

The background of the slide is a photograph of a dirt road stretching into the distance, flanked by rows of banana trees. The sky is blue with large, white, fluffy clouds. The text is overlaid on this image.

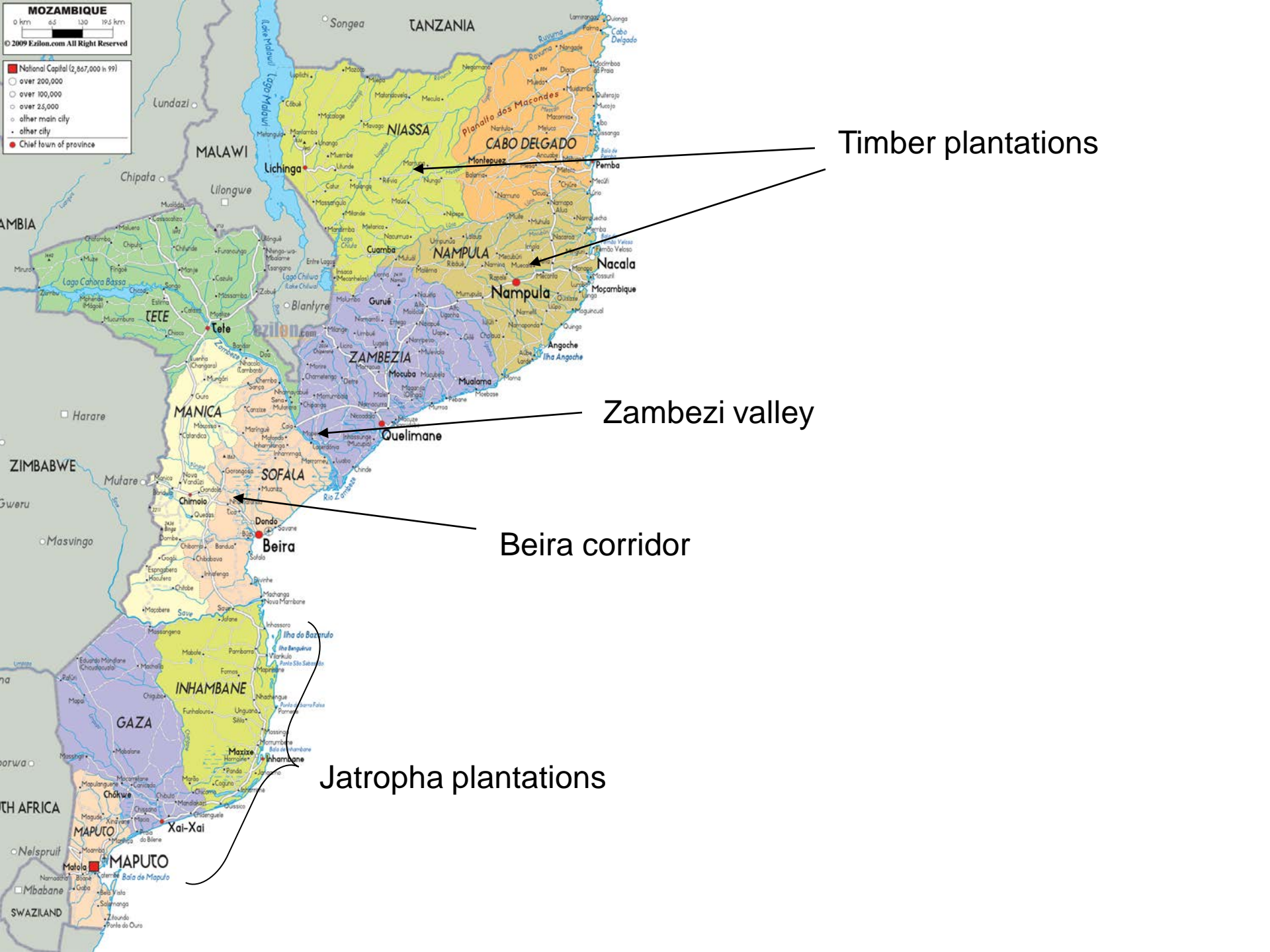
Indirect expropriation:

The role of national institutions and domestic elites in the Mozambican farmland grab

Madeleine Fairbairn
International Conference on Global Land Grabbing
Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex
6-8 April 2011

The Mozambican “Land Grab”

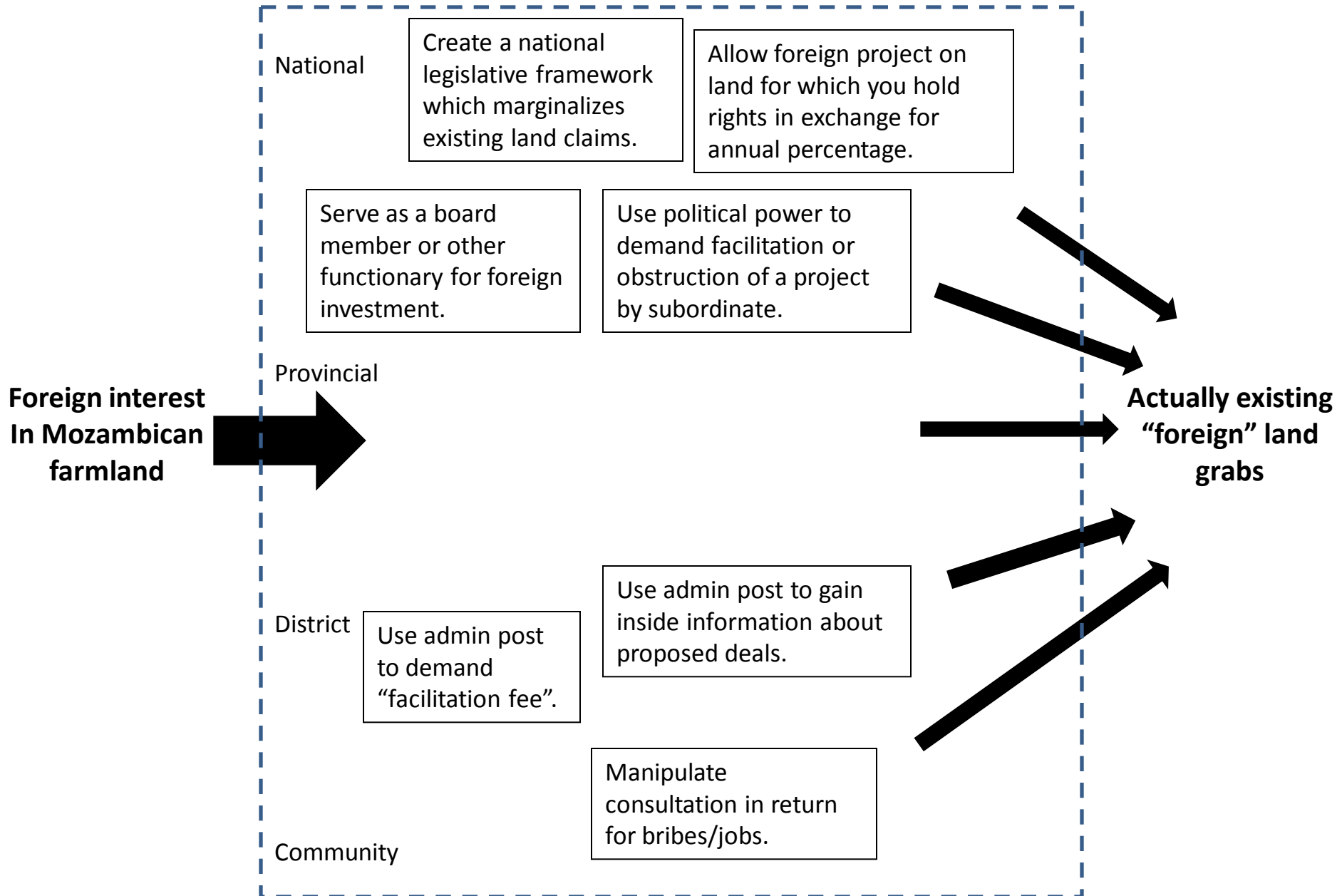
- **Who:** Mostly private firms based in Europe and South Africa.
 - Biggest participants: Sweden, Norway, Portugal, UK and South Africa.
 - Other participants: US, Canada, Zimbabwe, Italy, Germany, and India.
- **What:** Mostly biofuels (jatropha and sugarcane) and timber (eucalyptus and pine).
- **Where:** Zambezi Valley and Beira Corridor.



The insertion of domestic elites into foreign land acquisitions

- Although the major land concessions are going to foreign firms, domestic elites are key to shaping the acquisition process.
- Facilitation of land acquisitions seems to be concentrated at the lowest and highest levels of government.
- **Passive role:** shaping the broader institutional framework to serve own interests.
- **Active role:** opportunism catalyzed by foreign demand for land.

Actions by Mozambican elites



Conclusions

- Focus on land grabs as “neo-colonialism” only captures one aspect of the phenomenon.
- Need for further research on how international capital articulates with domestic institutions and class structure.
- The importance of domestic institutions/actors also has positive implications; recently there have been positive developments thanks to domestic actors.