

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONCLUSIONS

The present EIA study analyses the social and environmental impacts expected by the realization and operation of the IEFCL-Train2 Fertilizer plants, including also the possible associated health and safety risks. This study was carried out in accordance with relevant local and international regulations.

The methodology applied for the study involved a multi-disciplinary approach, desktop studies, literature review, field data gathering, laboratory analysis and community consultations in order to relate, if possible, the environmental and social components to the quality indicators/standards so as to determine the impacts positively or negatively in the short and long term.

This EIA report provided:

- An initial description of the initiative and its coherence with the existing regulatory framework (Chapter 1);
- The reasons of the project (Chapter 2);
- The description of the Fertilizer Plants (Chapter 3);
- The social and environmental baseline, taking into account also the health and safety conditions (Chapter 4);
- The analysis of the impacts expected (Chapter 5);
- The mitigation and compensation measures adopted (Chapter 6);
- The Management Plan of the project concerning Environmental, Health & Safety and Social components (Chapter 7).

Potential impacts were recognized and addressed early in the project, associating if necessary dedicated mitigation/compensation measures.

The potential impacts cover all stages of the project, from site preparation through construction, operation and decommissioning.

Mitigation/compensation measures were adopted, after that alternatives of minimizing potential impacts of the proposed fertilizer project were considered. These measures will be implemented during site preparation / construction, operation / maintenance, decommissioning of the proposed project. Measures for the proposed project are categorized into three aspects i.e. Environment, Socio-economic and Health/Safety in which other associated components are embedded. This is to make sure that proper measures are taken for each facet. The studies for a comprehensive environmental baseline, project options or mitigative measures are being carried out by experts in the various fields in conjunction with other stakeholders.

In line with the requirements on public participation in the EIA process, elaborate consultations which involved institutions and the public sectors were carried out both for the Regulators in FMEnv office, Abuja and other stakeholders in the host community.

Most of the people are literate and environmentally conscious and well aware of all known environmental problems likely to affect them and the ecosystem when the new Project is constructed and commissioned. While they would wish that the project does not contribute further degradation of their already fragile ecosystem, they however expect that the proponent should better their overall welfare by providing some of their basic social needs.

According to the above mentioned analyses a dedicated Action Plan has been prepared (Appendix 7.3) to ensure that all actions prescribed in the EIA report for eliminating or minimizing the project impacts both during construction and operation are implemented.

The Proponent will build on/maintain a Social and Environmental Management System that addresses the management of these impacts, risks, corrective actions and monitoring measures necessary to manage the impacts and risks identified in the Assessment.

The Environmental and Social Management System will be adopted according to the Management Plan described in the present document and conforming to ISO 14001 (Environmental Issues); OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety) and best practices adopted in same kind of industries globally.

According to the categorization of Projects, as defined by the Equator Principles and the present analyses carried out, the proposed IEFCL-Train2 project can be classified as category B “with potentially limited adverse social and environmental impacts that are generally few in number, site –specific, largely reversible and readily addressed through mitigation measures”. The initiative/project is also in accordance with the IFC performance standards. In conclusion the report reasons that this Project would contribute immensely to solving the Fertilizer needs of Nigeria, and start the process of food security for Nigeria. As a result of the existing IEPL-Government partnership (PPP) the economic wellbeing presently enjoyed by the host communities will be further enhanced through additional job/employment opportunities made available by the addition of IEFCL-Train2 Project.