

**Conclusions “Changing minds on drought management – the economic case”
World Water Week event, 28 August 2018, Stockholm, Sweden**

The event was structured along three messages emerging from consultations with over 30 organizations. It engaged the audience in a dialogue on the challenges to shift from drought crisis to drought risk management and how to motivate proactive action towards drought. The event drew on findings from joint activities by the World Bank and the group of expert organizations part of the WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP).

Message 1 highlighted a case study from Mexico: Assessment of the benefits of action and the impacts to be avoided needs to be prepared proactively, so that it can be used to propose solutions when a window of opportunity opens.

Message 2 focused on a case study from Honduras: Strengthening the evidence base, showing examples and raising awareness on social and economic co-benefits of Drought Risk Management can be decisive to promote Drought Risk Management interventions.

Message 3 was contextualized by a case study from Central and Eastern Europe: Phased and integrated strategies and methodologies for Drought Risk Management can be used to help organizing the necessary assessments of the costs and the benefits that each step entails.

About 70% of the audience informed that their country or institution has not made the economic case for drought planning, highlighting the lack of political will and the lack of data as the main challenges. Limited interactions among partners were considered by the audience as the main challenge to strengthen the evidence of the benefits of drought risk management. For the way forward, participants favoured in order of preference (1) the development of a common conceptual framework for assessing drought risk and analysing the benefits of action/costs of inaction, (2) strengthening the evidence base and (3) taking advantage of a drought crisis to engage the political leadership.

Recommendations:

- 1) Develop a common conceptual framework for assessing drought risk and analysing the benefits of action/costs of inaction
- 2) Strengthen the evidence base of the benefits of drought risk management.

Two initiatives, tools or networks that support the learning objectives and have fostered the goals of the session:

- 1) A joint publication by the World Bank and IDMP on the benefits of actions and costs of inaction providing insights on the economic case to shift from drought crisis to drought risk management and how to motivate proactive action towards drought will be released in the coming months.
- 2) The event featured the integrated drought management help desk run by the Integrated Drought Management Programme and serviced by leading expert organizations. The IDMP help desk aims to contribute to solving the challenge of shifting from a reactive to a proactive approach by providing guidance and responding to demands.