

Stop the Land Grab For Solar and Biofuels!

by Portia Tarumbwa-Strid

This is addressed to the 13th African Union summit, to be held June 24-July 3 in Syrte, Libya:

The June 16 article in Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine, announcing the "Desertec" project of the Club of Rome-led consortium of 20 companies to infest the Sahara Desert with low-tech solar thermal power, using parabolic mirrors, ushers in the final stage of the re-colonization of Africa. Not only will this mass-murderous plan occupy potentially precious land-area needed for the production of food for Africans, but it will also use up four times the amount of water that a natural gas power plant requires, to condense the steam into water that is then vaporized again, in the process of producing electricity.

"What's so bad about that?" you may ask. "Is not the world overpopulated? Are we not destroying the planet with technologies and human progress, and are not renewable energies the only viable solution to this problem?"

Wrong! The Malthusian thinking that has been injected into public opinion since the end of the Second World War is not only an economic farce, but has the explicit intention of reviving Hitler's eugenics or race-hygiene policies on a global scale. The nations of Africa have been a prime target of these policies, being denied national sovereignty and advanced technologies such as nuclear power, so as to be the looting and killing grounds for imperialist schemes.

The system of globalization is committing genocide against Africa, according to policies clearly stated by the British imperialists Lord Bertrand Russell and Prince Philip (co-founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF). This fascist intent has been enacted in stages, beginning with the conditionalities of the IMF and World Bank introduced in the 1970s with the fall of the Bretton Woods System, then through the fascist



Desertec-UK

The Desertec project would “pave” the Sahara Desert with parabolic mirrors to generate low-tech solar power—not for Africa, but for Europe. Shown here, the project design in India.

green ideologies that have lured African nations into giving up their land to “conservation parks,” and more recently, with the biofuel plantations as large as Luxembourg, or even France, being bought up by multinationals operating as part of the British Empire.

The Trap of the Bio-Fools

According to the London *Guardian*’s online magazine on June 15, \$920 million has been spent to buy up or lease nearly 2.5 million hectares (1 hectare=2.5 acres) of farmland in five sub-Saharan countries since 2004. The article describes Asian and Persian Gulf countries as the main perpetrators of this policy, which is intended to combat the expected 10-15% rise in food prices, as a result of higher energy costs. The goal is to secure wheat, corn, potatoes, beans, and other such foodstuffs for domestic consumption.

But this tells only half the story, and is even misleading, since sundry British multinationals, such as BP, and “renewable energies” companies such as Sun Biofuels and Kavango Bio Energy, either own or have leased hundreds of thousands of hectares of land in Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and northern Namibia. The article neither acknowledges these British exploits with a single word, nor elaborates on the proportions this biofuel bonanza has really taken.

Country after country in Africa has been sucked into this new craze, some selling their land for a song, others holding on to the promise of investments in roads, schools, and hospitals as their only deposit. A closer look at the list of nations being looted reads like a chronicle of a new scramble for the wealth of Africa.

A Norwegian company, Biofuel Africa, acquired the use of 38,000 hectares of land in **Ghana**, where a Swedish company called Sekab already possessed 5,000 hectares for biofuel production. Companies from the United States, Japan, Canada, and Germany have also been involved. The German company Prokon, known for its wind turbines, is of special interest, because it moved into Tanzania and gained use of 200,000 hectares—a territory the size of Luxembourg!

In **Mozambique**, the ProCana project has appropriated 75,000 acres (five times the size of Manhattan) for growing sugarcane, which is to be processed into ethanol. BioEnergy Africa, based in the British Virgin Islands, owns 94% of ProCana, and since 2007, biofuel investors have applied for rights to use 12 million acres in the country—one-seventh of all the arable land in Mozambique. **Kenya** announced in February 2009 that it would dedicate 500,000 acres to the production of bio-diesel; while in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, 2.8 million hectares are being harnessed for a Chinese oil-palm plantation. In **Ethiopia**, a total of 59 million acres has been made available for the production of biofuels. And the list goes on and on.

As yet, the only country that has stopped a 99-year contract, which would have leased 1.3 million hectares to the South Korean company Daewoo for manufacturing bio-ethanol, is **Madagascar**. The price of protest was the toppling of its previous government, but the new leader, Andy Rajoelina, is determined to put an end to all such dealings.

Overcome Hunger, Economic Collapse

With the global financial system collapsing, any patriotic African can see that behind the push for green fascism in Africa, is the effort of the financial oligarchy to survive. Biofuels are most profitable when there is a combination of high oil prices and government

subsidies. Current speculation-driven prices of more than \$70 per barrel therefore make for a killing, in more ways than one. It does not require a stretch of the imagination to see that the flat-lining of global grain production in the past decade, juxtaposed to an increasing population, means genocide, especially since the emphasis on biofuels further reduces the arable land available for food production.

Combined with the fact that the entire Sahara is now to be annexed to the Club of Rome-led solar project, whereby Europe is to be provided energy at the expense of the development of Africa, the awful picture should dawn upon us in its entirety. Africans are to die in the millions, at the hands of the cult of green fascism.

Fifty years from now, future generations will thank a wise leadership of the African Union that categorically rejects these green policies, and goes for the greening of the Sahara through nuclear power. The nations of Africa can only be truly free of brutish imperialism, if the policies of Lyndon LaRouche for establishing an international credit system are adopted, policies that would launch the high-tech industrialization of Africa. Only the eradication of poverty and hunger on this beautiful continent within the coming decades, through massive investment in transportation, water management, and high-tech energy-systems, such as nuclear, can bring forth the African Renaissance that the liberation struggle of our forefathers envisaged.

Club of Rome's Genocidal Energy Project for Africa

According to an article in the June 16 German newsweekly *Der Spiegel*, a Club of Rome-led consortium of 20 companies has announced a EU400-billion (\$555.3 billion) malthusian energy plan to turn the North African desert into a string of large solar concentrating plants, similar to the Solar One plant in the California desert. The project would consist of low-tech solar thermal power, using parabolic mirrors to heat water, which would drive turbines in a local power plant, to supply electricity to Europe. Members of the consortium include the German insurance giant Munich Re, Siemens, Deutsche Bank, and energy companies including RWE.

The plan, called Desertec, is a slick repackaging of a scheme that has been kicked around for several years; it has been endorsed by the same genocidal crowd that opposes the worldwide development of nuclear power, including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, global warming fanatic Al Gore, and the Climate Group, which includes the old British Empire banks, Standard and Chartered and HSBC.

The promotional material on the Desertec Foundation website, which is paid for by the malthusian Club of Rome, reads more like an investment pro-

spectus geared towards creating a financial bubble than an energy plan: No details are provided on the size of the solar power plants, nor the number needed to supply the claim of providing 15% of Europe's electricity demands.

In fact, Desertec is based on the fatally flawed assumption that "renewables," like solar and wind, could replace baseline sources of electrical power, like fossil fuel and nuclear, a fraud that would lead to the deaths of *billions of people* worldwide. To illustrate the point, the solar concentrating plants that the plan uses are intermittent and have a capacity factor of around 25%—and that is being generous. That means, that the solar power plant will only produce electricity about 25% of the time, as opposed to a nuclear power plant, which produces electricity 95% of the time.

Moreover, solar concentrating plants use four times the water of a natural gas power plant—an insane idea for the North African desert.

The other limiting feature of the solar concentrating plant is that it doesn't produce much in the way of high-temperature process heat. With a solar concentrating plant you have to choose to use the steam either to produce electricity or to desalinate seawater—you can't do both. On the other hand, with a fourth-generation high-temperature nuclear reactor, which produces high-temperature process heat, you could both desalinate seawater and produce electricity.

—Greg Murphy