

PRACTICAL GUIDE · MINING NEWS

Simandou Mining Summit 2026: what to take from the first Conakry summit

One year after the launch of Simandou, Conakry hosted the first Simandou Mining Summit from 11 to 14 November 2026: public authorities, mining operators, financiers and companies in the sector gathered around the Simandou 2040 programme. Here is what was said and what was presented, based on the organisers' documents and the press.

CONTENTS

01 The summit at a glance
02 Simandou and the Simandou 2040 programme
03 The messages of the opening
04 What was discussed
05 The projects presented to investors
06 Local content: the place of Guinean companies
07 What comes next
08 What we take from it for your projects
09 Sources

01 The summit at a glance

One year after the launch of Simandou on 11 November 2025, Guinea brought together in Conakry the people behind its mines, infrastructure and energy projects for the first edition of the Simandou Mining Summit, from 11 to 14 November 2026.

- Organisers: the Simandou Strategic Committee, with the Ministry of Mines and Geology and the Guinea Development Board (GDB), according to the organisers' release of 31 October 2026.
- Format: invitation-only opening on 11 November on Kassa island, conferences and business meetings on 12 and 13 November in Conakry, site visits scheduled for 14 November.
- Theme: the mining industry as a driver of economic diversification, in the era of the Simandou 2040 programme.
- Attendance: 2,240 participants from 41 countries and 101 sponsors, exhibitors and partners, according to the organisers' closing statement as reported by Guinéenews, Guinéematin and Financial Afrik. Before the opening, the organisers had announced more than 1,000 delegates.

> The conferences and business meetings ended on Friday 13 November. The site visits on Saturday 14 November are by invitation; the reports we read do not name the sites.

02 Simandou and the Simandou 2040 programme

Simandou is an iron ore deposit in south-eastern Guinea, divided into four blocks: two are held by Baowu Winning Consortium Simandou, two by Simfer, which brings together the State of Guinea,

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Rio Tinto and a group led by Chinalco. At full capacity, expected output is 120 million tonnes a year, according to Bloomberg, republished by Mining.com in June 2026.

The start of operations was celebrated on 11 November 2025, and Simfer announced its first shipment from the port of Morébaya on 3 December 2025. The ore reaches the coast on a railway of more than 600 km, according to the organisers' documents. According to Agence Ecofin, 19.3 million tonnes had been shipped by 18 October 2026.

Simandou 2040 is the development programme the State has built on this project. The summit's spokesperson, quoted by Guinéenews, describes it as about 200 billion US dollars over fifteen years, 122 projects, 36 reforms and five pillars. The Director General of the GDB, Namory Camara, speaks of a first phase of about 65 billion dollars between 2025 and 2030, 40% of it expected from the private sector, with 2030 targets of 4,000 MW and 850 km of motorways (Guinéenews, 13 November).

03 The messages of the opening

The summit was opened on 11 November on Kassa island by the President of the Republic, Mamadi Doumbouya, in the presence of Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah (Xinhua, 12 November). The Head of State argued for partnerships between equals rather than aid: « La Guinée ne tend pas sa main, elle ouvre ses bras » (Guinea is not holding out its hand, it is opening its arms), as reported by Guinée7.

- Processing at home: Guinea intends to process its ores in the country. The President cited a gold refinery inaugurated on 1 November and three alumina refineries under construction (Xinhua); a steelworks is to follow (Guinée7).
- Enforcing the rules: in the panel that followed, he said the rules would now be applied (Guinéenews, 11 November).
- Reporting back: he said he would follow the outcomes himself and report on them in two years (Guinée7).

On 12 November, Djiba Diakité, chair of the Simandou Strategic Committee, made three commitments: signed agreements will be applied, there will be visibility on rules and timelines, and training will go through the Simandou Academy. He said most of the revenue from Simandou would go to a sovereign fund and that the State would hold at least 15% of the railway, the ports and the future steelworks. His wish: that everyone leaves with a contact, a file and a follow-up (Guinéenews and Guinéematin, 12 and 13 November).

04 What was discussed

- Investing in Guinea: reforms, confidence and competitiveness, with among others Mariama Ciré Sylla for Economy and Finance and Karamo Kaba, Governor of the Central Bank (Mediaguinée). Priorities named: energy, transport, logistics corridors and industrial zones; the Investment Code is being revised, with no date announced (Guinéenews, 12 November).

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- Simandou, one year on: the Minister of Mines, Bouna Sylla, with executives from the project's operators. He said 20% of the taxes the State collects from Simandou would go to scholarships and 5% of each mine's taxes to education (Guinée7, 13 November).
- From mine to market: ports, freight, logistics and infrastructure, with the Minister of Infrastructure, Facinet Sylla, rail and port operators and financing institutions. Guinea said it was open to structures in which the contractor also brings the financing (EPC+F) or builds and operates the asset before handing it over to the State (BOT) (Guinée7, 13 November).
- Other themes, according to the closing statement: bauxite to alumina, the outlook for iron and gold, financing, energy and logistics, and the wider Simandou 2040 portfolio (industry, livestock, agro-industry, water, electricity, submarine cables).

05 The projects presented to investors

Presentation rooms, the Deal Rooms, brought together project owners, investors and lenders. According to the closing statement, reported by Guinéenews and Guinéematin, four priority projects were put forward, for 3.8 billion US dollars of investment. The organisers' Deal Book gives the detail.

- A bus rapid transit line (BRT) for Greater Conakry: 39.2 km, 51 stations, 361 million dollars.
- An urban rail line (HRT) for Greater Conakry: 35 km, 15 stations, 693 million dollars.
- The southern coastal road: 2.6 billion dollars.
- Two solar-plus-battery plants, at Dabola (70 MW, 81 million dollars) and Faranah (50 MW, 67 million dollars).

The Deal Book describes a fifth project, drinking water for several towns (1.49 billion dollars), bringing the total to more than 5 billion dollars.

> These are projects presented to investors, not financing secured, as Financial Afrik points out. Before the opening, the summit's spokesperson had said that confirmed agreements would be communicated after the event (Guinéenews, 10 November).

In the room, according to Guinéematin: the World Bank, the IFC, the Africa Finance Corporation and Bpifrance, along with investment funds and energy companies.

06 Local content: the place of Guinean companies

On 13 November, FONASEM, the national forum on mining subcontracting, was held on a stage dedicated to national companies. It was organised by BSTP with CPDM, a body under the Ministry of Mines, and with World Bank support: panels in the morning, scheduled meetings between companies and with the administration in the afternoon (official summit site and Ecofinance Guinée).

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Three agreements were announced there, according to Ecofinance Guinée: one between BSTP Guinea and BSTP Côte d'Ivoire, and two signed by FODIP, including a credit line of 400 billion Guinean francs with a bank.

07 What comes next

No date has been announced for a next edition. In an interview with Guinée7, the Director General of the GDB said an edition every two years would be a better fit, subject to the authorities' approval.

08 What we take from it for your projects

TransXpress, a Guinean company serving mining, infrastructure and energy, took part in the summit. Three points seem useful to any company that supplies or builds for these projects.

- Local processing calls for industrial equipment: refineries, a steelworks and plants mean machinery, heavy lift cargo and parts to bring in, clear through customs and deliver to site.
- The infrastructure and energy projects presented, if they go ahead, will need materials, machinery, solar panels and batteries, on sites spread across the country.
- Local content is now a stated expectation: Guinean companies able to keep their commitments have a place to take.

Supply, clear, move, lift, equip: that is our work, from the port of Conakry to the sites. Did we miss each other at the summit, or are you preparing a project linked to Simandou 2040? Write to us at info@transxpress.co.

09 Sources

This article is a summary drawn from public sources, read on 13 November 2026.

- Organisers: official Simandou Mining Summit site (simandouminingsummit.com), programme and Deal Book; releases of 6 August and 31 October 2026.
- Guinéenews: articles of 10, 11, 12 and 13 November 2026.
- Guinéematin: articles of 13 November 2026.
- Guinée7: articles of 11 and 13 November 2026.
- Financial Afrik: article of 13 November 2026.
- Mediaguinée: article of 13 November 2026.
- Ecofinance Guinée: articles of 13 November 2026.
- Xinhua: report of 12 November 2026.
- Agence Ecofin: article of 12 November 2026.
- Rio Tinto: release of 3 December 2025 on Simfer's first shipment.
- Bloomberg, republished by Mining.com: article of 3 June 2026.

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? Frequently asked questions

When and where was the first Simandou Mining Summit held?

From 11 to 14 November 2026 in Conakry: opening on the 11th on Kassa island, conferences and business meetings on the 12th and 13th, site visits scheduled for the 14th.

How many people attended the summit?

2,240 participants from 41 countries, with 101 sponsors, exhibitors and partners, according to the organisers' closing statement as reported by the Guinean press.

Which projects were presented to investors?

Four priority infrastructure and energy projects, worth 3.8 billion US dollars: a bus rapid transit line and an urban rail line for Greater Conakry, the southern coastal road and two solar plants with batteries. They are projects presented to investors, not financing secured.

Will there be a next edition?

No date has been announced. The Director General of the Guinea Development Board has mentioned an edition every two years, subject to the authorities' approval.

Information article written by TransXpress from public sources, as of 13 November 2026. The figures quoted are those of the organisers or the press; they have not been independently verified. This article is neither a quotation nor a commitment.

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WHATSAPP

+224 610 36 36 52

EMAIL

info@transxpress.co

OFFICE

Résidence Micheline, Camayenne, Dixinn, Conakry

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