

# Regional Approach to Upscaling Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices in Eastern and Southern Africa

Rainwater for Africa



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# Presentation Outline

- What are the issues?
- What can Africa do?
- Why rainwater harvesting?
- What do Africa governments say?
- What is the Programme?
- Who are the partners?
- Way forward

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# What are the issues?

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- Africa is not meeting the MDGs
- Water can catalyze MDG achievements
- Human, institutional and financial capital limit access to water
- Worsened by climate change

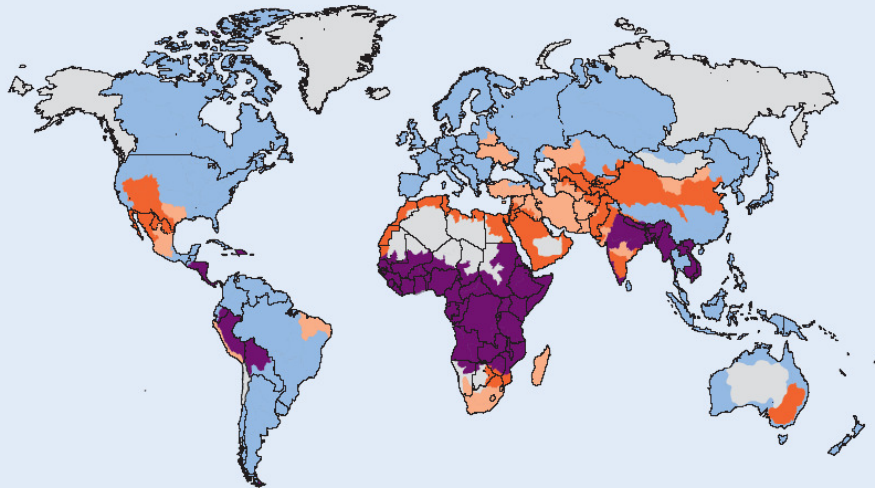


# Economic water scarcity

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map 2 | Areas of physical and economic water scarcity

- Little or no water scarcity
- Approaching physical water scarcity
- Not estimated
- Physical water scarcity
- Economic water scarcity

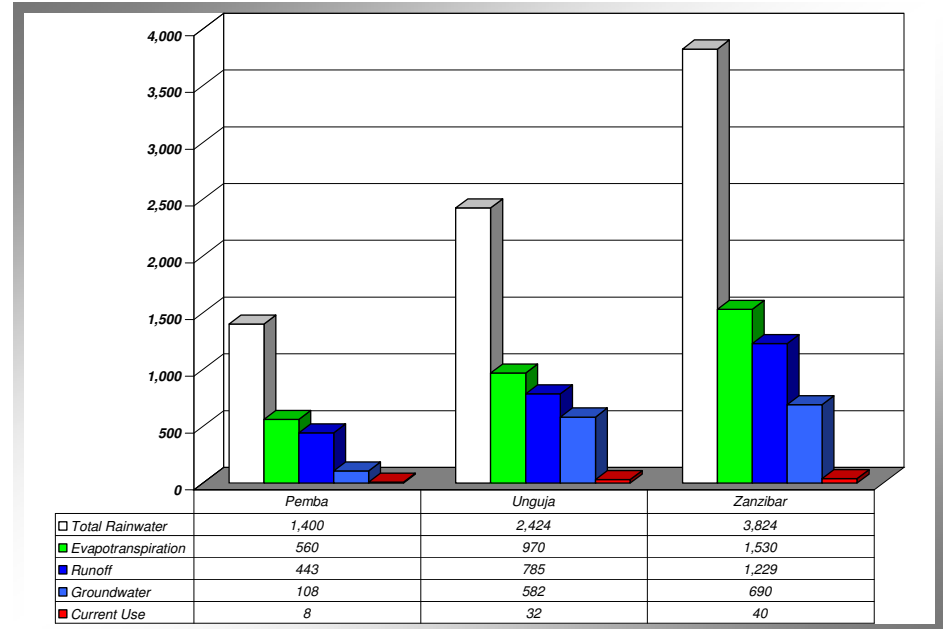


**Definitions and indicators**

- **Little or no water scarcity.** Abundant water resources relative to use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes.
- **Physical water scarcity (water resources development is approaching or has exceeded sustainable limits).** More than 75% of river flows are withdrawn for agriculture, industry, and domestic purposes (accounting for recycling of return flows). This definition—relating water availability to water demand—implies that dry areas are not necessarily water scarce.
- **Approaching physical water scarcity.** More than 60% of river flows are withdrawn. These basins will experience physical water scarcity in the near future.
- **Economic water scarcity (human, institutional, and financial capital limit access to water even though water in nature is available locally to meet human demands).** Water resources are abundant relative to water use, with less than 25% of water from rivers withdrawn for human purposes, but malnutrition exists.

Source: International Water Management Institute analysis done for the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture using the Watersim model; chapter 2.

Source: IWMI, 2007



Source: ICRAF and MDG Centre, 2007

**Current water Use in Zanzibar < 1%**

**Africa 3-5% except SA and North**



# What can Africa do?

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- Improve governance through IWRM
- Increase per-capita storage
- Awareness, mobilization and involvement of all water users at all levels
- Enhance capacity of blue and green water management
- Improve functioning of ecosystems
- Consider trade offs between ecosystems and social needs

# Why rainwater harvesting?

- Decentralized
- Easy to use
- Suitable for isolated areas

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# What do the African governments say?

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- AMCOW 6 adopted RWH & requested for African programme
- Mainstreaming of RWH in policies
- Involvement of the private sector



# What is the programme?

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- Mainstream RWH into policy
- Capacity building
- Improving access to information
- Up scaling best practices
- Period of 15 years





# Policy Mainstreaming



# Policy Mainstreaming

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## ■ Issues

Limited application of RWH despite its high potential

Not mainstreamed into policy.

Misconception that RWH is roof top

## ■ Recommendations

Advocate for RWH at international meeting (e.g. ECA, EU)

Sensitize leaders and practitioners at all levels.

Review policy and legal instrument to ensure they promote RWH



# Capacity building

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# Capacity building

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## Issues

Training and research geared toward surface and groundwater

Rainwater and ecosystems link not highlighted

Inadequate knowledge and skills to fully address RWH

## Recommendations

Develop and conduct training programmes for integrated RWH

Initiate and strengthen training networks

Promote research and development in RWH.



# Improving access to information

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## Issues

Poor distribution of existing material

Inadequate information

No coordination mechanism for distribution of tools and information

## Recommendations

Assess, compile field tested rainwater harvesting technologies into sources book and distribute widely

Promote exchange of lessons and sharing of experiences

Promote technical networking in rainwater harvesting





## Upscale best practices



# Upscale best practices

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## Issues

Limited experiences and methodologies

Inadequate assessment and sharing of best practices

## Recommendation

Identify, record, disseminate best practices

Adapt best practices to local conditions.

Construct facilities



# Implementation modalities

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- Responsibility of each government
- Coordination at regional level by AMCOW TAC
- Support upon request





# Partners

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- Governments
- Community Based Organizations
- Academia/Research institutions
- Private sector
- Global level : e.g. Rainwater Partnership (UNEP, IRCSEA, RAIN,...)
- Sub regional level: SEARNET, IMAWESA, ANEW
- National level: National RWH associations



# Way forward

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- Further consultations with AMCOW and support agencies,
- Conduct feasibility studies
- Show casing best practices
- Prepare funding proposals
- Implementation strategy and programme



**Thank you**  
**Rain is water - harvest it!**

