

Semi-arid Areas

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Definitions

- **Drylands cover approximately 40% of the world's land area, and support two billion people, 90% of whom live in developing countries.** These areas receive relatively low overall amounts of precipitation in the form of rainfall or snow (UN, 2011; MEA 2009).
- Dryland subtypes can also be described in terms of their land uses: rangelands, croplands, and urban areas.

Table 1. Global figures for the four types of drylands

Dryland sub-habitat	Aridity index*	Share of global area (%)	Share of global population (%)	% rangeland	% cultivated	% other (including urban)
Hyper-arid	<0.05	6.6	1.7	97	0.6	3
Arid	0.05–0.20	10.6	4.1	87	7	6
Semi-arid	0.20–0.50	15.2	14.4	54	35	10
Sub-humid	0.50–0.65	8.7	15.3	34	47	20
Total		41.3	35.5	65	25	10

Source: UN, Environment Management Group, 2011)

Semi-arid areas

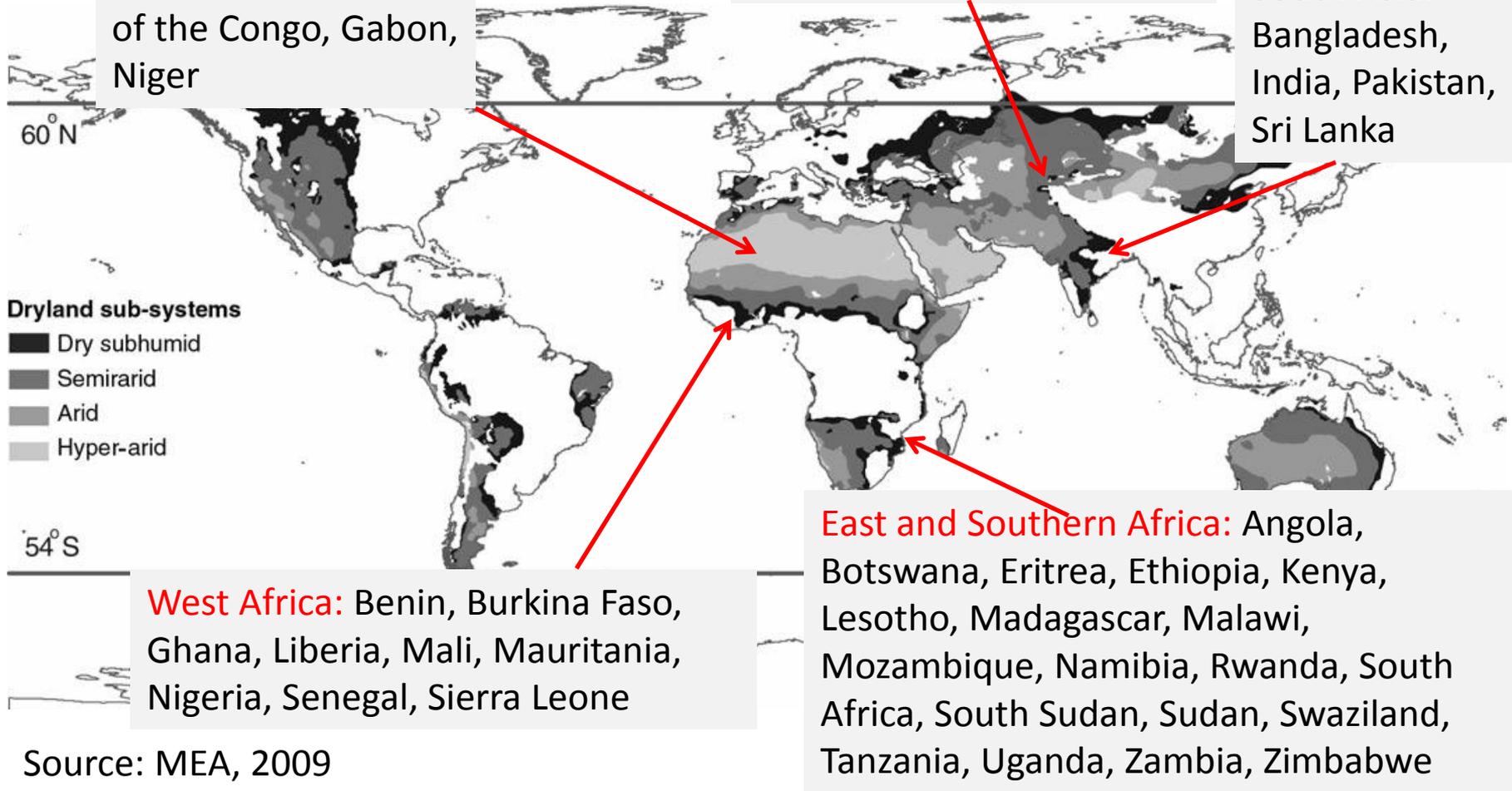
Central Africa:

Cameroon, Chad, DR of the Congo, Gabon, Niger

Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

South Asia:

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone

East and Southern Africa: Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Development policy and practice

- **Key emphasizes** on addressing complex challenges in managing resources (water, food and energy) by tackling the underlying causes of land degradation, and strengthening the capacity of the populations to mitigate and adapt to environmental change, including climate change (UN, 2011; MEA, ADD).

Examples of needed key actions (IPCC, 2012, FAO, 2005; UN 2011; MEA, 2009) :

- Improving governance approaches such as Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and harmonizing natural resource policies.
- Promoting risk management by investments at all scales, in particular, through climate-aware technologies.
- Supporting social protection to consider the winners and losers, or virtuous and vicious outcomes, of various actions/policies, including gender and age considerations.

Adaptation policy and practice

- *Agriculture, water, pastoralism*: new crop/animals and seed varieties; exploring insurance schemes; weather forecasting for farmers; climate resilient agricultural practices; irrigation, pasture management
- *Access to energy*: small-scale energy systems, use of renewable energy, energy efficiency measures in fuel-wood use
- *Health*: enhanced early-warning systems; improved public awareness around the likely impacts of climate change; mainstreaming adaptation into healthcare strategies;
- *Risk reduction and policy development*: comprehensive disaster management (droughts, storms) and early-warning systems; plan, design and construct new infrastructure, modeling, awareness raising within vulnerable communities;

Similarities and differences

	Climate-driven adaptation actions	Boarder development-driven actions
Scale	Sub-national and national scale	National and regional scale
Focus of the actions	Livelihood-centred approach ensuring access to food, energy and water, health care	Ecosystem-based approach to ensure integration of natural resources into development
Key emphasis	Emphasizing the importance of specific actions, capacity-development	Emphasizing the importance of governance systems, policy development, capacity-development
Key sectors	Agriculture and water, energy, health issues, disaster preparedness	Agriculture, poverty reduction and social protection

Preliminary conclusions

In-depth review of adaptation plans, policies and projects

Special attention to:

- Recognize the role of governance, institutions and policies enabling on the ground adaptations (access to land, land rights, access to resources)
- Recognize the sub-regional/cross-country character of challenges that these regions are facing and promoting knowledge exchange and learning
- Pay attention to key challenges of poverty reduction and needs of the vulnerable people (both locally and regionally)
- Shared focus on capacity-development, awareness raising, data collection, monitoring and modelling