

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

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**THE INSPECTION PANEL**

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**IPN REQUEST RQ02/2**

September 30, 2002

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION**

**Re: Request for Inspection – CAMEROON: Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project (Loan No. 7020-CM); and Petroleum Environment Capacity Enhancement (CAPECE) Project (Credit No. 3372-CM)**

On September 25, 2002, the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”) received a Request for Inspection (the “Request”) dated September 20, 2002 related to the above-referenced Projects. The Request was submitted by the Centre for the Environment and Development (CED), a local nongovernmental organization based in Youndé, representing several residents of Mpango village (Kribi), and a number of people who live along the oil pipeline route, as well as Messrs. Ekouang Laurent and Mangama Ngiong Pierre of the Bakola community of Kour Mintoum, and Messrs. Bissabidang, Nestor Abega Otele, Mr. Ekani Lebogo and other employees of sub-contractors of Cameroon Oil Transportation Company S.A., all residents in the Republic of Cameroon (the “Requesters”).

The Request claims that people living in the project area and their environment have or are likely to suffer harm as a result of failures and omissions in the design, appraisal, and supervision by the Bank of the above-referenced Projects. It further claims that the Bank has been made aware of the Requesters’ concerns which have not been satisfactorily resolved. The Request claims that activities related to the construction of an oil pipeline between Cameroon and neighboring Chad represents a threat to local communities and the environment.

According to the Request, “[a]s a general rule, there have been serious infringements of our rights which are due to violation of the policies of the World Bank and which have taken the following forms: insufficient information during the preparatory phase of the project and since implementation has began; an inadequate consultation process; insufficient, non-existent or inadequate compensation; non-respect for workers’ rights; a renewed outbreak of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS all along the oil pipeline and around the project’s main bases (from north to south), an increase in the prostitution of minors along the length of the oil pipeline.” Other, and more specific claims, include:

- Impoverishment of the local population along the pipeline due to inadequacies of the resettlement and compensation process.
- Pulmonary and other health problems associated with dust resulted from construction work.
- Drying up, reduction of flow or pollution of water sources with adverse effects on the availability of water for consumption and irrigation, and on fisheries.
- Noise nuisance with negative impact on the availability of game for subsistence.
- Inadequate design and implementation of the plan for the protection and benefit of indigenous peoples.
- Inadequate design and implementation of the resettlement and compensation programs (including poor quality of the in-kind materials provided).
- Inadequacy of the grievance procedure under the resettlement and compensation programs.
- Inadequate selection and implementation of the compensatory protected areas.
- Inadequate scope and processing of the environmental assessment prepared for the project, including mitigation measures.
- Failure to assess and address the fragile domestic institutional capacity required to handle to the project.
- Violation of workers' rights and poor working conditions, including adverse impacts on workers' health.

The Requesters' claim they have or are likely to be harmed as a result of alleged Bank violations of various provisions of the following Bank Policies and Procedures:

OD 4.01 on Environmental Assessment  
 OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats  
 OD 4.15 on Poverty Reduction  
 OD 4.20 on Indigenous Peoples  
 OD 4.30 on Involuntary Resettlement  
 BP 17.50 on Disclosure of Operational Information  
 OD 13.05 on Project Supervision

All communications with the Requesters will, until further notice, be sent to Mr. Samuel Nguiffo, Secretary-General of Centre for the Environment and Development, at the address listed below.

In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Panel's Operating Procedures (the "*Operating Procedures*"), I am notifying you that I have, on September 30, 2002, which is also the date of the dispatch of this notice, registered this Request in the Inspection Panel Register. Due to the fact that the Panel's "registration" process is often misunderstood, I would like to emphasize that "registration" is an administrative procedure established by the Panel and that it implies no judgment whatsoever concerning the eligibility of the Request.

In accordance with paragraph 18 of the Resolution, paragraphs 2 and 8 of the “*Conclusions of the Board's Second Review of the Inspection Panel*” (the “1999 Clarifications”), and paragraph 18 (d) of the *Operating Procedures*, Bank Management has been notified that it must provide the Panel, no later than October 30, 2002, with written evidence that it has complied, or intends to comply with the Bank’s relevant policies and procedures in relation to the above-referenced Projects. The subject matter the Management must deal with in a response to the Request is set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1999 Clarifications.

After receiving the Management response, the Panel will, as outlined in the 1999 Clarifications and as provided by paragraph 19 of the Resolution, “*determine whether the Request meets the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 and shall make a recommendation to the Executive Directors as to whether the matter should be investigated.*”

The Request has been assigned IPN Request Number RQ02/2.

Yours sincerely,

Edward S. Ayensu  
Chairman

To: Mr. James D. Wolfensohn  
President  
International Development Association  
Room MC12-750

Mr. Samuel Nguiffo  
Centre pour l’Environnement et le Développement  
B.P. 3430  
Yaoundé  
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cc: The Executive Directors and Alternates  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
International Development Association