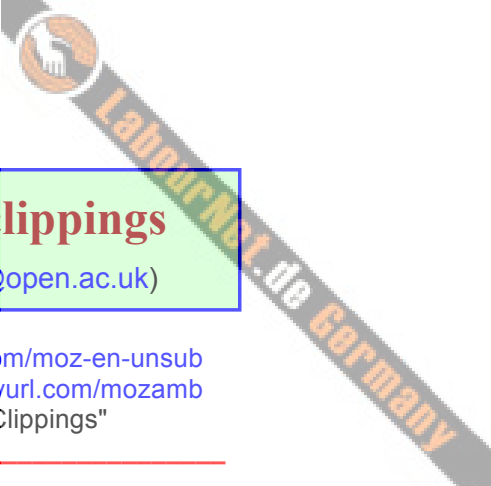




MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

193 31 Jan 2012 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

To subscribe: tinyurl.com/moz-en-sub To unsubscribe: tinyurl.com/moz-en-unsub

Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on tinyurl.com/mozamb

This newsletter can be cited as "Mozambique News Reports & Clippings"

In this issue: **Tete mining protest**
 New land report & land grants
 Two cyclones kill 26

=====

Protests against Vale coal mine relocations

More than 500 families blocked the road and railway line in Tete on 10 January to protest against the failure of Vale to carry out a promised resettlement package when they were moved to make way for a new coal mine in Moatize. Coal trains were blocked for a day. Riot police were called and 14 people were arrested; nine were held for two days.

Initially the government was critical of the protest and backed the police action. But by 23 January after he had visited the area, Tete governor Alberto Vaquina admitted that the demonstrators' claims were valid. He said 400 of the 750 new houses had been poorly built and need repairs, and that water and agricultural support had not been provided. And on 18 January Vale officials finally admitted some problems which they promised to resolve.

The issue has been building up for two years. In April 2010 there was a smaller protest and Governor Vaquina set up a commission. In November 2010 CIP (Centro de Interidade Publica) issued a report criticising the resettlement (See *Mozambique News Reports & Clippings* 175). In October 2011 residents and campaigners met government officials and MPs in Maputo. On 20 December residents of the resettlement village of Catame sent a letter to Vale and the government setting 10 January as the deadline. There was no response, so the road and railway were blocked.

Vale earned the annual Public Eye awards for the worst corporate misconduct from activists and NGOs on Friday 27 January at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, for "repeated human rights abuses, inhumane working conditions and the ruthless exploitation of nature". The announcement was made by Nobel prize winner Joseph Stiglitz.

The Brazilian company Vale (formerly Companhia Vale do Rio Doce) is said to be the second largest mining company in the world and Moatize is its largest mine in Africa. Vale is expanding its mine and building a railway, so more confrontations can be expected. There is now an International Network of People Affected by Vale (Articulação Internacional dos Atingidos pela Vale), bringing together campaigners and trade unionists, including in Mozambique, Brazil and Canada.

In a 17 January report CIP summarises the issues. For the new Moatize mine, 1313 families were to be resettled, and they were divided into a "rural" group of 717 families to be moved to new farmland in Catame, 40 km from Tete city, and a "semi-urban" group to be moved to Bairro 25 de Setembro in Tete city. A model resettlement house was built, but CIP says that people were fooled because the houses actually built were not like the model, and were poorly built and had cracks in the walls and holes in the roof that let the rain in.

Residents claim they were promised water and energy, which has not been supplied. They say they were promised 2 ha of farmland, but in the end were only given 1 ha which is not arable, and there are still land conflicts with the original occupants of Catame. Finally, they are so far from Tete city and without transport, so they cannot market their produce. In addition, Vale is accused of refusing to respond to family changes since the process started in 2009 – refusing to give houses to orphans whose parents died after 2009 and to new couples married after 2009 but before the actual move.

The Mozambican NGO Justiça Ambiental (JA! – Environmental Justice) has been active and reporting on the problem for more than a year. JA! press spokesman Jeremias Filipe Vunjanhe says that on 10 January the riot police were violent, beating demonstrators and those arrested, and breaking down the doors of houses in Catame. The independent daily O Pais accused the riot police (Força de Intervenção Rápida, FIR) of "attacking defenceless people."

CIP accuses the government of "repressive measures in defence of Vale, violating the rights of the communities". It also points to "an institutional vacuum and conflicts of interest at the centre of government that permit the abuse of the rights of the resettlement communities." CIP also accuses the government of trying to intimidate local organisers by accusing them of being "agitators".

JA! accuses government officials of conflict of interest, saying some members of the provincial and district government are receiving money from Vale or are involved in businesses linked to the mine. JA! also claims that Vale helps to fund the governor's office and that the riot police unit which intervened is funded by Vale.

Background documents

There are extensive background documents (all in Portuguese):

CIP – Centro de Interidade Pública:

17 Jan 2012 statement: http://www.cip.org.mz/cipdoc/109_Nota%20de%20Imprensa_Catame%20as%20raz%C3%B5es%20do%20Conflito.pdf

November 2010 report: http://www.cip.org.mz/cipdoc/50_Questoes%20a%20volta%20da%20mineracao%20em%20Mo%C3%A7ambique_TS_CIP_2010.pdf

Later admission of problems:

O Pais: <http://www.opais.co.mz/index.php/sociedade/45-sociedade/18572-vale-promete-satisfazer-reivindicacoes-em-seis-meses.html>

<http://www.opais.co.mz/index.php/sociedade/45-sociedade/18543-as-razoes-do-conflito-entre-vale-e-familias-reassentadas-em-catame.html>

Radio Moçambique: <http://www.radiomocambique.com/rm/noticias/anmviewer.asp?a=12164>

Justiça Ambiental:

<http://www.verdade.co.mz/nacional/24499-o-que-valeo-preco-do-desenvolvimento>

Instituto Humanitas Unisinos (IHU) at the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos (Unisinos) in Brazil has been following problems with Vale: <http://www.ihu.unisinos.br/noticias/503623-vale-poe-suas-fichas-no-continente-africano-para-acelerar-expansao>

Davos award to Vale: <http://www.publiceye.ch/en/news/press-release-27th-january-2012>

New detailed land study

The most detailed study of land concessions in Mozambique has been published by the Oakland Institute. Mozambique granted concessions to investors for more than 2.5 million hectares (ha) of land between 2004 and the end of 2009. This is 3% of the land area and 7% of the country's arable land. More than 1 million ha went to foreign investors, 73% for forest and 13% for agrofuels and sugar. Then there was a freeze, and no new concessions over 1,000 ha were made for two years. Since the report was written, five large concessions have been granted (see below).

Understanding land investment deals in Africa: Mozambique, by Joseph Hanlon
http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/sites/oaklandinstitute.org/files/OI_country_report_mozambique_0.pdf

5 large land grants

Since the end of the freeze on land concessions, the Council of Ministers has made five large grants of nearly 330,000 ha, almost all for trees. (Concessions of over 10,000 ha are made by the Council of Ministers).

Three concessions were approved by the Council of Ministers on 19 December 2011:

+ **69,359 ha** in Muanza district, Sofala, granted to Florestais de Manica – Ifloma, to plant pine trees. This was a 1980s government project, which in 2004 was 80% “privatized” to Komatiland Forests, a subsidiary of the South African government owned South African Forestry Company (SAFCOL). Ifloma had 23,600 ha before this concession.

+ **182,886 ha** in Manica (Manica, Gondola, Báruè, Sussundenga and Mussurize districts) granted to the Portuguese company Portucel for tree planting. In 2009 it was granted 173,324 ha in Zambezia, so it is now one of the largest land holders in Mozambique. Portucel is Europe's largest maker of bleached eucalyptus kraft pulp, used for grocery bags, sacks, envelopes and other packaging.

+ **20,293 ha** in Mutarara, Tete, to produce sugar and cotton, has been granted to Episteme Mozambique, Lda, which in turn is owned by the Australian based but British registered mining company Baobab Resources (which plans to produce iron ore in Tete); Episteme Partners (Pty); Afritrac Africa Investment, Trade & Consulting; and three individuals, João Baptista Colaço Jamal, José Ajape Hussene Chironga, and Issufo Abdul Sharref Shukran Malunda.

On 6 December the Council of Ministers granted to Florestas de Niassa **39,827 ha**. Florestas de Niassa already has 210,000 ha and is 80% owned by Rift Valley Holdings (Mauritius registered & Zimbabwe based) and 20% by Malonda Foundation, which in turn has links to the Norwegian company Green Resources (which also has 135,900 ha in Niassa).

On 6 October the Council of Ministers granted **19,540 ha** in Gurúè and Namaroi districts, Zambézia province, to Tectona Forests of Zambezia for a teak plantation. Tectona is 59% owned by the controversial Global Solidarity Forest Fund (see newsletter 190), Diversified International Timber Holdings (believed to be owned by Harvard University) 30%, Diocese of Niassa 10%, and Silvestria Utveckling 1%.

More details on most of these companies and their projects is in the Oakland Institute report.

Two cyclones kill 26

Cyclone Funso in the centre of the country and tropical storm Dando in the south killed 26 people and affected at least 125,000 people. Dando hit on 16 and 17 January and caused flooding in Maputo city (partly because of failure to maintain drains) and on the Incomati River, where flood

waters washed away a 60 metre section of the main north-south road on Saturday 21 January. The National Roads Administration had the road open again on Tuesday. Funso on 21-22 January caused extensive flooding in Quelimane and Beira. (*Noticias*, 28 Jan 2011)

=====

Now in paper at a reasonable price

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique?

by Joseph Hanlon & Teresa Smart

is now available in **paperback**, for £17.99 (+ p&p)

from the publisher <http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13503>

and on Amazon.co.uk for £17.09

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South

by Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, and David Hulme

Most of this book can now be **read on the web**

<http://tinyurl.com/justgivemoney>

=====

Two working papers on the web

Poverty is not being reduced in Mozambique

LSE Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper No. 74 (series 2)

Benedito Cunguara and Joseph Hanlon, June 2010

Tambem em Portugues:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/internationalDevelopment/research/crisisStates/Publications/phase2papers.a>
spx

Mozambique's Elite – Finding its Way in a Globalized World and Returning to Old Development Models

Joseph Hanlon and Marcelo Mosse September 2010

WP/105 UNU-WIDER: The Role of Elites in Economic Development project

http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2010/en_GB/wp2010-105/

=====

Also on the web: Previous newsletters and other Mozambique material are posted on
tinyurl.com/mozamb

=====

NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

This mailing list is used to distribute two publications, both edited by Joseph Hanlon. This is my own sporadic "News reports & clippings", which is entirely my own responsibility. This list is also used to distribute the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, published by CIP and AWEPA, but those organisations are not linked to "News reports & clippings"

Joseph Hanlon

=====

Mozambique media websites:

Noticias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O Pais: www.opais.co.mz

Macauhub English: www.macauhub.com.mo/en/

Savana: www.savana.co.mz

Canal de Moçambique: www.canalmoz.co.mz

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

Carlos Serra Diario de um sociologo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

=====

This mailing is the personal responsibility of Joseph Hanlon, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Open University.