

Classification and Environmental and Social Strategy (ESS) Rincon: Lithium Greenfield Project in Argentina (15258-01)

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1. Project Scope and Objective and IDB Invest Participation

The Rio Tinto Group (“the Sponsor”) and its subsidiary Rincón Mining Pty (“the Client” or “RT Rincón”) are developing lithium mining activities at the Salar de Rincón, Salta, Argentina (“the Project”). Wells will be installed in the salar and Catua alluvial fan to extract lithium brine and brackish water, processed via direct extraction (DLE) to obtain lithium carbonate. The project has a lifespan of 40 years, with two plants of 25 ktpa each, reaching a total of 50 ktpa¹. Stage 1 began in 2025 and will produce in 2028; Stage 2 will start in 2027 and produce in 2029. Project components include brine and brackish water extraction wells for industrial use, processing plants, a depleted brine disposal facility (“SBDF”), an industrial waste disposal facility (“FWSF”), two parallel 33 KV transmission lines, worker camp, airstrip, and auxiliary infrastructure. Funds from the financial operation will be used to finance the lithium carbonate production plant.

2. Classification and Environmental and Social Strategy

In accordance with BID Invest’s Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy, the Project has been classified as Category A since its activities have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental and social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented. Due to the project’s location in a dry and sensitive region of the Andes, the main environmental and social risk is associated with water-related impacts on the environment (fresh and brackish aquifers, lagoons, and wetlands, with corresponding impacts on high biodiversity values). Additionally, the project is located within the Los Andes Wildlife Reserve, characterized by wetlands, lagoons, and other water sources supporting charismatic birds and extremophile microbial ecosystems (EME), essential habitats for various restricted species. The habitat is natural according to IFC PS6 and critical for several herpetofauna and EME species. There are also three Indigenous Peoples Communities (IP) in the project’s area of influence.

Other expected environmental and social risks and impacts include: i) adequacy of environmental and social impact assessments, including cumulative impacts; ii) capacity and environmental and social management systems of the borrower and contractor; iii) effective management of community-related impacts and risks, stakeholder engagement, grievance redress, and communication during construction and operation; iv) labor conditions, including occupational health and safety (OHS) and gender-based violence (GBV) management during construction and operations; v) Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) per PS7; vi) potential impacts on livelihoods.

The Performance Standards (“PS”) likely to be triggered by the Project are: i) PS1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts; ii) PS2: Labor and working conditions; iii) PS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention; iv) PS4: Community health and safety; v) PS5: Land

acquisition and involuntary resettlement; vi) PS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources; vii) PS7: Indigenous Peoples..

The Environmental and Social Due Diligence (“ESDD”) of the Project will involve: i) a review of documents related to procedures, policies, and regulations of the Client, Sponsor, and government authorities, as well as complementary studies; ii) interviews with Client representatives, consultants hired for technical studies, community representatives, and local regulatory representatives; iii) site visit to the Project and its surroundings.

Once the ESDD process is completed, an Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) will be prepared and published on this website.

3. Additional Information

For questions about the Project please contact:

Name:	Alexandre Russo
Title:	Program Manager
Phone number:	+61 04 57527906
Email:	alexandre.russo@riotinto.com

For questions and comments to BID Invest, please contact:

Name:	BID Invest Communication Group
Email:	requestinformation@idbinvest.org

In addition, affected communities can access IDB Invest’s Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (ICIM) as follows:

Phone number:	+1 (202) 623-3952
Fax number:	+1 (202) 312-4057
Address:	1300 New York Ave. NW Washington, DC. USA. 20577
Email:	mecanismo@iadb.org or MICI@iadb.org