Invested in Madagascar 2020
Rio Tinto in Madagascar

Rio Tinto QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) is located on the south-eastern tip of Madagascar, near the city of Fort Dauphin. QMM is 80% owned by Rio Tinto and 20% owned by the Government of Madagascar. QMM began exploration of the Anosy region in the late 1980s and eventually discovered mineral deposits equalling 6,000 hectares of ilmenite. From the beginning, our work in Madagascar has centered around environmental conservation, sustainability, and longevity. Using a community first focus, we endeavour to build a mutually beneficial enterprise based on global standards.

Over the last 10 years we contributed to regional and national growth, infrastructure development, and improved livelihoods. All while meeting our objectives for the business and the community. Partnerships in Madagascar will continue to show positive impacts throughout the life of the mine.
I am proud to lead our business in Madagascar where we are contributing so much to the economy and the Malagasy people. We plan our business for the long term by helping to ensure that we play a positive role in the communities where we operate, as well as in wider society. We are proud to create innovative partnerships that help government and communities make the most of opportunities and reach sustainable development goals. We are pleased to be working in partnership with the Malagasy Government to respect the legacy and secure the future of the people of Madagascar together.”

Ny Fanja Rakotomalala
President Rio Tinto QMM
Our economic impact in Madagascar

$1 billion
Invested by QMM in Madagascar since the start of the project

$2.5m
Annual environmental and community investment

2,000
Employees

We support
150 businesses

97%
of the workforce is Malagasy

400,000
Trees planted as part of the rehabilitation to conserve areas for future generations

$350m
Invested in building shared infrastructure through public-private partnerships
- Roads
- Electricity
- Water
- Improved sanitation

All figures in US dollars.
People: national and local employment is our key focus

Our people
We employ 2,000 people.

More than 97% of the workforce are Malagasy and more than 80% are recruited locally in Fort Dauphin.

Sourcing locally
We have increased local procurement by 46% since 2016.

“Since working with QMM and CARA, I have learned about running a business that is focused on good governance and prioritizing performance. The knowledge and skills help me to lead and grow my business successfully. Beyond the professional training and experience, my work with QMM allows me to provide for quality education and a better future for my family.”

Christian Pierre Laha
Manager, Mamoasoa Enterprise

We support 150 Malagasy businesses
Mamoasoa is a local enterprise created in 2015. They were hired by Rio Tinto to focus on the site storage for waste and bioremediation. This business started with CARA (Business Centre for the Anosy Region) where they learned about management practices, governance, and performance. These skills enabled the Mamoasoa enterprise to succeed at Rio Tinto and grow their work there.
Pioneering minerals in Madagascar

We are extracting minerals in Madagascar sustainably, responsibly, and safely. By pioneering the use of innovative technology, we produce materials that are essential for human progress. QMM extracts ilmenite, zircon, and monazite along the coastlines of southeast Madagascar. The mined area is rehabilitated with fast-growing tree species using previously stored topsoil.

Tree nursery within the conservation zone.
Products that power your daily life
From electric vehicle batteries to smartphones and camera lenses, the minerals we produce are the building blocks for many everyday objects.

Ilmenite
Ilmenite has been used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries and in paint and plastics throughout the past 10 years of production.

Monazite
Monazite, originally a waste product, has been repurposed in our process to be used in the creation of camera lenses, smartphones, and EV batteries.

Zircon
Zircon, one of our by-products, has a significant role in the construction and production of ceramic tiles, television screens, and computer monitors.
Sustainably contributing to regional economic development

We provide subsidized electricity to nearly 80,000 residents in Fort Dauphin through our partnership with JIRAMA, the national electricity company. As part of continuous improvement, we are currently exploring renewable energy projects in the region.

We work with local businesses so they can grow to become important employers in their own right. QMM supports the Business Centre for the Anosy Region (CARA) who delivers business and entrepreneurial training to over 4,500 people. CARA also supported the direct creation of over 200 small businesses and currently has 145 active permanent members. Through these engagements, we support local community members to increase their skillsets.

We also work with 15 enterprises in the local communities of Ampasy Nahampoana and Mandromondromotra so that their 200+ employees can provide services to the mine. CARA assists these enterprises to better engage in business development, improve financial management, and improve their understanding of health, safety and environmental support.

The Rio Tinto CARA partnership supports organisations like the Lovasoa Mahavonjy weaver association
This collective of women use locally sourced materials that they hand dye and then weave into unique artisanal designs. Their products include rugs, placemats, baskets, and other decorative items.

MPAMIRA Association
We support local livelihood improvement through engagement with local farming and fishing associations. The MPAMIRA Association is a cultivator and supplier for Malagasy red pepper and local honey to private sector operators in Antananarivo. This business venture has increased the annual income of members by 200%, and 15 additional associations have since benefited from support.

Supporting fishermen
We support sustainable livelihoods through training on improved fishing techniques. These modernizations have helped fishermen to increase their profit from $3 to $15 per fisherman per day.
Rio Tinto is the very expression of the successful integration of a world-class industrial project in a regional economic structure by helping the region create its own value. Their investments provide jobs and training for skills and language development for local Malagasy.”

Jean-Luc Marquetoux
President, Chamber of Mines
Rehabilitating the land

Reforestation and rehabilitation is integral to running a safe and responsible business. Impact mitigation on biodiversity and ensured access and availability of natural resources for local communities is of very high importance to QMM.

Within the mining concession, we created three community protected areas.
  • These protected areas represent 2,095 hectares of littoral forest.
  • The local community is also committed to conserving these areas for future generations. QMM has rehabilitated and reforested 400,000 trees in the Mandena area since 2009 with fast-growing species.

These protected areas, which are managed by our communities who depend on the land for subsistence, contribute positively to the impact mitigation on biodiversity. QMM is committed to returning the land to the community in rich and fertile condition.

“QMM is a respectful collaborator with a focus on conservation, sustainability, and longevity. They have been active in every aspect of development from the beginning and have always sought inputs from all sides of civil society. As an NGO, we value their insights as a private sector entity committed to environmental conservation, education, and livelihood resilience. Pact strongly values our partnership with Rio Tinto.”

Mirana Rakotosamimanana
Country Manager, Pact, a nonprofit international development organization
Supporting Malagasy capability

Through the Rio Tinto Graduate Program, we support and provide world-class training to Malagasy recent graduates in different areas of the business to gain high level professional site experience. These graduates spend two years embedded in their areas of business, and have the opportunity to engage with other Rio Tinto graduates from around the world. Many of the graduates have remained with QMM and continue to develop their professional expertise within our business.

As a Graduate at QMM, I had the opportunity to gain practical and field experience outside the classroom while learning professional skills from leaders as mentors. I am proud to work for a company that is invested in the environment and our future as a country. I have now worked for Rio Tinto for seven years and have been recognised internally for my innovative ideas.”

Danielle Rojotiana
Process Development Advisor

I worked at QMM for nine years and have recently transferred to a global role with Rio Tinto. The company supported my professional growth as I progressed within QMM in different roles. Employees gain valuable skills and experiences across different sites and countries. I look forward to where RT might take me next on this exciting journey and will be contributing my learnings to the development of my home country Madagascar.”

Fernandez Bezafy
Operational Excellence Black Belt
Committed to future generations

Rio Tinto supports education and equity through our commitment to scholarship and educational development.

We are committed to education as a tool to improve livelihoods. Through the Rio Tinto Scholarship for Education (RISE) program, we partner with local schools and an NGO to improve the access and quality of education in the Anosy region. Since its inception, there have been a total of 2,500 youth involved in the RISE program from primary to university level. As of May 2018, there have been 100 university graduates who benefited from the RISE program.