

August 25th 2021

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for reaching out to the IUCN SSC PSG ARRC Task Force. Projects that want to align with IFC PS6 and that are active in great ape habitat need to follow guidance under GN73. This means that a project should contact early on the IUCN SSC PSG ARRC Task Force to seek advice. We have a steering committee that helps guide our decision process, and we have developed our own MoU to set out the terms of the engagement, and to ensure our comments are being followed. You can find more information on how we work on our [website](#).

For this specific project, it is difficult to provide advice at this point as the project seems well underway (satellite images show clearing of the railway alignment from more or less the coast to the tunnel area), and so it would be impossible for us to apply the mitigation hierarchy appropriately, with the most important step being 'avoidance'. We would only consider providing comments to the project under these strict conditions:

- The project stops all construction activities (including early work) until chimpanzee baseline surveys have been completed to the satisfaction of the ARRC task force;
- Targeted areas that have already been cleared in chimpanzee habitat will have begun to be rehabilitated prior to finalizing the ESIA;
- Reassurance that there is still a possibility to advise on the railway alignment;
- Evidence that no Guinean laws have been broken;
- Sharing of chimpanzee survey data with the [A.P.E.S. database](#);
- Making the comments from the ARRC task force public;
- All these conditions captured in our MoU to be signed by the Project before we can pursue any discussions.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,



Dr Genevieve Campbell
Lead, IUCN SSC PSG SGA ARRC Task Force