A Feasibility Study of Landmine Detection by Hooded Rats

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Landmine Problem

- Millions of landmines in Mozambique
  - estimated 3 million in 1996
- Farmable land is unusable because of landmines
- Estimated 20 people step on landmines every month
- 60% die because they lack access to health services.
APOPO to the rescue!

- Trains rats to sniff out landmines
- Rats attached to a string
- Systematically search areas suspected to contain landmines.
Why rats?

- Machines are destructive to the environment (the speed and efficiency are not worthwhile if they country will be left with no useable land afterwards)

- Dogs can set off landmines
African Pouched Rats vs Hooded Rats
References

• http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/banmines/schools/background.asp
• http://www.apopo.org/newsite/content/index.htm