



Workshop 6 – Adaptation and Water in Africa

Climate Chance Summit 2019 – Africa

- Major problem with data → lack of capacity to imagine future scenarios
- Importance to concentrate effort on awareness raising
- WRC : creation of a Water roadmap for South Africa
- Need to make good use out of existing networks, the importance of cooperation

1. UNESCO World Water

Means of implementation of SDGs. Climate change is shrouded in uncertainty. The more uncertain top-down approach. The two hydrological extremes: floods can create a disaster, or drought attracts attention. Droughts in rural areas but not necessarily visible, tangible. There are economic losses due to floods, disasters all over Africa. SDGs represent a global effort but there are uncertainties due to lack of data, no viable data.

Major problem with data. At present there are two possible cases: an abundance of water or lack of water. We don't know how the volume of water will change. Due to the lack of data we do not know if we will have less water or more water. Specific project Ethiopia. The countries must accept to integrate coherent actions, not to dissipate forces, a synergy must be created.

The problem is that it is based on knowledge, the downwards approach is based on demand. People feel the impact directly, but that doesn't mean they necessarily have the knowledge. The top-down approach has to be mixed in a strategic way. There has to be a conceptual revolution. In all sectors of the economy there has to be a revolution. From the bottom up most projects can be isolated. There has to be more integration in the water sector, inclusion of government. Climate change has not been integrated into the projects, there needs to be a concerted and coordinated effort to solve the problems we face. We need to be careful about the word change is it qualitative or quantitative. Is there water in quantity and quality? We need to know what needs to be adapted. Rainfall has been changed, we have a high intensity over a short period of time, what does this imply? We are talking about the availability of renewable water. Because of the high rainfall, no absorption by the earth. The resources are gone. We need to identify what we are mitigating and what we are adapting. ODD 6 has had positive effects. Progress is being made.

Public remarks: Problems related to transboundary waters.

Answer: In Africa, not one country does not share its river waters with another. This point must be taken into account: "water basins are areas that know no human boundaries". It is important to focus on water, especially in transboundary basins, taking into account climate change.



Importance of awareness raising in many African countries, there are no development activities in flood-prone areas because they are sacred places. Water sources are always considered sacred.

2. M. Tiyani Chauke: presentation of Water Research Commission (WRC)

3 branches:

- New knowledge
- Human capital development
- Industry development and research & development (innovation and impact)

We have research information but still the question is to know what to do with it. The WATER Demo programme: researchers/innovation, capacity of the population.

WRC strategic goals: strategy focuses on a knowledge tree; all action must depend on this tree.

Creation of a water roadmap for South Africa.

Topics addressed by WADER (Water Technologies Demonstration Program, partnership between the Department of Science and Technology and the Water Research Commission):

- International cooperation
- The decrease in water resources,
- Droughts,
- International partnerships.

"Water is life, Sanitation is dignity".

Participants' reactions: many organisations in different countries that have subscribed to the prescriptions of your parent agency. This is a big issue that needs action, the cost of pumping that makes electricity production very expensive. What can we do about it? Capacity building, implementation of best practices.

Participants' reactions: there is a lot of competition between the community in charge of water and climate. Inclusion of water in the recent agenda.

Participants' reactions: why do we lack studies on the impact related to the adaptation of the water sector in Africa?

Participants' reactions: Is it legitimate to do more studies? Wouldn't it be more relevant to reuse existing studies, analyse them, identify gaps/what is missing, and complete them, rather than starting all over again each time?

Answer: For some countries, some studies have been done, especially concerning information sharing. Several studies have been done on water management, good management practices. The question of training is also important. We have centralized data concerning wild deposit locations for example, but resources are needed to update these databases. → "The key is cooperation!"

3. Tarryn Quayle, ICLEI

A few facts: 70% of the population will be urbanized in 2030, water will be one of the essential resources in our urban future. Impact of water that will affect domestic GDP, we must therefore know how to manage water.



The Montreal Commitment and strategic vision 2018 - 2024: low emission, resilience, circular economy, nature.

There are several networks today: we cannot change this; we must take advantage of it. To do so, we should bring together all the networks already present within the Afri Alliance. This alliance has 4 main objectives (see slides), the most important of which is to facilitate knowledge sharing.

Within the Afri Alliance, action groups and events allow the development of process mapping and local action plans. → Development of a risk assessment tool, then synthesis matrix, maps for visual representation.

About the fortitude initiative: how to link adaptation and disasters. The most vulnerable area, what can we do to minimize risks, reduce disasters. Official launch in November 2019.

Participants' reactions: Women are most affected in terms of water shortages. The most affected populations are the poorest.

Moderator's answer: we must remain in the network to guarantee the future of the coalition.

