



GAUFF Engineering – face to face with the “Big Five” of African Infrastructure

Water • Waste Water • Energy • Transport • Financial Solutions

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GAUFF Engineering realises Africa's "Big Five" infrastructure projects

Guest article by Andreas Raftis, GAUFF Engineering

Without infrastructure there can be no development – this simple observation applies to countries all over the world. More and more often, countries are joining forces to tackle this major challenge together. An example of this is provided by the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (*Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Gambie*, OMVG), where the four countries of Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal share the hydropower potential of the Gambia River. One of the most important issues is connectivity. How can the electricity produced in the Kaleta hydropower plant (in Guinea) reach neighbouring countries with the lowest possible losses? The same issue is faced by the Sambangalou hydropower plant in Senegal, which is currently being prepared for implementation. If demand for energy remains at the same level, the power generated by both plants could meet more than 12 percent of the entire energy demand in all four OMVG countries in future, and benefit all inhabitants of the region through modern distribution centres and networks.

GAUFF Engineering is involved in the joint project in Senegal. As a representative of the developer, the German company is responsible for the construction of the hydropower plant and a high-voltage grid stretching 1,677 kilometres, which will distribute the environmentally friendly energy across the four OMVG countries. The giant project is just one of five of the largest infrastructure projects of their kind on the African continent in which GAUFF Engineering is currently involved.

Helmut P. Gauff recognised the promising business potential on the African continent as early as 1965. From 1972, he carried out major projects such as the construction of the Trans-Gabon Railway, laying 900 kilometres of railway tracks across Gabon, and the 1978 construction of a 1,300-metre-long dam for water supply in Nigeria. Today, the company he later founded, GAUFF Engineering,

plays a pivotal role in Africa. For decades, the company has successfully implemented infrastructure projects in the transport, water, waste water and energy sectors. An important factor in the company's success is the consistent training and education of their local staff, particularly in Africa, creating sustainable employment locally above and beyond the projects. The valuable transfer of knowledge has opened up the way for some staff to become self-employed and even work in cooperation with their former employer.

Thanks to this sustainable commitment, taking into account the respective cultural and social concerns of the client countries, GAUFF Engineering staff are working on four additional infrastructure projects in addition to the OMVG project, whose impact extends far beyond national borders:

-> *In Kampala, Uganda, GAUFF Engineering staff are planning and building a new port on Lake Victoria, which will be one of the continent's largest inland ports.*

-> *As part of a project to build a circa 90-kilometre road from Port Gentil to Omboué in Gabon, GAUFF Engineering is currently supervising the construction of two of the longest bridges in Africa, 4.6 and 4.7*

kilometres in length, as well as a further 157 structures necessary for the route.

-> *As part of a Chinese-German-Mozambican cooperation, GAUFF Engineering supervised the construction of Africa's longest suspension bridge in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. The bridge has a main span of 680 metres, and traverses the entrance to the international seaport in Maputo at a height of 60 metres. It is already known as the Golden Gate Bridge of Africa.*

-> *In Luanda, Angola's capital, GAUFF Engineering has one of its largest foreign branches. In the city, it is also implementing one of the continent's most comprehensive urban water supply systems, which will serve over three million inhabitants.*

These impressive projects will advance the socioeconomic development of the countries, and thus provide better prospects for future generations. GAUFF Engineering has shown that long-term involvement in Africa can not only pay off in terms of business success, but can also create real added value for people and their way of life.

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GAUFF Engineering supervised the construction of Africa's longest suspension bridge in Maputo, Mozambique, which was inaugurated last November. © GAUFF GmbH & Co. Engineering KG

