



ETHIOPIAN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION GIBE III HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE HELD WITH THE PROJECT-AFFECTED UPSTREAM COMMUNITIES

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Public Consultations and Disclosures Held with Project- Affected Upstream Communities
(December 28, 2009- January 5, 2010)

1. INTRODUCTION

The upstream communities are expectedly affected by different activities of the Gibe III Hydroelectric Project like the Reservoir flooding and the structure of transmission lines, camps of the laborer and Chida-Sodao roads construction. Due to this, it is part and parcel of the Project to conduct a series of public consultation and disclosure campaigns around those communities. Accordingly, the Environmental and Social Monitoring & Management Team of Gibe III Hydroelectric Project carried out public consultations, disclosures and complimentary discussions with the upstream project- affected communities of the Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples Regional (SNNPR) State from December 31st, 2009 to January 5th, 2010. The team was composed of an Environmentalist, two Sociologists, two Public Relation Officers, Camera man and driver.

The main objective of the campaign was to provide accurate information about the benefits and adverse impacts of the Gibe III Hydroelectric project to the respective communities of Dawro, Welayta and Hadia Zones. Covering all the three zones, the team discussed and exchanged information with the wereda and zonal officials, peasant and agro-pastoral communities in their own local languages concerning the upcoming effects of the Project.

The public consultation has been conducted in a view to ensure the project has taken full account of priority for the project-affected Persons (PAPs).

2.BACKGROUND

Administratively, the reservoir stretches over five zones and eleven Woredas. However, all the works concerning the construction of the Gibe III scheme dam, tunnel, power house, switchyard, construction camps and access road are concentrated in a small area under the jurisdiction of the Loma Woreda of the Dawro Zone and Kindo Didaye and Kindo Koysha Woredas of Wolayta zone of the Southern Nations and Nationalities People Regional State (SNNPRS). The locations of different project facilities are shown below in table 1.

Table 1:- Locations of the Different Project Facilities

Region	Zone	Wereda	Project areas		
			Dam and other project facilities	Access road	Reservoir
SNNPR	Wolayita	Kindo Didaye	√	√	√
		Kindo Koysha	√	√	√
		Boloso Sore			√
	Dawro	Genal Bosa			√
		Loma	√	√	√
	Hadiya	Soro			√
		Gibe			√
	Kembata -Timbaro	Kacha Biro			√
		Omo Sheleko			√
	Yem	Yem			√
Oromiya	Jimma	Omo Nada			√

Source:- Public Consultation and disclosure document of Gibe III HEP

The Gibe III Hydropower Project lies in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Oromia Regional States. The largest share of the reservoir area (more than 95%) is within SNNPR. The SNNPR Regional Government is one of the regional states established by the Federal Government; the capital of SNNPR is Hawasa and the region is divided into Zones and Woredas (Figure 1).

Adverse Impacts and their Mitigation Measures by Project Components

Adverse Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Dam and Reservoir

The Gibe III Hydropower scheme comprises a 240m high dam which will create a huge Reservoir with a surface area of some 200 km² and a live storage of some 11,750 million m³. The Reservoir extends for about 160 kms over the narrow and deep Omo river gorge from elevation 670 to 892 m a.s.l. Starting from the Gibe III Hydroelectric Project site the Reservoir ends about 15 km downstream of Gibe II Power House, having a main direction to South-North.

The downstream reach of the Gojeb River is also comprised in the Reservoir for about 15 km. On the basis of the findings of this ESIA the key environmental impacts during the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the project have been identified. The potential negative impacts of the proposed Gibe III Hydropower Project on the physical, biological and socio-economic environment have been identified and benefit enhancement and mitigation measures that should be adopted to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts are recommended. Of which, some involve good engineering practices while others viewed from socio-economic as well as humanitarian angle.

There are no confirmed occurrences of geothermal activity in dam area and because of its distance from the major Ethiopia seismic centers, located in the rift valley; any tectonical event will have negligible effects on the project area.

Impacts on Protected Areas: No adverse direct or indirect impacts are anticipated in respect of sensitive habitat, National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, or National Forest Priority Areas. The reservoir area is neither contiguous with, nor in close proximity with any of these nationally protected areas like national parks nor wildlife sanctuaries reserves and designated ecologically sensitive areas. There is also no endangerment of endemic or rare species in the impounded areas.

Impacts on Natural Vegetation: The loss of woodland grassland on the hill slopes of the valley and narrow riparian vegetation along the river and streams would not bring about marked differences in the carrying capacity. However, to compensate this loss an estimated 60,000 ha of

land around the reservoir will be developed as buffer area and it is expected to support the bio-diversity conservation by enhancing the biological value of the area.

Impacts on Wildlife Resources: The area harbours only limited number of wildlife species and does not rate well with areas in Lower Omo. Therefore, there will only be a minimum opportunity cost loss suffered by the dam construction and creation of reservoir. During survey it was observed that on average the human settlement in the area is limited to an altitude of 1,300 m a.s.l. For the wildlife there are ample sites on both side of the river (up or down stream) as the maximum water level remains at around 900 m a.s.l. Therefore, most terrestrial animals can take refuge in the area between these two altitudes (900 and 1,100 m a.s.l.).

Impacts on farmland and other privately owned assets: The direct impact of the project in terms of loss of assets and property is summarized in Table 1 below. The project will affect a total of 355 households, about 188.94 hectares of privately owned land of which 138.7 ha is farmland, (excluding the TL) 47 residential housing units, and 71,852 perennial crops and other trees (see Table 0.1). The impacts of the Gibe III-Sodo transmission line include 192 households, 129 ha of farmland and 26,892 perennial crops and other trees.

Table 2:- Summary of Project Impact on Household Assets by Woreda and Project Component

	Households (No)	Private Land Affected (ha)		Residential (No) Houses	Perennial Crops and Trees (No)
		Total Land	Farmland		
By Woreda					
Kindo Didaye	165	81.89	63.62	31	58,388
Kindo Koyisha	69	25.56	19.14	2	613
Loma	121	81.49	55.94	14	12,851
Total	355	188.94	138.7	47	71,852
By Project Component					
Reservoir	58	97.55	70.14	0	6,523
EEPCO Camp	47	22.95	14.38	29	51,748
Chida - Sodo Road Realignment	250	68.44	54.18	18	13,581
Total	355	188.94	138.70	47	71,852
Gibe III-Sodo-Transmission Line					
Kindo Koyisha	105	-	70.79	105	7,320
Sodo Zuriya	20	-	30.90	20	1,523
Damot Sore	67	-	27.52	67	18,047
Total	192	-	129.21	192	26,892

Source:- Public Consultation and disclosure document of Gibe III HEP

As we can see from Table 2, one of the most important points to note is that although the Gibe III project is one of the largest hydropower projects ever undertaken in the country, the impact from the Reservoir in terms of population displacement is very small. This is because the

impounded water will be confined within the gorge of the river far from large population settlement areas.

The census survey (for the reservoir, EEPKO camp and the realignment road) revealed that all PAPs would prefer to receive their compensation in the form of cash for loss of farm land, perennial crops and other trees and houses and other structures. Therefore, given their preferences cash compensation and employment within the project has been recommended.

Due to acute shortage of resources especially land and low income and poverty of the population, it is believed that the main benefits for PAPs will come from the income restoration and social development programs. The recommended plan has two components: the income restoration and improvement component, which directly targets PAPs and a community or social development components for communities as well as PAPs to be implemented for project affected kebeles.

The communities around the future Reservoir area will also be affected directly as well as indirectly by the project including among others:

- Increased human and livestock health hazards,
- Loss of access to natural resources (firewood, grass, lumber, traditional beehives and various other forest products) due to submergence of forest and grassland resources,
- Loss of hot springs and holy waters,
- Loss of salty water pond and special soil bed used for cattle fattening, and
- Partial flooding cultural sites

The possibilities of establishing the PAPs in individual small-scale business or in small-scale agro-industries enterprises have proved in other areas valuable alternatives to the agricultural production.

Impacts on Tribal People: There are no tribal people or ethnic minorities around the Gibe III dam and reservoir area whose traditional lifestyles could become compromised through the implementation of the proposed hydropower project. Therefore, no indigenous people development plan will be required.

Impacts of Public Health: The predicted annual drawdown levels of approximately 90 m should ensure that neither snails nor macrophytes would flourish in the new impoundments. Therefore, public health impacts from various disease vectors species are, at this point, not considered to be a major factor affecting the implementation of the project. However, to reduce the risk of contracting malaria and to contain malaria cases, it is recommended to implement measures to manage malaria and control vectors.

The other serious issue that should be given due attention is the social issue related to the influx of labor force during the construction period. Particularly the spread of sexually transmitted diseases especially HIV/AIDS could tremendously increase unless strong control measures are taken. At the construction site, a quality health services will be provided to the construction employee's by establishing appropriate health facility. Awareness campaign on sexually transmitted diseases (STD/HIV/AIDS) and their prevention methods will be organized for the construction workers and local communities.

Impacts on Social Service Facilities and Infrastructure: The long stretch of Gibe III reservoir formation on the Gibe, Gojeb and Omo Rivers, will impact upon some social service facilities and infrastructures. These include submergence of Chida-Soda road section and the Bridge on the Omo River and several river crossings. It is planned to realign the road section downstream of the proposed dam site. It is also recommended to establish a boat service at the affected nine locations to provide service to transport people and their goods and livestock.

Impacts on Historic Sites: The historical sites known as King Ijajo Kella Walls will be partially affected by the reservoir. The sections that will be flooded are less than 2% of the total lengths and those sections are not unique in type and location and therefore, this impact is considered to be minor. As a compensation measures, EEPKO has financially assisted ARCCH to properly study, document and register these sites as parts of Ethiopian heritage and to promote and publicize this historic sites for both local and international tourists. The result of this study will also assist to prepare a management plan to protect, conserve and manage the remaining sites (more than 98% of the existing walls) from manmade and natural hazards. The project will also finance for the construction of access road to the nearest representative sites and with associated tourist services.

Although the UNESCO World Heritage Site is located in the Lower Omo Valley downstream of the Gibe III dam and reservoir site, it will not be affected by the construction and operation of the Gibe III scheme.

Adverse Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Gibe III-Sodo Transmission Line

The power produced by the 1,870 MW Power House at Gibe III HEP will be delivered to Interconnected System (ICS) through a 65 km long four double circuit 400 kV overhead transmission line that connects the Gibe III to a new substation at Sodo. This line will be 65 km long.

The transmission line towers will be constructed as self-supporting steel lattice structures. The normal spacing between consecutive towers will be approximately 350m. The footprint of the towers will be approximately 12m by 12m. A right-of-way, 50m in width and approximately in the centre of the way leave, is to be kept clear of both vegetation and structures. The right-of-way will be used for the footings of the transmission towers and as an access track for construction and maintenance of the transmission line. This land will also remain under the ownership of its present owners. As much as possible the route where practical, has avoided houses or settlements and agricultural areas.

The principal potential adverse impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project mostly relate to the land take requirement to accommodate the transmission line and the associate facilities. Many of the other potential impacts will be short-term and reversible in nature and stem from ground disturbance, operation of equipment's and housing of the labor force, but very few that will lead to permanent change.

However, no adverse direct or indirect impacts are anticipated in respect to protected areas (i.e. national parks, controlled hunting areas, protected forest areas, etc.), sensitive habitat, wildlife or cultural heritage sites and no new access will be created to previously undeveloped areas.

Realization of the proposed Gibe III-Sodo Transmission Line will have a varying degree of direct impact on productive farmlands belonging to the community in the affected Woredas throughout the rout line.

Therefore, the transmission line project will affect a total of 192 households, about 129 hectares of privately owned farmland, 192 residential housing units, and 26,892 perennial crops and other trees. Therefore, it is recommended to payment full and fair cash compensation, which leaves those, affected by relocation at least no worse off than they were previously.

Adverse Impacts and Mitigation Measures: Chida-Sodo Road Realignment

The most important town in the project area, Sodo, is connected to Addis Ababa by a federal road approximately 300 Km long crossing Mojo and Shashemene villages. Starting from Sodo two statal roads unravel, the Chida Sodo Road, passing through Bele and Lala villages, and the Sodo-Kindo Halala-Gerera road.

Direct access roads to the dam and Power House site are envisaged by means of two new roads on the Right bank and one the Left bank of the Omo River. Road R1, having total length of about 27 km, starts from the Chida-Sodo Road near the village of Bele, reaches the SP_1 temporary camp on the plateau, then goes down to the dam site at river level and goes up to the right plateau. This road will be opened for construction purposes only.

Part of the Chida-Sodo road from Bele town to Lala area will be relocated since the existing bridge on the Chida Sodo road, crossing the river Omo at a low level, will be submerged by the reservoir. The foreseen “relocation road” will be opened for construction purposes and will therefore become available for public use while completing the impounding of the reservoir.

The principal potentially adverse impact is the land and property expropriation associated with this realignment. Many of the other potential impacts will be short-term and reversible in nature and stem from ground disturbance, operation of equipment’s and housing of the labor force, but very few that will lead to permanent change. However, no adverse direct or indirect impacts are anticipated in respect to protect areas (i.e. national parks, controlled hunting areas, protected forest areas, etc.), sensitive habitat, wildlife or cultural heritage sites and no new access will be created to previously undeveloped areas.

In relation to engineering design, due consideration has been given during the detailed design stage to reduce the need for land and property expropriation without significantly compromising the functionality of the road. However, even with these considerations, although this impact has substantially reduced, the issue of land and property expropriation will still have to be addressed.

Based on the assessment result, the Chida-Sodo road realignment project will affect a total of 250 households, about 54.18 ha of farmland, 18 residential housing units, and 13,581 perennial crops and other trees. Most houses, however, are small and of simple construction, comprising wooden frameworks with mud plaster. Therefore, it is recommended to pay full and fair cash compensation, which leaves those, affected by realignment at least no worse off than they were previously.

Public Consultations and Disclosure

As a continuous activity, the Gibe III hydropower project has initiated public consultations and disclosure from the outset and the project is committed to continue the process throughout its life. A Public Consultation was initiated in 2006, 2007 and 2008 during the initial phase of the Gibe III- Hydroelectric project. As part of this continuous process, a series of public consultations were carried out at Federal, Regional, Zonal, Woreda and local officials and institutions, PAPs, community elders and NGOs levels. Consultations were carefully planned and conducted to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in covering key issues both from the PAPs and communities on the one hand, and the project interests on the other.

A combination of various consultation methods were used to assess knowledge, perception and attitude of the communities about the proposed project and its potential impacts. The methods used include interview with key informants/people, small group discussion and public/community meetings.

The overall number of the consultative participants drawn from administrative and community level amounts to more than 1,749, consisting of 203 Zonal and Woreda officials, 409 kebele

peasant associations, council members, 869 community members were consulted through community discussions and 268 individual household heads were consulted privately.

Discussion and interviews conducted with local community and their leaders indicate that their attitude towards the proposed project is positive. They believe such project would contribute to the attainment of local, regional and national development goals. However, they also expressed their fears and concerns.

3. OBJECTIVES

Public Consultations and Disclosure has been undertaken to address the rights of the project-affected Persons (PAPs) as it is stipulated in the FDRE Constitution, Article 92. “People have the right to full consultation and to the expression of their views in the planning and implementation of environmental policies and projects that affect them directly”.

Public consultations were held with the Federal, Regional, Zonal, Wereda and local officials and institutions, PAPs, community elders, NGOs, etc. with the following key objectives:

- To gather baseline information of upstream environment
- To identify potential negative and positive impacts of the project to the project affected upstream community as well as the associated appropriate remedial and enhancement measures that could be identified through public consultations with stakeholders;
- To solicit the PAP’s views on the project and discuss their involvement for the smooth functioning of the overall project operations;
- To discuss the nature and scale of adverse impacts of the project on their livelihoods and seek their participation in the project cycle;
- To give chances for the project affected upstream communities and their leaders to have a say and express their views in the project plan and implementation;
- To discern the attitudes of the upstream community and their leaders towards the project so that their views and proposals are taken into consideration in the formulation of mitigation and benefit enhancement measures;
- To give responsibility to Zonal and Woreda administrators to continuously consult and work together with the agro-pastoralist community about the Gibe III Hydroelectric project
- To discuss about the status and environmental and social management plan of Gibe III HEP to the project affected upstream community; and
- To increase public awareness and common understanding about the project and its acceptance among the upstream community.

4. FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

4.2. Consultations and Disclosure Held with Project- Affected Welayta Zone Communities

4.2.1. Consultations and Disclosure with Held Project- Affected Kindo-Koysha Woreda Officials and Community Members

As table 4 & 5 demonstrate below, 4 district officials and 79 Project-Affected communities participated at the public consultation and disclosure program. On December 31st, 2009, the Amharic version of the executive summary of ESIA and RAP documents were translated into Welaytigna by Ato Elias Getachew, an expert in the Woreda. The participants showed positive reactions and appreciated Gibe III HEP/EEPCo for such dedications and commitments.

Table 3:- Number of Participants from Woreda Office

No.	Participants	Position
1	Bezabih Zaza	Deputy Woreda Administrator
2	Pawlos Awano	Woreda Public Relation Officer
3	Degefu Wara	Head of Woreda Social and Labor Affairs
4	Elias Getachew	Language Expert

Table 4:- Number of Participants from the Project- Affected Community

Male	Female	Total
65	14	79

After presentation, a lot of questions and comments were raised and thereby the team tried replied based on the documents. Some of them are summarized below:

- the reason for the road construction to take this long to start
- concerned if the compensation will be paid for the crops affected
- concerned If the compensation will be paid for an individual who owned more than one location
- the availability of assistance in allocating the compensation with in each family

- Though we have agreed that we do not need any compensation for the land we may lose due to the construction of the road, we need to know what our government is doing in this regard.
- What kind of support would government provide us at the time we receive the money for compensation so that we can invest it in an efficient way?
- Root-plants are not registered during the property census; so how can EEP Co pay the compensation for these plants?
- appreciation for the committee formed consisting of the community elders
- access to electricity, clean water, clinics and other basic developmental activities in the community

In view of the above issues, the team members said that the Contractor has its own time schedule to run the activities and the community should have a patience and cooperation in all respects. In addition, they recalled that the community requested once EEP Co to redesign the Chida-Sodo road so that it passes through their village confirming that they do not need to be compensated for their properties to be affected due to the road construction. In response, although the road has been redesigned giving due respect for the public concern, the issue of compensation is still under consideration.



Figure 2:- Consultation held with Project affected Kindo-Koyisha Woreda officials and PAPs at Bele town

The Government of Ethiopia has a plan to electrify the country in near future. And therefore, the communities around Gibe III hydroelectric Project site will also have access to electricity. Of course, in so doing, the regional government will take part through prioritizing the towns and kebeles for the provision of electric power.

Regarding the support from government in terms of consulting community members how to efficiently employ their money obtained from compensations, it said that government will do its level best to assist the community in many respects so that they will invest it in some productive and sustainable areas.

Finally, Ato Bezabih Zaza, Deputy Wereda Administrator, said on his part that the translation of the ESIA and RAP documents of the Project into the local language is worthwhile to boost people's confidence on the Project. He also added that the Project has a lot of significance economic and social contribution for the community, and hence all the community members should show positive attitudes and cooperation towards the achievements of this Project.

4.2.2. Consultation Held with Project Affected Kindo-Didaye Woreda Administrators and Communities at Gucho Kebele

The following tables indicate that 180 Project-Affected communities, of which 19 were women, attend the consultation and disclosure program at the presence of the chief and deputy administrators. Like the Kindo Koysha, the documents were translated into the same language, Welaytigna on January 1st, 2010.

Table 5:- Number of Participants from Wereda Office

Participants	Position
Ocha Kuba	Wereda Administrator
Abebe Dubale	Deputy Wereda Administrator

Table 6:- Number of Participants from Project- Affected Community

Male	Female	Total
161	19	180

Major issues acknowledged by the participants were:

- Is compensation going to be paid for those who pushed to have the road pass through their town?
- The reason for the road construction to take this long to start and when will the construction start?
- Need for the support of the primary and secondary schools in the community
- Assurance for the implementation of the mitigation measures mentioned for the impacts of the project
- access to electricity, clean water, clinics and other basic developmental activities in the community
- The land which is going to be affected is already registered. What measure will be taken in case of a land which is not registered?
- Need for priority to be given to the project affected communities for the job opportunity created by the project.
- Need for education on prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS from mobile work forces to the local community.
- Are females will be able to participate in the project?
- appreciation for the allowing the road to pass though the towns according to the community's interest



Figure 3:- Consultation held with Project affected Kindo- Didaye Woreda Administrators and Community at Gucho Kebele

- the availability of assistance in allocating the compensation for those community members who lack direction on utilizing the money provided
- What kind of support would government provide us at the time we receive the money for compensation so that we can invest it in an efficient way.

The team member appreciated the active participation of the participants, and said that EEP Co has already registered the assets of the community for which compensation will be executed; and at the time of the census warning was also given to the owners not to build houses or grow permanent plants. If any, the Corporation will compensate for such acts. The team members also called on attentions that the community can grow some non-perennial plants until the resettlement and compensation program is implemented. However, if a land that would be affected by the Project is found unregistered during the census program, it will be reinvestigate. Regarding the support from government in terms of consulting community members how to effectively utilize their money obtained from compensations, they said that EEP Co will do all the level best to help the community in many respects so that they will invest it in an efficient and productive manner.

Similarly, the Woreda administrator, Ato Ocha Kuba appreciated the active participation of the community on the occasion; he also added that the translation of the ESIA and Rap documents into the community's language followed by open discussions is a good start.

4.3. Consultation and Disclosure Held with Project- Affected Dawro Zone Community

4.3.1. Consultation Held with Project Affected Dawro Zone and Loma Wereda Administrators

When the team members discussed in advance with the Woreda administrator, Ato Demssie Tanga Chawalo, about how the public disclosure program will be conducted, he pointed out the current widespread worry of the community especially the Yalo/Lala Kebele people earnestly asking for Chida-Sodo to pass through the town. According to him, many people have built business centers and living houses assuming the road will pass through the town. When the bad news of realignment of the Chida-Sodo road, one kilo meter away from the town, was heard, it had caused many people gloomy and irritated. So, as far as this question is not properly answered and confusion is not steering clear of, it is very difficult to discuss the impacts of the project and to the extent it also becomes unsafe to go down to the people to create favorable attitudes towards the project.

Finally, the team members agreed that there should be another meeting to be conducted prior to the public disclosure presided over the Zonal Administrator, Ato Damena Dalota, and the Gibe III Hydroelectric Project site Coordinator, Engineer Mebratu Teshome.

Table 7:- Number of Participants from Zone/ Woreda Offices

No	Participants	Position
1	Damene Damota	Zone Administrator
2	Melese Uro	Deputy Zone Administrator
3	Demisse Tanga Chawalo	Woreda Administrator

Table 8:- Number of Participants from Gibe III HEP

No	Participants	Position
1	Mebratu Teshome	Gibe III HEP Site Coordinator
2	Yacob Baraki	Team Leader of Environmental and Social Management Team at Site
3	Addis Tagele	Public Relations Officer (EEPCo)
4	Getaneh Kibret	Communications Officer
5	Elias G/Silasse	Member of Environmental and Social Management Team at Site
6	Betiglu Adane	Member of Environmental and Social Management Team at PIU

Meanwhile the team discussed the issue with the Gibe III Hydroelectric Project site Coordinator, Engineer Mebratu Teshome, about the raised issues by the Loma Wereda administrator, Ato Demissie Tanga Chawalo. In this case, Engineer Mebratu confirmed that taking the public concern into account it is very easy job for the Contractor to fulfill the public interest as compared to other social development activities so far done voluntarily by the contractor, Salini S.P.A Costruttori. It could not as well be a heavy duty for the Contractor to readjust the road design following the community's curiosity and for that matter letter of acceptance was written to the zonal administration to assure flexibilities.

"This zone is very beneficiary as compared to others; the Contractor has constructed about 57km road; it also built one high school with the cost of Birr four million and plans to construct another 10km difficult road in the Loma Woreda. From all these perspectives, there is a real commitment on our part to address the issues raised regarding the realignment of the road design; but it is the responsibility of the administration to persuade the people." said Engineer Mebratu.

On January 2, 2010, at the presence of Engineer Mebratu, Ato damena Dalota (Zone Administrator), Ato Melese Uro (Deputy Zonal Administrator), Ato Demissie Tanag Chawalo (Loma Woreda Administrator) and the Environmental and social Monitoring and Management Sub-Process team of the Project gathered at Loma Woreda Administration Office, Gasa town, to discuss the issue of the realignment of the one-kilometer road.



Figure 4:- Consultation held with project affected Dawro Zone and Loma Woreda Administrators

Ato Damene said the living condition of the people in Woreda is showing a significant improvement as a result of the emergence of the project. However, according to Ato Damena, when the news heard that the road readjusted in such a way that one kilometer away from the center of the town, the community starts to look at the project as if it were not that much concerned for them. Once the misconception had been prevailed among the community, no one is ready to accept the idea the project has promised to the Zone administration through an official letter.

On the other hand, the rescheduling of the construction of the road for two years or so has also brought uncertainty for the realignment of the road. According to him, this also adds fire on the misconception.

Engineer Mebratu once again ascertained that the Contractor of the project has due respect for the public questions and interest and hence the road will realigned according to the petition signed. As far as the postponement of the construction of the road is concerned, it is a matter of prioritizing things that the contractor set and currently most of the work is on the left side of the project; so, there has to be a patience as the project management does not have a power to intervene in its time schedule.

After a lot of discussions, it was finally recommended that Engineer Mebratu and the Zonal and Woreda administrators have to attend the public disclosure plan at Yalo/Lala Kebeles in order to clear off the blurred illusions about the road readjustment, and it was scheduled on Sunday, January 3rd, 2010, in the afternoon.

4.3.2. Consultation Held with Project Affected Loma Wereda Communities at Yelo Kebele

Table 9:- Participants from Zone and Wereda Offices

No	Participants	Position
1	Mesele Uro	Deputy Zone Administrator
2	Demisse Tanga	Woreda Administrator

Table 10:- Participants from Project Affected Community

Male	Female	Total
151	9	180

On January 3rd, 2010, the meeting was opened by the Woreda Administrator, Ato Demissie Tanga Chawalo introducing Engineer Mebratu Teshome and other members of the environmental and social monitoring team of the project to the Project-Affected community. In particular, he stated well that the presence of the Site Coordinator of the Project at the meeting is to make clear the issue of road readjustment issue.

On the meeting 160 people attended, of which 9 are female. They were all eager to hear about the decision of the road readjustment from the concerned person. Accordingly, Engineer Mebratu welcomed and thanked all the participants, and he said he understood the interests of the community in the realigning of the road, which they industriously required to pass through the Yalo/Lala towns. And he also assured them the contractor is happy to keep the interests of the community and the construction will be done accordingly. Immediate he forwarded the subject that the road will pass through the town where the people laid interest; all the participants stood up from their seat to welcome the good news and expressed their gratitude with lengthy applaud.

After the road realignment case has been settled, the public disclosure and discussion continued.

The Loma Woreda people are going to be affected by the reservoir and road construction, and hence, the ESIA and RAP documents have been translated into their languages, Dawroigna; they said that they are very happy about the emergence of the Project which has enabled them access to infrastructure development activities including job opportunities.

Among the major points rose:

- We are very happy with the implementation of the Project.
- We thank you since you came here to discuss with us
- We are ready to support and work with you in every aspect in the future
- We know that this project is big and going to give broad benefits to the country
- Do female and males are participated equally?
- HIV/AIDs is becoming a serious danger in Project area following the influx of workers, in particular women are victims of the case. So, what mechanism should the project management will do for these people



Figure 5:- Consultation held with project affected Loma Woreda Community at Yelo Kebele

In giving responses for the issues raised, the team members said that the Project has due consideration for women to be employed throughout the project life, in particular, when the work is at peak.

As far as HIV/AIDS is concerned, efforts are underway to create awareness and bring behavioral change through peer- educations in collaboration with other local and international stakeholders.

According to the team members, the Project will take some considerations for those who need special support during the resettlement program. As a final point, Ato Melese said the living condition of the people in the Woreda is showing a significant improvement as a result of the emergence of the project. “I can dead surely say that we are the most benefited communities at the early stage of the project. We are also expecting that the project will bring us a sustainable development for our zone; for that matter we should strive for its successful achievements”.

4.4. Consultation and Disclosure Held with Project Affected Communities of Hadiya Zone

4.4.1. Consultation Held with Soro Woreda Community at Umaro (Gebebe Lenge Kebele)

Table 11:- Number of Participants from Zone/ Woreda Offices

No	Participants	Position
1	Tagesse Ergeno	Policy Issues Study Follow up and Evaluation Department Head
2	Tirrore Abese	Deputy of PRO of Soro Woreda
3	Abebe Abune	Kebele Administratotor of Sheno

Table 12:- Number of Participants from Project Affected Community

Male	Female	Total
91	-	91

The participants came from Gebebe Lenge, Sheno, Ombe Lenge, and Burfa Lenge kebele of Soro Woreda. The team expressed the positive impact as well as proposed mitigation plan for negative impact of Gibe III HEP the participants.

The following major issues were raised by the community members after they paid attention for the impacts of the Project in their own language, Hadiyigna:

- When will the externalities of the project happen to us?
- We are ready support you in every aspect of the Project's activity.
- When our land is flooded by the reservoir, where do we find grass for our livestock?
- We face many problems while we take our livestock to different grazing land in Dawro Zone, Yem Wereda, Welayta Zone, Silte Zone, and Oromia region. The government of Ethiopia should help us to use grazing lands for our livestock in every region and zones of Ethiopia.
- We request EEP Co to expand basic developmental activities like access to electricity, road, clinics, schools, transportation services for us.



Figure 6- Consultation held with Soro Woreda Community at Umaro (Gebebe Lenge Kebele)

On the basis of the comments from the participants, the team members replied that EEPCo has considered all the challenges rose in advance; for that matter, it has planed to construct a big bridge across the gorge at a central place where most of the agro-pastoralists and other community members use frequently. Furthermore, there is also a plan to provide a boat services in some selected areas to lessen the difficulties.

4.4.2. Consultation Held with Gibe Woreda Community at Morkera (Awosa Kebele)

Ato Tadesse Ergeno, Policy Issues Study Follow up and Evaluation Department Head, was the only participant in this Kebele.

Table 13:- Number of Participants from Project Affected Community

Male	Female	Total
67	-	67

In the same way, the executive summary of ESIA and RAP documents were also translated into Hadiyigna for the Project-Affected communities. There was a positive feedback from the community, too.

Issues identified/raised by the community were:

- We would like to thank EEPCo for coming here and discuss with us
- We request EEPCo to construct road help us transport our livestock to Yem Wereda, Dawro Zone and Welayta Zone

- Please do not give our lands for investments
- We need the introduction of modern farming system in our area.



Figure 7:- Consultation held with Gibe Woreda Community at Morkera (Awosa Kebele)

The team members finally appreciated the presence and active participation of the officials and the community. They also mentioned that the public consultation and disclosure campaign will be conducted the communities more frequently and asked for similar coordination in the future

5. SUMMARY

From the public consultation and disclosure campaign carried out from December 28, 2009 to January 5th, 2010, the Environmental and Social Monitoring & Management Team has observed the following major points:

- There are misconceptions towards Gibe III HEP among the communities and various bodies.
- There are fears and anxieties among the local community members and even among local governments about Gibe III HEP.
- There are commitments and wishes of the local authorities to contribute their part for the success of the project.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The team also wants to recommend the following as per the above observations:

- Public consultation and disclosure plan should be implemented on regular basis.
- There should be continuous awareness raising programs for the Project-Affected Communities and other various stakeholders of the Gibe III HEP.
- Commitments and wishes of the local governments to contribute their part is a good opportunity that should be exploited.
- Continuous public relations work in collaboration with the local authorities is required. Some social development plan which can improve the livelihood of the community should be implemented before the dam begins its operation to create positive image for Gibe III HEP.
- It is better for Gibe III project to work on Environmental and Social Issues very closely with Gibe I, II and IV projects.