

Environmental Degradation in the Extractive and other Industries in Africa

Pamela M N Chisanga

March 2013

act:onaid

Good News: Environmental Crimes Can be Prosecuted!



More Good News: Environmental Damage can be Stopped!



Photo: Poverty Matters /The Guardian

Scramble for Africa?

- Africa has vast mineral resources
- Mining, oil biggest revenue earner for Africa
- Drop in mineral and oil prices – post 70's
- China growth and demand for minerals
- Privatisation
- Globalisation
- Food Crisis

Challenges in Africa's Extractive Industries

- Powerful multinationals + complicit government
- Lack of Transparency and Accountability
- Lack of citizen participation in decision making processes in extractives
- Corruption
- Weak Capacities/weak laws or poor law enforcement

Where there is no transparency Uganda

- No transparency in oil contracts
- President has been accused of negotiating oil contracts on his own
- Uganda Civil Society Coalition for Oil took government to court in 2010 for secrecy on the oil Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs)
- Concerns that lack of transparency makes it difficult to hold oil companies accountable for environmental damage

More Oil, More Minerals

- Discovery of oil in Lake Malawi – at what cost?
- Presence of Minerals in Protected Areas e.g. National Parks – A question of beauty? Value? Heritage? Or Money?

The Extractive Industry in Zambia: The Story of Kalumbila



The Land Question: Willing Buyer, Willing Seller?

- Company acquired 518 sq kms of land (illegally)
- Has mining rights but issue of surface rights not resolved. Surface Rights have gone beyond mining rights
- Ministerial Task Force established to resolve problem
- Ministerial Task Force declares land agreement null and void

Stop Us if You Can!

- Environmental Agency places protection order on major developments – construction of Chisola Dam.
- Who cares about protection orders?
Construction of dam across Chisola River starts anyway and environmental agency verifies this
- By April 2013, 25 hectares of land cleared, included protected Forest Reserves (Lualaba and Bushingwe)

Stop us if you can.....

- Realignment of roads without approval - Musele Rd (R185) done without consent from Road Development Agency and Forestry Department.
- Musanghezi dam upthrow goes beyond surface rights
- Intrepid proposed waste tailing dump area has a section fully beyond the mining rights
- Operationalisation of a saw mill without relevant government approval.
- Operation of a cement plant and quarry mining without approval.

In the name of Employment Creation?

- Minister Lifts Protection Order on Chisola....



Impact on Local People



**Is adverse environmental damage
avoidable in Kalumbila?**

Please come back in 5-10 years to find out!

Thank You!