

Day 1: Monday 30 September

08:00 - 09:30 Registration Entrance / Registration booth

Coffee will be available from 09:30 at the Groundfloor Bar
Posters will be displayed from 09:00 at the Groundfloor

09:30 - 11:00 Opening – Setting the Stage Salle Obasi

11:00 - 12:30 Plenary Session on Drought Resilience and Global Mechanisms - Workstream 1 Salle Obasi

12:30 - 14:30 Lunch & Parallel Side Events Groundfloor bar

12:55 - 13:55 Salle Obasi
UNCCD's Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on Drought - Results and Perspectives from 5 continents
UNCCD IWG
The IWG on Drought was established to elaborate policy options to enhance pro-active drought risk management under the Convention, to be discussed at COP16. This panel will present the seven options elaborated by the Group, and discuss them from the perspective of five countries from UNCCD's five regional clusters.

12:55 - 13:55 Salle C1
"Meet a scientist" network event for policy makers, practitioners and scientists
IAHS working group 'Drought in the Anthropocene' (DitA)
This event aims to create tangible collaborations between science and policy. The first half includes pitches of scientific and policy challenges. In the second half, breakout groups are created to foster partnerships between participants to further discuss common topics.

12:55 - 13:55 Salle C2
Governance in Action: Strategies for Improved Drought Risk Management
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), UNCCD, GWP, Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), IUCN
The session will feature insights on integration of governance frameworks, policy development, and stakeholder engagement to address drought challenges. By fostering a dialogue between policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, this session aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

12:55 - 13:55 Salle B
Earth Observations and Artificial Intelligence for Drought Management: Opportunities to Scale Impact
AIT, EOTEC DevNet, Fraunhofer HHI, GEOGLAM
This session explores how Earth observation and AI tools, along with capacity building, enhance drought management. Presenters will showcase innovative tools for forecasting, monitoring, and impact assessment, followed by discussions on scaling these tools globally.

12:55 - 13:55 Press Room
Towards actionable information to foster drought resilience - lessons from across scales
UKCEH, UNCCD, Centre for Security Studies (ETH), University of California (Santa Barbara), IHE Delft
This session will focus on the challenges and opportunities in providing actionable information on drought status, from a range of perspectives: from civil protection at the local scale, through to initiatives providing early warnings and risk assessments nationally to globally.

Coffee will be available from 14:30 at the Groundfloor Bar

14:30 - 16:00 Plenary Session on Drought Risk Governance: The Regional, National, and Local Challenges - Workstream 2 Salle Obasi

16:00 - 17:30 Plenary Session on Drought impact Monitoring, Assessment and Forecasting - Workstream 3 Salle Obasi

17:45 - 19:15 Salle Obasi
Drought and Ecosystems in Arid Environments
Climate Change Center (CCC), National Center for Meteorology (NCM - Saudi Arabia), King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
This session will discuss possible strategies and caveats for drought and aridity management in dry regions. It is composed of nine short presentations on the analysis of afforestation strategies and caveats including soil degradation assessment and predictions.

17:45 - 18:45 Salle C1
Drought Resilience in a Changing Climate: From Monitoring to Action
ANA/FUNCEME/CEPAS-Brazil, DWD-Germany, DGM-Morocco, NOAA/NIDIS-USA, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada/Canada
Explore global and regional strategies for enhancing drought resilience. This side event will showcase the Brazilian Drought Monitor, Morocco's agricultural advances, regional drought forecasting, and innovative approaches to drought assessment and decision-making in a changing climate.

17:45 - 18:45 Salle C2
Empowering Youth to Foster Progress in a Drought-Resilient Future
Water Youth Network, African Union's Great Green Wall Youth Advisory Board, Children & Youth Major Group to UNEP, Reseau des Jeunes pour le Climat en Afrique, Global Environmental and Climate Conservation Initiative
Showcase young people's initiatives for drought impact monitoring and forecasting, addressing challenges and effects. A panel will discuss the challenges of securing sustainable funding for youth-led initiatives and solutions to empower young innovators in drought resilience efforts.

17:45 - 18:45 Salle B
Drought Monitoring and Early Warning for Food Security
FAO, IWMI
This session features tools for drought monitoring, forecasts, and EWS, and approaches for managing drought risks in agriculture. Policy implications and practical applications will be discussed, providing insights into enhancing resilience against drought-related food security challenges.

17:45 - 18:45 Press Room
Disseminating Drought Status and Outlooks Regionally and Globally
WMO, OUTLAST (KIT Germany, Goethe University Frankfurt, ICWRGC Germany, Georg August University-Goettingen)
To explore the WMO HydroSOS for drought management, highlighting its role in monitoring and forecasting drought impacts. The session includes a panel with HydroSOS and OUTLAST experts, a live Q&A, and an interactive demo of the HydroSOS portal, featuring new drought layers from OUTLAST.

19:00 - 20:00 Working Group on the Conference Declaration C1

Day 2: Tuesday 1 October

Coffee will be available from 09:00 at the Groundfloor Bar
Posters will be displayed from 09:00 at the Groundfloor

09:00 - 10:30		Plenary Session on the Need to Turn Drought Policies into Action - Workstream 4		Salle Obasi	
10:30 - 12:00		Plenary Session on Ecosystems - Workstream 5		Salle Obasi	
12:00 - 14:00		Lunch		Groundfloor bar	
<p>12:25 - 13:25 Salle Obasi</p> <p>Droughts in Transboundary Basins: Insights from the 3rd SDG 6.5.2 Report and beyond</p> <p>UNECE, UNESCO, World Bank</p> <p>Significant improvements in transboundary drought risk governance and action are increasingly needed. The 3rd Progress Report on SDG Indicator 6.5.2, which measures progress toward transboundary water cooperation, will be launched at the side event and paths forward for drought risk management in the transboundary domain will be presented.</p>	<p>12:25 - 13:25 Salle C1</p> <p>From Global to Local: Addressing the Drought and Displacement Nexus for Resilient Communities</p> <p>IOM, Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), University of Sao Paulo, Antea Group Belgium, Aerobic Agroforestry Limited, Aerobic Tree Planting Empowerment Initiative</p> <p>With increasing droughts, managing impacts is challenging. Droughts worsen land degradation, affecting poverty, food security, health, and migration. Unsustainable practices amplify these issues for vulnerable communities. This event will address drought and migration challenges, discuss data and funding issues, explore global response mechanisms, and share best practices for building resilience.</p>	<p>12:25 - 13:25 Salle C2</p> <p>UNCCD & IDMP Communities of Learning and Practice: collaborative approaches to drought management and resilience</p> <p>UNCCD, GWP, WMO</p> <p>This session will function as a live Community of Learning & Practice showcasing different communities for drought management. Participants will gain unique insights into the successes, experiences and challenges faced by different global and regional communities and actively participate in shaping their future directions.</p>	<p>12:25 - 13:25 Salle B</p> <p>Impact-based drought prediction – from science to practice. What's needed and what's possible?</p> <p>UKCEH, Uppsala University, Centre of Natural Hazards and Disaster Science (CNDS)</p> <p>This session will showcase the latest advances in impact-focused drought risk assessment, monitoring and early warning. We will host a community discussion on how such scientific developments could be mainstreamed into practice - what's needed, what are the barriers, and how could they be overcome?</p>	<p>12:25 - 13:25 Press Room</p> <p>South Asia, MENA and Southern Africa Regions: Leading the Way in Drought Adaptation</p> <p>IWMI, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dept of Meteorology (Sri Lanka), IUCN, African Union Commission, CGIAR initiatives on Climate Resilience</p> <p>This side event presents three pillars of IDMP for South Asia, MENA, and SA governments to create drought platforms integrating monitoring, early warning, and decision support tools. These platforms enable proactive drought risk management and inform drought mitigation and management actions, including nature-based solutions, fostering collaboration and resilience in vulnerable communities.</p>	
Coffee will be available from 14:00 at the Groundfloor Bar					
14:00 - 15:30		Plenary Session on Social inclusion and Climate Justice - Workstream 6		Salle Obasi	
15:30 - 17:00		Plenary Session on Drought Risk Finance - Workstream 7		Salle Obasi	
17:00 - 17:15		Break		Groundfloor bar	
<p>17:15 - 18:30 Salle Obasi</p> <p>The International Drought Resilience Observatory Unveiled: Revolutionizing Global Drought Resilience</p> <p>IDRA, UNCCD, UNU-INWEH, World Bank Group, Yale CEA</p> <p>In the face of escalating drought and climate challenges, IDRO emerges as a cornerstone initiative to revolutionize global efforts in drought resilience. IDRO aims to pioneer a paradigm shift towards effective monitoring and proactive response strategies, harnessing next-generation solutions.</p>	<p>17:15 - 18:15 Salle C1</p> <p>Gender and Social Inclusion in Drought Management: Policy and Practice</p> <p>FAO, Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA)</p> <p>Drought affects men, women, boys and girls differently thus the socially excluded communities should be empowered for climate related action. Therefore, this side event aims at going beyond policy and will bring out practical aspects of how gender equality and social inclusion are integrated in drought management policies and practices.</p>	<p>17:15 - 18:15 Salle C2</p> <p>The current state of drought monitoring in South America – progress and perspectives</p> <p>FUNCEME, ANA Brazil, CIIFEN - CRC OSA, DMC, IDEAM, CRC-SAS, WMO Americas</p> <p>Progress in national and regional drought monitoring will be shown, explaining progress, existing limitations and future steps to strengthen. Likewise, based on the experiences of existing regional monitors, we will analyze the proposed roadmap for the drought monitor for all of South America.</p>	<p>17:15 - 18:15 Salle B</p> <p>Global Report on the Economics of Drought – benefits of proactive investments to improve drought readiness</p> <p>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), UNU-INWEH</p> <p>Mandated by the UNCCD, the ELD Initiative and UNU-INWEH with partners are presenting first results from a report on the economics of Nature-Based Solutions as proactive protection measures for drought preparedness, addressing policy makers and finance institutions to facilitate investments into NBS.</p>	<p>17:15 - 18:15 Press Room</p> <p>Best Practices for private sector and civil society participation</p> <p>The Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Foundation, China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA)</p> <p>The 100 Million Saxual initiative is a ten-year ecological restoration project in the decertified area which was launched by the SEE Foundation in 2014 together with entrepreneurs and millions of the public. 171,870 hectares of plants are being planted. We'd like to share the outcome of private sector and civil society participation in China.</p>	
18:30 - 19:30		Working Group on the Conference Declaration		C1	
18:30 - 21:00		Reception of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia		WMO Cafeteria	

