



## **INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

**Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)**

**Activity Report 2022-2023**

**August 2023  
Geneva, Switzerland**

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The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. WMO has a membership of 191 countries and territories.

Website: [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)

The **Global Water Partnership (GWP)** is an international network whose vision is a water secure world. The GWP mission is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development. The GWP network is open to all organizations which recognize the principles of integrated water resources management endorsed by the network.

Website: [www.gwp.org](http://www.gwp.org)

The **Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)** was launched by WMO and GWP at the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies in March 2013. The IDMP works with a wide range of partners with the objective of supporting stakeholders at all levels by providing them with policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management. The IDMP is a contribution to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), especially with regards to GFCS priority areas of disaster risk reduction, water, agriculture and food security. It especially seeks to support regions and countries to develop more proactive drought policies and better predictive mechanisms.

Website: [www.droughtmanagement.info](http://www.droughtmanagement.info)

## 1. Introduction and Executive Summary

This document reports on activities undertaken by the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), including its regional programmes, in the last two Quarters of 2022 and the first two Quarters of 2023. It also provides an overview of activities that are in the process of being implemented and planned.

The Integrated Drought Management Programme was launched at the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies in March 2013. The IDMP Technical Support Unit (TSU) based at WMO is co-headed by Mr Bob Stefanski, the Head of the WMO Applied Climate Services Division. From GWP, Mr Valentin Aich, Senior Water and Climate Specialist seconded to WMO, is co-heading the TSU. Ms Katrin Ehlert, a Junior Professional Officer in the Applied Climate Services Division at WMO has been a member of the IDMP TSU since March 2019 and left WMO and the TSU in early 2023. Mr José Camacho, Scientific Officer in the WMO Applied Climate Services (ACS) Division also supported the IDMP part time until his retirement from WMO in August 2022. Mr Sebastian Grey, Scientific Officer in the ACS Division, joined WMO in November 2022. Since February 2023, Ms Sheilla Baldeon, temporary staff in ACS Division, has also been assisting the IDMP TSU. Since 2023, Ms Sabina Bokal, GWP Central and Eastern Europe, is working 50% of her time as GWP officer for IDMP remotely.

The IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE) is managed by Ms Sabina Bokal , supported by the GWP CEE office in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Mr Gerald Kairu manages the IDMP Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA) at the GWP office for Eastern Africa in Entebbe, Uganda. Mr Armand Houanye manages the IDMP West Africa (IDMP WAF) at the GWP office for West Africa in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Ms Guljamal Nurmammedova manages the IDMP regional programme for Central Asia and Caucasus (IDMP CACENA).

The IDMP builds on long-standing cooperation of WMO and GWP and is inspired by the Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) that is developing and applying the concept of Integrated Flood Management and provides support through a HelpDesk with the involvement of a wide range of partners. Discussions have been ongoing in the past year, to extend the HelpDesk to a joint APFM/IDMP HelpDesk for Integrated Water Resources Management.

The IDMP and the APFM are both contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The GFCS bridges the gap between climate information producers and the practical needs of policy makers, planners and other users, such as farmers, water managers, and health workers. It aims to facilitate climate-smart decisions and the APFM and IDMP HelpDesk have been offered as mechanisms to support the GFCS in this endeavor.

The IDMP's objective is to support stakeholders at all levels by providing them with policy and management guidance through globally coordinated generation of scientific information and sharing best practices and knowledge for integrated drought management. The IDMP especially seeks to support regions and countries to develop more proactive drought policies and better predictive mechanisms. While the spatial scope is global, the results of the IDMP are aimed to be practical and policy relevant - tailored to specific regional and national needs and requirements.

One of the main areas of work has been supporting the regional activities of the IDMP and develop an open and inclusive platform, which can foster synergies among partners and close gaps.

With this focus of the programme, several actions have been taken in the ten year of operation of the IDMP, which are discussed in more detail in the report:

- The HelpDesk with its “Ask”, “Find” and “Connect” functions has seen its fifth year of operation. In total 280 requests have been recorded and largely completed by the IDMP TSU with support from partners with 30 received during the reporting period (see section 2.13).
- The IDMP TSU has continued the IDMP Virtual Exchange platform to increase interaction with and between IDMP partners and new partners. Three virtual exchanges have been carried out since the last meeting (see section 2.1)
- Collaboration with several UNCCD drought-related activities and FAO WASAG Working Group on Drought Preparedness is moving forward with significant results from UNCCD COP-15 to support countries in drought planning and raising the profile of integrated drought management (see section 2.3)
- The TSU is supporting the implementation of a Green Environmental Facility (GEF) project to implement UNCCD COP-15 decisions which is led by FAO.
- In response to the top priority recommendation from the 2022 annual meetings, the IDMP TSU has started activities to support the provision of guidance on drought impact collection (see section 2.8)
- An International Organizing Committee has been established for the organization of Drought Resilience +10 in early 2024 to review progress made in IDM since the HMNDP in 2013 (see section 2.6)
- Several publications of resources and approaches on integrated drought management with IDMP participation have been published in 2022/23 (see section 2.9.2-4)
- The IDMP is developing several publications strengthening the understanding of integrated drought management and the Three Pillars of IDM (section 2.7.5-6)
- Cooperation with and advice to the IDMP in Central and Eastern Europe that has been operational since early 2013 (see section 2.11.1), the IDMP in the Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA) operational since September 2014 (see section 2.11.2), West Africa (IDMP WAF) operational since January 2015 (see section 2.11.3), and Central Asia and Caucasus (IDMP CACENA) which started in 2021 (see section 2.11.4).
- The IDMP TSU is also developing several project proposals to receive funding for the implementation of integrated drought management in the Mekong and Drin basins, and Central Asia region (see section 2.11.6-8).
- Community of Practice IDMP has been established to engage drought experts, practitioners and other stakeholders from different sectors and levels to discuss, exchange knowledge and experiences, establish synergies with other organizations and learn about the integrated approaches for drought management (see section 2.1).
- The IDMP website has been revamped and improved to serve as the knowledge repository and display as well as interaction platform for the IDMP (see section 2.14).
- The [IDMP and APFM launched the competition 2023](#), in collaboration with the [Water Youth Network \(WYN\)](#), for Young Professionals who would like to be involved in promoting access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information. The event included +100 participants from different regions.
- The IDMP strategic plan 2013-20217 has been released. This plan includes several goals and activities that will advance the programme in serving stakeholder’s needs for support in proactive and integrated drought management (see section 3)

With the intent of keeping the Annual Report as concise as possible, the reader is invited to refer to

previous Annual Reports and decisions taken at previous meetings (available on the IDMP [Advisory and Management Committee meeting website](#)).

## 2. Activity Report 20221-2023

The table below outlines the action taken upon the recommendations received by the Advisory Committee and decided by the Management Committee in 2022. In addition to the activities mentioned in the table, the IDMP TSU and the regional programmes have also been involved in other activities, as detailed in the activity report at hand.

	Main recommendation	Specific recommendations	Status as of August 2023
1	Prepare actionable guidance on drought impacts	<p>Focus more on and characterize the linkages between droughts and their impacts to help increase the efficiency of early warning systems</p> <p>Address data gaps (climate vulnerability, drought impacts) - low-data contexts - especially for access to finance (e.g. GCF)</p> <p>estimate the quality of yield impacts of drought - involve academics, users and agriculture</p> <p>the lack between drought and their impacts need to be modelled. Data is needed for that purpose, but often dispersed among different institutions not normally cooperating</p> <p>Impact assessment – verify available tools, assess the quality of tools</p> <p>Identify drought impact indicators</p> <p>Include all aspects: social, economic, and environmental aspects are interconnected. A combination of the impacts on these three aspects, considering also agromet and hydr aspects, would be beneficial</p> <p>Bring the monitoring of different drought impacts together – ecological, hydrological, agricultural - enhance exchange between disciplines on this</p> <p>impact collection: some programs are exploring public participation (e.g. example from Nebraska, citizen science monitoring - CIMO; another similar one is in the Alps and others in Queensland). Try to explore further this topic linking the best practices from around the world</p>	<p>- Baseline report shared for public review</p> <p>- Partnership with the Bright Foundation on data scraping services to be used for a pilot global impact monitor on the IDMP website</p>

2	Focus more on drought forecasting and monitoring	Focus on how to assess risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HelpDesk support for Fiji Met Service on drought hazard mapping - possible regional extension and guidance document</li> <li>- Support to HydroSOS soil moisture and drought component</li> <li>- IDMP CEE extended droughtwatch.eu to three new countries, Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia</li> </ul>
		Support of existing regional and national drought monitors and development of new monitors	
		More information/activities on forecasting	
		Integrate satellite and ground-based monitoring	
3	Enhance IDMP as platform for engagement	IDMP as face for IDM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Virtual Exchanges as platform for IDMP partners to exchange;</li> <li>- establishment of CoP</li> <li>- curated, interactive virtual space that will bring together our global IDMP community</li> <li>- Increased interaction with WMO regional office Singapore (CA drought proposal)</li> </ul>
		Start process to connect partners' work closer within IDMP framework	
		Promote collaborations (bring communities together)	
		Connect partners more to situation on the ground	
		be a platform for all existing initiatives	
		make use of the Singapore WMO regional office to increase visibility to the IDMP	
		Issue: Fit-for-purpose solutions-challenge matching (Menu of technical solutions already exists) (see APFM SBP Catalogue of Services)	
		Find out what is possible in terms of coherence in the effort and bringing all efforts together, coherence is lacking	
4	Prepare actionable guidelines for pillar 2	Impact emerging from guidance on Pillar 2 - Vulnerability & Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboration with NDMC on baseline assessment on drought impact collection, as first step done, based on this guidelines will be developed</li> <li>- Further work on BACI is pending</li> </ul>
		Demand for vulnerability assessment weak - create demand (sensitize govts - Benefits of Action, Costs of Inaction, BACI)	
		IMPLEMENTATION - Govts want to see action on the ground, i.e. application of guidelines	



5	Implementation of existing plans and documents has to be reinforced		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jointly with FAO and UNCCD Sec. workshops for 31 countries have been held/are planned (Turkey, Colombia, Zambia)</li> <li>- Workshops on IDM have been held in Armenia and Uzbekistan with the goal to start/renew governmental efforts on drought preparedness</li> <li>- in Armenia there are discussions with the ministry to use GCF funding to develop and implement a drought policy</li> <li>- In Uzbekistan a report on drought was prepared and workshops held. As a next step the goal is to include drought stonger in the national water strategy and implement national drought management</li> </ul>
6	Focus on Community-based/stakeholder focused solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottom-up approach is crucial</li> <li>There is a wealth of expertise in the govt which is not integrated – this needs to be done in projects/initiatives</li> <li>Implementation should be tailored to stakeholders</li> <li>Focus more on vulnerable groups, e.g. gender work</li> <li>IDMP can be the glue to bring together knowledge, stakeholders &amp; communities and innovation – bottom-up approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community of Practice for IDMP will be launched at annual meeting</li> <li>- Community-based solutions are integral part of IDM project proposals</li> <li>-Workshop and training on gender and drought launched by GWP EA</li> <li>- Plan to include a module on gender and drought based on the materials in the overall training plan</li> </ul>
7		Demand for EWS guidance exists	pending

	Update guidance documents on Pillar 1 - Monitoring & Early Warning	IMPLEMENTATION - Govts want to see action on the ground, i.e. application of guidelines	
8	Focus on NBS and participatory approaches	Bring in indigenous knowledge, support of biodiversity – community-based solutions Integrate NBS into preparedness approaches	- Initiated collaboration with IUCN, Deltares and TNC on Nature-based solutions for drought
9	Social components (sociology, psychology, communication) to be integrated	how are people dealing with drought? a lot of focus has been put on institutional aspects, but not enough on social aspect A suggestion would be around demonstrating <b>socio-economic value/benefits</b> to national government to ensure policy is created to implement and sustain (including resources) projects	- Stronger focus during project development, e.g. for Lake Chad proposal
10	Gather success stories at all scales		Competition was held together with APFM, the GWP toolbox and the Water and Climate Coalition on success stories. These will be displayed on the website and connected to the GWP toolbox.
11	Promote and scale-up the HelpDesk	Start process to increase awareness and branding for the HelpDesk Make clear that HelpDesk can support all aspects of IDM Improve access / clarity about functioning of the HelpDesk Provide advise which indices used for which application/region etc. Technical capacity building, focus on composite indices	- Discussions on extension of IDMP HelpDesk to joint IDMP/APFM HelpDesk (MC decision)
12	Focus on new and innovative training activities	Hybrid Training of trainers Find out what kind of capacity building support and measures is needed Pilot projects on training and formal education could be worth in funding Apps development	- Development of e-learning modules on IDM started: Introduction to IDM and monitoring and EW, ongoing work to launch self-paced courses with UNEP-DHI and CapNet

13	Engage youth		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Youth competition launched after success in last year</li> <li>- Water Youth Network is a SBP, 3 volunteers identified for the IDMP to support communications, pilot on impact collection, and other activities.</li> <li>- A youth competition was held together with the WYN and APFM on small projects on EWS and the two winning projects are currently implemented in Indonesia and Tanzania.</li> </ul>
14	Raise more awareness for IDMP in research community	AGU /EGU presence	needs further discussion with research partners
		Pantha rei, Anthropocene engagement	TSU is liaising with EU
		There is a need to bridge the gap between innovation and application – it is hard to get (innovative/new) measures adopted	JRC Task Force on Drought and Water Scarcity
		Pantha rei, Anthropocene engagement	Closer collaboration with drought in the Anthropocene group started
15	Identify needs for research on groundwater security / priorities (2022)	There is a need to bridge the gap between innovation and application – it is hard to get (innovative/new) measures adopted	
			pending

## 2.1 Partner engagement and Community of Practice on Drought

The IDMP currently has [45 partner organizations](#) out of which [16 organizations](#) completed the information required for Support Base Partners of the IDM HelpDesk with two organizations pending to do so. The Antea Group (<https://anteagroup.com/>) and the CIMA Research Foundation were added as the most recent IDMP partners.

There will be an update to the MoU between FAO and WMO which highlights many issues including strengthening cooperation on drought activities especially in relation to the IDMP and FAO’s Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG).

The IDMP TSU has launched 2 IDMP Virtual Exchanges (VE) in 2022-23. On 13 December 2022, there was a VE on Drought impact collection and on 25 April 2023 there was a VE on Flood and Drought Management. This format comprises a series of virtual meetings on the current status of IDMP and partner work and other drought-related topics of interest. More information can be found on the [IDMP VE page](#).

IDMP community has been growing steadily over the past 10 years and it was decided that Community of Practice will be established. It is a curated, interactive virtual space that will bring together our global IDMP community of experts, students, policy makers, enthusiasts, etc. that work in the field of drought management or are simply interested in the topic. IDMP Community of Practice will present a great asset for our already very active network of partners. It will provide a “home” to our different activities, facilitated knowledge exchanges – online and offline, and very importantly will create a space for all of us to share and learn from each other.

This community aims to engage drought experts, practitioners and other stakeholders from different sectors and levels to discuss, exchange knowledge and experiences, establish synergies with other organizations and learn about the integrated approaches for drought management.

Collaboration among sectors, between different levels and organizations is a key element of proactive integrated drought management. This will result in wider promotion of the IDMP approach, increased capacities, enhanced intersectoral cooperation and new projects/activities which will further implement the three-pillar approach.

Objectives of CoP IDMP are therefore following:

- Encourage networking among experts and practitioners by exchanging knowledge, experiences on specific issues related to drought management (e.g. south-south cooperation).
- Encourages dialogue and collaboration as a means to inform and accelerate the development and use of effective drought tools.
- Reduce the gap among the experts and practitioners by showcasing implementation examples (mitigation measures, drought plans, etc.) and discuss the main implementation challenges.
- Sharing the news, events, good examples, case studies and projects from different regions and contexts.
- Create a space to identify new topics of research, connecting individuals from around the world and allowing them to work together on topics of similar interest.
- Raising awareness about the relevance, past and potential future impacts of water scarcity and droughts.
- Enhance exchanges of good practices in drought management.

As a first step IDMP partners were contacted with the request to join the Core group which will keep the community active and will participate in the development of the community content. We had our first introductory meeting at the end of June. During July and August we further collected some ideas for topics, and gathered general feedback. Community is already available on IWRM Action hub so you are welcome to join by following these steps:

- Step 1: Register to IWRM action hub: <https://iwrmactionhub.org/user/register>
- Step 2: Confirm the registration via email received (check spam).
- Step 3: Go to IDMP Community ([Integrated Drought Management Programme \(iwrmactionhub.org\)](#)) and click “**request to join**” button.
- Step 4: Our moderators will shortly accept your request and you can then check information, post new materials and communicate with other members.

The IDMP TSU is actively engaging in efforts on building communities of practice within GWP and WMO. GWP has recently launched a new community of practice [toolbox](#) with massively extended functionalities. IDMP is collaborating and exploring how to use this best for disseminating information and knowledge on integrated drought management.

## 2.2 WMO/GWP IDMP institutional developments

The restructuring of WMO governance bodies occurred at the 18<sup>th</sup> WMO Congress in 2019 with the establishment of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (Infrastructure Commission) and Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (Services Commission) (see section 2.4). Within the Services Commission, the Standing Committee on Services for Agriculture (SC-AGR) is main body working on drought issues in conjunction with committees on hydrology, climate and DRR (see section 2.4).

Further WMO bodies relevant for the IDMP are

- [Hydrological Coordination Panel](#)
- Climate Coordination Panel
- [Water and Climate Coalition](#)

More information about Hydrology in the WMO mandate can be found [here](#).

In June 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WMO and GWP to increase the organizations' long-standing partnership.

The MoU has the objective to further strengthen collaboration on the joint initiative programmes on integrated drought (IDMP) and flood (APFM) management.

The WMO/GWP MoU identifies four priority areas for strategic collaboration:

- Strengthen the management of hydro-climatic extremes through the joint programmes on drought (IDMP) and flood (APFM) management;
- Strengthen the capacity of countries to develop high priority bankable water and climate projects;
- Strengthen stakeholder engagement on developing water information and products at the regional and country level through on-going collaborations with other WMO programmes ([GFCS](#), [HydroSOS](#), [HydroHub](#), World Water Data Initiative (WWDI)).
- Joint programmes, project development, service delivery and joint resource mobilization such as the joint preparation and implementation of the flood and drought management project in the Volta Basin.

## 2.3 Collaboration with UNCCD and FAO

WMO and GWP are co-leads together with UNCCD and the University of Nebraska in the FAO Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) working group on Drought Preparedness. IDMP partners participated in the 2nd international forum of the Global Framework for Action to Cope with Water Scarcity in Agriculture in the Context of Climate Change (WASAG) that was held in Cape Verde, 7-10 February 2023. A joint side event with IDMP partners was held at this forum on the Drought Resilience +10 Conference (High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies +10) (see section 2.6). This side event was an opportunity to present the 8 workstreams of the Drought Resilience +10 Conference.

Staff of the IDMP TSU continue to be involved in the UNCCD International Working Group on Drought and the Science Policy Interface (SPI).

In 2022, [UNCCD COP-15](#) was held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The IDMP was strongly involved in several side events during thematic days and also contributed to both IWG and SPI during the past term. More specifically:

- The IWG presented its final report (available [here](#)) during COP-15. Based on the review of the IWG work the COP-15 decided on the second term of the IWG in the triennium 2022-2024 ([Decision 23/COP.15](#)) and that it will be tasked with identifying and evaluating all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management.

With COP-15 the work of the SPI in its 2019-2022 triennium also concluded. The technical report titled “Multiscale approaches for the assessment and monitoring of social and ecological resilience to drought” was published and with recommendations to the Committee for Science and Technology (CST) ([link to SPI publication](#)). The COP invited parties to seek support from the IDMP with their work on proactive integrated drought management and with the further development and implementation of resiliency assessments ([Decision 17/COP.15](#), 3 and 4). In addition, cooperation of the SPI with the IDMP on scientific issues related to drought was decided ([Decision 17/COP.15](#), Annex). The new work program foresees the development of science-based evidence for regional and global aridity trends and future projections. The IDMP, through the WMO was invited to participate as observer in this new triennium 2022-24.

- The IDMP was also involved in the following thematic days at COP-15:
  - The **Drought Day** discussed how to transform political commitments to action on drought resilience. In the session Towards a High-level Meeting on Drought 2023 (HMNDP 2013 +10), major achievements of the IDMP and close IDMP partners UNCCD, NDMC, IWMI and FAO were presented. In addition, the [Drought and Water Scarcity](#) publication (WMO No. 1284) was launched with a short presentation during Drought Day. Drought Day was covered by the media here: <https://enb.iisd.org/rio-conventions-pavilion-unccd-cop15/11-may-2022>.
  - The title of the **Science Day** at COP15 was *Land Degradation and Drought – from Science to Action*. The day was covered by the media here: <https://enb.iisd.org/rio-conventions-pavilion-unccd-cop15/14-may-2022> a video recording is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUjTUO\\_1p4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUjTUO_1p4)

In order to leverage the work initiated by COP14 decisions, FAO and UNCCD have jointly developed and launched a project with GEF funding hosted by FAO and called “Enabling Activities for Implementing UNCCD”. This project is focused on liaising with countries that were part of the UNCCD Drought Initiative. The IDMP is partner to all four work packages:

- Supporting Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought
- Enhancing the Drought Toolbox
- Enabling the implementation of the national drought plans
- Drought vulnerability assessment and preparedness for mitigation measures

The project was launched in 2022 with a duration of three years. The IDMP has been asked to contribute to component 3 of the project which involves the organization of three workshops. Here are the title and links to the three workshops:

- Regional workshop for Europe and Asia on Support the implementation of National Drought Plans: Integrating National Drought Plans into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Istanbul, Türkiye, 17-19 May 2023 ([link](#))
- Regional workshop for Latin American and Caribbean on Support the implementation of National Drought Plans: Integrating National Drought Plans into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Bogota, Colombia, 1-3 August 2023 ([link](#))
- Regional workshop for Africa on Support the implementation of National Drought Plans: Integrating National Drought Plans into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Lusaka, Zambia, 5-7 September 2023 ([link](#))

The ISMP TSU will also produce the following outputs for the project:

- Develop guidelines on National Drought Policy implementation, monitoring, and evaluation;
- Develop specific guidance on best practices in mainstreaming gender in all steps of National Drought Policy development and implementation.

## 2.4 Work of the WMO Services Commission

Under the umbrella of the WMO [Services Commission](#), there are several bodies that contribute to the drought issues for WMO Members.

Marcelo Uriburu Quirno is also providing support and advice for the activity 7 (APFM) and ensuring there is a linkage between both programmes and that the work is aligned with the deliverables of other Standing Committees of the Services and Infrastructure commissions of WMO.

In the Services Commissions, the Standing Committee on Services for Agriculture ([SC-AGR](#)) continues the work of the former Commission of Agricultural Meteorology and provides scientific and technological guidance to WMO Members in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries, not only for food production but also for agricultural meteorological risk governance in terms of agro-ecosystem resilience and sustainability, especially with higher priorities on climate services and capacity development. The SC-AGR is chaired and co-chaired, respectively, by Prof. Roger Stone and Dr. Elena Mateescu.

The Standing Committee on Services for Agriculture (SC-AGR) hosts the expert team on drought ([ET-DRG](#)). The ET-DRG is led by Andrea Susnik and Christa Pudmenzky and brings together international drought experts with a focus on regional and gender balance. Linkages are established with other Standing Committees under the Services Commission on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate and Hydrology. The ET-DRG has been mandated by WMO members, for the current term until the 2024, with the following expected outputs:

- A report that summarizes global drought impacts, preparedness, resilience, management, policy, and effective user-engagement practices.
- A report on the status of drought-monitoring systems, outlooks, impacts, assessment of possible agricultural yield losses due to drought and preparedness in the WMO regions.
- Guidance material on how to clearly communicate the existing definitions of drought, drought triggers, the various components of the lifecycle of drought, in cooperation with SC-HYD (Hydrology);
- A framework and standards for a Global Drought Classification System (Resolution 17 (Cg-18)).
- Updated Handbook of Drought Indicators and Indices (WMO No. 1173) in conjunction with the

WMO/GWP Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) and in cooperation with SC-CLI, SC-HYD and SC-DRR.

In June 2023, a Writing Workshop on the Global Drought Classification System was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia with a small number of experts from the SC-AGR ET on Drought. The groups experts developed the following draft list of objectives of an Implementation Plan for developing National Drought Early Warning Systems:

- Objective A. Establish a methodology to collect national and regional drought monitoring and dataflows (WMO standards) created on existing infrastructure managed by Members,
- Objective B. Develop and Strengthen drought monitoring capacities of WMO Members,
- Objective C. Strengthen drought impact collection and drought vulnerability assessments,
- Objective D: Develop and strengthen drought EWS,
- Objective E: Develop and strengthen drought prediction in the context of EWS,
- Objective F. Increase visibility and use of drought alerts (Communication Issues),
- Objective G: Develop and strengthen national drought actions plans (management / adaptation),
- Objective H. Cooperation with DRR & MHEWS on national/regional/global level.

The ET-DRG is currently reviewing this implementation plan (IP) and it will be sent out to a larger group of experts soon. This IP will be sent to the Third Services Commissions Session to be held in March 2024 for approval.

Also, the Standing Committee on Hydrology ([SC-HYD](#)) under the leadership of Marcelo Uriburu Quirno (also Vice-chair of SC-HYD) has two activities related to the IDMP into their workplan. Activity 8 is directed to providing scientific and technical advice to the WMO/GWP IDMP and to represent WMO hydrological community at the IDMP governance meetings.

Marcelo Uriburu Quirno is also providing support and advice for the activity 7 (APFM) and ensuring there is a linkage between both programmes and that the work is aligned with the deliverables of other Standing Committees of the Services and Infrastructure commissions of WMO.

During the Hydrology Assembly in 2021, WMO Members approved the WMO Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and its associated Action Plan with eight long-term ambitions ([link](#)). The second ambition of this Action Plan is “Everyone is prepared for drought”. Under this ambition there are following eight activities that are contributions of SC-AGR and IDMP to this Plan of Action ([link](#)):

C.1 - Enhanced coordination, effectiveness and governance of all WMO activities in supporting Members in Integrated Drought Management,

C.2 - Drought related data and products with global and regional coverage are available for the use at national scale by Members,

C.3 - Gaps in Members’ capabilities in drought assessment, monitoring, modelling and prediction are known,

C.4 - The need of an effective national drought policy is understood by Members,



C.5 - Increased capacities and capabilities of Members through training of personnel in drought (low-flow) Monitoring, Modelling and Early Warning & drought vulnerability and impact assessment & drought adaptation and mitigation, preparedness and response (including in the field of support of food production and security),

C.6 - Increased capacities of Members through development projects in the area of Monitoring and Early Warning & drought vulnerability and impact assessment & drought adaptation and mitigation, preparedness and response,

C.7 - Increased cooperation (and co-production of services) of hydrological, meteorological and climatological communities and international exchange (e.g., higher involvement of hydrology in climate outlook fora, basin commissions),

C.8 - Increased Members capabilities in drought vulnerability and impact assessment of different sectors by meaningful drought indicators and indices are known and used at all relevant scales.

## 2.5 Early Warning 4 All (EW4All) Initiative

In March 2022, the Early Warnings For [All Initiative \(EW4All\)](#) was announced by the UN Secretary-General and was formally launched in November 2022 at the COP27 meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Early warning systems have helped decrease the number of deaths resulting from hazardous weather, water, or climate events. But major gaps still exist, especially in small islands and developing countries. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is determined to close these gaps and ensure that early warning systems protect everyone on Earth within the next five years.

The Early Warnings for All initiative is co-led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), with support from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partners.

The Early Warnings for All initiative is built around four key pillars:

1. Disaster risk knowledge and management
2. Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting
3. Warning dissemination and communication
4. Preparedness and response capabilities

The existing WMO activities will contribute to EW4All: Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems, Global Drought Classification System, Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS), Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS), and the cataloguing of high impact events.

## 2.6 Drought Resilience +10

The [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy](#) (HMNDP) in 2013 was the origin of the IDMP and a defining moment for many of its partners that raised global awareness about the need for proactive drought management. The process of organization and pre-events are coordinated by the IDMP TSU. The purpose of the conference will be to assess progress and achievements with integrated drought management and to look ahead to define the focus of the work ahead. An international organizing committee was established and more information about its terms of reference and composition can be found [here](#).

Resource materials for the HMNDP+10 are on the IDMP website [here](#). There was a WASAG side event held in February 2023 (see section 2.3) and there will be an event at 2023 World Water Week on the Drought Resilience +10. [Here](#) is the link to the event on 20 August 2023.

An International Organizing Committee (IOC) was established in 2022 with FAO, UNCCD, GWP, WMO, IUCN, IWMI, NDMC, NOAA, UNESCO, and the World Bank. In 2023, representatives from IOM, the Spanish Meteorological Service (AEMET) and the Moroccan Weather Service were added to the IOC. The IDMP TSU is facilitating the work of IOC and the organization of the Drought Resilience +10 conference.

In July 2023, an official joint letter from UNCCD, GWP and WMO was sent to the Government of Spain to formally requesting Spain to host the meeting in April 2024.

## 2.7 EPIC Response second phase support

The global flagship report “[An EPIC Response: Innovative Governance for Flood and Drought Risk Management](#)” was launched in June 2021 and to facilitate the implementation of the framework to help apply it in specific country contexts, an EPIC Response Assessment Methodology (ERAM Tool) was developed by World Bank and Deltares. The IDMP TSU, together with the APFM TSU, supported this pioneering work by organizing dissemination activities through the GWP Country Water Partnerships as well to raise more awareness about the EPIC Response Framework in World Bank client countries and international community. Therefore, two regional hybrid workshops for West Africa and South Asia with a focus on India were organized by the respective Regional Water Partnerships in Ghana and India. Both workshops have been very successful in disseminating the EPIC framework and collecting input to further improve and finalize the ERAM tool.

In addition, a joint APFM-IDMP IDMP Virtual Exchange dedicated to integrated governance of floods and droughts was held on 25 April 2023 with for the first time over 100 participants (<https://www.droughtmanagement.info/about/virtual-exchanges/>). Presentations from IDMP/APFM as well as World Bank and Deltares set the scene for an in-depth discussion on challenges and opportunities when managing floods and droughts jointly.

## 2.8 Workstream on Drought Impact Collection

The development of guidance on impact assessment was ranked top priority in the recommendations received by AC in 2022. The IDMP TSU has taken action in developing a baseline report on impact collection in collaboration with the NDMC. The draft report has been shared for public review with the IDMP community in June 2023 and it is planned to be published by autumn 2023. This baseline report will serve as the first assessment of available data and practice on which a guidance document will be based. The goal is to use this baseline report to come up with a practical guideline for countries and other stakeholders on how to assess impacts and collect impact data.

In addition, efforts have been made with several scientific partners of IDMP to explore how social media and other non-traditional online data can be used to monitor and inform on drought impacts. Partners include POSTECH, Korea, Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany, Wageningen University, Netherlands, National Drought Mitigation Center, Nebraska, USA, JRC-EC, EU, University Freiburg, Germany and Imperial College London, UK in collaboration with the [Bright Initiative](#).

This work is developing step-by-step since it is based on voluntary contributions and the final goal is to host an information page on droughts on the IDMP website.

### IDMP Publications and contributions and media contributions

#### 2.9.1 Knowledge resources on the three pillars of IDM

Following the recommendation of the IDMP ACMC meetings the IDMP continues to update information on practical applications of integrated drought management structured by the three pillars as part of the resources made available in the HelpDesk. Partners are encouraged to submit any of their tools or products they wish to highlight. <https://www.droughtmanagement.info/pillars/>

In addition, the IDMP is curating drought management related publications in its library (<https://www.droughtmanagement.info/find/library/>) and IDMP tools can be found here: <https://www.droughtmanagement.info/find/guidelines-tools/>.

#### 2.9.2 Knowledge product on water scarcity and drought

The IDMP TSU, with the support of the IDMP partners has developed a concept paper on Drought and Water Scarcity during the past years. The paper outlines the differences between the two phenomena and how they interact, as impacts are often the same. Along with the presentation of selected case studies and initiatives, it features approaches to cope with both drought and water scarcity as their impacts can be mitigated and managed through Integrated Water Resources Management. The document was launched at UNCCD COP-15 is available [here](#).

#### 2.9.3 IDM framework document

The development of a framework paper to serve as the intellectual framework of the concept of integrated drought management, the Three Pillar approach. It is a synthesis of existing publications around the topic to succinctly define the concept and approaches to integrated drought management focusing on the three pillars of integrated drought management. A review of this draft document has been completed. Minor updates will be added to the document and the framework paper is scheduled to be published in 2023.

#### 2.9.4 IDMP/APFM concept paper on Integrated Drought and Flood Risk Management

The paper has been finalized and is currently undergoing final editing by FAO. It will be published in a discussion paper series of FAO. It discusses concrete synergies and challenges of managing floods and

droughts together with case studies and is complimentary and builds on the EPIC Response framework of World Bank and Deltares policy framework for flood and drought management.

## 2.9 Communication

### 2.10.1 Youth Competition

In March 2022, [UN Secretary- General, António Guterres indicated that "Early warnings and action save lives"](#) and announced that "the United Nations will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years". To this extend, Young Professionals play an important role in [Early Warning for All](#) since they bring new ideas and innovative ways to connect people, in addition to proposing the use of communication systems to help communities prepare for climate-related hazards. This is why [IDMP and APFM launched the competition 2023](#), in collaboration with in collaboration with the [Water Youth Network \(WYN\)](#), for Young Professionals who would like to be involved in promoting access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030, as stated in [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#).

The launch of the competition was through the [webinar "Engaging and Empowering Youth in Early Warning Systems for Flood and Drought Resilience"](#) with more than 100 participants from different regions and the participation of the Director of Disaster Risk Reduction of WMO. This year, 36 proposals were submitted, and 14 proposals shortlisted for the next stage of the competition.

### 2.10.2 IDMP Video

To promote IDMP main objective and activities, IDMP TSU coordinated the development of a [new institutional video](#) that will be launch in the [IDMP Annual Advisory and Management Committee](#), the goal of the video is explain importance of proactive drought policies and showcase the IDMP as a resource ready to provide support. The target audiences include drought practitioners in local, regional, national governments (e.g. weather service, agriculture departments), including technical experts and policy makers, as well as donors and international stakeholders.

### 2.10.3 Social Media Communication - Promotion

IDMP TSU and the [Water Youth Network \(WYN\)](#) implemented a social media communication and promotion in the last 6 months. These actions included increase the posts in [APFM/IDMP LinkedIn account](#), [APFM/IDMP twitter account](#) and in [IDMP Website](#) especially, to engagement standards of each specific network and increase brand visibility. In addition, World Meteorological Organization and Global Water Partnership Communications Teams were involved in this process, mostly reposting the posts.

Promotions included:

- [The countdown to the 2023 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought: including "Women in Drought", "Comments of women experts" and "IDMP role" in drought management.](#)
- [IDMP presence in the 19th World Meteorological Congress \(Cg19\) was held in Geneva.](#)
- [New, self-paced, online course on "Integrated Drought Management: Monitoring and Early Warning" in French and English.](#)
- [2023 Youth-Lead Competition on Flood and Drought Management](#)
- [Regional Training Workshop for Volta Basin Stakeholders on Impact-based Flood Forecasting](#)
- [WMO MCH Database training in Ghana](#)
- [Virtual Exchange within the framework of the Integrated Drought Management Programme \(IDMP\) and the Associated Programme on Flood Management \(APFM\).](#)

### 2.10.4 IDMP in the media

The TSU was approached several times by media to provide information about the European winter drought and other specific droughts for radio, print and TV including Deutsche Welle, BBC, Publico, Smart Water Magazine, Ocean Magazine, The New European etc. It is planned to prepare links to these articles, videos etc. on the IDMP website.

## 2.10 Capacity building

Following a HelpDesk request from the [Volta Flood and Drought Management project](#), the IDMP has developed an online course including an introduction to the drought concept and its monitoring and early warning for the western African region. The course was very well received with good feedback from the participants and a completion rate of around 80% (153 certificates issued).

Based on this success of the course developed in the framework of the [Volta Flood and Drought Management project](#), UNDP CapNet, UNEP-DHI Centre and IDMP developed a global course to be freely available on the IDMP website (and the UNDP CapNet online campus). The course was designed for English and French speaking participants (click below to access to the course in both languages):

- [Integrated Drought Management: Monitoring and Early Warning](#)
- [Gestion de la sécheresse à des fins de suivi et d'alerte précoce](#)

Social media and other channels of promotion were applied to increase the participation of users. As well, IDMP TSU coordinated with WMO Capacity building team to share this course on the [WMO Global Campus](#) (which leads to the Cap-Net landing page). The course can be found under [current courses](#).

By 30<sup>th</sup> June, for the English version of the course, 497 people enrolled, out of them 244 completed their profile information, confirming their interest in taking the course and thus we consider having 244 active participants. So far, 62 people have completed the course and received their certificate, 25% completion rate, which is positive considering the course will remain open until Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. For the French version of the course, 115 persons enrolled, 53 out of them completed their profile information, confirming their interest in taking the course and thus having 53 active participants. So far, 8 people have completed the course and received their certificate, this is a 15% completion rate.

By the middle of August, these courses will receive a new push from the communication side through [animated video](#) providing the information of the course.

Further to this general outreach, it was also suggested to look for any specific niche of participants for whom any of these courses might be relevant to drive their attention towards the respective landing pages.

## 2.11 IDMP Regional Initiatives and projects

The IDMP regional project managers for the IDMP CEE, IDMP HOA, IDMP WAF and IDMP CACENA are in constant exchange with the TSU and are featuring regularly in the IDMP VEs with updates of their important work. Funding by some donors has been used to leverage existing plans and project ideas in the regions as described below. Regular calls to share experiences, learn and plan jointly are planned for the new reporting period 2023/24.

In addition to the regional programmes, the TSU has developed several project ideas and concepts during the reporting period. In the context of hydrological and climatological extremes, several project concepts deal with the integration of flood and drought risk management. The TSUs of both IDMP and APFM, both hosted at WMO, are working closely together to develop joint approaches.

The following provides a brief summary of the activities carried out by the IDMP regional initiatives during the reporting period, as well as IDMP activities in other parts of the world and it gives a brief overview of ongoing project scoping and development activities.

### 2.11.1 IDMP Central and Eastern Europe (IDMP CEE)

#### **PROJECT: Integrated Drought Management System and Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Climate Change in Kosovo**

Project started in October 2022 and will last till June 2024. It is funded by SlovakAid

For the purpose of mitigating the drought issues in Kosovo, GWP CEE in partnership with [Water and Waste Water Works Association Kosovo \(SHUKOS\)](#) will develop an effective support dealing with drought related issues on a national scale.

The main objective of the project is to support sustainable water management and economic development in Kosovo through interventions and measures for integrated drought management as a consequence of climate change.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To improve the water resources management system due to the impacts of drought as a manifestation of climate change through the implementation of mitigation measures;
- Increase technical and staff capacity to manage drought as well as public awareness of its water resource implications through education to understand and implement the proposed measures.

In December 2022, a kick-off meeting was held between the project partners to introduce the cooperation on integrated drought management in Kosovo, as well as activities in Kosovo during the Drin management process. Main outcomes of the project will include Draft Action Plan for the Drin River Pilot Basin, as an integrated part of the River Basin Management Plan, as required by the Water Framework Directive of the European Union (WFD). Other outcomes will include a set of drought mitigation measures suitable for Kosovo, such as prevention, risk reduction, its management during drought occurrence and measures to cope with its consequences.

Read more about it [here](#).

#### **PROJECT: Knowledge transfer on drought issues due to climate change for Armenia;**

Visegrad Fund funded project support transfer of knowledge and lessons learned from the successful cooperation on drought from the Visegrad Countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland). Project offers solutions for adapting to increasing severity and frequency of droughts caused by climate change, and for raise awareness on collaborative cross-sectoral drought related management within and outside the V4 region.

The main purpose of the project is to contribute to promoting the Visegrad regional cooperation in drought management and mitigation of the climate change and knowledge transfer to Armenia conditions

Project partners and experts: [Global Change Research Institute CAS](#); [Global Water Partnership Hungary Foundation](#); [Global Water Partnership Poland](#); [Country Water Partnership – Armenia](#); [DMCSEE](#).

You can read more about it [here](#).

#### **Drought in Armenia – community of practice as a step towards integrated drought management**

One of the major outcome of the above-mentioned project (no.2) is the new [Community of Practice Platform](#), focusing on Armenian drought.

Recognizing the need for a high level of awareness in the process of drought assessment, early warning and management, and attaching importance to the engagement of all drought beneficiaries in the process, the main goal of the [Drought Community of Practice project, hosted by the GWP Toolbox](#), is to create a universal platform that would:

- Bring together the parties primary affected by drought
- Allow effectively identifying the existing problems
- Offer possible and innovative solutions
- Exchange knowledge and experience

## **Social inclusion, gender and drought**

The topic was presented on two international conferences:

- Smetanova, A., Aich, V., McDonnell, R. Social inclusion, climate justice and drought. Presented on: 2nd WASAG International Forum on water scarcity in agriculture: Making agriculture resilient for climate change, 7-10 FEBRUARY 2023 in Praia, Cabo Verde.
- Smetanova, A. Gender mainstreaming practices in the context of drought risk management. Support the implementation of national drought plans: Integration National Drought Plans into NAPs Regional workshop, Istanbul, Türkiye, 17-19 May 2023

### 2.11.2 IDMP Horn of Africa (IDMP HOA)

#### **Planned Activities**

Support the Implementation of IDM and Catalyze Change

*Activity 1: Support regional and national efforts in development and operationalization of drought policies and plans*

*Activity 2: Promote Increased uptake and usage of concrete and innovative drought adaptation actions.*

#### **Achievements**

There is an on-going process in the region to decentralize understanding and operationalize the drought policies and plans. In the Horn of Africa, this is being done in four countries i.e., Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti and Sudan. Among these countries, Sudan has developed a national drought plan with the support of UNCCD in 2020. Efforts had started to support some of the key issues highlighted in the drought plan e.g., supporting innovative adaptation actions that reinforce drought resilience such as modified rainwater harvesting structures and water storage systems among others. For Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda have prepared the ground through engaging the responsible key officials and are in the process of undertaking the activities.



#### **Drought in Sudan**

Generate and Manage Knowledge

*Activity 1: Strengthening capacity building amongst stakeholders in drought Management e.g. through training stakeholders in IWRM tools for drought management*

Strengthening and improving the capacity of key stakeholders in drought risk management at regional, national and local levels. Training of Trainers (TOT) has been organised on the training manuals that have been developed. The training manuals include Resilient Cropping and Livestock Systems; Early Warning Systems; Drought Risk Management; Water Catchment Restoration. The key person training came from the lead

agencies in the country. These included: the -Djibouti: Ministry of Agriculture Water Fisheries and Livestock/ Directorate of Rural Hydraulics; -Kenya: Ministry of Environment and Forestry / Directorate of Climate Change; Sudan: Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources; Uganda: Ministry of Water and Environment / Directorate of Water Resources Management.

*Activity 2: Support initiatives such as study tours to drought affected and vulnerable areas and document good cases for purposes of learning lessons*

Developed a business case study on managing drought through women empowerment initiatives.



a) Group village saving and credit scheme



b) Vegetable for income and nutrition

### **A group Village Saving and Loan Scheme- In Karamoja region, Uganda**

Activity 3:

Promote visibility of drought interventions- linkages of drought regional /local initiatives to the community of Practice.

Have facilitated preparation of the communication plan targeting drought management. This is through the DRESSEA project. Tools have been identified that will aid in delivering the key messages on drought to selected audiences.

Engaging in the Community of Practice for drought management

### **Challenges**

Political unrest in Sudan- civil war in Sudan disrupting project activities.

### 2.11.3 IDMP West Africa (IDMP WAF)

#### **MAIN ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS, RESULTS AND IMPACTS**

##### **IDMP WAF OBJECTIVE 1: CATALYZE CHANGE**

Work Package 1: Drought negative effects are managed in West Africa through the regional initiatives and cooperation/Act.2: Reinforce regional collaboration among pertinent Institutions on drought management/Put in place a regional West African platform on Drought management.

Support for drought risk management in the Volta Basin: WMO, GWP-WA and VBA in collaboration with the CIMA Foundation have agreed on a collaborative framework for better drought risk management in the Volta Basin through the project titled “ [Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin \(VFDm\)](#) funded by the Adaptation Fund. Within this framework, a VoltAlarm early warning system at the scale of the Volta basin is being developed to provide drought forecasts and early warnings in the Volta Basin.



Work Package 2: Improved drought management through national and regional plans/ strategies

Supporting the Government of Niger to develop a Water Management Master Plan for the national part of the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger integrating drought management responses / As part of the implementation of the "Water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou sub-basin" project in Niger" (Mekrou Phase 2 - Niger Project) funded by the European Union, GWP-WA in collaboration with the CWP-Niger and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation developed the Water Management Master Plan for the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger that takes into consideration drought management responses in the sub-basin.

Preparation of the regional strategy for flood and drought risk management in the Volta basin / Under the implementation of the VFDM project, GWP-WA, in collaboration with WMO and VBA used the technical expertise of the CIMA Foundation to co-prepare, with the stakeholders from the six (06) Volta basin riparian countries, a draft regional strategy for flood and drought risk management for better drought risk management in the Volta basin through holding a series of six (06) face- to- face national workshops as well as virtual meetings.

Enhancing the capacity of national and regional structures on the "Drought Monitoring and Early Warning for Integrated Drought Risk Management in West Africa" / As part of the VFDM project implementation, GWP-WA mobilized relevant experts and partners to develop the e-learning courses content on "dissemination, decision support and response to floods and drought early warnings systems" in French and in English. Also, GWP-WA facilitated the selection of participants from national and regional institutions to attend the e-learning courses on the "dissemination, decision support and response to floods and drought early warnings systems" in Volta Basin. The courses are designed for government officials and selected professionals, women and men, from Volta Basin countries with various backgrounds and professional experiences in the field of disaster risk reduction, possibly with a focus on floods and drought management. From the 13<sup>th</sup> March to the end of May 2023, participants attended the e-learning courses, and the results obtained are satisfactory and shared below:

**French course:**

72 participants completed their profiles, confirming the start of the course.

42 participants completed the course and received their certificates corresponding to 58% of completion rate.

**English course:**

23 participants completed their profiles, confirming the start of the course.

16 participants completed the course and received their certificates corresponding to 69% of completion rate.

Organizing a regional training of trainers workshop on the end-to-end forecasting and early warning processes for floods and drought in the Volta Basin / As part of VFDM project implementation, GWP-WA organized and facilitated a regional training workshop on end-to-end forecasting and early warning processes for floods and drought in the Volta Basin.

The regional workshop was held from May the 16th to the 19th, 2023 in Lomé, Togo. This regional workshop followed a series of five (5) core courses covering all steps of the end-to-end flood forecasting and early warning as well as the integrated drought management (forecasting, monitoring and early warning). It was attended by around forty representatives of national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS), civil protection agencies, water resources management agencies of the six member countries of the VBA. The regional training workshop was held with a view to having a pool of trainers available to deliver courses on end-to-end flood and drought forecasting and early warning processes in the countries of the Volta Basin. The main objective of the regional training workshop was to improve the practical knowledge and skills of the participants on the end-to-end flood and drought forecasting and early warning processes.

The main results issued from the regional training workshop are the following: (i) participants have a harmonized understanding of the key concepts of forecasting, early warning, flood and drought; (ii)

participants deepened their knowledge of the different components of the end-to-end flood and drought forecasting and early warning process; (iii) an effective and operational mechanism for coordination and collaboration between the different agencies of the end-to-end forecasting and early warning process for floods and droughts in the Volta Basin is defined.

**Work Package 5:** New innovative solutions found for Drought Management in the focus sub-area (water resources, agriculture, and desertification)

In collaboration with the International Secretariat for Water, CWP-Benin, CWP-Burkina and the NGO YVE-Togo, GWP-WA is implementing the TonFuturTonClimat project funded by the Government of Quebec, through the International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI) and the GWP. The TFTC2 project aims to build the capacity of associations and equip young people (18-35 years old) from Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso to become promoters of innovative ideas to sustainably respond to issues related to climate change and support local economic development. In Burkina Faso, the TFTC2 project supports the promotion of best practices in sustainable land management, adaptation to climate change and conservation of biological diversity in the rural commune of Komki Ipala. In Togo, the project raises awareness and supports young people for a transition to sustainable agriculture through agroecological practices in the municipalities of Grand Kloto. In Benin, the project supports young people in producing and using compost from organic waste and for the sustainable management of water resources in the Tchoutchoubou micro-basin in the Pendjari basin. The results of the TFTC2 project can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/tonfuturtonclimat-pour-faire-des-jeunes-des-acteurs-cles-pour-la-securite-en-eau-et-la-resilience-climatique-au-niveau-local/>

In the Mekrou sub-basin in Niger, GWP-WA in collaboration with the CWP-Niger and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation implemented pilot initiatives for the protection and enhancement of natural resources of the sub-basin, which are part of the implementation of its Water Management Master Plan. The initiatives focused on the development as well as the multiple use of water resources using the IWRM approach in the sub-basin. Altogether, the project enabled:

- To restore and improve the management of 46 hectares of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems using sustainable management practices with EU support;
- To strengthen the capacity of 30 women in good soil fertility management and sustainable land management practices;
- To enhance the capacity of 338 smallholders in practicing irrigated agricultural production with the project support.

## **IDMP WAF OBJECTIVE 2: GENERATE AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE**

**Work Package 7:** The results of IDMP WAF are well shared in the region and the selected countries / Awareness on drought are improved

Developing awareness raising materials (factsheets and videos) for the risk maps and climate scenarios and later dissemination to the National stakeholders and communities in collaboration with WMO and VBA building on the Volta risk profile on floods and drought elaborated in between 2021 and 2022 with the technical support of CIMA Foundation.

The awareness raising materials help to visualize and convey simple key messages and recommendations, to foster integrated floods and drought risks management as well as early warning for climate change adaptation, to target decision-makers and stakeholders from regional and national levels. Basically, the process helped to produce: (i) seven (07) fact sheets in English and French on key messages and recommendations of the risk profile for each of the six (06) Volta Basin riparian countries as well as for the entire basin in altogether 5,400 copies; (ii) eleven (11) cartoons in French and English; (iii) a video of 5 minutes in English and in French.

The results of the implementation of the activities of the TFTC2 Project and the Mékrou Phase 2 Niger Project were shared during the project closing workshops which served as a framework for sharing the results obtained with partners and the public. Capitalization supports were produced and then shared with the various stakeholders.

GWP-WA communicated about the activities carried out during the period covered by the report. To this end, articles were developed and then posted on the GWP-WA website and on the Facebook and Twitter pages under the execution of the project.

Some links of the articles:

- <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/inondations-et-secheresse-dans-le-bassin-de-la-volta-le-projet-vfdm-forme-les-cadres-des-pays-du-bassin-sur-les-processus-de/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/appropriation-et-operationnalisation-du-systeme-de-prevision-et-dalerte-precoce-mydewetra-voltalarm-du-projet-vfdm/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/vfdm-5eme-cours-en-ligne/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/vfdm-forme-sur-les-produits-de-prevision-des-crues-basee-sur-limpact-et-le-bulletin-integre/>
- <https://www.gwp.org/fr/GWP-Afrique-Ouest/GWP-in-Action/News--Activities/formation-en-ligne-gwp-ao-avec-capnet/>
- <https://youtu.be/ei436asXMb4>
- <https://youtu.be/AWHsiDXL8xU>

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/gwpao](http://www.facebook.com/gwpao)

- Twitter page: [www.twitter.com/GwpWaf](http://www.twitter.com/GwpWaf)

### **IDMP WAF OBJECTIVE 3: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS**

**Work Package 8:** Regional / countries level partnerships' competencies enhanced/Act. 2: Key stakeholders' engagement and strengthening the network

- Youth involvement in water security and climate change:  
GWP-WA supported the Networks of Young Parliamentarians for Water and Sanitation in Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso to implement their respective strategic plan.  
As part of the TFTC2 project implementation, GWP-WA supported as well the organization of the West African youth dialogue on water and related SDGs as a contribution the preparation of the March 2023 UN Water conference.
- Participation in meetings  
Participation in virtual meetings of the Integrated Drought Management Program (IDMP): The VFDM Project Manager regularly reports on the activities of the IDMP carried out in West Africa.

## Act. 2: Fundraising

VBA, in collaboration with IUCN UNEP and GWP-WA secured USD 7,122,566 from the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the project titled: Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta Basin (REWarD - Volta Basin). The objective of the project is to reverse ecosystem and water degradation and support integrated ecosystem-based development in the Volta Basin through strengthened transboundary governance and ecosystem restoration and conservation for sustainable livelihoods. The project focuses inter alia on the establishment of a drought EWS in the Volta basin, the sustainable land management, the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the sustainable management of water resources, etc. The project regional inception workshop was held April 2023 in Ouagadougou.

In support to the Government of Togo and in collaboration with UNDP Togo and UNICEF Togo and GWP-WA, a prefeasibility report and a concept note for the project proposal entitled “Strengthening the Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Rural Communities in Togo’s Northern Kara and Savanes Regions” has been submitted to the GCF Secretariat. The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of selected rural, poor and vulnerable communities located in Togo’s two northernmost regions of Savanes and Kara exposed to the impacts of the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts and extreme precipitation events as well as increasing temperatures. The project total budget is USD 35,500,000 including USD 17,750,000 as GCF funding requested. UNDP is the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agencies are UNICEF and GWP-WA.

The Mono Basin Authority, in collaboration with IUCN, Sahara and Sahel Observatory (SSO) and GWP-WA is mobilizing USD 4,573,400 from the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the project titled: Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono). The objective of the project is to develop best practices related to water, ecosystems and adaptation to climate change for sustainable services to people and nature in Mono River basin. The project focuses inter alia on the sustainable land management, the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the sustainable management of water resources, etc. The project detailed document is being developed and will be submitted to GEF Secretariat by December 2023.

The Mono Basin Authority (MBA), in collaboration with Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) and GWP-WA is mobilizing USD 14,000,000 from the Adaptation Funds for the implementation of the project titled: “Towards climate risks shield in the Mono River Basin (Benin, Togo): Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate change through integrated water resources and flood management (BOUCLIER-CLIMAT/Mono)”. The objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Mono River Basin through building adaptive capacity to the risks of recurrent flooding and promoting the sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources and related ecosystems. The project focuses inter alia on the sustainable land management, the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the sustainable management of water resources, etc. The project detailed document is being developed and will be submitted before 21 August 2023.

### 2.11.4 IDMP Central Asia and Caucasus (CACENA)

As it was mentioned in the IDMP Workplan for 2021-2022 for Central Asia and Caucasus countries that are currently exposed to 5-year drought, two countries (Uzbekistan and Armenia) were supported in a format of seed funding from the budget provided by NOAA countries to make an initial step for drought policies using the experience and support of the regional IDMP CEE programme, which underwent a similar process during the past 20 years. While designing these country needs oriented programs, the preparatory work has been performed by relevant CWPs (mapping of stakeholders, development the overview for draught management and etc.).

## **Armenia:**

**Main goal:** to explore opportunities of developing an integrated drought management plan for Armenia

### **Wide and specific objectives:**

- to identify the existing legal, institutional and governance gaps in drought management sector in the country,
- to clarify the directions of drought monitoring, early warning, risk management and consequence elimination systems.

### **Format of activities:**

- Study, research and analysis by project expert;
- Setting of working group (presented by representatives of various government agencies, members of intergovernmental committee, also an experienced independent experts) – series of stakeholder meetings
- Formal inter-agency workshop that took place in May 4-5, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Mrs. Gayane Gabrielyan

### **Documents developed and discussed:**

- A summary report on **“Analysis of Drought Management System in Armenia, Identification of Weaknesses and Gaps”** was prepared within the project related to the gaps in the drought management system, such as problems in receipt, analysis, exchange of monitoring data, drought early warning system development, drought risk assessment, inclusion of drought in agricultural insurance system, capacity building and other issues.
- **"Content of the Drought Management Plan"**, which describes what chapters the Plan should consist of and what information each chapter should contain.

### **Next steps to be undertaken:**

- It is planned to work on legal reforms to enable the drought management system in Armenia
- To work on the formal recognition of "Drought Management Plan"
- To organize a meeting with members of the drought intergovernmental committee established in 2021, as well as with the experts in the field of disaster risk reduction and management to ensure the synergy and to discuss the ways on getting progress

Project title: **Knowledge transfer on drought issues due to climate change for Armenia**

- Duration: Sept. 2022 – Oct. 2023 Grant amount: 45 854 euros
- Funder: VISEGRAD + (Fund supporting regional cooperation, backed by Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia and with a focus on supporting projects in Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership)
- Brief description: The main purpose of the project is to contribute to promoting the Visegrad regional cooperation in drought management and mitigation of the climate change and knowledge transfer to Armenia conditions. The objectives will be achieved by conducting two main activities which are the development the Drought platform related to Drought Management and Training workshop on drought issues for the decision and policy makers in Armenia focused on an integrated, proactive approach to drought planning, adaptation and management

## **Uzbekistan**

**Main goal:** Development of recommendations on setting the priorities for National Drought Management plan for 2023-2030 to ensure the synergy to combat drought and land degradation in Uzbekistan

### **Wide and specific objectives:**

- Analysis of current status, gaps and challenges for the three pillars of the IDMP + drought policy (in Uzbekistan)
- Review of existing resources and capacities (to check what country programs and institutions already exist related to drought management in Uzbekistan);

- Stakeholder mapping (to identify who to involve and/or distribute the survey to, invite to the IDM planning workshop)
- Development of draft concept for a revision of the National Action Program to combat drought and land degradation in Uzbekistan; GWP CEE was invited to provide guidance on the proper use of the "National Drought Management Policy Guidelines A Template for Action" by Uzbekistan

**Format of activities:**

- Study, research and analysis by project expert;
- Setting up working group of experts
- Series of in-person and online stakeholder meetings
- Formal inter-agency workshop that took place in April 5, attended by representatives of all ministries, departments, research institutes, non-governmental organizations involved in the problem of droughts.

**Documents developed and discussed:**

- **An overview report on the current state of drought management in Uzbekistan** has been prepared and published ([https://aral.uz/wp/2022/03/31/n\\_drought/](https://aral.uz/wp/2022/03/31/n_drought/)). This report comprises five sections:
- General information and definition of drought;
- National legislation on drought control;
- Responsibility for drought - national institutions involved;
- Drought assessment process;
- Looking ahead - developing drought risk management programs.
- **Concept for revision the National Action Program to combat drought and land degradation in Uzbekistan.** Four priority areas specified as:
- capacity development for monitoring, risk assessment and drought prevention: strengthening the technical base of the Hydrometeorological Service and introducing innovative solutions for drought monitoring and forecasting; development of a drought monitoring and early warning system that will improve the decision-making process for planning and managing risks regarding the impact of drought on food and water security;
- drought mitigation
- Raising awareness of population on climate change and effective agricultural practices
- Development of Regional cooperation

**Next steps to be undertaken:**

- Continue the overall support of governmental agencies in implementation of national water management strategy;
- Participation in IDMP events organized by National and International agencies to ensure the synergy and efficiency.

Country consultation aimed to discuss the concept note of regional project proposal jointly developed by alliance of Agencies (WMO, UNCCD, FAO, GWPO, CAREC) to Adaptation fund has been performed in UZBEKISTAN . CWP Uzbekistan is continuously supporting the country consultation process.

**Turkmenistan:**

Human and technical resource capacity of the Turkmen Hydromet Service has been assessed by GWP CACENA under the technical guidance of WMO and financial support of the Central Asia Water and Energy Program (CAWEP) of Worldbank and WMO. TurkmenHydromet is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, which are key actors for drought related activities and therefore key partners for IDMP on the country.

The Assessment was performed in a format of interview with key specialists of the Turkmen Hydromet and covers the following sections:

- Institutional Status
- Stakeholders

- Service Delivery Chain (Observation, Forecasting, Data processing, Service delivery, Human Resources)
- Organizational needs for defining strategic goals for the service delivery chain
- Performance indicators
- Costs of the strategic goals
- Monitoring and evaluation criteria
- Turkmenhydromet strategic plan and financial plan

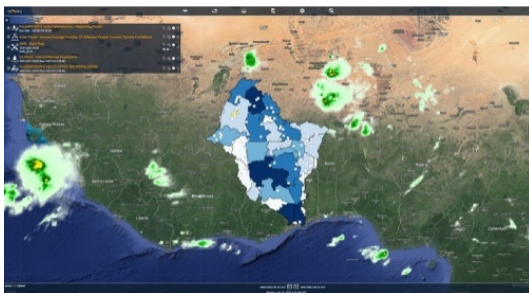
#### Regional Level:

- Drought and water scarcity portfolio of GWP CACENA was developed including formal documentation, methodological and discussion papers, strategies and etc. on drought management issued by national and international institutions.
  - Participation in drought management related events to ensure the delivering of GWP CACENA's input (including the expert's comments for Regional Drought Strategy by CAREC)
  - GWP CACENA's partners and donor institutions were communicated on the interest on project proposals on drought related issues to be submitted on behalf of CWPs and RWP
  - Participation in Project Development Group Meetings aimed to develop the joint application to Adaptation Fund.
  - Materials (both English and Russian) on drought related activities were developed for GWP sites
- GWP CACENA continuously works on further development of drought management related issues to ensure the synergy and efficiency of joint efforts.**

#### 2.11.5 Adaptation Fund: Volta Flood and Drought Management Project

The Adaptation Fund Secretariat selected the VFDM project for a [regional portfolio monitoring mission](#) in order to highlight implementation experience (good practices, lessons learned, challenges etc.) that will benefit future projects submitted to the Adaptation Fund for funding. During the 3rd project technical advisory committee meeting held on 2nd December 2022, the VFDM project partners and countries informed the Adaptation Fund about the implementation delays encountered due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and requested for one year no cost extension. This was eventually approved by the Adaptation Fund Board and the project termination date is now extended until end of June 2024.

During the reporting period, the implementation of the [Volta Basin Flood and Drought Management \(VFDM\)](#) project activities were carried out jointly with the APFM Support Base Partners namely CIMA Research Foundation, IUCN, Knowledge and Innovation (K&I).



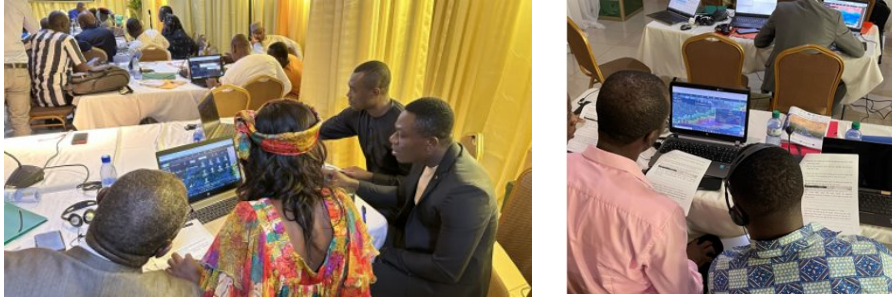


Figure: VOLTALARM EWS developed under the VFDM project and training on impact-based flood forecasting

The below table provides a list of major completed and planned activities of the VFDM project

Activities completed until July 2023	Activities planned from August 2023- June 2023
National consultation reports for the Six countries and Volta Basin Authority for developing EWS on floods and drought	Install the National Centralized Database (WMO Meteorological, Climatological and Hydrological (MCH) database) and integrate the existing hydrological and meteorological observation data
Feasibility study on the application of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and guidance documents to promote ecosystem services through Nature-based solutions in the Volta Basin are completed	Visualization of the real-time Hydro-meteorological data from the national agencies under the myDewetra VOLTALARM EWS
Development of floods and drought risk maps and climate scenarios for the Volta Basin region with the support of 61 national technicians and CIMA Research Foundation Develop long-term flood and drought risks prevention and management strategies for the Volta Basin	Develop the drought monitoring system for the Volta Basin region by working with the national agencies and WMO drought expert team.
The design and development of the VOLTALARM multi-hazard early warning system for stakeholders in the Basin, namely the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and disaster management authorities. Link to the VOLTALARM EWS <a href="https://myDewetra.volta.world">https://myDewetra.volta.world</a>	The VOLTALARM EWS will be pilot tested in 10 prone areas of the Volta Basin during the monsoon and dry seasons in order to identify the applicability and effectiveness of the early warning-early action at the community level
the provision of training to over 200 participants from project countries through distance learning courses on Basic and Advanced Hydrology, Geospatial information, drought monitoring and early warning services and response in the Volta Basin region	Continue to review and update national and transboundary policies, action plans and institutional capacity for integrated flood and drought management and link it with the existing climate change adaptation plans (NAPA, NAP etc.)
the provision of in-person training to some 200 regional, national and local stakeholders on gender mainstreaming and nature-based solutions for flood and drought management in the Basin	Develop the phase two of the Volta Basin Flood and Drought Management project for the entire region of the six countries and submit it to donors or financial institutions for funding



The implementation of community-based flood and drought management activities in the six communities of the Volta Basin.	Build synergies and complementarities with other on-going or completed projects and visualize any available products or tools on flood and drought monitoring and forecasting system (for eg: FEWS White Volta and Oti Basin project, REWARD project)
Review of the existing policies, plans and guidelines on flood and drought management at the regional, national and local levels of the Volta Basin	Prepare for the project closure as well as for project final evaluation by an independent consultant
Development of the impact-based flood forecasting system for the Volta basin region and regional Bulletin to develop and share it with the stakeholders	

The third-year project progress report (PPR-III) was submitted to the Adaptation Fund in September 2022, including the request for one year no-cost extension of the project implementation. Following technical review from the Adaptation Fund Secretariat, the PPR-III report was approved and the final 4<sup>th</sup> tranche of funds was transferred for the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> year pending project activities during January 2023. The APFM TSU will continuously work with the SBPs to develop a sustainability plan for the project to ensure that the project outputs are operational and sustained by the countries and regional authority (Volta Basin Authority) even after the completion of the project.

#### 2.11.6 IDM pre-concept for the DRIN basin (AF)

Pre-concept for the DRIN proposal has been developed together with the GWP Mediterranean office since March 2023.

The project aims to assist the beneficiary countries to set and implement a climate-resilient river basin DRM approach, to improve their capacity to manage related risks at transboundary basin, national and local levels, and to enhance resilience of vulnerable communities to droughts. Overall, the project will improve the resilience of 1.6 million people living in the DB (direct and indirect beneficiaries).

Pre-concept was now shared with countries for their additional feedback. Plan is that it is submitted to the Adaptation Fund by Autumn 2023.

#### 2.11.7 IDM project in Central Asia (AF)

WMO, GWP, FAO, UNCCD and CAREC (Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program) are developing a project proposal for strengthening drought resilience in the Central Asian region through proactive drought risk management. The proposal will be submitted by WMO as implementing agency to the Adaptation Fund. A preconcept has been developed and shared with the five Central Asian countries for first consultations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan).

#### 2.11.8 IDM project for the Mekong River basin

In August 2022, WMO submitted an updated pre-concept note to the Adaptation Fund for this project. The Adaptation Fund requested that the support letters were out of date and the concept note needed to be resubmitted. WMO and partners worked on obtaining the needed letter and the pre-concept note was resubmitted in August 2023. The overall objective of the project is to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of the Mekong River communities in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet

Nam to climate variability and change by implementing climate-smart decision-making networks for better disaster risk management of drought and floods, agriculture management, and water resources management encompassing hydropowergeneration.

#### 2.11.9 Activities in Central America

Drought management activities have been developed by GWP Central America with support from the IDMP and with close involvement of the regional WMO office in Costa Rica since 2013 (further information [here](#)). The TSU currently explores opportunities to establish a flood and drought center for Central America since this was raised several times by several countries. WMO is currently working with Panama and Costa Rica to establish roadmaps to further develop hydrometeorological services for the countries and in this context, integrated flood and drought work could be piloted and further extended to the whole region.

#### 2.11.10 Activities in South America

The Drought Information System (SISSA) for Southern South America was [formally launched in June 2021](#) (video). This project is funded from the Inter-American Development Bank and is the result of the [Workshop on Developing a Drought Monitoring, Early Warning and Mitigation System for South America](#) held in August 2017. The status of SISSA will be given during the IDMP Advisory Committee meeting.

#### 2.12 International Drought Mitigation Research Centre

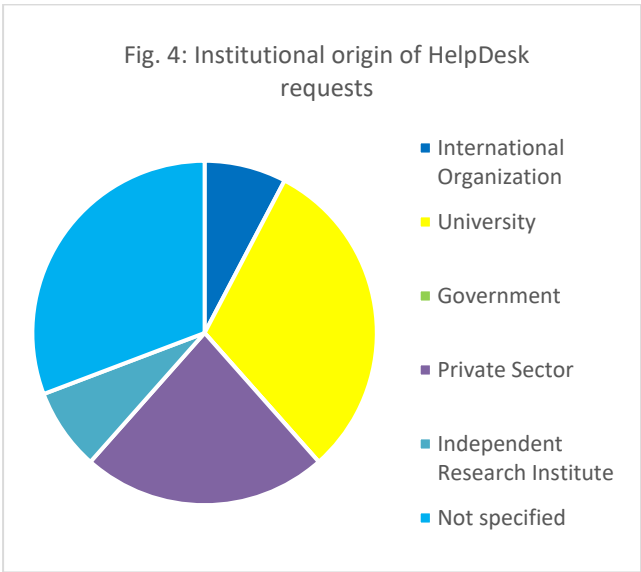
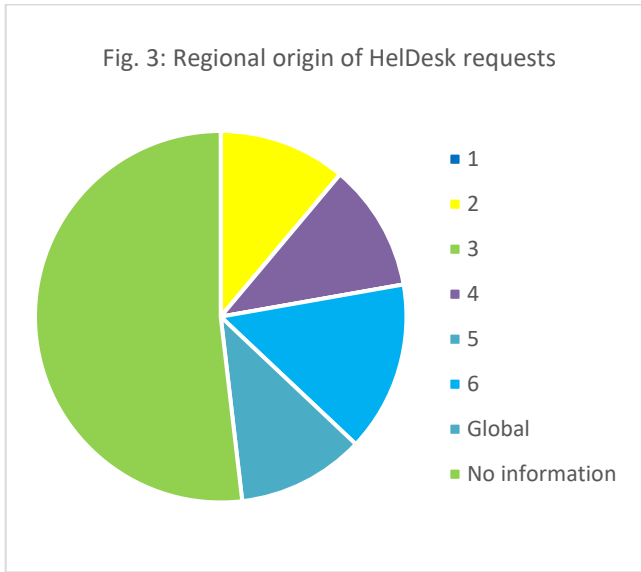
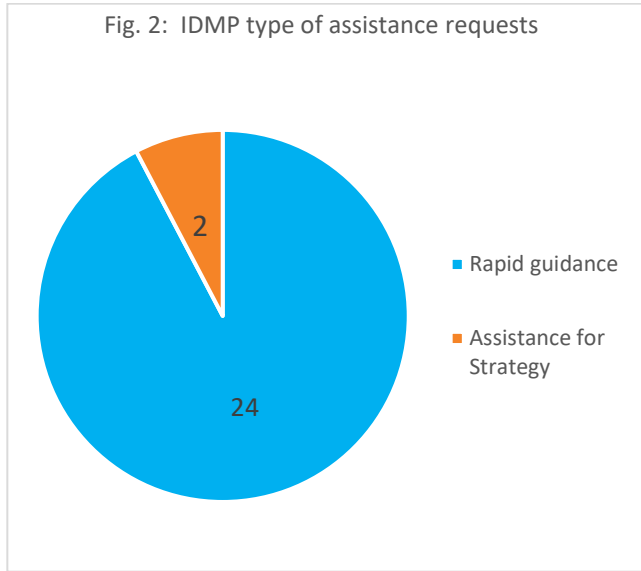
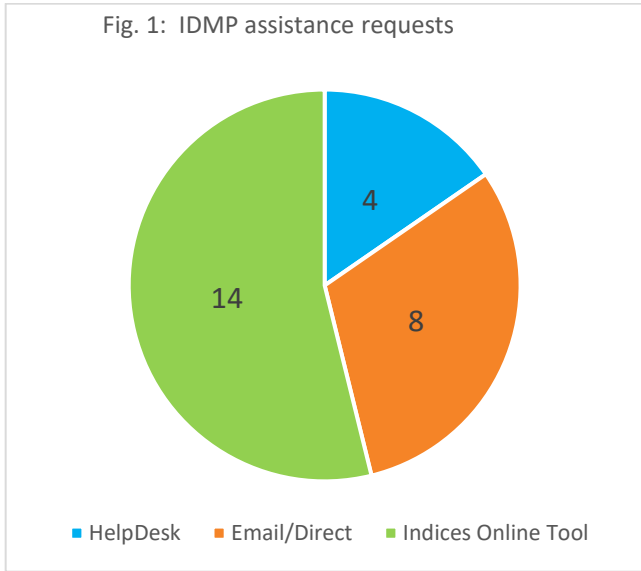
There will be an update on this activity by Prof Roger Stone at the the 2023 AC/MC meeting and there will be discussions on whether to continue this activity.

#### 2.13 Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk

In September 2017, Integrated Drought Management HelpDesk was launched. The HelpDesk consists of a “Find” section (to find resources in the library and access tools and guidelines), a “Connect” section (to link to IDMP initiatives) and an “Ask” section (to request advice and technical support). The “Ask” section was the final section that completed the HelpDesk. A draft profile of all partners for the catalogue of services of the HelpDesk was developed by the IDMP TSU and each Support Base Partner’s profile has been uploaded to the IDMP website. Fourteen IDMP Support Base Partners (see section 2.1) have reviewed the profile and concluded the discussion on the modalities of engagement with the HelpDesk to date. Follow-up has been sent to others. In addition to the “Ask” function of the IDMP HelpDesk, stakeholders can also submit questions via the comment function in the [online Drought Indicator tool](#).

In total 27 requests have been received through the HelpDesk from 1 July 2022 to 1 June 2023 with a sum of 280 requests since the inception of the HelpDesk in 2017. This is a decrease to previous year, and previous years where around 50 requests were received per year, mainly through the indicator online tool.

Close to all requests have been completed by the IDMP Technical Support Unit with IDMP partner engagement and the IDMP regional offices. For 2022/23, out of these 27 requests, 14 requests were questions related to indicators and indices referring to the IDMP publication, *Handbook of Drought Indicators, and Indices* (Fig.1). As shown in Fig. 2, most requests were related to rapid guidance on drought indices, while smaller proportions were requests for assistance for strategy. In more than 50% of HelpDesk requests, the regional origin of HelpDesk requests is not defined (Fig3). The institutional origin of the requests is diverse, as shown in Fig. 4.



2.14 IDMP Website

The [IDMP website](#) is the main knowledge hub and archive of the IDMP and is being maintained by the IDMP TSU with WMO and GWP support. Pages are updated to include the latest development on news, regional activities, national plans, publications, and documents. The TSU has been working with an external consultant to update the website template, with communication professionals to receive feedback on the structure and with the [Water Youth Network \(WYN\)](#) to updated the content of the website.

The section “[Advisory and Management Committee Meetings](#)”, provides an overview of the meetings of the management group and their main recommendations since its establishment in 2013, with the last

addition of last year's 2022 IDMP annual meetings. This year, [Youth Engagement](#), [High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy +10](#) and [Community of Practice](#) pages were included.

The pages of the IDMP regional initiatives are continuously being expanded. The website also contains a map that provides an overview of the various activities of the IDMP and a space to explain the status of each of the activities.

To date the library of drought-related publications contains 327 drought-related publications. Publications can be easily added to the library by the IDMP Technical Support Unit and IDMP partners are invited to suggest additional and new publications that should be included.

According to Google Analytics, average number of total clicks on search results is 74.8K for the reporting period with visitors from India, United States, Kenya, Ethiopia, Philippines, South Africa, Germany, Morocco, UK, Spain, and others.

## 2.15 Development and Implementation of the Communication Strategy

An overall communication strategy is still pending but progress has been made: In order to disseminate information about IDMP's activities and outcomes, different methods of communication have been used. The IDMP website and social media channels are the primary methods of engaging with audiences and generating sustainable growth. The IDMP website has been transferred to a new layout in summer 2021 and the TSU is working on making the website more user-friendly. Feedback from partners on this is welcome.

A new feature of the IDMP outreach materials are fact sheets, all fact sheets are available [here](#). The IDMP TSU has started discussions with the APFM TSU to use synergies for increasing the programmes' visibility.

### **IDMP website**

Comparative website statistics for the year 2021-22 are not available due to a change in analytics software. Average number of daily visits was 1511 for the reporting period with an average of 2.7 pages per visit.

### **IDMP social media**

The IDMP is continuing its strategy of publicizing activities and projects in the joint APFM-IDMP Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. This has created a tool to drive traffic to both websites. In 2022, the Water Youth Network has become a partner of the IDMP and identified three volunteers to support the IDMP in different activities, one of them being social media management. With this increased capacity, the TSU is planning to post regular updates on events and IDM work as well as promote partners' work through the IDMP channels.

### **Information material**

A new series of graphical factsheets was launched on World Drought Day 17 June 2021. These factsheets summarize on 1 page in a graphical, attractive way different aspects of IDM and are available on the IDMP webpage [here](#).

In addition, the IDMP has a brochure and roll-up posters for events.

## International Events

Members of the TSU took part to various international conferences, where they gave presentations introducing the IDMP. These are further detailed below in section 2.16. Please refer to subsections of section 2.11, for events attended by the IDMP CEE, IDMP HOA IDMP WAF, and IDMP CACENA.

## 2.16 Engagement with International Processes and Events

The IDMP TSU has been engaged with the following international activities (in addition to the UNCCD and FAO activities described in section 2.3 above);

- WMO and GWP participated in UN Water Conference in March 2023. Several interventions were made about the work of IDMP.
- IDMP has been interacting with international Panat Rhei Drought in the Anthropocene research network group and made a presentation on 12 July 2023. This group is a working under the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

## 2.17 Fundraising

Work continues to identify fundraising opportunities for the IDMP. The IDMP has been receiving funding from NOAA through the GWP administrative processes but there been some delays in this process. In this context, the IDMP TSU develops a yearly work plan and budget to use the funds for further development of core IDMP activities in coordination with the IDMP recommendations.

Several project proposals are under development to strengthen IDM implementation on the regional and national level (see section 2.11)

## 2.18 Financial Support

The expenditure report of the IDMP for the year 2022 will be provided to the Management Committee of the IDMP at the meeting.

# 3. Workplan for the period 2022-23 and IDMP strategy

## 3.1 Global Activities

The IDMP will continue to work towards a coherent approach to Integrated Drought Management and a strong joint push towards a proactive, risk-informed management of droughts.

In the 2022/23 reporting period, the IDMP TSU has worked intensely on finalizing the IDMP 2023-25 strategy, which will define the mid-term direction of the programme. The document has received input from many partners and builds on the following aspects:

- Support the implementation of Integrated Drought Management and catalyze change
- Generate and manage knowledge
- Strengthen partnerships

- Programme management and implementation

The strategy has been published and is available for download [here](#). It will guide the programme for the next 3 years and will be used to discuss additional funding opportunities.

## 3.2 Regional Activities 2023-

### 3.2.1 IDMP Central and Eastern Europe

#### **Main focus of IDMP CEE in 2023/2024:**

- Transfer of IDMP CEE knowledge and lessons learned and foster exchange between partners within and outside of the region.
- Supporting development of community of practice related to drought.
- Drought within multi-hazard Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework

#### **Planned activities:**

##### 1. Support the Implementation of IDM and Catalyze Change

#### **Integrated Drought Management System and measures to mitigate the impact of the climate change in Kosovo.**

Project started 2022 (funded from SlovakAid) with focus on transferring IDMP CEE experiences and knowledge and facilitate the exchange between CEE and Kosovo experts on improving drought management. This year we are focusing on: 1) analysis of the current status of drought management in Kosovo; 2) starting with preparation of the supporting preparation of the Draft Action Plan with establishing links and dialogue between all key stakeholders in the country; 3) Selecting a set of measures to mitigate the impacts of drought that will be included in the plan later on

##### 2. Generate and Manage Knowledge

- Activity 1: Organising capacity building on drought in Kosovo, With the purpose to foster the dialogue between key stakeholders involved into drought management, and support preparation of the drought action plans.
- Activity 2: Researching the transfer and scalability of multi-hazard DRR solutions among different case studies (2 in CEE related to flood and droughts, HuT Project 2022-2025). HuT project is HE IA action to support the transfer and scalability of multi-hazard DRR solutions, incl. solution for droughts and floods. GWP CEE is leader of working package on transfer and scalability and currently set up pathways to monitor transfer, replication, and scaling of DRR solutions.

##### 3. Communication and Strengthen Partnerships

- Activity 1: Support development of Community of Practice on Drought in Armenia and Kosovo (IWRM Knowledge Hub)
- Activity 2: Active collaboration among multiple CEE countries, DMSCEE, Armenia and Kosovo partners in projects
- Activity 3: Support drought aspects and drought-flood aspects related to NBS in Community of practice of water related NBS (IWRM Knowledge Hub)
- Activity 4: Strengthening existing partnerships in the region (especially with ICPDR, DMCSEE, ...) and connect with other institutions and initiatives to gain extra knowledge and good practices. IDMP CEE will be part of the ICPDR consultation process on supporting and encouraging countries to acknowledge drought among the national priorities.

#### **Implementing projects:**

Knowledge transfer on drought issues due to climate change for Armenia – develops Community of Practice including relevant information from Slovakia, Poland, Czechia, Hungary, and DMSCEE information hub and develops IDMP training related to need of Working Group on Drought in Armenia. Donor: Visegrad Fund.



Implemented in 2022-2023

Integrated Drought Management System and measures to mitigate the impact of the climate change in Kosovo – implemented in 2022-2024. In 2023 the Gap analysis of drought management in Kosovo, Draft Plan on drought management, Set of measures will be developed, and preparatory work for drought platform will be executed. In 2024 follow national consultation and training. Donor: Slovak Aid

“The HuT” The Human-Tech Nexus - Building a Safe Haven to cope with Climate Extremes- Horizon Project (implemented 2022-2025) – development and transfer of climate related (incl. drought and floods) DRR solutions, and related aspects in policy, education, stakeholder engagement, financing.

Myriad-EU – GWP CEE is invited for stakeholder consultation on proposed DRR multi-hazard (consecutive, amplifying, cumulative, triggering) policy framework for Danube Pilot related to agriculture, transport and financing sectors. Drought and flood are two of the hazards. Consultation of the framework will continue 2023.

**Fundraising:**

**Submitted project(s):** (short description):

LAREDAR: Lakes and Reservoirs in the Danube River Basin – submitted in Nov 23 Promoting climate change adaptation capacities in the Danube Region and disaster management on transnational level in relation to environmental risks taking into account ecosystem based approaches

**Calls to consider for application:**

HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02-1-two-stage: Demonstrating Nature-based Solutions for the sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate, with special attention to reducing the impacts of extreme drought. Open in Oct 2023, 22 Feb 2024 (First Stage), 17 Sep 2024 (Second Stage)

### 3.2.2 IDMP Horn of Africa

**Main focus of IDMP WAF in 2023:**

- Support stakeholders to promote drought policies/plans and enhance drought early warning system(s).
- Upscale Gender and social inclusivity in Drought management at the regional/transboundary scale.
- Resource Mobilization for drought/support project preparation to leverage funding from traditional sources and other financial partners.

1. Planned activities:

Support the Implementation of IDM and Catalyze Change

- Activity 1: Support regional and national efforts in development and operationalization of drought policies and plans.
- Activity 2: Promote Increased uptake and usage of concrete and innovative drought adaptation actions.
- Activity 3: Support innovative pro-poor and gender sensitive ‘green ‘solution to enhance drought resilience/ addressing critical water security challenges.

2. Generate and Manage Knowledge

- Activity 1: Strengthening capacity building amongst stakeholders in drought Management e.g. through training stakeholders in IWRM tools for drought management
- Activity 2: Support initiatives such as study tours to drought affected and vulnerable areas and document good cases for purposes of learning lessons.

- Activity 3: Generate and package information dissemination materials on EW, and drought adaptation actions in forms for easy uptake (e.g., policy briefs, brochures) adapted to the various stakeholders
3. Communication and Strengthen Partnerships
- Activity 1: Identify and interact with key multi-stakeholder Regional/national drought platforms to disseminate the proactive management of drought.
  - Activity 2: Promote visibility of drought interventions- linkages of drought regional /local initiatives to the community of Practice.

**Fundraising:**

**Submitted project(s):** (short description)

Project ideas:

- Pitching development partners e.g.- Visits already carried out to the world bank, and European Union delegation.
- Engaging partners (regional) to identify critical bankable ideas for development and submit to funding agencies.

3.2.3 IDMP West Africa

**Main foci of IDMP WA in 2023:**

- Support for drought risk management in the Volta Basin
- Capacity building of national and regional structures on the Integrated Drought Risk Management in West Africa
- Support the capitalization of good practices in drought management in West Africa

**Planned activities:**

**Support the Implementation of IDM and Catalyze Change**

- Support the development of the strategy for flood and drought risk management in the Volta River Basin
- Establishment of an EWS for drought in volta basin
- Capacity building of national and regional structures on the Drought Risk Management in West Africa

**Generate and Manage Knowledge**

- Capitalization of the achievements and results of IWRM Mekrou project in Niger
- Capitalization of the achievements and results of the TonFutur TonClimat project in Benin, Burkina and Togo (documentary film, summary sheets on the results)

**Communication and Strengthen Partnerships**

- Collaboration with the VBA and member countries in the development of the drought EWS.

**Implementing projects:**

- “Integrating flood and Drought management, and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin” project funded by the Adaptation Fund. Implemented by WMO, VBA and GWP-WA in 2019-2024
- “Water for growth and poverty reduction in the Mekrou sub-basin" project funded by European Union. Implemented by GWP-WA in collaboration with the CWP-Niger and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation in 2020 – 2023.

- TonFuturTonClimat project funded by the Government of Quebec through the International Climate Cooperation Program (PCCI) and the GWP.
- Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta Basin (REWarD - Volta Basin) executed by GWP-WA, VBA in 2023 – 2027. REWarD project funded by the Global Environment Facility: The objective of the project is to reverse ecosystem and water degradation and support integrated ecosystem-based development in the Volta Basin through strengthened transboundary governance and ecosystem restoration and conservation for sustainable livelihoods. The project focuses on the establishment of a drought EWS in the basin, sustainable land management, restoration of degraded ecosystems, sustainable management of water resources, etc.

#### **Fundraising:**

#### **Submitted project(s): (short description)**

- Strengthening the resilience of food systems to climate shocks in Burkina Faso through the ecosystem-based adaptation approach. Submitted to the Global Fund for EbA
- Strengthening the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Togo to the effects of climate change through Integrated Water Resource Management and Climate Sensitive Drinking Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation in the Savannah region of Togo, Submitted to GCF

#### 3.2.4 IDMP Central Asia and Caucasus

#### **Main foci of IDMP CACENA in 2023:**

- Promote IDMP dialogues in a format of stakeholder consultations at national and regional levels.
- Supporting development of community of practice related to drought.
- Resource Mobilization for drought management programs to leverage funding from traditional sources and other financial partners.

#### **Planned activities:**

Support the Implementation of IDM and Catalyze Change

- Activity 1: Support regional and national efforts in development (and operationalization) of drought policies and plans.
- Activity 2: Promote Increased uptake and usage of concrete and innovative drought adaptation actions.
- Activity 3: Support innovative socially inclusive and gender sensitive 'green 'solution to enhance drought resilience/ addressing critical water security challenges.

#### **Generate and Manage Knowledge**

- Activity 1: Strengthening capacity building amongst various stakeholders in drought Management (specialists of state institutions, agricultural producers, journalists, youth, and environmental NGOs).
- Activity 2: Support initiatives such as study tours to drought affected and vulnerable areas and document good cases for purposes of learning lessons.
- Activity 3: Generate and package information dissemination materials on IDM adapted to the various stakeholders; setting the e-library (materials to be available in Russian and English).

### **Communication and Strengthen Partnerships**

- Activity 1: Identify and interact with key multi-stakeholder Regional/national drought platforms to ensure a synergy for the proactive management of drought.
- Activity 2: Promote visibility of drought interventions- linkages of drought regional /local initiatives to the community of Practice.

### **Fundraising:**

**Submitted project(s):** (short description)

### **Project ideas:**

- IDCA (Integrated Drought management in Central Asia) project proposal (under development)
- Potentially GCF Readiness or NDA partnership funding for Armenia and/or Uzbekistan.

### 3.3 Publications planned for 2022/23

- Baseline report on drought impact monitoring
- Guidelines on drought impact monitoring
- Drought and Flood Management (editing process)
- Knowledge product on drought legislation (database)
- IDMP framework document
- Publications related to the Drought Resilience +10, final report, report on workstreams etc.
- Knowledge product on social media and drought impacts

Annex 1 IDMP Operational Guidelines ([available here](#))