Composite Drought Indicator Maps: a tool for assessment and sustainable management of drought in Morocco.

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Only 15 percent of the country's lands are irrigated, while the rest are rain-fed crops.

Morocco's 1.4 million hectares of irrigated crops consume, on average, 85% of available water resources ; while 12% and 3% of resources are used for public water supply and industry, respectively.

Agricultural sector in Morocco accounts for :

➢ 15 percent of the GDP ;

 \geq 40 percent of all employment 70% farmers have no more than 2.1 ha. of land and struggle with frequent drought,.

Climatological history of droughts in Morocco.

Drought Frequency :

During the last 40 years, more than 20 dry episodes were recorded;
 Some episodes are generalized for all the country, and exceed 5 years;
 Drought become a chronic phenomenon in Morocco, and it duration increase:



Climatological history of droughts in Morocco



HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT CHARACTERISTICS



DEFICIT OF WATER FLOWS

surplus
Deficit < 50%
Deficit > 50%

- 1. Increase in the drought frequency from the end of the seventies;
- 2. Drought is a structural rather than an exceptional phenomenon.

These climate changes have negative effects on natural resources and the sustainability of our agriculture.

Thus drought history could also be addressed through the evolution of crops production

Drought periods reported in the literature 1981-1984, 1991-1993, 1994-1995 and 1999-2001.

Past Droughts in MOROCCO



Past Droughts in MOROCCO

climatological history of droughts in Morocco



----- brices Base 2000



Value

Decision-makers needs

to <u>empower</u> decision-makers to plan for and manage the impacts of droughts on food and water security under current and future climate conditions

Composite Drought Index (CDI)

Maps of drought grid cell anomalies for past, present and future

- Precipitation
- Evapotranspiration
- Soil Moisture
- Vegetation stress



The Hydrologic Cycle and the CDI



Weight of the CDI components

Classification of agricultural campaign (years) in term of drought conditions based on crop parameters drought.

These classes were used for the comparison /confrontation/overlapping with the different CDI parameters.











Validating CDI drought maps : Results

2000-2001







The CDI is relatively accurate to asses drought condition on a monthly bases;

The Accuracy of the CDI varies according to agro-climatic zones;

Value and uses of CDI maps

This system of monitoring (mapping) on a monthly basis will allow early warning to be prepared for food shortage (wheat and barley for livestock)

as well as for natural disasters (on the other extreme of drought during very rainy seasons causing flooding).

This type of monitoring will allow also to take into consideration both spatial and temporal dimension of the occurrence of this phenomena (drought and flooding) Indeed drought may take place in one area (ecosystem) but its impact occurs elsewhere.

This is the case for example for transhumance when drought occur in southern areas,

herds will move north toward wet areas in the search for forage and water, leading to overgrazing in these areas.



Moroccan Government is looking for support to implement the new pastoral law for the regulation of transhumance.

The CDI approach offer a promising way for such objective.

Pastoral CDI



Other uses of CDI maps

•When heavy rainfall occurs in a particular watershed,

•areas downstream are threatened by floods particularly in the plains and cities near rivers;

•In the opposite situation, drought occurring in mountains and watersheds will affect the filling of dams and natural lakes and the underground water. Finally accumulation of the information issued from these maps over a long period of time (10 to 20 years at least) and their overlapping

will also help to detect particular zones where drought and/or floods are frequent and structural rather the conjectural (decisions about review land uses/suitability

agroforestery instead unsustainable agriculture for example).

All these considerations urge for the adoption of ecosystemic approach to deal with natural resources issues



Oper, space and recreation

the "ecosystem" approach identifies problems at the local level, as well as at different spatial and temporal scales.

develop a system of representation which makes it possible to apprehend complex situations in an appropriate manner.

IN TERM OF METHODS

DPSIR Model a good method to address environmental issues

Drivers
Pressure
State
Impact
Response

DPSIR is an approach for environment/ecosystem assessment.

It identifies five different classes of indicators, which can be mapped to the needs of environmental management/ evaluation.

According to this model, social and economic developments act as **Driving forces**

that exert **Pressure** on the environment,

as a consequence, the **State** of the environment changes, such as the provision of adequate conditions for health, resources availability and biodiversity.

this leads to **Impacts** on human health, ecosystems and materials

that may elicit a societal **Response** that feeds back on the Driving forces, or on the state or impacts directly, through adaptation or curative action.

Responses



