The Maghreb Vision & Strategic direction for Drought Resilience

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II. The current Maghreb context

The drought is primarily a climatic phenomenon of cessation of rainfall recognized as structural, whose risk of not satisfying water needs increases with the scarcity of this resource.

- **Morocco**
  - 811 m³/capita/y
  - Of renewable water resources

- **Mauritania**
  - 2571 m³/capita/y

- **Libya, Tunisia & Algeria**
  - > than 400 m³/capita/y

These average figures do not necessarily indicate hydrological ease or lack thereof. Spatial variability is important in this context and adds to the temporal variability.

*Source: FAO Aquastat, 2020*
Impacts of the drought in the Maghreb region

The regional drought in 2015-16 has affected the whole Maghreb and the direct impacts have weighed heavily on different levels, particularly on the production of strategic rainfed crops:

- **Algeria**
  - 14% of increase in import volumes

- **Mauritania**
  - Decrease in the rice stock that entered a negative cycle
  - Between -47,000 & -76,000 tons

- **Morocco**
  - 3 points decrease in the national economic growth

- **Tunisia**
  - 50% of financial damage reaching farmers

*A DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION*

*Source: World Bank, 2017*
Impacts of the drought in the Maghreb region

(i) between economic or social objectives;

(ii) between sectors, with priority given to drinking water, industry and tourism

(iii) between users within the same sector, and this is the case of water allocation conflicts between irrigated areas.
Opportunities for a Maghreb framework on drought resilience

- Improve decision making, inform and assist vulnerable sectors
- Transform the response from reaction to building a proactive and continued response
- Capitalize on national policies, strategies, capacities and experiences to improve drought management
- Improve regional collaboration on drought under the facilitation of UMA
The Drought Management Framework

**International level**
SDGs 2, 6, 15 and 13 cover the issue of drought management

**The Maghreb countries (AMU)**
are an appropriate context for the regional example of drought management to be promoted

**High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)**
Set up in March 2013, to support country and regional policies for drought management

**The National Drought Policy**
National strategies and policies on drought management
Examples of common regional frameworks supported by bodies similar to UMA exist and have been built step by step, despite the sometimes opportune and sometimes difficult political context.
The Maghreb vision for drought resilience

Document available online through this link

VERS UNE VISION MAGHREBINE POUR LE REFORCENMENT DE LA RESILIENCE A LA SECHERESSE.
Drought resilience

The objective of drought resilience has **TWO COMPLEMENTARY ASPECTS** for an acceptable threshold of food sovereignty and sustainability of scarce resources:

1. **Proactive drought management**
2. **Efficient management of scarce natural resources**
The Maghreb drought resilience vision is to *"Promote concerted policies for the protection of populations and ecosystems and the strengthening of their resilience against natural disasters in the Maghreb region"* and build on a:

1. A common concern to face drought, combined with the fight against desertification and climate change, from a proactive and shared approach

2. Pooling regional knowledge and data that have an impact on drought management in the countries

3. To produce regionalized drought indicators, as well as data for forecasting and early warning

4. Advocate for resource mobilization to strengthen drought resilience programs

*Proactive, participatory and multi-sectoral approach, combining disaster adaptation, early warning, preparedness, response and mitigation, and integrating drought management into national development plans*
The FOUR pillars of Maghreb Vision for drought resilience

1. Adaptation to structural drought
2. Forecasting and early warning for a more proactive approach
3. Monitoring & evaluation of drought impacts
4. Efficiency of synergies between stakeholders
Conclusion

- The Maghreb countries have assets, scientific, technical and institutional capacities that allow them to be part of a proactive drought management dynamic.

- The Maghreb vision of drought resilience is based on an institutional opportunity: the existence of the AMU, the presence of meteorological institutes, agronomic research and natural resources management, space and remote sensing technologies, territorial organization, as well as national drought management procedures.

- From this observation, it is important to underline the priority and feasibility of Maghreb programme on drought resilience.
 شكرا / Merci / Thank you