

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A DROUGHT MANAGEMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)**

CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP - SOFIA, APRIL 2006

1. The participants at the workshop adopted the following framework proposal on the establishment of a subregional “Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe” (DMCSEE) within the context of the UNCCD and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) mandate.

2. At a Technical Workshop on Drought Preparedness in the Balkans within the context of the UNCCD, held from 25 to 27 October 2004 in Poiana Brasov, Romania, the participating countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova and Romania), in the presence of the representatives of a number of international organizations and programmes, agreed on the need to establish, in the context of the UNCCD, a subregional centre relating to drought management issues, designated in the present document as “the Centre”.

3. Following an analysis of the answers submitted by interested countries to questionnaires, the participating countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey, at a Second Technical Workshop on the establishment of a subregional centre relating to drought in South-Eastern Europe within the context of the UNCCD, held from 26 to 28 April 2006 in Sofia, Bulgaria, reached unanimous agreement on the establishing of a centre for South-Eastern Europe. Representatives from Serbia and Montenegro also attended the workshop as observers.

4. The title of the Centre shall be the Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe (DMCSEE).

5. A decision on the legal status of the Centre shall be taken at a later stage.

A. Aims and objectives

6. The aims and objectives of the Centre are as follows:

(a) To serve as an operational centre for South-Eastern Europe for drought preparedness, monitoring and management;

(b) To create and coordinate a subregional network of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other relevant institutions;

(c) To coordinate and provide the operational guidelines that will assist the NMHSs and other relevant institutions in the subregion to interpret and apply drought-related products;

(d) To prepare drought monitoring and forecast products and make them available on near real-time basis to relevant institutions in participating countries;

- (e) To promote and strengthen the technical and scientific capacity for drought preparedness, monitoring and management in participating countries;
- (f) To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices on drought issues;
- (g) To enhance synergies among NMHSs, national UNCCD coordinating bodies, other international organizations and the scientific community on drought issues;
- (h) To enhance the implementation of the UNCCD in the context of drought preparedness, monitoring and management, in particular in working out a national drought strategy;
- (i) To collaborate actively with international research frameworks and programmes, to ensure the full participation of the South-Eastern European countries in such frameworks and programmes.

B. Core functions

7. In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Centre shall carry out the following core functions:

- (a) Encouraging effective national drought preparedness, monitoring and management in the participating countries;
- (b) Enhancing the early warning capacity for drought in the subregion;
- (c) Developing and promoting the use of common methodologies and standards for drought preparedness, monitoring and management;
- (d) Organizing appropriate training and capacity-building activities;
- (e) Providing advisory services, guidelines and technical support on drought preparedness, monitoring and management;
- (f) Collecting and disseminating drought information;
- (g) Serving as a subregional information, documentation and reference centre on drought preparedness, monitoring and management;
- (h) Promoting the development and transfer of technologies to cope with droughts;
- (i) Promoting an integrated policy approach to drought preparedness, monitoring and management;
- (j) Raising the awareness of the target audience about the importance of effective drought preparedness, monitoring and management strategies in the subregion;
- (k) Collaborating actively with international research frameworks and programmes, to ensure the full participation of the South-Eastern European countries in such frameworks and programmes.

C. Core tasks

8. In order to fulfil its above-mentioned functions the Centre shall undertake the following core tasks:

(a) To collect, compile, process, analyse, interpret, assess and validate relevant data on drought events in South-Eastern Europe, including the common methodologies;

(b) To establish risk factors on the basis of analysis and modelling in order to provide timely drought forecasts in the subregion;

(c) To improve the accuracy, homogeneity and spatial coverage of the monitored parameters/indicators necessary for effective drought preparedness, monitoring and management;

(d) To design the databases in accordance with the experience and standards of WMO and UNCCD requirements and promote their application using, among others, GIS and remote sensing technologies;

(e) To develop new applications and techniques to identify, among others, areas with potential risk of drought occurrence, drought sensitivity maps, etc.

(f) To enhance climate monitoring and modelling activities for diagnostic analysis and forecasting;

(g) To produce and deliver/disseminate appropriate information and products to end-users;

(h) To act as a link in order to improve the capacity and inter-operability of the NMHSs and achieve full compatibility;

(i) To facilitate the preparation of subregional environmental and economic analyses related to drought, as appropriate;

(j) To collect and recommend customized measures for the mitigation of negative drought impacts;

(k) To provide specialized training and exchange programmes on drought issues;

(l) To organize subregional seminars for the end-users;

(m) To organize subregional awareness-raising campaigns for the target audience, the public and the media;

(n) To provide recommendations to authorized national institutions in participating countries on drought-related policies and legislation;

(o) To work out project proposals for joint programmes of members in the international research and development cooperation frameworks;

(p) To establish and maintain an active web page and regularly update information for participating countries;

- (q) To contribute to the UNCCD reporting process at the subregional level;
- (r) To establish a common QA/QC system (quality assurance and quality control) for collecting, processing and validating data.