

Kitui Sand Dams

local adaptation to global climate change



Water availability and water quality are of vital importance for future development. Rainfed agriculture, the main economic sector in many developing countries, is hampered by extreme variability in rainfall. The Sahelian Solutions Foundation in Kenya develops small-scale sand dams in seasonal rivers. The dams provide the population with drinking water and water for agriculture in dry seasons. These dams are built by local communities. Scientists confirm that these dams are successful in coping with climate variability and climate change.

Thus far about 450 sand dams have been successfully constructed. The dams provide water for more than 100.000 people at an average cost of only 35 US\$ per person.

The sand dam project in the Kitui district shows that, with strong community participation, adaptation to climate change can be successful. This participatory approach can also help other vulnerable communities to cope with the impacts of climate change, and can even provide an increase to regional economic growth.

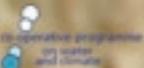
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