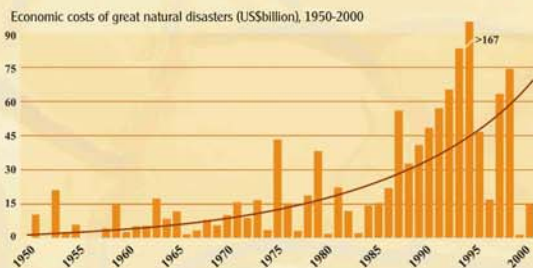


Spain Drought Reveals Submerged Medieval Church

## Governance Structure of IDI

As the success of IDI in realizing its goals depends on coordination and participation of interested countries from one hand, and international and regional governmental / non-governmental entities from the other hand, the governance structure of this project should be set in such a way to practically encourage their participation in different steps from policy making to execution.

It is therefore suggested that a steering committee including representatives of some of the countries with valuable experiences in drought management as well as representatives of some of the international governmental entities such as: UNESCO-IHP, WMO, FAO, UNDP, GWP, WWF and ISDR be organized. This committee would be responsible for preparing and compiling the working procedures for the initiative.



Drought in Australia, Oceania

### Contact Details

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Regional Centre  
on Urban Water Management  
(under the auspices of UNESCO)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International Hydrological  
Programme Division



### IDI at a Glance

The International Drought Initiative (IDI) was approved by the 19th International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Intergovernmental Council held in Paris, France July in 2010. The secretariat for the initiative is provided by the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management- (RCUWM) in Tehran, Iran.

IDI activities

- 1- Compiling the World Report on Drought Management
- 2- Establishing the World Drought Watch (WDW) and Global Drought Preparedness Network (GDPM);
- 3- Develop and build capacities in: drought monitoring, mitigation, preparedness techniques and methodologies
- 4- Prepare and compile short-term, mid-term and long-term plans (perspective) for IDI
- 5- Supply financial, technical and logistic resources which are necessary for IDI activities
- 6- Case studies illustrating the socio-economic and environmental risks by drought

## International Drought Initiative – IDI



Drought in Isfahan, Iran





Drought in Hamoun Lake, Iran

## Introduction

Droughts have several economical, social and environmental impacts, depending on their intensity and duration. Occurrence of droughts is a natural event and it is not specific to a region or climatic regime, and it can occur in different climatic and geographic situations. Unlike floods that have limited coverage areas, droughts usually affect vast regions, and this causes a more widespread and extensive range of impacts which last for a long time. Therefore, droughts affect a large number of populations in comparison with other natural disasters. The experiences in developed and developing countries on drought management has proved that besides the level of development, the impacts and consequences of this phenomenon is deep and considerable, even with different characteristics and nature. With no doubt, the occurrence of this phenomenon is one of the important obstacles in the development process of the countries. As the impacts of this event lasts for a long period, the countries and people who have been affected by this phenomenon are forced to spend extensive financial resources to encounter it during and after the event. It seems that today's world, needs a global movement to face and encounter the challenges of natural disasters related to water, especially droughts, so that through systematic measures carried out by governments at national level and integrating them with the activities of international governmental and non-governmental organizations and entities, effective and coordinated action plans could be prepared. This global movement through mobilizing political wills and resources can create effective measures in order to predict and produce preparedness and mitigation plans at global scale.

Introducing the "International Drought Initiative" (IDI) can be a starting point and driving force for this global movement.

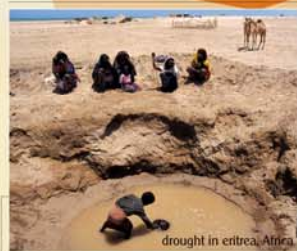
### Summary of large-scale drought occurrence for the six continents

	Number of droughts	Number of droughts < 6 months	Number of droughts > 12 months	Longest duration (months)	Maximum spatial extent (km <sup>2</sup> )
Africa	44	28	4	19(1982-84)	40.0%
Asia	86	37	22	49(1984-88)	18.5%
Europe	40	24	4	20(1959-61)	42.8%
North America	57	34	8	44(1950-53)	39.3%
Oceania	24	17	1	12(1951-52)	80.2%
South America	45	37	4	16(1958-59)	51.2%

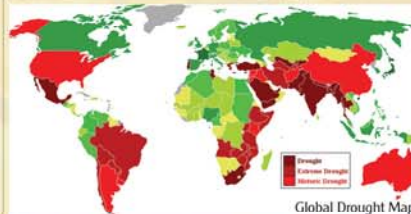
## An overview of the current situation

With respect to drought management, different measures are carried out in various countries according to their level of development and lessons learnt on the impacts of past droughts. These measures have different aspects and dimensions. In developed countries, integrated plans are defined and executed and responsibilities are well divided. In developing or less developed countries which are much more vulnerable to droughts, no systematic and harmonized measures have been taken. In the latter countries, most of the measures carried out are concentrated after drought events, e.g. granting different helps and incomplete aids. International governmental and non-governmental entities also implement different programs and plans according to their functions and mission of which some concentrate on research, technical and practical assessments and some other on improvement of knowledge and awareness. Usually, at critical periods, some financial and logistic contributions will be provided for the affected regions by United Nations or affiliated entities.

With regards to the above mentioned matters, it can be concluded that the overall measures implemented at national and international levels don't have an organized and intelligent solidarity and coordination. Although, individual activities are so valuable and useful, a good use won't be made from the potential synergy of the set of these activities which can have an important effect and consequence in drought management.



drought in eritrea, Africa



Global Drought Map

## IDI Objectives

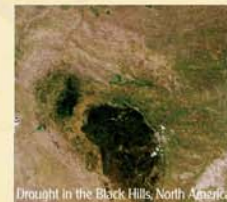


Aral Sea, Central Asia



China drought

- 1- Surveying the current situation of drought management in selected countries (or all countries) in different aspects such as: policy making, structural and non-structural plans;
- 2- Surveying the plans and measures of international and regional governmental/non-governmental entities involved in drought management;
- 3- Preparing and compiling the World Report on Drought Management (WRDM) in the current situation according to the outcomes of the two previous items and investigating the gaps and weak and strong points;
- 4- Executing necessary surveys to clarify needs and priorities of global measures in the framework of IDI;
- 5- Establishing the World Drought Watch (WDW) and Global Drought Preparedness Network (GDPM);
- 6- Helping different countries specially developing and less developed countries to prepare and compile strategic and practical drought management plans;
- 7- Develop and build capacities in: drought monitoring, mitigation, preparedness techniques and methodologies;
- 8- Holding international and regional conferences, seminars and workshops to exchange viewpoints, improve joint activities and exchange knowledge and experience related to different aspects of drought management;
- 9- Prepare and compile short-term, mid-term and long-term plans (perspective) for IDI and defining the indicators for assessing the progress made;
- 10- Supply financial, technical and logistic resources which are necessary for IDI activities.



Drought in the Black Hills, North America

