

THE VETIVER SYSTEM FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MADAGASCAR

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ABSTRACT

In a project at Fort Dauphin Flior/Hatch JV in Madagascar, Rio Tinto specified the use of Vetiver and hydroseeding for sediment control and road embankment stabilisation to stabilise the coastal dune at their Ilminite project and slope stabilisation along newly constructed roads. hydroseeding with local grass species.

This project required to propagate approximately 3,000,000 Vetiver plants Hydromulch (Pty) Ltd in conjunction with Rio Tinto/QMM Environmental embarked on a Vetiver growing program utilising members of the local community surrounding the project. Fifteen communities were initially approached during December 2006, which expanded to 35 communities by August 2008. These communities were involved in the propagation of Vetiver plants at their respective villages, where entire families would become jointly involved in these programs.

Results to date indicated that Vetiver System application on road embankments has provided the required erosion control necessities to ensure sediment control and the risk of invasive plant contamination. In addition VS has proven to be a simple and effective method of poverty alleviation.