

# NSukala Sugar plantation and refinery in Cercle de Segou, Mali



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## Description of the conflict case

In 1996, the Malian government and state-owned China Light Industrial Corporation for Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation (CLETC) entered into a joint venture to establish the Mali Sugar Conglomerate, with CLETC holding 60% of the company and the government holding 40%. The Conglomerate took control of two sugar factories that were built with Chinese assistance in the 1960s and 1970s and sugar-cane plantations on 5,700 ha, known as SUKALA S.A. In 2009, the Malian government signed a deal with CLETC to establish a new sugar project, New Complexe Sucrier Du Kala Superieur SA (N'Sukala), in which CLETC was given a 50-year renewable lease on 20,000 ha of lands in the Office du Niger for irrigated sugar-cane production. The plant was completed in November of 2012, and production had started on test plots at that time, however construction started before the ESIA was completed or villagers notified of the agreement. As of 2011 only 4,000 ha of the allocation was planted – and the CEO of Sinolight cited squatters as a main setback, saying all of the acreage is to be developed by 2013 if the government arranges for the removal of the 'squatters'.

[SEE LESS](#)

## Basic data

### Conflict name

NSukala Sugar plantation and refinery in Cercle de Segou, Mali

### Conflict country

[Mali](#)

### State or province

Cercle de Ségou

### Location of conflict

Bewani

### Accuracy of location

HIGH (Local level)

## Source of conflict

## Type of conflict. 1st level

Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Management)

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## Type of conflict. 2st level

Land acquisition conflicts

Water access rights and entitlements

Intensive food production (monoculture and livestock)

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## Other types

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## Specific commodities

[Other](#)

[Water](#)

[Sugar](#)

## Project details and actors

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### Technical information of the contested project

The project is to process 6,000 tons of sugarcane daily, with an annual output of 104,000 tons of sugar and 9.6 million liters of alcohol. This project and the existing two facilities at Dougabougou and Siribala together are to produce over 140,000 tons of sugar, and therefore exceeded domestic demand. The sugar plant will employ 740 permanent workers and 10,500 seasonally. While the government of Mali is responsible to notify those to be resettled the CLETC is responsible to cover all costs (article 7 in contract).

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### Project area

20,000

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### Level of Investment for the conflictive project

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### Type of population

Rural

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### Affected population

At least 8 villages (31,470 people)

## Start of the conflict

2009

## End of the conflict

## Company names or state enterprises

[China Light Industrial Corporation for Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation](#) from [China](#)

[Affiliated with Sinolight Corporation](#) from [China](#)

## Relevant government actors

Malian government, Office du Niger

## International and Finance Institutions

## Civil society organizations and their web pages, if available

Via Campesina, <http://viacampesina.org/en/>

## Conflict & Mobilization

### Conflict intensity

MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)

### Reaction stage

In REACTION to the implementation (during construction or operation)

### Groups mobilizing

- Indigenous groups or traditional communities
- International ejos
- Local ejos

### Other Mobilizing Groups

### Forms of mobilization

- Development of a network/collective action
  - Involvement of national and international NGOs
  - Lawsuits, court cases, judicial activism
  - Official complaint letters and petitions
  - Street protest/marches
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## Other Mobilizing Forms

### Impacts

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#### Environmental Impacts

- Food insecurity (crop damage)
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#### Other Environmental impacts

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#### Health Impacts

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#### Other Health impacts

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#### Socio-economical Impacts

- Displacement
  - Loss of livelihood
  - Violations of human rights
  - Land dispossession
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#### Other Social Economical impacts

### Conflict outcome

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#### Project Status

In operation

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#### Conflict outcome / response

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#### Other Outcomes

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#### Proposal and development of alternatives

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Do you consider this an environmental justice success? Was environmental justice served?

No

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### Briefly explain

Prior to clearing, the land was used for grazing, firewood collection, and dry cereal cropping. Local people were not informed nor received prior compensation. In addition, according to Article 15.1, the company has priority access to water in case of drought over subsistence farmers in the area. Protests and sit-ins in the region continue.

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### Other comments

'In the absence of clear national guidelines in respect of the displacement and resettlement of affected communities, everything depends on the goodwill of the developer and any requirements imposed by lenders' Dijire, 2012 Sinolight announced plans to build another sugar refinery in Niger in 2012.