

HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHTS IN SWEDEN

Stakeholder experience, perception and risk management strategies

Droughts can cause severe habitat damage, problems for agriculture, forestry, and industry, building infrastructure, energy production and water supply. In Sweden, past changes in climate and land cover have had a major impact on water availability. In a changing climate, shifts in meteorological conditions are expected to even further perturb the occurrence, frequency and duration of hydrological droughts. Climate models project that events such as the European-wide 2003 drought could become more frequent in coming decades, and, thus, the early recognition of critical drought conditions is essential for drought risk management with large economic and social benefits. Yet, interviews among Swedish municipalities and drinking water producers revealed that only 12% specifically considered potential effects of droughts on drinking water in their risk assessment. This issue is worth further investigations especially considering also other consequences of droughts and other relevant stakeholders. Therefore, the proposed bachelor/master thesis aims for

- identifying potential consequences of hydrological droughts in Sweden
 - preparing a questionnaire for online surveys as well as face-to-face/telephone interviews related to hydrological drought hazards, vulnerability and risk
 - contacting stakeholders from regional authorities, drinking water suppliers, farmers, forest owners, hydropower companies, and the public
 - conducting face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews and/or online surveys using the pre-defined questionnaire with the selected stakeholders
 - investigate how different stakeholders perceive hydrological drought hazards, assess vulnerability and risk
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Are you interested in this research topic? If you are an outgoing person, speak Swedish, and are not afraid to contact people via telephone, then please contact:

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