

APPENDIX C

COMPENSATION ISSUES RELATED TO BAKOLA PYGMIES

C.1 INTRODUCTION

The following Appendix was prepared by Groupe d'Étude des Populations Forestières Équatoriales (GEPFE). The purpose was to set forth-specific issues related to individual and community compensation, which may be appropriate for Bakola Pygmy settlements affected by Project land needs. Because the Bakola Pygmies are considered vulnerable peoples by the World Bank (see Operational Directive 4.20, September 1991), information was gathered to assess appropriate compensation measures related specifically to the Bakola Pygmies. Based on this assessment, compensation will include provisions discussed below.

C.2 RESOURCES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION

Pygmy camps have been avoided as much as practicable during the Centerline Survey (CLS) through re-routing of the pipeline. Individual damage to their fields and crops will be minimal, but some damage can be expected to occur to trees used for food and/or medicine that are dispersed in the forest, and may require some compensation. Resources eligible for individual compensation are the same as those set forth in Section 6.0 of this Plan.

Individual property includes:

- Food and cash crops.
- Fruit, medicinal trees, and plants.
- Forest resources that can be traced back to individual proprietors.
- Houses and other constructions.
- Sacred sites such as graves, sacred trees, and other sacred items(though largely avoided during the CLS, these might be found in the 30 m width of the route during the construction phase).

Individual property should be compensated as far as possible using fixed rates; e.g., as established during the market survey with compensation in-kind as discussed below.

C.3 ISSUES RELATED TO PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

GEPFE has provided the following comments regarding Pygmy compensation during the CLS.

C.3.1 Specific Needs of the Bakola

- Recognition of their civil status and their civil rights in the same way as other Cameroonian populations.
- Education would help them to understand and negotiate with outside interests.
- Hygiene and public health are lacking more for the Pygmies than for other populations.
- Insufficient agricultural production makes them more dependent on other populations.
- Self-confidence and pride are still lacking.

C.3.2 Individual Compensation

In the Kribi-Lolodorf area, all CLS compensation in 1997 and 1998 was paid to the owner of the crops, not the owners of the land. This is an important difference. Pygmies often live on village land or on land given to them by Bantu villagers.

Owners of land and crops presented themselves during the CLS to the survey team. The CLS team was always accompanied by the village chief (who is paid for this work) and bush-cutters from the same village. Although one can imagine that disputes can originate on whom is the rightful owner/user of resources, few disputes took place. During the CLS, compensation was paid during a public meeting in the presence of the village, a COTCO representative, and the owner/user. Papers were signed and a digital photograph was taken as a proof of payment.

As has been promised during the CLS, future individual compensation for Pygmies can be in-kind. During the CLS, most Pygmies preferred in-kind compensation consisting of construction material and corrugated iron sheets in those cases where the amount of money for compensation allowed for purchase of a sufficient number of sheets to cover a roof (GEPFE, 1998). Other items to be purchased for lesser amounts of compensation are machetes, kerosene lamps and kitchen utensils.

Compensation of food crops can be in cash, but provisions should be taken to provide improved planting material to the farmers for in-kind compensation of trees: fruits, coffee, cocoa, oil palms. In-kind compensation for cocoa, coffee and other cash crops should not only include improved planting material, but also include fertilizer and pest control products necessary for the new field to come into maturity. Assistance may be needed to organize this, as the planting season for these crops not necessarily corresponds to the moment of payment, and to show the correct use of fertilizer and pest control products.

Disagreements are usually avoidable but when they occur but they must be dealt with as much as possible in a local context with the village chief and the village elders.

Gender issues can partly be avoided by paying compensation to the person who actually cultivates the fields. For food crops in South Cameroon, this is usually the woman.

C.4 SPECIFIC SOCIOCULTURAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE BAKOLA

Compensation should consider:

- The ostracism of Pygmies by other Cameroonians.
- Their seasonal mobility with permanent settlements and hunting camps in the forest.
- That Pygmy settlements are frequently far from the villages of the other ethnic groups.
- The interrelationships between Pygmies and villagers are ancient.
- Pygmies have a non-hierarchical egalitarian society.
- The function of Pygmy chief is not a traditional one, but was imposed by the (colonial) administration. Chiefs are not always representative of the population, and important decisions are taken together by all adult men of the settlement.
- Pygmies have very limited personal property, but appropriation of resources on a collective basis is important.

It is extremely important not to interfere with the equilibrium that exists between Pygmies and Bantu villagers by giving help and equipment to the Pygmies without equivalent compensation to the villagers. This would be a serious error and could lead to important social and interethnic tension.