

## 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:** Porlowu Town (Kolahun District – Lofa County)

### Attendants:

Name	Organization	Position	Contact
Borbor S. Kamara		Youth	0880097325
Momo G. Kamara		Youth	
Amara M. Kamara		Youth	0886603168
Fofee Momo			0880618245
Mamadee Foday			
Jusu Kpakpai			
Musa Tawilee			
Momoh J. Kamara			
Lecelia Bolay			
Tamba Amara			
Mohammed E. Karmah			0880643293
Prince Kamara			
Benson M. Kamara			0886284458
Sangai Ndorbor			
Kpana Momoh			
Watta Salia			
Blama Sele			
Matta Dolee			
Sayan Salia			
Bandu Atoe			
Janneh James			
Sangai Salia			
Augustine Tamba			
Kpana Kamara			
Moibah Dolee			
Matta Musu			
Vannie Momoh			0886888077
Prince Cole			
Mategbeh Manto			
Fatta Mohammed			
Abraham Kamara			
Amadu Kamara			0888716665
Mohammed B.Kamara			0880347558
Boakai Brima			
Kiaba Salia			
Salia Kromah			
Massa Ndorbor			
Labah Kamara			

Name	Organization	Position	Contact
Korpo Blama			
Sangai Momoh			
Fatu Barwor			
Blama Vannie			
Hawa K. Boakai			
Kpana K. Salia			
Mohammed Kamara			
Johnson Manjoe			
Sangai Patrick			
Bandu Momoh			
Momoh B. Dunor			
Jonneh Yangbeh			
Abraham Bility	Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA)	Social Development Officer	0886621340
Williette T. Clarke	Earthtime	Administrative Assistant	0880556677 0777399999
Basma Shamas	Earthtime	Environmental Consultant	0888300766

### **Summary:**

A meeting was held between the community members of Porlowu Town and representatives of Liberia's Rural & Renewable Energy Agency (RREA), 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) 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:

- **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.

Abraham Bility (RREA) 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.

Abraham 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 this regard, the attendees confirmed that they are willing to discuss this issue and reach agreements as this development is very important to them and they will try to cooperate so it can reach the implementation phase.

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; however, the attendees also showed willingness to discuss relocation of these sites if needed.

- **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.

- **Who can receive the current, are the households responsible to provide the cables and equipment to receive the current?**

Abraham Bility (RREA Representative) explained that everyone that wants to be connected can apply to get the current. 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. The receivers will only be responsible for applying to receive the current and paying their bill. The connection cables and equipment are the responsibility of the service provider.