



## Statement of engagement with the ARRC task force

August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

To whom it may concern,

This letter acknowledges that we, the ARRC Task Force of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, have been contacted by SLR on behalf of Dynamic Mining concerning the Bon Ami Bauxite Mining Project in Guinea. The ARRC Task Force was asked to provide feedback on the chimpanzee-related aspects of the Supplementary ESIA Specialist Studies, including the: 1) Biodiversity Assessment, 2) Framework Biodiversity Management Plan, and 3) Biodiversity Offset Management Plan (BOMP). These documents were produced by SLR Consulting Limited for Dynamic Mining. A panel of four chimpanzee experts with relevant experience in this region reviewed these documents and provided feedback on a call with SLR on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. More detailed written comments were subsequently sent to SLR. Here we include a summary of our recommendations that we would like the Project to address:

- **Consolidate and present all data collected on chimpanzees:** Chimpanzee survey data have been collected between 2018 and 2020, but not all this information has been captured in the documents presented. For example, it would be important to present the data that provide the reason why the port and most of the haul road were excluded from the surveys. It would also be useful to have more information on the camera trapping results, e.g. camera trapping success, if individuals were identified, demography, party size. A list of botanical species used by chimpanzees would also be useful to support rehabilitation effort. The existing threats are also not listed explicitly, and their location and intensity not detailed. This information would also be helpful to support the project's mitigation strategy.
- **Conduct additional chimpanzee baseline surveys:** Gaps still remain in our knowledge of the number and size of chimpanzee communities potentially impacted by the project and the location of their territories. This information is needed to better plan for mitigating impacts to chimpanzees. In our detailed comments, we advise using a combination of survey methods to fill in some of these gaps, and to extend the survey area to ensure the whole of chimpanzee's territories is covered. We also recommend collecting more information on other primate species of conservation concern present in the area (i.e. EN *Ptilocolobus badius temminckii* and EN *Colobus Polykomos*).
- **Revise the mitigation strategy:** Once further complementary baseline data have been collected, the mitigation strategy should be revised to make certain that all potential impacts have been identified and to ensure that the avoidance and minimization measures will reduce these impacts to a minimum. The proposed set-aside can be part of the mitigation strategy, but is currently not helpful for chimpanzees and will not contribute to either "No Net Loss" or "Net Gain" for this species. From the information presented to us, it is clear that not all impacts can be avoided and minimized, and thus an off-site offset will be required. The offset requirement will need to be re-assessed once better information on chimpanzees has been collected.

We would be happy to continue to be informed of the development of this project, and once further surveys will be planned, we can review and input into the survey plans (or terms of reference) before the fieldwork is undertaken to ensure that the best methodologies are being used within an appropriate survey area. Increasing the accuracy of baseline data will in turn help to devise effective mitigation measures and ascertain the offset requirement. If further documents are made available (e.g. draft BMP), we would also be happy to comment on these.

We thank the project for reaching out to the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group ARRC Task Force and hope our comments will help reduce impacts on chimpanzees and other primates of conservation concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Kormos*

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Dr Rebecca Kormos, on behalf of the ARRC task force of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group