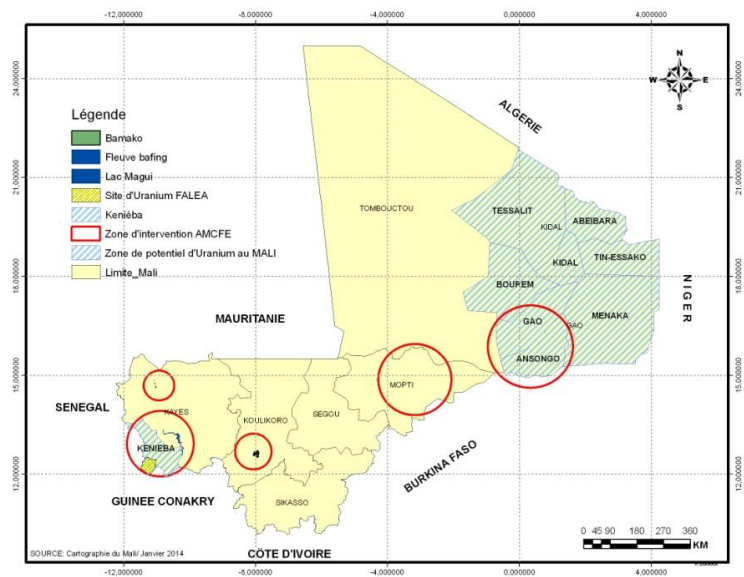


Radiating Africa – The Menace of Uranium Mining in Mali

Exploration:

- Since 1970
- Involved mining companies in Fálea Project: AREVA (before COGEMA), until 2013: Rockgate Capital Corp., since Nov. 2013: Denison Mines Corp.
- Main exploration location: Faléa, a region located in the west of Mali, at the borders of Guinea and Senegal, potential: 12,000 tones of uranium, 400km²
- Accessibility: suboptimal
- Current status: exploration ongoing
- Current legal status: legal licenses for mining companies



AMCFE, 2014. Potential uranium mining zones in Mali

Livelihood conditions of population in the affected areas

- First steps without democratic involvement of the local population, later limited involvement of the local leaders
- Negative influence on agriculture due to water shortage

Environmental impact

- Negative impact on environment is visible now already: higher radioactivity than natural, water pollution, air pollution, noise disturbance for nature and population, etc.
- Negative impact due to drastic reduction of river water related to exploration

(Potential) impact of uranium mining

- Land destruction and water demand
- Potential release of toxic and radioactive compounds
- The principal risks: human health (particularly if radiation spreads to agricultural and livestock systems and via the food chain) and environmental damages, e.g. water contamination, threat to ecosystems and high biodiversity of the area
- Possibly impact on the genetic resources
- Financial loss for the country – the profit mainly remains with the mining companies
- Hampers sustainable development of the country
- Risks for civil society: social consequences (heritage, eviction etc.)
- Dangers: deforestation in the area

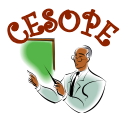


AMCFE, 2013, Mankoungué site, FAMEtal Enterprise exploration, From: AMCFE, Mali

Policy recommendations and conclusions

- The public and government are not well informed about the situation, conditions and consequences → an awareness campaign should be initiated, aiming at informing society and governmental institutions, capacities should be reinforced
- Capacity building and enhancement of analysis material is required for the government
- Environmental Impact Assessments and other analysis and agreements between the state at the mining company should be public, also recommended by CRIIRAD (Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity)
- The civil society should be integrated more in decision making processes
- Recently created networks help networking between different actors of the African countries concerned about the exploration and the exploitation of uranium
- No uranium mining should be undertaken in states with too small governmental control without international regulatory and executive support
- Affected areas should be left intact, without uranium mining and contamination, therefore uranium mining should be prohibited there and in any other regions
- Regular controls need to be undertaken at exploration sites: water management and radiation analysis around the drillings
- The level of radiation in inhabited areas has to be verified, radiation measures have to be taken in Poli and Teubang to protect the local population
- Measures for storage of radioactive waste are required
- Uranium should be included in the (draft) guideline of the European Union on *Responsible sourcing of minerals originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas (guideline towards an integrated EU approach)* on as a extractive with very negative and long-lasting impact
- Involved stakeholders, multinational companies and nuclear energy consuming countries should recognize and take their responsibility and fulfill criteria for corporate accountability
- These stakeholders should create compensation funds for the uranium producing African countries and reimburse the affected communities
- The whole fuel chain should be more transparent and monitored more
- Nuclear energy (with all its negative consequences as uranium mining and many more) should be abandoned

The basis for this Fact Sheet is the project *Enhancing transparency in the uranium chain and supporting responsible practices; uranium mining: a comparison of producing and near-producing countries*.



More information:

Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de l'Environnement (AMCFE)
Moriba Nomoko, +223 76419340, amcfe@afribonemali.net or moribanomoko@yahoo.fr,
www.amcfe-mali.simplesite.com

Project coordination: World Information Service on Energy (WISE), Peer de Rijk and Ulrike (Uli)
Lerche: +31 20 6126368, energytransition@wiseinternational.org, www.wiseinternational.org



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