Environmental Degradation in the Extractive and other Industries in Africa

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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!