



GC-RED
Resilient Ecosystems
and Desertification

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



October 2017 Issue

Special Topic

UNCCD COP13 Decision on Drought Policy Advocacy



The thirteen session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ordos, China on 6-16 October 2017. Special segments included: three parallel high-level roundtable discussions on land degradation, drought and dust storms, and land degradation neutrality (LDN); a dialogue with civil society on gender

and land rights; a dialogue with elected and local government representatives on the role of local governments in addressing the challenges of land degradation; and a dialogue with the private sector on its role in achieving LDN.

The session concluded with the adoption of 37 decisions. Through these decisions, the COP endorsed a scientific conceptual framework for LDN, and addressed emerging issues such as drought, sand storms and migration as well as how to align UNCCD implementation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The COP concluded with the issuance of the Ordos Declaration, a decree by 80 ministers urging enhanced action to fight desertification.

One key decision adopted at COP13 is concerning policy advocacy on drought. The text states, among other actions, that the COP invited all parties to use the drought resilience, adaptation and management policy framework to strengthen preparedness and response to drought. The COP also invited parties to pursue a comprehensive system on drought preparedness.

The full UNCCD COP13 decision on drought policy advocacy is viewable at http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-09/ICCD_COP%2813%29_L20-1716100E.pdf. For further details concerning the UNCCD COP13 process and other decisions adopted, please visit <http://www2.unccd.int/convention/conference-parties-cop/unccd-cop13-ordos-china>.

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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 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.

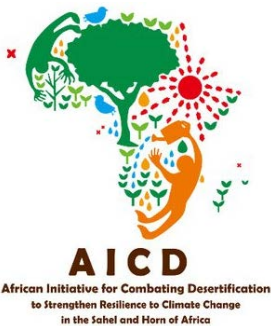
AADP provides the DRM practitioners and policymakers with a variety of peer learning and capacity development support to, based on their priorities, operational gaps and capacity needs, building on the pool of experiences and expertise of the ongoing [African Drought Risk and Development Network initiative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

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



Knowledge Resources and Networking Opportunities

AI-CD: African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa



Despite of its importance and urgency, the issues of droughts and desertification have not been given sufficient international attention in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions and therefore, adequate financing for addressing those issues has not been mobilized. The priority of desertification and drought needs to be raised in the development agenda in African countries. Against this backdrop, the African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa (AI-CD) was launched at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Nairobi in August 2016.

As a joint initiative of the Government of Kenya, the Government of Senegal, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the UNCCD with partner African countries and development partners, AI-CD aims to contribute to making nations and communities resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. The objective will be achieved through: 1) building a robust network among participating countries and development partners; 2) promoting sharing of knowledge and experiences on combating desertification; and 3) improving access to available international development finance.

Please visit <http://aicd-africa.org/?ln> for further details concerning AI-CD and its activities.

Thomson Reuters Foundation



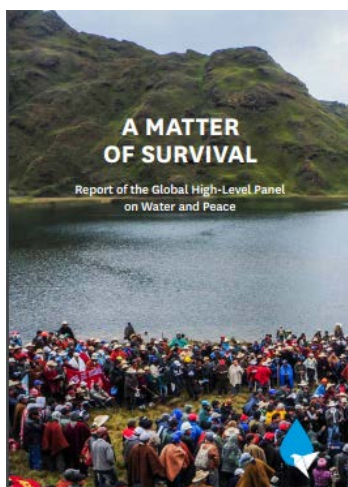
The Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of the world's leading provider of news and information, is committed to empowering people in need around the world with trusted information and free legal assistance. A registered charity in the United States and United Kingdom, the Foundation leverages the skills, values and expertise across Thomson Reuters to promote the rule of law, save lives in disasters and improve standards of journalism.

One of the primary thought leadership areas of the Thomson Reuters Foundation is climate and resilience. Worsening droughts, storms, floods and sea level rise can exacerbate poverty and create more vulnerability in the form of child marriage and human trafficking. But a global transition to clean energy also presents huge opportunities to spur development and improve life for billions of people. The Thomson Reuters Foundation plays a thought leadership role in the fight to curb climate change, build resilience to it and shift to sustainable energy. We do this by raising awareness through authoritative, on-the-ground reporting that highlights the human cost of the issue, journalism training and mentoring on climate and resilience, and participation in key global climate change, resilience and sustainability initiatives through partnerships with leading organisations.

Please visit <https://www.trust.org/> for more information regarding the Thomson Reuters Foundation and its activities in the field of climate and resilience.



A Matter of Survival: Report of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace



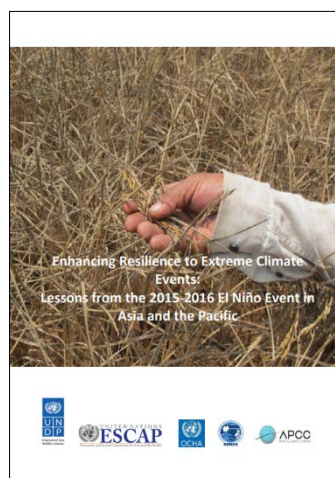
Water and water scarcity are becoming serious security threats to a world with a growing population, facing human-induced climate change. By mid-century, close to four billion people – about 40 percent of the world's population – will live in water-stressed basins. This number will probably grow when the projected effects of climate change lead to diminished crop yields, while triggering droughts, floods and other weather extremes. This report contains the analysis and the recommendations adopted by the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace in order to prevent water-related conflicts and to make water an instrument of peace. It has the ambition to address the water challenges in an integrated and comprehensive manner, at multiple levels, whether it is by fostering new practices, new institutions, water diplomacy or strengthening international law, among others.

The report consists of seven chapters covering the main areas of the Panel's analysis. Each chapter is concluded by a set of specific recommendations outlining further action. The Panel offers general conclusions and summarizes all of its recommendations in the final chapter, thus allowing the reader to see the whole picture of suggested further activities. The conclusions and recommendations aim to help decision-makers develop a coherent vision of necessary future activities and assist in practical policy making.

The full report is available at

https://www.genevawaterhub.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/A_Matter_of_Survival_FINAL.pdf.

Enhancing Resilience to Extreme Climate Events: Lessons from the 2015-2016 El Niño Event in Asia and the Pacific



The 2015-2016 El Niño event was one of the strongest and most significant on record. It resulted in unusually warm conditions for many of the tropical and sub-tropical countries, and the global average surface air temperature for 2015 and 2016 marked two of the warmest years on record. Large parts of Asia and the Pacific experienced hot spring and summer seasons, as well as many extreme weather events such as drought, flood, and tropical cyclone. They destroyed crops, killed livestock, dried up water-sources in some areas, and led to malnutrition, food insecurity and disease outbreaks, among other impacts.

This report summarizes the lessons learnt from the 2015-2016 El Niño event and represents a one UN approach to put these lessons into practice to reduce the impacts of future extreme climate events, and to help enhance the resilience of people across the Asia-Pacific Region. The report highlights key achievements in science and technology for understanding and addressing El Niño related risks through climate modelling, vulnerability assessment, and disaster impact modelling. It also describes remaining gaps and challenges, and sets priorities for early action.

The full report is available at

<http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/El%20Nino%20report-%20finalized%20ESCAP07082017.pdf>.



Event and Training Opportunities

Third World Congress on Disaster Management (6-10 November 2017; Visakhapatnam, India)



November 06-10, 2017 | Visakhapatnam | Andhra Pradesh | India

The core mission of the Third World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM-2017) is to bring all the stakeholders together in a common platform to discuss the formidable challenges of building resilience to disasters across different sectors and at all levels of development. It would promote better understanding of how systems, processes, knowledge, practices, strategies and action

plans can be developed for meeting these challenges in the years ahead. It would be deliberating on some of the most critical challenges of implementation of the global frameworks and agreements at the local level, particularly in the context of the least developed and developing countries of the region.

Revolving around the central theme of Building Resilience for Sustaining Development WCDM-2017 would involve national and sub-national governments, scientific and technical organisations, academia, professional bodies, industry, civil society, practitioners, media besides the UN bodies and multi-lateral and regional organisations. Building on the experiences gained at the preceding two Congresses, the Third Congress is envisaged to facilitate co-learning through sharing of knowledge and best practices, understanding emerging challenges and promoting interaction among scientists, policy makers and practitioners, besides forging new partnerships and networks and honouring the champions of management of disaster risks, including drought.

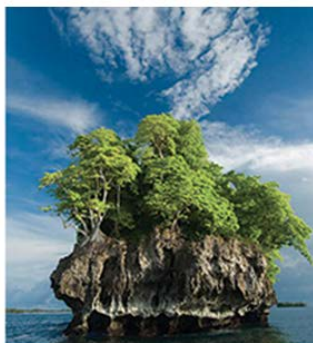
For more information concerning WCDM-2017, please visit http://www.wcdm.info/?page=about_congress.

Introduction to Resilience for Development: Free Online Course Series (31 October-21 November 2017 & 23 January-13 February 2018; Online)



INTRODUCTION TO RESILIENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Free massive open online course series
Curso gratuito abierto masivo en línea
Cours en ligne ouverts et massifs



Are you interested in learning how to incorporate the concept of resilience into your drought/disaster management and other work? Do you want to promote an integrated approach to social and ecological sustainability? A free, two-part, trilingual Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) called Introduction to Resilience for Development will be held in English, French and Spanish.

Part 1: Understanding Resilience Thinking runs from 31

Oct. to 27 Nov. 2017. Part 2: Applying Resilience Thinking to National Biodiversity and Development Plans runs from 23 Jan. to 13 Feb. 2018. The course is designed for policymakers and practitioners working in the sustainable development and conservation planning sectors, but is open to anyone.

Please visit http://mailchi.mp/nbsapforum/resilience_mooc_2 for further details on the course and resignation procedure.



Positions and Grant Opportunities

Data Analyst – Oxfam GB (Closing date: 13 October 2017)



From supporting ground relief in humanitarian emergencies, such as the recent Ebola outbreak or drought in sub Saharan Africa, to ensuring clean water and sanitation for the refugees fleeing war-torn Syria, everything Oxfam GB does is underpinned by its information systems (IS). IS team manage a wide range of suppliers to ensure; high quality and timely system delivery, continued support to our humanitarian programme and the provision of the latest information

to our supporters, through the availability of our online presence.

Oxfam currently has an opportunity for someone with proven experience of the analysis and interpretation of supplier performance data to join the team. The management of the institutional supplier's performance is essential to ensuring service levels are met and that Oxfam continues to receive value from IS services, as this is fundamental to our operational support.

For further information surrounding this significant role and to apply, please visit <https://jobs.oxfam.org.uk/vacancy/data-analyst-fin0337/6688/description/>

Regional Administrator Kenya/Somalia – Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI) (Closing date: 23 October 2017)

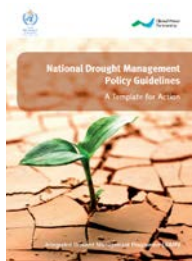


Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI) is an independent lay Italian humanitarian organisation, founded in Bergamo in 1985. It operates worldwide with the conviction that helping the most needy populations, struck by wars, natural calamities and environmental disasters not only gives relief to those who suffer but also contributes to the wellbeing. Even in the worst humanitarian emergencies (earthquakes, droughts, floods, epidemics, famine, war), the organisation's aim is to back up primary assistance with the capacity to build a new start and development, betting on the involvement of the beneficiaries.



CESVI is present with a coordination office in Nairobi, Kenya, to supervise the projects in the country and to support the ongoing operations in Somalia at logistic, administrative and institutional level. In Kenya Cesvi's intervention focuses on protection and justice. In Somalia, in the regions of Hiraaan, Galmudug, and Banadir, Cesvi is involved in health and nutrition, resilience, food security and livelihoods, emergency response to the current drought crisis in both urban and rural settings. The Regional Administrator is in charge of managing all aspects of the Operations of CESVI regional programme in Kenya and Somalia. S/he is responsible for the Finance and Admin, HR and Logistics.

More information on the post and the application procedure is available at <https://www.cesvi.org/jobs/regional-administrator-kenya-somalia/>.



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/>