Executive Summary

May 2020
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context and Objectives of the Resettlement Policy Framework

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon is preparing, with the financial and technical support from the World Bank, the South Interconnected Network (RIS)-North Interconnected Network (RIN) Project which aims at interconnecting the RIS and the RIN. This is to allow the evacuation of the large amount of electricity produced in the south of the country, and in particular hydropower, to the north and across the borders (Chad and Nigeria). The RIS-RIN interconnection line starts in Nachtigal and ends in Ngaoundéré (Hourou Oussoua). It is 531 km long over a corridor of 50 meters, including 25 m x 2, on both sides of the line axis. The work to be carried out consists of the construction of the following structures between Nachtigal and Ngaoundéré: new Ntui substation as an option—the Ntui substation is the interconnection substation at the RIS (new 225 kV substation which will be connected to the 225 kV substation of the Nachtigal power station), new Yoko substation at the base, new Tibati substation at the base, and new Ngaoundéré (Hourou Oussoua) substation at the base.

The construction of the works contemplated under the project will undoubtedly require the acquisition of land and will result in the loss of property and restricted access to resources for the population. The detailed engineering design of the investments envisaged by the project is not yet sufficiently advanced.

The characteristics and scope of the works envisaged under the project trigger the Bank’s operational policy OP 4.12 "Involuntary Resettlement of Populations. This situation justifies the initiation of the preparation of this framework document, which describes the procedures and institutional arrangements for resettlement, the objectives, principles and procedures that will govern the land acquisition process in connection with the implementation of the investments envisaged in the project, and provides guidance on the arrangements to be made in the event of destruction or loss of property for the compensation of affected persons or communities.

Involuntary physical displacement and destruction of private property will be minimized as much as possible during construction. The principle of compensation will aim to achieve fair and adequate compensation to affected communities and individuals based on replacement value. This principle recognises that land is generally held on the basis of customary and/or legal rights and these rights must be respected and that compensation for destroyed property shall be at the value of that property at the current market price.

The development of this Resettlement Policy Framework (CPR) was based on documents review and stakeholder consultation conducted in the Ntui Sub-Division, Mbam and Kim Division, in the form of semi-structured interviews with institutional actors (MINAS departmental delegations, MINDCAF, MINEPIA, MINADER, MINFOF, Divisional Officer, Sub-Divisional Officer and the Mayor of Ntui) and some traditional authorities in three villages likely to be affected (Bindalima II, Biagnimi and Nachtigal).

Impacts of project investments

The construction of the works contemplated under the project will undoubtedly require the acquisition of land and will result in the loss of property and restricted access to resources for the population. The detailed engineering design of the investments envisaged by the project is not yet sufficiently advanced. Moreover, the decrees declaring the works to be of public utility (DUP) are not yet available.

The main impacts of the implementation of these investments on people and property are presented below.

The loss of land will be caused by: (i) the permanent acquisition of land necessary for the construction of the proposed works; (ii) the temporary occupation of land during the works for the purposes of the works. This impact will be significant and therefore of great importance in densely populated localities. To this end, it would be advisable to examine alternative rights-of-way that generate the least impact on property and people.

The loss of buildings and infrastructure may be generated in the following situations: (i) Destruction of the various buildings and dwelling houses, as well as the infrastructure established on the right-of-way of the works; (ii) Destruction
of other types of structures (shelters, shops, market sheds, etc.). This impact could be significant, particularly in densely populated areas. To this end, the technical studies will make it possible to envisage alternative sites for the structures with the least impact on buildings and social and community infrastructures. Compensation, which will be set out in the resettlement action plans, will make it possible to mitigate the effects on the people and communities affected.

The loss of crops, cultivated trees and agricultural land will be caused by: (i) the destruction of crops and cultivated trees on land acquired permanently or temporarily; (ii) the passage of power lines in areas dedicated to agriculture; (iii) collateral damage to crops during construction works. Destroyed crops and trees shall be compensated in accordance with the Cameroonian law in force. In order to limit the consequences on the economic activities of the populations, the project owner will allow sufficient time for the farmers to harvest their produce before the start of work on the land in accordance with the relevant regulations. This approach will be adjusted according to the seasons and new crops will be discouraged until the work is completed.

Displacement and/or risk of destruction of cultural sites and remains and graves could occur in the event of: (i) Acquisition of sites containing cultural vestiges and tombs; (ii) Damage caused to such property during construction work. This impact will be limited to the sites where the poles and the space required for the transformer stations are located. Alternatives will be actively sought to avoid damage or displacement of tombs and remains. For lines passing about 10 m above ground, consideration could be given to leaving these properties in the rights-of-way and just giving access advice to the owners concerned. In addition, it would be advisable to modify the route of any line or the location of any transformer station that appears on a sacred site or cultural relic.

The loss of livelihood could be caused by: (i) the reduction of arable land and areas formerly used for agricultural purposes; (ii) the reduction of areas for the collection of non-timber forest products, wood for services (heating, construction, etc.). This impact will not be very significant on livelihoods in view of the linear (power lines) and one-off (substation sites) nature of the investments and consequently the space that will be allocated for the works. In addition, as part of the accompanying measures for the communities affected, the project will contribute to the rebuilding of these means.

Possible disruptions to certain economic activities (trade, trades, etc.) could occur as a result of: (i) the destruction of the buildings housing the businesses and trades; (ii) the loss of the usual clientele; (iii) a change in the usual site of practice of the activities concerned. This impact will be of small magnitude since the persons affected will be informed in advance and will have sufficient time (at least six months) to gradually relocate their activities and inform their clientele of the new sites. In addition, they will benefit from involuntary resettlement assistance in accordance with the requirements of OP 4.12 for this category of affected persons. This generally includes the resettlement and relocation of their shops as well as the loss of the related profit.

The risk of conflicts: the choice of right-of-way boundaries by the Assets Recognition and Valuation Commission could give rise to conflicts with persons claiming ownership of the property or using it for other purposes (agricultural, housing) or other uses (economic, social, religious or customary). In these cases, the implementation of the project will trigger an expropriation procedure. The risk of conflicts may be higher in the various urban areas where public road rights-of-way are literally invaded by socio-economic activities of all kinds: workshops and garages, shops and kiosks, fencing of dwellings or concessions, dealer networks, markets, bus stations, etc. In rural areas, the risk will mainly concern agricultural activities and habitat, the loss of fruit or shade trees and symbolic landmarks (tombs), etc.

The risk of disrupting social cohesion: The passage of power lines could affect the organization of space, cause displacement and destroy property. Social cohesion will therefore be affected if mitigation measures are not taken.

Recommendations for resettlement

The project will ensure compliance with the World Bank's recommendation that land acquisition, loss of assets and risks of restricted access to natural resources should be minimized as much as possible. To this end, it is recommended that the sites selected for the installation of the works should be sites with lower or near-zero development densities. In case of destruction of assets, compensation will be made in accordance with the provisions of Cameroonian law and the provisions of Operational Policy 4.12 on involuntary resettlement.

It is also important that the definition of the sites for the works takes into account the existing frameworks set for the development by referring to the plans for the sustainable management of the terroirs in the localities crossed (municipal...
development plan, land use plan, regional development plan). The Project Management Unit shall have a specialist in social issues who will be responsible for the implementation of all social actions of the project and especially for monitoring the implementation of all involuntary resettlement and compensation activities. The PMU will also need to have a Communication Specialist who will be responsible for the development and implementation of all actions related to information, consultation and communication on the project in general.

Eligibility for reparation will be applied only to those affected. It will include, inter alia (i) the exclusion of categories of persons engaged in illegal activities (exploitation of protected plant and wood resources, farming in reserved areas, etc.); (ii) the consultation of populations in the identification of impacts of activities and appropriate mitigation measures; (iii) the inclusion of representatives of populations and trades in the project management bodies (consultation frameworks to be set up); (iv) the publication of the list of affected persons at the level of chiefdoms, communes and sub-prefectures concerned.

For the vulnerable groups represented by the disabled, the chronically ill, young people in a situation of unemployment, the elderly, single mothers, marginal populations (bororos), the project will provide them with, in addition to the various repairs defined in the consultation frameworks, special assistance tailored to their specific needs.

A complaints management mechanism is proposed in this document and will be refined during the implementation of the project. Complaints relating to the expropriation and compensation process will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the law on expropriation in the public interest. Recourse to justice will be the last alternative to which the populations affected by the project will have recourse.

The responsibility for implementing the Resettlement Policy Framework (PCR) lies with the Project. However, all actors identified as having a role to play will be involved in the process, particularly the beneficiary populations. All will have their resettlement capacities strengthened for this purpose.

Monitoring will cover all the sequences of the process and will be carried out by all stakeholders, especially the project. The populations will also be very involved, as will the World Bank, in the technical supervision.

Budget and schedule for the implementation of the PCR

The provisional (revisable) budget for resettlement amounts to 389,000,400 (Four hundred and fifty-two million, one hundred thousand) CFA francs, or approximately US$779,483. The implementation schedule will depend on the planning of activities and can only be refined during the implementation of the project.