

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 15, 2016

Venue: House of the Commissioner of Kolahun District

Attendants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Joseph Mawolo	Kolahun Central Highschool	Student	0886325414
Francis Y. Tamba	Old town	Quarter chief Representative	
Stephen S. Jallah	Fangalahun Town	Section Chief	0888824523
Jallah Manse		Paramount chief representative	0886120027
C. Kofi Brooks	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Community clerk	0880346546
Mr. Morris Tamba sr.	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Kolahun District Commissioner	0886248877
Tarnue Siaman	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Clan Chief	0888951767
Siaka Bolay		Focal Person	0880056823
Tetejay Sessay		Chair Lady	0886755881
Kolliewala Ndebeh	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Clan Chief	
John Cole	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Sectional Chief	
Tarue Jallah	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Clan Chief	
Jallah Morris	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Chair Lady	0880938076
Abraham Bility	Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA)	Social Development Officer	0886621340
Williette T. Clarke	Earthtime	Administrative Assistant	0880556677 0777399999
Jorn Stave	Multiconsult	ESIA Team Leader	0888392613
Basma Shamas	Earthtime	Environmental Consultant	0888300766

Summary:

A meeting was held between the commissioner of Kolahun District, clan chiefs, section chiefs and chair ladies for Kolahun city 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.

The following questions were raised and discussed during the meeting:

- **Political setup and district divisions:**

The division of the district of kalahun into 3 districts (Kohalun, Lukambenh and Wanhassa) was discussed to get a better idea on the distribution of villages and towns within each district.

- **Location of the hydropower plant:**

The community members asked why the kaiha 2 location was chosen for this project and not another location.

Jorn stave ((ESIA Team Leader) explained that 3 locations on the kaiha river were assessed and Kaiha 2 was found to be the most feasible location for the project. The other 2 locations might be developed at later stages through other projects.

- **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.

- **Road rehabilitation plans within the project activities:**

The attendees mentioned the bad road condition in the area and asked if the roads will be rehabilitated as part of the project activities.

Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Member) explained that an access road will be created to reach the site and some road rehabilitation activities will be taking place along the transmission line route and on the roads leading to the site, to enable the movement of heavy equipment from and to the site. These activities will be limited to the projects needs belt.

- **Will the project provide electricity to all the villages in its vicinity and who is paying for the current?**

Jorn Stave (ESIA Team Leader) explained that the main target of the project is to provide current to the 3 big cities of Voinjama, Kolahun and Foya being the cities with the highest demand. The power plant is expected to generate electricity that can cover more towns and that's why the project will try to connect as many towns along the transmission line route as possible. The project cannot supply the towns away from the main road or transmission line route because the cost of installing transmission lines to supply these towns is very high and beyond the budget of this project.

Abraham Bility (RREA Representative) explained that current will come at a cost and that the receivers would be paying for the electricity they will use ; however the cost would be lower than the electricity generated using fuel oil.

- **Structures, crops, cultural sites and land issues along the transmission line route:**

The ESIA team explained that 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.

The commissioner of Kolahun district advised to communicate with the local authorities (town chiefs) of the towns and villages regarding agreement for land use compensations. If agreement cannot be reached with the chiefs, communication with the district officials and county officials can take place.