



## THE AFRICAN DROUGHT RISK AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, January 2009

The African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN) is focused on promoting applied exchange of experience on key issues linking drought risk and development; providing a platform for the development and dissemination of good practice & tools; is a bridge to various resources & opportunities in Africa and beyond; and acts as a Forum for the elaboration of quality and policy relevant collective practice on drought risk management.

The ADDN is committed to adapting to the needs of stakeholders by making it easier to access information that will help proactively address the increasing threat of drought and the effects of climate change in the drylands of Africa. This electronic newsletter is one means of doing so and aims to bring current drought related issues in Africa to the table as well as generating discussion among interested stakeholders. The newsletter will be sent out monthly and will incorporate submissions from all interested parties. If you would like to contribute, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact Ira Frydman at [ira.frydman@undp.org](mailto:ira.frydman@undp.org).

The African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN) is sponsored by the secretariat of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Dryland Development Centre and United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

*(Please feel free to forward but also let us know if you would like to be taken off this list).*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### ***1. Special Topic: African Drought Adaptation Forum 3 Report***

It is our pleasure to present the Third African Drought Adaptation Forum Report. The Third African Drought Adaptation Forum was held 17th-19th September 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa. This three-day workshop was sponsored by the United Nations Development Program's Drylands Development Centre (UNDP-DDC), UN-International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) and the hosts the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). It brought together some 80 policy makers, government officials, UN agencies, donors, practitioners from local and international NGO's and CBO's, the media and applied researchers from around Africa, and the Arab states to exchange practical experiences, findings and ideas on how to adapt to the increasing threat of drought and climate change in the drylands of Africa.

The **special theme** this year was the significance of climate change to the challenge of development in the drylands of Africa: "Drought risk management as applied climate change adaptation for Africa". Additional themes covered included "Drought management as applied disaster risk reduction", Drought risk management tools for projects, programmes & policy", "Mainstreaming drought risk management good practice into projects and policy", and "The role of peer learning in mainstreaming drought good practice". These and other sub-themes enabled a comprehensive look at a multi-risk approach to management of drought cycles in

Africa and what modalities are needed to ensure that best practices on drought risk management are mainstreamed into development projects, programs and policies in Africa.

Several **key themes and messages** came as result of lively discussion at the Forum, which will help shape the future of the Forums and the ADDN:

- ✓ There is a need for better coordination and communication among development organizations, governmental bodies, CBO's, NGO's and practitioners.
- ✓ We are making strides in the area of adaptation but a focus on policy level changes need to happen if we are going to face the issues head on.
- ✓ We are still discussing the same issues we were talking about 20-30 years ago. We need to get to the root causes of our inadequacies.
- ✓ Reaction to drought emergencies needs to be quicker.
- ✓ There is a need to look at what indicators (early warning) are necessary in order to determine a drought. We have for far too long relied on physical evidence to satisfy donor organizations, but with the increasing risk a move towards predictive indicators seems like a necessary step. The question remains, do donors organizations need to see starving children to react?
- ✓ There is need to find alternative ways to network and share information.
- ✓ There is need for continued focus on innovative approaches to drought risk and climate change adaptation, as well as incorporating indigenous knowledge.
- ✓ There is a need to look at alternative way to help maintain dryland inhabitant's livelihoods.
- ✓ There is need for collaboration on drought management practices with National Governments.
- ✓ The need to clearly define current differences in terminology and concepts of drought.

To find out more about the African Drought Adaption Forum, please visit <http://www.undp.org/drylands/drought-workshop-08.html> to obtain the Report and access the presentations.

**Please click on item**

**Resources:**

2. [Livestock Early Warning System \(LEWS/LINKS\)](#)
3. [IRIN- A Gathering Storm: New climate change videos](#)
4. [Regional Enhanced Livelihoods in Pastoral Areas \(RELPA\)](#)
5. [Projet Stratégies d'adaptation pour des revenus durables en zones arides et semi-arides, Canada ASAL. \(Adaptive Strategies for Sustainable Livelihoods in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Project, Canada\).](#)
6. [Drought Management Initiative \(DMI\)](#)
7. [E - Alert: Namibia's Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Newsletter](#)
8. [Centre pour l'étude des zones arides et semi-arides du monde arabe \(ACSAD\). \(Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land \(ACSAD\)\).](#)

**Networking Opportunities:**

9. [Drylands Coordination Group \(DCG\)](#)
10. [Desertification Blog--All about drought, desertification and poverty in the drylands](#)
11. [CAPNET](#)

**Upcoming events**

12. [The 2009 International Conference on Climate Change sponsored by the Heartland Institute, \(March 2009\)](#)
13. [International Scientific Congress on Climate Change," Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions", 10-12 March 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark](#)

### ***Employment Opportunities***

14. [African Union Vacancy Announcement: Director, Rural Economy and Agriculture](#)
15. [AECOM International Development, Inc.: Water Resources Specialist--Southern Africa](#)
16. [Save the Children, USA: Advisor, Livelihoods – Africa \(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ethiopia\)](#)

## **2. LEWS/LINK**

Livestock market information is an integral part of early warning systems. It is helping track changes in terms of trade particularly with regard to comparing trends in grain marketing in order to identify potentially critical food shortage trends. LINKS is a Livestock Information Network and Knowledge System which provides regular livestock prices and volume information on most of the major livestock markets in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania along with information on forage conditions, disease outbreak, conflict and water supply to support decision making at multiple scales.

LINKS livestock market monitoring system is a mechanism through which collection; analysis and dissemination of information needed to help producers, middle men and traders are organized and systematized. This system provides near real time market information which is available on request via SMS text message system, email, WorldSpace radio systems and on the internet. LINKS is a sub-project within the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program (GL-CRSP) being implemented by Texas A&M University and funded by USAID.

To learn more about LEWS or the LINK project, please visit <http://lmistz.net/Pages/Public/Home.aspx>

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## **3. IRIN- A Gathering Storm: New climate change videos**

As the latest conference of the Framework Convention on Climate Change enters its final days, IRIN, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is pleased to announce the release of eight short videos on the human cost of climate change in Africa. Across Africa, the impact of climate change is already being felt. From frequent floods in Mozambique, to chronic drought in Lesotho and the Sahel, the human cost of changing weather is one of the top humanitarian threats.

But the picture is not all bad. Adaptation techniques, new and old, enable vulnerable communities not only to cope but to emerge stronger and more resilient. These eight short films, covering hot spots in Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mozambique and Senegal are the latest addition to our rolling coverage of climate change.

Visit our In Depth page, The Gathering Storm, to view these IRIN/UNEP videos and catch up on the rest of IRIN's climate change reporting. <http://www.irinnews.org/film>

Contact us at [feedback@irinnews.org](mailto:feedback@irinnews.org) with comments, requests for re-use of the videos or for help on your e-mail subscription.

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#### **4. RELPA**

The **Regional Enhanced Livelihoods in Pastoral Areas (RELPA) Program** is designed to increase household incomes and economic resiliency of the population living in the pastoral regions, reduce their requirements for emergency assistance, and set the conditions by which the pastoral areas of the Horn of Africa can participate in a broader process of social and economic development.

The RELPA Program will provide a bridge between emergency relief assistance and activities that promote economic development in pastoral areas. At the heart of this proposed Activity is a will on the part of donors, governments and the affected populations to change the paradigm of how the development challenge in arid and semi-arid areas is addressed.

To learn more about RELPA, please visit

<http://eastafrica.usaid.gov/en/Page.RelpaDocuments.aspx?draft=true>

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#### **5. *Projet Stratégies d'adaptation pour des revenus durables en zones arides et semi-arides, Canada ASAL. (Adaptive Strategies for Sustainable Livelihoods in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Project, Canada ASAL).***

ASAL est un projet de recherche de l'IISD mis en oeuvre en 1994-95 dans 5 pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne : Burkina Faso, Ethiopie, Kenya, Afrique du Sud, Zimbabwe.

Son propos était d'identifier comment le système de subsistance des communautés étudiées s'était adapté aux changements internes et externes des dernières décades. Les travaux se poursuivent avec la transmission des résultats auprès des communautés et des décideurs.

To learn more, please visit,

[www.iisd.org/casl/ASALProjectDetails/IISDProjectASAL.htm](http://www.iisd.org/casl/ASALProjectDetails/IISDProjectASAL.htm) or [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org)

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#### **6. *Drought Management Initiative (DMI)***

The Drought Management Initiative (DMI) is a European Commission-funded project aimed at improving capacities of drought management systems in Kenya. The four-year project is implemented within the framework of the Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP II), under the Ministry of State for the Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands. The project focuses on arid and semi-arid marginalized parts of the country and aims to facilitate the critical step from relief to preparedness for droughts to minimize their negative impact. DMI builds on ongoing activities of the ALRMP and the European Commission Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) funded projects for drought disaster reduction, preparedness and emergency.

To learn more about DMI, please visit <http://www.dmikenya.or.ke/index.php>

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## **7. *E - Alert: Namibia's Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Newsletter***

The UNDP has supported National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and capacity building efforts in Namibia since 2007 through the project “*Enhancing National and Local Capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery in Namibia*”

During this time a number of initiatives have been launched in the country through the proactive support of the Government of Namibia. This includes the development of the Namibia National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy; mainstreaming of DRR into the National Development Plan III of the Government of Namibia; Mainstreaming of DRR into school curriculum; Contingency Planning efforts at the regional and national level with the UN OCHA offices as well as efforts to sensitize the Media through the inaugural DRR – Media Partnership Workshop, apart from other activities.

The next issue of our newsletter will have substantive information on the National DRR initiatives in Namibia. So kindly look out for that edition of our newsletter.

In the meantime if you have any questions or queries, please contact the UNDP country office through [aseem.andrews@undp.org](mailto:aseem.andrews@undp.org)

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## **8. *Centre pour l'étude des zones arides et semi-arides du monde arabe (ACSAD). (Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Land (ACSAD)).***

L'ACSAD est un centre régional pour la recherche et l'étude du développement des zones arides et semi-arides du Monde Arabe. Ce centre a été mis en place compte tenu du fait que les zones arides et semi-arides constituent 90 % des terres du Monde Arabe. Ces terres sont caractérisées par des faibles rendements agricoles, des phénomènes de désertification, la détérioration et la pollution des ressources en eau, la décroissance de la biodiversité, ... Elles conservent cependant un fort potentiel productif qui peut être conservé et accru si l'on utilise pour leur exploitation des méthodes scientifiques et techniques.

To learn more about ACSAD, please visit [www.acsad.org/](http://www.acsad.org/)

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## **9. *Dryland Coordination Group (DCG)***

The Drylands Coordination Group (DCG) is a network driven by various non-governmental organizations on development issues in the dryland areas of Africa. DCG's approach is to share practical experiences between various institutions such as NGOs and CBOs, research institutions, and policy making institutions. The Drylands Coordination Group works on different themes regarding dryland areas as part of its mandate to contribute to improved food security of vulnerable households and sustainable natural resource management in the drylands of Africa. DCG's activities are regrouped under the following themes: agriculture, food security, pastoralism, water, and the UNCCD. The DCG activities, which are carried out by DCG members in Eritrea , Ethiopia , Mali and Sudan , aim to contribute to improved food security of vulnerable households in the drylands of Africa.

To learn more about DCG, please visit our website <http://www.drylands-group.org/>

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## **10. *Desertification Blog-All about drought, desertification and poverty in the drylands***

Everyone is looking for the same information, spending considerable time to find mostly the same articles, all of us reading these texts to see if their content is important enough, and if it is, to use that info for our own purposes. There is no general communication whatever between people interested in desertification, poverty, agriculture, horticulture and sustainable development. It does not suffice to send them the addresses of interesting websites, because not all the articles on that sites deal with dryland gardening, desertification, poverty, sustainable development or container gardening, so that we all have to start again searching and reading the content of the different sites. For these reasons, the Desertification blog was started by Willem, Romanus, Jozef Van Cotthem and is a great resource for those interested in communicating with others interested in desertification issues in the drylands.

To learn more about the Desertification blog, please visit <http://desertification.wordpress.com/>

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## **11. *CAPNET***

Cap-Net is a network addressing capacity building for sustainable management of water resources and it is therefore very relevant to drought. For several years we have been focusing on capacity building on water resources and the reforms necessary to take on board a more integrated approach as embodied in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

New training materials are developed with our partner networks in different regions of the world together with international experts. More recently we have been working on improving water management practices on the ground and have developed training materials and programmes for River Basin Organizations, IWRM planning, Conflict resolution, Economic and financial instruments and others. These are available on our web site <http://www.cap-net.org/databases/training-materials>.

Water, or rather the lack of it, is clearly the initiator of drought. Drought management must start with prevention and amelioration while coping with drought usually has to consider supply of alternative emergency water resources therefore water resource management is a fundamental consideration when discussing drought.

Recently Cap-Net with the Kenyan branch of our partner network Nile IWRM-net has been developing training materials on management of hydro climatic disasters which includes drought. This new package will be available within the next two months so check our web site or contact [info@cap-net.org](mailto:info@cap-net.org) or [wangai@batimentltd.com](mailto:wangai@batimentltd.com) if you are interested.

We are looking for other resource materials on drought management that addresses water so if you have any of these to share then please get in touch with us at [info@cap-net.org](mailto:info@cap-net.org). We look forward to more engagement with this important subject especially as it is expected to be a significant impact of climate change.

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## ***12. The 2009 International Conference on Climate Change sponsored by the Heartland Institute***

The 2008 International Conference of Climate Change will take place on March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2009 in New York City, USA. The 2009 International Conference on Climate Change will serve as a platform for scientists and policy analysts from around the world who question the theory of man-made climate change. This year's theme, "Global Warming Crisis: Cancelled," calls attention to new research findings that contradict the conclusions of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

Hosting the conference for the second consecutive year will be The Heartland Institute, a 24-year-old national nonpartisan think tank based in Chicago. "All of the event's expenses are being covered by individual and foundation donors to Heartland," said Dan Miller, executive vice president of the institute. "No corporate dollars earmarked for the event were solicited or accepted."

The 2008 conference featured presentations by more than 100 prominent scientists and economists from the U.S. and around the world, including Dr. Robert Balling (Arizona State University), Dr. Stanley Goldenberg (NOAA), Dr. William Gray (Colorado State University), Dr. Yuri Izrael (IPCC), Dr. Patrick Michaels (University of Virginia), Dr. Paul Reiter (Institut Pasteur, Paris), Dr. S. Fred Singer (Science and Environmental Policy Project), Dr. Willie Soon (Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics), and Dr. Roy Spencer (NASA).

To learn more about the conference, please visit <http://www.heartland.org/events/NewYork09/newyork09.html>



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### ***13. International Scientific Congress on Climate Change,” Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions”, 10-12 March 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark***

The University of Copenhagen is hosting an international scientific congress on climate change under the heading "Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions", 10-12 March 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The congress is organised in cooperation with nine other universities in the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU).

The main aim of the congress is to provide a synthesis of existing and emerging scientific knowledge necessary in order to make intelligent societal decisions concerning application of mitigation and adaptation strategies in response to climate change.

CIFOR is involved in organizing the parallel session “The role of forests in mitigating climate change.” The session will accommodate approximately 12 presenters, with additional poster presentations.

We are now soliciting submission of abstracts for those interested in presenting at this session. Please send in your abstract by September 15th. Abstracts will be reviewed and you will be notified of your selection by the end of October.

Further information about the congress can be found on the event website:

<http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

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### ***14. African Union Vacancy Announcement: Director, Rural Economy and Agriculture***

The African Union (AU) established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa’s rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing new partnerships worldwide. Its headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

In seeking to achieve this objective, the African Union Commission (AUC) intends to strengthen its capacity to deliver, among others, the implementation of its new organizational structure by filling up vacant posts.

The Commission, therefore, invites applicants who are citizens of the Member States of the African Union to apply for the position of **Director, Rural Economy and Agriculture**. The Department of Rural economy and Agriculture is responsible for Pan African strategies, policies and programmes of cooperation, development and integration in the fields of Rural Development, Natural Resources, Environment, Agriculture and Food Security.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.africa-union.org/root/UA/Emploi/2009/17fev/Director-REA-English.doc>



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***15. AECOM International Development, Inc.: Water Resources Specialist--Southern Africa***

AECOM International Development Inc. (AECOM) is a global economic and infrastructure development firm providing higher living standards in emerging markets through provision of high-quality, technical advisory services to governments and the private sector.

AECOM works in the areas of economic growth, environment and regional development, industrial and commercial area development, democracy and governance, humanitarian response and stabilization, and infrastructure and facilities

AECOM seeks a Water Resources Specialist for the USAID-funded Southern Africa Regional Environment Program (SAREP) which will increase cooperation and management of trans-boundary river basins and ensure the protection of biodiversity and improved access to water supply and sanitation. The project will commence in 2009 with a three (3) year base period and a two (2) year option period.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.devex.com/jobs/water-resources-specialist-southern-africa>

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***16. Save the Children, USA: Advisor, Livelihoods – Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ethiopia)***

Save the Children, the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the U.S. and around the world, is seeking an experienced professional to support its work to strengthen the economic viability and food security of poor families in Africa. Based (preferably) in Ethiopia, the Advisor will play a major role in developing, implementing, and representing Save the Children's Livelihoods strategy in Africa. He/she will lead the design and implementation of projects that contribute to the growth of income and assets at the household level; identify opportunities and develop winning proposals; and assist our Country Offices in further developing the capacity of local staff and communities to improve the livelihoods outcomes of vulnerable households with children.

Please visit our Career Website at <http://www.savethechildren.org/careers/index.asp> and apply online to position # 3847. EOE M/F/D/V