



**REPORT**

**Kribi-Ebolowa Road Project, Cameroon Environmental  
and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)**

*Stakeholder Engagement Plan Rev1.0 (SEP) Summary) Rev1.0*

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# Table of Contents

<b>GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS AND LIST OF ACRONYMS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.0 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.0 ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM DURING THE PROJECT CYCLE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.0 GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5.0 MONITORING .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## FIGURES

## APPENDICES

## GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS AND LIST OF ACRONYMS

AoI	Area of Influence
CLA	Community Liaison Assistant
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
ECA	Export Credit Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EP IV	Equator Principles IV
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ICM	<i>Impresa Costruzioni Maltauro</i>
IFC	International Finance Corporation
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
MINADER	Ministry and Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAT	Ministry of Territorial Administration
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINTP	Ministry of Public Works
MINT	Ministry of Transport
MINTSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MINDDVEL	Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PM	Project Manager
PS	Performance Standard
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) developed for the Kribi- Ebolowa Project in Cameroon. It presents an overall framework of the SEP consisting of a summary of previous and future engagement activities, grievance mechanism and monitoring.

### 1.1. Project Overview and Area of Influence

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon, with the support of certain lenders, is considering the upgrade of certain roads of the national network RN 17 Ebolowa-Akom II-Kribi, located in the Southern Region of the Republic of Cameroon.

The Ministry of Public Works of Cameroon acts as Project proponent and therefore has the overall responsibility for the Project's construction and operation. Impresa Costruzioni Maltauro Construction Limited (ICMC) has been selected by the Ministry of Public Works Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor for the Project. WSP (formerly Golder Associates) acts as ICMC's Environmental and Social Consultant with the role of carrying out and preparing an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) of the Project.

The Area of Influence (Aoi) for the Project has been defined to include the administrative districts where the Project is located and therefore includes the departments of Mvila and of Ocean, located within the South Region of Cameroon. Project Aoi includes 6 arrondissements and 64 villages. The Aoi includes portions of the cities of Kribi and Ebolowa and surrounding villages. The Aoi should be intended as being flexible, hence stakeholders at national level or from other parts of Cameroon may be included in engagement activities based on specific needs throughout the Project's lifecycle. The Project Aoi includes i) the area of influence of the N17 road; ii) the area of influence of the quarry and site installations (QAoi); and iii) the area of influence of the Ebolowa bypass, the Akom II diversion and the Airport bypass (BYAoi).

### 1.2. SEP Objectives

The overall objective of the SEP is to define stakeholder engagement and information disclosure activities for the Project and present the specific engagement activities that will be undertaken throughout the Project's lifecycle. Within the SEP, stakeholders are defined as various individuals or groups who are either directly or indirectly affected by the Project or who may have an interest in the Project. The SEP aims to compile stakeholder maps and identify the most effective, tailored engagement models for various stakeholders through a structured approach that enables the Project to establish two-way communication and meaningful consultation, while mitigating risks and addressing concerns and complaints with effective feedback and a remedy when needed. The proposed plan also allows Projects to be aligned with international requirements and guidelines on stakeholder engagement.

### 1.3. Principles of Engagement

The principles of engagement are aligning with the IFC envisaging to begin early and act in preventative function for project related risks, be based on prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant information, be transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible and documented. Engagements will focus on inclusivity, accessibility and culturally sensitive models and aim meaningful participation.

The present SEP has been prepared taking into consideration these principles to establish an effective engagement process throughout the different phases of the Project's lifecycle. In line with the requirements of IFC's PS, during engagement activities, stakeholders will be provided with the minimum information on purpose, nature, and scale of the Project, duration of the proposed Project activities, risks and potential impacts with regards to the environment and social (including but not limited to health and safety, workers welfare, community rights), planned mitigation measures and management plans, the envisaged engagement process and opportunities as well as ways in which the public can participate and can submit their grievances.

## 1.4. Applicable Requirements

The SEP is prepared in alignment with national legislation and applicable lender requirements, including the OECD Common Approaches and Equator Principles IV (EP IV), which mandate that projects be managed in accordance with the eight IFC Performance Standards (IFC PS) and the IFC EHS Guidelines. A complete list of national and international requirements is provided in the SEP document.

## 2.0 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 2.1. Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholders have been initially identified based on a desktop review which considered previous Project reports and other documents used for the socio-economic baseline. Field activities performed in the period 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 have then been used to feed the mapping exercise. Field activities were performed to retrieve primary baseline information and to collect general feedback from local communities through households' surveys and focus group discussions; all villages along the Project Road were visited.

### 2.2. Stakeholder Mapping

Following the identification process, stakeholders have been mapped and grouped in categories based on their interest level (low, medium high) and influence on project outcomes (low, medium, high) to guide the most suitable model for engagement. For each category a description of the potential expectations and concerns is provided. Under the main six categories (institutions, civil society, media, trade unions, business associations, local communities) over twenty-five subcategories of stakeholders were mapped. Additionally vulnerable groups (*female headed households, people with ownership title of land, people conducting informal economic activities, households with people with disabilities, elderly, Bagyeli community*) were identified.

### 2.3. Engagement Methods

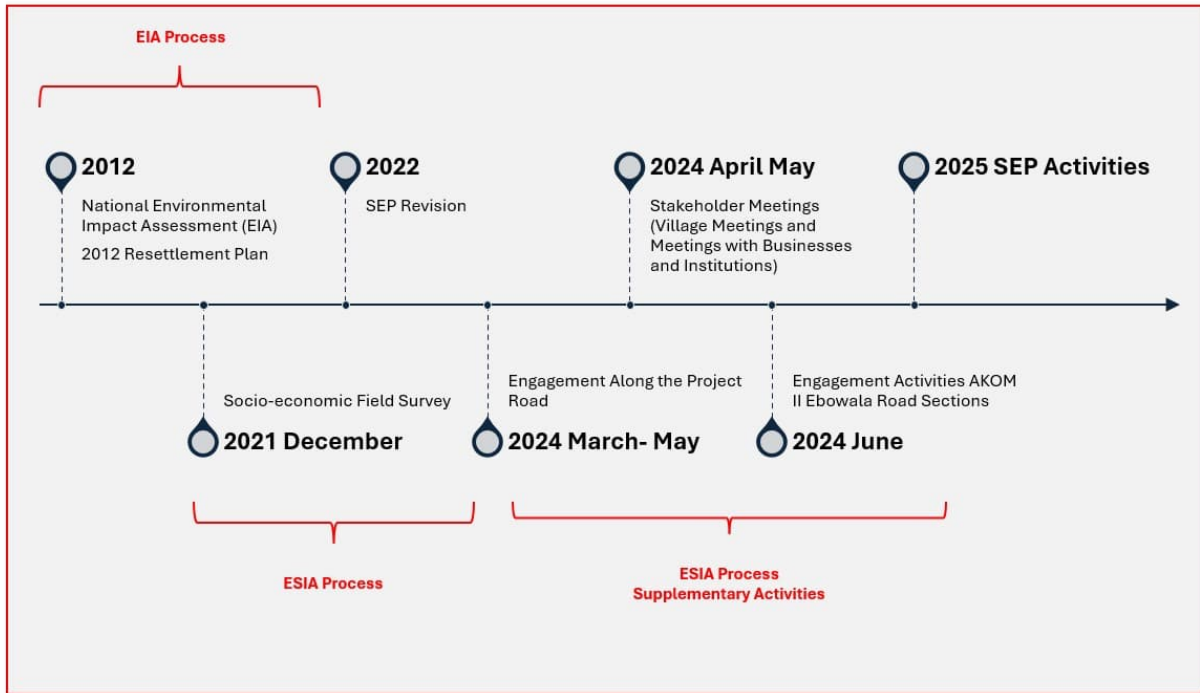
In order to carry out an efficient stakeholder engagement process with stakeholders of all levels, the Project uses an array of techniques namely *information boards, project presentation and brochures, project website, radio, newspaper and other media, public meetings, meetings with representatives and stakeholders, one to one meetings, key group discussions and key informant interviews, informal meetings and surveys*. These techniques are among the most common used in engagement processes, with different objectives and targets. The specific engagement activities that are planned to be performed for the Project have been selected from and are described for the different Project phases.

## 3.0 ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM DURING THE PROJECT CYCLE

A number of engagement activities have been and will be performed throughout the Project lifecycle to ensure that stakeholders have a good understanding of the Project activities that will be carried out, of the impacts expected and, on the channels available to contact ICMC.

Engagement activities are generally performed in French, which is widely spoken and understood in the Aol; likewise written communication material is generally prepared in French. ICMC ensures that staff used for engagement activities speaks Bulu and other local languages or that an interpreter is available. If necessary written material is also prepared in Bulu and other local languages.

This section summarizes the activities carried out between 2021 and 2025 as part of the EIA and ESIA processes, including supplementary engagement activities (to ESIA) and proposed future actions. A summary of activities in the form of a timeline is presented below:



**Figure 1: Timeline of Engagement Activities**

**3.1. Stakeholder Engagement During EIA and ESIA Process**

An Environmental Impact Assessment study compliant with national legislation was issued in 2012. Mention is made to meetings that were performed with 40 stakeholders, among which public authorities, mayors and village heads. However, no further information on the issues discussed and on the outcomes of these meetings is provided in the report. In addition, in 2012 a Resettlement Action Plan for the Project was produced. Similarly to the EIA report, this plan mentions engagement meetings held in the 59 villages along the road with an exceedingly limited information in content and participation.

Due to limitations of the previous engagement activities before the revision of the SEP (March 2022) complementary and additional engagement activities were planned for the ESIA process. WSP and the local consultant BETA performed the first socioeconomic field survey aimed at the collection of socio-economic data from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 with the objective to collect primary socio-economic information in the field and have initial engagement with certain stakeholder groups and individuals. This was done through a household survey, key informant interviews and focus group discussions covering 573 households in 60 villages along the Project scope. According to the survey results, 94% of respondents indicated that they were aware of the Project, which highlights the fact that it is well known among the surrounding communities. Main sources of information on the Project mentioned by respondents included word of mouth from other people, television and community meetings. More than 80% of respondents indicated they had a positive opinion of the Project.

A full set of ESIA documents were issued in April 2024. The Lenders’ Environmental and Social Consultant (LESC) reviewed them in September 2022 and identified several gaps requiring significant ESIA upgrades, including a supplementary round of stakeholder engagement activities.

### 3.2. Supplementary Stakeholder Engagement Activities to ESIA

The supplementary stakeholder engagement activities were conducted by WSP with the support of local social consultants equipped with necessary expertise and local knowledge on the project area and communities. The engagement plan and activities were tailored to targeted groups namely *village chiefs, representatives of women, school and health care representatives, religious leaders, representatives of Bagyeli communities*. The activities were planned to be performed in affected areas; along the *Project Road, along the AKOM II and Ebolowa additional road sections and companies and institutional stakeholders*.

Prior to the engagement activities, outreach materials were prepared, and the organization and selection of participants—as well as the announcement strategy—were carefully discussed and planned to ensure effective participation and engagement. Initial engagement and planning meetings were conducted with local authorities and village chiefs.

The meetings recorded a high level of attendance. Within the Project Road scope, a total of 23 meetings were held with representatives from 57 villages along the RN17. All meetings were conducted as planned, with no significant constraints or issues encountered. Additionally, two meetings were held in Myam and Ekowong, and eight meetings were conducted with business associations and institutions. In total over eight hundred community members were covered by the engagement activities.

Covered Villages	Number of Participants		
	Men	Women	Total
<b>Project Road:</b> Lendi, Bidou II, Bidou III, Nko'olong, Angale, Adjap, Akok, Assok I, Mbanga, Akom II, Bibouleman, Aloum, Nkol Oveng, Mefo, Sijakon, Bilon, Nkolenyeng, Mvieng, Zingui, Meyo ville, Engom I, Mvila, Azem	605	165	770
<b>Akom II Ebolowa Road Sections:</b> Ekowong, Mvam	29	9	38
<b>Total</b>			808

**Figure 2: Number of Participants to Engagement Activities with Gender Segregation**

All meetings were organized with a clear agenda aimed at informing stakeholders about project activities and gathering feedback on potential impacts from their perspectives. Similar patterns of feedback and concerns emerged across meetings with local communities. While the information was generally appreciated, most questions and concerns focused on the resettlement process and its outcomes. Some participants expressed frustration over delays in project development, though reactions were less intense than anticipated. Specific issues were raised in certain villages, including access to water, schools, and potential impacts on the river. Many communities viewed the Project as an opportunity to address broader infrastructure needs. For the phase of construction, concerns were raised about resettlement, noise, dust, river pollution, risks to women and children's safety, and increased pressure on health centres. On the other hand, employment opportunities were also noted as positive impact.

The participants of the business and business institutions meetings were generally eager to see the road completed; there were significant expectations from all companies met. Deficiencies in the road infrastructures in the area were mentioned by most companies as a clear problem to their activities and an obstacle to further development. Some participants pointed out potential interferences during the construction phase, particularly linked to transport of materials and produce. The meetings also allowed to identify other projects for cumulative impact.

### 3.2. Future Engagement Activities

Future engagement activities are planned across four phases: ESIA disclosure, construction, prior operation and operation. A range of tools and methods—including public meetings, one-to-one discussions, informal interactions, and online platforms—are proposed to facilitate ongoing communication and stakeholder feedback. While the SEP outlines the frequency, methods, and locations of these activities, it remains a living document and should be revised and adapted throughout the project cycle to reflect the needs of the target audience and emerging issues. The below table present the summary of activities proposed by the SEP.

Target Stakeholder Group	Proposed Methods of Engagement	Phases	Objectives	Frequency and Location
Local community living within the Project's Aol	Public meetings, information boards and posters and brochures, website, informal meetings, awareness campaign	All phases	While activities aiming phase specific objectives, they overall plan to present information on project, including ESIA disclosure and updates, project schedule and staff, discuss and resolve issues and concerns, and seek feedback	Villages and towns where previous public meetings have been performed.  In regular intervals in accordance with the project schedule
Bagyeli communities	Public meetings, informal meetings	Construction, Prior Start of Operation	These meetings will aim receiving specific information, feedback and concerns on the impact of project activities on Bagyeli Community and resolving issues.	Villages and towns where previous public meetings have been performed.  On a need basis
Local authorities, schools and religious leaders	Informal meetings	ESIA disclosure, Construction	While activities aiming phase specific objectives, they overall plan to present information on project, including ESIA disclosure and updates, project schedule and staff, discuss and resolve issues and concerns,	In main villages along the road.  On a need basis

			and seek feedback Prior Start of Operation	
Vulnerable Groups	Informal meetings	Construction	To ensure and promote participation of additional activities and meetings designed one to one basis depending on the specific need of the groups	In main villages along the road. On a need basis
Local, national and international NGOs	Website	All	To inform stakeholders on project activities and updated documents, schedule including ESIA, SEP.	Project Website
Contractors' and subcontractors	Public meetings	Construction	Present updated information on project and ESMP	Project premises During induction training

## **4.0 GRIEVANCE MECHANISMS**

The purpose of the grievance mechanism is to outline ICMC's approach to receiving, assessing, resolving, and monitoring grievances from individuals and groups about Project activities (including contractors' and subcontractors' activities). The grievance mechanism will allow community members and other groups to raise their concerns and require feedback. The process will be coordinated and facilitated by Community Liaison Officer (CLO). The position would be taken over by the Ministry of Public Works at the time of operations as a main responsible agent. The Project Manager (PM) will oversee the implementation of the process and procedure, review effectiveness and support engagement activities. The roles and responsibilities will be adapted according to the organisational capacity and needs.

## **5.0 MONITORING**

The SEP will be periodically reviewed by ICMC and updated, as necessary. Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the corporate SEP will be performed throughout the Project's lifecycle to verify the effectiveness of the activities performed and to identify changes necessary to the program of activities, to the engagement methods used and to the roles and responsibilities. Indicators on the correct implementation of the SEP, compliance with the frequency and to the planned schedule of activities and timely, correct recording of engagements will be used to monitor performance.

# Signature Page

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*Society subjected to direction and coordination from WSP Global Inc. ex. Art. 2497-bis c.c.*

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