



Summary Report Social Investment Working Group Meeting #10

5 October 2017 – Hotel Fieri

CAO Facilitators

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This report summarizes discussions and agreements in the Social Investment Working Group Meeting (10), involving permanent members of the working group (community members from Patos-Marinza and representatives of Bankers Petroleum Ltd – A Geo-Jade Company). The meeting was attended by a representative from the CAO Office in Washington DC, Anne-Claire Olivera, Research Analyst, and three shadow mediators.

This document was drafted by the CAO facilitators. The meeting participants were invited to review this summary report and provide feedback, suggestions, and corrections.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Discuss and agree on the list of remaining S&I issues
2. Feedback by the company on other issues raised in the last meeting (support for children, check-up)
3. Next steps

1. Discuss and agree on the list of remaining S&I issues

The main goal of the meeting was to discuss the list of S&I issues and agree on the status of each issue and next steps, i.e., which issue should be considered as closed, which issue should be part of monitoring and how monitoring will be done, and which issue should be part of future discussions/negotiation.

The discussion on each issue was guided by three questions:

- Can an agreement on future steps be made?
- If there is an agreement, how will it be implemented, by whom and when?
- How will the agreement be monitored, and what is the CAO role?

The discussion and commitments on each issue are summarized in the list of issues as following:

Category	No of issue	Action/Issue	Status of Action (before the October 5 th meeting)	Discussion in the October 5 th meeting	Agreements on next steps
Human Resources	1.	Provide internships for local students studying in areas related to oil and gas, and potentially employ them afterwards.	BPAL will coordinate with the Faculty of Engineering and Mining about the internships BPAL stays open for internship agreements with other faculties. This will be implemented on annual bases.	<i>BPAL informed that they have an internship program with the Faculty of Engineering and Mining and the Faculty sends best students and also local students. Re the possibility of employing those students, BPAL mentioned that since 2015, the company is not hiring because of factors like oil price drop, the change of ownership. BPAL provided statistics on the number of lay-offs, e.g. the Simons subcontractors had laid-off 70-75% of employees. The community expressed interest on the employment of the local students. The company responded that employment is pending based on BPAL's needs, and emphasized that they hire people based on their qualifications.</i>	1. The company will publish the internship program on the company's website and on the local media. 2. CAO will check the announcement on the BPAL's website and the local media (at least the next summer).
	2.	Conduct a review of BPAL contracts with subcontractors (about employment of locals).	Bankers has included a provision in the contracts with subcontractors stating "under equal conditions, locals shall be given priority in employment" Bankers will regularly share information and statistics with the communities regarding BPAL employment of locals. This will be considered permanently.	The employment of the locals continues to be raised by community members in the discussions with the company. The company re-emphasized they have reviewed the contracts with subcontractors in order to increase the employment of the locals; however, they cannot oblige subcontractors. They also mentioned the current difficult situation with regard to employment possibilities. The company is open to information sharing regarding employment. Such request can be addressed to Info Center of the company.	1. The company will provide statistics on employment of the locals per village and on vacancies (BPAL and subcontractors). 2. Every trimester a report on statistics to be shared at the Roundtable convened by the Dialogue Group. 3. CAO will be invited for the next 2 meetings.
	3.	Pursue opportunities for employing local oil & gas technicians who already have completed secondary education.	BPAL committed to support any initiative from the state education authorities with regard to creation of a training program for local oil and gas technicians. Inputs from community are expected. On regular basis	The number of such technicians is very limited and according to the company they need university graduates, with advanced skills.	1. Community members will identify technicians in the community – and will bring their CVs in the Roundtable; 2. The company representatives in the Roundtable will submit the CVs at the Department of Human Resources. 2. Roundtable 3. CAO will be invited in 1-2 meetings.
	4.	Make use of social media to post vacant positions.	Two meetings have been focused on information sharing on the BPAL hiring practices and employment policies. Potential actions that can be undertaken: - BPAL to use various channels (local employment office, website, social media, etc.) for posting job opportunities - BPAL to inform regarding the channels used to post vacant positions.	BPAL mentioned the practice of announcing vacant positions: - Company's website - The Information Center in Marinza; - Local Media; Regarding the use of LinkedIn – the company said they do not use the site to publish their vacancies.	The company will continue to publish the vacancies through: - The Company's website; - The Information Center in Marinza - Local Media CAO will be invited in 1-2 meetings, when the company will share feedback re employment.

Community Investment Program	5.	BPAL offers to share findings from community surveys on people's social investment priorities. Arrange meetings to discuss survey findings with three different, broad stakeholders groups: men, women and youth. The groups should not be more than 15 people.	In total 15 focus group meetings have been held with men, women and youth from Belina, Marinza, Zharrza, Sheqishta and Kallm i Madh, presenting the findings of the village survey. Complete October – November 2015.	The company informed that they apply the mechanism of Project Monitoring and Evaluation of the investments. Surveys are conducted biannually.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The company will conduct a survey in January-February 2018. 2. Community members will work with the company to design the questionnaire as part of the second-year survey AND to organize the focus groups to disseminate the findings. 2. The findings will be shared in the Roundtable 3. CAO will be invited in 1-2 meetings before June 2018.
	6.	Plant a line of trees to divide the industrial area from inhabited areas to assist in air quality improvement.	Parties agreed that BPAL will plant 1000 Paulownia trees by March 2016. The map of tree planting project was agreed by the participants. The trees are being planted on public land and on edge places where BPAL operates. Complete December 2015 – February/March 2016 Joint monitoring group to look at the number of trees planted, failed, missing, etc.	The company informed they will plant 10 hectares with trees (in the area between Belina village and the Seman riverbank, where there are wells operated by the company). Community members from Mbrostar requested tree planting in the areas where contaminated soil is gathered. The company responded that it is a legacy from the past and all that soil should be gathered in one place.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nov-Dec 2017: BPAL will plant 10 Hectares of trees (Between Belina village and our infrastructure – Eucalyptus) 2. Monitoring: Information shared in the Roundtable and site visit 3. CAO will attend 1-2 meetings of the roundtable.
	7.	Discuss and agree on strategies for addressing water issues in Marinza: Agree on concrete steps BPAL will take to help resolve water issue through its community investment program, and the role community members can play in that effort. BPAL should contract with a hydrologist to conduct an assessment of the water system, and identify ways to support and resolve the community water supply issue.	MoU signed between BPAL and Roskovec municipality. Pursuant to MoU, BPAL and Roskovec municipality agreed to work together to achieve objectives relating to the feasibility study of Marinza household water supply project. BPAL provides funding for the study and engineering lead in respect to the project, whereas municipality oversees the activities and ensures government input. Parties agreed to engage third party expert in drafting and developing the project at study stage. Pre-feasibility study is completed, contract with third party placed and financing secured. Implementation timeline: October 2015 –November 2016	This issue is resolved according to the company, since they have fulfilled all their obligations set out in the MoU, even beyond that. Project completed December 2016.	No further actions needed.

	8.	Provide heating in seven schools in the area where BPAL operates	After negotiation between the community members and the company, BPAL provided heating support for seven schools for two months. Completed February 2016.	The community members asked whether they can address the school heating issue to the company in case of emergency situations, like the one in February 2016. The company replied they have provided supported in cases when a similar help request is submitted to them. The company suggested the community members to make a request to the Community Relations Department for use of waste wood, which can be provided for school heating.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Company can provide waste wood through Community Relation department starting from October 2017 upon request submitted. 2. Monitoring: Roundtable, the Public Community Relation of the Fier office. 3. CAO will monitor by (1) being informed by the community re the concern/emergency AND (2) being informed by the company how the concern was addressed.
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Category		Actions/Needs	Status of action (before the October 5th meeting)	Discussions in the October 5th meeting	Agreements
Human Resources	9.	Communities' need for vocational training for youth from impacted communities to increase their skills in oil related areas.	BPAL has provided information on the vocational training they have conducted in the last years, such as language courses, and other programs, providing data on the number of beneficiaries. A need assessment process is ongoing before making any commitments.	The company has not a very good experience with the vocational training (the courses have not responded to the market needs). The community members assessed positively the English language courses. The company informed that, based on other community members suggestions, they proposed the English courses to be part of the investment program for 2018, but Albpetrol had not approved the plan. It was requested that the company consults the investment program with community before submitting to relevant institutions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community members will be consulted re the community investment program that will be submitted to Albpetrol through the Roundtable. 2. The consultation process starts in July 1st and the agenda is prepared since April and May 2018. 3. July-August: consultation process for the budget for investments that we will present to Albpetrol. 3. CAO will be invited at the next meeting.
Community investment program	10.	Discuss concrete proposals for a drinkable water system in Kallm.	A joint fact finding process between all proponents is needed in order to assess the current status of the system before any potential intervention.	The water project for Kallm will be supported by the TAP project.	This issue is closed.
	11.	Explore options for how BPAL can create more social businesses.	BPAL will create a process of supporting social businesses like: creation of a call center in partnership with local government; or creation of a permanent structure (NGO, think tank or structure) with community reps. in order to provide local businesses with small grants. BPAL can support the process.	The company informed that they do not support social businesses. However, they will continue supporting the Agricultural and SME Program through call for proposals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The company will continue to support the Program for Agriculture and SME and to share info with the community members. The community members will share the information with the other community members BACK in the community. 2. Information sharing info about the program in the Roundtable meetings. 3. Monitoring: CAO will attend one meeting where information will be shared before June 2018.

	12.	BPAL offers to convene and support financially, a working group of 3-4 qualified people per community to prepare project proposals to submit to the government, in order to increase possibly of getting fund from the government – in accordance with local benefits obligations.	BPAL will support creation of a permanent community program for identifying funding opportunities and writing project proposals. Local government input will be needed. BPAL can support. Project proposals can be submitted on behalf of local governments, local NGOs, etc.	It is not a feasible and workable idea, so it is not an issue to be further discussed. However, the company will continue to implement the community investment program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BPAL will continue the Community Investment Program (Agriculture, Business Support and Infrastructure Improvement). 2. The company will receive proposals from the community members and will take them to the local authorities. 3. Monitoring: CAO will attend one or two meeting before June 2018.
Transparency	13.	CAO to facilitate a meeting of EITI in Marinza, with larger representation of respective community members in those meetings.	In May 2015 a meeting was held in Fier with the S&I wgroup on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, presenting information on the EITI and the taxes paid by BPAL. A second meeting was requested to be held in Marinza in 2016.	Completed. A meeting on transparency was facilitated by CAO in Marinza on November 2 nd , 2016 (EITI-BPAL-Marinza community).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (a) The community members can approach the company to be invited at the EITI meeting; (b) The parties can invite EITI to present information on the EITI and the taxes paid by BPAL. 2. The decisions can be made at the Roundtable meetings. 3. CAO will attend one or two meetings of the Roundtable.

The parties concluded that the agreements included in the last column resolve the S&I issues to their satisfaction. They agreed that the S&I issues are under monitoring phase and agreed on the community and company engagement in the monitoring phase, as well as the CAO role.

The parties also discussed and agreed on the platform for joint engagement regarding future concerns.

2. Feedback by the company on other issues raised in the last meeting (support for children, check-up)

This item of the agenda was not discussed because of the limited time. The discussion on the list of issues and next steps regarding each issue took longer than planned.

3. Next steps

Apart from commitments on issues, the participants discussed on the sustainability of the community-company dialogue process, currently facilitated by CAO and closure of the CAO involvement.

Commitments:

- CAO will draft the Roundtable Guidelines that the community and company will use in the future;
- The draft Roundtable Guidelines will be discussed in the next meeting of the S&I wgroup;
- The next meeting of the S&I will be held in November 2017;
- CAO will consolidate all the next steps in a document to be published on the CAO website. The document will be discussed with the parties beforehand.