

Stakeholder Consultation – Construction & Operation of Kaiha 2 Hydropower Project in Lofa County

Meeting: Construction & Operation of Kaiha 2 Hydropower Project in Lofa County

Date: March 17, 2016

Venue: Foya City Hall (Foya District – Lofa County)

Attendants:

Name	Town/ Organization	Position	Contact
Mclane S. Tamba	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Administrative Assistant	0886852885
Momoh S Taylor	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Paramount Chief	0886546936
Moses S. Tartoe		Acting Youth Chairman	0775135523
Nathaniel S. Waha	Foya	City Mayor	0886881330
Saa Tengbei	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Clan Chief	0775076551
Hon. Edward T. Pongay	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Ramklie Clan Chief	0886813947
Hon. Kendima Bangior	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Telian Clan Chief	0886676774
Hon. Robert Bauye	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Sectional Chief	0777054485
Joseph Gbollie	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Foya District Commissioner	0886556344
Eric S. Fallah			0886511514
Fomba Tulay		District Coordinator	0886416959
Tenney Kpukor		Quarter Chief	0880893033
Mr. Sakasu Foyakasu	Transport Union	Transport Union Director	0886225739
Richard Borbor		Quarter Chief	
Nyunea Korpor		Advisor For Peace Community	0886549047
Blama Korma	New Foya	Quarter Chief	
Rebecca Borbor	Pawa Quarter	Citizen	0880963922
Rickey Faya		Elder	
Gabriel S. Kangbah		Construction	077144832 0886265541
Saah Masiyoe		Youth	077082908 0886904434
Tamba Pennor	Ndamaroo	Quarter Chief	0776459051
Henry N. Tngebeh		Chairman Development	0776351665
Harrison T.J. Barwah		Youth	0775849982
Fayia Kettor	City Mayor Office	Help for the Judge	08864479495
Fayia Hyambasu	Bania City	Town Chief	0880275021

Name	Town/ Organization	Position	Contact
Elijah Fitosah		Farmer	0880956605
Mark Fallah	Foya	District Clerk	0886461373
Nyuma Ngisankonga	Foya City	Traditional Chairman	0886999250
Henay T. Fayya	Kpandiloe	Town Chief	0775206045
Abraham Kandakai	Sombolo	Town Secretary	0771182434
Jackson T. David	New Foya		0888336205
John B. Zaya	Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)	District Agriculture Officer	0886418792
Rubend Youkerff	MOA/IFAD		0880084815
CD.Tamba Bundor	MOA/IFAD	Tree Crop Officer	0886464727
Saa Kotio	MOA/IFAD		0888106005
Edward F. Yeamah	New Foya	Quarter Chief	0775262204
William Azunarh	Pawa Quarter	Community member	0770122471
Kpalloe Sandotie	Kpandiloe		0775804358
Robert Taylor			0775804178
Joseph N. Bundor	Disabled committee	General Secretary	0775293874
Tamba Tomah	Foya City	City Inspector	0770990883
Deberiah S. Fake	Disabled committee		0776117598 0886139950
Thomas T. Foka	Sangbwaiae	Farmer	
Daniel T. Kaifar	Foya City Cooperation		0886515250
T. Anton Fallah Jr	Lapaloe Town	Farmer	0880771291
Timothy Borlor	Kpakio	Quarter Chief	0888115413
Fayya Pakirla	Saapia Session	Session Chief	
Gacob F. Kattor	Foya Kama	Quarter Chief	0776852747
Saa Pawan	Ndama	Session Chief	
Saah Wapay	Upper Waum	Session Chief	0888960036
Tamba Kotto	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Development Chairman	0777523310
Tennyson Nimour	City Corporation	City Judge	0888659103
Josiah S. Nyorkor	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Inspector	0886638196
Saa Korma	Balenda	Driver	0770363301
Elizabeth F. Jusu	Foya	Secretary	0886875233
Mr. Muhamed Keita		Muslim Chairman	0886941016
Saah Pongay	Kpormbu Road	Quarter Chief	0886609258
Fayia Tommy	Koindu	Town Chief	
Tamba Borbor	Wosongissi	Farmer	
Abraham Bility	Rural And Renewable Energy Agency (RREA)	Social Development Officer	0886621340
Jorn Stave	Multiconsult	ESIA Team Leader	0888392613
Basma Shamas	Earthtime	Environmental Consultant	0888300766

Summary:

A meeting was held between the commissioner of Foya District, clan chiefs, section chiefs, quarter chiefs and community members and representatives of Liberia's Rural & Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), Multiconsult (project engineers and environmental consultant) and Earthtime (environmental consultant) to present and discuss the construction and operation of a mini hydropower station at Kaiha 2 location in Lofa County. The discussion included a brief presentation of the project location and components as well as the probable environmental and social impacts that might arise from the project and the concerns and opinions that the communities might have regarding the project. The presentation and discussion was translated by locals to local dialects to ensure that all the attendees are well informed.

Presentation:

Abraham Bility (RREA) and Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) introduced the project and provided a brief description of the project component and location, the steps that were done so far to assess and choose the location, the towns that might benefit from the current and probable environmental and social impacts arising from project activities.

Questions and Concerns Session:

The purpose of this section is to focus on the questions, concerns and comments on the different aspects of the project that were discussed in the meeting.

The attendees welcomed the team and expressed their happiness regarding this project and the development that it will bring to the area if implemented and presented their willingness to help as much as possible to ensure the implementation of the project.

The following questions were raised and discussed during the meeting:

- **Structures, crops, cultural sites and land issues along the transmission line route:**
Questions were raised regarding the procedure that will be in place in case the transmission line crosses structures, coffee/cocoa gardens or other crops.
Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) explained that the transmission line route will be planned along the right of way (ROW) of the road. Usually main roads have a ROW that extends 75 feet from the center of the road in each direction. The exact size of the right of way differ based on the classification of the road and will be confirmed with the Ministry of Public Works. The ROW is usually left clear (no structures or crops should exist) to enable rehabilitation and development along the roads. Usually, structures or crops within the ROW are not entitled for compensations; however, depending on the funding agency of the projects, agreements might be reached and crops might be compensated.

Jorn explained that the implementation of the project will depend on its feasibility, and high resettlement and compensation costs will decrease the feasibility of the project. For this reason, the transmission line route will be selected carefully to avoid crossing structures, which will reduce the cost of resettlement and make the project more feasible. The route will be mainly adjacent to the main road and within its right of way; however, if structures are in close proximity to the main road, the transmission line route might be diverted as much as possible to a location where it does not cross any structure.

If the transmission line crosses a cocoa/ coffee garden or other permanent crops, a portion of the garden might be brushed. Discussions and agreements with the communities will be made to provide a fair compensation that does not reduce the feasibility of the project.

If the line crosses a temporary crop, the towns will be notified ahead of time and the project will wait for the harvest of the crops before using the land.

In addition, the attendees confirmed that some traditional sites and women bushes are located in close proximity to the road. During implementation, the contractors should consult with the town chiefs to locate these areas and try to avoid crossing through them or negotiate with the authorities if it is possible to relocate these sites if needed.

- **Who can connect to the current, would the households benefit from it or is it only for public use and street lights? The procedure that the community members should follow to receive electricity:**

Abraham Bility (RREA Representative) explained that everyone that wants to be connected can apply to get the current but the current will come at a cost and the receivers will be paying for the electricity they will use; however, the cost would be lower than the electricity generated using fuel oil.

- **What are the safety risks of the transmission line and distribution lines?**

Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) explained that the electricity will be transported from the station through the transmission line to transformers and then from the transformers to distribution lines into the receiver.

The intensity of the current in the transmission line will be high and might create a safety hazard. This is why, no structures or farming activities are allowed within a corridor of 20 m on both sides of the transmission line. This corridor will act as a safe zone and protect the surrounding in case of tower or line damage. However, when the current reaches the distribution network it will have lower intensity and do not constitute a safety risk.

- **Employment opportunities and gender equality during the project construction phase:**

The attendees asked if they will be benefiting from the project during construction phase. They were also concerned regarding gender equality and employment for women.

The team explained that skilled and semi-skilled workers from the local community will be hired where and when possible. They also assured the attendees that gender equality will be met as much as possible if the skills required are available in the women of the communities.