



Programme

Strengthening technological capacities and information access for improving disaster risk reduction in the Horn of Africa

Wednesday 22 – Thursday 23 January 2014

In Nairobi, Kenya

The Horn of Africa faces multiple challenges from natural hazards, particularly relating to too little or too much rainfall, but also including seismic activity. Hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity, in part due to the changing climate, and are compounded into disasters by the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development. Building capacity and institutional strengthening at the regional level across the Horn to reduce the adverse effects of such events is fundamental for long-term human security and sustainable development.

The human cost of such hazards and disasters has been lessened by the innovative use of technology, including, among others, the use of forecasting and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS). GIS uses and analyses geographic data to address many issues including environmental concerns.

Continued capacity building work by organisations such as the UN Institute for Training and Research and its Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR/UNOSAT) can strengthen regional capabilities of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its member states in building resilience and better protecting vulnerable communities.

This conference will facilitate a dialogue between countries in the Horn of Africa (including IGAD Member States) about the use of technological applications and information, and access to it, to strengthen overall capacity for DRR and disaster response in the region. It will explore how technology can play a greater role in informing policy, based on rigorous information and relevant evidence.

The aim for the conference is to better inform and equip key stakeholders (including decision makers and experts) to work collaboratively on regional Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects in the Horn of Africa through improved use and sharing of technology and information.



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Specific objectives include:

- share best practices and innovative approaches in using science and technology to support DRR at the regional level;
- enhance regional capacity and collaboration in DRR through the use of technologies and improved dissemination of information;
- encourage greater investments and stronger political commitment for regional action in DRR;
- create new professional networks amongst policy makers, technical experts, civil society, media and other international organisations who are working on DRR and technological applications across the Horn of Africa.

This IGAD event is implemented in partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Wilton Park.

Wednesday 22 January

0830

Registration and tea/coffee

0900-1030

Opening ceremony

Welcome

Ms Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Dr Einar Bjørge

Manager, United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

Ms Hilde Solbakken

Minister Counsellor and Chargé d’Affairs, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Nairobi

Dr Hussein Farah

Director General, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Nairobi

HE Eng Ambassador Mr Mahboub Maalim

Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Keynote Speech

Dr Wilbur Ottichilo

Member of Parliament, Emuhaya Constituency, Government of Kenya, Nairobi

Guest of Honour

Professor Judi Wakhungu

Cabinet Secretary, Ministry for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Government of Kenya, Nairobi

(represented on the day by Mr David Jakaiti, Director of Administration)

1030-1100

Group photograph and tea/coffee

1100-1200

1. Building resilience to natural hazards and disaster risk in the Horn of Africa: challenges and opportunities

How is resilience being built across the Horn of Africa at the local, national and regional levels? What are the challenges and barriers to increasing resilience? What is working well? How is the use of technology in disaster prevention and response enabling

resilience? How can DRR approaches be shared across the region and scaled up?

Chair: Professor Laban A Ogallo

Director, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), Nairobi

Professor Kassim Farah

Director of Research and Publications, Kenya Red Cross Society, Nairobi

Statements from IGAD Member States

1200-1300

2. Assessing trends in natural disasters in the Horn of Africa and the economic context and costs

What are the trends of natural hazards and disasters in East Africa? What impact is climate change having and what impact is it likely to have in the future? What are the effects of disasters on different economic sectors? How is DRR being done in other sectors such as agriculture, health, water management to increase resilience? How can best practice in DRR be applied in different economic sectors? What are some sector-specific applications in building resilience?

Speakers (10 mins each) followed by round-table discussion

Chair: Ms Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Ms Sharon Rusu

Head, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Nairobi

Mr Luca Alinovi

Representative and Officer in Charge of the Somalia Programme, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Nairobi

1300-1415

Lunch

1415-1530

3. The value of using science and technology to reduce the impact of disasters

What role is science and technology (S&T) playing in DRR planning and disaster response? What impact can information derived from S&T have on increasing resilience? What is the role of S&T for early warning? How might emerging technologies in forecasting, modelling and mapping mitigate the risks? What do the users need? What are the opportunities to policy makers in adopting S&T? What challenges in reliance on S&T for DRR?

Speakers (10 mins each) followed by round-table discussion

Chair: Dr Gordon Wayumba

Chairman, Department of Geospatial Science and Engineering, Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi

Professor Virginia Murray

Member, Science and Technical Committee, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR); Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, Public Health England, London

Dr Elijah Mukhala

Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, Regional Office for Africa, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Nairobi

1530-1600

Tea/coffee

1600-1715

4. Application of technology in capacity building for DRR

How to best strengthen capacity building in GIS, remote sensing and crowd sourcing technologies to reduce the risk of disasters (both natural and human) in the Horn of Africa? Where is the value-added of capacity development in both planning and response activity? How best to proliferate the use of geospatial technologies in the region? How can policy makers maximise the application of such technologies?

Speakers (10 mins each) followed by round-table discussion

Chair: Dr Tesfaye Beshah

Coordinator, Knowledge and Information Management, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Mr Denis Macharia Muthike

SERVIR Africa Disaster Lead, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Nairobi

Mr Luca Dell'Oro

Specialist, United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

Mr Eugene Kayijamahe

Thematic Expert, ICPAC/MESA Project, Nairobi

1715-1830

5. Meeting the needs of the 'user': interpreting the science and technologies and communicating for impact

How best to interpret scientific and technological information? How to use this in policy and decision-making? How to share this knowledge? Who should do the communicating – governments, NGOs, regional organisations? How to build up capacity at the community level and ensure scientific and technical information about DRR can be used by local governments and communities? What role for government Ministries? What is the role of the media?

Speakers (10 mins each) followed by round-table discussion

Chair: Dr Debalkew Berhe Tedla

Programme Manager, Environment Protection, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Climate information users profile

Mr Malanding Jaiteh

Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University, New York

Utilising media

Mr Patrick Luganda

Chief Executive Officer, Farmers Media Link Centre; Chair, Network Climate Journalists in the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA), Kampala

Integrating indigenous knowledge

Dr Gilbert Ouma

Senior Lecturer, Department of Meteorology, The Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation, University of Nairobi, Nairobi

1900

Reception drinks by the Garden Pond followed by conference dinner (starting at 1930) in the marquee beside the Garden Pond.

Dinner speakers

Dr Abou Amani

Senior Water Science Programme Specialist and Regional Hydrologist for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Nairobi

Dr Alain Gachet

President and Chief Executive, Radar Technologies International (RTI), Nimes

Thursday 23 January

0900-0930

Reflections

Participant-led reflections on previous day's discussions

0930-1100

6. Science and technology success stories from Africa and globally (Part I)

Where have S&T led approaches to DRR been most successful? What has created that success? What lessons can be learnt? What have been the barriers and challenges for further implementation, proliferation and scale-up of such approaches? How might such blocks and challenges be overcome?

Speakers (10 mins each) followed by discussion

Chair: Ms Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Dr Hussein Farah

Director General, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Nairobi

Dr Richard Graham

Manager, Africa Climate Prediction, Meteorological Office, Exeter

Mr Charles Agono Mona

Director, Geographic Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing and Cartography, National Bureau of Statistics, Juba

Dr Maëlle Aubert

Remote Sensing Expert and Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst, United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

1100-1130

Tea/coffee

1130-1230

7. Science and technology success stories from Africa and globally (Part II)

Chair: Ms Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Thai flooding

Dr Peeranan Towashiraporn

Department Head, Disaster Risk Assessment and Monitoring (DRAM), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok

Vietnam

Dr Ngo Tien Giang

Researcher on Agriculture Meteorology, Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IMHEN), Hanoi

1230-1330

Lunch

1330-1445

8. How to ensure synergy between the various initiatives in the Horn of Africa

Understanding the connections between different initiatives. What are the benefits from greater synergies between these initiatives? How could that work?

Introduction in plenary followed by smaller working groups

Chair: Dr Einar Bjørge

Manager, United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

Plenary introduction

Dr Tesfaye Beshah

Coordinator, Knowledge and Information Management, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Discussion group facilitators

Mr Frank Turyatunga

Regional Coordinator, Africa, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi

Dr Debalkew Berhe Tedla

Programme Manager, Environment Protection, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

Mr Chucri Sayegh

Adviser, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Djibouti

Ms Lauriane Allard

Junior Short Term Expert, Water Resources Management, Inland Water Resources Management Programme (INWRMP), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

1445-1515

Tea/coffee

1515-1630

9. Building regional collaborations: feedback, conclusions and commitments

What more can be done at regional level? What is the role of IGAD and how can it be strengthened? How to make this happen? What are the ways forward?

Feedback from the working groups, followed by wrap-up discussion to summarise key recommendations and conclusions. Participants have a chance to commit to future action.

Chair:

Dr Einar Bjørge

Manager, United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva

Closing remarks:

Professor Laban A Ogallo

Director, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), Nairobi

1630 onwards

Participants depart