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# Forestry companies as partners for rural development?

Conflicts and power relations in the case of two European investors in Tanzania

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# Case studies

**Pangani:** Tanga Forests Ltd (N)



**Kilolo:** New Forests Company (UK)



# The land deals' consequences

Case studies

Power relations

Conflicts

Summary and conclusions





# Analysis of power relations

Strands of powers that shape the negotiations over land and benefits ('access mechanisms', Ribot and Peluso 2003)

Case studies

Power relations

Conflicts

Summary and conclusions



Ribot, J. & Peluso, N. 2003: A Theory of Access. *Rural Sociology*, 68 (2), 153–81.

Locher, M. & Müller-Böker, U. (submitted): "Investors are good, if they follow the rules" - Power relations and local perceptions in the case of two European forestry companies in Tanzania



# Identified strands of powers

Case studies

Tanzanian land law



Knowledge (about land law)



Power relations

Government authorities



Conflicts

Legitimizing discourse



Financial capital



Summary and conclusions

Threat of illegal actions



Power differences within communities



# Tanzanian land law



Case studies

Village Land Act (1999)

**Power relations**

Respecting customary land rights

Conflicts

Land deal with foreign investor:

Transfer from 'Village Land' to 'General Land':

- Village Assembly's agreement
- compensation agreed by stakeholders

Summary and  
conclusions

# Conflict: Others are selling the land / politician in double role

## Case Study Pangani

Conflict between three villages about village boundaries  
double role of local politician, involved both as people's representative and company's consultant

Case studies

Power relations

**Conflicts**

Summary and conclusions



# Conflict: Others are selling the land / flaws in the land deal process

## Case Study Kilolo

### Flaws during the land deal process

- > long-standing informal agreements regarding land use rights ignored
- > land users received compensation only after long struggle

Case studies

Power relations

**Conflicts**

Summary and  
conclusions



Locher, M. (2011): "'How come others are selling our land?' Customary Land Rights, Rural Livelihoods and Foreign Land Acquisition in the Case of a UK-based Forestry Company in Tanzania". Presented at the International Conference on Global Land Grabbing, IDS, University of Sussex, 06.-08.04.2011



# Conflict: Differing interests / flaws in the land deal process

## Case Study Pangani

Different interests in the village

Inconsistencies during land survey; involvement of government official from other district

Enforced (temporary) stop of plantation activities



Case studies

Power relations

**Conflicts**

Summary and conclusions



# Summarizing: Conflicts arise...

Case studies

related to

- whether to provide land or not
- who can decide
- flaws during the land deal process

Power relations

between

Conflicts

- local landholders and investors
- villages
- villagers

**Summary and conclusions**

in the context of

- complex land tenure situations
- unequal power relations between investors and landholders

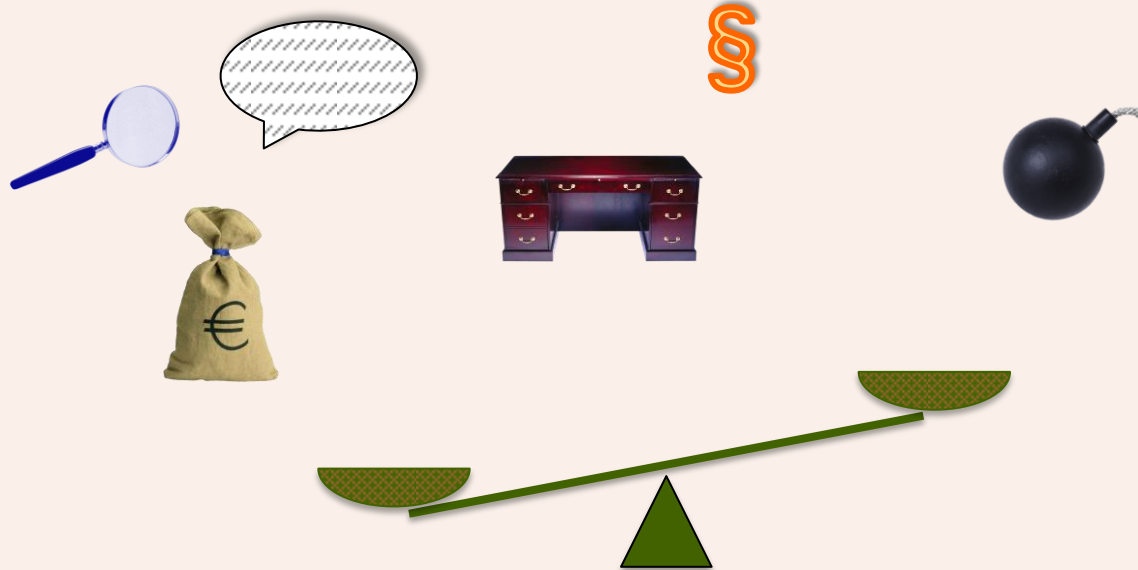
# Summarizing: unequal power positions

Case studies

Power relations

Conflicts

**Summary and conclusions**



# Conclusions

Investors do bring some development, but conflicts with adverse effects for local people are very likely – even under good pre-conditions

→ complex land tenure situations need more attention

→ the unequal power positions need to be better balanced



Case studies

Power relations

Conflicts

**Summary and conclusions**

