

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 Superintendent of Lofa County

Attendants:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact</i>
George S. Dunor	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Superintendent of Lofa county	0886517798 dunorgeorge@gmail.com
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Fatorma Dunor	Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)	Messenger	0777522472 0886410705
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 superintendent of Lofa County 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.

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 main points raised during the meeting are as follows:

- **Political setup and district divisions:**

The District of Kolahun was recently divided into 3 districts (Kohahun, Lukambeh and Wanhassa). The Kaiha 2 location, previously within Kolahun district, is now within Lukambeh district.

The superintendent advised to reroute the transmission line to include the capital of the Lukambeh district (Pasolahun) and bigger villages along the way that are within the newly created districts like Lukasu and Popalahun. This will ensure that the district hosting the project is also benefiting from it, which will guarantee the projects' security.

- **Irrigation dam near Bolahun:**

Discussion regarding the dam and its previous use took place; however, the superintendent did not have exact information regarding the current rehabilitation of the dam.

- **Fishing activities and fish migration route at Kaiha 2:**

The superintendent confirmed that the kaiha 2 location is a hotspot for fishing activities. He also stated that, up to his knowledge of the area, the fish do not climb up the waterfall at Kaiha 2.

- **Future plans and infrastructure projects for the area:**

The superintendent stated that road rehabilitation projects are being planned for the area especially that this area is considered a cocoa and coffee plantation belt.

- **Land issues along the transmission line route:**

The superintendent suggested that an MOU should be signed between the project owners and the major towns along the transmission line route. The MOU would include rules regarding the allowed activities within the transmission line corridor and agreements regarding crops or land issues along the route.

He emphasized on the need to reroute the transmission line to include bigger cities in the area as the big cities are the home of the decision makers of the area and can facilitate the project activities and needs.