

# Drought management in the UNCCD agenda

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Training course on drought risk assessment  
Budapest, 6 Nov 2018

- **UNCCD convention**
- **Drought in UNCCD agenda**
  - **UNCCD Strategy**
  - **Drought Initiative**
  - **National Drought Plans**
  - **Drought Toolbox**
  - **DMCSEE**
- **EU relevance**



# UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS  
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,  
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

driven by drought/desertification in Africa,  
but increasing relevance in Europe

## Article 1

### Use of terms

(c) **“drought”** means the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems;

(d) **“mitigating the effects of drought”** means activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification;

## Decision 7/COP.13

### The future strategic framework of the Convention (2018–2030)

#### Vision

*A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of **drought** in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention.*

#### Strategic objectives

- **Strategic objective 3:** To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems
  - **Expected impact 3.1** Ecosystems' vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land and water management practices.
  - **Expected impact 3.2** Communities' resilience to drought is increased.

- **Decision 20/COP.13**

“Requests the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates to:

(a) Implement the drought initiative **for the biennium 2018–2019** which proposes action on:

i) **Drought Preparedness Systems;**

ii) Regional efforts to **reduce drought vulnerability and risk;** and;

iii) A **toolbox** to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought”

- **Decision 10/COP.13**

“Authorizes the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to use an amount not exceeding **EUR 1,815,651** from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD **for the implementation of the drought initiative**, described in decision 29/COP.13”



- Drought initiative is currently implemented in **43 countries**
  - selected upon own request and
  - willingness to take part in the initiative
  - under certain requirements
- Countries with the technical guidance of the UNCCD, WMO develop **National Drought Plan**
- **Tool Box** - online knowledge management platform for all countries
- Results of Drought Initiative - at UNCCD **COP.14** (in 2019)

## Main functions:

- To bring together a range of available, field demonstrated **drought risk reduction options** (One STOP shop)
- To help country consultants in **identifying gaps** in national drought policy plans
- To provide a **resource/guide** to plan action against drought



# National Drought Plans

Guidelines and Background Documents  
For Development of  
National Drought Plan



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

## Purpose

- to better prepare for & respond to droughts
- to ensure water for all uses (incl. ecosystems are not threatened during droughts)

**Methodology:** A generic “10-Step process” developed by the University of Nebraska, USA.

# 10-Step Planning Process

Step 1: Appoint a national **Drought Management commission**

Step 2: Define the **goals** of the plan

Step 3: Seek **stakeholder participation**

Step 4: Inventory **data & resources** available

Step 5: Write the key **tenets** of the national drought plan

Step 6: Identify **information needs** and fill institutional gaps

Step 7: Feedback loop to integrate **science -policy** aspects

Step 8: **Publicize** the national drought plan

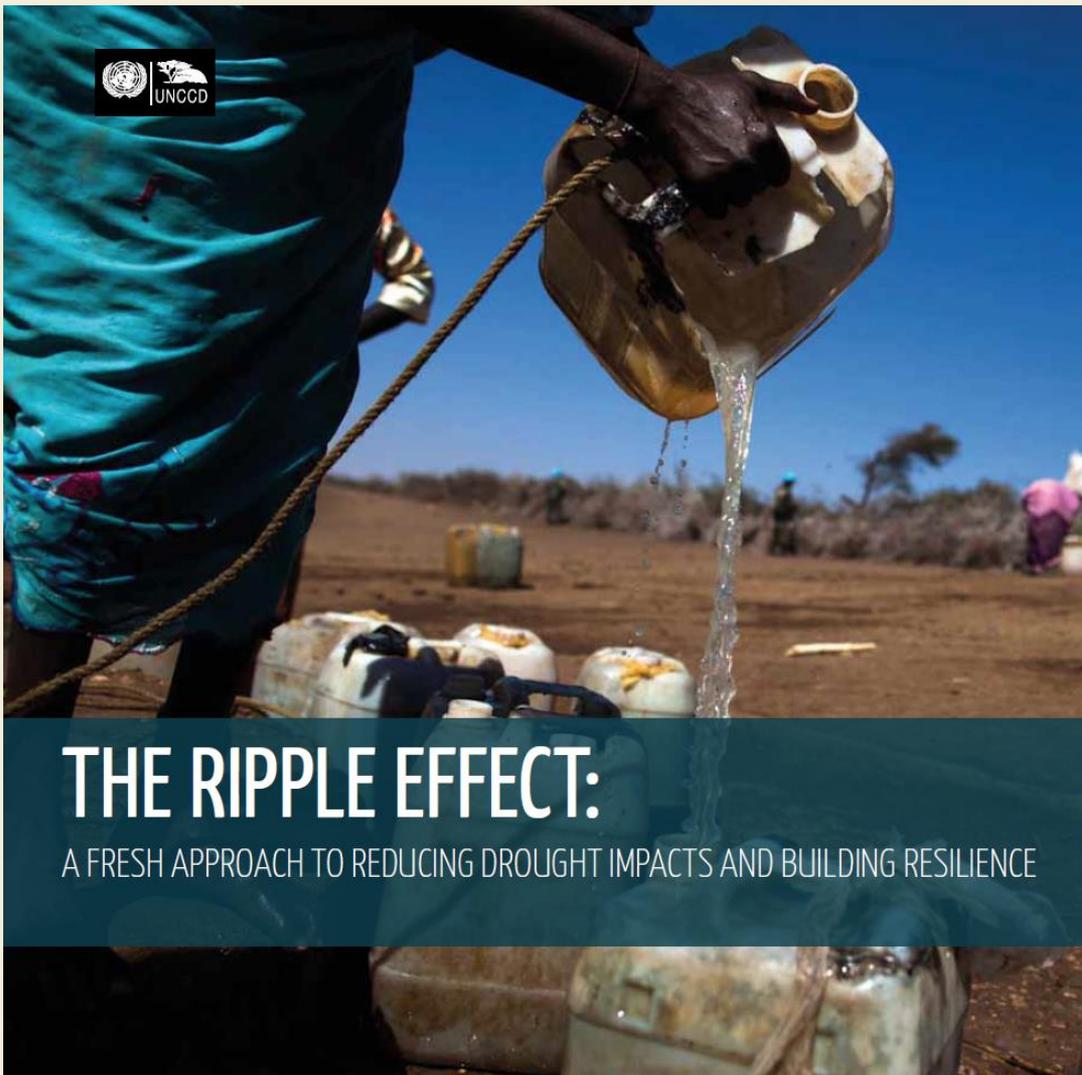
Step 9: Develop **education** programmes

Step 10: **Evaluate & revise** the plan

# NDP- Template

Phases	Indicators	Actions to be Considered (Examples)
Drought Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abnormally dry</li> <li>Stream flow, reservoir &amp; ground water levels start to drop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Monitoring, conduct intensive public information campaign</li> <li>Drought Commission monitors situation on monthly basis, discusses trends with Meteorology services, and others as appropriate</li> </ul>
Drought Alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDI -1.0 to-2.0</li> <li>Stream flow, reservoir &amp; ground water levels below normal</li> <li>Damage to crops, pastures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More close monitoring of conditions for persisting or rapidly worsening drought;</li> <li>Assess the need for formal Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) activation</li> <li>Restrict non-essential uses, etc.</li> <li>Official drought not yet declared</li> </ul>
Drought Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDI -2.0 to-4.0</li> <li>Stream flow, reservoir, ground water levels continue to decline</li> <li>Water shortages common</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement stringent conservation measures</li> <li>Enact mandatory restrictions</li> <li>The Drought Commission (DC) and Monitoring Committee (MC) are activated</li> <li>Potential drought emergency Declared</li> </ul>
Drought Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDI exceeds -4.0</li> <li>Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin mandatory allocation,</li> <li>Allow max per capita use of water</li> <li><b>Drought Emergency is declared</b> by Proclamation of the Head of State</li> </ul>
Coming out of Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return to normal conditions</li> <li>Lingering deficits, pastures, crops not fully recovered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term recovery operations continue</li> <li>DC issues a final report and is deactivated.</li> <li>Resume normal monitoring</li> </ul>

# Reducing drought impacts and building resilience



## THE RIPPLE EFFECT:

A FRESH APPROACH TO REDUCING DROUGHT IMPACTS AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

*„overcoming the prevailing paradigm of ‘reactive’ and ‘crisis-based’ approaches to drought and moving towards ‘proactive’ and ‘risk-based’ approaches will be indispensable to reducing the risks and mitigating the impacts of droughts, floods and other extreme weather events”*

*Monique Barbut  
Executive Secretary  
UNCCD*

UNCCD and WMO helped the establishment of the Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe

- Hungary among the founding countries

DMCSEE focuses on:

- monitoring and assessing drought and
- assessing risks and vulnerability connected to drought

in South-Eastern Europe





EUROPEAN  
COURT  
OF AUDITORS

Background paper



## Desertification in the EU

June 2018

how EU is prepared legally and technically to cope with desertification and drought

is the risk of desertification being addressed effectively and efficiently in the EU?

*Desertification: a consequence, but also a cause of CC*

*aggravated by more droughts, rising temperatures, less precipitation,*

*magnifies CC by reducing the capacity of soil to retain carbon*

**13** MS (incl. Hungary)  
affected by desertification

Drought and desertification –  
closely related phenomena

Thank you for your attention