



**World Meteorological Organization**  
Working together in weather, climate and water

# Developing and Implementing Drought Policies: Outcomes of the High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)

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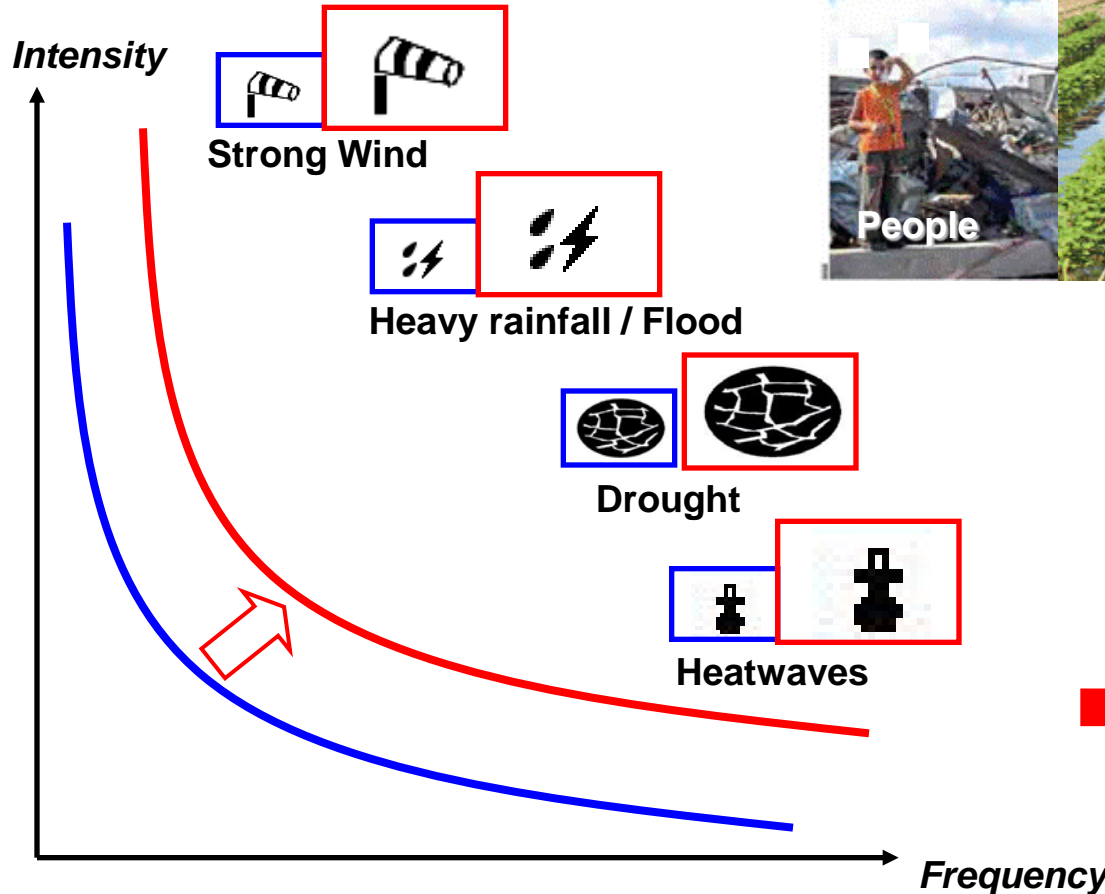
# Presentation

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- Background
- Societal vulnerability to droughts and risk management
- Need for National Drought Policies
- High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)
- Organization of HMNDP and Main Outcomes
- Proposed Follow-up Actions

# Socio-economic Impacts of Climate-Related Extremes on the Rise !

Hazard intensity and frequency increasing linked to climate variability and change!



Vulnerability and exposure on the rise !

Need for Pro-active Risk Management

# The Enigma of Drought



用很厚草，叶子卷起，  
植株枯萎，  
10.25 摄于陆屋





# Drought in 2011

## East Africa endured Worst Drought in 60 years

10 million people were at risk after the worst drought in the region in decades hit large areas of Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.

Two consecutive below-average rainfall seasons have resulted in failed harvests, depletion of grazing resources and significant livestock mortality in the Horn of Africa region.

Cattle and sheep died at higher rates than usual, reaching up to 60% of mortality in some areas.

UN USG issued an appeal for urgent help to avert famine in Horn of Africa.



Baroness Amos - UN USG



# Droughts in 2012 in USA

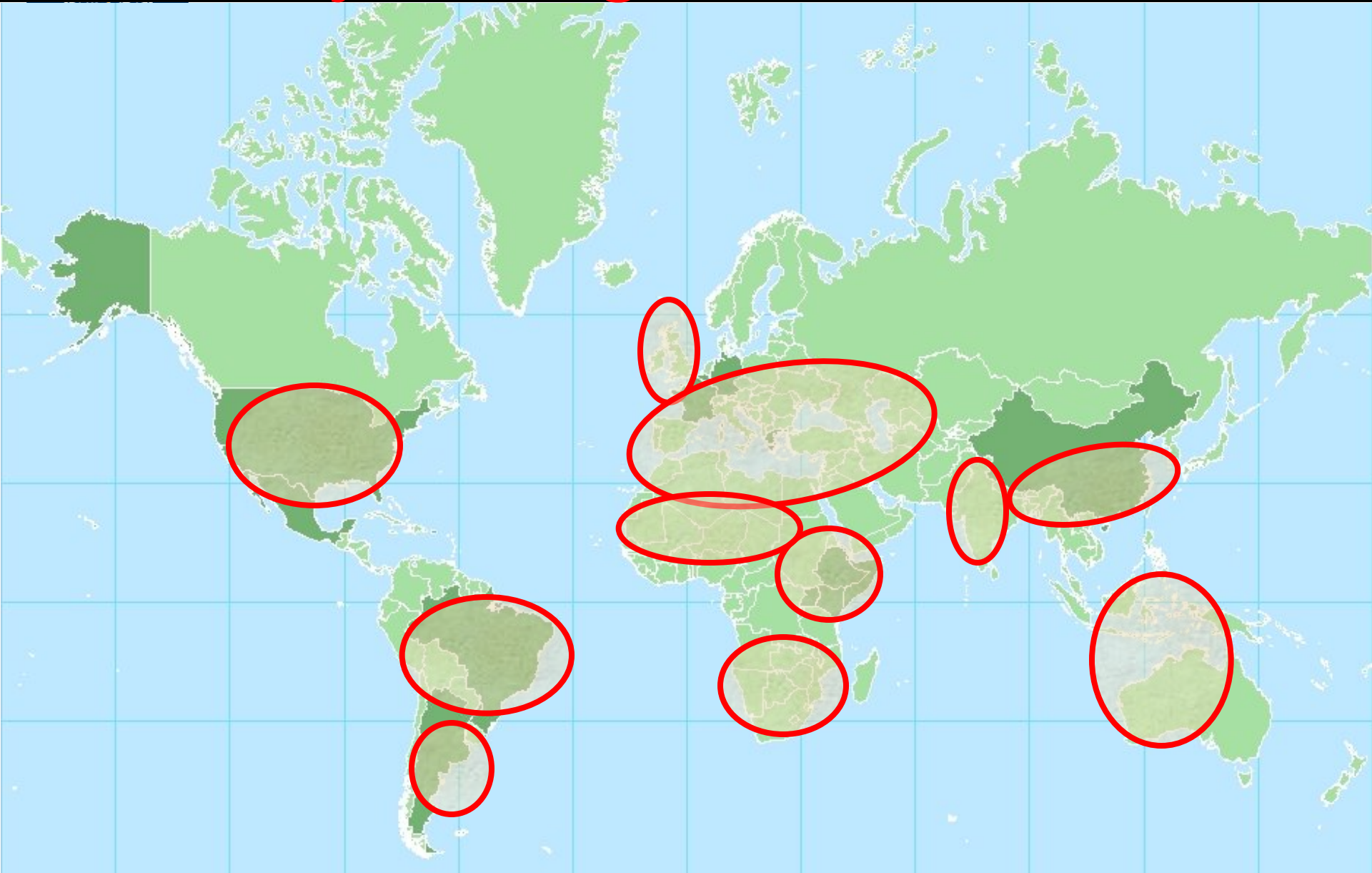
June marked the warmest 12 month period in USA since record keeping began in 1895.

Based on the Palmer Drought Index, at the end of October 2012, severe to extreme drought affected about 34 percent of the contiguous United States, while 49% of the country fell in the moderate to extreme drought category.

Farmers abandoned corn fields covering an area larger than Belgium and Luxembourg combined.



# Major Drought Areas—2012



# Changes in Societal Vulnerability

Drought impacts are more complex today as more economic sectors are affected, creating more conflicts between water users, i.e., societal vulnerability is dramatically different and changing.

- Agricultural production
- Food security
- Energy
- Transportation
- Tourism/Recreation
- Forest/rangeland fires
- Municipal water
- Water quality/quantity
- Environment
- Ecosystem services
- Health





# Reducing Societal Vulnerability

- Improve **drought awareness**
- Develop/improve monitoring, early warning and **information delivery** systems
- Improve **decision support** tools
- Complete **risk assessments** of vulnerable sectors, population groups, regions
- Improve understanding and quantification of **drought impacts vs. mitigation costs**
- Develop and implement **drought preparedness plans**
- Create **national drought policies** based on the principles of risk reduction



# Goals of National Drought Policy

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- Proactive mitigation and planning measures, risk management, public outreach and resource stewardship.
- Greater collaboration to enhance the national / regional / global observation networks and information delivery systems to improve public understanding of, and preparedness for, drought.
- Incorporation of comprehensive governmental and private insurance and financial strategies into drought preparedness plans.



## Goals of National Drought Policy (2)

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- Recognition of a safety net of emergency relief based on sound stewardship of natural resources and self-help at diverse governance levels.
- Coordination of drought programmes and response in an effective, efficient and customer-oriented manner.



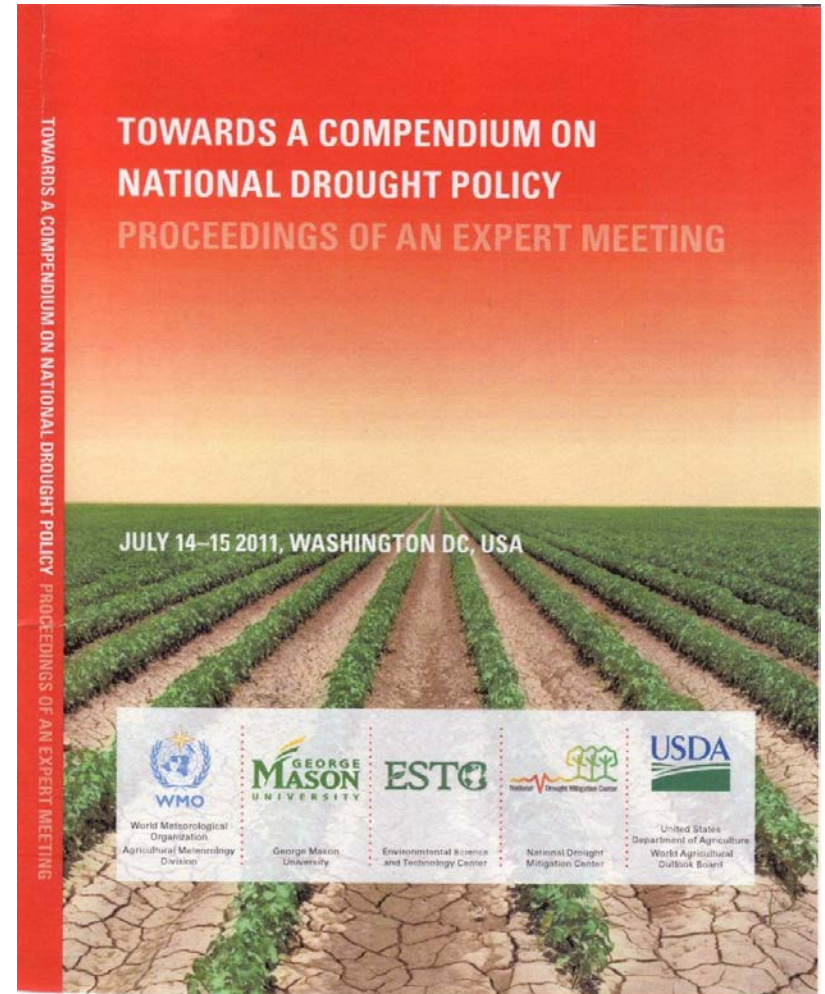
# High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy 11-15 March 2013, Geneva

- WMO, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are the main organizers
- Six other UN Agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNISDR, WFP, IFAD and UNW-DPC), six International Organizations (GWP, ICRISAT, ICARDA, IHDP, IICA, and JRC of European Commission), NOAA and USAID joined as HMNDP Partners



# Expert Meeting for a Compendium on National Drought Policy

- Promoting standard, timely approaches to Vulnerability and Impact Assessments
- Implementing effective Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems
- Enhancing Preparedness and Mitigation Action
- Implementing Emergency Response and Relief measures that reinforce National Drought Policy
- Understanding the Cost of Inaction





**High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)  
CICG, Geneva**

**11-15 March 2013**

**Science Document: Best Practices on National Drought Management Policy**

**World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**February 2012**



**High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)  
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## Circular letter to Governments and Draft Meeting Declaration

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A circular letter, addressed by the Heads of WMO, UNCCD and FAO, to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all Governments inviting their Heads of States or Ministers responsible for drought issues to address the High Level Segment and provide feed back on the Draft HMNDP Declaration in all languages was sent in January 2013.

Feedback from a number of Governments was received.



# Participation in HMNDP

- 414 participants from 87 countries attended HMNDP.
- There were several participants from the Permanent Missions of countries to the United Nations in Geneva
- Several International Organizations, Regional Organizations and UN Agencies were also represented.



# Programme for HMNDP

- Monday, 11 March 2013
  - Opening Session
  - Start of the Scientific Segment
- Tuesday, 12 March and Wednesday, 13 March
  - Scientific Segment continues
- Thursday, 14 March
  - AM: Scientific Segment concludes
  - PM: Opening of the High Level Segment and Addresses
- Friday, 15 March
  - AM: Addresses and Adoption of the HMNDP Declaration



# Salient Features of the Scientific Segment

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The Scientific Segment was organized in twelve sessions (including an opening session) covering different aspects:

- Drought Monitoring, Early Warning and Information Systems
- Drought Prediction and Predictability
- Drought Vulnerability and Impact Assessment
- Enhancing Drought Preparedness and Mitigation
- Planning for appropriate response and relief within the framework of national drought policy
- Constructing a framework for national drought policy: The way forward.



# Main Conclusions of the Scientific Segment (1)

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- It is important to develop national drought policies and preparedness plans that place emphasis on risk management rather than crisis management;
- Establishment of scientifically sound, comprehensive and integrated Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems that provide integrated information to decision makers, vulnerable communities and sector based stakeholders is critical;
- Drought vulnerability and impact assessment should be facilitated through the systematic collection of common minimum datasets and account for context specificity by involving local communities;



# Main Conclusions of the Scientific Segment (2)

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- Emphasis should be placed on more integrated approaches for drought preparedness and mitigation through the application of science and technology for the development of more resilient communities and ecosystems and through social safety nets.
- Better understanding of drought phenomena and the associated risks and implications at all levels should be enhanced to provide appropriate response and relief to affected communities in a timely manner;
- Cooperation, consultation, communication, and partnerships at the international, regional, national and local levels should be promoted to construct effective national drought policies.



# 14 March 2013 PM: Opening of the High Level Segment of HMNDP





# Proposal by the Prime Minister of Niger for the adoption of HMNDP Final Declaration

- Under the chairmanship of HE Prime Minister of Niger the Final Declaration on National Drought Policies which calls on all governments to develop and implement national drought management policies consistent with their development objectives was reviewed. The declaration also provided detailed scientific and policy guidance on how this would be achieved.
- The declaration urged WMO, UNCCD and FAO, other related UN agencies, and programmes, as well as other concerned parties, to assist governments, especially the developing countries, in this task. The Declaration was adopted by exclamation by all the participants



# Salient Features of the High Level Declaration (1)

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- Develop proactive drought impact mitigation, preventive and planning measures, risk management, fostering of science, appropriate technology and innovation, public outreach and resource management as key elements of effective national drought policy.
- Promote greater collaboration to enhance the quality of local/national/regional/global observation networks and delivery systems.
- Improve public awareness of drought risk and preparedness for drought.



# Salient Features of the High Level Declaration (2)

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- Consider, where possible within the legal framework of each country, economic instruments, and financial strategies, including risk reduction, risk sharing and risk transfer tools in drought management plans.
- Establish emergency relief plans based on sound management of natural resources and self-help at appropriate governance levels.
- Link drought management plans to local/national development policies.



## Continuation of High Level Segment

- Addresses were made by the 12 ministers from Brazil, Bangladesh, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Gambia, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Republic of Namibia, Republic of South Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and by Dr Jean-Francois Donzier, Director General, International Office for Water, France.
- There were 12 addresses from the Heads of other UN Agencies (including SG of IFRC, DG of IOM and Executive Secretary of CBD), International and Regional Organizations (including UNECA, GWP and SADC) and representatives of donor organizations



# HMNDP Communications

- Daily items were provided on Facebook which a total reach of about 3,000.
- On Twitter (#droughtpolicy), Monday, 11 March was the most successful with an estimated reach of 1.5 million unique Twitter users. Estimated exposure (includes retweets and rather gives an idea of the potential audience) was 4.8 million.
- The Twitter UN account in New York (#climatechange #droughtpolicy) was retweeted 57 times (hence the difference between reach and exposure).
- Thursday, 14 March was another good day on Twitter with a reach of about 1.4 million because of the number of @UN followers
- News items were posted on WMO Webnews and a final press release on the meeting was made on 15 March.



# Follow-up Action on HMNDP

- WMO, UNCCD and FAO updated the Science and Policy documents taking into account the recommendations from the HMNDP to assist governments in the development and implementation of the National Drought Management Policies
- WMO and the Global Water Partnership jointly launched the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP). Together with other partners, the IDMP aims to provide preventive and demand-driven support mechanisms for the communities, countries and regions affected by drought.
- UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), WMO, UNCCD and FAO are collaborating in promoting capacity development on national drought policies through organization of four regional workshops during March 2013 to Dec 2014.



# Thank You

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For more information, please visit:

[www.hmndp.org](http://www.hmndp.org)