



Session Summaries

Agenda and Session Briefings

We have prepared an agenda that covers the wide range of ESG topics that relate to the Simandou Project. Through this agenda, we hope to provide a holistic update on key areas to our stakeholders and encourage shared learning for all parties.

This year’s agenda will combine thematic information sharing sessions with capacity building opportunities and networking receptions with the aim of offering a valuable experience for stakeholders with different thematic interests and levels of expertise.

We have set out the session title, type, and presenters below, as well as a short summary of what to expect from each session.

Key: Session format
Presentation
Panel
Training
Poster Session



Simandou ESG Conference Session Summaries

DAY 1 – November 15th 2023

Time	Title	Room	Leads	Session Briefing
08:00 – 08:30	Registration & Breakfast			
08:30 – 10:30	Session 1A. Panel welcome and project update	Ziama (Room 1)	<p>Welcome Addresses Rio Tinto Guinea Country Director: Samuel Gahigi; WCS Head of Sustainable Development: Rui Shiliang CTG Chairman: Bouna Sylla Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development: Safiatou Diallo; Minister of Mines and Geology: Moussa Magassouba</p> <p>Project Update Rio Tinto Simfer Acting Project Director Mine: Jean-Francois Laurin & Rio Tinto Simfer Managing Director: Chris Aitchison; WCS Project Director: Mr Wu Qiong</p> <p>Facilitator: Djibril Tamsir Niane (WCS)</p>	Our leadership panel will open the conference and provide a summary of what to expect across the two days. Representatives from Rio Tinto, WCS, CTG and the Government of Guinea will provide welcome addresses before Rio Tinto and WCS representatives provide a general project update.
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break			
11:00 – 12:30	Session 1B. Joint Rio Tinto Simfer and WCS ESIA Updates	Ziama (Room 1)	Kofi Boa-Antwi (RTS); Aly Conde (RTS); Allie Ommer (WAI); Christophe Derrien (Artelia)	This session will provide an overview of both the WCS and Rio Tinto Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs). The aim is to introduce the key topics within the ESIAs to provide an update ahead of the more detailed sessions across the two-day conference.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break			
13:30 – 15:00	Session 1C. Biodiversity Update	Ziama (Room 1)	Frederic Mathieu & Guy Rondeau (WCS); Sekou Soumaoro (RTS)	This presentation will focus on the key biodiversity updates on the Simandou project from both Rio Tinto and WCS. Key amongst these is information on the variety of plant and animal species that we are monitoring across the project and provide an overview of the steps underway to mitigate and minimise impact.
	Session 1D. Communities, Social and Local Development Update	Nimba (Room 2)	Coralie Jiayin Guo (WCS); Yacoub Diarra (WCS); Candace Ramcharan (RTS); Fanta Keita (RTS); Djissangouley Coly (RTS); Mamoudou Berete (RTS); Karamoba Dioubate (RTS); Cindy Wilhelm (RTG); Mohamed Conde (RTG)	This presentation session provides a holistic update on all things related to Communities and Social Performance (CSP), as well as an update on Regional Economic Development (RED). The areas of interest for CSP include, Resettlement and Land Acquisition, Artisanal Mining, Project Induced Migration, Cultural Heritage, and Community Engagement.
	Session 1E. Environment Poster Session	Samori (Room 3)	Water Monitoring (Fabory Zoumanigui RTS); Waste (Souleymane Diaby RTS); Erosion & Rehab (Mohamed Kante RTS); Flora (Denise Molmou RTS); Environment RED (Cindy Wilhelm, Mohamed Conde RTG); Sinepolo Lopez Saouromo (WCS); Keita Mohamed (WCS); Mohamed Lamine Diakite (WCS)	This will be an interactive poster session held across the afternoon on Day 1 of the conference. Throughout this session, posters will be set up on key ESG topics including Water, Waste, Erosion & Rehabilitation, Botany, and Regional Economic Development. Delegates will be able to enter the room at any time to view the posters and talk to our experts on these key topics.



Simandou ESG Conference Session Summaries

DAY 1 – November 15th 2023 – continued

Time	Title	Room	Leads	Session Briefing
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break			
15:30 – 16:30	Session 1F. Mitigation & Restoration Measures	Ziama (Room 1)	Balde Abdoulaye & Djiba Kourouma (WCS); Sekou Soumaoro (RTS); Roger Delamou (RTS)	This presentation session will be divided between WCS and Rio Tinto and will focus on key topics areas related to the mitigation and restoration work across the Simandou project. The session will communicate our efforts to minimise our impact to the environment and restore areas that have been touched by our operations.
	1G. Health and Safety: Community and Workforce	Nimba (Room 2)	Zhang Qiao & Camara Saliou (WCS); Candace Ramcharan (RTS); Fanta Keita (RTS); John Perry (RTS)	This presentation session will aim to identify and showcase the work being done across health and safety for communities and the workforce. This includes ongoing work around malaria controls, community training, and awareness programs in the Community & Workforce areas.
	Environment Poster Session <i>Cont'd (see above)</i>			
16:30 – 17:30	Session 1H. Biodiversity Offsets: Simandou mine and infrastructure	Ziama (Room 1)	Harry Nevard (RTS); Goh Ter Yang (WCS)	This will be a presentation session focusing on biodiversity offsets around the Simandou Project. Biodiversity offsets are conservation actions intended to compensate for any residual, unavoidable impacts on biodiversity. For the Simandou Project, we have committed to achieving a net gain to Critical Habitat and No Net Loss to Natural Habitat.
	Session 1I. Human Rights: Due diligence; key considerations	Nimba (Room 2)	Candace Ramcharan (RTS); Karamoba Dioubate (RTS); Alpha Oumar Camara (WCS)	This presentation session would provide an overview of the corporate responsibilities related to human rights (i.e., to respect human rights) as well as walking through the human rights due diligence process that is expected of corporations. We'll point to the Rio Tinto Human Rights Policy and give a brief update on our actions related to our human rights due diligence. These include hiring new team members, human rights impact assessments, training, monitoring, and updates within the ESIA.
	Environment Poster Session <i>Cont'd (see above)</i>			



Simandou ESG Conference Session Summaries

DAY 2 – November 16th 2023

Time	Title	Room	Leads	Session Briefing
08:00 – 08:30	Coffee & Breakfast			
08:30 – 09:30	<p>Session 2A. Charismatic Species: Landscape Level Connectivity</p>	Ziama (Room 1)	<p>Facilitator: Daphnee Turcotte</p> <p>Panellists: Christophe Boesch (WCF); Noémie Cappelle (Biotope); Elhadj Saliou Diallo (Guinee Ecologie)</p>	This panel discussion will focus on the crucial topic of species connectivity at a landscape level. Brining together experts from across from various backgrounds, panellists will discuss measures to increase species connectivity such as habitat corridors through to measures to mitigate breaks in species connectivity such as under / over passes
	<p>Session 2B. Translating Mining-driven Growth into Human Development</p>	Nimba (Room 2)	<p>Facilitator: Hassan Hilal Sylla</p> <p>Panellists: Dr Penda Diallo (ASI); Jeremy Strauss (World Bank); Ismael Fofana (MoF)</p>	Since 2015 Guinea has been the world's sixth fastest growing economy, with progress in poverty reduction and human development trying to keep up. With the Simandou high grade iron ore megaproject, Guinea's mining-driven economy enters a new phase. This investment in two world-class iron ore mines, a shared-use 600km+ railway and a new port presents a new opportunity for economic transformation. This panel will bring together civil society with policymakers and researchers to discuss how to maximise Simandou's and the wider mining sector's benefits for the people of Guinea.
	<p>Session 2C. COP28: What does COP28 mean for Guinea?</p>	Samori (Room 3)	<p>Dr Ibrahima Cisse (MEDD); Mamadou Ciré Camara (UNDP)</p>	This presentation session will be a discussion exploring what COP 28 means for Guinea, provided by representatives from the Guinean Ministry of Environment. COP28 will encourage governments and key climate stakeholders to take action in four main areas: fast-tracking the energy transition; fixing climate finance; focusing on nature, people, lives and livelihoods; full inclusivity. The session will explore a variety of topics around climate change including how materials from Guinea (such as the iron ore at Simandou) are important in the drive to net zero as a large scale move to renewable energy will create additional demand for green steel.
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 2D. Biodiversity Monitoring Techniques</p>	Ziama (Room 1)	<p>Mory Kourouma (RTS); Alex Konate (RTS); Frederic Mathieu (WCS)</p>	This will be a presentation session focused on how the Simandou project is at the forefront of developing and implementing new techniques and methods in biodiversity monitoring. Accurate and reliable biodiversity monitoring techniques are crucial to conservation efforts and traditional methods have often been species-centric, have low throughput and are not representative of ecosystem-level change. Our work is challenging these issues and is being championed across the Simandou project.
	<p>Session 2E. Encouraging Community Engagement with Nature</p>	Nimba (Room 2)	<p>Ibrahima Camara (RTS); Dantily Diakite (RTS); Fanta Keita (RTS); El-hadj Ousmane Tounkara (WCS)</p>	This will be a presentation from Rio Tinto and WCS on the work to engage communities with nature across the Simandou project including our ambition, our plan for implementing activities and projects, and our work done to-date in this important area.
	<p>Session 2F. Climate Change: How can communities adapt to coming changes?</p>	Samori (Room 3)	<p>Dr. Demba Aissata Samoura (University of N'Zerekore)</p>	This will be a presentation session by Dr Demba Aissata Samoura from the University of N'Zerekore. This session would explore climate resilience and adaptive capacity in West Africa, with a view to understanding how locally led initiatives can play a role in mitigating climate change induced risks and vulnerabilities. Adaptation is emerging as a key theme within the climate change narrative, with community resilience being a central tenet to this.
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break			

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11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 2G. Protection or Development? Mutually exclusive or mutually beneficial...</p>	Ziama (Room 1)	<p>Facilitator: Dr Penda Diallo</p> <p>Panellists: Aissata Beavogui ; Mamady Koivogui (CODEC); Roland Yameogo (IFC); Dr Ibrahima Diallo (CGDEM)</p>	<p>This session is a panel session exploring whether environmental protection is mutually exclusive to economic development, or whether the two can be considered mutually beneficial. The panel will bring together experts from across the spectrum from economic development to biodiversity protection to discuss this important issue and any related impacts or learnings for the Simandou project.</p>
	<p>Session 2H. Harnessing Local Content Opportunities for Inclusive Growth</p>	Nimba (Room 2)	<p>Victor Bangoura (RTS); Mamadou Ly (WCS)</p>	<p>This presentation session will explore the long-term objectives around local content opportunities associated with the Simandou project. It will also seek to set out how our work on the project will look to involve a wide range of participants to improve global performance.</p>
	<p>Session 2I. Nature-based Solutions in Guinea</p>	Samori (Room 3)	<p>Cindy Wilhelm (RTG) & West Africa Blue</p>	<p>This will be a presentation session from Rio Tinto on the important work being delivered in the area of nature-based solutions in Guinea. Nature-based Solutions are defined by the IUCN as addressing societal challenges through the protection, sustainable management and restoration of both natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting both biodiversity and human well-being. Nature-based Solutions are underpinned by benefits that flow from healthy ecosystems. Rio Tinto will provide an overview of our approach, our global programme in this area, and a deep dive into our planned and current activities in Guinea.</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break			



Simandou ESG Conference Session Summaries

DAY 2 – November 16th 2023 – continued

Time	Title	Room	Leads	Session Briefing
08:00 – 08:30	Coffee & Breakfast			
13:30 – 14:30	Session 2J. WCS Nursery & Restoration Update	Ziama (Room 1)	JAF- Guinée (Jeunes Amis pour le Futur) ; GEVIC (Guinée Emergence pour la Valorisation des Initiatives Communautaires); VDD (Volontaires pour le Développement Durable)	This will be a presentation session hosted by WCS to discuss the work underway on nurseries and restoration on the Simandou project. The presentation will be led by 3 NGOs who are working in collaboration with WCS, with each presenting on their scope in this area.
	Session 2K. Elusive Quest for Jobs and Economic Transformation: How Guinea Can Leverage Mining for More Inclusive Growth	Nimba (Room 2)	Jeremy Strauss (World Bank)	This presentation session will focus on a recent World Bank report titled 'Elusive Quest for Jobs and Economic Transformation: How Guinea Can Leverage Mining for More Inclusive Growth', and will be led by the World Bank. The aim of the study was to contribute to the debate in Guinea on how to improve the conditions for jobs and economic transformation (JET).
	Session 2L. Proposed National Park Network	Samori (Room 3)	Dr Karim Samoura & Commandant Aboubacar Samoura (MEDD)	This presentation session will focus on the network of National Parks that are being designed and implemented across Guinea in collaboration with the World Bank. This network will help ensure Guinea meets it's obligations under COP15 and other climate treaties. The network will span the entire country and the Simandou project will inform how this network is established.
14:30 – 15:30	Session 2M. Forest Elephants in Guinea	Ziama (Room 1)	Christophe Boesch (WCF)	This will be a presentation session led by Dr. Christophe Boesche from the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation. The presentation will focus on Forest Elephants in Guinea, providing a 'whole country' view of impacts and mitigations in this key topic area. African Forest Elephants are a critically endangered species.
	Session 2N. Transparency in Mining Sector	Nimba (Room 2)	Facilitator: Oumar Totya Barry (Action Mines Guinée) Panellists: Dr. Alpha Abdoulaye Diallo (PWYP Guinea); Bachir Camara (MMG); Ismael Diakite (President of Chamber of Mines)	This session will be a panel session looking at transparency initiatives across the mining sector and discussing their implications for Guinea and the Simandou project. We have assembled a panel of experts from across national and international perspectives to discuss how governments, companies and communities can work together to improve transparency in this sector. Transparency in mining refers to the openness and accessibility of information related to mining activities, including how companies report on financial information, environmental impact, and social responsibility.
	Session 2O. Decarbonising Guinea: Renewables	Samori (Room 3)	Ahmed Keita (Ministry of Energy)	This will be a presentation session from representatives from the Guinea Ministry of Energy regarding the country's objectives and progress on decarbonisation, and the role the Simandou project will play in advancing this ambition.
15:30 – 15:45	Closing Session and Closing Group Picture			
15:45 – 17:30	Session 2P. GIS Training	Ziama (Room 1)	Elise Gravel (RTS)	This will be an interactive training session led by the GIS team of experts at Rio Tinto. The session will focus on capability building in the key area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, including a presentation of basic GIS concepts and theory, an exercise on basic manipulations and practice, and a demonstration on Rio Tinto ArcGIS Online environment and presentation of available centralized GIS data. If you wish to take part in the exercise, please see the pre-read instructions.