

Annotated Programme World Water Week in Stockholm event

Changing minds on drought management – the economic case

Tuesday 28 August | 09.00-10.30 | Room: FH 202

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#DroughtMindShift

Introduction: Over 30 organizations attempt to answer the question why the shift from crisis to risk management is happening so slowly in drought management and how to change this through smart economic and policy strategies. A rich set of experiences to provide answers and seek new insights will be showcased

Convenors: Global Water Partnership, the World Bank, World Meteorological Organization, WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)

Event Description: This event tackles the paradox that if proactive drought risk management is socially and economically optimal compared with reactive crisis management, why is the shift from crisis to risk management for droughts happening so slowly and how can we change this? The event will draw on findings from joint activities by the group of expert organizations part of the WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) including a joint publication by the World Bank and IDMP. The event will share short experiences that highlight the importance of the timing to build the political case, how the economic argument needs to be framed within the wider political economy and the need for comparable methods. It will highlight innovative financial and social approaches and feature the integrated drought management help desk, serviced by leading expert organizations, as it aims to contribute to solving this challenge by providing guidance and responding to demands. Through a dynamic interaction with the audience the event aims to reflect on how to motivate proactive action towards drought with practical examples.

The objective of this event is to engage 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. Expected outcomes will be feedback on next steps and on ways to expand the evidence base.

Annotated Programme:

09:00 – 09:10 Setting the stage – findings from the IDMP work stream on the Benefits of Actions and Costs of Inaction and main challenges for proactive Drought Risk Management

María Angélica Sotomayor, World Bank and Frederik Pischke, Global Water Partnership

09:10 – 09:20 Responding to the challenges – introducing the integrated drought management help desk, *Robert Stefanski, World Meteorological Organization*

09:20 – 09:25 Session objectives and structure

Moderator: *María Angélica Sotomayor, World Bank*

Message 1: 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

Crises can present opportunities to push for reform and create change. Having drought impacts assessments that support a set of agreed beneficial actions at hand can be a powerful argument. It is

essential to ensure that the thinking has happened and that the frameworks and mechanisms are already in place to push for solutions while there is heightened attention to droughts and before the next drought crisis hits.

09:25 – 09:30 Drought policy change: The Mexican case, *Mario López Pérez, Mexican Water Technology Institute*

09:30 – 09:45 Interactive discussion

Mentimeter questions to the audience:

1. Does your country / institution conduct an economic assessment of drought impacts?
2. What are the challenges to conduct an economic assessment of drought impacts?

Message 2: 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

It is essential that drought risk reduction is embedded within existing development processes at local and national scales, not as a stand-alone concern. Its highly complex nature means that Drought Risk Management can be achieved through multiple routes. Promoting processes where the relevance of Drought Risk Management to existing agendas is better appreciated will strengthen progress.

09:45 – 09:50 Agricultural water management for drought risk management in Honduras, *Fabiola Tábora, Regional Coordinator, GWP Central America*

09:50 – 10:05 Interactive discussion on message 2

Mentimeter questions to the audience:

3. Does your country / institution have any examples on the benefits of Drought Risk Management?
4. What are the challenges to identify evidence of the benefits of Drought Risk Management?

Message 3: 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

There is a need for a more organized framework for assessing drought risk and analyzing the benefits of action/costs of inaction. To move towards this coherence, it is strongly recommended that the assessments of the benefits of action and the costs of inaction of Drought Risk Management are applied alongside a wider and comprehensive drought policy guidance. This stepwise approach could allow certain comparability across countries and contexts while being tailored to the specific local requirements.

10:05 – 10:10 A step wise approach and the economic case to drought planning in Central and Eastern Europe, *Sabina Bokal, GWP IDMP Central and Eastern Europe project manager*

10:10 – 10:20 Interactive discussion on message 3

Mentimeter questions to the audience:

5. Does your country / institution include drought risk management into existing development processes?
6. Does your country / institution make the economic case for drought planning?

10:20 – 10:30 **Discussion feedback on next steps and on ways to expand the evidence base**

Frederik Pischke, Global Water Partnership

Mentimeter question to the audience:

7. Way forward – where to focus?