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Drought Risk Management in the Context of Climate Change

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

With climate change, droughts are increasing in recurrence, severity, duration, and spatial extent. The drought risk will be one of the most important threats of this change, often in conjunction with other impacts such as temperature rise and changing ecosystems. This calls for an accelerated and improved fight against the devastating effects of droughts, which manifest themselves quite differently depending on the location including (agro-)ecosystems, water regime, welfare of people and nations, resilience mechanisms, etc. Since adaptation to climate change is receiving increasing attention, this is also a suitable moment to review the evidence of (changing) drought risks and drought risk management and identify knowledge, technological, political and implementation gaps to guide promising developments for the future.

Key elements of drought risk management must be reviewed: drought monitoring and early warning systems, vulnerability and impact assessments, impact mitigation, and drought response measures. Not least, coordination mechanisms are needed to make these elements synergistically work together.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Continued developments in instrumentation and modeling have driven atmospheric science to become increasingly more complex with a deeper understanding of concepts, mechanisms, and interactions. This is the field that innovation built and it has led to a better appreciation for the complexity with atmosphere. Human life is intertwined in this complexity as we strive to better understand our atmosphere. Climate change is constantly stretching the limits of our thinking and forcing new ideas and concepts to be played out. Welcome to the Anthropocene!

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