

Her Excellency
The Ambassador of The Netherlands
Mrs Tanja van Gool
P. O. Box 41537
Nairobi

Excellency

Re: Invitation for a Field Visit to the Kitui Sand Dams

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Sahelian Solutions (SASOL) Foundation, we have the pleasure to invite you for a one-day field visit to a few of the sand dams in Kitui to observe for yourself the amazing impact these simple structures have made on the socio-economical living conditions of the local population. Up till now we have constructed more than 400 dams and have made water accessible to a population of close to 200,000. Most of the work was done by the local population itself, in particular by the women, who provided building materials and labour. Sasol, assisted by overseas funding, provided cement and skilled artisans.

We are very proud that recently we have been given the 'International Award for Best Practice' by UN-Habitat and Dubai Municipality, quoting not only the significant impact on the livelihood of the population but also on the environmental conditions in the catchment.

We would be greatly honoured if you could possibly spend one day in the field with us. Any day in early July would be convenient to us. Kitui is at about 2 hrs driving distance from Nairobi, it means that when leaving Nairobi at 8 am, the site can be reached by about 10 am. About 4 to 5 hours can be spent on site, after which Nairobi can safely be reached before dark.

At the site we suggest you could see 2 or 3 dams and have also discussions with representatives of the local community groups, who did most of job, and who also benefited from their labours.

We would be greatly honoured if you could possibly come to visit us in Kitui and look forward receiving you.

Yours sincerely

Prof C-M Mutiso
Chairman