

Integrated Drought Management Programme strategy 2023–2025

Towards a world where everyone
is **resilient to drought**



INTEGRATED DROUGHT
MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



Global Water
Partnership

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ACRONYMS

APFM	Associated Programme on Flood Management
BACI	Benefits of action and costs of inaction
COP	Conference of the Parties
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EWS	Early warning systems
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HMNDP	High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy
IDM	Integrated Drought Management
IDMP	Integrated Drought Management Programme
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated water resources management
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

FOREWORD

One of the foremost outcomes of the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in 2013 was the launch of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP).

Sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the purpose of the creation of IDMP was to support the implementation of the HMNDP outcomes. The final declaration of the HMNDP identified several key areas to be addressed to improve drought management:

- to develop proactive drought impact mitigation, and preventive and planning measures
- to promote greater collaboration to enhance observation networks and delivery systems
- to improve public awareness of drought risk and preparedness
- to promote drought risk reduction, risk sharing, and risk transfer tools in drought management plans
- to link drought management plans to local and national development policies.

Integrated Drought Management (IDM) was deemed essential for addressing the escalating impacts of droughts, particularly given the increasing frequency, severity, and duration of droughts due to climate change.

Since its launch, IDMP has provided significant leadership on many aspects of IDM in collaboration with a wide range of United Nations agencies, international and regional

organisations, national governments, and universities. With the assistance and contributions of members of the IDMP's advisory committee, the programme has been able to foster many varied activities aimed at the adoption of risk management practices across several countries to further IDM, anchored by a now widely adopted emphasis on the three pillars of IDM: monitoring and early warning; risk and impact assessment; and risk mitigation, preparedness, and response. Due to the widespread adoption of these pillars as incorporated in the ten-step planning process promoted by IDMP, the programme has succeeded in advancing IDM's principles on a global scale.

The strategy of IDMP for 2023–2025 strives to enhance global awareness of the importance of IDM, creating a paradigm shift from reactive crisis management to proactive risk management. One of the key elements of this ongoing strategy will be to provide leadership for the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy Plus +10 (Drought Resilience +10) conference in 2023/2024. This meeting will assess global progress on IDM since HMNDP, and identify key pathways and specific actions going forward. As IDMP continues to work in collaboration with its partners, even greater success is expected as the momentum on drought risk management continues to build globally.

Donald Wilhite, Professor Emeritus

Founding Director, National Drought Mitigation Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln and IDMP Advisory and
Management Committee Chair, 2013–2019



PARTNERS



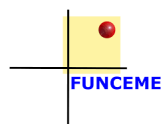
ARSO METEO
Slovenian Environment Agency



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



Convention on
Biological Diversity



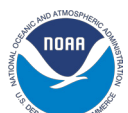
IGAD
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Applications
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**IHE
DELFT**
Institute for
Water Education
in partnership with UNESCO



IVM Institute for
Environmental Studies



**the bright
initiative**



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Ecology & Hydrology



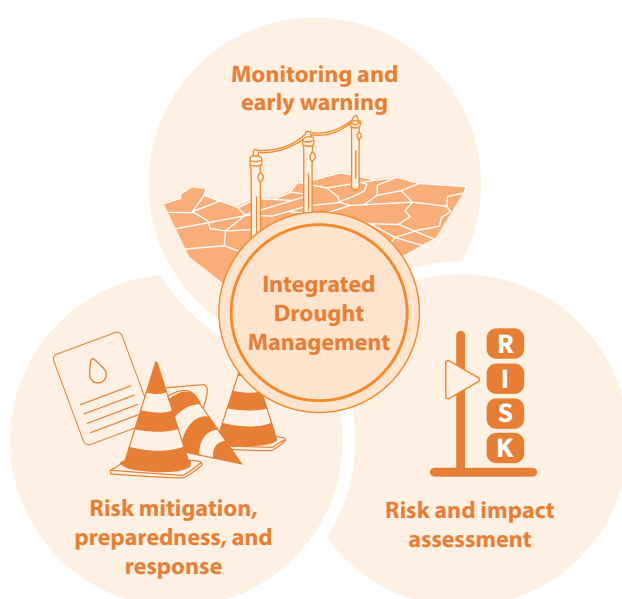
United Nations
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Urgency

The concept of proactive drought management has been successfully applied and become significantly more well-known during the last decade. This includes the three-pillar approach of Integrated Drought Management (IDM):



The three pillars and other such approaches have been successfully applied to mitigate drought risk and increase drought resilience in many locations around the world. However, the impacts of drought on communities, economies, and ecosystems are increasing in most regions, particularly in developing countries. Why is drought risk still clearly growing, despite efforts to reduce it?

There are three factors that define drought risk: vulnerability, exposure, and hazard (or climate-impact driver) (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC], 2021; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction [UNDRR], 2021). The first two factors play a crucial role in aggravating the effect of droughts, since increasing poverty and political instability exacerbate vulnerabilities both directly and indirectly related to water availability. Growing populations, particularly in developing countries, increases exposure (UNDRR, 2021).

An even more important driver of the increased and increasing drought risk is climate change and its impact on drought hazard. In its 2021 report, the IPCC has shown

that drought is on the rise in many regions, and that even in the best-case scenario (global warming of 1.5°C, as per the Paris Agreement) agricultural and ecological droughts will happen twice as frequently in regions where they currently occur, with significantly increased intensity (+0.5 standard deviations) (IPCC, 2021). Beyond 1.5°C, the frequency and intensity of droughts will increase with every degree of global heating. Therefore, every effort to limit anthropogenic climate change also helps mitigate drought risk.

Globally, international processes such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), the Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) aim to reduce the devastating impacts of disasters related to climate change and variability worldwide, including drought. These international frameworks and conventions set international targets and can foster political support for drought work on the regional, national, and local levels. This has happened successfully and increasingly over the past decade. The importance of proactively managing drought risk as opposed to reacting to crises after they have begun is widely known and accepted. However, change is not happening at the rate and scale required. This means that policies are often not implemented and real action is not reaching the ground.

Regarding financing mechanisms, opportunities to fund drought-related work have considerably increased over the past decade. Funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environmental Facility, the Adaptation Fund, and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative provide funding for different levels and specific sectors for drought-related activities. Similarly to the international frameworks, despite helping in many places, this is not yet at the pace or scale required to keep up with the increasing drought risk around the globe.

Although drought is a slow onset phenomenon, sufficient monitoring and early warning can still be extremely useful to countries. These systems must be linked to drought policies, plans, and actions. Droughts were identified as one of the key hazards in the United Nations Early Warnings For All (EW4All) initiative formally launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in November 2022 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh (COP 27). The initiative calls for the whole world to be covered by early warning systems (EWS) by the end of 2027. Along with

many other United Nations agencies and organisations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNDRR are spearheading the EW4All initiative.

Due to the aforementioned aspects, the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), along with its partners and the wider drought community, see a dramatic urgency to increase proactive drought management action on the ground, where it is desperately needed. This means learning from the past, scaling up successes, and trying new approaches where efforts have not yielded expected outcomes. We must join forces to put science into practice, building on the fact that there is no single solution to drought: both vertical and horizontal integration are key to bringing sustained change beyond project timescales. This

requires a polycentric drought governance that encompasses not only governments and ministries, but also includes non-governmental organisations, community associations, municipalities, states, and others in preparing for droughts. It also involves advocating for and showcasing the fact that evidence-based adaptation is one of the most cost-efficient ways to address climate change and variability.

Hence, to keep up with this growing need for drought management, the implementation of IDM must be significantly accelerated and scaled up. With this strategy, IDMP is outlining a way forward to cope with multiple challenges and create opportunities for a world where everyone is resilient against drought.



1.2 The Integrated Drought Management Programme

In 2013, heads of state, ministers, and other governmental representatives as well as drought practitioners, researchers, and experts, came together at the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in Geneva.

At this watershed moment for drought management, they agreed and encouraged governments around the world to pursue “proactive drought impact mitigation” (WMO, 2013). In their final declaration they urged international organisations “to assist governments, especially the developing countries, in the development of National Drought Management Policies and their implementation” (WMO, 2013). In response, the WMO and the Global Water Partnership (GWP) jointly established IDMP with the aims of providing policy and management guidance, and sharing scientific information, knowledge, and best practices for IDM. IDMP has a Technical Support Unit (TSU) currently composed of WMO and GWP staff. Located at the WMO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, it is governed by an advisory and a management committee composed of its partners.

Since its establishment, IDMP and its partners have supported stakeholders at the regional, national, and local levels around the world to strengthen their resilience against drought. In 2022, the programme grew to include over 40 partners, ranging from other international organisations such as the UNCCD and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to governmental institutions, research organisations, and universities, as well as organisations in the private sector. The joint and integrated efforts of these partners, who have brought their differing views on and approaches to drought, has been the main reason for IDMP’s success. For IDMP, people are at the centre of drought management. Therefore, a whole-of-society approach is essential in all of its activities, with a special focus on the most at-risk groups, including women. Following this principle, IDMP promotes management of droughts in the context of integrated water resources management (IWRM).

Co-developed by IDMP and the community, the proactive three-pillar approach has proven highly effective in approaching and establishing drought risk management. Due to its flexibility, this approach can adapt to new developments, for example by re-framing the second pillar from vulnerability and impact to an overall risk and impact assessment, including hazard, vulnerability, and exposure, to align with climate disaster risk reduction (DRR). Therefore, the three-pillar approach will remain at the core of IDMP and support for stakeholders.

From the beginning, actual drought work on the ground has been the focus of IDMP. Regional IDMP programmes have been established in Central and Eastern Europe, West Africa, East Africa, and recently in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Regional programmes actively support stakeholders to implement drought action that lasts beyond the usual time span of a project. Through this sustained support, they have been able to create communities in the countries of the respective regions that jointly promote and coordinate drought management. IDMP has learned from these actions on the ground, improving and adapting methods, identifying needs and knowledge gaps, and testing approaches at the global level. This mutual support from global and regional IDMP programmes is therefore essential for the programme in rising to the increasing challenges of drought management.

A main tool for achieving the objective of providing tailored guidance for drought-related questions is the IDMP’s [HelpDesk](#). Established in 2017, HelpDesk has a “find” section for knowledge resources, a “connect” section for getting in touch with partners and learning about ongoing projects, and an “ask” section for requesting advice and technical support. To date, HelpDesk has received and answered over 250 requests, with this number constantly rising. This is also true of the IDMP’s website, <https://www.droughtmanagement.info>, which is not only the entry point for HelpDesk but also a resource on all aspects of IDM for the community and interested members of the public.

In 2022, this support for countries was appreciated at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). In policy recommendations 3 and 4 of Decision 17, the Parties are encouraged “to pursue the development and implementation of integrated drought risk management from existing communities of practice and learning networks, including the Integrated Drought Management Programme and its cooperating partners, and to monitor and assess drought risk in natural and managed ecosystems”, and IDMP and its cooperating partners are invited “to support parties, where necessary, in: [...] Systematically integrating the findings from drought resilience assessments into drought early warning systems and into drought resilience planning” (ICCD/COP(15)/23/Add.1) among other tasks. IDMP is integrating these tasks into the strategy and will report back to the next UNCCD COP.

1.3 Our vision: Everyone is resilient to drought

Our vision is a world in which everyone is resilient to drought. This is a huge and urgent challenge. Given the acceleration of climate change, the coming years must bring IDM to the required scale as fast as possible.

There is a strong need to consolidate partners at the global level and connect efforts and knowledge between the global support and the regional, national, and subnational implementation of IDM.

IDMP is based on the notion of translating global support into action and practice on the ground. The programme therefore aims to play a leading role in scaling up IDM by supporting the implementation of integrated and sustained drought management policies and structures, providing relevant guidance on IDM and increasing the capacity of stakeholders, and strengthening collaboration and dialogue within the global drought community.

Hence, the strategy of IDMP for the next three years builds on three goals to:

1. support the implementation of IDM and catalyse change
2. generate and manage knowledge
3. strengthen partnerships.

The first goal focuses on improving drought management practices, putting IDM into practice to help countries towards growth, water security, and climate resilience by supporting an integrated approach, good governance, appropriate infrastructure, and sustainable financing.

The second goal focuses on providing stakeholders with demand-driven guidance on specific IDM topics and building capacity by sharing knowledge, and providing training to support improved drought management.

The third goal considers that the only way to achieve drought resilience with no one left behind is through cooperation. Therefore, it focuses on facilitating and strengthening collaboration and dialogue within the global drought community.

These three goals are linked with the collaboration achieved through enhanced partnerships (goal 3) enabling increased knowledge generation and exchange (goal 2), which guides and informs drought management policies and practices (goal 1).

For each of these three goals, the strategy describes specific activity areas to initiate the urgently needed scaling up of IDM efforts towards a future where everyone is prepared for drought. Subsequently, it explains how IDMP must develop to achieve these goals by enhancing its resilience and effectiveness through strong partnerships, good governance, and measuring performance to facilitate learning and improve the financial sustainability of the programme.

For each activity, a metric of success is suggested, which can help IDMP and its partners track progress. The section on programme implementation outlines actions on how IDMP plans to deliver these goals through its regional programmes, HelpDesk, and the TSU.



2. IDMP GOALS

2.1 Support the implementation of Integrated Drought Management and catalyse change



Number of people benefiting from improved drought management

Number of countries supported in integrating the three pillars of IDM in drought policies, plans, and strategies

2.1.1 Application of the three pillars of Integrated Drought Management

Rather than being a static framework, the three-pillar approach evolves with the development of each individual pillar in science and in practice. The simple and flexible concept can either be applied as a whole or by focusing on specific pillars or aspects of pillars. For this reason, it is the standard approach used most often in drought management around the globe. Remaining the custodian of the three-pillar approach, IDMP will continue adapting it in response to advances in research and application.

Pillar 1: Monitoring and early warning

The first pillar of IDM focuses on drought monitoring, forecasting, and EWS. Many national and regional drought monitors and alerts exist or are currently being established. There is a strong need to fill the remaining gaps and to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and sustained maintenance by harmonising approaches at the regional and global levels. In this regard, WMO members have tasked a WMO Services Commission expert team with developing a classification scheme that will standardise drought warnings issued at the national level to the global scale. IDMP is closely following this process.

As the forecasts required for drought are longer range than those for other hazards (sub-seasonal to seasonal) and more challenging than short-term forecasts, there have been very few drought forecasts available to date. While some countries and regions have developed seasonal forecasting capabilities, there is an urgent need to develop drought forecasting capabilities in the sub-seasonal time frame to support preparatory action, ensure food supply, and provide enhanced early warning capabilities. IDMP will play a coordinating role in scaling up drought monitoring and forecasting with specific focus on impact-based forecasting.

Another central role of IDMP regarding the first pillar is to raise awareness of the “last mile” of EWS. EWS and related drought plans are often designed in a way that neglects the needs of the groups most at risk, such as women, poor people, and refugees. IDMP will strengthen its efforts to promote a people-centric approach for EWS that engages all relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of all steps in the value chain of an EWS. As a component of the United Nations EWS4ALL initiative, IDMP will engage in further discussions about multi-hazard EWS and opportunities for including drought in multi-hazard approaches, especially with respect to hydro-climatic extremes.



Number of drought information systems improved or established

Number of drought (end-to-end) EWS improved or established that recognise the “last mile”

Pillar 2: Risk and impact assessment

Implementation of the second pillar has not progressed sufficiently within the last ten years. It therefore requires priority, particularly in terms of impact assessment. Understanding of drought impacts varies in different contexts. These can encompass not only direct physical impacts such as reduced ground-water levels, but also indirect impacts, including on agriculture, the economy, and ecosystems. Efforts are needed to establish practical guidance for drought impact monitoring, reporting, and assessment based on existing approaches. These approaches must be harmonised so that impacts can be monitored, taking into account local contexts to inform national and regional decision-makers. IDMP will collect and review current methodologies to assess impacts and prepare practical guidelines for systematic monitoring of drought

impacts, and assist national and regional partners to develop impact databases.

Drought risk assessments are usually carried out as a baseline when drought policies, plans, and strategies are prepared. One common and successful approach, based on the DRR approach also used by the IPCC (IPCC, 2021), integrates vulnerability, hazard, and exposure into the risk assessment. Given the major impacts and accelerated speed of climate change and other socioeconomic developments in many societies, such a risk assessment cannot be a one-time static assessment, but should be undertaken in regular intervals to allow for readjustment of drought policies, plans, and strategies. IDMP promotes this risk assessment approach when supporting stakeholders in the planning, development, and implementation of drought policies, plans, and strategies.



Number of drought risk assessments formally used by drought managers and decision-makers

Pillar 3: Risk mitigation, preparedness, and response

The third pillar of IDM focuses on the appropriate actions for reducing vulnerability to and impacts of drought. This pillar has progressed substantially, and the HMNDP, as well as many subsequent efforts of partners such as UNCCD and FAO, has helped to establish national drought plans in many countries that are particularly focused on the third pillar (see list of existing drought plans: <https://www.droughtmanagement.info/drought-policies-and-plans/>).

Despite this substantial progress, implementation of measures with regard to risk mitigation, preparedness, and response is lacking. Therefore, efforts related to the third pillar must be scaled, up and more emphasis must be placed on guidance for implementing drought policies and supporting this implementation (the need for support is described in section 2.3 on strengthening the implementation of drought policies). While the latter aspect is the most important, there is also a need to provide guidance for enabling factors such as participatory methods to elaborate such plans, and for the alignment of drought plans and policies with other policies (e.g. climate change adaptation, DRR, and water and land use). IDMP's role is to support the development of practical guidance materials and to document and promote best practices in order to allow countries and other relevant stakeholders to implement third pillar measures.

Demonstrating the benefits of proactive drought management, especially with regard to the costs of inaction, creates a strong argument for taking anticipatory action. However, the availability of sufficient data on the social economy, the accounting for indirect or intangible impacts, and the often qualitative nature of social impacts render this rationale complex. Therefore, the IDMP has developed a framework on the benefits of action and costs of inaction (BACI), in collaboration with the World Bank (Gerber and Mirzabaev, 2017). In the next phase, the establishment of pilot cases will help further develop the methodology and draw political attention to the benefits of implementing proactive drought risk mitigation measures.

Despite all efforts with regard to risk mitigation and preparedness, residual risks always remain. Therefore, the contingency planning methodologies used in drought action plans must be developed further. IDMP will play a leading role in gathering current plans and methodologies and making these available. The connection between humanitarian actors and anticipatory planning and early warning approaches must be strengthened to increase the sustainability of response actions. In response, IDMP will increase its engagement with humanitarian agencies within and beyond its partner base. Another approach to tackling residual drought risks involves innovative and cost-effective forms of drought index-based insurances, particularly for the agricultural sector. IDMP will promote drought insurances as integral to the measures and actions portfolio of the third pillar.



Number of activities supported focusing on risk mitigation, preparedness, and response

Metric of success

2.1.2 Implementation of drought policies

Together with its partners, and especially under UNCCD's Drought Initiative, IDMP has successfully supported countries and regions through development of drought policies, and will continue to do so. However, in many countries and regions, the implementation of drought policies has stopped, is very slow, or has failed to be initiated altogether. In conjunction with existing IDMP partner initiatives, IDMP will focus on strengthening the implementation of existing national and regional drought plans based on IDMP's

National Drought Management Policy Guidelines: A Template for Action (Wilhite, 2014). Existing partners' initiatives include the UNCCD Drought Initiative and the Global Environmental Facility-funded, FAO-led project "Enabling Activities for Implementing UNCCD COP Drought Decisions". The planned "High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies +10" (Drought Resilience +10, see section 2.3.2) will also focus on efforts to put policies into practice with the goal of enhancing and accelerating the implementation of drought plans.



Number of formally adopted drought policies, plans, and strategies

Metric of success

Number of approved investment plans and budget commitments to implement drought management policies and measures

2.1.3 Finance for Integrated Drought Management

The lack of adequate finance is regularly identified as a major bottleneck hindering the implementation of IDM at the scale required.

IDMP has successfully supported regional programmes in accessing climate finance to support IDM (e.g. [DriDanube](#), [Volta Flood and Drought Management](#), and [DRESS-EA](#)). Therefore, IDMP will scale up its efforts in this area. Since the climate financing landscape is complex, IDMP will offer guidance to partners and other interested stakeholders using HelpDesk (see section 3.2), the planned community of practice (see 2.3.1, and explore the option of holding

webinars and training on how to translate a project idea into a funded project proposal. As these efforts require resources, this strategic initiative is closely linked to strengthening the TSU (see 3.4) and regional IDMP programmes (see 3.1). In addition, the IDMP TSU is coordinating the development of several proposals dedicated to strengthening proactive drought management at the national and regional levels.

The funding bottleneck for drought is also identified in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement focusing on loss and damage, which explicitly lists slow onset events such as drought. At COP27, it was agreed that funding mechanisms for loss and damage would be established. IDMP will follow the process closely and explore opportunities for additional access to funding for drought management.



Total value of investments from government and private sources influenced which contribute to drought management

Metric of success

2.1.4 Gender-transformative approaches and social inclusion in Integrated Drought Management

In many societies around the world, women play a vital role in ensuring food security and enhancing agricultural productivity. Improving women's access to, and ownership and control of, land can contribute substantially to increased investment in and productivity of land, thus improving food security, nutrition, and health at the household and community levels (FAO, 2011).

Gender inequalities in accessing productive assets and resources are often linked with access to water, disproportionately increasing the burden of climate change and drought on women and girls. At the same time, drought planning, investments, and institution building processes rarely involve or drive a gender-transformative vision, instead reflecting structurally embedded cultural norms and practices, and gendered power relations.

IDMP will seek to transform gender inequalities at scale by promoting gender-transformative planning, decision-making, and institutional development for IDM investments to strategically reduce gender-based constraints.

This objective of the programme will be guided by the principles prescribed in the [GWP Gender Action Piece](#) and will align with the approach adopted in the associated [GWP Water, Climate, Development, and Gender Investments Programme](#) (AIP WACDEP-G), which has the overall objective of embedding gender-transformative change for implementation of climate-resilient water investments. IDMP will build on this work in the context of IDM by addressing the underlying causes of gender-based inequalities and aiming to transform harmful gender norms, roles, and power dynamics in the structures, relationships, and agency of drought management processes and institutions.



Number of drought policies, plans, and strategies influenced that integrate gender inclusion

Number of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (including gender and youth) to engage with drought management

2.2 Generate and manage knowledge

2.2.1 Guidance on new topics

To enhance IDM approaches beyond their current state, IDMP must embrace new techniques and topics. Many important

topics are currently evolving, and IDMP will support their development and promotion in collaboration with the partners who are leading the efforts. These topics include but are not limited to:



Flash droughts



Urban droughts



Ecological droughts



Nature-based solutions



Compound events such as drought and heatwaves or fires



Drought and health

One important development in which IDMP is already invested is the integration of flood and drought management, especially regarding IWRM. IDMP will therefore intensify its already close collaboration with its sister programme, the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) (<https://www.floodmanagement.info/>), in order to leverage synergies and make both flood

and drought management more efficient and effective. These efforts will also be based on the [EPIC Response](#) framework (enable, plan, invest, control, and respond) developed by the World Bank and Deltares, and the forthcoming IDMP/APFM/FAO/UNCCD publication on practical examples of drought and flood management.



Number of knowledge products on new drought-related topics produced or influenced by IDMP

2.2.2 Sharing of knowledge and communities of practice

There is a strong demand for sharing knowledge and best practices on IDM implementation. With increasing risk and impacts of droughts through climate change, this demand is growing rapidly. The drought community is reacting to this challenge by providing new resources, often in the form of online knowledge platforms. As collections of tools and other knowledge sources, the UNCCD [drought toolbox](#) and the [IDMP website](#) play central roles. IDMP encourages

all partners that generate new knowledge to facilitate their availability using these platforms.

Communities of practice also play an important role in the implementation of IDM techniques. In these communities, practitioners can meet and exchange knowledge and best practices, and collaborate in a direct and flexible way. IDMP is exploring ways of more actively supporting communities of practice, for example by making an online platform for hosting and managing such groups available.



Number of users of drought-related communities of practice

2.3 Strengthen partnerships

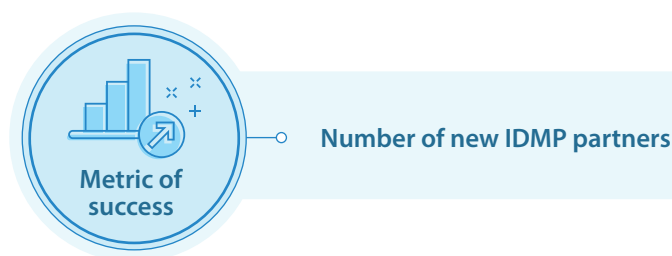
2.3.1 Strengthening the partner network

The partner network is one of IDMP's key strengths. In this active community that works on IDM from different perspectives (e.g. national meteorological, hydrometeorological, and hydrological services, universities, international organisations, private sector, and others) and a variety of aspects of the three pillars, exchange is much needed so that partners can learn from each other, identify synergies, and avoid duplication. The partner base also underpins the IDMP HelpDesk. Maintaining and strengthening partnerships is therefore a top priority of IDMP.

Regarding the above, the following activities are of strategic importance for the IDMP:

- strengthening the role of IDMP as a partner network and brand implementing IDM

- using IDMP as a platform for continuous strong collaboration between the United Nations and other organisations to speak with one voice regarding IDM
- actively pursuing extension of the IDMP partner base to new partners and potentially expanding the level of partnership to countries and other entities
- increasing engagement of partners through, for example, joint projects and/or capacity building
- engaging more partners from climate adaptation and DRR communities
- facilitating a community of practice to allow for exchange and learning among IDMP partners.



2.3.2 High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy +10

In 2013, a number of United Nations agencies, international and regional organisations, and key national agencies organised the HMNDP in Geneva. A watershed moment for drought management, this conference helped shift the focus from crisis management to proactive drought management in many countries around the world.

In 2023, 10 years after this landmark event for drought management, partners of IDMP are now organising the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy +10: Integrating Practice and Knowledge for Drought Resilience conference to find new answers to this challenge.

The goals of the Drought Resilience +10 conference are:

- to reflect on the successes and challenges of 10 years of drought risk management since 2013 to learn how to achieve drought resilience in the next decade

- to jointly consolidate and plan how drought resilience can be brought to scale to respond to the accelerating impacts of climate change in the next decade by applying systems thinking
- to work with political leaders to strengthen awareness, mobilise resources, prioritise drought, and increase commitments to building drought resilience and implementing integrated drought risk management.

The process includes several events that will lead to the Drought Resilience +10 conference. In early 2022, an international organising committee began developing the agenda securing funding for, and raising awareness of this meeting. Partners of IDMP are welcome to engage in this process.

IDMP will also take a leading role in following up on the outcomes of the conference and emerging agreements.

2.3.3 IDMP focal points

In order to increase knowledge of IDM at the country level, designation of IDM focal points at the national level has been discussed in past IDMP governance meetings. Such focal points would serve as a connection between the global IDMP and the national governments, and would support implementation of new and existing drought policies in countries, and be proactive on IDM in general. The main

benefit of this would be first-hand information on national capacities and needs regarding drought monitoring, early warning, risk assessment, and risk mitigation strategies. The national focal points would be connected to the IDMP network to receive information and support. A proposed way to move in this direction is to build GWP Country Water Partnerships and/or to draw from WMO's and UNCCD's members and parties.



3. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Regional IDMP programmes

The regional programmes of IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe, the Horn of Africa, West Africa, and Central Asia and the Caucasus are fundamental components of IDMP and key to successfully promoting IDM. Best practices have been applied and tested in the regional programme context, and learning from these provides feedback and the opportunity to improve the overall guidance of IDMP. In addition to this role as proof of concept, the programmes have been and remain key to implementation and promotion of IDM in these regions and beyond. Regional IDMP programmes have the advantage of working beyond the usual project framework since they are built on existing regional GWP structures.

Therefore, IDMP commits to further strengthening and supporting its regional programmes, and aims to establish

new programmes in which sustained drought work will be implemented beyond the project timeframe. Other potential regions are Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as additional regions in Asia and Africa. All existing regional IDMP programmes have been successful in accessing climate finance, and will continue to pursue project funding to strengthen individual programme targets in the future. They will continue to support countries in different regions to become resilient to climate change through integrating drought interventions into national dialogues, planning, and investments. This includes concrete support in the development of national and regional drought plans and strategies, in addition to mainstreaming IDM into national adaptation as well as development planning.



Number of joint global/regional activities carried out by IDMP on IDM leading to demonstrable follow-up actions taken by mandated actors

3.2 The Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk

Around 50 requests are currently received through HelpDesk every year. Since feedback on the support provided by HelpDesk is positive, and demand for this support is likely to increase by order of magnitude, the goal is to raise more awareness of HelpDesk's existence in order to reach more stakeholders. This will be achieved through an outreach strategy and campaign(s) based on a stakeholder demand/needs assessment, considering region- and country-specific conditions, socioeconomic structures, and so on. This initiative is closely related to the capacity building strategy (see section 3.3), and could potentially be linked to the country/regional focal points (see 2.3.3).

In order to improve the support provided by the IDM HelpDesk, improved classification of requests and users is required. This will be achieved by improving the input forms on the IDMP website and considering lower access barriers. As a means of increasing the visibility and usefulness of the IDMP HelpDesk for stakeholders, discussions on extending HelpDesk to a helpdesk informing IWRM in conjunction with the APFM HelpDesk are ongoing. In addition, HelpDesk will be more closely connected to the [UNCCD drought toolbox](#), the [FAO drought portal](#), and the [GWP toolbox](#), an action hub on IWRM.



Number of requests for support received through the IDMP HelpDesk

3.3 Capacity development and training

A major objective of IDMP is to support stakeholders at all levels in their IDM-related work. The building of technical capacity underpins work in regional programmes and projects, and the implementation of HelpDesk. Since its inception, IDMP has delivered training and workshops on the three pillars of IDM during face-to-face and online events. Recently, IDMP restructured and updated a [drought risk reduction training manual](#) with the United Nations Development Programme's Cap-Net, and deployed training on the first pillar via moderated online courses for West Africa, in the context of the Volta basin. The IDMP TSU is also working to make partners' capacity building materials available as a catalogue on the IDMP website.

In order to streamline approaches, IDMP will prepare a capacity building strategy in collaboration with an educational expert. Technical staff in various positions with

national or local authorities and decision-makers remain the main target audience for the capacity building efforts of IDMP. Further audiences include university students, staff of non-governmental organisations, community leaders, and children. The strategy will explore different ways of building capacity with a strong focus on online courses and materials, to reach the maximum number of stakeholders. These materials should be made available with minor adjustments to serve capacity building needs for project implementation and to respond to HelpDesk requests. It will also take into account and build on materials developed by partner organisations such as UNCCD (e.g. the [drought toolbox](#)), FAO (e.g. the [drought portal](#)), WMO (e.g. the [Climpact online module](#), training workshops on satellite products for drought monitoring), and GWP (e.g. the [IWRM Action Hub](#)). All materials that will be developed will receive input from various IDMP partners.

3.4 The Technical Support Unit

IDMP partners recognise that additional financial and human resources must be added to the regional IDMP programmes and the global TSU to implement all aspects of this strategy. First efforts have been made to include additional human resources in project proposals. This will also occur for other activities where possible. In addition, the TSU will communicate more actively that secondments are welcome from all partners and engage youth in the work, e.g. from the IDMP partner the Water Youth Network.

In general, it is important to actively communicate the need for further human resources in finding solutions to implement the strategy and bring IDM to scale. Partners recognise that the TSU should be more integrated and include support from other partner organisations and projects.

METRICS OF SUCCESS

Every year, IDMP will monitor its progress towards achieving its strategy by assessing it against a series of impact, outcome, and output indicators.

IDMP's impact relates to the socioeconomic and environmental benefits derived from better drought management and related governance in the countries and

regions where IDMP is active. IDMP's main outcomes lie in governance improvements introduced by actors at all levels where IDMP works. IDMP's outputs reside in the services and products it delivers which foster sustainable governance improvements of drought-related systems (via influenced boundary actors).

Impact indicators

1. Number of people benefiting from improved drought management
2. Total value of investments from government and private sources influenced which contribute to drought management

⋮

Outcome indicators

1. Number of drought information systems improved or established
2. Number of drought (end-to-end) EWS improved or established that recognise the “last mile”
3. Number of drought risk assessments formally used by drought managers and decision-makers
4. Number of formally adopted drought policies, plans, and strategies
5. Number of approved investment plans and budget commitments to implement drought management policies and measures
6. Number of drought policies, plans, and strategies influenced that integrate gender inclusion

⋮

Output indicators

- 1.** Number of countries supported in integrating the three pillars of IDM in drought policies, plans, and strategies
- 2.** Number of activities supported focusing on risk mitigation, preparedness, and response
- 3.** Number of initiatives that mobilise underrepresented groups (including gender and youth) to engage with drought management
- 4.** Number of knowledge products on new drought-related topics produced or influenced by IDMP
- 5.** Number of users of drought-related communities of practice
- 6.** Number of new IDMP partners
- 7.** Number of joint global/regional activities carried out by IDMP on IDM leading to demonstrable follow-up actions taken by mandated actors
- 8.** Number of requests for support received through IDMP HelpDesk



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