

Malagasy for Beginners: A Series of Graduated Lessons and Exercises in Malagasy as Spoken by the Hov

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SHORT NOTE

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Two sides to every coin: farmers' perceptions of mining in the Maningory watershed, Madagascar

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ABSTRACT

An increasing share of Madagascar's population is dependent on artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) as a source of livelihood. However, this unregulated activity has numerous repercussions on the miners themselves and on neighboring communities. This study explores the perception of mining of those indirectly affected by its growing presence. Farmers and fishers were interviewed to better understand the perceived impacts of ASM on communities situated at varying distances from mining activity. The results of this first qualitative study show that positive or negative perception may be linked to geographical distance to mines. Those living in mining-communities may reap more benefits from the proximity than those living further away, who mainly experience negative effects. The results from this small sample will need to further be empirically tested.

RÉSUMÉ

Une part croissante de la population de Madagascar tire l'essentiel de ses moyens de subsistance de l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle. Cependant, cette activité non-réglementée a de nombreuses répercussions sur les mineurs eux-mêmes et sur les communautés voisines. Cette étude explore comment les rivaux indirectement touchés perçoivent l'exploitation minière qu'ils rencontrent de plus en plus souvent. Des paysans et des pêcheurs de communautés basées à des distances variées des activités minières ont été interviewés afin de mieux comprendre les impacts perçus de l'exploitation minière artisanale. Les résultats de cette première étude qualitative montrent que des perceptions positives ou négatives pourraient être liées à la distance entre les lieux de vie des communautés et les mines. Les habitants vivant au sein de communautés minières pourraient tirer plus de profit de cette proximité que ceux vivant plus loin et ressentant principalement des effets négatifs. Les résultats de ce premier échantillon devront être vérifiés de manière empirique.

INTRODUCTION

The extraction of Madagascar's mineral resources has been gaining momentum in the last few decades (Sarrasin 2007, Huff 2016, INSTAT 2016), attracting both large scale mining companies as well as an increasing number of fortune seekers looking for gems, forming a considerable large unregulated mining sector. These artisanal miners perform this activity without long-term planning and use simple extraction techniques (Hinton et al. 2003, Cardiff and Andriamanalina 2007, Gorenflo et al. 2011). Although the impacts of large scale mining (LSM) operations have often been described (Karlsson 2007, Sarrasin 2007, Ballet and Randrianajaoana 2014, Randriamamonjy et al. 2015), the social, economic and environmental impacts of artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) are often not so well documented and subject to increasing discussions due to its informal and often illegal nature (Hinton et al. 2003, Duffy 2007, Tighman et al. 2007, Cook and Healy 2012). Although environmental and mining permits allowing ASM operations are issued by the authorities in Madagascar, much of the mining takes place without such permits having been obtained, with illegal extraction in protected areas being of key concern (Cook and Healy 2012, World Bank 2013). Previously depicted as an activity practiced by individuals to earn large amounts of cash in short amounts of time (World Bank 2005), there is a growing consensus surrounding the link between growth of artisanal mining and poverty, with ASM often being amongst the few alternative forms of livelihood diversification available to these individuals (Gielgel and Vega 2010, Canavesio 2014, Hilson 2016). It seems that more than opportunistic, engagement in ASM is more a result of lack of options, rather than a high risk/high reward strategy (Hilson 2010, Benchingan and Hilson 2010, Canavesio 2014, Hilson 2016). Engaging in ASM often lead to increasing vulnerability, not the opposite (Cartier 2009).

The impacts of mining on Madagascar's natural environment are wide-ranging, from landscape changes, water pollution, to hunting of already scarce animals (Tighman et al. 2007, Gorenflo

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Madagascar (Kilonga) project. .. Committee members reported that the work was very challenging, particularly in the beginning . training graduates in the second half of the project period. Poverty has been exacerbated by a range of political events over the course of the last two.series. USAID recently decided to more systematically assess the impact of its exercise, Madagascar was one of the top five priority countries. .. They have educated one another in a way that permits them to speak a During the design of EP III programs, there was increasing pressure to graduate ANGAP and.The year marks the beginning of the slave trade at the Cape colony. they are to be taught all kinds of trades, that in course of time the advantage .. at the Cape and were therefore able to speak both Malagasy and Dutch. as bringing the slaves above board everyday and giving them exercise, but.

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