

REPORT No. 176365-CM

THE INSPECTION PANEL

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
ON A REQUEST FOR INSPECTION**

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

**NACHTIGAL HYDROPOWER PROJECT
(P157734) AND HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT
ON THE SANAGA RIVER TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT (P157733)**

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THE WORLD BANK
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**The Inspection Panel
Report and Recommendation
on a
Request for Inspection**

**Republic of Cameroon
Nachtigal Hydropower Project (P157734) and
Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (P157733)**

A. Introduction

1. On June 30, 2022, the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”) received a Request for Inspection (the “Request”) of the Nachtigal Hydropower Project (P157734) and the Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (P157733) (unless explicitly stated otherwise, the “Project” refers to the Nachtigal Hydropower Project) in Cameroon. The Request was submitted by two community members living in the project area in Cameroon, who asked the Panel to keep their identities confidential. On July 18, 2022, an additional 99 Requesters people from communities and socio-professional organizations in the project area (the “Requesters”) authorized IFI Synergy—a coalition of local civil society organizations (CSOs) including Green Development Advocates (GDA), which serves as their secretariat—to represent them. IFI Synergy/GDA also requested confidentiality for the additional 99 signatories. “Both ENDS”—a Dutch NGO—supports the Request. All signatories to the Request live in and downstream from the Nachtigal Dam area; i.e, none are from the upstream area.

2. The Requesters claim the construction of Nachtigal Dam has harmed them. They allege that, since start of construction, local communities and socio-professional organizations have suffered adverse environmental and social impact. These resulted from a lack of meaningful consultation; inadequate resettlement measures; loss of income-generating activities for sand miners, fishermen, and fishmongers; untimely and inadequate compensation for lost lands and crops; inaccessibility of replacement agricultural lands; inadequate replacement housing; destruction of sacred sites, and loss of medicinal plants. They claim environmental impact, such as reduced fish stocks, deforestation, increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and pollution. They further allege that project activities are aggravating social problems such as theft, juvenile delinquency, commercial sex work, marital conflicts, and divorces in their community.

3. The Panel registered the Request on July 25, 2022 and notified the Board of Executive Directors (the “Board”) and Bank Management. Management submitted its response to the Request (the “Management Response” or the “Response”) on August 26, 2022.

4. In accordance with the Resolution establishing the Panel,¹ the purpose of this Report is to recommend to the Board whether an investigation into the matters alleged in the Request is warranted. Based on its assessment below, the Panel recommends carrying out an investigation into the alleged issues of harm and related non-compliance with the applicable World Bank Operational Policies (OPs) and Performance Standards (PSs), as per OP/BP 4.03 on Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities.

¹ The World Bank Inspection Panel, 2020. [Resolution No. IBRD 2020-0004 and IDA 2020-0003](#), (the “Resolution”).

B. Description of the Projects

5. The **Nachtigal Hydropower Project** (P157734) was approved on July 19, 2018, for an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) guarantee of up to US\$ 300 million. The beneficiary of the guarantee is the Republic of Cameroon. The International Financial Corporation (IFC) is providing equity (US\$ 70 million), a loan (US\$ 152 million), and client risk management swaps (US\$ 10 million). The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) is providing additional guarantees (US\$ 262.5 million). The total project cost is US\$ 1,400 million,² with financing from multiple financial institutions³ (collectively, “the Lenders”). The Panel understands that the Lenders collaborate and meet regularly on the Project. The Project is implemented by the Nachtigal Hydropower Company (NHPC), which, at appraisal, was owned by the Republic of Cameroon (30 percent), EDF International SAS (EDFI)⁴ (40 percent), and the IFC (30 percent).⁵ The Lenders have hired an independent environmental and social consultant (IESC)—Mott MacDonald Limited—to advise them and coordinate their engagement with the Project. Mott MacDonald monitors E&S performance, advises on compliance, and verifies NHPC’s monitoring information. Mott MacDonald’s reports go to all Lenders for corrective action. The Project’s closing date is June 30, 2024, and the IBRD guarantee expires on June 30, 2039.⁶ The Project was 0 percent disbursed as of receipt of the Request.

6. The Nachtigal Hydropower Project is classified as a Category A project, and has triggered OP/BP 4.03 on Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities;⁷ PS 1 on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts; PS 2 on Labor and Working Conditions; PS 3 on Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; PS 4 on Community Health, Safety, and Security; PS 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement; PS 6 on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; PS 8 on Cultural Heritage, and OP/BP 4.37 on Safety of Dams.⁸

7. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is “*to increase the availability of renewable energy power and leverage private finance for the Nachtigal Hydropower Project.*”⁹ The Project is a greenfield, 420 Megawatt, run-of-river hydropower plant on the Sanaga River located at Nachtigal Falls. The Project is approximately 65 kilometers (km) northeast of Yaoundé.¹⁰ It consists of constructing a 1,455-meter (m)-long, 13.6-m-high main dam. The site also includes a 421-hectare (ha), upstream reservoir; a 3.3-km-long, 14-m-deep, concrete, water channel to the

² Management Response to Request for Inspection Panel Review of the Cameroon Nachtigal Hydropower Project (P157734) and Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (P157733) (Management Response), p. 2, para. 6.

³ These financial institutions are: African Development Bank, African Finance Corporation, the Agence Française de Développement, British International Investment, Nederlandse Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (FMO), Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, the European Investment Bank, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), OPEC Fund for International Development, Proparco, Banque Internationale du Cameroun pour l’Épargne et le Crédit, Société Générale Cameroun, Société Commerciale de Banque Cameroun, and Standard Chartered Bank Cameroun.

⁴ Electricité de France International (EDFI) Société par actions simplifiée (SAS) (Electricity of France International simplified joint-stock company).

⁵ World Bank Group, 2018. [Project Appraisal Document \(PAD\) for the Nachtigal Hydropower Project](#), p. 9. The PAD notes that changes in the shareholding structure might occur in the future.

⁶ PAD, p. ix.

⁷ Operational Manual, 2013. OP 4.03 – Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities. For the purpose of OP 4.03, IFC PSs are referred to as WB PSs.

⁸ PAD, p. xiii.

⁹ PAD, pp. xi and 8.

¹⁰ PAD, p. 9. The World Bank engagement in Cameroon’s energy sector includes, among others, the Lom Pangar Hydropower Project (P114077), subject to a Request for Inspection (2017), for which the Panel did not recommend an investigation, and the Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Basin Technical Assistance Project.

hydroelectric plant; a 225-kilovolt (kV) substation, and a 50.3-km transmission line to the Nyom 2 substation.¹¹ The Project will tie into the country's Southern Interconnected Grid, which transmits about 94 percent of the nation's electricity.¹² The Project is expected to generate an average of 2.9 Terawatt hour per year, representing approximately 30 percent of Cameroon's total electricity production.¹³ Overall Project completion is 64 percent and commercial operation is scheduled to start in October 2024.¹⁴

8. The **Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project** (P157733) was approved on May 11, 2017, for a US\$ 26.3 million equivalent International Development Association (IDA) credit. The total project cost is US\$ 28.7 million, with the Government of Cameroon providing US\$ 2.4 million. There are no other financiers.¹⁵ The project closing date is July 31, 2023. It is a Category A project and has triggered OP/BP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment, OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats, OP/BP 4.36 on Forests, OP 4.09 on Pest Management, OP/BP 4.11 on Physical Cultural Resources, OP/BP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples, OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement, and OP/BP 4.37 on Safety of Dams.¹⁶ The project was 26.66 percent disbursed as of receipt of the Request.

9. The PDO is "*to improve the Recipient's institutional capacity for a sustainable development of hydroelectric resources on the Sanaga River Basin.*"¹⁷ It has six components: i) Identification of Hydroelectric project sites on the Sanaga River Basin, ii) Supervision of the Nachtigal Hydroelectric Project, iii) Hydrological Risk Mitigation and Dam Safety, iv) Advisory Services for Hydroelectric Asset Concession Schemes, v) Establishment of an Integrated Reservoir Management Plan for the Optimal Hydropower Generation on the Sanaga River, and vi) Project Management Support and Capacity Building. The Panel understands that components i, ii, and vi may be relevant to this Request.

C. Summary of the Request for Inspection

10. This section summarizes the issues raised in the Request; the full document, along with the additional signatures, is attached to this Report as Annex 1.

11. **Impact on Livelihoods.** The Requesters allege that the Project has prevented fishermen, fishmongers, and sand miners from accessing the river and, consequently, has deprived them of their main source of livelihoods without providing adequate alternatives; this has caused a loss of income-generating and subsistence activities. They allege that the census was poorly conducted, excluding many people from the compensation process. They also assert that project-affected people (PAPs) have not received support sufficient to restore their livelihoods.

12. **Fishermen and Fishmongers.** According to the Request, fishermen¹⁸ and fishmongers have lost income-generating activities. The Request alleges most of those who continue operating

¹¹ Nyom is on the outskirts of Yaoundé. (PAD, p. 74.)

¹² PAD, p. 9.

¹³ Management Response, p. vi, para. i.

¹⁴ Management Response, Status of Projects, p. 4, para. 9.

¹⁵ PAD, p. 2.

¹⁶ PAD, pp. 4 and 31.

¹⁷ PAD, p. 14.

¹⁸ The Panel met with fishermen, which includes some women who practice fishing.

have received either inadequate or no compensation; only about 10 fishermen and fishmongers—classified as “*vulnerable*”—have received small monetary amounts, even though their activities ceased more than two years ago.¹⁹

13. ***Sand Miners.*** The Request alleges that the Project census was incomplete, the valuation of quarries inconsistent, and the compensation inadequate. It says PAPs were never consulted on compensation rates, and that some sand miners find the compensation they received insufficient. The Request lists certain expectations for remedial actions, including reassessment of quarries, sand deposits,²⁰ and sand mining activities, a clearly defined basis for calculating compensation, as well as 10 years of technical and financial support.²¹

14. ***Farmers.*** The Request claims that farmers have not been adequately compensated for lost lands and crops, and that they received replacement farmland that was difficult to access and inarable.

15. ***Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans.*** The Request alleges that no alternative livelihood restoration activities have been established for PAPs to date, despite this commitment made in the Project’s livelihood restoration plan.

16. ***Physical Displacement of Households.*** The Requesters allege some of the houses built for PAPs were too small and had leaky roofs. They also claim that plots received in compensation for the loss of their lands were too small and inadequate for planting fruit trees.

17. ***Physical Cultural Resources.*** The Requesters allege that sacred sites have been destroyed and that fish, water resources, and plants used for healing and rituals have been lost. They claim the loss of sacred sites went uncompensated. Specifically, the Requesters from the villages of Ndokoa and Binandjengue point out that although they received funds from NHPC to move the spirits and ancestors elsewhere, they were not compensated for the actual loss of cultural resources within the Project site. Similarly, the Requesters claim that the sacred site of Ndji—where NHPC currently quarries stone for the dam—was destroyed without either compensation or a relocation plan.

18. ***Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Redress.*** The Requesters claim there has been a lack of meaningful consultation with stakeholders, who were not given adequate opportunity to participate in the Project.

19. ***Environmental Issues.*** The Requesters allege environmental impact since, according to third party studies, Nachtigal Dam will emit approximately twice as much carbon dioxide as was claimed by the Project’s Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Requesters also allege that lower rainfall, increased temperatures, strong winds, increasing scarcity of fish, losses of medicinal plants, and air, soil, water, and noise pollution are already harming the area.

20. ***Social Impact.*** The Requesters allege that project activities are causing increased juvenile delinquency, theft, commercial sex work, marital conflicts, and divorces in their community. They

¹⁹ Request for Inspection, p. 1.

²⁰ The Panel is using the term “deposits,” as used by Management in its Response.

²¹ Request for Inspection, p. 6.

attribute these ills to job losses and/or reduced incomes due to community members' inability to mine sand, catch fish, and sell them.

21. **Going Forward.** The Requesters propose some 30 remedial actions, including increased compensation, additional social surveys, medicines, and jobs.

D. Summary of the Management Response

22. The Response, summarized below, is attached to this Report as Annex 2.

23. Management states it is aware of the Requesters' allegations and that NHPC is addressing them. Management notes that the risks and impacts described in the Request are not uncommon for a project of this scale, that it anticipated them, and prepared several Environmental Assessment (EA) instruments to address them.²² To deal with additional environmental and social issues that the Lenders identified during supervision, NHPC committed to a binding Supplementary Corrective Action Plan (SCAP) with time-bound actions.²³ The Project is using an adaptive management approach based on comprehensive monitoring and corrective actions.²⁴ Management acknowledges that mitigation and compensation measures have experienced some delays, but they are being implemented with comprehensive stakeholder input and supervision by the Lenders. Project progress was affected by the need for additional consultations, the longer than anticipated development of Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans (ILRPs),²⁵ and works delays due to Covid-19-imposed restrictions²⁶ and a shortage of high-quality cement.²⁷ Management notes that the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project contains no physical investments and is only financing studies and panels of experts.²⁸

24. **Impact on Livelihoods.** Management explains that NHPC and the Bank have put significant effort into managing, mitigating, and compensating the social impact of the Project. The Response claims the impact on the livelihoods of fishermen, fishmongers, and sand miners was expected and assessed as part of the ESIA process. The need for livelihood restoration was anticipated, and two Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) were prepared, as well as a separate Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for sand workers.²⁹ The Response explains that the Project compensates the various categories of eligible PAPs in a phased manner based on when the impact of resettlement/economic displacement arises. This approach considers i) the location of PAPs, ii) the timing of the likely impact for each category of PAPs, iii) the nature and expected duration of the impact, and iv) the PAPs' choice of compensation.³⁰ Management acknowledges that the compensation process may not have been communicated clearly enough, and that PAPs may not have understood why members of a given profession were compensated at different times and rates. According to Management, NHPC's accelerated payments for certain categories of PAPs in

²² Management Response, p. 5, para. 12.

²³ Management Response, p. 9, para. 27.

²⁴ Management Response, pp. vii. and 7.

²⁵ Management Response, p. 22, para. 66.

²⁶ Management Response, p. 22, para. 66.

²⁷ Management Response, p. 9, para. 26.

²⁸ Management Response, p. 3, para. 8. The only physical investments cover some meteorological equipment.

²⁹ Management Response, p. 36 and pp. 18 and 19, para. 52.

³⁰ Management Response, p. 14, para. 44.

response to complaints might have compounded this situation.³¹ The resulting confusion may have fed a belief that some individuals were omitted from the process or are being paid late.

25. Management claims NHPC undertook and continues to implement extensive measures—including multiple censuses, validation processes, and community awareness-raising—to ensure all PAPs are included. Management explains that monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) processes have highlighted areas that require further attention and that corrective actions are underway. For example, shortcomings and delays in the payment of compensation were identified and are being addressed on a high priority basis.³²

26. ***Fishermen and Fishmongers.*** The Response states that the Project’s impact on the fishing industry is expected to be mainly temporary. Although fishing around the central dam area has been prohibited for safety reasons since construction began in February 2019, the Response explains the dam’s reservoir will eventually be available for fishing, except directly above the water intake; nonetheless, Management acknowledges that fishermen will need to adapt their fishing techniques and training and equipment for deep water fishing will be provided.

27. According to Management, the RAP’s initial compensation package for fishermen and fishmongers provided a transitional allowance and capital for livelihood investments, as well as in-kind assistance such as improved access to alternative fishing sites, training on fishing in deep water, and an allowance for acquiring fishing gear.³³ However, after multiple consultations the fisherfolk³⁴ rejected this package arguing it did not adequately compensate their loss of income or provide them sufficient resources to restore their livelihoods. Management states that the Project undertook additional assessments to determine a new compensation package—one that included increased, lump-sum cash payment comprising transitional allowances and capital for livelihood development—for PAPs in the dam zone and, ahead of the dam impoundment, for both upstream and downstream PAPs.

28. ***Sand Miners.*** Management maintains that the Project adequately anticipated impact on sand miners, which would occur in phases due to the construction of the reservoir and changes in sediment transport. The Response explains the color coding used to describe impact zones in relation to the sand miners: red for quarries at the dam site that were affected during pre-mobilization; blue for upstream quarries which will be impacted at dam impoundment, scheduled for 2023, and green for downstream quarries which will be affected by reduced sediment flow, expected in the first quarter of 2023.³⁵

29. Management explains that NHPC, with support from a consulting firm, conducted surveys in March and July 2015, and January/February 2016, to identify people engaged in the sand mining value chain.³⁶ It identified 51 quarry owners,³⁷ of whom 20 were in the legally demarcated project area and directly affected by permanent access restrictions due to land acquisition for the Project, and 31 were downstream and affected by diminishing sand reserves. According to Management,

³¹ Management Response, p. 14.

³² Management Response, p. 41.

³³ Management Response, p. 17.

³⁴ The term fisherfolk is used in this report to refer to both men and women practicing fishing, and fishmongers.

³⁵ Management Response, p. 35.

³⁶ Management Response, p. 61.

³⁷ Quarry owners are identified in the Management Response as persons with extraction permits.

the population of sand miners declared by quarry owners was frequently higher than the number identified during the 2015 and 2016 surveys. Therefore, NHPC carried out another six-month survey from October 2016 to March 2017—which Management classified as a period of high quarry activity—to ensure the most accurate and comprehensive results possible. Management notes NHPC took steps to identify all active workers and to communicate the survey cut-off date to each quarry. Management explains that managers and miners were counted only once, regardless of whether they covered more than one quarry.³⁸

30. Management states that the final field survey results were presented to PAPs, and then validated by committees in each district to ensure transparency and fairness. These committees included Divisional Officers, village Chiefs, quarry managers, and a representative from NHPC. Management explains that the minutes of these validation meetings were signed by all committee members.³⁹ Management states that compensation was based on average income during six months in a year—given the seasonal nature of sand mining—for each category of sand miners.⁴⁰

31. **Farmers.** The Response states NHPC acquired land from farmers for the dam, the staff quarters (“*Cité d’Exploitation*” or CE) area, and the Transmission Line (TL) right-of-way. Farmers could choose cash compensation or replacement land. According to Management, farmers would receive an allowance of 250,000 FCFA/ha (US\$ 380/ha) for the clearing of new land—a rate above market price and thus consistent with Bank policy.⁴¹ Management also states that crops were inventoried, and farmers were paid transition allowances that fully compensated them before their new fields were cropped.⁴² Farmers would also receive agricultural inputs and priority for participating in agricultural extension courses. Management notes 976 farmers were thus compensated: 834 farmers received cash for plots and crops and 142 received replacement land.

32. Management notes that issues remain for 75 PAPs in the CE area because the replacement land chosen by these farmers may be unsuitable or inaccessible.⁴³ Management agrees that the farmers have faced difficulties including flooding, unclear demarcation, and the passage of animals, as noted in the 2020 RAP/LRP. Management has proposed an action plan to address the situation, which will be implemented before the end of 2022, and progress will be periodically evaluated.⁴⁴

33. According to the Response, livelihood support measures were not initially provided for plots under the TL smaller than 1,000 m².⁴⁵ In June 2021, Management found that agricultural incomes of PAPs in the TL area had significantly declined. Therefore, in January 2022, NHPC proposed an action plan to restore the livelihoods of all PAP farmers. NHPC was also asked to expand technical support to all TL PAPs regardless of the impact on their plots. The Lenders have included resolution of this issue as a binding corrective action to be implemented by the end of the third quarter of 2022.⁴⁶

³⁸ Management Response, p. 34.

³⁹ Management Response, pp. 33 and 34.

⁴⁰ Management Response, p. 20.

⁴¹ Management Response, p. 20, para. 57.

⁴² Management Response, p. 42.

⁴³ Management Response, p. 21, para. 60.

⁴⁴ Management Response, p. 20, para. 61.

⁴⁵ Management Response, p. 22, paras. 64 and 65.

⁴⁶ Management Response, p. 22, para. 65.

34. **Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans.** The Response explains that the Project provides for developing Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans (ILRPs), as well as a transition allowance to bridge the income gap until a new livelihood activity can support a PAP. Management explains NHPC provides the ILRPs and continuous support through NGO partners. The plans include financial and business skills training, and improved access to alternative income-generating activities in other sectors.⁴⁷ According to Management, the ILRPs are prepared well before PAPs are affected by the Project. Management notes that NHPC initially paid 100 percent of the compensation to sand miners in the dam area, but some of them exhausted their funds before developing an alternative livelihood. Going forward, the Project is splitting payments for sand miners into an initial 70 percent, provided after validation of an ILRP, and 30 percent upon verified implementation of the livelihood restoration activity. Fishermen and fishmongers, however, receive 100 percent of their compensation as a lump sum upon validation of their ILRPs.⁴⁸

35. Management emphasizes that compensation and transitional support are tailored to the nature and duration of impact on specific groups. For example, Management describes the impact on sand miners and quarry owners as permanent, and thus they receive a transitional allowance to bridge the income gap until an alternative livelihood has been found.⁴⁹ ILRPs also provide technical support for livelihood activities. According to Management, the sand miners' LRP will remain active until PAPs *“have restored their capacity to generate income ensuring them a standard of living at least equivalent to that before the economic displacement”* within three years after the start of dam operation.⁵⁰ Management explains that because the impact on fishermen and fishmongers will be more limited and temporary, the Project initially supported their fishing in alternative locations and provided them with transitional allowances and technical support to develop alternative livelihood activities. Management notes that there is an annual RAP/LRP implementation evaluation process to assess its efficacy and recommend corrective measures as needed.

36. **Physical Displacement of Households.** Management states NHPC minimized physical displacement to six families, who moved into new homes at locations of their choice, with living space at least equivalent to their former accommodations but of higher quality construction, and with latrines, showers, and kitchens. The Response notes the titling process for the replacement land is in progress.⁵¹ In the first quarter of 2022, when Management learned of complaints from two PAPs about the quality of their replacement houses i) it confirmed that the quality of construction was substandard, and ii) NHPC successfully completed repairs by July 31, 2022.⁵²

37. **Physical Cultural Resources.** Management states that the 2011 ESIA identified cultural heritage sites in 15 of the 20 villages surveyed in the expropriation area, and NHPC identified a sacred site known as Llanga, belonging to the people of Binandjengue village; these losses were compensated. Management maintains that the TL RAP identified no sacred sites along the TL or in Batchenga village. NHPC identified a second sacred site at Ndokoa, which is outside the

⁴⁷ Management Response, pp. 14 and 15.

⁴⁸ Management Response, p. 15, para 45.

⁴⁹ Management Response, p. 15, para 46.

⁵⁰ Management Response, p. 38.

⁵¹ Management Response, p. 21, para. 62.

⁵² Management Response, p. 21, para. 62.

expropriated area; notwithstanding this, and although it was spared land clearing activities, it was compensated. Management states that the 2011 ESIA had referred to a possible sacred site in Ndji village called “Nkolndji,” although traditional authorities reported no such site in a 2016 consultation nor was it identified in the 2016 RAP.⁵³ Management has requested that NHPC conduct additional consultations and assessments by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 to determine whether or not the Project affected a sacred site at Ndji. Management states more information is needed regarding the alleged losses of water, fish species, and plants used for healing and rituals, and the Bank will investigate these claims as part of its ongoing monitoring of the Project.⁵⁴

38. **Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Redress.** Management states the Project has made significant efforts to conduct robust, community-based, participatory consultations throughout project preparation and implementation, and the Project has disclosed environmental and social information to project-affected communities using a variety of stakeholder engagement tools in French and local languages.⁵⁵ Management reports that NHPC has gathered community views through approximately 550 meetings with stakeholders. The Response notes continuous stakeholder feedback has informed adjustments to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan every six months since 2014, as well as changes to the strategies of the Local Economic Development Action Plan (PADEL) activities.⁵⁶

39. Management acknowledges there is room to improve communication with PAPs and NHPC’s capacity to register and respond to complaints more promptly and address issues proactively.⁵⁷ According to the Response, the Project’s GRM is functioning and has registered more than 1,000 grievances since April 2015.⁵⁸ Management reports 98 percent of these have been addressed and the remainder are being processed. Two-thirds of the grievances focused on the census and sand miners’ compensation;⁵⁹ as a result, an additional 68 sand miners, 18 fishermen and fishmongers, 108 economically displaced PAPs (mainly those who lost lands), and one physically displaced PAP were included in the survey.⁶⁰ The Response states that NHPC has held information sessions to enhance awareness of the GRM and that there are billboards containing contact information about the Project and the GRM throughout the project area.⁶¹

40. Management states that NHPC contracted *Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir Cameroun* (ASSEJA)—a national NGO acting as an independent witness of the resolution of grievances handled by the five village appeals committees.⁶² Management reports that, as of July 2022, the Project doubled the number of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to eight to collect feedback regularly.⁶³ According to the Response, the Bank and other Lenders will continue to monitor implementation of the Project’s GRM during their quarterly field visits.⁶⁴ The Response explained

⁵³ Management Response, p. 23, paras. 67 and 68.

⁵⁴ Management Response, pp. 49 and 50, line 6.

⁵⁵ Management Response, p. 12, para. 36.

⁵⁶ Management Response, p. 12, paras. 36 and 37.

⁵⁷ Management Response, p. 14, para 43.

⁵⁸ Management Response, p. 14, para 41.

⁵⁹ Management Response, p. 14, para 42.

⁶⁰ Management Response, p. 34.

⁶¹ Management Response, p. 14, para 42.

⁶² Management Response, p. 14, para 43.

⁶³ Management Response, p. 14, para 43.

⁶⁴ Management Response, p. 14, para 43.

that if a complainant is dissatisfied with the answer to a complaint, the grievance can be raised to an independent Mediation Committee. If the complainant disagrees with the decision of that body, he/she can present it to the Appeal Committee, the highest level within the GRM structure.⁶⁵

41. **Environmental Issues.** Management reports that NHPC prepared several EA instruments, collected ample baseline data, and continuously monitors and actively manages impacts on air, soil, water, and noise, environmental flow release, biodiversity, and the sediments in the Sanaga River, in line with Bank standards.⁶⁶ Management denies the Project will release approximately twice as much GHG—as declared by the Requesters—and adds these claims fall short of scientific standards and are either factually inaccurate or unsupported by evidence.⁶⁷

42. Management finds no plausible link between the Project’s construction works and the alleged regional and global environmental impacts of reduced rainfall, increased temperatures, or high winds, but rather considers those phenomena more likely linked to the effects of climate change.⁶⁸

43. Acknowledging that the Project could affect fish stocks, Management has implemented three actions: i) a procedure for fish rescue from threatened ponds and dried areas downstream, ii) a study for restoring the Sanaga tributaries, and iii) a fish genetic study.⁶⁹

44. To mitigate the loss of medicinal plants, Management noted it would support the COPAL (*Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié*) community forest, minimize land clearing to the extent possible, and carry out revegetation of the dam site and surrounding areas to restore impacted species, mostly after works are completed.⁷⁰ Management also explained it would support the MDNP (*Parc National de Mpem et Djim*) and the Yaoundé University tree nursery.⁷¹ Progress reports on all three actions are pending.

45. **Social Impact.** Management explains that NHPC closely monitors the Project’s social impact and that increase in theft, juvenile delinquency, or marital conflict are not attributable to the Project.⁷² Management emphasizes that the Project has promoted employment and taken necessary steps to address the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment. This includes GBV training for 1,000 project employees, requiring all workers sign a Code of Conduct—which prohibits any type of violence, exploitation, or abuse of women and girls, and raising awareness at the community level in schools and public areas.⁷³ Management states it established a GBV survivors care office staffed by a local, specialized NGO, which operates a toll-free number, and that the Project GRM is currently processing seven allegations of harassment by site workers.

⁶⁵ Management Response, p. 34.

⁶⁶ Management Response, p. 11, para. 32.

⁶⁷ Management Response, p. 23, para. 70 and p. vii, para. vi.

⁶⁸ Management Response, pp. 24 and 25, para. 73.

⁶⁹ Management Response, p. 25, para. 75.

⁷⁰ Management Response, p. 25, para. 79.

⁷¹ Management Response, p. 55, p. 68, and Meeting with Management, August 29, 2022.

⁷² Management Response, p. 26, para. 81.

⁷³ Management Response, p. 26, para. 83.

46. **Going forward.** The Response lists several key actions that have been agreed with NHPC to be completed by the end of 2022. These include completion of compensation payments and ILRPs for all remaining project-affected sand miners, fishermen, and fishmongers; implementation of additional measures for project-affected farmers; further assessments of potential additional sacred sites and alleged impact on natural resources, and the close monitoring of the Project’s social impact.⁷⁴

E. Panel Observations, Review of the Request and Management Response, and Eligibility Assessment

47. The Panel Team (the “Team”) for this case included Panel Chairperson Ramanie Kunanayagam, Panel Member Imrana Jalal (lead Panel Member for this case), Senior Investigations Officer Birgit Kuba, Senior Environmental Specialist Nicolas Kotschoubey, and Investigations Officer Camila Jorge do Amaral. The Team visited Cameroon August 29-September 7, 2022, and held meetings in Yaoundé and the Nachtigal Dam area, about 65 km outside Yaoundé.

48. In Yaoundé, the Team met with representatives of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Regional Development, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Electricity Development Corporation, NHPC, and the World Bank Country Office. The Team also met with the Requesters’ representatives, IFI Synergy/GDA, and associated organizations. In the Nachtigal Dam area, the Team held meetings in the villages of Olembe, Nachtigal Batchenga, and Ndjé to talk with several Requesters and hundreds of other residents from these and nearby villages which also allege Project impact. The Team did not meet with upstream communities, since they are not supporting the Request. The Panel Team also saw several village chiefs and heads of associations to understand better their views of the Project and the alleged harm.

49. The Panel appreciates all the aforementioned individuals for sharing their views and perspectives. It also thanks the World Bank Country Office staff in Yaoundé for their assistance with logistical arrangements.

50. The Panel assessment below is based on information presented in the Request, the Response, relevant project documents, and information gathered during the Team’s site visit. The following review covers the Panel’s determination of the technical eligibility of the Request in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Panel Resolution (subsection E.1), observations on other factors (subsection E.2), and the Panel’s review (subsection E.3) supporting the Panel’s recommendation.⁷⁵

E.1. Determination of Technical Eligibility

51. The Panel is satisfied the Request meets all six technical eligibility criteria of the Panel Resolution.⁷⁶ The Panel notes that its confirmation of technical eligibility, which is a set of verifiable facts focusing to a large extent on the content of the Request as articulated by the

⁷⁴ Management Response, p. 27.

⁷⁵ The Resolution, paras. 13-15 and 29.

⁷⁶ The Resolution, para 29.

Requesters, does not involve the Panel’s assessment on the substance of the claims made in the Request.

- Criterion (a): *“The affected party consists of any two or more persons with common interests or concerns and who are in the borrower’s territory.”* The Request was initially submitted by two Requesters living in Cameroon. The Panel subsequently received an additional 99 signatures from community members asking IFI Synergy to represent them in this Request. The Panel considers this criterion is met.
- Criterion (b): *“The Request does assert in substance that a serious violation by the Bank of its operational policies and procedures has or is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Requester.”* The Requesters allege harm caused by Nachtigal Dam, supported by the Nachtigal Hydropower Project and Sanaga River Hydropower Technical Assistance Project. The Panel considers this criterion is met.
- Criterion (c): *“The Request does assert that its subject matter has been brought to Management’s attention and that, in the Requester’s view, Management has failed to respond adequately demonstrating that it has followed or is taking steps to follow the Bank’s policies and procedures.”* The Panel has verified that the Requesters’ concerns were brought to the Bank’s attention prior to the filing of the Request. The Request includes a communications log and samples of correspondence from IFI Synergy to the World Bank and to other Lenders, a list of Bank staff contacted, and minutes of a meeting with them in October 2021. The Panel is satisfied that this criterion is met.
- Criterion (d): *“The matter is not related to procurement.”* The Requesters’ claims raise environmental and social issues and do not relate to procurement. The Panel is satisfied that this criterion is met.
- Criterion (e): *“For projects approved by the Executive Directors before the date of this Resolution [September 8, 2020], the related loan has not been closed or substantially disbursed or for projects approved by the Executive Directors on or after the date of this Resolution fifteen months have not yet passed from the date the related loan has been closed.”* The projects are open and were, respectively, 0 percent disbursed (Nachtigal Hydropower Project) and 26.66 percent disbursed (Sanaga River Hydropower Technical Assistance Project) at the time of receipt of the Request. Thus, this criterion is met.
- Criterion (f): *“The Panel has not previously made a recommendation on the subject matter or, if it has, that the Request does assert that there is new evidence or circumstances not known at the time of the prior Request.”* This is the first complaint the Panel has received relating to these projects. This criterion is therefore met.

E.2. Panel Observations Relevant to its Recommendation

52. In making its recommendation to the Board and in line with its OPs, the Panel considers the following: whether the alleged harm and possible Bank non-compliance with its operational policies and procedures may be of a serious character; whether there is a plausible, causal link

between the harm alleged in the Request and the Project, and whether Management has dealt appropriately with the issues, or has acknowledged non-compliance and presented a statement of remedial actions that address the Requesters' concerns. Below, the Panel records its preliminary observations on the alleged harm and compliance, noting that in so doing, it is neither evaluating the sovereign decisions of the Borrower, nor making any definitive assessment of Bank compliance with its policies and procedures, and any adverse, material effect this may have caused.⁷⁷

1. Impact on Livelihoods

53. During its visit to villages affected by Nachtigal Dam, the Panel Team repeatedly heard from local communities that they largely depended on the Sanaga River for their livelihood activities—specifically fishing and sand mining. Many people told the Team that they initially thought the dam would bring development and opportunities to improve their livelihoods. They claimed that, instead of benefitted from the Project, their quality of life has rapidly and cumulatively declined since dam construction started.

54. The Team met individuals who alleged that because the Project deprived them of income sources, they could no longer support their families. Many had received compensation, which they claimed was inadequate; others alleged they were excluded from the census and thus not compensated. Several explained that they used to fish and mine sand, depending on the season, but that the Project only compensated them for one of these activities. The World Bank and NHPC teams, however, assured the Team that the Project took PAPs' several livelihood activities into account and compensated them accordingly. The Panel understands that compensation for different activities is due at different times, consistent with the Project's phased approach to resettlement and linked to the timing of impact.

55. The Panel observes that the Project identified the following as eligible for compensation and livelihood support: 117 fishermen, 87 fishmongers, 976 sand miners and quarry owners, 976 farmers, and six households to be physically relocated. The Panel emphasizes that during its meetings in the different villages, the concerns raised by community members almost exclusively related to fishing and sand mining.

1.1. Fisherfolk – Fishermen

56. During its visit, the Panel Team spoke to active fishermen from four villages near the dam area and downstream of it. They described fishing as a family tradition passed down intergenerationally and which they started at an early age. Many—especially those in the villages of Nachtigal, Batchenga, and Ndji—explained that fishing is their primary source of livelihood, although some also perform sand mining or farming, depending on the season.

57. Most fishermen in the dam zone told the Team that they learned through various channels that they had to stop fishing before construction started in 2019; since then, it has become increasingly difficult to fish. They allege project staff told them they would suffer no long-term impact to their livelihood and could continue to fish elsewhere. Nevertheless, they claimed they

⁷⁷ The Inspection Panel, 2014. [World Bank Operating Procedures](#), para. 43.

could no longer access other parts of the river and had to end their fishing activities in 2019. They contend they were promised fishing supplies and bicycles to access alternative sites along the river during construction. However, most have received neither equipment, assistance, nor bicycles. The Panel understands that fishermen would need special training and supplies to fish elsewhere on the river since other stretches require different fishing techniques and equipment. Fishermen in Ndji said they use their hands to fish in shallow waters and they are neither equipped nor trained to fish in deeper waters. The NHPC informed the Team fishermen will receive training and equipment to fish in deep water once the dam is impounded in 2023, after which they could return to fish in the dam area outside the 500-meter safety zone.

58. The main complaint from fishermen downstream is that the lack of fish has curtailed their fishing activities. They attribute the decrease in fish stock and the changes in the water flow to the Nachtigal Project, which they say commenced from the time of dam construction and they do not believe the Lom Pangar Dam contributed to these changes. Some also told the Team they can no longer access the river, even downstream, and that three people who tried to fish were arrested and others were fined.

59. The Team spoke to fishermen who received compensation about three years ago when they were told to stop fishing. Others claimed they received compensation only recently, while some still await payments. Those who received compensation believe the amounts were insufficient to replace their earnings and do not adequately compensate them for income lost due to their inability to fish during the past three years. Four fishermen also reported that when they cashed their checks the local banks kept a percentage of the compensation payment.

60. Several fishermen claimed they were left out of consultations and the 2015 census, even though their families have lived and fished in the area for generations. They explained they filed complaints through the GRM—some showed their fishing permits and recognition letters from village chiefs—but were ultimately excluded from the validated list or still awaited a response to their claims. They alleged while the GRM has acknowledged receipt of their complaints, they have received nothing further.

61. Both the Bank and NHPC emphasized the importance of the validation process, which included different stakeholders/interest groups, such as the Ministry of Fisheries, fishing associations, and village chiefs. According to the Bank and NHPC, the 2015 census and validation process, along with more recent consultations, led to adjustments in compensation measures for fisherfolk in December 2021, and to changes in the activities offered under the PADEL.

62. The Panel understands from Management that, after fisherfolk rejected the initial compensation package, the Project undertook additional assessments to determine a new package.⁷⁸ A final agreement—signed in December, 2021—extended the package to all fisherfolk. It increased the lump-sum cash payments—representing transitional allowance and capital for livelihood development—for fisherfolk in the dam zone and, prior to the dam impoundment, for upstream and downstream PAPs. The revised package increased transition allowances for all

⁷⁸ Management Response, p. 45.

fishermen from 450,000 FCFA⁷⁹ to 1,500,000 FCFA,⁸⁰ and for all fishmongers from 250,000 FCFA⁸¹ to 850,000 FCFA.⁸²

1.2. Fisherfolk – Fishmongers

63. During its field visit, the Team heard from dozens of women fishmongers in the villages of Nachtigal Batchenga and Ndji. They all complained they could no longer buy, process, or sell fish since fishermen in the region stopped or curtailed fishing due to low fish stocks or lack of access to the river. As a result, the fishmongers have been unable to work.

64. Fishmongers in Nachtigal Batchenga claimed they were overlooked by consultations and census activities and that, consequently, they were not considered for compensation or livelihood restoration activities. However, fishmongers in Ndji said they participated in several consultations and census activities; some were even interviewed and filmed by the Project many times. They told the Team that despite this, they were not on the validated list of PAPs to be compensated. They did not understand why they were considered eligible in earlier lists but not in the final, validated lists. Several fishmongers explained that, although they were not being considered for compensation, they were offered an opportunity to participate in the ILRPs in exchange for 10,000 FCFA.⁸³ Some women claimed they paid this fee and selected their livelihood restoration activity, but never heard back from the Project.

65. The Team spoke to a few fishmongers who received compensation, who claimed the amounts were insufficient and not comparable to what fishermen received. The women who rely on fishing or related food sales told the Team they were responsible for their children’s education and health expenses, which they previously paid with their earnings. However, without income they can no longer send their children to school. They also said youth are turning to crime, and that some of the women have resorted to commercial sex work.

1.3. Sand Miners

66. The Team interviewed dozens of individuals from several villages in the Project area who explained they had derived their livelihoods from sand mining for many years and that their families had engaged in sand mining intergenerationally. The Panel understands that for most of them, sand mining was their primary source of livelihood, but that some also worked as fishermen or farmers off-season. The Team met with people from the red (dam site) and green (downstream) zones, who represented different categories of sand miners,⁸⁴ including quarry owners, sand deposit managers, divers, and on- and off-loaders. The Team did not speak to sand miners from the blue zone, upstream of the dam, as these have not supported the Request.

67. The red zone sand miners explained that they had to stop mining when dam construction started in 2019. While many people the Team heard from had received compensation in 2019,

⁷⁹ Approx. US\$ 673.

⁸⁰ Approx. US\$ 2,245.

⁸¹ Approx. US\$ 374.

⁸² Approx. US\$ 1,272. Management Response, p. 40.

⁸³ Approx. US\$ 15.

⁸⁴ For the purpose of this Report, “sand miners” refers to the different occupations in the sand mining sector.

several alleged they were left out of the census (either excluded from all lists or dropped during the final survey). They claimed they owned quarries or had worked in the sand mining supply chain for many years and have been without an income for about three years. A few told the Team that their quarries were excluded from the census because they lacked the official permits, which the quarry owners had not considered necessary, since they had mined sand for many years and were well known in their communities. Some explained that September through December, when the last survey was conducted, is the wet season and the river volume is dangerous for sand mining. They said fewer people mine sand during that period and some quarries are inactive. Several people explained that their quarries were surveyed in November 2016 and were considered inactive, despite having substantial activity throughout most of the year. Most sand miners who claimed exclusion from the census told the Team they filed complaints through the GRM but were either not included or still awaiting a response. Some community members alleged that outsiders from Yaoundé or elsewhere in the country came to the area and were wrongly included in the census, at the expense of local sand miners.

68. Some of the miners alleged that the compensation amounts received were significantly below their yearly earnings—many said the amounts corresponded to six months of their previous income or less. Many PAPs acknowledged that sand mining was seasonal and more difficult and dangerous during periods of high water but claimed some of them mined throughout the year. Some quarry owners complained that they were only compensated for only part of their sand mining, despite owning multiple quarries or managing several deposits. A few people claimed they were miscategorized and compensated as divers instead of quarry owners. They alleged they were pressured to sign and accept their compensation, despite voicing their objections. Some quarry owners claimed the compensation did not cover equipment that had become obsolete—such as generators and pipes, or other investments they had made in their quarries. A couple of quarry owners did not understand precisely what they were being compensated for, or whether the compensation covered equipment or investments, such as for creating and maintaining access roads to quarry sites.

69. Almost all miners who operated in the green (downstream) zone and met with the Team said they stopped their sand mining activities between 2019 and 2021, since there was no more sand. While many claimed a total lack of sand in the river, others claimed the quantities decreased to about a fifth of what was there before, and that too much effort and time was now required to mine it, and it was no longer a beneficial/economical pursuit. When the Team asked if decreases in sand had been noticed before 2019, the miners said was a recent occurrence which they attributed to Nachtigal Dam; some noted that Lom Pangar Dam had no impact on the sand quantities in the river downstream of Nachtigal Dam.

70. During its visit, the Team also met with the World Bank's project team and several representatives of NHPC responsible for the social and environmental aspects of the Project. The Panel understands that the Bank and NHPC consider the three separate census surveys and validation processes to have been robust. According to the Bank team, October through March—when the 2016/17 survey was conducted—is high season for sand mining, and surveyors stayed in the field for an extended period, repeatedly visiting quarry sites, to ensure miners absent due to sickness or other commitments, had a fair chance of being counted. Both the Bank and NHPC emphasized the importance of the validation process—which involved stakeholders/interest

groups, including village chiefs and quarry owners—since sand mining is unregulated and formal documentation is unavailable. The Team was told that the survey and validation processes, combined with the GRM, created an adequate and functional system that provides various opportunities for identifying all eligible PAPs.

71. NHPC informed the Team that all red zone sand miners entitled to compensation received their payments in 2019. The Team understands that NHPC has begun compensating sand miners in the green and blue zones, following progress in preparing their ILRPs and well ahead of the anticipated impact. Both the Bank and NHPC teams acknowledged that while a large number had filed complaints about the census, many of them were not deemed to derive their livelihood from sand mining on a regular basis. They also told the Panel Team that the Project did not factor the regulatory status of quarries, since sand mining is an informal, unregulated activity. According to Management and NHPC, the criterion used was whether a quarry was active at the time of the surveys. The Team understands that the Project also considered whether investments such as access roads and equipment had been made at the site.

72. **Food Vendors.** During the meetings, the Panel Team also learned that some women in the communities used to grow crops and sell food to sand miners at the quarries. These women claimed they were now unable to generate this income since most quarries are inactive. According to them, although NHPC promised they could continue selling food to workers at the NHPC worksite, when they tried to do so they were “chased away” and had their goods confiscated. The Team also met a man who used to sell food to sand miners; he also had his goods seized when he tried to sell to workers at NHPC.

1.4. Farmers

73. During its field visit, the Panel Team was told that the 75 farmers displaced by the CE were given substandard replacement land, and therefore could not generate income from their traditional livelihood. While the Team did not hear from these PAPs directly, community representatives reported this was possible since no assessments of the suitability of the land for farming were performed. The Team learned that some farmers had abandoned the replacement lands they received. The Panel notes that Management has urged NHPC to accelerate the process of resolving such outstanding issues and ensure that affected PAPs can restore their livelihoods before the end of 2022. The Panel further notes that NHPC is committed to providing livelihood support measures to all PAP farmers in the TL zone, including those with plots smaller than 1,000 m².

1.5. Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans

74. The Panel understands from Management that the Project had finalized ILRPs and compensation payments for 75 percent of fishermen and fishmongers, and 56 percent of sand miners as of July 2022.⁸⁵ The remaining 25 percent of fisherfolk, whose ILRPs are under development, are due to be paid by October 31, 2022.⁸⁶ In the red zone, 140 sand miner PAPs (94 percent) received 100 percent of their compensation amounts in 2019, regardless of the status of

⁸⁵ Management Response, p. viii.

⁸⁶ Management Response, p. 18.

their ILRPs.⁸⁷ According to Management, 66 percent have developed ILRPs, and the rest are in the implementation process, with most between 50 and 99 percent complete.⁸⁸ Upstream and downstream of the dam, there are 827 sand miner PAPs with anticipated impact upon dam impoundment in 2023, of whom 666 (80 percent) have developed ILRPs.⁸⁹ Some 459 of the 666 (69 percent) have received 70 percent of what the Project calculated as “transitional allowances”, and those with remaining ILRPs or ILRPs expected to be finalized in the coming months will be paid by the end of the third quarter of 2022.⁹⁰

75. The Panel notes that a local NGO—AGRO-PME—was hired to support the development and implementation of the ILRPs. The Panel understands this includes interviews to learn an individual’s needs, support for individual retraining and assist PAPs with plans, training in financial management and entrepreneurship, technical training, and monitoring the progress of implementing individual plans. The Panel understands AGRO-PME has mobilized ten field officers—six of whom are dedicated to supporting sand workers with their ILRPs. The Team learned that in April, May, and June 2022, AGRO-PME conducted 82 technical support visits to red zone sand miners and 905 visits to those in the blue and green zones. Nine women and 121 men received training in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and agriculture. The Bank’s project team told the Panel Team it takes an average of four months to develop an ILRP for a sand miner working closely with the NGO technical counterpart, and two months to develop an ILRP for a fisherman/woman. The Bank team noted that not all sand miners and fishermen were willing to invest this much time, and some would prefer to receive the compensation and pursue activities of their choice on their own.

76. The Panel Team learned that the Project area is known for agriculture and many PAPs chose to buy land for either farming or construction of rental properties. The Team spoke to many individuals who reported that they had started farming but could not sustain their livelihoods from it. Some PAPs explained they planted different crops and vegetables, including cocoa, manioc, and yam. Many reported getting some guidance and support from AGRO-PME, but nevertheless struggled due to their inexperience with farming and insufficient funds to sustain their activities. Several people told the Team their fields dried up due to insufficient rain and irrigation equipment, or that their crops had rotted. Some PAPs admitted they completely abandoned their farming activities. A former sand loader told the Team he used to have a predictable income and could plan his expenses, but since he started farming, he struggled to anticipate when he would sell his crops, to whom, and in what quantities. While some individuals reported that AGRO-PME visited or called them on a regular basis (every month or so), most reported getting little or no assistance with their livelihood projects to date. A couple of them mentioned only meeting with AGRO-PME in group settings but not individually.

77. Several PAPs complained that they could not choose the livelihood activity they wanted, but that instead AGRO-PME imposed one that they considered not being a good fit for them. Some PAPs told the Team they started building rental properties but ran out of money and could not complete construction. One person reported that, while awaiting the remaining 30 percent of his compensation, building materials were either stolen or became more expensive due to inflation,

⁸⁷ Management Response, p. 19. Nine sand miner PAPs have not yet collected their compensation since they cannot be located.

⁸⁸ Management Response, p. 19.

⁸⁹ Management Response, p. 38.

⁹⁰ Management Response, p. 38.

thus slowing progress on the construction. Several people told the Team that they started raising animals but could not feed them enough or afford veterinary care, and the animals died. Several fishermen told the Team they had not received the training, fishing supplies, or bicycles, promised them. Many people believed their livelihood restoration projects would have been more successful had they received better support and guidance, and the entire compensation amounts upfront. Most individuals the Team heard from reported their livelihood projects have failed and they struggled to pay their children’s school fees, medical bills, and other expenses.

78. The Bank team told the Panel that the annual RAP/LRP evaluation process assesses the effects of livelihood restoration measures provided to all categories of PAPs. This process produced almost a three-fold increase in compensation paid to fishermen and fishmongers as a corrective measure and adaptive management approach. The Panel also understands from Management that an evaluation report on the ILRPs will be completed by the end of 2022 and further corrective actions will be taken based on its recommendations and findings.

2. Physical Resettlement of Households

79. The Panel Team spoke to some individuals who voiced concern about their replacement houses and new plots—citing insufficient space for fruit trees, crops, and storing manure, as well as the poor quality of the houses. One person told the Team a new house was built beside a powerplant. Another claimed she was not consulted on the relocation site, and lost access to medicinal plants and water, which she used to treat her patients.

80. NHPC informed the Team it had conducted a household survey of new sites and locations, that the PAPs were extensively consulted before construction, and that modifications were made to original designs proposed in the RAP. The Team heard that the replacement houses are regularly monitored to enable NHPC to identify and address issues as they arise, and that remedial actions had already been performed on two houses whose construction had been found to be inadequate.

3. Physical Cultural Resources

81. The Panel notes that two sites of cultural significance were identified and compensated (Binandjengue and Ndokoa), but that the Ndji site was not mentioned in the 2016 RAP. The Panel acknowledges that Management requested additional consultations and assessments be conducted by the end of 2022 on this issue.

82. During its visit, the Team met with the “elders” and “elite” of Ndji, who told it that the forest around Ndji was destroyed to make way for dam construction and stone quarries for the Project. They explained their cultural identity and beliefs are associated with the forest, its trees, and the river, and claim that, since the Project began, the forest gods, spirits, and ancestors have left, causing the loss of fish and medicinal plants. Some attribute these losses to the destruction of the forest. The elders said the money given by NHPC to conduct rituals to appease the forest gods and ancestor spirits only paid for the rituals, not the loss of physical, cultural resources. The Team understands that the Bank met with the Chief of Ndji in August 2022, and that the Project will consider the Bank’s analysis and suggestions for compensating these losses.

83. As to the alleged loss of water, fish species, and plants used for healing and rituals, the Panel understands that a protocol for collaboration with the Mvele community of Binandjengue was signed on April 22, 2019, detailing the responsibilities of the community and NHPC with respect to the transfer of the Binandjengue sacred site. Since the site was moved to another location, Management noted more information is needed to understand what loss might have occurred during that move. The Panel notes that, among proposed actions, Management committed to further stakeholder engagement and assessment regarding possible, additional sacred sites.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Redress

84. The Panel recognizes the Project's efforts to conduct robust, community-based, participatory consultations. During its field visit, the Team observed that most community members mentioned attending several meetings. Some residents of Nachtigal Batchenga were the only community members who claimed they participated in no consultation meetings, although they did meet with some project staff and were aware of the GRM.

85. Most of the communities the Team visited seemed aware of the GRM and many residents had already used it. Community members claimed they either complain through their village chiefs or report directly to project staff who are part of the GRM. The Panel notes from the Response that the grievance process has three levels, and through this process several people became eligible for compensation. Nonetheless, some still report that the Project does not follow up with complainants and is nonresponsive to their concerns.

86. During its visit, the Team noticed NHPC billboards with several flyers containing project information in two of the communities. The Team observed that most residents of Ndji it met with were older and vulnerable, and some claimed to be illiterate. The Team learned that the Project has been holding continuous conversations, facilitating meetings, and organizing multi-stakeholder discussions. The Panel understands that the project team has been conducting site visits with IFI Synergy, which enabled the project team to address concerns about project implementation and to improve the Project's environmental and social performance.

5. Environmental Issues

87. During the field visit, the Bank team informed the Panel Team about the status of environmental issues affected by the Project, including its impact on fish scarcity, medicinal plants, and biodiversity. As regards the increasing scarcity of fish, Management informed the Team that three activities had taken place or were ongoing: i) a fish rescue operation was successfully undertaken during which 12,000 fish were rescued, measured, and released downstream; Management awaits a report on the operation, ii) an initial study by Mott MacDonald on the tributaries of the Sanaga River to restore the riverbanks for cohabitation and to restore water flow yielded no clear results; a second version of the report is expected in September 2022, and iii) a genetic study of fish to establish a baseline for future monitoring is near completion; the first sampling campaign will take place in March 2023.

88. Furthermore, the project team explained that some water will bypass the dam and the river will not be completely blocked.⁹¹ This is inconsistent with the EIA, which states that as “a run-of-river operation, the [dam] will [send to the turbines] the totality of incoming volumes...” (*« un fonctionnement au fil de l'eau, l'aménagement turbinant instantanément la totalité des volumes entrants » à cote de retenue constante*).⁹²

89. Regarding the loss of medicinal plants, Management pledged to restore them as part of broader reforestation activities. Reforestation will not be conducted on a per hectare basis, but rather on the area affected by works. Management provided little information on reforestation subprograms, and as such their status and progress are unknown.

90. The Panel notes the EA includes mitigation actions related to fauna and biodiversity, such as reducing the risk of TL collision/electrocution of birds, lowering the risks from hunting and poaching, promoting grey parrot nesting sites, reducing hippopotamus-human conflicts, and providing technical assistance. The Panel understands the implementation of these mitigation actions are preliminary.

91. The Panel notes that the allegations that the Project would emit twice as much GHG as reported in the EIA is not well-supported. Similarly, the Panel notes the links between the Project and reduced rainfall, increased temperatures, and high winds difficult to prove.

6. Social Impact

92. PAPs explained that, although their previous occupations did not make them rich, they could cover basic family needs. They noted the income losses suffered because of the Project mean they can no longer send their children to school or buy sufficient food. The women used to consider themselves independent, since they could cover their expenses without relying on their husbands.

93. The Panel Team met several women in Nachtigal Batchenga who claimed they were overlooked by the census and therefore received neither compensation nor alternative livelihood restoration support. They complained that their children and youth no longer attended schools or universities and were consequently turning to crime. Several community members told the Team they had divorced because they could no longer provide for their families. Some women left husbands who could no longer support their families, and some men left wives who had turned to commercial sex work. Many community members claimed they now live in abject poverty owing to the Project.

94. A significant number of residents complained about their inability to find work at the project site, despite NHPC's explicit promise of jobs during community consultations. They stated that the Project's search to fill local jobs excludes villages directly experiencing the Project's impact. They claimed such jobs are taken mainly by people from outside the immediate area of the villages, even as far afield as Yaoundé. They believed “local” was loosely interpreted to mean Cameroonian. They understood that some positions require skilled labor but complained that they

⁹¹ Meeting on September 5, 2022 in Yaoundé.

⁹² NHPC, 2016. Projet Hydroélectrique de Nachtigal Amont, Élaboration Du Plan De Gestion Environnemental Et Social (Pges), Detaille: Lot 2a - Plan D'action Biodiversité (Pab), Rapport Pab.

are not even hired for unskilled construction work. The Panel Team spoke to the son of a former quarry owner and a fishmonger who claimed the loss of his family's income made it impossible for him to complete his third year of university. He added that, although he is qualified, he has not been able to get a construction job with the Project.

95. Two women told the Team that when they or their kinswomen approached NHPC for work related to food supply, cooking, cleaning, and sewing uniforms, they were informed they would only get jobs in exchange for sexual favors. A single mother told the Team she had taken her CV to a NHPC human resources contact who said she would only get a job if she engaged in sexual relations with him. Some women vendors who previously sold food at the quarries mentioned that NHPC promised they could sell food to the construction workers; once the Project started, they were prohibited from doing so, and now professional caterers provided food, depriving them of a living.

96. Management informed the Panel Team that as part of the project design and implementation, NHPC had considered in the ESMP several contextual risks and impacts that could arise from construction worker in-migration. Management noted NHPC is implementing a labor management system, an influx management plan, a community health plan, and a local economic development plan (LEDP) to mitigate potential effects on the local communities' way-of-life. The ESMP had identified the need to educate workers about appropriate conduct outside the construction site. Workers must sign a Code of Conduct (also addressing GBV) that instructs them about proper behavior, respect for local culture, and how to avoid social harm to local communities. Management explained that the NHPC has contracted several NGOs to address GBV issues, community sensitization, local development, education, etc. to ensure that project activities do not contribute to a "deterioration of local values." These NGOs/CSOs, in collaboration with Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), have conducted numerous community sensitization seminars and have disseminated information about the GRM.

97. Management maintained that, given the location of the Project—with towns, services, and significant economic activity, as well as two other road and water infrastructure projects being built close by—an increase in social harm could not solely be attributed to NHPC's activities. It added that, due to regional conflict in Northwest and Southwest Cameroon, the areas surrounding the Project have many internally displaced persons and economic migrants. Management stated that a social audit could provide more insights on the specific allegation.

98. Management explained that it is aware of, and is addressing, the complaints regarding project jobs in the communities the Panel Team visited. Management acknowledged that initially "local workers" was interpreted to mean any Cameroonian living within 35 km of the project site, but that this is being reexamined with the intention of hiring people from the villages directly affected by the Project.

E.3. The Panel's Review

99. The Panel appreciates the scale of the Project's contribution to the capacity of the national grid; it is expected to provide 30 percent of national electricity production in the long term. The Panel understands the Project's importance as a flagship effort of the Bank and IFC to leverage

private sources of finance.⁹³ The Panel acknowledges that the Project will displace more expensive and polluting thermal sources of energy, resulting in a reduction in GHG emissions.⁹⁴

100. The Panel notes the serious concerns of the Requesters and appreciates their submissions and the productive discussions they have held with the Panel Team. The Panel acknowledges Management’s detailed Response to the issues raised and its readiness to provide further information, and the cooperation and willingness of Government agencies to provide information. The Panel notes the strong support for the Project by all stakeholders—including the Requesters—and the unanimous view of the Project’s benefits for the community at large.

101. The Panel recognizes that most Bank staff assigned to the Project, including social and environmental safeguards specialists, are based in Yaoundé, about an hour’s drive from the Project site. The Panel acknowledges that the project team is regularly monitoring the Project and has conducted five missions in 2022. The Panel notes that the Project follows an adaptive management strategy—meaning that as issues are identified and raised, corrective actions are put in place. In addition to direct project supervision by the Bank team, the Panel notes the role of the IESC in providing independent advice to the Lenders, which adopted quarterly construction monitoring reports that specify binding measures for NHPC to implement⁹⁵—including actions on stakeholder engagement, communications, grievance redress, labor management, occupational health and safety, resettlement, livelihood restoration, and biodiversity.

102. The Panel notes that Management has recognized the scale of the Project’s impact and is committed to working with the Lenders to monitor environmental and social performance of the Project and develop corrective actions. The Panel notes that Management describes several actions in its Response to be completed by the end of 2022, including compensation payments to the remaining sand miners, fishermen, and fishmongers; actions to support affected farmers; further stakeholder engagement; identification of potential additional sacred sites, and alleged impact on natural resources.

103. The Panel acknowledges that the Lenders asked the independent consultancy hired to undertake the annual RAP/LRP evaluations to increase their sample to include all categories of PAPs. The survey criteria include questions related to changes in household composition, the status of children’s schooling, health, livelihood, and income before and after the Project. The Panel understands there is a control group to which the results can be compared. The Panel also understands that several studies are underway to understand issues around fish movement, as well as a strategic environmental and social assessment for the Sanaga River basin to understand basin-wide, cumulative impact.

104. The Panel emphasizes that its community meetings were primarily attended by sand miners and fisherfolk from the dam and downstream areas of the Project who claimed they have derived their livelihoods from the river for generations. The Panel notes that, despite the extensive measures being undertaken by the Project under scrutiny by the Lenders, allegations of harm relating to loss of livelihood activities, compensation, and livelihood restoration were raised consistently by significant numbers of fisherfolk and sand miners in several villages.

⁹³ Meeting with Management, July 21, 2022.

⁹⁴ Management Response, Executive Summary, p. vi., para. i.

⁹⁵ Management Response, p. 10, para. 28. The quarterly construction monitoring reports replace the SCAP.

105. The Panel notes the widespread concerns from downstream sand miners and fishermen who claim to have lost their livelihoods due to the diminishing fish and sand resources in the river. The Panel also notes that several fish and river basin studies are ongoing, and therefore cannot substantiate these allegations until the studies are complete. The Panel also notes the policy requirement to compensate PAPs prior to the occurrence of impact and it is unclear to the Panel whether the compensation provided was, in fact, timely.

106. The majority of PAPs the Panel spoke to indicated they have no interim source of income to cover their daily expenses and have been unable to establish new livelihoods. The Panel understands that—while the Project considers the compensation package to include both transitional support and capital for livelihood investment—it is unclear to the Panel and the PAPs what portion of the compensation is intended to assist households in transition between old and new activities and what portion serves as investment capital for new, income-generating activities.

107. The Panel notes that almost everyone the Team encountered who had implemented ILRPs claimed their projects had failed. The Panel notes the Project's commitment that the sand miners' LRP will remain active until PAPs have restored their capacity to generate income ensuring them a standard of living at least equivalent to that before the economic displacement, within three years after the start of the dam's operation. The Panel is unclear how PAPs whose replacement livelihood activities failed shortly after their commencement will be supported in efforts to establish new livelihoods.

108. The Panel notes concerns from several PAPs that they had either no or limited contact with the NGO engaged to support the development and implementation of ILRPs. Many PAPs stated that they either felt abandoned or insufficiently supported in the process of establishing a new livelihood. The Panel notes that the Project has attempted to scale up such support, which includes increasing the NGO's capacity. The Panel understands there are ten field officers supporting the ILRPs, approximately 200 new ILRPs that must be developed by the end of the year, and more than 1,000 ILRPs that need to be operationalized. The Panel is not assured the NGO has sufficient capacity to provide the required level of technical support to all those needing it, and this could potentially affect the PAPs' ability to restore livelihoods.

109. The Panel notes the significant corrective measures undertaken by the Project to address farmers' grievances. During its time in the field, the Panel observed that farmers did not come forward to express their concerns relating to the corrective measures put forward by the Project. However, in contrast, large numbers of fisherfolk and sand miners came forward and contended that the measures put in place by the Project were inadequate to achieve livelihood restoration. It is unclear to the Panel if these PAPs are adequately supported during the transitional period between their old and new livelihood activities.

F. Panel Recommendation

110. The Panel notes that the Requesters and the Request for Inspection meet the technical eligibility criteria set forth in the Panel Resolution. The Panel considers the alleged harm to be

plausibly linked to the projects, and that the Request raises serious issues of alleged harm and policy non-compliance.

111. Based on the above Panel observations and review, the Panel recommends carrying out an investigation into the alleged issues of harm and related non-compliance with World Bank operational policies and performance standards, as per OP/BP 4.03 on Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities.

112. If the Board of Executive Directors concurs with the Panel’s recommendation, as per paragraph 30 of the Panel Resolution, the Accountability Mechanism Secretary, acting in her capacity as the Head of the Dispute Resolution Service, shall offer an opportunity for dispute resolution to the Requesters and the Borrower (the “Parties”) in accordance with Part III of the Accountability Mechanism Resolution.⁹⁶ The Panel will then hold its compliance process in abeyance until the dispute resolution process is concluded. Upon receiving a report from the Accountability Mechanism Secretary as Head of the Dispute Resolution Service that a dispute resolution process has concluded, if the Parties have reached agreement and signed a Dispute Resolution Agreement, the case shall be considered closed. The Panel shall issue a memorandum closing the case and take no further action with respect to the Request.⁹⁷ The Panel will inform the Requesters and Management accordingly. However, if the Requesters and Borrower do not agree to dispute resolution or if a dispute resolution agreement is not reached by the Parties within the stipulated period, the Panel will commence its investigation.⁹⁸

⁹⁶ The World Bank Inspection Panel, Resolution No. IDA 2020-0003, para. 30.

⁹⁷ The World Bank Inspection Panel, Resolution No. IDA 2020-0003, para. 33(b).

⁹⁸ The World Bank Inspection Panel, Resolution No. IDA 2020-0003, para. 33(a).

Annex I

Request for Inspection (Redacted)

FORMULAIRE DE DEPOT DE PLAINTE (DEMANDE D'INSPECTION)

Au:

Président du Panel d'inspection, Mécanisme de responsabilisation de la Banque mondiale
MSN: MC 10-1007, 1818 H St., NW, Washington, DC 20433, Etats-Unis,
Télécopie : +1(202)-522-0916.
Courriel : ipanel@worldbank.org

(Veuillez répondre de votre mieux aux questions suivantes. Une fois le formulaire reçu, nous vous contacterons si nous avons besoin de renseignements complémentaires.)

Section 1 : Plainte

- 1. À votre avis, quel préjudice avez-vous ou votre communauté subi ou risque de subir à cause du projet financé par la Banque mondiale ? Veuillez fournir le plus de détails possibles.**

Depuis le début de la construction du barrage de Nachtigal en 2018, les communautés et organismes socioprofessionnels (plus de 1000 personnes) des localités de Batchenga, Mbandjock et Ntui situées dans l'emprise de ce projet font face à de nombreuses difficultés, parmi lesquelles :

- Une mauvaise consultation des parties prenantes : La NHPC avait seulement informé les communautés de la mise en œuvre du projet dans leur localité, des avantages du projet et des impacts qui devaient être atténués par des compensations. Les communautés n'ont pas donné leur avis sur le projet. Par exemple, elles ne comprennent pas les termes "zone verte" et "zone rouge" utilisés jusqu'à présent par la NHPC. De plus, les communautés se plaignent d'un mauvais recensement qui n'a pas été participatif, car jusqu'à présent, de nombreuses personnes touchées n'ont pas leur nom sur les listes de personnes à indemniser.
- Perte d'activités génératrices de revenus pour les pêcheurs, les exploitants de sable et les poissonniers : Avant le projet, les principales activités des communautés étaient l'extraction de sable et la pêche, ce qui leur permettait de vivre confortablement. Malheureusement, depuis le début de la construction du barrage, l'accès à l'eau leur a été refusé, ce qui leur a fait perdre leurs activités de subsistance. Aucune activité alternative n'a été mise en place à ce jour, bien que le plan de restauration des moyens de subsistance du projet prévoit la mise en place d'activités alternatives, notamment pour les pêcheurs et les poissonniers ;
- Compensation insuffisante et tardive : Lors des études du projet, il a été dit que les exploitants de sable, les agriculteurs, les pêcheurs et les poissonniers seraient compensés de manière satisfaisante (Plan de gestion environnementale et sociale du projet) et que le projet ferait passer leur niveau de vie de 1 à 5 (rapport de terrain du groupe IFI Synergy). Ce n'est pas le cas, puisque certains mineurs de sable qui ont reçu une compensation la trouvent insuffisante pour toute une vie. A l'exception de quelques pêcheurs et poissonniers dits vulnérables (environ 10 personnes) qui ont reçu une petite somme d'argent, les pêcheurs et poissonniers encore actifs n'ont reçu aucune compensation à ce jour, alors que leurs activités sont arrêtées depuis plus de deux ans. Les agriculteurs qui ont perdu leurs terres agricoles se sont plaints de ne pas avoir été indemnisés de manière adéquate pour leur perte. D'autres se sont plaints d'avoir reçu des sommes d'argent insuffisantes pour les cultures de rente (cacao, etc.) et les cultures vivrières (maïs, manioc, etc.) qu'ils avaient sur leurs terres, sans aucune compensation pour les terres perdues. D'autres personnes qui se sont vu attribuer des portions de terre se sont plaintes du manque d'accessibilité aux nouvelles terres agricoles ;

- Une relocalisation physique non satisfaisante : certaines des maisons construites pour les ménages déplacés ne sont pas appréciées par leurs propriétaires. En effet, une des personnes qui a été relocalisée dans le village de [REDACTED] à cause du projet a noté l'étroitesse de son nouvel espace. Auparavant il était établi sur [REDACTED] mais est maintenant sur [REDACTED] d'où le manque d'espace pour jeter du fumier, planter des arbres fruitiers perdus qui n'ont pas été pris en compte lors de la compensation, pas de servitude. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] n'est pas heureuse de son déplacement car elle a perdu ses plantes médicinales et l'eau qu'elle utilisait pour traiter ses patients. Elle n'a pas non plus été consultée sur le choix du site et même sur les plans de sa maison. De plus, sa maison fuit lorsqu'il pleut.

Les femmes ont également déclaré qu'elles n'étaient pas satisfaites des nouvelles terres agricoles qui leur avaient été données car elles étaient situées dans des zones très éloignées et peu accessibles ; certaines d'entre elles devaient parcourir de longues distances d'environ 9 km à partir de la route carrossable pour se rendre à leur ferme. La plupart d'entre eux ont donc abandonné leurs terres.

- Déplacement et destruction de sites sacrés : Les populations des deux villages de Ndokoa et Binandjengue se plaignent du fait que NPHC a seulement financé les cérémonies de déplacement des sites et n'a pas compensé le site en question. Aujourd'hui, ils ont perdu l'eau, certaines espèces de poissons et certaines plantes qu'ils utilisaient pour la guérison et les rituels. De même, le site sacré de Ndji (zone où la NPHC extrait actuellement des pierres pour son projet) a été détruit et n'a fait l'objet d'aucune compensation ou provision pour déplacement.

- Augmentation des maux sociaux : Avec la perte des activités génératrices de revenus dans la localité, on constate une augmentation des vols, de la délinquance juvénile, de la prostitution, une augmentation des conflits conjugaux et des divorces dans les ménages.

- Aspects environnementaux négligés : Selon une étude menée par Action for a Sustainable Environment (ASE), une organisation de la société civile camerounaise membre de la plateforme IFI Synergy, le projet de construction du barrage hydroélectrique de Nachtigal rejettera environ 469342,97 tonnes d'équivalent CO2 par an, un taux bien supérieur à celui prévu par l'ESIA du projet (200800 tonnes d'équivalent CO2 par an). En outre, la localité connaît déjà une raréfaction des précipitations, une augmentation des températures (chaleur), des vents violents, une raréfaction du poisson, une perte de plantes médicinales, une pollution de l'air, du bruit, du sol et de l'eau.

Toutes ces difficultés affectent leurs moyens de subsistance, leur éducation, leur santé, leur alimentation et même leur foyer (départ des épouses).

2. Quel est le nom du projet de la Banque mondiale ? (S'il vous est connu)

Le projet de barrage hydroélectrique de Nachtigal (numéro de projet de la Banque mondiale : P157734) consiste en la conception, la construction et l'exploitation pendant la durée de la concession (35 ans) d'un réservoir et d'une centrale hydroélectrique sur le fleuve Sanaga autour des chutes de Nachtigal en amont et d'une ligne de transmission de 50 km de 225 kV en termes techniques jusqu'à Nyom2 (au nord de Yaoundé). La capacité totale prévue pour être installée est de 420 MW, avec 7 générateurs d'une unité de puissance électrique de 60 MW, correspondant à 980 m³/s de débit de conception.

Le Projet est développé par plusieurs partenaires (l'État du Cameroun, EDF, IFC, STOA, AFRICA50) dans le cadre d'un accord de développement conjoint signé le 8 novembre 2013. La

construction devait commencer en 2018 et la mise en œuvre opérationnelle aura lieu de 2021 à 2022.

La SFI, par le biais du fonds mondial de développement des infrastructures InfraVentures, a joué un rôle majeur tant dans le développement initial que dans le financement continu du projet Nachtigal. En plus des 60 millions d'euros de fonds propres et des 110 millions d'euros de financement par emprunt de la SFI pour le projet, la SFI a aidé à mettre en place un ensemble de prêts de 916 millions d'euros provenant de diverses institutions de financement du développement et de banques commerciales. Ce projet est désormais le plus gros investissement de la SFI dans le secteur de l'électricité en Afrique.

3. Où est-ce que le projet est mis en œuvre ? (Veuillez indiquer le nom du pays)

Le projet est situé à environ 65 km au nord-est de Yaoundé, la capitale du Cameroun.

4. Vivez-vous dans la zone du projet ?

Oui

**5. Est-ce que vos préoccupations ont déjà partagées avec la Banque mondiale ?
Si oui, veuillez fournir des détails et expliquer pourquoi vous n'êtes pas satisfait de la réponse de la Banque.**

- Envoyé des lettres aux différents partenaires financiers du projet ainsi qu'à l'entreprise en charge des travaux (NHPC) pour leur présenter les impacts et problèmes vécus par les communautés riveraines du projet de construction du barrage de Nachtigal (voir pièce jointe) ;
- Tenu une réunion avec NHPC dans leur bureau à Yaoundé pour discuter des impacts du projet sur les communautés riveraines (compte-rendu de la réunion ci-joint) ;
- Tenu des réunions en face à face avec la Banque mondiale et la NHPC et des réunions en ligne avec la Banque de développement néerlandaise (FMO) pour discuter des impacts du projet sur les communautés riveraines (une liste chronologique des réunions est jointe) ;
- Participation à une mission multi-acteurs avec la NHPC, la Banque Mondiale, IFI Synergy et les communautés pour discuter des différents problèmes et impacts du projet sur les communautés et les organismes socioprofessionnels afin de trouver des solutions durables aux problèmes rencontrés par les communautés (rapport de la réunion en annexe).
- En plus de ces démarches que nous avons entreprises, les communautés ont également écrit plusieurs lettres à la direction de la NHPC pour dénoncer les impacts qu'elles subissent du fait de la mise en œuvre du projet.

Les préjudices et les impacts négatifs causés par le projet n'ont pas encore été traités de manière adéquate par le développeur du projet (NHPC).

6. Si possible, veuillez indiquer les politiques et procédures opérationnelles de la Banque qui à votre avis n'ont pas été suivies.

Dès le début du projet, il était clair que la mise en œuvre du projet comportait plusieurs risques, et la Banque mondiale elle-même a désigné le projet comme un projet de catégorie A "parce qu'il peut avoir des effets négatifs importants sur l'environnement et la santé qui peuvent être divers et irréversibles".

Selon l'évaluation des risques et de l'environnement de la Banque mondiale, toutes les normes de performance, à l'exception de la norme 7 relative aux populations autochtones, ont été déclenchées par le projet.

Il est possible qu'il y ait eu un non-respect des normes de performance de la banque, qui portent sur les points suivants : PS 1 Évaluation et gestion des risques et des impacts environnementaux et sociaux, PS 4 Santé, sûreté et sécurité des communautés, PS 5 Acquisition de terres et réinstallation involontaire, PS 6 Conservation de la biodiversité et gestion durable des ressources naturelles vivantes, PS 8 Patrimoine culturel Commission mondiale des barrages, sans exclure d'autres.

La Banque mondiale devrait procéder à un examen périodique de l'efficacité du processus de diligence raisonnable environnementale et sociale de la NHPC. Le respect des promesses faites dans le plan d'action E&S, conformément au PS5, paragraphe 14.

En outre, le plan d'action de réinstallation doit être conforme aux directives volontaires sur la gouvernance de la tenure, en assurant une variété de formes de tenure et en donnant la priorité aux arrangements de tenure des groupes les plus vulnérables.

Cette section est basée sur l'expérience des plaignants qui ont eu un aperçu de la non-conformité de la NHPC aux normes de performance de la banque. Cet aperçu ne couvre pas tous les risques et impacts de la non-conformité du projet aux normes de performance.

- En ce qui concerne les lacunes du processus d'évaluation et de consultation (SP 1 et SP 5).

PS5, paragraphe 10 Engagement communautaire : Le client interagira avec les communautés affectées, y compris les communautés d'accueil, par le biais du processus d'engagement des parties prenantes décrit dans la norme de performance 1. Le processus de prise de décision concernant le déplacement et la restauration des moyens de subsistance doit inclure des options et des alternatives, le cas échéant. L'accès aux informations pertinentes et la participation des personnes et des communautés affectées doivent se poursuivre pendant la planification, la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'évaluation des paiements compensatoires, des activités de restauration des moyens de subsistance et de la réinstallation, afin d'obtenir des résultats conformes aux objectifs de la présente norme de performance.

SP1, paragraphe 31 : Lorsqu'un projet est susceptible d'avoir des impacts négatifs importants sur les communautés affectées, le client doit mettre en œuvre un processus de consultation et de participation en connaissance de cause (ICP) qui s'appuie sur les principes énoncés au paragraphe précédent et permet la participation en connaissance de cause des communautés affectées. Ce processus de consultation et de participation conduit à d'autres échanges de vues et d'informations, ainsi qu'à des consultations organisées et itératives, qui aboutissent à la prise en compte par le client, dans son processus décisionnel, des opinions des communautés affectées sur les questions qui les concernent directement.

En ce qui concerne l'attention particulière qui doit être accordée aux groupes vulnérables. La protection essentielle des femmes doit être explicitement garantie dans le processus de compensation.

Le paragraphe 30 de la PS1 stipule qu'un processus de consultation efficace est un processus à double sens qui doit : (iii) donner la priorité à la participation inclusive des communautés directement affectées, telles que les hommes, les femmes, les personnes âgées, les jeunes, les personnes déplacées et les personnes ou groupes vulnérables et défavorisés.

Le paragraphe 31 de la PS1 stipule que le processus de consultation doit prendre en compte : (i) les points de vue des populations féminine et masculine, si nécessaire, dans le cas de forums ou de réunions séparés, et (ii) les préoccupations et priorités différentes des hommes et des femmes en ce qui concerne les impacts, les mécanismes d'atténuation et les avantages, le cas échéant.

La note de bas de page 16 du paragraphe 10 de la PS5 indique que le processus de consultation doit permettre aux femmes de faire connaître leur point de vue et de veiller à ce que leurs intérêts soient pris en compte dans tous les aspects de la planification et de la mise en œuvre de la réinstallation. L'évaluation des impacts sur les conditions de vie peut nécessiter une analyse intra-ménage si ces impacts ne sont pas les mêmes pour les femmes et les hommes. Les préférences des hommes et des femmes devront être prises en compte en termes de mécanismes de compensation, par exemple une compensation en nature plutôt qu'en espèces.

De même, la note de bas de page 16 de la même PS5 stipule que : Les titres de propriété ou les conventions d'occupation et d'indemnisation doivent être établis au nom des deux conjoints ou du chef de famille et les autres aides à la réinstallation, telles que la formation professionnelle, l'accès au crédit et les possibilités d'emploi, doivent être également accessibles aux femmes et adaptées à leurs besoins. Lorsque la législation nationale ou les régimes fonciers ne reconnaissent pas aux femmes le droit de détenir des biens ou d'effectuer des transactions, il convient d'envisager des mesures visant à offrir aux femmes la plus grande protection possible pour parvenir à l'égalité entre les sexes.

- Compte tenu de la méconnaissance par les personnes concernées du mécanisme de plainte et de la procédure de règlement des griefs, nous pensons que la mise en œuvre des paragraphes 34 et 35 de la PS1 peut encore être améliorée.

En ce qui concerne le mauvais recensement des carrières et des dépôts de sable, les plaignants allèguent que le recensement effectué était incomplet, que l'évaluation de la valeur des carrières était déficiente ou inexacte. Les taux de compensation sont insuffisants. Les personnes affectées par le projet n'ont jamais été consultées sur les taux de compensation. Cela indique que le projet n'est pas mis en œuvre conformément à la PS5, paragraphe 12.

Les différences dans l'évaluation des différentes carrières sont contraires à PS5, paragraphe 9 qui exige que les normes de compensation soient transparentes et appliquées de manière cohérente à toutes les personnes et communautés affectées par le projet.

SP1, paragraphe 8 et SP5, paragraphe 27 peuvent s'appliquer aux pertes de récoltes dans la zone d'influence du projet.

PS1, paragraphe 8 : Dans les cas où le projet implique des éléments physiques, des aspects physiques et des installations spécifiques susceptibles d'avoir des impacts, les risques et impacts environnementaux et sociaux seront identifiés au niveau de la zone d'influence du projet. La zone d'influence comprend, selon le cas :

La zone susceptible d'être affectée par : (i) le projet et les activités, actifs et installations qui sont directement détenus, exploités ou gérés par le client (y compris par l'intermédiaire de sous-traitants) et qui font partie du projet.

PS5, paragraphe 27 : Dans le cas des personnes ayant des droits légaux ou des revendications foncières reconnus ou susceptibles d'être reconnus par la loi du pays (voir paragraphe 17 (i) et (ii)), fournir des biens de remplacement (par exemple, des sites agricoles ou commerciaux) de même

valeur ou de valeur supérieure, le cas échéant, une compensation en espèces au coût de remplacement total.

En ce qui concerne les risques sanitaires : l'objectif de la PS4 (PS 4, paragraphe 2) est d'anticiper et d'éviter, pendant la durée du projet, les impacts négatifs sur la santé et la sécurité des communautés affectées qui pourraient résulter de circonstances ordinaires ou non. Compte tenu des plaintes de la communauté concernant la baisse de l'état de santé et l'exposition accrue aux risques sanitaires en raison des travaux de construction, un programme intégré de lutte antivectorielle devrait être mis en place.

En ce qui concerne les maisons construites, nous pensons qu'il est important de continuer à impliquer les personnes affectées dans la poursuite de la mise en œuvre du plan d'action de réinstallation, conformément à la PS5, paragraphe 14, qui stipule que le client établira des procédures de suivi et d'évaluation de la mise en œuvre d'un plan de réinstallation et/ou d'un plan de restauration des moyens de subsistance dans lequel les personnes affectées seront consultées au cours du processus de suivi.

En ce qui concerne la perte d'accès à la forêt communale et aux ressources naturelles, la mise en œuvre ne semble pas être effectuée conformément à PS5, paragraphe 5, qui s'applique au déplacement physique et/ou économique lié aux types de transactions foncières suivants et qui stipule que certains projets où des restrictions involontaires sur l'utilisation des terres et l'accès aux ressources naturelles ont pour conséquence qu'une communauté ou des groupes au sein d'une communauté perdent l'accès à l'utilisation des ressources dans des zones pour lesquelles ils ont des droits d'utilisation coutumiers ou traditionnels reconnus.

Pour résoudre ces problèmes, les communautés/corps socioprofessionnels attendent entre autres les résultats suivants

Pour les sabliers,

- Une réévaluation des carrières de sable, des dépôts de sable et des autres activités ;
- Une définition claire de la base de calcul de l'indemnisation ;
- Le recrutement de mineurs de sable et de la population locale en priorité sur le chantier ;
- L'accès à la livraison de nourriture sur le chantier ;
- La possibilité de faire appel à des services de sous-traitance sur le site ;
- L'indemnisation des cultures détruites à cause du débordement de la DUP (zone déclarée d'utilité publique) ;
- Un appui technique et financier sur une période de 10 ans ;
- L'augmentation du niveau de vie de 1 à 5 comme promis lors des consultations ;
- La définition de délais pour la résolution des impacts négatifs du projet sur les sabotiers et dans les villages affectés ;
- La mise à disposition des communautés du cahier des charges du projet ;
- Respect et mise en œuvre des Termes de Référence préparés pour la mise en œuvre du projet.
- Mise en place d'un comité de suivi indépendant de la mise en œuvre des œuvres sociales ;

Pour les pêcheurs et les poissonniers

- Une indemnisation de 10 millions de francs CFA par pêcheur et de 5 millions de francs CFA pour les mareyeuses ;

- Un approvisionnement en médicaments pour lutter contre les maladies récurrentes dans la zone telles que l'onchocercose, qui est de plus en plus répandue dans la localité depuis le début du projet ;
- La construction d'équipements sociaux tels que des forages, un dispensaire, des écoles, une salle communautaire et des installations sportives ;
- Le recrutement de jeunes sur le chantier ;
- Autoriser les poissonniers à livrer des denrées alimentaires au barrage ;
- Le respect et la mise en œuvre du cahier des charges élaboré pour la réalisation du projet ;
- La reconversion vers d'autres activités génératrices de revenus.

Pour les ménages déplacés

- Aménagement adéquat des maisons non satisfaisantes ;
- Prise en compte et compensation des revendications des ménages sur la réduction de leur surface.
- Respecter et mettre en œuvre le cahier des charges préparé pour la mise en œuvre du projet.

Pour les communautés impactées en général

- Recrutement immédiat de leurs fils et filles dans le projet de construction du barrage de Nachtigal ;
- La compensation des sites sacrés ;
- La possibilité de sous-traitance avec le projet de barrage ;
- La mise à disposition des communautés du cahier des charges du projet ;
- Compensation pour les pierres que la NHPC extrait à Ndokoa ;
- Compensation pour la destruction du site sacré de Ndji dans la zone où NHPC extrait actuellement des pierres pour son projet ;
- Le respect et la mise en œuvre des Termes de Référence préparés pour la mise en œuvre du projet ;
- La mise en œuvre des travaux sociaux tels que contenus dans le plan de gestion environnementale et sociale du projet.

Sur l'environnement

- L'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'un plan d'action climatique ;
- Le reboisement des espèces florales perdues dans les communautés.

7. Craignez-vous des représailles ou des menaces pour avoir porté plainte ?

Oui.

8. En plus des informations fournies sur l'enquête de vérification de la conformité, souhaiteriez-vous également recevoir des informations sur les différents dispositifs de règlement des différends ?

Oui

Section 2: Coordonnées

9. Êtes-vous des plaignants ou un représentant de plaignants* ? Plaignants :
Représentant d'un plaignant ou de la communauté : Autre : (Veuillez préciser)

10. Souhaitez-vous que votre nom et vos coordonnées restent confidentiels ? (Votre identité ne sera en aucun cas divulguée sans votre accord préalable.) Oui
Non

11. Noms des plaignants ou de leur représentants (au moins deux noms et deux signatures sont demandés) :

	Complainant /Representative 1	Complainant /Representative 2
Name	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]	Tel : [REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

12. En soumettant ce formulaire rempli, nous autorisons le Panel d'inspection à enquêter sur les questions mentionnées dans le formulaire. Nous, les signataires de ce formulaire, demandons au Panel d'Inspection de mener une enquête à propos des préjudices décrits ci-dessus.

Signatures (des signatures supplémentaires peuvent être envoyées en pièces jointes) :

Signature 1	Signature 2
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Vos renseignements personnels seront utilisés et communiqués aux seules fins pour lesquelles ils ont été recueillis, conformément à la Politique de la Banque mondiale en matière de confidentialité des données. Le Panel d'inspection ne divulguera, sans l'accord préalable des personnes concernées. Aucune information communiquée par les plaignants qui serait susceptible de révéler leur identité en dehors des services de la Banque mondiale.

REMARQUES :

- *Si vous êtes un représentant des plaignants, nous aurons besoin d'une lettre des plaignants vous autorisant à les représenter.
- Veuillez joindre les pièces justificatives, le cas échéant.
- Si vous avez des difficultés à remplir le formulaire, veuillez contacter le Mécanisme de responsabilisation de la Banque mondiale par courriel (ipanel@worldbank.org) ou par téléphone (+1-202-458-5200).

Objet : Procuration

Nous soussignés communautés riveraines des villages Mbassa, Olembe, Ndjiri, Nachitigal et Mokoia et des corps Socio-professionnels que sont les sables, les pêcheurs et les mareyeuses impactés par le projet de construction du barrage hydroélectrique de Nachitigal, donnons mandat à la plateforme IFI Synergy représentée par Green Development Advocates basée à Yaounde de déposer en notre nom une plainte auprès du Panel d'inspection (IP).

Signataires

	Noms et Prénoms	Village	Qualité	Signature
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	Noms et Prénoms	Village	Qualité	Signature
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Noms et Prénoms

Village

Qualité

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Noms et Prénoms

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Noms et Prénoms

Village

Qualité

Signature

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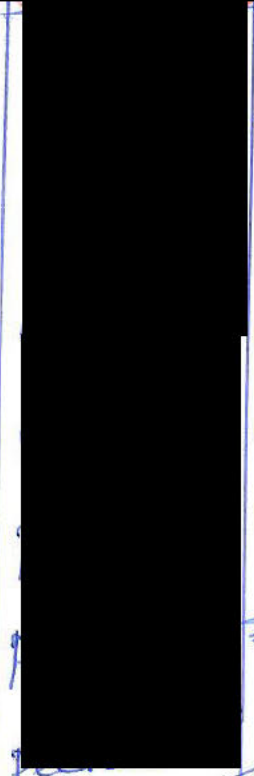
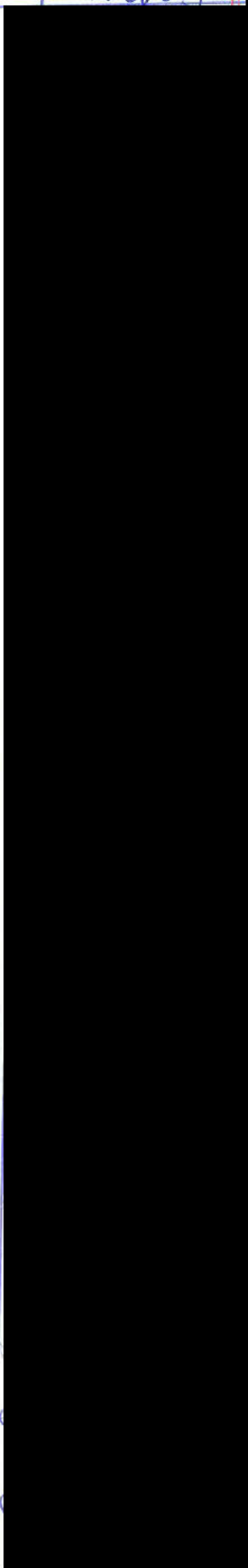
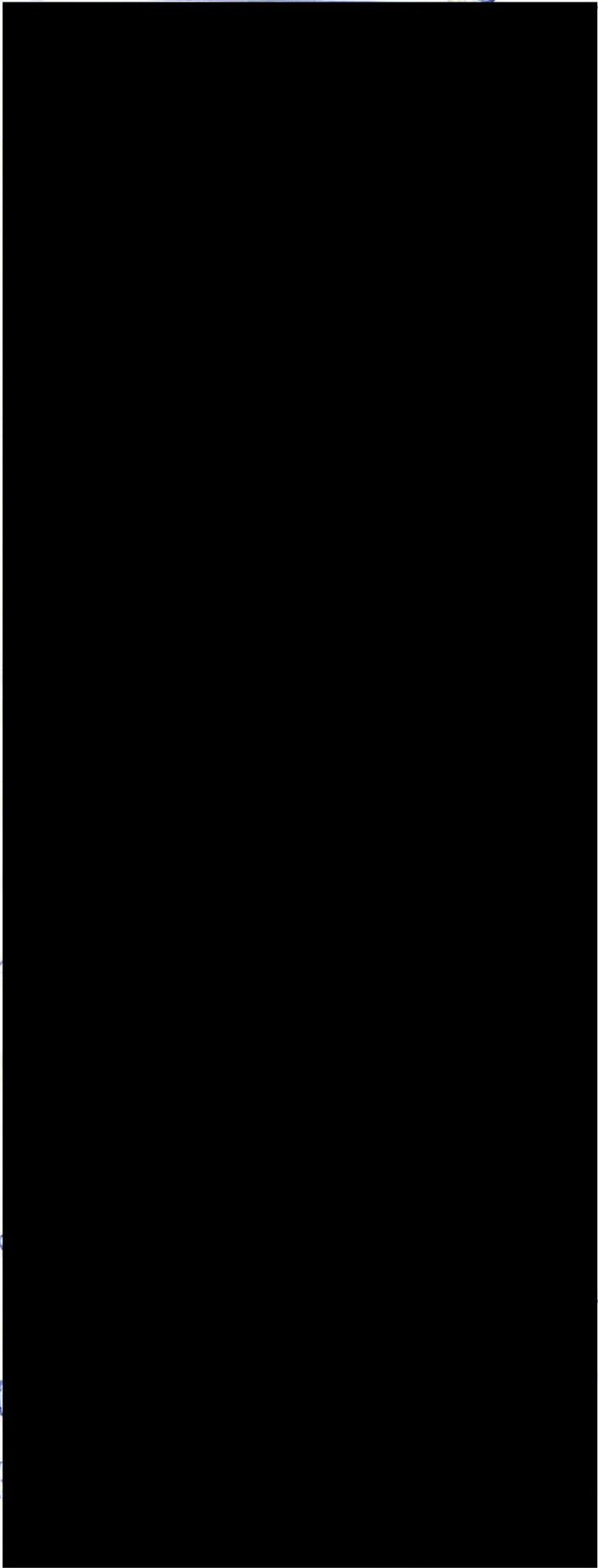
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Noms et Prénoms

Village

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List of Documents Attached to the Request

These documents are available upon request to the Inspection Panel.

	Document title	Translated title	Language	Summary
1	Chronogramme des échanges entre IFI Synergy et les parties prenantes	Timeline of exchanges between IFI Synergy and stakeholders	French	Excel document with details on all IFI Synergy communication with different institutions on Nachtigal project.
2	IFI letter to FMO on Nachtigal		English	In this letter, IFI Synergy seeks further information on FMO's investment in the Nachtigal project in Cameroon. They include several questions they have with regards to the project and FMO's role.
3	FMO response to IFI on Nachtigal		English	In this letter, FMO responds to the questions sent by IFI Synergy.
4	Letter to investors from IFI on Nachtigal		English	Email sent to several investors seeking further information on the investments in the Nachtigal hydropower project in Cameroon. This email also contains background and context of what community is facing, as well as some of the alleged harms. The email also includes some of the communities' demands.
5	IFI Synergy Group Field Report		English	Report documenting alleged harms. August 2020. IFI Synergy received funding from the Global Grantgreen Fund (GGF) to document the alleged social, economic and environmental impacts of the construction of the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam on the communities, and to accompany them in the process of demanding and making sure their rights are respected by the various financial partners. To promote compliance with social and environmental standards by the financial partners of the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam construction, data on the alleged impacts of the Project on local communities and socio professional associations were recorded.
6	Letter to FMO on Nachtigal from IFI		English	In this letter, IFI Synergy thanks FMO's responses to their questions and seek further clarification, as well as voice several concerns on what they heard during community visits in August 2021.

	Document title	Translated title	Language	Summary
7	Letter to Societe Generale		English	Email sent to Société Generale seeking further information on the investments in the Nachtigal hydropower project in Cameroon. This email also contains background and context of what the community is facing, as well as some of the alleged harms. The email also includes some of the communities' demands.
8	Letter to Standard Chartered			Email sent to Standard Chartered seeking further information on the investments in the Nachtigal hydropower project in Cameroon. This email also contains background and context of what the community is facing, as well as some of the alleged harms. The email also includes some of the communities' demands.
9	Lettre de mise en garde des chefs riverains du projet -Janvier 2021	Warning Letter from the chiefs living near the project_ January 2021	French	Letter addressed to the Deputy mayor and directors of NHPC. The letters lists and details several of NHPC's alleged wrongdoings.
10	Rapport de la réunion de IFI Synergy Group avec la NHPC new 1	Report of IFI Synergy Group meeting with NHPC	French	This report details the agenda and minutes of a meeting held 20 November 2020 between IFI Synergy and NHPC. The agenda includes a background and context to IFI Synergy's involvement in the Project and a list of alleged harms, as well as a list of suggestions.
11	Rapport consolidé Mission Conjointe Banque mondiale-IFI-NHPC du 8 octobre 2021 - mise à jour 20 12 2021	Consolidated report Joint World Bank-IFI-NHPC Mission of October 8, 2021	French	The report includes the agenda and meeting notes.
12	Requête des pecheurs	Fishermen's request	French	A handwritten letter from fishermen to the director of NHPC/ Project filing the reports of their activities.

	Document title	Translated title	Language	Summary
13	March 2021 - Response to NHPC letter		English	This letter contains additional concerns and questions in response to NHPC's previous letter dated December 23, 2020. In addition to demands raised in the October 09, 2020, correspondence as well as the recommendations made during the November 20, 2020, meeting.
14	Procuration signée par les communautés (CAO)	Power of attorney signed by the communities (CAO)	French	Letter signed by 99 community members (fishermen, fishmongers, sand miners, etc.) and authenticated by village chiefs, authorizing IFI Synergy to represent the community in a complaint to CAO.
15	NHPC Response to IFI letter of 17032021			NHPC's response addresses concerns raised by the Requesters on March 17, 2021. It also contains a list of Project documents available at the Bachtenga [sic] site office. It notes 937 grievances have been received by the GRM up to March 2021. (12 pages)
16	IFI Synergy List of World Bank Contacted Staff			Contains a list of WB staff who were contacted by IFI Synergy to complain about the alleged impact of the Project.

Annex II

Management Response

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR INSPECTION PANEL REVIEW OF THE
CAMEROON NACHTIGAL HYDROPOWER PROJECT (P157734) AND
HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT ON THE SANAGA RIVER TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT (P157733)**

Management has reviewed the Request for Inspection of the Cameroon Nachtigal Hydropower Project (P157734) and Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (P157733), received by the Inspection Panel on June 30, 2022 and registered on July 25, 2022 (RQ22/03). Management has prepared the following response.

August 23, 2022

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II. The Request	1
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IV. Special Issues	6
V. Management’s Response	9

Maps

- Map 1. IBRD No. 46719
- Map 2. IBRD No. 46722

Annexes

- Annex 1. Claims and Responses
- Annex 2. Summary of Community Consultations
- Annex 3. Implementing Partners Engaged by NHPC for Specific Management Plans
- Annex 4. Additional Photos of Housing (June-July 2021)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGRO-PME	Cameroonian NGO
ASE	Action for a Sustainable Environment
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BP	Bank Procedures
CA	Confidentiality Agreement
CCN	<i>Société Camerounaise de Construction du Barrage Nachtigal</i>
CE	Staff quarters' area (<i>Cité d'Exploitation</i>)
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
COPAL	Community cooperative of Lekie (<i>Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié</i>)
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease (SARS CoV-2)
CSO	Civil society organization
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DUP	<i>Déclaration d'utilité publique</i> (area declared as public utility, in this case the legally demarcated Project area)
e/eqv	equivalent (in context of GHG measurement)
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
ESAP	Environmental and Social Action Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
g	gram
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoC	Government of Cameroon
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
Ha	hectare
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA	International Development Association
IESC	Independent Environmental and Social Consultant
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IHA	International Hydropower Association
ILRP	Individual Livelihood Restoration Plan
IPN	Inspection Panel
Kg	kilogram
km	kilometer
kV	kilovolt
kWh	Kilowatt hour
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
LTA	Lenders' Technical Advisor
m	Meter
MDNP	Mpem and Djim National Park
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MW	Megawatt
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NHPC	Nachtigal Hydropower Company Limited
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Policy
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PADEL	Local Economic Development Action Plan (<i>Plan d'Action de Développement Economique</i>)
PAP	Project-affected persons
PM	Particulate matter
PPA	Power purchase agreement
PS	Performance Standard
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
SCAP	Supplementary Corrective Action Plan
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
STD	Sexually transmitted disease
t	tonne
TA	Technical Assistance
tCO ₂ /y	tonnes CO ₂ /year
TL	Transmission line
TWh	Terawatt hour
WBG	World Bank Group

Currency Unit
FCFA (West African CFA franc)
(as of August 23, 2022)

1 FCFA = 0.0016 US\$
1 US\$ = 640.78

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project

- i. ***The Nachtigal Hydropower Project (the Project) is a 420 MW greenfield, run-of-river hydropower plant to be constructed on the central course of the Sanaga River, 65 km northeast of Yaoundé.*** The Project includes a dam, upstream reservoir, headrace channel, and powerhouse, as well as staff quarters, a substation, and a 50-km transmission line (TL). Dam construction began in 2019 and the impoundment of the reservoir is scheduled for 2023. Once operational, the Project is expected to generate an average of 2.9 TWh per year, representing approximately 30 percent of Cameroon’s electricity production. Nachtigal is expected to replace more expensive and polluting thermal sources of electricity generation, resulting in a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ii. ***The Project was approved by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors on July 19, 2018. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is providing a US\$300 million Partial Risk Guarantee.*** The total Project cost is US\$1.4 billion, financed by multiple financial institutions, including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). Other lenders include: African Development Bank, African Finance Corporation, Agence Française de Développement, Banque Internationale du Cameroun pour l’Epargne et le Credit, British International Investment (formerly known as Commonwealth Development Corporation), Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank, Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, European Investment Bank, German Investment Corporation (DEG), OPEC Fund for International Development, Proparco, Société Commerciale de Banque Cameroun, Société Générale Cameroun, and Standard Chartered Bank Cameroun (together with IBRD and IFC, “the Lenders”).

Request for Inspection

- iii. The Request for Inspection was submitted on July 18, 2022, by community members living in the Project area, represented by a local nongovernmental organization, IFI Synergy. The Requesters allege that the Project does not comply with World Bank policies and procedures and is causing or may cause harm to the communities’ means of subsistence, health, and nutrition. The Requesters have alleged primarily a lack of meaningful consultation, inadequate resettlement measures including compensation, destruction of sacred sites, loss of medicinal plants and water used for healing and rituals, environmental damage, and an increase in social harms in their community.

Management’s Response

- iv. ***Management has carefully reviewed the allegations raised in the Request. Most matters raised by the Requesters relate to concerns known to Management, and the Project company, Nachtigal Hydropower Company Limited (NHPC), and which are being addressed as part of Project implementation.*** The Request refers to the kinds of challenging risks and impacts that are not uncommon in a hydropower infrastructure project of this scale and type and which World Bank policies are designed to address. Indeed, the types of issues raised by the Requesters were assessed during the Project’s environmental and social assessment, and mitigation or compensation measures have been planned and are being implemented under the Project, albeit with some delays and

adjustments. Continuous stakeholder consultation processes have helped to identify risks and impacts, as well as ways to improve earlier studies, surveys, and the implementation of compensation and livelihood support programs. The Project's environmental and social management system has been strengthened during implementation to continually enhance information sharing, stakeholder consultation, and grievance redress, and to address delays in the provision of compensation or livelihood support.

- v. ***Bank Management is closely monitoring the Project to ensure prompt completion of outstanding compensation payments, and the provision of livelihood support to Project-affected persons (PAPs) in advance of dam completion.*** As part of the group of 16 Lenders, the Bank participates in coordinated Project monitoring and supervision, supported by an independent environmental and social consultant (IESC) and technical advisor. The Project's adaptive management approach is consistent with Bank policies, including the World Bank Performance Standards applicable here pursuant to OP 4.03, Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities. It incorporates monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of environmental and social management measures as well as monitoring of the status of environmental and social outcomes on specific issues such as compensation. Results of the monitoring are included in quarterly construction monitoring reports produced by the IESC and reviewed with the Lenders. Since 2020, the Bank and NHPC have engaged proactively with IFI Synergy to understand and address concerns about Project implementation and to improve the Project's environmental and social performance. This has resulted in contractually binding measures to improve NHPC's overall environmental and social capacity, strengthen the Project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and stakeholder engagement process, and improve monitoring and implementation of livelihood restoration and compensation measures.
- vi. ***NHPC is actively managing the environmental risks and impacts associated with Project works.*** Environmental assessment studies conducted during Project preparation collected ample baseline data, and impacts on air, soil, water, and noise are being continuously monitored at multiple locations and have been found to be in line with Bank standards. Safeguard instruments have been developed to manage anticipated impacts, including on sediments in the Sanaga River, environmental flow release and biodiversity. Regarding GHG emissions, Management has reviewed and reconfirmed the rigor of the calculations used under the Project. Management has also reviewed the GHG briefing note referred to in the Request and concluded that it falls short of scientific standards, as it makes assumptions that are either unsupported by evidence or factually inaccurate.
- vii. ***NHPC, with the Bank's support, has also put significant efforts into developing a comprehensive framework to manage, mitigate, and compensate for social risks and impacts associated with the Project.*** This includes appropriate compensation and targeted support for PAPs who are physically or economically displaced because of impacts on their land or livelihoods. Physical resettlement of households has been limited to six households, who have been appropriately compensated in accordance with the framework agreed to under the Project. Other community members have been impacted by restrictions on land use or land acquisition. Some PAPs received financial compensation for their land, while others opted for alternative land to support their livelihoods. Some community members have also been impacted by changes to their livelihoods resulting from the Project, especially livelihoods relating to sandmining, fisheries, and farming. All of these impacts were assessed, and corresponding mitigation and compensation measures are being implemented, and adjusted where needed. As explained further below, parts of the compensation framework have been affected by delays in Project implementation,

- including due to COVID. The payment of livelihood restoration support, in particular, encountered additional delays related to the slow preparation of Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans (ILRPs). The Lenders instructed NHPC to resolve these delays by ensuring that all PAPs have developed ILRPs and received their remaining compensation payments by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.
- viii. ***Delays in compensation payments to some PAPs and gaps in livelihood support are being addressed by NHPC with urgency, and under the Lenders' close supervision.*** COVID-19 related delays and challenges with production of cement at civil works, have slowed construction work and extended the timing of anticipated impacts. In turn, there have been delays in the payment of compensation linked to the preparation by PAPs of their ILRPs, due, inter alia, to the limited support provided to them by NHPC's contracted NGOs, which are among the issues raised in the Request. In addition, some farmers who had smaller parcels of land impacted by the Project (less than 1,000 m²) were not included in initial livelihood support measures, while a small number of sand miners entitled to compensation could not be located. The Bank has identified these gaps as major concerns for NHPC to address without delay. The Lenders have introduced time-bound actions for NHPC to promptly complete the payment of compensation to eligible PAPs and finalize alternative livelihood support activities based on ILRPs by the end of 2022. NHPC has taken steps to prevent additional delays in the payment of compensation to PAPs, including making payments to PAPs who are only expected to be impacted when the dam is impounded in 2023. These measures have resulted in meaningful progress, such that as of July 2022, the Project has finalized the ILRPs and payment of compensation to 75 percent of fishermen and fishmongers and 56 percent of sand miners.
- ix. ***There have also been concerns regarding accessibility and cultivation of the replacement land that was chosen by a number of farmers, and in particular by 75 farmers displaced by construction of the Staff Quarters (Cité d'exploitation, or CE). NHPC, with support from the Bank and other Lenders, is working with local authorities to implement actions to ensure access and restore livelihoods for all affected farmers.*** The 75 CE farmers chose their replacement land through a standard process by setting up a committee among PAPs to identify and select the land. However, they have faced a variety of issues in cultivating this land, such as difficulty in accessing the plots by road, flooding during the rainy season, unclear demarcation of individual plots, and passage of grazing animals. Affected farmers have not been able to use the land since they received it in 2018 and have faced a loss of income. NHPC has engaged with local authorities and communities to resolve these issues by, among other actions: (i) demarcating the plot borders; (ii) ploughing of the sites; (iii) constructing a drainage system to address the flooding risk of the sites; (iv) constructing a fence to keep animals out of fields; and (v) building a dirt road to facilitate access to the land, amongst others. Management has urged NHPC to accelerate the process to resolve outstanding issues and to ensure that the affected PAPs are able to restore their livelihoods before the end of 2022.
- x. ***Management notes that according to NHPC and prior to this Request, the alleged destruction of a sacred site at Ndji had not been raised as a concern.*** NHPC reported that during NHPC-led consultation meetings in 2015 and 2016 in Ndji village, including the preparation of the village fact sheets, no sacred sites were reported by the traditional authorities, and no complaints regarding the destruction of a sacred site in Ndji have been received by NHPC since the clearance works and preparation of the dam and TL construction site commenced in 2019. Management notes however that the possibility of a sacred site in the village of Ndji was apparently raised by villagers both in earlier

consultations, as part of the 2011 ESIA update, and during a recent Bank mission. Management has requested that additional consultations and assessments in line with Bank policies be conducted by NHPC by the end of 2022 to determine whether or not a sacred site at Ndji meeting the requirement of the applicable policies has been impacted by the Project.

- xi. Management further notes that while the social ills cited in the Request (“theft, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, marital conflicts, and divorces”) raise serious concerns, they are of a general nature, and are thus difficult to assess in the context of a review of compliance with Bank policies.* The suggestion that the alleged increase in the cited social problems (if such increase has indeed occurred) can be attributed to the Project is not supported by evidence. NHPC has complied with the Bank’s policies and ESAP by ensuring that contractors implement a code of conduct and action plan to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children both at the management and worker level and has included gender-specific mitigation measures in its Migratory Influx Management Plan to ensure negative impacts on women due to the Project are addressed. Moreover, NHPC mobilized four NGOs at the beginning of 2020 to undertake capacity building in schools and communities on community health and prevention of GBV, reaching an estimated 20,000 people in 2020. NHPC is providing support to the health facilities of the three health districts in the Project targeted areas and a GBV care center was set up in February 2020 in the Batchenga hospital. Moreover, Management will require NHPC to continue to closely monitor social impacts of the Project, including through ongoing consultations, and provide regular reports to the Bank.
- xii. Management recognizes that social challenges have arisen during Project implementation that require further attention to ensure that the identified mitigation measures are adequately implemented.* Management notes that challenges of this nature are not uncommon for a project of Nachtigal’s scale and complexity, and such challenges are typically addressed through environmental and social instruments, community engagement, and adaptive management, as has been the case under this Project. Management will continue to work with the group of Lenders to monitor Project environmental and social performance and develop corrective actions with NHPC to ensure that the Project meets World Bank Performance Standard requirements as well as other applicable policies and procedures. **Key actions are currently underway that address the Requesters’ concerns and are due for completion by the end of 2022:**
- Complete the payment of compensation and ILRPs for all remaining sand miner and fishermen and fishmonger PAPs.
 - Finalize by the end of the third quarter of 2022 the action plan agreed with the 75 CE PAP farmers to resolve issues related to suitability of replacement land for cultivation, and promptly implement thereafter.
 - Provide livelihood support measures (e.g., assistance, plants and seeds) to *all* PAP farmers in the TL zone, including those with lots smaller than 1,000 m².
 - Undertake urgent actions and document NHPC’s efforts to locate the 9 missing sand miner PAPs with ILRPs, who could not previously be located and thus have not yet been compensated.
 - Conduct further stakeholder consultations and site visits regarding identification of potential additional sacred sites and alleged impacts on natural resources.

- Closely monitor social impacts of the Project, including through ongoing consultations, and provide regular reports to the Bank throughout project implementation.
- Further monitor and assess social impacts of activities being implemented by the Project in the *Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié* (COPAL) community forest and in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP).

Conclusion

- xiii. Management acknowledges that NHPC has encountered challenges and delays during the implementation of the Project, which have been identified and are in the process of being addressed. In Management's view, the Bank has followed the policies and procedures applicable to the matters raised by the Request, including through the actions described in this response. As a result, Management believes that the Requesters' rights or interests have not been, nor will they be, directly and adversely affected by a failure of the Bank to implement its policies and procedures.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On July 25, 2022, the Inspection Panel registered a Request for Inspection, IPN Request RQ22/03 (hereafter referred to as “the Request”), concerning the Cameroon Nachtigal Hydropower Project (P157734, the “Project”) guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, or the Bank), and the Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (P157733), financed by a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) (together, “the Projects”).
2. *Structure of the Text.* The document contains the following sections: Section II presents the Request; Section III describes the Projects; Section IV discusses special issues; and Section V presents Management’s Response. Section VI contains the conclusion. Annex 1 presents the Requesters’ claims, together with Management’s detailed responses, in table format.

II. THE REQUEST

3. The Request for Inspection was initially submitted by two community members living in the Project area, who were subsequently joined on July 18, 2022, by 99 others (hereafter referred to as the “Requesters”), represented by a local nongovernmental organization (NGO), IFI Synergy.
4. The Requesters allege that they are suffering or likely to suffer harm from the Nachtigal Hydropower Project. They allege that the Project does not comply with World Bank policies and procedures and are causing or may cause harm to the communities’ means of subsistence, their education, health and nutrition. The Requesters allege a lack of meaningful consultation, inadequate resettlement measures in relation to both physical and economic displacement, loss of income-generating activities for fishermen and fishmongers and sand miners, untimely and inadequate compensation for land and crops, lack of accessibility to agricultural land, inadequate housing, destruction of sacred sites, loss of medicinal plants and water resources used for healing and rituals, and environmental damage. They also allege that the Project activities are causing an increase in social harms including theft, juvenile delinquency, commercial sex work, marital conflicts and divorces in their community.
5. Sixteen documents were attached to the Request. Only a log of these documents was attached to the Request received by Management, along with a statement that they would be made available upon request to the Inspection Panel.

III. PROJECT BACKGROUND

6. *The Projects.*

- *The Hydropower Development on the Sanaga River Technical Assistance Project (Sanaga River TA)* was approved by the Board on May 11, 2017, for a US\$26.3 million credit from IDA. The total Project cost is US\$28.7 million; the government is providing US\$2.4 million of its own resources. The Project is comprised of a combination of technical assistance, advisory services, expert support, studies, and analyses.
- *The Nachtigal Hydropower Project* was approved by the Board on July 19, 2018. The IBRD is providing a US\$300 million Partial Risk Guarantee. The total Project cost is US\$1.4 billion (76 percent debt) and is being financed by multiple development finance institutions (DFIs) (together with IBRD and the local banks, “the Lenders”) (see below), including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). The Project is expected to generate an average of 2.9TWh per year, which will feed into the country’s Southern Interconnected Grid and represents about 30 percent of national electricity production. Map 1 shows the Project area.

The international financial institutions other than the World Bank Group (WBG) are: African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa Finance Corporation, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), British International Investment (BII) (formerly known as Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC)), Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank, Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, European Investment Bank (EIB), German Investment Corporation (DEG), OPEC Fund for International Development and Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Coopération Economique (Proparco). The local lenders are Banque Internationale du Cameroun pour l’Épargne et le Crédit, Société Générale Cameroun, Société Commerciale de Banque Cameroun, and Standard Chartered Bank Cameroun.

7. *Project Objectives.* The respective Project development objectives are as follows:

- *Sanaga River TA* – To improve the institutional capacity of the Government of Cameroon (GoC) for sustainable development of hydroelectric resources on the Sanaga River Basin.
- *Nachtigal Hydropower* – To increase the availability of renewable energy power and leverage private finance for the Project.

8. *Project Components.* The Projects comprise the following components:

- *The Sanaga River TA* consists of six components: (1) Identification of hydroelectric project sites on the Sanaga River Basin. (US\$11 million). (2) Supervision of the Nachtigal Hydroelectric Project (US\$1.5 million); (3) Hydrological Risk Mitigation and Dam Safety (US\$5.5 million); (4) Advisory Services for

Hydroelectric Asset Concession Schemes (US\$1.75 million); (5) Establishment of an Integrated Reservoir Management Plan for the Optimal Hydropower Generation on the Sanaga River (US\$1.75 million equivalent); and (6) Project Management Support and Capacity Building (US\$7.2 million, of which IDA US\$4.8 million equivalent and GoC US\$2.4 million equivalent). Apart from small meteorological stations, the Project does not include physical construction works. The Sanaga River TA involves no resettlement or labor influx.

- *The Nachtigal Hydropower Project* is a 420 MW greenfield, run-of-river hydropower plant to be constructed on the central course of the Sanaga River, 65 km northeast of Yaoundé and downstream of the Lom Pangar regulating dam. It includes a 1,455-meter-long, 13.6-meter-high main dam, a 421-ha upstream reservoir and a 3.3 km headrace channel. The powerhouse is equipped with seven 60 MW generating units. The Project also includes a 225-kV substation and a double circuit 50.3 km transmission line (TL) to evacuate the power to the Nyom 2 connection substation. It is expected to displace more expensive and polluting thermal sources of energy and improve sector financial viability.

9. ***Status of the Projects.***

- The *Sanaga River TA* was 27.46 percent disbursed as of July 31, 2022. The closing date is July 31, 2023. As of the last Implementation Status Report of March 2022, key activities of the Project are ongoing. The optimization study for development of hydropower on the Sanaga River, is ongoing and meteorological, hydro and level measurement stations are being installed. Hydrological and climate change studies and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Sanaga River have started and are expected to be completed respectively in November 2022 and February 2023. The recruitment of the supervision consultant for Nachtigal, and the Dam Safety and Environmental and Social Panels of Experts has been completed. The consultants were mobilized, and the implementation of these activities has been ongoing since 2019 for the Dam Safety Panel and January 2022 for the Environmental and Social Panel, whose recruitment was delayed due to difficulties in finding qualified experts (see Tables 1 and 2, below).

Table 1. Status of Key Activities of Sanaga River TA

Component	Activities	Type of activity	Implementation Status
1	Sanaga River Basin Hydropower Potential Optimization Study	Study	Under implementation since February 2021
2	Legal Support to GoC on Nachtigal	Technical assistance	Under implementation since August 2021
	Technical Supervision support to GoC on Nachtigal	Technical assistance	Under implementation since January 2022. First visits in March and June 2022
3	Climate Change and Hydrology Study	Study	Under implementation since 2021
4	Establishment of a Sanaga River Basin Commission	Technical assistance	Not yet started
5	Water data collection systems	Equipment installation & Data Analyses	Installation of meteorological stations is ongoing

- The *Nachtigal Hydropower Project* – Construction activities of the Nachtigal Hydropower Company Limited (NHPC) are ongoing with moderate delays due to COVID-19-related force majeure and delays in civil works. The overall Project completion rate is 64 percent. Commercial operation of the hydropower plant is scheduled for October 2024. The expiration of the World Bank Guarantee is scheduled for July 8, 2041.

10. ***Environmental and Social Categorization, Policies and Instruments.*** Both projects were classified as Category A. The Nachtigal Hydropower Project is subject to OP 4.03, Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities, and all the Performance Standards (PS) apply, with the exception of PS 7 on Indigenous Peoples. OP 4.37, Safety of Dams, also applies to the Project. The *Sanaga River TA* triggered Operational Policies/Bank Procedures (OP/BP) 4.01, Environmental Assessment; 4.04, Natural Habitats; 4.09, Pest Management; 4.10, Indigenous Peoples; 4.11, Physical Cultural Resources; 4.12, Involuntary Resettlement; 4.36, Forests; and 4.37, Safety of Dams.

Nachtigal Hydropower Project

11. During Project preparation, IFC took a lead role on the environmental and social safeguard aspects. The documents and plans prepared by NHPC were also reviewed by the Bank for consistency with the World Bank Performance Standards under OP 4.03, and the other applicable policies.

12. ***Environmental and Social Studies and Plans.*** Several environmental and social impact assessment studies were carried out during Project preparation, including Environmental & Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and addendums (2006/2011/2014); impacts on sediments in the Sanaga River (2014); economic and social assessment and management plan of sand quarries (2015); an expert report regarding the environmental flow release for the Nachtigal Project (2015); and biodiversity assessments. Consequently, several plans are under implementation, including: the Environmental and Social Plans (RAPs), Local Economic Development Action Plan (PADEL), Waste Management Plan; and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). NHPC also has a standard operating procedure for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) applicable to the company and its contractors. NHPC's recruitment package for new staff contains a code of conduct that staff must sign and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts include provisions against GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH).

13. ***Supplementary Corrective Action Plan and IBRD Participation in Lenders' working group.*** To address additional environmental and social issues identified by the Lenders as part of regular supervision and monitoring and subsequently in response to feedback complaints received from NGOs, NHPC committed to a binding Supplementary Corrective Action Plan (SCAP) in January 2021, which was incorporated into the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP),¹ the original version of which was included as part of the Project Agreement signed between NHPC and IBRD (ESAP, 2017). To enhance its environmental and social due diligence and supervision, the World Bank became part of a Lenders' SCAP working group in 2021 (comprised of IFC, CDC, Proparco, EIB and AfDB) focused on monitoring the implementation of agreed actions under the SCAP. This facilitated the timely sharing of information with IBRD at the same time as other Lenders and allowed the Bank to participate in confidential discussions among Lenders.

14. ***Use of Common Lender's Technical Advisor and Independent Environmental and Social Consultant.*** The Lenders' working group is advised by Mott MacDonald Limited, which acts as the Lenders' Technical Advisor and independent environmental and social consultant (IESC). The IESC's scope of work includes monitoring of the environmental and social performance of the Project on a quarterly basis during the anticipated 57-month construction phase. The IESC's reports, which are produced quarterly, present the findings of Project monitoring, including the execution of the RAP, etc., and provide advice on compliance with the IFC/World Bank Performance Standards (PSs) by also verifying NHPC's monitoring information. The periodic environmental and social monitoring missions usually involve a field visit with the IESC and some Lenders, during which they meet and consult with the affected people and other key stakeholders. The mission's findings are shared with all Lenders, including the Bank, through a report that includes corrective actions for NHPC to undertake, as needed. This process has enabled the Bank to be apprised of NHPC's performance in managing environmental and social risks and impacts and to identify areas of non-compliance with the PSs.

¹ Summary ESAP disclosed on IFC website <https://disclosures.ifc.org/project-detail/ESRS/37673/nachtigal>

Sanaga River TA

15. Implementation of the environmental and social activities for the Sanaga River TA is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Status of Sanaga River Environmental and Social Activities

Component	Activities	Type of activity	Implementation Status
1	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (for Sanaga river Basin)	Study	Under implementation since 2021
	Site specific Environmental and Social Safeguard Studies	Study	Not yet started. No site is selected. Awaiting completion of optimization study
6	Panels of Experts (Dam Safety and Environmental and Social)	Expert support	Dam Safety Panel under implementation since 2019 and Environmental and Social Panel since 2022. First mission on Nachtigal in June 2022

16. The Environmental and Social Panel of Experts funded under the Sanaga TA is mandated to provide independent expertise, high-level support and guidance on technical studies. It also supports the implementation of the Nachtigal Project on behalf of the GoC, following international standards and best practices. It reviews documents and provides recommendations on environmental and social risks and ensures compliance with World Bank policies. The recruitment of the Environmental and Social Panel was delayed due to difficulties in finding suitable candidates. The recruitment process was successfully completed on the third attempt in November 2021 and the Panel conducted its first visit to the Nachtigal construction site from June 27 to 28, 2022. This mission focused on discussions with NHPC and collection of Project documents. Another mission is planned for the week of September 21, 2022.

IV. SPECIAL ISSUES

Project Contractual Structure and Guarantees

17. For the Nachtigal Hydropower Project, IBRD is providing a US\$300 million partial risk guarantee to (i) cover the risk of non-payment of the GoC as per the PPA (payment guarantee) and (ii) extend the maturity of the local loan from 7 to 21 years (loan guarantee). MIGA also provides political risk insurance to two sponsors of the Project. Figure 1 sets out a diagram of key contractual arrangements relating to the Project.

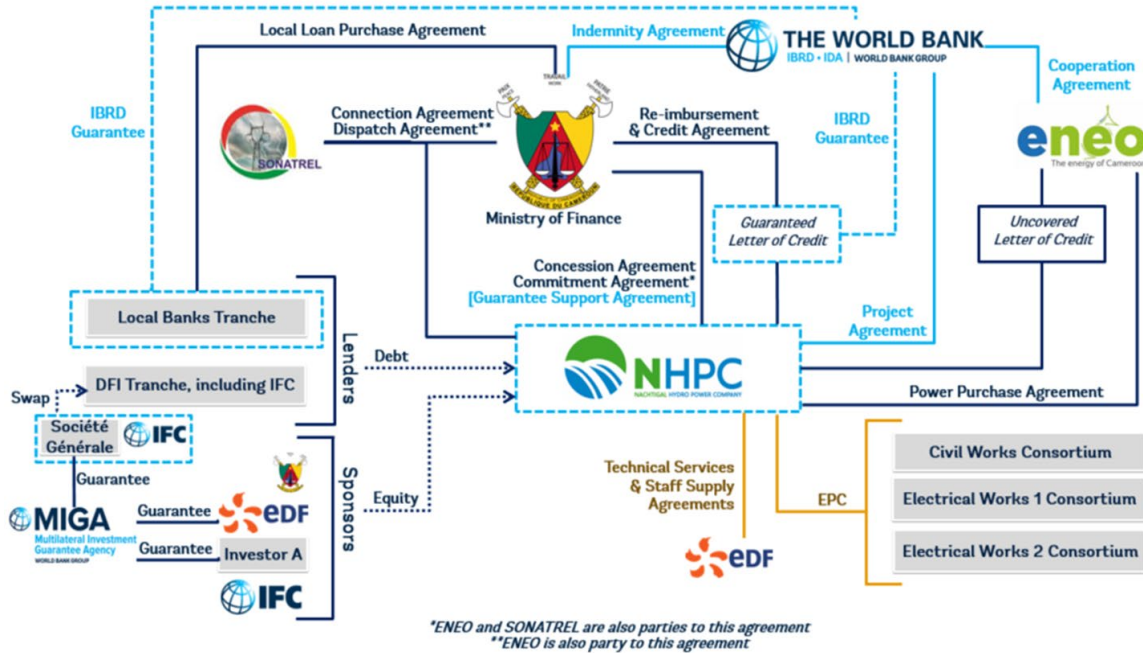


Figure 1. Key contractual arrangements under the Project, including guarantees

Project Environmental and Social Supervision Structure

18. A robust system is in place for the supervision of environmental and social matters in the Nachtigal Project that is commensurate with the Project’s scale and complexity, including to monitor implementation and take corrective actions as issues arise, consistent with the principle of adaptive management. The Nachtigal Project is being supervised by the Bank in the same way it supervises other Investment Project Financing operations, with additional attention paid to the risk of calls on the guarantee provided by IBRD. The Bank team has access to information on Project progress and issues, including construction, environmental and social issues, and off-taker financial statements, through: (i) the Project company (NHPC); (ii) the commercial lenders; (iii) the Lenders’ IESC; (iv) the GoC on matters related to its Guarantor role; and (v) Eneo (Cameroon’s electricity distribution company and off-taker of energy from the hydropower plant). Since Project construction began, the Bank team has carried out regular supervision missions (most recently in August 2022), with findings documented as required by Bank policy. The Task Team Leader and Environmental and Social Specialists for the Project are based in Yaoundé. The Bank monitors the environmental and social aspects of the Project through regular field visits and meetings with stakeholders (five missions held to date in 2022). As issues arise, including regarding compensation and livelihood restoration support for Project-affected persons (PAPs), the Bank team conducts field visits and engages with the communities and NHPC to ensure that issues are resolved.

19. There is a high level of coordination among the 16 Lenders (including IBRD) and Mott MacDonald, the IESC. The Bank and other Lenders have adopted an adaptive management approach to the environmental and social issues under the Project. This

approach entails both (i) monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of environmental and social management measures, including supervision of the Project's compliance with the Bank's environmental and social requirements; and (ii) monitoring of the status of environmental and social outcomes on specific issues, such as compensation of PAPs.

20. Project supervision is informed by a quarterly progress review of the Project's environmental and social performance by the IESC, including quarterly site visits during which the IESC meets with a broad range of stakeholders, including PAPs, to assess the Project's performance. Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, virtual missions were held by the IESC between the second quarter of 2020 and the third quarter of 2021. The purpose of the quarterly review is to reassess as necessary the operational impacts of the Project, re-engage with affected or interested stakeholders, and identify adjustments to, or new, corrective actions as necessary. The IESC's reports have been instrumental in requiring NHPC to implement necessary changes to address environmental and social risks through the development of time-bound corrective actions, such as those to address delays in the payments of compensation to PAPs. The Bank also participates in regular calls with the Lenders' environmental and social specialists to coordinate Project supervision, including resolution of environmental and social challenges. The Bank and IFC teams also meet twice a month to discuss specific environmental and social matters as they arise. This collaborative framework with IFC and other Lenders is important for the Bank's ability to closely monitor progress made on environmental and social issues and to identify issues to be brought to NHPC's attention for more pressing action.

V. MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE

22. Management has carefully reviewed the Request for Inspection, which primarily raises concerns about: (i) Project consultations; (ii) compensation for physical and economic displacement; (iii) alleged destruction of sacred sites; (iv) alleged environmental damage; and (v) alleged social harms, which the Requesters allege have resulted from the Project. Management addresses each of these concerns below.

23. *The Nachtigal HPP is a large project with an anticipated power generation of 2,970 TWh per year, which, upon commissioning, will represent 30 percent of the annual electricity production of Cameroon. Nachtigal is expected to replace more expensive and polluting thermal sources of electricity generation with the associated reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.*

24. *The Project has a total investment volume of approximately US\$1.4 billion, financed by 15 Lenders, in addition to IBRD as Guarantor, among which are eleven international finance institutions and four local commercial banks. IBRD is providing US\$300 million in Partial Risk Guarantees.* The size of the investment and the number of development banks involved have led to the creation of a robust structure to exercise joint oversight and supervision by the Lenders. Extensive Project preparation was carried out, with particular attention being paid to the assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts in accordance with Bank policies, including the IFC/World Bank PSs applicable pursuant to OP 4.03, Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities. The Lenders have also provided targeted support to the development and continued enhancement of NHPC's capacity to manage environmental and social issues during Project implementation.

25. *Management acknowledges that there have been challenges in addressing environmental and social impacts in a timely manner. NHPC and the Lenders continue to work together to promptly assess and address the environmental and social impacts associated with the Project works.* The need to closely monitor and manage the environmental and social risks of the Project were communicated to the GoC and NHPC in November 2020 and June 2021. Similarly, concerns have been documented and reported as corrective actions in IESC reports after supervision missions.

26. *Some of the delays in providing compensation have occurred between 2019 and 2022 due to additional consultations and negotiations with PAPs to determine suitable compensation amounts, and the slow development of Individual Livelihood Restoration Plans (ILRPs) (in part due to the need for more hands-on technical support to PAPs).* The impact of COVID-19 and government-imposed restriction on movements and meetings also affected the Project's ability to send staff to the field and hold meetings with PAPs. Additionally, the construction progress was also delayed due to the shortage of quality cement for civil works.

27. *In response to the above cited challenges in addressing environmental and social impacts in a timely manner, Lenders introduced the SCAP, which details time-bound actions to be implemented by NHPC to strengthen the management of E&S risks and*

impacts of the Project. The SCAP was incorporated into the existing ESAP as a contractually binding document in January 2021 and introduced measures focused on strengthening NHPC's capacity and Project systems related to stakeholder engagement, implementation of resettlement and livelihood restoration activities, environmental and social monitoring, labor and biodiversity management, and grievance redress. Included in the measures in the different areas of engagement cited above are (i) undertaking an organizational gap analysis of resources and time allocation of E&S responsibilities, in order to identify additional staffing requirements and improve NHPC's ability to manage E&S risks and impacts; (ii) contracting a communications company to improve stakeholder engagement and update NHPC's website; (iii) revision of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to better reflect the scale of Project risks and the complexity and diversity of issues and stakeholders involved; (iv) development of a monthly progress report to monitor progress made in the implementation of the RAPs and LRP against commitments included in the plans; (v) updating the BAP to include a gap analysis and identify a work plan for carrying out additional activities for offset-related feasibility studies and stakeholder consultation.

28. Given the identified need for additional and more targeted improvements in the monitoring and management of environmental and social risk by NHPC, the Lenders and IESC subsequently decided to move towards a more agile approach to review and recommend corrective actions. It was therefore agreed in the second quarter of 2022 that the quarterly construction monitoring reports would be used to review emerging issues and detail binding corrective actions for NHPC to implement. All SCAP measures have been completed barring one action on resettlement monitoring and implementation capacity that is being implemented as a corrective action with other corrective actions subsequently identified in the construction monitoring report. The corrective actions cover various aspects of the project, including stakeholder engagement, communications and grievances redress, labor management, occupational health and safety, resettlement and livelihood restoration and biodiversity. They include actions such as (i) identifying TL PAPs who lost less than 1,000 m² of land under the Project and proposing a plan to provide technical support which had not been provided earlier (ongoing and due by the fourth quarter of 2022); (ii) accelerating the implementation of livelihood restoration of sand miners through support from the contracted NGO – AGRO-PME (update of NGO contract completed and additional resources provided by NHPC in June 2022); (iii) implementation of the fish mitigation strategy necessary to minimize the impact of the Project on fish stock (two fish rescue missions undertaken in February and March 2022); (iv) reviewing the coverage of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) and identify where more are required (the number of CLOs doubled from 4 to 8 in July 2022), etc. Some corrective actions have been identified as high priority social actions to be addressed by the Project e.g., case of the TL PAPs cited above.

29. ***NHPC, with the Bank's support, has also put significant efforts into developing a comprehensive framework to manage, mitigate, and compensate for social risks and impacts associated with the Project.*** In particular, significant care was taken to compensate and provide targeted support to PAPs who are physically or economically displaced. As explained in more detail below, parts of this compensation framework related to livelihood restoration support measures have been delayed, including due to COVID-19 prevention

and control measures in communities that restricted gathering and movements of staff to the field, as well as delays by the Project in finalizing contracts with NGOs to accompany PAPs in the development of ILRPs. In 2022, NHPC implemented measures to accelerate the payment of compensation to PAPs by hiring new staff, providing additional financial resources to two NGOs to support PAPs in the development of their ILRPs, and undertaking regular field monitoring visits. These measures have resulted in meaningful progress in the payment of compensation to PAPs already impacted and payments well ahead of the anticipated impacts on sand miners, fishermen and fishmonger PAPs in upstream and downstream areas. Delays in the payment of compensation, which are among the complaints raised in the Request, are now being addressed with the completion of all payments expected by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.

30. ***The Bank identified these delays in payments as a major concern for NHPC to address urgently.*** In response to these delays, the Lenders have sought to further improve NHPC's capacity to provide timely compensation by enhancing its environmental and social organizational structure and increasing its environmental and social staffing. Moreover, the Bank and other Lenders have been closely monitoring the compensation process, in particular as it relates to sand workers, farmers, fishermen and fishmongers. In addition to this enhanced monitoring, corrective actions have been imposed on NHPC by the Lenders to quickly address and resolve any remaining delays in compensation payments.

31. ***The compensation and land replacement issues raised by the Requesters were known to the Bank and NHPC, and Management notes that the Bank is working with NHPC to address and resolve them.*** Most of the issues raised in the Request are already the subject of intense supervision by the Bank and other Lenders, including through implementation of a corrective action plan by NHPC. An enhanced environmental and social oversight regime of this Project, as described in Section IV, was put in place to address issues of concern that have been identified during implementation. Concerns similar to those raised in the Request had also been sent to the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS) and are being addressed. Management continues to conduct its due diligence regarding the issues raised in the Request and is working closely with NHPC and other Lenders to address any outstanding issues.

32. ***NHPC is actively managing the environmental risks and impacts associated with Project works.*** Ample baseline data was collected and impacts on air, soil, water, and noise are continuously monitored at multiple locations to ensure compliance with Bank standards. Several environmental and social impact assessment studies were undertaken during Project preparation and a number of environmental and social safeguard instruments were developed to manage anticipated impacts. This includes the Project's ESIA, impact assessments on sediments in the Sanaga River, an expert report regarding the environmental flow release for the Nachtigal Project, various biodiversity assessments and a biodiversity management plan. Impacts on air, soil, water, and noise are being continuously monitored at multiple locations and were found to be in line with Bank standards.

33. ***Management also notes that the Request in large part raises concerns similar to those that have been shared by and discussed with IFI Synergy over the past two years, and the Request does not reflect the latest efforts underway to address these issues.*** In October 2021, the Bank facilitated a meeting between IFI Synergy and NHPC in which both parties agreed on actions to address concerns raised by IFI Synergy, which NHPC is implementing. As mentioned above, Management has worked during that period with the other Lenders and NHPC to review and address relevant concerns including compensation and livelihood restoration issues. In response to general concerns raised by civil society in 2020, the Bank and other Lenders have focused on strengthening NHPC's capacity and Project systems for implementation, monitoring, and grievance redress by introducing time-bound corrective measures in the SCAP and construction monitoring reports for implementation by NHPC. Over the last two years, as community engagement and monitoring have identified specific shortcomings related to compensation payments, livelihood support and replacement land, the Lenders have agreed on corrective actions with NHPC as documented in the SCAP and construction monitoring reports and closely supervised the implementation of such actions. There has been noticeable progress in addressing most of these issues as explained in more detail below.

34. ***Management also notes that while the Sanaga River TA Project has also been referenced in the Notice of Registration, the Request does not mention it or contain any allegation that directly pertains to activities supported by the Sanaga River TA Project.*** Rather, the allegations pertain to specific impacts that result or are alleged to result from the activities supported by the Nachtigal Project. Under its second component, the TA finances support to the GoC for the supervision of the Nachtigal Project, including monitoring the construction, and identifying reasons for delays and changes in scope. An engineering firm was recruited for this purpose. This firm was mobilized in 2022 and started visiting the construction sites in April 2022. The TA also finances the services of a legal firm to support the GoC in contractual aspects of the Nachtigal Project. The implementation of the TA activities was delayed due to the long period between approval (May 2017) and effectiveness (October 2019) of the TA Project.

35. Management responds below in more detail to the issues raised in the Request.

Consultations

36. Robust community-based participatory consultations have been conducted under the Project, as required by Bank policy, and environmental and social information has been disclosed to Project-affected communities throughout Project preparation and implementation. As detailed in Annex 1, feedback received from stakeholders has been incorporated as appropriate into the Project design and mitigation measures to date. For example, compensation measures for fishermen and fishmongers were adjusted in December 2021 after NHPC's extensive consultations with them. The Project continues to gather beneficiary feedback at the individual and community levels through a wide variety of stakeholder engagement methods such as community forums, individual and group interviews, grievance cases, regular field visits by CLOs, etc., to improve the performance of the measures.

37. The Project has a SEP that has been updated every six months since July 2014 to reflect stakeholders' feedback. NHPC has engaged continuously with stakeholders during Project preparation and implementation, using a variety of stakeholders engagement tools in French and Eton (a local language), such as community forums, focus group discussions, municipal *consultation committees*,² radio, and individual interviews, to ensure that information on the Project is provided in such a way that it is understandable to all stakeholders, including women, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

38. In relation to the Requesters' assertion that NHPC has informed communities only of the Project's benefits and expected compensation for adverse impacts, but has not given the communities an opportunity to share their views on the Project more generally, Management notes that NHPC has, from the outset, provided information on all aspects of the Project, including its overall design and components, and had undertaken a rigorous process of community consultation and feedback on key environmental and social instruments early in Project preparation, as documented by the NHPC.

39. Over the past eight years, NHPC has held approximately 550 meetings with stakeholders in the Project area on topics such as development of the RAPs and LRPs for fishermen, fishmongers, farmers, and sand miners, as well as the PADEL. Management considers that NHPC has ensured that communities' views have been taken into account in the development and implementation of the environmental and social instruments and other aspects of the Project. For example, as detailed in Annex 1, feedback received during consultations led to changes in the strategy of the PADEL activities and separately, changes in compensation for fishermen and fishmongers. NHPC has a record of all meetings and the feedback in these records served as inputs to make necessary adjustments and corrections under the Project, as appropriate.

40. However, feedback received from civil society organizations (CSOs) and local communities indicates a need to share more information about the Project with local stakeholders. NHPC is therefore implementing enhanced communication measures to address this. In December 2020, NHPC hired an external communications company to support its annual reporting for stakeholders, update its website and monitor the media. NHPC has used local FM radio stations to broadcast communiqués and messages targeting PAPs and communities in French and in the three most spoken languages in the area: Eton, Ewondo, and Mvoute. The content of the communiqués was related to the census and demarcation. In June 2022, NHPC contracted with a local radio station—Radio Lekie—that runs a monthly radio program, "*Actu Nachtigal*," in French and Eton about Project progress and NHPC's environmental and social measures. Additionally, NHPC revamped the sharing of information flyers, called NHPC FlashInfos (*Lettre d'Information de NHPC*), which the Project has produced since 2019. Since May 2022, the Project has been printing these flyers, in which NHPC provides details on specific Project activities, for posting in villages and distribution to key stakeholders by CLOs. NHPC also increased its presence on various social media outlets, and the number of its followers grew between May and July 2022.

² "*Cadre Concertation Territoriale*" is a structure that is legally recognized by the Government as the entity in a town led by the mayor in charge of discussing and agreeing on local development initiatives.

Grievance redress

41. The Project has a functioning GRM, which has registered over 1,000 grievances since it was established and made operational in April 2015. Of these, 98 percent have been addressed and the remainder are under consideration and being processed.

42. Two-thirds of these grievances have focused on the census, and compensation of sand miners. NHPC has held information sessions to enhance awareness of the GRM. Billboards are installed in villages affected by the Project and at the entrance to construction sites; they contain contact information about the Project and the GRM.

43. In the Bank's view, there is room to improve NHPC's capacity to register and respond to complaints in a more timely manner, to proactively address issues in a manner satisfactory to the complainants, and to improve communication with PAPs. NHPC is now collaborating with *Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir Cameroun* (ASSEJA), a national NGO contracted to act as an independent witness in the resolution of community grievances that are handled by the five village appeals committees. The Bank and other Lenders required NHPC to improve communication with PAPs, and as of July 2022, the Project has doubled the number of CLOs from four to eight, to increase PAPs' awareness of the GRM mechanism and to proactively collect feedback from them on a regular basis. As part of quarterly field visits, the Bank and other Lenders will continue to monitor the implementation of the Project's GRM.

Compensation for physical and economic displacement

44. ***Management notes that compensation for physical and economic displacement has been provided based on a phased system that takes into account: (i) the location of the PAPs; (ii) the timing of the likely impact for each category of PAPs; (iii) the nature and expected duration of the impact; and (iv) the PAPs' choice of the respective compensation option.*** This may not have been communicated clearly enough and may have led to some confusion among PAPs, who may not have been able to understand why members of the same profession are compensated at different times and rates, and hence, led them to incorrectly believe that they had been left out of the compensation process or are being paid late. This situation may have been compounded by the fact that NHPC – in response to complaints from PAPs – accelerated the payments for certain categories of PAPs by releasing full, lump sum amounts to eligible PAPs in 2022, well ahead of dam impoundment in 2023.

45. ***Project impacts on livelihoods for fishermen, fishmongers and sand miners were anticipated and assessed as part of the ESIA process, and the process to provide transitional assistance and compensation is currently ongoing, with the majority having been compensated in 2022.*** The Project provides for the development of ILRPs for sand miners, fishermen, and fishmongers, as well as a transition allowance to bridge the income gap until the new livelihood activity can support them. The ILRPs for PAPs in the areas upstream and downstream of the dam are prepared sufficiently in advance of the occurrence of impacts, to give these PAPs the time and opportunity to develop sustainable income-generating livelihood activities ahead of the impacts. While NHPC initially paid 100 percent of compensation to sand miners in the dam area, it became apparent that in certain cases, the PAPs exhausted the funds before developing an alternative livelihood. The

Project therefore adopted an approach consisting of splitting payments for upstream and downstream PAPs into two: (1) an initial 70 percent payment after the development and validation of an ILRP and (2) the payment of the remaining 30 percent upon verification and certification of the implementation of the livelihood restoration activity. Fishermen and fishmongers, on the other hand, receive 100 percent of their compensation as a lump sum payment upon validation of their ILRPs. Through its NGO partners, NHPC provides continuous support to all sand miner, fishermen, and fishmonger PAPs for them to participate in, and to benefit from, a targeted set of livelihood restoration programs, focusing on financial training for the sustainable use of compensation, business skills training, and facilitation of access to alternative income generating activities in other sectors. The annual RAP/LRP implementation evaluation process is meant to assess the effects of the livelihood restoration measures provided to all categories of PAPs and recommend corrective measures as needed.

46. ***As explained below in more detail, the compensation and transitional support offered to the different PAP groups are tailored to their specific situation, considering the nature and duration of the impacts.*** Some impacts, for example, for sand miners and quarry owners in the dam, upstream and downstream areas, will be permanent, and hence NHPC offers a transitional allowance to bridge the income gap until an alternative livelihood has been found. NHPC also provides these PAPs with technical support to develop sustainable income-generating activities through ILRPs. The impacts for fishermen and fishmongers in the same areas were assessed as more limited and temporary, and hence the Project initially supported them to fish in alternative locations along the Sanaga River and provides them with transitional allowance and technical support to develop alternate livelihood activities such as farming, small trades, and construction of houses. It should also be noted that not all sand mining and fishing activities will be impacted at the same time. While sand quarries and fisheries located at the dam site were impacted immediately as a result of the start of works, fishermen located further upstream and downstream of the dam and sand miners located downstream were only expected to be impacted when the impoundment of the dam has taken place, which is currently scheduled for 2023. The main groups of PAPs and the types of impacts are summarized in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Main Groups of PAPs and Corresponding Impacts

Location	Expected Date of Impact	Category (Number of PAPs)	Impact Type	Compensation Type	Status of compensation
Dam site, including Staff Quarters (Red Zone)	February 2019 commencement of construction	Sand workers and quarry owners (149)	Permanent impact: Physical and economic displacement	6 month lump sum for all sand miners and an additional compensation to quarry owners for investments, e.g., access roads made during the past 15 years (up to 70 percent to account for the depreciation of the investment)	140 PAPs received 100 percent of their compensation in 2019. 9 PAPs have not yet retrieved their checks because the Project has not been able to locate them.
		Fisherfolk (fishermen and fishmongers) (43)	Temporary impact: Limited access to fishing sites during construction period, change in fishing due to reservoir	Initial transitional support with a lump sum cash compensation: 450,000 CFA for fishermen and 250,000 CFA for fishmongers Revised compensation in December 2021 consisting of 1,500,000 FCFA for fishermen and 850,000 FCFA for fishmongers	All fish people received their compensation (i.e., the initial transitional support) in 2019. All fisherfolk are eligible to receive 100 percent of the revised compensation amounts of 1,500,000 FCFA for fishermen and 850,000 FCA for fishmongers by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022. As of July, 164 of all fisherfolk PAPs (in all locations) have received 100 percent of their compensation.
		Land-affected PAPs (Farmers and Households) (359)	Permanent impact: Loss of land and economic displacement	Land-for-land replacement and cash compensation for expropriated land and crops	All land-affected PAPs received compensation based on their choice of land-for-land replacement or cash in 2018.
Upstream (Blue Zone)	May 2023 planned impoundment	Sand workers and quarry owners	Permanent impact: Loss of access due to submergence once reservoir is filled Economic displacement	Same as PAPs in the Dam zone	All PAPS will receive their compensation by the end of quarter four of 2022. As of July 2022, 459 PAPs received 70 percent of their compensation.
		Fisherfolk (fishermen and fishmongers) (175 for Blue and Green zones)	Nature of impact to be confirmed by studies related to Sanaga River	1,500,000 FCFA for fishermen and 850,000 FCFA for fishmongers	All fisherfolk will receive their compensation by the end of quarter four of 2022. As of July, 164 of all fisherfolk

Location	Expected Date of Impact	Category (Number of PAPs)	Impact Type	Compensation Type	Status of compensation
			Impact on some upstream rapids.		PAPs (in all locations) have received 100 percent of their compensation.
Downstream (Green Zone)	May 2023 planned impoundment	Sand miners and quarry owners (827 for Blue and Green zones)	Permanent impact: Economic displacement due to reduction in sand flow	Same as PAP in the Dam zone	All PAPS will receive their compensation by the end of quarter four of 2022. As of July 2022, 459 PAPs received 70 percent of their compensation.
		Fisherfolk (fishermen and fishmongers)	Nature of impact to be confirmed by studies related to the Sanaga river underway Economic impact due to the reduction of fish stock after impoundment	Same as PAPs in the Green zone	Same as above for the Green zone PAPs
Transmission Line	2021	Land-affected PAPs (Farmers and Households) (617)	Permanent impact: Physical and economic displacement due to land acquisition and restrictions on land use for cultivation	Land-for-land replacement and cash compensation for expropriated land and crops.	All PAPs received 100 percent of their compensation based on their choice of land-for-land replacement or cash in 2019.

Fisherfolk (fishermen and fishmongers)

47. The ESIA identified the following potential impacts on fishing: (i) temporary prohibition of access to part of the river for the sake of operational safety during construction/impoundment; (ii) changes due to creation of the dam reservoir, resulting in the need to adapt fishing techniques; and (iii) impact on some upstream rapids after impoundment.

48. Impacts on the fishing industry are expected to be mainly temporary given that fishermen can continue fishing in other parts of the river. Since construction began in February 2019, fishing around the central dam area has been prohibited for safety reasons. The dam's reservoir will eventually be available for fishing, except the area directly above the dam and water intake (at a distance of 500 m from the facilities), because of safety risks.

49. The RAP compensation package for 117 fishermen and 87 fishmongers located in the dam, upstream and downstream areas contained provision for a transitional allowance and capital for livelihood investments, as well as in-kind assistance and technical support. This included improved access to alternative fishing sites in the river during the construction period; training for fishing in the deep dam reservoir; allowance for acquiring fishing gear (boats, nets, safety vests, etc.).

50. The fishermen and fishmongers located at the dam site and upstream and downstream, however, rejected the initial compensation package provided in the RAP, which they argued was not adequate to their loss of income or enough to enable them to restore their livelihoods. As a result, the Project undertook additional assessments to determine a new compensation package, with a final agreement signed in December 2021 between fishermen and fishmonger PAPs, MINEPIA, and the Project. An increased, lump sum cash compensation package is now being received by Dam zone PAPs and, ahead of the dam impoundment, by upstream and downstream PAPs, composed of both transitional allowance and capital for livelihood development. ***By July 31, 2022, 75 percent of all fishermen and fishmongers with ILRPs had been paid (including those located upstream and downstream of the dam, that were initially scheduled to be paid only at dam impoundment). The remaining 25 percent whose ILRPs are under development are expected to be paid by October 31, 2022.***

Sand miners and quarry owners

51. The ESIA anticipated impacts on sand quarry workers, including due to the building of the reservoir and the change in sediment transportation downstream. A map indicating the different "zones" of impact for sand quarries is set out in Map 2. It should be noted that not all sandmining will be impacted at the same time. While sand quarries located at the dam site were impacted immediately starting at works mobilization, sand quarries located further upstream and downstream of the dam will only be impacted when the dam reservoir is impounded, which is currently scheduled for 2023.

52. To mitigate the loss of income, several activities were planned under the RAPs and the sand workers' LRP, as follows:

- 6-month lump sum compensation for those sand miner PAPs (divers, diggers, quarry managers, boat makers etc.) located in the central “red” zone, from the beginning of construction.
- 6-month lump sum compensation for sand miner PAPs located in the upstream “blue” and downstream “green” zones (anticipated impacts in 2023).
- 6-month lump sum and compensation for investments e.g., access roads made during the past 15 years (up to 70 percent) for quarry owners.

53. For sand miners located in the dam construction area, the LRP provided for 6-month lump sum compensation (representing their annual income due to the seasonality of work). While impacted sand miner PAPs received 100 percent of their compensation in 2019, those expected to be impacted in the future are programmed to receive the 70 percent portion of their compensation package as planned after preparation of their ILRPs. The remaining 30 percent is provided after verification of the livelihood activity by NHPC and its contracted NGOs. The preparation of the ILRPs for sand miners in the dam areas, which began in 2019, has been delayed. For ILRPs of sand miners in the central zone, in June 2022, the Consultant reported 66 percent are completed, and the rest are in the process of implementation, with the majority between 50 and 99 percent completed. This situation will be reviewed as part of the annual RAP/LRP evaluation so that corrective measures can be developed and applied based on the review.

54. There are 149 sand miners and quarry owners at the dam construction site. One hundred forty (140) PAPs received 100 percent of the allowance (a 6-month lump sum representing their annual income due to the seasonality of work) in 2019. There are 9 PAPs who have not yet collected their compensation checks because they cannot be located.³ ***It is Management's understanding that there are currently no outstanding compensation payments for sand miners in the dam area (except for the 9PAPs that NHPC is still trying to locate).***

55. Upstream and downstream of the central zone, there are 827 sand miners and quarry owners who will be impacted when the impoundment takes place, anticipated for 2023. As of July 2022, 459 of these “blue” and “green” zone PAPs have received 70 percent of their compensation. The remaining 368 are expected to be compensated by the end of the third quarter of 2022. ILRPs and final compensation payments of 30 percent are expected to be completed for these sand miners and quarry owners by the end of 2022.

56. NHPC's environmental and social team, with the support of a qualified consulting firm, conducted surveys in March 2015, July 2015, and January-February 2016, to undertake an inventory of people engaged in the sand mining value chain. NHPC identified 51 quarry owners (persons who have extraction permits). It is

³ These PAPs are likely foreigners or non-residents of Batchenga who may have either returned to their country or are residing elsewhere.

important to note that only 20 of the 51 identified sand quarries were located in the Project area and were therefore directly impacted by Project land acquisition. The provisions of Performance Standard (PS) 5 apply only to those 20 quarry sites located in the area acquired for the Project (*Declaration d'utilité publique*, DUP). These 149 PAPs are entitled to compensation for the land impacts as well as livelihood restoration support. The remaining 31 quarry sites downstream of the DUP were not directly affected by land acquisition, i.e., the river segments which they mine were not acquired or developed by the Project, and they are not affected by access restrictions. However, they are impacted by the decreasing availability of sand, and are required to be compensated in accordance with PS 1. PAPs in these 31 sites will be economically displaced to a lesser degree than those in the DUP. Still, to avoid potential conflicts between sand miners, the Project has developed a single sand workers' LRP that provides the same level of compensation and support for alternative livelihood options to all the identified PAPs, without distinguishing where the quarry site is located. The compensation was based on average incomes for the identified category of sand miners, covering six months in a year given the seasonal nature of sand mining. ***The Request does not appear to understand the methodology for compensating PAPs, which includes cash compensation or land-for-land replacement as well as robust support for the development of ILRPs to ensure sustainable income-generating activities for all PAPS.***

Farmers and Households

57. ***Farmers.*** NHPC acquired land from farmers for the dam, the staff quarters (CE)⁴ area, and the TL right of way. Farmers could opt for cash compensation or for replacement land. The crops were inventoried and fully compensated for. Moreover, farmers would receive an allowance of 250,000 FCFA/ha for the clearing of their new land to start cultivating. They would also receive improved seeds for the new crops, a basic agricultural tool kit, as well as priority for participating in agricultural extension courses organized by the Project.

58. ***As detailed in Annex 1, the 976 farmers who received cash compensation or replacement land consist of 151 in the Dam zone, 208 in the CE area and 617 along the TL right of way. There were 142 farmers who opted for land-for-land replacement and received their plots in December 2018. Of these, 67 were originally in the Dam zone and 75 in the CE area. The 834 farmers who opted for cash compensation were compensated for plots and crops in 2021.***

59. ***Management understands, however, that issues remain regarding some PAPs who opted for replacement land and in particular the 75 PAPs displaced from the CE area. The replacement land identified and chosen by these farmers may not be suitable, as the farmers have reported a variety of issues in attempting to restore their livelihoods.*** The RAP allowed PAPs to choose their replacement land, provided it met certain criteria. The identification and selection of replacement land followed the procedure used by NHPC for all PAPs who chose land-for-land replacement. A committee, representing all PAPs,

⁴ Called "*Cité d'Exploitation (CE)*" in the French project documents, it is a housing base built for staff who will operate the dam upon completion.

was set up to identify replacement land, which would be paid for by NHPC. Minutes of the meeting of this committee, signed by the Divisional Officer, representatives of PAPs, and village chiefs were shared with the Bank by NHPC. The minutes state that the replacement land chosen by the CE PAPs has no disputes and belongs to the sellers. Although NHPC visited the site, the Bank is not aware of any studies or assessments undertaken by NHPC to ensure that the replacement land was suitable for farming or if there were other constraints such as flooding, presence of animals, and lack of access, as the Request has alleged.

60. Since receiving the replacement land in December 2018, the 75 PAPs in the CE area have not been able to cultivate their plots due to difficulty in accessing them by road, flooding during the rainy season, unclear demarcation of individual plots, and passage of grazing animals. This situation has resulted in a loss of agricultural income since the end of 2018.

61. NHPC informed the Bank that it has supported some of these PAPs with agricultural inputs and technical support, which were provided to them on plots they own elsewhere. Notwithstanding these efforts, the 2020 RAP-LRP evaluation noted that agricultural incomes for all of these PAPs have deteriorated compared to pre-Project levels. As further detailed in Annex 1, NHPC has engaged with local authorities and communities and a number of proposed actions to resolve these issues emanated from discussions with these PAPs. The action plan is being finalized and is expected to include the following detailed actions, as necessary: (i) demarcating the plot borders; (ii) ploughing of the sites; (iii) construction of a drainage system to address the flooding risk of the sites; (iv) construction of a fence to keep animals out of fields; (v) building a dirt road to facilitate access to the land; (vi) support through the timely distribution of plants/agricultural input; (vii) provision of technical support on farming techniques. ***In addition, the ongoing annual RAP/LRP implementation evaluation process will assess the impacts of the livelihood restoration measures provided to the CE PAPs and provide recommendations as needed. Management has urged NHPC to accelerate the implementation of measures to resolve outstanding issues and to ensure that all affected PAPs are able to restore their agricultural livelihoods.*** In consultation with the PAPs, all measures in the action plan will be implemented before the end of 2022.

62. ***Households.*** NHPC was able to minimize the physical displacement of households and limit relocation to six families. As of August 1, 2021, all six families had moved into their new homes. The titling process for their land is currently in progress. As per the RAP, the replacement houses are of at least equivalent surface area, with an improved construction standard (brick and mortar, sheet metal roof). Latrines, showers, and kitchens of similarly improved quality are included. All PAPs generally have improved quality of housing, compared to their previous accommodation, as confirmed by the RAP-LRP evaluation, issued in July 2021 (see photos below).

63. Still, in the first quarter of 2022, the Bank became aware of complaints from two PAPs about the quality of their replacement houses and confirmed that the quality of construction was substandard. In response to these complaints, NHPC commissioned repair works which started at the end of June 2022 and were completed by July 31, 2022. The

required repairs and improvements were successfully carried out, addressing the complaints.



Photo 1. Before relocation – from left to right – main house, kitchen, bath + toilet



Photo 2: After relocation – from left to right main house, external kitchen, bath + toilet

64. **Transmission line.** The compensation paid to the PAPs on the TL included, in addition to the compensation for crops, a financial allocation for the replacement of the land at a rate higher than the median price of agricultural land in the TL corridor.

65. ***In addition to the cash portion of the compensation, PAPs benefited from a specific program to rehabilitate their fields in the form of seeds, training, and development programs. This livelihood restoration program, however, only extended to PAPs who lost more than 1,000 m².*** The 2020 RAP-LRP evaluation report released in June 2021 found that despite the implementation of the livelihood restoration program, the agricultural incomes of all TL PAPs have been significantly reduced compared to pre-Project levels. In January 2022, NHPC proposed measures to address this situation, through an action plan to restore the livelihoods of all PAP farmers. Regarding the TL PAPs with less than 1,000 m², NHPC initiated a survey to assess the impacts and mitigation measures to restore their agriculture livelihoods, focusing on those whose cultivable land was more than 5 percent impacted. The Bank and Lenders raised concerns as to the rationale of the plot size threshold. Regardless of the updated survey findings, which are expected by the end of August 2022, NHPC has been asked to expand technical support, including distribution of plants and agriculture training, to all TL PAPs regardless of the impacts on their plot sizes. The Lenders have included the resolution of this issue as a binding corrective action to be implemented by the end of the third quarter of 2022.

66. ***The origin of some of the delays in livelihood support payments which has occurred between 2019 and 2022 can be attributed to the slow development of ILRPs, consultations and negotiations with PAPs to determine suitable compensation amounts (in the case of fisherfolk who completed discussions in 2021). Delay in the start of the***

construction work resulted in the late signing of contracts by the Project with qualified NGOs to accompany PAPs, especially those in the Dam area, who were impacted in 2019. Additionally, the impact of COVID-19 and GoC-imposed restriction of movements and meetings also impacted the ability to send Project staff to the field and hold meetings with PAPs. However, livelihood support payments for sand miner and fisherfolk PAPs in upstream and downstream areas is ahead of schedule, with their ILRPs expected to be developed and compensation paid well before they are expected to be impacted by impoundment in 2023.

Alleged destruction of sacred sites

67. The Project ESIA assessed the cultural heritage sites that would be within the DUP and identified one site in the dam area at Bindandjengue. A second sacred site at Ndokoa outside of the DUP but in close proximity to the construction workers' camp was also identified. Both sites were compensated for.

68. ***The nature and specific location of the sacred site at Ndji that is alleged to have been destroyed is not clear from the Request. The Dam RAP prepared in 2016 indicated that no sacred site was identified at Ndji while consultations referenced in the 2011 ESIA update refer to a possible sacred site in the Ndji village called Nkolndji. Management has requested that additional consultations and assessments in line with Bank policy be conducted by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 to determine whether or not a sacred site at Ndji meeting the requirements of applicable policies has been impacted by the Project.*** NHPC reported that during NHPC-led consultation meetings in 2015 and 2016 in Ndji, including the preparation of the village fact sheets, no sacred sites were reported by the traditional authorities, and no complaints regarding the destruction of a sacred site in Ndji have been received by NHPC since the clearance works and preparation of the dam and TL construction site commenced in 2019. Management notes, however, that the possibility of a sacred site in the Ndji village called Nkolndji was apparently raised by villagers both in earlier consultations, as part of the 2011 ESIA update, and during a recent Bank mission.

Alleged environmental damage

Alleged GHG emissions

69. The Project's CO₂ emissions impact was assessed based on the Project design in 2014 and updated in the 2017 ESIA. In both cases, robust internationally approved methodologies were applied to estimate a reduction in CO₂ emissions equivalent to 1 million tons annually, over the Project's 40-year economic life.

70. ***Management has reviewed the study cited in the Request and found that its conclusions are based on incorrect or unsupported assumptions.*** The briefing note by Action for a Sustainable Environment (ASE) falls short of scientific standards, as it makes assumptions that are either unsupported or factually inaccurate. Specifically:

- (i) The quantification of the different land use systems encountered across the Project area in the ASE study has been obtained from satellite imagery.

Generally, this approach to land use estimation requires further calibration of the model such that the age of the images, validation and ground truthing ensure that results reflect the true ground conditions. The report does not demonstrate this process; hence the results could be inaccurate.

- (ii) The ASE report makes flawed assumptions. In particular, it incorrectly assumed that all the impacted PAPs who are subject to an ILRP will automatically become farmers, which would lead to the conversion of 900 ha of secondary forest to agroforests equivalent to 202,227.67 tCO₂/y. Project monitoring records show that the fishermen and sand miners have been engaged in many other forms of livelihood activities, including fish farming and small trading.
- (iii) The report also incorrectly assumes that, as part of the RAP, a total of 145 hectares of agricultural land expropriated will lead to 435 ha of new land (each ha of lost land compensated with three ha) and considers this new land to be secondary forest area. The report considers the conversion of the secondary forest into agroforest will generate 115,095.2 tCO₂/y. Project follow-up reveals that some of the land is grassland, and some of the Project-affected parties decided to receive cash compensation in lieu of land.
- (iv) ASE has estimated the construction emissions at around 469,000 tCO₂/y. However, construction emissions are a one-time event, and would not be estimated on a yearly basis. Thus, the estimation of a construction emission value per year is also not clear or consistent with internationally accepted industry standards.

Alleged air, noise, soil and water pollution

71. The Request claims that concerns regarding air, noise, and water quality were raised by members of the local communities. However, the Project was designed to assess and mitigate such impacts, and the Request provides no specific information on the location or source of these concerns.

72. The 2011 ESIA included two specific addendums related to air, noise, and water quality. The baseline for air quality was assessed in June 2014 and is regularly monitored against this pre-construction baseline. These monitoring measurements confirm that the air and water quality, as well as noise levels in the Project area, are consistent with World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines and limits of the World Health Organization limits. No issues of concern have been identified regarding ambient air quality and noise at the boundary of the DUP.

Alleged reduced rainfall, increased temperatures (heat), and high winds

73. Management notes that there is no plausible link between the Project's construction works and the alleged regional and global environmental impacts ("reduced rainfall, increased temperatures (heat) and high winds") raised in the Request. Management notes

that those phenomena are more likely to result from the effects of broader phenomena such as climate change than from any of the Project's activities.

Alleged fish depletion

74. As with any dam project, it is assumed in the BAP updated in April 2022 that the Project may affect fish stocks. The Project developers mobilized experts and research institutions to assess this impact and provide appropriate mitigation measures. As an addendum to the Project ESIA, EDF prepared a framework compensation strategy for affected fish species which includes the various measures proposed to reduce or compensate for the Project's impacts, with the objective of a "net gain" in biodiversity.

75. Among the implemented approaches are (i) a procedure for the fish rescue in the ponds and dried areas downstream; (ii) a study regarding the restoration of the Sanaga tributaries and; (iii) a fish genetic study.

76. Consistent with good international practice, the fish rescue mitigation measures include trapping fish species at the foot of the dam during periods of high water and releasing them downstream. Two fish rescue missions were completed in February and March 2022, with additional missions planned.

77. A draft methodology and program for the pre-feasibility study regarding the restoration of Sanaga tributaries was planned to be prepared by March 2022. However, the study was delayed and the report is expected in September 2022. The fish genetic study also has been delayed. This study is intended to establish the fish movement/migration behavior/pattern within the Sanaga River, and to establish whether the Nachtigal dam represents a barrier for fish migration. The terms of reference for the fish genetic study have been drafted and the first sampling campaign is expected in March 2023, before the complete closure of the dam.

Alleged loss of medicinal plants

78. The Request does not provide specific reference to plant species, or the areas affected by the alleged loss of medicinal plants, which makes it difficult to provide a specific response. Nonetheless, as explained below, such impacts were considered, and mitigation measures planned as part of Project design.

79. The ESIA and the BAP identified the presence of plant species for ethnobotanical use on flooded or cleared land, including 143 medicinal species. The BAP includes mitigation measures to address this impact, including provision of support for the conservation of the COPAL (*Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié*) community forest, managed clearing of land to minimize the impact, and revegetation of the site and surrounding areas to restore impacted species.

Alleged social harms

80. The Request alleges that the loss of income-generating activities in the area has led to an increase in "theft, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, marital conflicts, and divorces."

The Request does not provide an analysis or evidence that these phenomena are Project-related or even more frequent than before the Project began. The Bank was unable to obtain data from relevant government sources (due to lack of available statistics) to ascertain any upward trend in the Project area since the Project began.

81. Management takes the kinds of issues raised in the Request very seriously but does not agree with the notion that the increase in the cited social problems (if such increase actually exists) in this case is attributable to the Project. On the contrary, the Project has put in place broad and robust mitigation measures to address social risks that could result from the Project activities. The Project has increased its efforts to hire workers from the local population, including PAPs, resulting, as of June 2022, with 64 percent of workers hired by the civil works contractor classified as locals for the Project target areas. Additionally, the Project has prioritized livelihood support and transitional assistance for those individuals who may have been impacted by Project activities and has introduced measures to manage labor influx in a manner that protects vulnerable communities, including women specifically. Management will require NHPC to continue to closely monitor social impacts of the Project, including through ongoing consultations, and provide regular reports to the Bank.

82. ***Moreover, NHPC has committed to engaging workers from the Project area, thus providing job opportunities to local communities.*** NHPC and the contractors have committed to maximizing local hiring, specifically to support local communities. About 60 percent of the required workforce (all contractors combined) will be hired locally. In July 2022, NHPC reported that 64 percent of the workforce employed in the civil works at the main dam site are local, i.e., from the Project area.

83. ***The Project has taken necessary steps as required by the Bank's procedures to address the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH).*** Management notes that the Project has put in place appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that GBV risks are properly assessed and managed. This includes GBV training and awareness raising, and signing of Codes of Conduct by all workers, as well as GBV awareness materials at the worksite (e.g., signboards). Accordingly, all the EPC contracts included the workforce code of conduct, which prohibits any type of violence, exploitation or abuse against women and girls, inside and outside the work site. The Project's GBV and SEA/SH measures go beyond the Project site to the wider community, through for instance, sensitization in schools and public areas on the negative impacts of GBV. Approximately 1,000 Project employees and contractors received training on GBV and SEA/SH issues in July 2022.

84. ***It is important to note that the GBV mitigation measures and support structure put in place by the Project are accessible to community members, irrespective of an incident's possible relation to the Project.*** NHPC has established a GBV survivors care office in the Batchenga medical center, staffed by a local specialized NGO, which also operates a toll-free number 24 hours. The 135 complaints related to GBV/SEA/SH cases which have been raised through the Project GRM mostly pertain to domestic issues and incidents inside the community, while 7 involve site workers. These 7 cases include different forms of harassment, and the alleged perpetrators are being processed accordingly through the Project's GRM system.

85. The Requesters' claims, accompanied by Management's detailed responses, are provided in Annex 1.

Actions

86. Management will continue to work with the group of Lenders to monitor Project environmental and social performance and develop corrective actions with NHPC to ensure that the Project meets World Bank Performance Standard requirements as well as other applicable policies and procedures. The following key actions have been agreed with NHPC to be completed by the end of 2022:

- Complete the payment of compensation and ILRPs for all remaining sand miner and fishermen and fishmonger PAPs.
- Finalize by the end of the third quarter of 2022 the action plan agreed with the 75 CE PAP farmers to resolve issues related to suitability of replacement land for cultivation, and promptly implement thereafter.
- Provide livelihood support measures (assistance, plants and seeds) to all PAP farmers in the TL zone, including those with lots smaller than 1,000 m².
- Undertake urgent actions and document NHPC's efforts to locate the 9 missing sand miner PAPs with ILRPs, who could not previously be located and thus have not yet been compensated.
- Conduct further stakeholder consultations and site visits regarding identification of potential additional sacred sites and alleged impacts on natural resources.
- Closely monitor social impacts of the Project, including through ongoing consultations, and provide regular reports to the Bank throughout project implementation.
- Further monitor and assess social impacts of activities being implemented by the Project in the *Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié* (COPAL) community forest and in the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP).

Conclusion

87. In Management's view, the Bank has followed the policies and procedures applicable to the matters raised by the Request, including through the actions described in this response. As a result, Management believes that the Requesters' rights or interests have not been, nor will they be, directly and adversely affected by a failure of the Bank to implement its policies and procedures. However, Management acknowledges that NHPC has faced challenges and delays during Project implementation, which have been closely monitored by the Lenders and are being addressed.

Annex 1.
Claims and Responses

No.	Claim	Response
	Harms	
1.	<p>Since the beginning of the construction of the Nachtigal dam in 2018, the communities and socio-professional organizations (more than 1000 people) of the localities of Batchenga, Mbandjock and Ntui located in the right-of-way of this project have been facing many difficulties, among which:</p> <p>- Poor stakeholder consultation: The NHPC had only informed the communities about the implementation of the Project in their locality, the benefits of the Project and the impacts that were to be mitigated through compensations. The communities have not given their views on the Project. For example, they do not understand the terms “green zone” and “red zone” used so far by NHPC. In addition, the communities complain about a poor census that has not been participatory, as so far many affected people do not have their names on the lists of people to be compensated.</p>	<p>NHPC has conducted robust, community-based participatory consultations, as required by Bank policy, and has disclosed environmental and social information with Project-affected communities throughout Project preparation and implementation. Feedback received from stakeholders has been incorporated as appropriate into the Project design and mitigation measures to date. For example, as detailed further below; this feedback led to changes in the strategy of the PADEL activities and changes in compensation for fishermen and fishmongers.</p> <p>Nevertheless, feedback received from CSOs and local communities indicates a need to share more information about the Project with local stakeholders. NHPC is therefore implementing enhanced communication measures to address this. The gaps in environmental and social compliance that were identified by the Bank and other Lenders have been incorporated into a binding SCAP⁵ and updates on ongoing corrective actions are included in the monthly construction monitoring reports produced by the IESC.⁶</p> <p>The Project has a SEP⁷ that has been updated every six months since July 2014 to reflect stakeholders’ feedback, and a further revision was included as an action in the SCAP.⁸ NHPC has engaged continuously with stakeholders during Project preparation and implementation, using a variety of stakeholders engagement tools, such as community forums, focus group discussions, municipal consultation committees, radio, and individual interviews, to ensure that information on the Project is provided in such a way that it is understandable to all stakeholders, including women, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups. These engagement processes ensure that all stakeholders are heard, in line with local customary practices for public consultative meetings. The methodologies used to achieve a transparent, meaningful consultation and inclusive stakeholder engagement process include the use of:</p>

⁵ The SCAP is a contractually binding document that was entered into between the Lenders and NHPC in January 2021. It details corrective actions and allows Lenders to track the status of the actions and the timeline for addressing them. It was incorporated into the existing ESAP.

⁶ The IESC hired by the Lenders is Mott MacDonald (who is also the Lenders’ Technical Advisor); the IESC’s tasks include, among others, monitoring of environmental and social risks of the Project, site visits and the production of reports.

⁷ NHPC Stakeholder Engagement Plan (updated and published on June 22, 2022): <https://www.nhpc.cm/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2022-06-Plan-dEngagement-des-Parties-Prenantes-V1-2018-1.pdf>

⁸ The SEP has been updated several times, as follows: February 13, 2015; April 1, 2015; July 8, 2015; April 5, 2016; September 8, 2017; July 17, 2020; January 20, 2021; June 25, 2021; January 31, 2022; and June 22, 2022.

No.	Claim	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally, gender and generationally diverse teams of CLOs and Community Facilitators (<i>Relais Communautaires</i>) who receive training on public consultation methods prior to carrying out the consultation. • Local CSOs to aid in information dissemination and exchange meetings held twice a year through the CSO/NGO Platform;⁹ • Oral, written, and visual information to reach all groups, through posting of flyers and billboards at key strategic areas in the communities; and • Field visits and exchange meetings with local populations and solicitation of verbal feedback through semi-structured household interviews, focus groups and map drawing. <p>The majority of the target population is literate—86.7 percent of adults can read and write (90.3 percent of men and 82.8 percent of women) in French¹⁰—the main language spoken in the Centre region, where the Project is located, which facilitates communication. In order to reinforce its messaging during consultations, CLOs who are native to the area and fluent in local languages serve as interpreters for the elderly and people with disability and have also acted as translators to ensure that all members of the community understand Project information.</p> <p>Since 2014, NHPC has held approximately 550 stakeholder information and consultation meetings with community members, and the minutes (with attendance sheets) of these meetings are recorded. These consultations and information-gathering meetings with stakeholders were held as part of both the development and the implementation of the environmental and social instruments (such as the ESIA) and plans (such as ILRPs). NHPC continues to engage with communities through community-based forums and the local consultation committees—which include village chiefs and other local leaders at the municipal level—and uses these to provide feedback to communities and to receive their input. NHPC has documented the consultations undertaken during the development and construction phases.</p> <p>In relation to the Requesters’ assertion that NHPC has only informed communities about the impacts and benefits of the Project through compensation, but not given the communities an opportunity to share their views on the Project more generally, Management notes that NHPC has, from the outset, provided information on all aspects of the</p>

⁹ The NGO Platform was set up in July 2021 following Bank recommendations to improve engagement with CSOs. Meetings have been held in July 2021, January 2022, and July 2022, and the minutes shared with the Bank. See Annex 3 for the list of all CSOs NHPC has contracted to work on various aspects of the Project.

¹⁰ Clear Global: Language Data for Cameroon: Accessed on July 27, 2022: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/guilherme.iablonovski2639/viz/LanguagemapofCameroon/LanguagemapofCameroon?publish=yes> (Assessed on July 29, 2022.)

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>Project, including its overall design and components, and had undertaken a rigorous process of community consultation and feedback on key environmental and social instruments as demonstrated by, but not limited to, meetings below:</p> <p>Information and consultation meetings in the framework of the development and implementation of key environmental and social instruments.</p> <p>2015-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 information and awareness meetings related to the demarcation and census in the framework of the DUP¹¹ process in target areas (2,152 participants including 488 women); - 2 consultation meetings for the identification of fishermen and fishmongers (Ndji, Ndokoa) – (109 participants including 23 women). - 14 information and consultation meetings on land replacement options in all affected communities (352 participants including 96 women); - 1 Dam RAP presentation and public consultation meeting in the community of Ndokoa (actual location of the dam); also covered stakeholders concerns and how to address them; - 1 Dam RAP public participation and consultation meeting at Bindandjengue; - 12 public participation and consultation meetings on the TL/CE RAP (Ndji; Emanas-Batchenga; Nalassi; Minkama; Obala; Nkometou II); and - 37 public participation and consultation meetings with communities, PAPs, and local authorities to identify strategies specifically for livelihood restoration in all Project areas. - In 2017-2018, NHPC held 51 information and consultation meetings with more than 1,700 participants (i.e., PAPs, local authorities) to present the assets inventory, and the eligibility and compensation matrix. PAPs were presented a census form for their approval detailing the agricultural crops to be compensated; the forms were signed by the PAP, Assets Evaluation Committee, NHPC, and the village chief. In addition, PAPs were also informed of the additional monetary compensation for loss of access to natural resources and the livelihood restoration measures included in the RAPs. Stakeholders were also informed during these meetings about NHPC’s grievance mechanism, which has been in place since April 2015. - In general, over the past 8 years, NHPC has held approximately 550 meetings with stakeholders in the Project area on topics such

¹¹ A government-issued statement that defines the legal boundaries of the Project.

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>as development of the RAPs and ILRPs for fishermen, fishmongers, farmers, and sand miners as well as for the PADEL. See Annex 2 for a complete list of consultations.</p> <p>Management considers that over the years of implementation, NHPC has ensured that communities’ views have been taken into account in the development and implementation of the environmental and social instruments, while also acknowledging that implementation of stakeholder engagement activities have been hampered by complex and challenging conditions, including COVID-19 emergency restrictions. NHPC has a record of all meetings and the feedback received helped NHPC to make necessary adjustments and corrections. For example, as part of the development and implementation of the PADEL, NHPC extensively consulted with communities by holding the following specific meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2015: 16 consultation meetings on the strategic orientation of the PADEL. - 2020: 132 meetings to collect information on actions and socio-economic needs in villages, town halls and technical training schools in the Project area. Additionally, a socio-economic survey was conducted in 2020 in the targeted communities to understand their vulnerabilities and needs. The community survey that was carried out has identified individuals and groups that might otherwise have been excluded or may have had difficulty in participating in the local economic development activities initiated by the Project. NHPC used the findings to target these marginalized or vulnerable groups in the Project areas for the provision of basic services. - 2022: 11 public participation and consultation meetings on the revised PADEL, that resulted in an update of the overarching strategy to define investments in the community (such as economic micro-projects and women-led enterprises) with the support of the Lenders. <p>The Project also received feedback from fishermen and fishmongers during the consultations for payment of compensation, and between 2015 and 2021, NHPC held various consultations with these PAPs to address their concerns and revise the Project RAP to include relevant measures to address their feedback. In December 2021, NHPC, MINEPIA, and fishermen/fishmongers signed an agreement, which consisted in aligning transition allowance amounts for all fishermen to 1,500,000 FCFA and for all fishmongers to 850,000 FCFA (an amendment to the amounts in the RAP). These corrective measures are an example of adaptive management approach taken under the Project to ensure that compensation offered to PAPs is adequate and proportional to the Project risk and impacts.</p>

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>To ensure a strong ongoing dialogue with PAPs and other stakeholders, the Project environmental and social team includes a Requests and Complaints Management Officer at NHPC, located in Batchenga since 2014, as well as CLOs in targeted locations in the Project area. As requested by the Lenders, NHPC continues to recruit additional CLOs. The number of CLOs doubled from four to eight from February to July 2022. These new staff will further strengthen the ongoing information sharing with communities and PAPs.</p> <p>Based on the feedback received from NGOs/community, additional measures were put in place to provide more information about the Project and therefore the Lenders requested NHPC to include additional communication measures in the SCAP to improve its engagement and communication with communities. Accordingly, in December 2020, NHPC hired an external communications company to support its annual reporting for key stakeholders, update its website and monitor the media.</p> <p>NHPC has used local FM radio stations to broadcast communiqués and messages targeting PAPs and communities in French and in the four most spoken languages in the area: Eton, Ewondo Sanaga and Mvoute. It has also contracted a local radio station, Radio Lekie, to run a monthly radio program, “<i>Actu Nachtigal</i>,” in French and Eton about Project progress and NHPC’s environmental and social measures. Additionally, NHPC produces information flyers, called NHPC FlashInfos (<i>Lettre d’Information de NHPC</i>) in which details on specific activities are provided. These flyers are shared with communities and other stakeholders in print and online versions.¹² In June 2022, NHPC held 16 meetings with 188 stakeholders (33 women) to, among other items, distribute FlashInfo flyers to village chiefs and opinion leaders. The first of what will be bi-annual flyers presenting key Project activities (progress of works and environmental and social actions) was produced and distributed. Since then, NHPC has seen an increase in its numbers of followers on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. According to data provided by the Project company, in the period of May to July 2022, LinkedIn followers surpassed 50,000.</p> <p>The Project has a functioning GRM, which has registered over 1,000 grievances since it was established and made operational in April 2015. Of these, 98 percent have been addressed, and the remainder are under consideration and being processed. Approximately two-thirds of these grievances have focused on the census and compensation, and compensation of sand miners. The figure below shows the types of complaints received by NHPC since</p>

¹² See Number 66 of the letter at <https://www.nachtigal-hpc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FI-n%C2%B02021-66-Signature-de-la-Convention-entre-le-MINEFOP-et-NHPC-vD.pdf>

No.	Claim	Response												
		<p data-bbox="670 245 833 275">April 2015:¹³</p> <div data-bbox="670 275 1469 520"> <table border="1" data-bbox="670 275 1469 520"> <caption>Complaint Distribution in April 2015</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Census and compensation</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compensation of sand miners</td> <td>32%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction work</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Census of fishermen and fishmongers</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compensation and land replacement</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p data-bbox="670 548 1479 741">NHPC has held information sessions throughout Project implementation to enhance awareness of the GRM. The GRM has been accessible to all Project-affected parties, and Billboards are installed in villages affected by the Project and at the entrance to construction sites; they contain contact information about the Project and the GRM.</p> <p data-bbox="670 768 1479 1226">Despite these efforts, in the Bank’s view, there remains room to improve NHPC’s capacity to register and respond to complaints in a more timely manner, to proactively address issues in a manner satisfactory to the complainant, and to improve communications with PAPs. Improvements to the GRM were also reflected in the SCAP as an action to be undertaken by NHPC. Accordingly, NHPC is now collaborating with <i>Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir Cameroun</i> (ASSEJA) – a national NGO contracted to act as an independent witness in the resolution of community grievances that are handled by the five village appeals committees. The increased number of CLOs will also enhance engagement and consultations with key local stakeholders, improve the identification of environmental and social risks, and ensure that complaints made by PAPs and communities are reported to NHPC in a timely manner.</p> <p data-bbox="670 1253 1479 1478">Between April and June 2022, NHPC received 21 new complaints while it was also processing 67 earlier ones. As of the end of June 2022, NHPC had fully resolved 52 percent of the new complaints. While NHPC has made some progress in the time it takes to resolve complaints, the Bank and other Lenders will continue to monitor the implementation of the Project’s GRM to ensure that complaints are resolved in a timely manner.</p> <p data-bbox="670 1505 1479 1698">In relation to the allegation concerning the census and missing names of affected people, extensive measures, including multiple censuses and community awareness raising sessions, have been undertaken and continue to be implemented by NHPC to ensure that all PAPs are included, in compliance with the Bank’s policies and procedures.</p> <p data-bbox="670 1726 1479 1808">For example, Project-affected sand miners were surveyed, and assets and investments were inventoried between October 2016 and May 2017 (a period of high quarry activity) to ensure the most accurate and</p>	Category	Percentage	Census and compensation	36%	Compensation of sand miners	32%	Construction work	11%	Census of fishermen and fishmongers	13%	Compensation and land replacement	3%
Category	Percentage													
Census and compensation	36%													
Compensation of sand miners	32%													
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Compensation and land replacement	3%													

¹³ Source: NHPC GRM data.

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		<p>comprehensive results possible. These surveys were conducted in the following manner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field verification of quarry operation and existence of deposits (to ensure quarries were not opened specifically for the survey). 2. GPS coordinates of quarries and identification of deposits. 3. Multiple visits to the same quarry to ensure that everyone was counted. Managers and miners were counted only once, regardless of whether they cover more than one quarry. Other people who were active during the surveys, such as restorers of land after quarrying activity and dugout canoe makers, were also counted. <p>Once the field surveys were finalized, the results were presented to PAPs at meetings held in each quarry district. Subsequently, validation committees were set up in each district to validate the census and inventory data and to ensure transparency and fairness in the process. These committees were composed of Divisional Officers, village chiefs, quarry managers, and a representative of the Project (NHPC). The validations were subject to minutes signed by all the members of the validation committees.</p> <p>In relation to the concern raised that some affected people are not included in the list of PAPs, NHPC has a system in place in its GRM for complaints on this issue, which it continues to receive. As shown in the chart above, of the complaints received since April 2015 when the GRM became operational, 36 percent are on the census and compensation. This also shows that PAPs who believe they have been excluded are aware that the GRM exists as an avenue to seek their inclusion if they believe they are eligible. To date, NHPC used GRM findings to include 68 sand miners, 18 fishermen and fishmongers, and 108 economically displaced PAPs (mainly those who lost lands) and one physically displaced PAP, who had not been included initially for various reasons.</p> <p>After NHPC has conducted its investigation, which can include a field visit, a resolution is proposed to the complainant in writing. If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolution, the grievance can be raised to an independent Mediation Committee. If the complainant does not agree with the decision of the Mediation Committee, he/she can present a grievance appeal to the Appeal Committee, which is the last level of appeal within the GRM structure. The GRM operates without prejudice to any other complaint mechanisms or legal recourse to which an individual or community may otherwise have access. During 2014, 75 information meetings with more than 1,200 participants were held to present NHPC's grievance resolution mechanism, and community meetings were held in eight villages to choose Mediation Committee members. Four workshops were carried out to train members of the Mediation Committees on their roles and responsibilities. Twelve consultation meetings with 82 participants were also held with local administrative authorities (Divisional</p>

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>Officers and Majors) on the functioning of the grievance mechanism, as they act as members of the Appeal Committee when required.</p> <p>In general, this process has worked well. For example, between 2019 and 2021, a total of 194 PAPs across various categories were added, as noted above. Additionally, in 2022, a PAP brought a case to the Appeal Committee, which found his complaint to be valid and NHPC redressed the grievance.</p> <p>With regards to color schemes used to describe Project zones, the term “red zone” is used by NHPC to define the restricted areas near the main dam construction works, while “blue zone” and “green zones” refer to areas upstream and downstream of the dam where there are no restrictions during dam construction period. The LRP¹⁴ for sandmining dated March 23, 2017 indicated the total number of sand miners affected by the Project and used this simple color scheme to differentiate the sand miners based on the type of impact and the timing of compensation, hence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red Zone: sand quarries located at the dam site that were impacted immediately during the pre-mobilization phase - Blue Zone: sand quarries located further upstream of the dam, which will be impacted when the impoundment of the dam has taken place – currently scheduled for 2023; and - Green Zone: sand quarries located downstream of the dam location, which will be impacted by the construction of the dam through a reduction in sediment flow to the quarrying locations, – currently expected in the first quarter of 2023. <p>The LRP for sand workers includes a map to further illustrate the impacted areas and color scheme used. See Paragraph [48] and Map 2.</p> <p>NHPC has conducted extensive consultations with communities (including on the LRP which is publicly disclosed) to explain the key aspects of the Project’s work that pertain to the “red zone.” In 2021, for example, NHPC conducted 25 information and awareness-raising meetings for the local population on the high-voltage line works.</p> <p>Trust building between NHPC and local communities and stakeholders has been ongoing since the start of the various studies, ESIA, RAP, LRP, etc. NHPC increased its staffing capacity in the field with more CLOs and community agents to ensure regular engagement with PAPs and communities. While NHPC has made progress in its communication approach with communities and PAPs, through ongoing monitoring, NHPC and the Lenders are seeking ways to further enhance the level of understanding of the Project among community members. In response to this, NHPC has been asked to increase efforts to inform affected communities on compensation eligibility and other aspects of</p>

¹⁴ Sand Workers Livelihood Restoration Plan, dated March 23, 2017, page 15.

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		<p>the Project. This includes the production of a handbook with key facts regarding the construction status, which can be updated regularly. The handbook will include definitions of key Project components (dam, spillway, turbine, etc. – details and definitions that the communication team has been posting on Project social media platforms), information about what the various environmental and social implementing partners are focusing on, what the overall Project benefits are (including flood management), key dates, summary of resettlement eligibility and main entitlements, and other relevant information. This handbook will be distributed to field staff of both NHPC and implementing partners so that there is standard basic information about the Project being shared. The Bank will request NHPC to ensure that definitions and explanations of the “green zones” and “red zones” are included in the handbook. The Bank expects the completion of the handbook and training of CLOs on its utilization by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.</p>
2.	<p>- Loss of income-generating activities for fishermen, sand miners, and fishmongers: Before the Project, the communities’ main activities were sand mining and fishing, which allowed them to live comfortably. Unfortunately, since the construction of the dam began, they have been denied access to water, which has caused them to lose their livelihood activities. No alternative activities have been established to date, although the Project’s livelihood restoration plan calls for the establishment of alternative activities, especially for fishermen and fishmongers.</p>	<p>Project impacts on livelihoods for sand miners, fishermen, and fishmongers were anticipated and assessed as part of the ESIA process, and the process to provide transitional assistance and compensation is ongoing. Monitoring, engagement and GRM processes have highlighted areas where further attention is required, and NHPC is implementing such corrective actions.</p> <p>Livelihood restoration planning</p> <p>The need for livelihood restoration was anticipated and planned for as follows.</p> <p>Two RAPs were prepared, consulted upon and disclosed for the Project: the first RAP¹⁵ concerns the area declared as DUP around the dam & hydroelectric plant (Dam RAP), and the second RAP¹⁶ covers the area declared as DUP for both the TL and CE zone at Batchenga (TL/CE RAP).</p> <p>The Dam RAP identifies the potential economic displacement of fishermen, fishmongers and farmers, and describes livelihood restoration measures to help these groups restore their income-generating activities. It also acknowledges potential impacts on artisanal sand miners and indicated that those would be addressed in a separate study and LRP. No impacts on fishermen, fishmongers or sand miners were identified in the TL/CE RAP, which finds livelihood related impacts for that area to be limited to loss of trees and agricultural land.</p> <p>As mentioned in the first RAP, a separate LRP was prepared for sand workers (sand workers LRP). This plan describes the impacts of the Project on workers in the sand industry in the area of the future</p>

¹⁵ Plan d’Action de Reinstallation et d’indemnisation / RAP, dated September 29, 2016.

¹⁶ Plan d’Action de Reinstallation et d’indemnisation Partie Ligne Haute Tension Barrage -Yaoundé et Cite d’exploitation Batchenga / RAP TL – Yaounde and CE zone Batchenga, dated January 17, 2017

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>reservoir and at the confluence with the Mbam River— the largest tributary of the Sanaga River—and livelihood restoration measures to be implemented to address these impacts.</p> <p>Sand workers/Quarry owners/managers</p> <p><i>Impacts</i></p> <p>The ESIA anticipated impacts on sand quarry workers, due to the change in sediment transportation downstream, and the building of the reservoir. It should be noted that not all sandmining will be impacted at the same time (see also response to Item 1). Whereas sand quarries located at the dam site have been impacted immediately at the start of construction, sand quarries located further upstream and downstream of the dam would only be impacted when the impoundment of the dam has taken place, which is currently scheduled for 2023.</p> <p><i>RAP and LRP Entitlements</i>¹⁷</p> <p>The Project anticipated the provision of transitional allowances to PAPs to enable them to implement livelihood restoration activities following impacts on their sources of livelihood. While NHPC initially paid 100 percent of compensation to sand miners in the dam area, it became apparent that in certain cases, the PAPs exhausted the funds before developing an alternative livelihood. The Project therefore adopted an approach consisting of splitting payments for these PAPs into two: (1) an initial 70 percent payment after the development and validation of an ILRP and (2) the payment of the remaining 30 percent upon verification and certification of the implementation of the livelihood restoration activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6-month lump sum (equivalent to 1 year of income since the activity is seasonal) compensation for sand miners, which are located in the central zone, from the beginning of construction (initially estimated at 2016 but actually occurred in February 2019). - 6-month lump sum compensation for PAPs located upstream and downstream from construction phase 4 (time of impoundment, anticipated in first quarter of 2023). - 6-month lump sum and compensation for investments e.g., access roads made during the past 15 years (up to 70 percent) for quarry owners. <p><i>Status of Implementation of Livelihood Measures</i></p> <p>The original census for the LRP had identified 908 sand worker PAPs in 2017. That number had risen to 976 in 2022, representing a 7.5 percent increase resulting from the identification of these 68 additional PAPs following the resolution of their GRM complaints. Of the 976</p>

¹⁷Sand Workers Livelihood Restoration Plan (2017, page 94).

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		<p>sand workers identified as PAPs, 833 are men and 93 are women while 10 are considered vulnerable (5 men and 5 women).</p> <p>In the central area, where sand mining impacts from the Project have already materialized since 2019, 149 PAPs were eligible to receive cash compensation for livelihood restoration support via the development of an ILRP. These PAPs received 100 percent of their compensation irrespective of the development of ILRPs in 2019. Only 9 PAPs have not yet collected their checks because they cannot be located. As of June 2022, 66 percent of the PAPs have developed ILRPs and the rest are in the process of implementation, with the majority between 50 and 99 percent completed. This situation will be reviewed as part of the annual RAP/LRP evaluation so that corrective measures can be developed and applied based on the review.</p> <p>In the upstream and downstream areas, there are 827 sand worker PAPs who will be impacted when the dam impoundment starts in May 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of the 827 upstream and downstream sand miner PAPs whose compensation is linked to the completion of the ILRPs, 666 have developed ILRPs as of July 2022. - 459 of the 666 have received 70 percent of their transitional allowance as of July 2022. - The remaining PAPs with ILRPs (207 PAPs) and those with ILRPs under development with expected finalization in the coming months (161 PAPs) will be paid by the end of third quarter 2022. <p>The sand miners' LRP will remain active until PAPs have restored their capacity to generate income ensuring them a standard of living at least equivalent to that before the economic displacement, within a timeframe of three years after the start of the operation of the dam.¹⁸ Implementation of the LRP is ongoing. NHPC has hired an NGO to conduct extensive consultations with PAPs to ensure that ILRPs optimize available resources and result in income generation and livelihoods that enable them to maintain or improve their living conditions. The process includes an intake interview to collect information on the individual's needs, support for the development of individual retraining and support plans, training in financial management and entrepreneurship, technical training, and monitoring of the progress in implementation of the individual plans. In addition, NHPC has undertaken stakeholder engagement with the different categories of sand miners (in the three zones) in the Project-affected communities (five locations: Nadja, Ndokoa, Ntui, Ebebda, and Sa'a) to explain Project impacts, potential restrictions, and mitigation measures.</p>

¹⁸ Source: Sand worker livelihood restoration plan (2017) p. 89

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>The entire process (i.e., census, validation, and negotiations) is set out in the LRP, which is available on the NHPC website and has also been shared with IFI Synergy. NHPC contracted a local NGO, AGRO-PME, that has mobilized 10 field officers, of whom 6 are dedicated to supporting sand workers in the development of their ILRPs and advising them in choosing options for alternative income-generating activities. In April, May, and June 2022, AGRO-PME conducted 82 technical support visits to sand miner PAPs in the central zone and 905 visits to those in the upstream and downstream. 9 women and 121 men received training on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and agriculture. As of the end June 2022, 89 percent of sand miners had developed ILRPs.</p> <p>Fishermen and fishmongers</p> <p><i>Impacts</i></p> <p>The ESIA identified the following potential impacts on fishing;¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary prohibition of access to part of the river for the sake of operational safety during construction/impoundment; - Changes due to creation of the dam reservoir, resulting in the need to adapt fishing techniques; and - Impact on some upstream rapids after impoundment. <p>Impacts on the fishing industry are expected to be mainly temporary given that fishermen can continue fishing in other parts of the river. Since construction began in February 2019, fishing around the central dam area has been prohibited for safety reasons. The reservoir will be available for fishing, except the area directly above the dam and water intake (at a distance of 500 m from the facilities), because of safety risks.</p> <p><i>Entitlements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved access to fishing areas in the river by providing bicycles to access places in the river further away during the construction period (construction phase); training on the opportunities and risks of fishing in the deep dam reservoir and allowance for acquiring fishing gear: boats, nets, safety vests, etc. (exploitation phase); fish landing site accessible through an all-weather road and a refrigerated storeroom for preserving fresh fish; use of the wood from the dam reservoir and introduction of modern improved fish smoking devices; assistance with organizing fishing groups and the construction of a fish landing site with a meeting room for these organizations (exploitation phase); - Provision of an allowance to fishermen and fishmongers that covers the transitional allowance and capital for livelihood investments.

¹⁹ Source: ESIA Summary.

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		<p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 PAPs were originally identified in 2017 (117 men and 83 women), including 23 PAPs identified as vulnerable (19 men and four women). After the census, an additional 18 were identified (17 men and one woman), bringing the total to 218 PAPs (84 female fishmongers and 134 male fishers, including 23 vulnerable people) with fish-related livelihoods as of July 2022. - Of these 218 PAPs, 43 PAPs were identified to be impacted by dam construction works (central area) and 175 PAPs were identified upstream and downstream to be impacted only once the dam is impounded in May 2023. Of the 43 PAPs impacted by construction works and supported by NHPC from 2019 to 2021, 20 PAPs have chosen to continue their fishing activity while 23 chose to stop fishing (mainly due to advanced age or illness). In 2019, NHPC signed resettlement agreements with all 20 PAPs who chose to continue fishing, to provide them with financial assistance and technical support. NHPC, through AGRO-PME, also supported 22 of the 23 PAPs (one is deceased) who discontinued fishing, with the development and financing of retraining projects. Feedback received from fishermen and fishmonger PAPs met during the August 2022 site visit showed an appreciation of business development and financial management training received from AGRO-PME. - Following an extensive consultation process with fishermen and fishmongers that started in 2019, NHPC, MINEPIA and fishermen and fishmongers signed an agreement in December 2021, which aligned transition allowance amounts for all fishermen to 1,500,000 FCFA and for all fishmongers to 850,000 FCFA (renegotiated from 450,000 FCFA for fishermen and 250,000 FCFA for fishmongers, respectively, initially provided in RAP for one month of loss of revenue to be paid at impoundment). These amounts were determined to cover a year of revenue from the fishing activity, to enable the affected people to develop another activity when the dam is impounded in May 2023. The agreement also supported fishermen and fishmonger PAPs through development of retraining projects. - NHPC has been supporting fishermen and fishmongers who cannot continue fishing because the fishing sites in the construction zone are no longer accessible to them for safety reasons. This support has been done through the development of ILRPs and assistance and capacity building to find alternative income-generating activities in other sectors. - NHPC contracted an NGO (Les Armatures GIE) to produce a fisheries management plan to assess the capacity of the reservoir to support the fishermen PAPs. As part of the fisheries management plan and before the impoundment, selected fishermen and fishmongers will receive training (on new fishing conditions,

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		<p>safety rules, financial management, management of conflicts among fishing groups) and supplies, and will be organized in cooperatives. The RAP provides for construction of a landing stage and refrigerated storeroom in Year 1 from impoundment, and during Years 1 to 3, for a financial component, organization of local fishermen to use the landing stage, fishing permits, introduction of smoking rooms, reinforced security to prevent theft of fishing equipment, and anti-pollution activities.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing activities related to RAP implementation, NHPC agreed with fishermen and fishmongers that their compensation would be paid in full by the end of the third quarter of 2022 (as of July 2022, NHPC had prepared all checks for payments) and through its locally contracted NGO, AGRO-PME, it would support the preparation and completion by each affected person of an ILRP by the end of the 4th quarter of 2022, which would be monitored by NHPC. As of June 2022, 164 out of 218 fishermen and fishmongers (75 percent) had developed their ILRPs.</p> <p>The full payment of compensation to all these categories of PAPs is being closely monitored by the Bank and other Lenders and is a high priority corrective measure to be completed by the third quarter of 2022.</p> <p>In addition, the annual RAP/LRP review process and the RAP/LRP Completion Audits are put in place to review the adequacy of the compensation and livelihood restoration measures provided to PAPs and recommend corrective measures as needed.</p>
3	<p>- Insufficient and late compensation: during the Project studies, it was said that sand miners, farmers, fishermen and fishmongers would be satisfactorily compensated (Environmental and Social Management Plan of the Project) and that the Project would raise their standard of living from 1 to 5 (field report of IFI Synergy group). This is not the case, as some sand miners who have received compensation find it insufficient for a lifetime. Apart from a few so-called vulnerable fishermen and fishmongers (about 10 people) who have received a small amount of money, the fishermen and fishmongers who are still active have not received any compensation so far, even though their activities have been stopped for over two years. Farmers who had lost agricultural land</p>	<p>The Project provides for compensation to eligible PAPs in various categories in a phased manner in accordance with Bank policies at different stages of Project implementation, which is related to the fact that resettlement impacts arise at different stages. Nevertheless, during the Project implementation period to date, both NHPC, through its own monitoring, and the Lenders, through the IESC, have identified shortcomings and delays in payment of compensation to some category of PAPs. These shortcomings are being addressed through high priority corrective actions and the Bank continues to monitor implementation closely.</p> <p><i>Background in response to the generic allegation of insufficient compensation:</i></p> <p>Payment of compensation and livelihood restoration measures to all categories of PAPs are based on the RAPs and the sand miners' LRP. The entitlements for physical displacement and for farmers are summarized below (for entitlements of sand miners, fishermen and fishmongers, please see Item 2):</p> <p>Physical displacement/impacts on residences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The resettlement site were chosen freely by the households within the village or in the neighboring villages.

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	<p>complained that they had not been adequately compensated for their loss. Others complained that they had received insufficient sums for the cash crops (cocoa, etc.) and food crops (maize, cassava, etc.) that they had on their land, without any compensation for the lost land. Other people who were provided with agricultural replacement land complained about the lack of accessibility of the plots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Option to build the house on their own and receive compensation for the cost of materials and finishes of the new house and land (including plot at value of old location); or house built by the Project. <p>Economic displacement of farmers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For PAPs who chose cash compensation, the RAP proposed to offer 25 FCFA/m² for the land acquired by the PAPs, which corresponds to 250,000 FCFA/ha. - PAPs who opted for land-for-land replacement were able to individually choose the resettlement site. The chosen resettlement site had to be approved by the local government (Senior Divisional Officer or Divisional Officer) and by the host community. - The compensation takes into account the fallow periods needed and the population growth by replacing every ha of annual-crop-land with 3 ha, and every ha of perennial plantation land with 1.5 ha. - The inventoried crops, though they had to be harvested before resettlement, were compensated for with a transition allowance to the farmers before their new fields are cropped. - The farmers received an allowance of 250,000 FCFA/ha for the clearing of their new land to start cultivating. - Compensation for land preparation for farmers opting for both cash and in-kind compensation. - Distribution of improved seeds for the first new crops. - Basic agricultural tool kit. - Priority for participating in agricultural extension courses organized by the Project. - Training in improved agricultural techniques that have proved their applicability in farming communities. <p>The Bank and other Lenders understand that the Project's compensation scheme is complex. However, they have requested NHPC to ensure that payment of compensation is made in a timely manner once the ILRPs are approved. NHPC expects to finalize all ILRPs by December 2022.</p> <p>For payments to sand miners, fishermen and fishmongers, see above response in Item 2.</p> <p>Farmers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmers who opted for land-for-land replacement: The PAPs who chose replacement land at the time of resettlement planning – 67 farmers in the Dam zone, and 75 farmers in the CE zone (three are deceased) – received their plots in December 2018.

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		<p>- Farmers who opted for cash compensation: Farmer PAPs who chose cash compensation – 151 in the Dam zone, 208 in the CE zone, and 617 along the TL right of way – were compensated for plots and crops in December 2021.</p> <p>Physically displaced PAPs</p> <p>As of August 2021, all houses for the six physically displaced PAPs were constructed in a location of their choosing. See also Item 4, below.</p> <p>The Request alleges that farmers who had lost agricultural land complained that they had not been adequately compensated for their loss. The compensation of PAP farmers was determined in the Dam RAP and TL/CE RAP, respectively, which have detailed matrices on each type: plot, crops, etc.</p> <p>The proposed compensation rates for crops and trees was based on more than 150 observations in the Project area and statistical data on consumer prices in the Yaoundé-Bertoua areas available from the National Institute of Statistics. This approach allowed the Project to evaluate an average price of agricultural products based on fair market prices.</p> <p>Compensation for loss of land was calculated at the time of the census. The RAP proposed the price of land compensation based on the results of socio-economic surveys, which indicated that land was most often acquired locally at 100,000 FCFA per hectare, with an average of 116,000 FCFA per hectare. Given that the area is known for land scarcity, and that the construction of the dam would encourage speculation, the RAP proposed a price of 250,000 FCFA/hectare, which was above market price. In light of the applicable rates for crops and replacement land in the area, the Bank considers these compensation rates consistent with applicable Bank policy requirements.</p> <p>Some categories of PAPs complained about their land or cash compensation, in particular PAPs with less than 1,000 m² in the TL/CE RAP area who had chosen cash compensation and 75 PAPs in the CE zone who had chosen land replacement. All farmer PAPs had complained about the limited assistance they had received in terms of livelihood and agricultural support from NHPC. As a result, NHPC contracted with Onogo Holding Partners, a national NGO, to support livelihood restoration of the PAPs under the TL/CE RAP through technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity.</p> <p>NHPC provides livelihood restoration support to the Dam zone PAPs who chose replacement land and via Onogo for the CE zone PAPs who chose replacement land and TL PAPs who lost more than 1,000m². In April 2022, NHPC added three staff to its resettlement team to support livelihood restoration and agriculture, as well as a staff member in charge of the PADEL.</p>

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		<p>In July 2022, NHPC enhanced its livelihood strategy for farmers PAPs with key dates and actions pertaining to the timely delivery of agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers), training on best farming practices, and delivery of land titles to those in need. The Bank and other Lenders are reviewing this strategy to ensure that it aligns with farmer PAPs’ needs and is delivered in a timely manner. The review is expected to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2022.</p> <p>Regarding the compensation paid for cash crops, the RAPs identified the modalities for compensation of crops based on market surveys and statistical analysis of data on consumer prices and the average price of agricultural products. Prices were based on one harvest for annual products and the number of years before production for perennial trees. Regarding land, each affected hectare of annual crops is compensated with three (3) hectares of replacement land, and each hectare of perennial plantations is compensated with 1.5 hectares.</p> <p>NHPC took steps to ensure that PAPs were aware of the compensation rates for cash crops. In 2017, NHPC held 51 information and consultation meetings with more than 1,700 participants (i.e. PAPs, local authorities) to present the assets inventory and the eligibility and compensation matrix. Each PAP was presented a census form for approval detailing the agricultural crops to be compensated; the form was signed by the PAP, the assets evaluation committee, NHPC, and the village chief. In addition, PAPs were also informed of the additional monetary compensation for loss of access to natural resources and the livelihood restoration measures included in the RAPs.</p> <p>Regarding the concern that some farmers did not receive any compensation for lost land, Management notes that all land affected PAPs received compensation in cash or kind as per the RAP. The Bank team became aware in July 2022 that TL PAPs who lost less than 1,000 m² in Elon village claimed that the financial compensation they received in 2021 did not allow them to obtain replacement land, and most of them had not invested in income generating activities. It is important to note that at the time of the census, PAPs who opted for cash compensation for lost land had stated that they would have enough land to continue their agricultural activities even after losing the expropriated area. Additionally, the 2020 RAP-LRP evaluation found that PAPs in the TL used their compensation to improve and/or build their houses, which many PAPs hoped would be a source of rental income. This particular issue is under active review by the Lenders and the Bank and will be elevated as a priority corrective action.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the aforementioned recent issues, in response to the non-provision of technical assistance to TL PAPs, NHPC contracted Onogo to carry out a survey among the 265 TL PAPs who lost less than 1,000 m² by georeferencing all cultivated crops per PAP to identify the proportion of land lost. On the basis of this survey, the Lenders and the Bank have asked NHPC to provide livelihood support</p>

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		<p>to all PAPs. The Bank and other Lenders have included the resolution of this issue as a high priority corrective action to be resolved by the end of the third quarter of 2022.</p> <p>A RAP Addendum extending livelihood support to this group was already in process of being finalized. The Bank and other Lenders will continue to give this high priority attention to ensure that it is resolved in a timely manner.</p> <p>Regarding the inaccessibility of some agricultural replacement land, please see response to Item 5, below.</p> <p>In response to the allegation that only fishmongers and fishermen who have been identified as vulnerable have so far received monetary compensation, Management notes the compensation process was extended to all fishermen and fishmonger PAPs when an agreement on revised compensation amounts was reached in December 2021. All fishermen and fishmongers that have ILRPs (164 out of 218) received 100 percent of their compensation as of July 2022.</p> <p>The compensation of affected people is an ongoing process as part of the implementation of the RAPs and LRP. Nevertheless, the Bank and other Lenders have expressed concerns about delays in the payment of compensation to some PAPs. NHPC is working on reducing this gap and increasing its level of communication to PAPs on the status of compensation and retraining support as part of its revised SEP. Project delays (construction works) have also affected resettlement activities for fishermen, fishmongers, and sand workers who have not yet been impacted.</p> <p>In 2020, NHPC recruited a consulting company to carry out the first monitoring of the implementation of the RAP and ILRPs. The evaluation used the same methodology as that used to define the baseline conditions for all categories of PAPs pre-Project. The results, which became available in mid-2021, identified higher standards of living (residential structures, assets) for all physically displaced PAPs, but uneven economic revenue for several categories of PAPs, especially farmers (dam area, along the TL, and in the CE zone).</p> <p>In order to address the report’s findings, in January 2022, NHPC developed a strategy (revised in June 2022) focusing on restoring the livelihoods of PAPs in all areas. This plan described specific actions for farmer PAPs in all areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Processing of land titles (ongoing with an anticipated due date of December 2022); - Distributing plants (completed); and - Supporting commercialization of crops (planned for October 2022).

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		<p>During its August 2022 mission to the Project site, the Bank team met with CE and Dam zone PAPs and confirmed that the livelihoods of farmer PAPs from the CE zone have deteriorated. These PAPs have not been able to generate agricultural incomes due to the poor quality of the replacement lands (see Item 5, below).</p> <p>The majority of PAPs in the Dam zone, on the other hand, have been able to use the replacement plots for farming. These PAPs have also benefitted from employment in local companies, which has provided them with non-farming incomes.</p> <p>The ongoing RAP-LRP evaluation that began in February 2022 will allow the Project to reassess the progress made in the restoration of PAPs' livelihoods and provide recommendations as needed.</p> <p>With respect to the PAPs affected by the TL, the 2020 RAP mid-term evaluation for TL PAPs was carried out based on a sample of 55 PAPs. The Lenders and the IESC identified some gaps in the sampling, and in the scope of the 2020 RAP-LRP evaluation, in particular with respect to assistance for PAPs losing less than 1,000 m² of land who did not originally benefit from livelihood support under the RAP. In response to this feedback, NHPC expanded the ongoing RAP-LRP evaluation, to ensure that all eligible PAPs, regardless of plot size, participate in the survey.</p> <p>NHPC has increased its capacity through the recruitment of additional staff and provision of financial support to AGRO-PME and OPH to accompany PAPs in the development of ILRPs to ensure the timely payments of compensation. The Bank and other Lenders have been closely monitoring the issues of compensation through regular discussions with NHPC. In addition to this ongoing monitoring, the Bank and other Lenders have included the timely payments in the environmental and social corrective actions.</p>
4.	<p>- Unsatisfactory physical relocation: Some of the houses built for displaced households are not appreciated by their owners. Indeed, one person who was relocated to the village of XXX because of the Project noted the narrowness of his new space. Previously, he was established on XXX but is now on XXX hence the lack of space to throw manure, plant lost fruit trees that were not taken into account during the compensation, and no easement. Another person is not happy with her displacement because she lost</p>	<p>NHPC was able to minimize the physical displacement of households and limit relocation to six families; all had moved into their new homes by August 2021. The titling process for their land is currently in progress. Applications for land registration were made (in December 2018 for those in the Dam zone and in July 2019 for those along the TL). To date, the land titles have not yet been issued to these PAPs by the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure. The Bank team will continue to follow up with NHPC and the government to facilitate the process of obtaining titles.</p> <p>Regarding the size of replacement houses, specifications provided in the RAP²⁰ were used as follows: T2 house model (1 bedroom), 30 square meters; T4 house model (3-bed room), 54 square meters. The budget for these lands is 2,000 CFA/m², which was higher than the price of land in the area at the time of the census, estimated at 12 FCFA/m². As per the Dam RAP, impacted houses have been replaced</p>

²⁰ RAP for Dam Page 98

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	<p>her medicinal plants and the water she used to treat her patients. She was also not consulted on the choice of site and even on the plants for her house. In addition, her house leaks when it rains.</p>	<p>by houses of at least equivalent surface area, but with an improved standard (made of earth bricks covered with cement and with a sheet metal roof). Latrines and private showers have been installed outside, as well as kitchens, and built of the same materials as the houses.</p> <p>Regarding the loss of fruit trees, plants and access to water: Criteria such as accessibility to trees, plants and water were taken into account for the identification of relocation sites. In few cases, where no location acceptable to the PAPs could be identified, NHPC has, for example, constructed a water borehole close to the house to accommodate the PAP. The replacement houses undergo a regular monitoring process to enable NHPC to identify issues as they arise and address them together with the PAP. The Bank will request NHPC to continue to ensure that all issues are addressed.</p> <p>Regarding the process of consultation on the site of replacement houses and the plans for the house: NHPC conducted a “household survey” to determine the status of each PAP, including PAPs that required relocation, and an inventory of each PAP’s assets. According to NHPC, PAPs were extensively consulted before constructions and modifications were added to original designs proposed in the RAP.</p> <p>Regarding concerns about the quality of housing: The Bank became aware of complaints from two PAPs about the quality of their replacement houses in the first quarter of 2022. In addition, IFC’s visit in April 2022 confirmed that the quality of houses for these PAPs was substandard. These PAPs also lodged complaints through NHPC’s GRM. These concerns have now been addressed. The rehabilitation works started at end June 2022 and were completed in July 2022. Aside from these complaints about the quality of houses, which have been addressed, all PAPs generally have improved quality of housing, compared to their previous accommodation, according to the RAP-LRP evaluation, issued in July 2021 (see photos above in main text and additional photos in Annex 4).</p> <p>Given the slow response of NHPC to the complaints from the affected households, in June 2022, the Bank and other Lenders required NHPC to develop a procedure with key performance indicators and clear response times to resolve these and any future complaints related to problems with replacement housing.</p>
5.	<p>- The women also stated that they were not satisfied with the new farmlands they had been given because they were located in very remote and inaccessible areas; some of them had to travel long distances of about 9 km from the passable road to get to their farms. Most of them have therefore abandoned their land.</p>	<p>NHPC and the Bank are aware of the unsuitability of the replacement agricultural land chosen by certain PAPs, and NHPC has committed to a number of corrective actions to resolve this issue. The Bank and other Lenders consider this to be a priority issue.</p> <p>As described above in Item 3, during Project preparation PAPs who lost agricultural land were provided a choice of compensation or replacement land. In the process of making replacement land available to the PAPs, NHPC invited PAPs to find their replacement land themselves and supported the process by ensuring that the land met the agro-ecological characteristics and the surfaces required. A committee</p>

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	<p>- All of these difficulties affect their livelihoods, education, health, nutrition, and even their homes (wives leaving).</p>	<p>composed of PAP representatives was created for this purpose.</p> <p>As per Project documents, NHPC planned to provide PAPs with replacement agricultural lands within a 3-4 km radius of existing land, with similar agricultural potential and acceptable to the PAPs. PAPs in the CE area were able to choose replacement land within the recommended distance, but this was not the case for all PAPs in the Dam area. This was due to the scarcity of agricultural land there, as a result of real estate speculation. Nevertheless, during the site visit in August 2022, the Bank team noted that certain PAPs voluntarily chose land as far as 80 km from their residence because of the suitability of those plots for growing cash crops, and have been able to cultivate their lands despite the distance. A small number of PAPs in the Dam area, estimated at less than 10 people by NHPC, have not been able to cultivate their plots, mainly due to their inability to afford transportation costs. NHPC is reviewing its strategy to identify measures to support these PAPs to restore their agricultural livelihoods. The Bank expects the Project to finalize and implement a plan targeting PAPs unable to use their plots because of distance by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.</p> <p>During the first quarter of 2022, the Bank became aware that some farmer PAPs were currently not able to use their replacement agricultural land. This was confirmed after further investigation by the IESC in particular with respect to 75 farmer PAPs in the CE zone who chose a 24-ha plot as replacement land in December 2018. These PAPs have alleged that they have not yet been able to cultivate their land because of lack of accessible roads, overlap with herders who drive their cows through the area, unclear plot demarcation, and flooding issues (especially during the rainy season).</p> <p>The 2020 RAP-LRP evaluation issued in June 2021 remarked that these PAPs have reduced agricultural incomes compared to before the Project. In January 2022, NHPC developed a strategy to restore the livelihoods of all PAP farmers, which was revised in June 2022. However, NHPC recognizes that the circumstances affecting these PAPs are leading to loss of livelihoods and require specific and tailored actions. As such, NHPC has met with the affected PAPs and is finalizing agreement on specific measures to address the issues raised.</p> <p>The following actions emanated from the meeting and an action plan is being finalized and is expected to include the following, to be implemented before the end of 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) demarcating the plot borders; (ii) ploughing of the sites; (iii) construction of a drainage system to address the flooding risk of the sites; (iv) construction of a fence to keep animals out of fields;

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		<p>(v) building a dirt road to facilitate access to the land;</p> <p>(vi) support through the timely distribution of plants/agricultural input;</p> <p>(vii) provision of technical support on farming techniques.</p> <p>NHPC also noted that the procedure for securing the land titles for these PAPs is ongoing and that it has developed an action plan to accelerate the procedure of land registration. The Bank considers this action as a high priority and will closely monitor NHPC's implementation of suitable solutions (including through the provision of transitional livelihood support and identification of alternative land, if appropriate) to the issues these PAPs face by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022. This has been included as a high priority action by the Lenders.</p>
6.	<p>- Resettlement and destruction of sacred sites: The people of the two villages of Ndokoa and Binandjengue complain that NHPC only funded the ceremonies to move the sites and did not compensate the site in question. Today, they have lost water, some fish species, and some plants that they used for healing and rituals. Similarly, the sacred site of Ndji (area where NHPC currently quarries stone for its project) was destroyed and no compensation or plan for relocation was made.</p>	<p>The Project ESIA assessed the cultural heritage sites that would be within the DUP and identified one site in the dam area at Bindandjengue. The Dam RAP indicated that no sacred site at Ndji was identified as impacted by the Project. Sacred sites at Bindandjengue and Ndokoa were compensated by NHPC. NHPC has indicated that it was not aware of any sacred site at Ndji that has been impacted by the Project. On August 16, 2022, the Bank team met with the chief of Ndji village who informed the team about the possible existence of a sacred site called Nkolndji, which appears to be the site referenced as part of consultations in the 2011 ESIA.</p> <p>As part of the 2011 ESIA, the Project undertook studies to identify sites of cultural heritage and archaeological interest within the legally demarcated Project area (DUP) that would be directly impacted. Sites were identified in 15 of the 20 villages surveyed. Several sites related to the Sanaga River and others were in the Project study area (cemetery, forest sites, sacred trees, etc.). The Dam RAP identifies one site at Bindandjengue only. The TL/CE RAP notes that no sacred sites were identified along the corridor and area of impact for the TL and Batchenga operation village.</p> <p>The sacred site is known as Llanga and belongs to Bindandjengue village in the DUP. It is composed of four sacred islands and areas of deep water on the Sanaga River, downstream of the dam. A sacred site at Ndokoa, 20m from the construction workers' camp, was also identified. NHPC finalized the agreement for compensation of 1 million FCFA (about US\$1,555) for the Bindandjengue site, as agreed with the communities on November 20, 2017.</p> <p>Although the Ndokoa sacred site was not in the dam DUP and would not need to be removed as part of land clearance activities, NHPC proceeded to compensate for the site to ensure community acceptance. All traditional rites associated with the transfer of the sacred sites (including the four sacred sites in the Sanaga River and the one at</p>

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		<p>Ndoko(a) have been completed with NHPC support.</p> <p>Regarding the alleged loss of water, fish species and plants used for healing and rituals, an agreement protocol for collaboration with the Mvele community of Bindandjengue was signed on April 22, 2019. It detailed the responsibilities of both the community and NHPC with respect to the transfer of the sacred sites at Bindandjenque. The community was represented by the chief of the village. Since the site was transferred to another location, more information is needed to understand what loss could have occurred in relation to such transfer. The Bank will investigate this item as part of its ongoing monitoring of the Project.</p> <p>The Dam RAP expressly indicated that there are no sacred sites in Ndji impacted by the Project and Management understands from NHPC that this is the first time this allegation has been brought to its attention.</p> <p>NHPC reported that during NHPC-led consultation meetings in 2015 and 2016 in Ndji village, including the preparation of the village fact sheets, no sacred sites were reported by the traditional authorities, and no complaints regarding the destruction of a sacred site in Ndji have been received by NHPC since the clearance works and preparation of the dam and TL construction site commenced in 2019. Management notes however that the possibility of a sacred site called NkoIndji in the village of Ndji was apparently raised by villagers both in earlier consultations, as part of the 2011 ESIA update, and during the recent Bank mission. Management has requested that additional consultations and assessments in line with Bank policy be conducted by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 to determine whether or not a sacred site at Ndji meeting the requirements of applicable policies has been impacted by the Project.</p>
7.	<p>- Worsening social ills: With the loss of income-generating activities in the area, there has been an increase in theft, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, marital conflicts, and divorces.</p>	<p>The social ills cited in the Request are of a general nature and do not constitute direct impacts attributable to the Project.</p> <p>The Bank takes the issues raised by the Request very seriously, and in accordance with Bank policy, NHPC has put in place broad mitigation measures to address social risks that could result from the Project activities.</p> <p>NHPC considered impacts which could arise as a result of construction workers coming into an area and living in the communities, while noting a contextual increase of worker influx relating to other industries in the area. Among these, the ESIA noted risks of spread of diseases, especially of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, as well as prostitution, and proposed mitigation measures to address these potential risks. In accordance with Bank policy, NHPC has put in place measures to address such social risks and impacts</p> <p>NHPC and the contractors have committed to maximizing local hiring, to support local communities. It is anticipated that about 60 percent of</p>

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		<p>the required workforce (all contractors combined) will be hired locally. The workforce at the end of March 2022 was reported as over 3,783, comprised of 93 percent national workers. In July 2022, NHPC reported that 64 percent of the workforce employed in the civil works at the main dam site are local, i.e., from the Project area. In addition, the April 2022 labor audit of the civil works contractor (<i>Société Camerounaise de Construction du Barrage Nachtigal</i>, CCN) noted that the company had drafted a recruitment procedure dated April 2022 favoring the employment of local people with similar skills and indicated that the human resources department systematically consults the lists proposed by the chiefs of surrounding villages and residence certificates before recruiting. The actions to hire locals, mostly youth, have contributed to a reduction in local unemployment and therefore has had a positive social impact.</p> <p>In order to reduce the social impact on the Project-affected communities, NHPC is implementing a number of mitigation measures in coordination with local authorities, which are detailed in the Social Influx Management Plan. These include: (i) local land use planning for the communes of Batchenga, Ntui and Mbandjock, to identify areas that can be expanded to receive migrant populations; (ii) channeling of newcomers to urban areas; (iii) reinforcement of existing control systems (i.e., local police, watchdog village committees); (iv) monitoring of inflationary trends and implementation of food security measures if required; and (v) improvement of public infrastructure (i.e., seven boreholes in villages and extension of water distribution network in two small cities; construction and operation of six additional classrooms; strengthening of existing public health centers and construction of a new one).</p> <p>Additionally, NHPC also focuses on gender-specific mitigation measures within its Social Influx Management Plan to mitigate and prevent negative impacts on women due to the Project. The Plan also focus on increasing the provision of and access to social services in the targeted communities. Examples of social programs that NHPC has been implementing in the Project area in relation to contextual risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHPC mobilized four NGOs at the beginning of 2020 to undertake capacity building in schools and communities about first aid, road safety, water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases, consumption of psychoactive substances, risks of HIV and GBV. Awareness activities on site for workers also began in February 2020. The awareness raising themes, target groups and scope are detailed in NHPC's monthly reporting. NHPC is providing support to the health facilities of the three health districts in the Project area. - The 2020 Annual Monitoring Report (prepared by NHPC) reported that 20,000 people from the community were made aware of health-related issues by the four public health NGO

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		<p>implementing partners. During 2021, the four NGOs held 484 talks for 14,206 people, including students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GBV care center was set up in February 2020 in Batchenga hospital. In 2020, 45 cases of GBV from riverine communities were registered through the care center. <p>Contextually, and based on their location, the Project targeted areas are subject to the spread of diseases, especially of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, as well as prostitution, given the influx of truck drivers working in the sand mining business and several major projects with a significant influx of workers that have begun in the Project area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Batchenga–Ngaoundéré road rehabilitation project. The project started in Batchenga in 2017 and was completed in 2020. - The Drinking Water Supply Project for the city of Yaoundé and its surroundings, using water from the Sanaga River, which started in 2016. - The construction of the Obala Road Interchange, which started in 2020. <p>Management will require NHPC to continue to closely monitor social impacts of the Project, including through ongoing consultations, and provide regular reports to the Bank.</p>
8.	<p>- Neglected environmental aspects: According to a study conducted by Action for a Sustainable Environment (ASE), a Cameroonian civil society organization and member of the IFI Synergy platform, the Nachtigal hydroelectric dam construction project will release approximately 469,342.97 tons of CO₂ equivalent per year, a rate well above the Project’s ESIA projection (200,800 tons of CO₂ equivalent per year). In addition, the community is already experiencing reduced rainfall, increased temperatures (heat), high winds, fish depletion, loss of medicinal plants, air, noise, soil, and water pollution.</p>	<p>The estimated CO₂ emissions impact was assessed based on the Project design in 2014 and updated in 2017. In both cases, robust internationally -approved methodologies were applied to estimate a reduction in CO₂ emissions equivalent to 1 million tons annually, over the Project’s 40-year economic life. Management has reviewed the study cited in the Request and found that its conclusions are based on incorrect or unsupported assumptions, as explained below.</p> <p>The Project is expected to generate energy from a renewable energy source, deliver 30 percent of energy needs in Cameroon and improve the carbon footprint of the power sector in the country. Due to its high priority in the dispatch order, Nachtigal will displace the equivalent of an open cycle natural gas plant in the merit order of dispatch. The hydro generation was expected to reduce the unit CO₂ emission on an aggregated basis by 0.364 kg CO₂ eqv-MWh.</p> <p>As per the 2018 PAD, PS 3, Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention, is triggered by the Project. The Project has benefited from the support of the Climate Change Practice unit of the Bank, which demonstrated, using the <i>IFI Approach to GHG Accounting</i>, that the Project is expected to save about 364 g CO₂e/kWh – more than 1 million tons annually. The Project’s annual GHG emissions were estimated at that time at 6,894 teqCO₂ per year (PAD, page 47). The</p>

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		<p>estimation of emissions was updated in 2017 using the International Hydropower Association (IHA) G-res tool, an online tool developed by the IHA to estimate the GHG emissions from the introduction of a reservoir in a landscape. The assessment does not include construction phase emissions, which is in line with the IFI Approach. Considering an energy generation of 2.9 TWh/year, the Project’s net GHG emissions are estimated at 2.4 g CO₂ e/kWh. By comparison, the emissions intensity of the electrical grid in Cameroon is currently about 364 g CO₂ e/kWh. Under these assumptions, the Project will avoid 41,687,000 tCO₂ over its economic life of 40 years. Using the low shadow carbon price to quantify the GHG savings, the estimated value of savings is about US\$700 million over the life of the Project.</p> <p>The ASE briefing note cited in the Request falls short of scientific standards, as it makes assumptions that are either unsupported or factually inaccurate. Specifically:</p> <p>(i) the quantification of the different land use systems encountered across the Project area in the ASE study has been obtained from satellite imagery. Generally, this approach on land use estimation requires further calibration of the model such that the age of the images, validation and ground truthing ensure that the results reflect the true ground conditions. The report does not demonstrate this process hence the results could be inaccurate;</p> <p>(ii) the ASE report makes flawed assumptions. In particular, it incorrectly assumed that all the PAPs who are subject to an LRP will automatically become farmers, which would lead to the conversion of 900 ha of secondary forest to agroforests equivalent to 202,227.67 tCO₂/y. Project monitoring records show that the fishermen and sand miners have been engaged in many other forms of livelihood activities, including fish farming and small trading;</p> <p>(iii) the report also incorrectly assumes that as part of the RAP, a total of 145 hectares of agricultural land expropriated will lead to 435 ha of new land (each ha of lost land compensated with three ha) and considers this new land to be secondary forest area. The report considers the conversion of the secondary forest into agroforest will generate 115,095.2 tCO₂/y. Project follow-up reveals that some of the land is grassland, and some of the Project-affected parties decided to receive cash compensation in lieu of land;</p> <p>(iv) ASE has estimated the construction emission of around 469,000 tCO₂/y. However, the construction emission is a one-time emission, and it would not be estimated on a yearly basis. Thus, the estimation of construction emission value per year is also not clear or consistent with internationally accepted industry standards.</p> <p>Management therefore reconfirms that the methodology employed under the Project is consistent with the applicable Bank policy requirements and established Bank practice.</p>

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		<p>There is no plausible and clear link between the Project’s construction works and the alleged regional and global environmental impacts (reduced rainfall, increased temperatures (heat) and high winds) raised in the Request. Management notes that those phenomena are not clearly attributable to the Project and more likely to result from the effects broader phenomena such as of climate change.</p> <p>Regarding fish depletion. As with any dam project, the BAP assumed that the Project may affect fish stocks. NHPC mobilized experts and research institutions to assess this impact and provide appropriate mitigation measures. As an addendum to the Project ESIA, EDF prepared a framework compensation strategy for affected fish species. In particular, it includes the various measures proposed to reduce or compensate for the Project impacts, with the objective of a “net gain” in biodiversity.²¹</p> <p>Among the planned approaches are (i) a procedure for the fish rescue in the ponds and dried areas downstream; (ii) a study regarding the restoration of the Sanaga River tributaries and; (iii) a fish genetic study.</p> <p>Two fish rescue missions were completed in February and March 2022, with additional missions planned. During a meeting held on August 16, 2022, NHPC’s biodiversity expert shared with the Bank that the fish were caught in dry areas downstream of the axis of the dam. The scientific team that undertook the missions used standard techniques, including sieves and oxygenators. A total of 12,797 fish (34 species) were rescued and released downstream, including 12 priority species for the Nachtigal Project. Rescue of fish will continue as needed until Dam operations begin. A detailed report is expected after the third fish rescue mission.</p> <p>A draft methodology and program for the pre-feasibility study regarding the restoration of Sanaga tributaries was planned to be prepared in March 2022. However, the study was delayed and is now expected by September 2022. The fish genetic study also has been delayed. This study is intended to establish the fish movement/migration behavior/pattern within the Sanaga River, and to establish whether the Nachtigal Falls represent a barrier for fish migration. The terms of reference for this study have been drafted and the first sampling campaign is expected by March 2023, before the complete closure of the Dam.</p> <p>Regarding the alleged loss of medicinal plants, the Request does not provide specific references to plant species and the areas affected.</p>

²¹ <https://www.nhpc.cm/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/116807-EA-FRENCH-P157734-Box402916B-PUBLIC-Disclosed-6-26-2017.pdf>

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		<p>The ESIA identified potential risk to 33 medicinal plants and recommended a compensation strategy for these and other Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). These medicinal plants are common in the surrounding forest hence the community has readily available alternatives. Further studies carried out as part of the BAP revealed the presence of 143 species of medicinal plants in the Project area. The BAP further established a collective compensation strategy for NTFPs as well as including NTFPs in an offset planting program. All medicinal plants have been compensated as per PS 5.</p> <p>In addition, the collective compensation and habitat restoration plans for the civil works contractor and the electromechanical contractor sites have been reviewed by NHPC/owners' engineer-EDF, which provided comments. Implementation of habitat restoration activities has started with the contracting of University of Yaoundé to prepare a pilot scale reproduction site and nursery.</p> <p>Regarding air, noise, and water quality impacts, the Request indicates that issues were raised by some members of the local communities but does not explicitly name the referred local communities to allow a detailed investigation. The 2011 ESIA included two specific addendums in June 2014 related to air, noise, and water quality. The baseline for air quality was assessed in June 2014.</p> <p>These three environmental aspects are regularly monitored by the Project and, no concerns have been recorded for any of them. Dust was a temporary issue around the crushing unit and batching plant but was limited to the worksites and did not extend beyond the Project construction area.</p> <p>There are localized soil pollution incidents that are managed on a day-to-day basis, in line with the requirements of the contractor's ESMP.</p> <p>Examples of monitoring results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources analysis – One environmentalist has been appointed at the Owners Engineer (OE) to support the environmental monitoring protocol and reporting, with the first phase covering the water sector. - Laboratory analyses on the groundwater at the TL works (EM2) base camp is carried out on a regular basis and does not indicate any relevant contamination. - Weekly monitoring of the Sanaga river (pH, temperature, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen) is undertaken upstream and downstream of the Project and does not reveal any specific issues of concern. Regarding the potable water generated by the water treatment unit, daily (chlorine, pH) and weekly (nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, phosphate, and turbidity) laboratory analyses conducted by CCN for April and May 2022 conclude that all monitored parameters were compliant with the WHO

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		<p>indicators. These monitoring data are supplemented by sampling at additional sites (potable water reservoir, medical center) and laboratory analyses conducted by Pasteur Institute of Yaoundé, which confirm suitability of the potable water for human consumption. The electromechanical contractor undertakes additional testing associated with chlorine, pH, and temperature in order to validate monitoring data of the civil works contractor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ambient air quality is monitored on a monthly basis during day and nighttime at five locations among three distinct zones (two locations at the downstream zone, one location at site entry, and two locations within the upstream zone) along the perimeter of the DUP. The most recent report informs that PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations along the perimeter of the Project were well below the IFC guidelines for ambient air quality. - Noise monitoring is undertaken by CCN at the perimeter of the Project (5 monitoring stations within three distinct zones). Noise levels were below the IFC noise level guideline of 55 dBA during daytime but slightly above the IFC noise level guideline of 45 dBA at the perimeter of the DUP during night-time. Exceedances at the limit of the DUP are mainly attributed to the contribution of non-Project noise sources, such as nearby traffic, nearby bird populations, and nearby human activities in the local communities. <p>These measurements confirm that the air quality and noise levels are consistent with Bank EHS limits. No issues of concern have been identified regarding ambient air quality and noise at the boundary of the DUP.</p>
	Potential Policy Non-compliance	
9.	<p>From the outset of the Project, it was clear that there were several risks associated with project implementation, and the World Bank itself designated the Project as a Category A project “because it may have significant adverse environmental and health effects that may be diverse and irreversible.”</p> <p>According to the World Bank’s environmental and risk assessment, all performance standards, with the exception of Standard 7 on indigenous peoples, have been triggered by the Project.</p> <p>There may have been non-compliance with the following Bank’s performance standards: PS 1 Environmental and Social Risk and</p>	<p>In Management’s view, the Project has been prepared in compliance with the World Bank Performance Standards applicable here pursuant to OP 4.03, Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities, in particular, PS 1 (Environmental and Social Risk and Impact Assessment and Management), PS 4 (Community Health, Safety and Security), PS 5 (Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement), PS 6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources), PS 8 (Cultural Heritage), and OP 4.37 (Safety of Dams). Key Project environmental and social documents include ESIA/ESMP, RAP, BAP, LRP, PADEL and a Waste Management Plan and are disclosed on the IFC website.</p> <p>https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/projectDetail/ESRS/37673</p> <p>https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/landing</p> <p>The Project has been closely supervised during implementation and adjustments have been made to continuously improve environmental and social management. As indicated above, as examples of the adaptive management approach, the Project TL/CE RAP is currently being updated to reflect gaps identified at the mid-term review; the</p>

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	<p>Impact Assessment and Management, PS 4 Community Health, Safety and Security, PS 5 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement, PS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, PS 8 Cultural Heritage World Commission on Dams, not excluding others.</p>	<p>Project's BAP was updated several times (including in 2022), a SCAP was introduced in January 2021 to address identified gaps and corrective actions are systematically included in quarterly monitoring reports.</p> <p>The Bank team has reviewed the updated BAP and provided comments. The main area of improvement for the BAP is to align the target dates for implementing key biodiversity mitigation measures with the updated civil works construction schedule.</p> <p>https://www.nhpc.cm/preservation-de-la-biodiversite/</p>
10.	<p>The World Bank should conduct a periodic review of the effectiveness of NHPC's [environmental and social] due diligence process. Compliance with the promises made in the environmental and social Action Plan, as per PS 5, paragraph 14.</p> <p>In addition, the resettlement action plan should be consistent with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, ensuring a variety of tenure forms and prioritizing the tenure arrangements of the most vulnerable groups.</p> <p>This section is based on the experience of complainants who have had an overview of NHPC's non-compliance with the Bank's performance standards. This overview does not cover all the risks and impacts of the Project's non-compliance with the performance standards.</p>	<p>The Bank and other Lenders conduct regular reviews of the effectiveness of NHPC's environmental and social due diligence process and the Project's compliance with the approved environmental and social instruments and ESAP.</p> <p>The other Lenders (excluding IBRD as Guarantor) contracted the services of Mott MacDonald to act as the Lenders' IESC. The IESC's scope of work includes monitoring of the environmental and social performance of the Project on a quarterly basis during the anticipated 57-month construction phase. The IESC's reports, which are produced quarterly, present the findings of Project monitoring, including the implementation of the RAP, ILRPs, etc., and provide advice on compliance with the PSs by also verifying NHPC's own monitoring information and reporting. The periodic environmental and social monitoring missions usually involve a field visit with the IESC and selected Lenders, during which they meet and consult with the affected people and other key stakeholders. The mission's findings are shared with all Lenders, including the Bank, through a report that includes corrective actions for NHPC to undertake, as may be needed. This process has enabled the Bank to be apprised of NHPC's performance in managing environmental and social risks and impacts and to identify areas of non-compliance with the PSs.</p> <p>The Bank team has collaborated with other Lenders and NHPC to measure the effectiveness of the RAP/LRPs. Additionally, as noted in the ESAP, NHPC will commission a Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Completion Audit for all physically and economically displaced PAP to assess compliance with PS 5 or identify any remaining gaps and corresponding corrective actions with budget and timeline for implementation. The audit is currently planned to be completed in July 2023.²²</p>
11.	<p>- With regard to the shortcomings of the evaluation and consultation process (PS 1 and PS 5). [Paraphrased in the text but not reproduced here: PS 5, Para 10; PS 1, Para 31; PS 1,</p>	<p>NHPC has developed instruments and procedures to comply with PS 1, paragraphs 34 and 35 on External Communications and Grievance Mechanisms. As described in the response to Item 1, NHPC has conducted extensive external communications with PAPs and communities during which the Project received and</p>

²² Summary of IFC's Environmental and Social Action Plan (accessed on July 28, 2022): <https://disclosures.ifc.org/project-detail/ESRS/37673/nachtigal>

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	<p>Para 30, PS 5, Para 10, Footnote 16]</p> <p>- With regard to the special attention that must be given to vulnerable groups. The essential protection of women must be explicitly guaranteed in the compensation process.</p> <p>- Considering the lack of knowledge by those concerned of the Grievance Redress Mechanism and the grievance procedure, we believe that the implementation of paragraphs 34 and 35 of PS 1 can still be improved.</p>	<p>registered external communications from the public; screened and assessed the issues raised; and determined how to address them. NHPC’s GRM has been operational since April 2015 and will continue to be operational for the duration of the Project’s construction and the 35-year operational concession period. NHPC will continue to regularly review and adapt its GRM to effectively respond to the changing nature of registered complaints in a timely manner and consistent with the relevant requirements of Bank policies and procedures.</p> <p>In relation to vulnerable groups, the Project has taken appropriate measures to include and protect the interests of women in the compensation process in accordance with PS 1 and PS 5. As part of the ESIA process, vulnerable individuals were identified among the PAPs and additional measures were put in place. Accordingly, the Project environmental and social instruments provided for measures to protect vulnerable groups and in particular women in the compensation process.</p> <p>For example, the sand miners LRP established a series of measures to address social impacts on women during resettlement and livelihood restoration planning and RAP implementation. Those measures involved the organization of separate consultations and meetings with women, disaggregation of basic socio-economic data by gender, participation of women in the process of identification/validation of PAPs (at least one woman representing PAPs in census validation committees), and participation of women in the RAP monitoring process to ensure that women’s perspectives are reflected accordingly.</p> <p>On the protection of women, NHPC has ensured that the EPC contractors’ code of conduct and disciplinary procedures include the prohibition to engage in any type of sexual relations with minors and any type of abuse or violence against women and girls including SEA/SH. Specifically, the code of conduct state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostitution is strictly prohibited on the Site. • Sexual relations with minors as well as any type of violence, exploitation or abuse against women and girls are strictly prohibited, including outside the Site • Workers undertake to have exemplary behavior (courteous and appropriate) including outside the Site and with local communities. <p>Additionally, NHPC has included gender-specific mitigation measures in its Migratory Influx Management Plan to ensure that potential Project-related risks and impacts on women due to the Project are addressed. The payment of compensation for women follows a process that ensures that they are not exposed to violence or any kind of abuse.</p> <p>Project support to community members (e.g. access to credit, training, etc.) pay particular attention to the inclusion of women. In its efforts to</p>

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		<p>support women-led enterprises, NHPC has held consultations with local stakeholders to define a long-term strategy for supporting businesswomen. This strategy was defined in March 2022. Terms of reference for the hiring of an organization to carry out this strategy were drafted. The tender was launched in July 2022. The Project was also designed to link up with existing programs on women's livelihoods, financed and/or executed by NGOs and national programs, such as those of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family (MINPROFF) or the training program for non-agricultural professions in rural areas (MINEFOP, AFD) which aims to have 30 percent women among participants in vocational training supported.</p> <p>As noted above in response to Item 1, NHPC has an operational GRM for managing requests and complaints from all stakeholders, which became operational in April 2015 during the preparation phase of the Project. In addition, mediation committees and appeal commissions were established in the villages where PAPs live. The Project GRM, set up with the assistance of village chiefs and administrative authorities, is widely known by Project-affected communities and information detailing the process, timelines and eligibility of grievances is also available on billboards in the Project area. The Project GRM has received over 1,000 complaints since inception, of which approximately 98 percent have been addressed to date.</p> <p>As part of Project supervision and monitoring, NHPC was requested to put additional measures in place to improve the GRM, including through the contractually binding SCAP. For example, between June and September 2021, the SEP and GRM were revised to ensure an improved and regular flow of information regarding progress on Project commitments, documenting and resolution of PAP and stakeholder concerns, as well as any changes to the Project or plans. The flow chart for assessing eligibility and addressing grievances was improved such that each type of complaint is treated in a way that is appropriate to the subject matter of the complaints, with additional focal points for labor and GBV-related issues.</p> <p>NHPC is increasing the number of CLOs dedicated to the Project: an additional CLO was hired in February 2022, part-time CLOs were converted to full-time and by July 2022, NHPC had doubled the number of CLOs to 8. As of June 2022, NHPC had contracted with 8 community focal points to support its SEP initiatives.</p> <p>In December 2020, NHPC hired an external communications company to support its annual reporting for key stakeholders, update its website and monitor the media. In 2021, NHPC increased production of weekly editions of FlashInfo, a newsletter highlighting Project achievements. Media monitoring began in 2021; the communications company conducts reviews of print media, online media, television and radio, and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn) which helps to identify concerns from stakeholders.</p>

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12.	<p>With regard to the poor census of quarries and sand deposits, the complainants allege that the census carried out was incomplete, that the evaluation of the value of the quarries was deficient or inaccurate. The compensation rates are insufficient. Project-affected people were never consulted on compensation rates. This indicates that the Project is not being implemented in accordance with PS 5, paragraph 12.</p>	<p>The standalone LRP for sand workers is publicly available.²³</p> <p>As described in greater detail in Item 1, workers whose activities were expected to be affected were identified during three surveys carried out by experts between February 2015 and March 2017, during the preparation of the RAP. This survey process began with a sectoral study (February to March 2015 involving 172 persons) to understand the sector and identify all the relevant stakeholders and types of workers in the sand mining value chain.</p> <p>A preliminary census was undertaken in January 2016, during which 807 sand miners were identified. To eliminate inconsistencies in data collected, NHPC proceeded to undertake a third survey over a longer period (October 2016 to March 2017) during which a total of 976 sand miners were identified. Precautions were taken to ensure that all active workers were identified and a cut-off date was communicated to each quarry.</p> <p>These surveys were preceded by information and consultation meetings in the villages. After the surveys were completed, the list of the sand miners was presented at the local meetings and validated between July and October 2017 across the three impacted zones (red, blue and green). The compensation measures, eligibility criteria, and individual compensation scales were presented and validated during the meetings with the livelihood restoration committees representing the sand miners.</p> <p>All affected workers in the dam site location (red zone) were compensated in February and March 2019. Sand quarries located upstream (blue) and downstream (green) of the Project will be affected once impoundment of the reservoir starts (expected in 2023). Nevertheless, NHPC decided to pay compensation ahead of Project impacts based on the validation of ILRPs.</p> <p>For more detail on the compensation of sand miners, see Items 2 and 3 above.</p>
13.	<p>Differences in the evaluation of different quarries are contrary to PS 5, paragraph 9 which requires compensation standards to be transparent and applied consistently to all people and communities affected by the Project.</p>	<p>NHPC, with the support of a qualified consulting firm, conducted surveys in March 2015, July 2015, and January-February 2016 to inventory people engaged in the sand mining value chain. NHPC identified 51 quarry owners (persons who have extraction permits). Identifying the number of sand miners was more difficult as the number declared by quarry owners was frequently higher than the workers identified during the surveys. This can be explained by the fact that sand mining is a seasonal activity and workers frequently move between quarries. To better account for the number of persons eligible for compensation, NHPC carried out an additional survey</p>

²³ <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/294231498562485584/plan-de-restauration-des-moyens-d-existence-lies-aux-carrieres-de-sable-affectees-par-le-projet>

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		<p>campaign from October 2016 to March 2017. The NHPC environmental and social team visited every sand quarry site for multiple days to ensure they accounted for all workers. As noted in Item 1 above, survey results were presented to PAPs at meetings and validated by district validation committees.²⁴</p> <p>Of the 51 identified sand quarries, 20 were located in the Project DUP and were therefore directly impacted by a permanent restriction on physical access to the sand resource due to Project land acquisition. The remaining 31 quarry sites downstream of the DUP were not affected by land acquisition-related restrictions on access to their sand mining operations – i.e., the river segments which they mine were not acquired or developed by the Project. However, they are impacted by the decreasing availability of sand. While the provisions of PS 5 apply only to the 20 quarry sites located in the DUP, the Project recognizes that people owning and/or working at the remaining 31 sites will also be economically displaced, albeit to a much lesser degree. To avoid potential conflicts between sand miners, the Project has developed a single LRP²⁵ that provides the same level of compensation and support for alternative livelihood options to all the identified PAPs, without distinguishing where the quarry site is located.</p>
14.	<p>PS 1, paragraph 8 and PS 5, paragraph 27 may apply to crop losses in the Project area of influence.</p>	<p>Regarding compensation for crops, please see Item 3 above.</p>
15.	<p>With regard to health risks: the objective of the PS 4 (PS 4, paragraph 2) is to anticipate and avoid, during the life of the Project, the negative impacts on the health and safety of the affected communities which could result from ordinary circumstances or not. In view of community complaints of declining health status and increased exposure to health risks due to construction works, an integrated vector control program should be put in place.</p>	<p>NHPC has not reported to the Bank any indications of declining health status and increased exposure to health risks due to the Project’s construction works. The preventive programs suggested in the Request have already been put in place by the Project.</p> <p>A study was commissioned by NHPC in 2015 to understand the epidemiological profile and the condition of the public health infrastructure in the Project area. Based on the responses of local health care professionals, leading causes of morbidity in the area were malaria, typhoid, and HIV/AIDS.²⁶ As noted previously, the area was already susceptible to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs due to the influx of truck drivers working in the sand mining business, as well as the presence of workers for several major (non-Bank supported) projects in the area.</p> <p>Taking this baseline into consideration NHPC has developed and implemented measures to avoid or minimize any transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of labor for the Project. This includes, for example, awareness campaigns on</p>

²⁴ Environmental and Social Review Summary (IFC, 2017)

²⁵ See Sand Workers Livelihood Restoration Plan (2017)

²⁶ ESAP (2016): <https://www.nhpc.cm/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2016-10-24-Plan-de-Gestion-Environnementale-et-Sociale-V1-2016.pdf>

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		<p>the prevention of contracting malaria, onchocerciasis, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs. This included provision of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, provision of working clothes with long sleeves to reduce risk of insect bites, free condoms, and HIV consultations and voluntary screenings for Project workers.</p> <p>The GoC has an ongoing program for water-borne diseases, including river blindness (onchocerciasis), which it has been implementing across the country. NHPC is also implementing additional measures in its Community Health Plan related to prevention, awareness raising, and education, and provision of equipment to several local hospitals in the Project area of influence, complementing the Government's efforts. As part of the implementation of its Local and Economic Development Plan, NHPC has also constructed and equipped several health facilities in the Project area contributing to capacity building efforts in community health management.</p> <p>NHPC has further contracted local NGOs such as Moto Action Cameroun - a national NGO raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among commercial bike riders, truckers, and sex workers - to conduct public awareness and communication campaigns to help avoid the spread of HIV.</p> <p>These measures demonstrate that NHPC has taken the necessary steps to avoid and mitigate community exposure to diseases as a result of the Project through appropriate measures.</p>
16.	<p>Regarding the houses built, we believe it is important to continue to involve the affected people in the further implementation of the resettlement action plan, in accordance with PS 5, paragraph 14, which states that the client will establish procedures for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of a resettlement plan and/or livelihood restoration plan in which affected people will be consulted during the monitoring process.</p>	<p>In accordance with PS 5, NHPC took measures to minimize involuntary resettlement as much as possible. As a result, in a Project area comprising thousands of inhabitants, only six families needed to be relocated. NHPC conducted extensive consultations with the affected households at all the stages of the process to help ensure improvements in their living conditions, through the provision of adequate housing with security of tenure at resettlement sites.</p> <p>See responses to Item 1 on stakeholder consultation, and Item 4 on housing.</p>
17.	<p>Regarding loss of access to communal forest and natural resources, implementation does not appear to be carried out in accordance with PS 5, paragraph 5, which applies to physical and/or economic displacement related to the following types of land rights transactions, and which stipulates that for certain projects where involuntary</p>	<p>Notwithstanding the unavailability of additional information in the allegation that would make it clear to which communal forest and natural resources the Request refers, the Bank team engaged in discussions with NHPC on this issue during the August 2022 site visit. NHPC asserts that based on its findings, the Requester was most likely referring to the COPAL (Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié) community and not a communal forest.</p>

No.	Claim	Response
	<p>restrictions on land use and access to natural resources result in a community or groups within a community losing access to the use of resources in areas for which they have recognized customary or traditional use rights.</p>	<p>According to the map presented by NHPC during the visit, there is a 15-hectare communal forest in the Project area, but which is located outside of the DUP.</p> <p>Any Project activities causing loss of access or restriction of access to natural resources are being mitigated by the Project in accordance with the requirements of PS 5.</p> <p>The Dam RAP has a detailed inventory and a map of forestry products for individual and communal use. (see Section 6.5.4 of RAP) and further assesses the impacts on common goods, which describes findings in relation to sacred sites and communal forest. The RAP concluded that access to these resources remained unrestricted. Compensation measures were therefore planned in the form of reforestation and agro-forestry measures and support for community activities at the village level, where relevant.</p> <p>NHPC does support a number of reforestation measures. For example, as part of the measures to offset the impacts of the Project on biodiversity, NHPC has implemented a program to support the conservation of the COPAL community forest and is in the process of assessing the same for the Mpem and Djim National Park (MDNP).²⁷ COPAL is not directly impacted by the Project but is used to implement compensation measures in the form of reforestation and agro-forestry as mentioned above.</p> <p>Support provided with respect to the COPAL community forest includes technical assistance for the conservation of the forest area and the provision of compensatory investments for rural eco-development. NHPC entered into a partnership arrangement with CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research) in January 2020 to support COPAL in the conservation of the forest area and the revision of the existing community forest management plan, and to provide support for individual reforestation initiatives. As part of this support and to align with standards of forest management, a portion of the COPAL (500 ha out of a total of 4,500 ha) is being protected from deforestation.</p> <p>During the August 2022 site visit, the Bank team met with some members of the communities of the COPAL. They verbally expressed concerns with the cooperation with CIFOR and NHPC, including concerns related to possible restriction of access for some families.</p> <p>The MDNP is an existing protected area. As part of the compensatory measures for the impacts of the Project on terrestrial and aquatic habitats, a program has been developed to support the conservation measures in the MDNP. The support is being provided through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in September 2018 between NHPC and the Ministry of Forest. The program is supporting the process of validation of a National Park Development Plan for the</p>

²⁷ <https://www.nhpc.cm/flash-info-49/>

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>MDNP, anti-poaching patrols and measures against deforestation in the MDNP. It is important to note that the MDNP is already a protected area.</p> <p>Management has requested that NHPC further monitor and assess social impacts of activities being implemented by the Project in COPAL and MDNP as they move forward to ensure full compliance with Bank policies.</p>
	Prior contact	
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sent letters to the various financial partners of the Project as well as to the company in charge of the works (NHPC) to present to them the impacts and problems experienced by the communities living along the Nachtigal hydropower project site (see attachment); - Held a meeting with NHPC in their office in Yaoundé to discuss the impacts of the Project on the riparian communities (minutes of the meeting attached); - Held face-to-face meetings with the World Bank and NHPC and online meetings with the Dutch Development Bank (DDB) to discuss the impact of the Project on the riparian communities (a chronological list of meetings is attached); - Participated in a multi-stakeholder mission with NHPC, World Bank, IFI Synergy and the communities to discuss the various problems and impacts of the Project on the communities and the socio-professional bodies in order to find sustainable solutions to the problems experienced by the communities (report of the meeting attached). - In addition to these steps that we have taken, the communities have also written several letters to the management of NHPC complaining about the impacts they are experiencing as a result of the implementation of the Project. 	<p>Management acknowledges the exchange of correspondence between IFI Synergy and NHPC, the Bank and other Lenders, during which NHPC provided detailed responses to concerns raised by IFI Synergy in letters dated December 23, 2020, and June 15, 2021. The Project information documents and environmental and social plans were also shared with IFI Synergy during this exchange.</p> <p>On October 8, 2021, the Bank’s social development specialists participated in a tripartite meeting with NHPC and IFI Synergy to facilitate the dialogue between the two parties, with the objective of developing an action plan on the way forward to address cited concerns. Minutes of the meeting including recommendations were developed and shared with all parties. Key recommendations from the minutes of the October 2021 meeting between IFI Synergy and NHPC are being addressed.</p>

No.	Claim	Response
	<p>The harms and negative impacts caused by the Project have not yet been adequately addressed by the Project developer (NHPC).</p>	
	<p>Desired Changes</p>	
19.	<p>Communities/professional bodies expect the following changes as a result of the [complaint] process:</p> <p>For sand miners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A reassessment of sand quarries, sand deposits and other activities; - A clear definition of the bases for calculating compensation; - Recruitment of sand miners and local people as a priority on the construction site. - Access to food deliveries to the construction site; - Possibility of having subcontractor services on site; - Compensation for crops destroyed due to the overflow of the DUP (Statement of Public Utility); - Technical and financial support over a period of 10 years; - Raising the standard of living from 1 to 5 as promised during the consultations; - Definition of the deadlines for resolving the negative impacts of the Project on the sandblasters and in the affected villages; - Provision of the Project specifications to the communities. - Respect and implementation of the Termes of Reference prepared for the implementation of the Project. - Establishment of an independent monitoring committee for the achievements of social works; 	<p>See Items 1, 2, and 3 above for responses regarding compensation and livelihood restoration to sand miners, as well as timelines and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>With respect to local employment, contracting opportunities and food delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One of objectives of the PADEL is to support youth employability. Implementation of the plan has been ongoing and is monitored and reported on each month. - NHPC has been supporting local producers and deliveries of fruits, vegetables, and tubers to the main site since October 2020. NHPC monitors and reports monthly on tonnage of food delivered to the main site catering company. - As regards employment, direct recruitment has been substantially greater than expected. Generally, the Project has been operating with a work force that is between 90 and 95 percent Cameroonian, with more than half being local (within a 35km radius). <p>With respect to the possible overflow of the DUP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management is not aware of any overflow of the DUP. The DUP for the dam occupies an area of 1,797ha, including 700ha covered with water, 270ha of islands on the Sanaga, 600ha of land on the left bank of the river and 230ha of land on the right bank. As part of the census undertaken for the Project RAP in 2016, it was established that cultivable land (excluding water) of the neighboring villages that would be affected by the DUP included 1.9ha for Minkouma village, 112ha in Ndokoa, and 4.3ha in Ndji. In total, of the 1,797ha of land in the DUP, the Sanaga River occupies 698ha and the total land area previously available for farming (including the islands on the Sanaga River) was 1,099ha. - NHPC has been carefully monitoring the Project footprint and contractors' use of land. - Without more specific information provided by the Requester, e.g., on the location of the alleged "overflow of the DUP," it is difficult to provide more detailed information.

No.	Claim	Response
20.	<p>For fishermen and fishmongers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation of 10 million CFA francs per fisherman and 5 million CFA francs per fishmonger; - A supply of drugs to fight against recurring diseases in the area such as onchocerciasis, which is increasingly rampant in the locality since the start of project work; - Realization of social works such as the construction of boreholes, dispensary, schools, community box, sports infrastructure; - Recruitment of young people on the site; - Authorize fishmongers to deliver food to the dam - Respect and implement the specifications prepared for the implementation of the Project. - Retraining for other income-generating activities. 	<p>See response in Item 2 regarding compensation and livelihood restoration and retraining.</p> <p>Regarding community health, including onchocerciasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NHPC’s activities related to its Community Health Plan have been complementary to the Government activities in the Project area of influence. Due to the potential for Project-related impacts associated with water-borne diseases, the Project prepared a Community Health Plan as part of the ESIA that set out a number of measures related to prevention, awareness raising and education, and provision of equipment to several local hospitals in the Project area of influence. In addition, NHPC has provided support to health centers. For example, NHPC has built an emergency health center and laboratory at the Obala hospital and constructed a new maternity building for women/children with equipment for the Batchenga health center. At the beginning of 2020, NHPC mobilized four Cameroonian NGOs to undertake capacity building in schools and communities about first aid, road safety, consumption of psychoactive substances, HIV and GBV. - NHPC has been working with the Government to support it in its ongoing programme for river blindness (onchocerciasis). A campaign on river blindness was started recently in July 2022 with the support of NHPC. NHPC has also used the compensation periods (i.e., when several PAPs may be in one place) to raise awareness of community members about river blindness and other water-borne diseases. NHPC monitors disease prevalence among its workforces. As of April 2022, there have been no cases since onchocerciasis monitoring began in June 2020. <p>With respect to the implementation of social works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the 7 localities covered by the Project, the PADEL contributes to developing micro-infrastructure projects such as bore holes, electricity connection for productive uses and supporting financing of revenue generating activities. - As part of PADEL implementation, a socio-economic survey was conducted in 2020. The results of this survey updated the data on local communities and allowed NHPC to tailor engagement to different types of stakeholders. <p>With respect to local employment opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See response in Item 19, above.
21.	<p>For displaced households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable development of unsatisfactory houses; 	<p>Please see Item 4 above regarding housing, and Item 20 regarding local recruitment.</p>

No.	Claim	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider demands of the households and compensate them for the reduction of their surfaces. - Respect and implement the specifications prepared for the implementation of the Project. - For the impacted communities in general; Immediate recruitment of their sons and daughters in the Nachtigal dam construction project; 	
22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation for sacred sites; - Possibility of subcontracting with the Project, - Make the specifications of the Project available to the communities. - Compensation for NHPC stone quarrying in Ndokoa; - Compensation for the destruction of the sacred site of Ndji in the area where NHPC is currently quarrying stones for its project; - Respect and implement the Terms of Reference prepared for the implementation of the Project; - Implementation of social works as contained in the Environmental and Social Management Plan of the Project. 	<p>With respect to sacred sites, see response to Item 6.</p> <p>With respect to community communication measures, see response in Item 20, above.</p> <p>With respect to the implementation of social works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In January 2022, NHPC provided provisional acceptance of construction of a community hall in Emana Batchenga (it was inaugurated in March 2022), and construction of six classrooms and a management block in four schools of the Project area. Drilling for eight of 10 planned boreholes was completed and tendering for the last two was issued. March 2022 reporting identified progress on various planned activities, including the development of a terms of reference to recruit an organization to implement long-term support for women in the Project area. Similarly, terms of reference were produced for an organization to implement support to young people with business ideas. - Despite some delay in the overall progress of some activities under the PADEL, In March 2022, NHPC reported a 27 percent progress rate against its 2022 workplan for the ESMP/ implementation of social and cultural activities, which means it is on schedule to achieve its annual goal. Other social program support includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliveries from local agricultural organizations took place in March 2022 - In January 2022, mechanical, boiler making, electrical engineering and civil engineering equipment was supplied to the Mbandjock Technical High School. - Evaluation of requirements for agreed construction of latrine blocks and carpentry and clothing workshops in Ntui was finalized in February 2022 and the tender issued in March 2022. - The construction of additions to schools in Ndji was completed and the additions inaugurated in March 2022. - Agreements for establishing oversight committees were shared with authorities in Mbandjock and Batchenga in January 2022.

No.	Claim	Response
		<p>- In January 2022 it was decided to continue repair work on two halls in Ntui, Obala and Mbandjock.</p> <p>With respect to local employment opportunities, see response in Item 20, above.</p>
23.	<p>On the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and implementation of a climate action plan; - Reforestation of lost flora species in the communities. 	<p>Climate: The PAD contains an assessment of GHG emitted by the Project. The Project has mitigation measures intended to offset climate impacts and adequate climate mitigation and adaptation measures are set forth in the various Project instruments.</p> <p>Reforestation of lost flora species in the communities: NHPC has detailed inventories of vegetation and habitat lost because of construction activities. There are habitat restoration plans for the DUP area, and offsetting areas identified in the BAP. A contract with the Yaoundé University for the establishment of tree nurseries with local species and for conducting tree planting has recently started. Offsite, among other activities, NHPC is supporting the nearby COPAL (<i>Coopérative des Paysans de la Lékié</i>) community forest as part of its commitment for ensuring positive development outcomes for all stakeholders. Contractors have also prepared habitat restoration plans with the support of NHPC.</p>

Annex 2.

Summary of Community Consultations

From 2014 until June 30, 2022, the following party engagement activities were implemented:

Information and consultation meetings as part of the development and implementation of the RAP

2015 –2016

- 43 Information and awareness meetings relating to demarcation and census within the framework of the DUP process (Ndjoré; Nkoozoa; Obala; Batchenga; Ndokoa; Ndokoa; Minkouma; Batchenga; Nyom II; Ndji; Olembe; Ballong 1; Emanas - Batchanga; Nalassi; Pamnassi; Emanas Benyagda; Elon; Nkolmekok; Elomzok; Pioneer Minkama; Minkama; Mekas; Nkolobili; Foulassi; Nkolmelen; Ekoumdouma; Nkolmbene; Nkolnguem I; Nkolnguem II; Nkometou III; Nkolfoulou III; Nkometou I; Ekabita Mendoum; Nkometou II; Mfomakap; Bang II; Meyos; Akaka 1; Ezezang Mendoum; Nkomndamba; Mindjomo; Nkoozoa; Nyom II) – (2152 Participants including 488 women);
- 2 consultation meetings for the identification of fishermen and fishmongers (Ndji, Ndokoa) –

(109 participants including 23 women).

- 14 Information and consultation meetings on land replacement options (Ndokoa; Batchenga; Ntui; Mbandjock; Ndji; Ndokoa; Minkouma; Bindandjengue; Emanas Batchenga; Nkopali and Ballong 1) – (352 Participants including 96 women);
- 1 Meetings to present the RAP Dam in Ndokoa;

2017

Implementation of RAP - Agriculture

- 1 RAP Barrage presentation meetings in Bindandjengue;
- 12 TL RAP presentation meetings (Ndji; Emanas – Batchenga; Nalassi; Minkama; Obala; Nkometou II);
- 9 consultation meetings with heads of state programs and research institutes as part of the preparation of technical assistance to PAPs (PRFP, PALAF2C, ACEFA, PPDMVCC, AFOP, PNAFM, PSCC, ICRAF, IITA);
- Consultation meeting of PAPs in Ndokoa on the choice of crops to be planted in the agricultural plots of the resettlement sites;
- 1 meeting to prepare people affected by the Nachtigal Project (dam area) for the management of compensation;
- 9 preparatory meetings for people affected by the Nachtigal Project (dam area, operator's city and HV line) for the management of compensation;
- 02 consultation meetings in Bindandjengué with the village chief and notables on the “sacred sites”;

2018

Implementation of RAP - Agriculture

- 2 Consultation meetings in Ndokoa with the village chief, the notables of Ndokoa and Ndjoré for the identification of sacred sites;
- Meeting with the national coordinator of ACEFA and the main managers of his team to finalize the areas of collaboration with NHPC within the framework of the agreement signed with MINADER;
- 7 meetings with the sub-prefects of Nkoteng, Nanga Eboko, Mbandjock, Sa'a, Ntui, Obala and Batchenga for information on the progress of the land compensation process and identification of the terms of their involvement;
- 2 consultation meetings with the National Coordinator and the Central Regional Coordinator of the ACEFA Program for the operational preparation of support for PAPs economically resettled on replacement land.

Implementation of RAP – Fisheries

- 3 meetings to present the RAP to fishermen and fishmongers (presentation of the validated list of fishermen and fishmongers, corrective actions planned in the RAP, schedule for implementing measures, identification of resettlement areas) in Ndokoa, Ndjji and Ntui;
- 1 consultation meeting of fishermen on resettlement in alternative fishing sites and retraining of fishermen unable to resettle;
- 3 meetings in alternative fishing sites upstream of the prohibited access zone during the works (Minkouma, Zilli, Nkoteng village);
- Consultation meeting with fishermen in Nkoteng Village to identify sites for the development of fishermen's camps to secure the fishing equipment of fishermen to be resettled;

2019

Implementation of RAP - Agriculture

- 2 exchange meetings with the managers of the departmental technical units of the ACEFA program for the continuation of the support of the PAPs within the framework of the agreement with the MINADER;
- 10 information meetings on the objectives and progress of agricultural support activities for the PAPs of the HT line;
- Information and awareness meetings on the liberation of the DUP zone in 22 villages;
- Meeting in Yaoundé for the closure of compensation payment operations with the participation of members of the Regional Compensation Payment Commission;
- 2 preparatory meetings for moving the tomb of Nkolnguem 1 with the prefect of Lekie;
- 1 consultation meeting with the Batchenga Sub-Prefect on securing replacement land;

Implementation of RAP – Fisheries

- 5 consultation meetings on the resettlement of fishermen with the fishermen of Ndji, the local populations and village chiefs of Nkoteng - village, the Head of the Nkoteng group, the Sub- Prefect of Nkoteng and the Prefect of Haute-Sanaga;
- 3 meetings to present the support measures planned for fishermen and fishmongers, the amounts of individual aid and equipment support (Ndokoa, Ndji, Ntui);
- 4 Meetings for the signing of 19 individual aid agreements for the resettlement of fishermen;
- 1 payment follow-up meeting for the 1st phase of the support agreement for the resettlement of fishermen;
- 1 exchange meeting with the Head of the inland and artisanal maritime fisheries department of MINEPIA on the compensation program and support measures for fishermen;
- 1 consultation meeting with the Industrial and Artisanal Fisheries Sub-Director of MINEPIA on the development of an NHPC-MINEPIA 2020 agreement;

2020

Implementation of RAP – Agriculture

- 3 solemn handover ceremonies of house keys to relocated persons;
- 1 meeting with the sub-prefect of Yaoundé 1er for the release of the LHT right-of-way in Nyom II;
- 4 meetings of MINDCAF officials from Monatélé and Nanga Eboko to monitor the progress of registration files for replacement/rehousing land to be established or updated;
- 2 exchange meetings with the managers of the departmental technical units of the ACEFA program for the continuation of the support of the PAPs within the framework of the agreement with the MINADER;
- 1 meeting on the terms of compensation for a so-called sacred tree in Mindjomo village;

Implementation of RAP – Fisheries

- 7 support and follow-up meetings for vulnerable fishermen on conversion projects;
- 5 awareness meetings for fishermen on the dangers and risks of fishing in the worksite area and on the ban on practicing this activity in this area (Ndji, Batchenga, Nachtigal Batchenga);
- 1 downstream fishing monitoring meeting (Ndji);

2021

Implementation of RAP - Agriculture

- 16 handover ceremony of traditional amenities as part of the finalization of the process of securing replacement land;
- 8 consultation meetings with RAP committees (Bindandjengue, Ndokoa, Nkomdamba, Obala, Ndji, Minkama, Batchenga, Emanas- Batchenga);

- 3 meetings with institutional actors involved in the agro-pastoral support sector: information on the programs; analysis of potential areas of collaboration with a view to supporting the Agriculture PAPs;
- 16 RAP/LRP committee meetings on the progress of activities relating to the implementation of the RAP and the Nkolpali replacement land;
- 1 handover ceremony for the new resettlement house in Ndji;

Implementation of RAP-fishing

- 4 consultation meetings with non-resettled fishermen on the constraints of fishermen linked to the site and the accompanying measures to improve fishing activity in their fishing sites;
- 1 meeting with vulnerable fishermen to make a participatory assessment of income-generating micro-projects (1st support phase) and consult on new support measures;
- 3 consultation meetings on support measures for fishmongers;
- 3 meetings to present the revised support measures for impacted fishermen and fishmongers;
- 3 meetings to validate the revised support measures for impacted fishermen and fishmongers;
- 1 meeting with MINEPIA officials on the draft NHPC-MINEPIA agreement;

2022

Implementation of RAP – Agriculture

- 1 consultation meeting of the PAPs of the CE concerned by the replacement of agricultural land in order to meet the conditions for establishing land titles for these lands;
- 17 validation meetings of community compensation actions planned to be carried out in the Project impact area in 2022 and 2023.

Information and consultation meeting as part of the development and implementation of the LRP 2015 – 2016

- 37 consultation meetings with Affected Persons and local authorities to identify means of livelihood restoration (Batchenga; Olembe; Emanas- Batchenga; Nachtigal - Batchenga; Ndji; Ndokoa; Mbandjock; Ebebda; Ebomzout; Mbenega; Sa'a; Nkolawono; Nkolbassimi; Ondondo I; Ntui; Mbandona; Essougly; Kela; Koro; Nkolessono);

2017

- 5 meetings to Validate the results of the inventory of sand workers (Batchenga; Ndokoa; Ebebda; Sa'a; Ntui) – 209 Participants including 33 women;
- 5 LRP presentation meetings for sand workers in Ndokoa, Batchenga, Sa'a, Ebebda and Ntui;

2018

- Meetings of quarry owners on the collection of information on the investments made during the creation of sand quarries;

2019

- 2 information meetings the payment of compensation related to sand quarries;
- 5 meetings to present and validate the amounts of individual compensation for PAPs in the impacted sand quarries in Ndokoa, Batchenga, Sa'a, Ebebda and Ntui;
- 5 information meetings in Mbandjock, Ndokoa, Ndji, Olembe, and Batchenga on support for the retraining of sand workers affected by the Nachtigal Project (quarries impacted by the construction of the dam);
- 2 information meetings in Ndokoa and Ndji on relevant financial products offered by financial institutions (microfinance and banks) for sand workers impacted by the construction of the Nachtigal Amont dam;

2020

- 1 restitution workshop by the partner NGO (AGRO-PME) of the socio-economic studies carried out with the sand workers affected by the Project;
- 4 information and awareness meetings for quarry managers, depot managers, sand workers and restorers on the payment of compensation for people affected in sand quarries in Ndji, Ndokoa, Sa'a, Ntui;

2021

- 1 information and awareness meeting for quarry managers, depot managers, sand workers and restorers on the payment of compensation for people affected in the sand quarries in Ebebda;
- 5 consultation meetings with the PAPs, the heads of depots, the owners, the heads of villages, the notables aimed at relaunching the LRP committees in Ndokoa, Ndji, Sa'a, Ntui and Ebebda;
- 5 awareness meetings: payment procedure and delivery of checks, reminder of the process for including names on the final list of PAP sand workers, methodology for distributing payments and rational use of compensation funds for retraining;

2022

- 4 information and awareness meetings for quarry managers, depot managers, sand workers and restorers on the second tranche of payment of compensation for people affected in sand quarries in Ndokoa, Ndji, Sa'a, and Ntui.

Consultation as part of the implementation of the ESMP

2006

- Interviews (meetings) during household surveys in Bindandjengue, Nachtigal Ntui, Ndokoa, Nachtigal Batchenga, Ndji, Olembe, Nalassi, Minkama Pionnier, Mekas, Nkolnguem I, Nkolnguem II, Nkolondom I, Nkolondom II, Nkolessong, Obandene, Ndjame, Biatsota II, Ehondo;
- 6 public restitution meetings of data collected in the field in Ntui, Obala, Batchenga, Ndjoré and Nkolondom III;

2011

- Interviews with the village chiefs of Nkolondom I, Nkolondom II, Ndjore, Ndokoa, Ndji, Nachtigal Batchenga, Minkamma Pionnier, Olembe, Nalassi, Ehondo, Nachtigal Ntui, Bindandjengue, Ndjамé, Nkolessong, Nkolnguem I, Mekas, Nkolnguem II (66 participants including 11 women);
- Information meetings and restitution workshops in Batchenga, Ndjoré, Ntui, Obala, and Nlongkak (Ydé I);

2015

- 3 consultation meetings with the heads of the health services of Ntui, Obala and Djoungolo (Yaoundé 1st);
- Consultation meetings as part of the management study and action plan on social influxes with the S/Prefects (Ntui, Batchenga, Obala, Mbandjock), the municipal authorities of Obala and Batchenga, traditional chiefs and local populations Ndjамé, Bindandjengué, Nachtigal Ntui, Nachtigal Batchenga, Emana Batchenga, Olembé, Ndji, Ndokoa, Minkouma, Ndjoré, Nkolnguem 1 and Nyom 2;
- Meeting with officials of the National Employment Fund of Mvolyé Yaoundé;

2015 – 2016

- 3 consultation meetings on the finalization of equipment needs with the heads of Technical and Vocational Education Establishments (Obala, Batchenga and Mbandjock) (23 participants);
- 4 consultation meetings with the Director of Technical and Vocational Secondary Education and other officials of MINESEC for the development of the NHPC-MINESEC partnership agreement;
- 79 meetings to present environmental and societal plans (ES) to: (i) central administrations, regional and departmental delegations of MINADER, MINAS, MINATD, MINDCAF, MINDEF, MINDHU, MINEEDUB, MINEE, MINEFOP, MINEPAT, MINEPDED, MINEPIA, MINEPROFF, MINESEC, MINFOF, MINMIDT, MINSANTE, MINTSS, (ii) State programs (PNDP, PNVRA, ACEFA, PIDMA, PACD – PME, APME, PAJER-U, PRFP, PIAASI, USCP/C2D-FPC, MINEFOP/SOFRECO), (iii) NGOs (SAILD, ASSEJA, ODECO, PSEED, ODDPE, AFESAF, PAARDIC, CODESCAM, PSEED, RELUFA, APH, NDH, ASSEJA, M-SORAD, ASSOAL, FESADE, IRESCO, CIFED, VDD, AMS, ACAFIA, CED, CAMNAFAW, RECOH, CAIDEL, CIFED, INADES-FORMATION, OPED), (iv) prefects of Lekié, Haute Sanaga, Mbam and Kim and Mefou and Afamba, (v) deputy prefects and mayors of Obala, Batchenga, Mbandjock, Ntui, Sa'a and Ebebda), (vi) International Organizations (IUCN, WWF, ICRAF, GIZ, CIRAD – IRAD);

2017

- 1 consultation meeting with the Director of Technical and Vocational Secondary Education and other officials of MINESEC for the development of the NHPC-MINESEC partnership agreement;

2018

- 02 meetings with the heads of Technical and Vocational Education Establishments (Obala, Batchenga and Mbandjock) on the identification of new support needs in equipment and material (phase 2 NHPC-MINESEC partnership);

2020

- 25 information and awareness meetings for local populations on the work of the high voltage line;
- 11 meetings/forums between agricultural producer organizations in the Project area and the CIS company to coordinate the supply of this company with agricultural products;
- 1 meeting to assess the process of food supplies by farmers' organizations and identify mechanisms for improving this process;
- 4 working sessions with the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) for the declination of the ESMP into an annual work plan and the monitoring of the implementation of the ESMP with a view to issuing of the AROE;
- 7 meetings held with MINAC and MINEFOP to prepare the agreement to be signed with NHPC;
- 1 ceremony to hand over training materials and equipment to an establishment in the Project area;
- 2 Meetings to validate equipment needs and choice of building location with establishment managers;
- 1 consultation meeting with the general delegation of national security regarding the strengthening of public security resources in the Nachtigal Project area;
- 2 consultation meetings of the sub-prefects of Mbandjock and Batchenga to prepare for the establishment of vigilance committees in the villages affected as part of the management of social influxes;
- 23 meetings with village chiefs as part of the information panel maintenance agreement;
- 4 follow-up meetings on actions being implemented by archaeologists and in the context of community health;
- 6 meetings to launch awareness campaigns for the community health plan;
- 1 consultation meeting with the local authorities on the management of the recruitment of young people from Batchenga within the Nachtigal Project;
- 1 discussion meeting with the NGO coalition IFI Synergy Group regarding the correspondence it sent to NHPC on the concerns of local communities bordering the Project;
- 1 consultation meeting of the mayor of Ntui for the realization of a diagnosis of the town hall in order to organize the logistical support to the town hall;

- 1 consultation meeting with the mayor of Batchenga on the development actions to be carried out in the municipality in 2021;

2021

- 5 meetings with village chiefs as part of the maintenance agreement for billboards installed in their villages;
- 1 meeting with MINESEC officials to prepare the inaugurations of actions implemented under the NHPC – MINESEC convention;
- 2 consultation meetings with the Sub-prefect of Mbandjock in order to prepare the establishment of vigilance committees in the context of the management of social influxes;
- 2 consultation meetings with MINEDUB district officials to prepare actions to be carried out in primary schools;
- 4 meetings to present the progress of the implementation of environmental and social plans and the mechanism for managing requests and complaints;
- 5 meetings with MINSANTE officials to activate the NHPC – MINSANTE convention follow-up committee;
- 1 equipment handover ceremony at the Ntui technical high school as part of the NHPC –MINESEC convention;
- 3 building inauguration ceremonies and handover of equipment to public hospitals in the Project area;
- 9 consultation meetings with SAR SM managers to identify the training needs of these establishments and prepare the NHPC/MINEFOP convention;
- 1 signing ceremony of the NHPC – MINEFOP partnership agreement;
- 1 exchange workshop between the companies involved in the Project on the demobilization of employees working for the companies in charge of the construction of the dam and the high voltage line;
- 1 meeting with MINEFOP officials to prepare the implementation of the actions defined in the agreement signed with NHPC;
- 1 information and consultation workshop for NGOs / CSOs;
- 5 meetings/meetings with stakeholders to discuss the actions carried out by NHPC in the environmental and social field;

2022

- 1 information meeting with local NGOs/CSOs on the presentation of the state of progress of the implementation of the environmental and social management plans and the definition of the collaboration framework;
- 1 consultation meeting of officials from the Ministry of Public Works on the analysis of the feasibility of the operation undertaken by NHPC aimed at strengthening road signs along National Road No. 1;

- 1 consultation meeting of officials of the MINSANTE in charge of onchocerciasis control relating to the analysis of the feasibility of the operation undertaken by NHPC aimed at eradicating onchocerciasis in the Project area;
- 11 community consultation forums organized for stakeholders residing in the villages affected by the Project to discuss the progress of the various components of the Project and gather their opinions;
- 1 meeting of the territorial consultation framework (CCT) in Batchenga with the mayor, the regional councillor, the municipal councillors, the heads of the grouping of the municipalities in the area of intervention of the Project;
- 4 official handover ceremonies for social infrastructure built by the company in the districts of Ntui, Mbandjock, Batchenga and Obala;
- 12 interviews conducted by the alternative association with local authorities, workers and non- workers concerning employment and the demobilization of construction sites;
- 15 consultation meetings of the populations of the villages having benefited from a borehole for the designation of the members of the management committees of these infrastructures;
- Mpem and Djim National Park Development Plan Monitoring Committee;
- Mpem and Djim National Park Development Plan with the main players involved in the various districts concerned.

Consultation as part of the development and implementation of PADEL

2015

- 16 consultation meetings on the orientations of PADEL (i) with heads of State programs (APME, PACD, PAJER U, PNDP); (ii) the heads of the Research Institute (IITA); (iii) the Sub- Prefects and Mayors of Mbandjock, Batchenga, Obala, Sa'a, Ebebda and Ntui; (iv) and the chiefs, notables and populations of the villages of Ndokoa, Ndji, Olembe, Balong 1, Nkolmekok, Minkama Pionnier, Ebom Zoud, Bindandjengue; (v) Regional delegates from MINADER, MINEPIA, MINEPROFF, MINEE, MINEFOP. These consultations made it possible to prepare the first orientations of PADEL – (308 participants including 101 women);

2016

- Meetings for consultation and presentation of PADEL orientations with heads of regional services of MINADER, MINEPIA, MINEFOP and PNDP, deputy mayors and municipal councilors of Obala, Sa'a and Ebebda, and chiefs of the districts of Ntui, Sa'a, Ebebda, Mbandjock, Batchenga, and Obala, the managers of the EMF (CEPI Sa'a agency, CEVECA Batchenga) and a Member of Parliament (Ms. Cécile Epondo Fouda);

2019

- 11 meetings for making contact, exchanging and collecting information on socio-economic development activities with: i) the municipal teams of the communes of Mbandjock, Sa'a, Obala, Soa, Batchenga, and Ntui, and ii) the

Sub-prefect of Obala, Sa'a, Mbandjock, Batchenga and Ebebda (launch of PADEL activities);

2020

- 132 meetings to collect information on actions and socio-economic needs in villages, town halls and technical training schools in the Project area;
- 2 meetings to sign a three-party agreement between the company, the town hall and the Batchenga high school;
- 14 contact meetings (local authorities and local socio-economic development partners);
- 3 meetings with local stakeholders (town halls, RAZEL and PAEPYS) to collect information about the water points built and to be built in the Project area;
- 1 meeting with representatives of UN Women Cameroon to prepare the launch of the support project for women in the Project area in the fight against COVID 19;
- 2 validation meetings with the mayor of Batchenga of the priority development actions to be carried out in his district;

2021

- 3 consultation meetings with local authorities to identify priority development actions in line with the community investment strategy defined by the company;
- 3 consultation meetings of MINJEC district officials to identify youth promotion actions to be carried out;
- 3 consultation meetings with local development organizations and companies to identify the development actions planned in the Project area in 2021;
- 4 meetings with municipal authorities to validate support actions for the development of community infrastructure to be carried out in the Project area in 2021;
- 4 handovers of equipment to town halls in the Project area to support the organization of holiday football championships;
- 2 exchange meetings with young people from Ntui and Batchenga in order to collect information for the preparation of a community project for them;
- 2 exchange meetings with the women trained under the Project developed in partnership with UN Women Cameroon to assess their appropriation of the knowledge acquired;
- 4 meetings for making contact and consulting local development actors in order to know the areas of intervention for the possible implementation of action in partnership;
- 2 consultation meetings with heads of technical schools in Batchenga and Ntui to identify their priority needs;
- 51 meetings to raise awareness of the authorities and populations at the launch of the support program for economic projects and socio-economic surveys with a view to carrying out an economic diagnosis of the Project area;
- 7 public consultation meetings to identify priority development needs to be achieved in 2022;

2022

- 1 meeting with the women's association of Batchenga as part of NHPC support for the celebration of March 8 (international women's rights day);
- 1 exchange meeting with the women of the Ndji villages to identify the economic projects to be carried out to compensate for the loss of income generated by non-timber forest products (NTFPs);
- 2 consultation meetings with local officials from the Cameroonian Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Family and women's associations to identify the desired training to build women's capacities and develop an economic support program for women;
- 11 presentation and consultation meetings of the readjusted PADEL, following the definition of the community investment strategy with the support of the IFC (within the framework of community consultation forums);
- 1 experience sharing meeting with NHPC partner CSOs (ODECO, AGRO-PME, SAILD, ODDPE) on the subject of support for young people with training in entrepreneurship and self-employment;
- 1 exchange meeting with officials of the SOSUCAM foundation on the subject of the ophthalmological campaign organized in Mbandjock by this association in order to identify possible areas of collaboration;
- 1 exchange meeting with the Batchenga Sub-Prefect about the organization of the football championship for young people during school holidays.

Information consultation and awareness raising meeting within the framework of the MGRP

2014 – 2015

- Consultation meetings with local populations on the development and implementation of the MRGP (Ndji, Emana Batchenga, Ndjoré, Ndokoa, Minkouma, Nalassi, Olembe, Emana Benyada, Pamnassi, Elon, Nkolmekok, Ekoumdouma, Nkolmbene, Nkolmelen, Minkama Pionnier, Elomzok, Foulassi, Nkolobili, Nkolnguem I, Nkolnguem II, Nkolfoulou III, Nkometou I, Nkometou III, Ebang II, Ezezang Mendoum, Nkomndamba, Mindjomo, Nyom II, Ekabita Mendoum, Nkooza, Mfomakap);

2016

- Presentation of the MGRP during the meetings of the presentation of the RAP;
- Presentation of the MGRP during the preparation meetings of the RAP payments;

2018

- Preparatory meeting with the sub-prefect of Obala for the establishment of the appeals committee;

2017

- 3 information meetings of Batchenga sub-prefects Obala and Mbandjock on the evolution of the handling of complaints received by NHPC in their administrative units;

- Presentation of the MGRP during meetings to present the results of the inventories in the sand quarries;

2020

- 3 meetings to inform and manage complaints from the villages/people affected;
- Consultation meeting with the commander of the Presidential Guard in Minkama on security measures for the construction of the HT Line;
- 2 Information meetings with the sub-prefects of Batchenga and Mbandjock on the evolution of the handling of complaints received by NHPC in their administrative units;
- Preparing Sandworker Payments – MGRP;
- Awareness meetings on the MGRP on the start of LHT works;
- Sensitization meetings on the MGRP by community liaison officers;

2021

- 4 information meetings for the sub-prefects of Mbandjock, Obala, Ntui and Ebebda on the evolution of the processing of complaints received by NHPC in their administrative units and the establishment of appeals commissions;
- 3 meetings on the selective felling of dangerous trees;
- 3 appeals commissions held to deal with complaints related to fishing and sand;
- 1 meeting with the women of Ndji regarding the complaint relating to the destruction of non- timber forest products;

2022

- 17 presentation meetings to local populations of the new assistant in charge of requests and complaints;
- 11 information meetings on the MGRP and monitoring of ongoing complaints (as part of community consultation forums).

Annex 3.
Implementing CSO/NGO Partners Engaged by NHPC for Specific Management Plans

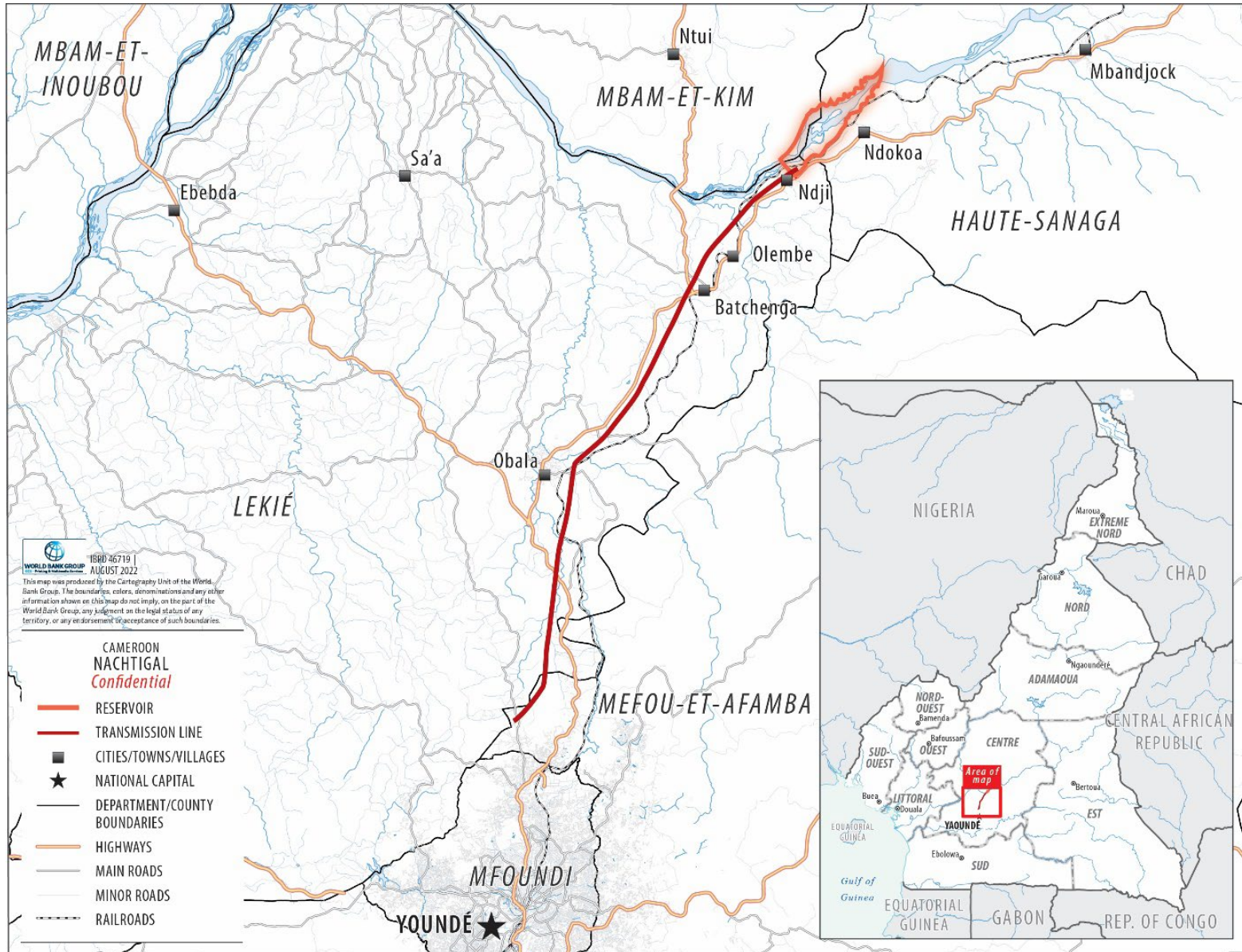
NHPC has secured the additional services of consultancies, NGO and CSO service providers to support the current environmental and social program implementation requirements and report on Project performance. The various partners completing the existing NHPC environmental and social directorate and staff on the Project are set out in the table below, aligned to the Bank's PS requirements.

Thematic Area per the PS	CSO/NGO	Role in supporting NHPC to deliver on the environmental and social programs of the Project
Resettlement <i>(PS 5: Involuntary resettlement: land acquisition, population displacement and compensation)</i>	AGRO PME	A national non-governmental organization (NGO) contracted for livelihood restoration of sand miners and fishermen and fishmongers through individual retraining projects
	Onogo Holding Partners	A national consultancy contracted for livelihood restoration of TL and CE PAPs through technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity
	Les Armatures GIE	A national organization contracted to develop a Fish Plan to manage fishing in the dam during operation phase.
Community <i>(PS 1: environmental and social assessment and risks)</i>	Organisme de Développement, d'Etudes, de Formation et de Conseils (ODECO)	A national CSO contracted to support local agricultural producer organizations with production and business management, including some of the producer organizations that sell vegetables and fruit to the civil works contractor site catering service
	Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir Cameroun (ASSEJA)	A national NGO contracted to act as independent witness for resolution of community grievances deliberated in the five village appeals committees
	Association de Lutte Contre les Violences Faites aux Femmes (ALVF)	A national NGO which provides advice and care for survivors of GBV
	Care and Health Program (CHP)	A national NGO raising awareness in local schools about first aid and road safety, and raising awareness in local communities and school about disease, substance use, and treated mosquito nets
	Gender and Empowerment Development (GeED)	A national NGO raising awareness in schools about GBV
	Moto Action Cameroon (MAC)	A national NGO raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among commercial bike riders, truckers, and sex workers

Thematic Area per the PS	CSO/NGO	Role in supporting NHPC to deliver on the environmental and social programs of the Project
	Organisation de Développement Durable et Protection de l'Environnement (ODDPE)	A national NGO which was selected during October 2021 for a three-year contract to support NHPC with the screening and monitoring of PADEL activities
Labor (PS 2: labor conditions)	Alternatives	A national association to investigate and monitor equitable access to employment opportunities, recruitment situations and demobilization
	Arc-en-Ciel	A national NGO to support management of cultural differences at site based on a review of onsite interactions, identification of enhancement measures, and monitoring
	M&N PLC	A legal advisory service specializing in labor law
EHS and Archaeology	Bureau Veritas	Appointed in December 2020 in order to conduct traffic risk analyses
(PS 1: environmental and social assessment and risk)	IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement) -	French research institution with a mandate from NHPC to review cultural heritage finds during vegetation clearance and excavations, for vegetation mapping and fish biodiversity.
Biodiversity (PS 3: resource efficiency and pollution prevention)	BRL Ingénierie (BRLI)	Consultancy contracted to implement the offsetting in the Mpem et Djim National Park
	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Contracted to plan and implement the offset actions at the COPAL community forest in agreement with its local managers
	Kew Gardens, UK	A British botanical research institution with the mandate to support aquatic plants translocation methods design and implementation
	Conservatoire de Brest, France	A French botanical research institution with a mandate from NHPC to review and support aquatic plants mitigation strategy
	Green Connexion	A Cameroon biodiversity specialized consultancy supporting the Project in Ledermaniella and Marsdenia conservation strategy
	Oreade-Breche, France	A French consultancy mandated by NHPC to consolidate the update of the BAP
	The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC), UK	A United Kingdom-based international consultancy specialized in implementation of IFC PS 6 requirements
	IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement)	A French research institution with the mandate to support the terrestrial habitats Surveys and mapping and fish related activities (surveys, mitigation, offsetting).

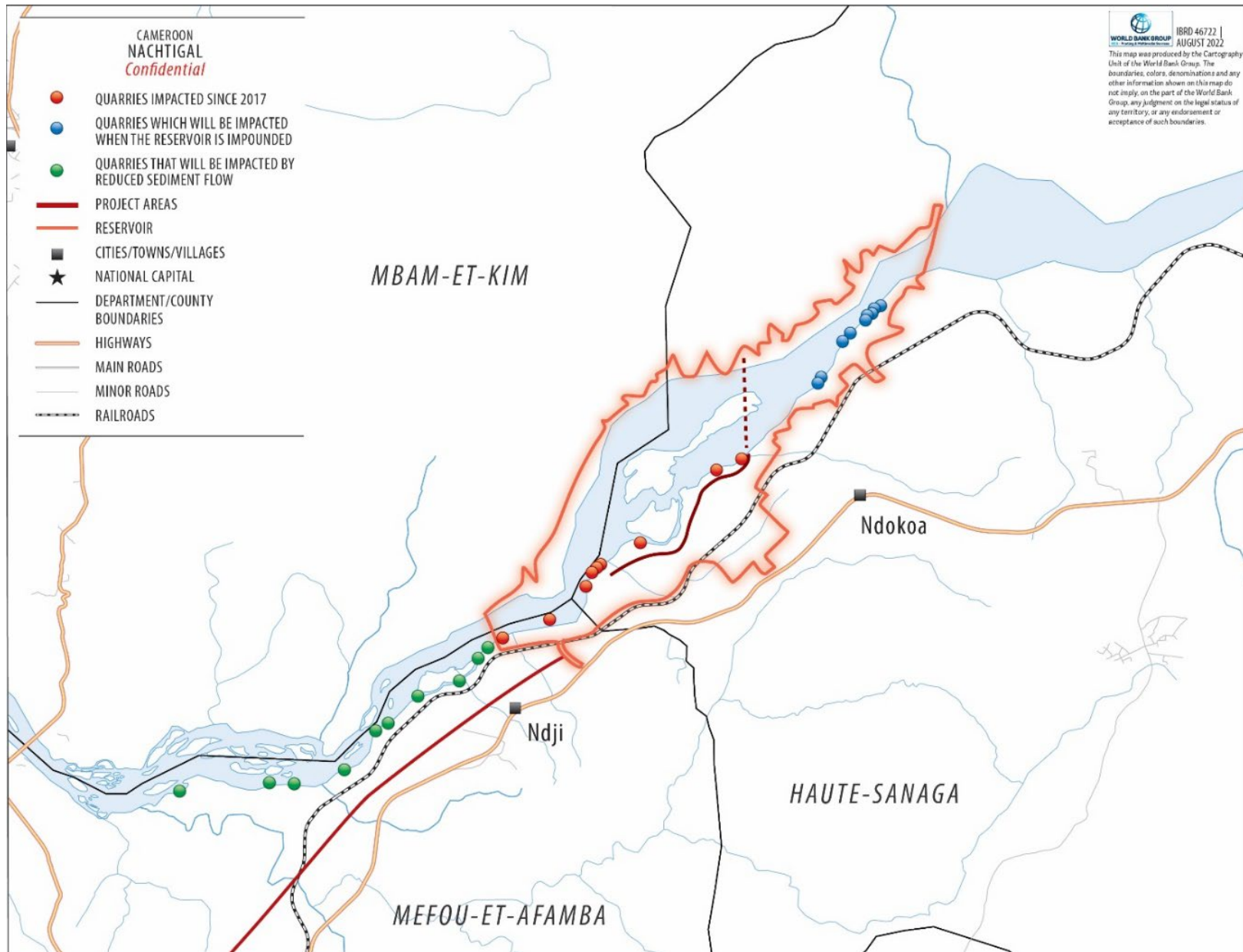
Annex 4.
Additional Photos of Replacement Housing for PAPs (June-July 2021)





Map 1. Nachtigal Hydropower Project Area Map

Note: The Project area is outlined in red, with the dam site circled at the top and the long line showing the 50-km transmission line from the power plant to the substation north of Yaoundé.



Map 2. Nachtigal dam area with red, green and blue zone quarry locations (*indicative as of March 23, 2017, per Sand Workers LRP*)