



RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

Global Drought Policies and International Cooperation: where do we stand?





UNCCD
COP17
ULAANBAATAR 2026

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

17-28 AUGUST 2026

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA



RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE



LAND IS AT THE HEART OF GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



From Riyadh/COP 16 to Ulaanbaatar/COP 17

@ COP 16, substantial progress was achieved, including the launch of:

- the World Drought ATLAS, Global & regional Communities of Learning & Practice
- the launch of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership (RGDRP)
- the growing political momentum via IDRA
- the prototype of the International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO)
- Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF).

Despite these, negotiations stalled over the legal form of a global drought governance.

- African Parties advocated for a legally binding protocol
- Many developed countries favored a non-binding global framework
- Flexible & swing Parties signaled openness to either pathway



From Riyadh/COP 16 to Ulaanbaatar/COP 17

Diagnosing the Deadlock

The drought deadlock is not simply a technical issue; it is fundamentally a political one. Three recurring tensions shape current positions:

1. Predictability vs. Flexibility: Vulnerable countries prioritize predictable finance, obligations, and support; donor countries emphasize flexibility and discretion.
2. Urgency vs. Process: Many Parties see drought impacts accelerating faster than multilateral treaty-making can respond; others fear rushing a protocol could undermine implementation or delay action.
3. Accountability vs. Sovereignty: Binding commitments are seen by some as essential for credibility, and by others as politically intrusive or unviable

These dynamics suggest that a **binary framing [protocol vs. non-binding framework]** is unlikely to produce consensus at the COP17. More promising pathways lie in **sequencing, hybrid & functionality** delivering predictability, accountability, and visibility while addressing the concerns of more cautious Parties.

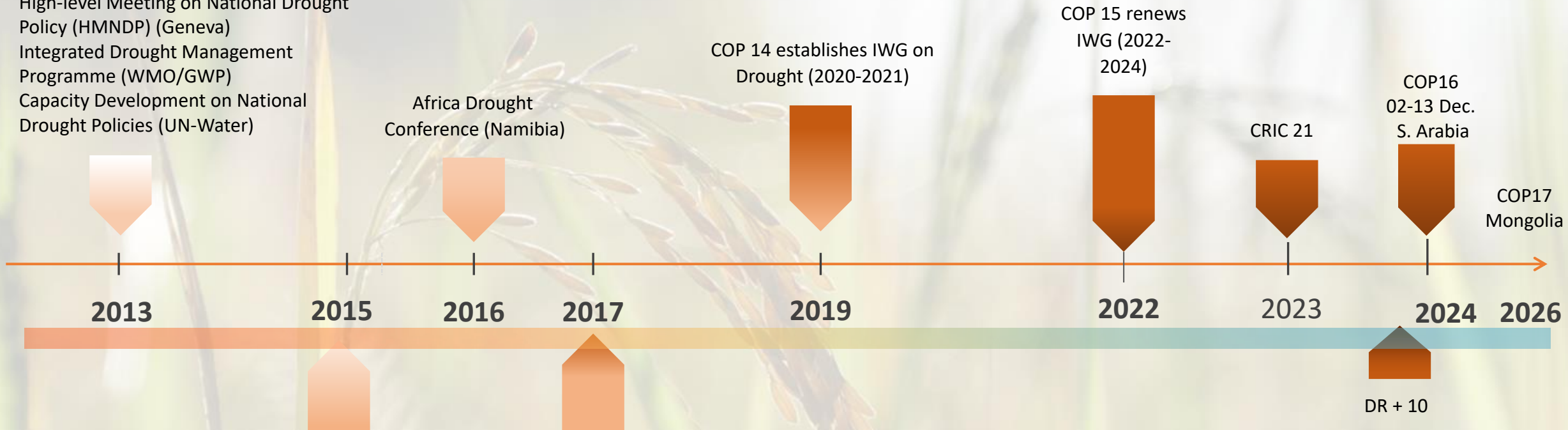


KEY MILESTONES:

Global Drought Policy Initiatives



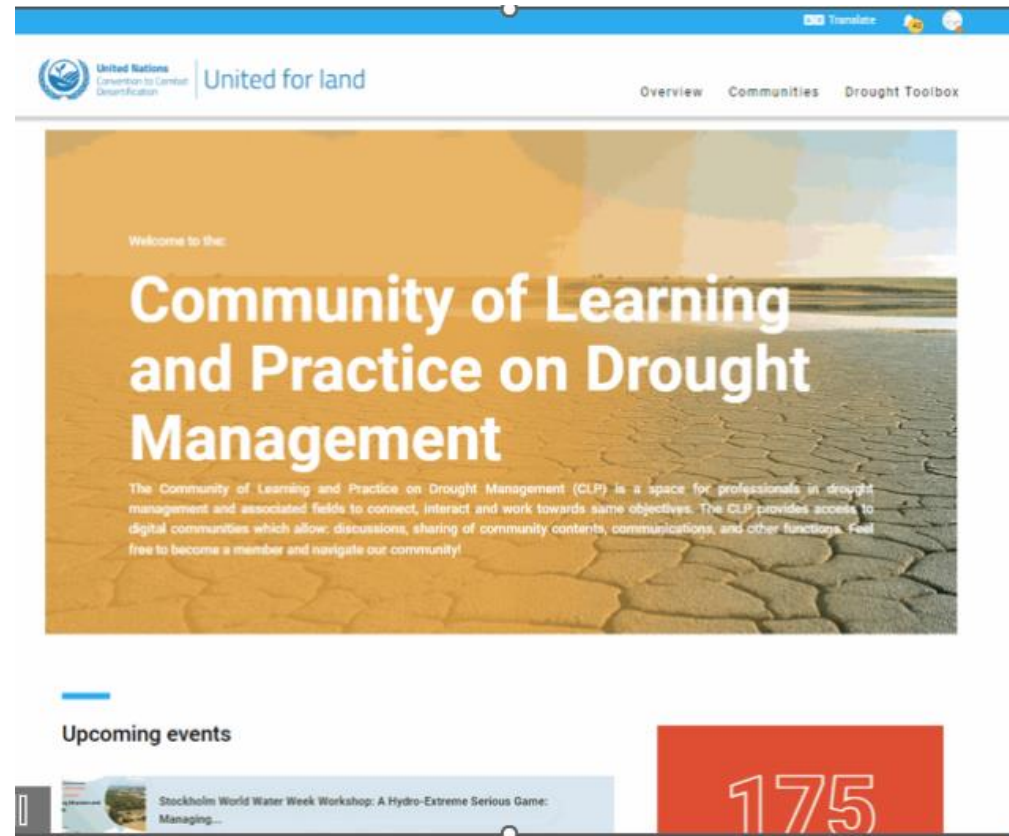
- High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) (Geneva)
- Integrated Drought Management Programme (WMO/GWP)
- Capacity Development on National Drought Policies (UN-Water)



- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
- Paris Agreement (UNFCCC COP 21)
- SDG Goal 15.3 (LDN)
- COP 13 establishes Drought Initiative
- COP 13 adopts a strategic objective on drought
- LAC Drought Conference (Bolivia)

Communities of Learning and Practice Platform Tour

The Communities of Learning and Practice (CLPs) foster regional and interregional collaboration through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and co-learning. Designed for National Focal Points (NFPs), Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs), and other drought management professionals, the CLPs aim to enhance capacities, promote collaboration, and strengthen resilience in addressing drought risks and combating desertification.




<https://droughtclp.unccd.int/clp/home>



UNCCD CLPs on
Drought Management


Communities

Communities




Global Community

327 You have joined [Visit](#)




Africa Community

132 You have joined [Visit](#)




Northern Mediterranean Community

54 [Visit](#)




Central and Eastern Europe Community

60 [Visit](#)



Asia Community

118 You have joined [Visit](#)



Latin America and the Caribbean Community

137 [Visit](#)

Drought Toolbox



Overview ▾ Communities Drought Toolbox Online Learning Cases ▾

Drought Toolbox

[Details](#) [Clone](#) [Translate](#)

Monitoring and early warning

Vulnerability and risk assessment



Risk mitigation measures

[The Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy \(DRAMP\) Framework and its guidelines and](#)

[Read more on risk mitigation measures](#)

[Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk](#)

[Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy \(DRAMP\) Framework](#)

[FAO: The Drought Portal](#)



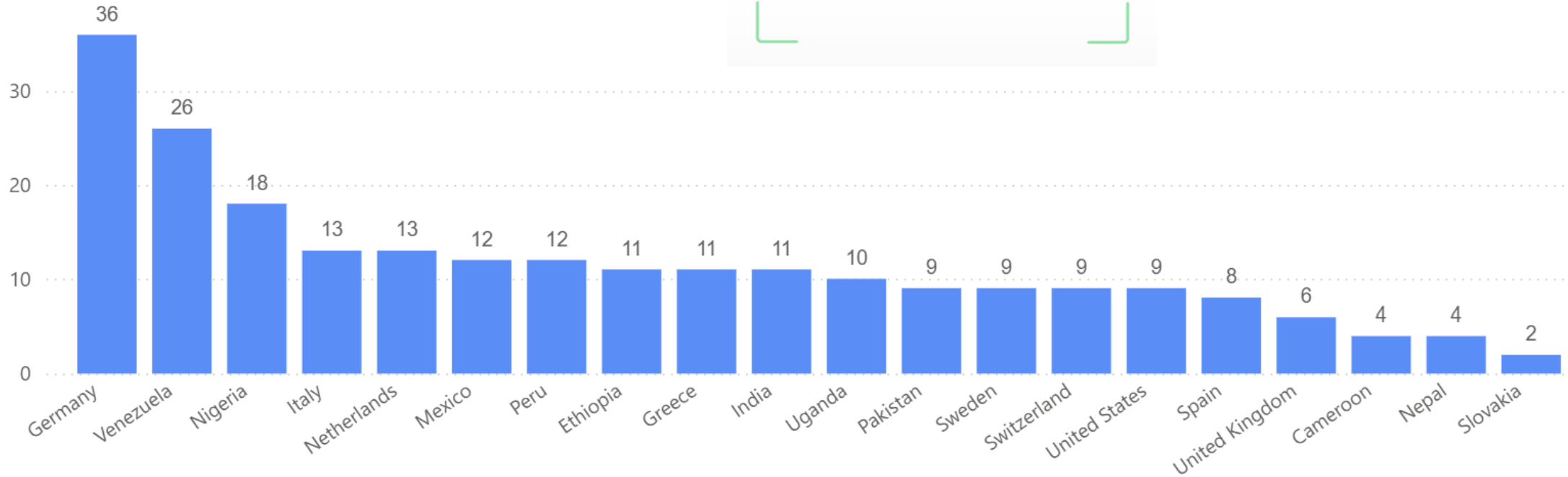
UNCCD CLPs on Drought Management

CLP Membership



480
members

USERS BY COUNTRY (TOP 20)



International Drought Resilience Alliance

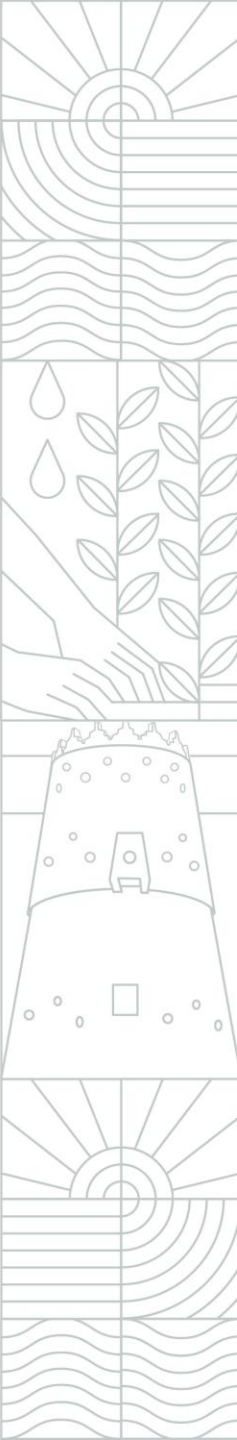


International Drought Resilience Alliance

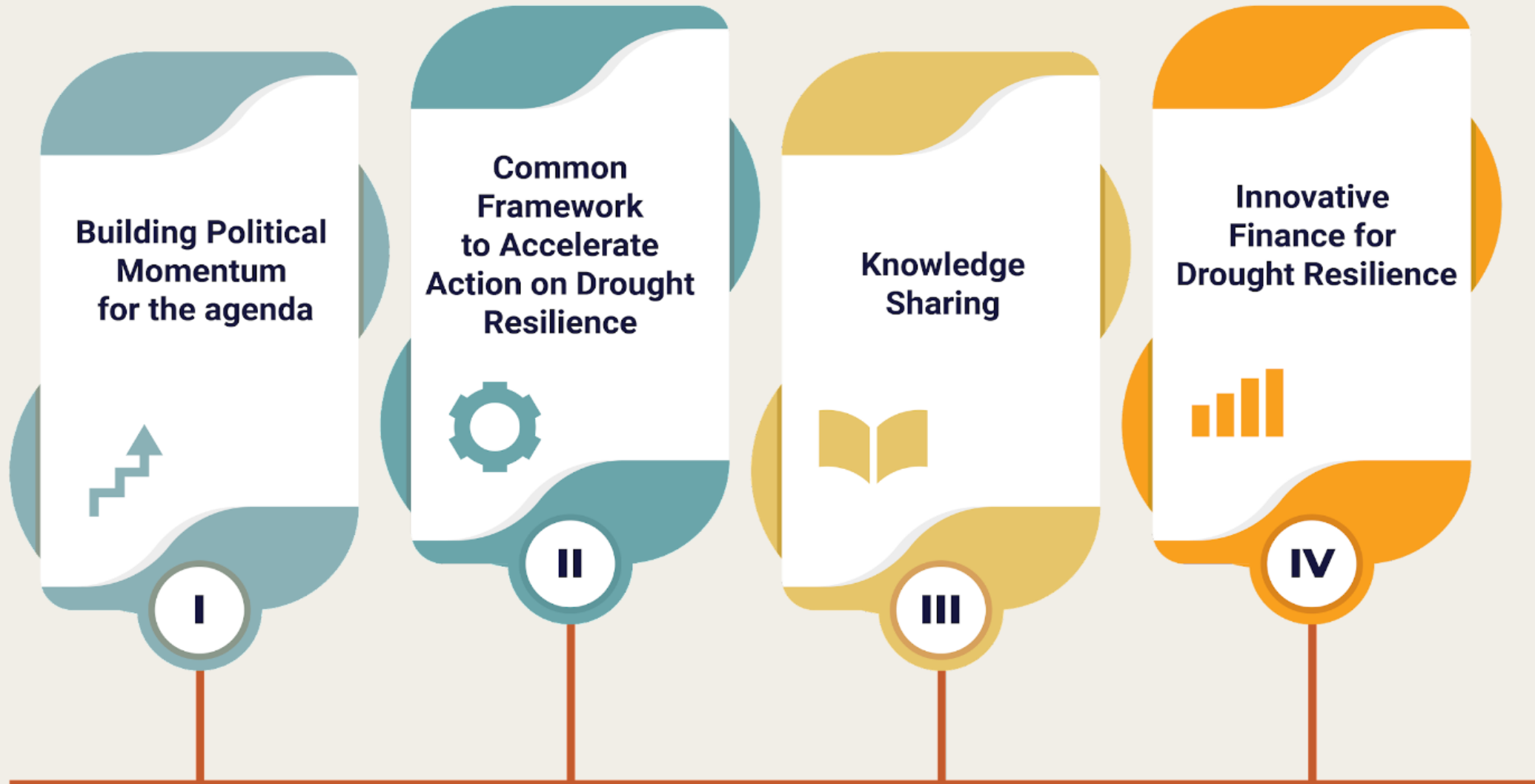
IDRA is a **global coalition** that mobilizes political, technical & financial capital to enhance drought resilience in countries, cities, & communities – **40 countries & 28 Organizations**

 Argentina	 Australia	 Belgium	 Brazil	 Chile	 China
 Colombia	 Comoros	 Costa Rica	 Côte d'Ivoire	 Dominican Republic	 Egypt
 European Union	 France	 Germany	 Ghana	 Honduras	 Italy
 Jordan	 Kenya	 Mauritania	 Mexico	 Mongolia	 Morocco
 Namibia	 Panama	 Peru	 Portugal	 Saudi Arabia	 Senegal
 Slovakia	 Slovenia	 Somalia	 Spain	 Tunisia	 Türkiye
 United Arab Emirates	 United States of America	 Uruguay	 Uzbekistan	Co-chairs	

 Asian Development Bank	 Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad	 Convention on Biological Diversity	 Development Bank of Latin America	 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Global Water Partnership	 Green Climate Fund	 Inter-American Development Bank	 International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas	 International Fund for Agricultural Development	 International Union for Conservation of Nature
 International Water Management Institute	 Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel	 The Central American Integration System	 The Commonwealth	 The Executive Secretariat of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region	 The Global Environment Facility
 The Nature Conservancy	 The Sahara and Sahel Observatory	 Union for the Mediterranean	 United Nations Development Programme	 United Nations Environment Programme	 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	 World Meteorological Organization	 World Wildlife Fund		



The Four Pillars for Drought Resilience Action





United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

Alliance
International Drought
Resilience Alliance



IDRO
INTERNATIONAL DROUGHT
RESILIENCE OBSERVATORY

International Drought Resilience Observatory

Phase 2

IDRO emerges from IDRA

A groundbreaking initiative
championed by **Spain and Senegal**
to revolutionize Global Drought Resilience.



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNCCD
COP16
Riyadh | 2024



Phase 1 - Success & Foundation

- **Prototype co-developed** by UNCCD, Yale CEA in collaboration with key global partners aligned with **UNCCD Drought Mandate**.
- **Scientific & Technical Framework:** Standardized definitions, indicators, integrated datasets, and early AI tools, built using Yale CEA's SEVA & BEEM Lab technologies
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Secured collaboration with UN agencies and global leaders including Spain, Senegal, KSA, and NASA
- **Tools & Demonstration:** Developed interactive dashboards, regional case studies, and delivered an immersive public demo showcasing IDRO's functionality




Drought resilience

Is the system's capacity to Anticipate, Prepare, and Adapt to drought.
(UNCCD)

It involves integrated early warning systems, proactive preparation and flexible adaptation strategies. By combining these, populations and ecosystems can withstand, recover, transform and build back better from drought more effectively.



A world map showing drought-affected areas in yellow and orange. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America on the left and Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia on the right. Drought-affected areas are concentrated in North America, the Mediterranean region, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Australia. The map is overlaid with a grid of red lines.

Critical information is emerging on how to become resilient to the effects of drought.

However, the data and information are fragmented and scattered.

Rationale for IDRO



Addressing data deficiencies

Providing a centralized hub for real-time data, research, and case studies



Enhancing forecasting capabilities

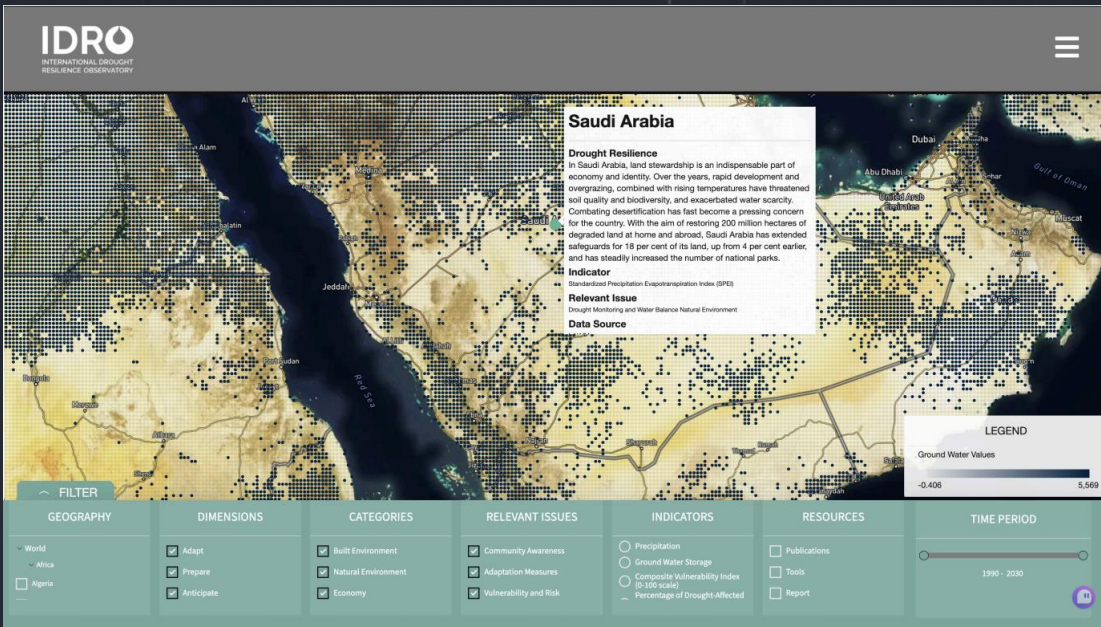
Leveraging AI-powered analytics



Improving policy coordination

Offering interactive mapping and visualization tools to facilitate stakeholder collaboration

What IDRO Does?



- Transforms complex drought data into actionable insights.
- Enables real-time monitoring, risk forecasting, and early warning.
- Supports cross-sector collaboration: policy, science, and communities.
- Builds stakeholder capacity with user-friendly platform.

Our goal is to connect data + science with meaningful action.

IDRO provides key indicators for drought resilience to enable decision-makers to select the right strategies.



- **Advance KSA UNCCD COP16 Legacy**

Support the Riyadh Action Agenda and the RGDRP, while using COP17 as a platform to spotlight Saudi Arabia's leadership in global drought resilience and accelerate progress toward Vision 2030.

- **Phase 2 unlocks the full potential**

From prototype to an operational tool for policymakers, scientists, and the public worldwide.

- **The Shift to Proactive Drought Management**

IDRO is a global, AI-powered platform to move from crisis response to long-term drought resilience.

- **Droughts are escalating**

More frequent, severe, and unpredictable, yet responses remain reactive and fragmented; Global stakeholders do not have access to the timely information they need.

Why Phase 2, Why now?



Key Objectives of Phase 2

Phase 2 focuses on a holistic approach: technology, data, people, and security.



Refine Methodology & expand Datasets

Standardize drought resilience metrics, incorporate additional datasets and custom indicators, and add case studies.



Platform Development

Robust front-end & back-end infrastructure, AI Integration for Enhanced Functionality and Development of Interactive Dashboards.



Stakeholder Capacity Building

Training sessions, technical workshops, and policy dialogues.



Security & Compliance

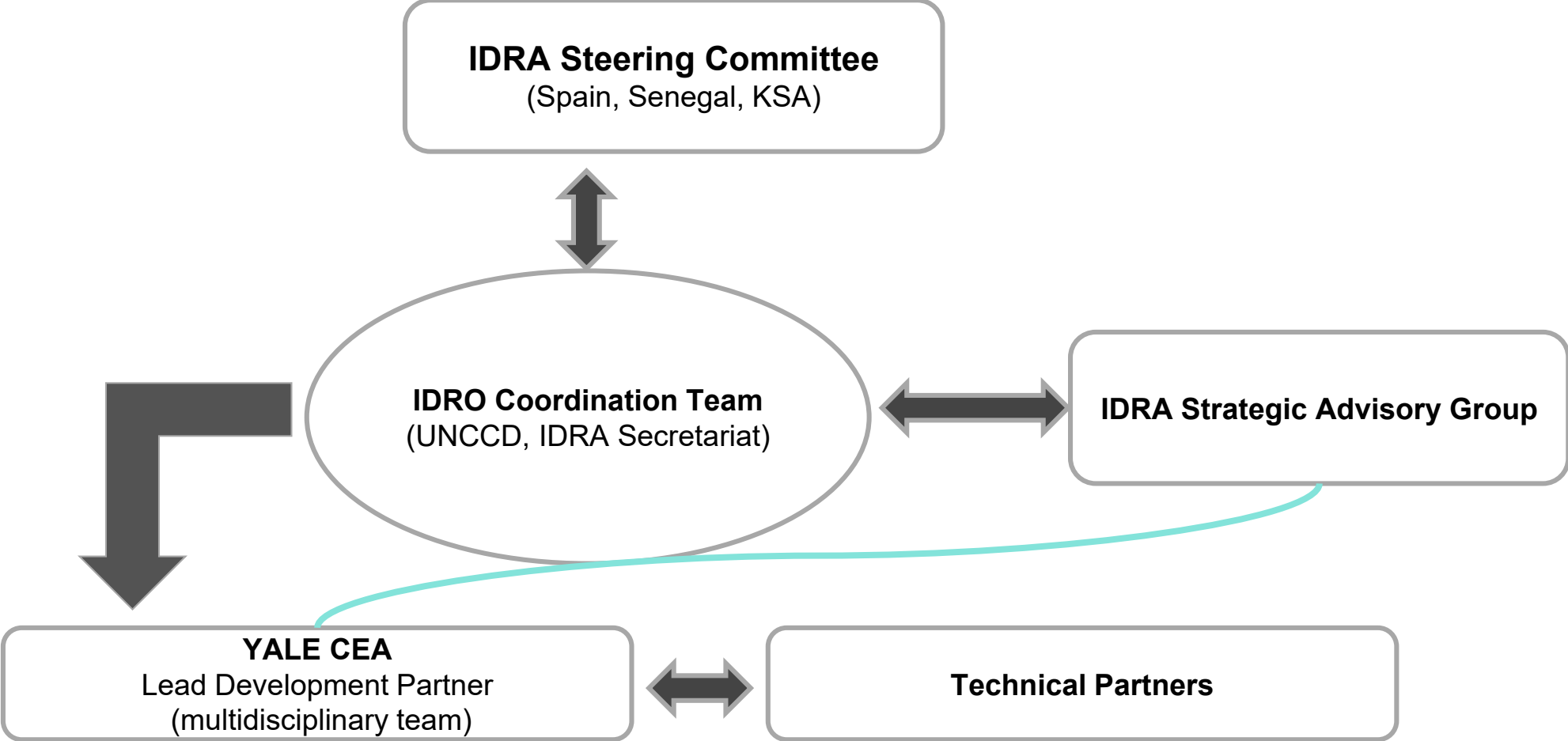
Ensuring IDRO meets global data governance and security standards.



Deployment Observatory Strategy

Plan and prepare physical immersive Observatory installations in selecting key locations (KSA) and developing tailored installation strategies.

IDRO Structure



IDRO - Our Team

Leading Organization



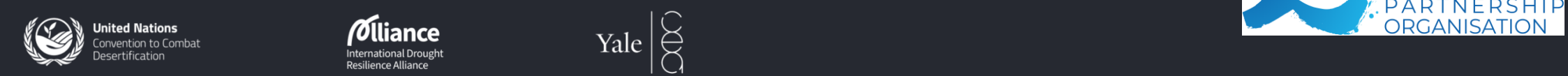
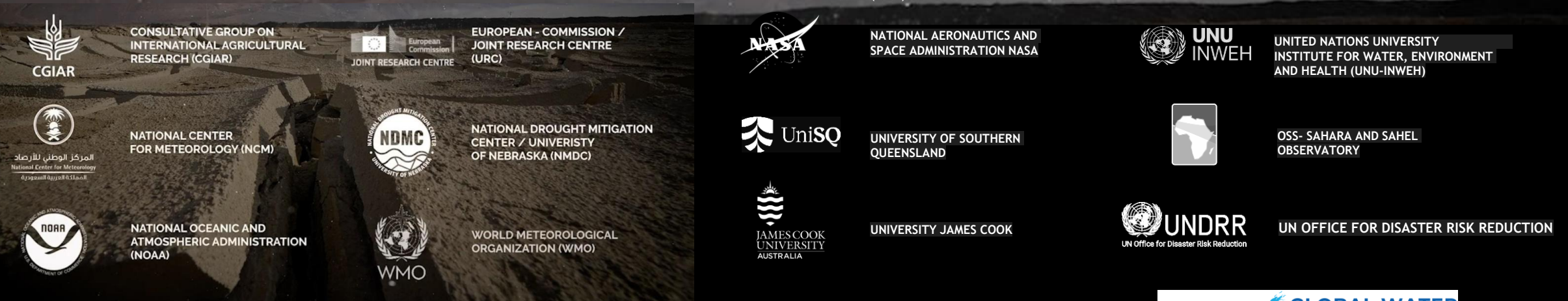
Lead Scientist & Developer



Multidisciplinary Team

- UI/UX Designers
- Data Scientists
- Climate Scientists
- Mapping Specialists
- AI Specialists
- Web Developers
- Engineers
- Policy Experts

Partners





Thank You

**United Nations Convention to Combat
Desertification**

P.O. Box 260129
D-53153 Bonn, Germany

Office Location

UNCCD
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
D-53113 Bonn, Germany

Switchboard

Tel: 00 49 228 815 2800
Email: secretariat@unccd.int



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification