



SimFer



18 November 2022

Mr. Jim Wormington
Human Rights Watch

Subject: Human Rights Watch - Simandou OpEd

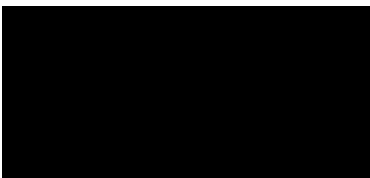
Engagement and consultation with Guinean-based stakeholders on various aspects of the project has commenced and this will continue as we progress. Consistent with international practice the preliminary human rights risk assessment, which was conducted for our project teams, will inform the human rights due diligence process – a process which will include consultation with host communities, including rights-holders, and other interested parties in due course. The initial assessment covers a number of areas of potential human rights impacts related to community health, safety and well-being, land access, labour force management and security.

Across the Rio Tinto Simfer operated Blocks 3 & 4, it is anticipated approximately three households will be physically impacted by mining operations and surveys continue within the rail spur corridor. Similarly, survey work continues across the WCS operated Blocks 1 & 2. Implementation of the Resettlement Action Plans for communities impacted by the main line railway is ongoing and to date, approximately 344 structures are impacted. The total number of project affected people can be provided once this work has been completed.

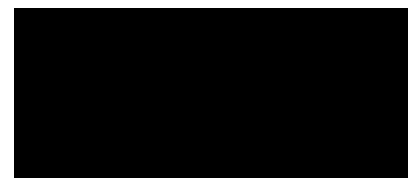
We are committed to disclosing our Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and supporting procedures (such as grievance mechanisms) in due course. A copy of the WCS grievance mechanism can be found on their website. Rio Tinto Simfer is currently revising its grievance procedure and this will be posted on Rio Tinto Simfer Simandou website once finalised.

With regards to carbon emissions, assessment work is ongoing, however it is important to note that discussions on the final scope and design are ongoing. Both WCS and Rio Tinto are focused on reducing the footprint of the project where possible, including temporary land use during construction, which will be rehabilitated. Efforts are also ongoing to fully utilise mitigation and restoration options. Application of low carbon technologies is under consideration across the project and initial studies have identified potential pathways to emissions reductions. However, these options also have several constraints particularly regarding technology readiness, market conditions and context. For example, while supply chains in Guinea are maturing, they are still not at a point where they are able to provide alternative fuels in the volumes required for a project of this scale. Work also continues with the Government of Guinea to understand the scale and stability of Guinea's power supply options.

We will continue to update our stakeholders, including yourselves, as we progress and look forward to the opportunity to discuss further.



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