

RioTinto

SimFer

Simandou

ESG

Environmental,
Social and
Governance



Simandou: the world's largest untapped iron ore deposit

THE SIMANDOU MOUNTAIN RANGE IS LOCATED IN SOUTH-EASTERN GUINEA. THIS EXPANSIVE RANGE, STRETCHING OVER 100 KM, HOUSES THE OUÉLÉBA AND PIC DE FON SITES AT ITS SOUTHERNMOST POINT. KNOWN AS THE LARGEST UNTAPPED IRON ORE RESERVE GLOBALLY, IT BOASTS AN ESTIMATED TWO BILLION TONNES OF THIS ESSENTIAL MINERAL.

The Guinean Government has allocated the Simandou mining concession into four blocks. Rio Tinto Simfer has been entrusted with the development of blocks 3 and 4 in the south, while our partner, Winning Consortium Simandou (WCS), will undertake the management of blocks 1 and 2. Each open-pit mine is projected to extend from 6 to 8 kilometres (kms) in length, be 1.5 kilometres wide and reach an approximate depth of 300 metres.

The TransGuinée, with a length of 670 km, will be the most extensive infrastructure project associated with mining in Africa. It will connect the Simandou mine to the Guinean coast, serving for iron ore, passenger and freight transportation. In this manner, it aims to enhance the mobility of local populations and unlock access for remote communities across the Southern Corridor.

Our Approach

Rooted in best practice Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) approaches

RIO TINTO RECOGNISES THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE SIMANDOU PROJECT HINGES ON OUR COMMITMENT TO ADHERING TO BEST PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) STANDARDS, NURTURING LOCAL TALENT AND EXPERTISE, AND INVESTING IN LOCAL RESOURCES. OUR AIM IS TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE FUTURES NOT JUST FOR THE COMMUNITIES WHERE WE OPERATE BUT ALSO FOR THE WIDER GUINEAN POPULATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Our approach to achieving these ambitions will be decidedly collaborative, as engaging closely with institutional, operational, and commercial partners, associations, NGOs, and notably, the local communities of Guinea, is crucial. We acknowledge the enormous challenges and opportunities ahead of us, and our steadfast commitment remains. By understanding our stakeholders' concerns and incorporating their insights, we will ensure the project is tailored to Guinea's unique context, ultimately leading to more sustainable long-term outcomes. The project partners are committed to developing the project in accordance with international environmental and social standards. In addition, Rio Tinto is backing a range of sustainable and regional economic development opportunities across Guinea. These initiatives encompass various areas, from biodiversity protection and reforestation to community health and agricultural programmes. These efforts are essential not just for managing potential impacts, but also for spurring economic development across non-mining related sectors. Efforts like these are critical to not only managing potential impacts but also enabling economic development across non-mining related disciplines and promoting sustainable outcomes for future generations.



RIO TINTO'S PURPOSE

“finding better ways to provide the materials the world needs”,

is a commitment to continuously improve what we contribute and how we contribute. It's about driving innovation and continuous improvement to produce the minerals and metals used in everyday life in the safest and most sustainable way possible.

The delivery of the Simandou Project's two billion tonnes of high-grade iron ore is no different. As the world continues its drive towards decarbonisation, Rio Tinto is progressing the Project in alignment with internationally recognised ESG standards.



THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN IN THE PIC DE FON CLASSIFIED FOREST

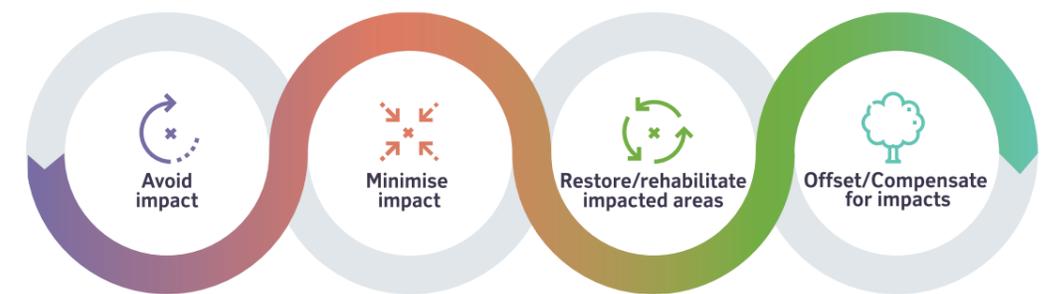
(PdF CF) is a shared responsibility that Rio Tinto Simfer is addressing in collaboration with local communities, NGOs, and the Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré (CFZ).

Through this partnership, we collectively promote the long-term protection of biodiversity, whilst addressing regional trends of environmental degradation and deforestation. The main activities within the PdF CF are focussed on creating and maintaining productivity and optimal use of natural resources for communities, whilst implementing management practices to enhance conservation outcomes.

Environment

RIO TINTO'S APPROACH TO MITIGATING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT IN GUINEA AND MORE BROADLY ACROSS ALL RIO TINTO OPERATIONS IS GUIDED BY THE MITIGATION HIERARCHY.

The mitigation hierarchy is a systematic approach aimed at reducing the impact of developments on biodiversity. Underpinning Performance Standard 6 (PS6) of the IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability, it recognises that protecting biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, and responsibly managing natural resources are key for sustainable co-existence with nature. PS6 guides development projects in preparing for and addressing impacts, aiming for No Net Loss (NNL) to biodiversity and Natural Habitats and achieving a Net Gain for Critical Habitats. Rio Tinto is committed to achieving both in the delivery of the Simandou Project.



To date, the implementation of IFC Standard 6's Mitigation Hierarchy in the Simandou project has involved a series of changes to Mine planning and infrastructure:

AVOIDANCE: Moving all mining and associated infrastructure to the East of the Simandou ridge at Ouéléba to avoid directly impacting Chimpanzee habitat.

MINIMISATION: Re-designing the mining sequence for Pic de Fon (PdF) and Ouéléba to reduce impact to Chimpanzees; and amending placement of camps to areas away from Critical Habitat forests.

RESTORATION: Working with communities to re-forest cleared areas of community land near the Pic de Fon Classified Forest (PdF CF).

OFFSETTING: We are in the process of assessing a number of protected areas in Guinea to compensate for our impact to Chimpanzees and other Critical Habitat Qualifying Species (CHQS).



IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES, RIO TINTO SIMFER HAS PARTNERED WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND GUINEAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING MULTILATERAL DONORS, BILATERAL ORGANISATIONS, AND SEVERAL GUINEAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL, MICROFINANCE AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMES.

Social

THE SIMANDOU PROJECT STANDS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL MINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CARRIED OUT ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN RECENT HISTORY. ITS POTENTIAL TO TRANSFORM GUINEA AND THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE IS IMMENSE, OFFERING SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES, PROVIDING MATERIALS CRUCIAL FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION, AND SATISFYING THE DEMANDS OF ESCALATING URBANISATION.

Rio Tinto's approach to managing risks to our communities is rooted in our commitment to respecting Human Rights in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the IFC Performance Standards. In line with best practice, a Human Rights Management Plan (HRMP) has been prepared to guide the Project's approach to ongoing Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD).

Community committees and supplementary management plans have also been created to oversee the various commitments and mitigation measures for the Project's salient human rights issues. To manage the risk of project-induced migration (PIM), for instance, the Simandou Project has established community PIM Committees and developed a PIM Management Plan to avoid, minimise, and mitigating the risk of uncontrolled influx. In addition to these, a range of Regional Economic Development (RED) programmes are underway to spark growth in non-mining sectors and distribute the wealth of opportunities along the Trans-Guinea Development Corridor.

Our social risks are managed in collaboration with local communities, Guinean institutions, and international agencies to enable community development, agriculture, microfinance and healthcare programmes.

Our on-site teams comprise of diverse professionals, including archaeologists, economic development specialists, human rights experts, and operational leaders. Working together to understand and address concerns comprehensively, these individuals collaborate closely with communities to maximise benefits for our communities, whilst minimising adverse impacts to them and their environment.



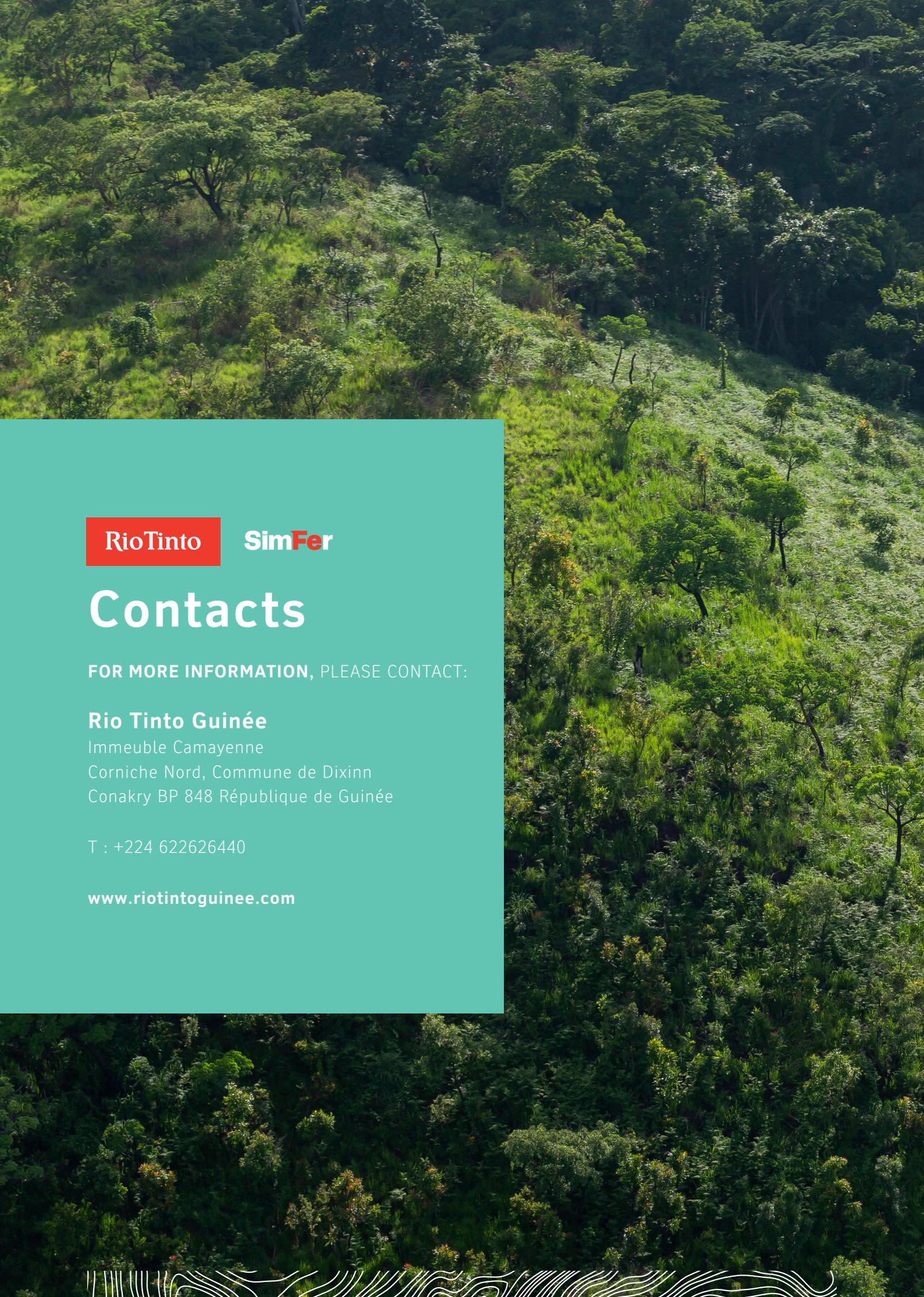
Governance

AT **RIO TINTO** , WE BELIEVE THE INTEGRATION OF ROBUST GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE EMBEDDED ACROSS ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO RIGOROUS ADHERENCE TO ALL COMPULSORY INTERNATIONAL DISCLOSURES RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) SAFEGUARDS.

This encompasses reporting on our greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, waste, and our practices regarding water stewardship. Our Governance safeguards even extend through to our ethics and integrity standards, our guidelines on 'The Way We Work' and our procurement processes, including our contractors and partners. This ensures a holistic whole of project approach to appropriate Governance safeguards.

In terms of disclosing our water-related risks, we stand as one of the most transparent companies within our industry. Yet, we recognise there is always room for improvement and, therefore, we consistently seek opportunities to align our safeguards, internal reporting and external disclosures with internationally recognised standards, emphasising our commitment to open and transparent governance.





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Contacts

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