

Subject: wetlands kenya
Date: Wed, 8 Dec 1999 18:05:50 +0100
From: "Wilfrid&Hanita" <wilfrid.hanita@introweb.nl>
To: "GC Mutiso" <muticon@nbnet.co.ke>

Mr. Wilfrid Hertog MSc
Agromisa Wageningen,
Netherlands

Attn:
Muticon Ltd.
Prof. G.C. M. Mutiso
Kenya

Date: 8 december 1999

Dear Prof. Mutiso,

I hope all is well and that you have received our E mail in which I invite you to send us some more information and details concerning the sub-surface dams and constructed wetlands. I would like to add a question concerning the wetlands. How will the human waste in the small rural towns you speak of be gathered and transported to a constructed wetland? What is the current situation with regards to waste disposal and what are feasible possibilities in collecting and transporting this waste? Fortunately I do not only have questions, I have in the meanwhile been able to find some relevant information concerning the constructed wetlands. I have searched our library and the University library for recent literature on the subject "constructed wetlands". I have also spoken to people dealing with this subject in the Netherlands. There appears to be a lot concerning wetlands in Europe and America but considerably less concerning tropical countries and climates. One particular publication by Mr. Patrick Denny is the only one that deals explicitly with developing countries. As it gives an overview of the subject I have decided to include it entirely as an annex to this letter. Mr. Patrick Denny is working in the Netherlands but unfortunately had left to Uganda the day before I called him at his office at the "International Institute for Infrastructural Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering", forthwith IHE institute. However, I was able to speak to a direct colleague of his, Mr. Hans van Bruggen, who supplied me with some information that seemed very interesting and pertinent to your case. He spoke of existing and working wetlands in Kenya and gave me the following information. Apparently there is a famous restaurant in Nairobi called "Carnivore" that has a working wetland. At the nearby swimming pool called "Splash" ask for a Mrs. Dee Raymer. Besides Carnivore she also knows about wetlands used in gameparks. There is also a Mrs. Niankang'o working at KIRDI office in Nairobi who has done research at the Splash wetland. I sincerely hope and believe that with the help of these people you will gather a lot of important information concerning at least the technical aspects of wetland -construction and use in Kenya. May I suggest that you contact these people and with their help try to obtain a basic idea of possibilities and of course impossibilities. I expect that you will then be able to define more accurately any remaining problems. Agromisa will be happy to answer any further questions you have in this matter if it is within our power to do so. Of course I will continue with the other questions in your original E-mail, but I do hope receiving the additional information. Again there seems to be little information on subsurface tanks available, but this depends very much on the definition of sub-surface tanks. Not surprisingly the question of financial aid is the most difficult to answer. As a general suggestion I would advise you to visit the Dutch Embassy and ask them the possibilities of financing projects in Kenya. They may also be able to supply addresses of other Dutch or European institutions. I will of course search here too. In the article by Patrick Denny, a wetland project in Uganda is mentioned. It is financed by RIZA institute in the Netherlands and I asked Hans van Bruggen about this. He told me that this was an exceptional case. In that year the RIZA institute had its fiftieth or seventy-fifth birthday and for this reason apparently was prepared to co-finance the IHE project in Uganda. Of course I can only look for addresses of possible financing institutions, for something more concrete, a detailed project proposal is an absolute requirement. Perhaps in your contact with the people at Carnivore Nairobi enough information may eventually become available for such a proposal. I would be very grateful if you would be so kind as to give some more information on your person. It is difficult for me to judge the knowledge you already have on the subject of water treatment or water supply. It will allow me to select or adjust the nature of the information I can find on the subjects you ask for. There are quite some scientific publications for instance on the nitrogen removal by wetlands under such and such circumstances. These can generally only be understood with sufficient prior knowledge of the subject. I sincerely hope that I have been helpful with the above information. I will continue my research but am also waiting for the additional information asked for in this letter and in my first E -mail.

Yours faithfully,
Wilfrid Hertog MSc
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P.S. This letter will be sent as an e-mail and as a letter with appendixes. Please send us you're your postal address - by email - as soon as possible, I have not found it in your email.