

# Economic Assessment of water storage for adaptation to climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa

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# Hard time in decision making of water storage

- There are always trade-offs, unequal power and influence of actors
- Divergence of values, different prioritizations
- Ambiguous understanding of ecological, cultural values
- Biases and subjectivity in valuation analyses



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# Is the decision making only an economic dilemma?

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- Economics are to counter pros and cons in decision-making
- Cost -Benefit Analysis (CBA) for the optimal solutions in water storage and mainly dams is dominant
- If direct, indirect benefits outweigh costs, project goes ahead
- However, often reductionism with loss of information
- Environmental, cultural, and broader social values are ignored while only market values are considered
- Especially problematic in developing countries where components are more heterogeneous (i.e. irrigation, poverty alleviation, environmental flows, hydro-power)



## What is proposed

- A more diffused approach based on diversified qualitative-quantitative criteria through outranking methodology
- The economic efficiency principle is still pursued but with an attempt to overcome CBA related weaknesses
- Propose to use it supplementary with CBA - enclose CBA input in outranking methodology or vice versa



# What is needed for outranking

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- Ingredients
  - $a, b \dots n$  = Alternatives of a proposed project (e.g.  $a$ = big reservoir,  $b$ = small reservoir,  $c$ =deep wells,  $d$ =dugouts, etc.)
  - $j$  = A number of  $j$  criteria proposed for the ranking of the examined alternatives
  - $p$  = strong preference threshold,  $a \mathbf{P} b, g(a) - g(b) > p$
  - $q$  = weak preference threshold,  $a \mathbf{Q} b, q < g(a) - g(b) < p$
  - $l$  = indifference condition,  $a \mathbf{l} b, g(a) - g(b) < q$
  - $v$  = veto threshold,  $g(a) + v < g(b)$
  - $w$  = weights for different criteria
- The outranking relation can be interpreted as:  
 $a$  is at least as good as  $b$  and/or  $a$  is not worse than  $b$

# Criteria to be introduced

## Group 1 : Direct and Indirect economic effects (quantitative)

Net revenues from agricultural produce

*E.g. 3200 USD/yr (Cost)- 2600 USD/yr (Revenues)= 600USD/yr Net Revenues*

Ratio of net revenues from agricultural produce and water charges

*E.g. 600USD/yr (Net Revenues) / 50 USD/yr (Water Charges)= 12 USD reven./ 1 USD water charge*

Ratio of net revenues from agricultural produce and water consumption

*E.g. 600USD/yr (Net Revenues) / 60 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (Water Consumption)= 10 USD reven./ 1 m<sup>3</sup>water consumption*

Costs of water related illnesses

*I.e. Cost of Working days lost+ Drug expenses+ Recovery Level*

Costs of water for domestic Use

*I.e. Cost of Working hours lost (family member, means of transport)*

## Group 2 : Farmers' preferences in water use (qualitative) (Scale : 1/Very Little – 5/ Very much)

Level of satisfaction from water volume

Level of satisfaction from water quality

Level of satisfaction from water abstraction methods

Crops - Livestock - Domestic Sector

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# Water Storages Cases selected in Ethiopia

Guder- Idris



Upstream

Downstream

Rainfed

Koga Dam



Survey, 500 hsd in total  
Stratified sampling

Gumera

Wells



Pump  
(diversion)



Soil Canal  
(small  
reservoir)



Cement Canal  
(small  
reservoir)



# Water Storages Cases selected in Ghana

Options	Reservoir	Dugout	Shallow Well	Borehole	River diversion
Sata-Upstream	Very Small	-	-	-	Very High
Vea-Upstream	Moderate	Very Small	Small	Very Small	Very Small
Vea-Downstream	Very High	-	-	Very Small	-
Gollinga-Upstream	Very High	Very Small	-	-	Very Small
Gollinga-Downstream	Very High	Very Small	-	-	-
Dependence Level %	0-20 (Very Small)	20-40 (Small)	40-60(Moderate)	60-80 (High)	80-100(Very high)





# Outranking Results

<b>Ethiopian Options</b>	<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Ghanaian Options</b>	<b>Scoring</b>
Idris Upstream (river diversion)	7.30	Gollinga-Upstream	3.43
Fogerra (furrows linked with cement canal)	7.19		
Fogerra (directly linked with cement canal)	6.63	Sata – Upstream	2.86
Idris Rainfed	6.60		
Idris downstream Irrigated (small reservoir)	6.06	Vea-downstream	2.11
Fogerra (pump-river diversion)	5.87		
Koga (will not get connected)	5.52	Gollinga-downstream	2.01
Fogerra (Wells)	4.65		
Koga (to be connected)	3.34	Vea- Upstream	0.36
Koga (connected)	3.03		

# Key Messages from Case Studies

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## ETHIOPIA

- Not apparently the larger, the better
- Not apparently the more water, the better but efficient use of it
- Not financial factors the only ones to lead the decision
- Preference towards water quantity-abstraction rather influential

## GHANA

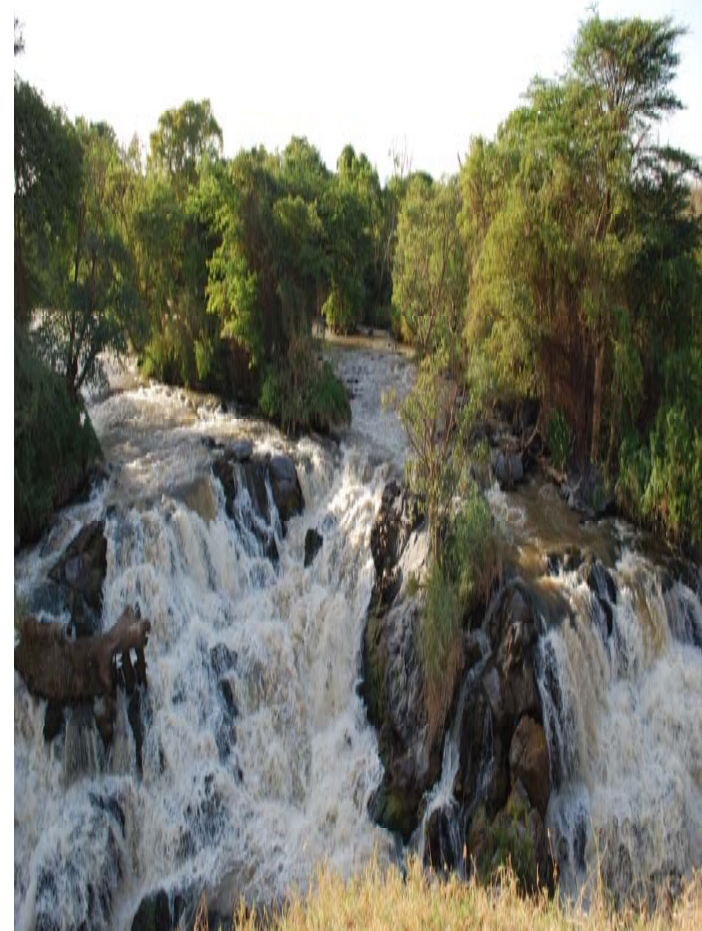
- Not apparently the diversification in water storage leads to best option
- Not great difference between upstream-downstream users
- Reservoir seems of significant factor but also direct abstraction from river seems strong substitute
- Economic related factors the only ones to lead the decision , very small variance between preference criteria

- People however respond in respect to what they know or anticipate to occur
- Also, some storage options have not reached its full potential

# Conclusions and lessons learnt

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- Elements from outranking Multi Criteria Decision Aid methods (MCDA) and mainly Electre III
- Often criticism on subjectivity and manipulation
- The approach still conforms with welfare economics and economic efficiency
- More work need to be done in decision making by including criteria-weights- thresholds from climate change scenarios
- However, hope that the approach could act complementary with CBA for better assessment of water storage





Thank you very much for your  
attention!