

## APPENDIX L

### SUMMARY OF SOCIOECONOMIC STUDIES AT FIXED FACILITY SITES

#### L.1 INTRODUCTION

In 1998 socioeconomic surveys were completed at eight of the Project's major fixed facility sites (see Section 4.4.2). Prior to construction, socioeconomic surveys at the remaining sites will be completed and follow-up at other sites completed as recommended below. In addition, more detailed socioeconomic studies will be completed at many sites, to support the socioeconomic monitoring effort.

In addition, if the proposed update of market prices results in revisions to compensation paid by COTCO for crops such as cocoa, additional compensation will be paid to owners/users of lands at fixed facility sites.

#### L.2 SOCIOECONOMIC STUDIES AT FIXED FACILITY SITES BETWEEN KRIBI AND BÉLABO

##### L.2.1 Introduction

The socioeconomic surveys on the storage yards in the Departments of Océan, Mefou-et-Akono, and Lom-et-Djérem were conducted by Dr. George Koppert and Pr. Jean-Félix Loung of GEPFE in May 1998. Both have extensive experience in Océan Department concerning socioeconomic and Pygmy issues.<sup>26</sup> Dr. Koppert also conducted the Project's market survey in 1997. This survey included all of the fixed facility sites visited by Koppert during the market survey.

The results of this study can be found in the report entitled *"Evaluation of Socioeconomic Impacts at the Lolodorf, Bipindi, and Ngoumou Storage Yards, Bélabo Pump Station, and Kribi Pressure Reduction Station."* (Koppert and Loung 1998).

##### L.2.2 Kribi Storage Yard

The storage site is located in the villages of Tala (population 100-150) and Mpango (population 300-400). Tala is inhabited primarily by the Mabea ethnic group who is engaged in agriculture pursuits. Mpango is inhabited primarily mainly by the Batanga group and immigrants of Ewondo and Bassa. The primary economic pursuits in this village are agriculture and fishing. The two villages have a land and border dispute since at least 50 years, that includes the area of the storage yard.

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<sup>26</sup> See Section 4.4.1 of this Plan for a summary of these studies.

Although both villages are close to Kribi, they engage essentially in rural activities and few people have paid jobs.

At the time of the study, construction of the storage yard was almost complete. Thirteen people had received compensation, six for more than 0.1 ha of land.

During the 2.5-day visit to the site Loung and Koppert interviewed:

- Local authorities, village chiefs, and village elders in both communities.
- The farmers, mostly women, who had been compensated for more than 1,000 square meters of fields for the storage yard were contacted.

Results of the study indicated:

- The dispute over the storage yard land concerns only the ownership of the land.
- All parties agree on the compensation of lost crops to the land users.
- Though village elders assured GEPFE that there was enough land available in the vicinity, all concerned women farmers complained about difficulties to find replacement land.
- Employment for locals on the construction site was considered insufficient for locals: only six people from Mpango and ten from Tala had a job on the construction site.

Follow-up recommendations:

- It is recommended that follow-up interviews be conducted with individuals compensated for land at the Kribi storage yard who stated they would have difficulty finding land for new fields. This information should be verified with local authorities and village chiefs and village elders. If appropriate, the Project will then implement a program of additional grants to obtain access to land and establish new fields.

### **L.2.3 Bipindi (Ndtouah) Construction Camp**

The construction camp of Bipindi is located in the village of Ndtouah II, quartier Minlouolmio about 47 km from Kribi and 20 km from Bipindi. The quartier is home to about 40 individual Bantu, mainly Ngoumba and two Fang families. Two Pygmy camps are on the roadside in the village, of which one seems to be abandoned and the other has 36 inhabitants. One of the Project's CLS camps had been located in Ndtouah for three months.

Although the GEPFE team spent only two days in the village in May 1998, they knew the village well from the many months GEPFE spent in the area during the CLS working on consultation and reroutes around Pygmy settlements.

The focus of the survey was a 10 ha area of cleared land where the construction site may be sited. However, the siting of this camp was not yet finalized.

The population was informally contacted and the area visited one day, while a more official meeting with all the (male) villagers and Pygmies was also organized. All aspects of local life were discussed during these consultations such as agriculture, employment, land tenure, religion, sacred sites, hunting, and expectations about individual and community compensation.

Subsistence farming, cocoa growing, hunting and fishing are the main activities in the village. Only three people had paid jobs. The locals expected work and the possibility to sell food to the workers during the construction work of the site and later of the pipeline.

Results of the study indicated:

- Two villagers have fields on the land where the facility was proposed. They assured the GEPFE team they had no difficulties finding other land.
- The local population strongly favors the installation of a construction camp in the village.
- Local Pygmies contacted privately and publicly had no objections either.
- The globally satisfying way the Centerline Survey crews had camped in the village and had hired local laborers, positively influenced the opinion on the Project.

Follow-up recommendations:

- If the location of the camp is moved, additional consultation should take place concerning the availability of replacement land, since all land appears to be claimed in the area. However, given the abundance of land in the area, as stated in interviews, re-establishment of fields should not be difficult.

#### **L.2.4 Lolodorf Storage Yard and Construction Camp**

The Lolodorf storage yard and construction camp is situated in the village of Sabally (approx. population 200 of different Ngoumba clans), 1.5 km from Lolodorf. The village stretches for some three km on the road from Lolodorf to Eseka.

The GEPFE team visited the area and conducted interviews with village elders from May 17 to May 19 1998, after having made a courtesy visit to the sous-préfet. Pr Loung of the GEPFE team lives in Lolodorf, and greatly facilitated contacts. In this village, we discussed all aspects of local life with the elders of the concerned area, including individual and community compensation, the possibility of selling food to the Project, and the Project's hiring policy.

Sabally is economically dependent on Lolodorf for commerce, secondary schools, and transport. The economy is based on agriculture, tapping of palm wine and hunting. Only some grow cocoa as a cash crop. Paid employment is virtually absent in the village.

The proposed storage yard site had been chosen after consultation of the villagers concerned. The entire area belongs to one lineage of Ngoumba. The amount and size of fields in the area is limited and GEPFE was told that there was enough land left to create new fields.

Results of the study indicated:

- People abandoned fields at several locations which were under consideration for final siting of the facility, but were ultimately not chosen. Better communication is needed to assure people to keep growing crops until a final decision is made.
- People told GEPFE that they were satisfied to have the Project come to their village and the compensation that had already been calculated.
- The villagers expressed great worries about a long-term occupation of the land and the difficulty in having the land returned to them after the Project.
- They are counting on local villagers being hired for the local workforce.
- They are keenly interested in selling food and prepared meals to construction workers.

Follow-up recommendations:

- No follow-up work is recommended.

### **L.2.5 Ngoumou Storage Yard**

The GEPFE team spent three days in Ngoumou in May 1998, a town they had already visited during the Cameroon Market Survey. The Ngoumou storage yard and construction camp is situated in the village of Nkong Meyos, about 5 km from the railroad bridge in Ngoumou. The village stretches for some 2 km on the road from Mbankomo to Ngoumou. The population of Nkong Meyos I is about 250 inhabitants, of different Tsinga clans of the Ewondo ethnic group. The team contacted the local authorities (préfet and sous-préfet) and spoke with the village chief, village elders and people who had fields in the projected area.

The team discussed important aspects of village life including local economy, agriculture, religion, job opportunities, land tenure, sacred sites, hunting and related subjects.

The projected area is along the Douala-Yaoundé railway. The area has already been measured for the storage yard. The land is owned by two families who have it marked but apparently not yet titled. One family of about 50 members has an estimated total of 98 ha of which 1-1.5 ha are taken by the storage yard. The other family (25 members) owns an area of about 60 ha,

including the remaining part of the storage yard area that includes at least 2-3 ha of cultivated fields and a cocoa plantation. The owner of this field expressed an interest in using the compensation money to open a frozen fish shop.

Locals consider construction of the storage yard in the village Nkong Meyos as a welcome activity that will lead to increased economic opportunities and village development. The expectations of its impact seem exaggerated. Recruitment of local workers and opportunities for small trading by women, through the creation of mini markets, are very positively regarded by the village chief.

Follow-up recommendations:

- Follow-up is needed to assess who in the extended family, which had the important loss of land, can/has found new land for fields. If appropriate, the Project will provide assistance to find new land and re-establish these fields.

### **L.2.6 Bélébo Storage Yard and Construction Camp**

The GEPFE team spent 3.5 days in Bélébo in May 1998, a town they had already visited during the market survey in 1997. Ndoumba Kanga is a large village with, according to its chief, about 700 inhabitants. All are of the Bobilis ethnic group. The village center has about 40 houses and is located 3 km SW of the railroad. The team spoke with the local authorities, and village chiefs and organized an informal meeting with the local population.

The storage yard was already under construction and all the compensation paid before the socioeconomic study took place.

The storage yard and construction camp affected 12 families. Three have fields in the construction area and needed replacement fields elsewhere. These families were contacted individually. Though everyone interviewed seemed very satisfied with the compensation paid, some worries persist concerning returning the area to its former use and about how to obtain replacement land for new fields. According to the population, no land cultivated the previous year was not measured, and as there were no more signs of it now, there is no way to take it into account for purposes of compensation.

Local economy is based on agriculture, cocoa and coffee, fishing, hunting, palm wine and palm oil trade. Contrary to the populations in the forests west of Bélébo, the agricultural cycle is longer with often 2-3 years of maize grown in the same field, followed by 2-3 years of cassava, and 5-7 years of fallow.

Traditional influences are much stronger in Bélabo than in the areas to the West the team visited. Special precautions have to be taken and sacrifices have to be performed to the ancestors and spirits. The contracting company agreed to organize such a celebration.

Employment was a major issue, though 32 percent of the temporary workers came from the village and another 20 percent from the neighboring village. The complaint was that no permanent workers were recruited in the village.

The implantation of the storage yard was well perceived in the village, but the lack of consultation prior consultation has led to some avoidable problems.

Follow-up recommendation:

- It is recommended that follow-up interviews be conducted to determine if individuals compensated were able to find new land to establish fields. This information should be verified with local authorities, the village chief, and village elders. If appropriate, the Project will then implement a program of additional grants to obtain access to land and establish new fields.

### **L.2.7 Recommendations**

The following general recommendations were made by GEPFE in their study.

- In several cases, the socioeconomic studies occurred during or after construction. If these studies have taken place before the work started, some of the problems the team encountered might have been attenuated.
- In the case of storage yards used only during construction, it is recommended that individuals whose land is used be compensated each year until the land is returned. This provision would make it possible for affected individuals to purchase all extra food needed during the occupation of their land.
- Trees should be compensated only once; although, based on the time necessary for a new production of many trees, there is a strong argument for increasing the compensation rate for trees by 50 percent.
- Good guarantees on the return of the storage yards to the local population in its former state and for its former use if so desired, should be given.
- It needs to be made very clear to the local population that, for their own (financial) interest, they must go on working their land as usual until the final compensation agreement has been signed with the Project.
- Recruitment issues are very important and it seems difficult to completely satisfy the local population. The main arguments heard during the GEPFE survey were that no people (or

not enough) were hired from the affected villages, and that "people responsible for recruiting" would bring kin from their own region to be recruited locally. In Kribi, less than 25 percent of the temporary work force came from the adjacent villages, in Bélabo more than 50 percent.

- Strict adherence to COTCO central hiring policy, with preference for local employees is essential. Good information on working conditions and duration of employment is equally very important, especially for daily jobs of very short duration
- The presence of an official COTCO representative during all public information meetings by contracting companies seems essential in order to obtain equal and consistent application of the recruitment policy.

### **L.3 SOCIOECONOMIC STUDIES AT FIXED FACILITY SITES IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF MBÉRÉ, VINA, AND MAYO REY**

#### **L.3.1 Introduction**

Dr. Phillip Burnham, an anthropologist at the University of London conducted the socioeconomic surveys for the Project in the Departments of Mbéré, Vina, and Mayo Rey. Dr. Burnham has worked in the area for over 20 years and has written two major books on the Fulbe and Gbaya populations who live in the area. He is fluent in both languages. During two field trips to the region in 1998 Dr. Burnham was able to assess the socioeconomic impacts of the fixed facility sites and update his knowledge on the area, having carried out research there on several previous occasions from 1968 to 1993.

#### **L.3.2 Meidougou Storage Yard**

Dr. Philip Burnham visited Meidougou, a village of some 4,000-5,000 population, on two occasions in 1998 for a total of five days. During his visits he gathered information directly from local chiefs and quarter heads, groups of elders, youth, and women in both formal and informal interviews using the two main local languages – Gbaya and Fulfulde. He was able to visit the public facilities of the village, including restaurants, auberges, shops, weekly market, schools, church, mosque, health center, and cassava mill.

Meidougou is inhabited primarily by members of the Gbaya ethnic group, with other village population being drawn from the Fulbe, Mbum, Duru peoples as well as migrants from the Central African Republic. Farming and cattle husbandry are the chief local occupations, with cassava and maize the principal crops. As a crossroads town where the principal east-west and north-south roads meet, Meidougou receives a regular traffic of buses and market trucks.

The site of the proposed storage yard, located 2.5 km west of the village was found to be situated on unclaimed land in uncultivated wooded savanna. Farmland in the area around

Meidougou was not considered by the local people to be scarce, and a land market has not developed.

The results of his work can be found in his report entitled "*Evaluation of Socioeconomic Impacts at the Dompta Pump Station, and Meidougou and Ngaoundal Storage Yards*" (Burnham 1998).

### **L.3.3 Ngaoundal Storage Yard**

Dr. Burnham visited Ngaoundal, a recently established (since the early 1970s) multi-ethnic railhead town of some 10,000 population, on two occasions in 1998 for a total of four days. During his visits he gathered information directly from the sub-prefect, his assistant, the mayor, the canton chief, quarter heads, prominent local businessmen, mission personnel, health workers, groups of elders, youth, and women in both formal and informal interviews using the two main local languages – Gbaya and Fulfulde as well as French. He was able to visit the public facilities of the town, including sub-prefecture, restaurants, auberges, cinema, bank, railway station, military encampment, COTCO Project reading room, shops, daily market, schools, churches, mosques, and health centers.

On the basis of Burnham's first visit, he was able to determine that the originally proposed storage yard site southeast of town was located in an unsuitable position, with marked drawbacks from the point of view of accessibility, road safety, and public acceptability. Through consultation with local officials and inhabitants, Burnham was able to identify a more acceptable site in uninhabited savanna land on the northeast margin of town.

The results of his work can be found in his report entitled "*Evaluation of Socioeconomic Impacts at the Dompta Pump Station and Meidougou and Ngaoundal Storage Yards*" (Burnham 1998).

### **L.3.4 Dompta Pump Station**

Dr. Burnham visited Dompta, a small village of some 300 population, on two occasions in 1998, spending of 4 days there. During his visits, Dr. Burnham gathered information directly from local chiefs and quarter heads, groups of elders, youth, and women in both formal and informal interviews using the main local language – Gbaya.

Dompta and its surrounding region is very isolated and underdeveloped, with poor motor road access to larger centers. Population density is very low. Modern schools, health facilities, wells, and stores are lacking, and the local economy is predominantly oriented to swidden agriculture, with cassava the main subsistence crop. Small quantities of cotton are grown for sale, but the environment is not well-suited to this.

On his first visit to the area in 1998, the final siting of the proposed COTCO facility had not been determined. On his subsequent visit, and with the help of local villagers, he was able to locate a

promising site for the proposed pump station in the uninhabited savanna some 2 to 3 km north of Dompta village.

The results of his work can be found in his report entitled "*Evaluation of Socioeconomic Impacts at the Dompta Pump Station, and Meidougou and Ngaoundal Storage Yards*" (Burnham 1998).