Nachtigal Hydropower Project, Cameroon

Livelihood Restoration Planning

Practical Insights from the Case of SandMining Workers

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1. Nachtigal Hydropower Project

2. Impacts on Sand Mining

3. Baseline conditions

4. Livelihood Restoration Planning

5. Challenges and lessons learnt
Cameroon
Sanaga River

Nachtigal Hydropower Project
**Co-developed**
by EDF, Government of Cameroon and IFC

**Owned**
by Nachtigal Hydropower Project Company (NHPC), SPV – EDF, IFC, Government of Cameroon

**Construction** in 2018

**Operation** in 2022

**Benefit-sharing mechanism**
Local Area Development Plan (LADP)
Rural electrification with e-flow
Infrastructure
Environmental and Social Plans (2006-2016)

→ Local consultants
  (Egis Cameroun, Carfad & individual experts)

→ International consultants
  (Artelia, Aecom & individual experts)

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

2 Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs)

Livelihood Restoration Plan for Sand Miners

E&S specifications for contractors
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Complexity

Figures

Number of PAPs
Number of pits & deposits

Spatial extent

Upstream & downstream
About 50 km river stretch
Surrounding villages and municipalities

Timeframe of impacts

Reservoir: flooded within 5 or 6 years
Construction area: access restricted within 1 or 2 years
Downstream: sand blocked in 3-5 years

Social organisation

Types of PAPs
Ethnic groups

Entitlements

Direct and indirect impacts
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Significant activity

- 600,000 m³
- ~ 45 sand pits, 100s of deposits
- ~ 1,000 workers (seasonal activity)
- 17 villages
- Profitable activity
- Direct and indirect jobs

Informal but structured
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Dedicated Livelihood Restoration Plan to affected sand mining activities

**Process**

A long series of discussions…

- compliance with IFC performance standards

Best practice, benchmark and lessons learnt from other projects with similar impacts

Iterative field work to collect critical baseline data (2 years)
Dedicated Livelihood Restoration Plan to affected sand mining activities

Process

Consultations to identify livelihood restoration strategies and PAPs preferences

Focus Group Discussions with PAPs and residents from the affected area (villages)

Quantitative & qualitative PAPs surveys

Grievance mechanisms

Daily involvement of the Project Social Team

Coordination meetings (Project E&S staff, consultants & IFC panel of experts)
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Challenges (process)

- Volatile and informal sector
- Workers’ high mobility
- Seasonality
- Stakeholders power and influence (over other stakeholders)
- Project milestones

Responses

- Significant resources and time to collect baseline data
- Flexibility (adaptive management)
- Observation (vs declarative data)
- Iterative process
- “Reasonable evidence”
- Involvement from E&S NHPC team → Stakeholder Engagement
Challenges (content)

• **How** to respond to sustainable restoration imperative for one of the most profitable income sources locally available?

• **How** to valuate economic losses for informal activities?

• **How** to ensure a **fair** compensation process and avoid dissatisfaction among the PAPs?

• **How** to respond to predictability challenges (uncertainties) and comply with IFC’s requirements of livelihood restoration objectives?
Responses

**Develop or reinforce** PAP’s capacity to restore livelihood

**Tailored** livelihood restoration packages to each category of PAPs

Compensation and livelihood restoration process **spread over time**

**Mix** of individual and collective measures

**Mix** of financial compensation and technical support for livelihood restoration

**Maintain diversity** of livelihood sources (agriculture and off-farm)

**Reinforce existing** livelihoods

**Linkages** with the Local Economic Development Plan (PADEL)

**Exit strategy**
Thank you!