**OL 332 Assignment One**

**Examples Of Water-Related Information Discovered In The Initial Community PCVA Assessment**

**Online Learning: OL 332 Water Conservation & Management**

**Center for Sustainable Development.** <https://csd-i.org/ol-332-water-conservation-management/>

**Examples of water-related information that might be discovered in the initial community PCVA assessment.**

Many of you did participatory assessments in 343 or 344. They covered a wide range of topics such as agriculture, water, hazards from a changing climate, and disaster risk reduction. We need to revisit this in Assignment Two of 332. We're going to try and discover the specific water-related challenges that your communities face and what can we do to reduce risk.

Or, it's conceivable that you already did this in one of your participatory assessments. If that's the case that you don't need to go through the whole workshop lesson plan and assessment again.

It's also possible that in your participatory assessment with the community you uncovered 75% of what you need for this assignment. If that's the case then you might be able to have a small meeting with a few representative people to gather the information about the last 25%.

It is likely that you will not need to make any changes to the water conservation and management component of your original project outline. In fact it would be best if you didn't change your project—but simply make the definitions of the challenges more highly specific.

If you didn't do a participatory assessment (this could include participatory mapping, a seasonal calendar, a historical timeline, and a vulnerability assessment) then this week and next week will be perfect for you to accomplish that.

What we're hoping to do in these two assignments is to identify and then prioritize the greatest challenges that these community members face that are reducing their access to, conservation of, and management of water on a community level. From this prioritized list we will then begin looking at potential solutions specific to your community's context. Then over the next six assignments we will explore different techniques and activities so that you will be better prepared for fine-tuning the solutions that you uncover.

Here is a range of water related challenges that community members face arranged in a loose matrix. Loose, because on the one hand it's difficult to determine where to put some of the challenges, and on the other hand they could go in several of the sections—but I didn't want to be repetitive. I'm not expecting you to analyze your community's context for each and every one of these items—these are just background ideas that will increase your awareness of things that you might discover.

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| **Examples of water related challenges** |
| **Seasonal Calendar**   * the rainy season * the dry season * periods of drought * extreme weather events; flooding * important livelihood activities * periods of hunger * planting and harvesting |
| **Hazard Map**  **Typical Hazards may include:**   * extreme weather events such as hurricanes or cyclones * drought/heat waves * heavy rainfall * landslides * heavy snowfall -- freezing temperatures * windstorms * lack of water * shortage of food at specific times of the year * flooding * change in the timing of the rainy season/growing season * health issues/disease/epidemics |
| **Historical Timeline can include:**  Hurricanes, droughts, health challenges, famines or floods   * beginning 20 years ago rainfall began decreasing; by how much? * beginning 20 years ago, the rainy/growing season changed; it’s shorter now—or it starts later. * beginning 20 years ago, storms have increased and there is flooding now when there didn’t used to be flooding. * beginning 20 years ago, we've had to walk progressively further to get water. How much further? |
| **Livelihood assets and resources impacted by water related challenges may include:**   * income generation from agriculture * crop land * livestock * irrigation systems * health * food reserves/food security * environmental resources such as forests and water * homes and livelihood tools and structures * schools, community buildings, hospitals, bridges * businesses |
| * Are the challenges concentrated in one time period or season? * Are there time periods in the year which are the most difficult for community members and their livelihood assets? * Are the challenges concentrated in one area of the community? * What negative impacts will the challenges have on community members and their assets and resources? * Who in the community is the most at risk from the hazards? * Are there safe places in the neighborhood where community members can shelter from floods? * What are the community members’ current coping strategies for dealing with these difficult events? * Capacity building: Which of the difficult events are they having trouble coping with due to a lack of strategies |

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