

DMCSEE Expert meeting → “Collaboration opportunities and support for strengthening DMCSEE”, 14 November 2024 → discussion outcomes:

1) Support of UNCCD & WMO:

- DMCSEE could serve as a knowledge hub for the region to consolidate and share knowledge and support implementation of COP decisions.
- WMO can designate the DMCSEE as the WMO regional centre.

2) Funding:

- Initiating a regional drought strategy is critical to identifying priority areas for action.
- To gain visibility with funding agencies, DMCSEE could join the IDRA initiative.
- The Global Drought Resilience Programme (funded by Saudi Arabia) could become a funding source once the regional strategy is in place; it will be launched at COP16.
- The GEF can provide funding for the implementation of COP decisions, but requires strong proposals tied to COP outcomes (e.g., a drought plan).
- The Adaptation Fund (currently UNCCD preparing proposal to support South Asia’s strategy)
- The availability of funds is limited due to the varying stages of economic development across SEE countries.
- While ARSO handles basic operational tasks, there is a need to expand the core budget to support new opportunities.

3) Cooperation:

- Initiate annual meetings of the network to foster continuous collaboration between WMO and UNCCD
- Revisit the „triangle setting“: go „beyond meteorological services, to involve other ministries and sectors (health, tourism, etc.)
- Leverage already established Community of practices for knowledge exchange and capacity building (UNCCD CLP - DMCSEE as a bridge between Annexes 4 and 5)
- Strengthen cooperation between focal points for the 3 conventions / between focal points and NHMS through national drought dialogue