

Drought & Climate Indicators — Indicator Overview

Domain: Drought & Climate Indicators

Track: D — Knowledge Base Population

Status: ACTIVE (descriptive, reviewer-safe)

1. Conceptual Overview

Drought and climate indicators describe **climatic conditions, variability, and anomalies** as documented by EU programmes and services. These indicators are used to characterise climate state and context over time, rather than to predict impacts or prescribe responses.

Within SAL, indicators are recorded as **documented descriptors**, not as evaluative or operational tools.

2. Climate Variable–Based Indicators

Many drought and climate indicators are derived from core climate variables, including: - Precipitation - Air temperature - Evapotranspiration - Soil moisture

These variables are documented individually or in combination within Copernicus and EEA reporting frameworks.

3. Drought-Related Indicator Classes

EU services commonly reference several classes of drought-related indicators, such as: - Meteorological drought indicators (precipitation-based) - Agricultural drought indicators (soil moisture–related) - Hydrological drought indicators (runoff or water balance context)

SAL records these classes **as documented**, without defining thresholds or severity levels.

4. Temporal Aggregation and Indices

Drought and climate indicators may be presented as: - Monthly, seasonal, or annual aggregates - Anomaly-based indicators relative to reference periods - Indices derived for reporting and comparison purposes

SAL does not calculate or normalise indicators and does not define reference baselines.

5. Use in EU Monitoring Context

Within EU monitoring systems, drought and climate indicators are used for: - Climate assessment and reporting - Environmental monitoring context - Policy-relevant climate information

They are not presented as early-warning alerts or decision triggers at this level.

6. Measurement Characteristics and Constraints

Commonly documented characteristics include: - Dependence on data availability and temporal coverage - Sensitivity to reference period selection - Variability across regions and timescales

SAL records these characteristics descriptively, without assessment or comparison.

7. Positioning Summary

Within SAL, drought and climate indicators are positioned as: - Descriptive measures of climate conditions and variability - Components within Copernicus and EEA climate frameworks - Contextual references supporting understanding of datasets and services

No forecasting, risk scoring, or policy interpretation is implied.