

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This document presents a proposal for an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for the Cameroon Portion of the Chad Export Project. The IPP intends to:

- Describe a process to address concerns that local Bakola Pygmies (and the Bantus upon whom the Bakola Pygmies have a historical interdependent relationship, within the Project's area of influence in the Atlantic Littoral Forest), do not suffer adverse effects due to the construction and operation of the Project; and,
- To provide Bakola Pygmies with opportunities to attain “culturally compatible social and economic benefits” (according to World Bank guidelines).

The Chad Export Project has developed a comprehensive environmental and social strategy to ensure that the Project is environmentally viable and meets Cameroonian laws and regulations as well as World Bank environmental policies and guidelines. In the Republic of Cameroon, the Project involves the installation of 890 km of underground pipe and associated facilities to transport crude oil from the Republic of Chad to a floating storage and off-loading vessel (Figure 1).

To minimize and mitigate environmental and socioeconomic impacts, the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project (See the “Reference Documents” portion of the Chad Export Project's environmental documentation) includes the following mitigation elements, which are described in separate attachments to the Summary EA. Examples include:

- Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- Compensation Plan (CCP)
- Induced Access Management Plan
- Oil Spill Response

These four plans address Project impacts related to the biophysical environment, compensation associated with land acquisition, and loss of use along the right-of-way. In addition to EA/EMP mitigation measures, this Indigenous Peoples Plan further supports mitigation of potential adverse impacts to the local Bakola Pygmy and Bantu communities within the Project's area of influence in the Atlantic Littoral Forest. One goal of this IPP is the provision of opportunities for advancing these communities' health, education, agriculture, and general welfare.

This IPP covers Bakola Pygmies and Bantu villagers in the rural Project area between Kribi and Lolodorf. However, the primary emphasis of the Plan is to address health, education, and

agricultural needs issues specific to an estimated 1,000 Bakola Pygmies living in the area. This is because:

- Of their sensitivity to the ecological environment and dependence on forest resources.
- Of their limited ability to enter into and participate in many aspects of mainstream Cameroonian life due to pre-existing socioeconomic prejudice based on their way-of-life and physical appearance.
- They experience higher rates of disease, which when coupled with poor access to health facilities, places them at higher risk than neighboring Bantu villagers.
- They have limited access to schooling; hence little formal schooling, and little motivation to seek it.
- Their agricultural production is poor, in part due to having little limited training in methods to promote even average yields and long-absences from settlements to hunt.

In addition, this IPP will address some health issues of Bantu groups living in the vicinity, with whom Bakola Pygmies share economic and social relations. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 Bantu living in the rural Project areas and in general, they have much greater access to education and agricultural improvement opportunities; hence the emphasis on health issues. Health issues are of particular importance in the area because:

- Lack of safe water supplies, limited sanitation training, and endemic diseases of the area have created strong demand for health care.
- Control of diseases must be made on a regional basis.

1.2 THE IPP AS PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The IPP is considered an integral part of the Project's overall environmental management process. As listed in Section 2.2 of this Plan, Bakola Pygmy consultation has been ongoing in the Project area since late 1997. During the Project's Centerline Survey (CLS) to establish the location of the pipeline easement, over 40 Pygmy settlements were visited. Compensation was also discussed and issues related to compensation of Bakola Pygmies are described in an appendix of the Compensation Plan. Specific Republic of Cameroon and COTCO responsibilities related to potential Project impacts in the region are set forth in the Project's Environmental Management Plan.

The measures described in this Plan are in addition to those described in other EMP documents. They are designed to mitigate any potential long-term indirect construction or operation-related impacts. Overall implementation of the IPP is expected to result in net long-term benefits to Bakola Pygmies in the Project area and the Bantu villagers with whom they are associated.

1.3 LOCATION OF THE BAKOLA IN OCEAN DEPARTMENT

There are three major groups of Pygmies in Cameroon (Baka, Bakola and Medzan). One group, the Bakola Pygmy, is located throughout southwestern Cameroon in an area covering about 12,000 sq. km (Figure 2). According to a census conducted in the mid-1980's, it is estimated there were somewhat less than 4,000 Bakola Pygmies at the time; the population size is probably now close to 4,500. The Project area is near the geographic center of settlements inventoried, and is inhabited by Bakola Pygmy and Bantus from a point just east of Kribi to 10 km north-east of Lolodorf following the Kribi-Bipindi-Lolodorf-Mvengue road.

All Bakola Pygmy settlements visited in 1997-1998 by Groupe d'Étude des Populations Forestières Équatoriales (GEPFE) in the Project area were permanently occupied, and almost all were already existing 15 to 20 years ago (census in 1982-1984, see Loung, 1987, 1996). Several have been known for over 30 years. Many of these villages feature large and old fruit trees (mango, avocado, and breadfruit) which illustrate the long occupation of these settlement sites.

Pipeline routing through any portion of southwestern Cameroon will result in potential impacts to Bakola Pygmy populations. The purpose of this Plan is to mitigate any potential adverse effects and provide assistance to these communities to implement programs to assist in meeting ongoing health, education, and agricultural assistance needs of these communities.

1.4 BAKOLA PYGMIES IN THE PROJECT AREA

Twenty-three Bakola Pygmy settlements of the minority Bakola (Bagyeli) ethnic group are located 2 km or less from the Cameroon Transportation System's easement. In addition, there are an additional 20 settlements whose primary access or egress is the Kribi-Bipindi-Lolodorf-Akongo road. An estimated 1,000 Bakola Pygmies live in these 43 settlements. All would benefit from this IPP. Locations of Bakola Pygmy settlements germane to this IPP are illustrated in Figure 3.

1.5 BAKOLA PYGMIES AS AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The organization and scope of this IPP follows the intent and requirements of World Bank Operational Directive 4.20 "Indigenous Peoples" (OD 4.20). OD 4.20 recognizes that no single definition encompasses or describes all indigenous peoples. OD 4.20 indicates that indigenous peoples may be identified by their presence in varying degrees based on characteristics listed in the following table. The Bakola Pygmies within the Project's area of influence in the Atlantic Littoral Forest exhibit most of these characteristics.

World Bank Characteristic	Bakola Pygmies
A close attachment to ancestral territories and to the natural resources in these areas.	Applicable to Bakola Pygmies.
Self-identification and identification by others as members of a distinct cultural group.	Bakola Pygmies view themselves, and are recognized by others, as a distinct cultural group.
An indigenous language, often different from the national language.	The Bakola language is close to the Kuassio language.
Presence of customary social and political institutions.	Some customary social and political institutions exist.
Primarily subsistence-oriented production.	Primarily a subsistence-oriented lifestyle, with agriculture gaining in importance.

In addition, the World Bank is considering an additional characteristic to identify indigenous peoples which applies well to Bakola Pygmies. The characteristic is "vulnerability to being disadvantaged as social groups in the development process" (*World Bank Policy on Indigenous Peoples, Approach Paper for Revision of OD 4.20*. (July 14, 1998).

This IPP also considers the interactions with Bantu communities within the applicable Project area. The Bakola and Bantu say they migrated together into the Atlantic Littoral Forest area in the 18th or 19th century, and they maintain a close association today. In this area the Bakola and the Kuassio (Ngumba and Mabea Bantu group) farmers speak closely related mutually comprehensible languages.

According to World Bank recommendations, specific actions towards agriculture and education will be proposed, if they wish, to Bakola Pygmies, because, compared to Bantus, Pygmies usually have poor access to services in these sectors. Concerning health aspects, it is clear that the IPP will encompass both Bakola Pygmy and related Bantu communities.

1.6 PROJECT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO BAKOLA PYGMIES

The following Chad Export Project documents address issues related to Bakola Pygmies.

Section on initial consultation with Bakola Pygmies.	<i>The Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project Environmental Assessment: Socioeconomic and Cultural Issues</i> . Institute for Development Anthropology, Binghamton, New York (1996).
Report on late 1996-1997 survey efforts to identify settlements.	<i>Survey of Pygmy Populations</i> . Groupe d'Étude des Populations Forestières Équatoriales, Paris (June 1997).
Summary of socioeconomic impacts, including Bakola Pygmies.	<i>Environmental Assessment, Chad Export Project: Cameroon Portion</i> , Dames & Moore, for COTCO/Esso Pipeline Company, Inc. (October 1997).
Specific Project actions to minimize/manage socioeconomic impacts, including Bakola Pygmies.	<i>Chad Export Project, Environmental Management Plan, Cameroon Portion</i> . Exxon Production Research Company, Houston (February 1998).

CHAD EXPORT PROJECT

Summary of consultation efforts in over 40 villages in 1997 and 1998.	<i>Pygmy Survey November 1997 - February 1998.</i> Groupe d'Étude des Populations Forestières Équatoriales, Paris (March 1998).
Summary of work-to-date and rerouting efforts around Bakola Pygmy villages.	<i>Draft Report on Bakola Pygmy Populations in the Vicinity of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project.</i> Exxon Production Research Company (May 1998).
Describes compensation process. Appendix C discusses in-kind compensation to Bakola Pygmies.	<i>Cameroon Compensation Plan, Chad Export Project.</i> COTCO/Esso Pipeline Company (June 1998).