

# Mine & Associated Rehabilitation Projects in Africa & the Indian Ocean Islands

by

Roley Nöffke

TVNI (The Vetiver Network International)

&

IECA (Region2-Southern Africa Chapter)

&

Hydromulch (Pty) Ltd

Johannesburg,

Republic of South Africa

E-mail: [info@hydromulch.co.za](mailto:info@hydromulch.co.za)



# Introduction

**Mining and associated rehabilitation projects in Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands have been successfully implemented jointly under the guidance and auspices of “The Vetiver Network International (TVNI) and the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) as a result of the interaction that has developed between the two organisations in Africa and on the Indian Ocean Islands.**



It is recorded that practically 95% of the 53 countries on the entire African continent (including Islands) has successfully implemented the Vetiver System for soil & water conservation during the past 200 years.

A short overview of projects in the following countries will be given, illustrating current activities using the Vetiver system:

1. Democratic Republic of Congo
2. Ethiopia
3. Congo- Brazzaville
4. Congo- Pointe Noire/Brazzaville
5. Guinea
6. Gabon
7. Madagascar A & B
8. South Africa.

The presentation will reflect the major strides that have been achieved in erosion & sediment control, bio-engineering & vegetation restoration and the participation of local communities in general.



# Project No. 1 -Selembao Project, Democratic Republic of Congo



**Collapsed bridges and urban roads preventing access to properties**



**Abandoned homes & properties**

**A world Bank financed project for the rehabilitation of the erosion gully in the district of Selembao, Kinshasa, DRC**



**Construction commenced in 2004**



**The Selembao Construction Site - 2006**

**Construction was carried out by a Congolese company Matla Forrest. Extensive Delays resulted in the Vetiver planting taking place during the dry season with limited available water. Financial constraints limited the planting of Vetiver hedge rows at spacings closer than 4 metre intervals along contours.**

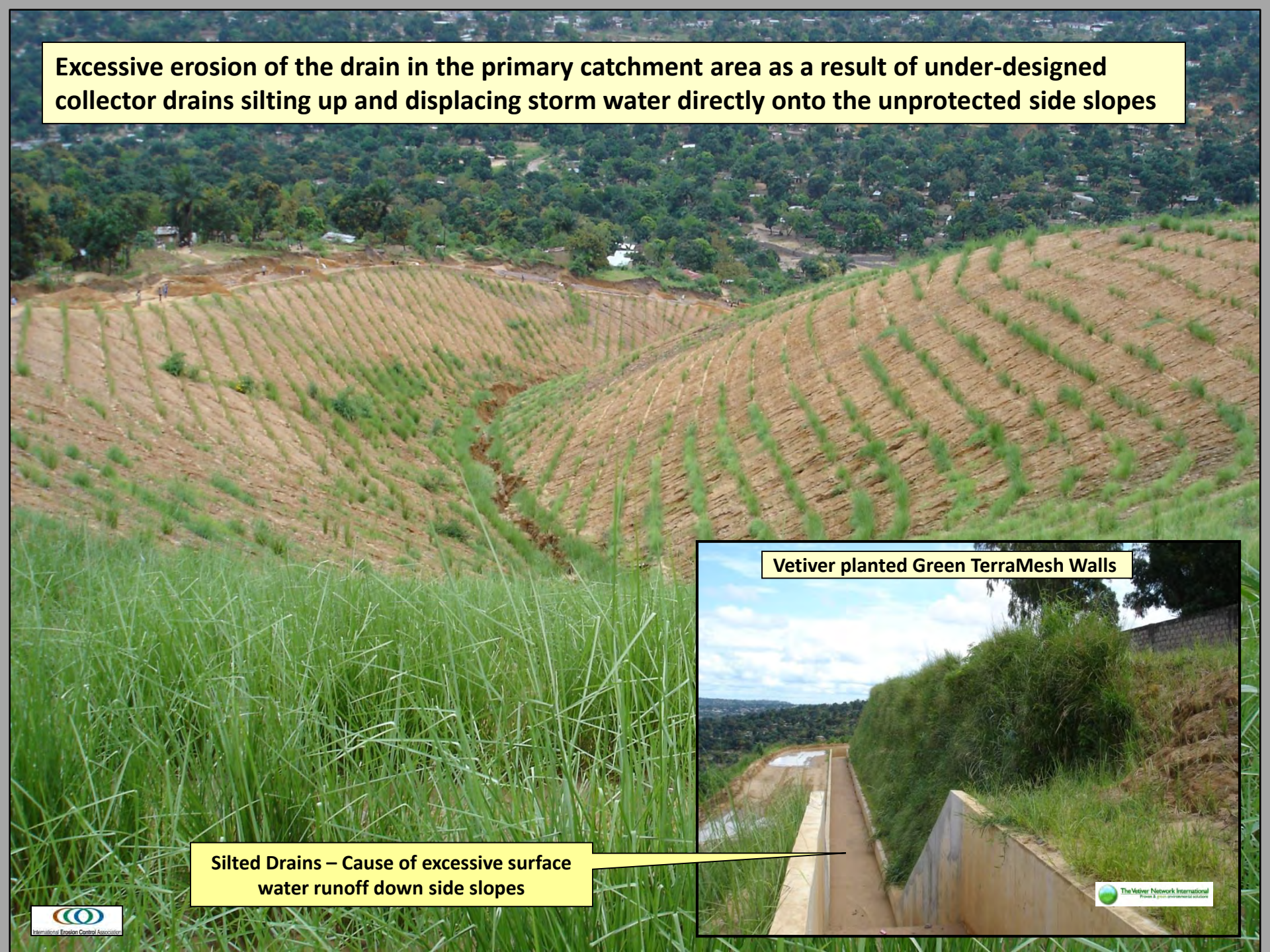


**A total of 11.5 hectares was planted to Vetiver and thereafter hydroseeded using locally harvested and commercial seed.**





**Excessive erosion of the drain in the primary catchment area as a result of under-designed collector drains silting up and displacing storm water directly onto the unprotected side slopes**



**Vetiver planted Green TerraMesh Walls**



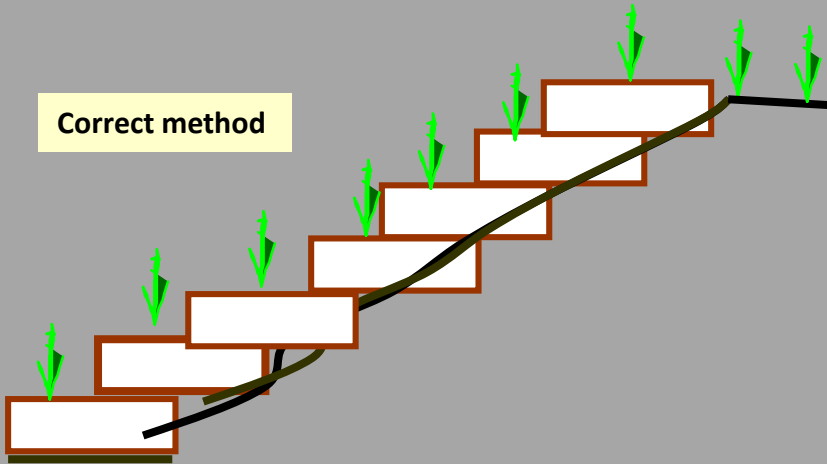
**Silted Drains – Cause of excessive surface water runoff down side slopes**

**Sand Bags inter-planted with Vetiver was used to repair the extensive erosion caused by surface water runoff**

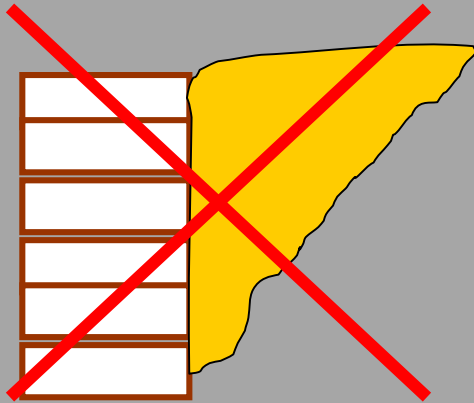


# Installation of Sand Bags

Correct method



Incorrect method



# Sand Bag Reinforced & Stabilised Gully



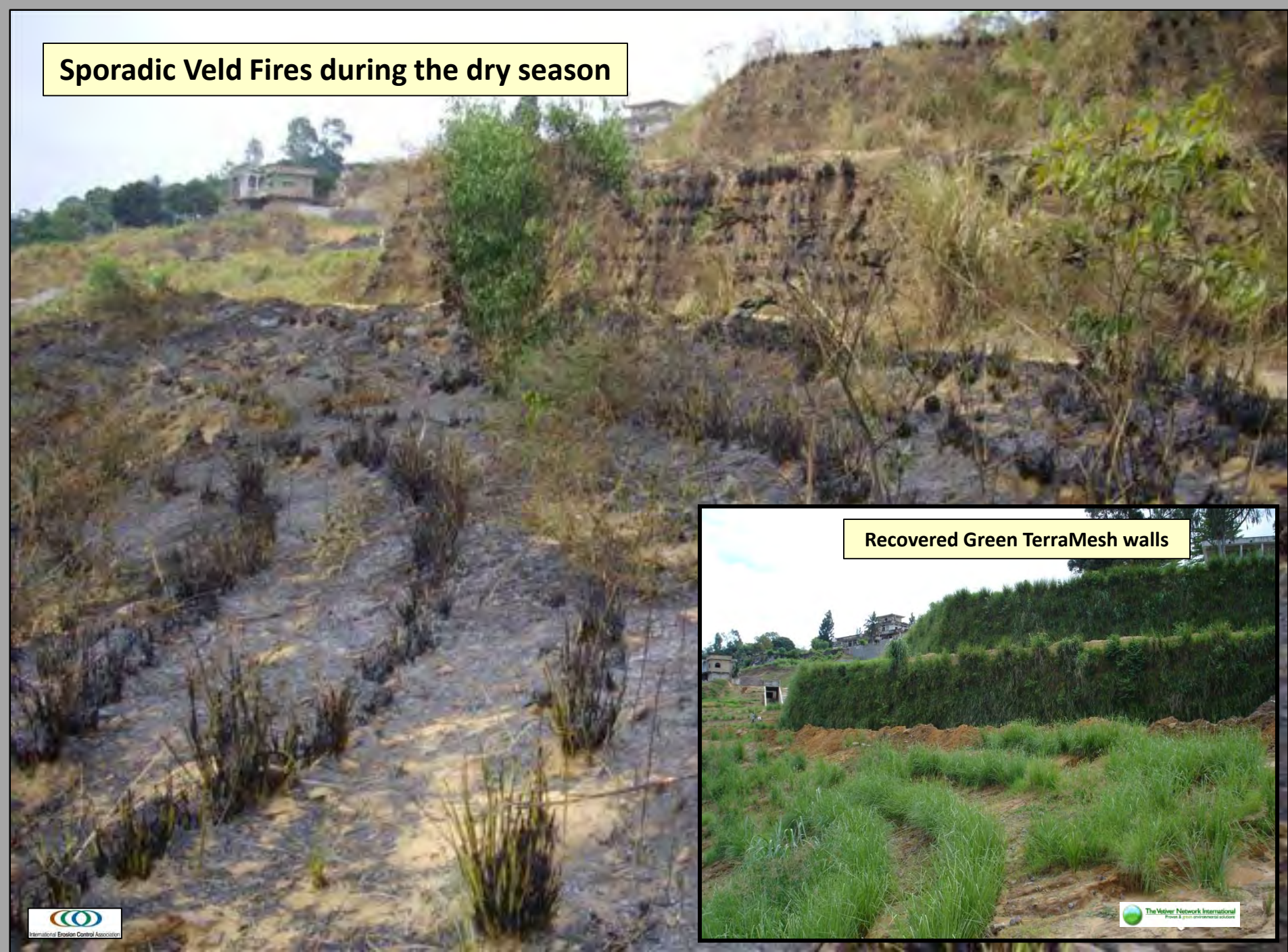
**80,000 Sand Bags were used for the stabilisation of the erosion gullies. Vetiver grass was planted into the Sand Bags.**



**The project where  
TVNI & Hydromulch  
formed a established working  
relationship**

- **Dr. Paul Truong**
- **Dr. Dale Rachmeler**
- **Eng Alain Ndong**
- **Roley Noffke**

**Sporadic Veld Fires during the dry season**



**Recovered Green TerraMesh walls**



## Project No. 2 - Vetiver System Applications, Ethiopia



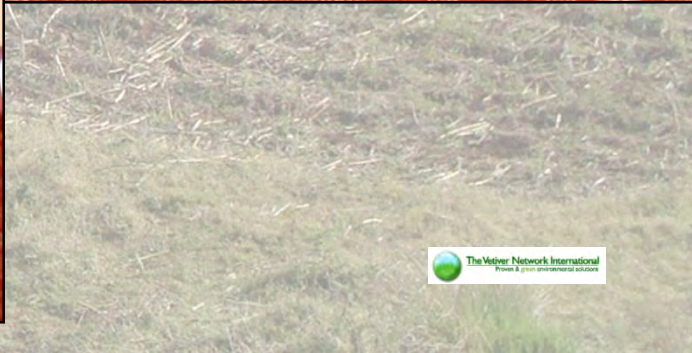
**SLUF**  
Debela Dinka Guda  
251 91 186 6766  
August 2013



**Since the establishment of the Ethiopian Vetiver Network (ETVN) in 2009, the VS technology is considered as one of the best biological conservation inputs by government (MoA & ERA) & non-government organizations, farmers & private investors for sustainable land management (SLM) programme.**



# NATIONAL WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY SLUF & TVNI, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 2009



**NATIONAL WORKSHOP  
WORKING COMMITTEE  
ADDIS ABABA  
ETHIOPIA, 2009**



**NATIONAL WORKSHOP  
DELEGATES  
ADDIS ABABA  
ETHIOPIA, 2009**

# Vetiver Applications in Community Farming Projects in Ethiopia



## Vetiver System in Maize Fields



**Handicrafts**



**Urban Areas**



**Roadside Embankments**



**Vetiver Applications**

**Canals**



# Training of Ethiopian Road Authority Engineers organized by SLUF & TVNI



Elise Pinnars-TVNI Kenya

# National & International Co-Operation

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture has taken the VS as part of its sustainable land management programs

Thailand



Madagascar

Le Système Vétiver,  
Regards croisés Madagascar-Ethiopie  
Conférence-Débat  
Vendredi 23 Décembre 2011- 14 h - CNEAGR NANISANA

Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has included the VS for the rehabilitation of all road contracts

# Policy Dialogue

## The Ethiopian President, EEPSCO, ERA & MoA





## Ethiopia's way forward:

1. Extensive promotion of the VS for wider uses throughout the country.
2. Exploring the use of VG for various uses e.g. handicrafts, perfume, etc.
3. Promoting the VS in schools and higher education institutions.
4. Engaging in National and International Networking.

***Vetiver is a Proven GREEN Solution!***

***USE IT!!***

# Project No.3 - Boukeni Erosion Gully Project, Brazzaville, Congo





**Collapsed infrastructures on Roads & Drainage channels resulting in formation of extensive gullies**





**Construction is by a Brazilian Company-ANDRADE Gutierrez SA.  
The consultant Engineers for the project -EGIS-INTERNATIONAL.  
Environmental & Bio-Engineering design, supervision and  
implementation - Engineer Alain NDONA (TVNI).**



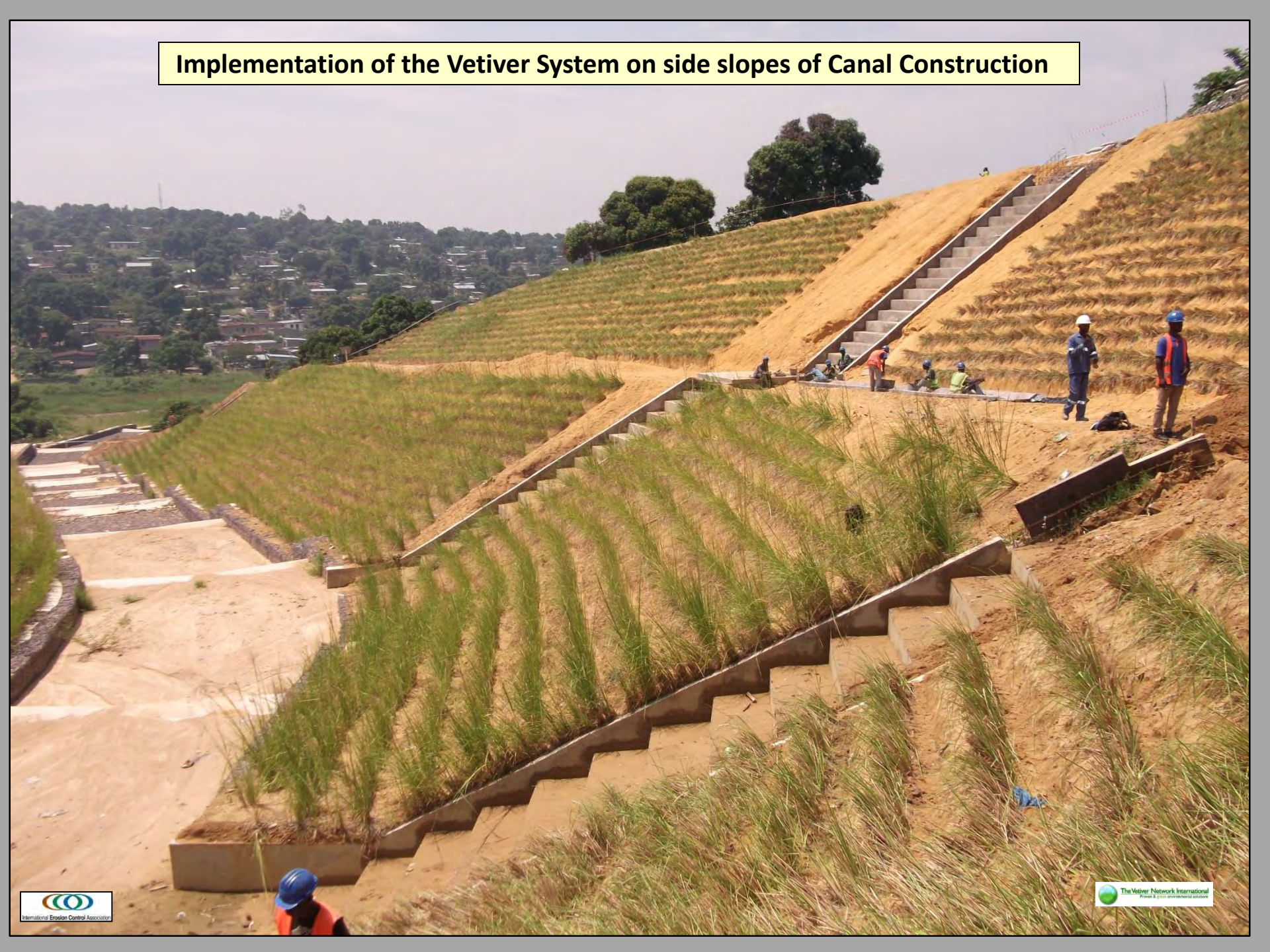
**Construction activities and finishing off of side slopes in progress on newly constructed drainage system**



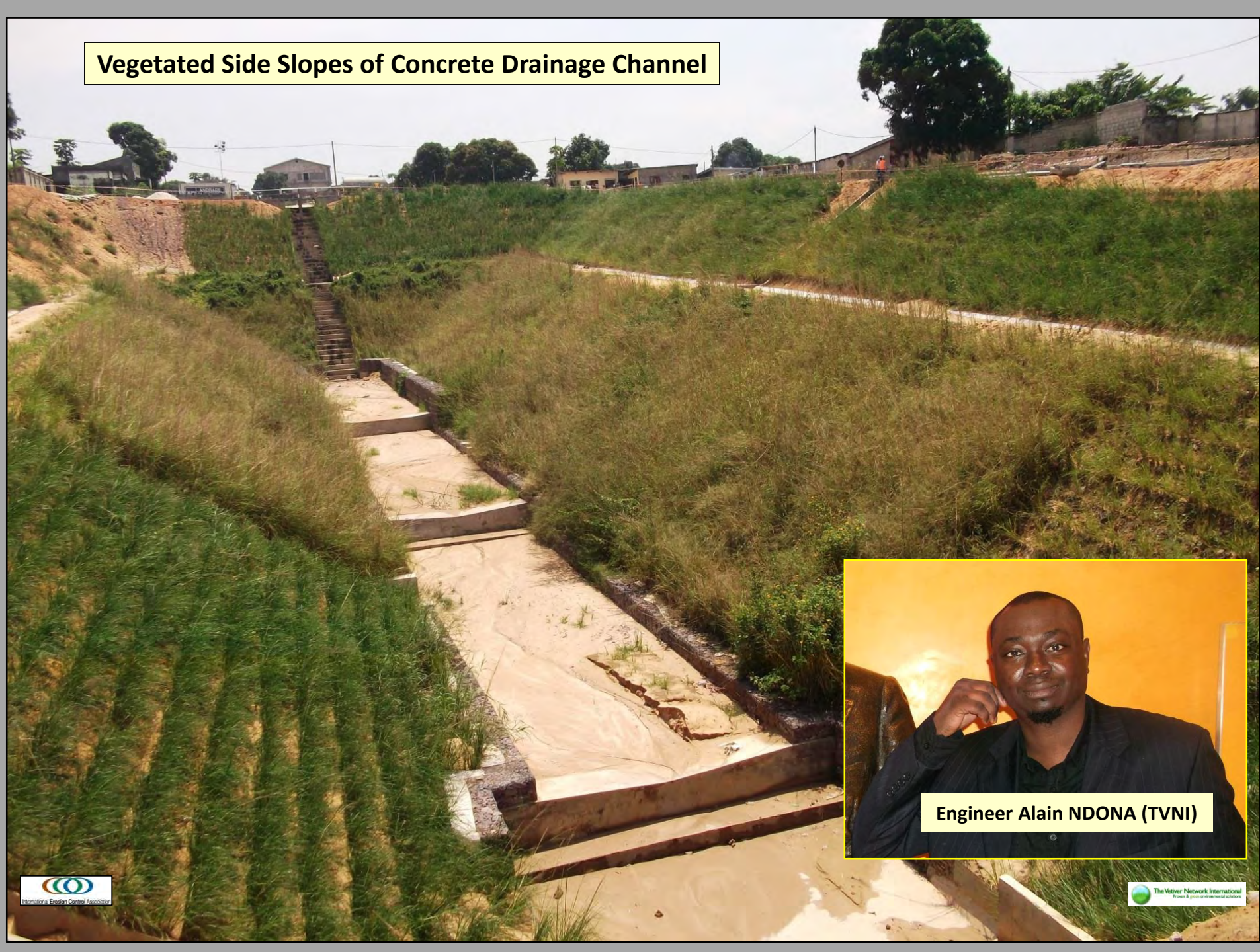


- Length of gullies :  $\pm 600 \text{ m}^1$
- Length of drains or canals :  $\pm 800 \text{ m}^1$ , 50-60 meters wide and 20-40 meter deep
- Surface area planted to Vetiver –  $\pm 36,000 \text{ m}^2$  per channel
- Planting density - 1 m between rows and 10 plants/ $\text{m}^1$
- Vetiver sourced from local community

# Implementation of the Vetiver System on side slopes of Canal Construction



## Vegetated Side Slopes of Concrete Drainage Channel



Engineer Alain NDONA (TVNI)



# Project No. 4 - The Pointe Noire to Brazzaville Highway, Congo



Total length of road:  $\pm$  600 km

Planned to plant 120 million Vetiver, slips sourced mainly from CHINA.

On site nursery constructed: 5ha.

## Side Slope Rehabilitation in progress

45° slope angle with benching at 10 m intervals on average.



## Highly dispersive and erodible side slope material



Construction by a Chinese company - China State Construction Engineering Corporation LTD (CSCEC).  
The consultant Engineers for the project- EGIS-INTERNATIONAL.  
Environmental & Bio-Engineering design and supervision - Engineer Alain NDONA.

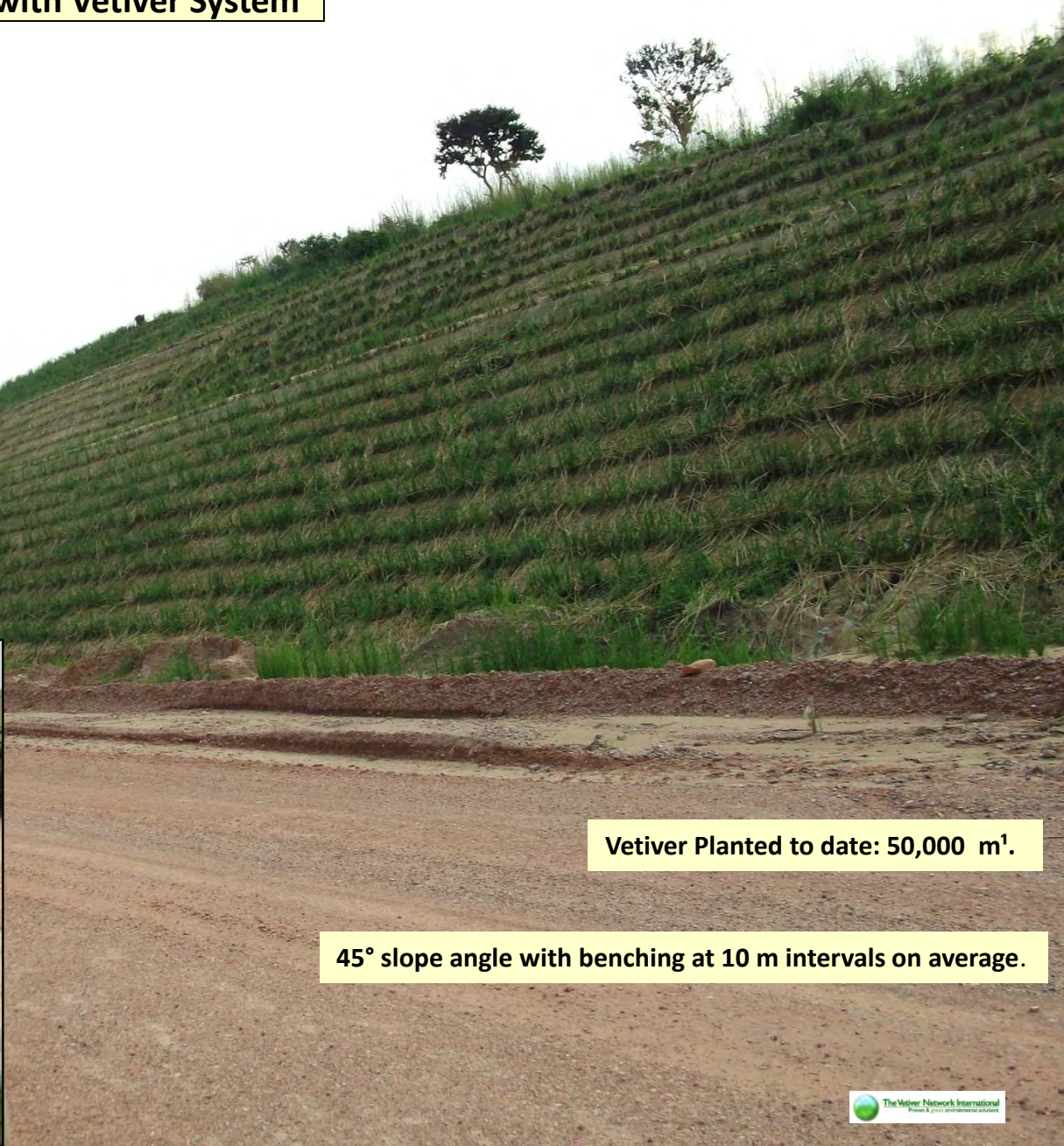
Setting out & Planting of vetiver hedge rows

1 m<sup>1</sup> between rows and 10 plants/m<sup>1</sup>

# Stable Side Slope Established with Vetiver System



## Stable Side Slope Established with Vetiver System



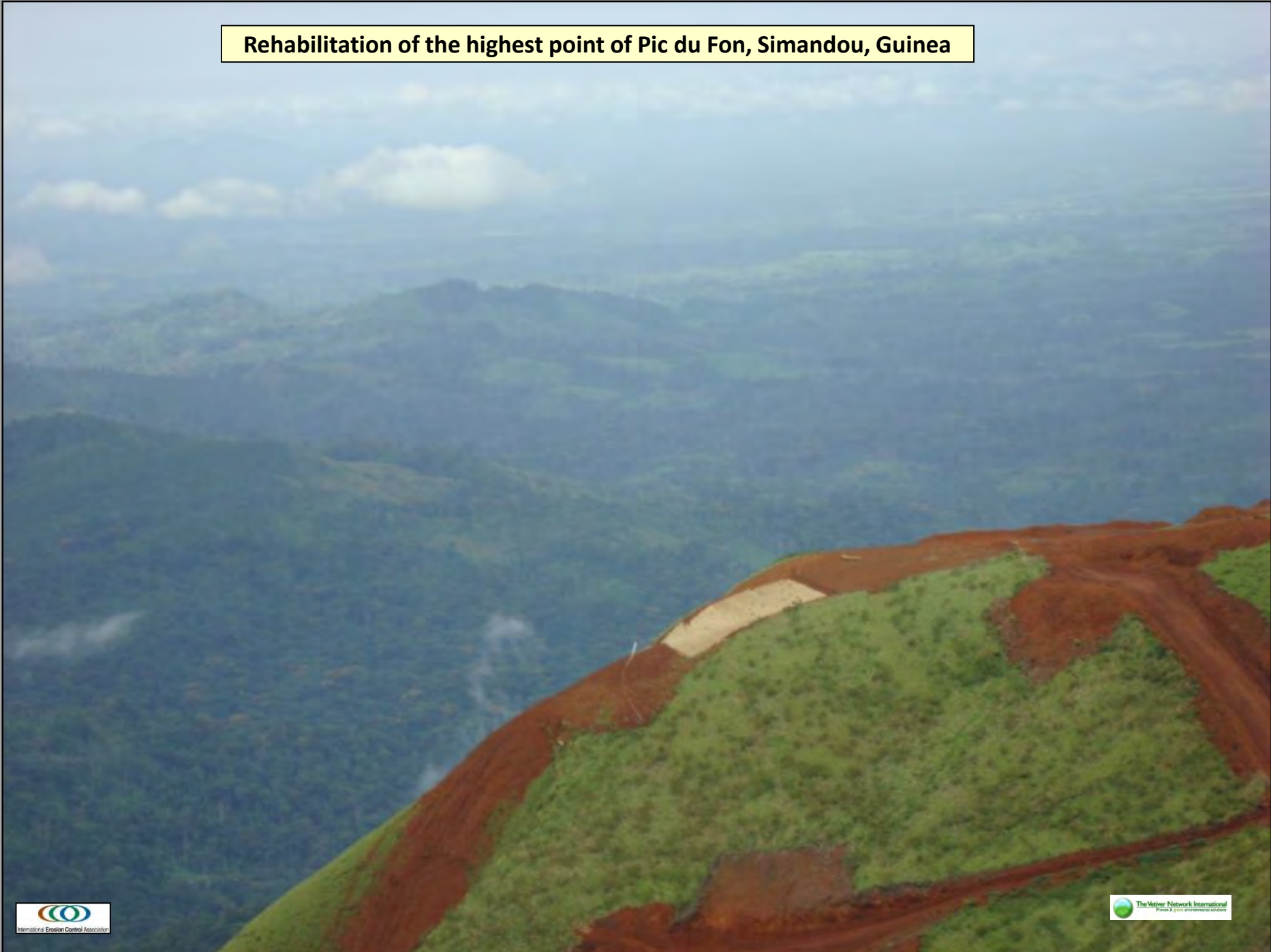
Vetiver Planted to date: 50,000 m<sup>1</sup>.

45° slope angle with benching at 10 m intervals on average.

# Project No. 5 - The Rio Tinto Project- Simandou, Guinea



## Rehabilitation of the highest point of Pic du Fon, Simandou, Guinea





**Installation of Bio-Engineering Techniques & Hydroseeding on Exploration Site for protection of chimpanzee habitat**



Iveco 6x6 HydroSeeder on Site



# Placing of Bio-Jute on steep side slopes around Drill Pads



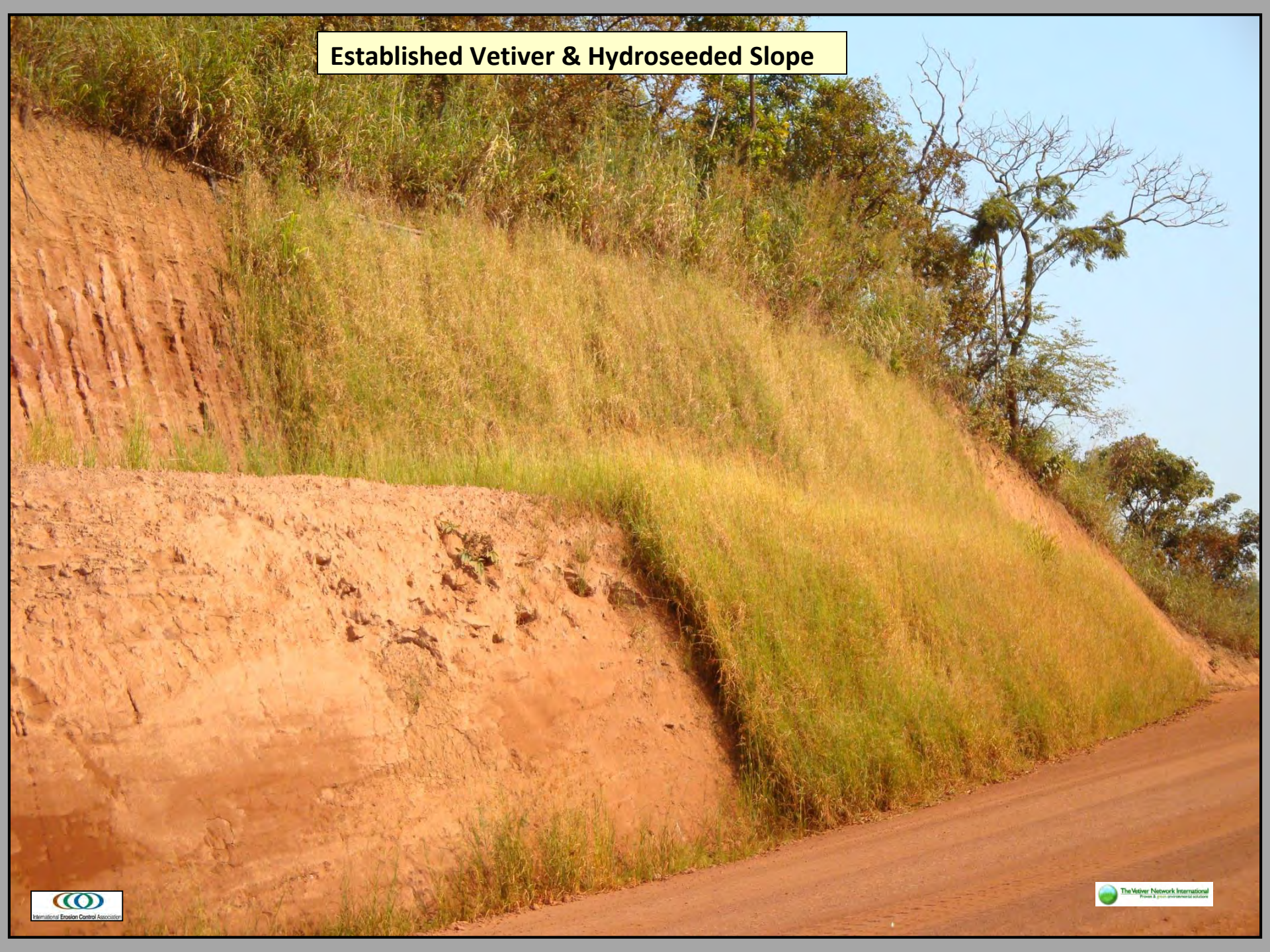
# Bio-Jute Preparation



# Bio-Jute Installation and Vetiver planting on Cut Slope Embankments



**Established Vetiver & Hydroseeded Slope**



**On-Going Stabilisation work on Access Roads along the Montane area**



**Anglo Ashanti Gold mine in Guinea where the VS is starting up**





## Illegal Mining Activities on and around the Mine



**Delivery of Vetiver Grass from Mine Nursery**



# Vetiver Grass Slips planted in well constructed furrows or rows at Anglo Ashanti Gold



# Project No. 6 - OLAM Gabon Special Economic Zone, Nkok, Gabon



## **GSEZ Nkok, Gabon**

540 ha of tropical jungle situated on the Equator removed in one operation for industrial development resulting in a civil and environmental disaster with only 20 ha side slopes rehabilitated in Phase 1



### **Work Undertaken**

- 30,000 m<sup>1</sup> vetiver grass hedge rows
- Bio-Jute – 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Silt fences - 3,600 m<sup>1</sup>
- Sand Bags – 2,500 m<sup>1</sup>
- Hydroseeding -200,000 m<sup>2</sup>

### **Climatic Conditions**

Annual rainfall + 3700mm  
2 Rainy seasons –  
September to December &  
May to July



# The Impact of 750 mm rain in 24 hours





**Excessive Erosion caused by surface water runoff**





**Before & After pictures of the VS for slope stabilisation – Reasonable cover attained on lower slope**







**Progressive stages of slope stabilisation using Vetiver (VS), Sand bags, Silt fences & Hydroseeding**



**Effective use of Silt fences to protect Vetiver (VS) in early stages of growth**





**Established Side Slopes using Vetiver (VS) & Hydroseeding**





# Madagascar- Projects

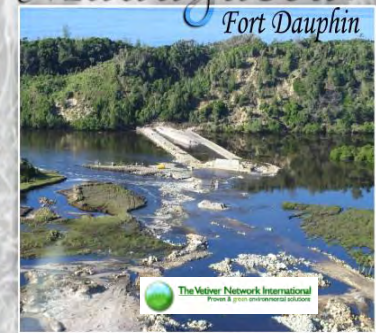
Projects 7 A – Rio Tinto/QMM Ilmenite Mine

Projects 7 B – Sherritt Mining Ambatovy Pipeline

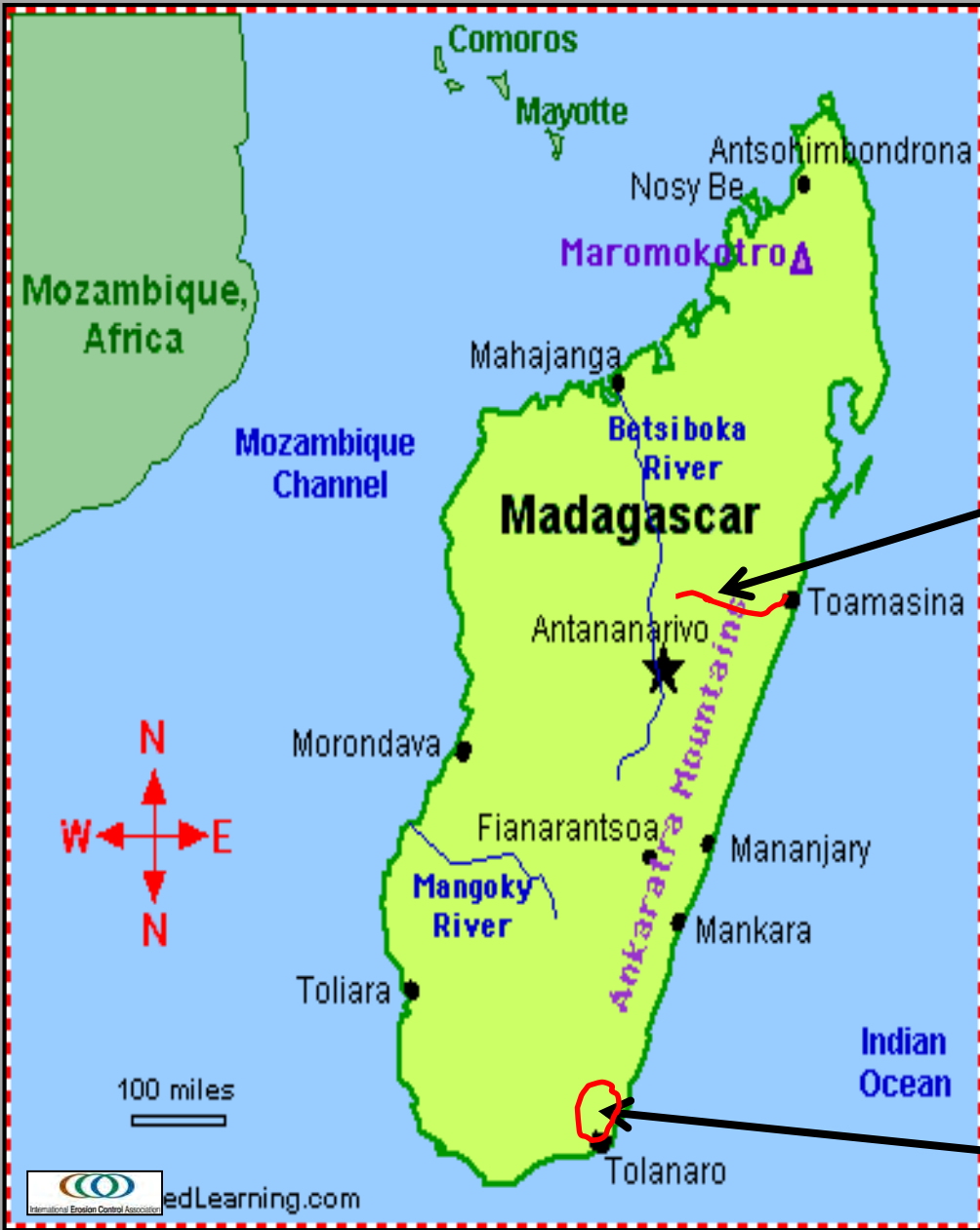
*The Mendene Joint Venture*

*A Hatch - Fluor Partnership*

*Madagascar  
Fort Dauphin*



# Location of Rio Tinto & Sherritt Mining Project in Madagascar



Antananarivo



Sherritt Mining Ambatovy Project



Rio Tinto Ilmenite Project

# Local Malagasy Community



## Typical Malagasy Mode of Transport



# Project No. 7 A - Ilmenite Project, Madagascar



Quarry

Ehoala Dune Cut

Mining site

New Harbour



# Vetiver Sources

- Vetiver plant material was sourced from surrounding areas within a 50 km radius.
- No planting material was imported or introduced from outside areas.



# Local Villagers



## Vetiver Purchases from Villagers



# Community Vetiver Propagation



**Andre & Auguste Mahalogny family from the Mangaiky Village.**



## Maria Agnes family Operation



**Environmental work Started in 2006 with 15 communities, expanded to 32 communities by 2008.**  
**40 hectares were stabilised and re-vegetated.**  
**4,000,000 Vetiver plants were propagated & supplied by local villagers.**  
**Assisted in setting up Vetiver nurseries and provided the necessary training of the local communities.**



# Planting of Vetiver Grass Hedge Rows on the Ehoala Dune





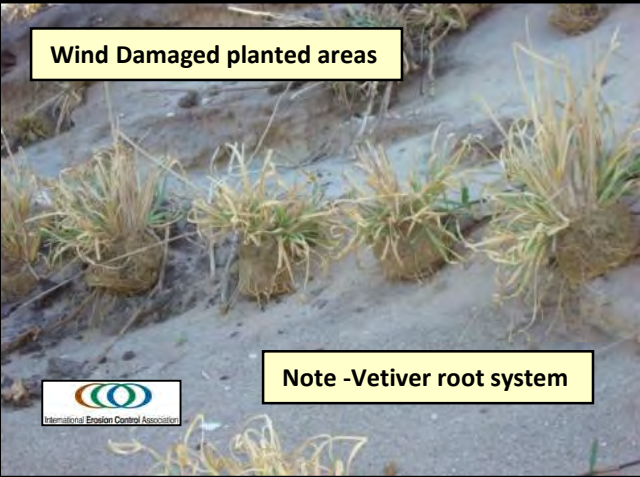
Locally trained supervisors implementing “Coastal Dune Sand Migration” Control

Local Fishing Village



# Impact of Prevailing Winds - Primary Dune

Prevailing wind direction  
(In excess of 35 days with  
intense gusting up to  
45 knots at times)



## Surface Water Runoff control with Vetiver Hedge Rows



**Established & Stable Ehoala Dune – 9 ha in extent**



# Project No. 7 B – Ambatovy Project, Moramanga to Tamatave, Madagascar



# Installed Erosion Control Structures & Hydroseeding



## Progressive Rehabilitation of Pipeline ROW (Right of Way)



- Length of ROW: 220 Kilometres
- Area rehabilitated – 550 hectares
- Rehabilitation period: 3 years
- Vetiver plants & fascines sourced from local communities

# Functional Erosion Control Structures & Established HydroSeeding





## Rehabilitation of extremely difficult rock sections through mountain terrain - ROW (Right of Way)



- Accessible only via access roads
- Often inaccessible for up to 2 months due to weather conditions
- Unstable cut slopes rehabilitated by Vetiver plants & fascines sourced from local communities

Rehabilitated fill side slopes & stabilised shoulder break point



# Project No. 8 - Donga Rehabilitation, South Africa

In Association with the Department of Agriculture, Limpopo Province, South Africa



Tubatse Class – February 2012



Donated Vetiver Plants – Feb 2012



Tubatse Class – February 2012





**In-Field Training on soil conservation techniques on degraded area in Tubatse, Limpopo Province, RSA**



**Community training in setting out  
of contours and Vetiver planting  
techniques – Feb 2012**



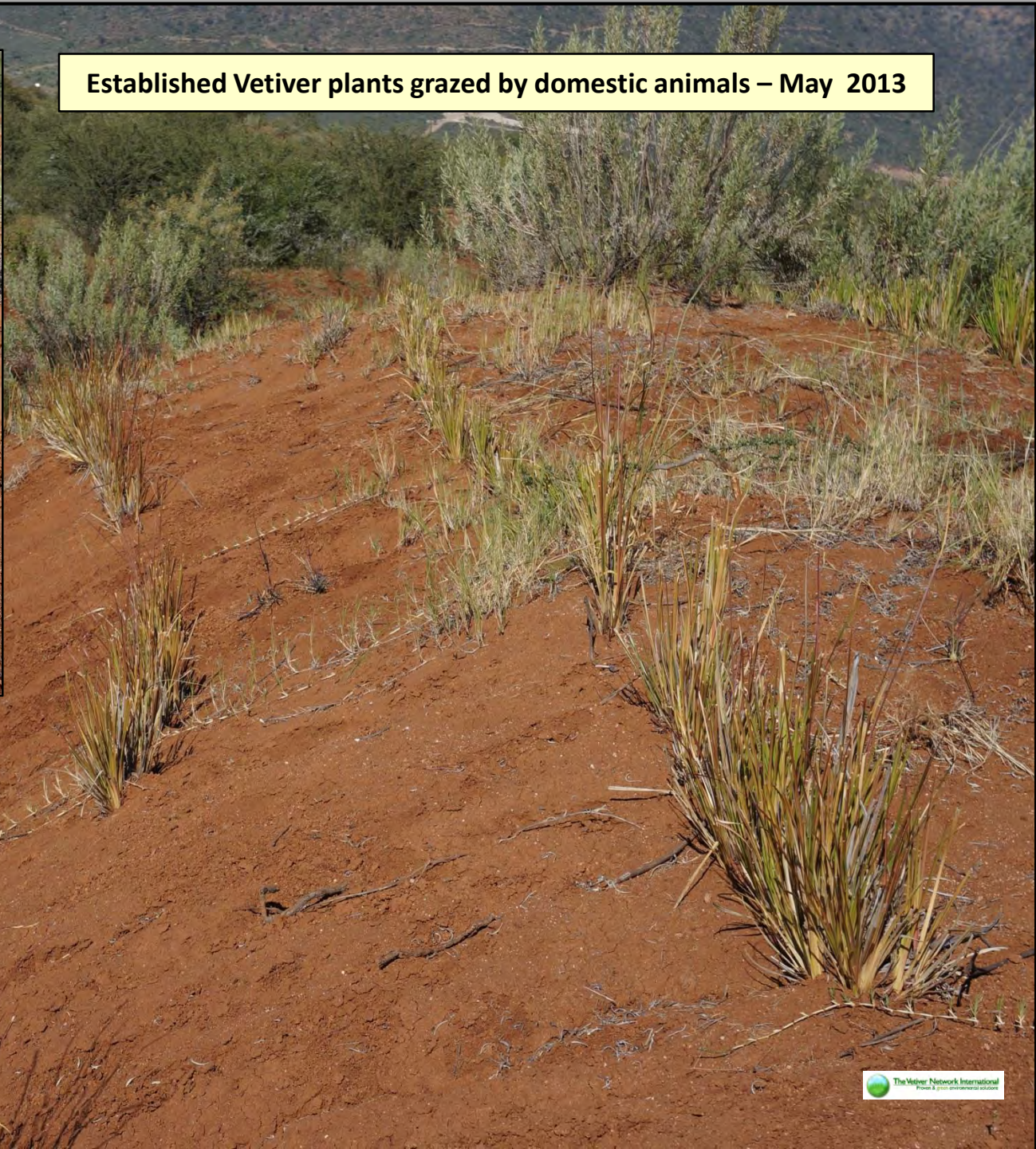
**Pre-grown Vetiver plants were  
supplied for the training program**



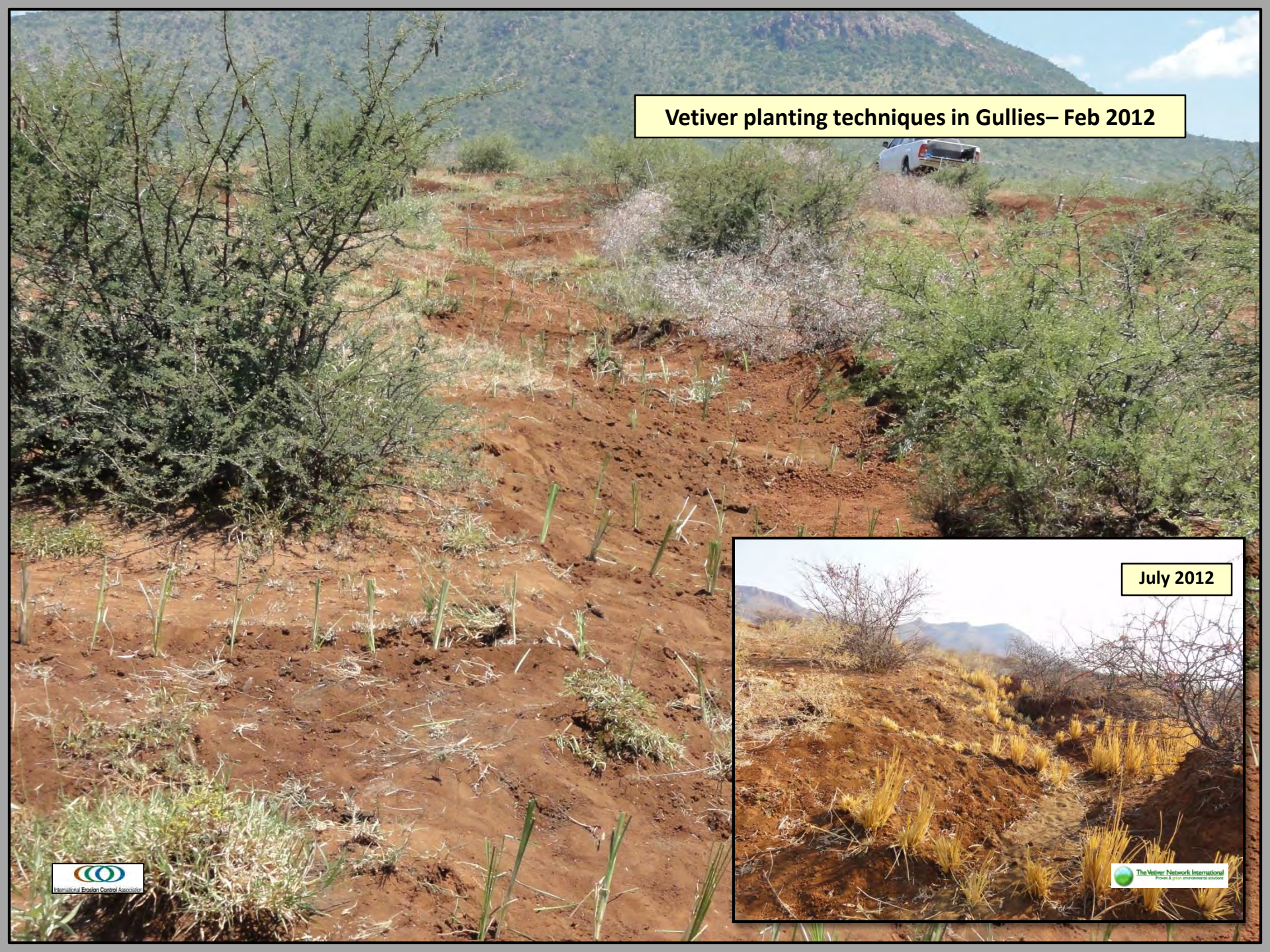
Established Vetiver plants grazed & damaged by domestic animals – July 2012



Established Vetiver plants grazed by domestic animals – May 2013



**Vetiver planting techniques in Gullies– Feb 2012**



**July 2012**



Gully established with Vetiver grass– May2013



Malomanye Village – August 2012



**Malomanye Village On Site Training – August 2012**



# Preparation of Vetiver Slips





**Malomanye Village On-Site Training in soil Conservation Techniques – August 2012**

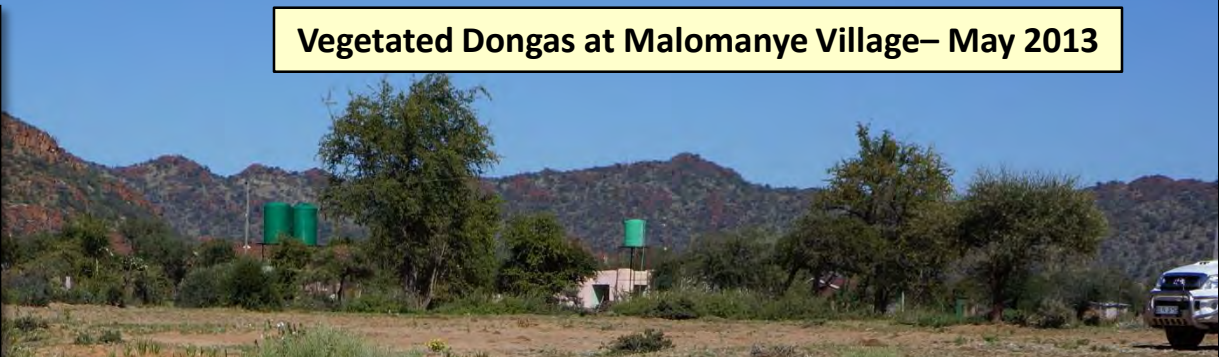




# Malomanye Village On-Site Training – August 2012



**Vegetated Dongas at Malomanye Village– May 2013**



Moutse Village Community Training at Hydromulch Training Centre– April 2013



# Moutse Village Community Field Training – April 2013



Moutse Village Community Field Training – April 2013



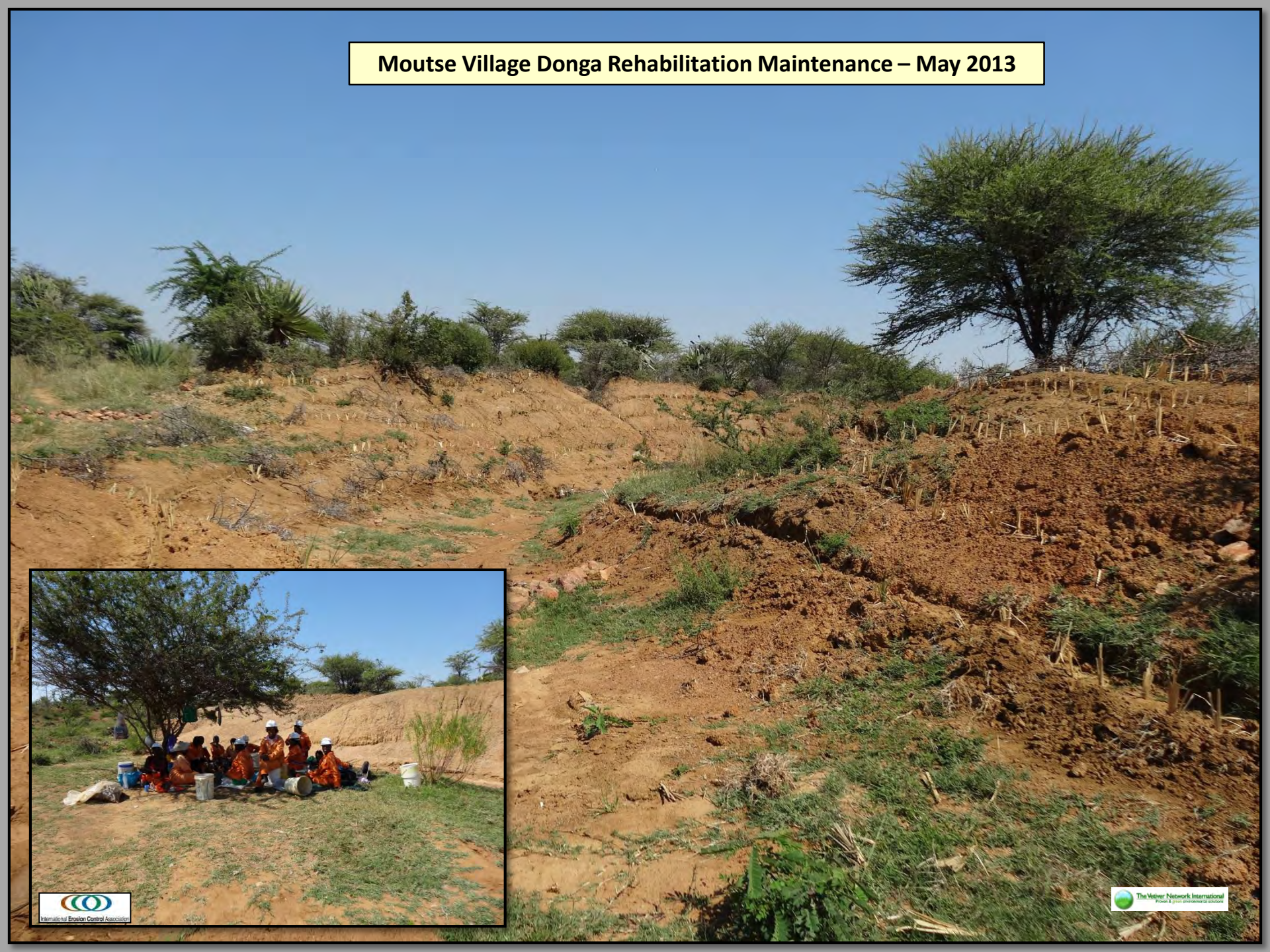
# Moutse Village Donga Rehabilitation– April 2013



Moutse Village Donga Rehabilitation– April 2013



Moutse Village Donga Rehabilitation Maintenance – May 2013





# In Conclusion

TVNI and the IECA are strategically positioned to provide the international platform through which degraded areas can be restored such that Sustainable Land Management can be achieved over time.

**We always seem to have a**

**PLAN B**

**but we forget that there is**

**“No”**

**PLANET B**

**The correct application of soil conservation and  
bio-diversity principles & techniques remains  
fundamental to our survival.**

**It is our responsibility to preserve and protect the  
environment we live in.**

**Thank you**