



Highlights of the Rio Conventions Pavilion UNCCD COP 14



11 September 2019

Day of Drought Preparedness

Opening session

Mr. Eduardo Mansur, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO, welcomed the participants, followed by a short film “The end of Famine.”



Maggie Sotyu, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of South Africa: It is high time that we take collective action on drought the problem by which no one is spared directly or indirectly. Over time we have been violating our planet. Now we need to take proactive actions and sustainable land management to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality. Women’s voices have not been heard as the policies were not made as gender-neutral. We need to include women. We need to prioritize women’s empowerment towards more collective action. We have the legislation about women’s empowerment, but we need to act and implement it. Gender issues should not be only addressed by women. Gender issues must be solved before addressing drought issues. For this, political will is needed. The most vulnerable are rural women who are impacted most by drought.



Rene Castro, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO: Drought is a global problem by which everyone is affected. Between 2006 and 2016, 82% of the drought damage was absorbed by agriculture. The number of un nourished children has increased by 45% in drought prone areas. We need to change our mindset from active to proactive. We need to work together towards the initiatives of sustainable land management and drought prevention. Equally important is awareness raising about the issues and solutions.

Howard Bamsey, Chair GWP (Global Warming Potential): The drought policy and decision are being taken, but the action is important. We need a joint partnership for drought preparedness and drought management. We are now working in a more collective and collaborative way due to which we can see the positive change. The climate change will ensure that the severity of drought will increase until we work to stop it. It is inevitable that the energy sector is going to be affected in the country. Most renewable energy in the world is hydropower. We need to shift our focus from energy to water sector. Beyond these obvious points, there are social problems that we need to tackle. We now have evidence that with careful planning, we can reverse the effects of drought. But we are not able to do it well enough. The capacity building is needed for effective drought management, and all the organizations must come together and work in a collaborative way.

Jeanclaude Bidogeza, Lead Economist, Africa Risk Company: Based on Africa's experience, we can bring out knowledge and make policies that can help us prepare to minimize the after-effects of drought. Droughts largely affect the farmers and the rural population, which is vulnerable to climatic disasters. Although it is very difficult to know the exact timing and place of drought occurrence but with tools and technology we have, we can still get some idea. Through proper risk management, we can reduce the number of lives affected by drought. We need to provide social assurance and food security to people for effective drought preparedness.

Olcay Unver, Vice Chair, UN-Water: We need to prepare for the time when the situation gets worse and need to manage water properly for better drought preparedness. The UN water report shows that most of the countries are facing water scarcity problem and that we need to take action right now. 31 countries face water stress. Till 2030, 600 million people's lives would be at risk. We need to shift our perception from water as a threat to water as part of the solution and make commitments based on well-evaluated data and knowledge. Proactive drought

management can reduce the need for urgent drought management steps. We have enough knowledge to manage water sanitation and combat drought and we need to act now. The partnership and collaborative action are needed for better drought preparedness.



Samia Nkrumah, President of Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Centre, Ghana: Drought and land degradation is the common enemy to the whole world and we need to reclaim our land back. Let us make the use of science and technology to change the Sahara Desert into a green place. After so much time of political independence, we are still not able to get economic independence to combat the natural and man-made disasters. She referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said that the earth is sacred and we need to respect it. She also quoted Ghana's first prime minister saying that in the age of science and technology, we should harness it to its true potential to make our Sahara go green.

She added further that we need to integrate science and technology with indigenous knowledge of people for better action plans. We must unite with the whole world because most disasters do not hit one country or a place but the whole world. We need moments to put positive pressure on decision-makers. New politics will be needed in which morality is there. We need legislation that enables women to inherit the land. Rebuilding society would only happen only if women of that society are equal. Women are the grassroots of society.



Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD: We face a two-fold challenge. One is the need to provide food for a growing consumer class in a time of climate change. The other is resource constraints. We are demanding more from the planet at a time when there will be less available.



No country or region, rich or poor, is immune to the vagaries of drought. Droughts wipe out enough products produced annually to feed 81-million people every day for the entire year. Globally, the cost of droughts reaches around USD 80 billion per year. According to the World Bank, droughts are four times costlier than floods. Drought also brings indirect socio-economic impacts such as on human health. If we do nothing now, we will have to face the bitter consequences in future, which will trigger more poverty, famine, displacement and conflict. He also pointed to the impact of drought on women and girls.

However, there have been certain actions and measures taken up to combat drought. Firstly, UNCCD is supporting countries on 'Drought Preparedness' and focusing on a management approach that prioritizes 'prevention' over 'recovery'. As a result, about 70 countries participated in the initiative and necessary supports are provided to them to develop and enhance their national drought plans. Secondly, as part of the initiative, UNCCD is placing an increased emphasis on mitigating drought impacts for long term drought resilience. They have worked closely with partners who are here with us today - FAO, WMO, GWP, UNEP and the University of Nebraska, to develop a drought toolbox with a range of effective technical and policy options to analyze vulnerabilities and monitor drought.

He said that partnership is the key to success. To complete the shift to a new paradigm, from reaction to resilience, the local and global organizations, including the private sector, need to move as one. He concluded his speech by saying that "Let us invest in early warning systems and preparedness, assess the vulnerabilities head on, and coordinate drought mitigation action at all levels that will boost drought resilience across sectors and borders".

Strength despite the threat- All women panel on drought resilience

This special session was moderated by Samia Nkrumah, President of Kwame Nkrumah Pan-African Center, Ghana.

Caroline King-Okumu, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology: In the past, there have been many well-knowledgeable decisions, but they were dominated by men, we need to include women for better decision making. It takes a lot of energy and effort to make women involved in the decision-making process at the ground level. We have to start in this imperfect situation for more women to be involved.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Environmental Activist, Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad: Some parts of Burkina Faso are most affected by drought, people are migrating in order to find resources so that they can feed their families. The ones who are left behind are women who must provide food to their children. Internal migration is a common phenomenon which takes place due to the lack of resources in some places. When you empower women, you are empowering the whole community as they have special knowledge about the land that men don't have. We need to give access to the knowledge to women and giving them rights for more collective action.



Lorina Aguilar Revelo, Vice Minister, Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica: Political decision should be made based on science and knowledge of the communities. We need to put a face to climate change so that we can combat it more easily. We have talked enough about what needs to be done, and we have enough knowledge but now is the time to act. We have a generalized idea about climatic change, but there are more outcomes of climate change than what we generally notice. For example, according to a survey, 37,000 child marriage takes place every day just in South Africa due to climate change. Governments should utilize this data that is available to us and use it in policymaking.

Policy dialogue on National Drought Plans

Moderator: Micheal Beuentrup, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

Camilla Nordheim-Larsen, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, Bonn: Drought plan varies from country to country. There were 30 countries that supported the plan, but at present, about 70 countries took up actions to support the Drought Management/Drought Planning system. She talked about the importance of an early warning system and the lack of communication, which should be checked and managed in order to ensure the success of the plan.

Malak Shukurova, Director, Regional Environmental and Natural Resources for Caucasus, Azerbaijan: Water sources are limited, where 66%-68% are for irrigation use, 25%-27% are of industrial use and 5%-9% are of drinking water. 3.7-million-hectare land in which 3 million hectares are water erosion, 0.3 million hectares are irrigation erosion and 0.4 million hectares are wind erosion. Also, 0.7 million hectares of agricultural lands are exposed to soil erosion and degradation and its estimated value is \$1 billion.

Then, he spoke on the National Drought Plan and its three key pillars which are: (1) Implement drought monitoring and early warning system; (2) Assess drought vulnerability and risks; and (3) Implement measures to limit impacts of drought and better respond to drought.

On the topic of the Drought Indicator system, he said that there are two drought indicator system. One system is appropriate indicators for the evaluation of different drought types, and the other is sets of indicators appropriate for the evaluation of historical or past drought events and national drought early warning system. Additional sets of indicators are needed for the identification of a prolonged drought and the evaluation of impacts associated with the temporary deterioration of surface water quality.

Angelica Hernandez Garcia, Consultant, Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environment Studies(IDEAM), Colombia: 40% of the continental area of Colombia has soil degradation by erosion and its main reason is drought. 44.6% of the insular area of the land has a severe degree of susceptibility to soil degradation by salinization. National plans, programs and projects in Colombia that contribute to LDN and Land Management of Drought are Policy for Sustainable Soil Management (PGSS), National Policy for Disaster Risk Management, National strategy of Environmental Compensations of the biotic components, National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Drought, Strategy for Drought Management in Colombia, National Payment Program for Environmental Services, National Strategy plan for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of dry forests and soils.

Edward Samuriwo, Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of Zimbabwe: Farmers are provided with types of inputs to improve their crops and production. They are developing technical assistance to come up with a drought plan. There should be a deliberation about creating awareness among children by conducting workshops in school. We must put more focus on irrigation policy and climatic policy and investment in drought planning. He further highlighted the key strategy for preparedness.

Trevor Thompson, Land Use Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Land, Forestry and Fisheries, Grenada: Water is the most vulnerable factor to climate change which needs to be checked and looked after. Policies and implementations are taken up for the drought policy and over 60 entities are involved in this plan. Support of the public is necessary to establish any plan. So, farmers, youth, CSOs, NGOs and other organizations and associations also took part in the process. Workshops of water management in schools, hotels, hospitals etc. policies should be implemented both in public sector and private sector. All sectors and entities have to come forward and join the plan and implementation of policies. Public involvement as well as security sector should also be included to ensure equality and safety.



Appolinaire Gnanvi, Director General, National Fund for Environment and Climate(FNEC), Benin: The lack of water and its management plan is going to bring effects as well as solutions to the people. The National Action Plan for Benin is to evaluate and tackle climate risks and lower the impact system in a virtuous manner. He also said that the measuring of risks and analyzing the vulnerability of the climate change at a community level has assisted in agriculture and land protection. Documents formed for water management policy have not been implemented, it has to be operational. Management strategies and insurance for crops and drought have to be provided. Drought has been divided into three different fields- Hydrological, Agricultural and Ecological. To mitigate the drought effects and its impacts, we must understand and possess the knowledge on how to respond and act in order to reduce the effects. He added that the National Plan adverse the natural disaster and water problems at a great extent.

Launch of Drought Publications

- **White Paper on Drought Proactive Approaches to Drought Preparedness: Where are we now and where do we go from there**
 - The objective of this publication is shifting from reactive to proactive drought management is essential to protecting both people and the environment from the Impacts of this slow-onset disaster.
 - Strengthen coordination among UN organizations and other partners, and develop a strategy to assist all countries to improve and solidify their drought policies.
- **Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy Framework – Supporting Technical Guideline**
- **Drought Impact and Vulnerability Assessment: A Rapid View of Practices and Policy Recommendations: Report and Policy Brief**
 - This policy brief summarizes findings from a rapid preliminary review of available approaches to drought impact and vulnerability. The review draws on experiences from different of the world. Recommendations focus on the policy needs to enable proactive

assessment approaches that can include vulnerable people and work across sectors, scales and timeframes.

- **Framework for the Assessment of Benefits of Action /Cost of Inaction (BCAI) For Drought Preparedness.**

- Assessment part of 10-step drought risk management policy process.
- Examples where proactive action led to success and how quantification facilitated the process
- Worked examples of possible accounting tools.
 - Test the guidance for its usability and clarity to improve with more concrete methodologies and technical tools.
 - Showcase how this process can be undertaken and its advantages.

Launch and demonstration of the UNCCD-led drought toolbox- A joint work by UNCCD, FAO, GWP, WMO, UNEP-DHI, JRC and NDMC

The session was introduced by **Frederick Pischke, Senior Network Specialist, GWP /WMO IDMP.**

UNCCD- led Drought Initiative: Daniel Tsegai, Programme Officer (Drought), UNCCD:

The strategic objectives of UNCCD are to:

- Improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management.
- Improve the living conditions of affected population.
- To mitigate, adapt to, & manage effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations & ecosystems.
 - Expected impact 3.1: Ecosystems' vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land & water management practices.
 - Expected impact 3.2: Communities' resilience to drought is increased.
- Generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD.
- Mobilize substantial, additional financial & non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global & national level.

THE DROUGHT INITIATIVE.

Requests the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates to: implement the drought initiative which proposes action on:

- Drought Preparedness Systems;
- Regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and
- A toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems *to drought*

Key Activities.

- Develop a drought toolbox of technical & policy options to support (i) Monitoring & Early warning systems (ii) Vulnerability & risk assessment and (iii) Concrete drought risk mitigation & response measures
- Support selected countries in designing national drought plans

In round 1 of the drought initiative, 44 countries participated. 28 countries responded to the second call.

Jeroen Van Dalen, Associate Programme Officer (Knowledge Management), UNCCD:

Knowledge hub developments: The UNCCD knowledge HUB also includes

- 1) Scientific conceptual framework for LDN
- 2) UNCCD Capacity building market place
- 3) Best practice on SLM (in partnership with WOCAT)
- 4) UNCCD E-library
- 5) Country Information

There are three pillars in Drought toolbox-

- 1) Drought Monitoring and Early warning – A mapping and reporting tool developed in collaboration between UNCCD and UNEP-DHI. Easy access to freely available global datasets.
Ex- TRMM Data
- 2) Drought Vulnerability and Risk Assessment – 0020
- 3) Drought Risk Mitigation Measures – As part of the UNCCD drought Toolbox, an extensive database of solutions will be available for drought risk mitigation options. Solutions are searchable through interactive guidance. These solutions are offered by partners, as well as from external sources.

Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), Frederik Pischke, GWP/WMO IDMP:

Integrated drought management process is based on three main steps:

1. Monitoring and early warning status

2. Vulnerability and impact assessment.
3. Actions and measures to mitigate drought measures and prepare to respond to drought emergencies more effectively.

IDMP Helpdesk assists you with drought management. The three main features are:

1. Ask: Ask for assistance on integrated drought management.
2. Find: Find knowledge resources on integrated drought management.
3. Connect: Learn about activities of IDMP and connect to them.

Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG): Yo Nishimura, Associate Professional Officer, Land and Water Division, FAO

WASAG is a fast growing network that currently counts 67 partners engaged in implementing projects and formulating new ideas to jointly address the increasing pressure of global change impacts on water scarcity in agriculture. This partnership fosters collaboration among partners for the development and deployment of policies, strategies, programs and enhances field capacity for the adaptation of agriculture to water scarcity, using context-specific approaches and processes tailored to specific circumstances and needs, including support for the formulation of transformational projects.

WASAG has established the following thematic 6 Working Groups, which are led by its partners:

1. Water & Migration, which aims to identify practicable solutions to alleviate the pressure caused by water scarcity and migration, and consequent impact on agriculture and livestock, food and nutrition security;
2. Drought Preparedness, which aims to identify practicable solutions to deal with droughts and their impact on agriculture, livestock, food security and nutrition;
3. Financing Mechanisms, which aims to identify innovative financial mechanisms for interventions dealing with water scarcity in agriculture in the context of climate change;
4. Water & Nutrition, which aims to create awareness, capacity and evidence on the linkage between water and nutrition;
5. Sustainable Agriculture Water Use, which aims to increase awareness and action by agriculture and related ministries for more sustainable agricultural water use to address water scarcity for enhanced food security and nutrition;
6. Saline Agriculture, which aims to explore the opportunities offered by saline environments (water and soil) for agriculture.

Presentation on UN Water- Olcay Unver, Vice Chair , UN-Water: UN Water coordinates the UN's work on water and sanitation for a better world. The other actors outside the UN family are Ramsar, IUCN, WWF, WWC, WEF, WaterAid, SIWI, GWP, SWA, WfWP, OECD, regional bodies (e.g. AMCOW), regional development banks, WRI, WYPW, private sector, academia, civil society, etc.,

Crosscutting/Linking to other sectors/SDGs: UN-DESA, Regional Commissions, UNFCC, ILO, UNITAR, UN Women, OHCHR, UNHCR, WFP, IFAD, UNU, UNIDO, IAEA, Global Compact, etc

Main functions of UN water are to inform policy processes and emerging issues; to support countries' monitoring and reporting; and to build knowledge and inspire action.

Innovative financing mechanisms for drought: What are the options?

The last session of the Day was moderated by Juan Carlos Mendoza, Managing Director, Global Mechanism of UNCCD.

Marie-Aude Even, Senior Regional Technical Specialist Agronomy Asia, IFAD: 38% of our investment includes water component and water screened systematically. Projects that generate value on existing or new value chains and seek to address water risks.

Speaking on the importance to de-risk, she mentioned the following important points:

- Systematic risk assessment in project design & CC mainstreaming.
- Reducing exposure to risks: more resilient practices, diversification etc.
- Weather risk management initiative (IFAD-WFP-BMGF): test weather-based and remote sensing-based crop insurance.
- Hosting G20 multi-donor Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM).

On the issue of bringing in innovative finance, Ms. Even summarised her presentation with the following:

- Host FFR, facility to leverage remittances for development
- Promote 5Ps, innovative blended finances
- Seek to facilitate convergence of support to rural poor
- Strategy for private sector



Jeanclaude Bidogeza, Lead Economist, Africa Risk Capacity: The African continent is one of the most vulnerable regions to weather risks. The negative impact of these events on vulnerable households and economic growth is well documented and anticipated to be further exacerbated by climate change.

For many African governments, the current and potentially increasing threat of extreme weather risk falls on the background of an increasingly strained humanitarian aid system. In the foregoing context, African Risk Capacity emerged as innovative risk financing mechanisms structured to build better African countries risk management systems, which not only unlock critical and timely financing but also help countries better prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change.

Anupam Joshi, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank: Innovative financing may vary according to the problem we are targeting. By building national capital, we can reduce the effects of drought. Self-help groups are made locally where every person contributes with some money as low as 10 cents a week. When someone needs credit s/he takes it from these groups. 99 percent of these loans issued to the self-help groups in India were recovered. He explained two types of models. The first one is the proactive one where innovative financing is used to avoid drought. The second is the one where we use innovative financing when the drought is on. Over the last 10 years, Africa has contributed 33 million form convergence. A number of provisions and green bonds have been launched for countering the problem of drought.

Summary and delivery of key messages regarding Drought for UNCCD COP14



Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD: Droughts affect the whole world - the developed countries and developing countries. But it is the farmers who are most affected. It is a natural phenomenon which occurs all over the world. Climate change adds to the adversities of the people. Most of the countries take a reactive approach rather than a proactive approach. The proactive approach will help us tackle and reduce the adverse effects of drought. For achieving sustainable development goals, we must reduce the adverse effects of drought. The Drought Day delivered the coordination between organizations, which is required to achieve a common goal. Coordination is the key. He congratulated all the organizations for their contributions. It is time to move from talks, policies and discussion to action. The Day highlighted the importance of an integrated approach and collaborative action to combat the problem of drought.