

Simandou

Khoun na keli



Rio Tinto

Acknowledgement

We extend our deepest gratitude to the people of Guinea, whose lands are home to the Simandou project. We're humbled by their generosity in sharing their knowledge and cultural insights, which enrich our understanding of this significant undertaking. We commit to collaborating with integrity toward an outcome that honours their history and contributes to a future that benefits all Guineans.

Cover image: Moussa Koné, Rio Tinto SimFer's Cultural Heritage Specialist, looks out over the Boyboyba Forest near the Rio Tinto SimFer mine at Simandou.



“Khoun na keli” is a Soussou phrase that means “we’re standing up” – a saying Guineans universally recognise.

Along with the Government of Guinea and our joint venture partners, we share the people of Guinea’s sense of hope for the potential of this project.



The Simandou iron ore project

The Simandou project is the largest mining and related infrastructure project in Africa.

A rare deposit of high-grade iron ore – 1.5 billion tonnes Ore Reserve and a 1.3 billion tonne Mineral Resource, the world's largest known untapped reserve¹ – lies in the Simandou mountain range, which stretches 110 kilometres through the southeast of the Republic of Guinea in West Africa.

Mining this deposit is a unique opportunity, but is also a uniquely complex challenge. If successful, the project can position Guinea as the world's third-largest exporter of iron ore and help develop the country's economy through long-term growth – generating Government revenue, creating jobs and training opportunities, stimulating local businesses, upgrading infrastructure, and unlocking further international investments.

And for Rio Tinto and other international investors, Simandou represents an important opportunity to meet the growing demand for high-grade iron ore, an important contributor to decarbonisation.

But developing Simandou is deeply complex. The range is more than 600 kilometres from Guinea's shallow coastline, with no existing rail line or port facilities that can transport the ore to customers.

Overcoming these challenges requires a unique approach where multiple investors and mining and industrial companies come together with the Government of Guinea in a world-first partnership.

As a result of this partnership, construction is underway across the Simandou mining and infrastructure system, including the construction of a 600-kilometre transguinean rail line and a transshipment port at Morebaya, south of Guinea's capital Conakry.

Simandou is divided into 4 blocks. Rio Tinto invests in SimFer through a joint venture with a Chinalco-led consortium, Chalco Iron Ore Holdings. SimFer holds rights to Simandou's blocks 3 and 4 through a joint venture with the Republic of Guinea.

SimFer is also working with the Government of Guinea and Winning Consortium Simandou (WCS), developers of blocks 1 and 2, to co-develop the infrastructure needed to export mined iron ore from the far southeast of the country to Guinea's maritime borders and beyond. These include 600 kilometres of rail infrastructure – spanning the length of the country – as well as port infrastructure on the coast of the Forécariah prefecture in Guinea.

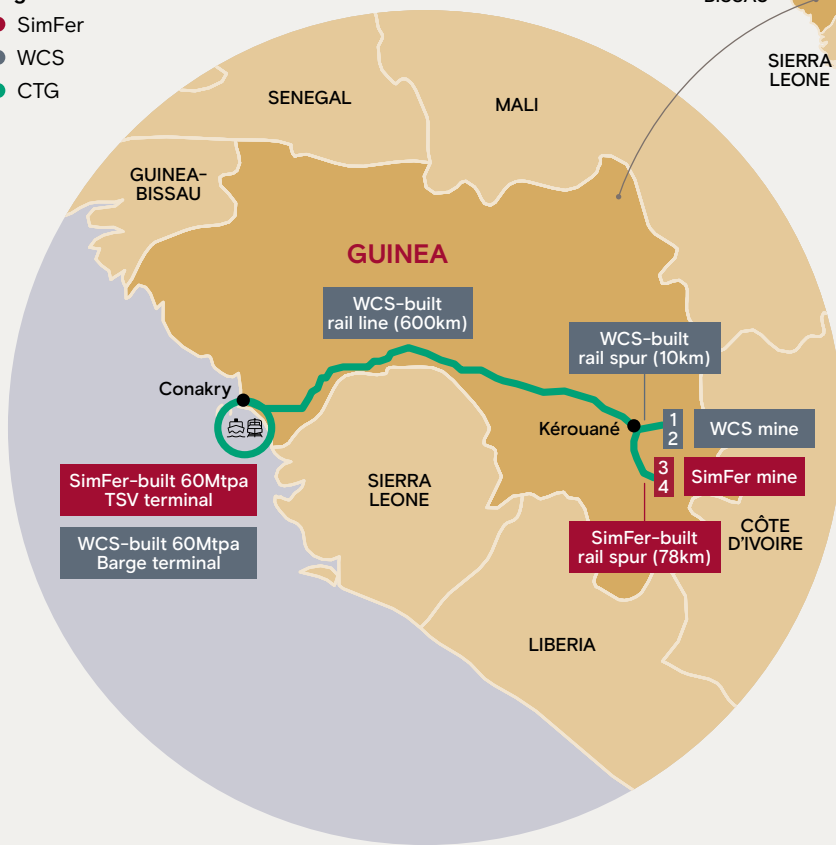
After many years, Simandou is gaining momentum, with production expected to ramp up from the end of 2025 over approximately 30 months.

¹ Simandou Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves have been reported in accordance with the JORC Code and the ASX Listing Rules in Rio Tinto's 2024 Annual Report released to the ASX on 20 February 2025. The Simandou Mineral Resources comprise 0.2 Bt @ 67.1% Fe of Measured Mineral Resources, 0.5 Bt @ 66.2% Fe of Indicated Mineral Resources and 0.7 Bt @ 65.8% Fe of Inferred Mineral Resources.

The Simandou Ore Reserves comprise 0.2 Bt @ 66.4% Fe of Proved Ore Reserves and 1.3 Bt @ 65.0% Fe of Probable Ore Reserves. The Competent Person responsible for the information in that release that relates to Mineral Resources is Mathew Styles, a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (MAusIMM). The Competent Person for Ore Reserves is Michael Apfel, a MAusIMM. Rio Tinto confirms that it is not aware of any new information or data that materially affects the information included in the 2024 Annual Report, that all material assumptions and technical parameters underpinning the estimates in the 2024 Annual Report continue to apply and have not materially changed, and that the form and context in which the Competent Persons' findings are presented have not been materially modified.

Legend:

- SimFer
- WCS
- CTG



60Mtpa²

production (SimFer mine)

Iron ore

product

600km

shared rail infrastructure

2024 figures

² The estimated annualised capacity of approximately 60 million dry tonnes per annum (27 million dry tonnes Rio Tinto Share) iron ore for the Simandou life of mine schedule was previously reported in a release to the ASX dated 6 December 2023 titled "Investor Seminar 2023". Rio Tinto confirms that all material assumptions underpinning that production target continue to apply and have not materially changed.

"We're doing things differently at Simandou – driving innovation, leveraging our partners' strengths, and setting a new standard for how we deliver mining projects."

Chris Aitchison, Managing Director, Rio Tinto SimFer



“Simandou is not just extraordinary in its scale and scope – it will also be transformative for Guinea, and its high quality iron ore has the potential to help us decarbonise the steel industry.”

*Gerard Rheinberger,
Managing Director,
Simandou, Rio Tinto*

Working together: Simandou's joint ventures

Simandou is an enormous project, where all partners are contributing strengths and expertise to deliver the project.

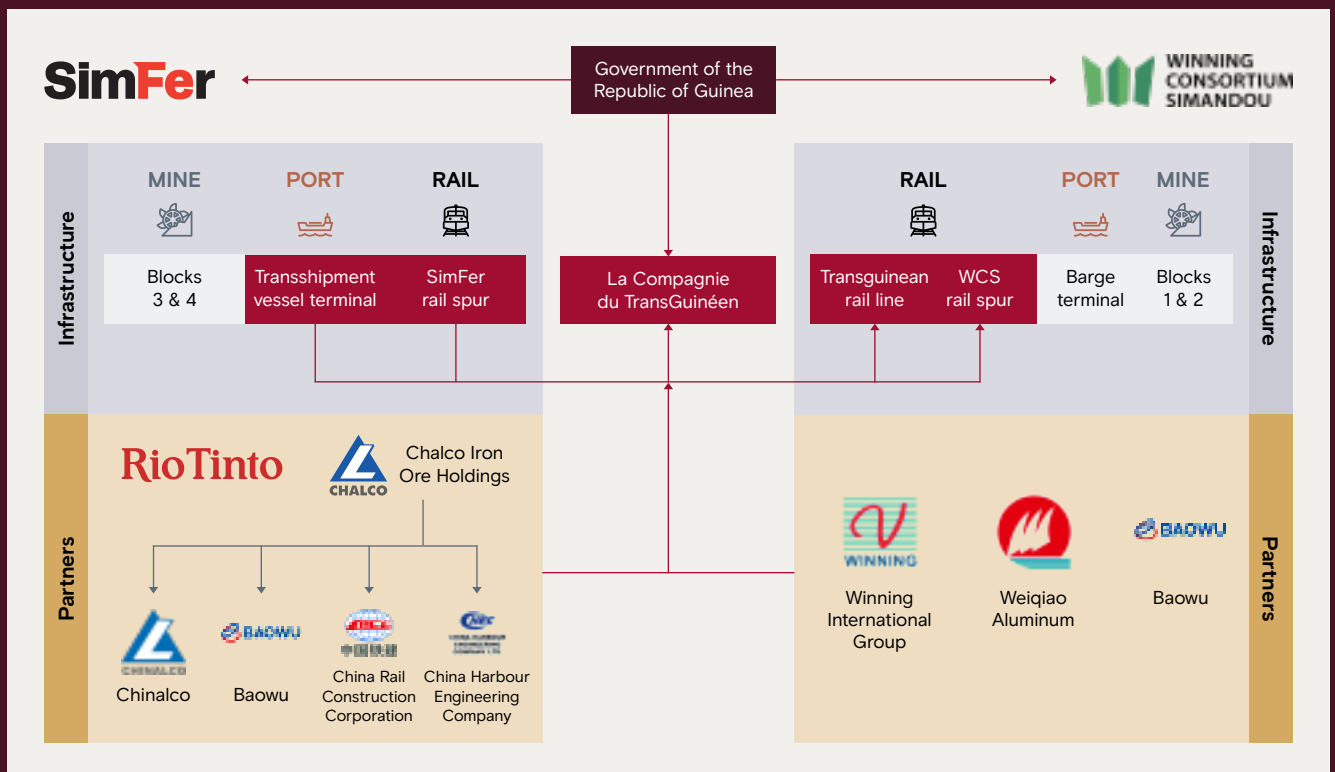
Rio Tinto invests in SimFer through a joint venture with a Chinalco-led consortium, Chalco Iron Ore Holdings. SimFer holds rights to Simandou's blocks 3 and 4 through a joint venture with the Republic of Guinea.

Winning Consortium Simandou (WCS) (a consortium of Winning International Group, Baowu Resources and Weiqiao Aluminium) holds the rights to blocks

1 and 2 (the WCS mine) in a joint venture with the Republic of Guinea.

SimFer and WCS are each building mines on their respective blocks, and working together to construct a shared rail line and port which will be owned by a separate company, La Compagnie du TransGuinéen (CTG), jointly owned by the Government of the Republic of Guinea, SimFer

and WCS. The Government has mandated ambitious timeframes to deliver the project, so along with our partners, we've committed to achieving an accelerated schedule, while maintaining internationally recognised standards in operational safety, governance, social wellbeing and environmental stewardship.



SimFer (Rio Tinto and Chalco Iron Ore Holdings) are also investors in the WCS entities building the transguinean rail line, WCS spur and port.

Guinea:

history, culture and context

The Republic of Guinea is in West Africa, stretching 800 kilometres east to west and 500 kilometres north to south, with a 333-kilometre coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.



People have lived in the area since the early Stone Age, and the Simandou mountain range was an important resource for Iron Age tribes. The area has a remarkable history of tribal and regional developments as a key trading centre and important religious region.

In 1958, Guinea was formed when it was the only West African colony to establish independence from France who had colonised the area in 1891.

Guinea's population has grown rapidly in the last 75 years. 71% of Guineans are aged 29 or younger, 60% live in rural areas, and 52% work in the agricultural sector.

Despite growth in key sectors of the economy, poverty remains a significant issue for Guineans, with 70% of the population surviving on less than US\$1 per day.

Guinea's natural resources include plentiful bauxite, gold, diamonds and iron ore, but only bauxite and gold have been industrially mined to date.

Guinea's agriculture, hydropower and mining industries hold great promise to develop the country's economy.

After 30 years of complex issues, momentum is now building for Simandou to be a pivotal part of Guinea's future.

14.5 million

population

1958

founded

33%+

land protected
for conservation

French

main language

Islam

main religion

Gold, bauxite, iron ore

main natural resources

Conakry

capital city

2024 figures

“For Guinea and Guineans, Simandou is more than a mine. It is inextricably linked with our country’s future for many, many generations to come.”

Aboubacar Koulibaly, Head of Rio Tinto Guinea





“Simandou could economically transform Guinea, and potentially impact all of Africa – it is a cornerstone of Guinea’s development and crucial for the surrounding communities.”

Fanta Keita, Rio Tinto SimFer Director of Community Relations

Investing in Guinea: now, and for the future

If delivered carefully, Simandou has the potential to create a lasting source of development for current and future generations.

By 2030, Simandou could increase Guinea's GDP by 26–55%³ – growth driven by mining taxes and royalties, increased indirect employment, and rail and port infrastructure that could help many other industries thrive.

But ensuring that Simandou's benefits are felt as widely as possible by Guineans, now and in the future, will require focus and creativity. This includes a governance system that ensures the project's economic benefits are far reaching and equitably distributed.

Increased income

Simandou will significantly boost the Guinean economy. By the 2030s, the project is projected to contribute around US\$1.4 billion through royalties, taxes and custom duties.⁴ This could pave the way for future investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare and other sectors.

Improved infrastructure

The transguinean rail line will, for the first time, allow goods to travel quickly and easily from one side of Guinea to the other. This will provide remote communities with easier access to health, education and essential services, and in conjunction with the new port, open new agricultural opportunities. The construction will also upgrade local roads, power supplies and town planning for many remote communities and other industries.

Increased employment

Construction at Simandou is creating thousands of short-term jobs. SimFer employs close to 20,000 people, with Guineans making up a minimum of 80% of the workforce, and has created around 60,000 jobs during the construction phase, through associated industries and local businesses.

Many of these roles are temporary and communities will need to be carefully supported to manage the balance between short-term employment and potential project induced migration, as well as preparing to manage the impact of reduced employment following the peak of the construction period.

An increased focus on education and skills training will be an important part of this.

International investment

Simandou will provide a stable supply of raw materials that will contribute to the global economy and, through high-grade product, has potential to help the steel industry decarbonise. The project is also raising Guinea's profile within the international investment community, and will position Guinea as a future growth market with great investment potential, not just in mining but in agriculture and other industries.

³ As stated by IMF in the 2024 Guinea Country Report (No. 2024/130).

⁴ All figures are indicative only and are subject to the prevailing iron ore price, capex spend and negotiated fiscal regime.

Learn more about how
we're working with
Guinean communities:



riotinto.com/simandou-communities

The Simandou story



Ore discovery

Iron ore was identified in Guinea but remained unexplored for decades.



Early exploration

Rio Tinto exploration geologists recognised the potential value of the iron ore, but its remote location and the distance required to transport the ore across Guinea made it challenging to export.



Challenges build

Finalising agreements took time and SimFer struggled to find investors for the complex infrastructure that would be required to develop Simandou.



The world takes an interest

Iron ore prices increased, and the world watched Simandou with interest. Amid legal disputes, some construction finally began.

1950s

Prospectors identified iron ore at Simandou.

1958

Guinea declared independence and the Republic of Guinea was founded.

1995

Rio Tinto invited to visit Guinea.

1996

Rio Tinto confirmed vast quantities of iron ore at Simandou.

1997

Rio Tinto granted exploration permits for blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 at Simandou.

1998

Rio Tinto established its first subsidiary in Guinea.

2002

SimFer signed a mining concession with the Government of Guinea.

2003

The mining convention was ratified by the National Assembly and signed into law.

2008

The mining industry became financially strained during the Global Financial Crisis, although Rio Tinto announced significantly increased potential for Simandou. The rights to Simandou blocks 1 and 2 were awarded to Beny Steinmetz Group Resources (BSGR).

2010

BSGR sold 51% of its rights to Brazilian company Vale for US\$2.5 billion.

2011

Rio Tinto signed a settlement agreement with the Government to finalise all disputes over mining titles.

2012

The Chalco consortium (a subsidiary of Chinalco) acquired a 47% interest in SimFer. The Government of Guinea approved the social and environmental impact assessment for the Simandou project, enabling construction to commence.

2014

BSGR was stripped of its mining rights after a Government inquiry. An outbreak of Ebola virus started in Guinea and quickly spread across Western Africa.

"I feel a deep personal connection to Simandou, having spent more than a decade working on this project. The path was not always easy, but we have worked hard to build strong, trusting relationships with our partners and with the people of Guinea."

Bold Baatar, Chief Commercial Officer, Rio Tinto

Read Bold's reflections on Simandou's story and global context:

riotinto.com/simandou-reflections





Care and maintenance

Funding the infrastructure remained an issue and progress stalled due to the Ebola virus outbreak and the global financial situation impacting the mining industry.



Momentum for progress

SimFer, WCS and the Government found a way forward and began working together to develop the infrastructure and meet the Government's ambitious deadlines.



Upcoming milestones

With work on the mines and infrastructure now well underway, excitement is building for the delivery of the first ore.

2016

Rio Tinto undertook a global cost cutting program and the Simandou project was put on hold.

2019

Winning Consortium Simandou (WCS) was awarded the tender to develop blocks 1 and 2.

2022

La Compagnie du TransGuinée was formed to own and operate the infrastructure for the Simandou iron ore project.

2024

The Guinean and Chinese governments and Rio Tinto, SimFer and WCS boards gave the green light for the project to proceed.

2025

First ore is projected.

2026

The SimFer rail spur and main rail line are projected for completion, with shipping initially through the WCS barge port until the SimFer transshipment vessel (TSV) port is complete.

2027

SimFer will complete the commissioning of its TSVs.

2028

The SimFer mine is projected to reach 60Mtpa production.





Building the SimFer mine

Many of Rio Tinto's mines operate in extreme environments, from the Arctic Circle to the Gobi Desert. But at Simandou we're working to solve unique challenges.

The SimFer mine (Simandou blocks 3 and 4) is at the southern end of the Simandou mountain range in the Pic de Fon Forest, peaking 1,650 metres above sea level with steep terrain leading to the surrounding plains. Wet season lasts from April to October with peak rainfall in August of around 340 millimetres.

The SimFer mining concession contains 2 main deposits – Ouéléba and Pic de Fon. Both are roughly 6 to 8 kilometres long, 1 to 1.5 kilometres wide, and 500 metres deep. The northern Ouéléba deposit has the largest surface area and contains around 1.5 billion tonnes of high-grade Ore Reserves.⁵

The Pic de Fon deposit, 5 kilometres south, is still being assessed for future development. We intend to open-pit mine the Ouéléba deposit by drilling and blasting the rock, then mine in “benches” (platforms down the side of the pit) until we reach the base of the deposit. The ore will then be loaded onto haul trucks and moved to a primary and secondary crusher, before a conveyor system transports the crushed ore down the mountain to further crushing and on to a stockyard at the head of the rail spur, where trains will transport the ore to the main transguinean rail line and then on to the port. Construction of the mine is well underway. We've built new access roads to the mine, camps and key infrastructure sites; upgraded Beyla airstrip; installed water supply and fuel storage facilities; and established quarries to support construction.

First production is expected by the end of 2025, ramping up over 30 months to an annualised capacity of 60 million tonnes per year.⁶ The mine will initially deliver a single fines product before transitioning to a dual fines product of blast furnace and direct reduction ready ore.

The Ouéléba orebody is a major aquifer, so will require us to dewater the pit as we excavate it using dedicated wells and pumping from sumps in the pit to keep the working area dry. We'll haul and store waste rock and low-grade ore at purpose-built mineral waste rock storage facilities at the mine pit periphery, and segregate low-grade ore for possible future use. We'll also backfill mineral waste into mined areas of the pit.

The SimFer mine has an expected life of 26 years, but we've planned further exploration work over the next 5 years to identify new areas of potential mineralisation that may be mined in the future.

We will work to minimise social and environmental impacts from the mine, and to provide lasting benefits to host communities. We are already planning for the end of the mine's life, when we plan to clean work areas, remove structures that can't be repurposed, and rehabilitate the land, ready for its next chapter.

“I'm so inspired by the progress at Simandou – I'm constantly impressed by our team's dedication and efficiency in tackling this challenging and complex project, and extremely grateful for all the hard work our teams and partners are putting in to achieve it.”

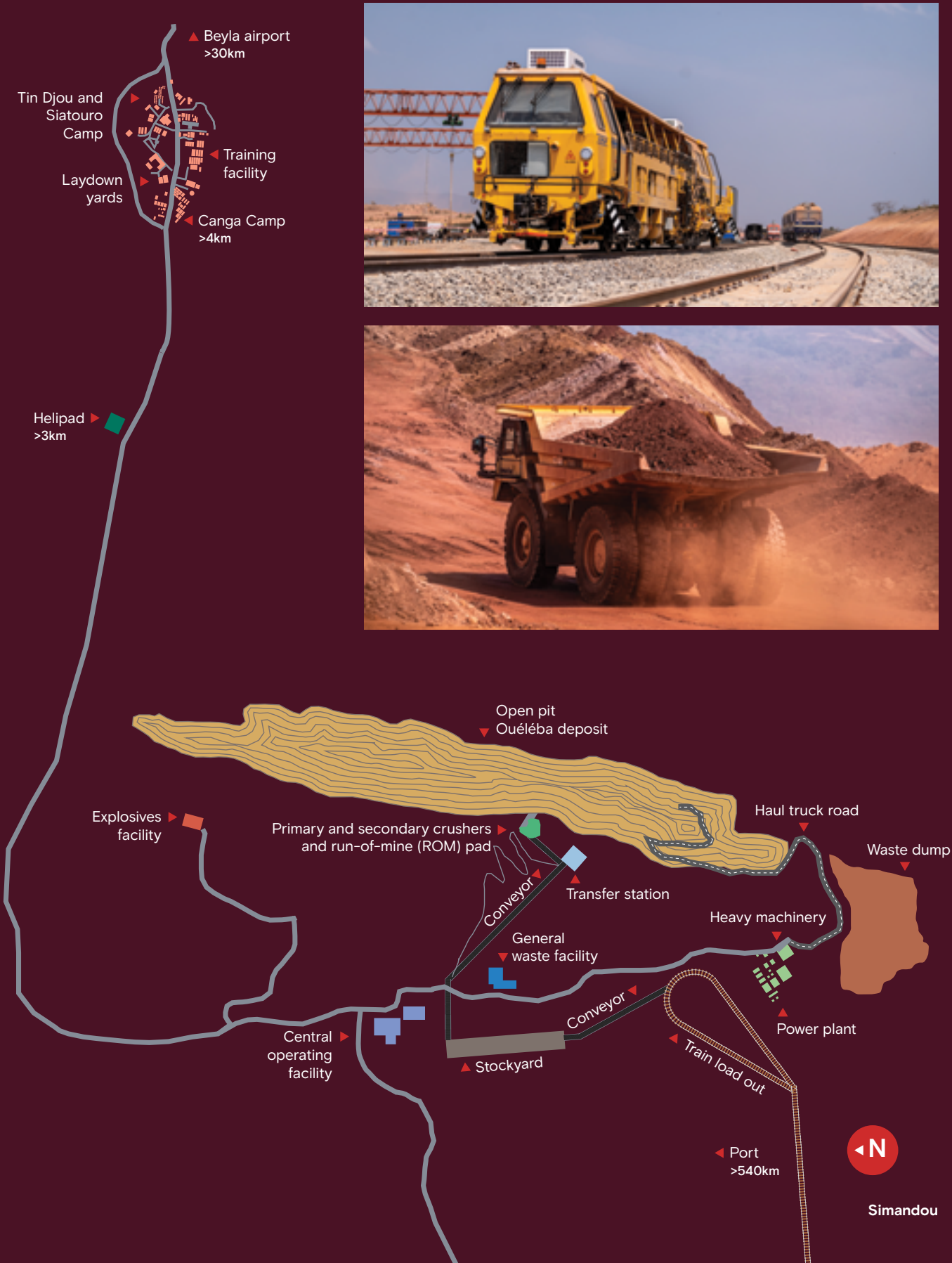
Mark Davies,
Chief Technical Officer, Rio Tinto

⁵ See footnote 1 on page 4.

⁶ See footnote 2 on page 5.

The SimFer mine plan

The map's scale is not intended to accurately represent the relative distances between infrastructure. Instead, it is designed to visually showcase the intricate network and sheer volume of work required to bring the SimFer mine to life. While some elements may appear close together on the map, in reality, they may be separated by significant distances.



Simandou's supporting infrastructure

Exporting ore from Simandou – via rail to a port and then on to ocean-going vessels via barges or transshipment vessels (TSVs) – is one of the project's greatest challenges.

The partners have agreed to transport the ore from Simandou across the country to a port on Guinea's coastline. The project's scope includes constructing over 600 kilometres of rail infrastructure across Guinea's difficult terrain and developing a complex shipping system to navigate the country's shallow waterways. The new rail and port infrastructure is being jointly funded by SimFer and WCS, in partnership with the Government of Guinea, and will be owned and operated by La Compagnie du TransGuinée (CTG).

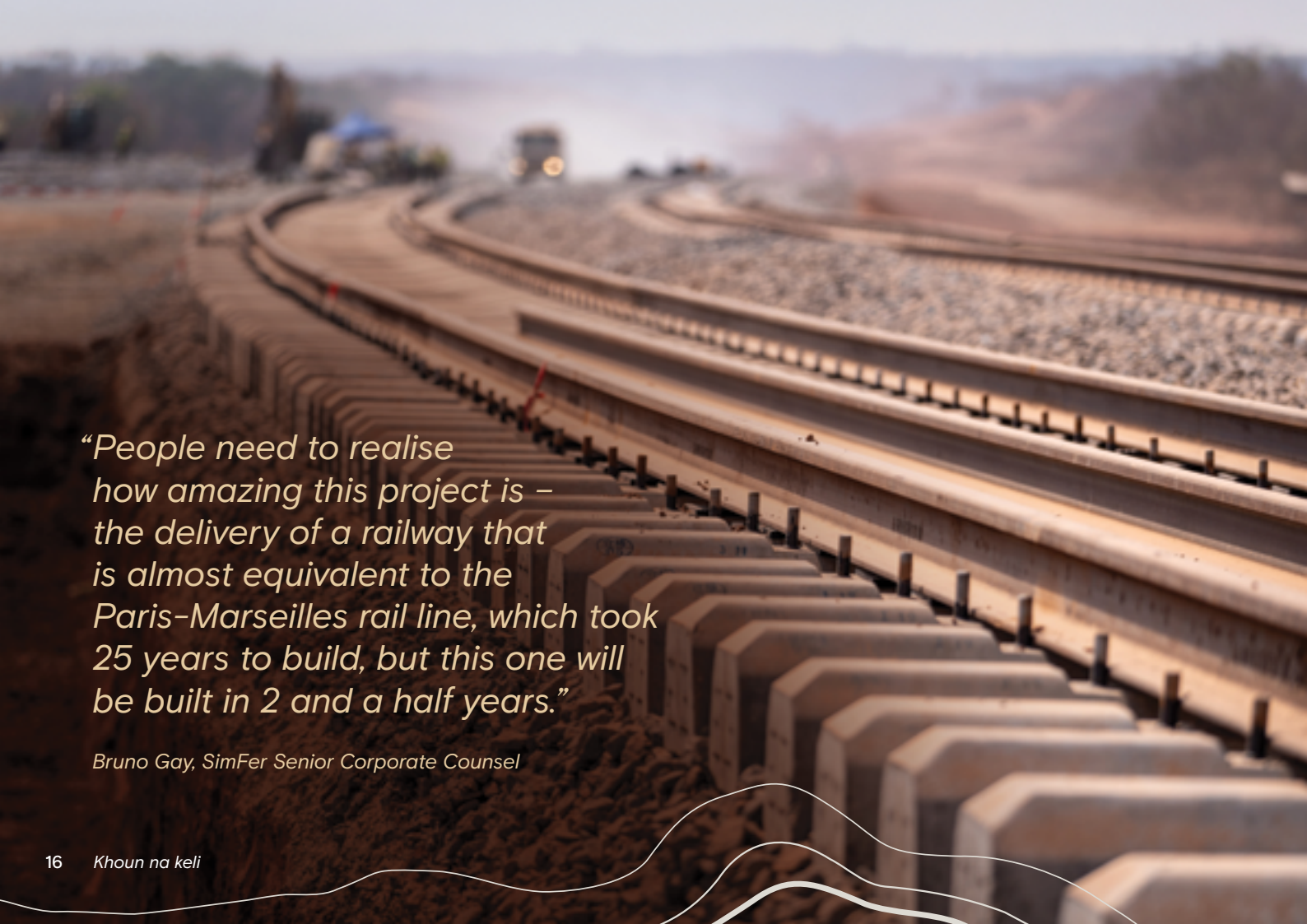
Our industrial partner, WCS, is constructing the 600-kilometre dual-track main rail line, a 10-kilometre rail spur from its mine at blocks 1 and 2 to the main rail line, and a 60 million tonne per year barge terminal. SimFer is constructing a 78-kilometre spur line connecting its mine at blocks 3 and 4 to the main rail line, and a 60 million tonne per year TSV terminal at the port.

SimFer and WCS are working together, leveraging the strengths of all the joint venture partners, to deliver this infrastructure to internationally recognised standards.

Crossing the country

Construction on the main transguinean rail line is well underway. It will transport the Simandou ore almost the entire length of Guinea. The 600-kilometre dual-track rail line and 10-kilometre rail spur will incorporate 12 stations, 206 bridges and 4 tunnels, traversing 6 of Guinea's 8 administrative regions, connecting communities and providing access-to-market for agricultural products grown along the corridor.

The rail line is a significant but critical investment in time, effort, and resources in Guinea's infrastructure.



“People need to realise how amazing this project is – the delivery of a railway that is almost equivalent to the Paris-Marseilles rail line, which took 25 years to build, but this one will be built in 2 and a half years.”

Bruno Gay, SimFer Senior Corporate Counsel



Port



Rail line



Mines



Opening Guinea to the world

SimFer is underway with construction of its rail spur, connecting its mine at blocks 3 and 4 with the main rail line. This 78-kilometre track will include a 908-metre tunnel, 5 major bridges and other water crossings, level crossings and designated wildlife crossings, as well as a rail loop at the mine end terminal.

Simandou ore will travel along the transguinean rail line to a new port under construction at Morebaya, south of Conakry on Guinea's west coast. The finished port will consist of a 4-berth barge terminal and a 3-berth TSV terminal, that will each be able to export 60 million tonnes of ore per year, and a marine offloading facility for importing and exporting other goods and agricultural products. The barge terminal, being constructed by WCS, will use tugboats and barges to transfer the ore onto a floating platform and then onto

the oceangoing vessels. The SimFer terminal will use larger, self-propelled, purpose-built TSVs to transfer the ore directly onto waiting ships in deep ocean. The port will incorporate a rail loop, rail car dumpers, conveyors and stockpiling operations, worker accommodation, and an expanded power station and fuel depot.

As the barge terminal will be completed first, WCS and SimFer will both use this terminal during initial production, while the TSV terminal is completed.



Capital costs and financing

Simandou is a potentially transformative project for Guinea, with the costs and potential benefits far outweighing anything previously undertaken in the country. Total capital costs are anticipated to be almost equal to the current annual gross domestic product (GDP) of Guinea.

Simandou is currently Rio Tinto's largest capital project, with a forecast investment of US\$6.2 billion. This represents Rio Tinto's share of the US\$11.6 billion required to complete construction of SimFer's part of the project, including the mine at blocks 3 and 4, the rail spur, and co-development of the rail line and port infrastructure.

SimFer and WCS will fund their respective mines at blocks 3 and 4 and blocks 1 and 2 and, co-fund the shared infrastructure to export the iron ore through La Compagnie du TransGuinéen (CTG). Once complete, ownership and operation

of the rail and port infrastructure will be transferred to CTG, a joint venture between the Government of Guinea, WCS and SimFer. The Government of Guinea will not contribute to the development costs of the infrastructure, but will play an active role in governance and joint venture matters.

After a 35-year operating period, CTG will transfer ownership of the rail and port infrastructure to the Guinean state. Through this co-development arrangement, the 2 joint ventures will share the risk and deliver higher returns than either party could achieve on its own.

"I like to remind people that nobody has built a Simandou before. So, on that point, anybody that comes in is quite humbled by the size and the challenge."

Aguibou Ly, CEO IBS Group

SimFer construction costs

	US dollars in billions	
	SimFer capex	Rio Tinto share
Infrastructure to be owned and operated by SimFer once complete		
A 60Mtpa mine at blocks 3 and 4	\$5.1	\$2.7
Co-developed infrastructure to be owned and operated by CTG once complete		
A 78km rail spur from the SimFer mine to the main rail line, including rolling stock, and a 60Mtpa transshipment vessel port (funded 100% by SimFer during construction)	\$3.5	\$1.9
A 600km main rail line and a 10km rail spur (funded 34% by SimFer during construction by WCS)	\$3.0	\$1.6

A critical ore for decarbonisation

Iron ore is the primary raw material for making steel – one of the world’s most highly valued materials.

Steel is the dominant metal used today and is essential for urbanisation, infrastructure development and the transition to low-carbon energy.

But the process of making steel uses a lot of energy. The industrial process of transforming iron ore into metal is responsible for around 8% of all global CO₂ emissions.

So decarbonising the way we make steel could significantly reduce global CO₂ emissions.

To do this, the mining industry, our partners and our customers are working on many projects to reduce emissions – from how we mine and transport ore, to the process of turning iron ore into steel.

Traditional steelmaking relies on coal-fired blast furnaces, which generate significant carbon emissions – around 2.3 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of steel.

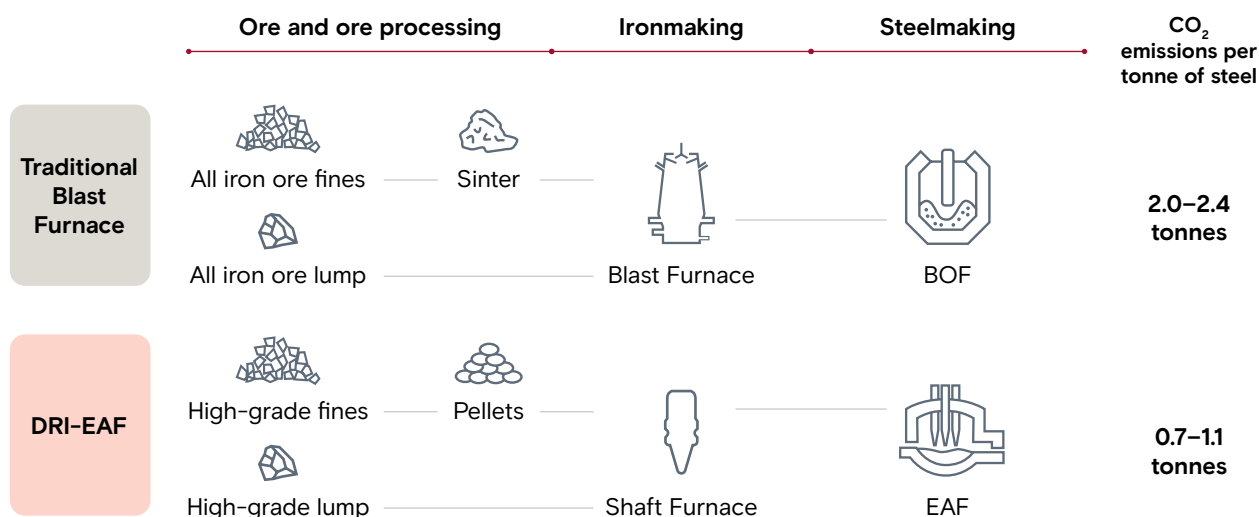
Today, steelmakers are beginning to decarbonise by transitioning to the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), a low-carbon alternative to the blast furnace and the only economic low-CO₂ ironmaking route available today.

While the EAF emits less than half the CO₂ of traditional blast furnaces, it is also less efficient at removing impurities, so must be fed by high-iron-content and low-impurity iron ore. Simandou iron ore is some of the highest-quality in the world – and thus has the potential for use in direct-reduced-iron-EAF (DRI-EAF) technologies.

We are using our high-grade ores from our Canadian operations, and eventually from Simandou, to support the early development and proliferation of emerging low-carbon DRI-EAF steelmaking processes.

Once operational, the SimFer mine will produce 60 million tonnes of high-grade iron ore every year. The premium grade of Simandou iron ore broadens our global portfolio of iron ore products, complementing our existing, long-term iron ore production in Australia’s Pilbara region and in Canada. As steelmakers look for ways to decarbonise, Simandou – together with the rest of our iron ore portfolio – will play a key role in the industry’s journey to net zero.

Today’s steelmaking pathways



“Simandou isn’t just a mining project – it’s a game changer for Guinea and the steel industry, because Simandou’s iron ore is special.”

Sidiki Koné, Manager – Geology



Learn more about
Simandou's geology:

riotinto.com/simandou-geology

“In African culture, the baobab tree is where people meet, sit and discuss how to live together, teach and respect each other, and distribute benefits fairly to everyone.

When you make a commitment under the baobab tree, you have to respect it – because our ancestors are watching.”

Souleymane Falowi Diallo, Wontanara Lead



Wontanara

– culture by design

Wontanara is at the heart of how we're building a shared culture at Simandou.

With over 40 cultures represented across our SimFer team, and 22 ethnic groups in Guinea, fostering unity and committing to a shared purpose while respecting diversity is critical.

To achieve this, we've created a "culture by design" that puts people first – integrating Rio Tinto's existing values of care, courage and curiosity into an intentional, consistent way of working, and a shared purpose designed to unite our diverse workforce.

The name Wontanara is a local Soussou word meaning "we are together". Its emblem is the baobab tree, symbolising community and respect – a metaphor for the program's vision. Just as a baobab tree is a gathering point, Wontanara brings the team together to work as one, no matter their backgrounds.

Wontanara is more than just a program or policy; it's a way of thinking and working together, and it's deeply embedded across our site activities, environment and communications. It helps everyone – employees, contractors, and communities – feel connected and aligned, whether they come from Guinea or across the globe.

To bring this vision to life, we've worked collaboratively from the start. Champions from different departments and contractors came together to shape Wontanara, choosing its name and designing its principles.



Employees are introduced to Wontanara during their orientation, and ongoing weekly workshops – held in multiple languages and formats – help teams navigate cultural differences, improve communication, and find common ground on everything from work styles to the importance of mutual respect and learning from different cultures.

Literacy levels vary across the project, so a combination of written, audio and visual materials are used for communication. Learning clubs bring people together to exchange language learning and cultural insights; initiatives like the soccer club help build camaraderie; and the Wontanara Board recognises team achievements and highlights positive behaviours.

Through Wontanara, we're showing that diversity is a strength. We're designing a culture where everyone feels valued and connected, building a community while we build the SimFer mine. When we stand united, we can accomplish great things safely, respectfully, and successfully.

Read more about Wontanara online:

riotinto.com/wontanara



The remarkable strength of Guinea's people

For the people of Guinea, Simandou represents hope for the future – improving employment opportunities, education and community services.

The support of the Guinean people is key to the success of the project, as leaders and employees of SimFer and neighbours on whose support we rely, but also as the ultimate owners and custodians of Simandou.

Guinea's developing socioeconomic status and Simandou's unique location, size and scale can add complexities to implementing the high standards of community relations that we are committed to. For example, unclear land ownership can make it challenging to clarify titles and fairly compensate impacted and displaced communities.

We've been working with communities near our operations and in Conakry to understand how to balance their needs and aspirations with the impact of our operation. We respect their deep ties to the land we operate on and are committed to working together for Guinea's future.

Supporting local businesses

A key part of strengthening Guinea's economy is drawing on local expertise and growing associated industries. We're committed to procuring locally manufactured goods and services wherever possible and developing local supply chains and talent. IBS and GPC, 2 Guinean mining and construction companies, have been pivotal in developing the mine and camps, constructing roads, providing access to water reserves, and building accommodation and service facilities. SimFer will continue to work closely with local providers to build capacity. By the end of construction, more than US\$3 billion will have been spent with Guinean-owned firms. This is likely to increase once operations commence.

Past projects

- Constructing 14 elementary schools with fully equipped classrooms, latrines, water fountains and furnished accommodation for school principals.
- Launching educational programs to teach reading and writing, train young people in trades and job skills, and provide girls and women with new skills for the mining sector and beyond.
- Establishing the Beyla Enterprise Center to support local businesses, training entrepreneurs in fundraising and leadership, and capacity building small-to-medium enterprises in project management, public procurement, marketing, corporate strategies, and sales force management and facilitation.

“Being part of this project is an extraordinary opportunity for local companies like ours – these projects open doors for local businesses.”

Amadou Kaba, President and Chief Executive Officer of GPC



Training for new careers

Simandou is opening new employment possibilities for the citizens of Guinea, including young people and women. To meet the project's labour needs, we've established a vocational training centre that teaches masonry, plumbing, electrical, welding, air conditioning and mechanic trades. Courses are also run in hair styling, makeup, manicures and pedicures and dressmaking to meet growing demand for these services in surrounding communities. We also offer reading, writing and arithmetic classes to improve job prospects now and in the future.

Supporting local communities

Communities living near Simandou are key to the project's future, and although it offers many opportunities, it will also impact their daily life. Projects of this scale can attract large numbers of people seeking employment and economic opportunities, which can strain existing infrastructure, so we're implementing urban planning and mass communication projects to mitigate this. We're also working closely with community leaders to confirm and develop programs to improve education, training, sanitation, water, health, infrastructure and community safety. SimFer and WCS will fund a Community Development Levy of around US\$15 million per year towards this.

Agriculture

Construction of the transguinean rail line provides an opportunity for the introduction of new large-scale sustainable farming operations that can leverage the infrastructure to grow new export markets for Guinea. SimFer is working with the Government to map the areas best suited for agricultural development and establish new farming industries. The province around Kindia, part of the infrastructure corridor, for example, offers great potential for growing and processing rice which could be exported to international markets.

Read more about
how we're working with
local suppliers online:



riotinto.com/simandou-suppliers

Keeping our people and communities safe

Nothing is more important than the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees, contractors and communities.

On 26 October 2024, Morlaye Camara, an employee of one of our contractors at the SimFer Port Project in Morebaya, was injured, and subsequently passed away from his injuries.

Mr Camara was a grinder operator and had worked on the SimFer Port Project for 5 months. He is remembered as an exemplary employee and an important community and religious leader.

We are committed to learning from this tragic incident, and continuing to work together with our partners to prioritise health and uphold international project standards.

We apply the same robust standards and protocols at Simandou as at all our global operations, while adapting our plans and policies to suit current infrastructure development, public health and literacy levels.

So we're working with our partners, employees and contractors, and the surrounding communities on a range of initiatives to drive high standards of health and safety, both on site and in local communities.

Maintaining high health and safety standards

Embedding a strong safety culture within our teams and contractors has been an urgent priority at Simandou, especially as the project ramps up and we hire more people.

We comply with Guinean legislation and international labour standards for safety, and train and support our contractors and suppliers to meet these standards.

As more than half of adults have low or no literacy, we've had to find new ways to train our teams. In addition to our routine focus on safety in daily team meetings, we run ongoing training and literacy programs to build knowledge and capabilities, and use audio and visual resources in prominent locations around site to reinforce safety requirements. We also embed health and safety procedures in our Wontanara workplace culture activities.

Our transparent and thorough reporting system also helps us learn from safety incidents and continuously improve our practices.

"I am delighted to see this project evolving. We're working with our partners to harmonise high levels of health and safety, and a culture of transparency, and we're making great progress."

Amadou Donzo,
Acting Superintendent for Health,
Safety and the Environment, SimFer Mine

Improving community safety

Many of our employees live in communities around the mine, and these communities also provide essential services and access to our operations.

Communicable diseases such as malaria are common in Guinea, and healthcare infrastructure can be hard to access near the project. Road safety awareness is another concern.

To help address these challenges, we're working with local communities and the Government of Guinea to build healthcare infrastructure and capacity, strengthen disease outbreak preparedness, deliver health and safety training to local people, and improve hygiene and sanitation services and access to clean water.

Past projects

- Supporting the response to Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks, and using our monitoring and early warning system to track the spread.
- Mobilising our emergency services to fight fires and provide first aid, medical supplies and food following a devastating explosion at the Port of Conakry in December 2023.
- Providing emergency assistance after local traffic accidents.
- Holding an open day where local residents could attend sessions about road safety and dangers for pedestrians, and sit in company vehicles to understand the challenges of limited driver visibility.
- Partnering with local enterprise Clinic+O to scale up internet access to primary healthcare services across the rail corridor.
- Providing equipment to local town Beyla to improve waste collection and treatment.

Managing security responsibly

We're a longstanding member of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR), which requires us to incorporate human rights protections into our security framework.

We apply strict policies and rules for our security personnel, whether we employ them directly or via contractors. All personnel are formally vetted and required to undertake training that integrates the protection of human rights.

To promote a collaborative and aligned approach on security protocols and approaches, we've shared our VPSHR Management Plan with WCS and continue to engage with them on a regular basis.

Read more about our approach to health and safety at Simandou:

riotinto.com/simandou-safety



Preserving Simandou's unique environment

The region around Simandou contains unique and precious biodiversity, including endangered and critically endangered species such as Western Chimpanzees and Forest Elephants.

We're committed to planning, constructing and operating the SimFer mine and infrastructure carefully to minimise any environmental impact on these important species.

At the core of this commitment is alignment with the International Finance Corporation (IFC)'s Performance Standard 6 (PS6). PS6 focuses on biodiversity conservation and sustainably managing living natural resources. It underscores the importance of protecting biodiversity, maintaining ecosystems and ecosystem services (such as clean water, oxygen production, and flood prevention that humans rely on), and promoting sustainable development.

One of the core tenets of PS6 is the Mitigation Hierarchy – a structured approach used to manage biodiversity and environmental risks associated with development projects. The mitigation hierarchy is integrated into our approach to environmental impact at every stage of developing the SimFer mine and infrastructure. It consists of 4 key steps:

- Avoidance: preventing adverse impacts on biodiversity by selecting project locations and designs that avoid harm to sensitive ecosystems.
- Minimisation: reducing the severity and extent of impacts that cannot be avoided through best environmental practices.

- Restoration/rehabilitation: repairing degraded ecosystems and restoring biodiversity in areas affected by project activities.
- Offsetting: compensating for any residual, unavoidable impacts by implementing conservation projects that deliver measurable biodiversity gains elsewhere.

In developing offsets, the involvement of the community is essential. We recognise the pivotal role of local communities and continue to engage as part of the studies to identify economic opportunities that can be leveraged from offsets while supporting environmental stewardship.



“Beyond biodiversity conservation, these forests also preserve cultural values. We prioritise human values, respecting communities’ rights, traditions, and ways of life. It’s not just about mining but also working with the community to identify sacred sites and protect them.”

Moussa Koné, SimFer Cultural Heritage Specialist

The Pic de Fon Classified Forest

The SimFer mine is located within the Pic de Fon Classified Forest – home to more than 1,299 botanical species, including 55 critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species, 38 critical habitat qualifying species and at least 5 species found only at Simandou. The forest is also home to a population of critically endangered Western Chimpanzees.

We’ve been monitoring the Western Chimpanzees since 2008 to understand their patterns and behaviour. Based on this data, we redesigned the mine plan to avoid disturbing the chimpanzees, and to accommodate them to explore other areas in the forest safely. We’re working to increase the suitability of these areas for the chimpanzees and ensure that the impacts on them from our activity – such as noise from mining activity – is introduced slowly to allow them to acclimatise. We’re also working with partners to reduce additional threats including transmissible human diseases, illegal artisanal mining, bushmeat hunting, agricultural incursion and the illegal animal trade.

The Boyboyba Forest

The Boyboyba Forest is a unique, 45-hectare area on the Simandou mountain range. The forest is a deeply meaningful spiritual place for local communities, and is home to a significant number of critically endangered species of plants and animals, including 150 birds – rare for a forest of this size. North of the Ouéléba mine, the forest contains 80% of the world’s known critically endangered *Keetia futa* plants and the highest species diversity of *Gymnosiphon* in West Africa – a plant that cannot be transplanted or grown from seed. Previously only one species of *Gymnosiphon* was known in West Africa, however, 3 have now been found in the Boyboyba forest, including the previously unknown *Gymnosiphon fonensis*.

Two other new plant species have also been identified in the forest, *Psychotria* and *Anacolosa deniseae*, with both expected to be rated endangered.

We have redesigned our mine plan and relocated a planned haul road to avoid and preserve the Boyboyba Forest.

Protecting water sources

The Simandou mountain range is an important water source for local communities and ecosystems. Water scarcity and quality is already a concern for people living near the mine and along the rail corridor, and the fragile ecosystems surrounding the mine are highly sensitive to changes in water quality and quantity.

Since 2004, we’ve studied water quality and flows at Simandou to understand how the mine may impact groundwater levels and the streams that flow from the mountain range. Guinea’s distinct wet and dry seasons and steep topography make this more complex at Simandou. To protect water access, we will compensate stream flows and protect water quality, and ensure emergency procedures are in place to manage leaks or spills of pollutants. We’re also working with local communities to improve existing water infrastructure.

Learn more about Denise’s discovery:



riotinto.com/simandou-botany

Learn more about cultural heritage at Simandou:



riotinto.com/simandou-heritage

See how we’re working with Kew Gardens to preserve rare species:



riotinto.com/simandou-seeds

“Simandou will be a significant page in Guinea’s history. Working on this project, our names will be written on that page too. Together, we’re shaping a brighter future for everyone involved. So we have to do it right.”

Fanta Keita (pictured), SimFer Director of Community Relations



Simandou represents one of the most significant mining developments in many decades. It will shape and change the iron ore industry, and especially the steel industry's ability to decarbonise and it will transform Guinea's economy, with great potential to drive prosperity and lift people out of poverty.

We also recognise that it will change our business, giving Rio Tinto a significant base in West Africa and growing our position in high-grade iron ore. For Rio Tinto, Simandou represents a new model and approach and we will need to continue to learn from this experience, while never deviating from our values and commitments to safety.

We are deeply committed to do our best for the people of Guinea, who have waited many years for Simandou's potential to be realised.



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An aerial photograph showing a mining camp nestled in a lush green valley. The camp features numerous buildings, including large industrial structures and smaller residential units, surrounded by dense tropical forest. In the background, rolling green hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky. A winding road or path is visible in the foreground, cutting through the forest.

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