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# An evaluation of the drought policy and planning guidelines to improve their alignment with the four priority areas of the SENDAI framework

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## Introduction

- A number of drought policy and planning guidelines are developed to support the transition from crisis to risk management.
- However, research is lacking on critical reflection, evaluation and update of these guidelines.
- This study evaluates twelve drought guidelines for their alignment with the four priority areas of the SENDAI framework for disaster risk reduction 2015-2030

## Methodology

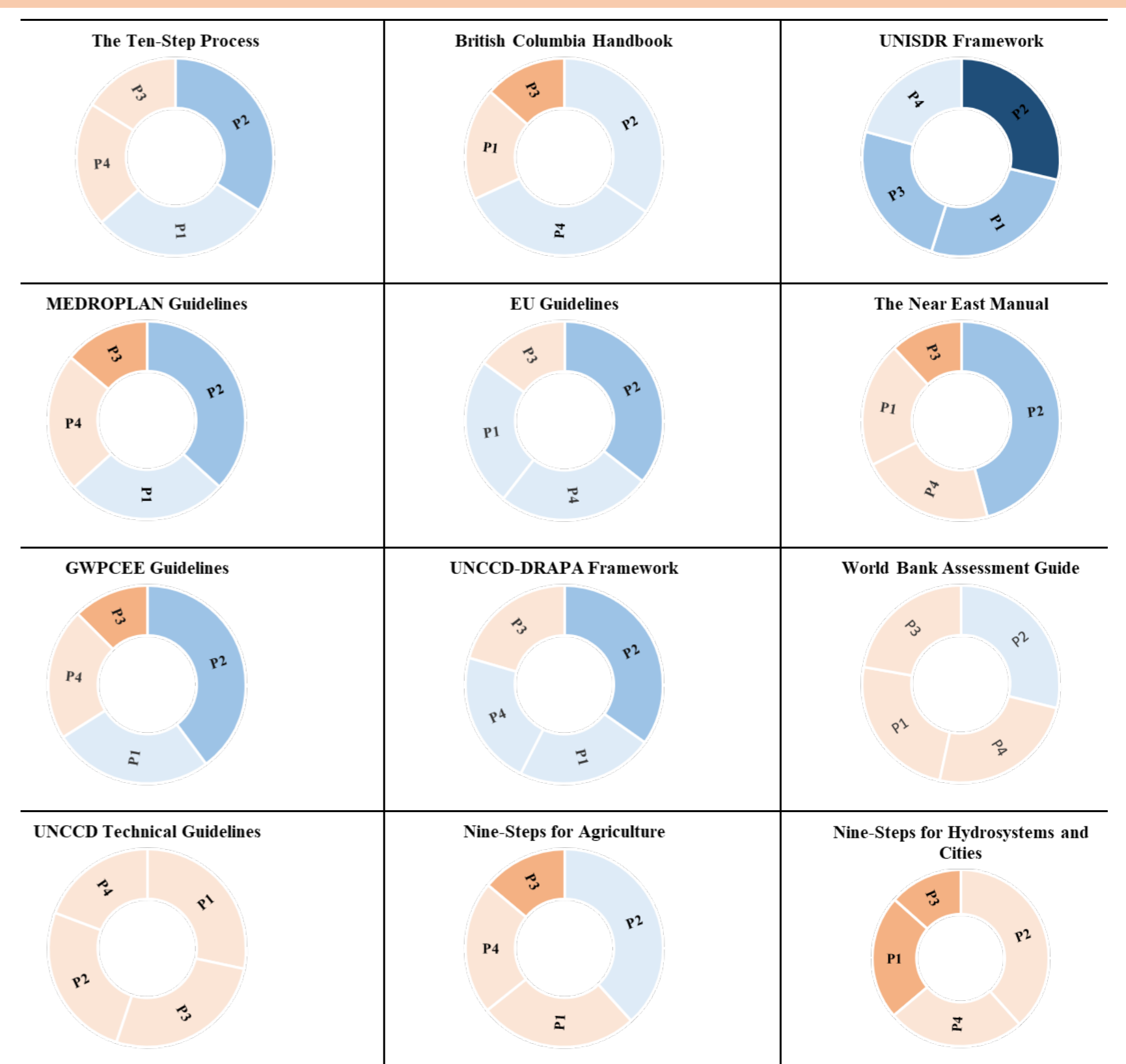
A novel qualitative scoring matrix was developed and used in the evaluation.

Classification	Score range	Scoring guide
Very Low (VL)	0-10	The element is not covered or just briefly mentioned.
Low (L)	11-30	The element is mentioned in some details, but sufficient information is lacking on concept, methods, data and tools. The references to supporting materials and examples are very limited.
Medium Low (ML)	31-50	The element is a core component of the approach. Although some information is provided on concept, methods, data and tools, important details are missing. Few references on supporting materials are included.
Medium High (MH)	51-70	The element is a core component of the approach, and receives a good coverage on concept, methods, data and tools. Most of the important details are reasonably well covered. Few references on supporting materials are included. The information is well supported by at least one or few case study examples.
High (H)	71-90	The element is a core component of the approach, and receives a very good coverage on concept, methods, data and tools. Most of the important details are well covered. Most important references on supporting materials are included and discussed in detail. The element is sufficiently underpinned by state-of-the-art on the topic and builds on the case study examples.
Very High (VH)	91-100	The element is a core component of the approach, and receives an excellent coverage on concept, methods, data and tools. The important details are covered in a comprehensive and very good manner. The element is strongly underpinned by state-of-the-art on the topic and builds on the case study examples and global best practices.

## Results

Main findings on the alignment of the examined guidelines with the four priority areas of the SENDAI framework are presented below.

SENDAI framework priority area, and main elements considered in the evaluation	The Ten-Step Process	British Columbia Handbook	UNISDR Framework	MEDROPLAN Guidelines	EU Guidelines	The Near East Manual	GWPCEE Guidelines	UNCCD DRAPA Framework	World Bank Assessment Guide	UNCCD Technical Guidelines	Nine-Steps for Agriculture	Nine-Steps for Hydrosystems and Cities
<b>Priority 1 (P1): Understanding disaster risk.</b> Disaster risk management needs to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.												
Overall evaluation priority 1	MH	ML	H	MH	MH	ML	MH	MH	ML	ML	ML	L
Data and information	H	H	VH	H	H	H	H	VH	VH	VH	MH	MH
Risk assessment	H	MH	VH	VH	H	H	H	MH	VH	VH	MH	MH
Local knowledge and practices	VL	L	H	VL	VL	VL	VL	L	VL	VL	VL	VL
Capacity Development	H	L	VH	ML	ML	VL	ML	MH	L	L	L	VL
Science-policy-practice dialogue	H	VL	H	H	VL	VL	VL	L	VL	VL	VL	VL
Research and development	MH	VL	MH	L	H	L	MH	L	L	L	ML	VL
Communication and dissemination	H	MH	VH	MH	H	L	H	MH	MH	H	MH	ML
<b>Priority 2 (P2): Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.</b> Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is vital to the management of disaster risk reduction in all sectors and ensuring the coherence of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies that, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide, encourage and incentivize the public and private sectors to take-action and address disaster risk.												
Overall evaluation priority 2	H	MH	VH	H	H	H	H	H	MH	ML	MH	ML
Policy and governance	H	ML	VH	H	H	MH	H	VH	MH	ML	ML	ML
Strategies and plans	H	H	VH	H	85	MH	H	H	H	H	H	H
Community representation	MH	H	VH	MH	MH	MH	MH	H	H	H	H	ML
Coordination mechanisms	H	H	VH	H	H	H	H	H	MH	MH	H	H
Political will and support	H	H	VH	H	H	H	H	H	L	VL	L	VL
Periodic assessment and reporting	H	ML	H	H	H	MH	H	MH	L	VL	ML	ML
<b>Priority 3 (P3): Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.</b> Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.												
Overall evaluation priority 3	ML	L	H	L	ML	L	L	ML	ML	ML	L	L
Resource allocation including finance	MH	VL	H	MH	VL	VL	L	MH	MH	ML	VL	VL
Risk transfer and insurance	L	VL	H	MH	VL	L	10	MH	ML	H	VL	VL
Mainstreaming Disaster risk reduction assessments into land use policy	L	ML	H	L	L	L	L	L	ML	MH	ML	VL
Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into rural development plans	L	L	MH	VL	H	L	L	L	L	L	VL	VL
Business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets	ML	L	H	L	L	L	VL	ML	ML	L	ML	VL
Sustainable use and management of ecosystems	ML	ML	H	ML	H	ML	H	H	MH	MH	L	MH
Health and safety	L	L	MH	L	L	L	L	MH	L	ML	VL	L
<b>Priority 4 (P4): Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.</b> Experience indicates that disaster preparedness needs to be strengthened for more effective response and ensure capacities are in place for effective recovery. Disasters have also demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of the disaster, is an opportunity to «Build Back Better» through integrating disaster risk reduction measures. Women and persons with disabilities should publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible approaches during the response and reconstruction phases.												
Overall evaluation priority 4	ML	ML	MH	ML	MH	ML	ML	MH	ML	ML	ML	ML
Disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	MH	L	H	MH
People-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	MH	ML	MH	ML	L	ML
Disaster response including in emergencies	MH	MH	MH	MH	ML	L	ML	MH	ML	ML	L	L
Post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	ML	L	H	L	ML	L	L	ML	L	L	L	L
Resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure	L	L	MH	ML	MH	L	VL	L	ML	ML	L	L



## Conclusions and recommendations

- The examined drought guidelines do not aligned very well with the contemporary disaster risk reduction agenda.
- While the available guidelines do provide very valuable instructions on several important areas (e.g., risk assessment, coordination mechanisms, and plans and strategies), there are a number of key elements necessitating substantial improvement (e.g., science-policy-practice dialogue, risk transfer, finance and health).
- This study calls for a periodic review and update (e.g., after every 10- 15 years) of the drought policy and planning guidelines to ensure their validity and effectiveness to address contemporary challenges and emerging needs.

Scan the QR code to access the preprint of the paper under review for the journal NHESS



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