

Summary of analysis ¹

Proposed Akyem mine and Environmental Impact Statement

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EARTHWORKS, FIAN and WACAM

Expert reviews of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Newmont Mining Corporation's proposed Akyem mine caution that the mine would have serious impacts and that the DEIS is inadequate.

Impacts of concern include:

- destruction of approximately 140 ha of semi-deciduous tropical forest and associated ecosystem functions;
- destruction of approximately 70 ha of forest in the protected Ajenjua Bepo Forest Reserve (ABFR), or about one quarter of forest remaining in the Reserve, and threaten the integrity of the protected area network;
- destruction of about three quarters of forest patches between the nearest borders of ABFR and the Mamang River Forest Reserve;
- destruction of known or presumed habitat for at least 15 Vulnerable and one Endangered species of plant;
- destruction of known or presumed habitat of at least two Endangered species, two Vulnerable species, and many Near Threatened species of vertebrates;
- likelihood of increased hunting and indirect habitat destruction of species of conservation concern;
- risks of acid mine drainage and toxic metals contamination from waste materials totaling 15 million tonnes;
- cyanide contamination concerns from inadequately treated cyanide effluents and inadequate liner for tailings facility; and
- social concerns including displacement of over 1,000 people, impacts on local livelihoods, and destruction or removal of at least 18 sacred or heritage sites including royal burial sites.

¹ Full text of reviews available at <http://www.nodirtygold.org/akyemtech.cfm>

The DEIS, among other problems, fails to:

- consider all feasible alternatives that would minimize biodiversity impacts, including mining outside of forest areas or outside of Forest Reserves;
- adequately and accurately assess the impacts of the project on ecosystem functions, habitat and forest cover, and species of conservation concern;
- present adequate plans for managing, monitoring, and mitigating biodiversity threats;
- demonstrate adequate sampling for acid-generation potential of ore and waste;
- present adequate plans for lining the tailings facility and destroying cyanide;
- present adequate plans for limiting erosion of overburden; and
- present adequate plans for mine reclamation bonding, reclamation, and resumption of agricultural activities