We define three indexes of drought (, and) to judge whether a period of time is a drought.

* We define that the of a single month equals to the elevation level of last month minuses that of this certain month. The of a continuous period of time is equal to the arithmetic means of the s of each month within this period.
* We define that the of a single month equals to the elevation level of this certain month divided by that of last month. The of a continuous period of time is equal to the geometric means of the s of each month within this period.
* We define that the of a period of time (in which the maximum elevation level is earlier than the minimum elevation level) is equal to the maximum elevation level in this period minuses the minimum elevation level in this period.

If the decline rate of a period of time (no shorter than 24 months) is no lower than 0.25% times the number of months in this period, this period of time can be judged as a drought. (Standard 1)

If the lasting time of a period is no longer than 18 months and within this period the total decline rate is no lower than 20%, this period of time can be judged as a drought. (Standard 2)

If the rate range (maximum minuses minimum) of a period of time (no shorter than 24 months) is no lower than 20 feet per month, this period of time can be judged as a drought. (Standard 3)

If a period of time fits each of the standard, we can judge that it is a drought.