



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)

**Division for Sustainable
Development (DSD)**

**Water, Energy, and Capacity
Building Branch**



Bridging the Implementation Gap for Rio+20 Workshop and the Open Side Event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

**UN Secretariat North Lawn Building, Room 6, New York
July 2 – 3 2014**



Presentation Outline

1

Water Scarcity in the Arab Region

2

Water Scarcity and Drought Management in
Transition to Green Economy:

- Case Study: UN-DESA Capacity Building project on Water Scarcity and Drought Management in West Asia/North Africa

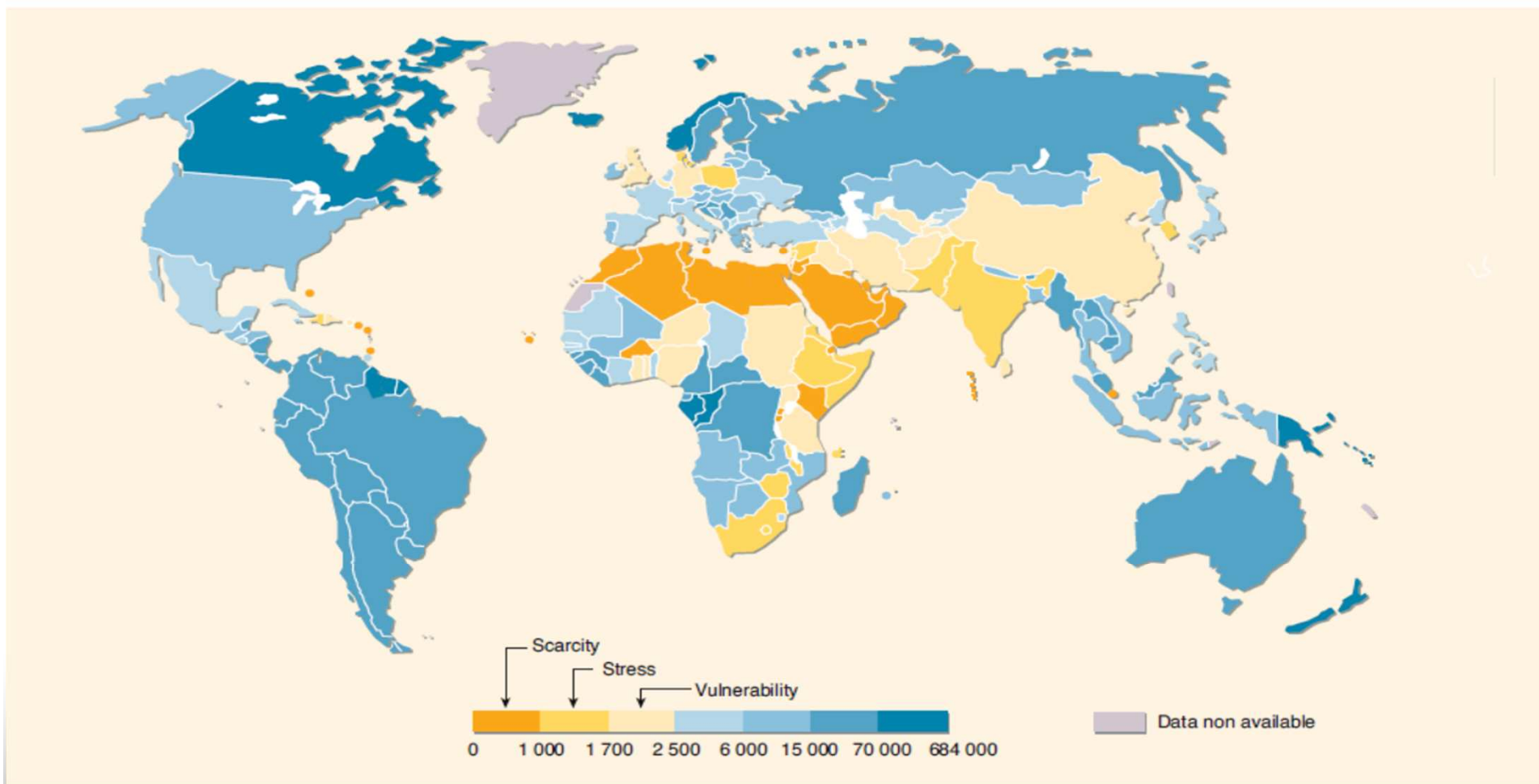


Section 1: Water Scarcity in the Arab Region



Global Freshwater Availability, 2007

Freshwater availability (m³ per person per year, 2007)

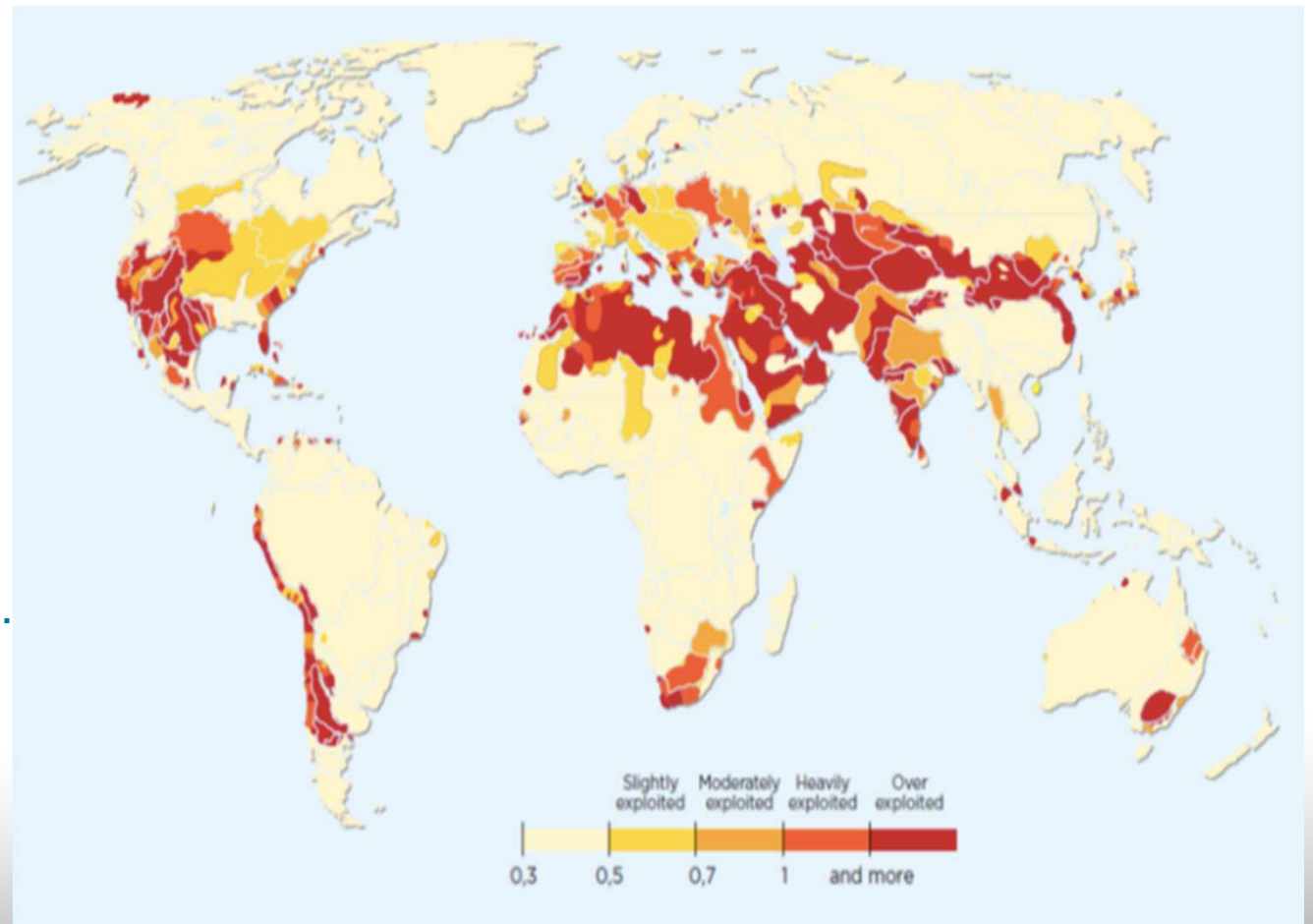


Source: UNEP/GRID-Arendal (2008) (<http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/global-waterstress-and-scarcity>, P. Rekacewicz [cartographer] (*Le Monde diplomatique*), with sources FAO and WRI).



Vulnerability in West Asia/North Africa to Water Scarcity

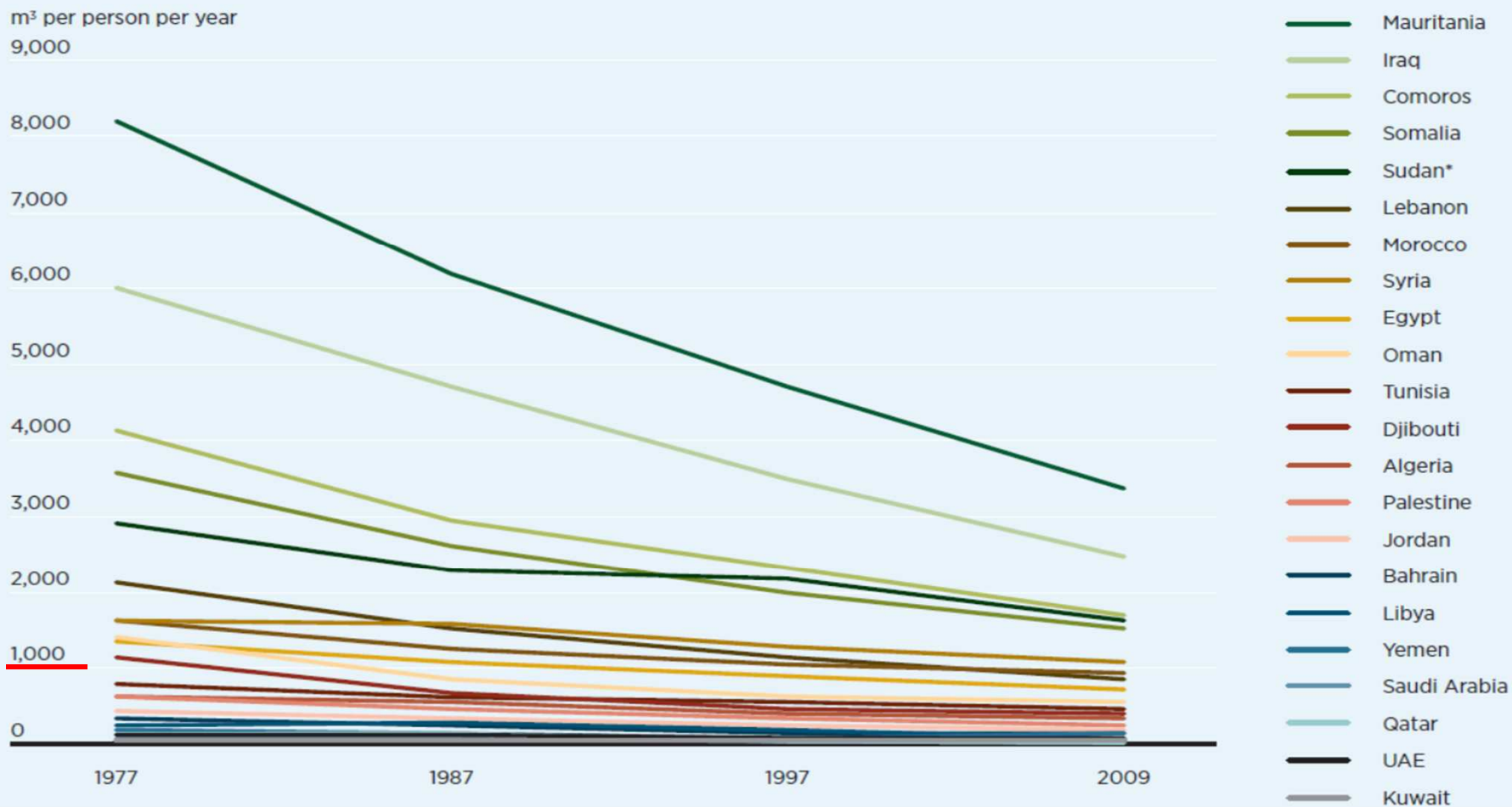
- About 90% of the West Asia & North Africa region is considered as arid or semi arid.
- About 70% of the region's water flows across international borders (shared rivers).





Per Capita Renewable Water Resources in the Arab Region

Renewable water resources in the Arab region per capita



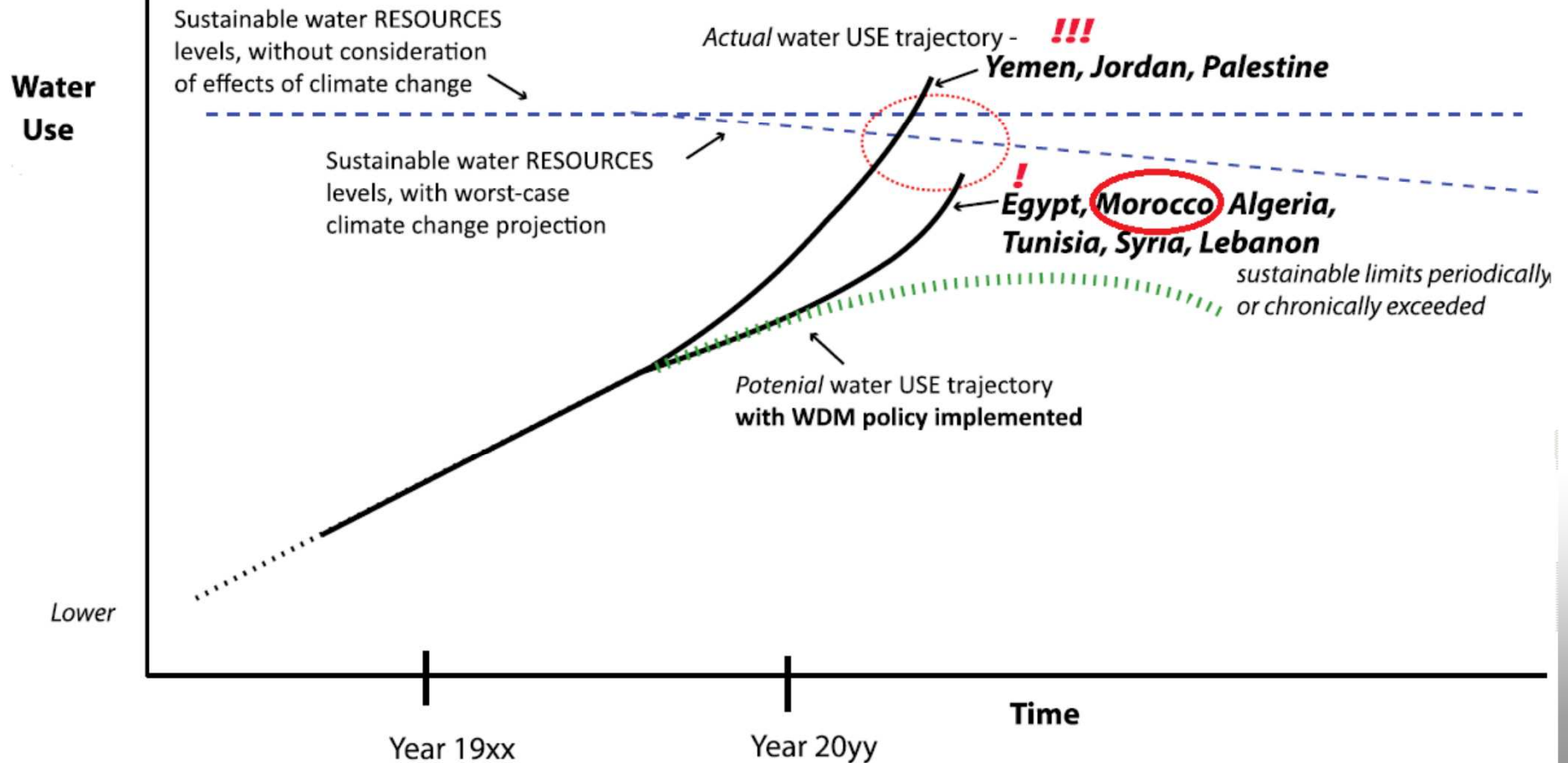
Note: *Area covering South Sudan and Sudan.
Source: Based on FAO AQUASTAT data (2011).



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Higher

Advantages of Adopting a Water and Drought Management Policy





Efforts on WS&D Management: Supply Side Measures

- New Storage facilities
- Use of marginal resources (groundwater)
- Aquifer recharge
- Improved efficiency of water distribution networks
- Desalination
- Wastewater reuse
- Other measures



Efforts on WS&D Management: Demand Management Side Measures

- Water metering
- Mandatory rationing
- Restriction on municipal use
- Water markets (tariffs)
- Full cost recovery
- Water savings campaigns for voluntary actions
- Awareness campaigns to minimize drought damages
- Increase in regulation capacity for irrigation purposes
- Increase in the regulation capacity for urban supply



Section 2: Overview of Capacity Building Project on Water Scarcity and Drought Management in West Africa



RIO+20

United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

This project is a response to Rio + 20' s:



Call for urgent action to address desertification, land degradation, drought, and water scarcity

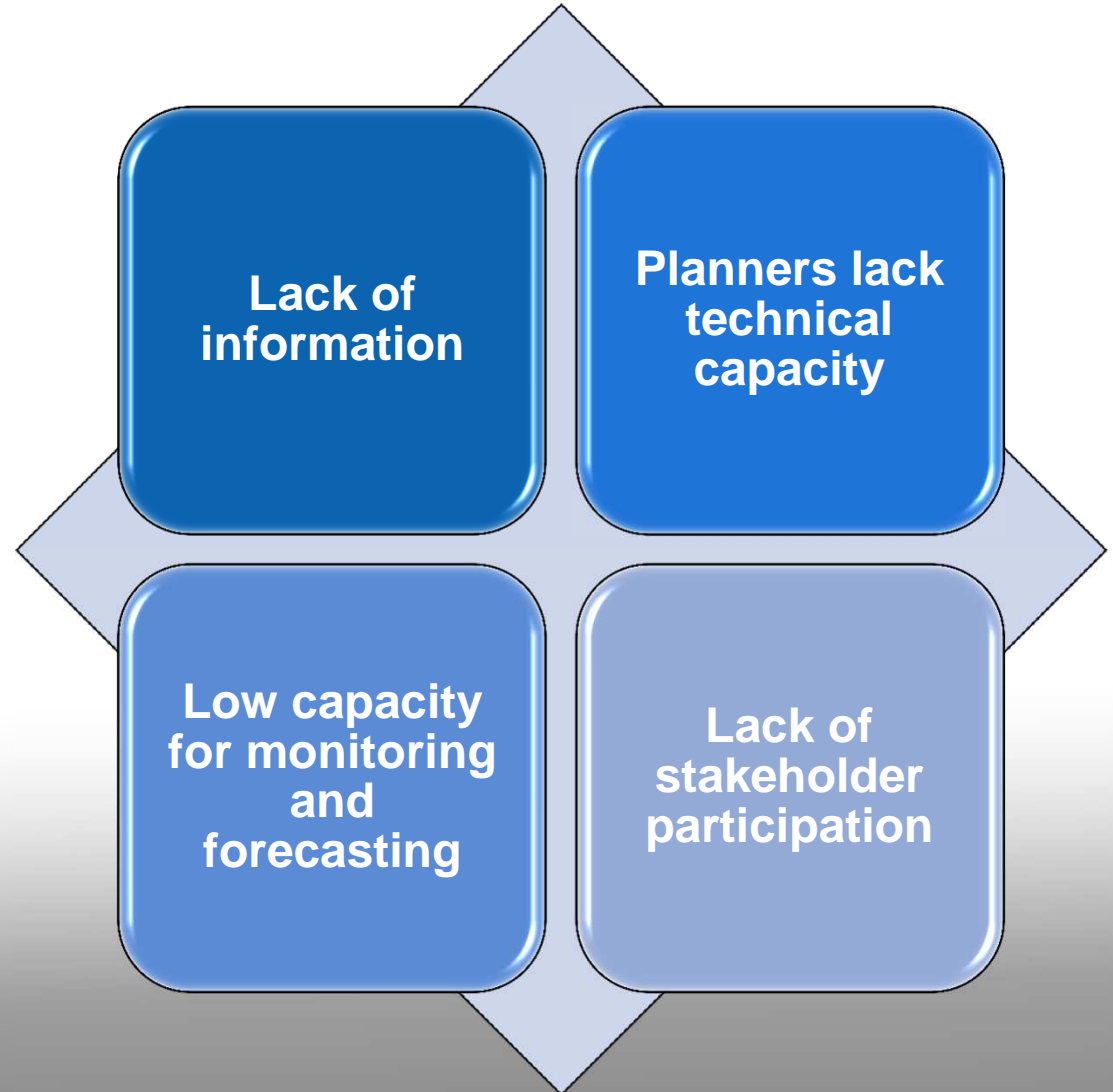


Call for disaster risk reduction and the building of community resilience to disasters



Gaps in Current national drought management Plans in West Asia/North Africa

- Ex-post (reactive)
- Emergency relief that take effect after or during a drought event.





"Droughts are hard to avert, but their effects can be mitigated.[...] The price of preparedness is minimal compared to the cost of disaster relief. Let us therefore shift from managing crises to preparing for droughts and building resilience."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Message for 2013 World Day to Combat Desertification

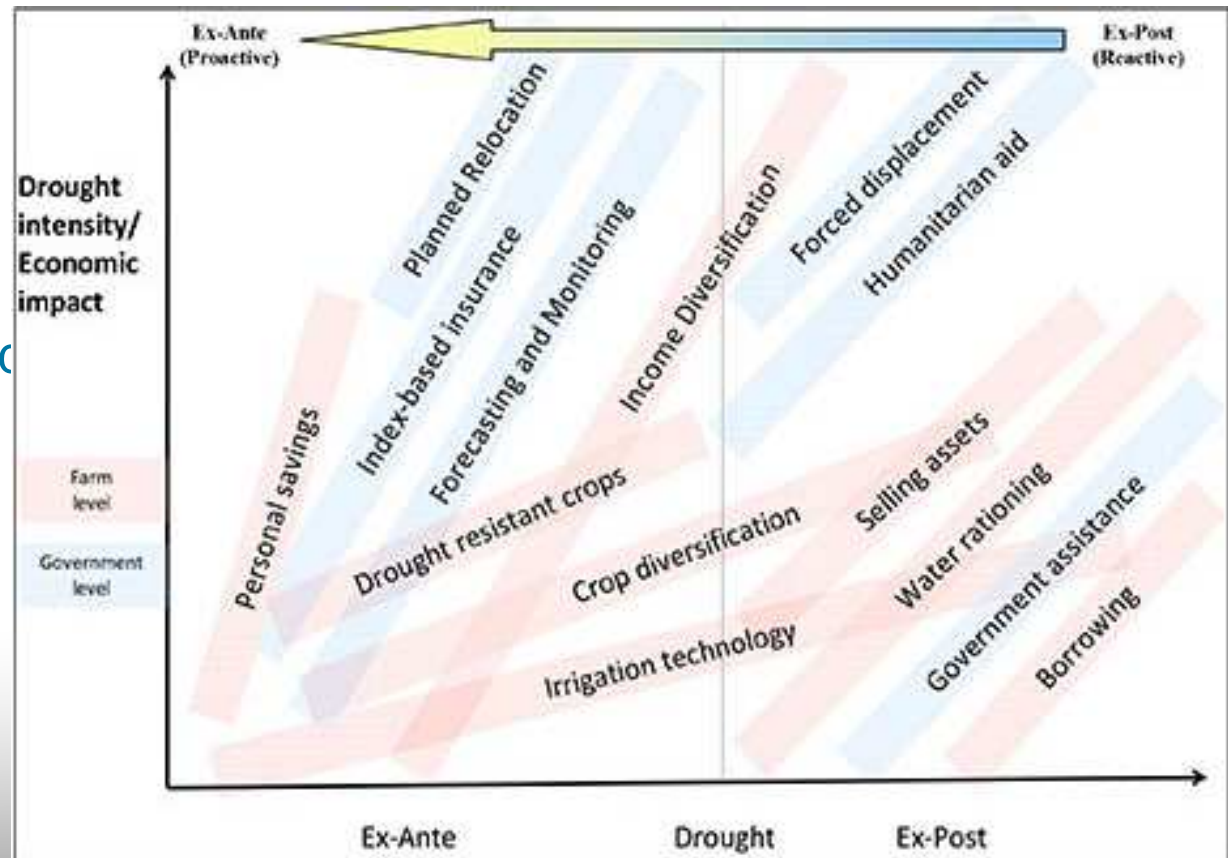
17 June 2013



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Main objective:

Capacity building in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of proactive and preparedness drought management strategies.





Geographic Locations

Water-scarce and in transition settings countries in West Asia/North Africa

Five (5) pilot countries among:

- Yemen
- Tunisia
- Syria
- Sudan
- Palestine
- Morocco
- Libya
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Egypt
- Algeria



The Five Pilot Countries

West Asia

- Yemen
- Jordan
- State of Palestine

North Africa

- Tunisia
- Morocco



Fundamental Steps in developing and implementing a national drought plan:

Creating Political Momentum and Authority

Strategic Planning and Coordination

Fostering Involvement and Developing Common Understandings

Investigating Drought Monitoring, Risk, and Management Options

Writing a Drought Plan

Implementing a Drought Plan



Best Practices/Essential Elements for National Drought Management Policy



Promoting standard approaches to vulnerability and impact assessment



Implementing effective drought monitoring and early warning systems



Enhancing preparedness and mitigation actions



Water scarcity and drought conflict prevention measures



Regional/National Stakeholders, Counterparts and Institutions

Government
Ministries

National and local
water authorities &
water suppliers

Farmer
communities

Water consumers
and users

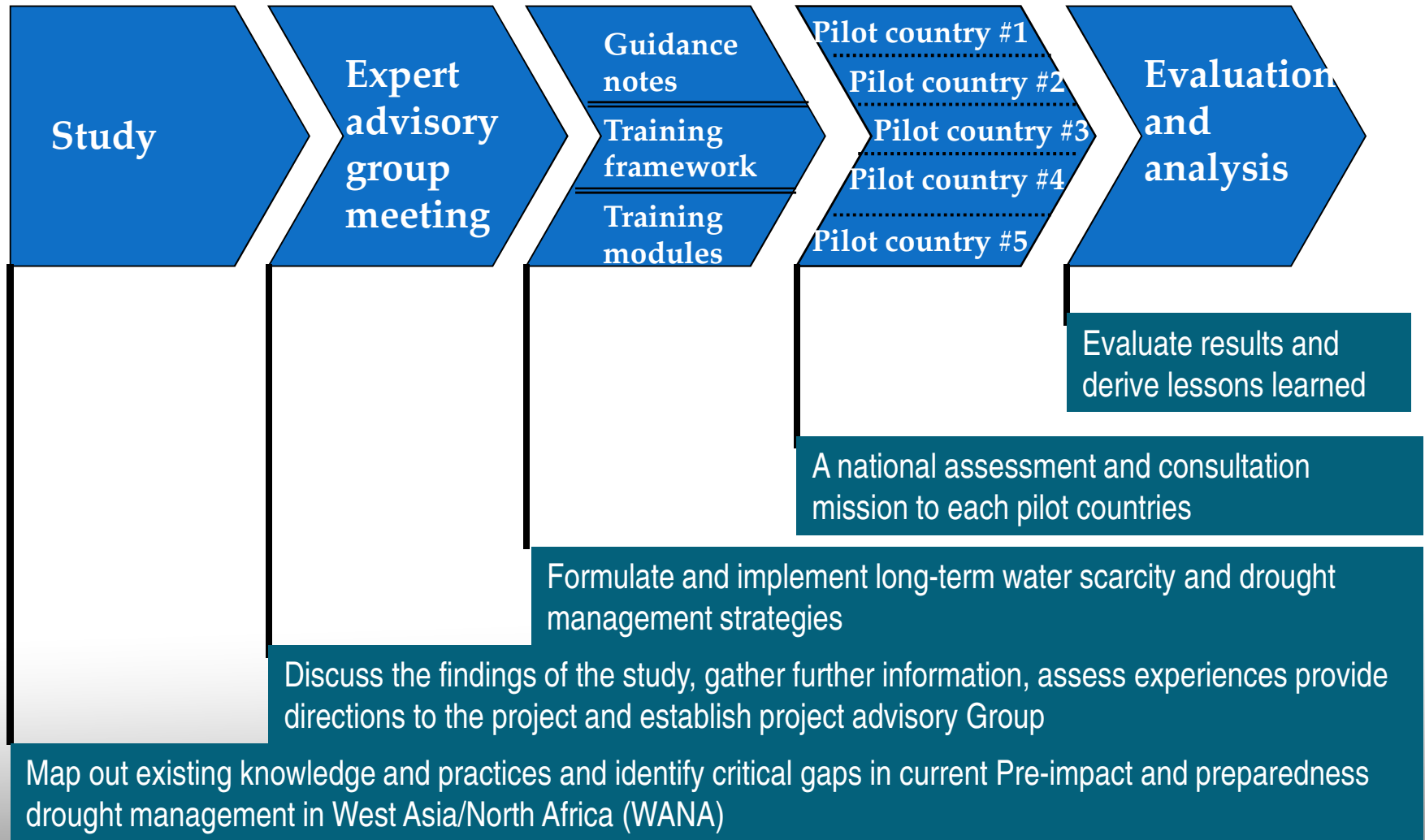
Meteorological
Departments and
Research
Institutions

National and
International NGOs

Development
Agencies and
International
Organizations



Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa – Activities (2013-2015)





Activities in Pilot Countries

1

Support the planning and coordination process.

2

Provide technical advisory and supervisory services (national experts)

3

Assist with fostering involvement and developing common understandings through field visits to drought affected areas.



Activities in Pilot Countries

4

Conduct training seminars and training of trainers workshops to the national stakeholders and national experts.

5

Assist with developing country-specific preparedness and mitigation national drought management plan.



Access address

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

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- Topics A-Z -

Desertification, land degradation and drought

Decisions

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Publications

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Statements

Meetings & Events

Voluntary initiatives

DA Project - Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa


Strengthening National Capacities to Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Project 121C "ROA-207"

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Introduction

Droughts are complex events generally associated with greatly reduced precipitation, dry soil that impairs agricultural production, and reduced water levels in reservoirs and other bodies of water that can compromise drinking supplies and natural resources. Drought is a contributing factor to conflict, and conflict also makes drought situations worse, in turn causing famine and economic hardship. Many areas affected by drought are arid to semi-arid which tend to be under substantial ecological pressure and low in resources. When drought occurs in such arid areas, the living conditions of the local people become very difficult; the land yields no crops and the quantity of water is insufficient. People often compete for the availability of scarce water resources which can lead to tension and violent conflict.



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Thank you!