



## CONFERÊNCIA ONLINE

### INDÚSTRIA EXTRACTIVA EM MOÇAMBIQUE: DESAFIOS, SUCESSOS E PERSPECTIVAS

*Repensar Indústria Extractiva em Moçambique no Século XXI*

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### Mining: Creator and Destroyer of Livelihoods

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#### ABSTRACT

Mining projects arrive full of promises - job creation, prosperity and economic development. Vale's arrival in Mozambique was no exception. During excavation of the huge open pit and access roads, job creation seemed like a reality. This lessened as the crushers, processing and cleaning plant and tailings storage facility went into operation. Vale's footprint grew. People were removed into two resettlements. Rail links were expanded with the Malawi Corridor. Port workers in Beira and Nacala laded coal onto ore tankers destined for global commodity markets. Environmental dispossession was huge. Impacts from the mine - spatial, water, air and soil - destroyed traditional practices of farming, hunting, gathering and fishing not just around the mine site but all along the transport corridors. Near Bagamoyo, the Vale concession blocked off access to a river with special clays and banks dotted with kilns constructed for what had been a thriving building block industry, Vale's arrival raised expectation of formal employment and creation of a skilled labour force in Tete. Vale negotiated a quota of 15% expatriate workers; Mozambicans assumed Brazilian managers and skilled miners. Yet Kentz, a South African based sub-contractor, brought in hundreds of Filipino migrant workers even during the construction phase. Soon after arrival, Vale offered a jeep to the provincial head of the construction and mine workers union. Election of the first union executive at Odebrecht was rigged. Union offices were located on company property, allowing little freedom of movement and plenty of company interference. Pitted against the aligned forces of their government, their employer and their union leaders, the newly employed Vale workers made few gains. This paper will document the injustices to workers, communities and the environment during Vale's operational phase and explore what opportunities Vale's departure creates for compensation demands to redress these injustices.

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