

Philippines

Minning or Food ?

Case Study 1: Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur - Mindanao Island



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Case Study 1: Iron Ore & other Minerals, Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur - Mindanao Island

by

Robert Goodland and Clive Wicks

for

The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

The Brundtland Report, Our Common Future,
UN World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

In a world overflowing with riches, it is an outrageous scandal that more than 826 million people suffer hunger and malnutrition and that every year over 36 million die of starvation and related causes. We must take urgent action now.

Jean Ziegler
UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, April 2001

DEDICATION

The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines and the authors respectfully dedicate this report to all the courageous and dignified people who have been killed while protecting the environment and upholding human rights in the Philippine archipelago.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the participating or supporting organizations. The authors have, however, done their utmost to reflect the views of the many people they met in the Philippines and the views and reports of the people and organizations who have commented on earlier drafts of this report.

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The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines

The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines was established in 2007, after the publication in January that year of the report, *Mining in the Philippines: Concerns and Conflicts*. Based in Britain and chaired by the Right Honorable Clare Short MP, UK's former Minister of International Development it includes representatives from the Columban Missionary Society, the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, Philippine Indigenous Peoples' Links and IUCN- CEESP.



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However, in view of the vast number of extrajudicial killings that have taken place since 2001, now believed to be over 1,000, including a Bishop of the Independent Church, the authors are reluctant to name people or organisations in the Philippines. The authors admire the many other people, including lawyers, some of whom have also lost their lives while trying to protect their people from mining industry abuses.

The authors admire the courage of the politicians, bishops, priests, sisters and pastoral workers of the Catholic Church and the leaders of many other faiths and none and human rights lawyers who have the courage to speak out against the destruction that mining is currently and will increasingly cause to their beautiful, fruitful and bio-diverse archipelago. It has been a great honour and a humbling experience for the authors to work with such brave and committed people.

They would like to thank the Local Governments Units, the Catholic Church, especially the Columban Missionaries and the bishops, priests, sisters and communities who welcomed them during their trip and provided accommodation, transport and food for the team.

The best help the authors could provide was to apply their long years of experience and professional knowledge of the extractive industry around the world and their knowledge of environmental and human rights 'best practise', laws and conventions in an impartial and professional way.

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From The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines (WGMP):

The Working Group would like to thank Robert Goodland and Clive Wicks for their dedication and passion for human rights and environmental justice, which has led them to generously give of their time and expertise to travel to the Philippines and answer the call of an ever increasing number of communities to help them protect their rights, their lands, their lives and livelihoods. We wish to thank Cordaid, the Holly Hill Charitable Trust, Paul K. Feyerabend Foundation, the Columbans, the IUCN-CEESP (Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy), for their financial support to realise this report and maps.

**Case Study 1: Iron Ore & other Minerals, Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur –
Mindanao Island**

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Map of the Philippine Archipelago



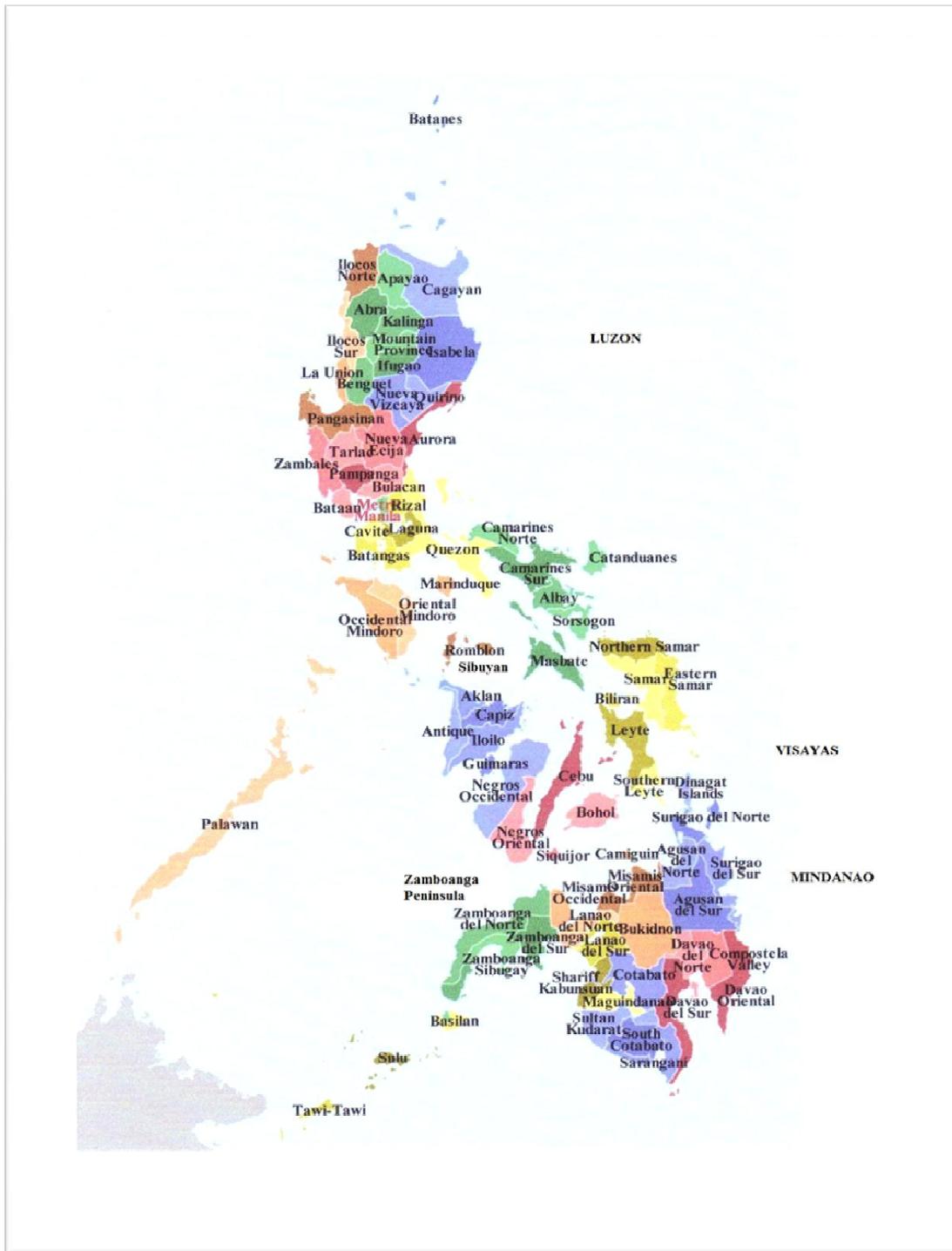
Report and Case Studies available in individual documents at:

<http://www.piplinks.org/miningorfood>

MAPS associated with these 6 Case Studies

are available at <http://www.piplinks.org/maps>

Provincial Map of the Philippines¹



¹ Source Wikipedia

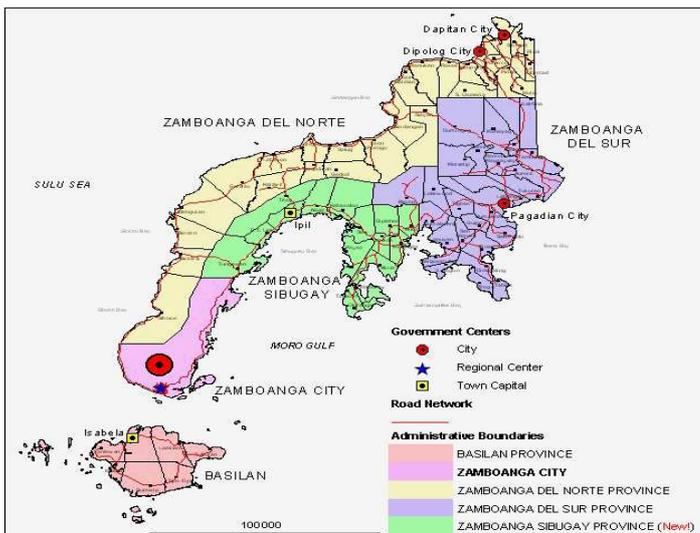
Case Study 1: Iron Ore & other Minerals, Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur - Mindanao Island



Map of Mindanao and the Zamboanga Peninsula

Background

The large southern island of Mindanao has been targeted for mining since the 1950s. Because it remains a major target today, four of the authors' six visits were to places on Mindanao. The west of the island is the Zamboanga Peninsula and comprises three provinces: Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay.²



The 29,000-hectare municipality of Midsalip, in the heart of the province of Zamboanga del Sur, has a population of some approximately 32,000, mostly Visayan speakers; nearly half of the population

there (14,000) are Subanen Indigenous Peoples.³

The Sugarloaf ridge of volcanic mountains, which has been declared a Key Biodiversity Area (see Annex H: Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities), stretches across the southern part of Midsalip, and coincides with the Midsalip portion

² The Peninsula used to be known as *Western Mindanao* before the enactment of Presidential Executive Order No. 36 on 19th September 2001, which designated it as administrative Region IX.

³ The Subanen of Midsalip in Zamboanga del Sur province are from the same tribal grouping as the Subanon in Canatuan in Zamboanga del Norte province (who oppose mining by Canadian mining company TVI). They are the largest tribal group in the Philippines (300,000) and are the indigenous inhabitants of the Zamboanga peninsula. Some Subanen in Midsalip also use the phoenitic spelling Subaanen.

of the Sugarloaf Biodiversity Ecosystem, which the national government declared as High Priority in 2002.⁴

Sugarloaf had also been proclaimed as a Forest Reserve nearly 40 years earlier in 1966.⁵ But all the forested mountains of Midsalip (apart from Mount Maragang and the slopes of Mount Pinukis) were logged in the 1970s and 1980s, until a People Power Picket led by the Catholic Church resulted in the timber license of Sunville Timber products⁶ being cancelled in 1988. One of the goals today of the Subanen Ministry of the Catholic Church is to protect the remaining Dipterocarp forest. With assistance from the Irish Government and other donors, the Ministry has facilitated the Subanen in contouring the steep slopes, and planting fruit trees, trees for construction and fuel, and rubber and abaca (*Musa textilis*) trees to supplement their cash incomes.



The remaining forests of Midsalip are home to a wide variety of trees, plants, birds and mammals. Indeed, the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has listed the Mount Sugarloaf range as a conservation priority area for birds

⁴ *Biological diversity – or “biodiversity” for short – is a general term for the diversity of genes, species and ecosystems that constitute life on planet Earth. It is defined as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”.. .and .. “In-situ conservation means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.”* (Article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity) The Mount Sugarloaf Key Biodiversity Area (KBA 155) totals 34,419 hectares and covers not only Midsalip but also the municipalities of Bacungan, Godod, Bayog, Lakewood, Pagadian and Tigbao, in the provinces of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur. The mountains include: Buracan, Tandasag, Mediau (Sugarloaf), Pinukis, Maragang, Bulahan, and Linugen. KBA 204 Moro Gulf Marine .

⁵ Philippine Government. Proclamation # LC 2487 of 8/9/1966 declared Sugarloaf a Forest Reserve.

⁶ TLA No. 352

and arthropods. The central part of the Zamboanga Peninsula, which includes part of Midsalip, is a conservation priority area for terrestrial mammals.⁷

For the Subanen who live on the lower slopes of the mountains or adjacent hills, the forest provides plants and trees for medicine, rattan and wood for rituals, and fuel and timber for house construction. The Subanen shamans, who honor Pinukis as their sacred mountain and see it as part of a unified integrated system, not least because it is the source of three rivers, have foretold of a great disaster if open-cast mining is carried out in Pinukis and the surrounding mountains.

Water, Food and Livelihoods

The Sugarloaf Complex is one of 34 terrestrial and inland waterway conservation priority areas in the Philippines, listed and named as being of very high biological importance⁸ and as extremely critical.⁹ The three main waterways in the Zamboanga Peninsula – Sibuguey, Sindangan and Labangan – all originate in The Sugarloaf Complex in Midsalip. The Kolug, Sungkod and Bulasa streams flow South West from Mount Pinukis eventually coming together to form the Sibuguey River which enter the sea in Sibuguey Bay (Marine Conservation Priority Area) in Sibuguey Province.¹⁰ Other smaller streams beginning in the mountain range join other rivers and also out flow to bays and marine conservation areas.¹¹ The town of Midsalip depends on the watershed directly for its water supply, and indirectly for agricultural production, particularly rice growing and fish raising. Because of the loss of forest cover, however, water in the town is already rationed during the dry season for several weeks.

Midsalip has about 860 hectares of rice paddies and 823 hectares of communal irrigation systems. In recent years, the land has yielded two crops per year of 70 sacks per hectare, with each sack averaging 70 kilos that sell at 17 pesos per kilo, bringing the overall annual value to P280,451,108 (~US\$ 5.9 million).¹² What is not consumed by farmers is sold locally and in neighbouring municipalities,

⁷ Final Report, Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities. A second iteration of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Produced by DENR, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, Conservation International, Biodiversity Conservation Program, University of the Philippines' Center for Integrative and Development Studies and the Foundation for the Philippine Environment. See Conservation Priorities Areas for Conservation and Research Priorities Areas for arthropods p. 33, Conservation Priority Area Birds, p. 35; and Conservation Priority Area for terrestrial mammals, p. 36.

⁸ Final Report. Terrestrial and Inland Water Areas of Biological Importance - p. 28

⁹ Final Report. Terrestrial and Inland Waters Conservations and Priority Area - p. 29

¹⁰ Final Report. Marine Conservation Priority Area, p. 38.

¹¹ The Tebed streams form the Labangan River which enters the sea in Illana Bay, and the Duelic River flows into the Ecuang River which eventually forms the Sindangan River. Other smaller streams beginning in the mountain range, from Mounts Buracan, Tandasag, Mediau (Sugarloaf), Bulahan and Linogen all join the Ecuang River, and then form the Sindangan River that flows into Sindangan Bay, which is another Marine Conservation Area. See Final Report. Marine Conservation Priority Area p 38

¹² 1 USD = 47.2520 PHP 13 October 2008 <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

In the neighbouring province of Zamboanga Sibugay to the south of Midsalip, nearly six times as much land is planted to rice in irrigated areas (some 9,947 hectares). In addition, the nearby Labangan River Irrigation System covers 3,195 hectares of irrigated rice production, while in Sindangan municipality there are 900 hectares of irrigated rice land.

IRRIGATION	AREA (Hectares)	POPULATION	CROP VALUE*
MIDSALIP Municipality	1,683.38	32,000	PHP 280,400,000 ¹³ (~US\$5,930,000)
SIBUGAY Province	9,947.00	263,986	PHP 1,660,000,000 (~US\$35,100,000)
LABANGAN	3,195.00	11,981	PHP 532,300,000 (~US\$11,270,000)
SINDANGAN Municipality	900.00	89,738	PHP 150,000,000 (~US\$3,175,000)
TOTAL	15,725.38	397,705	PHP 2,620,000,000 (~US\$55,480,000)

* Figures may not add up as digits have been rounded for ease of reading

The three main rivers and other streams originating in the mountain range support another source of food and income in Midsalip and neighbouring areas: fishponds. The Labangan River supports 607 hectares of fishponds in Labangan, but it is the Sibugay River that supplies the most: 1,443 hectares of fishponds in Kumalarang-Zamboanga del Sur get their water from the Sibugay River by diversion and channels, as do 5,906 hectares of fishponds in 11 municipalities in Zamboanga Sibugay, 1,752 hectares of fishponds in Kabasalan fishponds, and 2,342 hectares of fishponds in Siay.

FISHPONDS	AREA Hectares	WATER SOURCE
Labangan Zamboanga del Sur	607	Labangan River
Kumalarang-Zamboanga del Sur	1,443	Sibugay River
Zamboanga Sibugay	5,906	Sibugay River
Kabasalan =1,752		Sibugay River
Siay =2,342		
TOTAL	8,056	

ZAMBOAGA SIBUGAY	
Developed Fishpond Area	5,905.60 has
Marine Sanctuary	1,262.92 has
Marine Protected Areas	341.21 has
Mangrove Zone	500.00 has
Seasnake Reserve	10.00 has
TOTAL * rounded figure	8,020.00 has

¹³ 1 USD = 47.2355 PHP Live rates at 14 Oct 2008 <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Apart from irrigated rice, farmers in Midsalip, who comprise about 90% of its population, also grow corn, upland rice, bananas, coconuts, coffee, and a wide variety of root crops, vegetables, and medicinal plants. To protect the remaining forest cover, forestry laws need to be strictly implemented, while the farmers need greater access to education on sustainable methods of agriculture, especially on sloping lands and to help to reconvert idle grassland back into productive agricultural land. The Subanen Ministry of the Catholic Church is educating farmers in sustainable methods of agriculture.

The Threat of Mining in Midsalip

Mining would affect the forests, water and food supplies of Midsalip, and is no stranger to the municipality. Soon after settlers moved into the area in the 1930s, large mining companies began their search for minerals. Iron ore is what they found. Three mining companies were active in Midsalip between 1956 and 1980:

- Surigao Consolidated Mining Co. Inc¹⁴ tunneled for iron ore in Guinabot in Midsalip between 1956 and 1958. Between 1975 and 1976, the company planted *ipilipil* trees used in processing the iron ore. *Ipilipil* is of the legume family (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and is also a source of fertilizer, animal feed, and timber. It also explored for gold, silver and copper.
- Black Mountain Mining Company drilled for iron ore in the 1960s and exported 400 tons to Norway.
- Suricon's sister company, APEX Mining Company, also drilled in Guinabot and Lumponid in Midsalip and also exported some ore to Norway.

These three Philippine companies apparently withdrew from Midsalip, however, because of the poor quality of the iron ore, declining prices of precious metals, high production costs and various natural disasters. Two other companies remained interested in Midsalip: a Philippine company, Datu Busran Kalaw (BK), was issued with a mining lease covering 54 hectares in 1974, while a joint venture, Dumon Mining Company/Red Lion Incorporated,¹⁵ registered a declaration of location with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 1981.

As elsewhere in the Philippines, the 1995 Mining Act encouraged several mining companies to step up their interest in the area, but peoples' opposition during the 1990s eventually compelled them to leave.

Rio Tinto applied for a 600,000-hectare application for a Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) in the Zamboanga Peninsula. The application included a 100,000-hectare claim encompassing Midsalip and the surrounding municipalities, which was called the Sugarloaf FTAA. Rio Tinto Zinc set up five subsidiary companies, which gave their names to the five Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) applications made within the Sugarloaf FTAA area in October

¹⁴ http://bankrupt.com/misc/GO_17A_Dec2005.pdf

¹⁵ Dumon Mining Co is based in the Philippines, Red Lion LTD in Hong Kong.

1997. (The maximum legal limit for an MPSA is 16,200 hectares, and 81,000 for an FTAA.) By applying to mine this area, the company totally disregarded the richness of the ecosystem and the rights of the peoples living within the area, who expressed their opposition to the companies. After two years of struggle, Rio Tinto, operating under the name of TEPI (Tropical Exploration Philippines, Incorporated), withdrew their claim in January 1999.

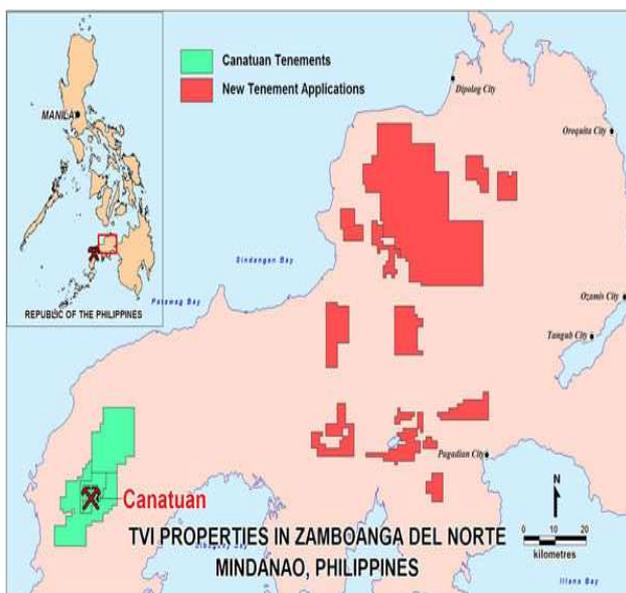
Meanwhile, in August 1997, Dumon Mining Company/Red Lion Incorporated applied for an MPSA, and local people again filed petitions against them. Eventually, after arbitration, the mining companies were denied their application. Red Lion then invited US mining company Phelps Dodge to investigate the iron ore in Midsalip. In June 2001, using the company names Makailala and Malampay, these two applied for a permit to explore 24,000 hectares in Midsalip and the neighbouring municipality, Dumingag. Just a few months later, however, in October 2001, they withdraw their application because of community opposition.

Again, in 1997, 3J Mining Company applied for an MPSA covering 1,863 hectares; again the local people petitioned against granting the application, and again it was refused.

In the past few years, however, the pace of applications to mine in Midsalip has increased since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo published Executive Order 270, the “*National Policy Agenda on Revitalizing Mining in the Philippines*”, in January 2004, which established the impetus for the Mineral Action Plan.

Chronology of Applications to Mine in Midsalip in 21st Century

March 2004	Mindanao Mining and Mineral Resources Corporation (MMMRC) filed an application for 7,573 hectares in Midsalip and Bayog (neighbouring municipality)
Jan 2006	MMMRC revised its application down to 6,986.25 hectares in Bayog and Midsalip
March 2004	Geotechniques and Mines Inc. (GAMI) filed an application covering 567 hectares.
June 2004	Cebu Ore Mining and Mineral Resources Corp. (COMMRC) applied for 4,447 hectares (within Midsalip) in the Dumon Red/Lion Area
March 2005	AP Tang Mining Corporation filed an application for 8,100 hectares in Midsalip, Dumingag and Suminot (surrounding municipalities)
Nov 2005 <i>revised</i> Oct 2006	TVI made an application covering 7,209 hectares in Dumingag and Midsalip.
May 2007	168 Ferrum Pacific (assignee of Cebu Ore) applied for 7,614 hectares in Bayog and Midsalip.
August 2007	Datu Busran Kalaw (BK) Consolidated Mines Development Corporation signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Western Central Mine Trade, Inc. to sell them magnetite, iron ore at its mining location in Lumponid, Midsalip
October 2007	168 Ferrum Pacific applied for 7,614 hectares in Midsalip, Sominot, Bayog, and Buug

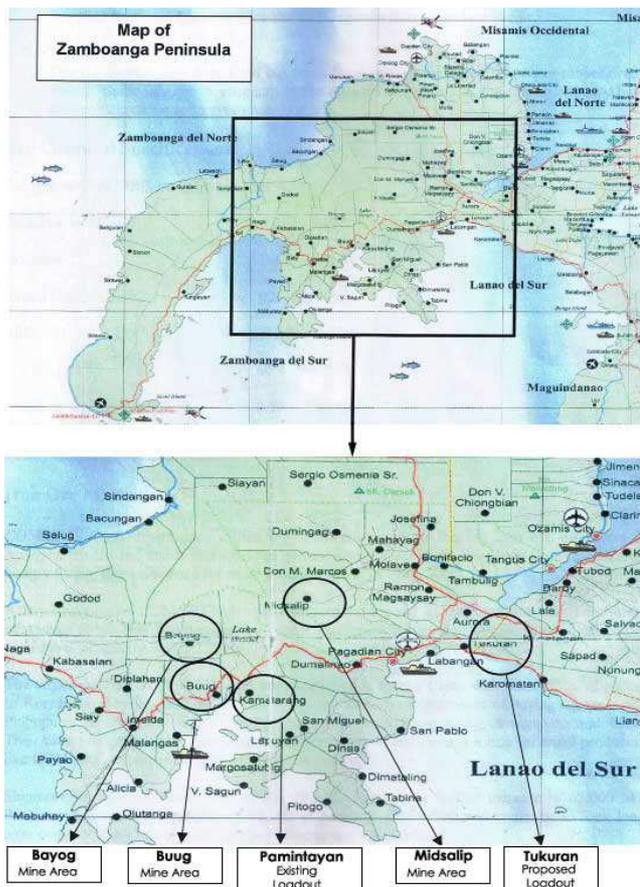


Apart from the Canadian-owned TVI and AP Tang Mining Phil. Corporation, which has a subsidiary of AP Oil International Limited (Singapore), the companies now applying to mine in Midsalip and surrounding areas are controlled by Filipino business families with links to financiers or buyers in China, Korea, Japan, and Singapore. As the applications indicate, they want to mine not only in Midsalip, but also in the surrounding municipalities in the Sugarloaf watershed, including

Leson Valley, Sominot, and Dumingag Lakewood and Bayog.

Besides these applications from large companies, “small scale mining” (*Minang ug Bayan*) is being encouraged by local and regional politicians in ten *barangays* (villages) in Midsalip, while local political leaders in Midsalip are organizing a similar program. The sheer number of *barangays* involved belies the claim that this mining will be small-scale, and could well be a ploy to wrest control of the mineral-rich areas from local people, freeing the government to negotiate with the large mining companies. (Permits for small-scale mining are issued at provincial rather than national level.)

The iron ore deposits found so far are mainly at a depth of some 100-200 meters, meaning that this depth of “overburden” would have to be removed to expose the ore. Removal of the mountain top and forests would inevitably reduce the river flow, curtailing the water supply for domestic use, irrigated rice, fishponds, and other agriculture. The removed mountain top soil would have to go somewhere, and could well simply be dumped in the valley below or in the rice paddies, reducing still further the mainstay of livelihood for communities in Midsalip and the surrounding municipalities.



Moreover, if all these mining permits get the go-ahead, some of the mines will need around 100 kilometers of new transport and infrastructure links (roads, railways, seaports) to facilitate the export of iron ore to Japan, China, Canada and elsewhere, which will have additional environmental impacts.

Potential Impacts and Opposition

The combined environmental impact of the proposed mines in the mountains of Midsalip and the new ore transport routes would be extremely high. It would impact the quantity and quality of available water for domestic use, schools, and farming. Instead of having a surplus of rice, the area could quickly end up with a shortage if agricultural land is given over to mining. The ensuing hardship could be all the more serious given the soaring prices of rice in 2008 on international markets. Timpobia,¹⁶ a community organization of irrigators who together cultivate 269 hectares of rice, stated in their resolution dated 12 June 2005 opposing the mining

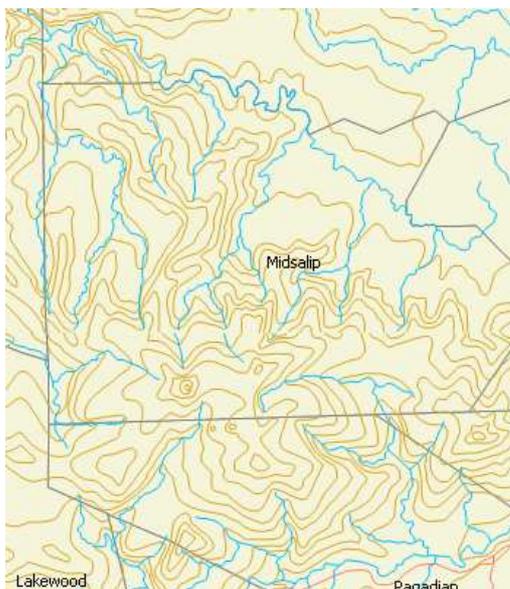
¹⁶ Timbaboy Poblacion Irrigators Association 12 June 2005

application of Geotechniques and Mining Incorporated (GAMI) that, should the company's mining application be approved, it would displace or dislocate more than 5,000 farmers/members of their Association.

Mining would pollute not only the fishponds in Midsalip but also those in Sibugay Bay, Illana Bay, Sindangan Bay and Panguil Bay, and would destroy these areas' marine sanctuaries, protected areas and species, mangroves and corals. Such destruction would in turn threaten fish, a staple protein in the Zamboanga Peninsula, particularly if it became scarce.

In sum, mining in Midsalip, on the scale applied for, means that its remaining forests will disappear and the indigenous Subanen peoples and local Visayan and Muslim populations will face loss of livelihoods and displacements for their lands. For the Subanen it could ultimately result in the cultural destruction. For more than 20 years, the Subanen people, supported by the Visayan communities, have repeatedly stated, through letters, petitions, and protests, that they do not want mining in their ancestral area.¹⁷ Mindanao bishops and clergy in 2008 called on the Government to redirect its priorities towards food security and develop an agri-aqua based economy instead of focusing on highly extractive industries such as mining. Leaders of the inter-faith community have also taken a strong stand against mining.

But the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), in the case of the applications from GAMI, AP Tang and 168 Ferrum Pacific, sided with the mining companies. In GAMI's case, it denied the Subanens their rights to a proper FPIC (Free and Prior Informed Consent) process, and issued the certificate of precondition required for exploration, despite opposition from the majority of Subanens to mining in their sacred mountain range. Similarly, in the case of 168 Ferrum Pacific's application, a Subanen community was denied the right of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), even though the country's mining laws clearly state that no mining should go ahead without the consent of the Indigenous People potentially affected. The importance of FPIC was reinforced in September 2007 when the United Nations formally adopted the Declaration on Indigenous Peoples' Rights.



The fact that Sugarloaf is a critical watershed area should automatically exclude Midsalip from mining. It is in fact that the same Government Department (Department of Environment and Natural Resources, DENR) which declared Sugarloaf to be a High Priority Biodiversity Area is allowing mining companies to proceed with their applications against the wishes of the great majority of the people.

Politicians and mining companies are becoming more shameless in their disrespect for people's rights. Cebu Ore has stated that it has started explorations on 15,390 hectares

¹⁷ Petition to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from more than 3,000 Midsalip citizens

of what they claim is company-owned property in both Zamboanga and Sibugay provinces. Some organizations in Midsalip have challenged these property ownership claims. During 2008, mining companies have entered Subanen lands, tested stones and taken some away without any permission from the Subanen Indigenous Peoples

Some of the Subanen communities have been trying to restore the ecosystem despite the challenges facing them, and all the communities are involved in the struggle to prevent the mining companies entering their ancestral lands. During the past few years, moreover, politicians have curtailed people's rights to freely express their opposition to mining, while, in the last local election, candidates expressing opposition were not allowed to stand.

Unfortunately, the Philippine Government, both executive and administrative branches, seem strongly committed to supporting international mining companies in their plans for open pit mining in Midsalip.

Midsalip Visit

The authors and their team visited Midsalip in February 2008 and met many of the Subanen Indigenous People, leaders from the Visayan community, settlers, the Mayor of the Midsalip town, and community members potentially affected by the mining applications. They traveled through many parts of Midsalip and gained a very clear picture of the water catchment area, irrigation system, agriculture and fish ponds, all of which depend upon the mountains in Midsalip for water.

Three main and many smaller rivers and streams would be affected by the proposed mining in three provinces; agriculture and fish ponds would be destroyed or damaged if the watershed is affected by siltation or acid drainage. The investment by the National Irrigation Agency and farmers in irrigation may be wasted; moreover, many farmers may not be able to repay their loans for irrigation infrastructure and equipment. The Department of Agriculture would not be able to meet its targets to increase food production.

The team also gained a clear impression that the whole FPIC process was deeply flawed in Midsalip. It was not given freely, many Subanen were excluded from the process, the community was not adequately informed and there were serious anomalies and violations of the Subanen customary laws in the validation of some supposed leaders. If mining is forced on the community they will not accept it.

The team also visited the coast to see where the pollution and siltation from the mines would end up. Many vital fishing grounds would be affected. The authors do not believe that these people and other stakeholders were consulted adequately or informed on what mining would do to their environment. If they had been, they would not give their agreement to mining.

The whole environmental and social study was inadequate and the accumulative impacts were not properly studied. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (see Annex C) should have been carried out by the Government.

Midsalip Conclusion, Recommendation and Map

The authors believe mining and irrigated rice and fish farming are conflicting activities and are incompatible in an area that produces valuable agricultural and marine food supplies not only to the peninsula but also to major Philippine cities. Their ocular survey of the picturesque landscape and visiting the sites of the proposed exploration and mining tenements lead the authors to conclude that extraction or exploitation of iron ore and other minerals will severely damage the water catchment services of Midsalip, undermine the human rights of the Indigenous Subanen people, reduce agricultural production and damage the ability of future generations to survive in the area.

Mining will also affect the significant investment of the international community in reforestation. It will pollute and cause erosion and siltation of the rivers, exacerbate geohazard and landslide problems. There will be a risk of flooding and pollution of the main fish farming and fresh water and marine fish breeding grounds; also the flooding of lowland communities, which the forest and water catchment currently protects.

The Indigenous Subanen community will be particularly impacted if mining processes in their lands. Their right to Free Prior Informed Consent has been denied as the processes facilitated by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) were seriously flawed. During the fact finding mission of July August 2006 Clare Short and the team met with the National Ombudsman. She invited the Subanen community to submit a complaint and promised to act on it. The complaint was submitted in 2006. However, to date there appears to have been no action taken with regard to it. The NCIP now claims that the Subanen have given their consent to exploration.

The authors recommend that no mining or exploration proceed in Midsalip. The Government should protect this critical water catchment area, by banning mining in accordance with the law, and respect the rights of the Subanen people. International Agencies should help the legitimate Subanen organisations reforest the mountains, which were damaged by illegal logging, and further their sustainable development efforts. The National Irrigation Authority (NIA) should provide more technical and financial resources to the Irrigators' associations, to keep irrigation channels upgraded and terracing on the slopes, and, downstream, support existing fish farming, and protect the key fish breeding grounds from pollution and over-fishing. Existing micro power projects and local industries based on natural products should be encouraged by providing adequate financing by government financial institutions.

Republic of the Philippines
Region IX
Province of Zamboanga del Sur
Municipality of Midsalip
Barangay Timbaboy
Timbaboy-Poblacion B Irrigators Association
(TIMPOBIA)



(Resolution # 8 Series of 2005)

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES SESSION OF (TIMPOBIA) TIMBABOY-POBLACION B IRRIGATORS ASSOCIATION DATED JUNE 12, 2005 AT IA SESSION HALL AT EXACTLY 10:00 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, AT TIMBABOY, MIDSALIP, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR.

PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Board of Trustee Jerson M. Templado | Chairman/Presiding-representing Kaisahan 2A |
| 2. Board of Trustee Ernesto Cataraja | Member-representing Kaisahan 1A |
| 3. Board of Trustee Felix Revelo | Member-representing Kaisahan 1B |
| 4. Board of Trustee Rosario Bansua | Member-representing Kaisahan 1C |
| 5. Board of Trustee Zosimo Tatoy | Member-representing Kaisahan 2B |
| 6. Board of Trustee Wilson Papa | Member-representing Kaisahan 3 |
| 7. Board of Trustee David Salem | Member-representing Kaisahan 4 |
| 8. Board of Trustee Norman Ababa | Member-representing Kaisahan 8 |
| 9. President Rodolfo Tuba | IA President |

OFFICERS PRESENT:

1. IA Vice President Ramil Calunod
2. IA Treasurer Jose Momongan
3. IA Secretary Mary Jean Nacion

Absent:

1. BOT Alfredo Ballesteros – Board Member representing Kaisahan 7
2. BOT Marcelo Saberon - Board Member representing Kaisahan 5
3. BOT Jimmy Unabia – Board Member representing Kaisahan 6
4. Auditor Rodrigo Gumagay

RESOLUTION NO. 8 Series of 2005

Resolution opposing the mining application of Geo Techniques and Mines Inc. for Mineral Production Sharing Agreement, exploration, development and utilization of iron, gold, silver and other Mineral resources particularly described within the Municipality of Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur, this is in accordance to the coordinated Technical Description containing as area of 567 hectares more or less and we found out that this is w/in the very critical watershed area of (TIMPOBIA) Timbaboy-Poblacion B Irrigators Association composing the Barangay of Duelic, Sigapod, Guinabot, Matalang, Cumarom, Cabaluran and other Barangay.

WHEREAS, the said area mentioned above is the source water/livelihood for 226 member/farmers to include their dependent we will reach more than 5,000 beneficiaries, as of this moment we are cultivating 269 hectares more or less;

WHEREAS, the article of Incorporation and by-laws of TIMPOBIA was certified and duly registered at the office of the Administrator of (FSDC) Farm System Development Corporation, Makati, Metro Manila dated August 21, 1979 with Registration No. 00713;

WHEREAS, the articles of Incorporation and by-laws of TIMPOBIA IA was certified and duly registered at the Office of the Director of the Corporate and Legal Department of (SEC) Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong Metro Manila dated March 6, 1988 with SEC Reg. No 149472;

WHEREAS, as of today, TIMPOBIA is a recipient of (BSSP PROJECT) Balik Sagip Patubig project of the Government and this is the Breakdown of Counterpart:

TIMPOBIA IA 10% or P 50,000.00 — — — Already implemented on the ground
Local Gov't Unit 20% or P 100,000.00 — — — Already implemented on the ground
N/A National 70% or 500,000.00 — — — 18% was already implemented on the ground and 82% to be implemented after harvest season;

WHEREAS, the area that you are planning to operate or applying/proposing is very critical because this is the watershed of (TIMPOBIA) Timbaboy-Poblacion B Irrigators Association they are the tributaries of Timbaboy and Guinabot River flows downstream passing to our 2 dams located at Timbaboy River and Guinabot River then supply to our irrigated areas;

WHEREAS, the government spent millions of money loan from World Bank for Reforestation Purposes w/in the area of Barangay of Sigapod, Duelic, Matalang, Cumarom, Guinabot and Cabahuran thru DENR, SECAL RRMP;

WHEREAS, base on our analysis, this is the possible cause for the displacing/dislocating of more than 5,000 farmers/members beneficiaries of (TIMPOBIA) Timbaboy-Poblacion B Irrigators Association, if the government allow/permit you to operate;

THEREFORE, on joint motion and severally seconded by the Board of Trustees Constituted a Quorum that we are strongly against the Proposed/Application of Geo Techniques and Mines Inc. to operate within our vicinity to protect our life and the life of our incoming generation.

Resolved, as it is hereby resolves that copy of this resolution will be given to Geo Techniques and Mines Inc. No. 40 Manila Street, Filinvest-Eastville, Cainta, Rizal unanimously carried and approved.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the righteousness of the fore-cited resolution, So help us God.

Prepared by:

MARY JANE NACION
IA Secretary.

ATTESTED:

JEKSON M. UEMPLADO
BOT

RODRIGO CALARAJA
BOT

FELIX REVELO
BOT

NORMAN ABABA
BOT

ROSARIO R. BANSUA
BOT

ZOSIMO TATOY
BOT

WILSON PAPA
BOT

DAVID SALEM
BOT

RODOLFO L. TUBA
IA President

RAMIL CALUNOD
IA Vice-President

JOSE S. MOMONGAN
IA Treasurer

Copy furnished:

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President of the Philippines

Noli de Castro
Vice-Pres.

Cong. Isidoro Real Jr.
Congressman
1st Dist. Zambo. Del Sur

Gov. Aurora H. Cerilles
Governor

PETITION

Her Excellency Gloria M. Arroyo
 Malacañang Palace
 Manila

Dear Pres. Gloria Arroyo,

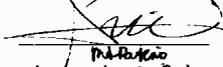
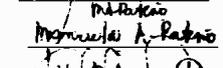
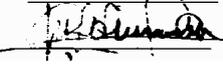
We the undersigned residents of Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur wish to share with you our grave concern regarding the mining applications which cover nearly all of Midsalip.

We want you to know that protecting Midsalip and the surrounding areas against mining is in the national interest for the following reasons.

- Midsalip is a place of great natural beauty, rich with forests, springs, waterfalls and clean air. We wish to protect God's creation for our children and their children.
- Midsalip is rich in natural biodiversity and is a pharmacy for the Subaanens, who until now gather their medicine on Mount Pinukis, their sacred mountain.
- Midsalip is a water source not alone for this municipality but provides water to the three surrounding provinces. How can the people, animals, trees and crops, survive without water.
- The irrigated rice lands, croplands, orchards and rangeland provide food for the inhabitants of Midsalip, and the surplus is sold in surrounding municipalities. The plan to sell millions of tons of iron ore to China for a pittance or to mine gold for Canada will destroy the food source and will cause the loss of livelihood of the farmers.
- Pinukis, the sacred mountain of the Subaanens, is a volcano, and Midsalip is an area of high seismic risk. Mining here will put the people and the ecosystem at grave risk.
- The temperature in Midsalip is noticeably cooler than the surrounding areas. Mining will cause a loss of forest cover and will contribute to global warming which is already a grave threat to the future of the Philippines. The laws in place to protect the rights of Indigenous People and the environment are in our experience not being implemented by Government Departments. We experienced the bias of NCIP in Midsalip in favor of mining, and we are aware that large-scale mining is causing ecological destruction all over the Philippines.

In view of the above reasons, and all other negative aspects arising therefrom, we appeal to Your Excellency to listen to our appeal to live in peace on our lands, as guaranteed to us by right in our Constitution, and to promote the genuine national interest of the Filipino peoples by ensuring that approval for all mining applications in Midsalip is withheld.

In witness whereof, we hereby sign this Petition this 15th day of October 2007, in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur.

Name	Organization/Position	Signature
SAMUEL CARTALLIA	TIMPOBIA PRESIDENT	
TERSO B. LOPICILLO	PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR	
MANUELA PATEÑO	TUPUSUMI PRESIDENT	
PRESCIOSO TAPITAN	ECOLOGICAL DEVL'P. GROUP CHAIR	

Extract from information provided to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD), August 2008.¹⁸

In 2005 seven large-scale mining applications were filed covering up to 70% of the Subanen ancestral domain in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur. The first of the seven pending FPIC processes, which is seen as paving the way for all subsequent applications, was conducted in a manner that was in breach of the FPIC guidelines and in violation of Subanen customary laws and practices. However, despite the objections of the majority of the Subanen, represented by TUPUSUMI and Gataw Taasan,¹⁹ the NCIP deemed consent to have been given and issued the certification of precondition required for exploration. The following are some of the anomalies in this FPIC process:

1) **Imposed decision-making process:** Between January 2005 and July 2006 an FPIC process was conducted in the ancestral domain of the Subanen of Midsalip. The process proceeded despite the Subanen's rejection of mining from the outset and their request that the process be halted. Prior to the most recent set of mining applications the Subanen had repeatedly requested that their rejection of mining be acknowledged by the NCIP as a long-standing position.²⁰

2) **Flawed leader validation process:** This process violated Subanen customary laws and failed to adhere to requirements of Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) for self-validation of leaders. Instead leader validation was performed by a select non-representative group. Community members repeatedly stated their objections that many validated 'leaders' had no status under customary law and represented no constituents in the community while legitimate leaders who represented a significant percentage of Subanen were excluded.

3) **Complaints left unaddressed or dismissed:** The Subanen submitted complaints to the NCIP Regional Hearing Officer regarding the leader validation process. However, these and other complaints have gone unaddressed or were dismissed by the both the NCIP and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

4) **Failure to include all impacted communities in Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process:** Only three barangay (townships) were included in the FPIC process. However, the ancestral domain consists of 24 barangay and the mining application directly affects five barangay and will impact on a further eight.

5) **No Community Consensus Building or Consultation:** The NCIP failed to carry out the mandatory FPIC steps of community consensus building. This was despite objections, boycotts and walkouts of legitimate leaders and community members based on the fact that their customary practices require that leaders consult with and represent the consensus opinion of the community.

6) **Use of FPIC guidelines that were not in force:** NCIP based its issuance of the certification on its revised FPIC implementing guidelines that came into force two months after this FPIC process was finished. The NCIP had failed to adhere to the mandatory steps in the existing FPIC guidelines requiring 'a show of hands by the heads of households' be held to validate the consensus opinion of the community. Instead the NCIP used the revised guidelines to attempt to justify its decision that a majority vote of only the validated 'leaders' constituted the consent of the community.

7) **Community livelihood concerns not addressed:** Fears of the Subanen with regard to the protection of their rights and the implications for their food security and development objectives for sustainable agriculture, protection of watershed areas, forests cover and their lands rich biodiversity were not addressed in the FPIC process. Current global trends in rice and food prices exasperate these concerns.

8) **Sacred Mountain Range:** The Mount Pinukis (Sugarloaf) ecosystem is considered sacred by the Subanen. They believe that a great disaster will befall them and all those living in the area if this ecosystem is damaged. Due to this flawed FPIC process this important issue was not addressed.

In addition to the unwanted encroachment of large scale mining companies, local politicians are currently declaring land within ancestral domains as segregated small-scale mining areas without first obtaining the FPIC of indigenous peoples as required by IPRA's FPIC guidelines and Republic Act 7076, An Act Creating a People's Small Scale Mining Program and for Other Purposes. The Subanen of Midsalip and Bayog are currently being impacted by this policy with individual community members and local government officials are being pressurized strongly to comply with it. The declaration of small-scale mining areas in each municipality and barangay is strongly promoted by the provincial governor and is being adopted as a strategy to facilitate the entry large scale mining operations.

¹⁸ Provided in the context of CERD's Early Warning Urgent Action procedure regarding the Subanen of Mt Canatuan, Zamboanga del Norte. See letters to Philippine Government <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/early-warning.htm>

¹⁹ TUPUSUMI and Gataw Taasan represent the majority of the Subanen of Midsalip and their leaders as recognized under their customary laws and on the basis of their constituency in the communities.

²⁰ Following their opposition to Rio Tinto Zinc's mining applications in 1997 the Subanen had formally requested the NCIP to recognise their opposition to mining. At the first meetings of this 2005 FPIC process TUPUSUMI and Gataw Taasan submitted resolutions to the NCIP stating their positions against the mining application.

Sustainable Development and Mining Industry in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines

Midsalip is home to many Indigenous Subanen people who oppose mining on their lands. It is a vital water catchment area providing water for agricultural and fish farming in three Provinces of Zamboanga. Midsalip is a major rice producing area. Currently the population of Midsalip is 36,000 but this is expected to rise to 56,000 by 2030. The same sorts of population increases will take place in the other parts of Zamboanga which makes the protection of the Midsalip water catchment area critical for the future survival of the population. Water from the rivers could provide electricity from micro power projects for many villages and towns. Mining will completely undermine the National Irrigation Administration's plans for the area.

Eight mining companies currently want to mine in the area. National and International experts have visited the area and looked at the mining plans. The experts believe Mining and irrigated rice and fish farming are incompatible and that mining will severely damage the water catchment qualities of Midsalip, undermine the Human Rights of the Indigenous Subanen people, reduce agricultural production and damage the ability of future generations to survive in the area. Mining will also pollute and cause siltation of the rivers flowing into the three Provinces increasing the risks of flooding and pollution of the main fish farming and fresh water and marine fish breeding grounds which the water catchment currently protects.

The impacts on the lives of the people will be very severe and this will destabilise the local population and probably revive security problems. The National and International experts strongly recommend that the Government respects the rights of the Subanen people, protect the water catchment area, reforest the hills which were badly damaged by illegally logging, provide more irrigation channels and terracing on the slopes, support fish farming, protect the key fish breeding grounds from pollution and over fishing and support micro power projects and local industries based on natural products.



Midsalip Rice Fields and Water Catchment



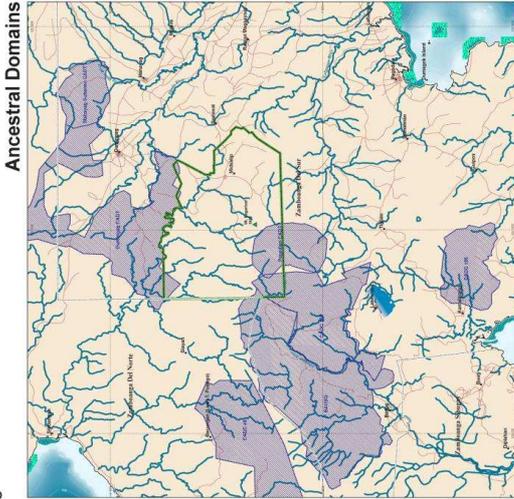
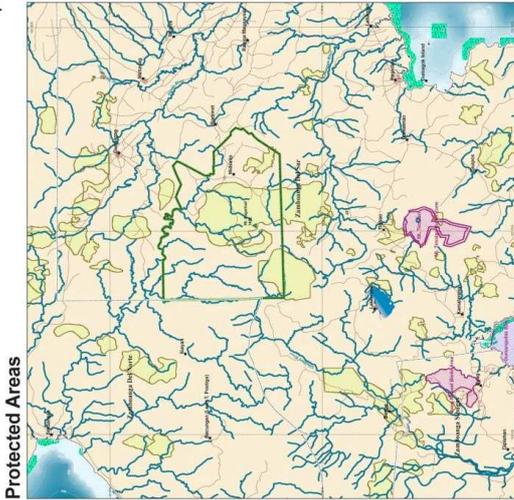
Home to Philippines Eagle



An Irrigation canal

Sustainable Development and Mining Industry in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines

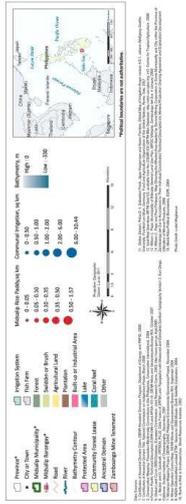
Potential threats to sustainable development from mining activities



Midsalip is home to many indigenous Subanen people who oppose mining on their lands. It is a vital water catchment area providing water for agricultural and fish farming in three Provinces of Zamboanga. Midsalip is a major rice producing area. Currently the water catchment area is being threatened by mining activities. The National and International experts recommend that the Government respects the rights of the Subanen people, protect the water catchment areas, reform the laws which were badly damaged by illegally logging, provide more irrigation channels and micro power projects and local industries based on natural products.

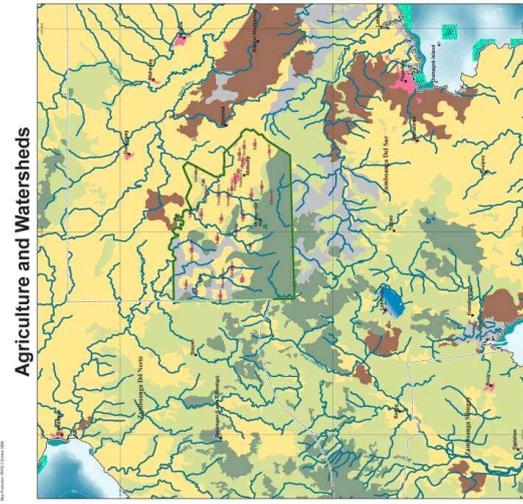
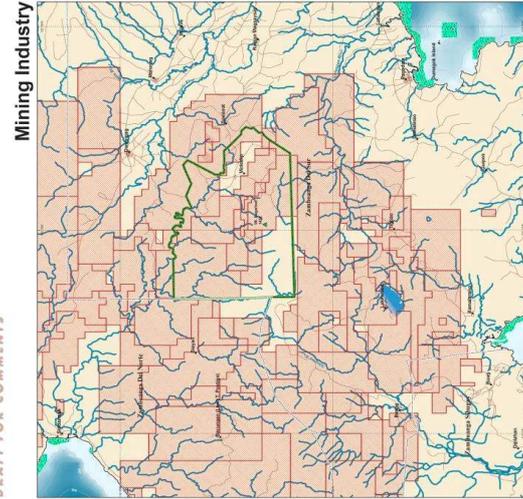
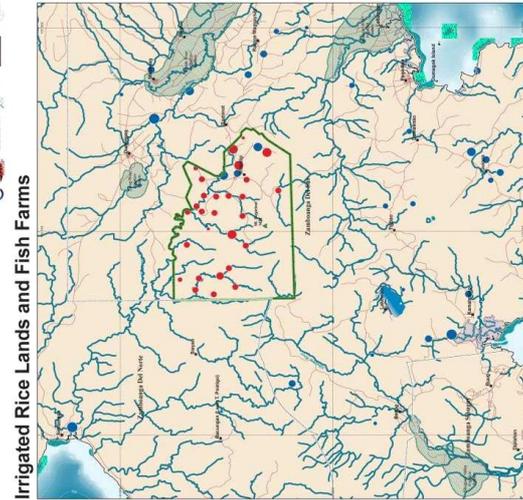
Eight mining companies currently want to mine in the area. National and International experts have visited the area and looked at the mining plans. The experts believe mining and irrigated rice and fish farming are incompatible and that mining will severely damage the water catchment quality of Midsalip, undermine the human rights of the indigenous Subanen people, reduce agriculture production and threaten the survival of the population. Water from the rivers could provide electricity from micro power projects for many villages and towns. Mining will completely undermine the National Irrigation Administration's plans for the area.

The impacts on the lives of the people will be very severe and this will destabilize the local population and probably revive security problems. The National and International experts strongly recommend that the Government respects the rights of the Subanen people, protect the water catchment areas, reform the laws which were badly damaged by illegally logging, provide more irrigation channels and micro power projects and local industries based on natural products.



Protected Areas

Ancestral Domains



Irrigated Rice Lands and Fish Farms

Agriculture and Watersheds

Mining Industry

DRAFT FOR COMMENTS

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MINES AND GEO-SCIENCES DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
From Mines Operation map**

MINERAL PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENT (MPSA)	PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY/ MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY/ROAD/TRAIL	
NO. APPLICATION	LOCATION	MINERAL/S
1. EMACO, INC	Dumminatag ZC/Lintangan,Sibuco,ZDN	Bentonite
2. CORINNA MNG.CORP	Mati, Dumalinao, ZDS	Gold, etc
3. CORINNA MNG CORP	Lourdes, Pagadian	do
4. LADAGO MINES INC	Gutalac ZDN	Gold/Chromite
5. ORELIN MNG CORP	R.T. Lim. ZDS	Gold, etc
6. PNOC – ENERGY DEV'T CORP	Payongan, Alicia ZDS	do
7. OCEAN PACIFIC EXPL.	Tampilisan / Titay, ZDN	Manganese, etc
8. EDDIE P. PUY	Depori, Bayog, ZDS	Gold,etc
9. EMILIANO VENERACION	Payongan, Kauswagan, ZDS	do
10. ZAMBO. GOLD MNG PHIL	Canatuan, Tabayo, ZDN	do
11. LUVIMIN CEBU MNG CORP	Lourdes, Pagadian	do
12. ANTONIO V.A. GARCIA	Lourdes, Pagadian	do
13. LUVIMIN CEBU MNG CORP	Sibuguey, Lakewood, ZDS	do
14. CORINNA MINING CORP	Bayog / Diplahan, ZDS	do
15. EMACO, INC	Lintangan, Sibuco, ZDN	Bentonite
16. DIAHAN S GRACIANO	Guinoman, Bayog, ZDS	Gold etc
17. BENJAMIN ZAMORA	Sta. Rosario, R.T. Lim, ZDS	do
18. T VI RESOURCE DEV'T	Canatuan, Siocon, ZDN	do
19. MONTEREAL MNG. CORP	Dumingag, ZDS	Chromite, etc
20. ASIA PACIFIC MIN. SERV. & EXPL COR	La Paz, ZC Lakewood, ZDS	Gold etc do
21. TUNDRA RES, CORP	Taguilon, Sibutad, ZDN	do
22. PHILEX MNG. CORP	Anungon, Sibuco, ZDN	do
23. NORTH ZAMBALES MIN, INC	Vitali, Z.C.	do
24. EMACO, INC.	Anungan, Sibuco, ZDN	do
25. CELEBES MIN. CORP	Labason, Liboy, ZDN	Silica, etc
26. MINGSON AGRO-URBAN CORP	Jose Dalman, ZDN	Gold ,etc
27. ROLDAN DALMAN	Gutalac, Baliguian, ZDN	do
28. CORONADO POINTS MNG DEV'T CORP	San Ramon, Limpapa, Z.C. Siayan, ZDN	Sand and Gravel Chromite, etc
29. LUVIMIN CEBU MNG CORP	Bonbon, Sindangan, ZDN	Gold, etc
30. ALBERTO O. SIDLAO	Seriac / Sindangan, ZDN	do
31. LASER MNG CORP	Pu ang, Bato, Z.C.	do
32. SINDANGAN BAY MNG. CORP	Rizal, ZDN	do
33. BRIGIDA V. LLORENTE	Panganuran, Sibuco, ZDN	do
34. PHILEX GOLD MNG CORP	ZNAC, Lipakan, Tampilisan, ZDN	Chromite,
35. ASIA METALLIC MIN CO	Siraway, ZDN	Hematite
36. LIBRES & SONS MNG & DEV'T CORP	Midsalip, ZDS	Gold, etc
37. ASIA METALLIC MIN CO INC	Midsalip. ZDs	Iron , etc
38. DATU BUSRAN KALAW	Dumingag/Molave, ZDS	do
39. DUMON MNG INC/RED LION LTD	Midsalip, Aurora, ZDS	Gold, etc
40. 3 - J MNG. INC.	S. Osmena, Polanco,ZDN/Kalawit,ZDS	Iron , etc
41. 3 - J MNG. INC	Payongan, Alicia, ZDS	Chromite,etc
42. L.M. CAMUS ENG'G CORP	Pitago, Tabina, Dimataling,ZDS	Gold, etc
43. HELEN C NOVAL	Kulasian,Tampilisan,Dimataling,ZDS	Limestone
44. R.B.A. MNG, CORP	Gutalac, Labason, ZDN	Manganese, etc
45. OCEAN PACIFIC EXPL. CORP	Aurora, Tukuram, ZDS	Chromite, etc
46. B.B. MINERALS CORP	Tipan, Gutalac, ZDN	Gold, etc
47. J.M.H. INT'L PHIL. INC	Manukan, Jose Dalman, ZDN	Chromite, etc
48. DELRAM MIN. CORP	Monching, Siay, ZDS	Limestone
49. J.M.H. INT'L PHIL, INC	Lapuyan, ZDS	White clay
50. FINE EARTH INDUSTRIES CO, INC	Kumalarang, Tigbao, ZDS	Bentonite
51. FINE EARTH INDUSTRIES CO, INC	Bulaan, Buug, ZDS	do
52. FINE EARTH INDUSTRIES CO, INC	Lintangan, Sibuco, ZDN	Silica, etc
53. FINE EARTH INDUSTRIES CO, INC	Ligian, Tungawan, ZDS	Gold, etc
54. ROJUMAN REALITY & DEV'T, INC	Dumalinao, ZDS	do
55. ROJUMAN REALITY & DEV'T, INC	Lakewood, ZDS	do
56. PELICAN RESOURCES CORP	Lakewood, ZDS	do
57. PATRICK RESOURCES CORP.	Lakewood, ZDS	do
58. VENTURA RESOURCES CORP	Lakewood, ZDS	do
59. ABIGAIL RESOURCES CORP.	Pagadian, ZDS	do
60. SPENCER RESOURCES CORP.	Lakewood, ZDS	do
61. ZAMCORE RESOURCES CORP	Buswagan,Kumdarang, ZDS	do
62. LEONARD RESOURCES CORP	Buswagan, Kumdarang, ZDS	do
63. LINDSAY RESOURCES CORP.	Buswagan, Kumdarang, ZDS	do
64. HORIZON RESOURCES CORP.		do
65. OLYMPIC INT'L SALE CORP.		do

EXPLORATION PERMIT APPL. (EPA)	LOCATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WISE TECH SERVICES INC. 2. EMACO, INC 3. SABANG MFG CO INC 4. LUMINTAO MNG CO, INC 5. NOROLA MNG CO, INC 6. MAKILALA MNG CO INC 7. COROBONG MNG CO INC. 8. KENELL MNG. CORP 9. EMILIANO G VENERACION, JR 10. MALIBATO MNG CO, INC 11. EARTH MOVERS MNG CO 12. SIENNALYN GOLD MNG CO 13. CELEBES MIN., INC 14. RIZAL SILICA CORP 	<p>Isabela, Lamitan, Maluso, Basilan Prov Licomo, Vitali. Z.C Manicahan, Z.C Vitali, Z.C Curuan Z.C Sibutad, La Libertad, ZDN Manicahan,Z.C. Liloy / Labason, ZDN Payongan, Alicia, ZDS Dipalog, Dapitan, Polanco, ZDN Sibuco, ZDN / Vitali, ZC Ipil / R.T. Lim, ZDS Pisa Itum, Siraway, ZDN Bacungan, Godad, ZDN</p>

APPROVED MPSA MINING RIGHTS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TRANSTECH INDUSTRIES PHIL., INC 2. VILLOR MNG CORP 3. V.L. CHROME 4. RAMON BOSQUE/BENGUET CORP 5. PHILEX GOLD PHIL., INC 6. A DYNASTY MULTI-PURPOSE COOP 7. SIENNALYN GOLD MNG CO 8. GLICERIO C PESCADOR 9. KENELL MNG CORP. 10. ZAMBOANGA MIN CORP. 	<p>Liloy, ZDN Sindangan, ZDN Siayan, ZDN Canatuan, Siacon, ZDN Taguilan, Sibutad, ZDN San Miguel, ZDS R.T. Lim, Ipil. ZDS Kumalarang, ZDS Sindangan, ZDN Balabag, Guinoman, ZDS</p>
APPROVED EXPLORATION PERMIT	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PNOC – ENERGY DEV'T CORP. 2. SIENNALYN GOLD MNG, INC 	<p>Payongan, Alicia, ZDS Ipil / R.T. Lim ZDS</p>

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.. Perhaps reluctantly we come to acknowledge that there are also scars which mark the surface of our earth: erosion, deforestation, the squandering of the world's mineral and ocean resources in order to fuel an insatiable consumption. Some of you come from island nations whose very existence is threatened by rising water levels; others from nations suffering the effects of devastating drought. God's wondrous creation is sometimes experienced as almost hostile to its stewards, even something dangerous. How can what is "good" appear so threatening? ...My dear friends, God's creation is one and it is good. The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, 23rd World Youth Day, Sydney, Australia, July 12-21, 2008

Photos if the fact-finding trip can be found on:
<http://workinggrouponmininginthephilippines.blogspot.com>

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