



World Meteorological
Organization



Consultation Meeting on the Proposed Integrated Drought Management Programme

Geneva, Switzerland
15-16 November 2010

The successes of the WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management over the last 10 years illustrate the integrated approach to flood management. The lessons learned and the experiences of this joint programme will inform the development of a proposed new Programme on Integrated Drought Management. Potential Partners in this new programme are invited to an initial Consultation Meeting to discuss its concept and structure.

INTRODUCTION

Drought is widely recognized as a slow-onset natural hazard that can become a major cause of natural disasters, affecting millions of people. In recent years, concern has grown world-wide that droughts may be increasing because of climate change. The responses to droughts in many areas of the world are reactive in terms of crisis management and are known to be untimely, poorly coordinated and not integrated. Consequently, the economic, social and environmental impacts of droughts are increasing significantly worldwide.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2007) states that the world has become more drought-prone during the past 25 years, and that climate projections for the 21st century indicate increased frequency of droughts in many parts of the world. Whether due to natural climate variability or climate change, there is an urgent need to develop better drought management strategies that are based on scientific knowledge as well as to ensure broader social responses to manage the risks and mitigate the effects of drought.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The wider scope of the Programme is to alleviate poverty in drought-affected regions of the world through an integrated approach to drought management, cutting across sectoral, disciplinary, and institutional jurisdictions.

The objective of the proposed Programme is:

To provide policy and management guidance through the globally coordinated generation of scientific information, sharing knowledge and best practices for drought risk management.

(continued)



The Programme will contribute to the global coordination of drought-related efforts of existing organizations and agencies with regard to:

- Better scientific understanding and inputs for drought management;
- Drought risk assessment, monitoring, prediction and early warning;
- Policy and planning for drought preparedness and mitigation across sectors; and
- Drought risk reduction and response.

While the spatial scope of the Programme is global, the results are expected to be policy-relevant and demand-driven, tailored to specific regional and national needs and requirements. The intent is to support actors and partners in various sectors, disciplines, and institutions to provide better drought monitoring and prediction on a global and regional basis, and to use the information

effectively in the development of short-term and long-term drought management plans and actions.

The overarching approach proposed for the Programme centres around four key principles:

1. To shift the focus from reactive (crisis management) to proactive measures through mitigation, vulnerability reduction, and preparedness;
2. To integrate vertical planning and decision making processes at regional, national and community levels into a framework of horizontally integrated sectors and disciplines (such as agriculture, water management, energy);
3. To promote the evolution of a consistent knowledge base and to share it with stakeholders and Partners across sectors at all levels;
4. To build capacity of various stakeholders, and to support drought management efforts through a demand-driven response mechanism.

PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

1. Overview of existing collaboration between GWP and WMO (APFM)
2. Concept of the Integrated Drought Management Programme
3. Overview of WMO's and GWP's drought-related activities
4. Presentations by various Knowledge Partners (How each institution could contribute)
5. Discussion of Concept
6. Responses by potential Financial Partners of the Programme
7. Recommendations
8. Next Steps



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour 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 189 Member States and Territories as of 4 December 2009. WMO contributes to understanding the drought monitoring and management through dedicated weather and climate observations; improvements in the application of agrometeorological methods and the proper assessment and management of water resources; and promotion of capacity building in the application of meteorological and hydrological data and information in drought preparedness and management.

The Global Water Partnership's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. Through its 13 Regional Water Partnerships and 78 accredited Country Water Partnerships, linking with over 2,200 Partner organizations world-wide, GWP responds to expressed needs and undertakes a range of activities in integrated drought management as well as integrated flood management, including the development of regional strategies. GWP advocates for the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM): the coordinated development and management of water, land, and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of vital environmental systems.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr. Avinash Tyagi, Director, Climate & Water Department
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
7bis, Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 730 83 55
Email: atyagi@wmo.int
www.wmo.int

Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary
Global Water Partnership (GWP)
Drottninggatan 33, SE-111 51 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46 8 522 126 30
E-mail: ania.grobicki@gwpforum.org
www.gwp.org