

Title: Evaluation of three governance approaches to offsetting residual impacts of QMM's mining activities in SE Madagascar

ORAL PRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Mining companies seek financial benefits for their investors. When operating in countries with good governance, their activities can also promote economic development as a secondary outcome. As a business they are relatively risk adverse and endeavour, as far as possible, to operate in a stable and favourable socio-economic environment. One of the risks that mining companies face is public backlash due the inevitable negative impact of the mine on biodiversity. This risk is particularly important in a biodiversity hotspot such as Madagascar. The main approach to reduce this risk is to apply a mitigation hierarchy. After the negative impacts of the mine have been first avoided, then minimized, including on-site restoration , the final step in this hierarchy is to offset the residual impacts of the mine. In this study we describe how QMM-Rio Tinto endeavours to offset the residual negative biodiversity impacts of its ilmenite mine in SE Madagascar using three different governance approaches and consider how well each approach respond to the diverse desired conservation outcomes of the different stakeholders including the mining company itself, the conservation organisations, and the Malagasy government. These include approaches include the financial governance model through the partnership with the Conservation Trust Fund: Fondation pour les Aires protégées et la biodiversité de Madagascar (FAPBM). A SWOT analysis of QMM's offset approaches is presented from the perspective of each of these different stakeholders.