



Groupe Bazano

Lubumbashi

République Democratique de Congo

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NETHERLANDS**

POSTBUS 19199  
1000 GD AMSTERDAM  
T 020 6262 620 · F 020 5507 310  
SERVICE@MILIEUDEFENSIE.NL  
WWW.MILIEUDEFENSIE.NL  
GIRO 18650

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**concerns: your response to PREMICONGO report**

Dear Sirs,

As one of the funders of PREMICONGO we take keen interest in your remarks about the report about your company, that was published recently. We would like to thank you for responding to it. As we do not know how to interpret or value each of your remarks, please allow us to ask for further explanation on some points.

You wrote:

*- The fact that our plant in Likasi is equipped with ovens using electrical energy is not underlined. This gives the false information that is solid fuel energy (wood and coal) that would be used with the consequence of the blame for deforestation in the region. We refute this by a much verifiable reality of increased electrical power deficiency that pushed our company to operate during the year 2012 with only 2 ovens on 7 installed.*

Do we understand you right that your factory only uses electric ovens and does not use fire wood, not even for pre-heating ovens?

*- The technical equipment and actions that were implemented in the plant for the mitigation of environmental pollution are not highlighted.*

Could you inform us about these investments? They could be a good example for other companies.

*- Our social and environmental actions are mentioned only very discreetly.*

*- The fact that our company is the first one to have responded to the call of the DRC authorities to fight against hunger by erecting a large modern agro pastoral farm was scratched.*

Thank you for this information and the other examples you provided in your response. Please note that the objective of the report is to list environmental and ecological impacts and not social activities by



companies. How valuable these investments might be, we believe that social investment should not be seen as a compensation for impacts that can be prevented.

*- GROUPE BAZANO no longer holds any share in MUTANDA MINING SPRL, an affiliate of GLENCORE. Its activities are limited to subcontracting in mining exploitation.*

Thank you for pointing this out. Does Groupe Bazano however still supply to Glencore?

*- The decline in productivity of fruit trees which is said to be observed in the neighboring of the metallurgical plant in Likasi is unfounded statement contradicted by the fact that it exists in the precincts of the plant greenery and productive fruit trees (bananas in particular).*

It is true that this kind of observations is always different to interpret. The fact that Banana trees flourish does on the other hand not proof that other trees are not harmed. Do you have more information about the environmental impacts that the plant could have and could not have?

*- Being a very sensitive matter, compensation of communities for land expropriation is a process which is strictly controlled by the administrative authorities. Our company doesn't recognize any dispute in this regard.*

Being involved with oil industry impacts in Nigeria, we think we understand these sensitivities.

Transparency can be a way to prevent misunderstandings and mistrust on these issues.

We are looking forward to receiving your response to our questions.

Kindest regards,

ir. Evert B. Hassink  
oil and mining expert  
Friends of the Earth Netherlands