

Dr H. Sosovele
Prof E.K. Shishira
Peter Westerveld
Maartje Van Westerop

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Hallo to the REAL colleagues of WP4,

I address this letter to the colleagues I met during the start-up workshop and to Dr Sosovele as I noticed that he led the communications regarding the report of the field visit of December 2002 and the preparations for the August 2003 meeting.

It is a pleasure for me to take contact with you all and to get started on organizing our collaboration in the REAL project.

I just sent a letter to our project managers TU Delft (Maurits and Theresia) and I do include a copy of this letter, as to enable you to follow a discussion on the time input of Protos

- regarding the distribution over the 3 years of the project
- regarding its contribution to the WP 2 and 3 and therefore of influence in planning field missions

As I understood from the report of the December visit, you insist that activities should be carried out in February, to take advantage of the dry spell. (I thought that the dry spell was up to March, but anyhow). If we want to organize a field trip in February, we have to decide quickly. I can get myself organized for field work in the coming weeks with exception of the weeks 10 and 11 (March 3 to 16), in which I have to be in Haiti.

Depending on the answer of TU Delft on how many days I can invest in this first field mission and if yes or no, we plan activities in the Kitui region, we can finalize period and content of the mission.

In the meanwhile, we can already start discussing content and methodology for the work to be done in the Tanzanian project area.

The objective of this first mission is “to evaluate existing organizational structures and ownership experiences on existing dams”. The results of this evaluation should give an input on the development of a community participation plan for the pilot project in Tanzania. This can be done in 4steps:

- 1) Evaluation of existing community structures and ownership performance in the project area (in the first place dams but maybe also other types of rural drinking water supply structures)
- 2) Stakeholder analysis to identify the actors that have to be involved in the project
- 3) Community assessment: appreciation of the interest and internal dynamics of the target group to collaborate in the dam building project. (By the way, has the

- decision of dam building site already been taken, has the target group been involved in the choice, do we know already who will be the beneficiaries??)
- 4) Suggestions to develop a community participation plan

Some comments on the different steps:

- 1) DeS should identify 3-5 communities within the spatial boundaries for the Tanzanian project area that do have the same physical and socio-organizational characteristics. Dr Sosovele mentioned already that several dams have been constructed in similar ecological areas as Kitendeni and for similar objectives, so it would be interesting to list them and to make a selection for evaluation of their performance. We could broaden the scope looking at different structures, not only dams but also other rural drinking water supply system. Another interesting study item (not that far outside the project area) would be the dam construction experience in the corridor between Tarangire National Park and the Lake Manyara National Park (the AWF experience).
- 2) We have to continue on the stakeholder analysis that has been included in the December visit report. The first list has to be analyzed; we have to verify if the list is complete, specify what every actor is doing, what are his strengths and opportunities to involve him in the pilot project, eventually related risks also. We could try to bring them together in a meeting (small workshop) in order to propose the project, to collect their suggestions, to see what they have to offer, what implications that could have...
- 3) We have to appreciate the interest and internal dynamics of the target group to collaborate in the dam construction. If the building site has been decided on, this can be done organizing another workshop with the people involved in which we will look at several elements such as social cohesion, management of common issues, management of water and water related problems, management of other common infrastructures, internal and external relations...

If the site has not yet been decided upon, we should try to go ahead with a pre selection of possible communities so as to evaluate their potential and facilitate the final decision moment. We should choose the possible sites based on a number of physical and social parameters that have to be defined first. We should define the physical parameters for a dam construction to be possible (TU Delft could give a hand in this work), the problems that a dam is supposed to solve, is a dam the very best and only solution? For the social parameters, a basic social study should be set up in order to define the social parameters that the dam is supposed to solve etc...

The pre selection has to be done before the mission can take place. (This can be a crucial point for the feasibility of the mission straight away)

- 4) Steps 1 to 3 will give elements (opportunities and threats) useful in developing the community participation plan.

Ideally, we should be able to link this WP to the Kitui experience and pick up interesting elements from there as well, which can be done if a first part of the mission can cover the appreciation of the community participatory approach in the Kitui region. As I mentioned earlier, I will await reaction of the REAL project coordination for this issue.

I hope these first reflections can open our discussion and practical organizing of the work.

Hoping to hearing from you soon, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

Anne Coutteel
PROTOS