

A mine at the rescue of the unique biodiversity of the littoral zone of Fort-Dauphin.

Press kit March 2009
QIT Madagascar Minerals SA Press kit.

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Since the arrival in Madagascar about twenty years ago, Rio Tinto QMM was immediately conscient of the existence of the forests' deterioration in the littoral zone of Fort-Dauphin due to the irrational pressure exercised by the local population who is very dependent on natural resources. With the knowledge that these exploitations are situated in exceptional sites in terms of biodiversity (i.e. 65 tree species only exist on exploitation sites), the company immediately took note of environmental questions in good place amongst the principals of action which guide its strategy in long term. Though today the rest of the littoral forest is very deteriorated and fragmented and that Rio Tinto QMM will only exploit 0.2% of the forests from the Anosy region. The company shares the same challenge which all the contributors are facing: protect the environment which contains a unique biodiversity on which depends the survival of the majority of the population living under the poverty line level.

Net positive impact

In her missions, Rio Tinto/QMM beyond the rehabilitations and remediation's of the disrupted sites by these activities. She also intends to protect the biodiversity in the sites where she intervenes and get a net positive impact on the environment with the active participation of the communities.

The established or created goals by the company also go beyond the legal constraints imposed by the exploitation permits and the environmental scope statement.

Let's quote for example the founding of 35 000 ha of protected areas (NAPM)¹ outside of the mining sites, unplanned by the scope statements (see details in the achievements); the 1000 ha of created reforestation in the zones outside of the exploitation site of Mandena before the beginning of the mining (against the 500 ha imposed by the scope statement)...

Lasting approaches

Rio Tinto/QMM reckons that certain criteria's must be taken into counts in order for these interventions to truly aim a lasting development:

Consultation and participation. The concerned specific groups must take part actively at the identification, the conception and the implementation of the actions, like the communities that are structured in the boards of management.

Partnership. The firm admits that they can not start alone the environmental projects. These must have at least one partner who will represent officially the communities (Board of management). The state is also consulted and participates in the project if it is relevant.

Otherwise, the company also had the idea of developing partnerships with NGOs specialists or

¹ National Association of Purchasing Managers

with people physically present that are experts in biodiversity and lasting development (see details in the partnerships list).

Reinforcement of the abilities. The programs and processes from which they are conceived and implemented must contribute to the reinforcement of the local abilities.

Strategic coherence. The implemented actions to Rio Tinto/QMM's initiative must subscribe to larger strategic priorities lines. To that effect, the development axis and priorities (i.e.PCD and PRD) established by government or community structures will serve of reference.

ACHIEVEMENT

Planification

Creation of a quinquennial plan of action on biodiversity:

Studies and research

Production and edition of a monographic book on the ecosystem biodiversity of the littoral zone of Fort-Dauphin. The aim of the book is the ecosystem studies of the littoral zone of Fort-Dauphin. It describes the (social and natural) environment and the unique biodiversity of this zone (wildlife lands, aquatic ecosystems such as the swamps, the lagoons and the sea), the stakes and pressures on forestry resources, but also protection measures of the biodiversity or development measures such as the alternatives to the threatened resources ;

Seeds harvesting, treatment and development of species for the forest's restoration;

Protected areas creation

Protected areas within the mining sites:

Mandena: 230 ha

St Luce: 274 ha

Petryky: 120 ha

Protected areas outside the mining sites, not imposed by the scope statement:

St Luce: 1091 ha

Ambatotsirongorongo: 800 ha

Mahabo (Vangaindrano): 2500 ha

Tsitongambarika: 30 000 ha

Communities' reforestation outside the exploitation zones since 2002

- By QMM : 700 ha
 - In partnership with USAID² and Ministry of waters and forests : 300 ha
- Total: 1000 ha
Imposition from the scope statements: 500 ha before exploitation.

Sites rehabilitation during the construction period

2,000,000 vetiver plants produced and planted to stabilize the soil and dunes

² States Agency for International Development

Contribution to the lasting management of the natural and renewable resources

DINA's establishment of Mandena in 2002;

DINA's establishment of St Luce in 2006;

DINA's establishment of Petriky in 2008;

Establishment of the communities' management board of the protected areas within the mining sites (Mandena, Pertiky, St Luce)

5 management transfers from the natural resources (SAPM and aquatic ecosystem).

Contribution to the eco-tourism promotion within the established protected areas:

198 visits taken in charge by the Mandena COGE in 2008

Reinforcement of the villagers' partnership and of the abilities

1340 villagers trained in market garden technique, in marketing and in the environment conservation

74 trained villagers in apiculture in 2008

357 women gone back to 6 villages trained in handicrafts

44 registered associations as contractors in the agreed suppliers database pas QMM

Support on environmental educational institutions (CEL, *Tulear* University, *Antananarivo* University, *Toamasina* University and International Universities)

Environmental education

Support and programs development in environmental education (birds observation, amphibians protected day, production and edition of an environmental tale book « *BINA AND BELINDA* », Public awareness on intrusive species)

OUR PARTNERS:

- NGO ASITY Madagascar
- ANGAP Fort Dauphin
- Ecological centre of Libanona, Fort Dauphin
- Universities : Antananarivo, Tulear, Toamasian, Hamburg, Oxford, Lavale, FOFIFA
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- KEW Garden
- MFG project Betampona
- WCS
- Pact Madagascar
- International Conservation
- Botanical and Zoological Park of Tsimbazaza
- National Office of the environment
- USAID
- Regional board of development, Anosy
- Environment and forests' regional headquarters
- Regional headquarters of urban development
- Association Cielo Terra
- NGO Vahatra (Tana)

- Fauna and Flora International
- Madagascar voakajy (Fanihi)
- Earth watch international
- Berenty reserve
- NGO save the frogs...

The document on politics management « *Our approach on the company* » by Rio Tinto, describes the practice of the Group which aims at contributing amongst other things to the environmental context improvement.

« ...Environment

Every time it is possible, we prevent or minimize, reducing and repairing the negative impacts on the environment Group activities.

The excellence in our results in terms of the environment is essential to the success of our firm. Our environmental performance is based on the respect of every law and regulations on the environment. We support and encourage supplementary initiations by contributing to the implementation of the management systems known worldwide and the voluntary commitments.

We are looking at gaining an exhaustive comprehension of the full life cycle of the products as well as of their use to guarantee their advantages of the exploitation. We define applicable principals to the entire Group and put together systems to identify, evaluate and manage the environmental risks. They intervene at every stage of prospecting, development, to the exploitation and closing of operations as well as to the acquisition evaluations and split in order to gain a constant improvement. We also work with local communities, governments, clients, suppliers and other concerned parties to reach the same goal. We guarantee the implementation of our environmental strategy, as well as internally than externally, by the means of audits, evaluations and reports. Each company of the Group writes a social and environmental report for its local communities... »

Extract from the document on politics management « *Our approach on the company* » from the Group Rio Tinto.

