RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

SELA SPECIAL SERIES | MINI-GUIDE

DROUGHTS AND WATER SECURITY

KNOWLEDGE FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Practical recommendations to prevent drought risks, strengthen water security, protect ecosystems, and promote sustainable water management in Latin America and the Caribbean.



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

PREVENTION | PREPAREDNESS | PROTECTION AND RESPONSE | RECOVERY | REGIONAL COOPERATION

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1

PREVENTION

KNOW THE RISKS AND REDUCE THEM

Prevention helps anticipate the effects of droughts, reduce vulnerability, and protect water availability, ecosystems, and the livelihoods of communities.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT WATER CONDITIONS.

Check official meteorological and hydrological reports to learn about rainfall, river and reservoir levels, and possible drought alerts.

PROTECT WATER SOURCES.

Help care for rivers, lakes, aquifers, and watersheds. Avoid contamination and promote the conservation of ecosystems that support water availability.

USE WATER RESPONSIBLY.

Adopt water-saving and efficient use practices at home, in productive activities, and in community spaces. Avoid waste and promote sustainable use.

ANTICIPATE POSSIBLE IMPACTS.

Identify how water scarcity can affect human consumption, agriculture, health, economic activities, and other aspects of community life.

GET INVOLVED AND SHARE RELIABLE INFORMATION.

Strengthen community coordination, share recommendations from official sources, and take part in initiatives to enhance prevention and water security.



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PREPAREDNESS

PLAN AND COORDINATE THE RESPONSE

Being prepared for a drought makes it possible to organize actions, anticipate water scarcity, protect communities, and reduce its impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods.



1. ORGANIZE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

Identify responsible persons and establish communication channels with local authorities, community organizations, and water service providers.



2. KNOW THE ALERTS AND PROTOCOLS.

Check official meteorological and hydrological reports, drought alerts, and guidance from the authorities to take timely action.



3. PREPARE SUPPLY MEASURES.

Identify alternative water sources, learn about local distribution and safe storage mechanisms, and prioritize human consumption.



4. ANTICIPATE THE IMPACTS.

Identify the possible effects of water scarcity on health, agriculture, economic activities, and vulnerable groups in your community.



5. AGREE ON HOW TO ACT.

Define community procedures to report supply problems, coordinate the responsible use of water, and support those who need it most.



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PROTECTION

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Water scarcity can affect health, hygiene, food security, and ecosystems. Adopting protective measures and following official guidance is essential to reduce its impacts.

1. PRIORITIZE WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Use safe, potable water responsibly and follow the authorities' guidance on its distribution and use.

2. ENSURE SAFE WATER STORAGE AND TREATMENT.

Store water in clean, covered containers and follow health recommendations for its treatment and safe **consumption**.

3. PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

Adopt measures to maintain personal and household hygiene. Pay attention to health guidance in case of water restrictions.

4. PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE.

Give special attention to children, older adults, and people with disabilities, as well as those who need water for specific care.

5. CARE FOR ECOSYSTEMS AND REPORT RISKS.

Avoid contaminating water sources and inform the authorities about supply problems, environmental degradation, or risks in your community.



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RESPONSE

ACT WITH CALM AND COORDINATION

In the event of a drought or a disruption in the water supply, follow official guidance and adopt measures to protect your health and ensure access to water.

FOLLOW OFFICIAL GUIDANCE.

Check official notices about water availability, restrictions, and supply measures.

PRIORITIZE ESSENTIAL WATER USE.

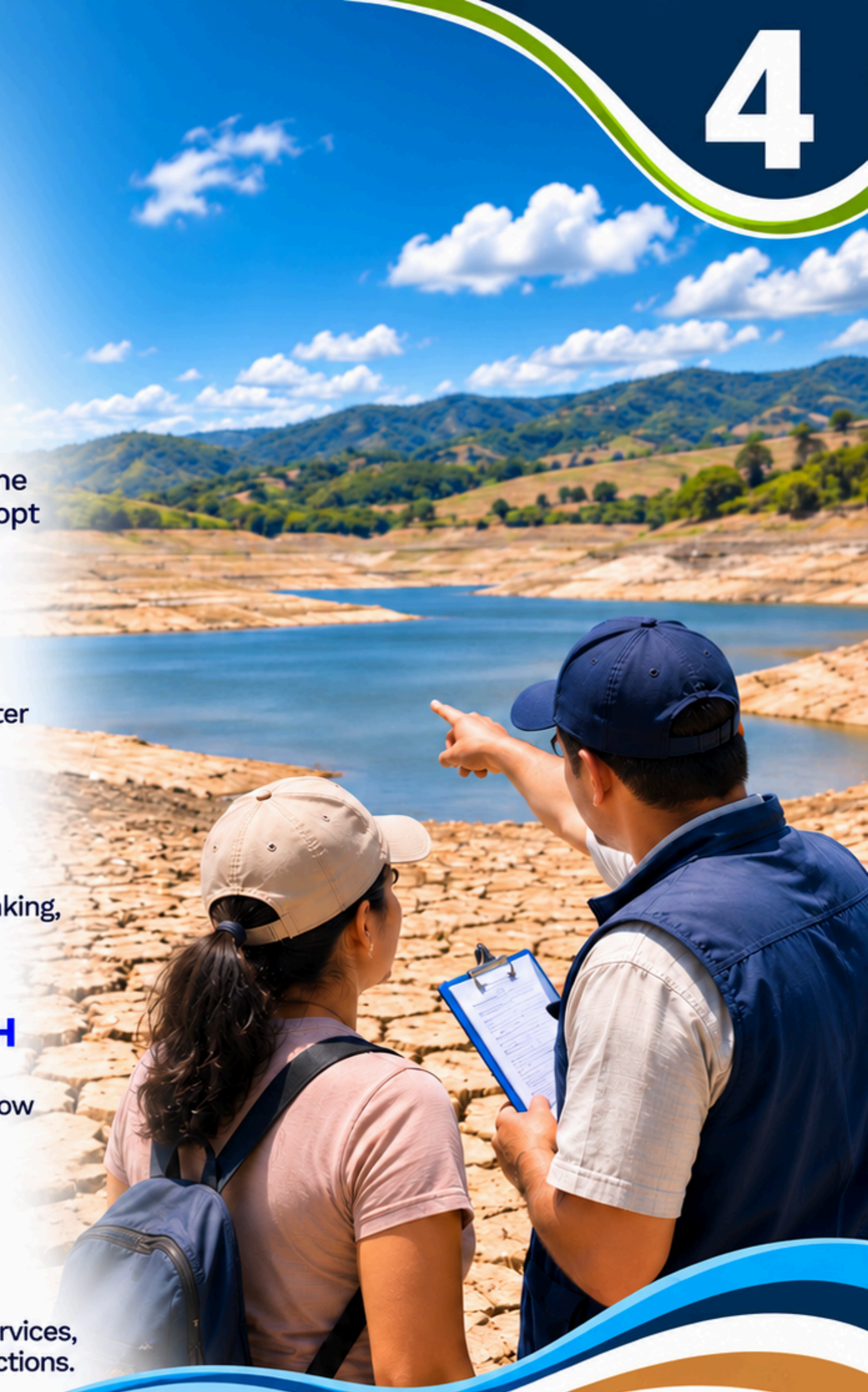
Allocate available water for drinking, hygiene, and other basic needs. Avoid waste.

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY.

Use safe water sources and follow official recommendations for storage and consumption.

COMMUNICATE RISKS AND NEEDS.

Report supply disruptions and vulnerabilities to the relevant services, and collaborate in community actions.



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RECOVERY

REBUILD HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Recovery requires coordination and time.
It contributes to restoring access to water, strengthening livelihoods and improving the ability of communities to face future shocks.

1. FOLLOW OFFICIAL GUIDANCE.

Check official information about the recovery process, the availability of water and the measures in place.

2. PROMOTE THE USE OF WATER WISELY.

Adopt practices to save water and avoid wasting it, helping its recovery.

3. PROTECT WATER SOURCES.

Care for rivers, springs, reservoirs and other sources of water. Avoid contamination.

4. SUPPORT COMMUNITY RECOVERY.

Coordinate with neighbors, authorities and affected sectors to meet the needs of the population.

5. STRENGTHEN LIVELIHOODS.

Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, support productive activities and water management.



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REGIONAL COOPERATION

JOINT RESPONSES FOR GREATER WATER SECURITY

Droughts and water-related challenges require coordinated responses in Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional cooperation, the sharing of knowledge and the sustainable management of water resources help reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of our communities.

1. STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AMONG COUNTRIES.

Promote regional dialogue and the coordination of actions to address droughts and their impacts.

2. SHARE INFORMATION AND GOOD PRACTICES.

Exchange data, experiences and knowledge on monitoring, prevention and water resource management.

3. PROMOTE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.

Strengthen scientific and technical cooperation to understand risks and develop solutions.

4. ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

Support initiatives for the efficient use of water, the protection of water sources and the sustainable management of ecosystems.

5. BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

Bring together efforts among governments, regional and international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and communities.



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DROUGHTS AND WATER SECURITY

Understanding the risks, preparing and taking action together helps protect health, ensure access to water and strengthen **more resilient communities.**



More and Better Integration

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