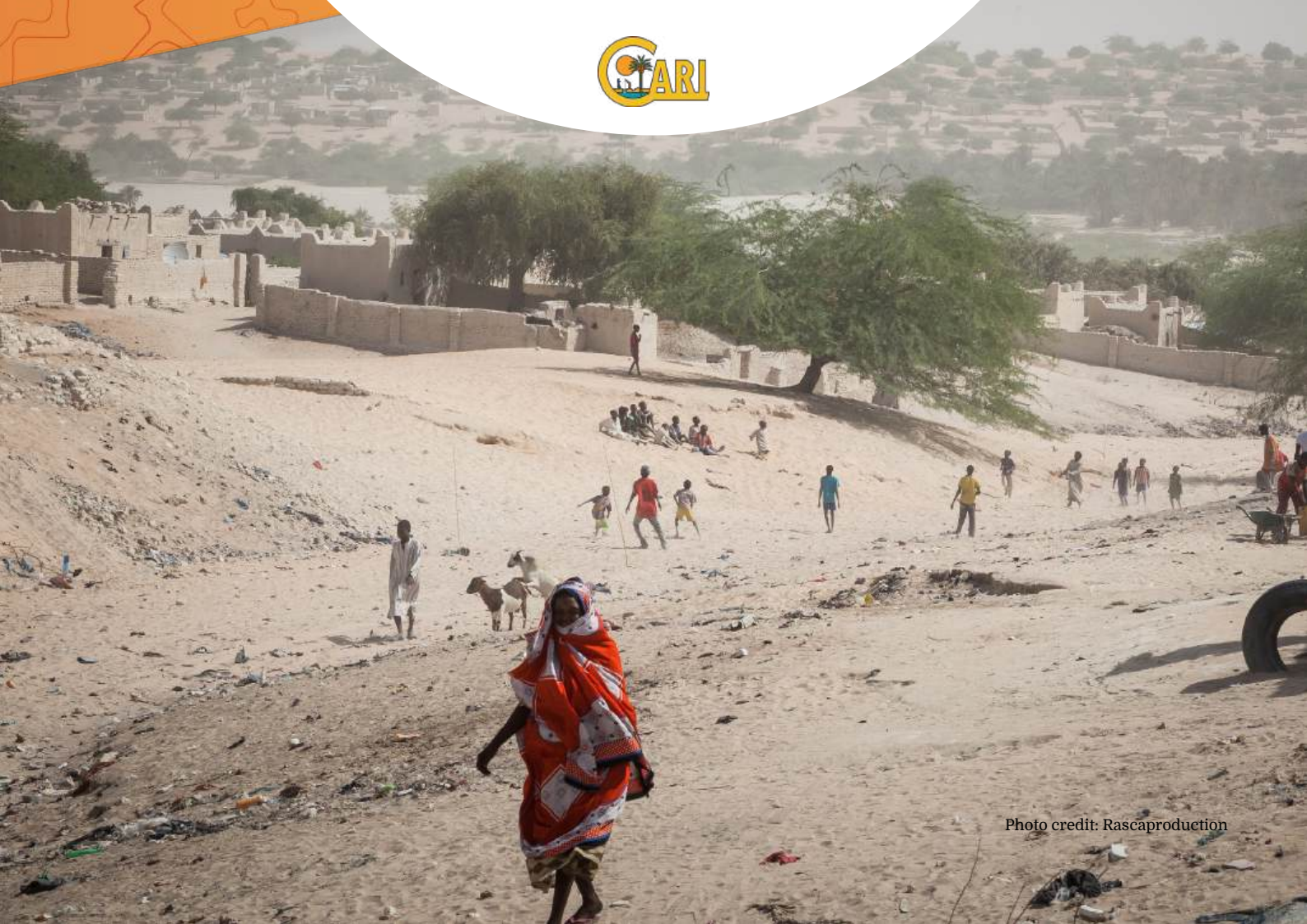




**Local resilience to droughts:
Taking coordinated action to
prevent disasters**

- Insights for decision-makers -





Executive Summary

Drought, a complex natural phenomenon, is now recognised as one of the most significant environmental challenges of the 21st century. The impacts of droughts around the world know no sectoral boundaries. They spread across borders, affecting the livelihoods and well-being of billions of people, as well as all types of ecosystems. Against a global backdrop of increasing risks, extreme events and their impacts, drought management has never been more urgently needed. Measures to mitigate the effects of climate change remain essential to prevent drought conditions from worsening. At the same time, efforts to adapt and build resilience must be significantly scaled up in order to curb the growing impact of droughts.

This policy brief, based on the work and findings of the Désertif'actions 2026 initiative, aims to provide an overview of the issue and identify possible courses of action. Recognising the now widely accepted view that this phenomenon has a major global impact, it focuses on ways to prevent the impacts of droughts and on the need to improve resilience at the local level, the first to be affected by it. Drawing on contributions from nearly 1,500 participants from over 50 countries, this brief shares lessons learnt from a diverse range of stakeholders based on field experience (NGOs, local authorities, international organisations, government institutions, etc.), and puts forward five key recommendations for governments, so that they can help create the right conditions for an agroecological transition at the local level around the world.

Key messages

IMPROVING LOCAL RESILIENCE TO DROUGHT IS AN URGENT PRIORITY.

- Treat drought as a priority systemic risk in public policy.
- Reconsider sectoral governance and aim for multi-level participation.
- Channel financial resources as directly as possible to the affected stakeholders by developing appropriate financial engineering.
- Expand training and support for stakeholders.



1. Main finding

Drought: a major hazard that is intensifying exponentially

The world's drylands account for 41 per cent of the planet's land area and are home to nearly 2 billion people. The ecosystems and agroecosystems found in these areas have soil and climate characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable to climate variability and extreme events such as droughts and floods. Rural and pastoral communities, who are heavily dependent on healthy soils and the availability of natural resources, are the first to be affected by the impacts of drought and land degradation. They see their livelihoods diminished and their living conditions deteriorate, leading to increased food insecurity and poverty, and very often to forced displacement.

“ Reports submitted to the UNCCD by more than 100 countries revealed that 1.84 billion people were affected by drought during the 2022–2023 biennium.

FAO, 2026 ”

Droughts – what are we talking about?

“Drought: A natural phenomenon that occurs when rainfall has been significantly below normal levels and which leads to serious hydrological imbalances detrimental to land-based resource production systems.” (UNCCD, 2026)

“Droughts refer to periods when moisture conditions are significantly below average, generally covering large areas, during which constraints on water availability have negative impacts on various components of natural systems and economic sectors.” (IPCC, 2021)

There are many definitions of drought, but they share common characteristics:

- A drought is always caused by an abnormal lack of rainfall for a given area and/or period.
- It is therefore a relative condition compared with a ‘normal’ situation serving as a reference for a given area and at a given time.
- These are episodes of varying duration that may affect a geographical area of varying size. Droughts can occur in virtually any climate, encompassing both high- and low-rainfall areas.
- The temporary and exceptional (or recurring but irregular) nature of drought contrasts with the permanent climatic characteristics associated with aridity.

Droughts around the world affect ecosystems, primarily land – including cultivated land – and consequently, food systems. Their **impacts** are measurable **in social, economic and environmental terms**. In 2023, in the Horn of Africa, 23 million people suffered severe famine linked to the worst drought in 40 years. The 2018 drought in Europe resulted in agricultural losses exceeding 9 billion euros. The World Health Organisation estimates that more than a third of disaster-related deaths are due to drought.

The knock-on effects of drought are also evident in the degradation of natural resources and lead to an increased risk of conflict and inequality. Socio-economic losses disrupt already fragile conditions and push people into greater poverty due to a reduction in livelihoods. The increasing scarcity of natural resources leads to conflict over access to and use of resources. Finally, rising inequalities lead to increased vulnerability, particularly among certain groups such as women or people with disabilities, who already suffer from reduced access to resources.

Drought clearly represents a growing threat worldwide. The increase in its frequency and in the intensity of its impacts is well documented by science:

- **Increasing frequency:** Since the 2010s, multi-year droughts have become more frequent and more severe globally. For example, the south of France experienced three times as many drought episodes between 2000 and 2020 as between 1950 and 2000.
- **Increased intensity:** Across most of North Africa, the average intensity of all drought episodes occurring during the 2000–2020 period was more than 50 per cent higher than the average for those occurring during the 1950–2000 period.
- **Climate acceleration:** Rising temperatures are intensifying atmospheric evaporation, leading to self-perpetuating drought cycles. Climate change not only increases the frequency of drought, but also prolongs its duration and amplifies its systemic impacts across all sectors.
- **Expansion of vulnerable areas:** Areas affected by drought have continued to expand from 2000 to 2025 across all continents. In Europe, areas affected by drought are spreading from the south towards the centre and east. According to the UNCCD, forecasts suggest that by 2050, drought could affect more than three-quarters of the world's population.

2. Issues analysis

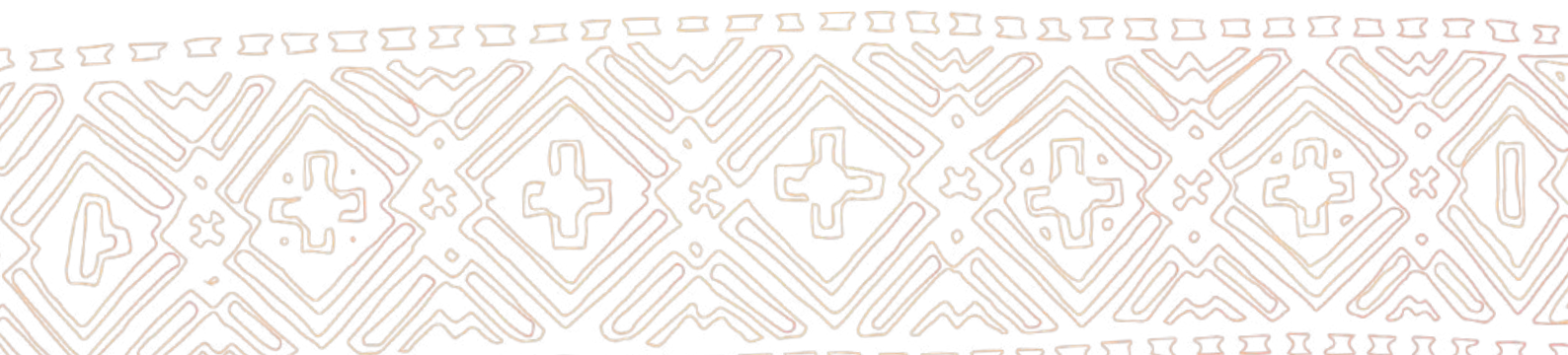
Drought: a conceptual challenge, from hazard to disaster

A **drought is a natural hazard** that poses a threat to human well-being and the environment. Natural hazards can have significant negative impacts on the environment, infrastructure, human well-being, health, etc. Such a hazard becomes a disaster when it interacts with systems in a way that causes significant disruption and loss:

- According to the United Nations, a **disaster** is defined as ‘a serious disruption to the functioning of a community caused by hazardous events, resulting in human, material, economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's capacity to cope by using its own resources’.
- An **environmental or ecological disaster** can be defined as a significant and often irreversible alteration of natural conditions, resulting in serious ecological damage and the loss of living organisms. Such disasters can result from both natural phenomena and human activities.

We cannot, therefore, prevent a drought, but we can prevent it from becoming a disaster, the latter being heavily influenced by the vulnerability and lack of preparedness of individuals and communities. **Disasters** occur when (1) the exposed systems are vulnerable to the risk of drought impacts and/or (2) when these risks are poorly managed. In other words, the transition from a natural hazard to a disaster depends on various factors (exposure, vulnerability) but also on the capacity for effective risk management.

This understanding means that disasters are no longer viewed as isolated events, but are recognised as the result of systemic problems linked to risk management.



Disaster risk

Disaster risk represents the probability of loss of life, injury, destruction or damage caused by a disaster within a given period of time. It results from the interaction between a **hazard** and the exposure and vulnerability of people and places, and is often represented by the following equation:

$$\text{Risk/impact} \approx \text{hazard} \times \text{exposure} \times \text{vulnerability}$$

- A **hazard** is a process or phenomenon that can cause loss of life or injury, harm health, cause material damage, lead to social and economic disruption, or harm the environment. A hazard may be natural, man-made or both. However, even when it is 'natural', its catastrophic nature primarily depends on human exposure and vulnerability.
- **Exposure** refers to the situation of people, infrastructure, homes, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in areas threatened by a hazard.
- **Vulnerability** refers to the conditions (determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes) that increase the sensitivity of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of risks.

This equation can be supplemented by specifying the factors of vulnerability, in relation to which it is easier to implement preventative measures:

$$\text{Vulnerability} = \text{sensitivity} - \text{resilience}$$

- **Sensitivity** is described by the degree to which a system is affected by climate variability or change. It refers to the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes that increase the vulnerability of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of risks.
- **Resilience** corresponds to the capacity of a system, community or society exposed to risks to resist, absorb, adapt, transform and recover from the effects of a risk in a timely and effective manner, in particular by preserving and restoring its essential structures and functions.

The drought management cycle distinguishes between two complementary approaches: drought risk management (before the event) and crisis management (during and after the drought event):

- **Risk management** aims to prevent risks and mitigate impacts before they occur. The objective is to reduce the vulnerability of human and environmental systems to the impacts of drought. It is a continuous and proactive process. Preventive (drought preparedness) and adaptive measures are implemented.
- **Crisis management** aims to respond effectively and rapidly to an event once it has occurred, in order to minimise damage and quickly restore a 'normal' situation. It prioritises addressing the symptoms rather than the causes. It is a reactive process, activated during the crisis.

Crisis management can reveal weaknesses in the risk management process, thereby leading to improvements. Although these two types of management have different objectives and approaches, they are complementary.

Drought: prevention is better than cure

Whilst it is difficult to precisely assess the costs of drought, and therefore to compare the costs of proactive and reactive measures, initial scientific research suggests that the cost of inaction is higher than the cost of crisis management, which in turn is higher than the cost of risk management. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, preventive and adaptive measures (risk management) entail human and financial costs that are significantly lower than those of reactive responses (crisis management) and can prevent communities from being overwhelmed by the scale, severity and duration of the impacts of drought. It is therefore essential to raise governments' awareness of the importance of risk management rather than emergency response.

The increase in drought-related risks and impacts highlights the urgent need to **(i) strengthen public action to improve resilience** to increasingly intense drought events, and **(ii) support the transformation of food systems** against the backdrop of climate change. In the absence of strong action by public authorities to anticipate these risks, the socio-economic and environmental costs of drought will continue to rise globally, with cascading and potentially irreversible effects on societies, economies and ecosystems across all continents.

Policy and institutional tools and mechanisms for anticipation

At the institutional and information level, early warning systems (based on climate, hydrological and agricultural data) enable the early detection of weak signals of drought and allow for proactive decision-making. These are complemented by policy-based planning mechanisms (national drought plans, local food security plans and risk management plans) which set out responsibilities, trigger thresholds and coordination mechanisms. In addition to these instruments, ex ante financial tools, such as agricultural insurance and disaster relief funds, aim to pool risks and safeguard productive investments.

Local communities, which bear the brunt of drought impacts, are at the heart of solutions for better prevention. Yet, they remain inadequately equipped and largely unable to bring about sustainable change towards greater resilience.

Droughts: towards transformation for greater local resilience

Local resilience to natural disasters refers, in practical terms, to an area's capacity for adaptation and organisation, enabling it to cope as effectively as possible with damaging events. These areas should be viewed as complex and dynamic localised systems, with strengths and potential that can be harnessed to overcome drought-related crises. Territorial resilience rests on a combination of multiple, complex and interdependent factors that take into account all the aspects that 'make up a territory' (social, economic, political, environmental, historical, cultural, heritage-related, etc.) and which collectively strengthen its capacity to withstand the effects of drought, adapt to them and recover from them.

- A resilient territory is therefore perceived as a territory 'in motion' capable of (1) anticipating disruptions, whether sudden or gradual, (2) minimising their effects, (3) recovering and bouncing back, and (4) evolving towards a new state of dynamic equilibrium whilst preserving its functionalities.

At the local level, a necessary transformation of production systems

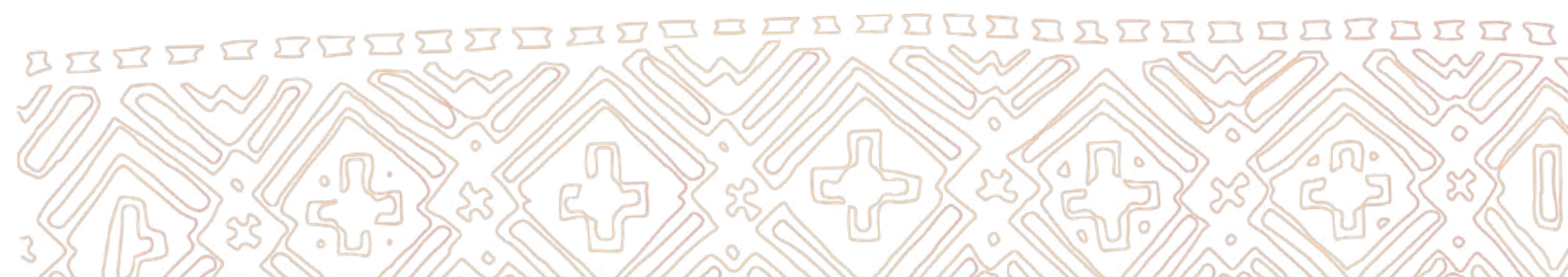
The evolution of food systems is part of a gradual process of transformation of production and territorial systems, with the aim to limit, at an early stage, the likelihood and severity of future impacts. Several factors must be taken into account when seeking to support this transformation towards greater local resilience. These factors are widely endorsed by both the research community and practitioners in the field:

Social factors: social cohesion, local governance, learning capacity, etc.

Economic factors: diversification, circularity, access to financial resources, etc.

Environmental factors: natural resource management, soil health, biodiversity, etc.

Political and institutional factors: institutional capacity, the legal and regulatory framework, community engagement, etc.



3. Key lessons from field experience

At the Désertif'actions 2026 summit, several tested courses of action to improve local resilience to drought have been presented. Some of these are outlined below.

Strengthening social cohesion within local territories is a necessity: ensuring the equitable integration of diverse stakeholders, recognising their role and the importance of building a sense of community at the local level in order to prepare for and cope with unforeseen events.

The necessary sense of **community within a local area** (encompassing the diversity of stakeholders involved and taking care not to 'harm' any group, even a minority one) is being championed by an increasing number of stakeholders. Inclusion must therefore be approached in a differentiated and context-specific manner, taking into account local dynamics and existing power relations. Women, for example, play a key and historic role in the resilience of local communities, particularly during times of crisis (such as drought or food insecurity). They shoulder multiple responsibilities: agricultural production, food processing, natural resource management, as well as domestic and family duties. Yet, women continue to face numerous structural inequalities that limit their capacity for action and their recognition. Collective spaces led by women should be seen as drivers of empowerment and resilience.

As for young people, they are key stakeholders in local communities and must be supported so that they can play their full part in transformative processes: involving young people means equipping local communities with actors who are better able to master new technologies, which can themselves be powerful tools for fostering resilience. Supporting young people involves investing in their preparation and integration in the short and medium term (raising awareness, providing training and empowering them), as well as including them in governance bodies and political dialogue.

Similarly, **safeguarding the rights of vulnerable people** in anticipation of emergencies is now considered essential in preparing for the future. Whether these are local minorities or displaced people temporarily settled in new areas, it is crucial to remove both structural barriers (social norms, access to resources) and individual barriers (lack of trust, access to training), by providing safe spaces for participation and leadership training, and by facilitating access to microfinance and income-generating activities for this diverse range of stakeholders. Finally, given the interdependencies associated with multiple crises and the multitude of actors involved in drought prevention and management, it is essential to adopt an integrated approach linking humanitarian aid, development and peace ([the HDP nexus](#)).

Facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration is necessary when different stakeholders (researchers, farmers, development actors, decision-makers, etc.) work together on shared challenges to achieve a common objective, with the aim of amplifying the impact of their actions and developing solutions that benefit everyone. The diversity of perspectives, knowledge and actions among the various stakeholders thereby enhances the relevance and effectiveness of these actions.

With a view to foster initiatives aimed at improving the resilience of local territories, and in order to facilitate this multi-stakeholder collaboration, it is essential to have a well-established presence on the ground with a sound understanding of local issues and stakeholders, as well as a strong capacity to adapt methodologies to the local context. The creation of effective interfaces or mechanisms linking research, on-the-ground actions and public policy is also widely supported, in order to facilitate the scaling up of solutions, as it is the case in southern Tunisia with the '[Local Climate Action Plans](#)' (PLAC), in Corsica (France) with the '[Territorial Projects for Water Management](#)' (PTGE), and in the Sahel with the roll-out of '[Living Laboratories](#)' which enable a wide range of stakeholders to be involved at every stage of implementing local actions (assessment, planning, prioritisation, intervention, etc.). Additionally, the resilience of local territories to drought draws on multiple disciplines and requires specific technical expertise (climate, agriculture, land management, hydrology, etc.), as well as cross-cutting management skills (planning, territorial assessment, the development and monitoring of public policies, risk analysis, etc.).

Adapting tools for knowledge and skill transfer is therefore a real challenge, particularly where a diverse range of stakeholders intersects with a variety of disciplines or areas of expertise. Monitoring the acquisition and internalisation of these skills is also a major challenge that must be taken into account.

Finally, it is not possible to work towards improving the resilience of territories without paying very close attention to local authorities, their specific roles and positions, which vary from country to country. These authorities, which take many forms, operate at the most local level. They are essential actors in drought management due to their knowledge of the territory and their proximity to local communities. However, their role is all too often overlooked or even sidelined, due to a lack of information and resources, and limited human capacity. This situation confines them to a reactive role. It is therefore essential to take the views of these local stakeholders into account, including at the international level, in order to highlight the realities faced by local communities and to give them a voice.

Identifying and making effective use of is essential if they are to become genuine decision-making aids for stakeholders. In a context marked by an increase in crises and rising uncertainty, detailed analyses enable the optimisation of local interventions.

Measuring resilience involves clearly defining the type of resilience under consideration: technical, ecological and climate resilience; socio-political, economic and food resilience; and so on. Similarly, one may focus on different aspects of resilience, such as land tenure security, for example. Depending on the stakeholders (particularly in relation to their intended scope of action) the type of resilience considered will vary, and so will the measurement tools (TAPE, ACT, Avaclim, etc.). The complexity of these tools and the diversity of indicators that can be used depending on each type of agricultural system or each region calls for caution regarding their application. On one point, however, there is consensus: it is necessary and urgent to identify the key elements that ensure the sustainability of these systems in order to prevent their collapse. In this regard, risk analysis tools are particularly important to master and disseminate, and so are mechanisms for assessing effectiveness and impacts.

In any case, gaining a better understanding of the factors at play helps to optimise the proposed actions and interventions, and paves the way for innovation. In the water sector, optimising resource management is essential: reducing demand, avoiding waste, optimising usage... whilst taking into account the diversity of users.

The most promising solutions in arid areas combine water efficiency, technical simplicity, agroecological adaptation and community organisation. However, the conditions for success in optimising the use of water resources depend less on technology alone than on the surrounding institutional, financial and human ecosystem and on the sustainability of the governance arrangements in place. Approaches such as the [‘Rural Initiatives for Participatory Agricultural Transformation’](#) (RIPAT) used in Tanzania, the [‘Nature-based Resilient Water Solutions’](#) (RNBWS) in the MENA region, or [Gestion Integrated Water Resources Management](#) projects are particularly well-suited to providing support in this regard at the local level.

Organising the flows of value, inputs and resources within a local territory limits the development of excessive dependence on external sources. Such dependence would undermine local resilience, which is strengthened when resources, value and nutrients circulate within the area itself.

The circular economy can therefore help local territories become more resilient. Shortening value chains, improving traceability and strengthening direct links between producers and consumers, and between rural and urban areas, offer promising opportunities. It can build trust between stakeholders, improve product quality and ensure affordable prices, whilst supporting local livelihoods. In this regard, [participatory guarantee schemes](#) (PGSs), developed in Burkina Faso, Tanzania and many other African countries are showing promising results.



Circular approaches also foster job creation, particularly for young people, local innovation and the strengthening of community cohesion, especially when they involve farmers' groups, cooperatives or the private sector. The role of public policies, incentives and partnerships is also essential to enable the implementation and sustainability of these approaches.

This approach is also relevant at the level of individual farms, which become more resilient when they improve their management of material flows: [recycling of organic matter](#), circulation of water resources, improved interactions between soil structure, water and nutrients, complementarity between different farm operations, etc. By fostering various synergies in farm management, reducing dependence on external resources, services and inputs helps to strengthen the resilience of farms. The challenge, therefore, lies in facilitating the integration of these farms into local dynamics and sustainable food systems.

It is essential to recognise the fundamental role of biodiversity in the functioning of agroecosystems and in their ability to cope with climate-related hazards. Agricultural biodiversity is a key lever for strengthening the resilience of farms and local territories, though it is still underutilised.

There are numerous benefits associated with high biodiversity, including crop protection, improved soil fertility and moisture levels, reduced erosion and lower input requirements, as well as the strengthening of biological regulatory mechanisms. It is also important to highlight the technical- economic benefits, given the complementary nature of farming systems, which allow for a better distribution of risk throughout the year and enhance farmers' economic security. To this end, practices such as crop rotation, the integration of crop and livestock farming, agroforestry, crop diversification and the use of improved local seeds (through participatory selection) are recognised for their effectiveness.

The case of agroforestry, and the role of trees in general in the resilience of territories, is particularly interesting. Long perceived as a constraint by agricultural policies that have led to massive deforestation in the Maghreb, the Sahel and the Mediterranean, trees in fields are nevertheless regarded by science as one of the best-documented levers for strengthening the resilience of agricultural territories: trees improve soil quality and the microclimate through water redistribution, thermal regulation and their windbreak effect, and they act as an economic lever, notably by enabling income diversification and mitigating the effects of climate variability. However, several structural barriers persist and limit the large-scale replanting of trees across these regions, including land tenure insecurity, a lack of funding within support schemes for the transition phase (5–10 years), and a deficit in local governance of shared tree resources.

Facilitating access to a diverse range of innovative financial instruments enhances the agility of local territories: the development of public-private partnerships, risk-sharing mechanisms, climate insurance, crowdfunding, nature-based solutions, etc. Whilst traditional instruments remain central, they are insufficient to meet growing needs, which are exacerbated by the climate emergency.

The challenge now is to better coordinate these traditional and innovative levers to maximise the impact of every dollar mobilised for the resilience of local areas and populations, by focusing efforts on the issue of drought resilience. In this context, we can highlight the emergence of regional projects such as the '[Drought Resilient Program for Horn of Africa](#)' (African Development Bank), or large-scale financing mechanisms such as the '[Global Partnership for Drought Resilience](#)', which is currently being established. However, despite all the efforts made, less than 1 per cent of climate finance reaches local actors. Private investors, for their part, make their commitment conditional on a business model requiring a demonstrable return on investment (something that small-scale sustainable agriculture, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, struggles to demonstrate). The lack of local financial engineering and the political fragility of many countries constitute structural barriers to the inflow of private capital for the benefit of local communities and their resilience.



Agricultural insurance schemes are important tools for building resilience, as they enable farmers to continue their activities in spite of climate-related shocks. Acting as genuine safety nets, these schemes strengthen farmers' ability to invest in their farms and can therefore be seen as catalysts for the transition to more sustainable agricultural systems.

When combined with other schemes, insurance mechanisms also serve as post-crisis tools that can provide real added value for the recovery of farms following climate-related shocks such as droughts or floods. This is the case, for example, with the ['Fund for Compensation for Agricultural Damage Caused by Natural Disasters'](#) (FIDAC), in Tunisia, established through co-financing by the state and farmers. It has enabled an increase in crop cover and the continuation of agricultural activities in the country despite several years of drought.

It is nevertheless important to emphasise that, in the context of drought, government support remains particularly crucial, as the costs of compensation are too high to be borne by conventional insurance schemes. Furthermore, these mechanisms and schemes are generally difficult for very small farms to access, which renders them inadequate given the scale of the challenges facing vulnerable populations.

4. Recommendations for public policy action

In light of this urgent situation, the Désertif'actions 2026 report sets out five priority recommendations for decision-makers:

- 1. Choix politique : Policy choice: Treat drought as a priority systemic risk in public policy.** Binding and operational strategic frameworks must be put in place, with prevention as a priority. It is also essential to **break down the silos between public policies** and to promote **multi-sectoral and multi-scale systemic approaches**. Adopting integrated policy frameworks enables the coordination of agriculture, water, energy, land-use planning and environmental management around common objectives aimed at building resilience. The development of these public policies for drought management needs to include the **active participation** of local stakeholders (first and foremost local authorities) scientific, technical and traditional knowledge, innovations now available in the field of information.
- 2. Governance: Rethinking sectoral governance and aim for multi-level participation.** Integrated governance mechanisms must be put in place, as they alone are capable of ensuring coordination between sectors, territorial levels and public and non-state actors on drought management. Multi-stakeholder **consultation frameworks at the territorial level** are therefore strongly encouraged and can be a particularly effective tool, notably for safeguarding pastoral mobility within spatial planning and for reducing conflicts over the use of water and land. To this end, **local authorities must be supported** by granting them mandates that legally recognise their role in the governance of natural resources, and by guaranteeing them direct access to funding.
- 3. Finance: Channelling financial resources as closely as possible to the affected stakeholders by developing appropriate financial engineering.** Direct and effective access to funding of all kinds must be improved by putting in place simplified and more accessible financing mechanisms for local stakeholders (local authorities, NGOs, producer organisations, etc.). **Local financial engineering** must be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of **economically viable projects**. It would also be appropriate to develop local financial intermediaries such as agricultural banks, microfinance institutions or regional funds. Payments for environmental services, whilst having certain limitations, should also be considered, as they formally recognise the contribution of farmers to local resilience. Finally, encouraging private and innovative financing through **guarantee and risk-reduction mechanisms, as well as mechanisms to ensure a return on investment**, is a promising way to revitalise local areas and support their transition towards greater resilience.



4. Training: Scaling up training and support for stakeholders. Issues relating to climate, environmental and local resilience must be integrated into school and university curricula, as well as into adult education programmes. Technical and practical training programmes must be developed, particularly in the fields of agroecology, renewable energy, sustainable management of natural resources and digital technologies. It is necessary **to strengthen the institutional capacities** of technical services and local authorities; to train agricultural advisers and field support staff in agroecological practices; and to provide training for financial institutions to enable them to better understand their clients and assess risks in the sector more effectively. It is also important to support the **creation of learning networks** among young people and to encourage the **intergenerational transfer of knowledge**.

5. The urgency facing local territories: improving local resilience to drought is a pressing need. It involves a wide range of stakeholders and geographical areas, as current events in both the North and the South demonstrate. It is clear that no region is immune to the intensification of climate impacts. Consequently, from a long-term perspective, **agricultural and food systems** must evolve very rapidly, drawing inspiration from the principles of agroecology, as endorsed by the HLPE and a vast majority of the international community. Improving equitable access to strategic resources, encouraging participatory planning approaches, rolling out locally-rooted multi-stakeholder training programmes, strengthening the economic viability of systems, facilitating biological synergies, and guiding and supporting changes in practices... These are all avenues to design and support **local agroecological transitions** towards greater resilience. The public policies that are needed must urgently provide a favourable framework for this transition, by breaking down silos in their budgets and actions and promoting multi-scale approaches. International funds, for their part, must be mobilised to support States in these essential and promising approaches, at a time when we can no longer afford to wait.





Désertif'actions

Launched in 2006 by the Centre for International Action and Achievements (CARI – France) and its partners, the international Désertif'actions initiative enables various stakeholders involved in combating desertification and land degradation to engage in dialogue and prepare collectively for the institutional negotiation meetings of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

This document draws on the outcomes of the 2026 edition, organised around the theme 'territorial resilience in the face of drought':

Nearly 1,000 participants contributed to the preparatory phase in 2025: 1 online questionnaire, 24 preparatory workshops in 20 different countries, and 4 thematic webinars.

375 participants from 48 countries attended the summit, which took place over four days at the end of March 2026 in Djerba: civil society organisations, national and multilateral institutions, research institutions, local authorities and private companies.

A range of outputs were delivered as part of the Désertif'actions 2026 initiative (bibliographical references in this document):

5 literature review notes based on scientific research:

- [Transformation of sedentary agricultural and/or livestock farming systems](#)
- [Mobile and pastoral production systems](#)
- [Territorial management of water resources](#)
- [Territorial governance](#)
- [Résilience des territoires face aux sécheresses \(français\)](#)

4 recommendations inspired by the preparatory phase:

- [Agroecology to equip agricultural systems to cope with drought](#)
- [No pastoralism without mobility: challenges and proposals](#)
- [Building water security collectively: an imperative!](#)
- [Strengthening the role of local authorities to build local resilience to droughts](#)

1 public outreach document: [Droughts and agroecology: let's make sense of it](#)

1 summary report of the preparatory workshops

1 summary report of responses to the 'Drought' questionnaire (in French)

1 final report from the international summit

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