

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

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United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification

- Born in 1994, entered into force in 1996
- Overall Goal: Combat **desertification**, **land degradation** & mitigate the effects of **drought**, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation & partnership consistent with Agenda 21, aimed contributing to sustainable development in affected areas
- Membership: 195 parties -194 countries & European Union
- 10-Year Strategy Plan (2008-2018)
- Supports the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda through focusing of “Land Degradation Neutrality”

Productive land - Basic building blocks for our lives and economies

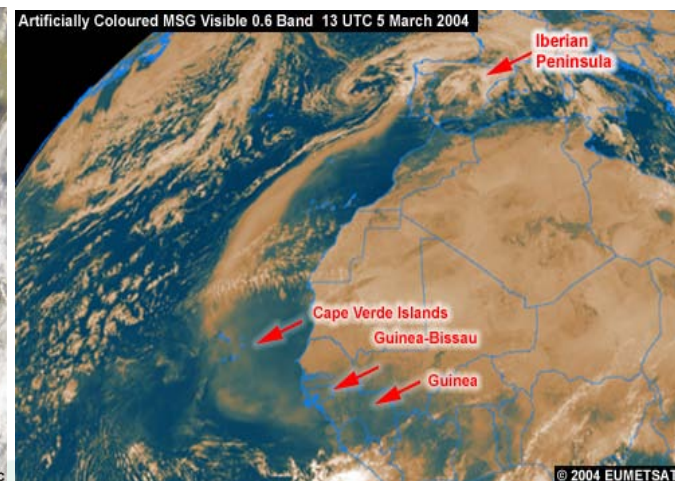
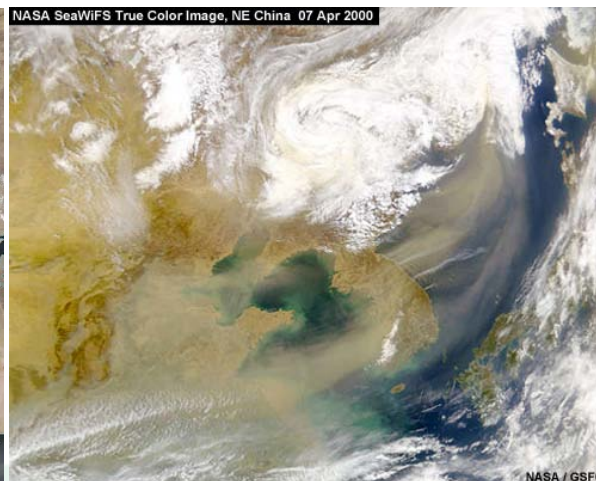
- No land issues in Millennium Development Goal (2000-2015)
- Stemmed from Rio+20 (2012) outcome “we will strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development”
- Sustainable Development Goals (September 2015) “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world (SDG target 15.3)”
- COP12 decision - What is Land Degradation Neutrality?

Land degradation neutrality is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems



Sand and Dust Storms (SDS)

- Global transboundary issue: dust storms of different sources affect neighboring countries and/or can travel even far beyond continent
- Major global challenge to achieving sustainable development, especially in arid and semi-arid regions
- Natural and human-exacerbated disaster with multiple impacts on environment, economy, human, and socio-politics
- SDS and land degradation/desertification are interlinked



Sources of atmospheric particles

- SDS in UNCCD policy?



- Volcano, Sea salt, Biomass burning, Anthropogenic pollution, Organic particles
- MINERAL DUST** –
originating from land surfaces





SDS policy areas for SDS management

Challenges/opportunities

- Global coordination and consolidated policy for SDS
- Capacity in institutional framework, science and technical aspects
- Preparedness measures and strategies for risk reduction
- Global/regional cooperation to address SDS
- Financing opportunities for SDS actions

Policy areas

- SDS monitoring and early warning incl. health early warning
- Resilience and vulnerability: *ex ante/ex post* measures for disaster risk management
- SDS source monitoring and mitigation of anthropogenic sources
- Knowledge and information of SDS



- **Monitoring & Early Warning:** Facilitating the methodology development for integrated drought early warning & monitoring systems that capture, inter alia, information on the incidence & severity of future droughts to better identify vulnerable population groups and geographic regions;
- **Vulnerability assessment:** Leveraging early warning system & support efforts to identify who and what is at risk and why.
- **Integrating early warning and land use Planning:** Integrating early warning and land use at watershed level to mitigate the effects of drought and thus contribute to LDN.
- **Capacity Development for National Drought Policies:** enhancing capacity of countries to develop & implement their national drought management policies: “risk reduction” promoting a paradigm shift from “reactive” to “proactive” emphasize the path of “protection” than “recovery”.



“Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies”

initiative, under UN-Water, which brings together the expertise of several UN agencies to advance capacity in targeted drought-prone countries so as to enable them develop national drought management policies, March 2013 - May 2015

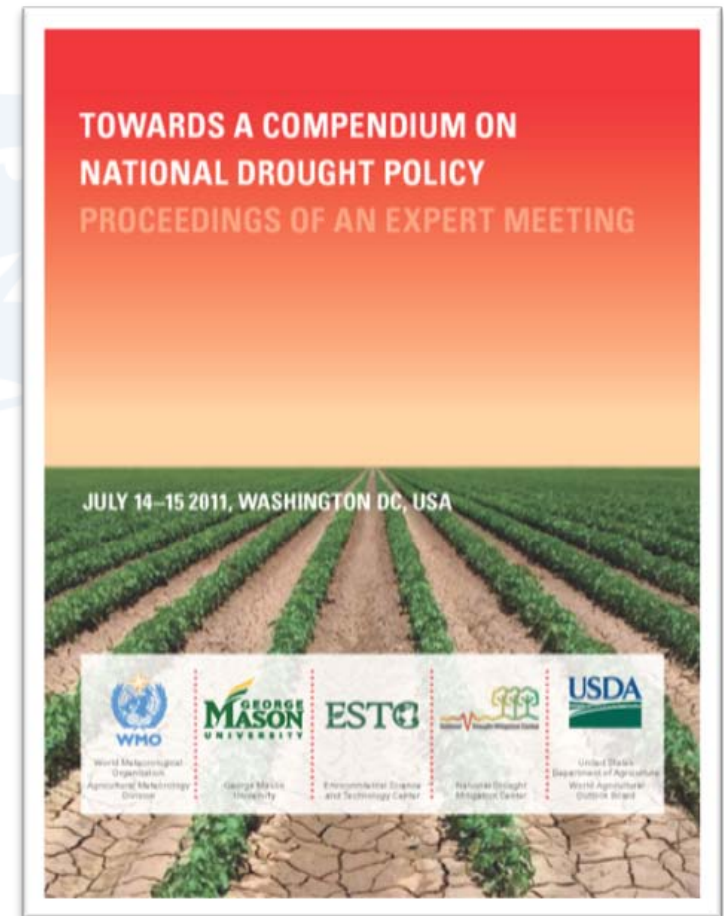


Find out more on the initiative:
www.ais.unwater.org/droughtmanagement



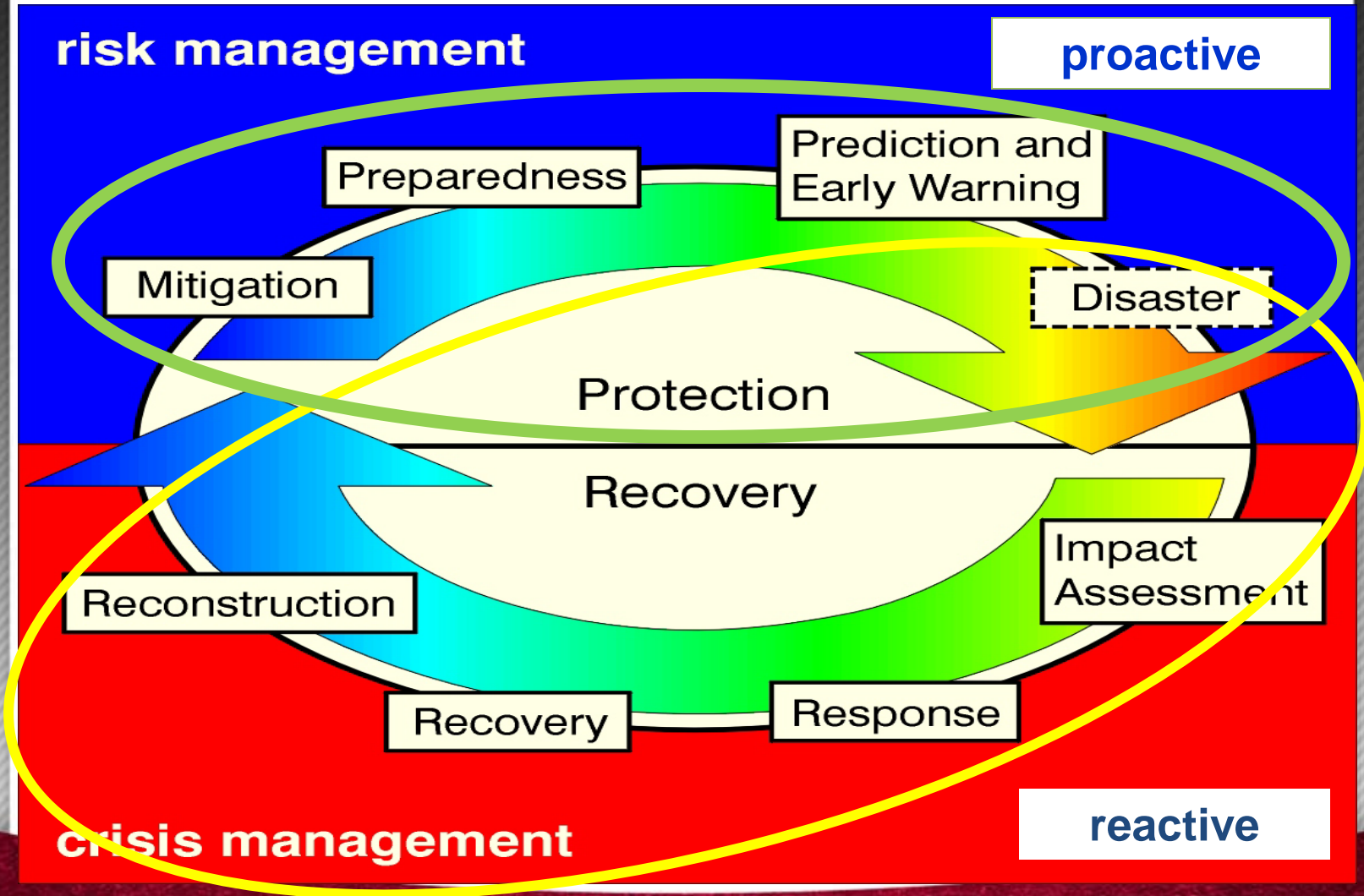
Key Pillars of Drought Preparedness

- Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Systems
- Vulnerability Assessment and Impacts
- Mitigation and Response Measures



Source: Sivakumar et al. (2011).

**Risk management increases coping capacity,
builds resilience.**



Crisis management treats the symptoms, not the causes.

Future activities

Potential area for collaboration

- **Early warning and monitoring**
- **Source mapping (esp for SDS) and monitoring using multiple data sets**
- **Develop methodologies for source monitoring and link this to early warning**
- **Access to space data for SDS source monitoring and drought early warning**
- **Capacity development and technical/financial assistance at national/regional levels**

Thank you



**17 June World Day to Combat Desertification
#2016WDCD**