

# Human Rights Impact Assessment of harvesting operations at Green Resources Uchindile Forest: The health impact assessment framework repurposed

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<b>Registration date</b> 11/07/2013	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 16/07/2013	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Although human rights have historically been under the scope of governments, it is now widely recognized that multinational corporations impact human rights through their operations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The United Nations (UN) has issued widely adopted guidance to corporations recommending that they predict, lessen and monitor human rights impacts. However, to date no commonly agreed upon methodologies for such investigations have been established.

This study aimed to test a methodology for human rights impact assessment and monitoring on a forestry project in southern Tanzania. This methodology was developed not from the environmental or social impact assessment frameworks, but from the health impact assessment framework. Health impact assessment (HIA) provides a valuable balance of transdisciplinary perspective (the study of a relevant issue or problem that integrates the views of multiple disciplines in order to connect new knowledge and deeper understanding to real life experiences) and awareness of human rights measures of sufficiency (i.e. accessibility, affordability, appropriateness and adequacy of care), which can be expanded to the full suite of human rights.

Findings from this study provide new evidence on the effectiveness of human rights impact assessments for predicting and mitigating (reduce) human rights impacts of corporate developments while also examining the relationship between health and human rights as bi-directional.

### Who can participate?

All project area inhabitants who are potentially affected either positively or negatively by the project can participate. Key informants include project managers (in environmental, human resources and operations departments), educators, health practitioners and local leaders and authorities. Community members (referred to as rightsholders) engaged in discussions of human

rights-related topics include employees, former employees, first and second wives, the elderly, the young (including school-aged children), single-mothers, union members and non-unionized workers, and the ill.

What does the study involve?

Study participation is voluntary in semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions pertaining to daily life and perceptions. Consent is acquired orally, owing to low literacy rates (<50%). Interview questions focus on topics of labour, local politics, economics, health, education, empowerment (make someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights), discrimination and culture. Focus groups aim to identify topics of shared concern related to livelihood and empowerment.

Responses will be coded for relevance to human rights listed in the International Bill of Rights (UN, 1948, 1967a, 1976b).

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participants will provide qualitative data to supplement quantitative data acquired from clinicians, educators and local leaders on human rights conditions. Identified negative human rights impacts will be analysed to develop plans, which will be monitored.

Often human rights-related topics are sensitive and personal. Interviewers are trained in the cultural-epidemiological method (known as EMIC) interviewing to accommodate the emotional challenges associated with certain health, social and stigma-related questions (pertaining to, for example, HIV status, relationships between first- and second wives, and mistreatment at the workplace). Because sensitive topics are discussed anonymity is respected for all interviewees.

Where is the study run from?

The study is conducted in Uchindile and Kitete villages in rural Iringa District, Tanzania.

Interviews are conducted at the clinic, school and streamside, as well as in residences and public spaces such as restaurants.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

The study started in December 2008 and ran until December 2010. A final monitoring visit is scheduled for mid-2013.

Who is funding the study?

The study is funded by NomoGaia, a US-based think tank dedicated to clarifying the role of business in human rights worldwide.

Who is the main contact?

Ms. Kendyl Salcito  
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### **Study website**

[http://nomogaia.org/HRIA/Entries/2009/10/29\\_Green\\_Resources\\_-\\_HRIA\\_Sample.html](http://nomogaia.org/HRIA/Entries/2009/10/29_Green_Resources_-_HRIA_Sample.html)

## **Contact information**

### **Type(s)**

Scientific

### **Contact name**

Mr Kendyl Salcito

**Contact details**

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**Additional identifiers**

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Secondary identifying numbers

N/A

**Study information****Scientific Title**

Human Rights Impact Assessment of harvesting operations at Green Resources Uchindile Forest:  
The health impact assessment framework repurposed: a mixed-method analysis study

**Acronym**

HRIA-Uchindile

**Study objectives**

The Green Resources Uchindile Forest project in Tanzania has human rights impacts and these can be predicted, analysed and mitigated. The methods employed in assessment of health impacts can be expanded to achieve this.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

The initial assessment was conducted not as scientific research but as quasi-journalistic investigation. The team was invited by the company in question to examine human rights impacts. As such, work fell under the umbrella of corporate study, rather than scientific study. There are currently no protocols for seeking ethical approval for corporate social responsibility (CSR) studies. Ethical approval will be sought for all follow-up work at this site, as investigation will include personal interviews and consideration of health records.

**Study design**

Mixed-method analysis incorporating qualitative and quantitative data coded by human rights implications

**Primary study design**

Observational

## **Secondary study design**

Cohort study

## **Study setting(s)**

Other

## **Study type(s)**

Quality of life

## **Participant information sheet**

Not available in web format, please use the contact details below to request a patient information sheet

## **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Human rights impacts of corporate projects

## **Interventions**

Participants contributed inputs into an analytical framework for assessing human rights impacts. Impacts deemed negative in an established scoring process were earmarked for mitigation. Mitigation measures address negative impacts on the rights to food, water, favourable working conditions, unionization, standard of living, housing, health, non-discrimination and education.

Follow-up monitoring involving interviews with rightsholders, analysis of environmental monitoring data, and corporate policy review is used to quantify changes in impacts (i.e. improvements in impacts from negative to positive, or exacerbation of negative impacts).

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Phase**

Not Applicable

## **Primary outcome measure**

Changes in human rights conditions

## **Secondary outcome measures**

1. Changes in corporate policies and practices
2. Changes in local understandings of equity and human rights

## **Overall study start date**

01/12/2008

## **Completion date**

30/06/2013

# **Eligibility**

## **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Project area inhabitant, all ages, male or female
2. Oral informed consent by participants (parents/guardians of minors)

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

Both

**Target number of participants**

Approximately 200

**Key exclusion criteria**

No consent

**Date of first enrolment**

01/12/2008

**Date of final enrolment**

30/06/2013

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

Switzerland

Tanzania

**Study participating centre**

57 Socinstrasse

Basel

Switzerland

4051

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Switzerland)

**Sponsor details**

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**Sponsor type**

Research organisation

**Website**

<http://www.swisstph.ch>

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/03adhka07>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Research organisation

**Funder Name**

NomoGaia, Denver (USA)

**Funder Name**

NewFields, Colorado (USA)

**Funder Name**

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel (Switzerland).

## **Results and Publications**

**Publication and dissemination plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**Intention to publish date**

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration