



The Case of Eucerus in Tumerington

An Anticipatory Action exercise with a context of
conflict, displacement, & climate change



Climate
Centre



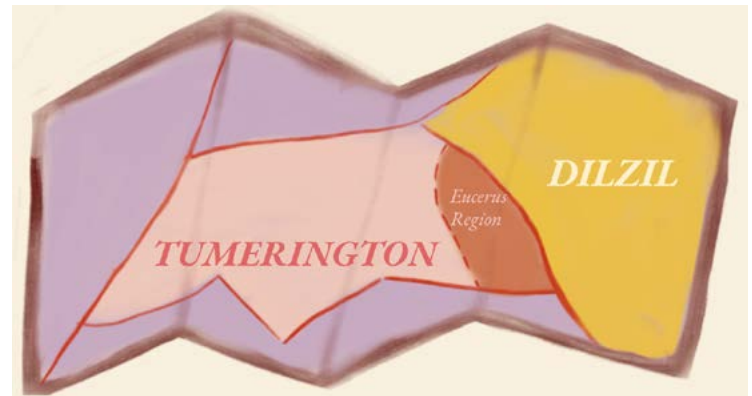
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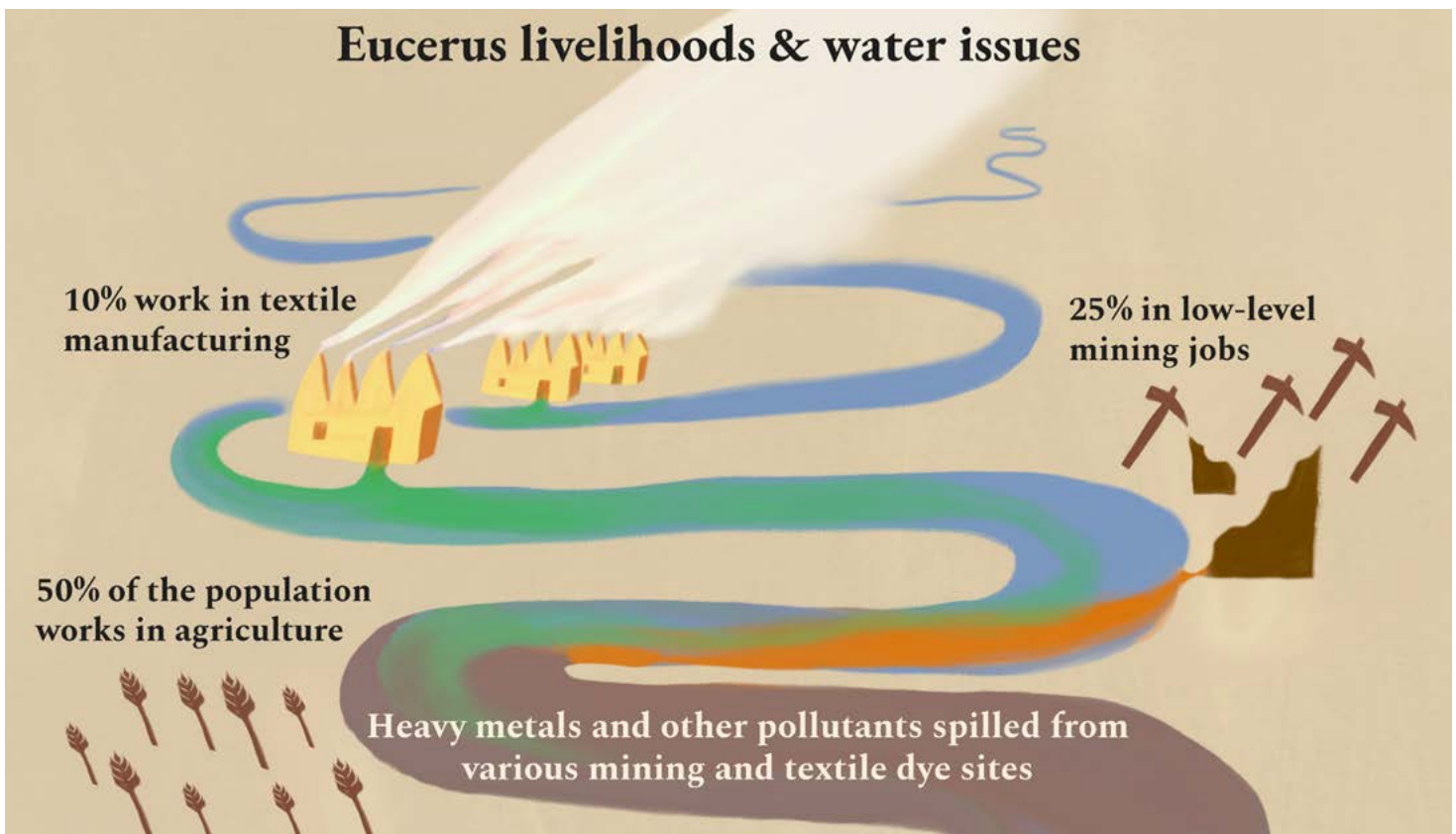
Anticipation
Hub

The case context

Tumerington became an independent state in 1958 with a current population of 14 million. During the following years, the country's economy developed, partly because the Tumerian government has been taking steps to increase the country's capacity as a service provider for the financial sector. This is in stark contrast to Eucerus, the other economic growth engine for Tumerington, where most work is low wage and physically and environmentally intensive.



The main river in the Eucerus region, has shown presence of heavy metals and other pollutants spilled from the various mining and textile dye sites. While there is no concrete evidence, it is assumed this has an impact on agriculture as many farmers source their water from this river. Despite a prospering national economy, the people of Eucerus have seen little revenues benefiting their region. This has also led to deteriorated flood-management systems along the Tulusino river and other flood prone areas, water reservoirs and water treatment infrastructure, due to insufficient maintenance and investment by the central government.



In 1975, in a context of limited access to education, poverty and food insecurity, little investments in public infrastructure and a highly centralized government, the Eucerian Freedom Fighters (EFF) were founded, fighting against what they see as an oppressive government. The Tumerian Armed Forces (TAF) have engaged in a military campaign against the EFF.

Despite frequent and violent clashes, neither side has made significant progress over the years, leading to a protracted non-international armed conflict. Tensions have made it unsafe for many farmers to tend to their crops as they are often caught up in crossfire and in the key conflict corridor, fueling displacement.

While there is some EFF presence all over Eucerus, they control mostly the east of the region, where mountains offer good protection, and towards the north where fighters can cross the border to neighboring Dilzil where they find safe refuge.

Poor representation of Eucerus in the central government has led to protests mobilising large numbers of grassroots movements; commonly understood to be organized by the EFF.

In terms of climate hazards, floods are the most common and increasingly damaging disasters in Tumerington. Across the whole of Tumerington there are 12 river basins (including the Eucerus river basin).

There is an existing anticipatory action plan that focuses on riverine flooding in Tumerington. Floods are prioritized for AA because of the good forecasting potential and the high impacts in the country: over 2 million people are at risk of riverine floods in Tumerington.

Heavy rainfalls result in rivers overflowing their natural banks and inundating normally dry land, most commonly in late spring and summer. In recent years, flooding events have increased in frequency and intensity in Tumerington, particularly affecting Eucerus, due to climate change.

The anticipatory action plan for riverine floods in Tumerington currently covers/focuses on 4 basins close to the capital of Tumerington (not the Eucerus river basin). The plan will be activated with a lead time of 5 days. There are country-pooled funds available to finance early actions. While the activation mechanism is national, each river basin has their own decision-making structure and implementation procedures based on the local governance systems.

The Eucerus region is currently not covered under the anticipatory action system due to the instability in the region. However, the government and humanitarian community agree that it is imperative to also include the Eucerus river basin in the plan.

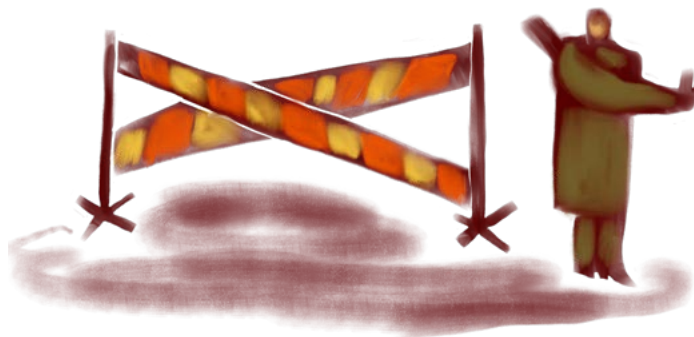
The challenge you now have, is to explore how the existing anticipatory action plan can be adapted for Eucerus. There is the opportunity to use the same trigger and access the national AA funds, but the operating procedures and early actions will need to be tailored to the Eucerian context.



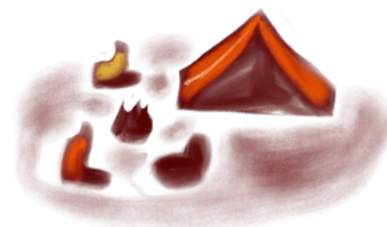
Humanitarian situation ~ conflict and floods

Protection

While there is support for the EFF among Eucerians, there are allegations of movement restrictions imposed on civilians, disappearances and extra-judicial executions, child recruitment and regular additional “tax” collection. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) allegations have become more frequent recently, allegedly due to the strains flooding exert on the EFF themselves. IHL allegations include recruitment of children in shelters set up for people displaced by flooding. The EFF have further been known to prevent people from accessing the displacement camp, as the TAF indicate this is used by the EFF to escape detention. This limitation has led to small settlements of displaced families who can neither return home nor continue to the camp. In the past some local NGOs have tried to assist these settlements; however, allegations were made about the EFF taking at least half of the aid provided. However, these allegations have not been verified. The main camp outside of Momoal has had issues with basic needs for existing, and new arrivals where shelter, food, WASH and hygiene issues systems are poor. The continued education of children in the camps have also been compromised by poor facilities and insufficient teachers, many of whom are volunteers.



Due to the nature of the conflict, the relationship between Eucerians and the TAF has always been tense. Reports show allegations of arbitrary detentions and damage to civilian infrastructure. In addition, some years back, the military tried to boost its troops' effectiveness, offering a bonus for captured or killed EFF fighters. This campaign led to the alleged disguising of civilians as EFF members by TAF soldiers to cash in on premiums. The TAF has recognized the shortcomings of this policy and is working on alternatives; however, it is not clear if the practice continues or not.



The government has set up a social protection office in Momoal, the regional capital of Eucerus, but it's hard to reach for people living far away from the city. Equally, government staff can't get to deep rural areas due to the security situation. Humanitarians in some cases have more access. Additionally, displaced families are yet to be factored into the system.

Weapon contamination

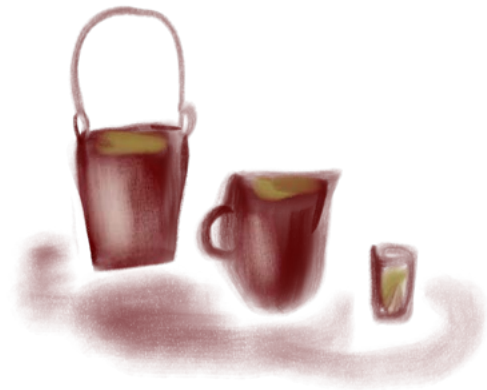
Outdated ammunition use by the EFF and cluster bombs by the TAF have caused a severe weapon contamination issue in the Eucerus, with civilians coming in contact with unexploded ordnances every week. This is particularly the case in rural areas, where flooding has covered and moved unexploded ordnances and may do so again in the future.



The contamination interferes with the whole of society in many ways. It has restricted movements and access to essential services. The contamination has meant that farmland can no longer be used to provide food for the family. Families whose farmland has been affected by weapon contamination and subsequent floods have been forced to look for new, safe land. More often than not, the possibility of doing so is limited, hence the population takes risks by farming contaminated land. This in turn leads to injured or killed breadwinners and further pushes families into poverty. This has had physical and psychological impacts on the lives of communities who are continuously impacted by living their lives within a reality of explosive hazards.

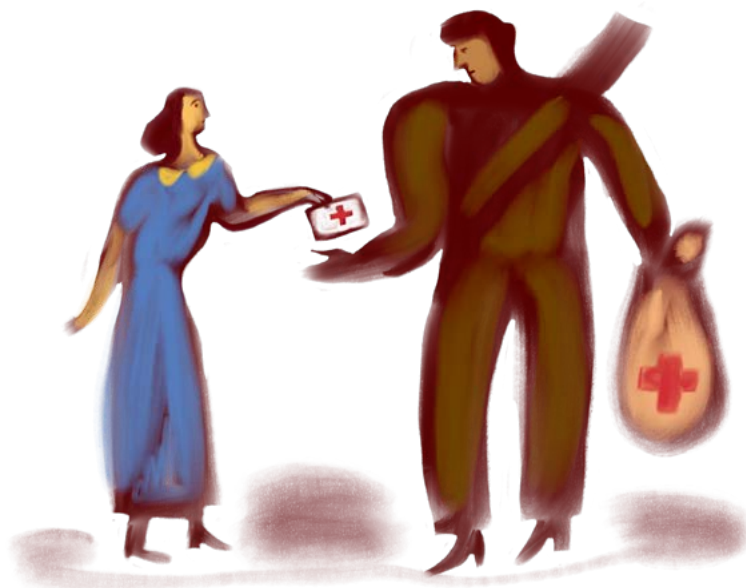
WASH and Food Security

Low-income neighbourhoods in Momoal only receive up to one hour of water per day. Frequent loss of crops, damaged to business and interrupted transportation routes has further increased food insecurity in Eucerus in recent years. Some families report their children joining the EFF to have regular meals and some income, while others report having to share their already depleted food supplies with armed actors requesting food. With families also being displaced, less farmers are cultivating the key cereal crops, resulting in price increases and low availability across Eucerus.



Health services

Local organisations have reported health workers being forced to provide armed actors with medical supplies and care. In particular, during periods of flooding, parties to the conflict request medicine and treatment for waterborne diseases to be provided outside of established medical facilities, often against the will of medical staff.



Game instructions

Task

You are on an anticipatory action committee in a specific role (more on that below). Your task, along with the rest of the committee, is to come up with an adapted plan focused on the Eucerus region. The committee can benefit from the Early Action Protocol in Tumerington, by way of access to funds from the country-pooled funds. You have a lead time of 5 days during which you can take action.

Together with other committee members you will:

- Consider what key challenges you can expect.
- Identify what approaches should you take into consideration in this conflict, displaced person, and environmentally compromised setting.
- Determine actions that are beneficial for the Eucerus region.

Game steps:

1. Groups choose a Committee Chair (description below).
2. Distribute the committee roles (descriptions below).
3. Discuss: what kind of actions and procedures will you prioritize in Eucerus?
4. Capture the adapted plan in the Early Action Protocol.
5. Discuss outcomes altogether.

