

**Summary of the Informal Consultation on the
WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)**

08:30 – 12:00, 04 September 2013

GWP Offices, Stockholm, Sweden

Ania Grobicki, Executive Director of GWP opened the meeting stressing the critical importance to address droughts and providing the background of the evolution of the IDMP as a joint initiative building on a strong link of WMO and GWP that resulted, inter alia, in the IDMP sister programme the Associate Programme on Flood Management established 12 years ago. The IDMP was conceived in 2009 in a first meeting, which resulted in a regional IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe. It is recognized that many partners work on droughts and the IDMP seeks to add value, where there are gaps and contribute with a platform to the existing activities as well as bring the strengths of WMO and GWP to manage droughts more effectively.

Robert Stefanski, Chief Agricultural Meteorology Division, WMO, provided the background of the IDMP, highlighting that it will contribute to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and is an outcome of the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Management Policies (HMNDP) held jointly with FAO and UNCCD earlier this year. The objective of the IDMP is *to support stakeholders at all levels by providing policy and management guidance and by sharing scientific information, knowledge and best practices for Integrated Drought Management*. The Programme will contribute to the global coordination of drought-related efforts of existing organizations and agencies with regard to:

- Better scientific understanding and inputs for drought management;
- Drought risk assessment, monitoring, prediction and early warning;
- Policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors; and
- Drought risk reduction and response.

John Metzger, Head of Network Operations, GWP, provided the perspective of GWP. The IDMP is a component of the GWP Water and Climate Programme employing GWP's action network in 13 regions with over 80 Country Water Partnerships to deliver solutions. GWP's action network provides knowledge and builds capacity to improve water management at all levels: global, regional, national and local. The Partnership helps countries to connect water resources planning and operations at different scales— transboundary, regional, basin, national and local—so that actions are coherent and sustainable and sees the IDMP as a key component in this effort.

Frederik Pischke, IDMP Senior Programme Officer, GWP based at WMO, gave an overview of expected outcomes from the IDMP. They are:

- Better scientific understanding of, and inputs for, drought management;
- Improved knowledge base, with better access to information and products;
- Capacity for drought risk assessment, monitoring, prediction and early warning;
- Improved policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors; and
- Drought risk reduction and response.

The activities foreseen to achieve these outcomes are:

- 1) Development of guidelines and tools, such as the development of drought management policy guidelines, which is already ongoing;
- 2) Capacity building activities with partners, such as the UNW-DPC, FAO and WMO workshops on national drought management policies;

- 3) Demonstration projects on, for example, drought indicators and early warning systems, currently being developed in the Mediterranean;
- 4) Responding to regional and national needs, through regional programmes, such as in Central and Eastern Europe, which is ongoing, and drought management programmes in the Horn of Africa, West Africa, as well as South Asia, which are in the process of development; and
- 5) Help Desk on drought management, modeled on the APFM Help Desk, to provide resources for drought management and an opportunity to request help on drought management.

Michael Hayes, Director of the National Drought Mitigation Centre, gave a presentation on the work undertaken by his institution and Donald Wilhite on the first activity of the IDMP, the development of National Drought Management Policy Guidelines. The guidelines will draw on a wide range of experiences, particularly the by Don Wilhite developed 10 step drought planning process. The guidelines aim to provide a resource guide for governments in the development of drought policies. A first draft will be released for comments by mid-October.

Bruce Stewart, Director of the Climate and Water Department, kicked off the discussion highlighting the approach of the IDMP of being a country demand-driven instrument that aims to respond to a need for improved drought management.

In the discussion participants stressed the following points:

- Involving partners needs to be a two-way process, in which their contribution and their role as well as the contribution of the IDMP to their activities mutually support each other.
- Attention needs to be paid to also address the challenges of droughts faced at the basin level, which often goes beyond national boundaries.
- The involvement of WMO in the UNW-DPC, FAO and WMO workshops on national drought management policies is a good way of making sure that the IDMP and this capacity building initiative are complementary.
- Demonstration projects and regional activities were identified as areas where partners could have a direct input and link the IDMP to their activities.
- Project WET Foundation introduced its work on communicating scientific products to school children and would be happy to employ its network of teachers to disseminate the IDMP's messages.
- Nature and indigenous culture provide many solutions for drought management and are integral parts of the IDMP.
- The IDMP can also function as a platform or marketplace to share information among organizations working on drought to avoid a duplication of efforts and partnerships.
- It is important to link up to regional organizations. In Central America GWP has a strong relationship with the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the HydroMet Services to confront droughts.
- UNCCD, CBD, UNEP-DHI, IWMI, GEO, UNW-DCP, NDMC, UN ECE recognized the IDMP as very pertinent and are looking forward to collaborating further on the development of the IDMP.

The participants as well as the organizations unable to attend the meeting in Stockholm were invited to the first IDMP Advisory Committee meeting on 14 of October 2013 at the WMO offices in Geneva.

Annex: Participants of Informal Consultation Meeting on the IDMP

Emmanuel Chinyamakobvu

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Annuikka Lipponen

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE)

Peter Koefoed Bjornsen

United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) – Denmark Hydrological Institute (DHI)

Daniel Tsegai

UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DCP)

David Coates

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Robyn Johnston

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Dimitris Faloutsos

GWP Mediterranean

Gabriela Grau

Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Sabina Bokal

GWP Central and Eastern Europe

Richard Lawford

Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

Michael Hayes

U.S. National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska

Roberto Lenton

Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska

John Etgen

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Bruce Stewart

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Robert Stefanski

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