UFZ Planetary solutions
KNOWLEDGE THAT DELIVERS.

Profile

# UFZ Drought Monitor for Germany



## The challenge

In 2026, drought and heat once again caused billions of euros in damage in Germany. The consequences for industry, agriculture, forestry, and the natural environment were severe and widespread. Similar isolated events have occurred in the past. However, a look back shows that drought damage in Germany has increased since 2018. There has been no comparable period of drought in the last 75 years.

***The UFZ Drought Monitor provides daily, nationwide information on soil moisture in Germany.***

## Our planetary solution

Through the UFZ Drought Monitor, we publish daily, up-to-date, high-resolution data on soil moisture conditions in Germany. This enables us to provide information on drought and wet conditions on a regional basis and for different soil depths. This is based on simulations of soil moisture using the mHM hydrological modelling system, which was developed at the UFZ. Information such as the long-term context of the current situation and the amount of water available to plants supports stakeholders in agriculture, forestry, insurance, banking, government, and water supply. We also use the data to support a wide range of theses and dissertations as well as national and international research projects.

## Our partners

The German Weather Service (DWD), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), the European Water Archive (EWA), the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC).

## Relevant knowledge and technologies

The mHM hydrological modelling system developed at the UFZ is open-source and freely available. It is used worldwide and provides the basis for projects on various scales, including specific drought monitoring tools for Saxony, Germany, and Europe. It is also used in the ULYSSES system of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and contributes to the State of Global Water Resources published annually by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).





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**Additional links:**
Website: Drought Monitor Germany
Video: Drought in Germany (YouTube)
Website: The mesoscale Hydrologic Model mHM

UFZ HELMHOLTZ Centre for Environmental Research

Member of the Helmholtz Research Field Earth and Environment

11/2026