopy.org/sites/default/files/documents/resources/Drought-Stress-Testing-Tool-FULL-REPORT.pdf>.

## Deluge and Drought: Australia's Water Security in a Changing Climate



Water is essential for life. It shapes where and how we live, determines the availability of food and other services that underpin human well-being and is crucial for healthy natural ecosystems. Australia's water security has already been significantly influenced by climate change. Rainfall patterns are shifting and the severity of floods and droughts has increased. Droughts are becoming more severe due to drier, hotter conditions, leading to declines in soil moisture due to increased water loss from plants and soils.

The report explores how climate change is influencing the water cycle globally as well as in Australia. It describes the economic importance of the Australian water sector, the changes that are already occurring because of climate change, the health implications of these changes, the water energy nexus, and the impacts of changes in the water cycle on urban water supplies, agricultural productivity and natural ecosystems. It also examines global 'hot spots' where changes in the water cycle are already occurring, where slower, long-term changes could lead to high risks, and discuss the possible disruption of global food trade from droughts in critical regions.

The full report is available at <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/62131>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### 4th World Congress on Disaster Management (29 January – 1 February 2019; Mumbai, India)



World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM) is an initiative of the Government of Maharashtra, Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world in the same platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management. The mission of WCDM is to promote interaction of science, policy and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.

The fourth WCDM, or WCDM-2019, would bring together nearly 2000 scientists, researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world to focus on discussing the formidable challenges in implementation of 2030 Development Agenda. WCDM-2019 will deliberate on the overarching theme of 'Building the Future We Want – Bridging the Gaps between Promises and Action'. The theme would be broken into multiple issues of reducing risks and building resilience to disasters that would be discussed in various plenary and technical sessions, and special feature events. 4th WCDM 2019 would be structured in 9 Plenary Sessions, Multiple Thematic Sessions and 6 Special Feature Events. Besides poster presentations, film shows and exhibitions shall be organised.

More information concerning WCDM-2019 is available at <https://www.wcdm.co.in/>.

### Beating Famine 3: The Sahel Meeting (26-28 February 2019; Bamako, Mali)



“Beating Famine” is a series of conferences addressing land degradation and the root environmental causes of poverty and famine. The third in the series of Beating Famine Conferences is being planned for the Sahel. West Africa, especially the Sahel, continues to be vulnerable to the impact of large-scale land and water degradation, soil infertility, climate change and population growth and lack of socio-economic opportunities. They are raising the likelihood of increased chronic, acute malnutrition and insecurity in the region.

The proposed conference is intended to join multiple organizations and efforts into an impactful movement. Through this conference, we seek to draw attention to and generate support for the African Forest Landscapes Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and its goal of restoring 100 million hectares, as well as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, the UN Action Plan for the Sahel. The conference builds on the efforts and successes of key programs in the region. Invited participants from across the Sahel, along with financial and technical partners and representatives of governments, universities, community based organizations and civil society will come together to share, learn, plan and accelerate the greening and restoration movement for food security and nutrition in Africa.

For more information on Beating Famine 3, please visit [http://beatingfamine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BeatingFamineSahel\\_Brief\\_Eng-\\_v6.pdf](http://beatingfamine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/BeatingFamineSahel_Brief_Eng-_v6.pdf).





## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### Humanitarian Director – save the Children Australia (Closing date: 02 December 2018)



## Save the Children

Save the Children is no ordinary not-for-profit. We are ambitious, creative and outspoken. We stand up for children's rights. We want all children to be educated, healthy and live a life free from violence. We run programs in Australia and overseas and, if there's a disaster - like an

earthquake, drought or conflict – we are there on the ground. The Humanitarian Director plays a key role in us ensuring we save lives and leave no child behind. He/she will be part of a globally networked and diverse team of humanitarians responding to disasters in Asia, the Pacific and beyond.

In this full-time permanent role based in our Carlton head office, the Humanitarian Director will lead the humanitarian team and provide strategic leadership to develop a long term vision for Save the Children Australia's humanitarian program. He/she will oversee the management of the humanitarian portfolio and ensure that Save the Children Australia has capacity across all departments to respond to emergencies and protracted crises.

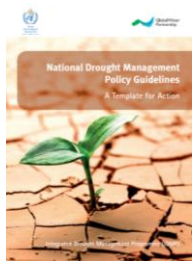
For more information on the position, please visit [https://stc-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=2174&source=ONLINE&JobOwner=992584&company\\_id=16689&version=1&byBusinessUnit=NULL&bycountry=1&bystate=0&byRegion=NULL&bylocation=AU&key words=&byCat=&proximityCountry=&postalCode=&radiusDistance=&isKilometers=&tosearch=yes&city=](https://stc-openhire.silkroad.com/epostings/index.cfm?fuseaction=app.jobinfo&jobid=2174&source=ONLINE&JobOwner=992584&company_id=16689&version=1&byBusinessUnit=NULL&bycountry=1&bystate=0&byRegion=NULL&bylocation=AU&key words=&byCat=&proximityCountry=&postalCode=&radiusDistance=&isKilometers=&tosearch=yes&city=).

### Sustainable Water Management (SWM) Program – Tufts University (Closing date: 15 January 2019)



The [Sustainable Water Management \(SWM\) program](#) at Tufts University is an intensive, one-year Master's program which addresses the growing international demand for interdisciplinary water management experts. The SWM program is a holistic approach to water management, which combines rigorous professional preparation with deep analysis of complex water challenges including climate resiliency, drought, resource conflict and humanitarian emergencies, and the development of sustainable infrastructure through social and scientific perspectives.

SWM students have the option of four tracks: [Water Diplomacy](#), [Water, Food, and Energy](#), [Water Infrastructure for Human Settlements](#), and [WASH In International Development and Humanitarian Response](#). Within these tracks, students prepare to meet the complex global challenges associated with water scarcity, unequal access, and climate change in order to drive sustainable solutions for just management of our most vital resource. The application deadline is **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019** and there is no fee to apply. For more information, please contact [swm.tufts.edu](http://swm.tufts.edu).



### National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

The National Drought Management Policy Guidelines provide a template for action that countries can use in the development of a national drought management policy and drought preparedness/mitigation plans. The process is structured in 10 steps that can be adapted by countries to reflect their institutional, infrastructure, legal, socio-economic and environmental context. It includes case studies from Brazil, Mexico, Morocco and the USA and will be continuously updated based on the experiences gained in the guidelines' application. The guidelines respond to a need for action oriented drought policies, which Governments articulated at the [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies](#). The document is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).



### Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans (2015)

The recommendations for the development of a drought management system described in these Guidelines provide a set of basic steps that many drought-affected countries can use to develop national drought policy aimed at risk reduction. The Guidelines are intended for those countries that are trying to move from crisis management to drought risk reduction policy. The step-by-step planning process is based on the National Drought Management Policy Guidelines (2014) and was harmonized especially for the European Union and/or accession countries in compliance with the key principles of integrated water management and within the context of the Water Framework Directive.



### Mitigating Droughts and Floods in Agriculture: Policy Lessons and Approaches (2016)

The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to risks of floods and droughts, which may become more frequent and severe due to climate change in the context of increased demand for food and urban space. This report proposes a comprehensive analysis of, and a set of key recommendations on policy approaches to the sustainable management of droughts and floods in agriculture. It builds on recent trends, experiences and research from OECD countries in this area, in particular Australia, Canada, France, Spain and the United Kingdom. It also provides a general policy framework that could be useful for countries to analyze their own drought and flood policies, as well as to identify ways forward.

## Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

### Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>  
 African Flood and Drought Monitor: <http://stream.princeton.edu/AWCM/WEBPAGE/interface.php?locale=en>  
 Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <https://www.fews.net/>  
 IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/>  
 Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/africa>  
 Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>  
 Relief Web Africa: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>  
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/sadc-secretariat/services-centres/climate-services-centre/>

### Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>  
 FEWS NET Central Asia: <https://www.fews.net/>  
 IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>  
 Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/>  
 Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>  
 Relief Web Asia: <http://reliefweb.int/countries>  
 South Asia Drought Monitoring System: <http://dms.iwmi.org/>