

AFRICA SPOTLIGHT

UNISDR AFRICA E-PUBLICATION

Africa Working Group agrees on way forward to implement the regional strategy to reduce disasters in Africa



Panelists (from left) Samuel Okello, Kisumu Mayor, Haile G. Abebe, Director, AUC Rural Economy and Agriculture, Helena Molin Valdes, UNISDR Deputy Director, Mohammed Ali, Assistant Minister, Ministry of State for Special Programmes --Kenya) during the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) held in Nairobi. Photo credit/ UNISDR Africa

Nairobi, 29-31 March

Over 70 representatives of African, Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), specialised entities, National Platform representatives (one per region), UN regional offices, donors, civil society, academia, representatives of local governments attended the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR). The delegates agreed to accelerate the implementation of the extended programme of action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015), in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). The meeting took place after the Executive Council of the African Union had endorsed the recommendations of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in April 2010, where it also endorsed the extended programme of action. The meeting also drafted the Africa position paper to be presented to the [Global Platform for Disaster Reduction](#) to be held on 8-13 May 2011 in Geneva.

[Read more...](#)

Also available
[Report of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk](#)

Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

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More cities in Africa commit to urban resilience

Nairobi, Kenya 29-31 March -- Four cities - Addis Ababa, Kampala, Narok and Yaoundé - joined the Making Cities Resilience campaign after their mayors took part in a debate on city resilience which was moderated by top Kenyan journalist Yvonne Okwara. Panelists pointed out poor planning, corruption, and “negative attitudes” as elements that could erode city resilience. By signing up to the campaign, participating mayors commit to implementing a set of ten action points for building resilience in cities.

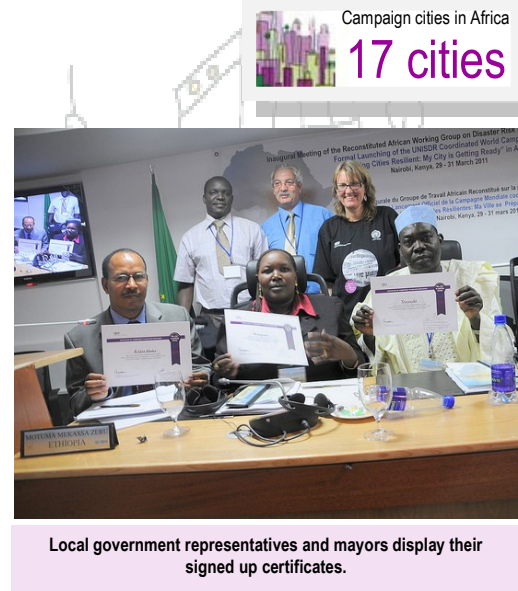
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Mobilising African leadership in local climate action

Cape Town, South Africa February 2011--Entebbe, (Kampala) Swakompund, Walvis Bay (Namibia) and Nioru Du Rip (Senegal) joined the campaign during the ICLEI coordinated Congress “Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011” coordinated by ICLEI in partnership with UNISDR among other partners. The five day congress focused, among other issues, on local action for climate adaptation and resilience in the context of Africa’s cities. The Congress served as preparation for Africa’s local and sub -national authorities and their partners for participation in the South African-hosted climate change summit, 2012.

[Read more...](#)

For more information about the campaign visit:
www.unisdr.org/campaign



Local government representatives and mayors display their signed up certificates.



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Regional update

Africa affirms its strong political commitment to the UN General Assembly debate disaster risk reduction



9 Feb 2011, New York -- Dr. Haile G. Abebe, Director of Africa Union Commission (AUC) Rural Economy and Agriculture, stressed on the strong political commitment Africa has devoted to DRR. Dr Abebe was speaking during the UN General Assembly on DRR in the panel session on investing on disaster reduction. He mentioned in particular the second African Ministerial Declaration on DRR held in April 2010 in Nairobi as a clear indicator to this commitment. He also called upon development and humanitarian partners to ensure that disbursement of one percent (1%) of development assistance and ten percent (10%) of humanitarian assistance, supports disaster risk reduction.

[Read more](#)

Climate change adaptation and risks management for sustainable development in East Africa

Arusha, Tanzania 1-4 March -- UNISDR participated in the workshop on climate change adaptation in support of climate risk management and sustainable development for policy makers in the Greater Horn of Africa sub-region. During this workshop, UNISDR informed on its regional initiatives in DRR and its EAC initiatives towards DRR integration into its programmes and processes. The workshop was preceded by the 27th GHACOF Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) in Arusha on 28 February. The one day event brought together the seven IGAD countries plus the three East Africa Community (EAC) countries of Burundi, Rwanda, and Tanzania which are under the ICPAC mandates. The forecast for the long rain season of March, April and May was released during this forum.

Related articles

[EAC climate change adaptation initiatives](#)

Communication plan drafted to advocate for resilience in Central Africa

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) has developed an elaborate Media Communication Plan as a road map to advocate for resilience in Central Africa. 'Africa 24', 'Tele-Congo' and 'Gabon Television - RTG1' are targeted for the project which will consist of a bi-weekly intervention in the televisions by at least one expert, and the coverage of ECCAS activities. Two media communications in the form of Round Table discussions at the Gabon Television were held to address environmental issues in Central Africa sector. UNISDR, through its advisor in ECCAS seized the opportunity to inform of the strategy, programmes and activities to implement DRR, including the ECCAS partnership with the UNISDR, the African Regional Strategy and the Hyogo Framework of Action.

Related articles

[UNISDR signs agreement with ECCAS to strengthen collaboration on DRR](#)

ECOWAS and UNISDR strengthen National Platforms for disaster risk reduction in West Africa

Gambia, 15-17 March -- The Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission undertook several assessment missions to various member states between 2008 and 2010 in order to evaluate the functionality of existing DRR national platforms. The results of these assessments show that in many other countries, substantive progress has been made but are still need stronger support to move their DRR agenda forward. Against this, a conference was held to strengthen DRR institutional framework, through awareness and sensitization of major actors/stakeholders in the Gambia. The conference provided opportunity for the Gambia to establish a Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform.

Related articles

[National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction launched](#) (news story)

[ECOWAS policy for DRR](#)

Progress made in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2009-2011 and drought risk reduction project

Three countries in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda have made remarkable progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action since signing it in 2005. The three countries are following the roadmap to achieve stronger resilience of their communities towards the impact of natural disasters especially droughts and floods. Pastoralists are among the most vulnerable communities in these countries, mostly affected by droughts and therefore are the special focus of government policies and development plans. The three countries have national coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction/management (DRR/DRM) in place, which are based within the Prime Minister's Office in Uganda, Office of the President in Kenya and within the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia and have drafted DRM policies which are expected to be approved and enacted within 2011.

These countries are also developing drought early warning bulletins for regular dissemination to DRM practitioners and end users. It should be noted that the existing efforts and successes will continue and strengthen, thanks to the ongoing project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) on drought risk reduction in the Horn of Africa to further strengthen the national platforms in the three countries, develop national disaster loss databases, enhance the capacities of the meteorological services in drought early warning and link national level to local level activities of project partners such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Regional Livelihoods Advocacy Project ([REGLAP](#)) Consortium among other partners.

ACMAD and UNISDR to build Africa regional partnership between climate scientists and disaster risk managers

The African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) and the UN International Strategy Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) are in a dialogue to join forces to integrate climate science into disaster risk management programmes. The partnership aims to provide climate services that are better tailored to each user, in an effort to boost disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, preparedness and recovery.

Related link: [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

UNISDR joins OCHA to 'Ending drought emergencies in Kenya'

Nairobi, Kenya April -- UNISDR Africa is venturing into a two year awareness campaign coordinated by OCHA Kenya and the Government of Kenya to address the long and severe La Nina dry spells that has rocked the country. OCHA Kenya recently launched a call for proposals as part of the campaign to promote best practices in long intervention on building community resilience to drought in Kenya.

Also available
[OCHA call for proposals](#)

Feasibility study for establishing a sub-regional centre for disaster mitigation

Malawi, Lilongwe February 3-4 -- UNISDR Regional Office for Africa was represented at a meeting to initiate a feasibility study for establishing a sub-regional Centre for Disaster Mitigation and Sustainable Recovery (DIMSUR). Following a meeting convened in Nairobi by UN-HABITAT in April 2010, four countries of the South-East Africa and South-West Indian Ocean, namely Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique, endorsed the concept of establishing a centre and for undertaking a feasibility study.

[Read more](#)



**Global Platform
for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Third Session, Geneva, Switzerland
8 - 13 May 2011

17 days to go

The world's foremost gathering on reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.