NEPAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY



DRAFT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR TL-3 OF THE PRIORITY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECTS

(III) Inaruwa - Anarmani Transmission Lines and Substation



In association with



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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATION

BCN	Bird Conservation Nepal
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BS	Bikram Sambat
CAAN	Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal
CDO	Chief District Officer
CFUGs	Community Forests Users Groups
CIA	Cumulative Impact Analysis
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CR	Customer Relationship
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DFOs	Division Forest Officers
DIA	Direct Impact Areas
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
DoED	Department of Electricity Development
E&S	Environment and Social
EC	Empowered Committee
EHS	Environmental, Health, and Safety
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environment Management Plan
EMS	Environment Management System
Env.	Environment
EPA	Environment Protection Act
EPR	Environment Protection Rule
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESPoE	Environmental and Social Panel of Experts
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GoN	Government of Nepal
GRC	Grievances Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HHs	Households
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IIA	Indirect Impact Areas
IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature



KIS	Key Informant Survey
Km	Kilometres
kV	kilovolt
m	metres
M	Municipality
MoEWRI	Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MW	Megawatt
NEA	Nepal Electricity Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGOs	Non – Governmental Organizations
PAFs	Project Affected Families
PIU	Project Information Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RM	Rural Municipality
RoW	Right of Way
SEP	Stakeholder Management Plan
TL	Transmission Line
TLs	Transmission Lines
ToR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Federation





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1 INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The sustainability of any infrastructure development project depends on the participatory planning. Recognizing the significance of participatory planning, NEA has prioritized consultation with key stakeholders as part of the overall planning process of the Priority Transmission Line Projects to inform and take their concerns as the various components of the project including transmission lines (TLs) are being considered. It assisted in identification of the problems associated with the project, past experiences of line departments in execution of similar nature of projects as well as to overview the needs of the population likely to be affected. The stakeholder's consultation is a continuous process throughout the project period, from planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. This participatory process would help in generating stakeholder support for the project and enable the participation of the local people in the decision-making process. This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is designed to inform ongoing identification and consultation with local communities as part of the technical feasibility as well as the environmental and social assessments of the priority TLs and substations.

This SEP identifies the project-related stakeholders and describes how these stakeholders will be consulted throughout the project duration. The information used to design the SEP are preliminary based on the present surveys and related studies. Throughout the project duration, this document will be updated. The outline of the SEP is as follows.

- i. Stakeholders Identification and Analysis
- ii. Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- iii. Strategies for Information Disclosure
- iv. Roles and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities
- v. Grievance Mechanism
- vi. Monitoring and Reporting
- vii. Estimated Budget

1.1 Project Background

The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is prioritizing the development of the three transmission lines and two new substations (400 kV/132 kV New Anarmani Substation located at Haldibari RM ward 1, Jhapa District and 400/220/132 kV New Tingla Substation located at Tingla next to existing 132/33 kV Substation in Solududhkunda Municipality ward 11, Solukhumbu District). There are three 400 kV double circuit transmission lines under Priority Transmission Line Project, which include: TL-1: 400 kV Arun Hub-Inaruwa (95km) and substations, TL-2: 400 kV Arun Hub-Tingla-Dudhkoshi (110km) and substations; and TL-3: 400 kV Inaruwa-Anarmani (91 km) and substation. The proposed TLs and substations are envisaged to evacuate the energy generated from planned hydropower projects in the respective corridors and make the system more reliable. The estimated average height of the tower will range from 60 to 75 m and the types of tower will be DA/DB/DC/DD in major portions while in the proximity to the



substations, multi-circuit vertical tower configuration is suggested. The average tower pad area will be 35 m X 35 m. The Right of Way (RoW) of the TL will be 23m on each side from the centre line, starting from Inaruwa to Anarmani. Quad Moose conductor has been proposed based on N-1 Contingency.

1.2 Project Location

TL-3: 400 kV double circuit Inaruwa to Anarmani transmission line will have new Anarmani Substation at Jhapa District, which passes to Morang District and connects to the Inaruwa substation located at Sunsari District of Province 1 of Nepal. The project location is given in Figure 1, with details of the alignment shown in Figure 3.



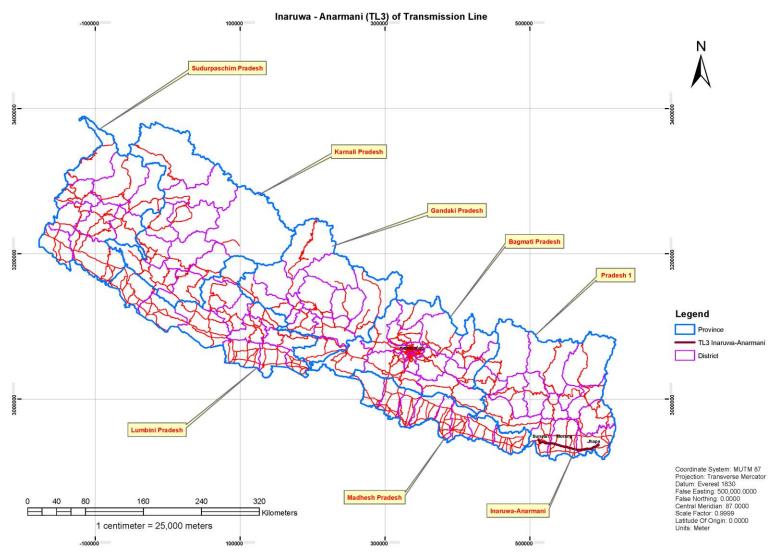


Figure 1 Project Location (Source: ARC Map 10.8 and MoFAGA)





1.3 Understanding of Project

As per the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Transmission System Development Plan of Nepal (2018), power generation from different hydropower projects in the vicinity of Arun Inaruwa Tingle region for Year 2040 is expected around 3450 MW. The proposed new TLs and substations are envisaged to evacuate the energy generated from hydropower projects in the respective corridors and make the system more reliable. The Priority TL project will be helpful in bringing the generated hydropower energy into the national grid through following transmission line: TL-3: 400 kV Inaruwa-Anarmani (91 km) and substation.

Based on the desk study, the proposed transmission lines is as follows:

- TL-3: 400 kV Inaruwa to Anarmani (91km), from Inaruwa, Bokraha Narsingh Rural Municipality, ward 4 Inaruwa substation, Sunsari District to Anarmani, Haldibari Rural Municipality, ward 1, Jhapa District. The settlements include Bokraha Narsingh, Inaruwa, Duhabi, Budhiganga, Gramtham, Kanepokhari, Rangeli, Sunawarshi, Ratuwamai, Gauraiganj, Gauradaha, Jhapa, Barhadashi and Haldibari.
- Elevation of the line varies from 81 m to 91 m
- Total length of the Transmission line is about 91 km
- Transmission line between Inaruwa to Anarmani is Terai region.
- The route passes from two community forests of Sunsari and there are no forests in Morang and Jhapa districts. Most of the route pass from agricultural land and settlements (in zone of influence).

The details of protected areas are given in Figure 2, whereas the priority transmission line is shown in Figure 3.



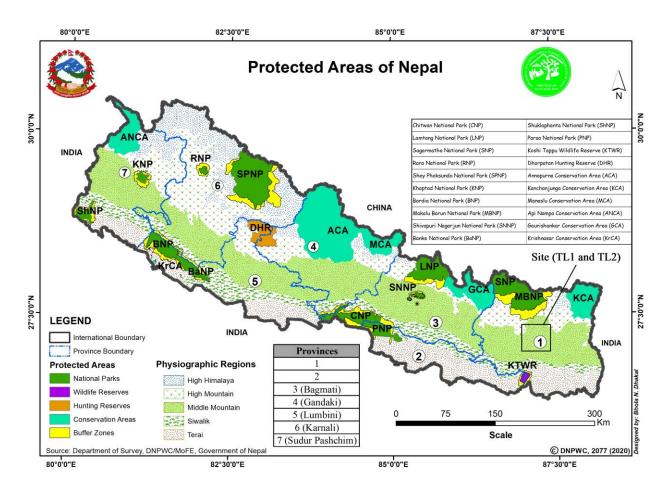
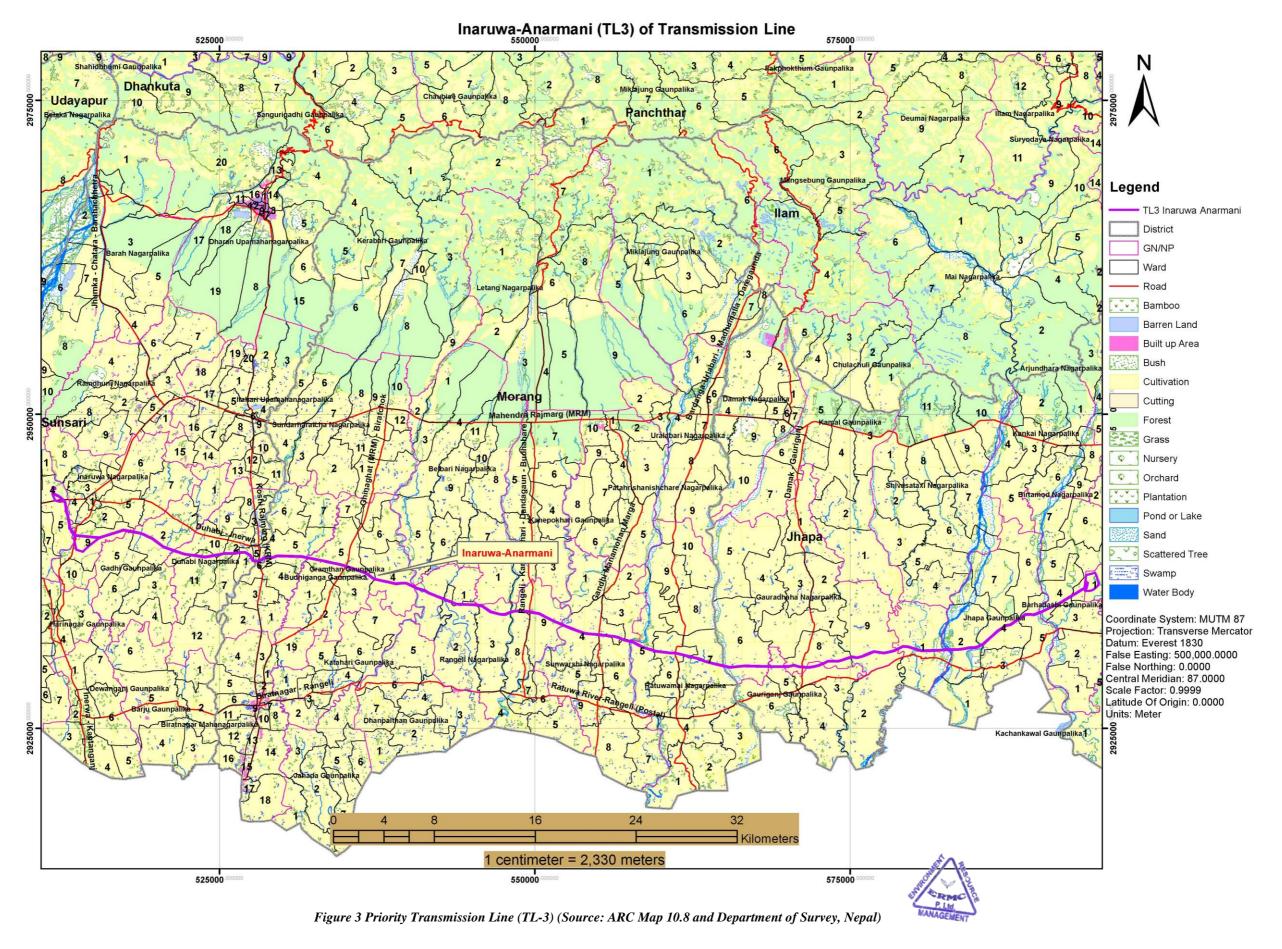


Figure 2 Protected Areas of Nepal (DNPWC, 2020)









1.4 Impact areas delineation

The project construction and operation activities and related direct and indirect implications on the natural and social environments is identified in the delineation of the project impact area. The key direct Environmental and Social impacts of the project relates to the construction of tower at an interval of certain meter along the transmission line route to support the conductors. Similarly, the stringing of conductor will require clearing of the land below the conductor including vegetation, crops and built structures to avoid damage to the conductor. Though required total clearing width is limited to the safety height underneath the position of hanging conductor in the construction phase, built structures and tall trees need to be removed within the entire zone of the transmission line Right of Way (RoW) for safety during the operation phase. For this project, the RoW width as per national and international practice is 46m, i.e. 23m on either side from the center of the transmission line route. Within the RoW, all tall trees will be removed. The operation phase activities are confined within the RoW for the maintenance of the RoW corridor and maintaining operation safety from the trees or any other objects to the overhanging conductor. Except for the occupation health and safety and community health and safety, the other direct impacts on terrestrial ecology etc are generally less than the construction period.



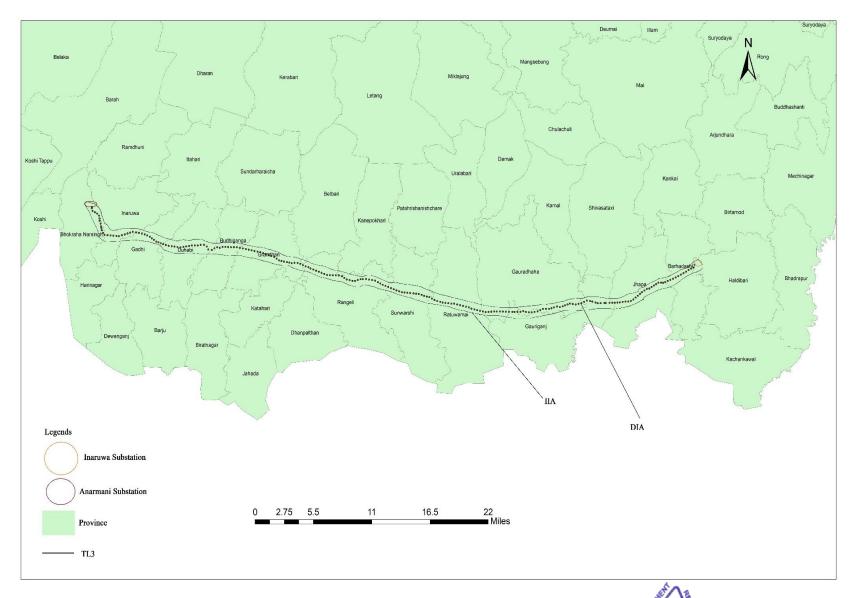


Figure 4 Impacts Areas of TL3 (Source: ARC Map 10.8 and Department of Survey Nepal)



Direct Impact Areas (DIA): The term DIA (Figure 4) consists of 46m wide Transmission Line RoW encompassing 23m on each side of the alignment measured from its center line. It further includes: Locations of access trails to reach the tower foundation and RoW and Locations of construction camps and storage yards for construction material.

Indirect Impact Areas (IIA): The Term IIA (Figure-4) lies outside the DIA and is broadly categorized into two: i) High Indirect Impact Zone and ii) Low Indirect Impact Zone.

The High Indirect Impact Zone includes:

• Settlements within 250M from the corridor of the Transmission line route in particular are the High Indirect Impact Zone.

The Low Indirect Impact Zone includes:

• geographical boundaries of the RM/M situated across the transmission line route in general are the Low Indirect Impact Zone.

1.5 Objectives of Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The Stakeholder Engagement help in sharing information related to the project from early stage to the project affected people as well as other stakeholders at Central level, Provincial level as well as local level. This will allow the stakeholders to understand the possible risks, benefits, and other aspects of the project. Through the implementation of the SEP, the concerns and ideas of stakeholders will be noted as part of final designs of project infrastructure. It also serves as a tool for managing environmental and social risks. Specifically, the SEP will:

- establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help client to maintain good relationship with the project affected people.
- consider the stakeholder's views on the project during the design stage to improve the effectiveness of environmental and social risks management of the project.
- disclose project information on environmental and social risk management to the project affected people through appropriate means.
- Organize periodic consultations with the project stakeholders to make them aware of the project activities
- Establish Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) that offers a structure for uptake and resolution of project-related complaints and grievances, including the grievances related to the SEA/SH, allowing NEA and contractors to respond and manage raised issues and grievances



1.6 Current Stage of the TL Project

The typical TL project include the planning, feasibility and design stage, pre-construction stage, construction stage and operation stage. Currently the TL-3, project is at the final design and final feasibility stage. The Nepali Terms of Reference for TL-3 was approved by Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation. The DED consultants have finalized the route of TL-3. The final baseline data collection for Physical and Chemical Environment, Biological Environment and Socio-economic and cultural environment has been complete. Final data compilation and processing has been done.

1.7 Summary of Potential Environmental and Social Risks Based on Preliminary Consultations

Followings are the Potential environmental and social risks and impacts based on preliminary consultations done with local communities, officials of Rural Municipalities, Municipalities as well as Officials of Ministry of Forests, Environment and Soil Conservation, Province 1 till October 30th, 2022.

- Potential impact on biodiversity.
- Land acquisition and displacement.
- Potential impact on avifauna.
- Forest fire and possible landslide.
- Risk of forest land fragmentation.
- Health and safety impacts on workers and local communities including the potential for spread of COVID-19

The safeguard instruments required by the World Bank's ESF (e.g., SEP; ESIA; ESMP; ESCP; BMP; RAP/RPF; CIA; etc.) and Nepal legislation (i.e., IEE) that are under completion process which will be completed by end of November, 2022. The dissemination of the study will be done via Public hearing which have been scheduled from 23rd to 30th November in all project affected Municipalities and Rural Municipalities.



2 STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Project Stakeholders Identification and Analysis

Project stakeholder mapping involves identifying the relevant project stakeholders or groups of stakeholders based on their interest and ability to influence the project and/or be impacted by the project. An initial mapping was done during the site visit in September/October 2021. No further mapping is required as initial mapping was done earlier and the SEP has been revised as draft SEP before Public Hearing period. This is the second step towards the preparation of the draft SEP.

As the part of SEP, consultations were done in all Project affected Municipalities and Rural Municipalities with FGDs were also done in the month of September/October, 2022. The IEE/ESIA should reflect the comments and responses to various consultations. Project information were disclosed from very early of the project so that the land owner easily can know if their lands or structures are affected. The topographic maps with tower location were submitted to the project affected Municipalities and Rural Municipalities with short description of the project and also contact address of the Client.

Project-affected parties

- Project Affected Families, whose lands and other assets fall within the 23m RoW, and may be physically or economically displaced by the TLs project.
- Farmers and Vegetable traders
- Committees and *Guthis* responsible for communal and public structures, e.g., temples and shrines
- Project Affected Rural Municipalities/Municipalities where TL route alignment lies.
- District Administration Offices of the affected districts
- Project Affected Districts from which the TL routes pass.
- Individuals and organizations within the area of Influence or Zone of Influence, e.g., residential and commercial establishments
- District Level-Chief District Office, Forest Directorate, Province 1, Division Forest offices, Sub-division Forest offices, District Coordination Committee associated with Project Affect Districts, Community Forest User Groups.
- Provincial Government-Ministry of Forests, Environment and Soil Conservation, Province 1, where the TL routes lies.

Other Interested parties





- Central Level: Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI), Department of Electricity Development (DoED), Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).
- Utility companies including power, telecommunications, and water
- NGOs Bird Conservation Nepal, IUCN Nepal and WWF Nepal.
- Political parties of Nepal in Province 1
- Media-National Newspaper and Local Newspapers of Province, TV stations, FMs-Local of Province 1.
- Educational and Training Institutes
- Hospitals or Health Institutions
- Tour and Trek Operators
- Internal Stakeholders, e.g., Supervision consultants, suppliers, contractors workforce, sub-contractors
- Potential project financiers, e.g., World Bank

The list of possible municipalities to be affected is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Possible Project affected Municipalities and RM in Project District for TL 3

Local bodies	Districts	Rural Municipality	Municipality
	Sunsari	Bokraha Narsingh (Wards	Inaruwa
		4,5)	(Wards 4,9)
		Gadhi (Wards 2,5)	Duhabi (Ward1,2,5,6,7,10,11)
	Morang	Budhiganga (Ward 5)	Rangeli (Wards 1,2,3,8,9)
		Gramtham (Wards 3,4)	Sunawarshi (wards 3,4,6)
		Kanepokhari (ward 1)	Ratuwamai (5,6,7)
	Jhapa	Gauraiganj (Wards 1,3,5)	Gauradaha (Ward 6,8,9)
		Jhapa (Wards 2,4,5)	-
		Barhadashi (wards 4,5)	-
		Haldibari (ward 1)	-

Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups consist of people who may not be able to access project information owing to certain barriers that disadvantage them. These groups may include poor and low-income households, low caste groups such as Dalits, widowed women, elderly, minority religious groups, etc. The processing of the final social data is underway and after the processing of the data, by November 21th, 2022; during draft ESIA stage, the ESIA consultant will identify those project-affected parties (individuals or groups) who, because of their circumstances, may be



disadvantaged or vulnerable. Based on earlier site visit, separate focus group discussions were held to consult and inform them about the project to such Vulnerable Groups. The concerns and suggestions of the vulnerable groups were noted and will be addressed in Draft IEE/ESIA stage. During the social survey, the local people were also engaged for data collection and filling of the forms. This has saved the time as well as resource sharing as stipend to the surveyors was possible.

2.2 Stakeholder Analysis

There are four districts with seven Municipality and four Rural Municipality, which will be affected by the implementation of TL3. The representatives of these local bodied will influence the project as the recommendations need to be taken from them. Similarly, for forest clearance, the role of Ministry of Forests, Environment and Soil Conservation, Province 1, Forest Directorate, Division Forest Offices as well as Community Forest Chairman will be very important. Besides these, the local people affected by the project within the TL alignment, also play important role in overall progress of the project.

2.3 Preliminary stakeholder engagement activities

First preliminary site visit was done from September 06 to October 28, 2021 to understand the proposed TL alignments and accessibility issues, following decline in COVID-19 transmissions and heavy rainfalls. The second visit was done in October 2021 with informal consultations with the local people who land will be affected as land under RoW along the routes without publishing a notice for consultation. At central level, consultation with Bird Conservation Nepal was also done so as to prepare for bird data collection. During the consultation following issues were discussed:

A summary of the consultations carried out for TL3 is given in Table 2.



Table 2: Preliminary stakeholder engagement activities on month of September/October in TL 3

Local bodies	Districts	Rural Municipality	Municipality	Issues Discussed	Initial Stakeholder Concerns	
	Sunsari	Bokraha Narsingh (Wards 4,5) Gadhi (Wards 2,5)	Inaruwa (Wards 4,9) Duhabi (Ward1,2,5,6,7,10,11)	 TL1 routes and possible localities to be affected by the project Impact areas and 	Land of RoW and their evaluationJob opportunitiesLoss of	
	Morang	Budhiganga (Ward 5) Gramtham (Wards 3,4) Kanepokhari (ward 1)	Rangeli (Wards 1,2,3,8,9) Sunawarshi (wards 3,4,6) Ratuwamai (5,6,7)	benefits of the TL	community forestsImpact of high voltage current on human and agriculture	
	Jhapa	Gauraiganj (Wards 1,3,5) Jhapa (Wards 2,4,5) Barhadashi (wards 4,5) Haldibari (ward 1)	Gauradaha (Ward 6,8,9)			



2.4 Issues Related to Past TL projects to be included under Stakeholder Plans

Followings are some E&S issues related to Past TL projects like preliminary 400 kV TL of Upper Karnali HEP and 400 kV TL of Millennium Challenge Account Nepal Development Board are listed below, which will be discussed with Stakeholders in different stages of the project

- Adequate compensation for those affected in RoW
- Adequate compensation for those severally affected
- Provision of scholarships, royalties, improving education and health infrastructure
- Adequate compensation and rehabilitation for those affected
- Employment opportunities and skills enhancement training
- Manage impacts of influx workers on the community
- Biodiversity conservation
- Shifting the Towers away from the settlements





3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PLAN

Stakeholder consultation is fundamental to building trust with the communities. Meaningful consultations and engagement with the communities allow projects to identify key stakeholders, understand sensitive issues within each stakeholder groups and develop appropriate engagement mechanism to ensure communities are consulted on a regular basis and are aware of the Project and its impacts, obtain important baseline data from the communities, and establish a two-way communication with the communities. The stakeholder Engagement Plan was prepared during early stage and has been implemented in different stage. The project coordinator has considered skilled, semi-skilled as well as unskilled local residents (community member) from the project affected districts for their involvement during baseline data collection and Household surveys. The following steps will be taken to update the SEP for preparation of the final SEP:

During IEE Stage and After Approval Reports

- *Meeting with local bodies after publication of 7-day notification*
- Public hearing in each Municipalities/Rural Municipalities to cover the local bodies.
- Submission of Draft Report in All Municipalities/Rural Municipalities during 7-day notification
- Disclosure of the SEP during Public Hearing
- Disclosure of Plans and Reports after Approval from WB to Municipalities/Rural Municipalities.

3.2 Strategies for Consultation and Information Disclosure

Prior to the IEE/ESIA stage, consultations with local bodies and Provincial Government body (associated ministry) and DFOs were done. The different consultation methods are given below:

- Interviews with stakeholders and relevant organization such as NGOs and Government Departments working in the area of Agriculture, Horticulture and Local Handicrafts.
- Surveys, questionnaires and interview schedule for collecting information to uplift living standard and livelihood of the Project Affected Households.
- Public meetings, workshops, and focus groups on specific topic

The proposed strategy for consultation is given in Table 3, whereas the Draft SEP 2021-2022 is given in Tale 4.

Table 3: Proposed Strategy for Consultation

SN Consultation method		Stakeholders
1	RM/M meetings	Every RM/M in the Directly Affected Region.



2	Focus group discussion	Different groups like women groups, vulnerable group,				
	(FGD)	youth groups, mother groups, and minority religious				
		groups of Displaced Persons/ Affected persons.				
3	Key Informant Survey (KIS)	Local Level Government Bodies of DIA.				
4	Group briefing	Groups at Schools and other places where mass of				
		people are presents of Directly Affected Region.				
5	Newspaper	Provincial Level during the IEE Public hearing and 7				
		day notification				
6	FM radio	Provincial Level during the IEE Public hearing and 7				
		day notification				
7	Project email address	All stakeholders can email to request information, and				
		raise issues/concerns				
8	Online meetings	Central Level and Provincial Level as well as directly				
		affected people.				
9	Through Census Survey	Displaced Persons/ Affected persons				
	involving head of the					
	household as respondent					



Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2021-2022

Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
Planning and Approvals	TL design alternatives, opportunities for minimizing impacts, and		Transact walks along the project affected Rural Municipality (RM) and	Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). Notification	Feedback Form	
2021 2022	Land requirements for respective TL alternatives and land acquisition process	Project Affected Parties	Separate group discussions with property owners, business operators, landowners/users, women, youth and children	Monthly visits subject by Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator after SEP is approved	Feedback Form Through Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement Team Lead Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator CLOs
2021-2022	Project environmental and social (E&S) principles, risks and impacts		Household visits to vulnerable families and individuals	Community	Coordinator and CLOs	FPIC Facilitation Organization NEA
	Resettlement and livelihood restoration measures		Project Information Sheets such as Summary, FAQs, GRM	Liaison Officer (CLOs)	Stakeholders can put questions/suggestion in email or at RM/M to CLOs	

Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) process Informing on the FPIC process Cumulative		Mass/Social		Meetings and household visits	
	Impact Assessment (CIA) Disclose relevant project information to stakeholders and solicit their inputs/feedback into ESIA, CIA, RAP, FPIC, BMP, IEE		Mass/Social Media Communication - FM/ project telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or emails, community notice boards		Grievance redress mechanism	
	Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) (particularly on the offsets)					





Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Engagement for FPIC	Directly Affected Indigenous groups	Village-level consultations through FPIC Advisory Council meetings and FPIC Working Group meetings	two rounds of village consultations every 3 months or so at locations nominated by the Advisory Council and Working Group.	Advisory Council and Working Group meetings	
	Institutional responsibilities and arrangements for Land acquisition process	Officer for Preliminary Action, Chief District Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Forests and Environment other government departments involved in land acquisition at multiple levels.	Face-to-face meetings	As needed	Meetings	NEA Resettlement consultants NEA Communication and Grievance Officer with support from consultants



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Determine Resettlement and livelihood restoration	Municipality land acquisition and resettlement committee, Compensation Fixation Committee Representatives of affected communities, government entities and businesses	Joint public/community meetings with PAPs		Grievance mechanism	
	options Land acquisition and resettlement planning	Other Interested Stakeholders – District, Provincial and	One-to-one meetings at RM/M Project Information Sheets such as	After The Draft	Feedback Form Through NEA Communication	
		National Stakeholders Other	Sheets such as summary, FAQs, GRM Mass/Social	ESIA is prepared	Officer and consultants	Chalcala al dan
		Interested Stakeholders – Internal	Media Communication - FM/ project		Online or direct meetings	Stakeholder Engagement Team Lead



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
		Stakeholders	telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or emails, community notice boards			
	Grievance mechanism process Informing FPIC process and benefit sharing Plans Coordination activities for development and implementation of management plans Consultations and coordination as part of the CIA	Other Interested Stakeholders — District, Provincial and National Governments, relevant research institutions and NGOs, etc	Face-to-face meetings or Online meetings	Once after CIA is finalized	Grievance mechanism Meetings Written correspondence Grievance mechanism	NEA with support from consultants



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Consultation and coordination with various stakeholders for input into BMP	Other Interested Stakeholders – District, Provincial and National Governments, relevant research institutions and NGOs, etc		Once after BMP is finalized	Meetings Written correspondence Grievance mechanism	
	Present the final IEE, ESIA, Environmental and Social		RM/M meetings One-to-one meetings, community sessions	RM/M subject to FPIC by Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator and CLOs	Feedback Form Through Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement Team Lead Stakeholder
	Management Plans (ESMPs), CIA, BMP, ESIA, ESCP and related plans for comments and feedback	Project Affected Families	Separate group discussions with NGOs, CBOs, Indigenous groups, AJAC meetings, women, youth and children	Communication through CLOs	Coordinator and CLOs Project Facebook Meetings and group discussion	Engagement Coordinator NEA Community Relations Manager CLOs





Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
			Project Information Sheets such as Summary, FAQs, GRM Mass/Social Media Communication - FM/ project telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or emails, community notice boards		Grievance mechanism	
	Present the final IEE, ESIA, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), CIA, BMP, ESIA, ESCP and related	Other Interested Stakeholders	One-to-one meetings, Group meetings Project Information Sheets such as FAQs, GRM, Feedback Form	Once when final IEE, ESIA and related plans are available	Meetings Feedback contacts and email	
	plans for		Mass/Social		Grievance	



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	comments and feedback		Media Communication - FM/ project telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or emails, community notice boards RM/M websites, NEA website Project email address and contacts		mechanism	
Pre- construction	Present the Construction Contractors Environmental and Social Management Plans (C-ESMPs) such as Traffic	Project Affected Parties	RM/M meetings One-to-one meetings	monthly and as required	Feedback Form Through Stakeholder Engagement	NEA Community Relations Manager Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator





Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Present final ESMP for feedback Project updates including construction activities, construction management plans, engagement activities and responsibilities		Separate group discussions with vulnerable groups		Coordinator and CLOs Project	CLOs
2023 onward	Road test mitigation measures Ongoing consultation related to land acquisition and resettlement, benefit sharing (IPP preparation) and FPIC		Project Information Sheets such as summary, FAQs, GRM Mass/Social Media Communication - FM/ project telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or		Facebook, hotline and email address, radio interview Meetings and household visits	



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
Objective			emails, community notice boards NEA website			
oxjeeu/e			Project contacts			
Ramp-up			FPIC Advisory Council and FPIC Working Group		Grievance mechanism	
engagement activities to prepare stakeholders for construction	Construction permits and licenses and regular Project progress and updates	District, Provincial and National Governments	One-to-one meetings Group meetings/ briefing	Monthly and as required	Meetings Feedback Form	NEA Community Relations Manager Support from consultants and
phase		With relevant government	Face-to-face meetings		Meetings	contractors Resettlement
	Ongoing consultation on land acquisition and resettlement	bodies and representatives of affected families, business and entities	Joint public/community meetings with PAPs	Monthly (and as needed)	Grievance mechanism	consultants IPP facilitator Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator CLOs



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
		identified during Planning phase				
	Interaction with Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) governance bodies	Directly and Indirectly Affected Population	IPP Advisory Council meetings and IPP governance body meetings. This could serve as the key engagement tool with 20 villages subject to FPIC. IPP monitoring and assessment activities	As required and at locations nominated by the Advisory Council and IPP governance bodies	Advisory Council and IPP governance body meetings Grievance mechanism	
	Present the ESMP and related plans for comments and feedback	Other Interested Stakeholders	One-to-one meetings, public meetings, Group meetings Project Information Sheets such as summary, FAQs, GRM, Feedback Form	One during Pre- Construction and as required	Meetings Feedback Form Project Facebook, Phone calls or email	
			Mass/Social		address, radio	



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
	Update on ongoing land acquisition and resettlement activities		Media Communication - FM/ project telephone information line, letters, and emails, Newspaper, Notification or emails, community notice boards NEA website Project contacts		interview Grievance mechanism	
Construction	Update on ongoing activities	Household visits to vulnerable families and individuals	Community Liaison Officer (CLOs)	Coordinator and CLOs	Project Affected Parties	NEA Community Relations Manager Support from consultants and contractors, Stakeholder Engagement



Project Stage and Engagement Objective	Primary Engagement Activities and Topics	Target Stakeholders	Method(s) of Engagement	Frequency and Location	Stakeholder Feedback Opportunity	Responsibilities
						Coordinator CLOs
	Project environmental and social (E&S) principles, risks and impacts	Project Affected Parties	Project Affected Parties	Project Affected Parties	Project Affected Parties	Project Affected Parties
Operation						
	Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) process Informing on the FPIC process	Other Interested Stakeholders – Internal Stakeholders	Community Liaison Officer (CLOs)	Meeting and household visits	Project Affected Parties	NEA Community Relations Manager Support from consultants and contractors, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator CLOs





4 STRATEGIES FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

4.1 Strategies for Information Disclosure

The TL project will make disclosure materials available to identified stakeholders as noted in section 3 through different communication and disclosure mechanisms. In the project districts, Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) will be engaged to disseminate the relevant project information at villages, shops, markets and by reaching women and vulnerable groups as well. The disclosure events will be communicated via Newspapers (local) for participating in the Public Hearing. FMs and the email address of the client will also be tool to disclose the public hearing dates. The final disclosure will be done after public hearing by submitting the draft IEE report to all affected Municipalities and Rural Municipalities.

4.2 Communication Materials for Information Disclosure

The consultant submitted to all the local bodies with both soft copies and hard copies of with the brief project fact sheet of the TL project along with a map showing the alignment with wards of the affected local bodies and also the contact details of the project director as well as ESIA consultant. During the Public hearing, the consultant will prepare the brief project fact sheet as summary of the IEE report to share on the Day of the Public hearing with local bodies and local people/stakeholders.

The communication materials and information disclosure is given in Table 5.





Table 5: Communication Materials and Information Disclosure

Project Stage	List of Information to be disclosed	Methods Proposed	Timetable: Locations /Date	Target Stakeholders	Percentage Reached	Responsibilities
Pre-Construction	Brief description of the project and its objective, A summary of adverse impacts (including land acquisition and impacts on common property resources, etc), Act under which land is acquired Resettlement and rehabilitation provision of the project and specific benefits available to vulnerable communities, Ways and means of	Printed leaflets/information booklets in local language, Poster on community bulletin board	Information dissemination would be carried out at once in a month by organizing public meetings at suitable locations	Villagers, Local businessmen, pedestrians and Trek and Tour operators	Printed leaflets/information booklets will reached the maximum numbers of PAHs and Poster on bulletin board reaches another percentage of the population	Community Social Development Officer/ A Expert/ Liaison Officer



	involving local communities, Grievance redresses mechanism, suggestion and complaint handling mechanism					
Construction	Management Plan	Printed leaflets/ information booklets in local language, Poster on community bulletin board	Information dissemination would be carried out at once in a month by organizing public meetings at suitable locations	Villagers, Local businessmen, pedestrians and Trek and Tour unions	maximum	Community Social Development Officer, Liaison Officer





4.3 Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process

Under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7) on "Indigenous Peoples", Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is required in the following circumstances:

- adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use.
- relocation of IPs from lands defined in the previous item; and/or
- significant project impacts on critical cultural heritage essential to IP lives/livelihoods.

The FPIC is a separate process that occurs alongside of and is an integral part of the stakeholder engagement process. At this stage, no such criteria are met from field observation. However, the findings of the future detailed socio-economic survey to be conducted for Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and other E&S instruments will be instrumental in informing if the project needs the FPIC process.





5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 Institutional roles

Institutional roles, responsibilities and resources are important for the implementation of the SEP throughout the cycle of the project. NEA has the overall responsibility for oversight of development and execution of the SEP. The flow diagram of reporting mechanism is given in Figure 5.

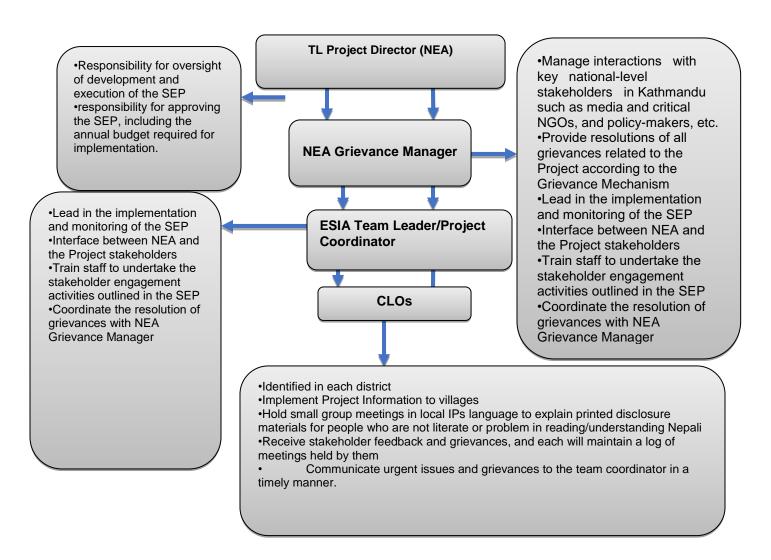


Figure 5 Flow Diagram of Reporting Mechanism





The roles and responsibilities of various officials relating to SEP are summarized in following Table 6.

Table 6: Roles and Responsibilities for the Planning and Future Phase Stakeholder Engagement Team

SN	Team Members	Planning Phase	Future Phase
1	TL Project Director (NEA)	 responsibility for oversight of development and execution of the SEP responsibility for approving the SEP, including the annual budget required for implementation. 	• Responsible for approving the SEP, including the annual budget required for implementation.
2	NEA Grievance Manager	 Manage interactions with key national-level stakeholders in Kathmandu such as media and critical NGOs, and policy-makers, etc. Provide resolutions of all grievances related to the Project according to the Grievance Mechanism 	 responsible for the overall implementation of the SEP coordinate the engagement activities between the SEP and various plans to ensure grievances are resolved in a timely manner
3	ESIA Team Leader/Project Coordinator	 Lead in the implementation and monitoring of the SEP Interface between NEA and the Project stakeholders Train staff to undertake the stakeholder engagement activities outlined in the SEP Coordinate the resolution of 	 Support the CR Manager in the implementation of the SEP Coordinating the CLOs activities on the ground, including regular training and briefings Hold monthly meetings



		grievances with NEA Grievance Manager	with CLOs • Provide a weekly summary of feedback and grievances
4	CLOs	 Identified in each district Implement Project Information to villages Hold small group meetings in local IPs language to explain printed disclosure materials for people who are not literate or problem in reading/understanding Nepali Receive stakeholder feedback and grievances, and each will maintain a log of meetings held by them Communicate urgent issues and grievances to the team coordinator in a timely manner. 	 Implement Project Information to villages Receive stakeholder feedback and grievances, and each will maintain a log of meetings held by them Communicate urgent issues and grievances to the team coordinator in a timely manner.

5.2 Review of Comments and Suggestion

The stakeholder feedback will be collected by recording the number of stakeholders, method of engagement, key issues, grievance and details on how they were resolved. Short report will be prepared and submitted to the client to address the issues raised. The response to the issues will be disclosed to the stakeholders during the draft ESIA stage.

The Team Organization and Coordination Chart is give below in Figure 6.



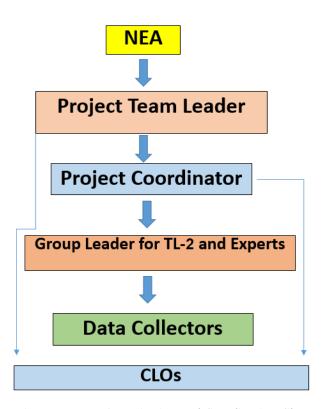


Figure 6 Team Organization and Coordination Chart

Project Team Leader: Project Team Leader shall coordinate overall team in Nepal and the international experts in delivering the services in timely manner. He will also be responsible for overall planning, gathering information, compilation of all the analysis prepared by the experts, reporting and other administrative works etc. Project team leader will be responsible for presentations to be done as per requirement of WB.

NEA: NEA will facilitate to get the permission and prepare necessary letters as per requirements during consultations and survey. NEA will also help fast track review process of the documents. The reviewed reports will be submitted to WB for further comments and ESIA consultants will received the comments for addressing and re-submitting for approval.

Project Coordinator: NEA will facilitate the consultants for ESIA works and in review of the works done as well as other issues related to ESIA.

Project Experts: The project experts (Project Team Leader, botanist, zoologist, geologist, forester, civil engineer, environment safeguard expert) will help in preparation of checklist so that the field surveyors can get the correct data on time. They will also cross check the method adopted as well as field activities. They will be responsible for the data analysis and present to the group team leaders and finally to the Project team leader, who will ensure the final report and its quality.

WAPCOS Limited, India



6. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

A project-specific Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) will be established to receive, evaluate and facilitate the resolution of people's concerns, complaints and grievances about the social and environmental issues related to design/feasibility studies and ESIAs studies at the level of the Project. The GRM process is highlighted below in Figure 7:

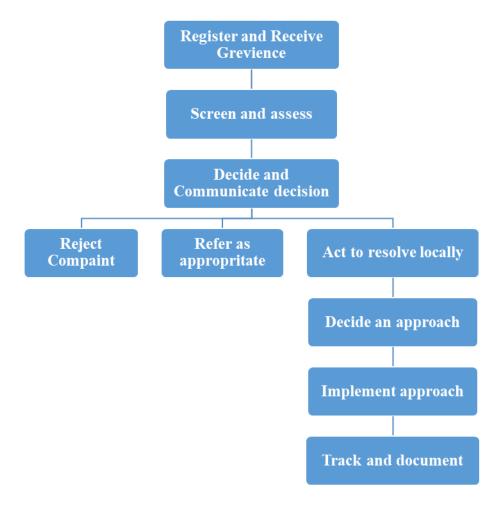


Figure 7 Grievance Reduction Mechanism

The GRM will aim to provide a time-bound and transparent mechanism to voice and resolve social and environmental concerns linked to the project. The project-specific GRM is not intended to bypass the government's own redress process, rather it is intended to address people's concerns and complaints promptly, making it readily accessible to all segments of the people and is scaled to the risks and impacts of the project. Information regarding Grievance Redressal



Committee (GRC) will be disclosed as part of the public/ stakeholders consultation process. Grievances related to the implementation of the project will be acknowledged, evaluated, and responded to the complainant with corrective action proposed. The decision of the GRCs is binding, unless vacated by the court of law. The GRC will continue to function, for the benefit of the stakeholders, during the project maintenance period. The Constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act, 2017 empower local judicial committees to deal with community-based disputes at local level within the Local Bodies (RM/M). The complaint resolution system will be developed based on the level of resolution. Similarly, The Local Grievance Committee as well as Project Grievance Committee at District Level will be maintained for Grievance Resolution. All the grievances and management of the grievances will be recorded in the stakeholder Engagement System including the complain of people in detail, summary of the grievance, the agreement or resolution proposed between the project and complainant as well as monitoring actions taken for such grievances. The details on GRM will be provided during the ESIA stage and next updating of SEP.

6.1 Categories of Grievance

Based on the understanding of the project area and the stakeholders, an indicative list of the type of grievance has been identified for the project, as can be seen below:

External Grievances: Grievances from beneficiaries and stakeholders:

- damage of trees and property;
- losses to community forest;
- issues related to transportation and traffic;
- increase in environment pollution;
- impact on community health;
- disturbances to locals due to influx of migrant workers in the area;
- issues arising out of sharing of employment and business opportunity;
- concerns over the impact on local cultures and customs; community related grievances
- potential grievances due to noise, dust, improper waste disposal
- grievances related to sexual harassment / sexual exploitation / violence.

6.2 Constitution and Function of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)

The GRC will be formed at field level and senior level. The field level GRC will be headed by independent Chairperson and will have representative from the Project Implementing Unit office, representatives of Line Departments, local Government representatives. The GRC will meet at least once in each 15 days, other than disputes relating to ownership rights under the court of law, GRC will review grievances involving all other assistance. The Committee will co-opt a member preferably a woman from each of the affected Village institution when dealing with



matters coming from a particular village. The senior level GRC will be headed by the Chief District Officer (CDO) or his designated representative as the rest members will be same as in field level. Some of the specific functions of the GRC will be as following:

- To provide support and record the grievances of the stakeholders, categorize and prioritize the grievances that needs to be resolved by the committee and solve them within a month;
- Help to assess and recommend measures for resolving complaints and grievances
- To inform PIU/PMU of serious cases within an appropriate time frame; and
- To report to the aggrieved parties about the development regarding their grievance and decision of PIU/PMU.

6.3 Grievance Redress Process

In case of grievances that are immediate and urgent in the perception of the complainant, the contractor, and supervision personnel from PIU on-site will provide the most easily accessible or first level of contact for quick resolution of grievances. Contact phone numbers and names of the concerned PIU Assistant Environment Officer, contractors, will be posted at all construction sites at visible locations.

- (i) **1st level grievance**. The contractors, supervision personnel and Assistant Environment Officer and member from village level institution.
- (ii) **2nd level grievance**. All grievances that cannot be redressed within 3 days at District level will be brought to the notice of Environment/Social Management Expert of PMU. PMU ESME will resolve the grievance within 7 days or can immediately resolve issues on-site in consultation with each other, and will be required to do so within 7 days of receipt of a complaint/grievance.
- (iii) **3rd level grievance.** All the grievances that are not addressed by PMU within 7 days of receipt will be brought to the notice of the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC).
- (iv)4th level grievance. Very major issues that are beyond the jurisdictional authority of the GRC or those that have the potential to cause social conflicts or environmental damage or those that remain unresolved at PMU and GRC level, will be referred to the Empowered Committee (EC). GRC will meet twice a month and determine the merit of each grievance brought to the committee. ESME will be responsible to see through the process of redress of each grievance. The GRC will resolve the grievance within 15 days of receiving the complaint.

The project GRM notwithstanding, an aggrieved person will also be able to raise grievances through the WB system. At the present stay, so such Grievance have been recorded by the ESIA consultant. There were no objection by the local bodies, government bodies and local people during the field activities as the information sharing have been done since the beginning of the project.



7 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The SEP will be monitored throughout the project cycle so as to ensure the desired outcomes. Following sections explains the monitoring and reporting back to the stakeholders.

7.1 Monitoring of Stakeholder Engagement Activities

The SEP will be monitored throughout the project to ensure the desired outcomes. The monitoring will be one done by the project team coordinator at the end of every month and the suggestion of the stakeholder will be addressed by consulting the NEA. The SEP will be made public through the website of NEA and the soft copies of the report will be submitted to all the affected Municipalities and Rural Municipalities. The monitoring of SEP will be done directly at field during the engagement process via feedbacks. Similarly, CLO team will also brief the project team after each stakeholder meeting so as to understand if the stakeholder engagement was achieved. The information from the Stakeholder Engagement Management System, different feedbacks will be used to assess the performance indicators and the evaluation results will be used to update the SEP and will be reported internally as well as to key external stakeholders as per required. Similarly, the TL project director will be responsible for approving the SEP while stakeholder engagement coordinator will be responsible for coordination of the CLOs and their activities. Similarly, CLOs will be responsible for disseminating the information in local and district level.

7.1 Reporting Back to Stakeholders Groups

In the project area, there is need to let stakeholders know what has happened with the feedback provided during consultation, the importance of their contribution to the project, and what the next step will be for throughout the cycle of the project. The reporting back also helps in double checking information, testing the stakeholder's reaction to the proposed mitigation measures, and obtaining further feedbacks. Reporting back to the stakeholders will be done through:

- Frequently updated FAQs to address new concerns that have come to light through stakeholder feedback during planning, pre-construction, construction and operations.
- The updated FAQs is one of the key disclosure materials for the Project throughout the Project lifecycle.
- Issues and Response Reports ("You Ask We Answer") to be disclosed with the Draft ESIA. The report will provide summary stakeholder engagement activities undertaken to





date, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account or the reasons why it was not.

Updated Issues and Response Report to be disclosed with the Final ESIA incorporating any feedback received during the Draft ESIA consultation phase and how the feedback has been considered in the Project designs and decisions. Construction Issues and Response Report to be disclosed which incorporate any new issues that have come to light and concerns and queries raised by the Project stakeholders, especially the Project-Affected Parties during construction, and how the feedback has been considered in the Construction designs and decisions.





8 ESTIMATED BUDGET

8.1 Estimated Budget

In this stage, the actual budget for SEP cannot be predicted as this is very preliminary stage of the project. However, it is estimate to be around \$ 150,000/- for the SEP each year after the project start the pre-construction and construction activities.



Public Hearing Planning



Nepal Electricity Authority
(An Undertaking of Nepal Government)

TRANSMISSION DIRECTORATE
Priority Transmission Line Projects

Ref. No.: 078/79-223

To,

Date: July 11th, 2022

WAPCOS Limited, India in association with

Environment and Resource Management Consultants (P) Ltd, Nepal

Kind Att": Mr. P.D. Karkhanis, General Manager (Civil)

Your Letter Ref No. :

WAP/ENVT/NEA/2022/ (538,539 & 540) for Screening Report WAP/ENVT/NEA/2022/ (543,544 & 545) for Scoping Document & SEP

Subject: Approval of Screening report, Scoping Document and SEP Report-Regarding

Dear Sir,

We have received the documents related to task 2a from WAPCOS Limited via Letter Ref. no. WAP/ENVT/NEA/2022/ (538,539 & 540) on 04.07.2022. NEA has made comments on these reports which was incorporated by the consultant. The table below provides the detail information on the reports and their approval.

S.N	Document	Submitted Date	Revised Submitted Date	Comments	Remarks
1.	Screening Report for TL-1,TL-2 & TL-3	04.07.2022		No comments.	Approved
2.	Scoping Document for TL-1,TL-2 & TL-3	04.07.2022	08.07.2022	Comments Incorporated	Approved

Regarding Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), ESIA consultant has incorporated the comments received from the bank. However, it is understood that SEP report keeps on updating based on the information collected throughout the progress of the project. So, for the purpose of deliverable under task 2a NEA provides approval of SEP submitted by WAPCOS Limited on 08.07.2022 in addition to aforementioned screening report and scoping document for TL-1, TL-2 & TL-3.

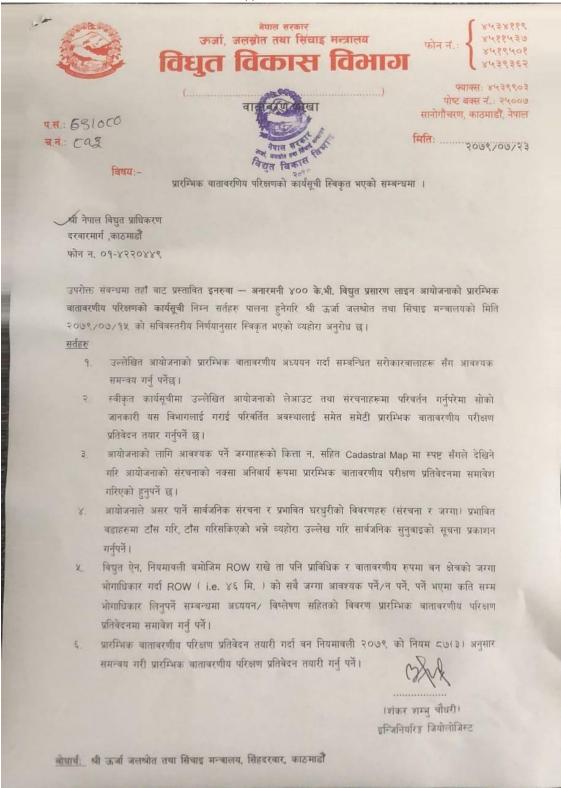
We hereby request ESIA consultant to submit three (3) hard copies of each document with sign and stamp by 18th July, 2022.

Regards

Bhupesh Shrestha Project Manager



ToR Approval Letter









In association with



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(A Government of India Undertaking)

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