

Timeline of the Antsotso Accompaniment 2017-2018

July 2017: TAZ accompany the community to provide independent legal witness during a visit of Rio Tinto's Ethics and Integrity Unit. This visit related to questions arising from exchanges between QMM staff and Antsotso representatives who went to attend a meeting with QMM in Ft Dauphin in May 2017 (Separate report to follow).

August 2017: Antsotso learn more about TAZ and decide they want more assistance from them. **93 people attend meeting.** MOU is set up between ALT and TAZ and funds transferred. TAZ and a local communications expert provide orientation to strengthen the community's rights and skills around managing meetings with external visitors, e.g. QMM/Rio Tinto representatives. **28 Community members participate.**

September 2017: TAZ deliver full training to the community on the UN Charter of Human Rights and answer questions about rights, land laws and the responsibilities of foreign companies. **135 people trained.**

October TAZ accompany the community, record and observe proceedings during a normal visit from the National Environment Office (ONE). Representatives of ONE declare the offset site falls under state a conservation programme and is a decision of the Malagasy government, not QMM, so no compensation will be provided by the mining company for loss of land and forest access. The community raise issues including the lack of a demarcated 'zone d'utilisation' (user zone for villagers). They also raise complaints about Asity and explain the challenges they now face around food security and livelihoods. **343 people attend.**

November TAZ accompany the community through a meeting with QMM. The QMM team reinforces the message from the National Environment Office (ONE) that no compensation will be forthcoming as this only applies to those directly affected by the mine e.g. from displacement. The community struggle to understand how foreigners can take over and use their forest without permissions and not compensate for it. They have been promised projects but these have not materialized. They see QMM as a source of conflict in their community, for example in the COBA (the local community forest management committee). There was no immediate consensus and another meeting would need to take place. **84 villagers attend.**

November TAZ and a local consultant accompany the community to work on their solutions in order to prepare for the next meeting with QMM. There are differing ideas about how to resolve the situation. A workshop space is created to help identify the problems and possible solutions. A table is created with solutions proposed by the community to form the basis of a list of demands for QMM and others to provide supports to Antsotso. There remained internal differences within the community that required resolution through traditional process in order to validate the demands. **76 villagers attend. 41 participated in participatory workshop.**

December Community representatives meet with TAZ and the local consultant to discuss next steps and ask for assistance in preparing documents. A strategy is discussed including finalization of the communal development plan (PCD), formalising the resolution process at community level for the list of demands, and the advance of requests to national and international agencies to respond to the food security challenges in Antsotso.

January Community representatives meet with TAZ and share a signed resolution process from Antsotso. The following week TAZ accompany the community for the next meeting with QMM. The community hands over its list of demands to QMM. Approx. **50 people attend.** QMM offer some livelihoods projects and seek collaboration. It is not certain that all the community is in agreement about working with QMM. Dialogue is ongoing.