**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](mailto:tim@strupat.de) or [info@geasphere.co.za](mailto:info@geasphere.co.za)