



COMMUNIQUÉ

CAO Releases Investigation of IFC Investments in Lomé Container Terminal, Togo

October 20, 2016 – The Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) has released a compliance investigation related to investments made by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Lomé Container Terminal (LCT) in Togo. CAO's investigation identified a number of non-compliances related to the identification and management of potential risks and impacts of the project on coastal erosion, and stakeholder engagement around these issues.

The project, which involved the construction of a greenfield transshipment container terminal within the Port of Lomé, has been operational since October 2014. The operator, LCT, was awarded the concession by the Government of Togo. IFC invested in LCT in 2011 and 2015.

CAO's investigation was initiated in response to a 2015 complaint from the "Collectif des personnes victimes d'érosion côtière" (Collective of victims of coastal erosion), which represents a group of settlers living to the east of the port who claim to be negatively impacted by the project. The complainants allege that the project is contributing to an acceleration of coastal erosion impacting their communities, and that they were not consulted or informed about the project.

While the investigation acknowledges that the project is not solely or primarily responsible for coastal erosion in the area to the east of the port, CAO finds that further environmental and social assessment is required to provide assurance of compliance with the IFC Performance Standards. To the extent that social or environmental impacts of the project are confirmed through the assessment process, the Performance Standards provide for the development of measures to mitigate impacts. In relation to community engagement, CAO acknowledges the role that actors other than the IFC client may play in conducting consultations with affected communities, and the role IFC has to ensure that community engagement in relation to project impacts meets IFC's requirements.

IFC has released a public response to CAO's investigation report. CAO will monitor IFC's actions in response to the investigation findings and will issue a monitoring report within a year.

More details on the case, including CAO's investigation report and IFC's response, are available on CAO's website at www.cao-ombudsman.org.

Contact in Washington, DC:

Emily Horgan

Email: ehorgan@worldbankgroup.org; Tel: +1 202-473-8353

About CAO:

CAO is the Independent Accountability Mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), members of the World Bank Group. CAO's mandate is to address complaints from people affected by IFC and MIGA projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive with the goal of enhancing environmental and social outcomes on the ground. CAO reports to the President of the World Bank Group. CAO's investigations, conducted with the participation of external experts, focus on IFC's performance and do not make compliance findings in relation IFC clients or their business activities.
