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Volta Storylines and scenarios: A mouthpiece for interventions that enhance livelihoods

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Session: Learning to Innovate

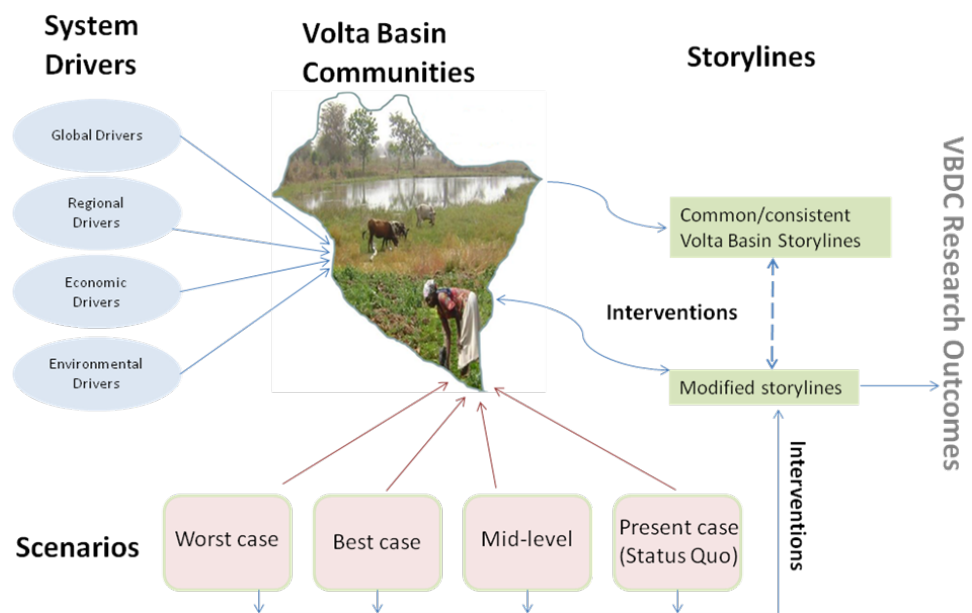
Key Message

We hypothesize that Volta storylines and scenarios identify interventions that stand-out from past and present research and serve as a collective mouthpiece that facilitates interventions and better communication of research findings to enhance resilience and livelihoods of target groups.

Summary

Volta storylines and scenarios capture observed changes in the basin, their implications for human well-being then provide a recipe for realistic interventions that enhance livelihoods. This effort relies on scenarios analysis using both qualitative (semi-structured interviews) and quantitative (bio-physical data) analyses with multi-disciplinary tools, then map out existent conditions at various scales. Collectively, the Volta storylines-scenarios will explore challenges, trade-offs and identify opportunities from previous and on-going case studies to yield a set of compelling and consistent storylines. Although this initiative does not suggest that an optimal path will be prescribed, it will realistically illuminate and

capture relevant drivers and interventions that stand-out at multiple scales. Storylines and scenarios will offer an amplified message that enhances communication of on-going efforts from interventions carried out within the context of the VBDC research. A practical example is: “Increase in population within the basin is placing increasing pressure on limited natural resources that are in turn degrading e.g water quantity and quality. The returns from fisheries in reservoirs and out-of-season vegetable production using supplemental irrigation from the reservoirs promises income increases. The modest rise in incomes allows various farmers to experiment with more resource-conserving agricultural practices such as soil and water conservation practices that reduce pressure on resources, partly counteracting the effect of rising populations. Other secondary benefits ensue from these practices and enhance environmental security through reduced degradation and depletion of water resources as well as increasing food security at household, community and regional levels”. This will serve as a tool for building understanding in support of decisions that target pathways to transformation of livelihoods. Results from this research could be used as a decision support tool for policy makers and researchers to communicate findings to target groups in a manner that promotes easy uptake and sustainable implementation of interventions that enhance livelihoods.



CONCEPTUAL ILLUSTRATION FOR VOLTA STORYLINES AND SCENARIOS

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CAPTION: IN THE FIGURE ABOVE, THE VOLTA BASIN IS SUBJECTED TO VARIOUS DRIVERS AND OFFERS DIVERSE LIVELIHOOD CHALLENGES, THERE LIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE CONSISTENT STORYLINES ACROSS THE VBDC PROJECTS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THE PROJECTS CAN FORMULATE THEIR SPECIFIC SCENARIOS AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE VBDC CHALLENGE (FIG.1). THE DESIRED INTERVENTIONS SUCH AS GOOD PRACTICES AND ACTION RESEARCH RESULT IN “MODIFIED STORYLINES” WHICH TRANSLATE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE VBDC RESEARCH OUTCOMES AS SHOWN IN THE FIGURE.