

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix -Travail-Patrie

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

**BRIGADE NATIONALE DE CONTROLE DE LA
CONFORMITE SOCIALE DES PROJETS**

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

**NATIONAL BRIGADE FOR THE CONTROL
OF THE SOCIAL CONFORMITY OF PROJECTS**

THEME OF THE PRESENTATION:

**PROVISION OF SOCIAL CARE TO INDIVIDUALS,
GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY
THE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN
CAMEROON**

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Plan of the exposé

INTRODUCTION

- The notion of social compliance of projects
- I- SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACTS OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON THE LOCAL RESIDENT POPULATIONS
 - A- Location of heavy structuring projects
 - B- Impact of projects on the local resident populations
- II- SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN
 - A- Partnership agreements (finalised or to be finalised)
 - B- Regulatory framework under production
- III- SPECIFIC EXPECTATION FOR THE YEAR 2022

CONCLUSION

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

INTRODUCTION

Given the Sustainable Development Goals, the country intends «to leave nobody aside» in its move toward emergence. To maintain the emergence vision at horizon 2035, the National Development Strategy 20-30 (SND30)¹ shall proceed with the structural transformation of the economy by operating fundamental changes within the economic and social structures in order to enhance an inclusive endogenous development.

To attain this objective, the Government lays its priorities on the development of the industry, energy, agro-industry, digital progress, Forest-timber, textile-dressmaking-leather, mining, metal industry-steel industry, Hydrocarbons-Petrochemicals-Refinery, chemistry-pharmaceutics and Construction.

Since the social function of the State is to promote the well-being of populations especially the most vulnerable, the Government in the SND30 intends to extend the social protection coverage to a greater number of its targets. This is being done progressively by integrating all the social categories, still out of the system, via the reduction of social inequalities, protection measures against any form of vulnerability, social cohesion and inclusion.

There are highlighted plans, programmes and projects being elaborated and implemented amongst which is **the national plan for socio-environmental resilience**. This is to ensure stability as concerns social and environmental aspects.

In view of all these projects, it is necessary to align the social compliance of projects to international norms and standards by rendering its content outstanding as concerns every other actor.

It is in this light that **Decree N°2017/383 of July 18, 2017 organising the Ministry of Social Affairs**, in its article 55 (1) created the National Brigade for the Social Compliance of Projects. It is in charge of:

- Drafting and monitoring the implementation of the Reference framework for the management of the social dimension of projects
- Drafting and monitoring previous indicators for social evaluation and social impact studies
- Monitoring-evaluating plans to accompany heavy structuring projects socially and economically
- Monitoring and evaluating plans to accompany local resident populations socially and economically
- Monitoring the implementation and evaluation of the protection plans of vulnerable indigenous populations affected by the projects;
- Monitoring the application of national regulations and international norms in force as concerns the management of the social impacts of projects;
- Control the respect of social clauses found in the job specifications of promoters and project owners

¹ SND30 National Development Strategy 2020-2030 *for structural transformation and inclusive development*.

At the operational level, it is provided that the Regional Brigades for the Control of Social Action are in charge of inspections and control the social compliance of projects and proposition of transaction and arbitration measures.

Thus presented, it is clear that the social dimension of projects logically falls in line with the protection of socially vulnerable persons, as assigned to MINAS.

It is therefore time to ensure that within the technical operation of this mandate, every sector-based actor involved integrates the exigency of this data in order to be able to control and master any outcome as generated by the implementation of the projects.

What does the social compliance of project stand for?

Compliance: It is either the respect of directives or job specifications, or even the process to arrive at the specifications.

Project: It is a development project with important economic and social impact at the local, regional or national levels consisting of a string of coordinated and mastered activities, undertaken to improve the living conditions of populations. It bears the dates of when it starts and when it ends.

Social: It is the entire relation/relationship between individuals within the society.²

Social compliance of projects: It is the entire measure for the provision of social care taken at the institutional, legal and technical levels, in view to control and master the human and social risks of the project.

The social compliance of project enables to determine and analyse the direct impacts and the direct and indirect potential risks within the short, medium and long terms of the project on the environment and the quality of life. Specifically, this is regarding the individual and collective equilibrium of the local resident communities at the physical, socio-cultural, psychological and socio-economical levels. In a broad way, specific needs shall be taken into account in terms of the socio-economic integration of vulnerable categories such as vulnerable indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, older persons, children in need of specific protection, the poor and needy, etc.

I- SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACTS OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON THE LOCAL RESIDENT POPULATIONS

A- Location of heavy structuring projects

A panoramic view of the data bank of heavy structuring projects being updated incessantly at National Brigade for the Social Compliance of projects shows that they are located in all the ten (10) regions of Cameroon. There are about one hundred and forty-nine projects listed till date and the list is far from being exhaustive. However, it is noticed that investment projects piloted by Project Owners or Promoters are essentially in the sectors of: Water and energy, housing and urban development, mines and industry, public works, transports, territorial development, fisheries and animal industries, post and telecommunications, public health and social affairs. The said projects affect the behaviours of the local resident populations in the manner in which they act and think. These sometimes may lead to social tension.

² Social services sector strategy Document (2016-2027)

B- Impact of projects on the local resident populations

Up above, the social compliance of projects has been defined as the entire measure for the provision of social care taken at the institutional, legal and technical levels, in view to control and master the human and social risks of the project.

To avoid vexing social consequences on the local resident populations due to the implementation of projects, it is important to control and master the human and social risks of the projects.

The said risks are the:

- Risk related to the loss of social stability and equilibrium (eg. destabilised family, relocation of populations, etc);
- Risk related to social exclusion (eg. discrimination and marginalisation of minorities, disability approach is not applied, gender approach is not applied etc);
- Risk related to socio-economic aspects (eg. Loss of means of subsistence, loss of revenue, change of market position, destruction of farm land etc);
- Risk related to the rampant proliferation of social ills (eg. alcoholism, drug trafficking, juvenile delinquency and social maladjustment, STDs, etc);
- Risk related to well-being and individual equilibrium (eg. affective or psychological distress etc);
- Risk related to the loss of wealth in terms of emotions (eg. loss of sacred places).

In order to enable populations found in the influence zone of the project to benefit from the positive effect of the projects, appropriate social care measures shall be proposed to them according to the type of risk identified. This is to enable them to conserve the equivalent psychological, social, cultural, economical and health conditions during and after the project. There should be improvement as compared to the situation before the implementation of the project.

These measures are to:

- Facilitate accessibility to basic social services;
- Ensure the exercise and enjoyment of the human rights affected by the project (access to the civil registrar's, citizen duty and the right to participation, schooling, legal assistance);
- Take technical measures as specific response to each type of risk (Social Workers best know the technical measures to provide social care)

II- SUMMARY PRESENTATION OF ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

A- Partnership agreements (finalised or to be finalised)

In a general manner, MINAS/BNCSP renders dynamic its collaboration with its traditional partners while searching for new partners (confere the bank of projects).

Hence, in the year 2021, MINAS continued and/or signed partnership agreements with:

- MINEPAT within the context of PADI-Dja. Many of the activities are on-going (bringing out the list of social vulnerability, annual review).
- RADD: A framework-contract was signed in December 14, 2021 on monitoring the social compliance of projects and the promotion of the social action of agro-industrial, forestry and mining companies;
- Eramet Cameroun: A framework-contract was signed in Novembre 2021 as concerns bringing out the list of social vulnerabilities in the perimeter of the mining project at Akonolinga;
- World Bank, BAD: These are involved in the development of the social compliance of projects;
- SCDP, PAK, PERACE: Activities are on-going;
- Partner administrations such as: MINEPAT, MINEE, MINMITD, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINTP, MINDUH: Many meetings have held in view to continue the sensitisation of Project Owners and Promoters.

B- Regulatory framework under production

Beyond the search of partners, the National Brigade for the Social Compliance of Projects has equally undertaken the production of technical and legal instruments regarding the social compliance of projects.

At the legal level: There are draft texts awaiting examination.

At the technical level: Many documents have been produced such as:

- Previous indicators for social evaluation and social impact studies;
- Designed plans to accompany socially and economically heavy structuring projects;
- Designed plans for the protection of vulnerable autochthonous populations affected by the projects;
- Sample social clauses for job specifications by Project owners and Promoters.

III- SPECIFIC EXPECTATION FOR THE YEAR 2022

This year, there are many challenges to overcome in the context of the social conformity of projects regarding control, such as to:

- Continue to update the data bank of projects;
- Render dynamic collaboration frameworks;
- Formalise collaboration with some technical and financial partners involved in the implementation phase;
- Search for new partners in a continuous manner;
- Continue the production and/or stabilisation of technical and legal instruments;
- Continue the sensitisation of Project owners and Promoters;
- Monitor the social compliance of projects at the level of DRAS/Regional Brigades for the Control of Social Action.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, it is worth mentioning that the provision of social care to individuals, groups and communities affected by the impacts of development projects contributes in carrying on with the global objectives of SND30 on the one hand, and on the other hand, in implementing the social policy so dear to the Head of State. Nonetheless, the challenges appear immense regarding the smooth implementation of the said projects, in every sector of the life of the nation.

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