



THE AFRICAN DROUGHT RISK AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the African Drought Risk and Development Network (ADDN) Newsletter. The 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.

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).

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1. The Third African Drought Adaption Forum (ADAF3)

The ADDN recognizes the need for exchange of practical experience on managing the risk of drought within and across the sub regions of Africa.

The Third annual African Drought Adaptation Forum of the ADDN was held 17th-19th September 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa. This three-day workshop was sponsored by UNDP-DDC, UN-ISDR, and the hosts the UN 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, methods and ideas on how to adapt to the increasing threat of drought and effects of climate change in the drylands of Africa.

Please find links to presentations, proceedings, background primer on climate change adaptation and other documents at www.undp.org/drylands/drought-workshop-08.html.

2. The ECA Drought Initiatives Review

Within the framework of its mandate, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is increasing the emphasis of its work on climate change, an emerging considerable challenge that threatens to derail progress in achieving the MDGs and sustainable development in Africa. Indeed, projected impacts of climate change in Africa include increase in droughts, floods and other extreme events, which would exacerbate the stress on water resources, agriculture, food security, human health, and infrastructure, and thereby constrain development. Such threats are compounded by the low adaptive capacity of the continent, which features among the poorest regions of the world that will likely be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change.

To address the related challenge, ECA has been working with other continental institutions, within the framework of the Joint Secretariat of the African Union Commission (AUC), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to develop appropriate climate change response policy and intervention agenda for the Africa region. In this regard the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) is being established and ClimDev-Africa Programme has been developed. The overall goal of these two initiatives is to contribute to poverty reduction through successful mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Africa and to improve the capacity of African countries to participate effectively in multilateral climate negotiation.

To learn more about the ECA Drought Initiative, please visit http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/drought/index.htm.

3. Sahel Re-greening Initiative (SRI)

A Sahel Re-greening Initiative (SRI) is currently being developed by national and international NGOs together with research institutions. They will cooperate closely with relevant ministries (in particular Agriculture and Environment). In each participating Sahel country (at present Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) *a national alliance of NGOs and other partners* is created. All partners in the national alliances will jointly promote the protection and management of on-farm natural regeneration by farmers. *An international alliance of NGOs and research institutions* has been created to support the national alliances.

Please contact Chris Reij at cp.reij@dienst.vu.nl for more information.

4. Comité Permanent Inter-états De Lutte Contre La Sécheresse Dans Le Sahel (CILSS)

Le mandat ou l'objectif général qui guide l'action du CILSS est de s'investir dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire et dans la lutte contre les effets de la sécheresse et de la désertification, pour un nouvel équilibre écologique au Sahel à travers :

- . La formulation, l'analyse, la coordination et l'harmonisation des stratégies et politiques ;
- . Le renforcement de la coopération scientifique et technique ;
- . La collecte, le traitement et la diffusion des informations ;
- . Le renforcement des capacités des différents acteurs, y compris le secteur privé ;
- . La capitalisation et la diffusion des expériences et acquis ;
- . L'accompagnement dans la mise en œuvre des stratégies, politiques et programmes.

To learn more about CILSS, please visit <http://www.cilss.bf/index.php>

5. UNFCCC CRIC, Istanbul

The seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) was held in Istanbul, Turkey back to back with the First Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), from 3 to 14 November 2008, at the invitation of the Government of Turkey.

The CRIC focused on three methodological blocks, i.e. presentations and discussions on multi-year programmes of work prepared for the secretariat, the GM, Joint Work Programme between both organizations, the CRIC and the CST. Secondly, reporting issues were tabled to CRIC 7 participants, in order to elicit additional input for the ongoing work of the secretariat in drafting new guidelines. Thirdly, presentation and discussion on future format of CRIC sessions ensured coherence between reporting guidelines that formed the substantive basis of discussions during CRIC sessions.

To learn more about UNFCCC and the CRIC event in Istanbul, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric7/menu.php>

6. FAO-SWALIM-Drought Assessment Methodology for Somalia

FAO-SWALIM stands for Somalia Water and Land Information Management, and the name says it all; it is an information management unit serving Somali administrations, non-governmental organizations, development agencies and UN organizations engaged in assisting Somali communities whose lives depend directly on water and land resources. One and a half decades of civil strife in Somalia have resulted in the loss or damage of most of the water- and land-related information collected in the previous half century. By producing baseline information, assessing natural resources, searching for existing information sources around the world, SWALIM is recovering as much of lost data as possible. The project is also re-establishing data collection networks in collaboration with partner agencies, to facilitate better assessment of rainfall, river flow, groundwater resources, land characteristics, degradation and land suitability as well as improving flood warning and flood management.

On 26th and 27th June 2008 in Nairobi, SWALIM held a workshop on drought assessment with an overall objective of building on existing methodologies to develop a simple methodology for assessing droughts in Somalia. The workshop was attended by drought assessment experts working in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in the Greater Horn of Africa and other parts of the world.

To learn more about the drought assessment methodology for Somalia, please visit www.faoswalim.org/highlights/read_highlight.php?id=16.

7. Sécheresse-Informations et ressources scientifiques sur le développement des zones arides et semi-arides

Le site Sécheresse, consacré à la sécheresse et au développement des zones aride et semi-aride, est destiné aux chercheurs, enseignants, développeurs,... toutes personnes du Nord et du Sud concernées par le devenir de ces zones.

Sécheresse s'est donné une double mission :

- faciliter la communication et les échanges d'information entre les partenaires,
- mettre à disposition des informations générales, scientifiques et techniques, et en particulier une base de données bibliographique.

Sécheresse vise à mettre en place un vecteur de communication moderne et d'excellence s'appuyant sur deux supports, l'écrit et l'électronique, à travers trois pôles :

- une revue papier,
- une revue électronique,
- un site Internet, oeuvrant dans la complémentarité et se soutenant mutuellement. L'objectif est de faire entrer de plein pied le thème du développement des zones aride et semi-aride dans le monde de la communication du 21^e siècle et de contribuer ainsi à consolider dans les pays du Sud une réelle expertise nationale mieux à même de concevoir, prendre en charge et maîtriser un développement durable soucieux de l'avenir des plus démunis.

To learn more about Sécheresse, please visit
http://www.secheresse.info/article.php3?id_article=18

8. Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

From early 2000, various agencies and individuals involved in livestock relief work began to question the quality and professionalism of their interventions. For example, inputs such as emergency veterinary care often arrive too late to be of any value and when delivered to people free-of-charge, undermine local service providers. In these situations, although some animals may have been saved in the short-term, the capacity of local services to provide more long-term support is damaged by the relief response. These kinds of problems are compounded because donors and NGOs often lack in-house livestock expertise and decisions on livestock programming are made without professional input.

The LEGS process brings these and other initiatives together to produce a single set of international standards and guidelines for livestock emergency interventions.

For an update on the LEGS process please visit www.livestock-emergency.net/

9. IMAWESA Workshop- The 3rd Regional Conference on AWM in ESA

The Improved Management of Agricultural Water in Eastern and Southern Africa (IMAWESA) is a regional knowledge management network supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) and ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), while supervisory support is provided by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The coordinating office is based within ICRISAT in Nairobi, Kenya. The Goal of IMAWESA is to enable poor producers in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa increase their incomes through improved management of agricultural water. The Purpose is to enhance the development impacts of public and private investments in smallholder agricultural water management in the region.

The 3rd Regional Conference on Agricultural Water Management (AWM) in Eastern and Southern Africa was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15-19th September 2008. The Conference was organized under the auspices of IMAWESA together with partners ICRISAT, ASARECA, IFAD, UNOPS, UNECA, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Gates Foundation, World Bank Institute and IWMI. The conference is bringing together about 150 delegates in addition to 17 farmers.

To learn more about IMAWESA and to find the workshop report, please visit
www.asareca.org/imawesa

10. Drynet

Due to current climatic changes and destructive land use, land is degrading faster than ever, increasing the surface area of drylands and deserts around the globe. Fourteen civil society organisations from all over the world (Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe) have started working together to combat land degradation in an EU-funded project called **Drynet**.

Drynet's aim is to strengthen civil society networks with the right knowledge and visibility to influence dryland development policies.

Drynet recognises that desertification and land degradation are major economic, social and environmental problems for many countries around the world. The project is based on an integrated approach to the problem, emphasising action to promote sustainable development at the community level and linking it to policy level.

To learn more about Drynet, please visit <http://www.dry-net.org/>
Newsletter: http://www.dry-net.org/uploaded_files/Global_Newsletter_October_3.pdf

Please contact drynet@bothends.org for more information

11. UN-ISDR Highlights

UN-ISDR aims at building disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster reduction as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

To see what has been happening at UN-ISDR please visit <http://www.unisdr.org/> to access the UN-ISDR Highlights newsletter.

To read UN-ISDR *Drought Risk Reduction Framework and Practices*, please visit http://www.unisdr.org/eng/about_isdr/isdr-publications/10-drought-risk-reduction/drought-risk-reduction.pdf

12. The Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP)

The Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP) is a regional network of National Rainwater Associations (NRWA) from the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) countries. The partnership was formally established in March 2001 and current members of GHARP are: Ethiopia Rainwater Harvesting Association (ERHA), Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA), and Rainwater Association of Somalia (RAAS), Rainwater Association of Tanzania (RHAT) and Uganda Rainwater Association (URWA). The GHARP Secretariat is hosted by KRA in Nairobi, Kenya. Legally, GHARP operates under the auspices of KRA and the KRA Governing Board oversees its activities on behalf of the Governing Council.

The vision is that “all people in the Greater Horn of Africa have sustainable quality livelihoods” and their mission is to facilitate the adoption of appropriate development approaches through: promotion of integrated rainwater harvesting & management systems and complementary technologies; institutional strengthening of member associations and stakeholders; capacity building of target community organizations (CBOs); awareness creation, sensitization and advocacy; information documentation, dissemination & experience sharing;; networking, partnership & collaboration; and research, demonstration & technology development

To learn more about GHARP, please visit www.gharainwater.org

13. The World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP)

Based at the ESARO Office in Kenya the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) is a Global Knowledge Network and advocacy programme aimed at enabling pastoralists to sustainably manage rangeland resources.

It's widely recognized that sustainable livestock husbandry is essential for the effective use of many rangeland environments, but failure to support pastoralists in this regard has resulted in their impoverishment and in unsustainable development. WISP therefore builds capacities to advocate for greater recognition of sustainable pastoral development as a means to reduce poverty and manage the environment. It aims to boost knowledge by promoting partnership between pastoralists, governments, Non Governmental organizations, International Organizations and the private sector and by sharing best practices within the development and environment sectors. WISP works in a consultative manner through global, regional and national catalytic partnerships aiming to ensure that appropriate policies, legal mechanisms and support systems are established to enhance the economic, social and ecological sustainability of the pastoral livelihood system. WISP also constitutes a global network of over 1200 members drawn from pastoralists, pastoral organizations, the UN, NGOs, donors and interested individuals and sends out a monthly newsletter (WISPnet).

To subscribe to the monthly WISPnet newsletter please contact: Hershil.Shah@iucn.org.
For more information please visit our website: www.iucn.org/wisp