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Koen Verbist forms part of UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme, Hydrological Systems and Global Change section, where he coordinates the implementation of water management strategies in dryland areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, and specifically targets aspects of drought risk management and near term climate change impact on water security. From 2005 until 2008 he was active at the UNESCO Category II center CAZALAC, where he led activities on dryland and drought mapping. Koen Verbist obtained his PhD in 2011 at Ghent University on 'Climatic and soil physical constraints for efficient water harvesting', where he also lectured on Desertification and Soil Degradation, Geographical Information Systems and Soil Water Management. He is currently based in UNESCO's Santiago office.