

Interactive session – Virtual Connet4WR Workshop for Zimbabwe

12-05-2022

A virtual stakeholder workshop, organized under the [Connect4 Water Resilience](#) project as part of the wider [SHEAR programme](#), was held on the 12th of May. The workshop provided an opportunity to present and discuss the latest project results as well as to stimulate dialogues between stakeholders on the topic of drought and flood management strategies, related barriers and implications in the Limpopo river basin. The discussion took place in two sessions. First, a general overview of the project's path was provided, followed by presentations on key findings with a focus on the Zimbabwe portion of the Limpopo River Basin. Stakeholders then took part in an interactive session where they first discussed upstream-downstream communication and then, they examined possible recommendations for improving forecasting and communities' preparedness. Strategies to mitigate the impact of drought and flood events were then discussed.

Interactive session summary

Drought & flood information flow from communities and governance institutions (both directions)

Upstream/downstream communication, current state and limitations:

- During community discussions, Dabane often stresses the importance of communication and information sharing between upstream and downstream communities to achieve effective IWRM.

Useful information from communities to government agencies:

- It is important to collect feedback from communities on the strategies that have been implemented to understand their effectiveness.
- From a hydrological point of view, one of the main problems is the collection of data.
- It is essential to be innovative in designing strategies to improve the resilience of communities.

Early warning for communities and forecasting systems:

- The current early warning system has several limitations. First of all, not all mechanisms are in place and one of the main problems is the collection of data in real time. Current river measuring stations are limited and not maintained. They also suffer from vandalism. From a software point of view, we need to update the software used. We have platforms to disseminate data but we do not reach last mile connectivity and furthermore, the data and information provided must be accurate and reliable.
- Importance of translating data to information that communities can make use of;
- Difficulty in sharing information. Extension officers may have received the information and may have shared it through different channels such as What's App but are not yet able to reach all the people in a community (missing last mile connectivity);



- Information sharing system must be automated. Currently the civil protection committee, which is present at both government and community level and which is made up of government departments and different entities, has the task of disseminating information;
- Information need to be timely.

How can communities be supported to prepare for drought and flood?

- Sometimes community training / workshops do not translate into action. One reason is the delay that occurs between training and disaster or between two opposite disasters. Drought conditions have been experienced at least once a year. While flood events have occurred once every 5 years. As a result, communities begin to forget what mechanisms they can adopt to prepare for or mitigate extreme rain events.

Drought and flood adaptation mitigation strategies missing from the list provided (Figure 1):

- Drought / flood mitigation strategies in the basin must be implemented according to a holistic approach. We could not think of implementing just one of these strategies as they all affect the hydrological system of the basin differently and these strategies influence each other. So it is also important to explore the intercedence between these strategies.
- Any mitigation and preparedness strategy must take into account the livelihoods of communities. Zimbabwean communities living in the Limpopo River Basin have a livelihood that depends on livestock. When drought occurs, livestock is the first impact and with it community life.

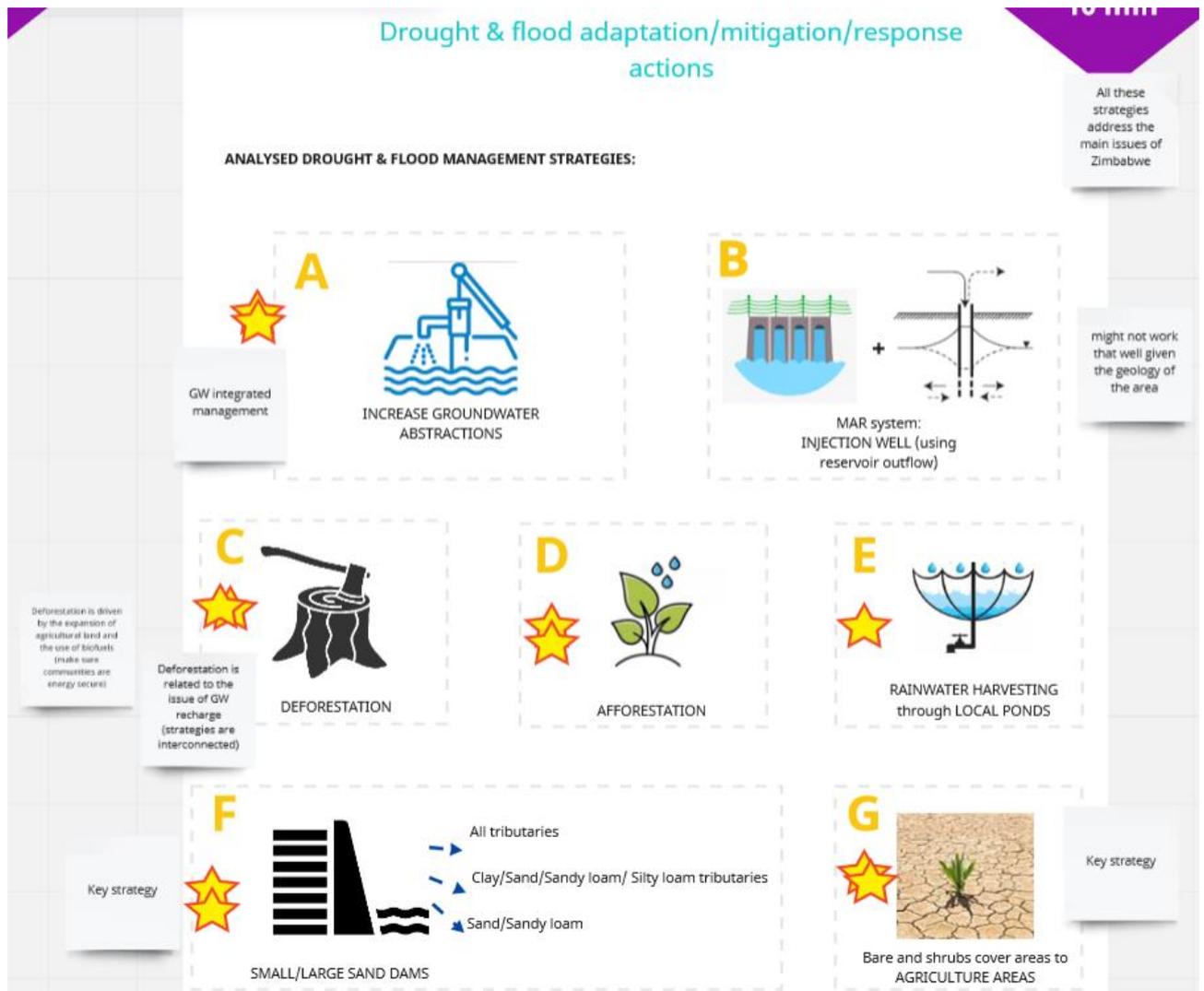


Figure 1. Analysed drought and flood management strategies in the Connect4WR project. The star has been applied to strategies that are interesting to apply in Zimbabwe.

Which strategy can and which cannot realistically be implemented in Zimbabwe in the next 10 years?

- The use of injection wells may not be realistic for Zimbabwe as it is expensive as well as the geology of the area is not optimal for the implementation of this strategy. Deforestation and reforestation could occur together in different areas. Sand dams have recently been implemented through several pilot projects and the result is promising.

Discussion/Analysis of the implementation of sand dams:



Discussion- Analysis

Try to be specific..

In relation to: information sharing, implementation and uptake of the analysed strategy, current administrative structures, prevention of unintended consequences, implication for the local communities.

