



Hello!

I AM SECHABA MOKHETHI

I am a journalist and editor at the MNN
Centre for Investigative Journalism in
Lesotho.

I am also a graduate of the 2022
#PowerTracker programme.



Gone with the wind: Lesotho's \$15-billion energy pipedream

- Wind farm project was designed to increase Lesotho energy production
- Stop importation of expensive and polluting energy from South Africa and Mozambique
- Reduce local electricity prices
- Mitigate South Africa's loadshedding crisis
- Job creation



Key findings

- Derailed by shady dealings between politicians, contractors and investors
- Court records show that funders started business rescue proceedings in 2013 and was finally liquidated in 2017
- The wind project stalled when funder was liquidated after another investor pulled out



Experience & learnings

- Pitching
 - Choosing a story idea: *major windfarm project lost in Lesotho's dreams*
 - Testing hypothesis through research
 - Is this of public interest?
- Following the money
 - Who is funding this project, and how?
 - Where is the money going and how it is being spent?
 - Background check on financiers/investors
- Does this project demonstrate best practice, given how much is being invested?



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Experience & learnings

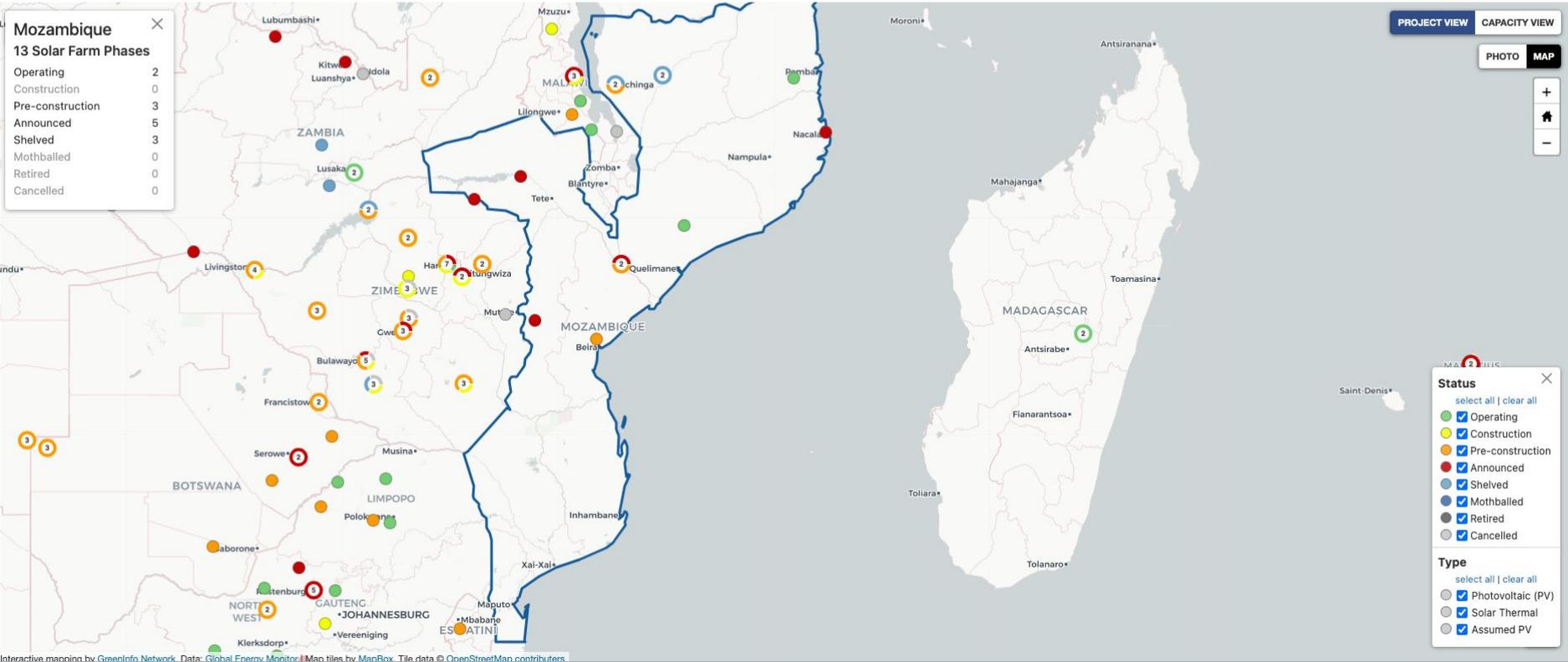
- Approaching sources
 - Desktop research: news articles, academic reports, court documents, etc
 - Interviewing role-players
- Sourcing data
 - Global Energy Monitor project trackers and datasets



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Thank you

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Investigative Environmental Journalism

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