

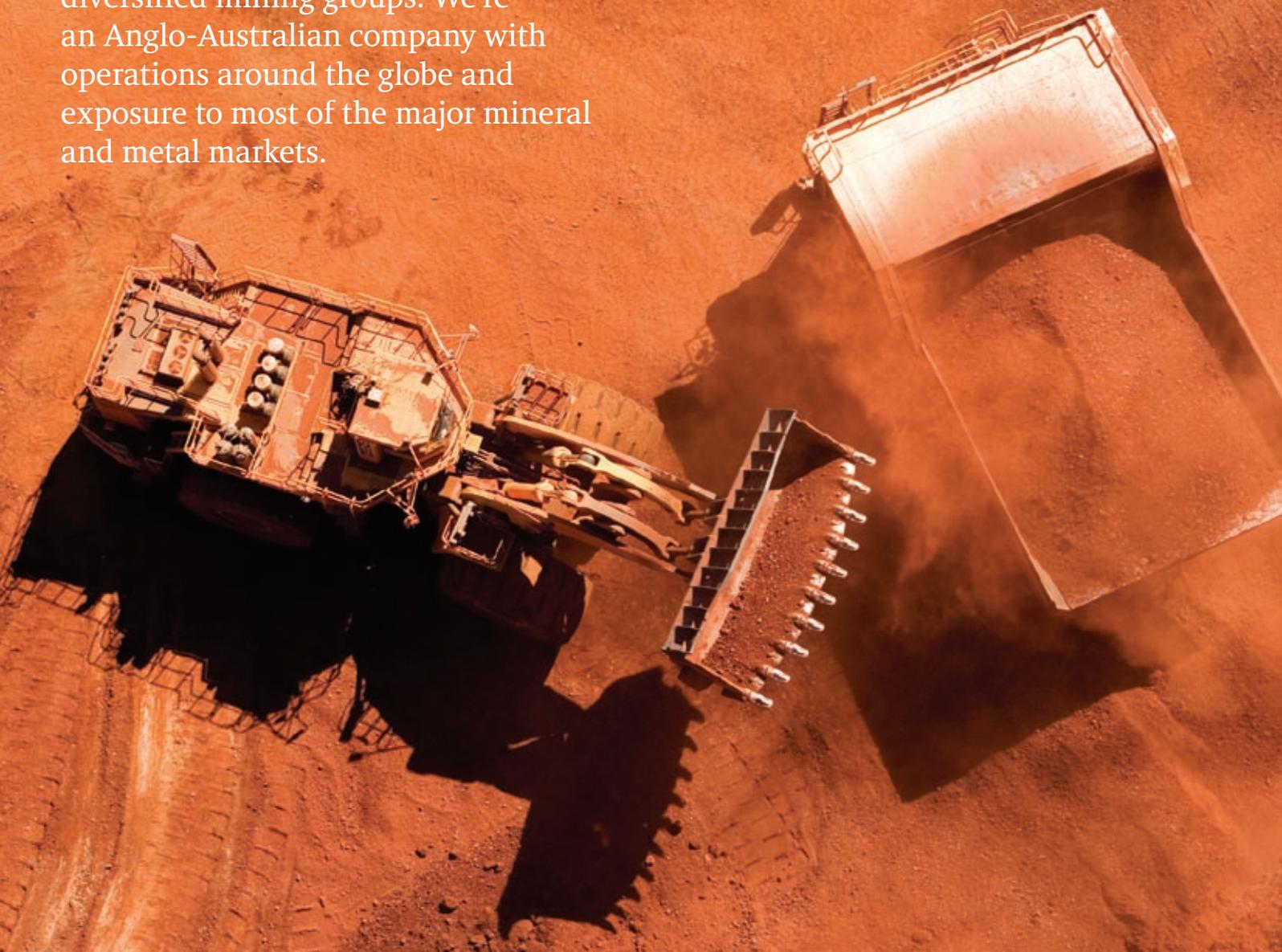
Rio Tinto

A world leader
Rio Tinto is a world leader in
mining. We aim to be one of
the world's most successful
businesses.
Africa



www.riotinto.com

Rio Tinto is one of the world's largest diversified mining groups. We're an Anglo-Australian company with operations around the globe and exposure to most of the major mineral and metal markets.



Rio Tinto Worldwide

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London listed public company headquartered in the UK, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, with executive offices in Melbourne. The two companies are joined in a dual listed companies structure as a single economic entity, called the Rio Tinto Group.

The Group finds, mines and processes the earth's mineral resources - metals and minerals essential for making thousands of everyday products that meet society's needs and contribute to improved living standards.

To deliver superior returns to shareholders over time, Rio Tinto takes a long term and responsible approach to the Group's business. This means concentrating on the development of first class orebodies into large, long life and efficient operations, capable of sustaining competitive advantage through business cycles.

The Group's major products include aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy products, gold, industrial minerals (borates, titanium dioxide, salt and talc), and iron ore. Its activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America. There are also significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Wherever Rio Tinto operates, health and safety is the first priority. Group businesses also put sustainable development at the heart of their operations. They work as closely as possible with host countries and communities, respecting their laws and customs. For Rio Tinto it is important that the environmental effects of its activities are kept to a minimum and that local communities benefit as much as possible from operations.

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Rio Tinto in Africa

Mines: South Africa, Namibia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe

Smelter: Cameroon

Projects: Guinea, Ghana and South Africa

Our operating assets on the African continent include:

- Palabora Mining Company, 58 per cent owned by Rio Tinto, embraces a copper mine, smelter and refinery complex in South Africa.
- Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), a mineral sands operation and smelter, also located in South Africa, is a 50 per cent Rio Tinto owned joint venture with BHP Billiton.
- Rössing Uranium mine in Namibia, 69 per cent owned by Rio Tinto.
- Murowa diamond mine in Zimbabwe is 78 per cent owned by Rio Tinto.
- QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) 80% owned by Rio Tinto and 20% owned by the Madagascar government, is located near Fort Dauphin in south east Madagascar and is the largest high grade mineral sands deposit in the world.

We also have an Iron Ore development project in Africa:

- The Simandou Iron Ore project is located in Guinea, West Africa.

Through the acquisition of Alcan in 2007, we have added growth opportunities to improve our portfolio of bauxite and alumina assets:

- Expansion and modernisation of the Edea smelter in Cameroon to create a large scale integrated aluminium facility (bauxite mine, alumina refinery and aluminium smelter).
- A mine and alumina refinery project in joint venture with the Republic of Ghana.

Expansion plans in Africa include:

- A greenfield bauxite mining project in Guinea.
- Potential development of a bauxite mine and alumina refinery in Madagascar.
- Coega aluminum smelter, a 720 thousand tonnes per year greenfield facility in South Africa.

In addition, exploration is an important part of Rio Tinto's business strategy. We are exploring for metals and minerals in a wide range of countries in Africa. In South Africa, we are

currently working with local partners to move the Chapudi coal project in Limpopo from exploration into development.

Local empowerment/Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment

Local, national or regional empowerment in the form of business partnerships, employment, training, procurement and business development are part of our operations and project strategies.

In South Africa, we are focusing on creating sustainable long term Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) deals that take into consideration key parties, such as the communities within which we mine, and employees. Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment deals are underway at both Richards Bay Minerals and Palabora Mining Company, empowering employees and local communities as well as our partners.

- The Chapudi Coal project has a BBBEE partnership in place that includes other opportunities in the Limpopo province in South Africa.
- QMM is a Rio Tinto mine in partnership with Government of Madagascar, which holds a 20 per cent shareholding in the company.
- 22 per cent of Murowa Diamonds in Zimbabwe is owned by the independently owned, Zimbabwean company, RioZim (in which Rio Tinto disinvested its interest in 2004). RioZim is registered on the Zimbabwean stock exchange.

We are striving to meet and exceed the employment targets set by the South African government, building a strong regional team of highly skilled and experienced Africans.

Our global procurement policies allow for increased regional, national and local empowerment activities to increase and assist in building local businesses as part of our sustainable development strategy. Our Procurement, Sustainable Development, Environmental and Operations teams are all working together to make this one of our success areas.

Safety

Our activities involve working with large, heavy equipment and with explosives and chemicals, sometimes at extreme temperatures. We also face normal industrial hazards such as driving vehicles, working at heights and operating machinery with dangerous moving parts. But despite all that, we believe that all injuries are preventable, and regard safety as a core value and a major priority. So while we have one of the best records in the industry, we have committed ourselves to creating an injury free workplace. This is one where everyone – employees, contractors and visitors alike – go home safe and healthy each day.

In 1998, we began a drive to improve our safety management. While we have made great progress and are still improving, we still have injuries and fatalities at our sites and incidents continue to occur that are of great concern. In 2006, we asked ourselves the question: “What else can we do to eliminate all injuries?” A starting point was to gather our employees’ opinions about our safety culture. This revealed that while we were good at developing and implementing systems, safety itself was widely seen as a business imperative rather than as a personal value.

As a result, we have now revised our safety strategy in line with these findings. We have moved from focusing solely on systems and instead, concentrate more on individual intentions and behaviour, while still ensuring our systems remain fit for purpose.

Our safety vision is that:

Together we will create an injury and illness free workplace where everyone goes home safe and healthy each day.



We realise the impact HIV/AIDS is having on our workforce, their families and on the communities in which we operate.

The impact of the epidemic is not confined to Africa, Rio Tinto's operations in India, Indonesia, and Eastern Europe are also seeing the prevalence of HIV increasing around them.

Rio Tinto acknowledges the important role that the mining industry has in trying to combat this epidemic and in response we developed an HIV/AIDS strategy in 2003 that was required to be implemented by all our sub Saharan operations. In 2006, the strategy was reviewed and updated to reflect the global impact of the epidemic, and in 2008, elements of the strategy were converted into our eleventh health performance standard, required to be implemented wherever HIV poses a significant risk. In 2009, management of HIV will be included in our business conformance audit programme, which we believe will further increase accountability and drive continuous improvement.

Our workplace response to HIV/AIDS is founded on the principles of non-discrimination and has four key components:

1. Prevention, awareness and education
2. Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT)
3. Wellness, counselling and treatment
4. Monitoring and evaluation

The leadership drive to ensure that all employees know their status continues. Importantly we aim to ensure that all employees and their nominated partner have affordable access to treatment, care and support, including anti retroviral medications (ARVs), through company sponsored medical aid programmes; this remains confidential between employee and treatment provider. Ultimately though, the success of our workplace programmes will be influenced by the ability of our surrounding communities to develop effective prevention and treatment responses to the HIV epidemic. We therefore support our communities to enhance their capacity to develop sustainable HIV programmes. This commitment was reflected

in the awarding of a commendation to Rio Tinto by the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in 2008 in the category of Expanded Community Initiatives.

On a broader scale, Rio Tinto acknowledges the enormous cost of supplying and supporting universal access to ARVs across developing countries and that in the long term, the development of a prophylactic (prevention) vaccine is required to defeat this epidemic. However, we believe that this is at least a decade away. In the meantime, Rio Tinto is a member of private sector initiative, supporting research into a therapeutic (for treatment as opposed to prevention) HIV/AIDS vaccine in South Africa. African countries have had great success in reducing disease burden through vaccination programmes and we believe that the development of a therapeutic vaccine is an important intermediate step to complement ARV roll out, whilst awaiting the development of a prophylactic vaccine. The first patient was enrolled in this trial in December 2008.

Sustainable development

Rio Tinto is committed to contributing to sustainable development.

Not just because it is the right, responsible and ethical approach to managing the earth's natural resources and to safeguarding the health of the planet for future generations, but because it also makes sound business sense.

By earning a good reputation for our care of the environment and contribution to social improvement and the economic conditions of local communities within a strong governance structure, we gain improved access to land, people and capital, the three critical resources on which our business success is built.

The key to Rio Tinto's global sustainable development strategy has been the creation of a sustainable development culture, similar to that already successfully in place for safety. Effective communication with our communities is an element of that culture, as are local recruitment, supply chain development, risk management and long term planning.



In an assessment completed in April 2008, Rio Tinto ranked among the top ten companies globally for ethical reputation across all industry sectors by the Covalence ethical quotation system of Switzerland.

A distinguishing feature of Rio Tinto's approach to sustainable development is that practical tools have been developed and are being applied at the local level, across Rio Tinto Group businesses. These tools are consistent with local priorities and the local context. This approach gives local meaning to Rio Tinto's global sustainable development efforts, leading to successful outcomes at local, national and international levels. In Africa, innovative programs have emerged to manage the social, environmental, and economic bottom lines of our operations. Rio Tinto's community relations policy states that: "We set out to build enduring relationships with our neighbours that are characterised by mutual respect, active partnership and long term commitment".

In Zimbabwe, this social policy was enacted when the need to resettle 141 families living in the Murowa mine plan resulted in the community being split between those remaining in Murowa, and those relocated to farmland in Shashe. The relocated families truly gained in obtaining improved homes, new schools, clinic and farming land as well as a spectrum of training to improve their agriculture. Rio Tinto's communities action plan, five years later, still covers both communities and will contribute to the sustainability of the resettlement scheme for a full 10 year period.

In Madagascar, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, Rio Tinto is piloting its 'net positive impact' policy for biodiversity. The QMM biodiversity team is made up of Malagasy biologists, botanists and forest engineers. Since 1998, they have been working with world renowned external specialists and NGOs, such as representatives from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Fauna & Flora International, BirdLife International, Hamburg and Sussex Universities and Missouri Botanical Garden, to establish biodiversity research and conservation field projects. From 2001, an independent biodiversity committee that includes some of the world's foremost experts has been

advising Rio Tinto in Madagascar on strategic and practical matters such as monitoring biodiversity, performance indicators and the establishment of biodiversity offsets at the site.

In South Africa, BBBEE is one of the pillars of economic sustainable development. Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has been leading the way since 2006:

- An internal, multi disciplinary Enterprise Development sub committee was established to identify and maximise procurement opportunities for BBBEE companies at RBM.
- RBM won the prestigious 2006 Mail & Guardian Investing in the Future Corporate Enterprise Development Award for public and private businesses, which contribute to the growth of the economy by facilitating the entry of entrepreneurs into the economy.
- In December 2008 RBM unveiled a black economic empowerment plan that will see 24% of the company being transferred to a group comprising local communities and black investors, and a further two percent being transferred to an employees' trust. The deal means that the company will be fully empowered in accordance with South Africa's Mining Industry Charter.

Zimbabwe, Madagascar, and South Africa are but three examples of the local application in Africa of Rio Tinto's ongoing and growing global commitment to sustainable development.

We strive to ensure that our commitment to sustainable development is embedded through all levels of our organisation from our Chief Executive and Chairman through to the day to day operations.

Exploration

Exploration is the process of finding new resources and is an important part of Rio Tinto's business strategy. The Group seeks to invest in large, long life, cost competitive mines with the investment decision driven by the quality of the opportunity, not the choice of commodity or location.

From many years of experience in Africa, we know that success is secured through proactive collaboration with our neighbouring communities, local government officials and other stakeholders.

As with all businesses in the Rio Tinto Group, we follow the principles outlined in The way we work. We never compromise our integrity in order to get something done. In return, what we are looking for when we invest includes:

- Jurisdictions with political and economic stability or with near term potential for this to develop.
- A regulatory framework that is transparent, internally consistent and not subject to political or criminal interference.
- Local partners who share our values and business principles.

Rio Tinto's work in the Limpopo Province, South Africa, is being carried out in partnership with Kwezi Mining, and Coal of Africa. Elsewhere in South Africa we are working with Afrocentric and Umthombo Resources on a number of exploration programmes, for various commodities. All our South African partners are BEE companies.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rio Tinto Exploration has early stage exploration work identifying and prioritising opportunities across a range of commodities.

Exploration recently completed an order of magnitude study in Mozambique (mineral sands).

Rio Tinto Exploration has a long-term commitment to finding the best new opportunities in Africa, and working with all stakeholders to realise the benefits these resources can bring.

Exploration manager Southern Africa

Jonte Beswick

Exploration manager new opportunities - Africa Europe

Keith Sims

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Palabora Mining Company

South Africa

Palabora Mining Company extracts and beneficiates copper and vermiculite from its operation in the Limpopo Province. The company, which is 58 per cent owned by Rio Tinto, was incorporated in South Africa in August 1956 and is South Africa's only copper mine. Mining commenced shortly after incorporation. Since then the open pit copper mine has produced more than 2.7 million tonnes of copper. During the early 1990s the company embarked on a series of feasibility studies on underground mining and by 1996, it announced that it would proceed with the development of an underground block caving mine with a production rate of 30,000 tonnes per day. In 2008, the company achieved a record daily hoist rate of 40, 744 tons per day on Sunday 16 November, with an overall average hoist rate for 2008 of 32, 586 tons per day.

The company owes its origins to the unique formation known as the Palabora Igneous Complex. No where else is copper known to occur in carbonatites, as is the case at Palabora and a host of other minerals such as phosphates, vermiculite, phlogopite, magnetite, uranium, zirconium, nickel, gold, silver platinum and palladium also occur. Copper has been mined on the site since the year 770, but it was not until 1912 that the late Dr Hans Merensky carried out a geological survey. Mining of phosphates began in the 1930's followed by vermiculite in

1946. Copper mining began in the mid 1950's with the first detailed prospecting and the first mining cuts were taken in 1964. The copper operation comprises an underground mine, a concentrator, a copper smelter with anode casting facilities and an associated acid plant, an electrolytic refinery tank house and a rod casting plant. The vermiculite operation comprises an open pit mine and recovery plant.

Palabora has always aspired to being an employer of choice for the area and as such has strived to implement best practice initiatives to drive the attraction and retention of talent, employment equity and the development of its staff, particularly historically disadvantaged South Africans. The development of talent from within strategy is an integrated one where talent is sourced from local schools and through development programmes hosted by the Palabora Foundation. A variety of capability development programmes such as graduate learning and trades training programmes augment the further development of all employees and also supplement the recruitment process of external talent in an ever shrinking market. In an overall strategy of attracting, developing and retaining talent, comprehensive incentive policies are aimed at providing job security, progression opportunities and home ownership close to the operation. This includes an employee value proposition, introduced during 2008 which drastically reduced key talent turnover. The value proposition focuses on challenging work and career opportunities, advancement in the group, structured development programmes and the unique qualities of Phalaborwa town and its surrounds.

The challenge of meeting the HIV/Aids pandemic with meaningful and effective measures warrants a high priority in business processes. Agreements on how to collectively combat the disease are in place with unions and include continuous education, awareness programmes and training interventions being in place. A steering committee comprising of all stakeholders governs the on and off site activities as well as a representative group of peer group educators.

With the Kruger National Park as a neighbour, Palabora has always been sensitive to the environmental impact of the mining and beneficiation operations on the surrounds and local communities. A policy of bettering legislated maximum effluent levels and emissions has ensured that wild life abounds on the mine property with “friendly” confrontations

between miner and beast being almost the order of the day. Stringent safety and occupational health rules and policies has made the company one of the safest mining companies in the world and also assures that employees leave the business with minimal chances of having contracted an occupational disease.

Palabora is committed to Black Economic Empowerment and in 2007, 45 per cent of the mine’s procurement budget was spent with BEE suppliers. The Palabora Foundation is the sustainable development arm of Palabora and was established in 1986 to assist local communities to be self reliant. This is achieved through working with communities in education, skills development training, business development, community health, local economic development, tourism facilitation and small scale economic development projects. In 2006, the Foundation was awarded two awards, the Nedbank Capital Green Mining Award and the SABC/Sowetan/Old Mutual Community Builder of the Year Award for the responsible manner in which it manages its activities. The Foundation is committed to the development of communities in the region and to celebrate its 20th anniversary it has embarked on a series of expanded community projects amounting to twenty million rand.

Managing director

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Chief financial officer

Charles Asubonten

General manager human resources

Percy McCallum

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Richards Bay Minerals

South Africa

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), a 50 per cent joint venture with BHP Billiton, is a leading producer of titanium minerals, high purity iron and zircon. RBM was formed in 1976 to mine and process the heavy minerals ilmenite, rutile and zircon, found in the coastal sands of northern KwaZulu Natal. RBM not only supplies most of South Africa's needs of these minerals but also exports the remaining products across the globe.

RBM is one of the largest sand mining and mineral processing operations in South Africa. RBM has had a vast influence on the economy of KwaZulu Natal, the province in which it is located. Production output contributes significantly to South Africa's gross domestic product. It also has a dune rehabilitation programme which has been widely acclaimed.

Employing over 1,700 permanent staff and about 2,200 contractors at any given time, RBM has also impacted positively on the quality of life of thousands of families within the outlying areas. The surrounding communities have benefited from RBM's acclaimed social investment programme, which focuses on job creation, education, health care, community, safety and agricultural development, enabling many thousands of people to enjoy a better life.

At the outset of its operations, RBM realised that the mining would impact on the environment. The company was one of the first in the country to employ a full time ecologist to manage a dune rehabilitation programme. The aim of this programme is to restore the dunes to a condition similar to before mining took place. Over the years, RBM has received worldwide recognition for its achievements in this field and the forests being rehabilitated have become a living laboratory for the study of ecological succession. More than 35 scientific studies have been conducted on the dunes, not only providing valuable information for scientists but also helping in the ongoing management of the programme.

For industrial minerals there are many complex cycles of beneficiation between the ore and the final user, and much of the technology used is proprietary. At RBM, after mining and mineral separation, the raw materials ilmenite and standard zircon are beneficiated.

Ilmenite is roasted and smelted to produce titania slag and pig iron. The titania slag is then sold to chemical industries for the production of titania pigment and paint; the iron is used in foundries, engineering and industrial processes.

Standard zircon undergoes chemical and thermal treatment to produce beneficiated zircon before being sold to end users in the foundry, refractory and tile making industries.

Rutile is used in the manufacture of titanium metal and is ideal for use in artificial hips, heart pacemakers and spectacle frames.

Managing director

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Rössing Uranium Namibia

Rössing Uranium Limited is a major player in the Namibian mining industry. The large open pit mining operation is situated 65km inland from the coastal town of Swakopmund in the Namib Desert and has been in operation for more than 30 years, since 1976. Rio Tinto owns 69 per cent of the mine from which the primary product is uranium oxide, extracted from tough granite known as Alaskite.



Rössing is a significant and growing long term supplier of uranium to the world's nuclear power industry. Current Namibian output makes up about 7 per cent of the world production of primary produced uranium.

The mine supplies uranium oxide to the nuclear power utilities in Europe, North America and South East Asia.

The nuclear power industry is growing, and is being recognised as a clean, efficient, carbon free source of power, which can assist in reducing global warming.

With a positive market outlook where uranium continues to perform well amongst other commodities because of the realisation of the importance of secure and low emission energy, Rössing is upbeat about the future.

Rössing has an untapped growth opportunity. The mine is well positioned to capture future opportunities, thus gearing itself for production growth and expansion options. The company's growth path is evident from a milestone production of just more than 4, 000 tonnes of uranium oxide in 2008, the first time this volume has been reached in the past 22 years.

Proposed expansion projects include the SK4 pit extension and the heap leach project. Innovation and technology drive growth... A number of initiatives are being investigated and implemented in the mining and processing areas.

The mine's operating life is extended to 2021 with the potential for further extension to 2027 and beyond. In addition there are extensive exploration drilling programmes in the mining grant outside the current open pit, which are targeted at raising the potential to support longer life and production increases significantly.

Safety is of utmost importance – towards the end of 2008 a new record of 2.9 million hours without a Lost Time Injury was achieved.

The company continues to invest in its human capital to support the expansionary mode and the health and safety of employees, and environmental sustainability remains important for Rössing. The mine holds ISO 14001:2004 certification.

The mine has a current approved manpower plan of 1,500

employees of which 98% are Namibians.

The Company has training and development programmes to address skills shortage to support expansion projects and the total investment in human capital development in the past years is in excess of N\$24 million.

Rössing remains a responsible corporate citizen with corporate social responsibility programmes extending into the work of the Rössing Foundation, providing support in the fields of the environment, education, health and recreation for the past 30 years. The Foundation operates in Arandis, a town close to the mine, with the primary objective of promoting sustainable development through training, education and enterprise development. A recent success for the Foundation is the implementation of a Master Maths Programme to assist school children in line with the Namibian education syllabus.

Over the years thousands of Namibians have been trained through skills training programmes in various fields situated at Rössing Foundation adult education training centres.

In 2007 alone Rössing contributed more than N\$48 million to the Rössing Foundation and the target for 2008 is more than N\$65 million.

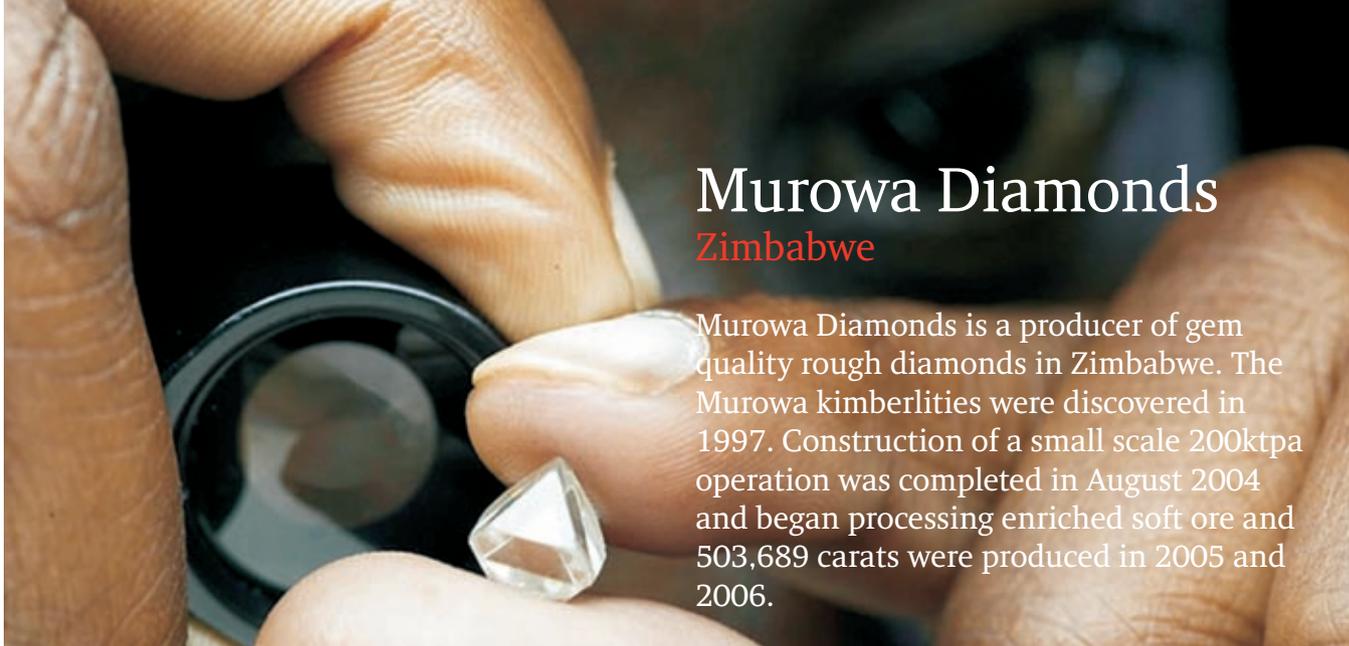
In support of growth opportunities for the uranium mining industry in Namibia, Rössing Uranium was instrumental in establishing the Uranium Stewardship Committee under the banner of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia, focusing on minimum standards in health, safety and environmental practises in the uranium mining industry. It represents over 90% of new uranium mines and exploration companies.

Rössing Uranium continues to play a role in national development while at the same time unlocking shareholder value.

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Murowa Diamonds

Zimbabwe

Murowa Diamonds is a producer of gem quality rough diamonds in Zimbabwe. The Murowa kimberlities were discovered in 1997. Construction of a small scale 200ktpa operation was completed in August 2004 and began processing enriched soft ore and 503,689 carats were produced in 2005 and 2006.

In 2007 Murowa Diamonds commissioned an extension to their plant that involved installing crushing capacity and an additional Dense Media Separator (DMS). This enabled the throughput and crushing of harder rock which had previously been stockpiled. The processing rate increased to 0.5Mtpa

A further US\$4million was spent in 2008 in order to equip the operations to handle unweathered harder ore. This saw the installation of a new crushing and screening plant. The additional equipment will enable Murowa Diamonds to sustain production at current levels.

The operation and Harare based head office employ 300 people including contractors while 80 local employees are on short term contracts at any one time. Murowa Diamonds provides training and development programmes for both contractors and permanent employees at all levels.

Murowa Diamonds is committed to the safety of its employees, contractors and the community. ISO14001 environmental certification was achieved in December 2007. Murowa delivers community programs into the Murowa ward and the Shashe area (where 141 families were successfully resettled). In total about 9,000 people are positively impacted by Murowa Diamonds Sustainable Development programs which focus on education, community health and HIV/AIDS, agriculture, water resource development and business development.

Feasibility studies for a 2Mtpa mine and processing plant were completed in 2007 and significant overseas financing will be required to enable the project to proceed. A stable fiscal and legislative regime is therefore a prerequisite to this investment proceeding. The expansion project will not only provide much needed injection of foreign capital but will also provide for additional job creation. The proposal as it currently stands will lead to increased local ownership of Zimbabweans in the business, greater support to the establishment of a local beneficiation industry and greater benefits to local communities.

Rio Tinto owns 77.8 per cent of Murowa Diamonds, the other 22.2 per cent being held by the independent Zimbabwean company, RioZim (in which Rio Tinto disinvested its interest in 2004). RioZim is listed on the Zimbabwean stock exchange.

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QIT Madagascar Minerals

Madagascar

QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) is a Rio Tinto mine in partnership with the Government of Madagascar. Rio Tinto has an 80 per cent shareholding, and 20 per cent is owned by OMNIS, representing the government.

First production at QMM began in late 2008, with an expected mine life of more than 40 years. The mine will initially produce 750,000 tonnes of ilmenite annually. Expansion options to 1.5 million tonnes and 2.25 million tonnes annually are under management consideration.

The ilmenite mine will be located in the Anosy region of south eastern Madagascar and will consist of three separate deposits (Mandena, Petriky and Sainte Luce).

As part of the required infrastructure and as the company's contribution to the region's economic development, QMM is building a public/private deepwater port on the Ehoala Peninsula, near the town of Fort Dauphin. The mine will be a primary and priority customer for the port, establishing it as an important regional facility, as well as providing a steady flow of business and direct/indirect employment opportunities for the local population.

In order to ensure that the local population and communities benefit from the project, QMM has established social and economic programmes that increasingly contribute to improving living standards. To achieve and monitor local living standards, the Community Relations team at QMM is also working in partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders.

Social initiatives revolve primarily around the improvement of the health, safety and livelihoods of communities surrounding the project in the Fort Dauphin area. Financial and social



specialist support is also provided for a variety of programmes including HIV/AIDS/STD prevention programme; education, training and support as well as participation in regional economic development initiatives.

Managing director

Gary O'Brien

Communications director

Daniel Andriamanjaka

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Simandou iron ore Guinea

Simandou is a world-class iron ore exploration and mining project located in Guinea's Guinée Forestière and Haute Guinée regions. The project is in the final stages of feasibility studies. Rio Tinto expects to commence construction of the mine and related rail and port infrastructures in 2010 and to begin mining operations in 2013. Rio Tinto has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), which holds a five percent stake in the Simandou project.

Rio Tinto has already spent over US\$450 million on exploration and evaluation work necessary to develop a world class mine at Simandou. This work enabled the company to present an initial Feasibility Report to the Guinean Government detailing its findings related to mine, rail and port studies.

Our exploration and development efforts are focused on our 738 km² Simandou mining concession area. In December 2008, Rio Tinto had drilled 218,000m of core on over 1200 sites throughout the entirety of the Concession. In 2008, the project employed 1800 people directly and indirectly and during operational stages could create 4500 direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs.

Rio Tinto spending includes over US\$40 million on public infrastructure projects and studies that contribute to community development and environmental quality in Guinea. This includes roads, an airport, schools and community centers and multiple education programs related to adult literacy and HIV awareness. We have also conducted extensive social and environmental baseline studies that are aimed at minimizing the impacts of our current and future operations.

Building its experience around the world, Rio Tinto is working closely with the government and international agencies to ensure that the development of Simandou is planned and executed in a manner that will maximise the benefits to local communities and to the country, incorporating the very



highest standards of environmental practice. Other partnering organisations include: Fauna & Flora International, the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and the Centre for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS).

President and managing director

Dave Smith

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Rio Tinto Alcan in Africa



The US\$38.1 billion acquisition of Alcan in the last quarter of 2007 means that Rio Tinto now has strategic strength in three commodities – iron ore, copper and aluminium.

With Alcan's integration into Rio Tinto Aluminium to form Rio Tinto Alcan, the much enlarged product group became the global sector leader in aluminium, and presents an opportunity to build an even stronger global aluminium business through profitable and sustainable growth. The company has an excellent pipeline of new projects, combined with the world leading and ever evolving AP technology. The outlook for aluminium remains strong.

Rio Tinto Alcan is a global supplier of bauxite, alumina and primary aluminium metal to domestic and export markets.

The company recognises that its corporate and ethical business responsibilities include investing in the communities it serves to enhance their economic, environmental and social well-being. Just as its operations contribute to the quality of life in its host communities, part of Rio Tinto's long term success has been due to excellence in community support for its operations, products and services.

Rio Tinto Alcan's African projects include growth opportunities to improve our portfolio of bauxite and alumina assets:

- Expansion and modernisation of the Edea smelter in Cameroon, to create a large scale integrated aluminium facility (bauxite mine, alumina refinery and aluminium smelter).
- A mine and alumina refinery project in joint venture with the Republic of Ghana.

Expansion plans include:

- A greenfield bauxite mining project in Guinea.
- Potential development of a bauxite mine and alumina refinery in Madagascar.
- Coega aluminum smelter, a 720 thousand tonnes per year greenfield facility.

Coega Smelter - South Africa

The Coega Aluminium Smelter is to be located in the Coega Industrial Development Zone, 20km east of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

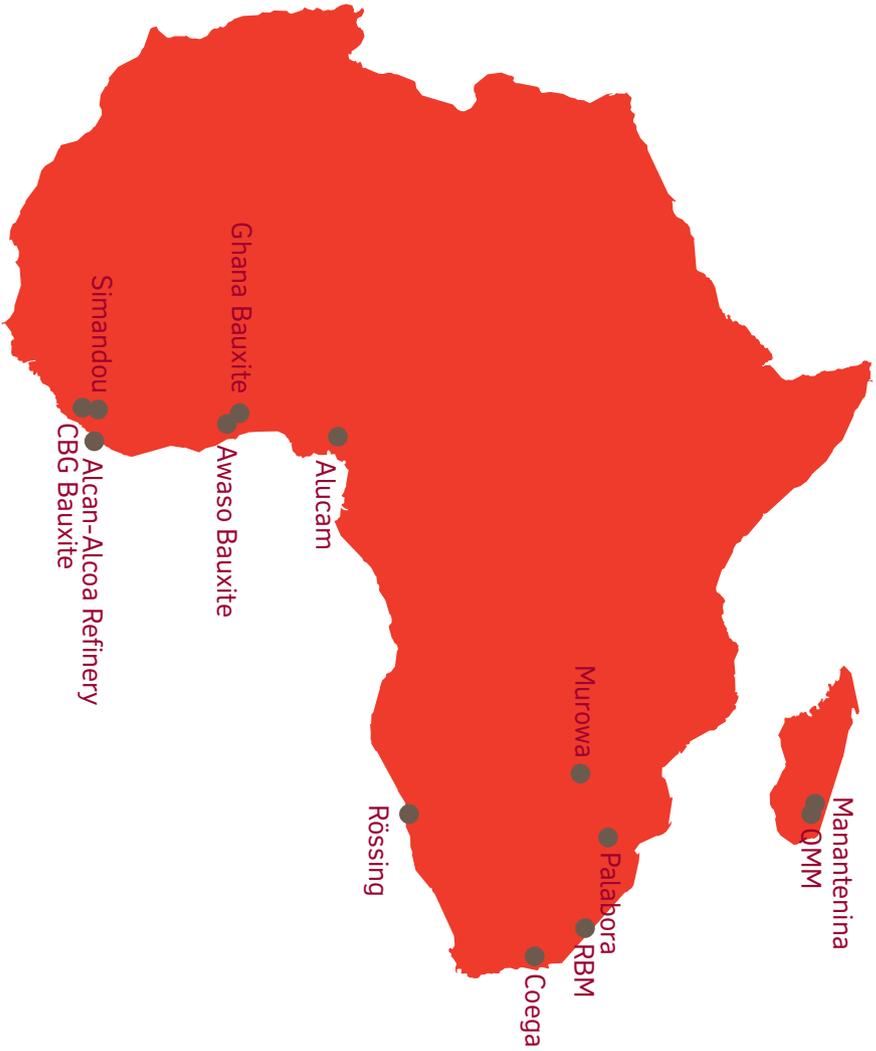
The proposed smelter is a key element of Rio Tinto Alcan's strategy, to continue to meet projected long term increases in global demand for aluminium. The Smelter is a two potline 720 thousand tonnes per year greenfield smelter.

A task team comprising of Rio Tinto Alcan, Eskom and the government is to align the energy requirements of the smelter with the future planned availability of energy in South Africa.

Vice President - Africa, RTA business development
Guy Larin

Website addresses

www.riotinto.com and www.riotintoalcan.com



Operations and projects in Africa

Rio Tinto has a long history in Africa

Mines

- 1964 Palabora Mining Company Ltd, RSA (58%)
- 1976 Rössing Uranium Ltd, Namibia (69%)
- 1977 Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), RSA (50%)
- 2004 Murowa Diamonds (Private) Limited, Zimbabwe (78%)
- QIT Madagascar Minerals, Madagascar (80%)

2007 Acquisitions

- CBG Bauxite, Guinea (23%)
- Awaso Bauxite, Ghana (80%)
- Alucam, Cameroon (47%)

Development Projects

- Simandou iron ore, Guinea (95%)
- Coega smelter, RSA (80%)
- Alcan-Alcoa Refinery, Guinea
- Ghana Bauxite, Ghana
- Manantenina bauxite mine & refinery, Madagascar



Rio Tinto Management Services Johannesburg

Rio Tinto's administrative head office for Africa is located in Johannesburg, South Africa. It houses the region's support groups for Information Systems & Technology; Aligning Business Systems; Procurement; Tax; Communications & External Relations; Human Resources; Commercial groups and Exploration.

Vice President communications and external relations Africa

Jean Chawapiwa-Pama

General manager shared resources

Phil Monare

To learn more about Rio Tinto visit:

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Richards Bay Minerals (RBM)

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Rössing Uranium

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Murowa Diamonds

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