



## Special Topic

October 2015 Issue

### International Day for Disaster Reduction 2015 – Knowledge for Life

**KNOWLEDGE  
FOR LIFE  
#IDDR 2015**

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) started in 1989 with the approval by the United Nations General Assembly, as a way to promote a global culture of disaster reduction, including prevention of, mitigation of and preparedness for drought and other disasters. Originally celebrated on the second Wednesday of October, the UN General Assembly decided in 2009 to designate October 13th as the date to celebrate IDDR. IDDR is a day to celebrate how people and communities are reducing their risk to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of DRR. It's also a day to encourage every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations.

The 2015 theme for IDDR, i.e., traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, is part of the Step Up for DRR initiative started in 2011, which focuses on a different group of partners every year leading up to the World Conference for Disaster Reduction in 2015 – children and young People (2011), women and girls (2012), people living with disabilities (2013), the ageing population (2014). More specifically, with the rallying slogan of “Knowledge for Life”, IDDR 2015 aims to:

- Raise awareness of the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, to complement scientific knowledge in DRR; and
- Highlight approaches for engaging local communities and indigenous peoples in implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

As part of the campaign, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction established the IDDR 2015 website to provide the entire DRR community with a platform and space to posting details of their planned events for the day including photographs, posters and commentary. This page is also expected to be a resource for the media including logos, press releases, news stories, photographs, public service announcement and other useful media resources. These materials can then be utilized around the world to support events in numerous countries and also in support of the social media campaign for the day. For further details regarding the IDDR 2015, Please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/2015/iddr/>.

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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).

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



## Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

### Drought and Dryland Management: Call for Papers



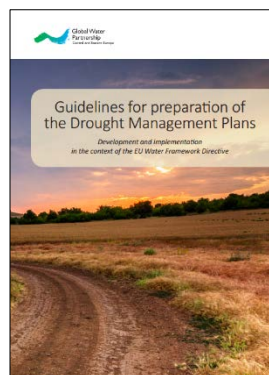
The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat in collaboration with the Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI) will publish articles on Drought and Dryland Management in a special issue of the Journal Silva Fennica. The articles will address the issue of 'Drought and Dryland Management' from the view point of different disciplines supported by case studies. In the articles, the present and projected future impacts of drought on agricultural production, food security, and livelihoods of dryland communities will be addressed. In addition, measures to rehabilitate the vast degraded drylands, which are a serious threat to the livelihoods of

millions of people particularly in developing countries, will be investigated, and also the linkages between climate change and drought and coping strategies will be elaborated.

The results from these studies will help to develop measures to reduce agricultural vulnerability by providing and clearly explaining the fundamental science behind drought, livelihoods and land degradation. However, the challenges of forecasting, monitoring, assessing and responding to drought in drylands are not only of a scientific exercise, but also include political economy concerns which have presented barriers to successful implementation of the UNCCD goals. The special issue will contribute to the fulfilment of the lofty goals of UNCCD and national integrated dryland development programmes. If you are interested in contributing, send an abstract for an article (250 words) to: Dr Mohamed Elfadl (E-mail: [mohamed.elfadl@helsinki.fi](mailto:mohamed.elfadl@helsinki.fi)) before **30 October 2015**. Abstracts will be selected by **15 November**, and full papers are to be submitted by **30 January, 2016**.

Please see <http://www.unccd.int/en/media-center/MediaNews/Pages/highlightdetail.aspx?HighlightID=402> for more information on this opportunity.

### Guidelines for preparation of the Drought Management Plans: Development and implementation in the context of the EU Water Framework Directive



These guidelines are aimed to support the development and implementation of risk-based Drought Management Plans (DMP) in the context of the European Union Water Framework Directive – as part of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). The objectives of the guidelines are to:

- Encourage broader commitments to integrated water management systems, according to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) that provide for a better understanding of how to integrate drought management into the planning and development of RBMPs;
- Use a step-by-step approach to develop DMPs in accordance with WMO/GWP Guidelines and EU Guidelines; and
- Provide information on other issues related to drought that are included in the WFD: quantitative status, prolonged drought, and climate change.

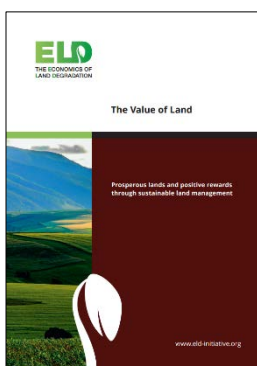


The Guidelines are tailor-made to the Central and Eastern European regional conditions. They are targeted primarily at public bodies and competent authorities responsible for national drought planning. Furthermore, efforts were made to make the Guidelines clear and simple to increase understanding by stakeholders and the broad public.

The full document is available for download at:

[http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CEE\\_Files/IDMP-CEE/Drought-Guidelines-GWPCEE.pdf](http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CEE_Files/IDMP-CEE/Drought-Guidelines-GWPCEE.pdf).

## The Value of Land: Prosperous Lands and Positive Rewards through Sustainable Land Management



The Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative is an international collaboration that provides a global assessment of the economics of land degradation, and highlights the benefits of sustainable land management. Working with a team of scientists, practitioners, policy-/ decision-makers, and all interested stakeholders, the Initiative endeavours to provide a scientifically robust, politically relevant, and socio-economically considerate approach that is economically viable and rewarding. The latest report by the ELD, titled *The Value of Land*, is a comprehensive assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management.

The report notes that 24% of the world's productive lands are degraded, causing food insecurity, poverty, lack of clean water, and increased vulnerability in areas affected by climate variability and change, including drought. The report estimates that the global loss of ecosystem service values costs between USD 6.3 and 10.6 trillion annually. It points out that the effects of land degradation and desertification are distributed unevenly throughout human populations and often impact on the most vulnerable – the rural poor. At the same time, the report describes the huge opportunities in sustainable land management – for private and public investors alike. According to the report there are currently 2 billion hectares of degraded land, with 75% of this land located in working landscapes. Rehabilitating the nearly 500 million hectares of abandoned agricultural land would help achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3, and provide food security and economic opportunities. The report claims that this land can be rehabilitated for an average price of less than 200 Euros per hectare. A case study in Mali showed a return of 12 Euros for every 1 Euro invested.

The full document is available for download at:

[http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/2015\\_The%20Value%20of%20Land%20-%20ELD%20Initiative%20\(2015\).pdf](http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/2015_The%20Value%20of%20Land%20-%20ELD%20Initiative%20(2015).pdf).

## Equator Prize 2015



The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. The Equator Initiative seeks to: recognize the success of local and indigenous initiatives; create opportunities and platforms to share knowledge and good practice; inform policy to foster an enabling environment for local and indigenous community action; and develop the capacity of local and indigenous initiatives to scale-up their impact.



The Equator Prize is awarded biennially to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. As local and indigenous groups across the world chart a path towards sustainable development, the Equator Prize shines a spotlight on their efforts by honouring them on an international stage. 21 Equator Prize 2015 winners were recently announced, in New York. The winners include the Yunnan Green Watershed Management Research and Promotion Center in China whose work has led to improved income, food security and resilience against droughts for indigenous Yi people. Umbrella Group of Naghadeh NGOs in Iran has restored over 1,600 hectares of satellite wetlands to help the local populations adapt to droughts and other stresses and shocks.

For further details on the above mentioned and other Equator Prize 2015 winners, please visit [http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=924&Itemid=1173&lang=en](http://www.equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=924&Itemid=1173&lang=en).

## Event and Training Opportunities

### 12th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (12-23 October, 2015; Ankara, Turkey)



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will host its Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) in Ankara, Turkey, on 12-23 October 2015. Decision-makers from 195 member states will attend COP12 to discuss solutions to issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). The goals of COP12 is to provide practical steps to make the rehabilitation of degrading land areas a reality and identify ways to contribute to the success of the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris.

During the high-level segment of COP12, which will take place on 20-21 October, ministers and other heads of delegation from all over the world will hold round-table discussions and special plenary sessions to identify possible solutions for the key thematic issues of shared concern. They include, among others, drought adaptation, particularly mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought. Throughout the conference period, various side events will also be organized featuring different aspects of DLDD issues.

Please visit <http://www.unccdcop12.gov.tr/en/Home/Index> for more information on the UNCCD COP12.

### Resilience, Research and Innovation Conference (26-28 October, 2015; Djibouti, Djibouti)



The Resilience, Research and Innovation (RRI) Conference is an initiative to review the role that research and innovations can play in guiding and enhancing the interventions aimed at building resilience to drought and other shocks and stresses. The conference is organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Djibouti and its intent is to take stock of the research involvement towards building resilience for the population of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands as well as to analyse and discuss some of the key challenges, innovations and research experiences, with the ultimate view of making resilience a true vector of development. More specifically, the objectives of the RRI are to:



- Share knowledge, the results of research in the continent and in the sub-region, and lessons learned on the resilience and the challenges for a coordinated implementation of relevant and sustainable interventions;
- Strengthen dialogue and research partnerships between institutions specializing in ASALs and their problems;
- Exchange around best practices from resilience projects that have shown satisfactory results;
- Establish the theoretical and empirical nexus between resilient communities and development prospects;
- Identify and discuss best practices and experiences in building resilience in Africa and beyond with a view to learning from them in future efforts;
- Propose the possible solutions to the identified major problems and challenges that resilience programmes and projects are confronted with;
- Propose elements of what could constitute conducive environments for the emergence of effective, financially viable and competitive research on resilience; and
- Propose concrete policy recommendations on the enhancement of national and regional capacities to address the challenges of building resilience and ending drought emergencies on the continent.

Please visit <http://www.rri.dj/#> for more information on the confence including the detailed programme and the key themes to be discussed in each session.

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## Positions and Grant Opportunities

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### Drought Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Consultant in the Near East and North Africa – The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (Closing date: 30 October 2015)



The Global Mechanism (GM) of the United Nations Convention to the UNCCD has been established with the objective to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms for the implementation of

the Convention. One of the priority areas of work of the GM Liaison Office in Rome, Italy, is Drought Management and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). In this context the proposed consultancy will identify opportunities to strengthen the implementation of national drought policies in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region in the context of DRR and implementation of the UNCCD.

The main objectives of the consultancy is to assess the implementation status of national drought policies and to identify best practices to enhance drought-resilience through the application of innovative risk finance tools such as weather-based insurance schemes. Under the overall supervision of the GM's Managing Director, the consultant is expected, among other tasks, to carry out a mapping of national Drought Policies existing in the NENA region and assess the alignment of national drought policies to: i) UNCCD National Action Programmes; and ii) existing national DRR frameworks. For more information, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/about-the-convention/The-Secretariat/Vacancies-and-consultancies/Documents/41%20Drought%20Management%20and%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction.pdf>.





## Senior Researcher/Researcher: Ecosystem-based Water Management – International Water Management Institute (Closing date: 31 October 2015)



The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is looking for a Senior Researcher/Researcher: Ecosystem-based Water Management who will be based at the Institute's East Africa and Nile Basin Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Candidates with relevant experience in the interaction between land management (agriculture) and water resources management, and a PhD in hydrology, environmental water management, water resources management and modelling or a related discipline will be considered for the position. The position holder will develop a research portfolio on mapping and basin water management, and on valuing water-related ecosystem services at landscape and basin levels.

More specifically, the position holder will conduct research to build an understanding across a range of issues related to ecosystem services, hydrology, water resources modelling, environmental flows, basin water allocation, and natural and built water infrastructure and analyze basin and sub-basin water resources management interventions in the context of the ecosystem services they affect and/ or provide. He/she will also provide leadership in conceptual and empirical research, including modelling related to improving water resources management in Africa across a range of scales, and under existing and possible future conditions, including those resulting from climate change, land-use change and increasing hydropower utilization, and identify new research trends and niches, and develop new research proposals for projects addressing important environmental and water management issues.

More information regarding this post, including the application procedure, is available at <http://www.cgiar.org/vacancies/senior-researcherresearcher-ecosystem-based-water-management/>.

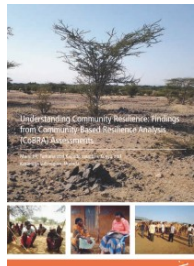


### Community Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) Conceptual Framework and Methodology (2014)

In order to ensure that drought prone communities move onto a path of resilience building and sustainable development, rather than being pushed back to poverty trap with increased vulnerability, an integrated multi-faceted approach at scale is clearly required. Community-Based Resilience Analysis (CoBRA) is a tool which intends to measure and identify the key building blocks of community resilience, or "resilience characteristics", and assess the attribution of various development/humanitarian interventions in attaining these resilience characteristics. In disaster affected areas, where protracted crises with spikes in need are the norm, resilience measurement tools are required through which to document evidence of groups of interventions that have high impact and spur positive changes at household and community levels. This publication presents the

conceptual framework that underpins the CoBRA model and describes in brief the methodology that supports the model:

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable\\_land\\_management/CoBRA/cobra-conceptual-framework/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/cobra-conceptual-framework/).



### Understanding Community Resilience: Findings from CoBRA Assessments in Kenya and Uganda (2014)

In the last few years, as natural disasters, particularly drought, and other crises have pushed communities to the limits of their adaptation and coping capacity, 'disaster resilience' has emerged as a key goal for governments and other development and humanitarian stakeholders in the Horn of Africa. This report summarizes the findings of the first round of CoBRA field testing in four drought-prone locations in Kenya (Marsabit, Turkana and Kajiado counties) and Uganda (the Karamoja sub-region). Individual assessment reports for each location are attached as Annexes to this report. The CoBRA approach is largely qualitative, based on understanding resilience from a community perspective. It does not identify any preconceived components of resilience but rather allows communities to define it, assess their progress in achieving it, identify households that are more (or fully) resilient and specify the interventions they believe best build resilience:

[http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable\\_land\\_management/CoBRA/CoBRA\\_assessment/](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/environment-energy/sustainable_land_management/CoBRA/CoBRA_assessment/).

## Useful Links on Drought Status Updates

### Africa

African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development: <http://acmad.net/new/>

Experimental African Drought Monitor: <http://drought.icpac.net/>

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Africa: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Food Security & Nutrition Working Group Update: <http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/fsnwg/drought>

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC): <http://www.icpac.net/Forecasts/forecasts.html>

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) Africa: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Africa.aspx>

Prevention Web Africa: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/africa/>

Relief Web Africa: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=1>

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Service Centre: <http://www.sadc.int/english/regional-integration/is/csc/>

### Asia

Asian Disaster Reduction Center: <http://www.adrc.asia/latest/index.php>

East Asian Drought Monitoring System: <http://atmos.pknu.ac.kr/~intra2>

FEWS NET Central Asia: <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

IRIN Asia: <http://www.irinnews.org/IRIN-Asia.aspx>

Pacific Disaster Center/World Natural Hazards Website: <http://www.pdc.org/iweb/pdchome.html>

Prevention Web Asia: <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/>

Relief Web Asia: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc115?OpenForm&rc=3>

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