



Climate refugees in the city of Mutare, Zimbabwe

An agenda setting research

August 2019

Author:

Dr. Dick Ranga

Department of Development Studies, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences

Zimbabwe Open University, Manicaland Regional Campus, Mutare

E-mail: rangadic@yahoo.com

Commissioned by:

City Link Haarlem Mutare

Lange Herenest 122

2011 BX Haarlem, Netherlands

This project was made possible by a grant from the programme Frame, Voice, Report!, funded by the European Union.



10-19 September 2019



Vanavond
Klimaat debat 0
Zuidelijk Afrika
vs
Nederland
20:00 uur
€ 3,- / 1,50

27-2-2019 Climate Debate Pletterij

Agenda

- Introduction (Jaap Tielbeke)
 - Introduction of this evening's subject and speakers
- Presentations by the first 3 speakers:
 - Andrew Mambondiyani
 - Marnix de Bruyne
 - Niko Wanders
- Discussion

Intermission

- Presentation by Maurits Groen
- Discussion



Ver weg en toch dichtbij



Stedenband Haarlem-Mutare:
25 jaar verbinding Haarlemmers
en Mutarezen

- Twee werelden, ver weg en toch dichtbij
- Samen werken aan de duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelen
- Global Goals vertalen in concrete lokale projecten voor onze burgers

Topics 2019

- Duurzaam Haarlem in Wereldperspectief (Haarlemmers bewust maken van de Global Goals)
- Serious Gaming for a better Europe (Gameconcept voor middelbaar onderwijs)

FRAME
VOICE
REPORT II



This project is funded by the European Union









3. Research questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- (a) How does precipitation develop in Southern Africa and in particular around the eastern part of it?
- (b) How often were there periods of extreme droughts and is the frequency of these droughts increasing or decreasing?
- (c) Are there demographic developments about migration from dry parts to moister parts?
- (d) Is this recognized as a problem by governments?
- (e) Are there methods to respond to these developments via climate adaptation?



Typical landscape in Manicaland Province

Methodology

- Qualitative approach
- Purposive sampling of villages
- Face to face interviews with villagers
- Key informant interviews with government officials
- Major limitation: sensitive topic

Study area

- Burma valley: 50 kilometers east of Mutare on the border with Mozambique
 - Three villages: Kaswa, Manyere and Greendale
- Mupudzi resettlement area: 50 kilometers south of Mutare

Both areas are fertile valleys in mountainous areas, with relatively high precipitation



Research findings: development of climate

- Increased frequency and intensity of droughts
- Severe droughts in 1993/94, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2011/12, 2015/16 and 2018/19
- Relatively high rise in temperature
- Far reaching consequences for water supply, food production, livestock and electricity production
- During the latests drought 4.1 million people were left food insecure
- Extreme rainfall and cyclones causing flooding, Idai most recently

Research findings: demographic development

- Most refugees come from the drier parts of Manicaland Province, of which Mutare is the capital
- Reasons for migrating: fertile soils, better prospects for farming, overpopulation, finding a home
- Most refugees are in their thirties, starting their own families

Research findings: impacts of migration

Environmental impacts

- Deforestation
- Veld fires
- Soil erosion and the siltation of rivers as a results of bad farming practices
- Overexploitation of natural resources

Social impacts

- Conflicts between refugees and legal settlers



Research findings: government's position

- The government see it as a problem
- They wants to evict the refugees
- They need an alternative place for the refugees.
- They want to do a land audit first
- Government conducted workshops on climate change adaptation
- Government want to develop a law on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would also address issues of climate adaptation

Adaptation measures

- Programme implemented in most communal areas known as ‘Dhiga Ugute’ (Dig and harvest enough).
- Providing with hoes and seeds for drought resistant crops such as sorghum,
- Irrigation schemes as a drought mitigation strategy
- Teaches people about the agrochemicals that have been banned due to their contribution to climate change



Based on the study it is recommended that:

- a) The government should step up its efforts regarding climate change adaptation.
- b) The government should also expand drought mitigation strategies, for example by developing irrigation schemes in dry areas.
- c) The government should prioritize the development of irrigation schemes before or immediately after resettling the refugees back in the dry areas where they came from.
- d) The resettling of the refugees should not only involve those in illegal settlements, but also those whose relatives in moister areas parcelled land to them or those resettled by Headmen in controversial areas.
- e) Politics should not interfere with education on climate change adaptation by agricultural extension workers.
- f) The legal occupants of areas invaded by environmental refugees should quickly seek legal means of evicting them instead of resorting to violent means. This would help deter other potential environmental refugees from invading the same area.



This project is funded by the European Union