

## **Process for Stakeholder Engagement:**

### **Summary:**

The process for formal community engagement and public consultations in Uganda is managed by the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) and the National Environmental Management Agency (NEMA), where ERA follows a process to approve the generation license for the mini-hydro project and NEMA issues the environmental clearance and distributes documentation to stakeholders as required.

In addition to formal community engagement, the Local Chairperson for the sub-counties (LC-3) as well as the Local Chairperson for the District (LC-5) hold meetings with the local communities on an as-needed basis (typically scheduled in the event there are grievances). For the Sindila project, the LC-3 is often the representative for the community – he has communicated the content of both the Environmental Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to the community members for Sindila sub-county, and has kept reference documents in his office in the Sindila-sub county in Butama Parish off of Lamia Road. There is no formal address for the office. The phone number for the office is +256-782-899-322.

After consulting with the LC-3 Chairperson and following various stakeholder consultation meetings, KMRI LLC re-surveyed the land, and prepared a new cadastral survey and implemented changes in the project design– specifically the amount of land taken for the project, to ensure that the community is fairly compensated. During the public consultation hearing held on December 16, 2014, design changes were presented to the community. At the end of the meeting attendees were asked to stand if they supported the project – everyone stood.

### **Organization of stakeholder consultations**

Stakeholder consultation and engagement for the proposed project was undertaken in accordance with NEMA guidelines for seeking opinions and views on the environmental aspects of projects. In this regard, prior to and/or during preparation of this ESIA, there were three key steps within the overall stakeholder consultation and engagement process:

- Identifying and notifying stakeholders of the proposed Sindila MHP and the ESIA;
- Holding meetings (formal and informal); and
- Making provision for stakeholders to provide their comments and concerns.

#### *Identifying and notifying stakeholders*

In order to identify all the relevant stakeholders including the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), the consultant reviewed the description of the proposed project and then conducted a site visit to confirm the proposed project footprint. While in the field, the

PAPs were identified and based on the observations at the proposed project site and the project description, other relevant stakeholders including government agencies were identified.

After identifying all the relevant stakeholders, a stakeholder consultation schedule was developed and each of them notified of the intended consultation meeting in advance. Based on the nature of the stakeholders identified, the notification was twofold:

- Formal notifications: This was mainly used for government officials through the delivery of a formal letter requesting for the consultation meeting.
- Informal notifications: This was mainly used for the local community members including the PAPs. The local government leadership (particularly local council 1 offices) were used to informally notify the local community members of planned consultation meetings. This typically consists of multiple microphone announcements being made during the course of the week prior to the meeting.

#### *Conducting stakeholder consultation meetings*

Based on the stakeholder consultation schedule and upon confirmation of the meeting with the specified stakeholders, the consultants met the stakeholders at the planned venue for the stakeholder consultation meeting. The medium of communication in the meetings was also twofold:

- For government official and other educated stakeholders, the medium of communication in the meetings was English. English was adopted for such meetings because it is the official language of Uganda and the medium of instruction in Uganda schools. So, all the educated stakeholders were able to understand and contribute in meeting using English.
- For the local community member including PAPs, a translator was first identified prior to the commencement of each of the meetings. This is mainly because of the multi-linguistic characteristic of Uganda as a nation, the main language used in Bundibugyo where the proposed project is to be located is Rukonjo. A translator was always selected from the local people before the commencement of the meeting.

In each of the stakeholder consultation meetings, the audience (stakeholders) were given opportunities to comment, suggest and ask questions which were dully answered.

#### **Public Hearing**

In fulfillment of the national requirements for Electricity (Application for permit, License and Tariff Review) Regulations, 2007; Section 8, ERA organized a public hearing for the proposed Sindila MHP which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Bulimba primary school (see Box 1 below).

## Box 1

The notice for the public hearing below was published in New Vision, Uganda's National newspaper, and Daily Monitor, one of the widely circulated private newspapers in Uganda on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014. This was in fulfillment of the national requirements for Electricity (Application for permit, License and Tariff Review) Regulations, 2007; Section 8 (1) of these regulations states that "The Authority shall, within forty days after receipt of a complete application for a license, cause a notice of the application to be published in the Gazette and in at least one national newspaper of wide circulation in Uganda. Section 8(2) that follow states the contents of such a publication.

English is the official language for Uganda and all the widely circulated news papers including the National news paper are in English, thus, the notice was in English; however, to ensure that the local stakeholders including PAPs who might not have access to the newspapers or only understand the local language are fully informed of the public hearing, the call for the public hearing was also announced three times on each of the two local radio stations based in Bundibugyo District (Development FM and UBC- Bundibugyo) in a local language, Rukonjo before the selected date for the public hearing.



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

*(Under Regulation 18 (2) of the Electricity (Application for Permit, License and Tariff Review) Regulations, 2007)*

The general public is hereby requested to **TAKE NOTICE** that the Electricity Regulatory Authority shall on the **16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014** hold a Public Hearing regarding the Application for a License for the Generation and Sale of **5.46 MW** of electricity from a hydropower plant proposed to be established across **Rivers Ndugutu and Sindila in Bundibugyo District.**

The Hearing shall be held at **Kagugu Primary School, Bunyamwera Village, Bundibugyo District** starting at **10:00a.m.**

Government agencies, Electricity sector stakeholders and persons affected by the application are hereby invited to attend the Public Hearing.

Directly affected parties and all stakeholders wishing to make presentations may register with the Secretary to the Authority not later than the **15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.** The Secretary may be reached through the following address:

**The Secretary**  
**Electricity Regulatory Authority**  
**ERA House, Plot 15**  
**Shimoni Road, Nakasero**  
**P.O. Box 10332, Kampala**  
**Tel: +256 414 341 852, +256 757 341 646**  
**Fax: +256 414 341 624**  
**Email: [info@era.or.ug](mailto:info@era.or.ug)**

### Key stakeholders consulted

Tabulated below is a summary of the stakeholders consulted for the proposed Sindila MHP; refers to details of the stakeholder consultations that follow.

Period	Date	Stakeholder
ESIA preparation	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Bundibugyo District Officials
	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Local community members
	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda
	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Uganda Museum
	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Rural Electrification Agency, Uganda
	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Directorate of Water Resource Management, in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
ESIA update	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2014	Uganda Wildlife Authority
	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Sindila Sub-county Technical Planning Committee
	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Rwenzori cultural leader; in charge of the cultural site approximately 2km from the proposed location of the weir
	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	PAPs of Sindila MHP
	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Potentially affected women, widows and female headed households
	08 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Owners of potentially affected structures (schools and churches)
	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Leaders of Bunyangule Catholic Church
	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Potentially affected elderly and orphans
	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Public hearing

## **Impact**

The final strip map is currently being finalized, and indicates that there is a total of 107 PAPs. These PAPs have been consulted with, and will complete the valuation exercise in Q1 of 2015. The number of PAPs does not include those affected by the construction of the transmission line. However, this is with the purview of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), who is responsible for the easements and compensation for those affected by the line.

The minimum flow of the river is 20 liters/second, however, it has been recommended by the Directorate of Water Development that the project should release 40 liters/second to account for any community-related activities (bathing, washing, drinking). In addition, it has been confirmed that the point at which the water is diverted from the river (weir) does not adversely affect any cultural activities as the area of worship is 2km from the project component.

The proposed project is in close proximity to a prospective hydropower facility - Ndugutu MHP.

In the event that the project development is completed within the near term and there is overlap in construction periods for the projects -- necessary approvals will be obtained. Furthermore, if construction of the projects fall within the community areas, there could be cumulative impacts linked to unidentified effects on communities and habitats – some examples have been listed below:

- An additional 1km line will have to be connected between the Sindila and Ndugutu projects for connection to the main grid
- Although water schemes have been determined for the Ndugutu river, the environmental flow for that project will have to be assessed to ensure there is enough flow for daily activities.
- Additional construction activities within a limited amount of land (as the projects are co-located) will create additional disturbances, which will have to be mitigated.