

2.0 CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

2.1 1997 STUDY

A number of potential short- and long-term impacts were identified in a report entitled *Survey of Pygmy Population, Lolodorf to Kribi Area, Republic of Cameroon* by GEPFE (Koppert *et al.*, June 1997). Section IV of this report, entitled "Potential Impacts of the Project" and Section V "Recommendations," is reproduced as part of this IPP as Appendix B.

2.1.1 Potential Short-Term Impacts

Several short-term impacts on Bakola Pygmies that are potentially associated with the Project were identified:

- Short-term impacts include the potential for disturbing wildlife for a 30- to 60- day period resulting in temporary reduction of hunting catches.
- The presence of numerous construction workers for periods of weeks or months will noticeably increase the local population, with the following potential effects:
 - Increase in hunting pressures.
 - Impacts on Bakola supply of starchy food if prices rose due to construction workers buying cassava.
 - Exposure to disease vectors from outside workers.

Proposed mitigation measures for these potential short-term impacts include:

- Providing food to non-local workers,
- Prohibition of hunting and fishing by non-local workers, and
- Monitoring health effects.

2.1.2 Potential Long-Term Effects

Potential long-term effects on Bakola Pygmies that are potentially associated with the Project include:

- Potential for Bakola Pygmy settlements to move because of the Project.
- If permanent employment occurred, the influx of workers could unbalance long-term wild species survival, including some species that are officially protected. At present, animal resources in the area do not renew sufficiently fast to cope with the nutritional needs of the larger population centers in the area.

- Temporary modifications in the trade and exchange system between Bakola Pygmies and Bantu villagers.

2.2 CONSULTATION AND PIPELINE REROUTING, 1997-1998

2.2.1 Scope Of Program

During late 1997 and early 1998, GEPFE conducted an extensive consultation program with the Bakola people in association with the CLS for the Cameroon Transportation System's easement. Joining the team was Professor Jean-Felix Loung, a Cameroonian sociologist and respected member of the local community. The consultation effort was conducted from November 1997 through February 1998. The results of this work are reported in detail in the report entitled *Draft Report, Notes Summarizing Consultations with Bakola Pygmy Settlements in the Vicinity of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project Corridor* (Koppert et al., 1998). This report can be found in the "Supporting Documents" portion of the Chad Export Project's environmental documentation.

In addition to local village/settlement leaders, others, such as representatives of CoDeBaBik (the Bakola Pygmy Development Committee), were consulted concerning pipeline route location options that were being considered. In particular, advice regarding the proposed changes was sought from the "Petites Soeurs de Jésus" (Little Sisters of Jesus), who belong to the Catholic mission in Bipindi. They have been involved in Bakola Pygmy community development for the last 50 years.

2.2.2 Initial Visits To The Bakola Pygmy Settlements

Of the 73 Bakola Pygmy settlements identified in the Project region, many were located more than 3000 m from the proposed pipeline route. During the CLS, the decision was made to consult with every Bakola Pygmy settlement identified by GEPFE in early 1997 that was located within roughly 3 km of the proposed route; 23 of the 56¹ settlements identified by GEPFE were scheduled for additional consultation.

After the CLS began, locations of another 17 settlements were reported to COTCO and GEPFE teams. Since these 17 settlements had never been visited since Pr. Loung's census of 1982-84, the decision was made to visit each of them regardless of their proximity to the proposed pipeline route. A summary of the consultation efforts at these 40 settlements (23 original settlements < 3000 m from the pipeline and the 17 newly reported settlements) can be found in *Draft Report on Bakola Pygmy Populations in the Vicinity of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project* Exxon Production Research Company (May 1998). Thus, in all, 40 settlements in the

¹ The GEPFE report states 52 settlements were identified. The correct number is 56.

general vicinity of the proposed pipeline route were visited at least once during the consultation effort.

Before visiting a Bakola Pygmy settlement, the consultation team met with the chief of the Bantu village associated with the Bakola Pygmy settlement as a courtesy and in recognition of the special relationship between the Bakola Pygmies and the Bantu villagers. In addition to alerting the Bantu villagers to the team's presence and intentions, these meetings permitted the team to give an additional explanation of the Project to the Bantu chiefs, some of whom had not attended the Public Information Program (PIP) meetings that were part of the Project's public consultation program.

In keeping with local cultural traditions, on the first visit, the team left soap, salt, sweets and other gifts. On subsequent visits, usually no special gifts were distributed.

2.2.3 Topics Discussed And Input Solicited

During each visit to a Bakola Pygmy settlement, a number of topics were discussed. These included a general explanation of the Project as well as discussions concerning potential impacts of the project, routing issues, and compensation issues. Two local guides, including one Bakola Pygmy from the Log Ndiga settlement and one Ngumba from Bidjouka village, usually accompanied the team to ensure that the information was communicated effectively with the local peoples. The latter guide, a former assistant of an anthropologist, was able to provide instant translation of the discussions between French and the local languages and vice versa.

The explanation of the Pipeline project was provided in detail to the Bakola leaders, using information leaflets with photos and drawings. Often, a drawing on the soil was made, in order to clearly explain the different stages.

- During the visits, issues of concern to the Bakola Pygmies and the Bantu villagers were discussed. Their main worry was not to be resettled and that graves would not be moved. They were reassured that all important and irreplaceable sites (such as villages, houses, graves, and sacred sites) would be avoided and spared, and that sufficient compensation would be paid to replace useful plants and crops and start new fields.
- In most, though not all, Bakola Pygmy settlements the population was very interested in the work opportunities. During the discussion about the pipeline they were shown how the pipeline would be constructed, the trench dug, the pipe laid, and how it would be welded and buried 75 cm below the ground in order to prevent leaking and to assure the safety of the population. The consultation team explained the Project's need to keep 15 m free from high vegetation in order to survey the pipeline on foot and by helicopter.

- The influence of the Pipeline construction on the hunting activities was discussed at each settlement. The Bakola Pygmies have a long experience with the logging companies who have been in the area for a very long time. In fact, most of the Bakola Pygmy settlements in the forest are built near logging roads, but these roads are usually overgrown a few years after the logging activity ceases. In general, the Bakola Pygmies indicated during consultation meetings that they thought the damage to wildlife would be temporary and that game would return after the construction phase.

With regard to routing issues, the team indicated that, where possible, the Pipeline would be sited to avoid Bakola Pygmy settlements by approximately 500 m and that efforts would be made to avoid other resources important to them. The team requested information about hunting areas, graves, sacred trees and other sacred sites so that the location of these resources could be considered if routing changes were required.

2.2.4 Consultation Concerning Compensation

The Bakola and Bantu villagers will receive compensation for lost land or crops at the same standard rates as all other Cameroonian citizens, as described in the *Cameroon Compensation Plan, Chad Export Project* (COTCO/Esso Pipeline Company, 1998).

In addition, special compensation provisions are suggested to meet the special needs and concerns of the Bakola Pygmies, as described in Appendix C to the *Compensation Plan*.

With regard to compensation, the team explained that:

- Compensation would be paid for damages done to improvements and other replaceable items, including crops/fields and important medicinal and fruit trees, and
- That compensation could be received either as cash and/or in-kind.

During this consultation the Bakola Pygmies expressed a preference for in-kind compensation instead of cash. Since there are no banks in the area, money can be stolen, and local leaders indicated that money tends to be spent on non-essential items such as alcoholic beverages. To the extent practical, Bakola Pygmies will be paid in-kind such as with building material (corrugated iron sheets for the roofs), machetes, and lamps.

In addition to this IPP, benefits the Bakola Pygmies can obtain through the compensation process, are:

1. Individual compensation: but this was limited due to the fact that the pipeline routing avoided Pygmy settlements.
2. Regional compensation: It provides for Pygmies, as well as Bantus, hence it is not a Pygmy specific compensation.

During the pipeline construction phase, it is important to proceed with recruitment of Pygmies from each settlement, which would provide them substantial benefits. Consideration can be given for payment of wages in cash and/or in kind, such as building materials. This would help address the Pygmies' interest in housing improvements.

2.2.5 Consultations With Settlements Nearer To Pipeline And Rerouting

As per GEPFE recommendations made in 1997, the Project was considered to have negligible effects on settlements greater than 2000 m or more from the route of the pipeline. As a result, the majority of consultation efforts focused on 23 of the 73 settlements which were located less than 2000 m from the pipeline. GEPFE further stated that impacts would be limited to the construction and immediate post-construction period if the pipeline was between 500 and 2000 m of the pipeline (15 settlements) and that the Project must avoid coming any closer than 500 m to a permanent Bakola Pygmy settlement (9 settlements). The only exception being the case of Bakola Pygmies living in Bantu villages or next to a main road. In the latter case, GEPFE considered Bakola Pygmies as living in disturbed environments (See Koppert *et al.*, 1997).

Bakola Pygmy settlements within 2000 m (23 total settlements) from the centerline were visited multiple times, typically before, during, and after the passage of the CLS. These settlements lying closest to the pipeline route received considerably more attention than those more than 2000 m distant. For example, each settlement within 500 m was visited at least five times and as many as eight times.

Changes to the pipeline routing were ultimately made at 8 of the 13 settlements located less than 1000 m from the pipeline. Building on criteria established by GEPFE, the 13 Bakola Pygmy settlements could be divided into two broad classes: those for which no rerouting was needed (5) and those for which rerouting needed to be considered (8).

Following consultation, it was assessed that rerouting would not be necessary around five settlements because the settlements were:

- Separated from the pipeline by a major road or major natural barrier, such as a river or hills (Kour Mintoum, Bokoui, and Log Ndiga), or
- Located on the main road and within a Bantu village (Nkoul Mbong and Mougo Liang).

Changes were made in eight cases. In five of the eight cases, the Bakola Pygmy settlements were located within 500 m of the Kribi-Lolodorf road and could already be considered "roadside settlements." However, like all other villages, efforts were made to move the pipeline away from houses, and this was accomplished. In the remaining three of the eight cases, the pipeline was moved closer to the road and was located 500 m or more from the settlement. For

additional information see the report entitled *Draft, Report on Bakola Pygmy Populations in the Vicinity of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project* (Exxon Production Research Company, 1998).

2.2.6 Bakola Pygmy Interactions With CLS Personnel

Interactions between Bakola Pygmies and the CLS staff included:

- Employment as bush cutters.
- Payment of compensation for CLS damages.
- Preparation and review of individual inventory forms for compensable resources.
- Consultation during pipeline routing

The primary interaction between CLS staff and Bakola Pygmies was during their employment as bush cutters. During initial consultation it had been agreed that two bush cutting jobs would be reserved for Pygmies. Initial employment efforts were problematic and on two occasions, Bakola employed to work on the project abandoned the project. This has been attributed to an incomplete understanding of the physical effort required of bush cutters, as well as uneasy relations with the other local populations. After the initial difficulties were resolved, Bakola Pygmies from other settlements were able to effectively participate in the Project in the Kribi-Bipindi area.

During the CLS, Bakola Pygmies were also asked to check the area cleared for the CLS for damages. In several cases compensation adjustment were necessary. One example being a case where a compensation was paid only to a Bantu village chief, instead of both the Bantu and Bakola Pygmies, for spontaneously growing Raffia Palms used by both. In addition, contacts were made with each land user during preparation of the Individual Inventory forms.