

HMNDP PARTNERS

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
www.wmo.int
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
www.unccd.int
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
www.fao.org
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
www.unesco.org
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
www.unisdr.org
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
www.icrisat.org
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
www.icarda.org

SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ON NATIONAL DROUGHT POLICY CAN BE FOUND IN:

Towards a Compendium on National Drought Policy - Proceedings of an Expert Team Meeting. Sivakumar, Mannava V.K., Raymond P. Motha, Donald A. Wilhite, and John J. Qu (Eds.). 2011. Proceedings of an Expert Meeting on the Preparation of a Compendium on National Drought Policy, July 14-15, 2011, Washington DC, USA: Geneva, Switzerland: World Meteorological Organization. AGM-12; WAOB-2011. 135 pp.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

WMO, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, governments and the private sector, organized the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in Geneva, from 31 August to 4 September 2009. WCC-3 established the Global Framework for Climate Services, an international framework to guide the development of climate services. This framework links science-based climate predictions and information with climate risk management and adaptation to climate variability and change throughout the world.

HMNDP will contribute to the GFCS by engaging users of drought information, including policy makers, in order to highlight areas where drought information needs to be improved.

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High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)

International Conference Centre (CICG), Geneva
11–15 March 2013



INTRODUCTION

Drought is widely recognized as a slow creeping natural hazard that occurs as a consequence of the natural climatic variability. In recent years, concern has grown world-wide that droughts may be increasing in frequency and severity given the changing climatic conditions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2007) stated that the world has indeed been more drought-prone during the past 25 years. Responses to droughts in most parts of the world are generally reactive in terms of crisis management and are known to be untimely, poorly coordinated and disintegrated. Consequently, the economic, social and environmental impacts of droughts have increased significantly worldwide. Because of their long-term socio-economic impacts, droughts are by far the most damaging of all natural disasters.

The context of current droughts calls for pro-active future actions to be able to cope with their associated imperatives. Despite the repeated occurrences of droughts throughout human history and their large impacts on different socio-economic sectors, no concerted efforts have ever been made to initiate a dialogue on the formulation and adoption of national drought policies. Without a coordinated, national drought policy that includes effective monitoring and early warning systems to deliver timely information to decision makers, effective impact assessment procedures, pro-active risk management measures, preparedness plans aimed at increasing the coping capacity, and effective emergency response programmes directed at reducing the impacts of drought, nations will continue to respond to drought in a reactive, crisis management mode.

In order to address the issue of national drought policy, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress at its Sixteenth Session held in Geneva in 2011 recommended the organization of a "High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)." Accordingly, WMO

and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, plan to organize the HMNDP in Geneva in March 2013.

HMNDP will provide practical insight into useful, science-based actions to address the key drought issues being considered by governments and the private sector under the UNCCD and the various strategies to cope with drought. National governments must adopt policies that engender cooperation and coordination at all levels of government in order to increase their capacity to cope with extended periods of water scarcity in the event of a drought. The ultimate goal is to create more drought resilient societies.



GOALS OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT POLICIES

- 1) Proactive mitigation and planning measures, risk management, public outreach and resource stewardship as key elements of effective national drought policy.
- 2) Greater collaboration to enhance the national/regional/global observation networks and information delivery systems to improve public understanding of, and preparedness for, drought.
- 3) Incorporation of comprehensive governmental and private insurance and financial strategies into drought preparedness plans.
- 4) Recognition of a safety net of emergency relief based on sound stewardship of natural resources and self-help at diverse governance levels.
- 5) Coordination of drought programmes and response in an effective, efficient and customer-oriented manner.

PROGRAMME FOR HMNDP

The HMNDP will start with a half day opening plenary (with a major keynote address) followed by three days of scientific segment and one and half days of the High Level segment for ministers.

A detailed programme for both the scientific and the high level segments will be available by August 2012.