

GATHERING DUST ON THE LOULO-GOUNKOTO HAUL ROAD

To minimise the dust created by vehicles on the critical haul road on the Loulo-Gouankoto complex we regularly wet the roads, with highest priority given to the heavy use haulage roads and busy roads in the community.

To ensure a prompt response to dust problems, the road wetting tracks are kept and managed by the local community. We have also been trialling the use of dust suppressants like molasses and bitumen. These efforts are complemented with dust reduction activities including planting of vegetation in exposed areas and by running speed awareness courses.



AIR QUALITY

Most of our operations take place in dry dusty parts of the world and we work hard to safeguard the quality of the air around our operations. Excess dust from our operations could potentially cause issues such as breathing difficulties or eye irritation for our host communities and if not carefully managed could damage our social license to operate.

We follow IFC guidelines to monitor and manage air quality on and near our sites. This means we have monitoring stations that measure airborne dust levels both on site and throughout our local communities. These monitoring stations are checked weekly to assess airborne particulate counts. In accordance with IFC guidelines we aim to ensure airborne particulate levels are less than 500mg/m²/day.

During 2016, we also experienced problems with dust coming from the TSF at Morila, and we have worked extensively with the community to apply mulch to the TSF to suppress the dust and are also working with our Malian contractor EGTF to develop viable long-term solutions. Our biggest source of dust is that kicked up by vehicles travelling on or around our mines and we spend about \$1 million each year in efforts to combat it (see case study above).

Our other impact on air quality is through the generation of nitrogen oxides (NO_x / NO₂) and sulphur oxides (SO_x / SO₂), which emanate from the thermal power generators powering our sites. We strive to keep these below IFC guidelines for small thermal power plants.

During 2016 we began to formalise the process of measuring our NO_x and SO_x emissions across the group. At the time of writing this showed that NO_x emissions at our Loulo-Gouankoto complex were 22.6mg/m³ with 0.12 mg/m³ SO_x. At Tongon we measured 0.12mg/m³ NO_x and trace SO_x emissions. These results will form part of a baseline measure and we plan to report on levels of NO_x and SO_x emitted for all our mines in next year's sustainability report.

Plans and priorities for 2017

Several priorities next year will be based around our energy and emissions goals. Work to produce a more detailed carbon footprint that includes scope 3 emissions will be published and provide a baseline on which we can work with suppliers to help drive down their emissions. We will also work to improve the amount of power that comes from clean energy sources by bringing two new hydropower stations online in the DRC, Ambarau and Azambi.

Our water recycling rate will be a focus, following disappointing results this year, as will continuing the positive trends of drawing less freshwater from rivers in areas of water stress and to discharge less abstracted groundwater.

Our exciting biodiversity offset plans will continue in 2017 as we hope to finalise potential partnerships with the Comoe National Park in Côte d'Ivoire and Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal. We will also work with scientists and experts to develop a framework to quantify the extractive industry offset initiatives.

FIGURE 33: TOOLS FOR MAINTAINING AIR QUALITY

