

ArcelorMittals OECD Statement about the East Nimba Nature Reserve

ArcelorMittal Liberia was granted a concession to mine iron ore in Nimba County, Liberia, under the terms of a 25-year Minerals Development Agreement signed between the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal in 2005. The concession area includes the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR), an important territory that requires active conservation in order to preserve its rich flora and fauna.

ArcelorMittal is committed to the conservation of the ENNR which has been a key part of the company's Biodiversity Conservation Programme (BCP) for the last two years. The region's biodiversity has been mapped and its importance as a global hotspot proved through in-depth botanical studies. ArcelorMittal Liberia has also entered into a memorandum of understanding with Liberia's Forest Development Authority and the neighbouring community forest management bodies. The company has held extensive negotiations with the Co-Management Committee of the ENNR and now has a commitment that the ENNR management will drop their claims for access to the forest for harvesting on the condition that ArcelorMittal and its conservation partners prove that conservation is a viable alternative livelihoods strategy within five years. ArcelorMittal Liberia intends to do this under its current BCP and the offset programme that is expected to be part of its Phase II project which will then support its conservation programme until at least 2034."