

# Drought policy overview: the case of Central America region

Julia Urquijo-Reguera <sup>(1, 2)</sup> & Jairo Paizano-Potoy <sup>(1)</sup>

1. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), School of Agricultural, Food and Biosystems Engineering, Agroforestry Engineering Department; (jairo.paizano@alumnos.upm.es)  
2. CEIGRAM - Research Centre for the Management of Agricultural and Environmental Risks; 28040 Madrid, Spain (julia.urquijo@upm.es)

## POLICY NEEDS

1.84 billion people stricken by drought (UNCCD, 2023)

A **proactive risk management approach** is needed to effectively tackle drought impacts.

**Relevant initiatives** exist, like the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)

### Information challenges

gap between theory and practice

Limited information on how countries are tackling drought.

Drought policy and management is an **underrepresented topic** in literature, also uncovered in policy documents

**Drought policy analyses** are scattered, heterogeneous and insufficient

## RESEARCH FOCUS

**Central American region:** Belize; Costa Rica; Guatemala; Honduras; Nicaragua; Panama; and El Salvador.

- Gaps of information on drought management are still significant and greater than for other regions;
- Particularly impacted by drought

## METHODOLOGY

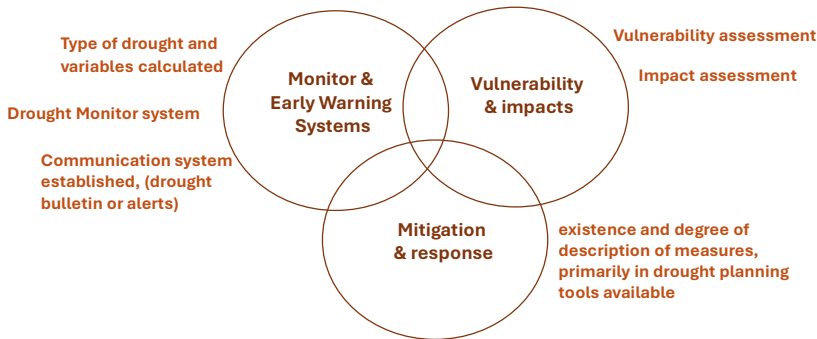
Systematic review of drought policy characteristics by country and analyze to what extent they adopt a proactive approach to address drought issues

**Analytical framework**  
WMO & GWP (2014)



### 3 pillars

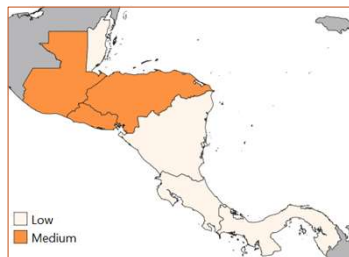
basis for a national drought policy development



'High' = a good and complete development of the pillar,  
'Medium' = a partially incorporated or incomplete development of the pillar  
'Low' = a limited or insufficient development of the pillar

## MAIN FINDINGS

### Pillar 1. Drought monitoring, forecast, and early warning



Wide coverage, meteorological, hydrological and agricultural drought : BLZ, GTM, HOD, NIC.

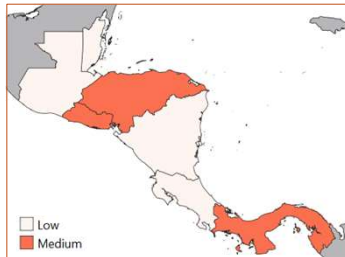
Partial coverage: only meteorological and hydrological: CRI, PAN, SLV.

HND - National Drought Monitor

GTM - Agricultural Drought Monitor

CRI, HOD, SLV and GTM release meteorological and drought information on a monthly basis

### Pillar 2. Vulnerability, risk and impact analysis

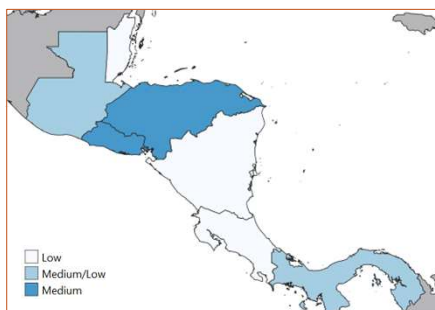


Impact assessment is mainly linked with agricultural impacts (CRI, GTM, HOD), water resources and in general terms.

Analysis of vulnerability to drought, (theoretical or conceptual basis) in HOD, PAN, SLV.

Vulnerability assessment is lacking in BLZ, CRI, GTM, NIC.

### Degree of proactive approach adoption



### Pillar 3. Mitigation and response



Do not differentiate among typology of measures - preventive, mitigation, recovery - or do not describe them with enough detail (HOD, PAN, SLV).

Only refer to emergency or recovery measures (CRI, GTM, NIC).

No country in the region show an appropriate and detailed development of different typology of drought measures.

### Main drought planning tools developed

<b>CRI</b>	Emergency Water scarcity General Plan (2019); Drought Emergency Plan (2014)
<b>GTM</b>	National Protocol for Disaster risk management for extended heat wave in Guatemala (2015)
<b>HON</b>	National Plan for Drought Risk Reduction in Honduras (2020)
<b>PAN</b>	National Drought Plan (2021)
<b>SLV</b>	Drought National Contingency Plan (2018)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Results may help to understand how drought policy is shaped in different countries and give a picture of the degree of drought policy development in the region and the challenges that they face nowadays.