



Mr. Hu Mingwang, CEO of Baowu Steel Group Ltd  
Baowu Building  
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Postcode: 200216

May 27, 2024

Dear Mr. Hu Mingwang,

I lead the the ARRC Task Force of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group<sup>1</sup>. The IUCN is a renowned organization that includes the Red List of Threatened Species, a global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species with rankings and criteria widely accepted by governments, including the Chinese government, organizations and practitioners. We would like to raise concerns over the significant impacts on the Critically Endangered western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*) of one of the projects your company is investing in. This is the c. 700 km trans-Guinean railway that is being built in Guinea by your partner, Winning Consortium Simandou (WCS), to transport the iron ore from the Simandou mountain range to the coast for its shipment overseas.

The entire railway alignment intersects with the western chimpanzee's range, where they live in different habitat types and at different densities. Particularly sensitive areas are Kounounkan Classified Forest and the proposed Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah National Park. Unfortunately, the project has not followed national legislation. Tunnel construction started in the highest chimpanzee density areas, before submitting an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and before collecting any baseline data on chimpanzees.

We were invited by WCS (and their partner Rio Tinto Simfer) to visit the railway in March 2023 and made several concrete recommendations (see attached report sent to the project in July 2023). Sadly, we are still waiting for a response to our report and our partners on the ground have indicated that none of the actions that we recommended have been implemented to date. There has been sufficient time since the start of the construction in 2021 to implement adequate mitigation measures, so we would like to understand what is blocking this process.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN : International Union for Conservation of Nature; SSC: Species Survival Commission; ARRC (Avoid, Reduce, Restore and Conserve) Task Force.

Baowu is positioning itself as the leader in building a low-carbon green steel industry. However, its growing operations impact critically endangered great apes. We would welcome a discussion to help you improve your practices and minimize your impacts on great apes. On your website, you have a section on 'social responsibility'; however, there is no information on your policy regarding environmental and biodiversity responsibility. We feel there is an opportunity for Baowu to set a strong example in this sector.

Please let us know if you would be available for a call to discuss these issues.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Genevieve Campbell".

Dr Genevieve Campbell  
Lead of the ARRC Task Force  
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尊敬的宝武钢铁集团公司胡望明总经理：

我是国际自然保护联盟（IUCN）灵长类专家组 ARRC 特别工作组负责任坎贝尔博士。国际自然保护联盟是世界知名的生态保护组织，其建立和维护的物种红色名录是被世界各国政府（包括中国政府）、保护生物多样性的组织和工作者所广泛接受和使用的、评估植物和动物物种状况的排名和分级体系。我对贵公司一个投资项目非常关注，因为这项目对在濒危物种红色名录上的列为极度濒危的西非黑猩猩（*Pan troglodytes verus*）造成重大影响。贵公司的合作伙伴西芒杜赢联盟（Winning Consortium Simandou WCS）正在几内亚修建一条长约 700 公里的横贯几内亚的铁路，用于将铁矿石从西芒杜山脉运往海岸，然后输出境外。

整条铁路线穿越西非黑猩猩的分布区；在此区域的各种栖息地类型中，黑猩猩具有不同的种群密度。其中，Kounoukan 保护区和拟建的 Penselli-Soyah-Sabouyah 国家公园是两个特别敏感的区域。遗憾的是，该项目业主没有遵守国家法律，在提交环境与社会影响评估（ESIA）和收集黑猩猩基线数据之前，就已经在黑猩猩密度最高的地区开始隧道施工了。

2023 年 3 月，我们应赢联盟 WCS（及其合作伙伴力拓公司 Rio Tinto Simfer）的邀请参观了铁路，并提出了切实可行的建议（见所附 2023 年 7 月发给该项目的报告）。遗憾的是，迄今为止，我们没有收到对我们报告的答复。而我们在当地的合作伙伴指出，我们建议的所有行动迄今为止都没有得到实施。自 2021 年开工算起至今，项目方有充足时间采取适当有效的缓解措但却没有实施，因此我们希望了解到底是什么阻碍了这一进程。

宝武集团正将自己定位为绿色低碳钢铁行业的领导者，但贵公司不断增长的业务活动对极度濒危的类人猿产生影响。我们欢迎与贵公司和我们讨论如何提高贵公司的保护生物多样性的实践，最大限度地减少对类人猿的影响。在贵公司的网站上，有一个关于“社会责任”的部分，但其中没有关于环境和生物多样性责任的公司政策的信息。我们认为宝武有机会在这一领域树立榜样。如果您愿意与我们通话讨论这些问题，请告知我们。

此致

礼！

吉纳维芙·坎贝尔博士

ARRC 工作组组长

2024 年 5 月 20 日