

Dear Friends,

Here again an update of the progress made here in The Netherlands.

1. Hydrology Students

We had preparatory meeting with the two students: Sander de Haas and Lucas Borst together with Dr. Koos Groen and Prof. Pieter Stuyfzand. . From the side of the university there is green light to go ahead. Topics of research that are of interest to the VU/Students are:

- detailed water balance of 1 dam
- water balance of the Kindu Catchment
- water quality evaluation

I think that these topics fit with the Sasol priorities with regard to the hydrogeological evaluation.

The proposal is that they will come to Kitui by the end of June for a 2 week visit to make themselves familiar with the situation, to install divers and rain gauges and to collect existing studies and reports.

They will then return in September for a period of 3-4 month (interrupted by a one month holiday in Kenya). In this way they can extend their stay into the wet season (November).

Is this proposal ok to you?. Are you ready to have the students out for two weeks at the end of June?. We are still looking for additional funding. In case we do not secure this within the next 3 weeks we will have to postpone the first visit. I have applied funding from Aqua4 All, an NGO and the proposal also include some coordination cost for SASOL and Acacia.

Meanwhile we continue the preparations. They have made a long list of equipment and instruments of which we would like to know whether it is available in Nairobi/Kitui. Please indicate which items you can provide at your own cost and which item can be supplied if there is some funding.

- leveling instrument and beacons
- hand auger and 1,5 or 2" pvc pipes
- geological and topographical maps on scale 1:50,000 or less
- plastic sample bottles (0,10-0,5 l)
- pump (+ gen set) for pumping test or test pumping
- sieves (for standard sieve analysis); Hooghoud
- simple rainwater collection devices
- at least 1 rainwater collector with a tipping bucket system (for sampling)
- what reports do you have in Kitui or Nairobi on previous investigations, like the one of Friema (2002)

They will bring

- lap tops
- PDA/GPS
- Small hand pump for sampling

- Chemical field kits, incl EC, PH etc
- Hand leveling instrunebt
- Measuring tape
- Water level recorder
- Divers

From the operational side we would like to know:

- how do we organize transport (I would like them to have the disposal of the motorcycle, can we rent one?, what is the price)
- is accommodation available in Kitu and what is the price
- how do they arrange for meals in Kitui?

Kenyan students

It would be good to link them up with Kenyan students. Any suggestions in this direction

Environmental Student

I met with Rob Becht and we agreed that we will recruit environmental students for the Free University and that they will be supervised by him. What we aim at is to have the students in the field during the same period: September-october. I will ask him to provide satellite images earlier.

Socio-economic students: they will come from the IVM: Institute for Env. Studies (part of the Free University). The fieldwork will be also in the period September-November. They can built on the work done in june.

We still have to agree of course on the terms of reference of the env. And socio-eco students

Westerveld and REAL project

Maartje van Westerdorp mailed me about the REAL project. We will keep each other informed on further development. There will be a workshop on sand dam construction in Delft on the 24th of August. They invited me for presentation. Will seee

Funding status

There is a broad support for our program and I am quite sure that we will receive a substantial support form Dutch funding sources. In fact we have already three funding sources

- Partners for Water/ Water 0Climate Dialogue: who financed he work last year and in the first half of this yes
- Dutch Embassy: allocated 100,000 Euro for 2006. I discussed with Robert Becht that he propose to DGIS to allocate 70.000 for the expert evaluation mission and 30,000 for the seminar. Hope (I will discuss this with Robert Becht in Wednesday)
- Aqua for All: they have confirmed to support the project. I requested funding of the students work and in addition to fiancé new SASOL dams. They are looking how to match this request with their funding requirements.

ADAPTS

A new development is the ADAPTS project, which deals with formulating and implementing adaptation strategies for climate change in a number of river basins around the globe. The project deals with supporting ongoing activities in the field and how they will function under different climate change scenarios and use this information and outputs to strengthen the national and basin management institutions. The funding for this project is already approved by DGIS, but it is unsure when the money becomes available. Acacia is a partner in the project, The lead organization is the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the Free University. We have discussed the option to select Kitui as a pilot basin and in fact take care of component 4 of our proposal. If you agree with this idea, we will send one more student to Kenya at the end of June to do some preparatory work on this. If the funding comes soon, Jeroen Aerts (coordinator) and myself may come to Kenya early July to do a 4-5 day inception mission. Give me your views on this please.

My main worry is now how to match all the funding options and commitments with our planning and ideas, Each funding agency has its own rules and regulations and it becomes increasingly complex to match that with our proposal as it is. It is ok to me as long as there is funding for Acacia and SASOL to do all this work. Let's see how it goes. I am off to Bangladesh now for WB mission (today – 10 June), then the Artificial Recharge Conference in Berlin (10-14 June), a consultancy in Bangkok (20-28 June) and a groundwater in Africa meeting in London on the 29th, so there is little risk that I spent too much un-paid time on Kenya.

Anxious to hear the progress on your side: funding, Ambassador's visit to Kitui etc

Best

Albert