



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

United for land

Drought Challenges & Opportunities at the Global level

Integrating Disaster Risk Data in Policy: the Copernicus Emergency
Management Service Annual Conference

13th October 2023





Current Drought Situation

Global Situation
Dysfunction in Graphs and Numbers
Stating the Problem(s)

Pathways towards Resilience

IWG/Drought Initiative
National Drought Policies
UNCCD Drought Toolbox



The Future is yet to come

International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)



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The Future is yet to come

News from times to come

The greater picture

Pathways to impact

DROUGHT NEWS: FROM AROUND THE WORLD (2023)

FROM AFP NEWS

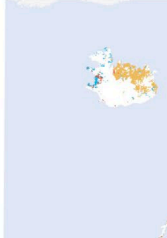
Drought In Europe At The Beginning Of May

By SOPHIE RAMIS June 1, 2023

Soil moisture deficit

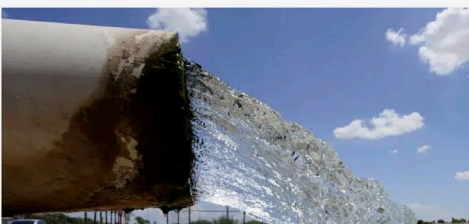
Vegetation stress

No data



Drought, water overuse prompt Arizona to limit construction in some fast-growing parts of Phoenix

By JACQUES BILLEAUD and SUMAN NAISHADHAM today




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News ▾ Ukraine war Features Economy Opinion Video

News | Climate

Half of world's largest lakes, reservoirs losing water: Study

New study finds unsustainable human use has led to more than half of the largest lakes drying up around the world.



Boats are seen on the dried lake Poopo affected by climate change, in the Oruro Department, Bolivia in 2017 [File: David Mercado/Reuters]

19 May 2023

Source: Europe

Drought in Europe At The Beginning Of May

SOPHIE RAMIS

EU Science Hub

Home > JRC news and updates > Drought conditions threaten the economy

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS | 22 May 2023 | Joint Research Centre

Drought conditions threaten the economy

Average temperatures and record-breaking heatwaves are expected to exacerbate the cascading effects from last year's drought, which was the hardest.

AL-MONITOR
Independent, trusted coverage of the Middle East

Drought threatens Morocco's basket economy: World Bank

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Weather

Danish state forecaster warns of 'drought as bad as 2018'

Ritzau/The Local - news@thelocal.dk • 1 Jun, 2023
Updated Thu 1 Jun 2023 16:58 CEST





A barley field near Barmer in Denmark during the drought of 2018. Photo: Henning Bagger/Ritzau Scanpix

- 4 -

Denmark's state weather forecaster DMI is reporting an extremely high risk of drought for this summer, likening conditions to 2018, when the country

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Governments fall short in UN's East Africa drought appeal

Published on 26/05/2023, 3:20pm

Donor countries promised only a third of the \$7bn the UN was appealing for to provide humanitarian aid to drought-stricken Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

News |

Can sea level rise double, and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere hit a record, World Meteorological Organization warns.

With 8


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News ▾ Ukraine war Features Economy Opinion Video

News | Climate Crisis



'Off the charts': UN report highlights rapid climate breakdown

Sea level rises double, and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere hit a record, World Meteorological Organization warns.



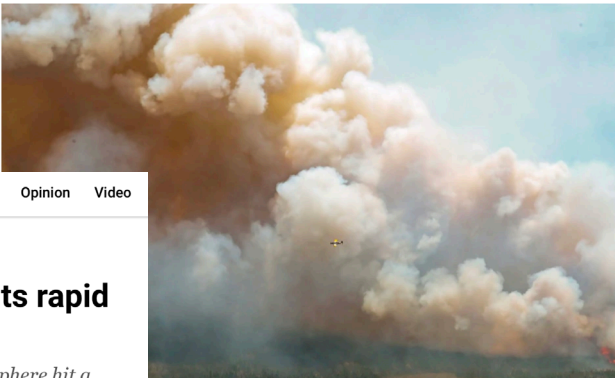
The melting of glaciers and sea level rises are on track to continue for thousands of years, the World Meteorological Organization warns in a report released on April 21, 2023 [File: Pernille Amdahl/Nansen Legacy]

21 Apr 2023



Record levels of greenhouse gases have caused "planetary scale changes on land, in the ocean and in the atmosphere", a UN agency says in a report that shows the past eight years were the hottest ever recorded on Earth.

Canada Deploys Military to Battle Nova Scotia Wildfires



A fire from the Nova Scotia Government in Canada, shows one of eight aircraft from New Brunswick that drops a pass over the fire near Barrington Lake, Shelburne County.

FROM AFP NEWS

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By SOPHIE RAMIS June 1, 2023

DROUGHT IN EUROPE MID-MAY

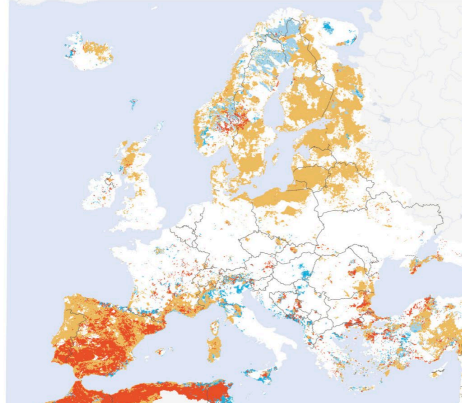
Soil moisture deficit

Vegetation stress

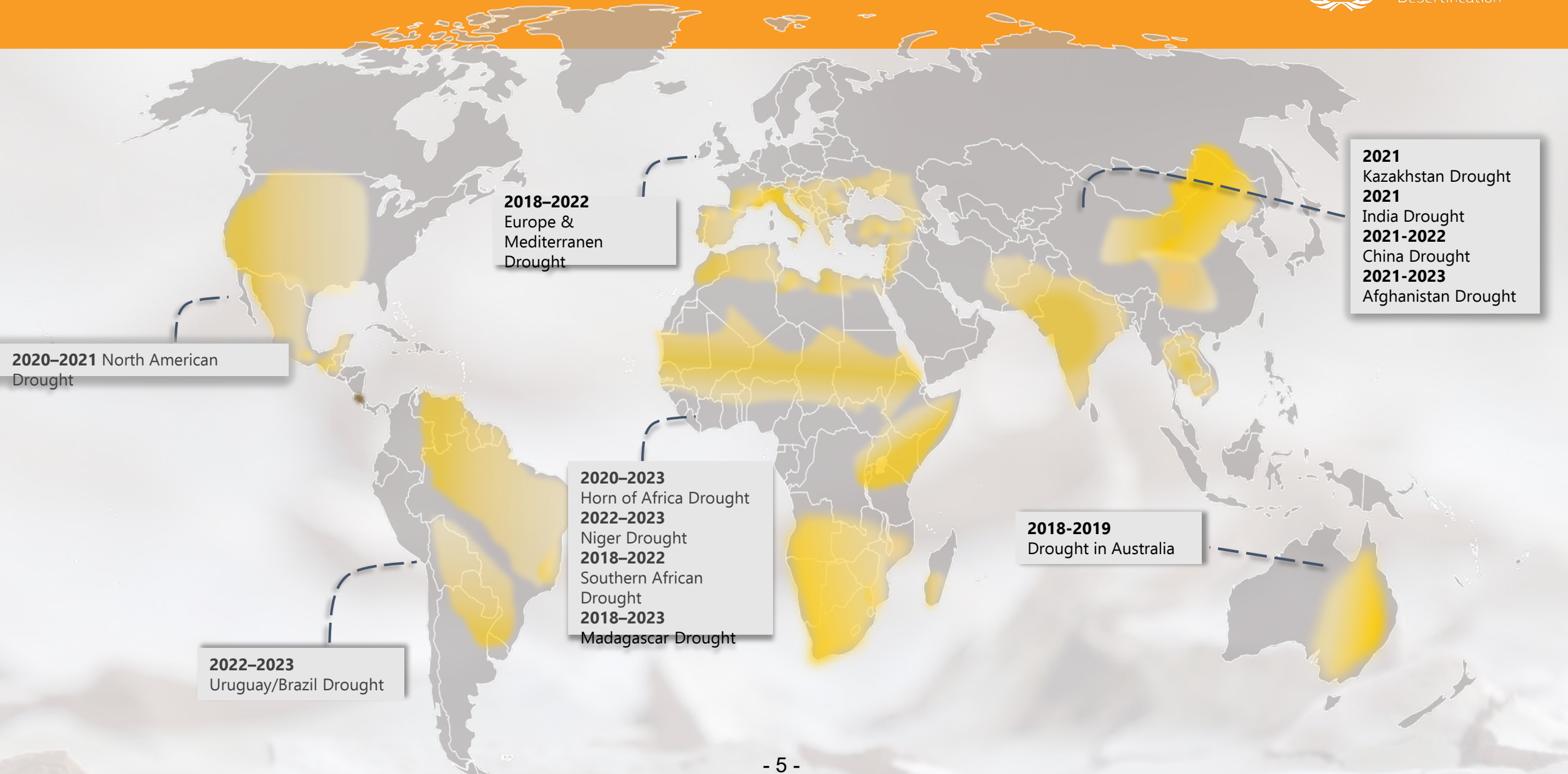
No data

After a period of drought, return to normal conditions

Complete Temporary



RECENT DROUGHT HOT SPOTS

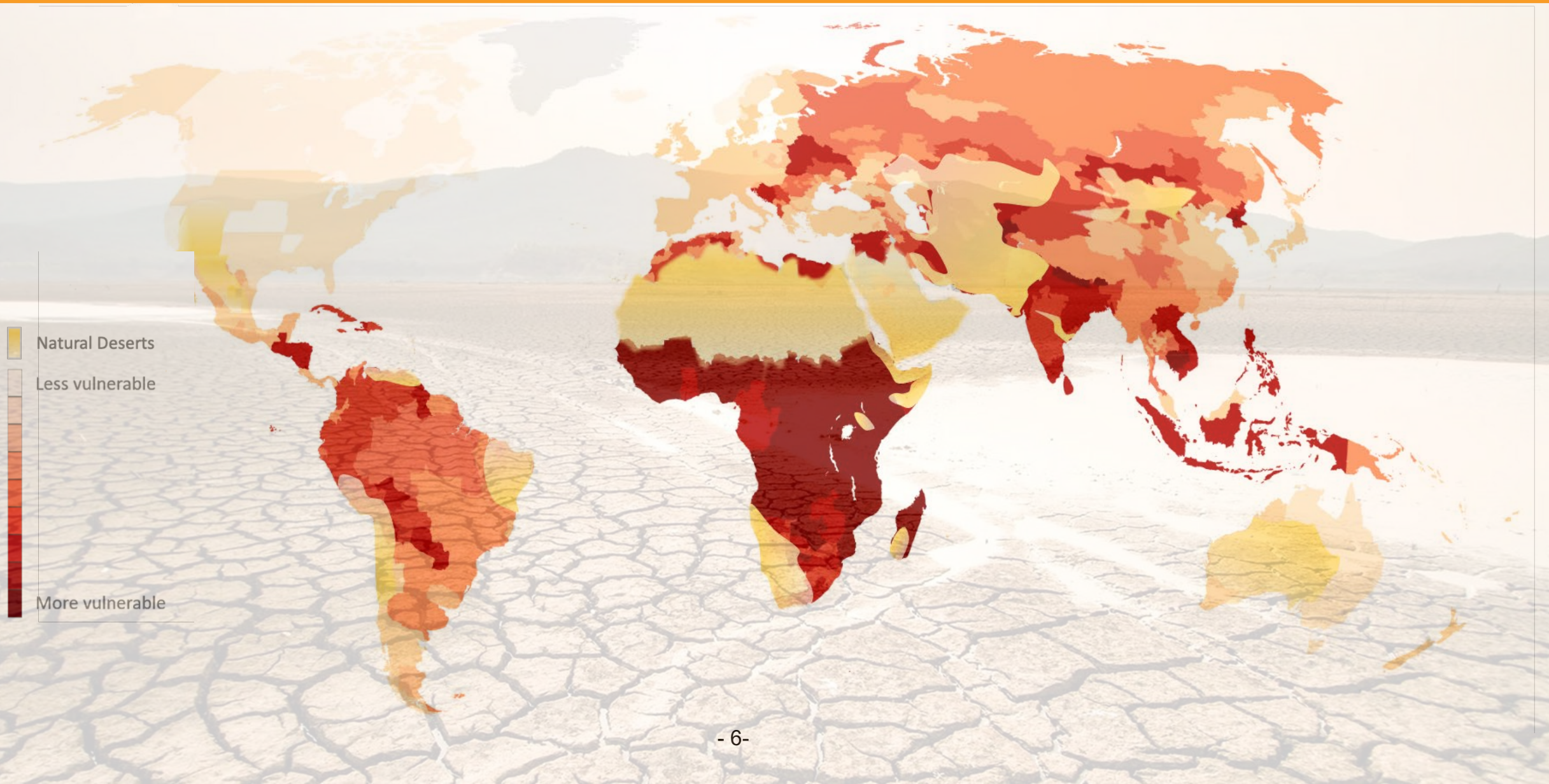


GLOBAL DROUGHT VULNERABILITY INDEX:

2022/23



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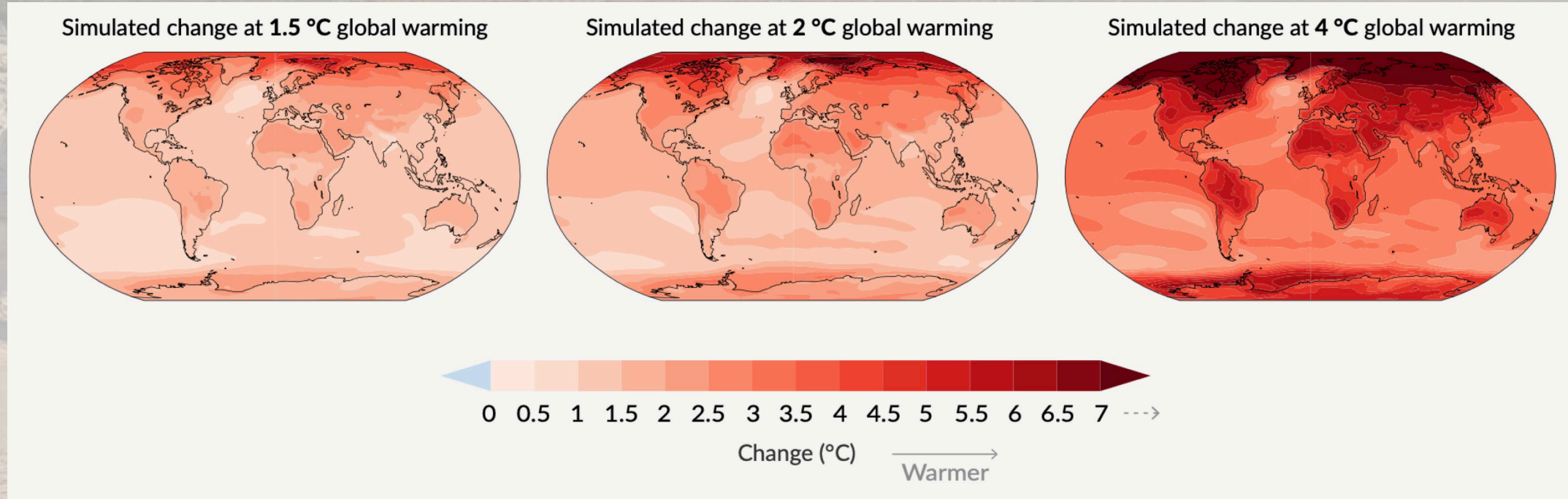


HEATING PLANET

Annual mean temperature change relative to 1850-1900



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By 2050, droughts may affect an estimated three in four of the world's population.

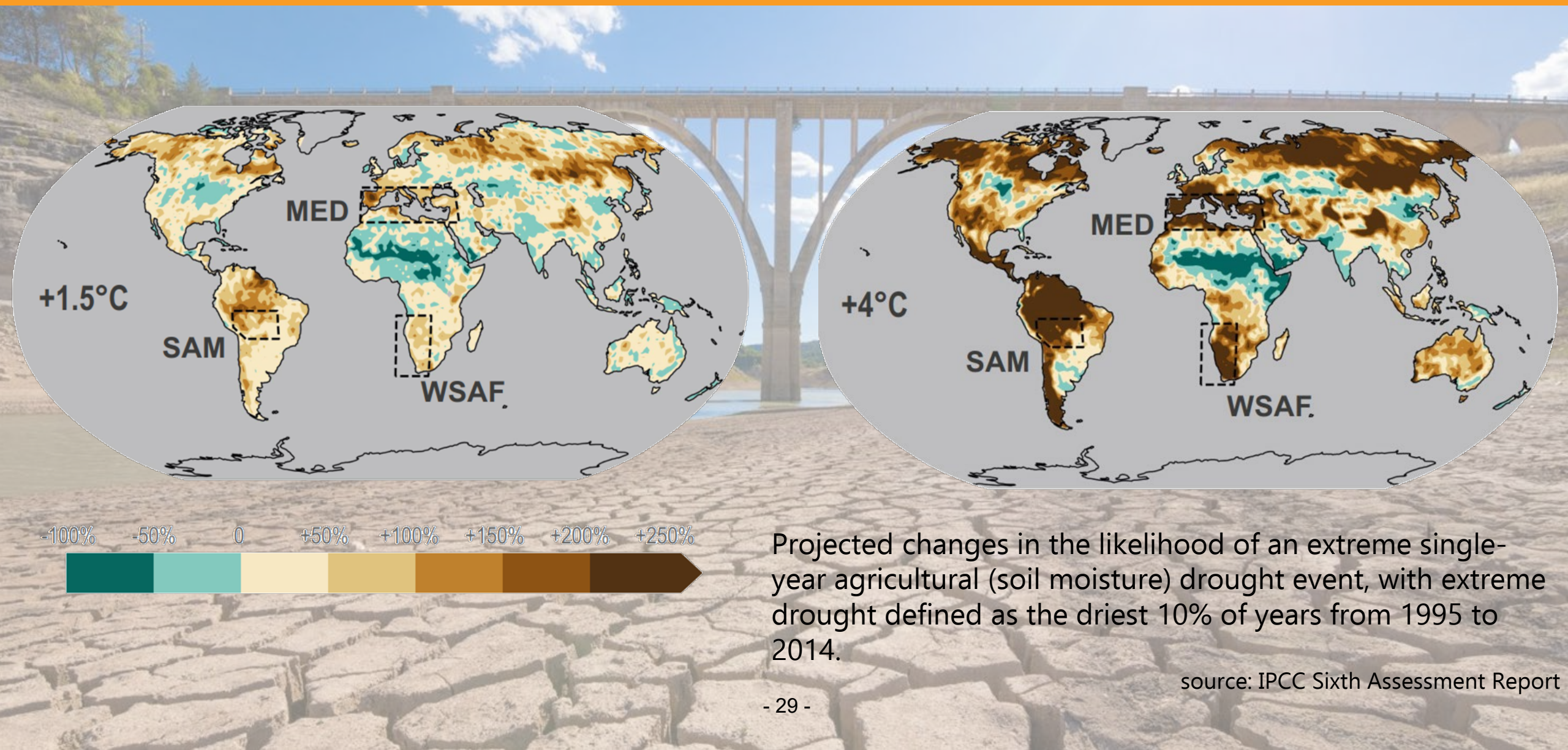
source: IPCC XI

TWO SCENARIOS 1.5°C VS 4°C

Changes in likelihood of extreme agricultural (soil moisture) drought years



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Projected changes in the likelihood of an extreme single-year agricultural (soil moisture) drought event, with extreme drought defined as the driest 10% of years from 1995 to 2014.

source: IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

Scientific consensus:: Humanity has altered an estimated 70% of all land on Earth and 20-40% is degraded

Drought is deadly: From 1970 to 2019, drought led to the largest human losses (compared to other disasters), with a total of approximately 650,000 deaths

Among all the climate-related deaths during the period, **more than 90 percent** occurred in developing countries

Drought is costly: Economic losses due to drought have increased multifold in the past decades

Drought is devastating: Droughts are increasing in frequency & severity, up 29% since 2000; 55 million affected every year.

Predictable futures:: Within the next few decades, 129 countries will experience an increase in drought exposure.

The future we don't want: If global warming reaches 3 degrees Celsius by 2100, drought losses could be **five times** higher than they are today.



Past drought management efforts have been **reactive** (costly, untimely, ineffective & poorly coordinated).

Impacts are increasing and becoming increasingly complex across sectors, demonstrating increasing vulnerabilities.

Climate change is and will continue to alter the frequency, severity and duration of droughts for many regions—increasing costs and reducing recovery times.

Drought relief doesn't promote self-reliance, promotes greater reliance on government and donors, increases vulnerability

Eligibility for drought relief—**adopters of appropriate management practices ineligible**

Shifting the paradigm to risk management, redirects resources to preparedness and mitigation measures aimed at risk reduction



Three Pillars of Drought Policy & Preparedness: An Integrated Approach



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**Monitoring/Early
Warning/Prediction
& Info. Delivery**

Drought status (Met.,
Agric., Hydro. & Socio-
economic)

Feedback

**Drought characterization
studies**

**Risk/Vulnerability and
Impact Assessment**

**Who/What is at RISK & Why?
Prioritization/Ranking**



**Mitigation and
Response**

**Actions and measures to mitigate drought
impacts (RISK) and respond to drought
emergencies (short-, medium- & long-term)**

Feedback

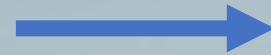


Crisis vs. Risk Management: Characteristics, costs and benefits



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Crisis Management



Risk Management

Expensive

Costs + costs of inaction

Repeats past mistakes

Post-impact

Drought relief/emergency assistance

Rewards poor resource management

Focuses on the symptoms of vulnerability, i.e., impacts

Increases vulnerability, reliance on assistance from government & donors

Investment

Short-term—EWS, building networks, collaborations, institutional capacity

Long-term—structural adjustments, policy shifts

Pre-impact

Risk assessments, mitigation

Identifies and addresses the root causes of vulnerability

Promotes improved stewardship of natural resources

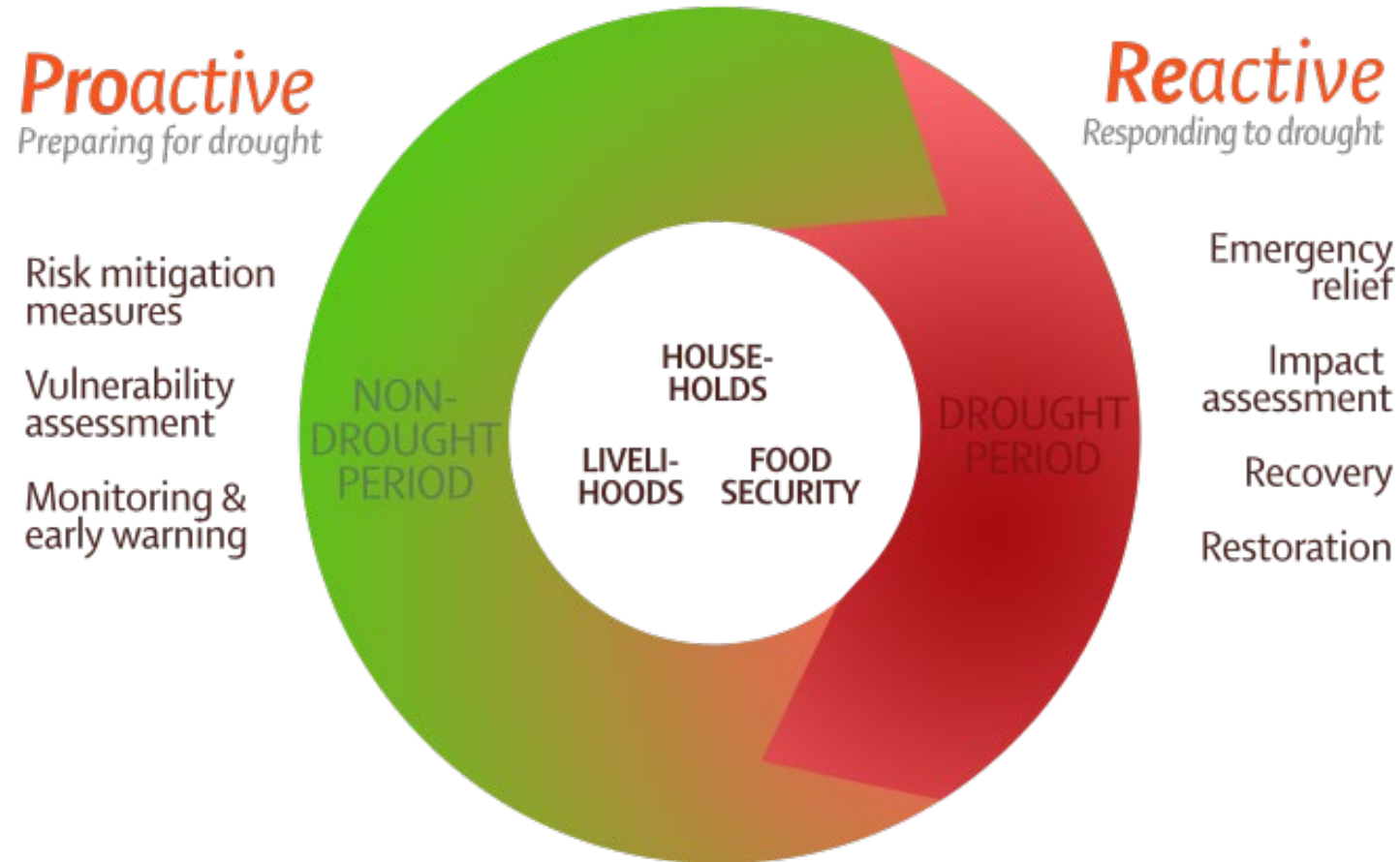
Reduces vulnerability, builds self-reliance, reduces need for gov't. & donor interventions

Assists w/climate change adaptation

SHIFTING THE PARADIGM: FROM REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE APPROACHES

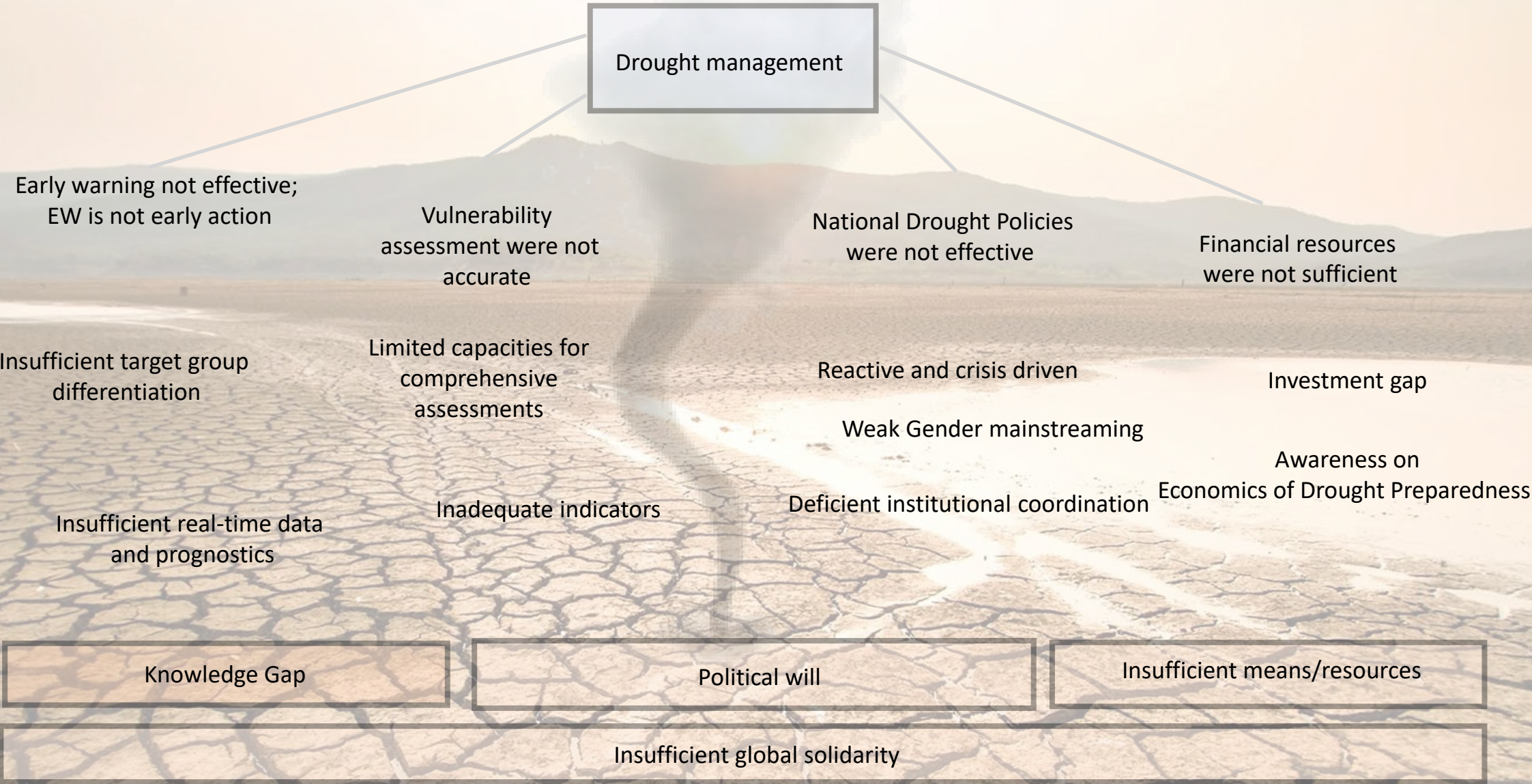


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DROUGHT PROBLEM - COMPLEX

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF EFFECTIVE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT?





Current Drought and Land Degradation

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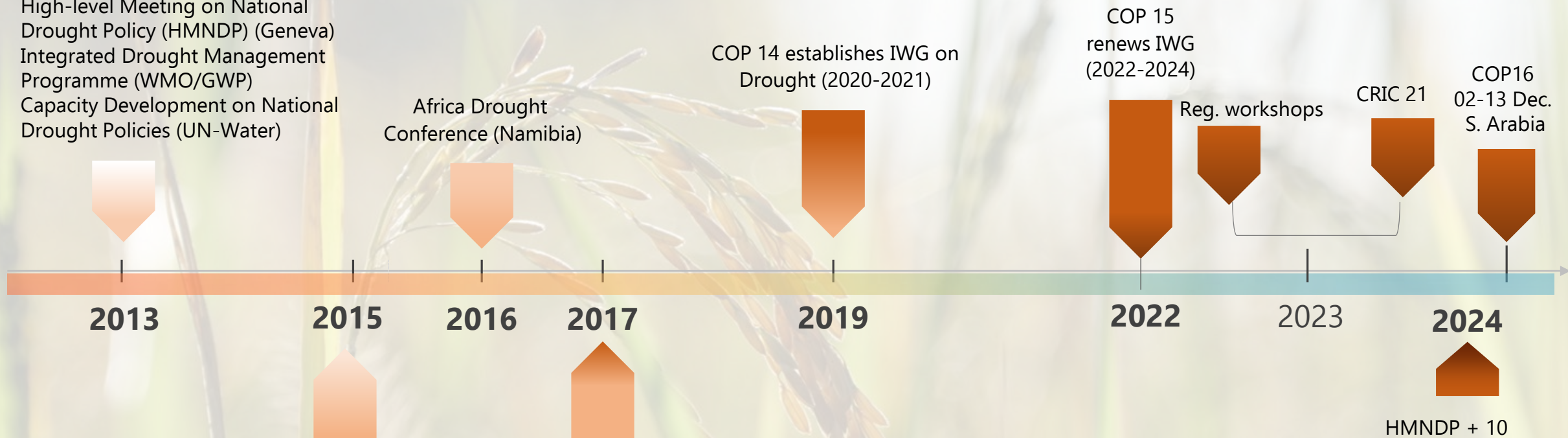
KEY MILESTONES:

Global Drought Initiatives



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- High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) (Geneva)
- Integrated Drought Management Programme (WMO/GWP)
- Capacity Development on National Drought Policies (UN-Water)



- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)
- Paris Agreement (UNFCCC COP 21)
- SDG Goal 15.3 (LDN)
- COP 13 establishes Drought Initiative
- COP 13 adopts a strategic objective on drought
- LAC Drought Conference (Bolivia)



1

to review and analyze all the reports which came out of the first IWG on Drought, as well as other relevant documents and Conference of the Parties decisions related to drought.

2

to identify and evaluate 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.

3

to prepare justifications and outline possible elements, processes, institutional arrangements, and mechanisms for establishment for each policy option.

4

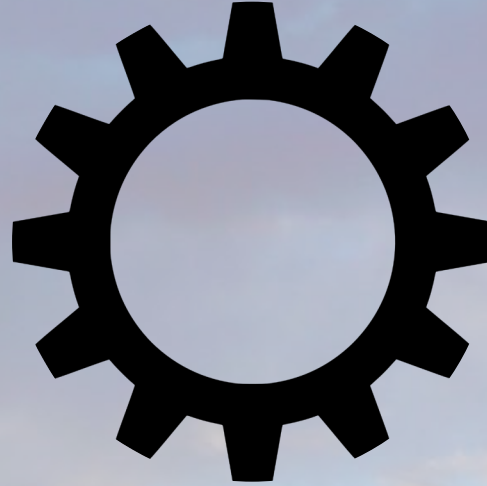
to present its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Parties at forthcoming UNCCD COP 16.

EIGHT POLICY OPTIONS ON THE TABLE



Financing

- 1.1 Creating New Funding Instruments
- 1.2 Strengthen Existing Mechanisms (GEF/GCF/ GM)



Technical

- 2.1 Define a Global Target
- 2.2 Create a Global Work Programme



Legally Binding

- 3.1 Amendment
- 3.2 Protocol or Agreement



Non-Binding

- 4.1 Outside the convention (UNEA, UNGA)
- 4.2 Inside the convention (COP Decision, Declaration)



DROUGHT TOOLBOX

Providing drought stakeholders with easy access to resources to support action on drought preparedness with the aim to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems.

[About the toolbox](#) [ES/FR]

[Language support](#)

[Drought planning](#)

UPDATES



[COP14 Drought
Preparedness Day:
Drought Toolbox
delivered](#)



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The UNCCD Drought Toolbox

DROUGHT
Monitoring
and Early
Warning

Explore tools
and data

DROUGHT
Vulnerability
and Risk
Assessment

Explore tools
and maps

DROUGHT
Risk
Mitigation
Measures

Find tools and
solutions

<https://www.unccd.int/dtb>



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International Drought
Resilience Alliance



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International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)

The Alliance

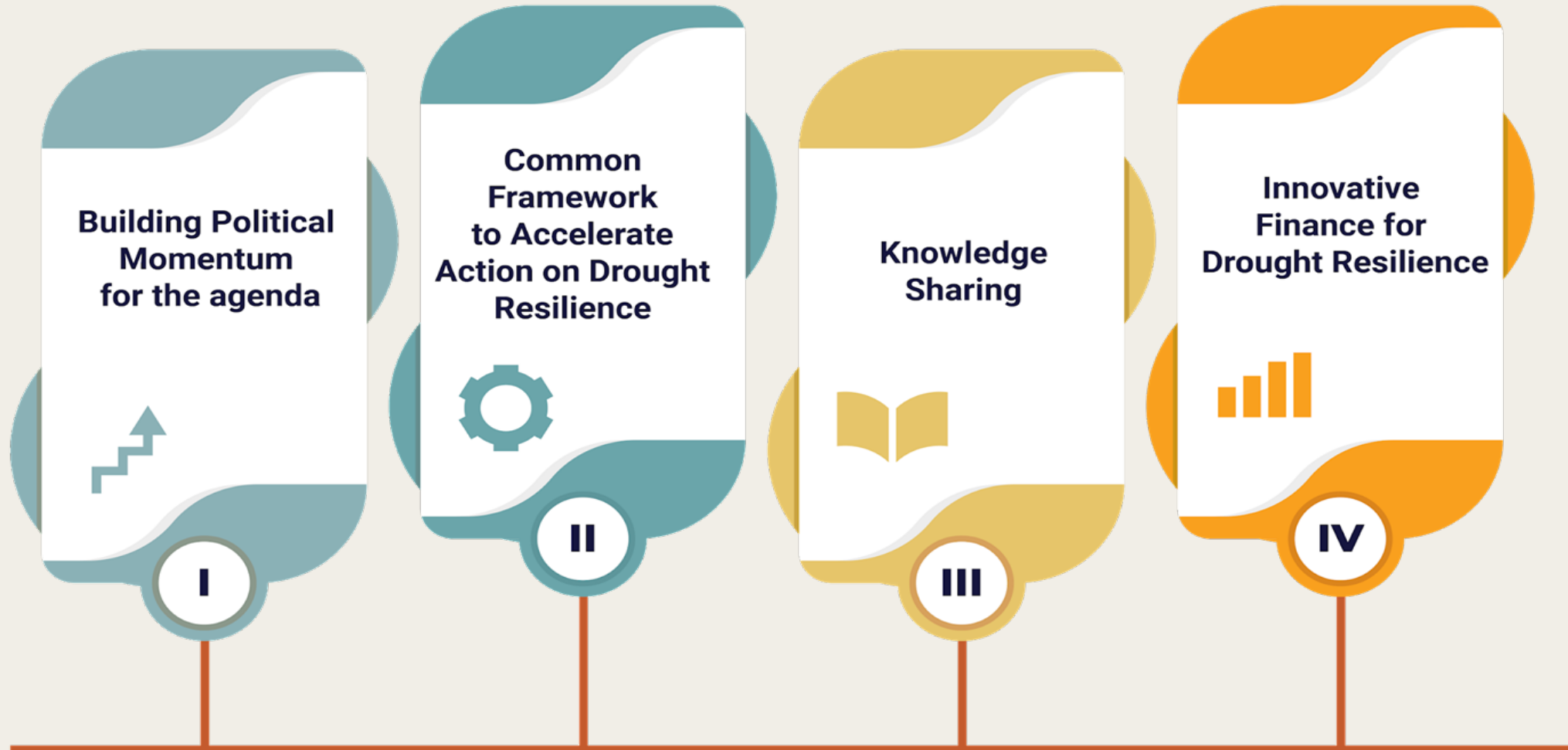


- The International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) is the **first global coalition** creating political momentum and mobilizing financial and technical resources for a drought-resilient future.
- It is spearheaded by the **governments of Senegal and Spain**.
- Launched on **7th November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh**, Egypt at the margins of the **UNFCCC COP 27** in a high-level event.
- IDRA draws on the collective strengths of its members to advance policies, actions, and capacity-building for drought preparedness, acknowledging we are only as resilient to drought and climate change as our land is.



- The alliance will promote **effective and efficient preparedness and adaptation measures** that go beyond disaster response to reduce vulnerability to drought.
- The alliance seeks to act as **a global facilitator for drought management** focused on systemic risk .
- Investing in drought resilience is one of the most cost-effective actions we can take". CBR between 2:1 & 10:1.
- The work of IDRA is aligned with, and supportive of, **the mandate of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, which hosts the IDRA Secretariat.

4 Pillars for Drought Resilience Action





Chairs			
Senegal		Spain	
Members			
Africa	Asia	LAC	WEOG
Kenya Mauritania Namibia	China Saudi Arabia	Chile Dominican Republic	Germany USA European Commission
Supporting Partners			
UNCCD WMO UNDP	Asian Development Bank CAF Development Bank of Latin America Inter-American Development Bank	The Nature Conservancy WWF	



Join IDRA, the first global coalition rallying political, technical and financial capital for a drought-resilient future...



DROUGHT SOLUTIONS at a GLANCE:

- ❖ Monitoring, forecasting and early warning needs to be enhanced.
- ❖ Holistic (also gender responsive) National Drought Plans need to be put in place.
- ❖ Understanding of the benefits of action vs. the costs of inaction needs to be fostered.
- ❖ Political will and leadership!
- ❖ Initial investment in building greater institutional capacity.
- ❖ Collaborative environment: supports and encourages coordination within and between levels of government/private sector
- ❖ Engagement w/Stakeholders, Research community & Media and extension/outreach
- ❖ Global cooperation & collaboration
- ❖ Coordination across sectors and regions needs to be strengthened for proactive drought management interventions.



