SESSION 5

Drought Vulnerability and Impact Assessment

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Keynote presentation

Current approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment

by

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Discussants:

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- Francis Opiyo, UNDP Dryland Development Center, Kenya
- Elena Maria Abraham, Dryland Institute, Argentina
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SESSION 5 – SUMMARY

3 types of drought assessment that are all interlinked:

- **Future projections** of probability of drought losses
- **Ongoing monitoring** of drought through observations of hydrological and climatic variables, vegetation cover, and also food prices
- **Assessment of impacts**, to define the most appropriate response measures
SESSION 5 – SUMMARY

• Factors in the equation of **RISK**: hazard, exposure, and vulnerability

• **Vulnerability** is very context and location specific — takes into account socioeconomic and cultural aspects — includes the coping capacity of the affected communities.
SESSION 5 – SUMMARY

• **Challenges in monitoring** drought hazards
  — lack of well established standards
  — drought related losses are usually underestimated
  — most of drought impact data are compounded with conflicts related data

• Existence of some drought monitoring and early warning tools developed by a number of institutions – NDMC, FEWS NET, AGRYHMET, the World Bank, among others

• Climate change dimension not fully taken into consideration in most drought risk assessment tools
SESSION 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pursue the efforts undertaken by WMO to promote **standard indicators** to measure drought throughout the world

2. Encourage countries to systematically collect data that will allow the assessment of drought impacts

3. Institutionalize the collection of disaster loss data that covers all hazards, including droughts.

4. **Comparison of drought vulnerability assessment among countries** should be facilitated by the collection of a **common minimum dataset**
SESSION 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Factor climate change dimension in drought risk assessment and management policies

6. Account for **context specificity** by involving local communities in drought impact and vulnerability assessments

7. Need for **long term monitoring** to ensure reliability of vulnerability and impact assessments
SESSION 5 – RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Use not just a top-down, but also a bottom-up approaches in designing adaptation strategies to allow inclusion of local knowledge and facilitate appropriation by the target communities

9. Go beyond economic cost-benefit considerations and include social and cultural dimensions in designing drought adaptation strategies

10. Use of Inclusive Wealth Index (IWI) rather than GDP or income for evaluation of success or failure