

A GLOBAL DROUGHT INFORMATIONS SYSTEM

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Many countries have only limited technical and administrative infrastructures to support comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning. Preparation, pre- and post-processing of a suite of data require up-to-date information technology and scientific expertise that is often lacking. Making use of the framework of the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO), a Global Drought Information System (GDIS) is being assembled which can make such technology available to provide the maximum lead time for warning and preparation, thus reducing vulnerability to droughts.

The goal of the proposed GDIS is to improve coordination of information delivery for drought-related activities and relief efforts across the world. The GDIS will provide a source of tools and products for countries or regions to develop tailored drought early warning systems for their own needs and users. An initial prototype for a drought information delivery system is the Global Drought Monitor Portal (GDMP), which is beginning to explore a bottom-up approach to global drought monitoring by integrating national, regional and continental drought monitoring systems into a system of systems. The current GDMP design is set up to support full global monitoring at multiple scales, allowing users to be transferred to regional servers in order to substantiate global drought maps with continental, regional or local information.