

## CHAPTER 7

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION & PARTICIPATION PROCESS

This chapter provides details of the public consultation and participation activities undertaken during the ESIA for the Karuma HPP. The project area includes mainly two districts of Kiryandongo and Oyam hence emphasis was placed on a fully-inclusive, open and transparent public participation process in the transfer of information regarding the Karuma Hydro power project. A number of stakeholders are involved in this project ranging from the Lead Agencies, district officials, sub county officials, the community and other stakeholders. Public consultation process started in 2010 during preparation of the inception report through to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

#### 7.1 LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES TO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The GoU's Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (1998) set out the minimum requirements for stakeholder consultation and engagement. The project must also address the consultation and engagement requirements of the IFIs involved in the project. Details about the consultation requirements that apply to the project are provided in Chapter 2 of this ESIA.

#### 7.2 MOBILISATION

In order to plan for the stakeholder engagement exercise, stakeholder analysis and mapping was undertaken. Based on the different interest of the stakeholders, **Table 7.1** below outlines the stakeholders groups that were consulted by the members of the ESIA team and their sub-consultants and summary of the information requirement.

**Table 7.1:** Description of stakeholders, consultation purpose and the information required for Karuma HPP

Stakeholder	Project Interest	Information Requirements	Engagement Mechanism
UEGCL	Need for electricity generation	Sources of energy generation, Power potential of the country, growing energy demands and its shortage	Formal/Periodic Meetings
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development	Implementation of the project and their environmental effects	Policy guidance in the development and exploitation of the energy resources,	Formal/Periodic Meetings and Site visit

		technical data in order to establish the energy	
Ministry of Local Government	Community mobilization, sensitization and dispute resolution	Information on agriculture, land use pattern, demography and etc. of the affected district area	Formal Meetings and site visit as per requirement
The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) (Department of Fisheries)	Sustainable management of fish and fisheries, Provision of Agricultural Advisory Services to farmers	Information on breeding grounds and fish stocks in the Nile River, Current strategy available for affected areas on the target, capacity available in areas to increase production, opportunities for marketing and value addition.	Formal Meetings
Directorate of Water Resources Management	Access to water resources	Kyoga Nile river water level and their uses, Likely indicators of water pollution and recommendations for mitigation.	Meeting
Uganda Wildlife Authority	Management and conservation of wildlife resources	Impact on wildlife resources.	Regular Meetings and Site visit
Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry	Aspect of trade	Interest of tourist and any tourism impacts.	Meeting
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development	Protection of women, orphans, elderly and physically challenged	Aspects related to equity and equal access to water sources, How the project will address social injustices in water access and current guidelines for gender mainstreaming and budgeting.	Meeting
Local Governments	Project benefits to the local community, Improvement in local community infrastructure, resolution of disputes on land holding	Basic infrastructure facilities in the affected project area.	Periodic Meetings and Site visit
Private Sector	Valuable resource for design, construction, operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct training and capacity building for both	Current capacity development needs, Existing financial services for the water user groups.	Meetings and Informal discussions

	central and local government staff. <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of other commercial services including mobilization of financial resources for water sector development activities.		
Non Governmental Organizations	Supplement the public sector efforts and ensure that concerns of the underprivileged/poor are catered for. <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of financial and planning support to communities and local governments.	Current interests of the local nongovernmental organizations in participating in social development and environmental restoration activities with the project	Meetings and Informal discussions

The mechanisms used for this assignment included information sharing meetings with the national and district officials of the government organizations, communities and local government staff and local leaders and non governmental organizations. The concerns and issues raised during consultation are discussed as below:

**7.3 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES**

Consultation was undertaken with local, regional, national and international interests and stakeholders. The purpose of these consultative meetings was to introduce the project with the stakeholders and to identify their comments and expectations with respect to the proposed Karuma project and ESIA process. The agencies that were consulted are outlined in **Table 7.2** below.

**Table 7.2: List of the Governmental Agencies consulted during ESIA process**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Mr. Raymond Engena	Concessions Manager	UWA	+256 772 459059 Raymond.engena@ugandawildlife.org
Dr. Festus Bagora	National Resource Management Specialist	NEMA	+256-414-250210 Email: fbagoora@nemaug.org
Maggie M Kyomukama	Department of Gender and Women Affairs	Ministry of Gender Labor and social Development	0772516778
Rviwondo Caroline Benda	SSDO, Senior Social Development Officer, Department of Equity and Rights	Ministry of Gender Labor and social Development	0772674188, Email carobendaus@yahoo.com
Mujuni Bernard Makuba	Principal Social Development Officer/ Human Rights Prog. Coordinator Equal Opportunities Commission	Ministry of Gender Labor and social Development	0772516778
Angiris Samuel Waimo	Specialized Safety Inspector, Department of Occupational Safety and Health	Ministry of Gender Labor and social Development	0779-737227
Ronald Nyakana	Urban Water Department, Water Authorities Division	Ministry of Water and Environment	0772439115
Eng. Christopher Azuba	Principal Engineer	Ministry of Water and Environment	0772498330
Jackson Twinomujuni	Assistant Commissioner	Directorate of Water Resource Management	0772838413
Aseka Kitakarugire	Assistant Commissioner	Directorate of Water Resource Management	0774008200
Martin Tumuhereze	Agricultural Engineer	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries.	0782244935
Wilson Waiswa Mwanja	Commissioner For Fisheries	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries.	+256 772 594 923
Alex B Muhwezi	Executive Director	Future Dialogues International	+256 702221499

#### 7.4 MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS

The views of the national and district official are discussed in line with negative and positive impacts that the project would have on their sectors. These include impact on local communities,

watershed management, water flow management, and tourism and management issues as well. The major concerns raised by the officials are discussed as follows:

#### **7.4.1 Tourism Concerns**

The main concern of stakeholders from the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry was regarding the visual impacts on the falls and water level due to new design of underground scheme under the Karuma HPP. Furthermore, they are also concerned about the downstream effects and possible impacts on the wildlife as part of the project lies within the KWR. The team agreed that the project may have visual impact but the study will determine the extent. However, appropriate mitigation measures would be proposed to reduce any impact.

They also felt that during construction phase poaching might occur and therefore penalty measures would have to be put in place. On the concern of water levels, the environmental and social impact assessment team noted that they would definitely be affected but water will be discharged back. The ESIA team consulted management of Chobe Lodge regarding local investments in the area, which revealed that management was very concerned on the tourism impact. The management authority also informed that no Government Agency ever asked for their opinion. According to management, tourist inflow might decrease, if impacts are not properly addressed. Currently Chobe Lodge is being marketed as a fishing destination apart from game and bird viewing. Consultations with staff at Uganda Wildlife Authority, it was noted that the authority did not know the impact of the reduced water budget and their effect on the Kyobe spot fishing site. The authority legally agreed with the site proprietors that the sport fishing takes place in the area. Hence, according to UWA, various agreements to be explored with emphasis on collaborative management with communities to reduce these impacts.

#### **7.4.2 Natural Resource Management Concerns**

Consultations with National Environment Management Authority focused on compliance of the project plan to the existing environmental legislation. According to Dr. Bagora, it is NEMA that would review the EIA and they are also concerned that aspects of the river banks and lake shores would be adequately addressed in the ESIA process. He also highlighted the social challenges in Kiryandongo like land shortage if any and how it is factored in the siting of the dam. The agency would also be interested in knowing whether there is degradation at the moment and whether then 100 meters buffer zone is observed by community members since the current trend is that people living or cultivating up to the water bank do not respect it.

They also shows concern on the growing problem of water hyacinth and has an opinion design should look at possibility of reducing water weeds and protected area. These must be looked as per the regulations of Uganda Wildlife Authority.

#### **7.4.3 Biodiversity Conservation Issues**

Major concern of the officials of Uganda Wildlife Authority was regarding the biodiversity affected due to the flow diversion, De-gazetement of part of park for human settlement, Increased Poaching etc. UWA raised the concern that the proposed Karuma HPP will kill the Karuma falls and shall loose the tourism value. They were also interested to know that how the amenity flow was determined. They also showed concerns that the how the land acquired by the NORPAK outside the KWR but not used by the project would be utilized. Detailed of the issues raised during the consultative meeting were attached as **Annexure 7.1**.

#### **7.4.4 Gender Equity and Responsiveness Concerns**

During the field visits, it is noticed that communities within the Karuma area already experiences different forms of vulnerabilities given that they are going through a post conflict situation. Consultations with the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development focused on exploring the options to include local communities in the development process within Kiryandongo. The staff within the ministry informed the team that there is community development staff called (CDO)S in every local government and at the Sub-County level. They are under the Sub-County chief and always available to oversee the community development function except Kiryandongo as it is a newly formed district in the Project area.

The ministry recommends that a review of the staff to be established for Kiryandongo Distrcit and other neighboring project area districts. These staff will be responsible for community mobilization, sensitization etc. These CDOs have to be oriented and trained in social mobilization, and should become part of the project management team. The people at the management level should make sure that they will include a community development officer, who will take care of gender responsiveness and inclusion. In terms of gender responsiveness, the ministry has policy guidelines which require that gender impact analysis should be undertaken as part of the project appraisal. It was recommended that a consultant, who can do gender analysis and include the specific heads of people, should also be brought on board. Additionally, occupational safety and health should be assessed and addressed in the project design.

#### **7.4.5 Equity and Rights Concerns**

Consultations with the Equity and Rights Department of the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development suggested that the local people need to be consulted regarding the project and resettlement process. The people should be resettled and they should also know the progress of the project. In case of displacement, they need to address the economic activities of the people, and the project should support income generating activities as well as provision of social services like construction of schools. In line with the equity principles and rights based approaches, it is recommended that project affected persons should be consulted adequately so that they can be compensated and the compensation should be worth the property that they own. Alternative ways of earning income should be provided to the people because displacement might interfere with their daily income activities.

People in that locality might have been using water body as a source of their water and should be put into consideration in ESIA. Safety measures should also be taken into consideration, as the project authority will use hazardous equipments. Finally, the project implementation unit should liaise with the department of equity and rights and get advice on local leakages and the legal and local frameworks available. Additionally, it should liaise with the equal opportunities commission on issues of complaints and alternative disputes resolutions and mandated institutions should also be involved in the project implementation process.

#### **7.4.6 Water Abstraction and Discharge Issues**

Consultations with the Ministry of Water and Environment raised concerns regarding the new type of technology to be used and affected diverted flow. The team recommended that diversion be avoided so that water flow continues normally having no or limited effects on water access for community members and other sectors like the fisheries sector. However, if they are going to use the old type of technology for example the one that was used in 1952 to construct Owen Falls Dam in Jinja, then it will significantly affect the ecosystem. Regarding effluent discharge, staff within the ministry noted that there will be no effluent discharge expected. Consultation was also done with Directorate of Water Resource Management and they recommended increasing the ecological flow from 50 cumecs to 100 cumecs. Other issues raised by DWRM are given in **Annexure 7.2**.

#### **7.4.7 Agricultural Related Concerns**

Consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries focused on the impact of water abstraction in Karuma in their respective sectors. It was observed that since both the energy and agricultural sectors are competing for the same resource, there are likely chances of impacts due

to the project. For example the local people will need the swamps, springs, and fishing from the same place. Positively it will be good for them because they will be able to get water upstream which is good for fisheries.

#### **7.4.8 Socio-economic Issues**

Concerns raised by non governmental organizations involved in the project area recommended that the design execution of the project should have adequate considerations for environmental like social, cultural and minority groups. Furthermore, there should be clear and sound interests and political interests should also be put into consideration because of the nature of the community. The community should be given a chance to access and appraise the project. There should be EIA and there should be participatory mechanisms of implementing the project at the communities so that people's views/stakeholders be taken into account. In terms of site specific concerns, staff at Future Dialogues international noted that project approaches should be multidimensional given their site specific conditions. For example, the concerns raised in Bujagali is passing through public land are different from those in Karuma which is within a national park. Government agencies responsible for protected areas should make sure that the area is suitable for location and also consider community issues at hand.

#### **7.4.9 Population Change Concerns**

A local area councillor raised concerns relating to potential population increase as a result of the project, the little resources amidst limited resources within local governments. She recommended that a plan be put in place to ensure that communities are able to cope with health issues especially regarding diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria which can not be ruled out. On education side, political leadership noted that there are only 2 to 3 primary schools which are incapable to handle the influx hence, need for construction of more schools. Demand for water is likely to increase and therefore more boreholes would be needed.

In terms of natural resources political leadership wondered whether the remaining running water after intake would be enough to the aquatic life. Furthermore, due to the influx and land being a fixed asset, could pressure on the wildlife reserve to be gazetted in Oyam and Nwoya as demand for land for settlement increases. Moreover, there are no gazetted areas for dumping waste prior to and after construction.



#### 7.4.10 Land Acquisition Issues

Regarding land acquisition and involuntary resettlement, local leadership narrated that five villages elected a committee during the NORPAK study to represent the local community. They recommended that the same structure should be integrated in the new project. In terms of cultural heritage and indigenous people, local leaders informed the team that community members have a cultural site where ceremonies are performed e.g. during opening of New Year to give blessings. Furthermore, leaders were aware that NORPAK got the piece of land, leased it and compensated the people who had to leave, by then, the project as per the new plan require some more land. The leaders requested Government to tell them the extra land to be acquired for the project so that local leaders can sensitize local people i.e. who will be shifted / compensated. Compensation rates for Kiryandongo and Oyam are different so these should be considered when undertaking the land acquisition exercise.

### 7.5 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

At the community meetings (**Figure 7.1**), information on the socio-economic studies, environment impact studies and other engineering related to the KHPP was discussed. The stakeholders and community members were then given an opportunity to raise their concerns regarding the proposed hydropower dam. The summary of the key concerns and observations of the different stakeholders are presented in **Table 7.3**. The key issues raised by the local community are presented in **Table 7.4**.



**Figure 7.1:** Stakeholders meeting at Karuma

**Table 7.3:** Summary of Stakeholder and Community concerns raised for Karuma HPP

Stakeholder Group	Key Concerns and Observations	Risk/Opportunity
District Local Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly happy that the project will commence soon because it would lead to socio-economic development.</li> <li>• Ensure that people are compensated before the project begins.</li> <li>• Environmental Management: There is need to ensure that wetland systems upstream are conserved so that there is sustainable water supply for the project.</li> <li>• Wetlands in Apac were cited and as far as Lira to be crucial for the water volume in the Nile.</li> <li>• Resource Valuation: In order to measure the cost of conserving water sources upstream, there is need to agree on methodology for attaching economic value to the wetland systems so that people understand the need for conserving them. In the past these were used for ritual practices but now that most are Christians; many don't see the need to conserve them. Furthermore, the demand for land has increased hence the encroachment into wetlands.</li> <li>• Increased demand for land: The value of land close to the project site has gone up especially in areas close to River Tochi which is an indication that there will be increased settlement in that particular area.</li> </ul>	<p>Suggests the concern of the community members who are already experiencing a number of hardships. Suggests the need to prioritise environmental conservation in order to ensure that the project is sustainable.</p> <p>Considering that sensitisation campaigns require budgets and hence the need to attach a value to the cost of conserving the wetland systems as a means of ensuring that water volumes do not fall.</p> <p>Suggests growth in the area but also potential for inequalities as some households could become landless.</p>
Uganda Wildlife authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-gazetement of part of park for human settlement: Park officials responded to requests by community members on the need for land in the park as a means of mitigating against relocation noting that the process requires an act of parliament</li> <li>• Increased Poaching: There is a</li> </ul>	<p>Suggests the concern amongst community members on loss of community network and businesses that have been established.</p> <p>Suggests concern for increased conflict</p>

	<p>general fear that poaching will increase in the park once clearing activities start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual impacts: if tunneling would have any visual impacts on the falls and if water levels will be affected. Also impacts experienced in the downstream and any possible impacts on the wildlife since part of the project is within the wildlife reserve e.g. poaching and possible effects on the water flow scheme.</li> </ul>	<p>between community members and park officials.</p>
Sub county Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Implementation: The place where the project will take place is vacant so there should be no need for resistance from communities.</li> <li>• Fluctuating Population: although most IDPs have returned home, others are still coming so there is need to plan for these changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Suggests that there is no need for compensation but communities think otherwise.</p>
Development Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities: There is a need to realize activities that who is doing what and where, need to build on work done previously by NORPAK rather than ignoring it.</li> <li>• Other benefits that are not clear are like Lake Kyoga especially upstream being considered highly for marine transport hence project might raise water levels for marine transport benefit. A lot of hydrology is to be considered.</li> <li>• Future Plans: There is need to look at future plans especially as population is likely to increase especially in Karuma where most people are likely to get concentrated</li> </ul>	
Communities in Project Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Requirements: community members suggested that traditional ceremonies be undertaken before the project begins.</li> <li>• Fishing Activities: there was fear that the project activities would interfere with the current fishing regimes for community members</li> </ul>	<p>Suggests the need to integrate culture in the planning process.</p> <p>Suggest the need for more sensitisation on</p>

	<p>with 100 fishermen benefiting from the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Acquisition Exercise: Most concerns regarded what compensation mechanisms will be used and whether there will be a grievance mechanism in order to facilitate arbitration.</li> <li>• Youth Unemployment: A general concern that the youth have been surviving on the Nile and will have no other source of livelihood, they suggested that they should be supported with inputs so that they can start undertaking agricultural activities.</li> <li>• Community Priority Needs: some of the needs that were mentioned included improved access to water sources especially Akurudia and support for alternative income generating activities.</li> </ul>	<p>compensation procedures and issues.</p> <p>Suggest the concern that unemployed youth could lead to increased crime in the area.</p>
LEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roles and Responsibilities: There role should be emphasised so that it can participate fully in the project.</li> <li>• Land Acquisition: Need to know how much land the project needs so that they can begin mobilization.</li> <li>• Fair Processes: Interest in protecting the rights of communities since there is a general perception that the indigenous people did not get fair compensation during last land acquisition exercise.</li> </ul>	<p>Suggests the need for more decision making powers that might be parallel to the LC leadership.</p> <p>Suggests disgruntlement amongst the indigenous Paluo since most of the people that benefited in NORPAK were IDPs.</p>

**Table 7.4:** Major issues raised by the local community during consultative meetings

Issue	Community concern
<b>Employment opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of youth are engaged in the fishing close to the intake and their livelihoods would likely to be affected, and therefore there is need to give them first priority during the recruitment exercise.</li> <li>• There is need for entrepreneurship training and provision of loans to the youth so that they can cope with changes in environment.</li> </ul>

<b>Utilities and Social Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is need for the communities to benefit from the project for example in Awoo, there are few boreholes and communities have limited access to safe water.</li> <li>• Community Priority Needs: some of the needs that were mentioned included improved access to water sources especially Akurudia and support for alternative income generating activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of Cultural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Requirements: community members suggested that traditional ceremonies be undertaken before the project begins and there is a need to integrate culture in the planning process.</li> </ul>
<b>Grievances</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Acquisition Exercise: Most concerns were regarding the compensation mechanisms grievance mechanism in order to facilitate arbitration.</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing Activities: there was fear that the project activities would interfere with the current fishing regimes for community members with 100 fishermen benefiting from the activity.</li> </ul>