Drought events can constrain economic growth, with low rainfall. Combined with poor drainage, it can lead to permanent soil fertility loss. Insufficient water availability can mean that lakes reduces oxygen levels, leading to fish populations dying off, and closure of fisheries. Drought can affect water levels and flows resulting in reduced access to waterway transport, and the associated economic impacts from this disruption. Drought can be easily monitored because its slow onset allows time to observe changes in precipitation, temperature and the status of surface water and groundwater supplies in a region.

Drought risks to agriculture and livestock
- Lower crop yields and reduced access to water
- Soil salinization
- Crop failure
- Livestock starvation and death
- Reduced water availability to different sectors

Drought risks to waterways and fisheries
- Declining GDP
- Insufficient water availability can mean that water holding capacity of soils through tree planting.
- Electric power supply disruption
- Power outages
- Water supply disruption
- Reduced water availability for hydropower generation and for cooling of thermoelectric (e.g. nuclear, fossil-, biomass-fuelled) power generation.

Risks to water transport and industry
- Droughts can impact electricity supply, due to industry and energy production
- Drought can affect water levels and flows resulting in reduced access to waterway transport, and the associated economic impacts from this disruption.

Risks to aquatic life
- Droughts can affect water levels and flows resulting in reduced access to waterway transport, and the associated economic impacts from this disruption.

Drought and algal blooms in rivers and lakes reduces oxygen levels, leading to fish populations dying off, and closure of fisheries.

Why is it important to monitor droughts?
- Droughts are one of the more costly natural hazards on a year-to-year basis; their impacts can lead to permanent soil fertility loss.
- Droughts are a normal part of the climate, droughts can affect any global climate regime, and can be associated with a decline in GDP.

Improved livelihoods from better water security and safety
- Improved water security and safety through planning from catchment to consumer
- Understanding how to use and integrate climate information helps decision makers and their stakeholders can plan to secure and share water resources.

Improved economic productivity through better preparedness and planning for droughts
- Being able to better plan and prepare us for droughts will lead to more impactful investments and achievement of the targets in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Available tools for drought monitoring and analysis
- Flood and Drought Portal supports decision makers responsible for water management in basins by providing information about drought events and likely future scenarios into the planning processes.
- Flood and Drought Portal provides the technical applications for integrated planning and analysis processes.
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To get started with the tools right now, register for free by visiting www.flooddroughtmonitor.com

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On this page:
- Drought events can constrain economic growth
- Shift to drought resistant crops and agricultural practices such as increasing irrigation efficiency
- Land, water and urban area managers can better
- Algal blooms in rivers and lakes reduce oxygen levels, leading to fish populations dying off, and closure of fisheries.
- Droughts can impact electricity supply, due to industry and energy production.