

RAVINE STABILISATION IN KIKWIT CITY IN OCTOBER 2005

This is the head of a 100 m long ravine; it is 15 m deep and covers 20,000 square meters. This required 120,000 slips and is seen just after the initial planting was done, 12 km of hedges were planted and all the work was completed in 18 day for \$US 7, 000. There are over 180 ravines like this in Kikwit, which has a million people.



Left side of ravine two months after planting



The same area four months later



**EXAMPLES OF SOME TYPICAL RAVINES AROUND KINSHASA,
CAPITAL OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**



Erosion threatens a public school and its community halls



...and private properties in Kinshasa



Property is threatened and communities are looking for methods of stopping this massive erosion around Kikwit City. Although many methods, ranging from hard to soft structures, have been used, all have failed in the long term, due mostly to the fragile structure of the soil.



An elaborate series of check dams, built with sand bags, to stabilize this large gully, but they are ineffective as the steep side walls will collapse after rains and the gully continues to erode



GAINING COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

Community training through demonstration and participation



Community support and participation are very important elements of this project



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

ITPKA Ravine before re-profiling



Re-profiling the ITPKA ravine slopes



Retaining barriers built with tree branches providing temporary support for bench terraces on very steep and highly fragile soils



Alain N'dona, seen below designed the terraces and supervised the planting



Planting vetiver hedges on contour lines on the terraces





SOME EARLY RESULTS



INCREDIBLE OUTCOMES

Vetiver growth 60 days after planting



Vetiver growth 120 days after planting



Vetiver growth 240 days after planting

