
Drought Management in Expo Zaragoza 2008

CSD-16 Conference

NYC, 7 May 2008



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Droughts Impacts on Water

- Droughts are considered natural phenomena and represent a relevant temporary decrease of the average water availability.
- Drought events have regularly occurred producing severe socio-economic and environmental impacts, and have increased considerably over the past 30 years.
- Occurrence of droughts may not be controlled. However, the resulting impacts can be mitigated, namely by appropriate surveillance and management strategies (Drought Management Plans).



Related events in Expo Zaragoza

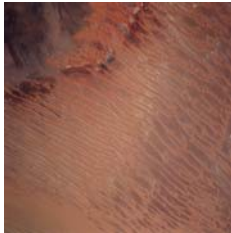
- 15 May: **Drought and Climate Change Round Table**, within the **Conference “Water: Economy, Policy and Agriculture”**
- 12-14 June: **First International Conference on “Drought management: scientific and technological innovations”**
 - ◆ Session 1. Drought and its effects on the context of climate change. Methodologies to evaluate effects.
 - ◆ Session 2. Fruitful experiences on drought management plans.
 - ◆ Session 3. Scientific and technological tools to improve drought management plans
 - ◆ Round table: Planned cooperation for drought management in the Mediterranean and other regions, taking into account climate change

Related events in Expo Zaragoza

- 21-23 July: **Thematic Week “Climate Change and Extreme Events”**.
 - ◆ 1 day on evaluating climate trends and projections, climate extremes related to water and their impacts
 - ◆ 1 day on water availability and uses and its impacts on food production and economy and society.
 - ◆ 1 day to address the issues of adaptation to live in world of water scarcity and variability. Management systems helps us organize and distribute water where and when it is needed independently of rain.
- 24 July: **Drought Planning and Management**, organized by the Spanish Administration, with the following contents:
 - ◆ Institutional aspects: EU, Joint Research Center, U.S.A
 - ◆ Drought characterization, impacts and risks: U.S.A, Norway, Spain...
 - ◆ Drought Management in Spain
 - ◆ Round table: NGOs, urban suppliers, managers and policy makers

Related events in Expo Zaragoza

➤ 5 September: Specific 1-day session on droughts organized by the EC on the follow up of the **Communication to the Council and European Parliament** “Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union” (500 participants expected).



- ◆ Presentation of [follow up report](#) on water scarcity and droughts
- ◆ [Technical sessions](#) on: improve drought risk management; what future for alternative water supply options; foster water saving culture and water efficient technologies.
- ◆ Round Table / [adaptation](#) needed to face increasing impacts of water scarcity and droughts

Spanish role in European activities

➤ Spain has actively participated in the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: “**Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union**” (July, 2007)

- ◆ Putting the right price tag on water
- ◆ Allocating water more efficiently
- ◆ Improving drought risk management
- ◆ Increasing water supply should be a last option (considers desalination)
- ◆ Fostering water performance technologies and practices
- ◆ Fostering the emergence of water-saving culture in EU
- ◆ Improving knowledge and data collection: possible future [European Drought Observatory](#)

➤ Spain, France, and Italy, have led the **Water Scarcity and Drought Expert Network** within the common implementation strategy (CIS) of the Water Framework Directive

- ◆ Main product: [Drought Management Plan report](#), including Agriculture and Climate Change Aspects

Spanish role in European activities

- Spanish General Directorate for Water also participates in the European research project "**XEROCHORE-Exercise to Assess Research Needs and Policy Choices in Areas of Drought**".
- An **International Drought Forum** was celebrated in June 2007 with over 3000 participants, and 400 experts with resulting conclusions and the Seville Declaration:
 - ◆ Differentiates water scarcity from droughts, highlights planning as main mitigating tool, drought is a global problem affecting everyone, economic funds are needed for developing countries; UNEP plays a key role in the process.
 - ◆ All results available in www.forosequia.com

