

DIALOGUE PROCESS BETWEEN RT/QMM AND ADVISORY PANELS

RT/QMM has been receiving the advice of the Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) for over 10 years and that of the London NGO Liaison Group (LG) for the past two years, both providing an outside perspective on the non-technical aspects of the mining project. That advice has always been important to RT/QMM and continues to be. In particular, QMM appreciates the feedback and advice deriving from the interactions of both the IAP and LG with a cross-section of key stakeholders on the impact of QMM actions on communities and the environment.

Among the key issues raised in 2012 by the two groups have been the importance of improved community/stakeholder engagement and communication, conflict prevention, grievance and compensation management, environmental management and improved livelihoods through an integrated landscape approach, contribution to regional economic development, and increasing QMM staff skills to make the communities team “fit for purpose”. Addressing these issues is a primary focus of RT/QMM’s 2013 program.

2013 is also a year of major challenges, uncertainties and transitions on many fronts. In addition to the significant risks of the continuing political uncertainties in Madagascar, in a context of economic downturn and very unfavourable market conditions investment plans have been revised. Also, members of the IAP have indicated that the time has come to make room for new members.

Under these circumstances it becomes all the more important for RT/QMM to continue to seek independent advice and to maintain its dialogue with the two advisory groups.

With regard to the IAP, QMM will, in June-July provide a progress report on issues last raised by the Panel in its 2012 Report. A progress report will also be presented towards the end of 2013. The Panel continues to monitor the project and provide on-going advice to QMM. Because of the uncertainties mentioned, the Panel and QMM agree that the next on site visit of the Panel should take place in early 2014, circumstances permitting.

Dialog with the NGO Liaison Group also continues with a recent meeting by conference call and the agreement of both parties to continue consultations and dialog.

In addition, QMM is able to maintain exchanges with the Madagascar-based member of the IAP. The November meeting of the Bio-diversity Committee will provide a further opportunity to review issues with some members of the IAP.

Openness and transparency, along with the willingness to learn, have been trademarks of RT/QMM’s investment in Madagascar since the beginning. These times of stress and uncertainty are precisely when those characteristics need to be emphasized . We in RT/QMM pledge to do so.

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