

a water secure world

Drought and Gender at Community Level Presenter: Litumelo Mate Sievers – GWPSA 5th June 2024

RATIONALE FOR THE COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTION

Integrated Transboundary River Basin Management for the Sustainable Development of the Limpopo River Basin

Component 4: The IWRM Plan implementation pilots

Targeted outcome: Participatory IWRM practices demonstrated to address land rehabilitation, land productivity, and sedimentation.

Severe droughts, flooding, forest fires and poverty

Leading to unsustainable land management practices and land degradation.

CSO (Dabane Trust) contracted to implement project activities in Guy-Chelesa area

Projected implemented in collaboration with the President's office, District Development Coordinator and local authority







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"LOW HANGING FRUITS"



Guy-Chelesa communities displayed a strong dedication to fighting land degradation and enhancing land productivity Area had existing soil and water structures which were improperly built causing harm to the environment than anticipated benefit



Alternative structural designs were presented and a suitable one selected by the community and youth champions



Dabane Trust established a strong connection with the SLM pilot communities, and partnership with the District development committee



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DESIGN SPECIFICATION OF THE INFILTRATION DITCH



These structures are constructed on bare land to improve land productivity

Technology comes in different shapes, and this is named after its shape – **the half-moon**

Half-moon shape may be 4m in diameter

Height of the bund may be 15cm to 30cm depending on the soil type.

Sandy soils may have 30cm height.

Stones, twigs/branches, shrubs/trees and grass used for support the sand along the bund

Total cost gully of construction about USD15 per day may be adequate for the construction of the technology.

Expenditure on PPE (gloves and safety boots), and payment for transportation of stones.

Technology is less risky and uses locally available resources.

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PURPOSES OF THE INFILTRATION DITCHES



Technology is capable of improving

- Land cover, land productivity and soil organic matter turn over in the long run.
- Surface water management through water harvesting
- Trapping sediments from runoff
- Control flooding as it regulates run off to the dam located on the downward side
- Facilitates groundwater managementthrough recharge.
- Land use restoring unproductive land within the settlement.

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GENDER AND INCLUSION ISSUES



- More elderly women participating in the project because the most adult males have migrated to nearby countries (Botswana and South Africa)
- Women taking an interest as they are part of the irrigation scheme located on the downstream of the project site.
- Gardening is the major livelihood activity for both food security and income generation
- Remittances from the men used to enhanced horticultural and other investments undertaken by the women
- Less involvement from men and youths because of apathy as it is a non remunerated activity
- Awareness creation aimed at motivating youths and men to take part in the land restoration activities

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KEY LESSONS LEARNT



Awareness creation of the benefits of the entire ecosystem through the interconnectedness of interventions - the infiltration ditches- control of flooding – control of sedimentation – groundwater recharge- land cover enhancement

Coordination and partnership with the district level staff is key



Recognition of the target groups , who is available , what are their interest (women and youths) in the community is important for onward activities e.g. maintenance of the infiltration ditches

Stakeholder and community engagement in technology selection is cardinal as it determines the level of willingness to participate





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