**International Day of Struggle Against Monoculture Tree Plantations

Ten Thousand Times NO !**
September 21st is the International Day of Struggle against
Monoculture Tree Plantations. In many countries around the world,
people use this day to create awareness regarding the impacts of
monoculture tree plantations.

In India, Ireland, America, Brazil, Uruguay, South Africa, Swaziland,
Mozambique, Indonesia, China and other countries vast monoculture
timber plantations have been established, which put pressure on the
land and the  natural resources. Monoculture Tree Plantations destroy
indigenous biodiversity, desiccate the water resource and impact on
the most vulnerable rural people by denying them the land resource and
opportunities a healthy integrated environment provides.

On 21 September 2011, a petition was launched, directed at the Global
Solidarity Forest Fund (GSFF), a investment fund with northern
investors. The GSFF has acquired vast land in the northern provinces
of Niassa and Zambezia in Mozambique, and are in the process of
establishing monoculture eucalyptus timber plantations – for export
purposes.
The petition calls on the GSFF to stop investing in such high impact
monoculture’s, and rather to support small scale, diversified
enterprise which benefit the  local people and stimulate local
economy.

Today we present the petition to the GSFF – containing more than 10
000 signatures.

We hope the GSFF takes note of this unprecedented show of
international support for this petition, and re-consider and adapt
their investment strategies in Southern Africa.
The land and its valuable biodiversity resource  should not be
smothered by alien monoculture tree plantations. The precious water
should not be stolen from the people and the natural environment.
Ten Thousand Times NO

Online Petition Text:
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-plantations-mozambique/>
The Global Solidarity Forest Fund (GSFF), invested in among others by
the ABP (a Dutch pensioners fund), the Swedish and Norwegian Lutheran
church and the Diocese of Vasteras, has in recent years acquired large
areas of land in northern Mozambique.

This land, which has already mainly been transformed to monoculture
tree plantations, mainly consisting of alien Eucalyptus trees, has
formerly been used by local small-scale farmers to grow local crops
for livelihood.

Yet, subsequent to the planting of the alien trees by the GSFF, the
local population has experienced a worsening of the water and food
situation in their communities. Contrary to the promises by the
Western investors, jobs are rare and not at all well-paid. This, in
consequence means that, as local populations lost their valuable land,
and as they also do not have sufficient employment opportunities, they
are left struggling for food and water.

In general, large monoculture tree plantations are increasingly being
criticized globally for their many negative impacts on the environment
and peoples. By now, many experts believe that monoculture tree
plantations have a negative impact on Climate Change, as the
transformation of land and the cutting down of the indigenous trees
and the planted trees cause CO2 to be released - accelerating the
warming process.

Instead of planting up vast areas of fertile land with trees meant to
satisfy the high demand of Western nations for paper and other
wood-based products, diversified, organic small-scale farming, which
benefit local communities should be primary projects initiated by
development investments.

This petition aims at prevailing on the GSFF to immediately stop its
investment in such exploitative and unethical land deals and
transformations in Mozambique and any other African countries!

Visit our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/GeaSphere> and our
website [http://www.geasphere.co.za](http://www.geasphere.co.za/)  for further information on our
work.

Also visit the World Rainforest Movement, a co-sponsor of the
petition. [http://www.wrm.org.uy](http://www.wrm.org.uy/)  for information on September 21st
Activities around the world.

For a complete list of petition signatories (2MB) please contact
tim@strupat.de or info@geasphere.co.za