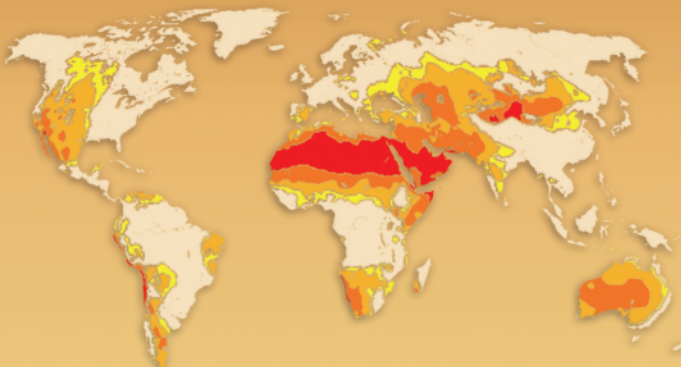


Drylands cover 40% of the Earth's land surface and hold 40% of the human population. In Mexico, the drylands cover around 50% of its terrestrial surface with a high proportion of rural population. Drylands are characterized by an extraordinary high cultural and natural diversity in four different types of climate (see the map).



● Hyper-arid ● Árid ● Semi-arid ● Dry-subhumid

CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS IN DRYLANDS

Increasing human population, climate change, land use change, and water scarcity are the main factors that alter natural ecosystems and their inhabitants, thus causing interrelated environmental, social, economic and political problems.

- | Environmental Problems | Economic Problems | Social Problems | Political Problems |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land degradation • Natural resources loss • Pollution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low ecosystem productivity • Lack of employment opportunities • Lack of access to markets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Access to Education • Migration • Health care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connection between different governance levels • Lack of inclusive public policies • Lack of human rights recognition |



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RISZA

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DRYLANDS

¿WHAT IS RISZA?

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DRYLANDS (RISZA), founded by the 'Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)' in Mexico, is a voluntary association aimed at the co-production of new collective knowledge among academics from different disciplines, members of the public and private sectors, civil societies, and local communities. The network seeks to provide solutions for the different challenges faced in the drylands regions. It also has the objectives to provide relevant information to decision makers for policy making and to contribute to the sustainable development of the dryland regions as established by the Agenda 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RISZA is a national node of the International Platform of Agadir, located in Morocco. This platform coordinates a tripartite program for collaboration in transdisciplinary research between Latin America, Northern Africa and Southern Europe to strengthen transatlantic cooperation within the framework of the SDGs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

With the approval of the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, the United Nations and its member countries, including Mexico, formally committed to a common plan of action with a broad and global agenda for policy making to achieve sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES OF RISZA

- 1 Attend the challenges of sustainable development in dryland regions.
- 2 Generate and foster inter-institutional partnerships, research, development and innovation at a national and international level.
- 3 Guide and facilitate transdisciplinary and participatory research projects.
- 4 Train human resources with inter-institutional postgraduate programs on sustainable development of dryland socio-ecological systems.
- 5 Disseminate and link the achievements of the Network to the public sector and the overall society.



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