

## ***Interactive comment on “Investigating the environmental response to water harvesting structures: A field study in Tanzania” by Jessica A. Eisma and Venkatesh M. Merwade***

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Dear authors,

I am posting one comment about your paper, in particular on line 6, page 2 "yet approximately 50% of sand dams are essentially non-functioning (Viducich, 2015)"

Let me premise that I worked on sand dams with a small research, and that, however, I really like the critical view of your paper. The figure of 50% of sand dams not working shocked me a little bit and I revised the source, that is quite a good MSc thesis, [https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate\\_thesis\\_or\\_dissertations/1z40kx51c](https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/concern/graduate_thesis_or_dissertations/1z40kx51c),

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but however represents a "grey source".

Moreover, the thesis analyses only 11 Sand dams sites in a region of Kenya.

The statement reported in your thesis is found in the conclusions Page 86 of the thesis "Sand dams represent a viable rainwater harvesting and storage solution for many rural communities, but they are not universally appropriate. Performance varies widely, with reported failure rates in the range of 50%." But it seems not referenced, not either justified by the results (maybe is the 50% of the study sites).

I think this statement, which is quite heavy considering that is a major claim supporting your paper, can be revised, or maybe cited referring to other literature.

Hope this comment can be of your interest,

Kindest Regards Giulio Castelli

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Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2019-147>, 2019.

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