An over 10 year long struggle against open cast mining in Xolobeni, Wild Coast, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Amadiba Crisis Committee
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In 2012, the Australian company Mineral Resource Commodities (MRC) managed to buy off chief Lunga Baleni. In 2013 we finally found the proof in MRC’s annual report. To make the traditional leaders “directors” of mining projects is widespread strategy in South Africa (and Africa). It is combined with a turn of the government: To make chiefs owners of community land. This is against customary law among AmaMpondo and many other tribes.
The beginnings...

- The proposed mining development started on about 1996 when TEM was granted a prospecting license with which it could mine titanium deposits on the dunes in the area. From inception the proposed mining came under heavy criticisms from the Community and prompted divisions among those who were pro mining and those pro eco-tourism.
1996-2003 

- 2003 Oct - XOLCO
- 2006 October: 50/50
- 2006 Dec: new directors
- 2007: ACC established
- 2007 Sept: Kings visit
- 2007 Sept: SAHRC visits
- 2008 Aug: license issued
- 2010 falsified list
- 2011: license revoked
- 2014; re applied for Prospecting, REMDEC
- 2015: applied for mining license
Human Rights Commission visit to Xolobeni, Wild Coast.

- The visit to the Xolobeni area by the South African Human Rights Commission (The Commission) on 05-07 September 2007.
- The SAHRC to make an intervention in terms of which it will facilitate a meeting for all relevant government departments, for example, Department of Minerals and Energy, Dept. of Land Affairs, Dept. of Water and Environmental Affairs and Eastern Cape Premiers Office.
An inconvenient tribe

The amaMpondo fight the good fight against would-be exploiters of their green and pleasant land, writes John GI Clarke
Beach Protest: June 2008
Rights have been granted to an Australian company to mine the dunes in an ecologically sensitive part of the stunningly beautiful Wild Coast, Mining Weekly reports.

The report has sparked a flurry of outraged comments on the site.
Minister slams 'divisive whites'

August 17 2008 at 11:35am
By Fred Kockott

- Rich whites are to blame for dividing people in the Wild Coast area, where an Australian company wants to mine for heavy titanium minerals, says Minister of Minerals and Energy Buyelwa Sonjica.

- Talking in Xhosa to an audience of several thousand in Xolobeni on the Wild Coast on Friday, Sonjica dismissed opposition to the mining as the work of "rich whites" who were only interested in enjoying South Africa's pristine wilderness areas.
Fierce opposition to the proposed mine in Xolobeni on the Pondoland coast of the Eastern Cape has forced Minister of Minerals and Energy Buyelwa Sonjica to give the community the opportunity to air their views.

On Wednesday officials sent by the minister to meet the community in Xolobeni were flooded with objections from angry people who did not want Sonjica to allow the start of mining operations in October.
MINISTER HOLDS BACK XOLOBENI MINING LICENCE
October 2, 2008: DAILY DISPATCH ONLINE. By Malungelo Booi

- MINERALS and Energy Minister Buyelwa Sonjica has put on hold a licence awarded to an Australian company that was due to mine titanium at Xolobeni on the Wild Coast.
- The move comes after lawyers representing the Xolobeni villagers who are opposed to the project wrote to Sonjica a week ago demanding she suspend or withdraw the licence before October 1, failing which they would approach the courts.
Australian-listed mining firm Mineral Resources Commodities (MRC) appeared unprepared for news that its licence to mine titanium in the Eastern Cape had been revoked, almost three years to the day after it was granted.

The Legal Resources Centre made public a stamped copy of a letter from Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu dated May 17, in which she withdrew a mining right granted to MRC subsidiary Transworld Energy and Mineral Resources in June 2008 to mine the Kwanyana block of the Xolobeni area.
N2 Wild Coast toll Road
We want roads not tolls...

- Refusal to ID route
- ID of houses to be moved
- Neglect of our roads
- Why toll the poor? (KZN vs EC)
- Relocation: homesteads, graves, woodlots, fields etc.
- Crime at Lurholweni
- a cow followed by a calf
- Court Case needs resources...
The Constitutional Court has set aside President Jacob Zuma’s notice recognising Zanozuko Sigcau as the king of the Eastern Pondo.
The conflict...

- R14 Million: vehicles, jobs etc
- Monthly claims:
- Meeting of the 8th of April 2015
- 29th of April: Blockage (EAP comment)
- 3rd of May 2015: Mtentu shooting
- 7th of May 2015: Meeting Police
- Interdict in high Court
- Land protection by community
- Tormin Mine violence and
Police are not doing their job...

- Attack to an elderly woman by XOLCO
- Dec 2015 xmas attacks, four in court
- People being killed: Mandoda, Sbonelo Tuna, Skhemane, & many food poisonings, Voli, Vee, Hlongwe, Nomasoka,
- Hitmen attacking our ward councilor
- Sikhosiphi survived food poisoning
- Cartridges handed but no case
- “An order from above”.
- They never come when invited by ACC
Suffering being experienced

- Shooting at night
- Beating of people
- Harassment of the headwoman
- Villagers sleep out in the bush
- One woman gave birth in the bush.
- Harassment of Journalists
The will be no mining on Our Land!!!

A DO OR DIE situation!
DMR Minister Zwane

- The resources of South Africa belonged to everyone, he said, “not only to the communities that have an advantage of living close to mining”.
- Talking about “happy communities”, Zwane said mining was “in the interest of all” and must be allowed to go ahead once the majority agreed.
- And if the majority did not want mining, government would have to persuade them to see their point of view, the mineral resources minister said."
Section 24...

Section 24 of the Constitution says this about “Environment”:

“Everyone has the right –

(a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and

(b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –

(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
(ii) promote conservation; and
(iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.”
MRC wants to mine titanium minerals from the surface and up to 70 meters deep in red dunes along the 22km coastline.

The main minerals are ilmenite (for white paint) and zircon (for ceramics).

The life span of the mine is 22-25 years. It will give 150 local jobs. After this the land and environment will be completely destroyed. The effect of dust and using 13-15 million cubic meters of water per year from rivers and ground water will have extreme effects on our agriculture from which we live.

“Kwanyana alone has 41 homesteads inside the actual mining area. MRC has for ten years refused to say how many homesteads that will be removed. MRC only acknowledges three graves in this area. There are hundreds of graves in Kwanyana
Environmental laws..

- MPA
- Coastal Zone (Integrated coastal management Act)
- Transkei Decree 9 of 19192
- Heritage Act
Government support to MRC

- Tractors for XOLCO
- Solar panels and Solar geyser for XOLCO
- Sewing projects for XOLCO
- Police raids by night targeting only ACC homesteads.
- Desperate to attack ACC members
Government engagement

- DMR has been engaged four times
- Minister Buyelwa Sonjica twice
- HRC investigation
- Presentation to Local municipality
- Presentation Provincial Portfolio committee on Economic Development
- ANC regional Office 2013
- EC Premier visit to Xolobeni
- Letter to presidency (Collins Shabane)
Thank you!