

Community- based flood risk management for Malawi

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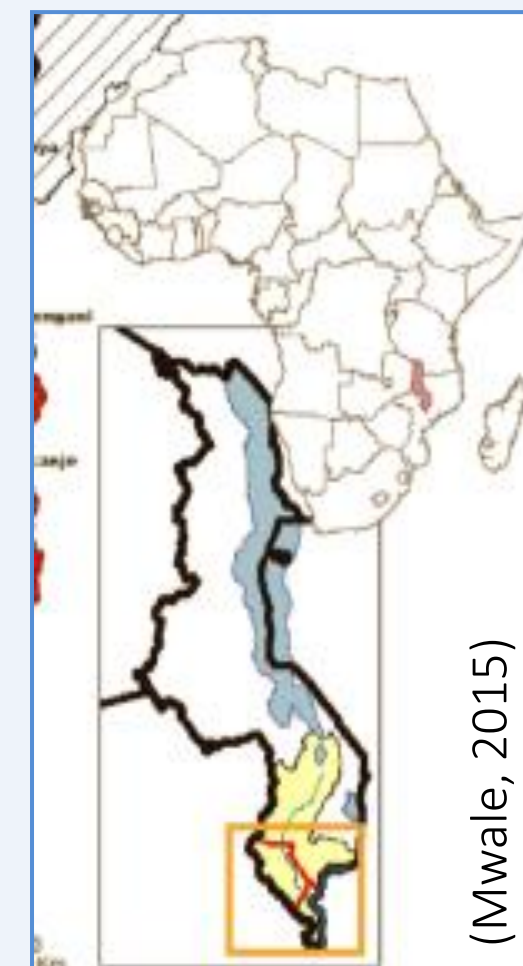
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1. Introduction

- Idea of community- based flood risk management (CB-FRM): communities most impacted but also biggest beneficiaries of risk reduction
- Shift: from “command and control” to “people-centred”
- Flooding as an annual episode in Malawi
- PhD aim: develop stakeholder’s guidelines for the improvement of existing CB- FRM**
- Poster: overview of a scoping visit to the Lower Shire Valley in Malawi in April 2016

2. Lower Shire Valley context



- Chikwawa and Nsanje districts in Southern Malawi
- Most flood prone, affected and vulnerable areas
- Livelihoods dependant on rain- fed agriculture
- Negative link between flooding and food security
- Range of impacts

3. Field work: focus group discussions



- Communities (x7)
- NGOs (x2)
- Local government (x2)

- ‘NGOs dance to the tunes of donors’* NGO member
- ‘Nobody owns the river’* NGO member
- ‘When the project is phased out... That’s when participation ends’* local government representative
- ‘Lack of our involvement means lack of indigenous knowledge’* local village member

6. Lessons

- High awareness of vulnerability and range of coping mechanisms
- Empowerment for sustainability
- Decentralized governance system needs improvement
- Accountability and reporting mechanisms not adequate
- Local knowledge is a valuable, currently largely untapped source for CB- FRM
- Still areas affected by hazards that are not beneficiaries of projects

Based on the initial findings, PhD research will try to **understand how integration of local knowledge in current practice can contribute to sustainability of projects and inform DRM planning.**



5. Challenges for community – based FRM

Ownership	Coordination	Capacity
Power relations	Accountability	Participation
Sustainability	Funding	Transparency
Cooperation	Dependency	Quality

4. Field work: site visits



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* All photos are author’s own taken during a field trip in April 2016