

Initial Project Summary

Project Location: Oio Region, Guinea-Bissau

Name of Applicant: GB Minerals

Name of Project: GB Minerals

Project Description: The proposed Project consists of the construction, operation, and closure of a proposed open pit mining operation to exploit the Farim phosphate ore body, a process plant at the Mine Site on the north bank of the Cacheu River near the town of Farim to beneficiate the ore into a phosphate concentrate product, and an associated port facility at Ponta Chugue to export the product to customers. Product will be transported from the process plant across the Cacheu River to a truck loading facility via an approximately 300 meter covered conveyor system, then trucked to the port facility along an existing 68-km section of the paved road between Bissau and Dugal and a 6-km gravel access road that the Project will upgrade/construct from the highway turnoff at Dugal to the Ponta Chugue port facility. Construction of the Project is expected to take two years. The Project will operate for 26 years, mining ore at a rate of 1.75 million tonnes per annum (Mt/a) to produce 1.32 Mt/a of phosphate rock product. Project related land acquisition will result in the need to resettle approximately 3,200 people across five villages due to physical and/or economic displacement.

Environmental and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project has been reviewed against OPIC's categorical prohibitions and determined to be categorically eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because it is likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are irreversible, sensitive, diverse, and/or unprecedented. The primary environmental and social issues include physical resettlement and economic displacement as a result of land acquisition, water use and availability, ground/surface water quality and wastewater management, management of waste/overburden/tailings, potential conversion of natural habitat, air emissions and ambient air quality, noise, occupational health and safety, community health and safety, traffic, transportation of hazardous materials, and impacts to cultural heritage.

Environmental and Social Standards: OPIC's environmental and social due diligence indicates that the Project will have impacts that must be managed in a manner consistent with the following International Finance Corporation (IFC) 2012 Performance Standards:

- PS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;
- PS 2: Labor and Working Conditions;
- PS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention;
- PS 4: Community Health, Safety, and Security;
- PS 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement;
- PS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; and
- PS 8: Cultural Heritage

The socioeconomic survey conducted for the ESIA identifies the ethnic groups potentially impacted by the Project, including minority ethnic groups, but did not identify them as Indigenous Peoples as defined by the IFC. Therefore, PS 7 is not triggered at this time.

In addition to the Performance Standards listed above, the following IFC Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are applicable to this project:

- IFC EHS General Guidelines (April 30, 2007);
- IFC EHS Guidelines for Mining (December 10, 2007); and
- IFC EHS Guidelines for Ports, Harbors, and Terminals (April 30, 2007).

Location of Local Access to Project Information: The ESIA will be available in English at the GB Minerals office in Bissau:

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