



October 2013 Issue

## Special Topic

### TerrAfrica: Knowledge Base (Version 1.0)



TerrAfrica is a partnership that aims to address land degradation in Sub-Saharan Africa by scaling up harmonized support for effective and efficient country-driven sustainable land management (SLM). Land degradation is an increasingly severe problem in Sub-Saharan Africa and affects at least 485 million people in Africa, many of whom reside in drought prone arid and semi-arid regions. Up to two-thirds of Africa's productive land area is affected by land degradation, while close to 100 percent is vulnerable to it.

The TerrAfrica partnership provides a collective vehicle for addressing bottlenecks, resulting in unlocking and increasing efficiency of financial and non-financial resources, to create an enabling environment for mainstreaming and financing effective nationally-driven SLM strategies. In short, the TerrAfrica partnership provides a collective vehicle for addressing bottlenecks, resulting in unlocking and increasing efficiency of financial and non-financial resources, to create an enabling environment for mainstreaming and financing effective nationally-driven SLM strategies. The partnership work program has three mutually reinforcing Activity Lines: 1) coalition building; 2) knowledge management; and 3) investments.

As part of TerrAfrica Activity Line 2, online SLM Knowledge Base (Version 1.0) was established in 2008. The Knowledge Base provides a broad range of stakeholders with access to niche tools, information and data on SLM approaches in Sub-Saharan Africa, and provides mechanisms to update, disseminate and align knowledge on issues relating to SLM for stakeholders at all levels. These resources comprise the most relevant information available for African countries and partners to scale-up SLM. Information comes in different formats including text documents, multimedia documents, maps, statistics, websites, etc. The initial screening of these resources was based on quality and relevance criteria and new resources are easily added by registered users on a regular basis.

Please visit <http://knowledgebase.terrafrica.org/abouthelp/en/> for more information on the TerrAfrica SLM Knowledge Base.

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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.

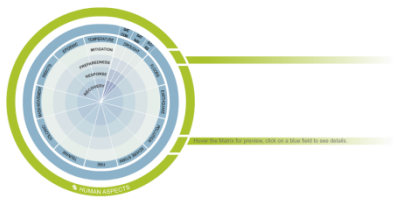
AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative](#) (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

### UN-SPIDER Space Application Matrix



Space technology has advanced rapidly in recent years. The use of space-based solutions and information has been proven useful in the risk assessment, mitigation and preparedness phases of disaster management. Nevertheless, a number of countries still lack the human, technical and financial resources required to conduct even the most basic space-related activities, such as meteorology, communications and natural-resource management. The need to make the benefits of space technology available to all countries has thus grown more urgent with each passing year.

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response's (UN-SPIDER) Space Application Matrix provides the interested users with guidance on disaster-specific space applications, including drought, and how the effort to manage particular disasters can benefit from them. Guides and case reports outlining the underlying principles, methodical workflows and best practices, advantages, restrictions, and accessibility of data and services are offered in order to inform the user and to support his decision making.

Please visit <http://www.un-spider.org/space-application-matrix> for more information on the UN-SPIDER Space Application Matrix.

### Index Based Livestock Insurance



ABR Collaborative Research  
Support Program



Cornell University



designing, developing and implementing market mediated index-based insurance to protect livestock keepers from drought related asset losses, particularly those in the drought prone Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, particularly in Kenya and Ethiopia. The objectives of the project are to: 1) effectively introduce index-based livestock insurance (IBLI) products to pastoral and agro-pastoral populations to help them manage drought-related livestock mortality; and 2) learn and document the effectiveness of IBLI as a tool for managing weather related perils and to incorporate lessons learned in efforts to upscale the pilot for national rollout.

IBLI represents an exciting innovation that could allow vulnerable rural smallholder farmers and livestock keepers to benefit from insurance and thus reduce climate-related risk. Because index insurance is based on the realization of an outcome that cannot be influenced by insurers or policy holders (such as the amount and distribution of rainfall over a season), it has a relatively simple and transparent structure. This makes such products easier to administer and consequently more cost-effective to develop and trade. Indeed the success of several pilot programs in India and various countries in Africa and Latin America has proven the feasibility and affordability of such products.

The status and the progress of IBLI, including the index updates in the intervention areas, can be viewed at <http://livestockinsurance.wordpress.com/>.

## SOURCE - Studies of the University: Research, Counsel, Education - Publication Series

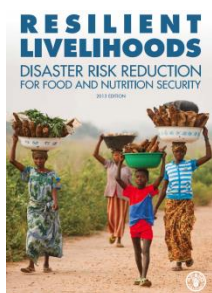


SOURCE: Studies Of the University: Research, Counsel, Education is the publication series issued by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) based on the institutional mandate to generate policy relevant knowledge. SOURCE has the purpose to publish research reports, dissertations, but also educational texts prepared at UNU-EHS. The main target of the publication series include students, scholars, and professionals seeking more details and in depth background information on the respective subjects.

The theme of No. 17/2013 issue of SOURCE is From Social Vulnerability to Resilience: Measuring Progress toward Disaster Risk Reduction. The seven papers included in this volume address various aspects of integrating social, environmental and infrastructure elements in understanding vulnerability and resilience. They represent new and innovative approaches to vulnerability and resilience metrics, with an eye towards informing policy. *Inter alia*, Hagenlocher used four climate-related variables (seasonal rainfall, temperature patterns, drought occurrences and major flood events) in the Sahel region to identify and delineate hotspots of cumulative climate change impacts. Utilizing a spatial composite/meta-indicator method, the individual "layers" of impacts are integrated and then aggregated through regionalization techniques, which themselves are independent of administrative boundaries. This concept is significant as physical parameters such as droughts or temperature patterns do not fit neatly into political or administrative boundaries.

The full document is available for download at <http://www.ehs.unu.edu/file/get/11051.pdf>.

## Resilient Livelihoods: Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security (2013 Edition)



Disasters and food insecurity are directly interconnected. Drought alone has caused more deaths during the last century than any other physical hazard. Asia and Africa rank first among continents in the number of people directly affected, while Africa has a high concentration of deaths associated with drought. Drought, plant pests and diseases such as locusts and armyworms, animal diseases like African swine fever, and food contamination or adulteration have a direct economic impact by reducing or eliminating farm production, by adversely affecting prices, trade, and market access and by decreasing farm income and employment.

This document provides the overview of the Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security Framework Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in response to recent recommendations made on disaster risk reduction by the Committee on Agriculture, the Programme and Finance Committee, the Committee on World Food Security and the Committee on Fisheries. At the core of the Framework Programme are four integrated thematic pillars: (i) enable the environment, (ii) watch to safeguard, (iii) apply prevention and mitigation measures, and (iv) prepare to respond. The Framework Programme promotes the integrated implementation of the four pillars for a more holistic approach, striving to maximize the synergies and complementarities between the pillars and hence the critical links between good governance, early warning, preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

Please visit <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2540e/i2540e00.pdf> for the full document.

## Technical Consortium for Building Resilience to Drought in the Horn of Africa



The Technical Consortium is a partnership between the FAO Investment Centre and the CGIAR centres, with ILRI undertaking the role as Coordinator of the Consortium. The Technical Consortium is in the unique position of being poised at the nexus of demand-driven drylands research and innovative action for sustainable development and because of its ability to draw heavily on the research community and Non-State Actors and Civil Society Organizations, can bring significant added value to aligning research and development. A principal objective of the Technical Consortium is to support the Inter-governmental Authority for Development and its Member States in planning for and implementing initiatives designed to end drought emergencies and build resilience of populations in the Horn of

Africa. In order to successfully carry out its mandate, the Technical Consortium seeks to integrate research needs emanating from regional and country-specific investment plans with appropriate international agricultural research knowledge following a conceptual framework similar to that advanced by the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability of the US National Academies.

The Technical Consortium has been publishing a series of technical briefs related to the theme of building drought resilience in the Horn of Africa. They include 'Overview of technical components to support ending drought emergencies and building resilience to drought in the Horn of Africa', 'Disaster risk reduction (DRR) management in the drylands in the Horn of Africa', 'Livelihoods and basic service support in the drylands of the Horn of Africa', 'Natural resources management in the drylands in the Horn of Africa', 'Conflict resolution and peace building in the drylands in the Horn of Africa', 'Market access and trade issues affecting the drylands in the Horn of Africa' and 'Knowledge management and research'. One of the latest brief 'DRR management in the drylands in the Horn of Africa' outlines the disaster/drought risk management approaches adopted in the region and discuss the institutional and political challenges to implementing DRR approaches in practice.

Please visit <http://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/25209> for more information on the Technical Consortium and its technical brief series.

## Event and Training Opportunities

### Human Security: Humanitarian Perspectives and Responses Conference (Istanbul, Turkey; 24-27 October, 2013)



The World Conference on Humanitarian Studies will be organized jointly with the Third Istanbul Human Security Conference on: 24-27 October 2013. As a close collaboration between the International Humanitarian Studies Association, the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University and Kadir Has University in Istanbul, the conference will be hosted by Kadir Has in Istanbul. The Human Security: Humanitarian Perspectives and Responses conference brings together two annual events, the Istanbul Human Security Conference and the World Conference on Humanitarian Studies.

The panel sessions address four conference themes, namely 1) human security debate: lessons from humanitarianism, 2) politics and practices of natural disasters and disaster response, 3) socio-economic realities of humanitarian crises, and 4) new players in the humanitarian arena, with special attention to Turkey, in innovative and interactive formats to engage both the academic and practitioner communities.

Please visit <http://www.humanitarianstudiesconference.org/> for more information on the conference. The complete list of accepted panels and papers to be presented is available at <http://www.humanitarianstudiesconference.org/index.php?id=9>.

## First International Training Workshop on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (Sanya, China; 11-22 November, 2013)



Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) funded Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (STDIM) was established in Beijing, China, in 2013. The goal of the Centre is to conduct much-needed research on disaster mitigation through advanced space technologies, especially space-borne Earth observation technology and provide knowledge transfer in developing countries through joint research, education, training, workshop and advisory services.

In response to the needs of developing countries in disaster risk reduction, STDIM will organize a training workshop to enhance the capacity building for developing countries to tackle with disaster issues using advanced space technologies. The workshop collects information on international best practices with applications to a variety of hazard events, especially for floods, droughts, earthquakes, tropical cyclones and storms. It stretches over a 2-week period, covering both theoretical and practical aspects on the use of space technologies for disaster mitigation. Experts from various national and international institutions share their experiences with working on disaster mitigation and Earth observation. The training workshop will bring together early- and mid-career scientists from developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America wishing to increase scientific knowledge of disaster mitigation and space technology. The policy makers and managers from developing countries are also welcome to apply for participating in the workshop.

Please visit <http://www.cas.cn/hy/hyyg/201308/P020130826558614297955.pdf> for further detail on the workshop.

## Employment and Grant Opportunities

### Regional Food Security Advisor – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Closing date: 12 October, 2013)



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a global humanitarian organization, which coordinates and directs international assistance following



natural and man-made disasters in non-conflict situations. Its mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. The Federation has been responding to food insecurity in Africa since the major famines of the mid 1980s and initially made food security a committed strategic priority at the 5th Pan African Conference in Ouagadougou in September 2000. The Federation Eastern Africa Region covers 15 National Societies of Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The East Africa Regional Programme's vision for the Eastern Africa Region NS is to build up well-prepared, stronger, more efficient National Societies, able to reduce risks and respond to the high level of humanitarian demands in the region posed by small, medium and large-scale disasters.

The overall purpose of the Food Security Advisor post is to strengthen the quality of IFRC work to address food insecurity in relief, recovery, and longer-term resilience building in the region. He/she will provide co-ordination and technical guidance to the Federation in order to enhance their capacity in developing and delivering effective food security responses. He/ she will also be responsible to support operational research to pilot innovative drought risk mitigation programs to improve RCRC response, while positioning east African RCRC within the movement, as well as within regional & global humanitarian spheres. The Food Security Advisor will be responsible for closely monitoring the changing context and needs in the region and capturing and transferring good practice and lesson learning, so encouraging quality and consistency of approach. The post will provide specific support to IFRC disaster responses and longer term activities in the Region while ensuring better RCRC early warning and more effective RCRC early action. The Food Security Advisor for Eastern Africa region will provide technical support for the implementation of the Africa Food Security Initiative and she/will share the key lessons & learning from the region, in coordination with the Africa Food Security Coordinator.

For further details on the position, please visit [https://jobnet.ifrc.org/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?jobinfo\\_uid\\_c=3374&vaclng=en](https://jobnet.ifrc.org/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?jobinfo_uid_c=3374&vaclng=en).

### Capacity Building Specialist - Voluntary Service Overseas (Closing date: 1 November, 2013)



This position is a 9 month volunteering placement in India with local organisation PRAVAH, focussing on resilience building, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, crisis response and post-crisis recovery as part of the project which is co-funded by the European Union as a pilot action towards the 'EU Aid Volunteers' initiative. Assisting in the setup of ongoing community volunteer programs focused on resilience. From these community volunteer programs, disaster response cells will be created. A volunteer management system, community mobilization methods and a disaster communication system will be developed and transferred to host organisations by means of mentoring, training, and written materials. Host organisations will be taught how to recruit and engage community volunteers in resilience building activities and how to train them to mobilize the community in times of crisis.

The main objectives are: strengthening community resilience for drought, malaria control, biodiversity conservation and climate change; livelihood promotion through improved crop management and grain bank management; mapping the community needs for capacity building in the areas mentioned above; planning capacity building sessions; implementing the training with local support ; practical demonstration; and assessment and forward planning with the partner.

For more information on the roles please visit [http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteer/placements/capacity-building-specialist?utm\\_source=reliefweb&utm\\_medium=jobad&utm\\_content=EUAidCapacityIndia0110&utm\\_campaign=EUAid](http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteer/placements/capacity-building-specialist?utm_source=reliefweb&utm_medium=jobad&utm_content=EUAidCapacityIndia0110&utm_campaign=EUAid).



### Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2013)

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, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. This draft document is a result of the ongoing effort to develop a rigorous conceptual framework and standardized methodology, i.e. CoBRA, with which to define the key factors and indicators affecting local resilience levels and measure the impact of various sector-based interventions on resilience enhancement quantitatively. The CoBRA model will strengthen the existing monitoring framework, helping track progress along a resilience pathway in a given context systematically and guiding holistic planning processes. At present, the latest CoBRA conceptual framework and methodology is under field testing in the Horn of Africa region with the financial support from the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO). The document is available for download at:

<http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/drought-online/documents/detail/en/c/2693/>.



### Drought Risk Management: Practitioner's Perspectives from Africa and Asia (2012)

This report reviewed the current institutional and programmatic landscape in the realm of drought risk management (DRM) in the two regions and mapped out some of the main DRM capacity gaps and gap-filling opportunities. The exercise is based upon the consultations with key individuals in both continents, an online survey of some 400 practitioners working in drought-related fields and focused discussions at the First Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011. It highlighted important similarities in DRM issues across Africa and Asia and identified priority areas to which the inter-regional south-south cooperation could add value. The full publication and the issue brief are both available for download at:

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable\\_land\\_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/drought-risk-management-from-africa-and-asia.html).

## 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>