

A Feasibility Study of Landmine Detection by Hooded Rats

By Brittney Getz & Chelsea Nill

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>