



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 20. 09. 2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: MOUNT COFFEE HYDRO GEN REHABILITATION

Project Number: 20120342

Country: LIBERIA

Project Description: *The project aims at rehabilitating an inoperative hydro power plant, located on the St. Paul River approximately 27 km northeast of Monrovia in Montserrado County, with capacity of 88 MW, re-establishing the reservoir and re-constructing the associated two transmission lines to Monrovia*

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

For the project (hydropower plant, reservoir, transmission lines and substations) an Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) were prepared to address and mitigate the environmental and social impacts of the construction sites, reservoir and downstream areas. The Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) were produced and implemented. The implementation ESIA, ESMP and RAP was supported by witness NGO Educare. The environmental permit for the project was issued by Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in August 2013.

Procedures and results of the ESIA and other studies produced included appropriate mitigation, compensation and public consultation measures and were acceptable for the Bank. The process for elaboration of all the documents indicated above did include public consultation.

Mt. Coffee hydro power plant was not a new project, but the rehabilitation of a hydropower plant, which was operational 20 years ago. The environmental and social impacts related to the project were limited because some of the old structures were reutilised (dam, spillway structures and concrete core of the old powerhouse) and the environmental and social impacts of the reservoir were due to inhabitants who settled or vegetation that appeared during the years in which the plant was not in operation.

Major impacts for this project were the interruption of St. Paul river continuum and the change from river to lake conditions due to the formation of the reservoir. The reservoir covers an area of 8.5 km², which resulted in the relocation of 15 settlements (700 people), and the loss of 35 ha which were used for agricultural purposes, for which compensation measures were implemented. The residual (environmental) flow to the old river channel was established through an orifice in one spillway gate.

The project has so far resulted in estimated emissions savings of 131,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent per year (2019), as this energy would alternatively have to be produced by existing diesel power plants in the country. The savings are expected to reach the estimated 256,000



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tons of CO2 equivalent per year from June 2020 when CLSG line becomes operational and all electricity capacity of Mt Coffee can be utilized.

The promoter LEC established a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for this project, set up with the support of the Management Contract to LEC by Manitoba Hydro, which is experienced in managing similar projects. In order to reinforce the PIU, an Owner's Engineer (Fichtner-Norconsult) was contracted, who as well was supported on the supervision of environmental and social measures by the contractors. The resettlement action plan (RAP) and grievance mechanism implementation was supported by a witness NGO. Additionally, with the objective of reinforcing the environmental and social supervision, an external independent panel of experts did regularly do missions to verify the project's compliance with environmental and social safeguards. This panel of experts included external renowned experts in environmental and social fields, and reported to the owner of the project and the lenders. As recommended by the World Commission on Dams, a dam safety experts were also part of the panel of experts.

The environmental and social conditions were fulfilled as follows:

Disbursement conditions

- Final environmental permit for the hydropower plant was issued prior to the first disbursement*
- The detailed design for the transmission lines in densely populated areas close to Monrovia was resolved with studies that recommended the use of high transmission line towers.*

Undertakings

- Final detailed Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the hydropower plant and the transmission lines were elaborated to the satisfaction of the Bank.
In one area (near Paynesville substation) the change of land usage plan by Ministry of Public Works (widening of a main Kakata Highway) after start of the transmission line works required re-routing of a transmission line in a way that an area that was not envisaged in RAP got impacted (and addendum to RAP got issued). This added 62 more of the PAPs on populated and higher-value area, who got consulted and offered compensations in an expedited manner. 16 of these PAPs were not satisfied to the compensation amounts and asked the court review. The results of the court review were not available at the time of promoter completion report.*
- The promoter established a panel of experts with a dam safety specialist and environmental and social specialists for the follow-up of the project safeguards.*
- Environmental flow was established to dam spillway.*

EIB project team followed the implementation with site visits and frequent Financiers meetings.

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social aspects to be monitored during operations:

The project team suggests that the carbon footprint of the project should be checked at the time of completion +3 year monitoring by asking generation results and calculating the carbon savings from them.



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Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, site visits by the EIB team and inputs provided by PIU, Panel of Experts, and Owners Engineer during construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.