



# Newsletter Africa Asia Drought Risk Management Peer Assistance Network

September 2016 Issue

## Special Topic

### WorldRiskReport / WorldRiskIndex



Every year the World Risk Report (WRR), published by the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security and

Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, features an update of the World Risk Index (WRI), which calculates the vulnerability and exposure of over 170 countries to natural hazards – i.e., cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods, and sea-level rise – and then ranks them based on their disaster risk.

Over the last few decades, the world has experienced an increasing number of catastrophic earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, storms and droughts. This trend is expected to continue as climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. As the number of disasters rises, it is crucial to analyze the spatial and temporal patterns of disaster risk and understand what is influencing them. The WRR and WRI were conceived as a way to better understand disaster risk and its underlying drivers. By looking not only at exposure but also at vulnerability, the WRI captures the global patterns of disasters in a quantitative manner to identify where and why disasters are most likely to occur. This information is then combined with a qualitative analysis of the key factors that lead to disasters.

In the previous issues of WRR and WRI, Southeast Asia, Central America, Oceania and the Southern Sahel are repeatedly cited as disaster risk hotspots. These regions consistently face higher disaster risk due to their high vulnerability and high exposure to natural hazards. Those who are prepared, who know what to do in the event of an extreme natural event, have a greater chance of survival. Countries that see natural hazards coming, that are preparing for the consequences of climate change and are providing the financial means required will be better prepared for the future. The WorldRiskReport should contribute to look at these links at a global level and draw future-oriented conclusions regarding assistance measures, policies and reporting.

WRR 2016 analyses the role that infrastructure plays in shaping a country's disaster risk. Please visit <http://weltrisikobericht.de/english/> for more information on WRR 2016 and past issues.

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### About AADP

[Africa-Asia Drought Risk Peer Assistance Network \(AADP\)](#) is a network established by [the 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

### The Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa



The African Drought Conference (ADC) on "Enhancing resilience to drought events on the African continent" concluded the 22nd August 2016 in Windhoek, Namibia, after adopting the Windhoek Declaration. The conference built on 11th Session of the Conference Of Parties (COP11) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which was held in September 2013.

The Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa adopted the Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa, which proposes a Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa (DRAPA) at the national level guided by the following six elements:

- Drought policy and governance for Drought Risk Management;
- Drought monitoring and early warning;
- Drought vulnerability and impact assessment;
- Drought mitigation, preparedness, and response;
- Knowledge management and drought awareness; and
- Reducing underlying factors of drought risk.

The full Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa is available for download at [http://www.droughtmanagement.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Windhoek-Declaration\\_Final-Adopted-by-ADC-15-19-August-2016.pdf](http://www.droughtmanagement.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Windhoek-Declaration_Final-Adopted-by-ADC-15-19-August-2016.pdf).

### African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa



On the occasion of the [Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development \(TICAD-VI\)](#), Japan International Cooperation Agency, together with partner countries and partner organizations, launched a new African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The major part of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions is desert or drylands and most of it is estimated to be degraded.

The regions are also affected by frequent severe droughts in recent years. The African Initiative aims to contribute to making nations and communities in the regions resilient to climate variabilities and change by:

- Building a network among stakeholders for combating desertification and strengthening resilience;
- Promoting sharing of knowledge and experiences on combating desertification; and
- Improving access to available international development finance to promote sustainable land management measures.

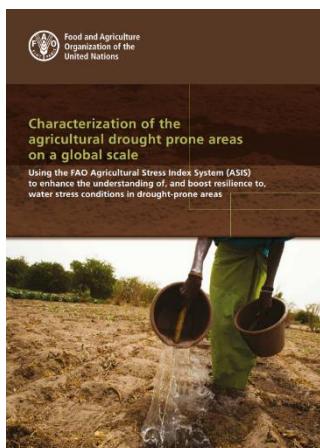
The initiative is also expected to contribute to peace and stability in the regions and globally at large.

For more information on this new African Initiative, please visit

[http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2016/c8h0vm0000a33e6v-att/160830\\_15.pdf](http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2016/c8h0vm0000a33e6v-att/160830_15.pdf).



## Characterization of the Agricultural Drought Prone Areas on a Global Scale: Using the FAO Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS) to Enhance the Understanding of, and Boost Resilience to, Water Stress Conditions in Drought-Prone Areas



Drought is one of the main causes of food insecurity. In 2011, the Horn of Africa (HoA) has faced the worst drought in 60 years. An estimated 12.4 million people suffered from a massive food shortage. This publication seeks to enhance the understanding of, and boost resilience to, water stress conditions in drought-prone areas, using the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS). In order to boost the resilience of livelihoods to threats arising from climate change, and especially drought events, it is primordial to identify drought-prone areas and their various characteristics and to dispose of timely and reliable information of the condition of food crops and grassland areas in all the world.

The study has generated records for subnational administrative units worldwide. Past drought events, with particular focus on the HoA region, were defined by severity and rate of recurrence, combined with environment, agricultural and socio-economic indicators. The study of the database's historical remote sensing data, combined with several other relevant indicators, may provide insights into the occurrence of future drought events. In addition, the final results can assist decision makers to better design the adaptation and mitigation plans.

The full report is downloadable at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5764e.pdf>.

## Integrated Drought Management Programme Video Series



Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) works with a wide range of partners with the objective of supporting stakeholders at all levels by providing them with policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management. IDMP partner, Global Water Partnership recently published new videos explaining the challenges of drought in different regions of the world as well as the integrated approach to drought management undertaken in these regions.

A new video on [Understanding and Contributing to Integrated drought management in West Africa](#) outlines how regional programme of the IDMP in West Africa assists in increasing the capacity and ability to manage droughts in the region by working in partnership with key drought management institutions and stakeholders in the region building on the network of the Country Water Partnerships. A video on [Drought in Central America](#) describes how drought affects all productive sectors and the welfare of the people in the region and explains the IDMP Central America initiative's contributions to strengthening the meteorologists capacities in the use of Standardized Precipitation Index in the quarterly climate forecast system and the distribution of the information.

For more information regarding the IDMP, please visit <http://www.droughtmanagement.info/>.



## Event and Training Opportunities

### First IFIP Conference on Information Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction (16-18 November, 2016; Sofia, Bulgaria)



The effects of disasters are very serious and the destruction caused may take a very long time to recover. Related damage is severe and it may cause relief expenses of billions of euros. With the increase of natural disasters that have occurred in the past years, it is expected their frequency will continue to increase in the coming years. In this context, the International Federation for Information Processing will organize the 1<sup>st</sup> IFIP Conference on Information Technology in Disaster Risk Reduction (ITDRR 2016).

ITDRR 2016 provides an international forum for researchers and practitioners to present their latest research and development findings and innovations. The conference is especially focused on the various aspects of Information Technology and challenges of coping with disaster risk reduction. ITDRR 2016 invites experts, researchers, academicians and all other who are interested to disseminate their work. The conference establishes an academic environment that fosters the dialogue and exchange of ideas between different levels of academic, research, business and public communities.

Please visit <http://itdr.unwe.bg/> for more information on ITDRR 2016.

## Positions and Grant Opportunities

### The Challenge Fund – GFDRR and DFID (Closing date: 15 September 2016)



After a successful first call last year that saw the funding of 15 projects, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) are pleased to announce a second call of the Challenge Fund. GFDRR and DFID's competitive Challenge Fund pilots new and innovative approaches to strengthen disaster and climate risk decision-making and overcome challenges to

availability and accessibility of risk information in developing countries. This Challenge Fund provides small grants to projects that help bridge the gap between technology and on-the-ground user needs in the field of disaster risk identification.

This year, challenges for the new call will be based on the outcomes of the report: Solving the Puzzle: Innovating to Reduce Risk. This report provides a disaster risk management community perspective on the priorities for collaboration and investment in the development and use of disaster risk information for developing countries. The call focuses on high-impact activities that will promote the creation and use of risk-related data, in addition to better understanding the needs of end users, as per the recommendations of the report. For more information on the Challenge Fund, including the application procedures, please visit <https://www.gfdr.org/the-challenge-fund>.





## 4<sup>th</sup> Global Call for Innovations – Securing Water for Food (Closing date: 10 October 2016)



Launched in 2013, Securing Water for Food (SWFF) aims to increase access to innovations that help farmers produce more food with less water, enhance water storage, and improve the use of saline water and soils to produce food. Over the previous three rounds of SWFF, the program has saved over 700 million liters of water, produced nearly 2,600 tons of food, and served more than 780,000 farmers and other customers in more than 25 low-resource countries.

Through this competition, SWFF anticipates disbursing \$7.5 million USD in award funding. Individual awards are expected to be between \$100,000 USD and \$2 million USD for the 4th Global Call for Innovations depending on the type of funding requested. This funding competition sources and accelerates innovations that will enable the production of more food with less water or make more water available for food production, processing, and distribution.

Please visit <http://securingwaterforfood.org/apply> for further details concerning the SWFF's 4th Global Call for Innovations.

## Land for Life Youth Social Media Activists Challenge: “Are You the ONE?” – UNCCD (Closing date: 31 October 2016)

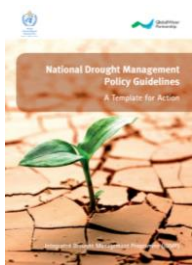


The Land for Life Youth Social Media Activists Challenge: “Are You the ONE?” campaign aims to recognize active, passionate and dedicated young people who are currently active in conserving natural resources and promoting such actions to their peers and local communities via social media. Winners' initiatives, stories, experience and /or challenges encountered, ideas or solutions will be communicated and highlighted through UNCCD's various

communication channels such as social media platforms and website.

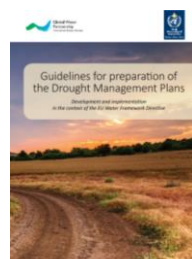
The campaign is open to people who are 16-40 years and belong to the group of young people that will play a decisive role in shaping the future, we welcome your application. It is an opportunity for individual and community projects / stories to get access to valuable networks and gain recognition from a worldwide audience. All young people who are actively working for environmental justice are encouraged to send their initiatives and stories in the form of short documentaries, short videos, pictures, short stories, artistic work.

For more information concerning the “Are You the ONE?” Youth Social Media Activists Challenge, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Event-and-campaigns/LandForLife/Pages/Youth-Social-Media-Activist---Are-you-the-ONE.aspx?HighlightID=471>.



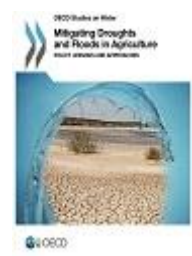
### National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (2014)

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/>  
 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>