Annex II. Notes on infographic “The dark side of Israeli turn-key projects in Africa. A selection of agribusiness projects implemented by Israeli companies (2003 - 2021)”

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<th># Case</th>
<th>Basics</th>
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<td><strong>1.</strong> Aldeia Nova, Angola (LR Group and Mitrelli Group)</td>
<td>In 2003, LR Group started the industrial agricultural village Aldeia Nova project in Waku Kungo (9,000 hectares). The project costed US$70 million to the Angolan state through a financial mechanism run through off-shore LR Group subsidiaries and backed by the Angolan state oil company.¹ In 2008 LR Group pulled out. By 2011, Aldeia Nova was bankrupt and local families hadn’t been paid for months.² In 2012, Mitrelli Group began managing the project. Since 2019, audits have detected allegations of mismanagement and concerns about non-compliance with tax obligations.³ Labour rights abuses were reported by CSOs since 2020 in a letter sent to the Angolan President.⁴ LR Group was founded by Israel Air Force pilots and was reported to provide military equipment to MPLA during the war in Angola.⁵ LR Group and Mitrelli Group did not respond to our questions regarding Aldeia Nova.</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong> Cacanda project, Angola (Mitrelli Group / Agricultiva)</td>
<td>Agricultiva (Mitrelli Group), started in 2012 to “restore” the Cacanda industrial Farm (5,000 hectares). The project, paid for by the Angolan state, cost US$24 to US$29 million.⁶ In 2018 and 2019, reports from local authorities indicated the farm was failing. There were insufficient funds to buy feed for the animals, and the local workers were without proper technical training.⁷ The Mitrelli Group was co-founded by a former Israeli military officer. The Group’s subsidiaries provide cybersecurity and security services.</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong> Quiminha Integrated Agricultural and Regional Development project, Angola (Tahal Group)</td>
<td>In 2011, Tahal Group was contracted to build the Quiminha Integrated Agricultural and Regional Development Project (5,000 hectares). The cost of the agroindustrial project was between US$200 and US$370 million.⁸ In 2020, Tahal dropped out.⁹ Two years after, allegations of corruption and mismanagement as well as conflicts with unpaid workers were raised, although the company denied these allegations. Several of the houses initially intended for farmers were instead being inhabited by local elites as vacation homes.¹⁰</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> Agriculture production and training centres, Côte d’Ivoire (Green 2000)</td>
<td>In 2020, Green 2000 was contracted to build four large-scale agricultural poultry, fish and greenhouse operations in Guitry, Korhogo, Zikisso and Kong (Côte d’Ivoire), through a US$120 million project financed via Israel’s Bluebird Finance &amp; Projects and the Dutch export credit agency, Atradius. Netafim is also involved in the project. Green 2000 will manage the industrial farms in the initial phase of operation.¹¹</td>
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| **5. Kitoko Food Farm, Democratic Republic of Congo (Gertler / Fleurette Group)**  
In 2013, the Fleurette Group, controlled by Israeli mining tycoon Dan Gertler, started construction of its Kitoko Food Farm project, a 650 hectares vegetable, cassava and maize industrial project along the N’sele River. By February 2014, Fleurette claimed to have invested US$14 million in the farm. The Israeli company Agriliving reports Kitoko Foods as a project it developed but didn’t answer to GRAIN request on more information on the current situation of the project. |
| **6. Agropastoral farms, Gabon (LR Group / Mori investments)**  
In 2011, LR Group’s subsidiary Mori Investments and the Gabon government signed a US$19 million deal to build six “agropastoral” farms, with a focus on poultry, vegetables, fruit trees, fisheries and greenhouses in N’toum, Port-Gentil, Okoloville, Lébamba and Oyem, covering 1,000 hectares. According to local sources, the project is currently managed by the Société Gabonaise de Transformation Agricole et Développement Rural (SOTRADER), a joint venture between the Government of Gabon and the multinational agribusiness corporation OLAM. |
| **7. Adama Farm, Nigeria (LR Group / Magnolia Innovation)**  
In 2012, the LR Group signed a contract with the government of Rivers State, to develop a 5,000 hectares industrial farm settlement in Etche, managed by its subsidiary, Magnolia Innovation. The estimated cost of the project was US$140 million-- 70% to be covered by the Rivers State government and 30% by LR Group. In 2015, there were allegations in the Nigerian media that the funds designated for the Etche farm deal were used to fund President Buhari’s elections campaign. It remains unclear where things are with the implementation of the project. LR Group did not respond to our questions regarding the current status of the project and its financing. |
| **8. Delta Agro-Industrial Park, Nigeria (Mirai Group / Sequoia Group)**  
In 2021, Mirai Group and its subsidiary (Sequoia), signed a deal with the Nigerian government to build the Delta Agro-Industrial Park (Aboh Ogwashi Uku, Delta State). The project covers 220 hectares, from which 70 will be occupied by a logistic centre and 150 to farming. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) supported the project with US$19 million (NGN 8 bill). The ownership is held by “Delta State Agro-Industrial Park limited”, a Special Purpose Vehicle, while financing is structured through 85% debt (fully guaranteed by the Delta State Government) and 15% equity. The equity was partly held by a Nigerian tycoon close to the Delta State governor and pursuing other large-scale plantations in the state. |
| **9. Large and small-scale farms in South Sudan (Global CST / Green Horizon)**  
In 2015, Global CST was contracted by the South Sudanese government to build and manage farms and to carry out training activities, with a total cost of US$45 million. TerraVerde participated in the project the following year. According to an OCCRP investigation, the projects were financed through a scheme backed by oil sales to the Swiss commodity trading company Trafigura. From 2018 to 2020, the US Treasury Department sanctioned Israel Ziv, Global CST founder, on allegations that the projects were used as cover for the sale of US$150 million in arms during the local civil war. |
Notes


5. Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, Magnificent and Beggar Land. Angola Since the Civil War, Oxford University Press, UK, 2015. LR Group did not respond to our questions regarding this issue.


10. Those allegations were denied by the Angolan company managing currently the project (see: Hortênsio Sebastiao, “Quiminha: Objetivo para o qual foi criado está longe de ser alcançado”, 18 February 2022, (PDF version), https://novojornal.co.ao/economia/internacional/2022/02/18/quiminha-objectivo-para-o-qual-foi-criado-esta-longe-de-ser-alcancado-106884.html] [Last visit: 30 August 2022].


21. See: https://deltastateagropark.com/images/Park/Project_Brief.pdf [Last visit: 30 August 2022].


