

Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network



Newsletter

September 2013 Issue

Special Topic

UNCCD Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties



The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held from 16 to 27 September 2013 in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia. Approximately 2000-3000 delegates from the 195 parties to the UNCCD, UN organisations, inter-

governmental and civil society organizations will come together to debate and arrive at solutions towards improving the living conditions of people in drylands; maintaining and restoring land and soil productivity; and mitigating the effects of drought.

Land degradation directly affects 1.5 billion people globally. At total of 24 billion tons of fertile soil is lost every year because of cropland erosion, while another 12 million hectares annually falls prey to drought and desertification. Some 27,000 species are lost each year due to land degradation, showing that this process has a devastating impact on biodiversity. It has been proven that living standards and literacy rates are declining in countries that experience increasing levels of aridity. Areas with high land degradation rates are also prone to political violence and conflict, according to UNCCD data. Worldwide, droughts are likely to occur more frequently and with a higher intensity. Southern Africa will be one of the worst affected regions.

COP11 will build upon the results of the second UNCCD scientific conference and review the progress after the completion of the first half of the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018). COP11 sessions will focus on financing, knowledge brokering and the Rio+20 outcome on land degradation, desertification and drought (DLDD). Against this backdrop, COP11 will be convened under the theme "A stronger UNCCD for a Land-Degradation Neutral World." The theme marks the progress the Parties to the Convention made under the 10-Year Strategy and encourages further action for its successful implementation during the latter half of the Strategy period. It also reflects the UNCCD vision of a way forward after the Rio+20 outcome on DLDD. For further details on UNCCD COP11, please visit <http://www.unccdcop11.com/#!/home/mainPage>.

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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

World AgroMeteorological Information Service



The main objective of World AgroMeteorological Information Service (WAMIS) is to provide a dedicated webserver for disseminating agrometeorological products issued by the World Meteorological Organization Members to the global agricultural community on a near real-time basis.

Disseminating agrometeorological information is part of a process that begins with scientific knowledge and understanding and ends with the evaluation of the information. But, in order for this information to be useful, it must be accurate, timely, and cost-effective. By providing a central location for agrometeorological information, WAMIS will aid users to quickly and easily evaluate the various bulletins and gain insight into improving their own bulletins. These products are produced on either a weekly, monthly, or yearly time frame and the format of the products will range from text and MS Word files to PDFs. To further help members improve the quality and presentation of their agrometeorological bulletins, WAMIS will also host a tools and resources section with the themes of data, information, dissemination, and feedback. The materials of this section were compiled from different sources or developed specifically for WAMIS and includes links to useful available software, guides, web portals, training resources, and tutorials.

For further details on WAMIS, please visit <http://www.wamis.org/>.

GardenAfrica's Living Classroom Film Series

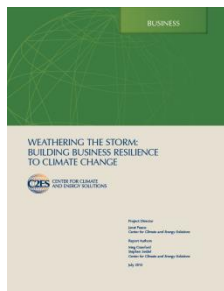


GardenAfrica's is an international not-for-profit organisation based in the UK. Currently focusing in Southern Africa, GardenAfrica establish productive organic training gardens in schools, hospitals and clinics, growing nutritious food and medicinal herbs. These gardens offer practical and effective solutions for building community health and livelihoods, ensuring the continuation of vital botanical and horticultural knowledge through to the next generation of carers and providers.

The Living Classroom is the result of GardenAfrica's training programmes that have been successfully developed and implemented over the past ten years with sustainable agriculture & permaculture specialists. The series will present 11 key themes: homestead design & planning; water management & use; soil conservation; compost & natural fertiliser; bed preparation & tree planting; seed & plant propagation; companion planting; integrated pest management; small livestock integration; processing & value addition; and growing income. *Black Gold: the Secrets of Compost* was filmed on location in Swaziland, and is the first in the Living Classroom series. It was built around GardenAfrica's partnership project with Vusumnotfo and Guba, called 'Food Security in a Changing Environment'.

Please visit http://www.gardenafrika.org.uk/our_resources.htm to view the video and for more information on the Living Classroom Film Series.

Weathering the Storm: Building Business Resilience to Climate Change



Economic damages from weather-related disasters climbed to near-record levels in 2012, with over 800 major events worldwide causing an estimated \$130 billion in losses. Extreme droughts in the U.S. Midwest, severe heat waves in Europe, damaging floods in Thailand, and destructive storms along the east and west coasts of Australia and the Northeast United States—these are just a few of the extraordinary events over the past three years that foreshadow the challenges to come under changing climate conditions. Companies and their stakeholders—governments, employees, communities and customers—are increasingly concerned about the costs associated with more frequent and intense floods, droughts, hurricanes and wildfires.

This report, *Weathering the Storm*, provides an in-depth look at the ways multinational companies are beginning to assess and address the risks of extreme weather and other climate change impacts. The companies examined play strategic roles in the global economy in a wide range of sectors including banking and financial services, consumer goods, healthcare, information communications, manufacturing, and materials. Based on two complementary lines of research, the report provides a detailed snapshot of the state of resilience planning among a cross-section of global companies: how they perceive and talk publicly about their climate-related risks, the steps they are taking or planning to take, and the barriers that stand in their way. The research in this report also establishes a baseline that can be used to monitor risk management activities related to climate impacts over time. The full publication is available for download at <http://www.c2es.org/publications/weathering-storm-building-business-resilience-climate-change>.

PURE: Probability, Uncertainty and Risk in the Environment



**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT
RESEARCH COUNCIL**

PURE (Probability, Uncertainty and Risk in the Environment) is a new Knowledge Exchange Network and Research Programme. Its aim is to help to shape the direction of future research and provide valuable information to practitioners in environmental risk management.

The PURE action has two elements:

- PURE programme (the research programme), is a four year research programme which will run from 2012 until 2016. The aim of the programme is to improve the assessment and quantification of uncertainty and risk in natural hazards by developing new methods and demonstrating their applicability to enhance the uptake of natural hazards science. A consortium group will deliver the programme and will focus on the following priority hazards: flooding hazards; multi-phase fluid flow hazards such as avalanches, landslides, rockslides and pyroclastic flows; earthquake hazards; and hydro-meteorological non-flooding hazards such as storms, droughts and heat waves.; and
- PURE network (the research and knowledge exchange network), which will run for four years (2011-2015) to stimulate good practice guidance and the standardization of the assessment and quantification of uncertainty and risk across natural hazards science. The network will achieve this by bringing together researchers, industrialists and policy-makers through collaborative working and knowledge exchange. The network will help to shape the direction of future research and provide valuable information to practitioners in environmental risk management. The PURE network will also provide a vehicle for interaction with a wider business community to ensure that the research conducted by the PURE programme is a) relevant to business; b) disseminated to end-users within the UK and internationally; and c) makes use of relevant research in other areas of mathematics and other sectors of industry.

For further details on PURE, please visit <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/pure/overview>.

Call for Abstracts: 2015 Global Assessment Report



The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is issuing a Call for Abstracts as part of the development of the 2015 Global Assessment Report (GAR15). The GAR15 will be published prior to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, in which governments will adopt a successor framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The purpose of this Call for Abstracts is to encourage more research investigating the degree to which the HFA has been fit-for-purpose in affecting change in the management of disaster risk, and in so doing, contribute to both the formulation of the successor framework to the HFA (the HFA2), as well as the development of indicators for effectively measuring the impact of the forthcoming framework.

UNISDR seeks input papers to the 2015 Global Assessment Report (GAR15) that present research, oriented by indicator, addressing the following issues:

- What changes have been observed since the adoption of the HFA in 2005, and what has been the impact in terms of risk to society;
- To what degree has change been facilitated by the HFA or other emerging drivers of effective disaster risk management;
- Determine if the change was adequately captured by the indicator in its current form and if not propose an alternative impact indicator; and
- What elements will need to be developed for inclusion in the successor framework to the HFA.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 6 September, 2013. Abstracts should be 300 words or less and are to be submitted to gar15_HFA@un.org using the submission template available at <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/networks/private/hfa-thematic-review/>.

Event and Training Opportunities

First World Irrigation Forum & 64th International Executive Council Meeting of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (Mardin, Turkey; 29 September - 5 October, 2013)



World Water Forums (WWF) since 1996 have provided a continuum of opportunities for enabling multi-disciplinary discussions on elements of various challenges emerging due to increasing water scarcity. Over the years the forum has transformed into a grand platform bringing together more than 20000-30000 activists every three years from around the world that debate on these challenges and the lurking opportunities.

The increasing demand of water for domestic, industry and nature has put pressure for more efficient use of water in agriculture through better irrigation and drainage management. Now, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage through the platform of World Irrigation Forums (WIFs) aims at bringing together all the stakeholders concerned with agriculture water management to focus discussions on all the issues, which have failed to attract focussed attention at the WWF. WIFs are designed to supplement the efforts of WWFs and bring forward the views and concerns of the entire range of stakeholders from the field of agriculture water management including small holder farmers that would be the key to meet the future food insecurity challenges. Main theme of the 1st WIF is “Irrigation and Drainage in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Food Security.” One of the international workshops to be organized during the forum is “Developing Management Strategies for Coping with Drought and Water Scarcity”. It will cover the issue of: Quantification or categorization of drought; Predicting or forecasting drought; Drought management strategies under national, water management and end user levels; Implementation of strategies during real drought conditions; Effectiveness of strategies during real drought conditions, among others.

Please visit <http://www.worldirrigationforum.org/en/default.asp#.UiSKWFLfqUk> for more details on the conference.

7th International Water Association Specialist Conference on Efficient Use & Management of Water (Paris, France; 22-25 October, 2013)



During this difficult period where global economies are struggling, population growth is continuing to increase, formerly predictable water resource conditions are changing, and energy costs for supplying and treating drinking water and wastewater are rising, communities are facing tremendous challenges to meet the growing water demand in an affordable way.

The International Water Association's (IWA) 7th Specialist Conference on Efficient Use & Management of Water will present the experiences and accomplishments of recognized experts in different countries in improving water use efficiency and dealing with the challenges of drought. The agenda will include a wide range of topics related to policies and regulations, planning, efficient technologies, best management practices, alternative water resources, the water and energy nexus, climate change and drought adaptation, water loss and network management, and public involvement. The conference will also host an exhibition to showcase the latest water and energy-efficient products, services, and technologies.

Please visit <http://www.iwaefficient.com/2013/> for more details on the conference.

International Conference on Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience (Bremen, Germany; 24-25 February, 2014)



Dealing with climate change impacts is one of the great challenges of the 21st century and its importance is only just being discovered. The challenges arise from uncertainties in climate change and its impacts, from the long time-horizon, from regionally widely varying vulnerabilities, and from a lack in public awareness. Notwithstanding the challenges of adapting to climate change, the long time horizon

and the inherent uncertainties suggest to adopt a wider frame of reference for adaptation. When systems are redesigned to be adaptive to climate change, it seems wise to design them better adapted to uncertainty and surprise in general: i.e. to make them more resilient. It is under this context that *International Conference on Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Towards Climate Adapted and Resilient Regions* will be held in Bremen, Germany, on 24-25 February, 2014. The conference seeks to foster an exchange between the discourses on resilience and adaptation to climate impacts.

Over the past five years the transdisciplinary project nordwest2050 has developed methods, strategies and implemented projects to face changing climate conditions in northwestern Germany. Based on experience and findings from various actors involved (science, economy, politics and public administration) we arrange this conference to discuss regional methods and strategies as pathways to a resilient future. Therefore, a second stream of the conference will set the focus on regional adaption strategies and innovative solutions. The experience of nordwest2050 resulted in recommendations for regional decision makers summarized in the "Roadmap of Change" – a strategy plan for a climate-proof and resilient region. This Roadmap will also be presented during the conference.

For more information on the conference, including the registration procedure and the call for papers, please visit <http://clarr2014.nordwest2050.de/>.

Employment and Grant Opportunities

ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre Training and Technical Support – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand (Closing date: 5 September, 2013)



The New Zealand Aid Programme, acting for and on behalf of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), is inviting submissions of responses from suitably qualified organisations and experienced consultants to provide technical and training support to the Association of South East Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre.

The successful respondent is required to deliver a range of capacity building services in support of the AHA Centre over a two year period, helping the AHA centre to deliver on its objectives with cooperation and coordination within ASEAN to ultimately contribute to the goal of reducing disaster loss. The Organisation/Individual must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- disaster risk management
- humanitarian assistance
- polices in ASEAN and ASEAN member states
- design and delivery of capacity development and training
- disaster risk monitoring and analysis

Please visit <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/jobs/v.php?id=34423> for more information on the position including the application procedure.



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.

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.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/>

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>