



Virtual Exchange

# “Institutional Coordination for Drought Resilience”

## What makes institutional coordination work in practice?

Dr David W. Walker

**CQA**  
INTERNATIONAL





**Year of Publication:** 2024

**Pages:** 108 pp

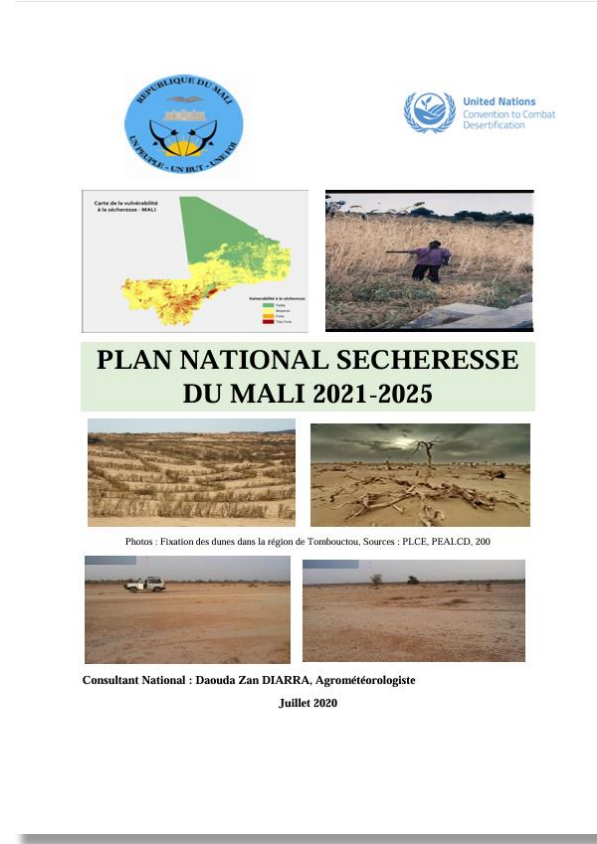
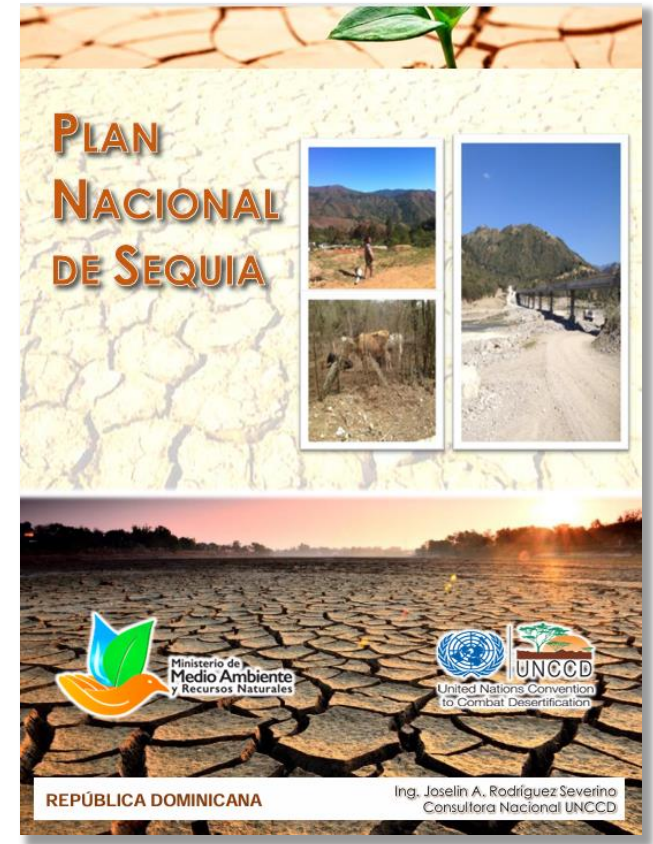
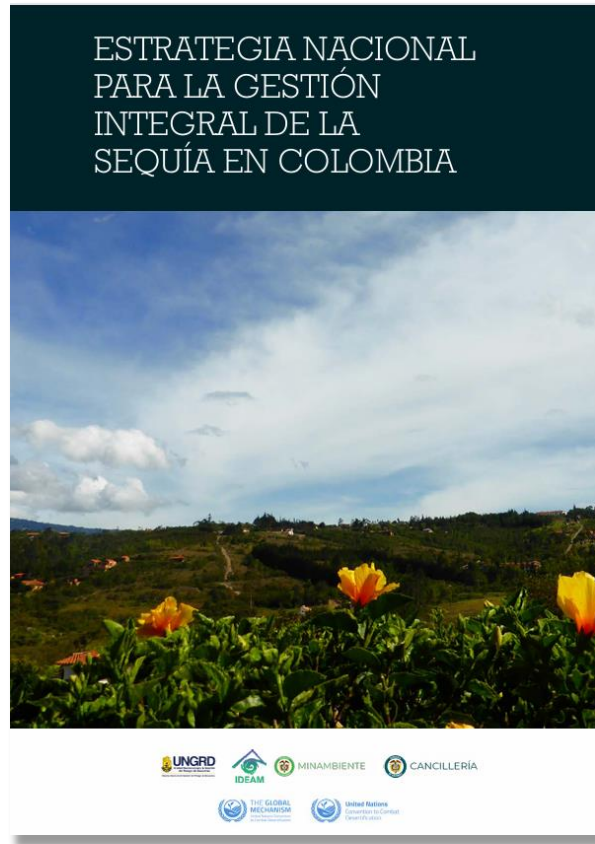
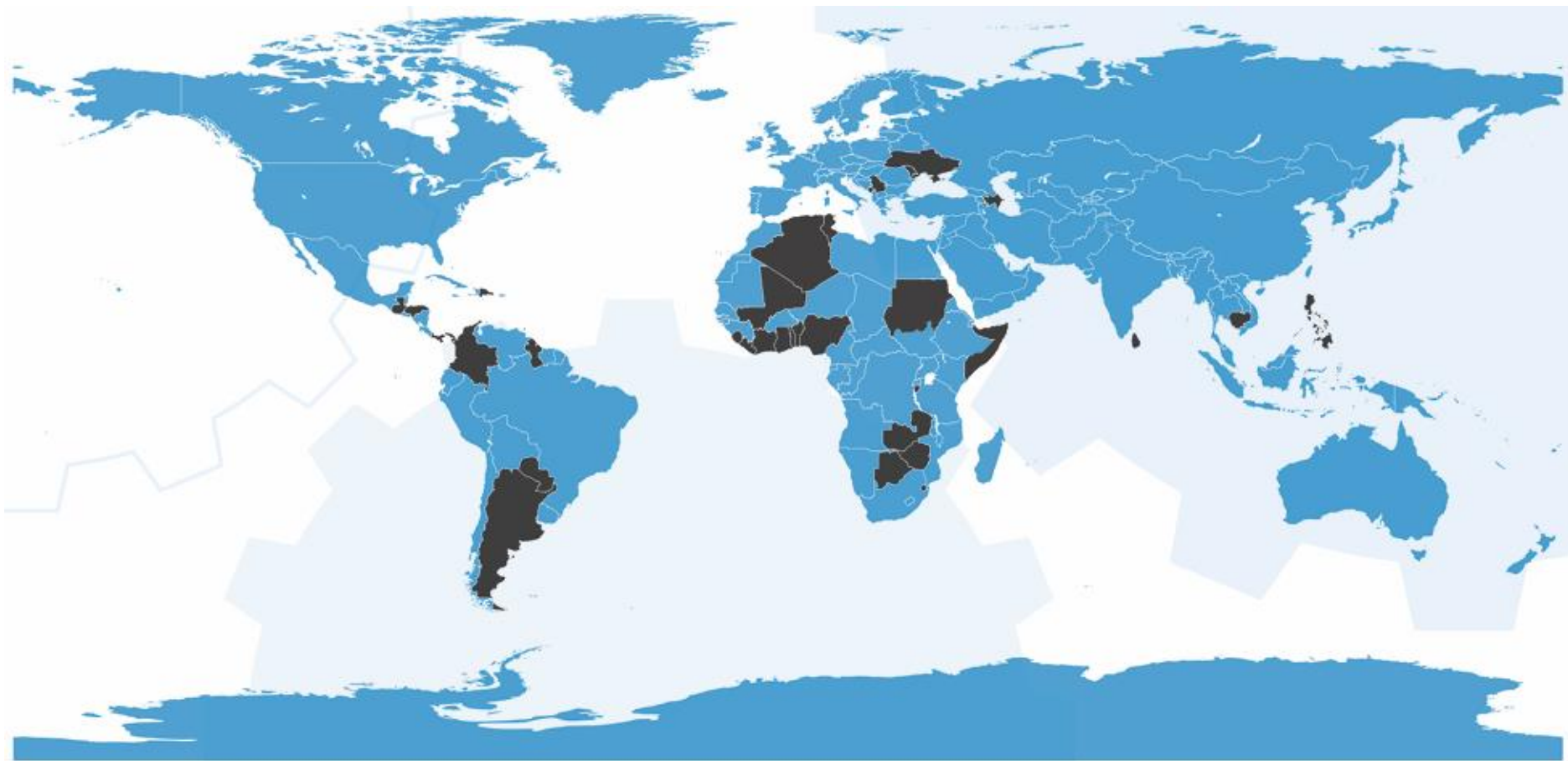
**Keywords:** drought, national planning, coordination, models, stakeholder engagement, communication strategies, monitoring and evaluation, guidelines, case studies

**Citation:** Walker, D.W., Salman, M., Pek, E., Stefanski, R. & Aich, V. 2024. *Guidelines on institutional coordination for drought management*. Rome, FAO.

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2282en>

**Permanent link:** <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2282en>

# Drought Initiative: Countries with published national drought plans as of 2024



# Contents

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Abbreviations	ix
Highlights	x
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Background</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. The reference to coordination mechanisms in the national drought planning process</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1. Planning for drought management	5
3.2. The reference to coordination mechanisms in the national drought planning process	7
3.3. Strategic leadership and its composition in the drought planning and management processes	9
3.4. Mainstreaming institutional coordination mechanisms in the drought planning and management processes	10
<b>4. The minimum institutional framework for managing drought</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>5. Analysis of approaches for the institutional coordination of drought management</b>	<b>30</b>
5.1. Taxonomy of institutional coordination models	30
5.2. Temporal considerations of the institutional coordination model taxonomy	38
5.3. Resource consideration of the institutional coordination model taxonomy	38
5.4. Case studies of the implementation of coordination approaches	41
5.4.1. Cluster approach	41
5.4.2. Standing committee approach	43
5.4.3. Technical working group approach	44
5.4.4. Inter-institutional approach	47
5.4.5. Taskforce and subcommittee approach	48
5.4.6. Three pillars approach	50
5.4.7. Drought phases approach	53
5.4.8. Functions approach	54
5.5. Guidance on institutional coordination model selection	56
5.5.1. Case study of the establishment of functional coordination mechanism in Sri Lanka	58
<b>6. Stakeholder engagement in national drought management</b>	<b>63</b>
6.1. Case study of community-based drought monitoring in Montenegro	67
<b>7. Communication as an instrument for institutional coordination</b>	<b>68</b>
7.1. A communication strategy for all times, not only during drought	69
7.1.1. Case study of drought communication strategy: Zambia	69
7.1.2. Case study of drought communication strategy: Ghana	71
7.2. Declaration of drought	73
7.2.1. A case study of the declaration of drought and the drought response action plan for Serbia	74
7.3. Communication pathways during drought	75
7.4. Communication pathways of the different institutional coordination models	77
<b>8. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for national drought plans</b>	<b>82</b>
8.1. The need for monitoring and evaluation	82
8.2. The specific goals of monitoring and evaluation	86
8.3. Possible monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	87
<b>9. Conclusions</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>10. References</b>	<b>92</b>

4

The minimum institutional framework for managing drought



5

Analysis of approaches for the institutional coordination of drought management



6

Stakeholder engagement in national drought management



7

Communication as an instrument for institutional coordination



8

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for national drought plans





# Main Findings



**Permanent link:**  
<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2282en>

**Core Collaboration:** Effective management relies on a "minimum institutional framework" that bridges government, sectors, and local communities.

**Context-Specific Design:** Coordination models must be customised based on a country's specific risk level, government structure, and available resources.

**Financial & Temporal Planning:** Resource availability and climate determine whether to implement a permanent or temporary coordination mechanism.

**Strategic Communication:** Essential for all stages – from official drought declarations to general public information – using targeted, multi-level channels.

**M&E for Efficiency:** Continuous monitoring and evaluation are vital to synchronise institutional actions and maintain international standards.

**Enhanced Resilience:** Implementing these guidelines directly strengthens a nation's capacity to develop and review sustainable drought plans.