



Drought management guidelines for Mediterranean countries

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Drought - unlike other natural hazards - has a slow onset, large duration, affects extensive areas, and often leads to non-structural impacts difficult to quantify. Most of the successful experiences in drought management emphasize risk-based approach as critical to mitigate the impacts associated with drought in societies with different vulnerabilities. Based on these experiences and the current legislation, management, technology and methods for evaluating risk, we have developed Drought Management Guidelines for Mediterranean countries that provide an effective and systematic approach to develop drought management plans linking science and policy and that can be applied to other regions. The guidelines are designed to contribute to key social and policy questions: (a) How can water and rainfall management be improved, and how best can people benefit from such changes? Our contribution argues that there are options to minimize the risk of drought impacts by promoting drought preparedness and management plans. (b) How can research inform the development of innovative institutional arrangements and decision-support tools? Our contribution provides a framework and systematic approach to link academic knowledge to operational and policy aspects of drought risk management. The integrated drought planning concept of the guidelines includes six components: The planning framework, the organizational, methodological, operational and public review components, and a compendium of examples of application to enhance the framework. The Guidelines are designed to appeal to a broad audience and specially oriented to policy making.