

RESSOURCE BE220NBCE

ENERGY PROJECT INFORMATION BULLETIN



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THE FIRST TRANSFORMATION STATIONS DELIVERED

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THE GAMBIA • GUINEA • GUINEA-BISSAU • SENEGAL
GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



EDITORIAL

The Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG) Energy project has been in the making for more than 20 years. Today, construction sites have sprung up in The Gambia, the Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal for the construction of an energy transmission line. The first substations will be delivered during the last quarter of 2020 and sections of the line are already ready. The project also includes the construction of a hydroelectric dam in Sambangalou. More than 3 million people will have access to electricity in the four member countries thanks to the project.

Getting this 1.2 billion euro, sub-regional project off the ground, all components included, was not easy. Eight technical and financial partners have so far committed themselves alongside the member countries to finance the project. The African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the French Development Agency, the West African Development Bank, Kuwaiti and German Cooperation have all contributed to the success of the project.

A project of this scale cannot be carried out without affecting the life of neighboring communities and their properties. This issue was very quickly understood by the OMVG High Commission, which mobilized from the member countries an envelope of more than six (6) billion CFA F for the compensation of the 4,650 Persons Affected by the Project (PAP) identified after investigations, in accordance with the requirements of States and partners. A complaint management mechanism has been put in place at the level of the four countries to better account for their rights.

The Energy Project is also firmly committed to preserving the environment and promoting sustainable development. Surfaces were inevitably deforested for the realization of this project. Consequently, compensatory measures were necessary. Thus, a forestry protocol has been agreed with the National Water and Forestry Departments of member countries for major reforestation operations and capacity building of neighboring communities in terms of biodiversity conservation.

Unfortunately, while the completion of the sites was reaching cruising speed, the Energy Project was hardly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. In order not to slow down activities, a response mechanism was put in place very quickly by the OMVG system and the contracting companies to continue the work in the best way possible. You will be able to see it for yourself by reading this issue of our newsletter RESSOURCE that we are pleased to offer you.

Good reading to you all!

Elhadji Lansana Fofana
OMVG High Commissioner

OMVG network, at the heart of the West African interconnected system

The Energy Project provides for the construction of an electricity interconnection line between the four member countries of the institution (Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal). It includes approximately 1,677 km of 225 kV power transmission lines, 16 transformer stations, 2 dispatching centers, and the Sambangalou hydroelectric scheme on the Gambia river in Senegal with an installed capacity of 128 MW. Initially planned in the project, the Kaléta dam was built by the Republic of Guinea, which agreed to cede 30% of the producible to the three other Member States.

The OMVG interconnection line is part of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) projects aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in Electricity at an affordable cost in the West African sub-region and the development of the regional electricity market.

The route of the interconnection makes it possible to serve the four member countries while facilitating the connection of these countries to other existing regional



Soma transformer station under construction

electricity networks (such as the OMVS) or those under construction such as the interconnection lines of CLSG (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea), Linsan-Fomi and Guinea-Mali within the framework of the WAPP.

The construction of the interconnection line is combined with a vast rural electrification program from OMVG source substations and along the line, and / or from solar or hybrid energy to improve the access rate to electricity, develop small and medium companies, secure rural populations and thus fight against rural exodus and illegal immigration.

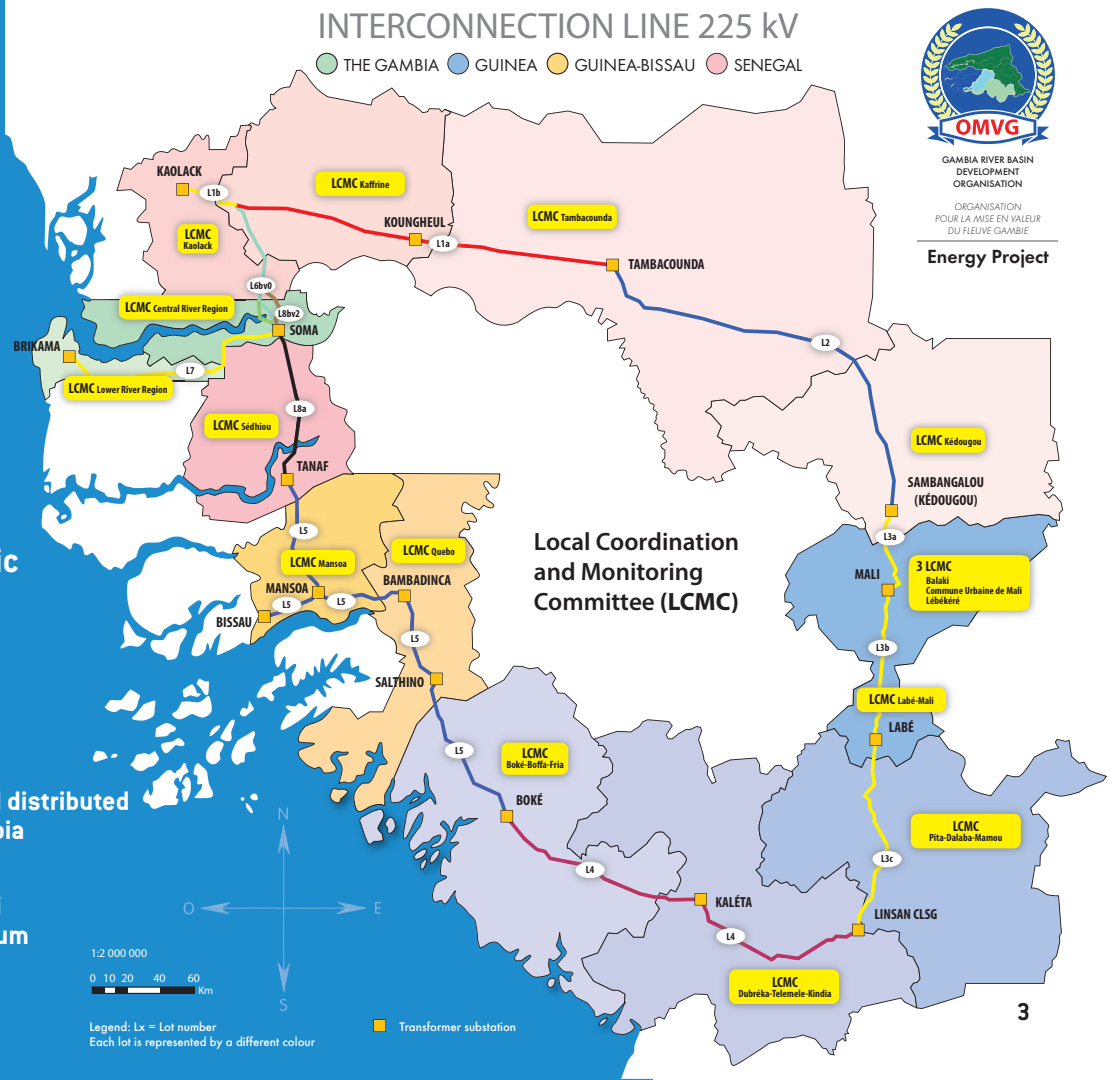
IN NUMBERS

Interconnection

- 1,677 km of interconnection lines
- 16 transformer stations
- 2 SCADA centers / dispatching
- 225 KV voltage
- 128 MW of installed capacity
- 402 GWH of producible
- 800 million € budget including € 400 million for operation
- 8 Technical and Financial Partners with the contribution of Member countries
- 18 contracts signed with 7 manufacturers
- 18 months of work

Sambangalou hydroelectric Power Project (Kédougou, Senegal)

- 128 MW of installed capacity
- 181 km² of reservoir
- 3.8 billion m³ of volume
- 90,000 Ha of irrigable potential distributed between Senegal and The Gambia
- 400 million € budget
- 1 contract signed with the Vinci Construction - Andritz consortium
- 42 months of work



VISIT OF CONSTRUCTION SITE

First transformer stations delivered

The construction and development work of the Energy Project are in their active phase. From Senegal to Guinea, passing through The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, all the projects have sprung up.

Tambacounda and Kaolack completed

The first stage of our visit to the substation construction sites in Senegal: the Kaolack Extension. On the site of the Kahone transformer substation, it holds the same name as the town that houses it, at the exit of the town of Kaolack. The Kaolack Extension is one of 5 posts in Senegal with Tambacounda, Kédougou, Tanaff and Kounghoul.

For several months, workers have been working hard on this site, which consists in making a High Voltage extension of this already existing post, which belongs to Senelec. On the site, the work is completed! Electrical equipment particularly circuit breakers, disconnectors, voltage transformers, current transformers, lightening arresters are all already mounted on the frames. The Extension and the existing post extend over 3.5 ha.



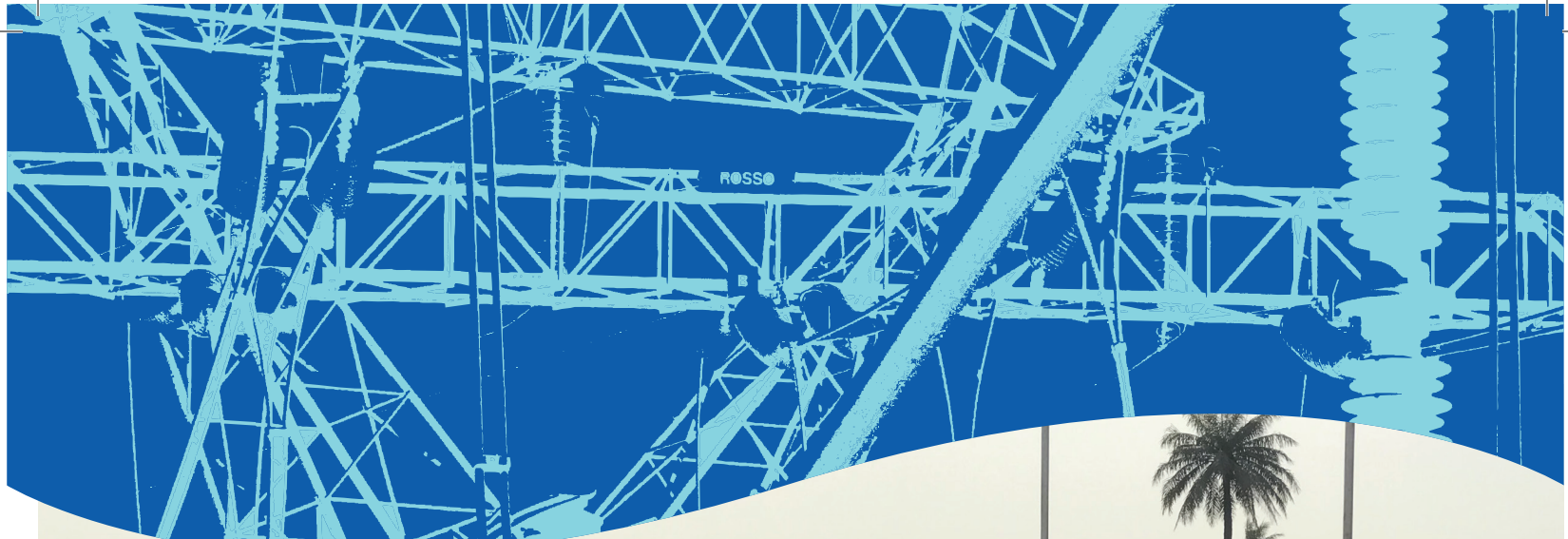
Kaolack transformer station construction site



Equipment of the Kaolack transformer station

Like Kaolack, the Tambacounda transformer station is also in the construction phase. All the electrical equipment and other equipment of this new substation, built on 9ha, are already mounted on their supports. Kaolack and Tamba will be the first to be delivered.

After Tambacounda, let us go to Kédougou. This region is home to one of the five posts in Senegalese territory. A post, which extends over 9 hectares. A dense forest surrounds this post. On the site, the platform is backfilled, the foundation work is completed and the equipment is being installed. The work is progressing at a fast pace. The same rhythm is noted in Tanaff in the natural region of Casamance. On this 7.5ha site, foundation work for the frameworks, control buildings and staff quarters is in progress. Tanaff and Kédougou is to be delivered in the first half of 2021.



Direction The Gambia, Guinea and Guinea Bissau

Two (2) transformer stations are under construction in Soma and Brikama in The Gambia on an area of 9 ha each. In Soma, support for High Voltage equipment, the ground network and the gantries are already in place. Furthermore, the work on the control buildings and operating housing is at a very advanced level. In Brikama, the excavations are finished and the raising of the frames has started. The Gambia substation works are 49.21% executed and their completion is scheduled for October 2021.

The situation is similar in Guinea where the Project will build 5 new transformer stations in Boké, Kaleta (extension of the existing one), Mali, Labé and Linsan with its extension. Levelling works, backfilling and site installation work are underway at the Labé (10 ha), Boké (8 ha) and Linsan (15 ha) substations. On the Kaleta extension (1.75 ha) and the site of the Mali substation (9 ha), excavation of the foundations is still in progress. The delivery of Guinea's posts will take place sequentially between August 2021 and December 2021.

In Guinea-Bissau, 4 new substations are under construction in Salthino, Bissau, Bambadinca and Mansoa. They are all built on 40 ha with the exception of Babamdinca, which is on 30 ha.

Works on the Salthino and Bissau substations are really advanced. In these two sites, all the gantries and supports for the HTB equipment are mounted. However, in Bambadinca and Mansoa, which host the other two posts, excavations are still in progress. The four (4) Guinea-Bissau posts are 46.58% executed and their completion is scheduled for November 2021.



Equipment of the Brikama transformer station



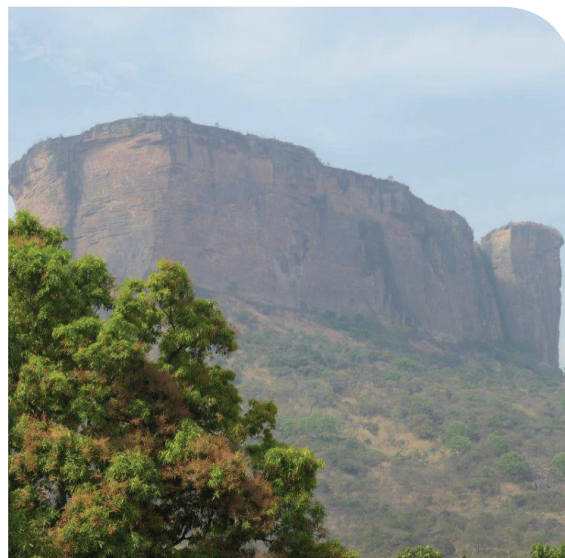
ENVIRONMENT

Replant to compensate for inevitable deforestation

The interconnection line will go through forests in the four countries. Some production sites are even located in areas of dense forest. These works can constitute high risks of forest, environment and fauna degradation. Out of concern for the preservation biodiversity, the OMVG has initiated a forestry protocol, which has started in the four countries concerned. The companies responsible for implementing this forestry protocol have been recruited for each of the member countries. In accordance with the protocol, these companies must equip the water and forestry services of the countries with motorcycles and computers and strengthen the capacities of populations and local communities in terms of biodiversity protection.

Senegal / Dianecounda Technology Company (EDT)

- 100,000 plants to be reforested on 150 ha including fruit trees in arboreal perimeters
- 50 km of roads to be developed
- 20 km of living hedges to plant
- 2,200 individuals of various species and fruit trees to spot and maintain in classified forest areas in Senegal
- 10 micro-projects to build the capacities of populations and communities to set up



Republic of Guinea / AFENYL Company

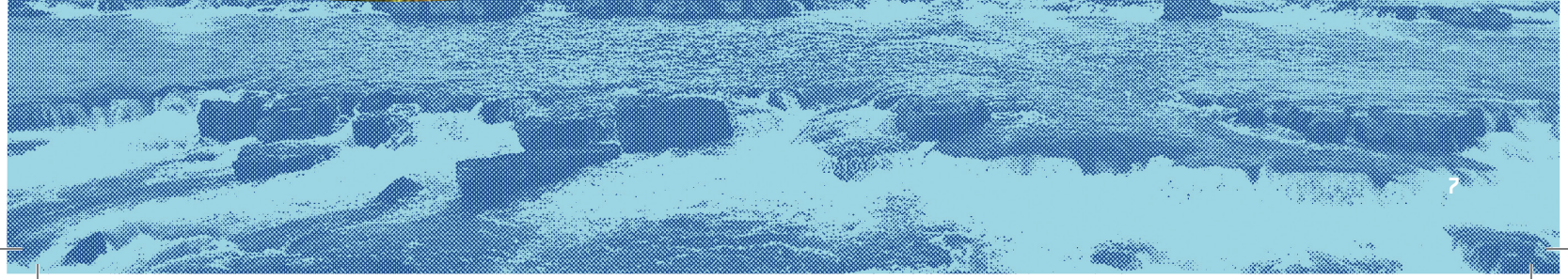
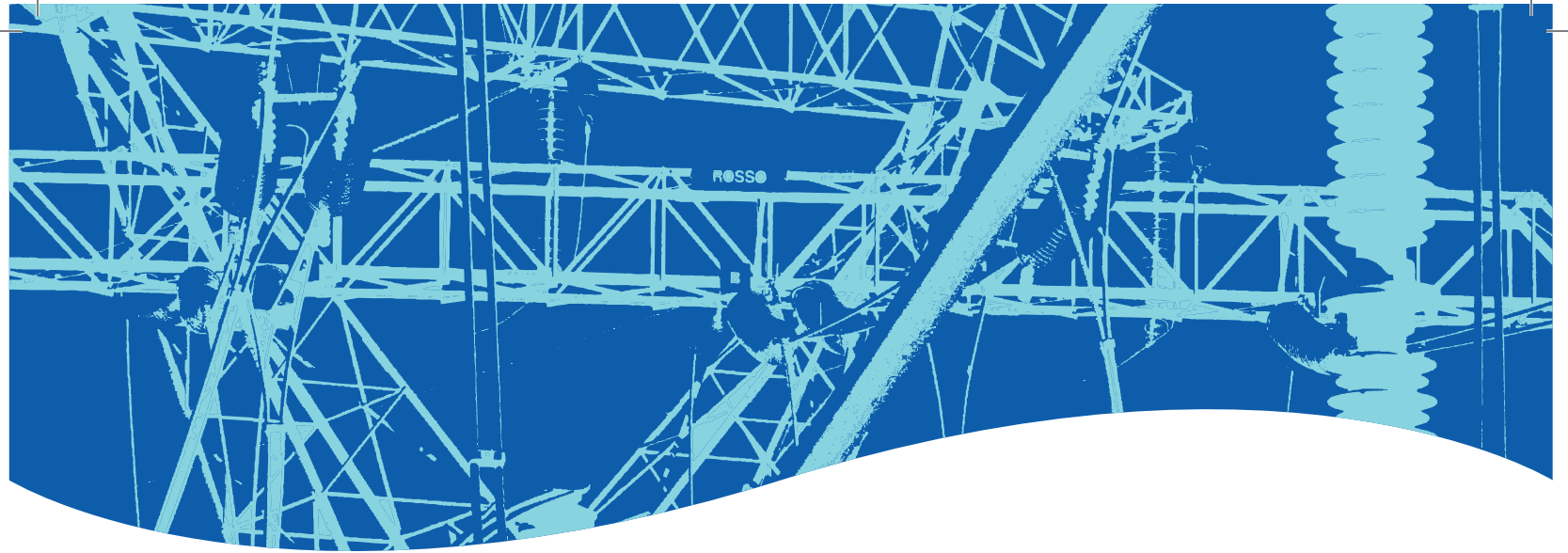
- 200,000 plants over 6 linear km of plantation
- 200 ha replanted in classified forests
- 10 micro-projects to build the capacities of populations and communities to set up

Guinea-Bissau / GATEC Company

- 350 ha of plantations in classified and community forests
- 102,500 indigenous species to be planted for the preservation of forests

The Gambia / ADWAC Company

- 100 hectares of plantation to be developed
- 100,000 non-invasive species to be planted in classified and community forests



ALONGSIDE COMMUNITIES

PAPs, compensation in the process of completion

As of September 30, 2030, the Energy Project has already compensated 4,090 affected people for an amount of 4,4 billion CFA francs.

Like all major infrastructure projects, the OMVG Energy Project has affected the communities living near the line corridor. The latter, commonly known as Persons affected by the project (PAP), are located either on the corridor of the line interconnection and / or at transformer substation sites.

At the end of the surveys and censuses carried out, the assessment of the impacted in Senegal, Gambia, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, is established at 4,650 physical/moral persons for a budget estimated at more than 6 billion FCFA. Payment of compensation began in April 2019.

To date, nearly 4,100 affected people have been compensated for 4,4 billion CFA francs. Compensation is still in progress on Lot 5 in Guinea-Bissau.



Information session for people affected by the energy project

The Resettlement Action Plan (PAR) of the Energy / OMVG Project in figures

	Number of PAPs	Budget by country (in millions of CFA francs)
Senegal	2 170	947
The Gambia	550	395
Guinea	1 017	1 183
Guinea-Bissau	913	3 838



"The envelope received largely meets my expectations"

Dabo Ciré Diao,
PAP in Dioudoubou

Dabo Ciré Diao lives in the municipality of Dioudoubou in the natural region of Casamance. He has received compensation for his temporarily impacted area. "I will never forget this OMVG project. I received a sum that largely meets my expectations. The people affected by the project did not expect such compensation", said old Diao.

Cults and cultural heritage, no impacted sacred site



Megaliths, a preserved sacred site

As part of the social safeguards measures put in place by the Energy Project, all the sacred sites located all along the route of the interconnection line have been preserved. None of the areas classified as cultural heritage has been affected since the start of the works. In the event that the line must overhang a cultural or religious place, the project promotes consultations with the populations concerned. This spirit of dialogue has enabled OMVG to meet no resistance. The major concern of the communities is that the pylons of the interconnection line are not located in the perimeters of sacred sites, which the OMVG has granted them.

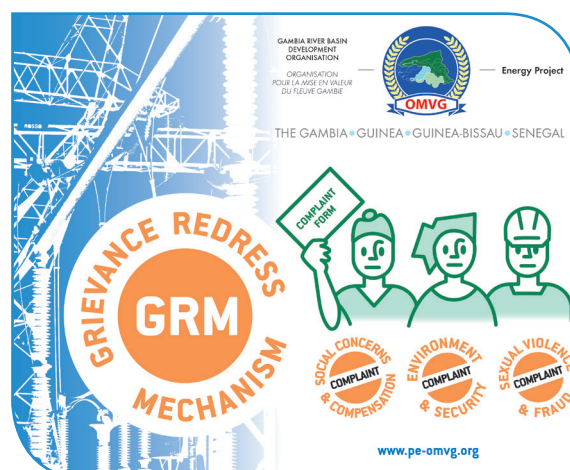
Complaints Management Mechanism, the voice of PAPs counts

Anyone affected by the Energy Project has the opportunity to file a complaint through the Complaints Management Mechanism made available to them.

The Energy Project has set up a Complaints Management Mechanism (PMM) to respond to all complaints from PAPs as well as project staff and contracting companies. By setting up the MGP at the end of 2019, the Energy Project thus complies with the recommendations of the World Bank. This mechanism is in the process of being deployed in the four OMVG countries. Thanks to the MGP, the Project answers the questions of the complainants and deals with their grievances. The grounds for complaints can be of a security, environmental, social or even criminal nature, in particular abuse, harassment, blackmail or fraud. Some complaints may be related to compensation for those affected or to the resettlement needs of displaced persons.

In each country, national actors have been trained to deal with all the complaints of the populations. The Project Environmental Unit coordinates the management of complaints and works in concert with the National Monitoring Committees (CNS), the Local Coordination and Monitoring Committees (CLCS), Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) managers of Companies and the Consulting engineer.

Complainants can formulate or lodge their complaints through a secure and reliable mechanism to ensure their protection. In all the offices of the administrative authorities, registers have been set up to allow PAPs to lodge their complaints. That can also be done online via the Energy Project website or by call through a toll-free number. Complaints are filed confidentially while respecting the rights and dignity of complainants.



IT'S LIFE!

COVID-19 response, the Energy Project and its contractors are adapting and testifying

CLike everywhere in the world, since the start of this year 2020, West Africa has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. This health scourge has affected all sectors of activity in the sub-region. The OMVG Energy Project was no exception and had to adapt.

The OMVG has opted for strict compliance with barrier gestures

To minimize the impact of COVID-19 on activities, the Secretary General of the OMVG, Ababacar Ndao recalls that the High Commission has opted for a minimum presence of agents in the office through an "alternating system" to ensure continuity of service.

This system continued until the lifting of the state of emergency by the Senegalese government, resulting in the resumption of office work.

However, caution is always in order, underlines Mr. Ndao. A certain number of measures have been maintained, in particular favoring online meetings thus limiting physical meetings to «what is strictly necessary», distributing hydro alcoholic gels to all staff and the compulsory wearing of masks. "We ensure that contacts are reduced as much as possible and that barrier gestures are respected," insists Ababacar Ndao.



Provision of first aid kits on construction sites



Awareness of workers about COVID-19 on construction sites

Contracting companies continue to work despite a slowdown

The Project Director of the Groupement Mutuel d'Entreprise (GME) Eiffage / Elecnor, Gaëtan Renault recognizes that the pandemic has had an effect of "slowing down performance and the pace of execution" at the level of its various sites. According to this group responsible for the construction of transformer stations, COVID-19 have caused "additional complications", in particular with the border closing measures between countries. For example, in The Gambia, this company brought gravel from the Thiès/Senegal and, with the closure of the border between the two countries; the trucks responsible for transporting these materials had to obtain special permits to cross it.

Also, according to Mr. Renault, "there were also health restrictions in the Customs services, where the staff was reduced, resulting in slower processing of files".

For Ndaye Ilunga José, Project Engineer at Vinci Energies West Africa, winner of lot 5 of the interconnection straddling Guinea, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, the pandemic "slowed down the pace of work on all the sites". The works were advancing at a satisfactory pace. However, onset of the disease, the measures to restrict movement between border countries and between regions of the same country no longer allowed workers to circulate in the different sites, explains Ndaye Ilunga José. Vinci Energies, which operates in the Tambacounda region, in eastern Senegal, for example had difficulties obtaining cement from its supplier in Dakar.



Temperature measurement of site personnel

Beyond the specific inconveniences of each other, all the companies have adopted common response measures such as remote working for administrative staff and respect for social distancing and hygiene measures for site personnel (compulsory wearing mask, hand washing).

The CLCS were not spared

Tary Koné, Assistant to the Local Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CLCS) of the Energy Project, in the Kindia region in Guinea, recognizes that "the pace of work execution has been strongly affected" by the pandemic.

As soon as the first cases were announced in Guinea, the National Agency for Health Security took a set of measures to deal with the pandemic. Consequently, the members of the CLCS could no longer go regularly to the field, whereas the CLCS plays an "essential role of an interface between contracting companies and communities". Many cases and deaths were recorded in the Kindia region making it impossible to move from one locality to another, authorizations were required. "All the CLCS were tested for COVID-19 to get a permit to circulate".

The same difficulties were noted by the CLCS in Tambacounda. The CLCS communications officer in this region of Senegal, Adji Adama Camara, noted that the annual program of CLCS activities could not be respected and in particular, the provision of the sub-prefectures and village heads of complaints registers.

Training meetings for Complaints Management Mechanism were to be held in the various districts, but "faced with the pandemic, the whole program has been turned upside down", she adds.

THE DISCOVERY...

... of the village of Ségou, so near
and so far from Kédougou!

Ségou is among the villages of the Kédougou region crossed by the interconnection line. The line connecting Tambacounda/Senegal to the locality of Mali in the Republic of Guinea will indeed pass through this region some thirty kilometers away from the regional capital Kédougou. To leave Kédougou and reach Ségou, which is in the municipality of Dindéfelo, on the border with Guinea, you have to be brave. A real obstacle course awaits the traveler on his way to reach this locality so close but seeming so far from Kédougou. When you leave the city, you have to take a really bumpy road. In the middle of rainy season, it is a real expedition, with immense puddles of water and even rivers to cross.

At the entrance, a table painted in yellow indicates the presence of the police to monitor the movements of populations between two friendly countries. Due to its proximity to the Republic of Guinea, Ségou hosts a border police station. Ségou does not have electricity. Thanks to the Energy Project, the locality intends to benefit from lighting and finally aspire to economic and social development. According to the mayor of Dindéfelo, Kikila Diallo, of the 12 villages in his municipality, only two have electricity.

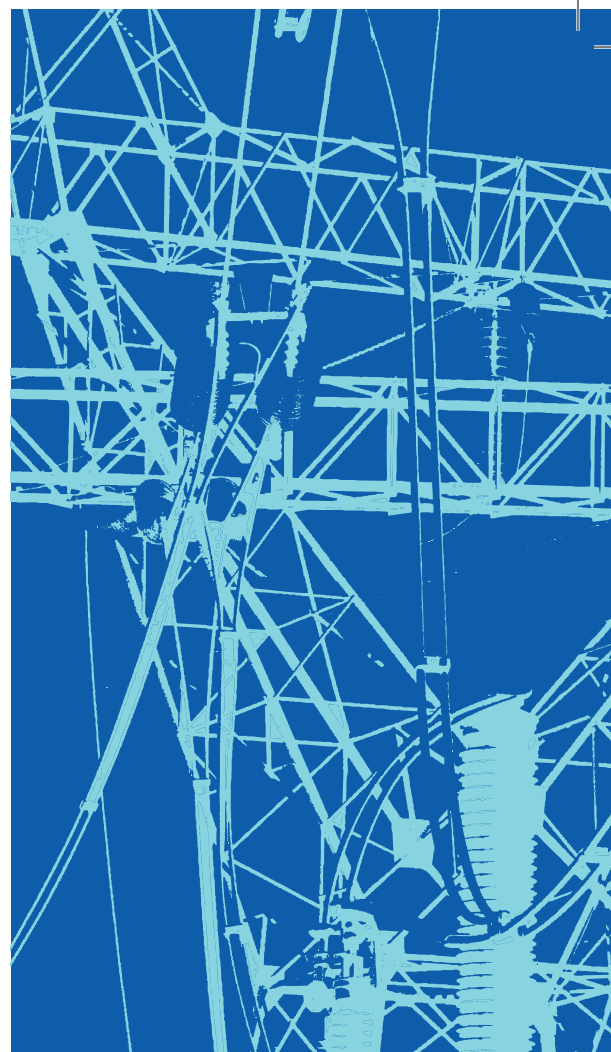
"Electricity is no longer a luxury. To develop a locality, you really have to have access to electrical energy. We have really become dependent on electricity. If there is a project of such magnitude in this village, we can only be very happy while wishing that we can benefit from the investments which are linked to it", he declared during a visit to a delegation of the OMVG in this village.

For him, all the villages that are within five kilometers of the interconnection line must have access to electricity. Ségou is relying heavily on the Energy Project to initiate a new phase of development.



Meeting of the inhabitants of Ségou

See you soon, with new information from the Energy Project of
OMVG in the next issue of your RESSOURCE newsletter



ORGANISATION
POUR LA MISE EN VALEUR
DU FLEUVE GAMBIE

GAMBIA RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT
ORGANISATION

ORGANIZAÇÃO
PARA A VALORIZAÇÃO
DO RIO GÂMBIA

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