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Drought Early Warning

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Message from the Guest Editor

In recent years, concern has grown world-wide that droughts may be increasing in frequency and severity, given the changing climatic conditions. Responses to droughts in most parts of the world are generally reactive in terms of crisis management, and are known to be untimely, poorly coordinated, and fragmented. Consequently, the economic, social, and environmental impacts of droughts have increased significantly worldwide. Because of their long-term socio-economic impacts, droughts are by far the most damaging of all natural disasters.

The context of current droughts calls for pro-active future actions enabling us to cope with their associated imperatives. There is an urgent need to put effective monitoring in place and develop early warning systems to deliver timely information to decision-makers. To provide effective early warning systems, there is a need to enhance the national/regional/global observation networks, particularly the meteorological, hydrological, and ecological networks and information delivery systems to improve public understanding of, and preparedness for, droughts.



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