

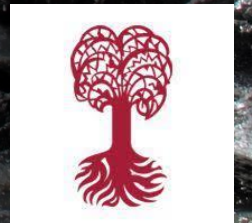


‘A water journey: From glaciers to rivers and lakes through storytelling’- Learnings from an online transdisciplinary course

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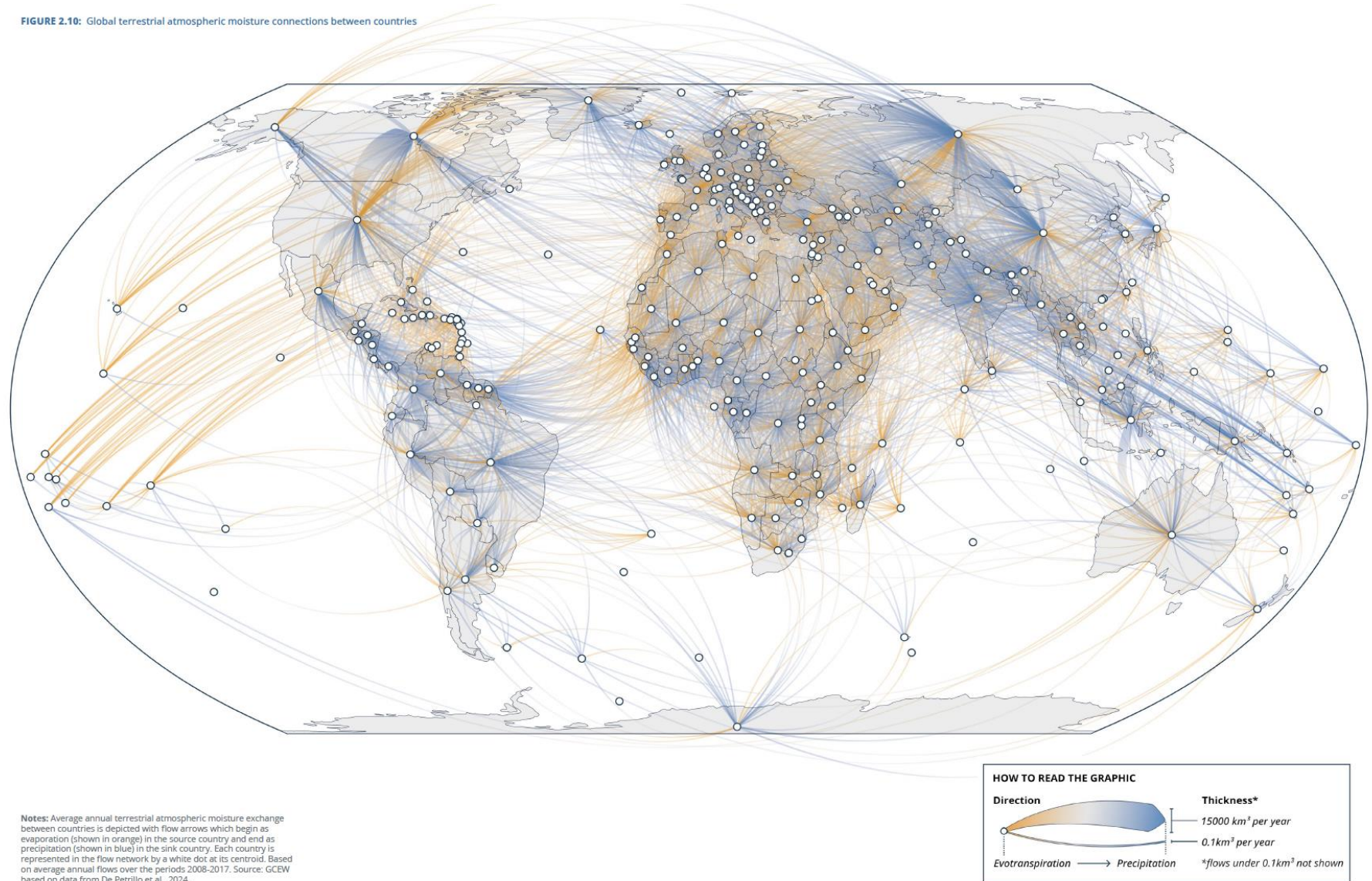




Why water?

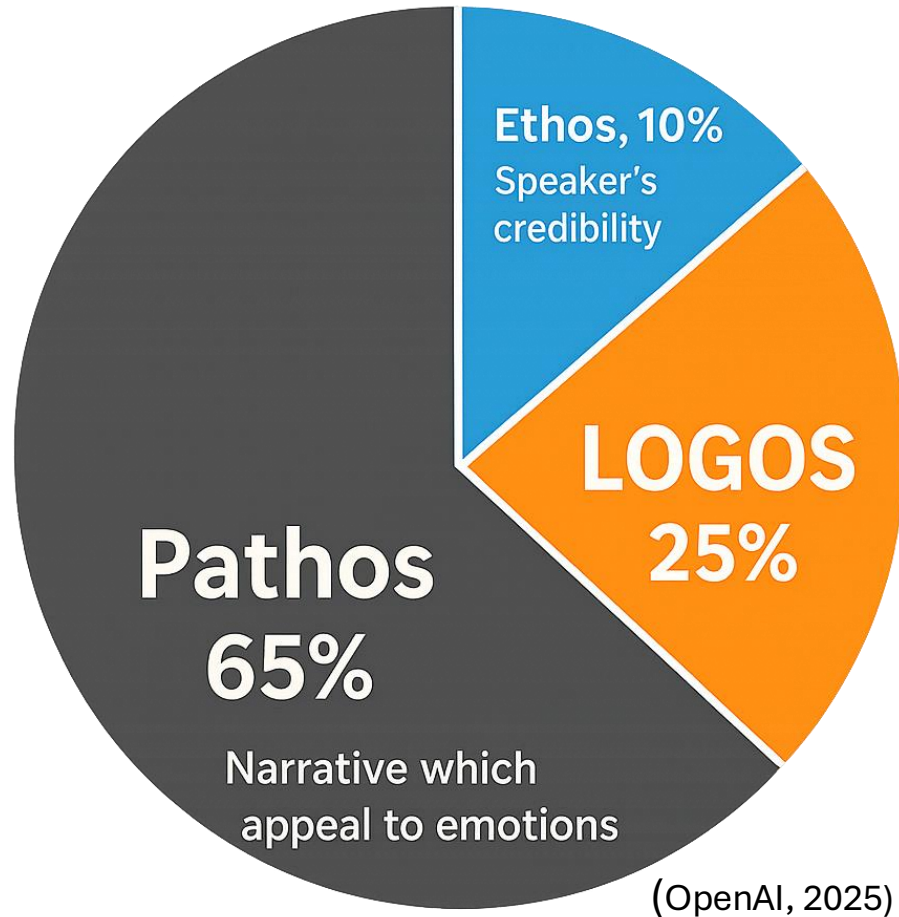
Global connections of Evapotranspiration and Precipitation

FIGURE 2.10: Global terrestrial atmospheric moisture connections between countries



Source: Global Commission on the Economics of Water. (2023)

Why storytelling?



Storytelling can humanize global challenges

Aristotle's components of persuasion

Course Information

Global Awareness Education

Transdisciplinary Course Program and Career Service

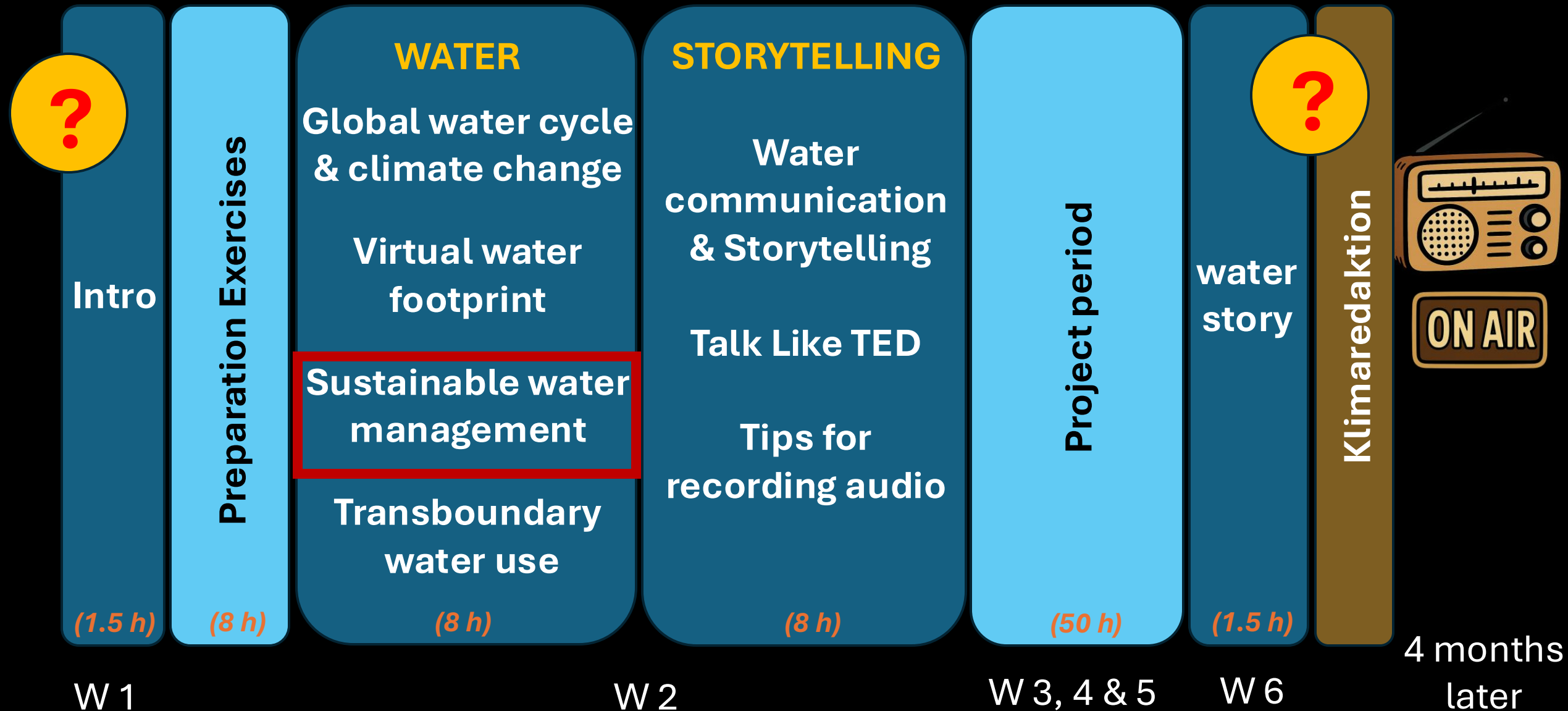


- piloted in 2024
- 3-credit online block course
- 11 students from all disciplines from University of Tübingen & CIVIS Network
- In collaboration with the *Center for Media Competence*

Learning objectives

1. **Recognize** water challenges and solutions at local and global scales
2. **Explore** human-environment interactions using water case studies
3. **Examine** different approaches for effective water communication
4. **Apply** gained knowledge to create an environmental communication product

Course structure



Activity example: 'Integrated water management' role play



Exercise objective:
**Recognize the complexity
of transboundary river
management challenges
and solutions**

Activity example: Examine 3 different stories

ETERNAL WINTER

Lessons of the Aral Sea disaster

By Tom Bissell

This procedure and this form of execution, which you now have the opportunity of admiring, have at present no open supporters left in our colony. I am their sole defender, and at the same time the sole defender of the legacy of our former commandant. I can no longer contemplate any further development of the system; all my energy is consumed in preserving what we have.
—Franz Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"


The day I landed in Nukus, 150 miles south of the Aral Sea, the sky above the city lacked clouds because the day lacked the moisture to provide them. Behind me our plane's engine ticked in the sunshine, its propellers just stilled. The flight in, on an elderly Aeroflot propjet known as the Yak-40, was all pitches and yaws, as I had been warned it would be. Foreknowledge had not helped.

Inside the terminal: sparrows. The first seemed as freakish as a deer wandering the aisles of a suburban grocery store. But another followed it. Then three, four, as fast as little jets. Five, six. I stopped counting. They darted across the large, spring-bright terminal and lifted toward the ceiling, vanishing between girders, muscling into fissures. No one seemed to notice.

A young man named Manas was supposed to pick me up at the airport. I waited alone outside for ten minutes, only a little concerned, before he finally arrived. He was not late, I soon realized. Flights into Nukus were irregular and unreliable. Many were canceled due to fuel shortages. Manas worked across town, and only when he looked up and saw a plane landing did he bother to make his way to the airport. Manas was a Karakalpak, a member of one of Central Asia's least populous peoples. For 500 years the Karakalpaks have lived as nomads and fishermen along the Aral Sea, in what is now known as Karakalpakistan, a nominally autonomous republic of Uzbekistan. It is a place of almost unimaginable misfortune. Forty years ago the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland body of water in the world, its area larger than that of Lake Michigan. Today it has shrunk to a fraction of its previous size and is perhaps the single largest man-made ecological catastrophe in history.

The Karakalpaks are nomads with nowhere to go, fishermen with nothing to catch.

The flat khaki-colored buildings beyond the airport's front gate provided little sense of the




Tom Bissell's last article for Harper's Magazine, "All Is Vanity," appeared in the December 2000 issue. He is at work on a travel narrative about his journeys in Central Asia, to be published by Pantheon next year.

Magazine article

global oneness project

Stories and lessons for growing minds



Climate change (i)

United Nations • Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

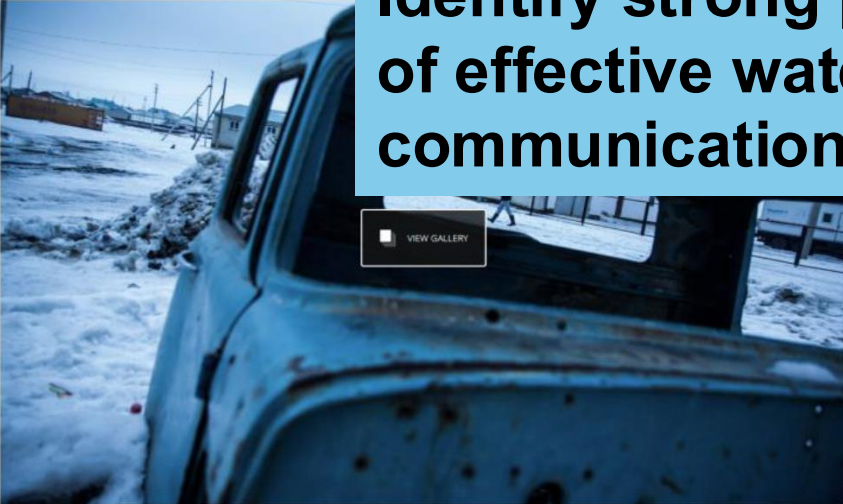
Full Documentary: "Aral. The lost sea" by Isabel Coixet | We Are Water Foundation

documentary

Exercise objective:
Identify strong points
of effective water
communication

global oneness project

Stories and lessons for growing minds



VIEW GALLERY

PHOTO ESSAY

The Aral Sea

by Taylor Weidman

photo essay

Final Radioshow

Water Stories Radioshow (1h):

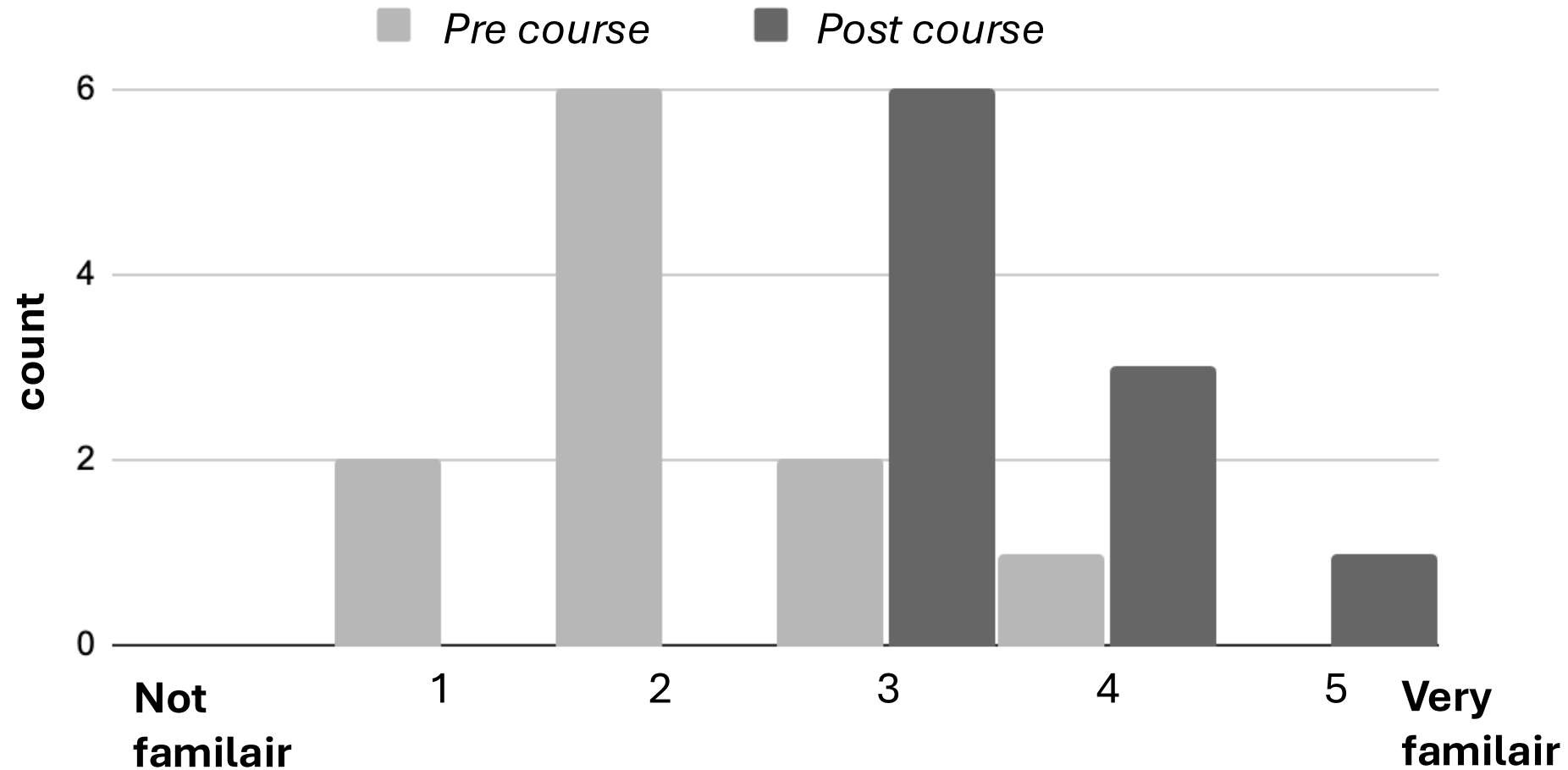


<https://publikationen.uni-tuebingen.de/xmlui/handle/10900/164252>

Link to Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3Vf9vzHsic>

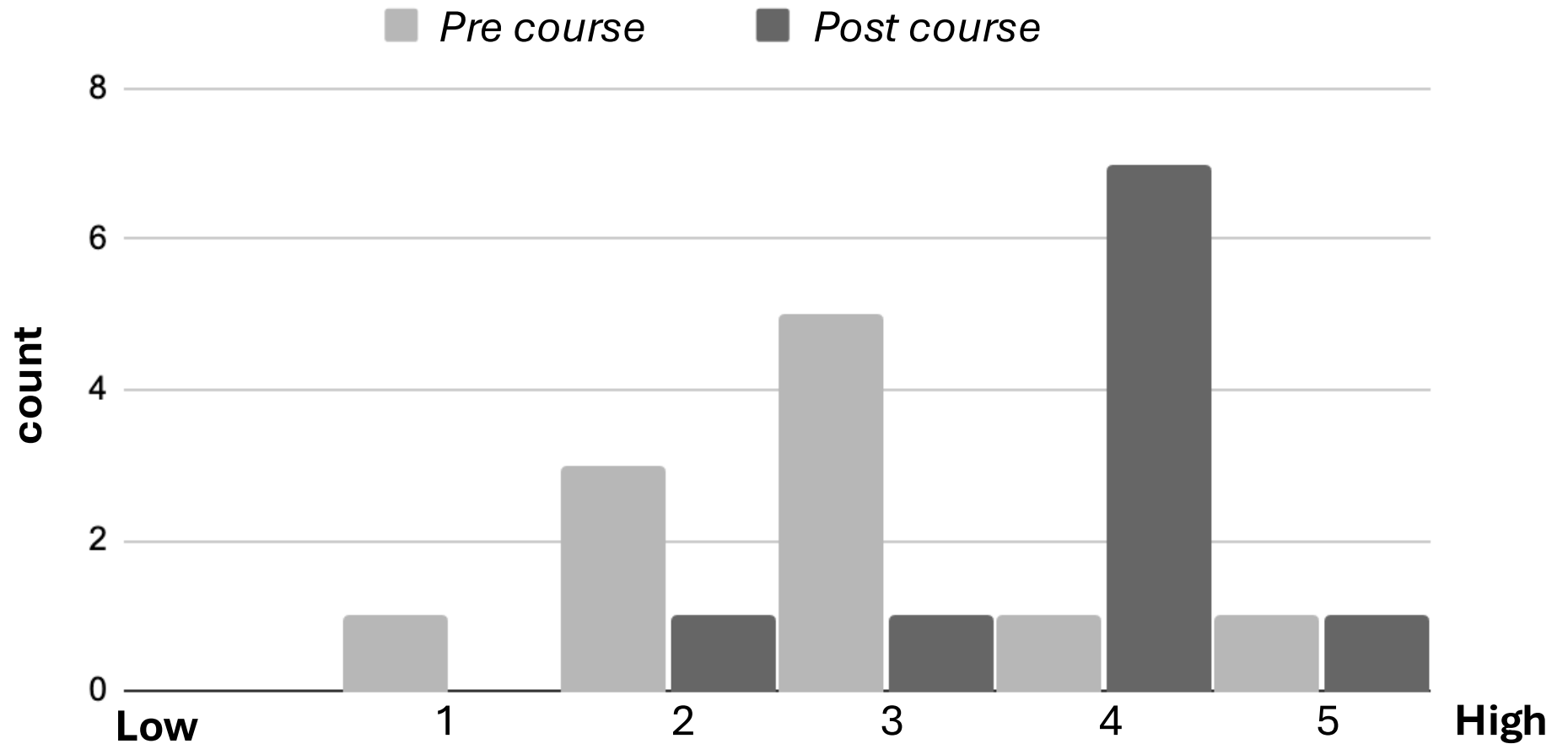
Familiarity with strategies for addressing water challenges

Course objective:
Recognize and discuss water challenges and solutions at local and global scales



Rate your storytelling skills

Course objective:
Apply gained
knowledge to
create an
environmental
communication
product



Challenges & way forward

- Content integration (water & storytelling)
- Effective communication of facts in stories (by students)
- achieving radio-quality production standards —possible thanks to media collaboration

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