

dirty profits exposed

the report

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the world is their playground

richard spoor, south african attorney

we're like a frog trying to cry out to an elephant

john d. medza, tanzanian human rights activist

intro

Mining in Africa is in a boom. Hundreds of foreign companies are entering the continent every year, promising wealth to the countries and their people. African governments promote the investment by guaranteeing employment, education and economic progress to their citizens.

But for the everyday people, these dreams have been destroyed. In the countries that we have explored, barring very few companies, the industry has created more destruction than development.

While it began as a hope for progress beyond that of the economy, it quickly developed a reputation for exploitation, government corruption and irreversible damage to communities and the environment. Often the companies are granted licenses illegally by governments, and find large mineral reserves, while the citizens of these countries remain unemployed and poverty-stricken.

Even the communities who were aware of the wealth of their land, earning a living through small scale mining, are quickly evicted once a more lucrative and powerful mining giant enters the picture.

People surrounding the mines are the worst, and most directly affected. Their soil becomes poisoned from toxic water and they can no longer farm. Their drinking water becomes contaminated by acid mine drainage and rainwater poisoned by mercury filled dust blowing over their villages. They are displaced to make way for mines with no compensation or warning, and are left to find new means of subsistence when their farmland becomes the site of a shaft. Thousands of them become fatally ill after working in mines for decades with no knowledge of the dangers they face.

But the damage goes far deeper. The lack of employment and means of survival leads to alcoholism, domestic violence, prostituion,

increased rates of HIV, and teenage pregnancies. These issues lead to even more expenses needed to control them, creating a vicious cycle of debt and endless poverty.

Neither the mining industry, nor the government, prioritise education for the affected communities and holds them in a situation where they are unaware of their rights. The industry takes advantage of this disempowerment consequences.

The communities affected live in the most rural areas of their countries out of the public eye. Few locals are aware of the mining operations occurring there and most citizens do not even know that these villages exist. In many communities, no NGO, government official, researcher or journalist has been before which means that no official scientific research has been done - a fact that companies have been seen to use as a means of protection. Citizens of the mining companies' country of origin have little knowledge that the companies which benefit from a large amount of their taxes, are operating in these foreign, unknown lands.

The mining industry has failed Africa. The land and the people have been, and continue to be, exploited, ravaged and broken. Multinational giants conquer the continent; they take, they ruin, and leave destruction and wreckage in their wake. But the industry is still growing at an accelerated pace. Africa still has billions of dollars and decades of minerals left to offer. While the devastation of the past can not be undone, the future is yet to be written. Mining can still bring riches and prosperity to the continent, but only if the best interest of human beings are put before profit.

Ilham Rawoot Victoria Schneider, Katrin Krämer, August 2013

research design and purpose of the investigation

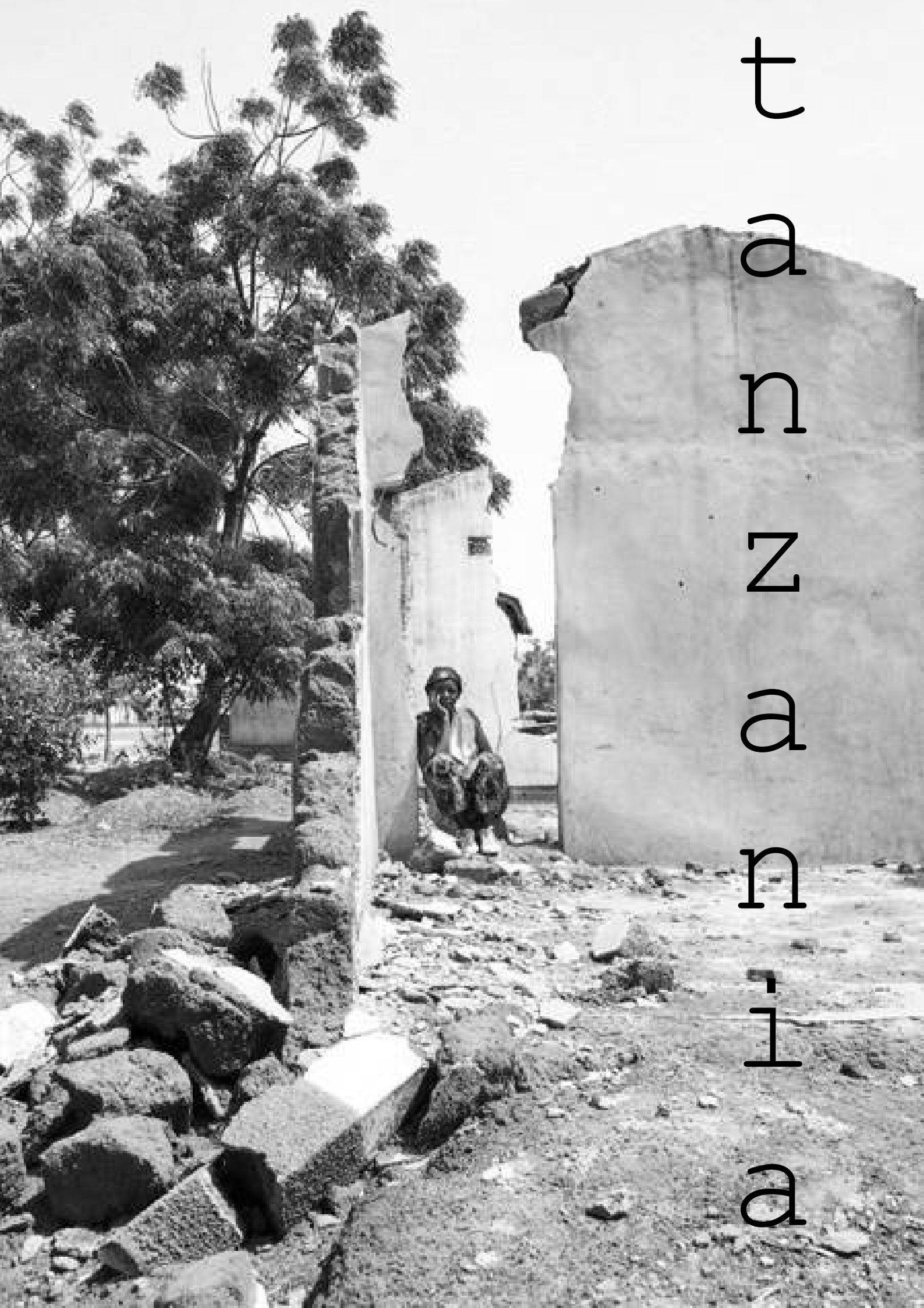
The information in this report is based predominantly on primary qualitative data that has been collected in South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho and Namibia over the last three months. A great part of the information was acquired by interviewing people ranging from NGO workers, lawyers, doctors and, most importantly, ordinary people who have lived or live in the most rural parts of those four countries visited, many of them in close proximity of a mine, as well as current and former mineworkers.

While in some cases secondary data is available and accessible, many issues we encountered have not been researched or covered before. This is mainly due to the delicate nature of the matter the report deals with and the complex structure of the bigger picture - a network of stakeholders, powerful and international, who act within a framework in which human rights and environmental concerns don't necessarily rank first.

However, despite the urgent need for independent quantitative scientific examinations, we have seen, heard, smelled and felt the impacts mines have on communities, people and their lands. We are journalists and our approach is primarily journalistic. We checked facts, as much as facts were checkable, but sometimes we had to trust our gut feelings and our sensations. This will be indicated by footnotes.

What remains is the call for people from various backgrounds to follow up on our findings and the assumptions. Only then can we know the real factual impact of mining and enter an equal and fair dialogue between all the stakeholders, the people, the mines, the investors, the governments.

This report shall serve as a wakeup call for more action and more monitoring of the issues that have been left in the dark for too long.



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In the last decade, Tanzania has become one of the most significant players in the extractive industry worldwide. The country disposes vast amounts of gold, diamonds, gas and oil, the extraction of which could have brought massive revenues to the country and its people. It is the third largest producer of gold in Africa and the export of minerals accounts for nearly half of the country's export revenues.

However, in Tanzania, in almost every case, international mining companies have built their operations literally in the centre of villages. They pollute air and drinking water, displaced thousands of people, destroyed the communities' farmlands, and leave them with a minuscule amount of compensation. They will never replace their history and connection to their land. If they are relocated, the land they are given is usually much smaller, with soil unsuitable for farming, and houses crack within a few months.

Neither the Tanzanian government nor the companies involved have made any commitment to changing the situation. In the contrary - the government is accused of being corrupted and facilitating the companies' activities by implementing a low royalty rate, tax concessions and providing gaps for tax evasion.¹

gold mines

Tanzania has six major gold mines that are run by two foreign mining companies: Barrick Gold Corporation owns four - Bulyanhulu, Buzwagi, North Mara and Tulawaka - the latter of which has recently shut its shafts. The biggest single open pit mine in the country, Geita Gold Mine, is run by South African company AngloGold Ashanti (AGA). Most of them have been to have violated human rights to a certain extent. In this chapter we will look at Geita Gold Mine, run by AngloGold Ashanti and the three remaining mine sites operated by the African subsidiary of Canadian mining giant Barrick Gold, African Barrick Gold.

¹ Lissu & Curtis, A golden opportunity, 2008

1 geita gold mine

anglogold ashanti



The Geita Gold Mine (GGM) is located in the Geita District of the Mwanza Region in Northern Tanzania, near to lake Victoria where the largest gold reserves of the country were found. AngloGold's GGM is the largest single open pit mine in Tanzania, and with an annual production of 560 000 ounces it's one of the biggest gold mines in Africa.

However, there are a range of issues related to AngloGold Ashanti's operations in Tanzania. Those include:

- displacement of indigenous people without paying adequate compensation
- contamination of water sources which resulted in the death of cattle
- alleged large scale tax evasion and corruption
- unlawful killing of illegal small scale miners by security forces

Violations of human rights in the area around the little town of Geita include the unlawful eviction of the villages from the town of Mtakuja. In the night of 1st July 2007 the local authority

forcefully evicted the villagers from their land. 86 villagers were taken to nearby Geita town by trucks where they were dumped on an open piece of land. Moreover, GGM didn't provide any kind of shelter or alternative housing, so people were forced into the old Primary Court Building, a building without windows or doors that is hardly suitable for giving shelter.

It wasn't until half a year later that the African Inland Church (AIC) donated a few simple camping tents as shelter. Up to this moment 18 families are living in what is left from these tents.

More than seven years after the eviction there are still people on the field, surviving under dire circumstances. The entire village used to depend on subsistence farming, cultivation of maize and cassava, and chicken husbandry. Due to the lack of formal education most of them haven't found a job since they were evicted.

Anastasia Emanuel is one of the people who were chased out of their homes six years ago. She lives with her mother and her eight year old daughter, Juleta, in her tiny tent. Emanuel's husband died a few years ago from a stroke, her oldest son passed away shortly afterwards. He was 22. She had to give six of her other children to relatives to look after because she could no longer provide for them. Juleta, the only child still staying with Anastasia, dropped out of school to look after her sick grandmother while Anastasia roams the streets of Geita every day, trying to find casual labour to support her family.

The tent Anastasia and her family live in is roughly bigger than 10m². The inside is crammed with old bent pots and cutlery, and blankets and lumber. The roof is made of plastic and bin bags.

The heavy floods of the rainy season have washed away the floors of the people's homes over time. The villagers have become used to their tents breaking down during the time of year when the rain

never stops, and all of them have stabilised their tents with wood and sticks and plastic bags.

The sanitation facilities are four toilet huts made of plastic. There's nothing but a hole in the plastic floor through which the excrement is released into the soil. They haven't been cleaned in seven years and as the soil is soft and muddy they have sunk half a meter into the ground. The smell is hardly bearable. The showers are right next to the toilets and are made of tin boards.

When still living in Mtakuja all these people sustained themselves. They didn't have access to education but survived through farming maize and cattle, they could live off their own vegetables and fruits and many of them held chickens.

None of the people who sacrificed for the Geita Gold mine have received compensation.

"It was the night of 31st July 2007, in the middle of the night. Without prior warning the government came to our houses, they literally invaded us, and took us away in trucks. Then they dumped us in an open space. There was no space for negotiations, nor compromises. We were left here without food or water, we had nothing. They didn't even give us time to pack any of our belongings. We're only here today because of the help of the churches. They came after nine months and donated these tents. Up until that point we were living like animals."

Anastasia Emanuel, 49, one of the displaced people from Mtakuja village

"The government neglected them. They were thrown away. These are our people. If you can't care for your own people, what kind of government are you?"

Wambura Matiko, member of the NGO monitor based in Geita

pollution

The Geita Gold Mine has no fence around its concession area of 196 km². On its grounds are waste dumps as well as tailings storing the leftover waste from the purification process. A good part of the waste is highly toxic and can cause death to humans and animals due to its high content of cyanide, concentrated acid, sodium and other chemicals.

The level of toxicity can be seen through an incident that happened last year when 19 cows belonging to local Geita resident Michael Ludigija died after drinking water from the dam.

That night in 2012, 23 of Ludigija's cattle broke out of their kraal and made their way over to the mine, a few kilometers away, following their sense to smell water even in great distances. They crossed onto the mine's land, found the water source and drank from it. 18 cows died on the spot, one died shortly afterwards and 4 cows went missing.

The mine has no fence or means of warning regarding trespassing, so Ludigija has filed a case against GGM in which he is suing the mining company for damages to the amount of 130 000 000 TSH (80 000 \$). The value of a cow is 1 Million TSH (600 \$). The rest of the amount stems from loss of income through the cattle.

Ludigija is a simple local farmer who lives off subsistence farming. He cultivates maize, cassava and tomatoes. He has five children and has to look after his sister's four children due to a lack of employment in the area.

His biggest source of income, however, was the production of milk. The death of his cows resulted in a cut of income which forced him to sell some of the cows he had left. He currently owns six cows. Another consequence of the sudden poverty was that his oldest daughter can't pursue her studies because there is not enough money to pay for school. GGM denies any liability for the cows' death and is pleading that Ludigija is guilty of severe negligence.

Life has become very hard, we're suffering. Since I lost my cows I opened a small stationary shop in Geita but the competition is so high that we don't sell a lot. My daughter had to pause her studies because we couldn't pay. Now they started exploration around our house, for possible future expansion of the mine. We are scared because we're living on gold.

Michael Ludigija, farmer from Geita who lost 19 cows in the tailings dam

small scale mining

Before GGM opened its doors in 1997, the area where the mine is located now used to be the workspace for thousands of small scale miners who made an income from digging for gold. With AGA taking over the land those people lost the legitimacy to follow their daily routine. Ever since the mine came in many of the small scale miners have been left unemployed and ended up sneaking into the mine's premises to look for gold that hasn't been extracted by the operating company.

Many incidents of unlawful police force towards those men have been reported, including killings and causing of serious injuries.

One case that caught the attention of national and international media was the shooting of then 17 year old Mhoja Leonard who lost his life when he was shot by mine security in March 2012. Leonard reportedly wasn't even one of the small scale miners who extract gold illegally. According to his father, Leonard Salala Nyanga, he had gone to join a friend for the first time to look for waste rock material when he got shot in March 2011. The security guards used force when they saw the two young men trespassing onto the land of GGM.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, the mine is not fenced, because "fencing the whole mining area would be too expensive", one of AngloGold's HR officers said. He cannot be named in this report.

"On that day my son was shot by GGM security guards on the premises of the gold mine. He was on the way to collect the waste of the mine, it was the first time he had gone. There is no direct border so he didn't know at which point he was trespassing."

Leonard Salala Nyanga, whose son was shot by mine security in 2012

2 buzwagi

african barrick gold



“This mine has brought calamity, nothing but bitterness.”

Zawadi Masanya, whose baby was killed when her roof caved in

The Buzwagi open pit mine is located in northwest Tanzania in the Kahama district of the Shinyanga region, approximately 97 km from Bulyanhulu and 6 km southeast from the town of Kahama.²

Beginning operations in 2009 it is African Barrick Gold's newest mine in Africa and is expected to run until 2020. The mine was built on land in the village of iKhandilo, without consultation or negotiation with the surrounding community.

destruction of livelihoods

The community claims to have lived in the area since the the beginning of the 20th century, and comprises 200 families. They say that the mine was built on what was, at the time, much of their residential and farming land. In 2009, They were given the option to move to a different location, but many could not abandon what

² www.barrick.com, accessed on 12/08/2013

was left of their fields. Because so much of the farming land has been taken for Barrick's operations, including rice paddies which were their main source of commercial and subsistence farming, villagers have had to travel to Kahama to find work, spending money on transport. Furthermore, they have few skills for work in towns, when they have been farmers for generations.

Those who left say they were given compensation of approximately 700 000 Tanzanian Shillings (325 Euro). The village leader, Jumane Mpemba, said that the community called for eight meetings with company representatives. The Barrick representatives only attended three. He adds that the community was only shown a map of the project area, after they had already started operations.

cracked houses

Those who remained are subject to the mine's blasting activities, which occur between one and three times a day, and cause minor tremors. Since 2009, more than 200 houses in the village have crumbled into ruins, and villagers complain about a case where a child was killed when a house fell down upon her. Because, traditionally, most of the houses are made of mud which crumble more easily, villagers now have to purchase bricks, which are expensive.

Zawandi Masanja is a 24 year old tailor who lives with her farmer husband in the village. With every blast from the mine, she says, her ceiling was becoming more and more unstable. One evening in 2012, she was working, and had left her four children with their grandmother in her home. A strong wind blew over the village, and the roof, which was disconnected to the ceiling because of the blasting, she says, came crashing down into the house. Her youngest child, a five year old girl, was fatally injured. Her thigh bone was broken, and she suffered massive internal injuries. She had to be taken to the government hospital 6 km away in Kahama, where she later died.

pollution and health impacts

Those in the village still drink and bathe in water that they believe has been affected by acids from the mine's waste water seeping into the surrounding environment, and some villagers have developed skin diseases after bathing in the water. Many of the children in the village have rashes on their faces and skins. While they believe that the water in the wells is contaminated, which they show by the water lilies burnt by acid, they have been drawing water from the wells since their ancestors, and have no other choice.

Adelah Shijah is the village health attendant. She says that most of the children that she sees from the village have a constant cough and itching eyes. Three quarters of the children have skin that is welts filled with pus. Although she warns them against using rainwater, they have no choice. She believes that the rainwater is contaminated by the dust that blows over the village from the direction of the mine everyday. She claims that since the mine began operating, many children have been born with physical defects, and many more than before have died at birth. As no hospital or clinic has been built by the mine or the government in the area, so people have little access to medical care. Having to travel to Kahama, when the only form of transport is bicycles, it means it is often too late for people's lives to be saved.

“It has ruined our lives, destroyed our forest and contaminated our mango trees. People need compensation for their broken homes. When we report to the local government authority, nothing ever happens.”

Generous Manyanda, 40, has lost two houses to the blasting

“My house started cracking in June 2011 and collapsed in July 2011. I filed a complaint to an official last year, but nothing happened. We are also experiences bad smells that are blown over from the mine and we think are the cause for our itching eyes and the chest pain.”

Hamisi Juma, 31, from Ikandilo

“There are no decent schools, no education, no promise for the children's future. If their grandfather was a house servant, then they will be a house servant.”

John Medza from the local NGO Shihabi

“I bathed in water in the well where I would usually bathe, after a day of working in the rice paddies. Afterwards, I started developing welts on my face and arms. My face started discolouring. The mine's water runs into the fields and there are no warning signs telling us that the water in the ponds has become poisonous.”

Maganga Marko, 24, resident of the local village

“Before the mine was operating, we were a family. We cultivated land for food. Now, since the dust has been blowing over the village every day with the wind, my chest is tight, my skin is ruined and my groin is swollen. All I want is for the mine to remove us peacefully and move us to a good place.”

Pemba Mirambo, 74, who has lived in the village all his life

3 bulyanhulu

african barrick gold

The Buyanhulu Gold Mine lies close to the village of Kakola in the Shinyanga region. The mine was acquired by African Barrick Gold in 1999. The area around Bulyanhulu is known as Tanzania's richest gold deposit.

buried alive

The mine has been haunted by continuing allegations that between 50 and 60 artisanal miners were purposefully trapped underground and buried alive by mine security in 1996, while the mine was still owned by Vancouver-based Sutton Resources Ltd. The alleged deaths came as what was seen as Barrick's open attempt to rid the

area of thousand of miners which it deemed illegal. African Barrick Gold, as well as the Tanzanian government, continue to deny the allegations.³

forceful evictions

Locals of the communities around Bulyanhulu say that they were forcefully evicted from their home in 2001, when the mine began production. When the communities resisted, hundreds of protesters were arrested and subjected to long-term imprisonment and criminal prosecutions.

For those who were displaced, many were not given an alternative location to move to. There was also no organised system of compensation. The company works with the local District Commissioner of the area, without involving the community in the compensation negotiations. Those who were given compensation did not know their rights, and do not have the education to compute a fair amount of compensation. Many, who for generations have been farmers, lost large investments into their permanent crops from which they had been earning a living and using for household purposes for generations.

The community was promised that with entrance of Barrick, there would be an increase in employment. However, the company has been criticised for claiming to create 1000 jobs, but this is not nearly enough to compensate for the hundreds of thousands forcibly evicted from their homes and farms in Bulyanhulu. Within a week of the mine's opening, 26 Tanzanian engineers quit their jobs; their reasons being low wages and discrimination against local employees. The Bomani Commission, created to look into problems and weaknesses of the extractive industry in Tanzania, found that Barrick owns land in the country that is not being put to good use.⁴

³ Globe and Mail, September 28, 2001 via www.minesandcommunities.org

⁴ The Extractive resource Industry in Tanzania: Status and challenges of the mining sector

labour issues

In the Kakola village situated close to the mine, many houses have visible cracks in the walls, since the mine began its blasting operations. There is very little employment of locals, and migrant workers from elsewhere in the country are brought in. This has led to a high rate of poverty and, prostitution, which in turn has led to an increased rate of HIV/Aids. Many former mineworkers in the village suffer from deafness, silicosis and painful back problems. They have no access to medical care nearby, and often have to travel 60 km to the town of Kahama for decent medical treatment. Many current workers claim to work 11 hour shifts and are rarely checked for silicosis and other occupational diseases.

Another issue is that of unlawful retrenchments. Former mineworkers say that in 2007, 1375 employees were fired without notice and with immediate effect. Since then, 14 former employees have died of silicosis.

"We never got tested for lung diseases when we were working for the mine. I worked more than nine years underground. In 2007 there was a conflict between the company and the workers. 25 worker were in hospital and we went to protest for better salaries and health care. They said we didn't show up for work and fired us.

William Njyia was one of the workers fired by Barrick in 2007

small scale mining

Locals also claim that hundreds of artisanal miners have been shot, and some killed by mine security, when digging for gold on the mine's premises. The numbers are unconfirmed, as the communities report having major difficulties when attempting to complain to the police. Artisanal mining is important to the community, as it is often a way for people to start with small sales and work their way up to brokering and dealing, and some are then able to invest in more stable businesses like shops or restaurants. Artisanal miners were allowed to dig freely,

according to the government in 1993, but that has since change through legal proceedings instigated by the government, as the mining companies moved in to the area. In Bulyanhulu, small scale mining used to offer locals an income of 6 times more what they would earn from farming.

As locals attempt to seek justice, major internal conflict has arisen between community members and leaders who have chosen to side with the company, creating major issues of corruption, deceit and fear in the community.⁵

"The main issue about the village is that is is in poverty in its deepest meaning. We've tried to speak to Barrick to maybe build us a hospital, but they do not come. We cannot visit them, because we have bicycles and no mobile phones, and we cannot frequent the mine. Mine officers think of us as mere insects, like a frog trying to cry out to an elephant."

John Medza, founder of the Kahama based NGO Shihabi

"In the years before the mine came, we were framers and herders. There was a thick forest with antelopes, monkeys and different species of birds. But in 1974, when the mine started prospecting, life became hard."

"When Barrick came in in 1996, they flushed us out like pigeons. Before, the governmnet told us that Barrick would provide us with jobs but very few of us have been employed. The whole community had been fooled."

Retired chairman, Makula Makaranga

"Families have broken up because of migrant workers who come in and take away jobs, young girls get pregnant from migrant workers, there is now a high rate of STD's and HIV."

Bakari Jooma, former mineworker.

⁵ Ibid.

4 north mara gold mine

african barrick gold

The biggest gold mine in Tanzania, North Mara Gold mine, has long been accused of serious human rights violations and the destruction of the environment.

A highly toxic spillage from a containment pond that occurred in 2009 left many people and livestock dead or with serious illnesses.⁶ Leaking from a containment dam, the poisonous spill entered the ground water as it ran off into the Tigite river where most of the locals used to get their water from.

“It wasn't just a story that chemicals were leaking into the community. But the company denied it. The government formed a committee that was sent to work there. They did studies – but the report was never published. The communities were never informed that they couldn't use the water. The information came out much later. The government took a long time to respond to those issues. And nothing happened with the company.”

source doesn't want to be named

An investigation published by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in 2009 assessed different water sources in the areas around North Mara Gold mine. “The previous accidental spill that took place from the NMGM in May 2009 has seriously contaminated sediments and waters nearby”, the study reads. It called for “detailed biogeochemical studies” that must be commissioned, as well as identified a “pressing need for an extensive study of the population, their diet and agricultural management practices, to

⁶ Saunders, 2013, Debunking Barrick, protestbarrick.net

map particularly the Arsenic sources, its transport in the food chain and finally its content in human tissue samples.”⁷

Skin ailments are the most common problems the local population around the North Mara mine are facing until today.

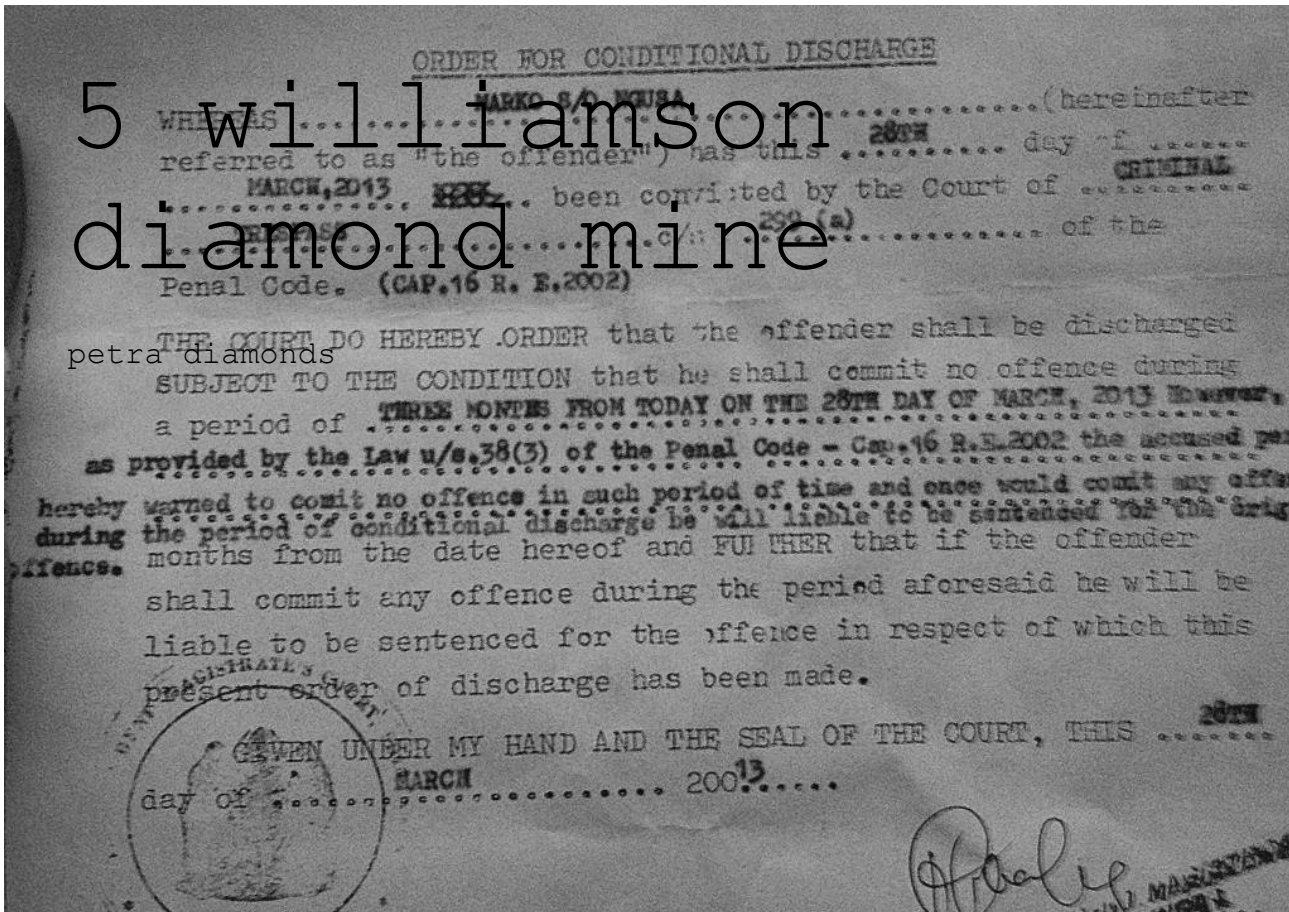
Until now the contamination of the water persists and so do the illnesses. Local residents report that their animals are still dying and it is expected that the spillage has caused long term damage that has not yet been independently investigated.

“The environment is the biggest problem. It is still contaminated, four years after the spillage occurred and people depend on the water. There are still many cases of illnesses and deaths”

Fanuel, monitor in Nyamongo, the community most affected by Barrick's North Mara mine

Last but not least, another issue is the unlawful use of force by Barrick Gold's security personnel. Illegal miners are killed by both the private security of the mine and the police on a regular basis. Four deaths have been reported in 2012.

⁷ Almas, Kweyunga and Manoko, 2009, Investigation of trace metal concentrations in soil, sediments and waters in the vicinity of gold mines in North West Tanzania



5 Williamson
diamond mine

petra diamonds

Petra Diamonds is a South African company. It has one operation in Tanzania, the Williamson Diamond Mine, which, at 146 hectares, is the world's largest kimberlite mine. It is situated near the town of Maganzo in the Shinyanga region, and 25% of the mine is owned by the government of Tanzania.

Little attention from the media, government and civil society has been paid to the mine's interaction with the surrounding community, who claim involves severe human rights violations.

The mine has no physical boundary surrounding it, which means that artisanal miners from the impoverished community in Maganzo, can easily be deemed illegal miners, either consciously or not. Many of these miners have been attacked and injured by the mine's security, In some cases, shepherds whose cattle graze the area, are unaware that they are considered by security as trespassers.

George Joseph is 28 years old. His right leg has been amputated at the knee. In January 2013, he went to the area around the mine where he usually carries out his small scale mining activities, in a group of five men. He was approached by a security guard who he claims beat him and dropped his partner in a ditch. George was shot in the leg, with a shotgun filled with small pebbles.

George says that the miners usually have an agreement with the security guards to allow them to mine, with a bribe to the security of around 30 000 Tanzania Shillings (14 Euro) for the group, for every shift. However, there are cases where the security do not heed the agreement. George has had to shell out 15 000 Tsh (7 euro) for a check up, which he has had to have four times since the incident.

The mine has not created employment for the locals, they say, and brings in mostly migrant workers from elsewhere in the country. George, as well as many of his peers, have regularly applied for jobs in the mine, but to no avail. This leaves many of the men in the community unemployed, with no opportunity for education and progress. This is a problem in Maganzo that has been continuing through generations - grandfathers and father of the current miners did exactly the same work, deemed by the mine to be illegal, since 1940 when the mine was opened. It was acquired by Petra Diamonds in 2008.

Shepard Mike Ngusa was grazing his cattle in the fields surrounding the Williamson mine in march 2012. He followed his cows into the area that they were moving to, unaware that he was now on the mine's property. He was approached by security guards who shot him in the stomach with stones, rupturing his spleen. The security then rushed him to the mine's hospital. Upon discharge he was arrested for trespassing and spent six months in jail awaiting trial, with another three months sentence.

The town of Maganzo is clearly underdeveloped, with no decent schooling facilities, housing or clinics. The community believes that the mine is aware of the violence inflicted on them, and keeps them in their dire financial situation.

“I keep going back to work around the mine because I have no choice. I am not scared anymore because I am jobless. If they want to kill me they have to kill all of us.”

Sudi Hamza, artisanal miner

“There is no fence around the mine. They have taken away my human rights. I have something burning inside.”

Mike Ngusa, artisanal miner shot by security

6 selous game reserve

rosatom

Since 1982, the Selous Game Reserve in South Tanzania has been a Unesco World Heritage Site. A look at Unesco's website for the Reserve evokes a romantic picture of Africa's largest protected stretch of land. “Large numbers of elephants, black rhinoceroses, cheetahs, giraffes, hippopotamuses and crocodiles live in this immense sanctuary,” it reads. “The park has a variety of vegetation zones, ranging from dense thickets to open wooded grasslands.”

However, last year, Unesco gave part of the site, around the Mkuju River, to the Tanzanian government, which in turn sold it to an Australian company called Mantra Resources, to build a uranium mine.

Uranium is not just any type of mining. The extracted ore is used in the development of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. Numerous studies have shown that both workers for the uranium mines and communities around the mine suffer from a significantly high rate of several different cancers, leukemia and fatal cerebrovascular diseases.

By October, the project at the Mkuju river site will have started and the first containers of uranium will have left the country, encroaching on land inhabited by large populations of indigenous animals. While the company and government seem unperturbed by the effect on the natural environment, it is not hard to speculate that a major part of the reserve and the communities around it will lose its health, plant life, animals, farming land and water from toxification, and clean air.

This is not the usual instance of land grabbing regarding people and their communities. It will affect indigenous populations - the social structures of local tribes and villages are likely to be turned upside down with the influx of foreign workers. Unemployment, sex work, alcoholism are just some examples of what human rights groups are expecting to see rise in the upcoming years.

But furthermore, it is land on which hundreds of species of animals and wildlife live, who will not only be forcefully removed, but will become very sick, for many kilometres away from the mine's operations, as the big Mkuju river which this area is named after, is in close distance to the project and chances are high that it will be polluted by the mine's waste.

One of the biggest issues that the affected people face is that there is no one for them to complain to. Their government provides the licences for the mines, so they are left with only NGO's to support them. The fact that a respected international body like Unesco is involved, their hope for justice and for proper

compensation becomes a dream that is fading further and further away.

legal aspects

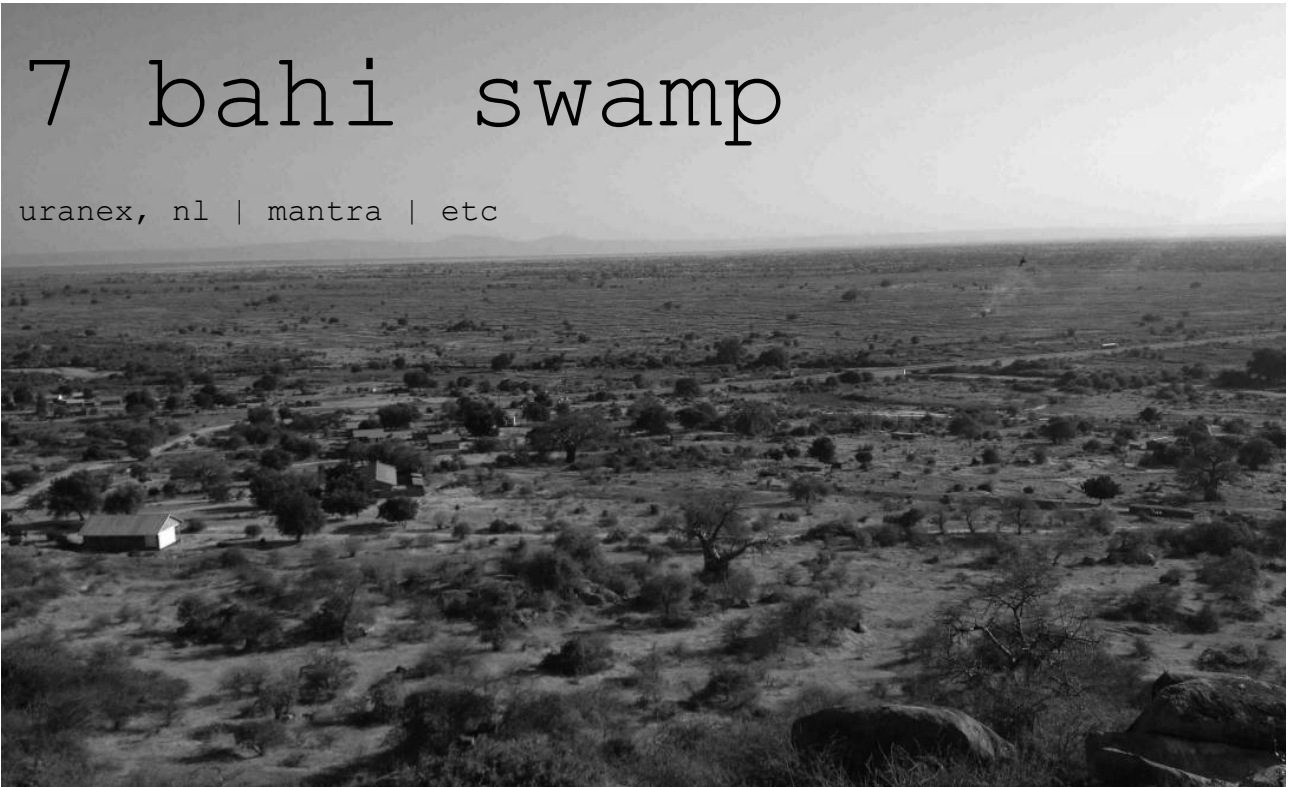
Flaviana Charles is from the Legal Human Rights Center in Dar es Salaam, an institution that provides legal aid to Tanzanian citizens affected by human rights violations. Charles is responsible for environmental issues and has visited the site twice. She says: "There's no doubt that there will be environmental pollution. If they start extracting the same will happen as in the gold mining areas. And with uranium questions arise such as: How are they going to transport these delicate goods? How are they going to make sure that it will be transported safely?"

Charles also emphasizes the lack of knowledge among the local population. "They are told that uranium will bring them benefits". Her work on Mkuju River has been made difficult now as the LHRC has received threats after they raised the issues around the uranium project in the media.

The mining will start during the dry season of this year, which is now. It is still in the early stages which means it is still preventable.

7 bahi swamp

uranex, nl | mantra | etc



The second area where uranium exploration is currently taking place is the Bahi swamp on the outskirts of Tanzania's capital, Dodoma. No mining licence has yet been granted, but exploration activities such as drilling are ongoing.

The soil in the Bahi swamp area is one of the most fertile in the country and is thus one of the regions which contribute immensely to Tanzania's central region's alimental supply. Not only that, the local population heavily relies on subsistence farming and access to their lands, the farming of which provides all food groups needed. The region is a functional economic system as the vegetation of the enormous swamp allows people to grow maize and rice, different types of vegetables, roots and fruits, sunflowers for cooking oil production as well as salt. They farm cattle and goats, and fish in the many fresh water sources running through the wetlands.

In 2010 things started to change. Unbeknownst to the local residents, companies have started to come onto the lands to look for uranium. Exploration works are currently spanning over three

villages, Bahi, Manyoni and Kondola and are ongoing. Companies involved are RANEX, Mantra Resources and International Gold Mining.⁸

The local population is concerned about the activities as they come with risks unknown to them. The problems identified by the Bahi people thus far are:

- Lack of information from the local authorities and the exploring companies
- Risk of ground water and soil contamination which would affect farming activities
- Land grabbing and involuntary displacements

Beatus Julian is a resident of Bahi village, in which drilling and exploration has been taking place for several years now. Like many other locals he claims that no one has ever come to inform them about what's going to happen.

“From the beginning they didn't communicate openly what is happening here. They came to the land and started drilling without informing the people. They came to the farms, into the gardens. One day someone who cultivates tomatoes suddenly found a hole in his fields, amongst his plants. They leave without filling up the holes.”

Beatus Julian, priest from Illindi village in the swamp area

Other people of the area suspect that they are already directly affected by the exploration works. Exploration might not be as harmful as extraction but the chemicals used to disintegrate the rocky layers in order to reach the uranium can also harm the soil and local aquifers. Residents of the Bahi district complain about skin problems, rashes, itchy patches and eye irritation. Several people who have come in touch with the water from the streams near the rice fields suffer from burning eyes and headaches.

A boy of five has washed himself in that water and fell seriously

⁸ Wippel, Briefing Paper zu Uran und Tanzania

ill early this year. Medical experts from a hospital in Dar es Salaam identified allergies in his body.

Reports have been published by the uranium network and the local NGO CESOPE in which the possible risks and health impacts of uranium mining are mentioned.

Furthermore, a research conducted by the University of Dodoma states that the economic value of the region's agricultural activities outweighs the possible benefits of uranium mining.⁹

Protests by the local residents have been cracked down by police in September last year. According to a villager from Bahi nine men were arrested when people blocked the main street.

People in the Bahi area seem to be subject to intimidation. Anthony Lyamunda, the founder of the NGO CESOPE, decided to leave the country in April after he received threatening text messages and phone calls.

“I am hesitating to speak about these issues because when I try to explain what is happening the government will try to do something against it.”

Buma Matshila, resident of Ilindi village where uranium exploration is taking place

“If they start mining uranium here the Bahi swamp area is going to be destroyed. The area is crucial for farming and grazing, we have lots of fish in our rivers, the entire village depends on the food that comes from the area. This is going to be destroyed.”

Samuel Mlugu

I heard the word uranium and I didn't know what it is. I believed employment is coming into the area. I started working for the exploration company, my job was to catch the soil that was pumped up from underground. The contract ended after one month. When it ended my health started deteriorating. My skin started itching. My performance with my wife went down. I went to the hospital but they couldn't help. The doctor just said it must be some kind of chemical reaction.

Noah Emanuel, resident of Bahi

⁹ Mbogoro & Mwakipesile, Economical and ecological research of Bahi Swamp, Final report, 2010

namibia



Namibia is a mineral rich country whose GDP relies heavily on mineral exports. 95 per cent of those exports are based on five foreign companies extracting gold, copper, zinc, diamonds and uranium.

The latter was almost declared dead after a stable decline of market prices in the 80s and 90s. The growing need for alternative energy sources, however, and with it the need for the commodity to fuel nuclear power plants, the demand for uranium rose again, peaking in a market price of 135 US Dollars in 2007.¹⁰ Until that point, Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto was the only company extracting uranium in Namibia. The steady growth had triggered other investment companies to explore the country and resulted in Paladin opening the Langer Heinrich mine, a Chinese company constructing another mine and lots of international companies invading the country in search of the delicate mineral that is not only used for energy supply but to build nuclear weapons. Namibia has since become the world's 5th biggest uranium exporter with prospects to become 4th in the years to come.

Rio Tinto is Namibia's largest and longest uranium trader. Their Rössing mine, located in the Rössing mountain range opened its gates in 1976. It is located 60 kilometers away from the coastal town of Swakopmund. It sits on one of the biggest low-ore uranium deposits worldwide and is one of the largest open pit uranium mines on earth.

It was the first uranium mine in Namibia and created thousands of jobs when it started operations almost 40 years ago. Men from all over the country were recruited which prompted Rio Tinto to set up the town of Arandis, ten kilometers north of the mine. Workers were provided with houses in which they were soon to be joined by their wives and families. Many of the workers who joined Rössing in those days remember that time well. "It was a nice town, it was neat and clean and we had all we needed", many of them say.

¹⁰ LaRRI, 2010, The mystery behind low level radiation

But the situation changed. When Namibia regained independence in 1990, Rio Tinto, who was struggling with a massive decline in uranium prices at that time, took the opportunity to give back Arandis to the government as an 'independence gift'. As Rio Tinto withdrew from the town the situation in the little desert town started to deteriorate. The only hospital was closed (and later reopened as a clinic) and workers had to lease or buy the houses that had been provided by the company before.

Issues around uranium mining in Tanzania have become ambivalent. On the one hand it contributes significantly to the country's GDP and provides employment to the country that is haunted by a historical unemployment rate of over 40 per cent.¹¹

In the year 2006 alone, Rossing contributed N\$158 (close to U\$ 20) million to government coffers through tax revenues. Production at this site makes up about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product of Namibia (GDP) and 10% of the country's foreign exports. Rossing Uranium contributes about 8% to the world primary uranium production. The mine has committed itself in August 2007 to a N\$784 million (US\$112 million) lifespan extension project that will see the mine through to 2022. This extension is due to the demand for uranium worldwide.¹²

On the other hand the benefits of uranium mining doesn't seem to reach the people. Even the ones who are employed by the mine are facing many other issues that have arisen around the mine, especially in the health sector.

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² *Ibid*

8 arandis

rio tinto



The issues identified around Rio Tinto's Rössing mine are the following:

Lack of safety in the early days of the mine which resulted in people suffering from mysterious, allegedly misdiagnosed illnesses (cancer)

Severe lack of transparency regarding the worker's health

Suspicion of conspiracy between the company and the doctors

Cut of medical check ups and health screenings post retirement/retrenchment

Roofs are made of asbestos which can also be hazardous to human health

Ongoing retrenchments of workers

Environmental issues arising from dust levels in the open pit that haven't been independently researched

health

Health is the biggest issue around the huge uranium mine, especially as it isn't well researched and adequate information is only available from the mine. Rössing, however, denies any kind

negative impact of uranium mining on people's health. The company negates higher radiation levels in the open pit and risks stemming from the dust residues in the area that contain uranium and other toxic substances.

"The biggest risk in the open pit is silica dust", claims Alwyn Lubbe who works for Rössing's external relations department. He also says that Rössing's waste dumps contain no radiation and much fewer toxic substances than gold mine dumps.

However, studies have shown that the extraction of uranium leads to the release of radon, which is a dense and highly radioactive isotope.

In interviews with men who began working for Rössing in the early days of the mine it became clear that security standards were low, or not applied at all. Several workers, dealing with the final product recovery - the most dangerous step in the production chain of uranium - reported getting in touch with yellow cake by sucking the substance through a little pipette in order to get the material flowing. Especially in the first years of the mine, in the late 70s, they were not provided with any safety equipment. That was only introduced in the course of the 80s and came along with compulsory safety briefings in all departments of the mine.

The lack of safety back in the days is likely to have caused some of the illnesses men are suffering from in Arandis. Especially men working in the early days of the mine are facing health problems such as deformed bodies, various kinds of cancer that settle in the throat, lungs or legs, asthma.

Petrus Hoab, a 64 year old resident of Arandis, is one of the men working in the laboratory. Even though international guidelines recommend workers not to work more than five years in the uranium mine, Hoab, and many others, worked for the company for several decades. Most of the workers are drawn to Arandis by poverty and

have no other place to go. The trust in the mine was high. For almost twenty years now Hoab has troubles to walk. His legs are deformed and getting up, walking, driving and even standing cause serious pains. In his accounts he mentions that he had been forced to sit in a wheelchair in 2004 and was sent for treatment in several hospitals.

However, up until now, he has not received a proper diagnosis from the doctors. He suffers from hypertension, the mine doctors told him, and at one point he was diagnosed with psychosomatic illness and was given strong anti-depressants. Many of his old colleagues have passed away, other have fallen sick as well. Some suffer from the same problems.

“All doctors in the Erongo regions are not trustworthy. They ask you where you work and if you say you worked at Rössing, that's it, they tell you nothing is wrong with you.”

“We only learned about the dangers of uranium mining in the 1980s. In the first years there was nothing. In the laboratory we used to suck up the yellow cake with our mouths. It was in 2000 that I realised that I am radiated. I had problems with my legs and had difficulties walking. I opened my file when I was transferred from one doctor to another and it was written there. The doctors admitted to me, but not officially. They still said I am suffering from hypertension and said I am enemic when I had to sit in a wheelchair in 2004. Over the years many of my friends and former colleagues died.

Sometimes I am okay, sometimes I feel very sick and can't even stand up.”

Petrus Hoab, former laboratory worker who suffers from an unidentified disease.

He is preparing to file a lawsuit against Rio Tinto in the High Court, accusing the company of unfair labour practices, ill health, unfair dismissal and delayed payments.

The challenge with people's health in Arandis lies in the lack of independent monitoring of sicknesses. All data is with the mine and its doctors and the only independent research ever done ended in a court case against the PhD student who conducted it. In this “epidemiological evaluation of the Mineworkers at Rössing (with specific references to cancers), published in 1998, Dr. Reinhard Zaire, who had taken blood samples of 700 workers, found that

longterm exposure to low-dose radiation increases the risk to fall ill with some sort of cancer. Zaire's study however was discredited by Rio Tinto which ultimately resulted in the government withdrawing his licence to conduct the study and delegalsing his actions.¹³

Another independent report was written by the Labour Resource and Research Institute in 2008. The Rössing workers interviewed confirmed the lack of safety gear in the early days of the mine and the exposure to radioactive substances without protection and knowledge that it could be a hazard to their health.

What also becomes apparent is that most of the workers at Rössing are

- a) not aware of the dangers of the materials they're exposed to on a daily basis.
- b) trusting the company's safety standards

The same is valid for their health. All workers undergo yearly health screenings and monthly urine tests, the results of which they never get to see. They have to believe what the doctors tell them, although all of the workers that have been spoken to for this report stated not to trust the doctors.

“My legs started to get sore in 1993, after 14 years of working in the laboratory. We normally worked for 8 hour shifts but often had to work overhours. The doctors said we aren't sick, they said it's the stress that makes our legs sore. We only learned from the newspapers that uranium is dangerous.” My thumbs turned numb and swollen but we didn't know what was wrong. Sometimes I cannot button my shirt because it pains so much. Walking is difficult, even getting up is painful.

Hoseas Gaomab, who used to work with Petrus Hoab in the laboratory

¹³ Hecht, G., Bein Nuclear, Africans and the Global Uranium Trade, 2010 and Interview with Dr. Reinhard Zaire

no transparency

Lack of transparency is a serious concern in and around Arandis. Another issue is the lack of access to health care once the workers retire or get retrenched. As soon as they are off Rössing's pay roll all medical screenings and supply of medication is cut. Moreover, cases of workers who suffer from severe illnesses, are handled dubiously. Workers like Petrus Hoab have gotten 'booked off' as they say for many years at a time, without being given a trustable reason and during which they were paid 70 per cent of their salary.

There are also stories of people with long illness histories who have been repeatedly booked off until eventually they were fired and sent home. It is a common saying in Arandis that "if you leave Arandis you're going to die", for many people who get sent back home die within six months. Most of those cases have remained unmonitored, because, as mentioned earlier, once a worker disappears from the pay roll, monitoring from the company's side ceases.

Speaking to one of the nurses of Arandis' clinic it became apparent that the town is suffering from an elevated number of Asthma cases as well as a supposedly higher number of diabetes patients and people suffering from high blood pressure than the average population of Tanzania.

"The uranium mine brought jobs, that's why everyone liked it. Jobs over everything. I am still young but I am thinking about seeing a private doctor because of the stories of the pensioners...when they are retrenched, two months later they die."

Rössing worker who doesn't want to be named

"Every year, every single one of 2000 workers was told everything is fine. Can you believe that all 2000 workers are fine? There must be something wrong."

Piet Hoab, former mineworker who is suffering from headaches and was retrenched after passing out in the dump

pollution

The issue of pollution around the Rössing uranium mine is based on speculation as no independent research has ever been conducted. If the external relations department of the mine can be trusted, there is no pollution resulting from the extraction of the uranium.

However, as many studies that have been carried out on uranium mining have shown, the extraction of the ore comes at a heavy price. Radon takes about 3.5 million years to disintegrate and the waste stemming from uranium ore is highly toxic. Claims from the company that the tailings are non-poisonous should be handled with care.

Also, uranium mining comes with a risk of toxic spillages if any of the tailings leaks. Radioactive spillages have happened elsewhere in the world and occurred with fatal consequences for humans and wildlife.

roofing

An issue that was picked up during the research, was the material of the roofs in Arandis, as the majority of them - including the clinic - are made of Asbestos. Health risks of Asbestos have been known since the 19th century, however, due to a lack of legislation in Namibia, when Rio Tinto built the town in 1975 it fitted all the houses with asbestos roofing.

No research has been done on health related impacts of asbestos in Arandis, nor is there any monitoring of elevated illnesses related to poisonous substances in the town's air.

research challenges

As mentioned throughout this chapter one of the biggest problems around the Rössing mine is the lack of transparency and independent scientific research. The LaRRI has faced the same challenge when gathering information five years ago and was therefore forced to rely on interviews and things the workers say.

“It is very difficult for us to scientifically confirm these experiences and views. However, the fact that many of the workers made reference to respiratory problems is worrying.”¹⁴

However, this doesn't mean the information gathered is not credible. LaRRI has conducted another series of interviews with current and former workers of the mine this July, and, their content being congruent to the more than 20 interviews conducted for this report, they give a reliable qualitative picture of the disturbing situation in and around Arandis.

“We believe that workers have genuine concerns. It is possible that there are specific radiation linked health clusters in Arandis and surrounding towns such as Swakopmund and Walvisbay. This also means that there are many people in these towns who are at risk of diseases caused by radiation.”¹⁵

“The environment is the well being of human beings. If something is not good for the environment then they shouldn't mine. But things are covered up by the mines.”

Willem Odendaal, coordinator of the land, environment and development project of the LAC

¹⁴ LaRRI 2010

¹⁵ LaRRI 2010

lesotho

anglo american | anglogold ashanti | goldfields | harmony | etc



Lesotho is a little enclave located in the middle of South Africa. Although no significant mining activities are taking place in the kingdom it used to be one of the largest sources of black labour in South African gold mines and today there are still up to 20 000 people employed in one of the numerous mines in the surrounding country. Drawn by poverty and the high rate of unemployment in Lesotho most of the migrant workers can't afford to oscillate back and forth and stay away from their homes in rural Lesotho for months at a time.

The majority of labourers are employed by one of the three biggest gold mining companies in the country, AngloGold Ashanti Goldfields and Harmony Gold. Until AngloAmerican pulled out of the gold industry in South Africa in 1999 most of the workers used to be employed by the British mining giant who has sold its last shares in AngloGold Ashanti some years ago.

Although AngloAmerican has long withdrawn from its gold mining activities in Africa, and together with the other big players in the industry, the mining giant is facing severe accusations of violating human rights over decades. They are facing a class action from miners who suffer from silicosis, an incurable lung disease that develops after exposure of silica dust. Silica dust occurs in gold mines.

The miners claims are based on the lack of protection against the fine dust particles underground that enter the lungs and cause scar tissue. The illness takes up to 20 years to break out.

Especially older workers who started working underground in times when ventilation systems and the effectiveness mouth and nose protection were insufficient.

There are currently 30 gold mining companies thousands of miners are trying to take to court in South Africa, amongst them, of course, the international mining giants. The attempt to file a

class action against AngloAmerican in the UK, where it is legally registered, has been ruled out by the court earlier this year. The class action tried to sue AngloAmerican for compensation payments based on the same claims as its South African counterpart.

A lot of the sick men come from Lesotho where a local NGO has begun to registering ex-mine workers throughout the country in order to find out how many are suffering from the disease that is hardly ever diagnosed when the men are still working. When they are sent home they are not aware that they might be sick as mine doctors are suspected to manipulate diagnoses. When they are retrenched or retire most of the men returning home are not aware of the high probability of them carrying the lung disease inside.

The problem with adequate health care persists once the miners get home. Doctors in Lesotho are often unaware of the existence of silicosis and are not trained to link the underground work to an eventual lung disease. Many of the doctors therefore diagnose a sickness in the lungs but usually don't relate it to TB or Silicosis. Statistics are generally nebulous because of the numerous cases of HIV/Aids and TB. Again, many of doctors who aren't aware of the link between mining and unhealthy respiratory systems.

3000 of over 15 000 registered men from Lesotho have already been diagnosed with Silico-TB. The number is likely to increase significantly as the testing of the workers continues. Another challenge is that while the NGO is trying to find everyone who used to work in mines all over South Africa many of the victims are passing away, unnoticed.

Men are the sole breadwinner in the house and once they come back home they are too weak to physically work.

The mines have their own hospitals and the doctors' diagnosis are not questioned. There are many men who are diagnosed with second

degree silicosis but have never been diagnosed with first degree silicosis. About 20 000 men from Lesotho are still working in South African mines, all kinds of mines, gold, platinum, coal, etc.

“People have been coming here coughing and we never knew why. They came for their delayed benefits or for other claims. They would come here sick and we thought maybe it was too cold in the mines. But after we got involved with the asbestos case we realised there must be some kind of sickness. Now we know.”

Mathleehang, from the Mine Workers Development Agency (MDA) in Maseru

“In the early days I worked in the mines there was no protective gears. It was only after nine years that we were given nosebags. We worked with lights underground, so when we saw a red light we weren't supposed to go beyond a certain point. But ventilation systems were only installed after eight or nine years. But even then the conditions didn't change thoroughly as the pipes were damaged all the time.

Mr Litabe Litabe, from the village of Ha Motemekoane, who is suffering from silicosis

“I am constantly scared. Especially in winter because that's when he coughs all the time. It was in 1992, when he had TB for the first time, that I realised he's getting sick. It's dangerous. Whenever he came home with TB tablets I began to wonder. He came home every three months, on a quarterly basis. Of course we're all scared that we will lose him.”

Mrs Litabe, Litabe, about her husband's sickness

“The follow up is the biggest challenge. People here would go to the doctor because of respiratory problems or cough. There is very few that know that they were retrenched because of silicosis. They don't know what silicosis is because in the mines they only hear there is something called thysis – a common cough. The symptoms only develop later.

They live in rural areas so even if it's clearly indicated on their retrenchment document that they have to come for a screening every 6 months they'd have to travel far – the nearest mine hospital is in Welkom. There is no palmonologist in Lesotho and no organised screenings.”

doctor from Lesotho who is one of very few in the country who is aware of the existence of silicosis

south africa



“We have health and safety legislation. Whenever there is a serious accident as a result of occupational injury or disease, you must order an investigation. Inspector, witnesses, find out what happened there hasn't been a single investigation into a case of silicosis in the mines. Not one. The law is not applied. Not at all.”

Richard Spoor

In the 19th century, the mining industry in South Africa brought flocks of people from inside and outside the country, to find their fortune. Gold, platinum, uranium and coal are only some of the minerals mined, and are exported worldwide. However, the mining industry was built on dark foundations - it is synonymous with colonisation, devastating exploitation of land and people, displacement and inequality, and played a significant role in supporting the apartheid regime.

A few people became enormously wealthy from mining, while the majority of the poor black mineworkers remained steeped in dire poverty. In 2013, little has changed in the industry - while black economic empowerment has brought educated black people into the industry, the labourers remain at the same economic level as they have always been - financially and socially disempowered. The communities who are negatively affected by the mines receive little attention or compensation from the government, the media and the industry, and the issues of inequality and unfair labour practices are only acknowledged when the country faces a violent uprising, as we saw in Marikana in 2012. As the most important industry in the country, the mining industry requires a far more holistic and sustainable approach to its contribution to the country, its people and its economy.

9 rustenburg

angol platinum | royal bafokeng platinum | glencore



In South Africa's North West province, near the town of Rustenburg, is Anglo Platinum's Bafokeng-Rasimone mine, of which it is the majority shareholder along with Royal Bafokeng Platinum.

Thousands of villagers from communities surrounding the mine have been displaced in the past decade to make way for the mine's expansion, with little or no compensation.

Those who were relocated have also lost their farmland, and as subsistence farmers for generations, they now have to pay for food, which in turn means spending money on traveling to the nearest towns. They also no longer have a means of income, which they previously derived from selling cultivated products to other locals and at markets. This has led to hunger, poverty and unemployment, and a high rate of alcoholism.

When villagers had previously lived in large houses which housed traditionally large families, they are compensated with a one or two bedroomed house by the company. Communities have also lost access to drinking water, which came from boreholes nearby their

homes, as the land to which they were relocated does not provide as much water from the ground as they previously obtained. They have also lost thousands of Rands which they had spent on building these boreholes. They are weary of the water supply that has been made available by the company, due to acid mine drainage caused by the mine's activities, which they say has led to regular fits of diarrhoea.

Furthermore, those with remaining farmland are unable to use the soil, as they believe it has been subjected to toxic water seeping from the mine into the soil, making it unfit for cultivation. Since the mine began production, the soil is unable able to produce fruits and vegetables, which die immediately.

Communities remaining nearby the mine say they are affected by the mine's blasting, which occurs one to three times a day, which leads to cracks in their houses, in the walls and floors, and shattered windows. Some houses are less than a kilometer away from the mine shaft. Several villagers abandoned their homes for fear that they may collapse.^{16,17}

The company does not deal directly with the community but leaves the interaction to the government and traditional authorities. The relationship between the mine and the authorities is opaque, causing major internal conflicts within the community over compensation funds.

Anglo Platinum recently announced that they would be retrenching 6000 workers, which has led to threats of a strike, The company is currently in talks with union representatives over the matter.

Anglo American is currently the respondent in a class action lawsuit involving 15000 mineworkers who are claiming compensation for silicosis and lung diseases caused by exposure to silica dust.

¹⁶ https://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/angloplats_miningreport_aa.pdf

¹⁷ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7312018.stm>

According to the local ward councillor, what's his name??? says that less than ten percent of the labour force in the community has been employed by the mine. He says the water sources have been so badly affected by poisoned water leakages from the min, that many cattle have died from drinking in the wells. Many of the migrant workers have moved into the town, because the hostels provide rooms that are cramped, housing eight to twelve men each. They build shacks in the town, and the low levels of employment lead to high levels of prostitution, and an increase rate of HIV.

glencore/xstrata

Xstrata is a wholly owned subsidiary of Glencore, a company based in Switzerland. Xstrata in turn is a major shareholder of Lonmin, and tried to buy out Lonmin completely. Lonmin, however, rejected the offer.

Glencore has recently been slammed for its announcement to dismiss 6000 workers at its Helena chrome mine in the Limpopo province in june 2013. This came after a major strike by workers after a worker claimed that a shift supervisor had assaulted him. The protestors demanded that the shift supervisor be dismissed. Glencore has dismissed just under 2000 workers so far.

“What once was an area comprising clear, coherent, identified settlements has now turned into a massive rural sprawl.”

“No town planning no development planning taking place. Mines have established and intrsoduced without planning. There is no housing there. Just squatters. And urban planning is about as funadamental to an organised civilised society as clean water.”

Richard Spoor, the lead attorney in the lawsuit, representing the miners, says, about the displacement

10 marikana

lonmin



The platinum belt in South Africa, which runs from the North West province to the Limpopo Province, is one of the richest sources of platinum in the world. While employment in the platinum industry has almost doubled over the last ten years, workers are still exploited, and living in communities that are damaged, socially, economically, and structurally. The Rustenburg Platinum belt is a major contributor to the country's total platinum production, but has been home to labour and union strikes and disputes and violent strikes over the last few years.

lonmin

Lonmin Platinum has three operations in South Africa, in the Limpopo and North West provinces. The company made headlines in August 2012 when a mineworkers' strike led to the death of 34 strikers in a single day at the Marikana operation. A further 78 were injured in the incident, where police opened fire and teargas on the strikers. Reports of the incident vary on whether the police opened fire for no reason or whether the workers rushed at

the police. The strikers were calling for a wage increase to just over R1000 per month.¹⁸ Conflict between mineworkers unions has been exacerbated since the incident, and new strikes are looming in late 2103. Individuals allegedly linked to unions were shot and killed on the mine's property in July. ¹⁹ u

Lonmin was criticised for its response to the incident which analysts claimed was defensive and made the protestors into dangerous killers. The incident created an uproar in the country and tensions are still unnaturally high in the area around the mines.

The strike was a result of more than a wage dispute; the community of Wonderkop surrounding the mine, where many of the mineworkers live, has mud roads and shacks made of tin. There are few toilets and no playground or pre-school. NGO's believe that the Marikana mine emits unmonitored pollution levels through its water leakages, and that sulphur dioxide leaks spill into the community's water sources. By law, the mine is allowed to emit 18 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the air, filled with mercury laden emissions, which is visible in the dams of slimy water found near the villages.

The community is forced to use this water and soil for farming, as they have no choice, and ill health puts more pressure on their financial situation, which leads to expenses of medical treatment. This in turn leads to high levels of debt, creating an even further scourge of financial disempowerment.

¹⁸ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19292909>

¹⁹ http://www.miningmx.com/page/news/platinum_group_metals/1628725-Lonmin-shootings-strike-ominous-chord#.UglG6VMkx4

mozambique



Mozambique has, in the past been one of Africa's largest producers of coal and aluminium. However, it has also proven to be the home of some of the worst human rights violations in the mining industry, with locals being killed, displaced and devastated. Even though these incidents in Tete province have been widely publicised and criticised, there have so far been no consequences for the government and mining companies.

Now, new industries are emerging, as prospecting for natural gas has shown large reserves, ripe for exploration. Gas reserves in Mozambique are expected to be the fourth largest in the world.

Many new international companies are moving into the country, but with little consultation with the local communities and consideration for their livelihood. While the direct and indirect implications of these companies are only beginning to be seen, it is clear that so far, they are continuing in the same vein as their predecessors. It is not too late for these companies to work in a more sustainable and beneficial way with the environment and communities which they exploit, as well as to improve the Mozambican economy, something that has been sorely missing from the mining industry thus far.

11 palma

anadarko | eni

Palma is a small fishing town in the province of Cabo Delgado in Northern Mozambique. The town has been dependant on fishing for generations, both for subsistence and commercial purposes. Fishermen use cheap, traditional means of fishing, with small boats, and diving.

Anadarko, an oil and gas company based in the United States, began offshore exploration off the coast of the village, part of a large

area known as the Rovuma basin. Anadarko's operations cover 2.6 million acres in the basin.

The exploration in Palma, while not yet in production, has already had major implications for the livelihood of the community. In a town where the villagers have few other employable skills other than fishing and farming, the company's entrance has already created production and sustainability problems for the villagers. Exploration occurs through drilling by huge ships. The ship is some kilometers off the coast and is located in an area, which was previously rich for fishing. The community was not consulted or warned of Anadarko's entry into the town.

offshore landgrabbing

The offshore exploration platform is surrounded by security boats which prohibit the fishermen from coming within one km of the ship. The fishermen now have far less area in which to fish, and in areas which have less fish present than where they were able to fish before..

The ship's blastings have led to fish moving further away from the coast, making fishing even more difficult. Another issue is that the blasting causes the sand of the seabed to disperse into the water. With the fishermen using traditional methods, it is hard for divers to see under the water. They say that they are not informed of when blasting will occur beforehand. At any moment in the day or night, they may hear a warning over a loudspeaker to get out of the water within a very short period of time. At other times, there is no warning at all.

Prior to Anadarko's activities, a boat would catch approximately 300 kilograms of fish per day. They are now lucky if they come back to shore with 30 kilograms. They say that they have received no compensation for their loss of income. Their expenses have not decreased however. Because they catch fewer fish, they have to go

out to sea more often, which means that they spend more on fuel, which is already wasted by a trip to sea when they catch almost nothing.

Another issue is that the blasting creates clouds of sand lifted from the sea bed. This means that divers are unable to see underwater, therefore leading to lower production. They say they need to wait two to three days before the sand clears. Furthermore, the lights from the ship are much larger and brighter than the lights from the smaller local boats, which means that the fish flock towards the ship and away from the smaller boats.

Edward Saida is a Palma local who has been fishing his entire life. He was taught by his father who in turn was taught by his father. Anadarko has built a small centre specifically to hold meetings, but has only held six so far, with no beneficial outcome for the community. He says that he is exhausted of making the same complaints but to no avail. The sea has become small, he says. He believes that the company has promised the government that they will benefit the community, and will develop the district, but there is no compromise between the local fishermen and the company.

onshore landgrabbing

Ten km from the town of Palma is Kitumu, a small village in the forest, where Anadarko is busy constructing their processing plant. The community received a letter from the government saying that they would be moved to make way for the company's construction, but the locals do not know when or to where.

Jinah Essa is 30 years old and has farmed cashew nut trees, beans and cassava for years. Recently, workmen from Anadarko arrived at his farm and without warning, cut down branches off six of his cashew nut trees, while he was absent. A company employee then visited him and gave compensation of 4000 Meticaïis.

The village leader says that Anadarko, on arrival, promised the community many things, such as jobs, roads and schools. There are no negotiations between the company and the community; on some days locals come home to company workers cutting down their trees with no warning. They destroy everything, he says. Sometimes company representatives come to the community to offer locals temporary jobs of manual labour, but they do not sign a contract, as many do not have the education to understand their rights. They do not know what their wages are until they receive it.

“They cut my cashew nut trees for the landing platform they are constructing. They fenced the area and sealed it off, taking big areas of the land I'd been farming on. No compensation. They didn't even come to speak or to consult me.

Abdurabi Issa, 40, farmer from Kitumu village

I want to tell this company, I don't want your money. If you want to kill me, then kill me. But don't take me off my land.”

Hamisi Mandish, mango farmer, Kitumu village

“The main problems we have are the nets that they're using. Anadarko's big ships came into the area and the fish swam away. We catch much less than before and most of the big fish are gone for good. We used to come home with 200 kg/day. Now we're lucky if we get 25 to 30 kg.

We held meetings with the community leaders but with no outcome. We thought we'd get support, but we didn't. And no compensation from the side of the companies.”

Zaino Arband Nassoro, used to own three fisherboats. Now he only needs one

“We used to use little lamps to attract the fish but now there are the big boats that chase them away. They are very light. Sometimes I don't sell anything, for the last five years it's become harder and harder to bring food to the table. I have no alternative, I depend on the fishing activity.”

Mustafa Bakar, night fisher from Palma

“The company has held 5, 6, 7 meetings with us. Anadarko has rented a big room to meet the community, it's become a routine. We are complaining, but no success. We understand that the company is bringing development into the area but they should support us at the same time.”

Awaz Saidi, community leader and fisherman

eni

ENI is an Italian gas exploration company, currently exploring for gas in Mozambique, mostly in the Rovuma basin, off the coast of Cabo Delgado, which has become very valuable with the discovery of large offshore gas deposits. Earlier this year, ENI confirmed allegations that the company had attempted to avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of part of its stake in the basin to a Chinese company.

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