



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

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Outline



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Introduction to Division's work on Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

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Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems



Who we are and our Mandate



UN DESA –
Division for
Sustainable
Development



DESA Mandate:
Promote and support
international
cooperation in the
pursuit of sustained
economic growth, the
eradication of
poverty, and
sustainable
development for all.



DSD Mission:
The Division for
Sustainable Development
(DSD) provides
leadership in promoting
and coordinating
implementation of the
sustainable development
agenda of the United
Nations.



Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

Rio+20 main outcome document—The Future We Want—puts emphasis on building developing countries' capacity for sustainable development

To enhance the technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement national strategies for sustainable development

Capacity Development Project:

**STRENGTHENING NATIONAL
CAPACITIES TO MANAGE WATER
SCARCITY AND DROUGHT IN WEST
ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA**







RIO+20

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

This project is a response to Rio + 20's:

-  Call for urgent action to address desertification, land degradation, drought, and water scarcity
-  Call for disaster risk reduction and the building of community resilience to disasters



Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-17)

Called for effective drought management considering social, economic and environmental aspects.

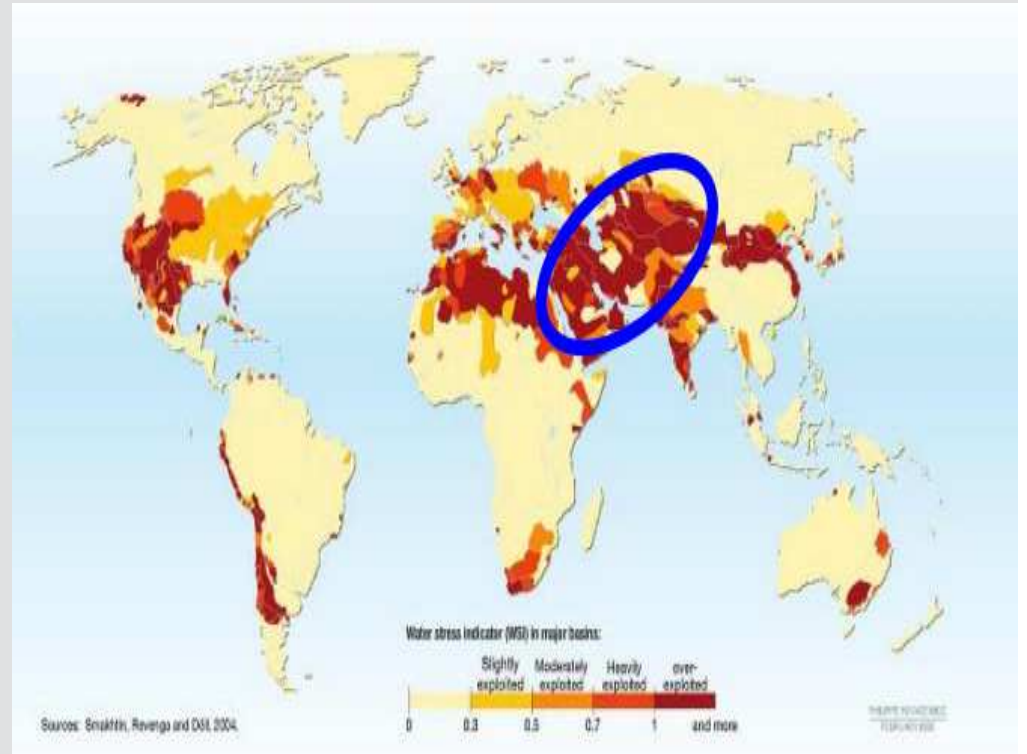
Drought in West Asia/North Africa (WANA) Region

- The West Asia/North Africa region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, and is increasingly bearing greater social and economic losses due to natural disaster events.
- In the Arab region, total people affected by drought from 1970-2009 is about 38 million (+10% of population).



Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Water Scarcity

- About 90% of the West Asia & North Africa region is considered as arid or semi arid.
- About 70% of the region's water flows across international borders (shared rivers).



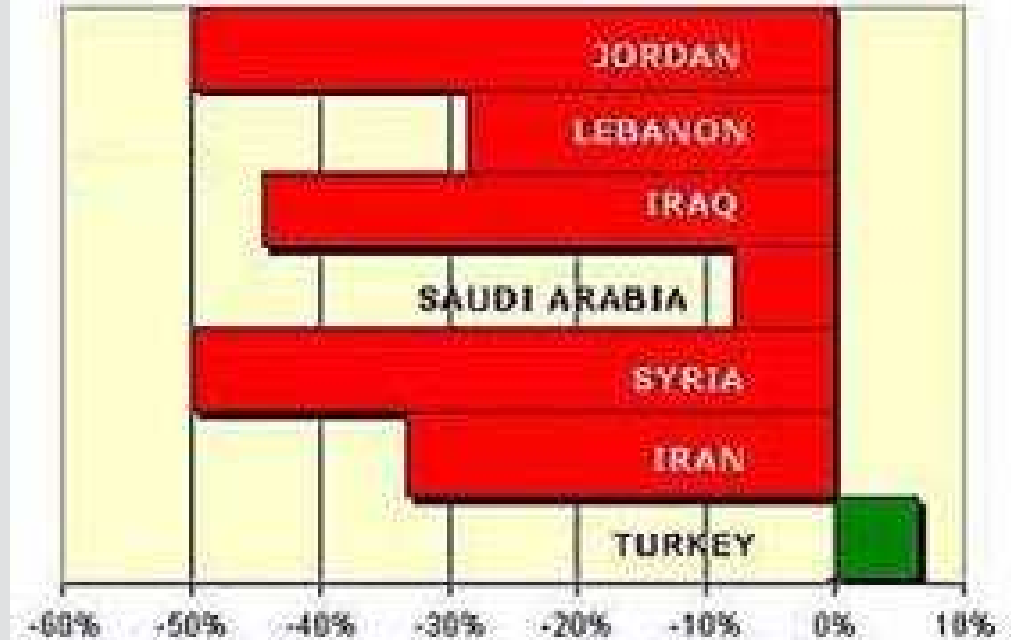
Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Food Shortage

The Middle East suffered the worst agricultural droughts in recent decades in 2008/09.

Resources:

- MIDDLE EAST: Deficient Rainfall Threatens 2009/10 Wheat Production Prospects. USDA-FAS, Office of Global Analysis. Dec.15, 2008.

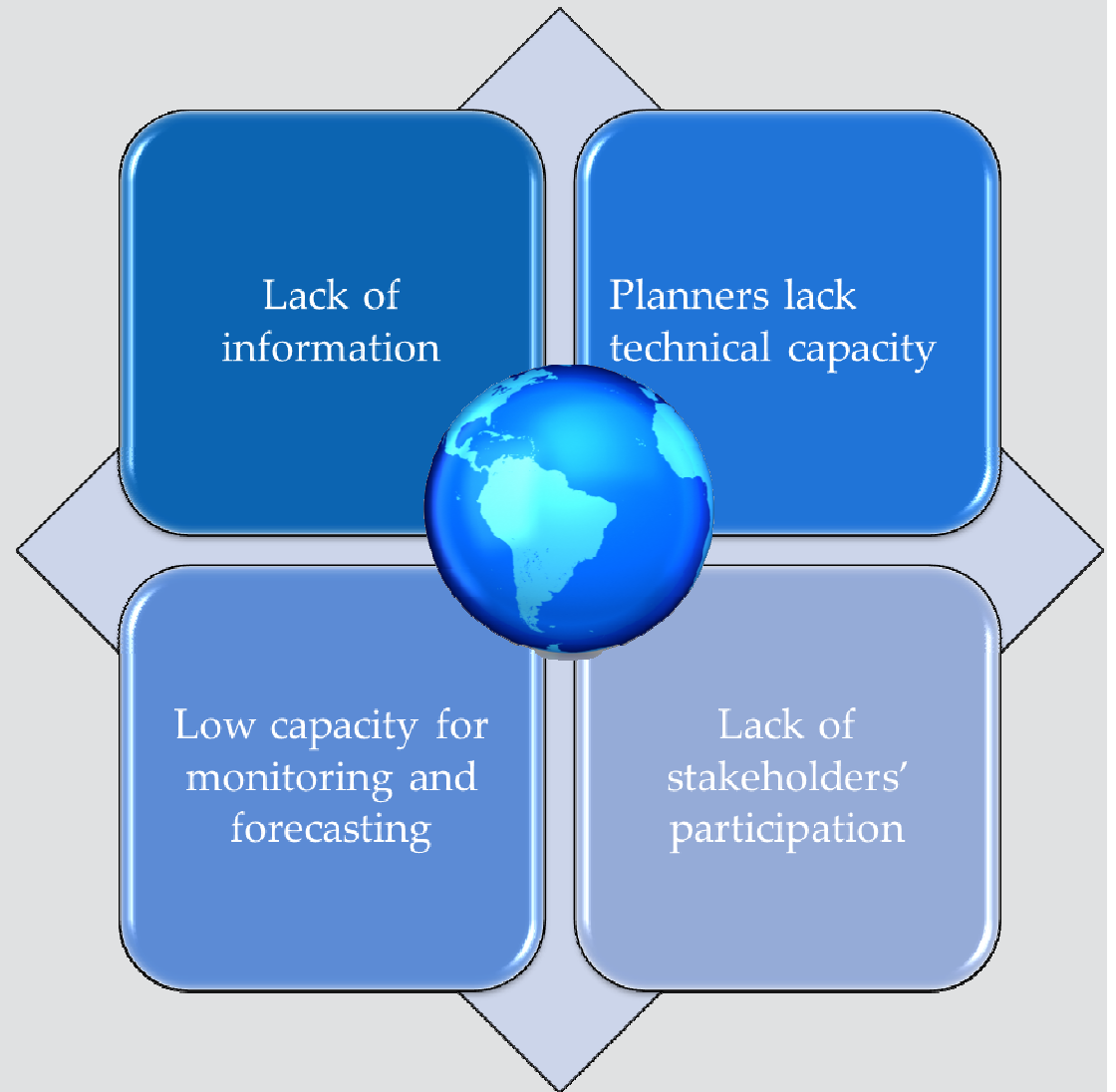
2008/09 Change in Wheat Production



Current national drought management Plans in West Asia/North Africa

-ex-post (reactive)

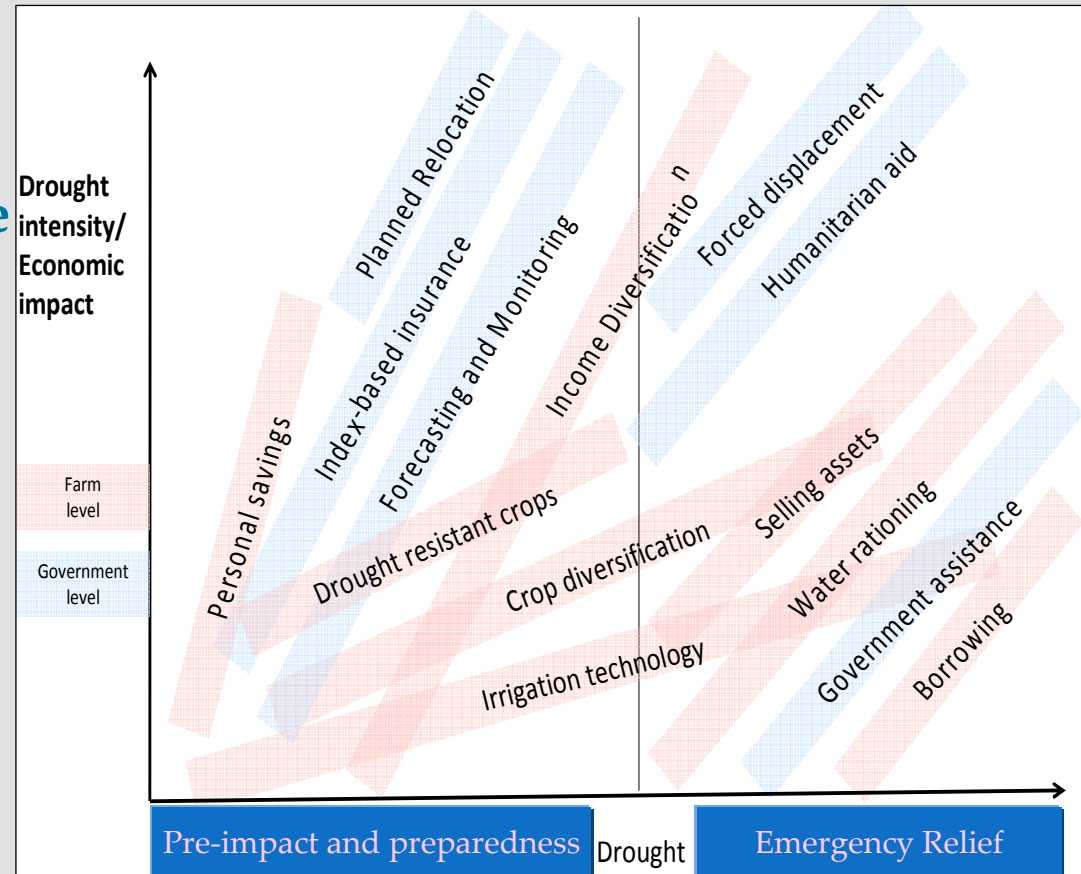
-emergency relief that take effect after or during a drought event.



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Main objective:

Capacity building in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of proactive and preparedness drought management strategies.



Best Practices/Essential Elements for National Drought Management Policy



a

Promoting standard approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment

b

Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems

c

Enhancing preparedness and mitigation actions

d

Implementing emergency response and recovery measures that reinforce national drought management policy goals

e

Water scarcity and drought conflict prevention measures



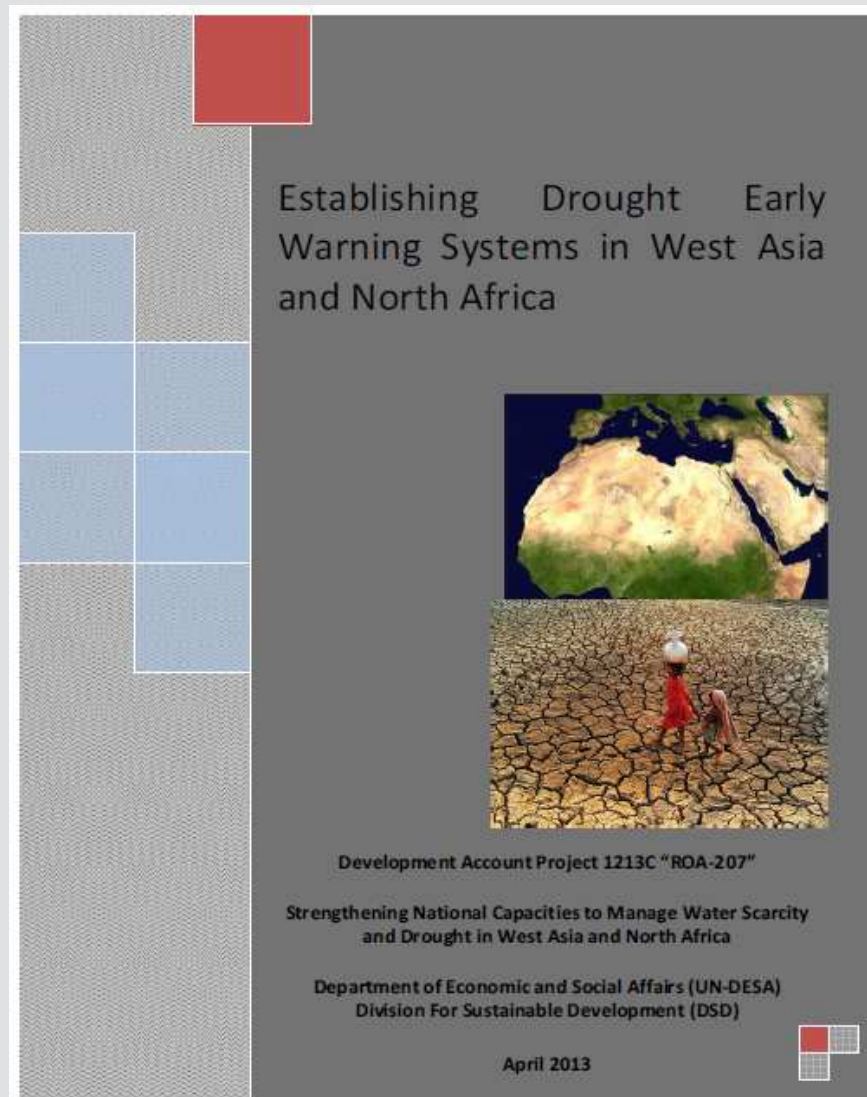
Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems

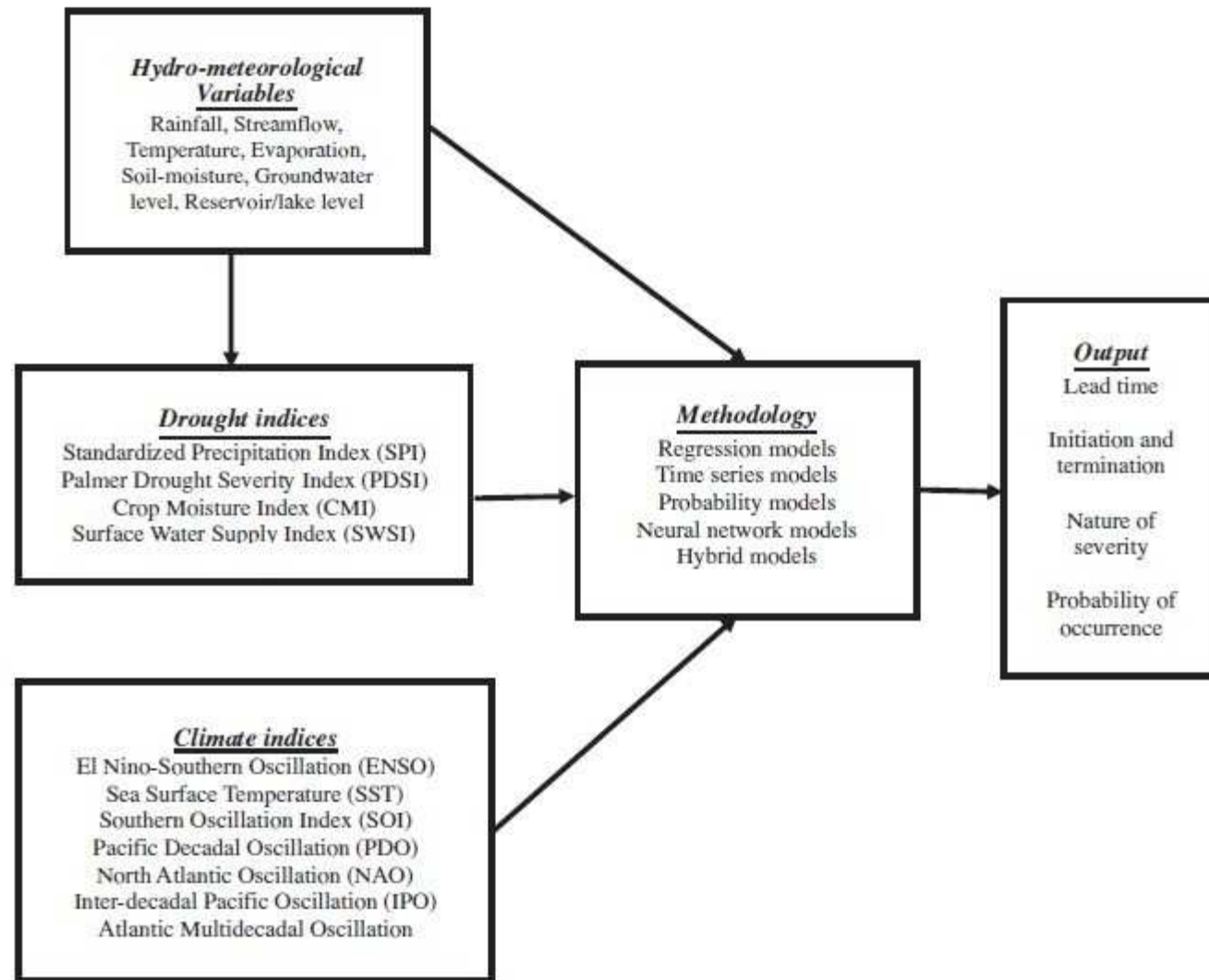
Policy Outcomes

Rio+20 main outcome document—The Future We Want— called for:

- ❖ developing and implementing scientifically based methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought (Para 208).
- ❖ Called for cooperation in sharing climate and weather information and forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, (Para 209).

Initial Study under the project

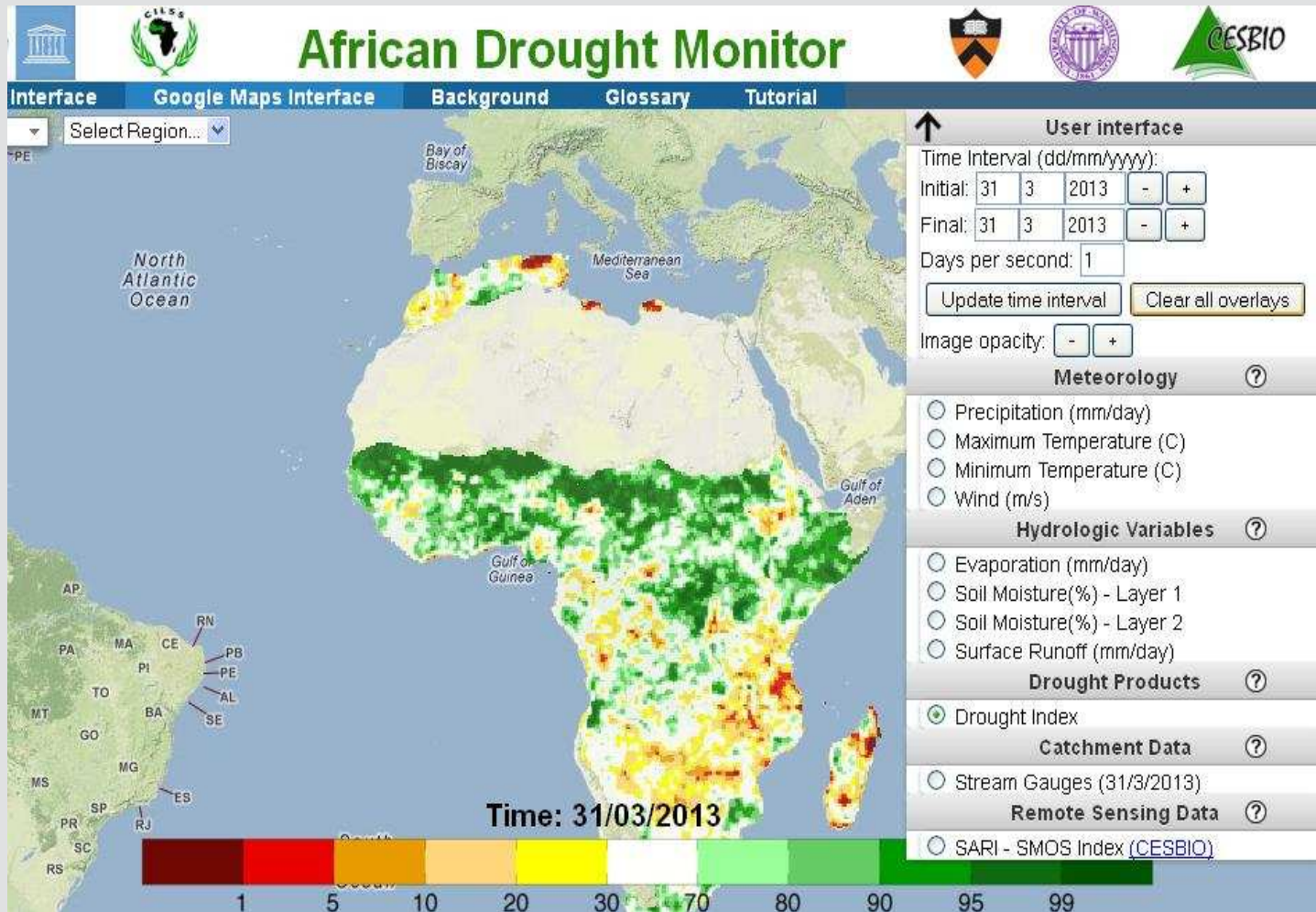




Different components of drought forecasting (Mishra and Singh, 2011).



Drought monitoring systems
available for use in countries in
West Asia and North Africa...



African Drought Monitor and Global Drought Monitor

Home
About

Select Drought Assessment Period


- 1 Month
- 3 Months
- 6 Months
- 9 Months
- 12 Months
- 18 Months
- 24 Months
- 36 Months
- PDSI

Select Layers to Display

- Countries
- Cities
- Rivers & Lakes

Zoom In Out

Data

Export to GE 

Useful Links

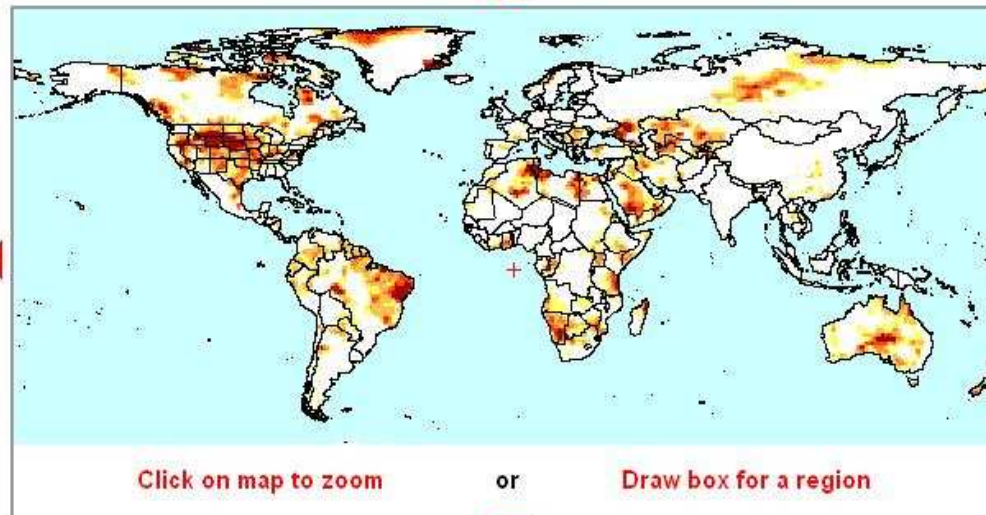
Acknowledgements

Contacts

Global Drought Monitor

April 2013

Data updated on the 16th of each month



Click on map to zoom

or

Draw box for a region

0 9200 18400 27600 36800 km

Drought Severity

 Minor Drought

 Moderate Drought

 Severe Drought

 Extreme Drought

 Exceptional Drought

Population in the current view under exceptional drought: **68,939,000**

Drought News

(31 Mar to 03 Apr)

Europe

- Albania (1)
- Denmark (1)
- Germany (2)
- Italy (1)
- Romania (1)
- Russia (2)
- Ukraine (1)
- United Kingdom (4)

Africa

- Cameroon (1)
- Chad (1)
- Egypt (1)
- Ethiopia (1)
- Ghana (1)
- Kenya (2)
- Mauritania (1)
- Morocco (2)
- Somalia (1)
- South Africa (2)

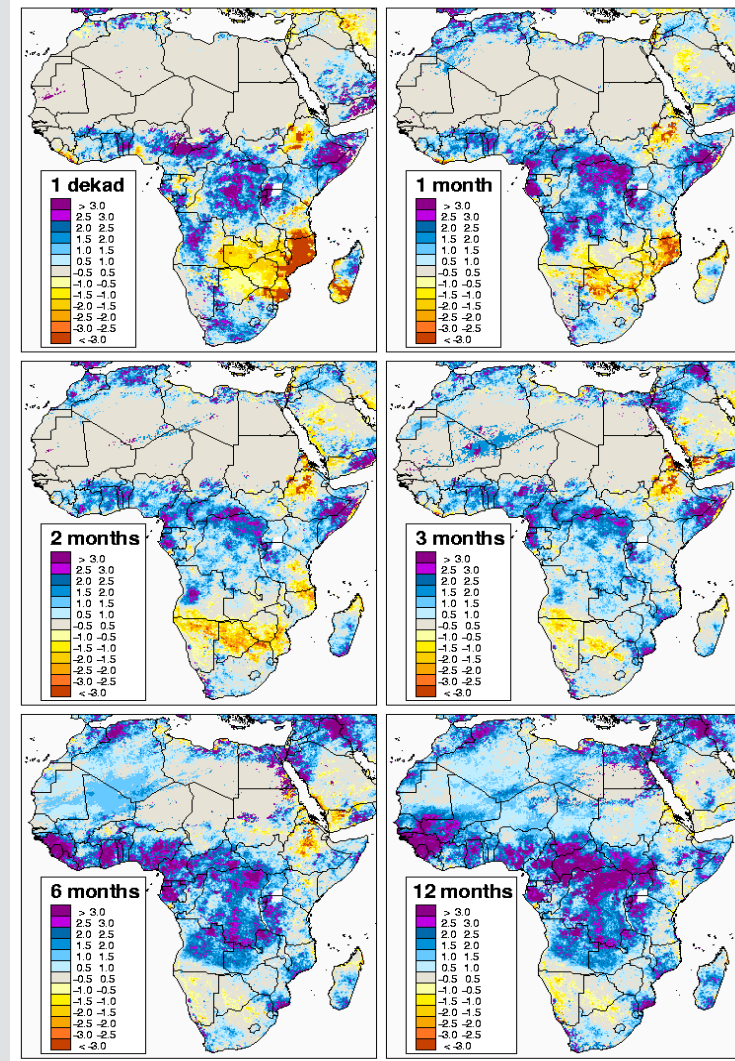
Americas

- Bermuda (1)
- Botswana (1)
- Canada (1)
- Jamaica (3)
- Mexico (2)
- United States (50)
- Argentina (1)
- Panama (1)
- Peru (2)

US Geological Survey (USGS) Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) Data Portal

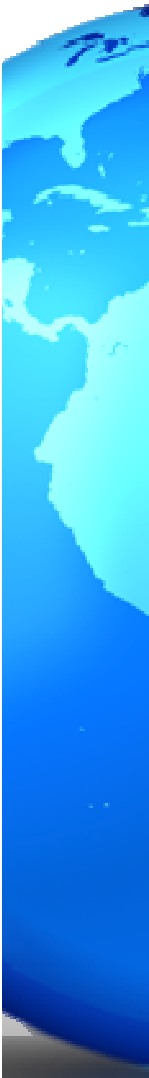
- ❖ Probably the most comprehensive one available;
- ❖ 20 indices including SPI, Daily 10-day Moisture Index etc. are mapped and easily accessed.

Africa Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)
for the indicated accumulation periods
as of March 31, 2013



Example Africa SPI map

Regional/National stakeholders, Counterparts and Institutions



Government
Ministries (Planning,
Agriculture,
Environment, and
Water)

National and Local
water authorities
and water
suppliers

Farmer
communities

Water
consumers and
users

Meteorological
and
hydrographical
institutions

NGOs



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Expected Accomplishments:

EA.1: Increased awareness and knowledge

EA.2: Increased capacity of institutions

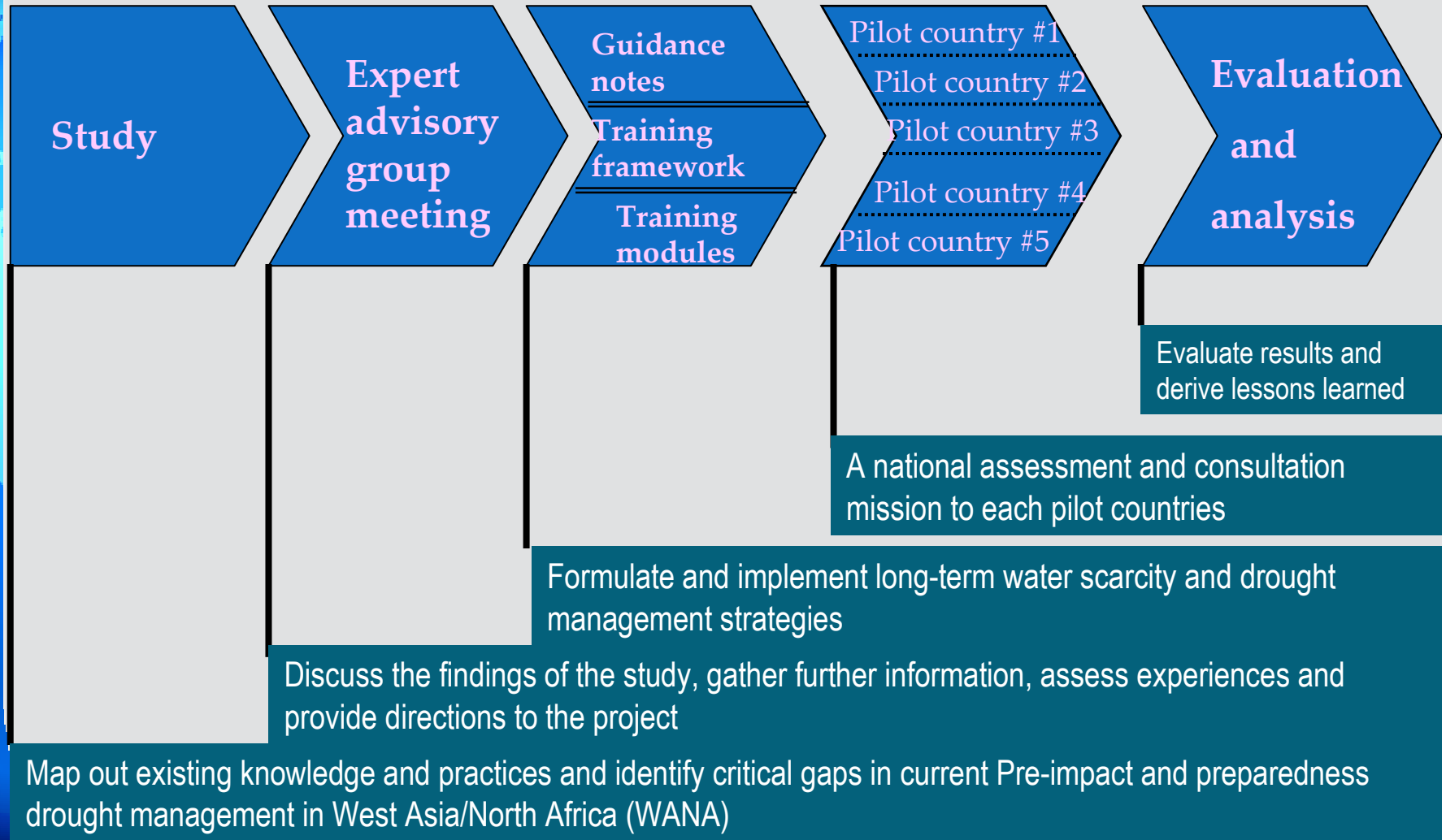
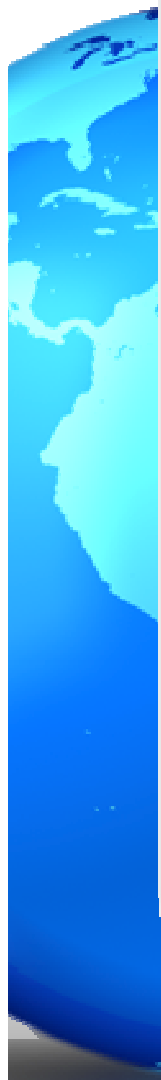
Project Management

The project will be executed by UN-DESA in partnership with UN-ESCWA and cooperation with the UN partners

- UN Partners including FAO, WMO, UNISDR, UNEP, UNCCD, UNDP, UNCCD
- The two regional commissions ESCWA and ECA.



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa – Activities (2013-2015)



Country-Level planned activities

For each of the Five (5) pilot countries:

1. Conduct a national assessment and consultation mission .
2. Conduct country-specific analytical studies on water scarcity and drought.
3. Support Drought Management Team Building (Inclusive Participatory Process)
4. Adapt training modules (based on the project's Guidance Notes) to the specific needs of each pilot country;
5. Conduct stakeholders consultation and training workshops for national planners, policymakers and stakeholders
6. Hold national interventions and working group meetings to support developing management plans.



Expert Group and Inception Meeting

Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

**24-25 June 2013
Beirut, Lebanon**

**Back to Back with the RICCAR EGM scheduled 26-28 June,
2013**



EGM Objectives

- ❑ Examine existing knowledge, practices and critical gaps in drought management in the region.
- ❑ Coordinate with recent and ongoing regional and national initiatives on water scarcity and drought management
- ❑ Establish Project's Expert Advisory Group
- ❑ Develop criteria, recommendations and solicit initial expressions of interest for selecting the pilot countries
- ❑ Discuss and update the project's work plan, implementation arrangements

Thank you!

Feel free to contact:

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