

United States Position
AfDB Proposed Investment in BOKE Mine, Rail, and Port Project – Guinea
December 6, 2017

The U.S. acknowledges the strong need for private sector development in Guinea to improve livelihoods, reduce economic stresses, and rebuild investor and business confidence following the Ebola epidemic. While we remain skeptical of large extractives projects, we recognize the central role that mining plays in Guinea, given its natural endowments.

We are pleased to see the AfDB and World Bank Group cooperating on this sizeable project. Close monitoring by various stakeholders before, after mining operations begin, and beyond the mine's life-cycle will be critical to its success.

Guinea is a biodiversity hotspot. If not managed with great care and foresight, the effects of this project risk irrevocable damage to critical habitat areas. We appreciate the hard work and cooperation by AfDB, IFC, the Government of Guinea, and many NGOs that laid the groundwork for Moyon-Bafing National Park. However, the use of an aggregate offset approach remains unproven, especially for the relevant species.

We also found problematic the lack of baseline data for several reptile species and the lack of an assessment of cumulative impacts from the future Koukoutamba dam. Both Bank Groups must remain engaged in resettlement, because the project will displace a large number of citizens and is located in an area where community grievances have occurred.

We welcome efforts to improve governance and technical capacity in Guinea, and a mindful approach to infrastructure development as the project's ultimate success will depend on progress in these initiatives.

For legislatively mandated reasons, the United States wishes to be recorded as abstaining on this operation.