



April 3, 2023

U.S. International Development Finance Corporation  
1100 New York Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20527

Dear Ms. Boomgard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) consideration of support for the Syrah Balama Graphite Mine in Mozambique. Friends of the Earth United States and Justiça Ambiental/Friends of the Earth Mozambique would like to raise the following concerns regarding issues related to the project:

- Local communities are not being employed by the project;
- Families have not received proper compensation; and
- Impacted community members are not being made aware of their rights.

### **Violation of Human Rights**

The Balama graphite mining project affects a total of five communities: Mualia, Pirira, Ntete, Ncuide, and Balama Sede. Information gathered during seven days working with the project impacted communities revealed how these communities have complained of a lack of employability. The reason for these complaints is that TWIGG has released almost all local workers and no longer hires local labor. Therefore, none of the impacted communities are receiving any employment benefits from the project.

In addition, according to a survey carried out during a visit, the project covered a universe of 697 families who should be indemnified and compensated. Unfortunately, a total of 175 families have not yet been compensated because their restitution lands have not been handed over, which should occupy an area of 255 hectares (ha).

Finally, impacted communities are not being made aware of their full rights with regards to labor and compensation. Workers are not aware of the existence of a union that can defend them in case of having a labor dispute. In addition, in this district there are not any civil society organizations (CSOs) that are advising families to demand their rights even though there are many young people and unemployed women who see their resources being exploited but who do not benefit from them.

### **Status of Information**

The undersigned groups and other CSOs in Mozambique are working to schedule a trip and meetings with impacted community members to clarify these concerns. We hope to provide additional information as colleagues travel to the site and get updated information.

I appreciate you taking the time to review these concerns.



Sincerely,

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