

Socio-Economic Impact of the Chad - Cameroon Oil Pipeline in Ocean Division, Cameroon

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ABSTRACT Civil engineering projects often present adverse socio-economic impacts in their immediate environments. As such a proper balance between the benefits expected from the project and the social costs can only be obtained through impact studies. The paper uses a combination of primary and secondary data sources to assess the socio - economic impact of the project in quantitative terms and to relate the socio – economic variables investigated to the mitigation measures adopted. A total of 13 socio – economic variables were investigated and analyzed using quantitative techniques. The study broadly showed a positive impact on the economic variables. The only exception was damage done to agricultural lands and crops during the construction phase. It also revealed that social variables had both negative and positive impacts. It attributes the positive impacts of the project to the early and extensive implementation of impact mitigation measures in order to avoid potentially significant adverse impacts. In conclusion, most of the socio – economic impacts were, therefore, positive. The study recommends periodic reviews and monitoring of the commitments of the various parties to the project in order to ensure that these are implemented. These should be in line and within the time scale of social impact (SIA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA). Such studies go beyond the “impact fixation” to address the causes of unsustainable development.