

Highlights of the UNCCD Drought Initiative & beyond

Virtual Workshop

“Development of national drought plans & policies in southern South America”
23-24 November 2020



United Nations

Convention to Combat
Desertification

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UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Objectives

SO 1: Improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote SLM & contribute to LDN

SO 2 : Improve the living conditions of affected populations

SO 3 : To mitigate, adapt to, & manage effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations & ecosystems

✓ *Expected impact 3.1: Ecosystems' vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land & water management practices.*

✓ *Expected impact 3.2: Communities' resilience to drought is increased.*

SO 4 : Generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

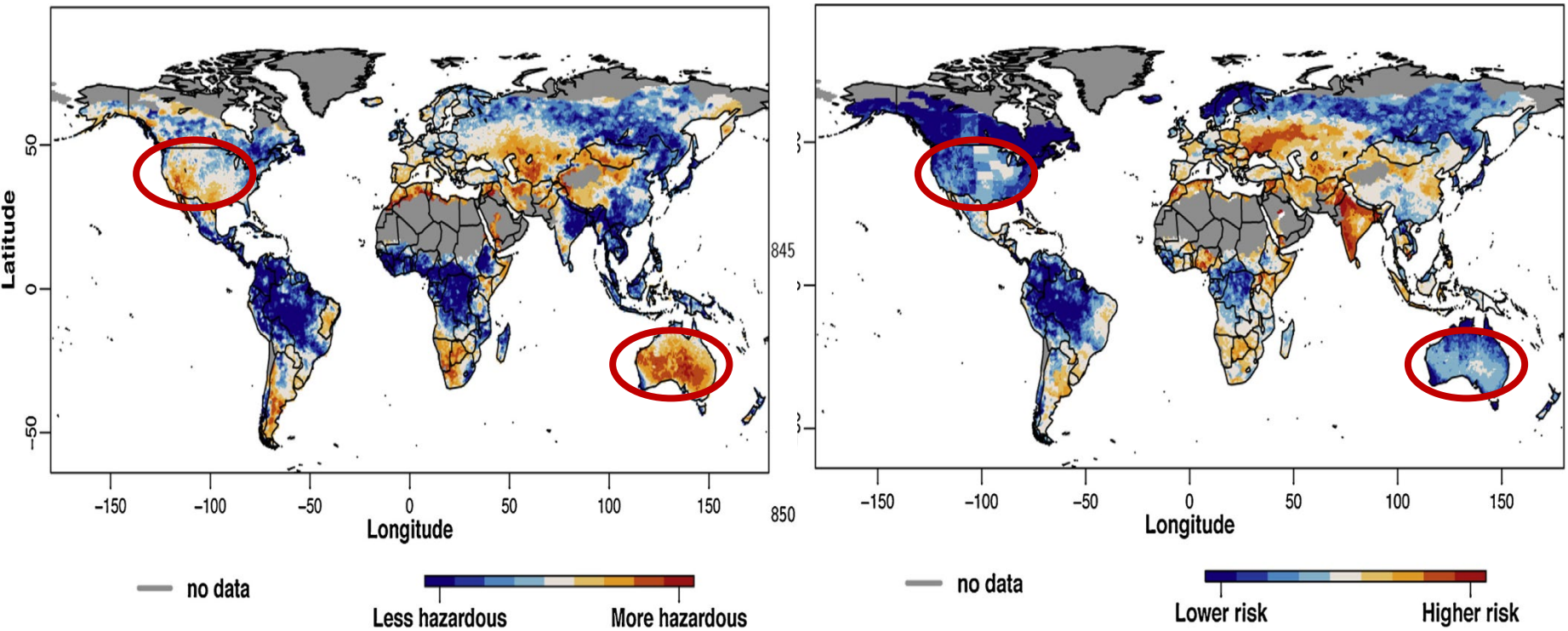
SO 5 : Mobilize substantial, additional financial & non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global & national level.

How large is the problem? Very large.

Global map of drought vulnerability

Hazard

Risk





UNCCD COP14 | 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 | RIO PAVILION

DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS DAY



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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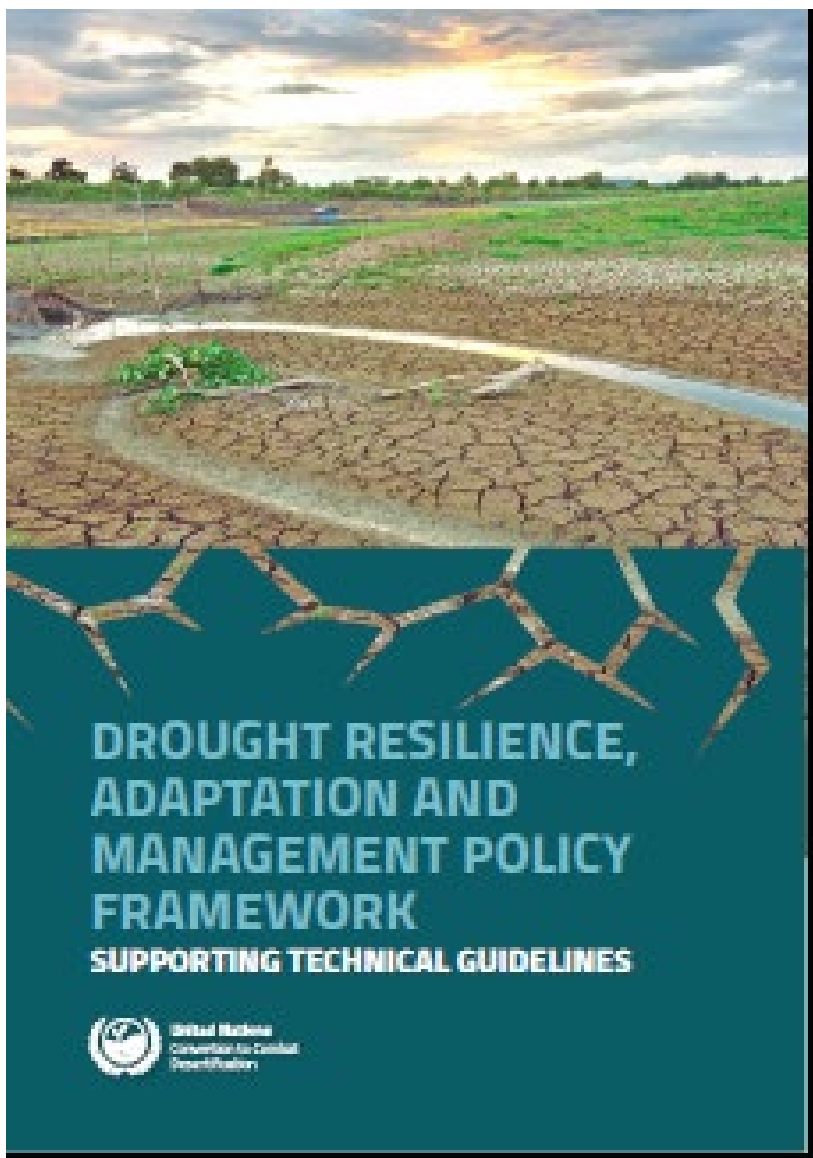


WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

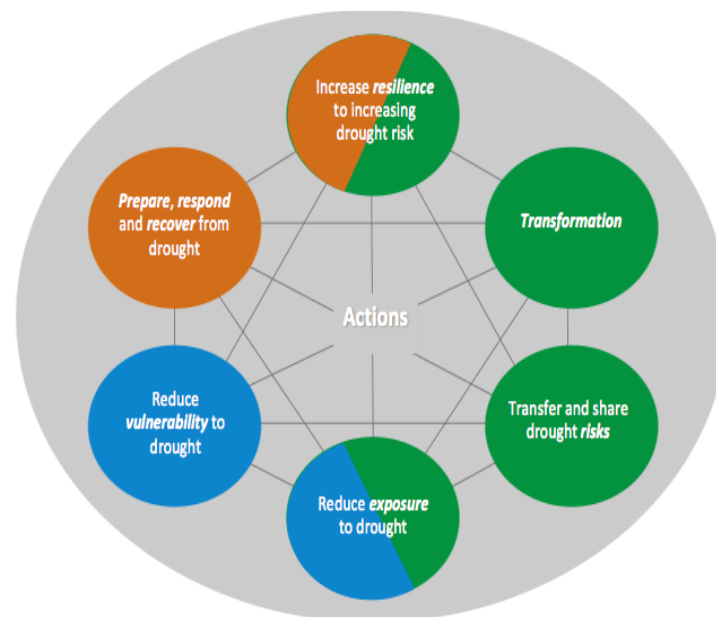


Global Water
Partnership

Drought Resilience, Adaptation & Management Policy Framework (DRAMP)



Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy Framework (DRAMP)



Key pillar #1
Implement drought monitoring and early warning systems



Key pillar #2
Assess drought vulnerability and risk



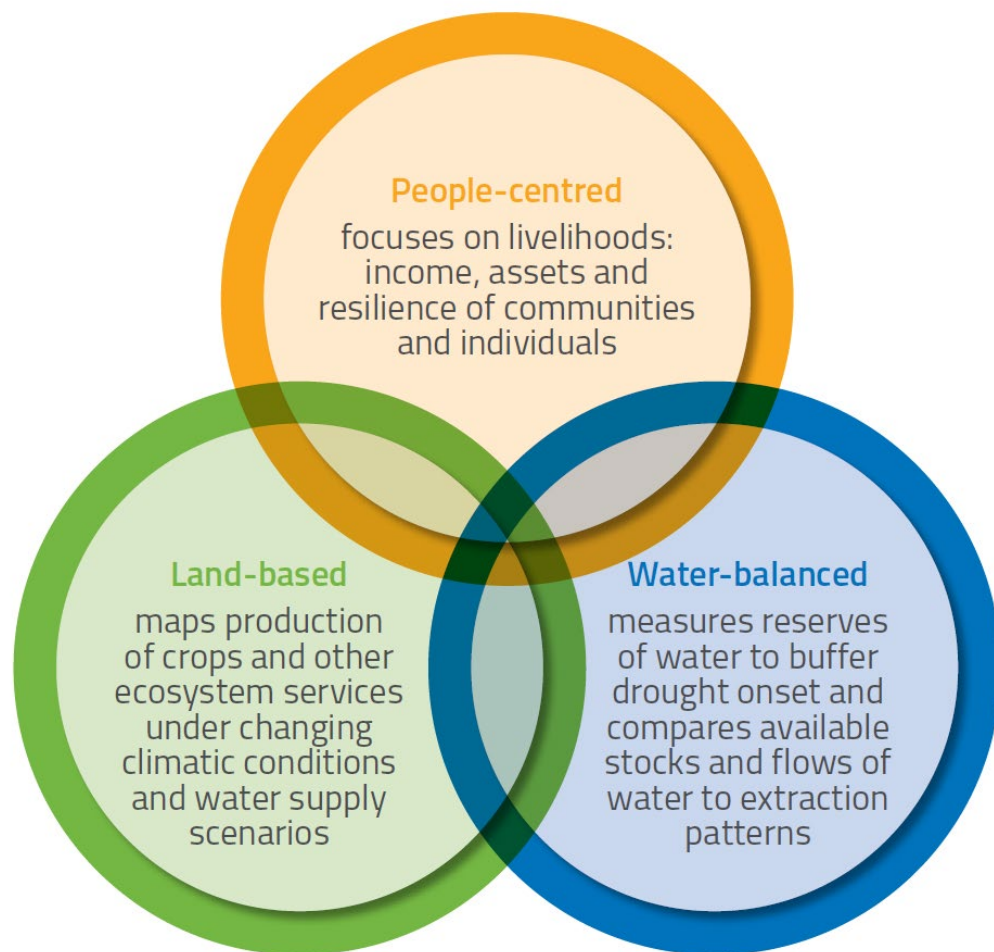
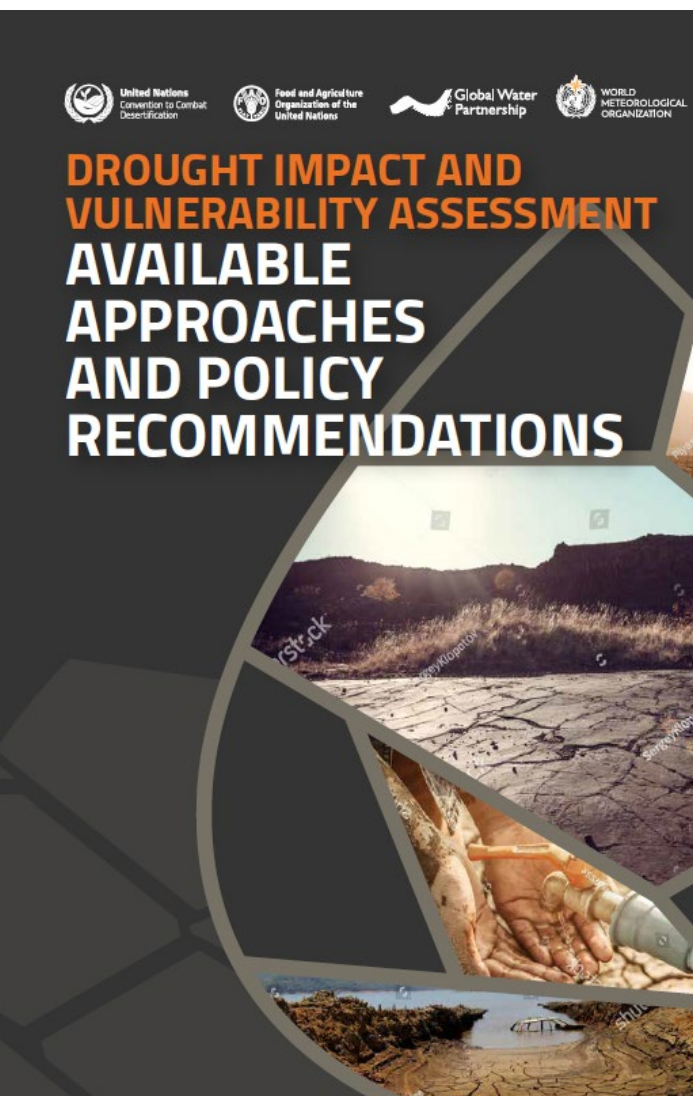
Key pillar #3
Implement measures to limit impacts of drought and better respond to drought

Source: Crossman (2018, p.18)



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Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCCD/IDMP Commissioned Review



SEPTEMBER 2019

Paul Venton, Courtenay Cabot Venton, Natalia Limones, Christopher Ward, Frederik Pischke, Nathan Engle, Marcus Wijnen, and Amal Talbi

Framework for the Assessment of Benefits of Action/Cost of Inaction (BACI) for Drought Preparedness



Source: World Meteorological Organization and Global Water Partnership, National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action

- Assessment part of 10-step drought risk management policy process
- Inspiration to structure quantifications and costings systematically
- Examples where proactive action led to success and how quantification facilitated the process
- Worked examples of possible accounting tools
- ➔ Test the guidance for its usability and clarity to improve with more concrete methodologies and technical tools
- ➔ Showcase how this process can be undertaken and its advantages

White Paper on Drought

Proactive Approaches to Drought Preparedness:
Where are we now and where do we go from there?

What is it about?

Shifting from reactive to proactive drought management is essential to protecting both people and the environment from the impacts of this slow-onset disaster

- Strengthen coordination among UN organizations and other partners, and develop a strategy to assist all countries to improve and solidify their drought policies





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UNCCD's Approach to Drought: Three key pillars



Monitoring & Early Warning Systems

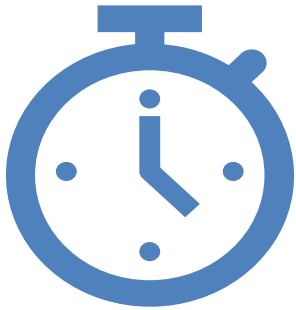


Vulnerability & Risk Assessment



Risk Mitigation Measures

Pillar 1: Implement drought monitoring & Early warning systems



Drought early warning systems typically aim to;

- Track – Assess - Deliver*

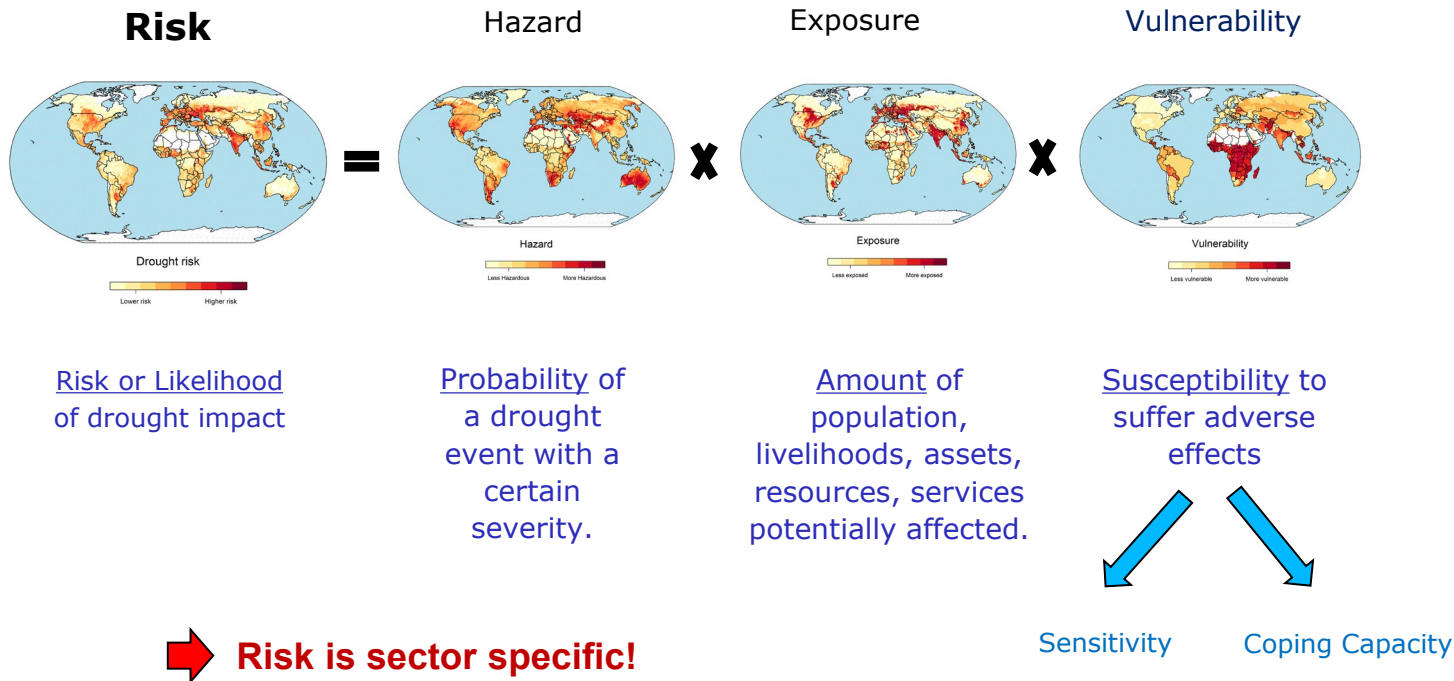
Relevant information concerning climatic, hydrologic and water supply conditions and trends.

The objective is to provide timely information in advance, or during the early onset of drought to prompt action (via threshold triggers) within a drought risk management plan as a means of reducing potential impacts. A diligent, integrated, approach is vital for monitoring such a slow-onset hazard.

Source: WMO and GWP (2016)



Pillar 2: Risk & Vulnerability Assessment



Pillar 3: Implement measures to limit impacts of drought

- Identify, test and implement actions that mitigate drought risk
- Many structural (physical) and non-structural measures can be put in place for nations, sectors and communities to reduce the impacts of drought.
- Policies and actions should be pursued that diversify and modernize agriculture & broader economies, encourage wise stewardship of land and water resources, & communicate & educate communities about drought risk and build adaptive capacities.

Examples:

- Sustainable irrigation schemes for crops and livestock,
- Rainwater Harvesting;
- Monitoring water supply and uses,
- Boosting the recycling and reuse of water and wastewater, exploring the potential of growing more drought tolerant crops, Establishment of alternative livelihood projects that provide income

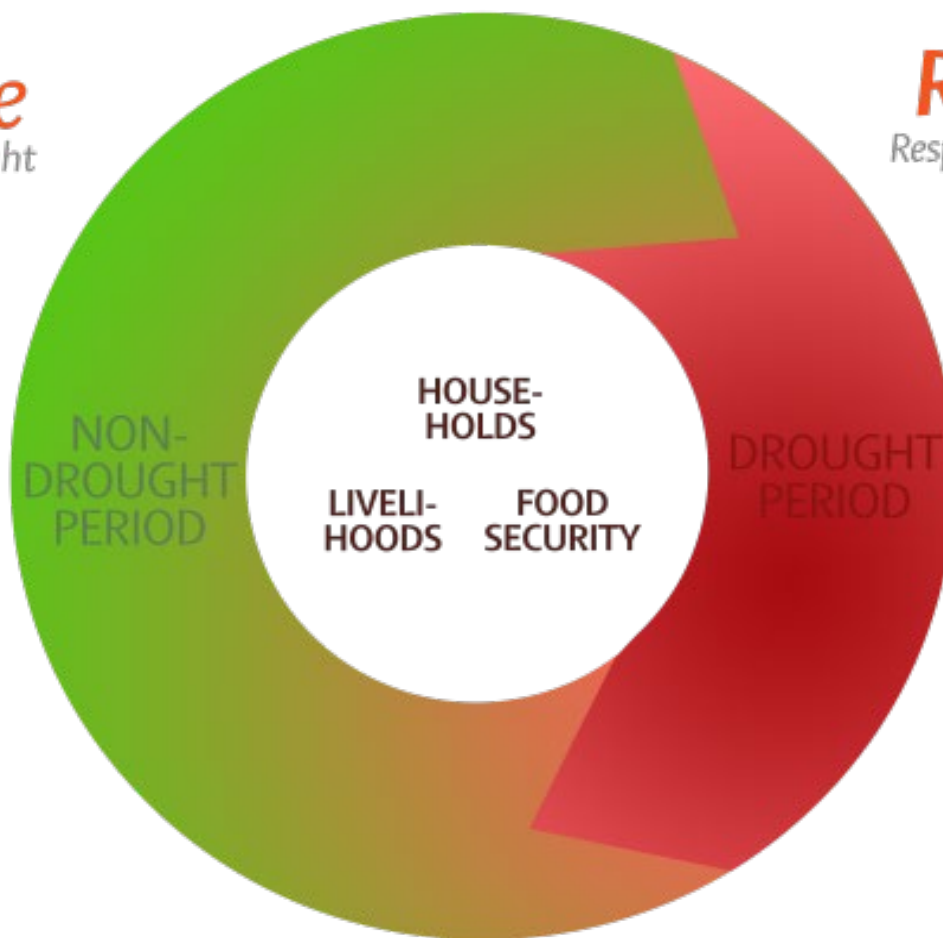
Drought Cycle Management

Proactive *Preparing for drought*

Risk mitigation
measures

Vulnerability
assessment

Monitoring &
early warning



Reactive *Responding to drought*

Emergency
relief

Impact
assessment

Recovery

Restoration

The UNCCD Drought Initiative



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- 
- National drought preparedness plans
 - Regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk, and
 - Toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought

The UNCCD-led Drought Toolbox

DROUGHT TOOLBOX

Providing drought stakeholders with easy access to resources to support action on drought preparedness with the aim to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems.

[About the toolbox \[ES/FR\]](#)

[Language support](#)

[Drought planning](#)

UPDATES

<https://knowledge.unccd.int/drought-toolbox>

[Workshop RICKS III](#)

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The UNCCD Drought Toolbox

DROUGHT
Monitoring
and Early
Warning

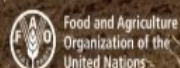
Explore tools
and data

DROUGHT
Vulnerability
and Risk
Assessment

Explore tools
and maps

DROUGHT
Risk
Mitigation
Measures

Find tools and
solutions



The UNCCD Drought Initiative

- ❖ The toolbox is launched at COP 14
- ❖ 73 countries are participating. 50+ countries completed their national drought plans.

Region	Countries	#
Africa	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Somalia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, The Gambia, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.	35
Asia	Cambodia, India, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, The Philippines, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.	15
LAC	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Perú, Venezuela.	15
CEE	Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine.	8
Total		73

Lessons learnt from the Drought Initiative

- Lack of inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination mechanism
- Existing perspectives still focused on crisis/reactive approach.
- Insufficient data
- Inadequate understanding of the cost of inaction
- Lack of a proper communication of drought EWS
- Emphasis on improving water supply through rainwater harvesting
- Mainstreaming gender in the NDP- an ongoing process
- ❖ We need to leverage drought as a `connector´ among sectors, regions and organisations.
- ❖ We need to harness the benefits of modern technology (AI, Mobile and remote sensing) for drought resilience.

Drought was a hot topic of discussion among country Parties at COP 14

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NEWS · 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

African nations push UN to improve drought research

Early-warning systems to identify areas at risk top countries' wishlist.

T. V. Padma



EDITORIAL · 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

End the drought in drought research

Policymakers battling water shortages and land degradation need independent scientific advice.



[PDF version](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

[African nations push UN to improve drought research](#)

[Teenage activists and a triumph](#)

[Public views of the Sustainable Development Goals across countries](#)

Countries decided to establish an “Intergovernmental Working Group” on Drought

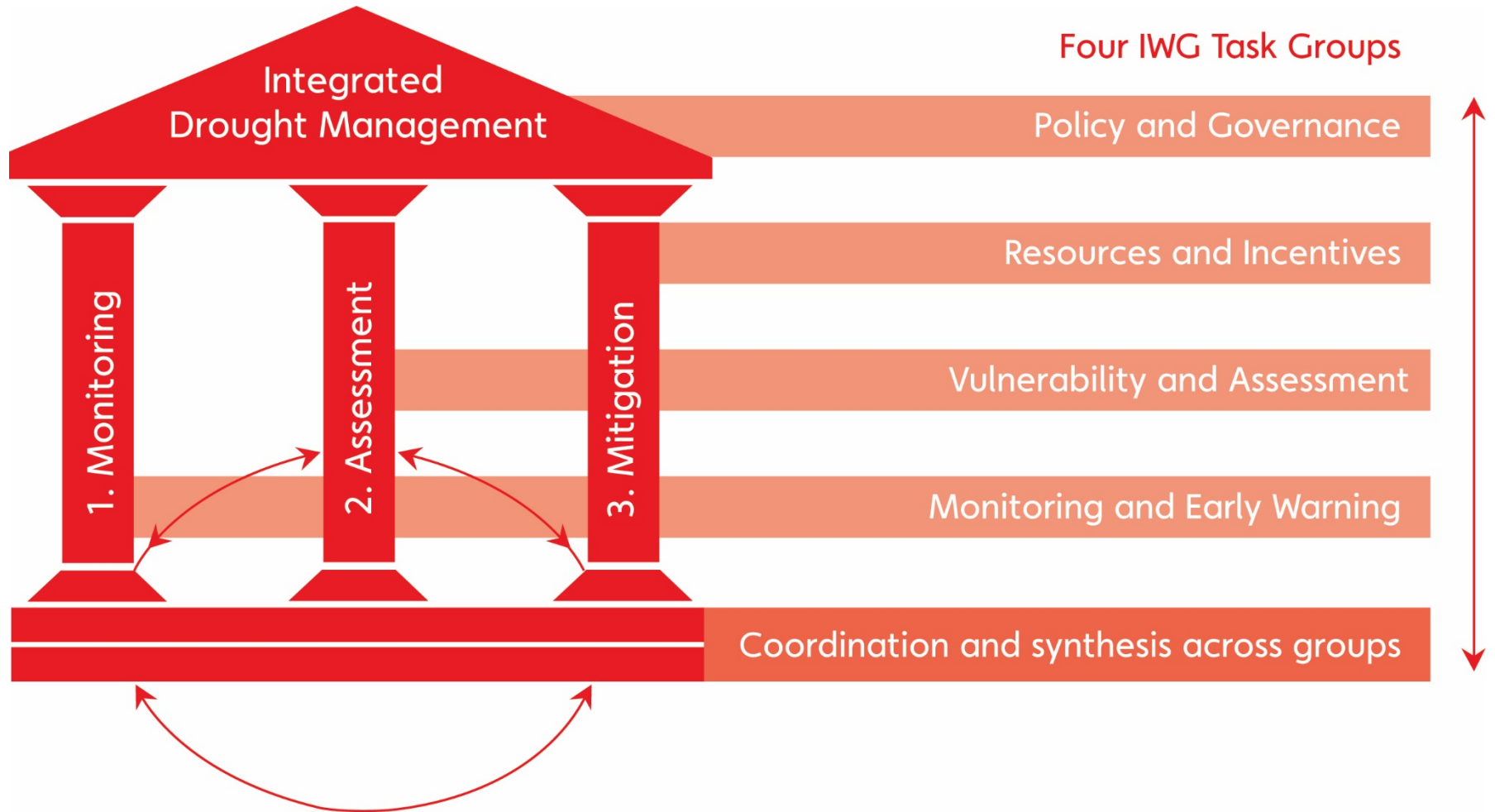
At COP 14 - The Intergovernmental Working Group

Dec 23/COP 14. The COP decides to establish an IWG on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD to present its findings at COP15.

Terms of Reference:

- ❖ Stocktaking of & review the existing policy, implementation & institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness & response
- ❖ Consider options for appropriate policy, advocacy & implementation measures at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the Convention,
- ❖ Carryout the task in the context of a wider holistic & integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities & ecosystems;

Alignment of IWG Work Program with the 3-Pillar Approach



Subjects under discussion

<https://www.unccd.int/issuesland-drought/intergovernmental-working-group-drought>

Policy

- Heighten commitment at global level.
- Strengthen collaborative centers, networks & capacities.
- Establish a global network specific to integrated drought management.

Resources

- Economic stimulus, de-risking investment, insurance, banks & private finance
- Better financing mechanisms incl. drought funds & public/private business cases
- Catalytic role of public financing & funding mechanisms.

Vulnerability

- The need to support the mapping of drought impacts, exposure & vulnerability across all regions.
- The need to pursue additional focused consideration of methods of assessing drought vulnerability

Monitoring

- Boost the global systems for monitoring the systemic effects of land & ecosystem management in mitigating drought effects.
- Invest not only in technical capacities & infrastructure but governance, stakeholder engagement & communication processes.

THANK YOU!



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