

## **Conflict over Natural Resources and Religious Extremism: Case of Mozambique**

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### **Abstract Proposal**

Mozambique received the attention of international community in March 2021, when insurgents in Cabo Delgado seized the town of Palma, and the planned extraction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) was disrupted. Total, French energy giant suspended its gas project due to security reasons. The insurgents' rhetoric was suggesting that Mozambique is dealing with an insurgency driven by preachers of radical Islam and that the group operates similarly to the Somalian *Al-Shabaab*. Due to this, the group was in the beginning often called *Al-Shabab* by the locals. Today, it presents itself as *Ahlu Sunna Wa-Jama'a* (ASWJ), often shorten to *Al-Sunnah*, and declares its affiliation to the Islamic State in Central African Province (ISCAP).

The proposed contribution aims to explore the roots of this insurgency. Therefore, the main question to be answered is "*What are the causes of the Mozambican insurgency in Cabo Delgado?*". Individual specific questions are then:

- What were the key actors, contributing to the rise of the insurgency?
- What were the moments contributing to the rise of the insurgency?
- What role did play the radical Islam and the ISCAP in the rise of the insurgency?
- What type of policies of resource management may contribute to suppression of the insurgency?

The assumed results are that it was not the Mozambican natural resources themselves, nor the radical Islam that caused the insurgency, rather than it was the unjust wealth distribution by the central government that triggered the rise of insurgency.

The study will use the method of process tracing, identifying key actors and key moments that led to the formation of insurgency, doing so through interviews with local experts – applying the policy diffusion concept of epistemic community theoretical approach. Based on these discussions within the epistemic community, the author will be able to present suggestions of policy innovation regarding the issue of resource management and managing insurgency in northern Mozambique.