

# Contents

## Introduction

1.	General description of the Model Project to Combat Desertification and evaluation of its results.....	5
1-1	History and aim of the project.....	5
1-2	Execution of the project.....	5
1-3	Organizational framework of the project.....	6
1-4	Outline of the facilities for the demonstration studies.....	8
1-5	Evaluation of the results of the project and prospects.....	8
2.	What is a subsurface dam?.....	10
2-1	Concept and principle of a subsurface dam.....	10
2-2	Advantages of a subsurface dam.....	12
2-3	Disadvantages of a subsurface dam.....	12
2-4	Requirements for a subsurface dam site.....	13
2-5	“Fossil valley”, a suitable site for a subsurface dam.....	15
3.	Survey to select the subsurface dam site.....	16
3-1	Outline of the survey methods.....	16
3-2	Selection of the project area.....	16
3-3	Distribution of fossil valleys in West Africa.....	19
3-4	Surveys carried out in this project.....	21
3-4-1	Interpretation of satellite images and aero-photographs.....	21
3-4-2	Field exploration.....	25
3-4-3	Geophysical survey.....	27
3-5	Detailed field surveys (test drillings, permeability tests, and observations of groundwater level).....	31
3-6	Socio-economic study.....	34
4.	Construction of a subsurface dam.....	37
4-1	Methods of construction of a subsurface dam.....	40
4-2	Characteristics of the subsurface dam built at Nare.....	44
4-3	Construction of the subsurface dam.....	47
5.	Structure of the “fossil valley” at Nare.....	44
6.	Observations of the water storage state by the subsurface dam.....	47
6-1	Facilities for observation of water storage state (facilities for groundwater observation).....	47
6-2	Results of observation of meteorology and rate of streamflow.....	52
6-3	Fluctuation in the groundwater level in the reservoir area.....	54
6-4	Analysis of seasonal fluctuation in the reserved water level.....	59
6-5	Analysis of water storage state by the subsurface dam.....	62
7.	Other studies.....	67
8.	Recommendations for future subsurface dam projects.....	73
8-1	Selection of subsurface dam sites.....	73

8-2	Survey methods.....	74
8-3	Methods of construction of a subsurface dam.....	75
8-4	Costs.....	76
8-5	Management and maintenance system.....	76
	Acknowledgements.....	77