

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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Received and published: 6 May 2019

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,

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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

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

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