

# Sustainable ICT in Rural Africa

Dion Jerling Special Projects Director CONNECT AFRICA



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#### Summary:

- What is Connect Africa
- Current Challenges for rural ICT in rural Africa
- Finding the solutions
- A proposed solution
- Its sustainability
- Next steps



#### What is Connect Africa:











#### Current challenges for rural Africa:

- 1. Access / connectivity
- 2. Infrastructure
- 3. Cost
- 4. Literacy / Content
- 5. Sustainability
- 6. Power Supply
- 7. De-regulation of cellular networks



## Finding the Solutions:

- Lessons from the mobile boom in Africa
- Step down to reality
- Step 1 universally is a public phone
- Communities (Farmers) will then direct the solutions:
  - Look
  - Listen
  - Learn
  - Link



## A Proposed Solution:

- Network of community pay-phones for deep rural Zambia
- Using Iridium and Thuraya satellite networks
- Thuraya PCO & Iridium "BravoTel"
- Competitive 36c (US) per minute call rate
- 60 kbps Connectivity
- Tiered service levels HQ, Provincial Hub, District Hub, Village Hub
- Local operator at village level to assist community
- Routine regional service, maintenance and cash management
- Expand the service portfolio in line with demand



#### Sustainability:

- Each hub is a business
- Each village phone is a micro enterprise
- All information and services are paid for by recipient or service provider:
  - Calls and connectivity by the user at affordable rates
  - Information/Content delivery by the provider
- Multiple service delivery is facilitated by the network (at a cost to the service provider):
  - Communication services
  - Business services
  - Government services
- Ongoing monitoring, assessment and capacity building
- Build up from step 1 organic growth pull, not push
- Iteration go back and check we can, we've a routine service schedule
- Highlight the demand spikes and focus the resources
- Bring in partnerships often the most unlikely pairings are most successful



#### Next Steps:

- Deploy a trial network of 8 pay-phones in rural central Zambia (Oct 2008)
- Look, listen & learn for 3 months
- Assess and analyse results of the trial
- Link the relevant technologies and services with the communities
- Initiate policy and regulatory feedback sessions with government/regulator
- Apply for a National Service Provider Licence (NSP) for rural Zambia
- Initiate a national roll-out strategy with satellite network partners
- Use Zambia as a model for the rest of Africa and beyond
- See you next year



## Thank You

Dion Jerling
Special Projects Director
CONNECT AFRICA

Email: dion@connectafrica.net

Cell: +27 82 (0)82 487 8354 (South Africa)

Cell: +260 (0)97 686 0113 (Zambia)

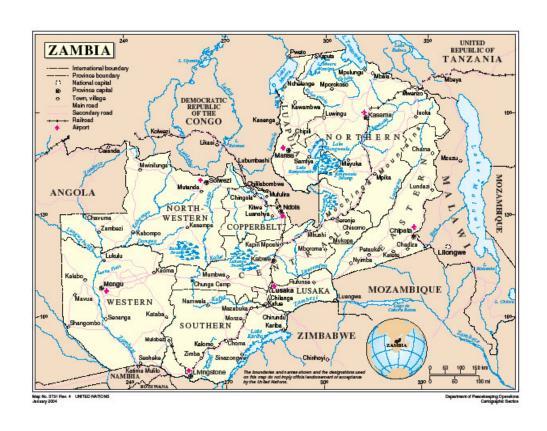


## Africa:





## Map of Zambia





## Thuraya PCO & Iridium BravoTel







## Rural Rainy Season Reality:











#### Zinc Air Fuel Cell: 12V

