



September 2011 Issue

Special Topic

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties



The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held in Changwon, South Korea, from 10 October to 21 October 2011. The

UNCCD is one of the three global conventions that sprang from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as “the Rio Earth Summit” with the objective of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in affected countries through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.

The COP is the Convention’s supreme governing body, whose tasks include, amongst others, to regularly review the implementation of the Convention, to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by Parties, to establish subsidiary bodies and approves their budget and activity programmes, and to promote and strengthen the relationship with international organizations, NGOs and other relevant conventions.

The COP 10 is the first general meeting for the UNCCD taking place in Asia. It is expected to help raise public awareness of desertification in Asia and globally, and expand cooperative projects to combat desertification and drought. *Inter alia*, under the theme “From Deserts to Green Forests” (A Green Dream of our Planet), the host government of Korea will share its tree planting techniques and know-how with some damaged countries, and expects to have an opportunity to introduce the international cooperative businesses for combating the desertification pushed by Korea. The successful tree planting sites such as desolation recovery area, reforestation area, ecological forest, etc. of Gyeongsangnam-do will be the good models for forest desolated countries.

Please visit <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop10/menu.php> and <http://english.unccdcop10.go.kr/main/> for more information on the UNCCD COP 10.

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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.

For more information, please visit <http://www.undp.org/drylands/aadp.html>.

Resources and Networking Opportunities

Global Network for Disaster Reduction



Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) is a major international network of non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations committed to working together to improve the lives of people affected by disasters world-wide. Since forming in 2007, the GNDR has sought to increase the effectiveness of civil society to contribute towards the building of resilient nations and communities - putting the concerns, needs and priorities of vulnerable people at the heart of disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy and practice. Focus has been on three core objectives of 1) ensuring risk reduction policies are appropriate to local context, needs and priorities; 2) supporting effective execution of risk reduction policies at the local level; and 3) increasing access to resources at the local level.

Some of the network activities include, among others:

- Views from the Frontline: a participatory multi-stakeholder engagement process designed to monitor, review and report on critical aspects of “*local governance*” considered essential to building disaster resilient communities;
- Action at the Frontline: An exercise to gather practical DRR case study projects from Network Members around the world categorize them in the resource library into a number of disaster themes; and
- GNDR-Forward Together: A consultation programme for the GNDR members to share and develop ideas on core activities for the network in order to make the most of the strong foundations that have been created.

Please visit <http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org/home.html> for further information regarding the GNDR.

World Climate Research Programme Drought Interest Group



The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) is a research group devoted to scientific study of climate change. The WCRP Mission is to facilitate analysis and prediction of Earth system variability and change for use in an increasing range of practical applications of direct relevance, benefit and value to society. The

two overarching objectives of the WCRP are: 1) to determine the predictability of climate; and 2) to determine the effect of human activities on climate.

The WCRP Drought Interest Group (DIG) was formed as part of the WCRP Extremes crosscutting activity following a joint Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment-Climate Variability and Predictability Project (GEWEX-CLIVAR) meeting in 2008. The overall goal of the DIG efforts is to accelerate progress on improving prediction of drought on time scales of weeks to centuries, with a focus on developing capabilities and products that facilitate practical applications for stakeholders around the world. The group is tasked with scoping out potential research areas and activities that address drought and to identify, encourage, and coordinate additional activities world-wide, leveraging what is already going on in the WCRP GEWEX and CLIVAR. DIG will also assess the missing links in drought research and coordinate drought research at an international level in order to advance, in particular, predictive understanding of extremes. Work has been ongoing on the development of a White Paper on ‘Drought Predictability and Prediction in a Changing Climate:

Assessing Current Capabilities, User Requirements, and Research Priorities’. This White Paper will assess current prediction capabilities against user needs with the aim of identifying areas that would benefit from international coordination.

Further information on the DIG is available at <http://www.clivar.org/organization/extremes/dig.php>.

Integrated Project Water and Global Change – WATCH



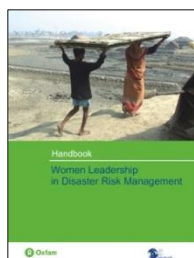
Increasing carbon levels and temperature are intensifying the global hydrological cycle, which is likely to mean an increase in extremes – floods and droughts. There are suggestions that inter-annual variability will increase – with an intensification of the El Niño and NAO cycles – leading to more droughts and large-scale flooding events. These cycles are global phenomena

which will impact different regions simultaneously (although often in different ways).

The Integrated Project Water and Global Change (WATCH) brings together the hydrological, water resources and climate communities, to analyze, quantify and predict the components of the current and future global water cycles and related water resources states, evaluate their uncertainties and clarify the overall vulnerability of global water resources related to the main societal and economic sectors. In particular, WATCH assesses how the global water cycle and its extremes respond to future drivers of global change and develops an enhanced modelling framework to assess the future vulnerability of water as a resource, and in relation to water/climate related vulnerabilities and risks of the major water related sectors.

For more information on WATCH and its research works, please visit <http://www.eu-watch.org/>.

Handbook: Women Leadership in Disaster Management



Role of women in disaster risk management have been re-examined in the handbook titled “Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Management” in the practical context of Bangladesh. Generally women are addressed as the most vulnerable group; and in view of that organizations seek to involve women in the disaster risk management (DRM) initiatives. In most of the cases, these initiatives increase women’s workload, for example they had to work in the disaster management committee or as volunteers in addition to their regular duties. In fact, women contribute much through their regular activities in spite of their subordinate position and discrimination in the society. Especially, when all social and economical activities are impeded during disaster and the affected community becomes solely dependent to the external assistance, women intuitively take up an imperative role in order to remove distress not only for their own families but for community as well. But their contribution is rarely recognized.

In this handbook, an attempt was made to illustrate their achievements along with their risks in a very easy and communicable way. It proposes that if women’s disaster risk reduction techniques are incorporated in the mainstream, then disaster management will be more enriched and effective as a whole. The handbook discusses women’s role in disaster risk management at the family, society and institutional level and the process of establishing women’s leadership.

The full publication is available for download at
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full_Report_876.pdf.

Strengthening Drought Early Warning at the Community and District Levels: Analysis of Traditional Community Warning Systems in Wajir & Turkana Counties

This report is a product of an exploratory study conducted by Oxfam in Wajir and Turkana districts in Kenya. The study focuses on ways of strengthening district and community level drought early warning systems (EWS) with the aim of enhancing community drought preparedness. The overall aim of the study was to interrogate the existing traditional EWS utilized by communities in both Wajir and Turkana to ascertain if these systems could be linked to the conventional scientific drought EWS (currently being utilized by Arid Land Resource Management Project [ALRMP] of the Kenya Government) in order to strengthen the precision of early warning and consequently enhance drought preparedness efforts among the targeted communities in the two counties.

The gaps addressed by the study include inadequate dissemination of the early warning information from the scientific EWS managed by ALRMP, lack of recognition of traditional early warning systems and general low uptake of early warning information by pastoralists. To respond to some of these gaps, the study conducted a participatory scoping analysis of the existing traditional early warning systems among the Turkana and Somali communities leading to identification of key early warning indicators. This was followed by an exploration of channels through which these traditional early warning systems could inform/feed into district level analysis under the scientific EWS by ALRMP.

The full report is available for download at
http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/fileadmin/user_upload/drought/docs/Study%20on%20traditional%20drought%20early%20warning%20systems%20Oxfam%20GB%202011.pdf.

Event and Training Opportunities

WATERuse 2011: 8th International Water Association International Conference on Water Reclamation & Reuse (Barcelona, Spain; September 26-29, 2011)



Water Reuse 2011: 8th International Water Association (IWA) International Conference on Water Reclamation & Reuse is to be held in Barcelona, Spain, on September 26-28, 2011, as a testimony of its continued commitment to that of Costa Brava when it hosted the first IWA Specialist Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse in Castell Platja d'Aro (Costa Brava), Spain, in 1991. This Conference will offer a great opportunity to assess all that has been accomplished since then. The city of

Barcelona has been facing recurrent episodes of severe water droughts during the last decades, bringing water efficiency practices to a very high priority. The themes of the conference will be based on: science in water reclamation and reuse; reclaimed water in urban areas; reclaimed water in industry; reclaimed water in agriculture; and reclaimed water in the environment.

Around the theme of “a dependable water resource under the uncertainties of climate change”, the Conference will provide a platform to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face. The conference will prove to be an extremely interactive platform as visitors will be able to gain knowledge about the latest developments and advancements. Main feature of the conference will be poster presentations and paper presentations.

Please visit <http://www.waterbcn2011.org/> for further information on the conference.

Combating Drought Using Geo-Spatial Information and Participatory Modelling (Venue to be Confirmed, Tanzania; November 7-18, 2011)



A two-week refresher course in Combating Drought Using Geo-Spatial Information and Participatory Modelling will be held by University of Twente Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation in Tanzania from November 7-18, 2011 (10 working days). Priority in drought preparedness is based on the implementation of preventive measures for lands that are prone to degradation while designing mechanisms to rehabilitate the severely degraded ones. Through this refresher course the participants will be strengthened to apply new analytical methods and new ways of approaching stakeholders and involve them in the identification of the causes and impacts of drought and desertification, and finally to formulate strategies and plans to prevent desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The emphasis of the course is to build capacity in participatory approaches in managing natural resources. Exchange of experiences and contributions from the participants themselves will help to sustain the new acquired skills and insights.

This course builds on the previous knowledge and skills developed during earlier training. The refresher course will further develop these abilities by introducing new concepts and knowledge in the field of climate change, the use of new tools and techniques for drought vulnerability and risk assessment and by bringing participants up-to-date with recent developments that have taken place worldwide in the prevention and mitigation of the impacts of climate change. The course will take a project-centred approach where the participants will focus on a particular problem and will perform analysis in attempt to find solutions. Particular attention will be paid to the application of geo-information, systems analysis, participatory modelling and scenario analysis to develop alternative planning strategies and technology transfer to combat drought.

Candidates should complete the online application form and submit it to ITC's Student Registration Office before **September 5, 2011**. For further information on the course and the application procedure, please visit <http://www.itc.nl/C11-NRS-RC-03>.

First International Training Course on Pigeonpea Seed Production and Crop Management Systems (Patancheru, India; November 7-12, 2011)



International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is holding a 6 days training course on pigeonpea production and crop management systems from 7th November 2011 to 12th November 2011. Objectives of the course are to improve the pigeonpea seed production and management system focusing on the most effective

practices of producing pure seeds of varieties and hybrids through:

- Proper collection and characterization of pigeonpea materials;
- Suitable screening of materials for pests, diseases, drought and waterlogging, as well as salinity tolerance;
- CMS breeding techniques; and
- Improved agronomic and post-harvest practices.

ICRISAT will train scientists, technicians, and extension workers of National Agricultural Research Systems and private seed companies through lectures and practical sessions on a wide range of subjects. Resource persons will be provided by ICRISAT scientists as well as from the national program and the private sector.

Enrollment in this course is limited to 40 participants. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Advanced registration is required by the deadline of **October 7, 2011**, and we encourage early registration to secure a seat in this course.

For further information regarding the training course, please visit
<http://www.nsai.co.in/events/exec/frmEventDetails.aspx?sankhya=NzY=>.

"Scaling Up Water Harvesting" - 14th SearNet International Conference (Mpumalanga, South Africa; November 13-18, 2011)



The Southern & Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SearNet) hosted at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), in collaboration with member country associations has been organizing annual stakeholders' conferences since 1998. The 14th SearNet Conference will be hosted by the Environmental Education Organization (ECOLINK) at the Bundu Lodges, Mpumalanga, South Africa, from November 13-18, 2011, under the theme of "Scaling up Rainwater Harvesting Innovation for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation".

The overall conference objective is to facilitate sharing of experiences on research, development, promotion and adoption of rainwater harvesting and management (RHM) systems among diverse stakeholders working in Africa and other parts of the world through presentation of technical papers and posters on planning research and development activities. It will be a forum for information exchange on rainwater harvesting and management amongst professionals and stakeholders through technical paper presentations, discussions and field excursions. It will also be a platform for creating partnerships in solving water scarcity problems, floods, famine, droughts, environmental degradation and water-borne diseases affecting many regions of the world.

Interested participants are requested to register online for the conference by **November 1, 2011**. Please visit <http://www.worldagroforestry.org/projects/searnet/conference/> for further details on the conference.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

Economic Justice Drought Policy Advisor – Oxfam GB (Closing Date: September 4, 2011)



Oxfam's new Economic Justice Campaign – otherwise known as GROW - marks the start of a global movement for better ways to grow, share and live together. It's all about addressing the broken food system so we can put enough food on the table for everyone. It's about land grabs, food prices, climate and small-scale farming. It's about the food on your table; today and tomorrow.

The Drought situation that we are currently experiencing in the Horn of Africa is being driven by the key issues of the GROW campaign such as climate change, investment in agriculture and food price volatility. As part of the current Humanitarian scale up in this area therefore, Oxfam's campaigning, Policy and Media response will seek to achieve impact at national, regional and international levels for long-term solution orientated messaging, and to integrate drought response messaging and interventions within the overall GROW campaign messaging and strategy.

For this work, we are looking for a really talented individual to work closely with campaigners in the Region and members of the Oxfam International Global GROW campaign for 6 months to represent Economic Justice and GROW positions within the drought response policy messaging and interventions.

More information regarding the position is available at http://www.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_oxfam.asp?s=tPyAxDIqHTyVvHqn&jobid=36256,3423715954&key=19834535&c=024898563412&pa_gestamp=seyfhfuryvuekiivyd.

Equator Prize 2012: Call for Nomination (Closing Date: October 31, 2011)



The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to build the capacity and raise the profile of local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator Initiative is dedicated to (i) identifying and celebrating the success of local and indigenous initiatives, (ii) creating opportunities and platforms for the sharing and exchange of local success and good practice, (iii) informing policy to foster an enabling environment for local and indigenous community action, and (iv) building the capacity of local and indigenous initiatives to scale-up their impact.

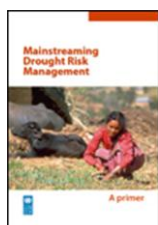
The Equator Initiative is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Equator Prize 2012, which will recognize 25 outstanding local initiatives that are working to advance sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. The 25 recipients of the Equator Prize 2012 will each receive USD 5,000, with 10 selected for special recognition and a total of USD 20,000. Representatives of winning communities will participate in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be held in Brazil in June 2012.

In order to be eligible for the Equator Prize 2012, nominees must: 1) have been in operation for at least 3 years; 2) be a community-based or local group, operating in a rural area; and 3) be located within a country receiving support from the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), excluding countries with a high level of development. Nominations for the Equator Prize 2012 may be submitted in Arabic, Chinese, English, Tagalog, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, or Vietnamese directly by the initiative, by a partner organization, or by any third party that is familiar with the activities and achievements of the initiative.

The nomination period for the Equator Prize 2012 will close on **31 October 2011**. Please visit

http://equatorinitiative.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=674:ep2012callfornominations&catid=182:2011-events&Itemid=732 for more information regarding the Equator Prize 2012.



We are pleased to announce the release of the UNDP-DDC's new publication: *Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer* (English) and *Intégration de la Gestion du Risqué de Sécheresse: Manuel introductif* (French). The overall purpose of this Primer is to provide a basic roadmap for mainstreaming DRM into development planning and programming at different levels. It suggests and outlines a stepwise approach to define the drought risks within a given context. It also presents a methodology for translating the risk assessments and metrics into specific policy measures, planning instruments and measurable interventions.

The full publication is available for download at:

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-English.pdf> (English)

<http://www.undp.org/drylands/docs/Mainstreaming%20DRM-French.pdf> (French)

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.disasterreduction.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/dmc/>

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>