

MARSYANGDI CORRIDOR 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, NEPAL

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR MARSYANGDI CORRIDOR



Prepared for :
Nepal Electricity Authority
Project Management Directorate
Matatirtha, Kathmandu

Prepared by PSC in association with national partner

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPL	Below Poverty Line
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CDC	Compensation Determination Committee
EPA	Environment Protection Act
EPR	Environment Protection Rules
ESPS	Environmental and Social Principles and Standards
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Monitoring Plan
EIB	European Investment Bank
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GRC	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HHs	Households
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
MKUTL	Manang- Khudi - Udipur 220 kV transmission line
NEA	Nepal Electricity Authority
PAP	Project Affected Person
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
UMBTL	Udipur- Markichowk –Bharatpur 220 kV transmission line



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FINAL DRAFT



Executive Summary

1. Introduction:

The Government of Nepal has received a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) towards the Construction of 220 kV substation and associated transmission Line in Marsyangdi Corridor, which is part of the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Power System Expansion Project. The Project is being developed by the Nepal Electricity Authority (hereinafter referred to as NEA or the Project Developer), a governmental organization at national level, established in 1985 (2042 B.S). The Project is part of Nepal's strategy to overcome the continuing power shortages and satisfy the growing demand of electricity.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project has been prepared by Project Supervision Consultant for Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) in adherence to Govt. of Nepal's Policies, laws and EIB's Environmental and Social Standard (Standard-10- Stakeholder Engagement). Additionally, it has been designed, to be in line with Guidance note for EIB Standard on Stakeholder Engagement in EIB Operations (2020) which reinforces a rights-based approach – in line with the EU Aarhus Convention (1998) and builds on the right to (i) public access to information; (ii) access to public consultation in decision-making; and (iii) access to justice.

2. Requirements for stakeholder engagement and information disclosure:

Stakeholder Engagement for the Project will be performed according to the following requirements:

- Legislative requirements of the Republic of Nepal;
- EIB requirements contained in Standard 10 i.e., 'Stakeholder Engagement' of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) of EIB;

In the Republic of Nepal, the requirements for public consultation are guided by national laws and policies. The Environment Protection Act (EPA), 2019 and the Environment Protection Rules (EPR), 2020 are the major legislations of Nepal defining the requirements of environmental impacts and public engagement for any project. Further, Right to Information Act, 2007 also secures access to information held in the public bodies for citizens of Nepal.

The requirements of EIB applicable to this project are contained in Standard 10 i.e., 'Stakeholder Engagement' of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) of EIB. In addition, **Standard 7 of ESS 'Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups'** addresses specific needs of vulnerable groups, particularly in terms of their participation in the consultation process. Some particular consultation requirements are also contained in **Standard 5 - Cultural Heritage** and **Standard 6 - Involuntary Resettlement** of ESS.

3. Identification & analysis of stakeholders:

Stakeholders are persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project as well as those who may have interest in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. The main objective of the exercise is to ensure that all stakeholders are properly identified, prioritised and engaged with.

The Project stakeholders have been identified using the following criteria:

- Impact
- Influence
- Partnership
- Interest

Identified Stakeholder, along with their interest influence matrix coding have been listed here:-

1	PAPs*
2	IPs*
3	Vulnerable IPs*
4	CBOs*
5	NGOs*
6	Elected Representatives*
7	Forest User Groups (CFs)*
8	Village Community along substation
9	Village community along the line
10	Media*
11	Local leaders
12	Activists (not in the formal structure of NGOs)
13	Opinion makers *
14	COVID specific stakeholder*(agencies/service delivery workers)
15	COVID specific stakeholder(Community members left vulnerable from COVID 19 outbreak*)
16	Institutions and individuals participating in implementation*

*Details in the main text

Green	Stakeholder with High Interest and High Influence
Yellow	Stakeholder with Low Interest and High Influence
Red	Stakeholder with High Interest and Low Influence
Blue	Stakeholder with Low Interest and Low Influence

Mapping stakeholder interest in and influence on the project is critical to planning an effective engagement process. This helps in developing targeted communication for each category of stakeholders and proper allocation of resources for stakeholder engagement as well.

4. Stakeholder engagement plan:

The SEP identifies and sets out how communication with stakeholders would be handled.

Various methods of engagement are proposed to be used as part of the project's interaction with the stakeholders, to ensure that different stakeholder groups are successfully reached and are involved in the process of consultation and an inclusive & culturally appropriate decision-making process is adopted.

Table 4.1, charts out proposed engagement plan for various subsection of the project stakeholder. It may be noted that due to the surging COVID 19 cases in Nepal and several restrictions imposed by National and local governments, it may not be possible to utilize some of the methods of engagement presented in the table. Till the time such restrictions are applicable and any gathering may compromise the safety of stakeholders, methods of consultation which use least gathering and interaction shall be preferred and best effort to carry out meaningful stakeholder engagement by following the guidance offered in the EIB note on COVID-19 and Stakeholder Engagement shall be made.

Details of these consultation process has been presented in chapter on Consultation. However, as soon as the restriction are revoked and situation gets better, stakeholder engagement shall continue using these tools and techniques of public consultation.

5. Cultural assessment and consent obtaining

Prior accessing the site, the project will conduct an assessment on potential impacts on culturally, historically and archeologically recognized sites and locations. This assessment will also look into any lands, territories, or other resources customarily/collectively/traditionally used by IP, either per-

manently or seasonally, that results in any displacement, livelihood loss, or impact on cultural heritage, or affects their identity in other ways. Based on the outcome of assessment a site-specific engagement procedure will be developed. This engagement will consist of free, prior and informed consultation with the IP groups in question that will lead to consent. For this assessment checklist, procedure and consent obtaining process is in the annexes of SEP.

6. Implementation arrangement and budget:

For the implementation of the SEP, Project has developed a Project Management Unit (PMU) which would be additionally supported by designated Environmental Officer, GESI officer and Social Officer for the instant project (Under ESMU). PMU shall report to Project Implementation Unit (PIU) which then reports to Project management Directorate.

7. Consultation & disclosure:

Through the process of consultation and disclosures, project would envisage to build participation of stakeholders at each stage of project, implementation which is carried out through a specific consultation mechanism in accordance with the focused/ target stakeholders. Project would be responsible not only for ensuring participation of the community in the consultation process but to make it effective, and ensure integration of the feedback received from stakeholder into the project plans, where it deems fit. The main objective is to establish and maintain a constructive dialogue between the project proponent, project-affected communities and other interested parties throughout the project life cycle in order to improve project outcomes and sustainability. Onset of COVID-19 pandemic, provision of virtual consultation has been made to avoid disease transmission and to obey Govt. guidelines/ directions for maintaining social distancing in this regard.

The information disclosure mechanism would provide detailed information regarding the project policies, activities linked to project milestone with their information frequency along with the channel/ mode of communication that could reach out to the stakeholders. Effective disclosure of information will be achieved through close alignment between the project's community liaison staff and planning engineers.

8. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:

A three tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) with time bound schedule and specified responsibility has been established at each sub-project site. The first level of GRM has been established at all concerned sites under ESMU. If the complaint is not resolved within 7 days, it can be escalated to next level to Project Implementation Unit (PIU). If the complaint not resolved for next 15 days, same shall be informed to Chief District Officer (CDO) and a GRC shall be formed. If the complaint is not resolved by GRC (within 15 days), complainant may go to civil court as last resort.

9. Monitoring, review and reporting on stakeholder engagement:

In order to monitor and assess the efficiency of the stakeholder engagement activities various indicators viz. number of meetings of various kinds (public hearings, meetings, consultation, meetings/open ended interviews etc.) held with each category of stakeholders and number of participants, number of stakeholders included in the Stakeholder Register/log, number of suggestions and recommendations received using various feedback mechanisms, number of publications covering the Project in the local, regional and national mass media will be used.

All stakeholder engagement activities will be adequately documented both in substance and process. The reporting shall not restrict itself to mere quantitative reporting like nos. of meeting / participants

/ suggestions received but shall draw analytical inferences and suggest project level modifications/ course correction, if any, based on interactions /consultations.

In light of restriction imposed because of COVID 19 pandemic the SEP has proposed several virtual modes of interaction / engagement with stakeholder. To monitor those number of virtual meetings and attendance in the same may be taken, consultation process may be recorded and archived (till project is being implemented, minutes of the meeting / conclusion may be prepared and dictated by the chairperson. A virtual agreement may simultaneously be taken by the chair regarding the conclusion.

1.0 Introduction

The Government of Nepal has received a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) towards the Construction of 220 kV substation and associated transmission Line in Marsyangdi Corridor, which is part of the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Power System Expansion Project. The Project is being developed by the Nepal Electricity Authority (hereinafter referred to as NEA or the Project Developer), a governmental organization at national level, established in 1985 (2042 B.S). The Project is part of Nepal's strategy to overcome the continuing power shortages and satisfy the growing demand of electricity.

The project will contribute to Nepal's energy development objectives by (i) scaling up the on-grid and off-grid renewable energy supply, (ii) facilitating cross-border power exchange, (iii) increasing access to renewable energy in rural areas, (iv) building capacity for on-grid and off-grid power sector development, and (v) utility scale solar photovoltaic project development. The project targets the strengthening and expansion of transmission and distribution systems that will enable Nepal to further benefit from power trading and development of its abundant hydropower resources. Transmission network strengthening and expansion, in conjunction with current hydropower generation development, is a precondition for reducing load shedding and increased cross border electricity trade.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project has been prepared by Project Supervision Consultant for Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) in adherence to Govt. of Nepal's Policies, laws and EIB's Environmental and Social Standard (Standard-10) as effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. Additionally, it has been designed, to be in line with Guidance note for EIB Standard on Stakeholder Engagement in EIB Operations (2020) which reinforces a rights-based approach – in line with the EU Aarhus Convention (1998) and builds on the right to (i) public access to information; (ii) access to public consultation in decision-making; and (iii) access to justice¹.

1.1 Project Description:

The Project has two sections Udipur- Markichowk –Bharatpur 220kV transmission line (**UMBTL**) and Manang- Khudi - Udipur 220kV transmission line (**MKUTL**).

(a) **Udipur - Markichowk - Bharatpur** 220kV transmission line (UMBTL) is located in Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun and Chitwan districts. It starts from the Udipur (Lamjung district) and ends at Aaptari / Bharatpur of Chitwan district. Land for both substations have already been secured. Project components are as under:

-
- Udipur- Markichowk –Bharatpur 220kV transmission line (UMBTL) – **67.60 km**
- 220/132/33kV GIS Substation, **Udipur** (5.18 ha)
- 220(GIS)/132 (AIS) substation **Aaptari / Bharatpur** (2.5 ha)

(b) **Manang - Khudi - Udipur** 220kV transmission line (MKUTL) is located in Manang and Lamjung District. It starts from the Dharapani, Manang District and ends at Udipur, Lamjung district. Land for Dharapani /Manang and Khudi substation already secured. Project components are as under :

- Manang- Khudi - Udipur 220kV transmission line (MKUTL) – **45.25 km**
- 220/132/33kv GIS Substation, **Khudi** (5.0 ha)

¹ Translating into the following SEP pillars (i) disclosure of information on project milestones and construction activities; (ii) meaningful consultation on project design and development, and management of E&S risks and impacts; and (iii) access to a culturally appropriate project grievance mechanism.

- 220(GIS)/132 (GIS) substation, **Dharapani/ Manang** (5.5 ha)

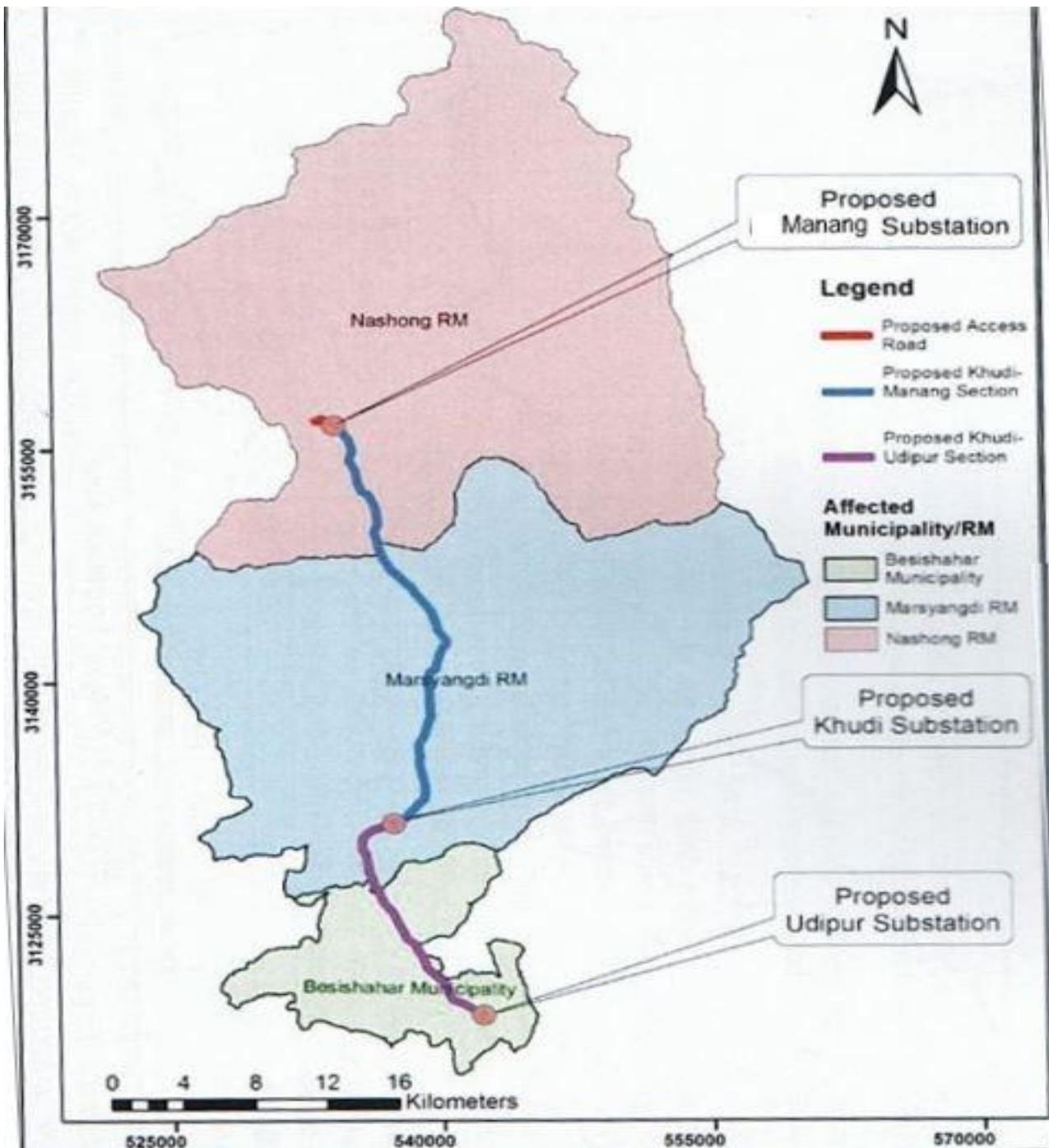


Figure 1.1: Site Location Map of Upper Marsyangdi Corridor (Bosishahar & Marsyangdi RM in Lamjung district & Nashong RM in Manang District)

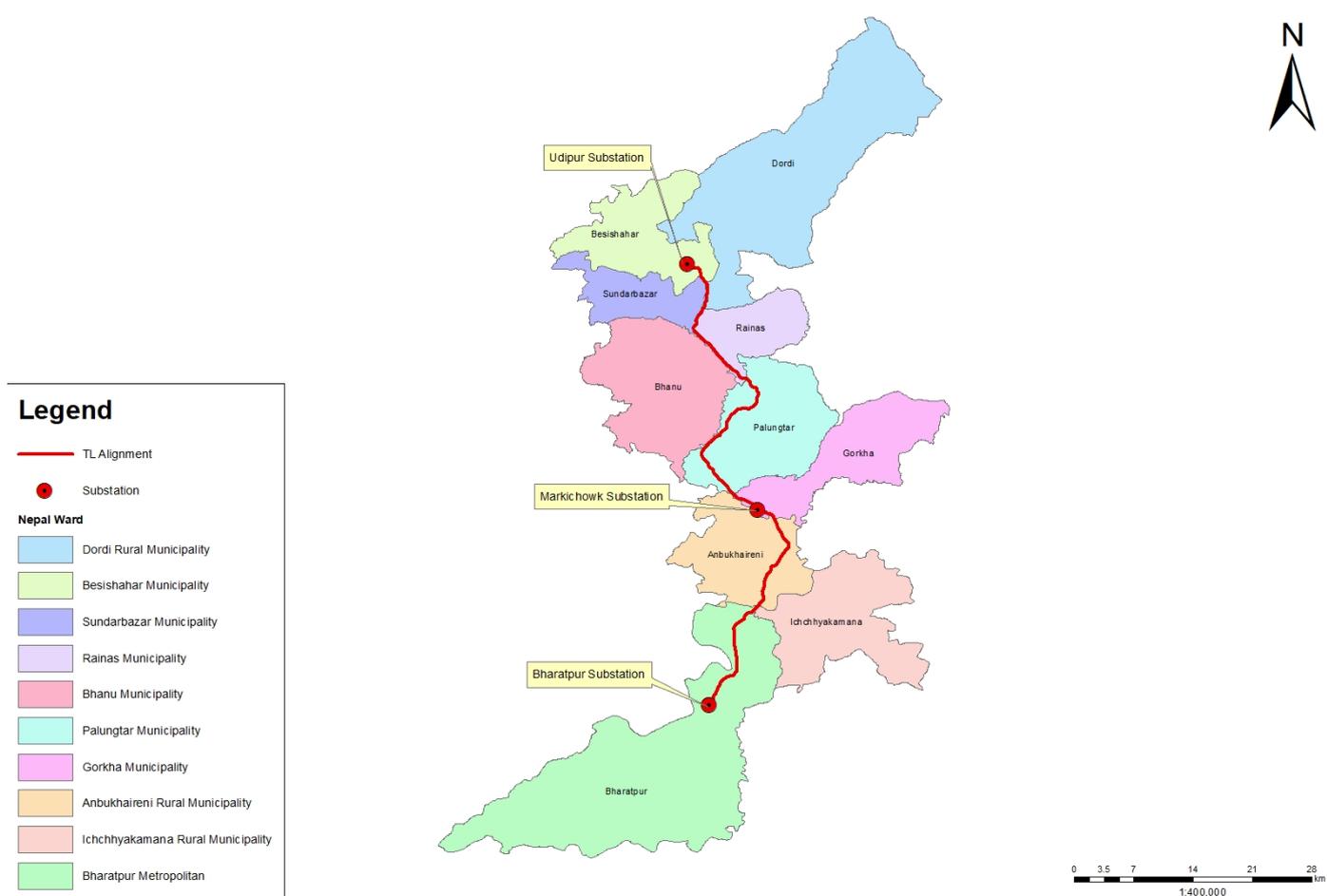


Figure 1.2: Site Location Map of Lower Marsyangdi Corridor

1.2 Objectives of the SEP:

Stakeholder engagement refers to a process of sharing information and knowledge, seeking to understand and respond to the concerns of others, and building relationships based on collaboration. Stakeholder consultation and disclosure are key elements of engagement and essential for delivery of successful projects. Stakeholders are persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. The prime objectives of the SEP are as follows:

- Establish and maintain a constructive dialogue between the NEA, the affected communities and other interested parties throughout the project life cycle;
- Ensure that all stakeholders are properly identified and engaged;
- Engage stakeholders in the disclosure process, engagement and consultations in an appropriate and effective manner throughout the project lifecycle, in line with the principles of public participation, non-discrimination and transparency;
- Ensure that the relevant stakeholders, including commonly marginalised groups on account of gender, poverty, educational profile and other elements of social vulnerability, are given equal opportunity and possibility to voice their opinions and concerns, and that these are accounted for in the project decision-making; and,
- Duly verify and assess that the quality and process of engagement undertaken by third parties on the project conform to the provisions included in the present standard.

1.3 Framework for Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

The nature and extent of stakeholder engagement will reflect the nature and complexity of the project and its stakeholders, the project risks and the potential adverse impacts on individuals, communities and other stakeholders, the sector, and the country context. This is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle which supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks.

Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process and project decisions and the assessment, management and monitoring of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts. The process of stakeholder engagement and their key elements are presented in Figure 1.2.

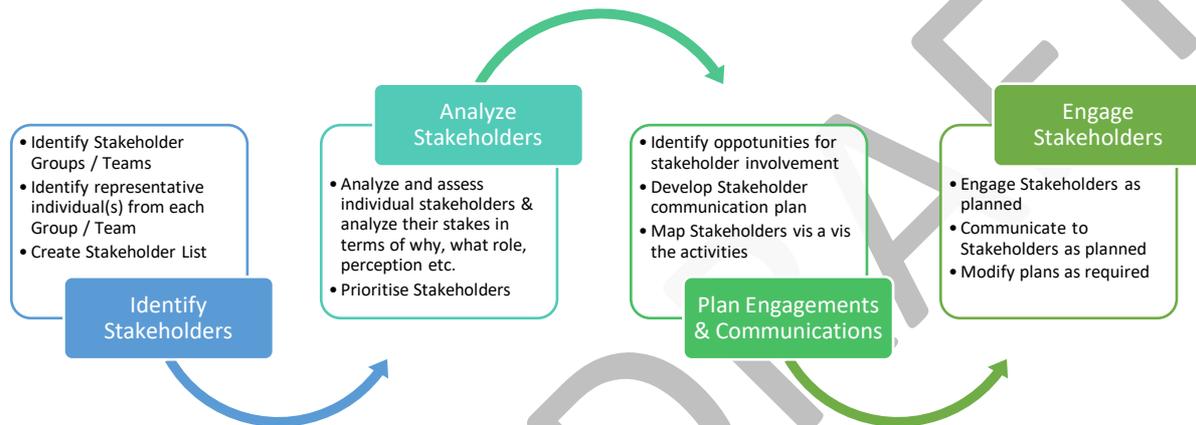


Figure 1.3: Key elements of a stakeholder engagement process

2.0 Requirements for stakeholder engagement & information disclosure

According to national laws, the project requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE) for the 220 KV Marsyangdi Corridor TL Project. There is no requirement of a full scope of ESIA. The National Environment Protection Act mandates the project developer to only comply with EIA and IEE. MKUTL, however, passes through the Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) because of which the Project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Stakeholder Engagement for the Project will be performed according to the following requirements:

- Legislative requirements of the Republic of Nepal;
- Principles and procedures specified by the EIB Environmental and Social Principles and Standards 2009 (ESPS 2009).

2.1 Nepali Requirements

In the Republic of Nepal, the requirements for public consultation are guided by national laws and policies. The Environment Protection Act (EPA), 2019, and the Environment Protection Rules (EPR), 2020, are the major legislations of Nepal defining the requirements of environmental impacts and **public engagement** for any development proposal. The project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)² and an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)³ as guided by the Schedule (2) and Schedule (3) of Environment Protection Rules, 2020. For carrying out EIA and IEE, Rule 6 of the EPR, 2020 makes **mandatory to conduct public hearing** and Rule 7 (3) of the EPR, 2020 makes it mandatory for the **project proponent to publish a public notice in a national level daily newspaper and affix it in the concerned Rural Municipality (RM), school, hospital and health-post** requesting the Rural Municipality and /or concerned individuals or institutions to offer their written opinions **and suggestions after 7 days** with regard to the possible impact of implementation of the proposal on the environment where the proposal is to be implemented. The proponent needs to further prepare a **deed of public inquiry** (Muchulka). The opinions and suggestions thus received need to be included in the IEE report. Access to project information and materials will be provided by the project developer mainly through keeping the copies of the Updated IEE/ other report at the concerned RMs.

Further, Right to Information Act, 2007 also secures access to information held in the public bodies for citizens of Nepal.

2.2 European Investment Bank Requirements

EIB requirements applicable to this project are contained in Standard 10 i.e. 'Stakeholder Engagement' of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) of EIB. Key objectives of this standard are the following:

- Establish and maintain a constructive dialogue between the promoter, the affected communities and other interested parties throughout the project life cycle;
- Ensure that all stakeholders are properly identified and engaged;

² Manang-Khudi-Udipur TL section lies in the ACA, so EIA was done as per the EPR, 1997 with subsequent amendment.

³ Udipur-Markichowk-Bharatpur TL section traversed through any sanctuary area, so IEE is sufficient as per the EPR, 1997 with subsequent amendment.

- Engage stakeholders in the disclosure process, engagement and consultations in an appropriate and effective manner throughout the project lifecycle, in line with the principles of public participation, non-discrimination and transparency;
- Ensure that the relevant stakeholders, including commonly marginalized groups on account of gender, poverty, educational profile and other elements of social vulnerability, are given equal opportunity and possibility to voice their opinions and concerns, and that these are accounted for in the project decision-making; and,
- Duly verify and assess that the quality and process of engagement undertaken by third parties on the project conform to the provisions included in the present standard.

In addition, **Standard 7 of ESS ‘Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups’** addresses specific needs of vulnerable groups, particularly in terms of their participation in the consultation process. Some particular consultation requirements are also contained in **Standard 5 - Cultural Heritage** and **Standard 6 - Involuntary Resettlement** of ESS.

3.0 Identification & analysis of stakeholders

Stakeholders are persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. The main objective of the exercise is to ensure that all stakeholder are properly identified, prioritised and engaged with.

The chapter clearly identifies and differentiate between different type of stakeholders based on their rights, roles, duties and responsibilities, in order to understand the roles of various stakeholders properly. Special attention has been paid to identify the socio-economic, cultural, societal stereotypes, hierarchies, religious trends which leaves a sub-section of population vulnerable and in analysing projects impact on these trends.

It may further be mentioned that transmission line projects only have minor environmental and social impact as owners along the right of way only have land use restriction and there are no ownership changes. They can undertake agricultural activities / other trades without hindrance. Land is acquired for tower footing and substation land. However, due to inherent flexibility in placing towers and substation, severe social / environmental impacts are / can be easily avoided. The above-mentioned flexibility has also been utilized in the subject project also and this has resulted in scaling down of social / environmental impact.

Despite dispersed geographical impacts along diverse societal habitation, an attempt has been made to group homogenous sub-sections of stakeholders together and an engagement plan has been charted out.

The details of direct and indirect stakeholders have been segregated as ‘identified’ and ‘estimated’. Those under ‘identified’ category are PAPs whose impacts have been identified whereas ‘estimated’ category represents an estimation of the impact (identification of PAPs and their details shall be collected as the project progresses).

3.1 Methodology for Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

The Project stakeholders have been identified using the following criteria:

- Impact – Project’s impact on the varied segment of community;
- Influence - A social group/ class may have significant influence over the project implementation process;
- Partnership - Opportunities for building partner relations between the Project and a social group; and
- Interest- Social group / class not directly / indirectly impacted by the project but has shown interest / likely to show interest in the project.

Special attention is paid to identifying vulnerable groups and register their opinion.

- Informal discussion / talks with key informants like village elders, community leaders, workforce in relevant community organisations, service providers in the community etc.
- Interviews with the representatives of local administrations especially those working in social sector;
- Review of statistic data; and
- Review of published information (Internet, printed periodicals).

3.2 Identification of Stakeholder and Mapping of Stakeholder

Based on above, key stakeholders i.e., direct, indirect stakeholders, their representatives, those not impacted but having impact or influence and those involved in execution of the project, have been identified and listed below. The details of identification and mapping of Stakeholder are delineated at below tables under three different subheads as follows.

Table 3.1: Directly and indirectly project affected persons, including their legitimate representatives

S.No.	Category	Number	Geographical Coverage (e.g. Dense or scattered)	Socio economic situation (e.g. income level, Household composition according to age and gender, dependence on natural resources, level of literacy and health care)
1	Project-affected Persons (Total)	1909	Substation – 64 dense Along the line – 1550 dispersed / scattered	Presented below.
i)	Direct Impact a) Identified b) Estimated	a) 134 b) 1775	a) Dense for substation & dispersed along line b) Mostly dispersed	a) i) Livelihood sources and poverty level – Major source of income are business (53%), remittances (22%) and agriculture + livestock (7%). Average income double that of national average. ii) Literacy - 81.61% iii) Health care – Basic healthcare available v) Access to basic financial services – Informal as well as formal available b) i) Livelihood sources and poverty level – Major source of income are agriculture + livestock (35.89%), business and jobs (18.05%) and remittances (13.49%). Average income double that of national average. ii) Literacy - 86.06% iii) Health care – Basic healthcare available iv) Access to basic financial services -Access for both formal and informal financial institutions.
ii)	Indirect Impact*	-		
iii)	Permanent Impact (S/s & Tower footing) a) Identified b) Estimated	a) 134 b) 225	a) Mostly dispersed and dense b) Mostly dispersed	Detailed above.
iv)	Temporary Impact from land use restrictions a) Identified b) Estimated	b) 1550	b) Dense and scattered	b) i) Livelihood sources and poverty level – Major source of income are agriculture + livestock (40%), business (18%) and remittances (13%) . Average income is double the national average. ii) Literacy - 70% iii) Health care – Basic healthcare available iv) Access to basic financial services -access to basic financial services both formal and informal available.
2.	Indigenous people	1197 (estimated & identified)	a) dense and scattered	i) Livelihood sources and poverty level – Major source of income are agriculture + livestock (46.53%), service (11.78 %), business (8.76%) , remittance (8.16%) Average income double that of national average. ii) Literacy - 87.08% iii) Health care – Basic healthcare available iv) Access to basic financial services – they have access to financial service as much as their non IP counterparts.
3.	Vulnerable and marginalised groups (Excluding IPs) (based on caste, class, disability, gender vulnerability etc.)	456	Dense and dispersed	a) i) Livelihood sources and poverty level – Major source of income are agriculture + livestock (36.07), remittance (13.39%), service (10.58%), business (7.13%) . Average income double that of national average, 9 PAPs BPL cat. ii) Literacy - 49.85% iii) Health care – Basic healthcare available iv) Access to basic financial services – limited as vulnerability hinders their ability to positively influence their case in both informal and formal financial sector.
Legitimate representatives				
	Institutions	Details		
1	Community-based organisation**	15 CBOs in affected villages for substation and 11 along the line		
2	Non-governmental organisation working on Social Issues **	5 NGO in affected villages for substation & 1 NGO along the line		
3	NGOs working on issues other than Social issues**	13 nos. NGOs (9 for substation and 4 along the line)		
4	Elected representatives**	List of affected RMs/ Municipalities / wards attached as annexure		
5	Community and traditional leaders	No separate structure could be identified other than already present and represented in existing electoral setup.		
6	Forest User Groups (CF)**	Project criss-crosses through several community forest, controlled and managed by local Forest User Groups (FUGs) in general and its elected executive committee in particular. List of CFs annexed at Annexure - I		

*Owing to requirement of small piece of land for substation & even smaller land for tower footing and inherent flexibility in choosing land for substation and placing of towers, any significant social impact is avoided by project design itself, leading to no indirect impact in most of the cases.

Detailed list attached at **Annexure - I.



Table 3.2: Stakeholder having an interest in or influence over the project

Name of the Organisation	Rationale	Contact Details	Relationship
Village community impacted for substation land	4 village impacted due to land acquisition for substation. The impact is higher than in any other cases and substation construction in the village shall have substantial impact on village economy. Thus, the village community , apart from those who have been directly / indirectly impacted, is		Very Strong - Rural community in the region is a very close knit community and any dissatisfaction in village community may very soon result in compromised relation between the PAPs and the project. for smooth implementation and functioning of the project, maintain a harmonious relation with village community is critical.
Village community along the line	Land take, being linear in nature, shall have no significant impact on economy of the region, thus resulting in no / minimal impact on the village community.		Very Strong - As mentioned above, harmonious relation with village community is in the interest of project. However, it can be safely assumed that since project shall have no / minimal socio-economic externalities in these villages, chances of dissatisfaction is less and frequency of interaction can be reduced.
Media	Local media can have important role in shaping the narrative of a project and can be utilized by negative stakeholders to misinform / agitate hitherto neutral/ positive stakeholders.	1. Kantipur National Daily Newspaper 2. Annapurna Post National Daily 3. Nepal Television 4. Image Channel Television 5. Kantipur Television 6. Gorkhapatra Rastriya Dainik +977-01-4220638, 01-4222921 Email : news@gorkhapatra-daily.com	Strong - Media (both print and televised) have become an important part of community opinion building mechanism.
Local leaders	Established / aspiring local leaders (not the legitimate representatives) can fuel negative sentiments for political gains.	To be identified 2-3 days before each scheduled consultation process as such local leaders for a community may be subject to change over time and can become irrelevant by the time consultations are scheduled.	Somewhat strong – Community may not out rightly follows them but they can instigate the sentiments.
Activists (not in the formal structure of NGOs)	Their opinion, both regarding the intervention design of the project and mitigation of its impact, needs to be taken into account.		Strong – They possess both the legal knowledge of the issue and have a rapport with the community. Unless project takes their opinion on board, it risks several impediments.
Opinion maker (teachers, prominent people from the affected villages / working in the village, elders, respectable members etc.) (To be identified only for villages affected from land take for substation)	Identification and opening a channel of communication with key opinion makers in the villages shall ensure that project can minimize negative externalities and simultaneously enrich from their feedbacks.	To be identified 2-3 days before scheduled consultation process as key opinion makers for a community may be subject to change over time and can become irrelevant by the time consultations are scheduled.	Strong
COVID specific stakeholder* i) Agencies / Institutions working on COVID-19 response ii) Those delivering essential services	Identification of mentioned stakeholder's role in context of pandemic & devising SEP strategies accordingly (from movements to benefits sharing) is critical for successful implementation of SEP.	Strong – Owing to frequent community interaction and being part of community (Those left vulnerable due to COVID), all the	i) Somewhat strong – Though they do not interact with community on regular basis, but because of their positional situation, they command significant sway over opinion of people. ii) Strong – Owing to frequent community interaction they share strong relationship with PAPs and community.
iii) PAPs/Community members left vulnerable from COVID-19 outbreak			iii) being part of community, they share strong relationship with PAPs and community.

*COVID specific stakeholders & related engagement shall be applicable only till COVID situation prevail.

3.3 Individuals and institutions that participate in the implementation of the project

Name of the institution	Importance to the project
Nepal Electricity Authority	
Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal	Project Executing/Implementing Agency
Department of Electricity Development	Approval authority of Environmental Study document in Energy Sector and National Supervisory Authority
European Investment Bank	Approval authority of Environmental Study document in Energy Sector through DoED
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited	Funding Agency
Jade Consultant	Independent International Project Supervision Consultant
Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation	Independent National Project Supervision Consultant
Department of Forest	Forest Clearance Approval and National Supervisory Authority
Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development	Forest Clearance
Ministry of Home Affairs	National Supervisory Authority
National Trust for Nature Conservation	National Supervisory Authority
Division Forest Offices (Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun, Chitwan, Manang)*	Supervise the construction work in the territory of conservation area
District Administration Office (Lamjung, Gorkha, Tanahun, Chitwan, Manang)*	Tree cutting approval
Annapurna Conservation Area Project	Rate Determination for the land
Construction Contractor	Address & Contact
Pinggao Group of company, China (For TL)	Pinggao Group co.ltd. China Nakhipot, Lalitpur Contact No. 9801113452
L & T Company Ltd., India (For Substation)	L & T Limited, India Sunrise Chowk, Pepsicola town planning, Kathmandu Contact No. 9823367461
TBEA Group of company, China (For TL)	TBEA Co.Ltd. China Kathmandu, Basbari, house no. 124 Sai Marga Contact no. 9818759634
TBEA Group of company, China (For Substation)	TBEA Co.Ltd. China Kathmandu, Basbari, house no. 124 Sai Marga Contact no. 9818759634
Pinggao Group of company, China (For TL)	Pinggao Group co.ltd. China Nakhipot, lalitpur Contact No. 9801113452

*Contact details Annexed as **Annexure -II**.

Mapping stakeholder interest in and influence on the project is critical to planning an effective engagement process. This helps in proper allocation of resources for stakeholder engagement too. As it can be seen, all the identified stakeholders have been **colour coded** and engagement strategy shall be charted out accordingly. Meaning of colour coding is presented here below

Green	Stakeholder with High Interest and High Influence
Yellow	Stakeholder with Low Interest and High Influence
Red	Stakeholder with High Interest and Low Influence
Blue	Stakeholder with Low Interest and Low Influence

3.4 Analysis Of Stakeholders

Identifying a stakeholder of the project can't add much value to project proponents in isolation, unless and until their socio-economic motivations are clearly understood and an engagement plan to align their interests with the project is charted out. Every stakeholder group is uniquely placed vis a vis the project and understanding the same may help predict their potential behavioural pattern. Based on which spectrum the stakeholder is placed at, his / her / their behaviour towards the project might turn out to be either positive, neutral or negative. Further, based on where they are placed, one can analyse what influence they hold on the project or how much impact they shall have. The section briefly tries to understand the socio-economic & cultural background of the stakeholder, so that a precise mapping of stakeholders can be done.

As it can be seen from the above matrix, IPs and vulnerable groups are in most disadvantageous position. They have a very high interest in the project as they are losing their assets but their influence on the outcome

of the event is minimal. Thus, the project needs a build in engagement mechanism which takes care of addresses concerns of vulnerable groups and IPs. Further, the consultation process with IPs should be in a culturally appropriate manner and should respect / utilize already established institutional setup. Some of the stakeholders have been identified herein;

3.4.1 Project Affected Persons (PAPs)

The most important stakeholders, with very high chances of mismanagement even by slightest lacunas in project implementation, are the PAPs. As they are first to be impacted by project both directly and indirectly, they have highest level of insecurity about the project and what future holds for them. The stakeholder group needs to be proactively approached, project details & intricacies explained and their rights, compensation and entitlements briefed much before the actual impact. It is always desirable that a communication channels between the project proponents, preferably through some NGO or other similar institute be opened much in advance to build rapport by the time project is initiated. Communication channel, as shall be relevant in other cases too, needs to be opened throughout the project. Any grievance and insecurity need to be addressed promptly otherwise it has potential of snowballing and shall be breeding ground for project impediments. PAPs should feel as partners in development and not feel left out.

3.4.2 Indigenous People (IPs)

Among the PAPs, some specific subsections of PAPs are more vulnerable than the other. Traditionally, IPs are defined by a self-identification, distinct language, collective attachment / unique geography and customary institution. IPs explicitly in the project don't exhibit these trends and have more or less assimilated with the mainstream life. But the tower pads and RoW may affect their lands, territories, or other resources customarily used by IP, either permanently or seasonally, that results in any displacement, livelihood loss, or impact on cultural heritage, or affects their identity in other ways. This will be taken into account beforehand through cultural assessments and all public consultation process will take into consideration their cultural identities. Likewise, any form of physical and economic displacement may make them more vulnerable and may require additional R&R benefits.

3.4.3 Vulnerable Groups

Marginalised community based on caste, class, disability, gender vulnerability etc. have been considered vulnerable by the project. As stated above, the positioning of these social groups in the social system make them more likely to fall in poverty trap/ be discriminated after the impact from the project. Further, because of their unique position in social hierarchy, there are chances that their concerns / opinion may never reflect in public consultations. Thus, project should make special efforts to ensure that their view/ concerns about the project are properly documented and an effective mitigation strategy may be framed.

3.4.4 Community Based Organisations and NGOs

As CBOs and NGOs work in the villages / municipalities for a long time, hence they have already built a rapport. Project can use this goodwill and garner support from such institutions. As they work closely with the community, there are good chances that the project can gauge any dissatisfaction and act promptly to address it. However, if subject stakeholder turns negative, this may result in several impediments in project execution. Thus, an attempt should be made by project to maintain a good relation with the stakeholder, with high frequency of interactions.

3.4.5 Identification of Positive, Neutral and Potentially Negative Stakeholder

Further, as discussed above, it adds value to the project if positive, neutral and potential negative stakeholders are identified and engagement plan could then be orchestrated accordingly. Potential word has been used along with negative stakeholders to demonstrate that the stakeholder can turn hostile if it is not engaged strategically. There is no inherent conflict between any development project and institution / social actor and differences can be addressed with timely and properly directed engagement. Details of such aspects are delineated at **Table-3.4**.

Table 3.4: Identification of Positive, Neutral and Potentially Negative Stakeholder

Positive	Neutral	Potentially Negative
PAPs	PAPs	PAPs (those under influence of activists in area)
CBOs	Village community along the line	Local leaders
Elected representatives	NGOs working on issues other than social issues	Activists
Project Workforce	Media	NGOs working on social issues
All the executing agencies / Govt. agencies	Opinion makers	
COVID specific stakeholder (ii) & (iii)	Vulnerable PAPs*	
	IPs*	
	Forest User Groups (CF)	
	Village community impacted for substation land	
	COVID specific stakeholder (i)	

*Because of their already vulnerable condition in social hierarchy, insecurity in this subgroup of PAPs against the land acquisition / loss of livelihood are comparatively high. Project needs to disseminate the insecurity promptly before this insecurity turns into hostility.

As already explained above, context in which ‘negative’ has been used here doesn’t mean it to be a value loaded expression. It simply means that subject stakeholders need special attention during project consultation, planning and implementation phase. As it can further be noticed, PAPs have been used in all three categories. This has been done to reflect the reality that PAPs are not a homogenous group and based on their positioning in socio-economic hierarchy, they shall react differently to the impact from project. However, as it can be seen, vulnerable groups and IPs have been kept in potentially negative category. The inherent insecurity associated with vulnerable and IPs means that this stakeholder group is more likely to resist land acquisition from the project. Similarly, community and traditional leaders are more likely to resist changes. However, even if the project addresses the insecurities of above-mentioned sub groups and wins their confidence, it is destined to land in trouble if stakes of local leaders and independent activists are not taken into account. They need to be tactically tackled and institutional mechanism should be put in place to address any miscommunication. As already said, NGOs should be an entry point of project intervention and engaged frequently for course correction, if needed.

4.0 Stakeholder engagement plan

The SEP describes the timing and methods of engagement with stakeholders of the project as agreed, distinguishing between project-affected and other interested parties. The SEP sets out how communication with stakeholders would be handled throughout project preparation and implementation.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed in accordance with EIB's Environment & Social Standards 10 & Guidance note for EIB Standard on Stakeholder Engagement in EIB Operations, considering the nature and scale of the sub-project and its potential risks and impacts.

4.1 Process of Engagement of Stakeholder

Various methods of engagement are proposed to be used as part of the project's interaction with the stakeholders, to ensure that different stakeholder groups are successfully reached and are involved in the process of consultation, decision-making and the development of impact management solutions.

Information that is communicated in advance of public consultations primarily includes an announcement thereof in the public media – local, regional and state, as well as the distribution of invitations and full details of the forthcoming meeting well in advance, including the agenda. It is crucial that this information is widely available, readily accessible, clearly outlined, and reaches all areas and segments of the target community.

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Stakeholder engagement activities may vary at different stages of sub-project activities. The proposed activities for stakeholder engagement in subject project are presented in **Table 4.1**. The stakeholder consultation considers following points in order to align key social roles/ activities with local realities before consultation begins:

- Partnership: there are opportunities for building partnership relations between the project developer and a given social group in the framework of the project implementation or on-going operations;
- Right tools and techniques of consultation : Though the document has proposed tools and techniques to be utilized for various subgroups during consultation process, it is always most productive if the moderator / facilitator keeps an keen eyes on needs and requirements of subgroups and alters the consultation methodology, if need be.
- Identifying the diverging interests within a sub group: the moderator / facilitator needs to keenly observe dynamics of a subgroup and organize separate consultation / interviews if a sub-group is exhibiting sign of diverging interest;
- Expressed interest: a social group and/or individual may express interest to a project or on-going operations, and this group is not necessarily directly affected by the planned or current activities.

Wherever there are impacts on lands, territories, or other resources customarily used by IP, either permanently or seasonally, that results in any displacement, livelihood loss, or impact on cultural heritage, or affects their identity in other ways then free, prior informed consultations leading to consent will be employed. It may be noted that due to the surging COVID 19 cases in Nepal and several restrictions imposed by National and local governments, it may not be possible to utilize some of the methods of engagement presented in the table. Till

the time such restrictions are applicable and any gathering may compromise the safety of stakeholders, methods of consultation which use least gathering and integration shall be preferred. Details of these consultation process has been presented in chapter on Consultation. However, as soon as the restriction are revoked and situation gets better, stakeholder engagement shall continue using these tools and techniques of public consultation.

Major communication media/ medium to be used, suitability / feasibility of which shall be assessed by social expert on case-to-case basis, shall be online platforms on interaction, small FGDs (if permitted), traditional media etc. (Detailed analysis in chapter on consultation). However, it may be noted that SEP related interaction / engagements shall be undertaken only in absolute unavoidable circumstances as a last resort. Further, if the site conditions demand as per evaluation of project manager / ESMU, a prior awareness campaign may be organised.

Table 4.1 Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Target Stakeholders	Engagement Activities	Methods Used	Location & Frequency	Responsibilities
PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Assistance in gathering official documents for authorized land uses Compensation rates related interaction Compensation & R&R disbursement Grievance mechanism Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement Employment opportunities Scheduled planned consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meetings Face-to-face meetings Mass/social media communication (as needed) Disclosure of written information brochures, posters, flyers, website Information boards or desks – in appropriate offices For illiterate PAPs, provisioning for dictation of disclosures Grievance mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –locality of interaction necessarily be their village Frequency a) Milestone specific engagements – e.g., RAP/SES/GRC disclosures, Any grievance related engagement etc. b) Scheduled engagement – project to hold well documented quarterly consultation with PAPs and obtain their feedback on the project. 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Vulnerable PAPs & IPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Interactions for identification of land parcel, compensation determination & compensation & R&R disbursement. Interaction for GRM Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement Employment opportunities Scheduled consultation especially designed to incorporate views of vulnerable & IPs. It may be noted that lands, territories, or other resources customarily used by IP groups, either permanently or seasonally, that results in any displacement, livelihood loss, or impact on cultural heritage, or affects their identity in other ways consultation with IPs will follow the best practice as has been employed in Ghelanchowk for the acquisition of land for substation. Based on this the project will seriously consider the potential impacts on these IP groups as a whole & mitigation measure will be proposed based on their consultations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meetings using PRA techniques to properly capture opinion of vulnerable & IPs Open ended Interviews, if there is a need Mass/social media communication (as needed) Disclosure of written information brochures, posters, flyers, website Information boards or desks – in appropriate offices Grievance mechanism Methodology of engagement with IPs shall keep in mind that they arrive at a decision in accordance with their legal provisions, cultural traditions and practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –locality of interaction necessarily be their village Frequency a) Milestone specific engagements – e.g., RAP/SES/GRC disclosures, any grievance related engagement etc. b) Scheduled engagement – project to hold well documented bi-monthly (once in 2 months) consultation with vulnerable PAPs & IPs separately (in culturally appropriate way) and obtain their feedback. 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>

Target Stakeholders	Engagement Activities	Methods Used	Location & Frequency	Responsibilities
Forest User Groups (CF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal compliance issues Coordination activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings Invitations to public /community meetings Submission of required reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure meetings Reports as required <p>As and when issue arises</p>	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Community and traditional leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Scheduled planned consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open ended Interviews Group consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –locality of interaction necessarily be their village (or similar socio-economic setup) Well documented consultation process to be undertaken at milestones or Semi Annually 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Village community impacted for substation land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement Employment opportunities Scheduled planned consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –locality of interaction necessarily be their village Well documented consultation process to be undertaken at milestones for the subject area or Semi Annually 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Village community along the line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –locality of interaction necessarily be their village Well documented consultation process to be undertaken at milestones for the subject area 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Opinion makers (only for villages impacted from substation land acquisition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Scheduled planned consultation Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement Employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open ended interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –can be either in village or project office Well documented consultation process to be undertaken at milestones for the subject area or semi annually 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Local leaders (Only for villages impacted from substation land acquisition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP, SES and other E&S standards related disclosures Scheduled planned consultation Health and safety impacts (EMF, community) related engagement Employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open ended interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –can be either in village or project office Well documented consultation process to be undertaken when any E&S milestone in the area is achieved or semi annually 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever project finishes milestone During the compensation & R&R finalization & distribution process to bring transparency Whenever any new information needs to be disbursed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media briefing or press release Inviting media personnel to cover project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –can be either in village or project office During significant project milestone completion As and when need information dissemination is required 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>

Target Stakeholders	Engagement Activities	Methods Used	Location & Frequency	Responsibilities
Activists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During scheduled planned consultation During the compensation & R&R finalization & distribution process to bring transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open ended interviews Discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –preferably in project office During significant project milestone execution and completion Semi-annual scheduled consultation 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
NGOs working on social issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be intervention point in the community. Facilitator during the compensation & R&R finalization & distribution process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth qualitative consultation Open ended interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –village, NGO office or project office based on NGOs stand on the issue. To start as early as possible Frequency based on project milestone, any specific issue or semi-annually as per schedule 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
NGOs working on issues other than social issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever the project activities and NGOs field of work converses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In depth qualitative interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –Project Office or NGOs office Frequency of interaction to be decided as per need 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Elected representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E&S standards related disclosure Identification of land plots and uses Grievance Redressal mechanism process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactions Joint public / community meeting with PAPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location –stakeholder office or village, as preferred Quarterly meetings in affected wards. Disclosure meetings in Village and District Offices 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
Project Workforce i) All Workers employed by contractor and sub-contractor including those locally recruited ii) Workers recruited locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E&S standards related disclosure related to workforce Grievance Redressal mechanism for workforce Know-how of rights and other remedial measures available 	<p>i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGDs with stratified sampled groups Random interaction Observation <p>ii)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate interaction with subject stakeholders whenever interaction with concerned community is scheduled Informal interaction, one to one discussions or public meeting as per the need assessed by social officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location <p>i) Work place ii) Necessarily their village. No separate meeting with the stakeholders at workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency – i)Quarterly & during related disclosures ii) As per schedule of interaction with community 	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>
COVID specific stakeholder* i) Agencies / Institutions working on COVID-19 response ii) Those delivering essential services iii) PAPs/Community left vulnerable from COVID-19 outbreak (migrants /old PAPs/BPL PAPs/frontline workers etc. as assessed by social expert on case-to-case basis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) & ii) – A preparatory meeting before any public disclosure / engagement activities & meeting post disclosure/engagement, if required (like reaffirming findings from engagement / feedbacks. iii) – A separate interaction with these stakeholders to assess their concerns and listening to solutions from them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) & ii) – One to one interaction, semi structured interview iii) – FDGs, Informal interactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location <p>i) Work place ii) Work place or community as per convenience iii) In community / socio economic setup of their choice, however separately from rest of community, in a group more</p>	<p>-Direct responsibility with SEP unit</p> <p>- PMU, NEA & Contractor</p>

Target Stakeholders	Engagement Activities	Methods Used	Location & Frequency	Responsibilities
			or less having homogenous interest to be assessed by social expert). Frequency i)&ii) – Pre & post (if required) disclosure /interaction iii)- During scheduled & milestone-based interaction in subject community	
All the executing agencies / Govt. agencies/CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal compliance issues • Coordination activities • Land Procurement process • Grievance mechanism process • E&S disclosures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face meetings • Invitations to public /community meetings • Submission of required reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure meetings • Reports as required • As and when issue arises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Direct responsibility with SEP unit - PMU, NEA & Contractor

4.3 Potential cultural impacts and management

The priority will try to avoid such impacts to potential IP/minorities by prioritizing the avoidance of significant impacts on CCH sites. In order to avoid any possible conflicts arising from entering in this culturally sensitive area, to the extent possible, the project will try to identify alternative locations and exclude the CCH site from any further consideration in the land acquisition.

Should the avoidance not be possible, the project will then enter into a process of site-specific consent from the affected IP communities. The process is explained in the procedures in Annex.III.

5.0 Implementation arrangement and budget

As already stated, land for substation has already been secured and landowners along the line are being identified. Thus, at this stage of project implementation, major project activities (since the arrangement for implementation of SEP needs to be made in sync with project activities) shall be as following:

- Identification Land owners for remaining locations and RoW and securing of land
- Census of losses along the line (for tower footing and RoW)
- HH surveys for leftover owners with special focus on vulnerable and IPs
- Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

5.1 Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation already undertaken

Projects have already undertaken some stakeholder's engagement / consultation and the details are given at **Table 5.1**. Photographs of consultations are annexed as **Annexure-III**.

Table 5.1: Details of Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation already undertaken

Date of Consultation / interaction	Timeline	Target group	Demand of stakeholder / outcome of meeting
2017/01/26 (2073/10/13)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RoW Compensation ○ Presence of PAPs in CDC
2017/01/26 (2073/10/13)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Valuation of rate of land of tower pad and along RoW as per market price ○ Provision of Compensatory plantation
2017/01/24 (2073/10/11)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation of land fix in presence of PAPs ○ Land rate will be done from taking land rate from local market ○ Construct other development infrastructures
2017/01/26 (2073/10/13)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid land to be use for construct home should be avoid during the project construction
2017/01/28 (2073/10/15)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction works should be done in close coordination with local community ○ Compensatory plantation work in line with Forest Rule.
2017/01/25 (2073/10/12)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land rate will be done from taking land rate from local market ○ Construction work should be done with minimum impact.
2017/01/27 (2073/10/14)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation done as per market price ○ As per forest rule compensatory plantation should be done ○ Local participation should be done in land determination of land ○ Compensatory plantation should be done in close coordination with CFUGs
2017/01/25 (2073/10/12)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land rate should be done as per the suggestions of local. ○ RoW compensation should be managed ○ Compensatory plantation should be done as per forest rule.
2017/01/27 (2073/10/14)	Pre-construction phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use barren land instead of cultivable land for construction ○ Conserve the springs ○ Appropriate compensation for land loss
2017/01/24 (2073/10/11)	Pre-construction Phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriate compensation for land loss ○ Compensation fixation done in time ○ Route alignment should be away from settlement
2017/01/25 (2073/10/12)	Pre-construction Phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land loss compensation done appropriately

Date of Consultation / interaction	Timeline	Target group	Demand of stakeholder / outcome of meeting
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Route alignment should be avoided from settlement
2017/01/25 (2073/10/12)	Pre-construction Phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land loss compensation done appropriately ○ Route alignment should be avoided from settlement ○ Land along RoW issue
2017/01/27 (2073/10/14)	Pre-construction Phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land loss compensation done appropriately ○ Route alignment should be avoided from settlement ○ Local Employment opportunity
2017/01/26 (2073/10/13)	Pre-construction Phase	Local PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doubt on the breakdown of conductor ○ Tower should be placed corner of land instead of centre of land ○ Appropriate land compensation.
2019/11/21 (2076/08/05)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To shift the project from the vicinity as this place will have market enhance as per the smart city policy. ○ Routes should be passed through the less cultivable lands. ○ Surveys should be done the suggestions and observations of locals. ○ Survey should be start as soon as possible.
2019/05/26 (2076/02/12)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation to Local people for the land loss, crops, assets, trees and their livelihood by tower foundation and below conductors/Under ROW in accordance to the local market price
2019/08/09 (2076/04/24)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contractor will provide Rs 35,000 as the compensation for crop loss to land owner after the construction of tower ○ Land owner will help in the construction of 4 towers and contractor will help to make the land plain after the construction.
2020/01/10 (2076/09/25)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To shift the project from the vicinity as this place will have market enhance as per the smart city policy. ○ Routes should be passed through the less cultivable lands. ○ Surveys should be done the suggestions and observations of locals. ○ Survey should be start as soon as possible
2019/11/24 (2076/08/08)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ compensate the land owners of those land which will be used as a way of transportation for the construct materials to build the tower 49 and Contractors should compensate them
2019/11/28 (2076/08/12)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of crops should be compensated ○ Reinstate the damage infrastructure due to construction
2019/11/30 (2076/08/14)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation distribution done as per exact loss
2021/03/01 (2077/11/17)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide the training to PAPs
2021/03/01 (2077/11/17)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compensation for the trees and plants damaged ○ Distribute land to the landowners who have not received compensation ○ Restore the cultivable land after construction
2021/02/11 (2077/10/29)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide the results of the depleted timber on the basis of the forest area used by the forest project ○ Effectively distribute the CSR budget
2021/02/21 (2077/11/09)	Construction Phase	Local Stakeholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On-site inspection of the land under the transmission line was carried out in the presence of locals ○ Complaints of affected landlords has been collected along with the land details

5.2 Organisational Chart Vis A Vis Stakeholder Engagement Responsibilities

The resources and responsibilities allocated for the stakeholder engagement activities have already been detailed in table 4.1. The organisational hierarchy for those responsible for getting the stakeholder engagement completed at ground along with the position of overseeing agencies, has been presented herein at **Figure-5.1**.

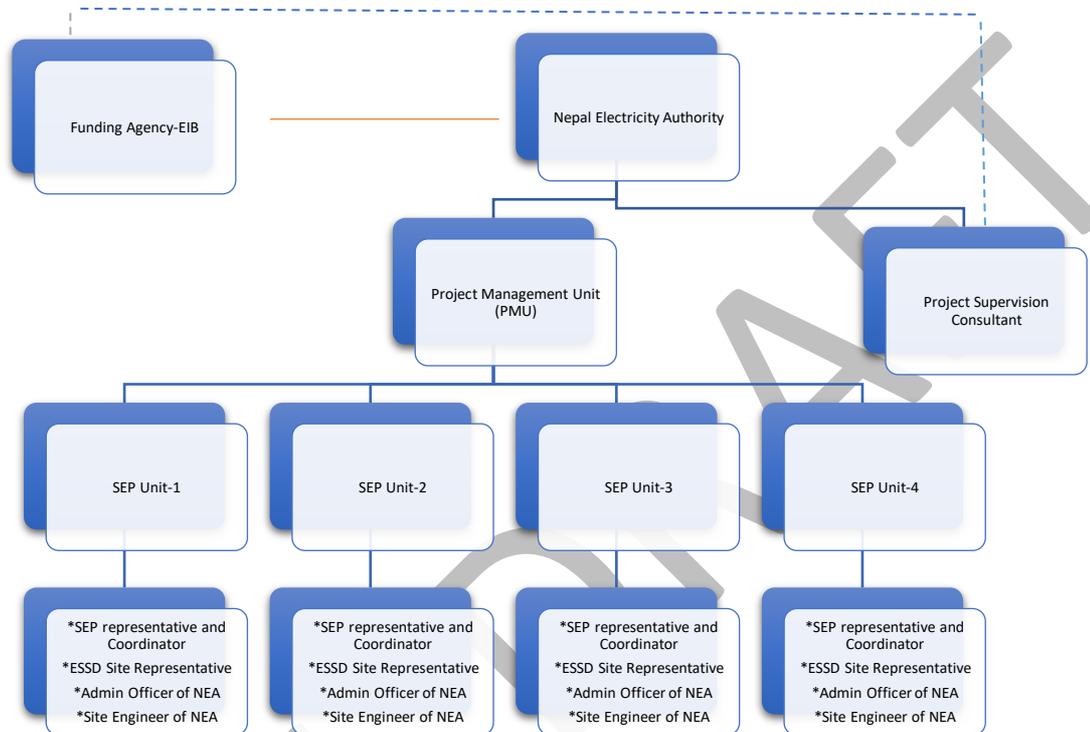


Figure 5.1: Organisational hierarchy for the implementation of SEP

SEP related activities shall be carried on in the project by four SEP units, wherein their geographical area/ scope to be covered has been predetermined. Each SEP unit shall have one social officer and one local assistant to social officer, fully dedicated for undertaking SEP related activities. Social officer along with its assistant in each SEP unit shall have primary responsibility for SEP related activities in their geographical areas. Details of Social experts shall be provided to EIB subsequently.

SEP unit, apart from these dedicated staffs, shall also include ESSD Site Representative, Administrative officer and Site engineer of NEA. They shall be involved in SEP activities part-time and assist social officer and its assistant in undertaking SEP related activities.

5.3 Budget for the project

As already detailed above, project shall establish four SEP units, which clearly demarcated geographical areas, for undertaking SEP activities. These units shall have totally dedicated as well as part time members. Project has worked out the cost of dedicated staffs under the SEP units and presented below. Additionally, arrangement cost of public consultations and vehicle hiring cost for the prescribed period has also been considered and reflected below: -

Table 5.2: Budget

SN	Expenses	Number of required Months	Number of SEP Units (Nos)	Rate (NPR)	Allocated Budget (NPR)	Remarks
1	Hiring of Social Officer for SEP	18	4	65,000.00	4680000	
2	Local Assistant for Social Officer	18	4	25,000.00	1800000	
3	Public Consultation	18	4	50,000.00	3600000	
4	Hiring Vehicle	6	4	95,000.00	2280000	Rate NPR 100000 per month for 18 months
Total					12360000	

6.0 Consultation & disclosure

Through the process of consultation and disclosures, project would envisage to build participation of stakeholders at each stage of project planning and implementation. Project would be responsible not only for ensuring participation of the community in the consultation process but to make it effective, and ensure integration of the feedback received from stakeholder into the project plans, where it deems fit. The main objective is established and maintain a constructive dialogue between the project proponent, project-affected communities and other interested parties throughout the project life cycle in order to improve project outcomes and sustainability.

6.1 Consultation Mechanism

As discussed in earlier sections, a consultation/ stakeholder engagement framework has been prepared to ensure involvement of stakeholders at each stage of project cycle. The project the Consultation framework for this project has been demonstrated at **Table 4.1**.

Various engagement activities already undertaken by the project has already been listed in **Table 5.1**. The project has made concerted effort to incorporate major inputs from such consultations processes into the project design.

The document proposes stakeholder engagement with various subgroups of project stakeholders based on their relative positioning in socio-economic spectrum and their accessibility. Every effort should be made by the resource person to make the engagement meaningful and effective. While designing the stakeholder engagement, utmost efforts have been made to ensure that the process is inclusive both for the PAPs and nearby community, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups. Further, process shall be documented both in substance and process. The process of engagement is non-discriminative, participatory, free and transparent and the stakeholders shall be informed in language, format and manner that is appropriate for stakeholders, with tailored measures for illiterate stakeholders. As it can be seen in the in the **Table. 4.1**, engagement plan has been framed in such a way that all the stakeholder are consulted during strategic decision-making points during the project cycle.

6.2 Free, prior, informed consent

Free, prior, informed consultation leading to consent will be carried out for any lands, territories, or other resources customarily/collectively/traditionally used by IP groups, either permanently or seasonally, that results in any displacement, livelihood loss, or impact on cultural heritage, or affects their identity in other ways. Their concerns and suggestions shall be noted and subsequently incorporated in the E&S reports and in project design. The guiding principles and detailed procedure of FPIC is elaborated in extract from EIB guidance document presented below:

Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC)

Free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) refers to the process whereby an affected community of indigenous peoples arrives at a decision in accordance with their legal provisions, cultural traditions and practices. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ratified in 2007 is the standard to be applied in the implementation of sustainable development projects at all levels, including respect for full participation in decision-making and indigenous peoples' free, prior informed consent to policies, programmes and projects affecting them.

In properly appreciating and applying FPIC:

Free should imply no coercion, intimidation or manipulation.

Prior should imply consent has been sought sufficiently in advance of any authorisation or commencement of activities and respect time requirements of indigenous consultation/consensus processes.

Informed should imply that information is provided that covers (at least) the following aspects: (a) the nature, size, pace, reversibility and scope of any proposed project or activity; (b) the reason/s or purpose of the project and/or activity; (c) the duration of the above; (d) the locality of areas that will be affected; (e) a preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks and benefit sharing in a context that respects the precautionary principle; (f) personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the proposed project (including indigenous peoples, private sector staff, research institutions, government employees and others); and (g) procedures that the project may entail.

Consent should be premised on consultation and participation undertaken in good faith and full and equitable participation, allowing for as much time as needed and an effective system for communicating among interest-holders, participation of peoples' own freely chosen representatives and customary or other institutions, and the participation of indigenous women, as well as children and youth as appropriate.

Source: EIB, *Environmental and Social Standard*, p 82

6.2.1 Applicability of FPIC

The FPIC process should be applied to IPs who share these particular characteristics in varying degrees:

- a. self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and the recognition of this identity by others;
- b. collective and historical attachment to geographically distinct habitats, ancestral territories or areas of seasonal use in the project area, and to the natural resources in the project area;
- c. customary cultural, spiritual traditions, beliefs, social, or political institutions that are distinct from those of the mainstream society or culture and a shared wish to maintain these differences;
- d. an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

A culturally appropriate engagement plan shall be charted out for such communities. The engagement with IPs goes beyond consultation to *negotiation* with the objective of obtaining the *explicit* consent of the communities for the project. No project activity that results in any physical or economic displacement should occur until the IP involved have signalled their consent to the project and received their compensation, including the agreed measures of livelihood rehabilitation, as part of the FPIC agreement.

6.3 Consultation during COVID-19

Onset of COVID-19 pandemic has substantially changed social realities of our days. One of the direct impacts of the pandemic is on the way consultation processes have been impacted. In order to ensure a safe consultation/ engagement procedure or in line with advisory / mandate of national or local law, social distancing, specifically to reduce/ avoid public gatherings to prevent and reduce the risk of the virus transmission needs to be followed. Accordingly, alternative ways of managing consultation and stakeholder engagement may be adopted in line with the local applicable laws and policies related to COVID-19 management. Following cautions and changes in engagement plan / consultation process, in line with the directives from local / state administration may be allowed till the pandemic restrictions are on: -

If smaller meetings are permitted, conduct consultations in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. If not permitted, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, including Microsoft team, Webex, zoom and skype meetings. The format of such workshops could include the following steps:

- Virtual registration of participants: Participants can register online through a dedicated platform.

- Distribution of workshop materials to participants, including agenda, project documents, presentations, questionnaires and discussion topics: These can be distributed online to participants.
- Review of distributed information materials: Participants are given a scheduled duration for this, prior to scheduling a discussion on the information provided.
- Discussion, feedback collection and sharing
- The chair of the workshop will summarize the virtual workshop discussion, formulate conclusions and share electronically with all participants.
- Ensure all project social experts to organise any stakeholder engagement event keeping in mind of good hygiene practices and social behaviour to avoid possibility of disease transmission;
- Where possible and appropriate, create dedicated online platforms and chat groups appropriate for the purpose, based on the type and category of stakeholders;
- Would take the advantage of various social media platform to reach out project affected persons as and when required.
- Employ traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, public announcements and mail) when stakeholders do not have access to online social platform or do not use them frequently. Such channels can also be highly effective in conveying relevant information to stakeholders, and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions;
- Employ online communication tools to design virtual workshops in situations where large meetings and workshops are essential.

However, as already mentioned, virtual mode of engagement shall be undertaken only in absolute unavoidable circumstances as a last resort.

6.4 Information Disclosure Mechanism:

The information disclosure would provide detailed information regarding the project policies, activities linked to project milestone with their information frequency along with the channel/ mode of communication that could reach out to the stakeholders. Effective disclosure of information will be achieved through close alignment between the project's community liaison staff and planning engineers.

The type and timing of the disclosure, channels to be used, frequency and duration of disclosure are presented in **Table-6.1**. As already discussed, some additional channel / mode of disclosure shall be adopted, as shall be deemed fit in site conditions, to counter inefficiencies disseminating from restriction imposed due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Table-6.1: Summary of Information Disclosure Plan

Documents to be Disclosed	Frequency and Duration of Disclosure	Channel/ Mode of Disclosure
EIA, IEE	Once it is approved by the respective statutory body as per national requirement and later on endorsed by the funding agency, these documents remain disclosed for entire life cycle of the project.	Website of NEA, ADB & EIB and Information leaflet to be provided during consultation meetings. For illiterate PAPs, dictation of the same shall be arranged as per convenience.
RAP	Once it is approved by Funding agency, it shall be kept disclosed for the entire project cycle.	
SEP	Once it is approved by Funding agency, it shall be kept disclosed for the entire project cycle.	
Notice for Public consultation,	As and when required throughout the project cycle.	Disclosed on NEA website, giving advertisement in any newspapers in vernacular language and putting it on any

Documents to be Disclosed	Frequency and Duration of Disclosure	Channel/ Mode of Disclosure
		other authorised social media handle of NEA.
GRC Process	Once GRC is formed and approved, GRM is kept disclosed throughout the project cycle.	Disclosed on NEA's website, in the office of Rural Municipality and at project sites itself. Arrangement shall be made for dictation of GRC if such demands are received during public consultation.
Land acquisition Notice	*Before acquisition of land. * During and after land rate decision by CDC * After transfer of land	Published on National Daily Newspaper (Gorkhapatra)
E&S Monitoring Report	E&S Monitoring Report are updated semi-annually and gets disclosed on NEA's and Funding agency's website after getting approved from the Bank.	Disclosed on website of Bank and NEA.
Information of Hazardous Waste Generation and Disposal	Continuously for the entire life of the project.	NEA website and respective facilities.

7.0 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

7.1 General

A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been established to receive, evaluate and facilitate the resolution of affected people's concerns, complaints, and grievances about the social and environmental performance at project level. The GRM is aimed to provide a time-bound and transparent mechanism to voice and resolve social and environmental concerns linked to the project. The GRM will provide an accessible and trustworthy platform for receiving and facilitating resolution of affected households' grievances related to the project. The multi-tier GRM for the project is outlined below, each tier having time-bound schedules with responsible persons identified to address grievances and seek appropriate persons' advice at each stage, as required. The grievance mechanism addresses affected people's concerns and complaints promptly, using a transparent process that is gender responsive, culturally appropriate, and readily accessible to all segments of the affected people at no costs and without retribution.

7.2 Levels of GRM

The GRM for the project is outlined below and consists of three levels with time-bound schedules and specific persons to address grievances received from PAPs.

7.2.1 First Level Of GRM

The first level GRM has been established in all concerned RM and MC. Its composed at site office, which is the most accessible and immediate venue for the fastest resolution of grievances. If any complaints arise, the NEA site engineer/official, the construction contractor and ESMU with the assistance of Rural Municipality representatives will immediately resolve the complaint on site. Any person with a grievance related to the project works can contact the ESMU with his / her complain. The ESMU will document the complaint, and immediately address and resolve the issue at field-level with the construction contractor, representatives of the concerned Rural Municipality and the affected households within 7 days of receipt of a complain/grievances. Following information related to PAP will be documented: (i) name of the complainant, (ii) date of complaint received, (iii) nature of complaint, (iv) location of complaint, and (v) how the complaint was resolved. If the complaint remains unresolved at field level, the ESMU will forward the complaint to the second level of GRM i.e., to NEA's Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

7.2.2 Second Level of GRM

If the grievance remained unresolved at the first level, it will be forwarded to the PIU which is headed by the project manager of the PMU. PIU is the site office of NEA that is responsible for site level implementation under PMU. The person filing the grievance will be notified by the ESMU that the grievance has been forwarded to the PMU at PIU. PMU with the support of ESMU social expert, construction contractor will try to resolve the grievances through continuous interactions with the affected households within 15 days of complaints forwarded by ESMU.

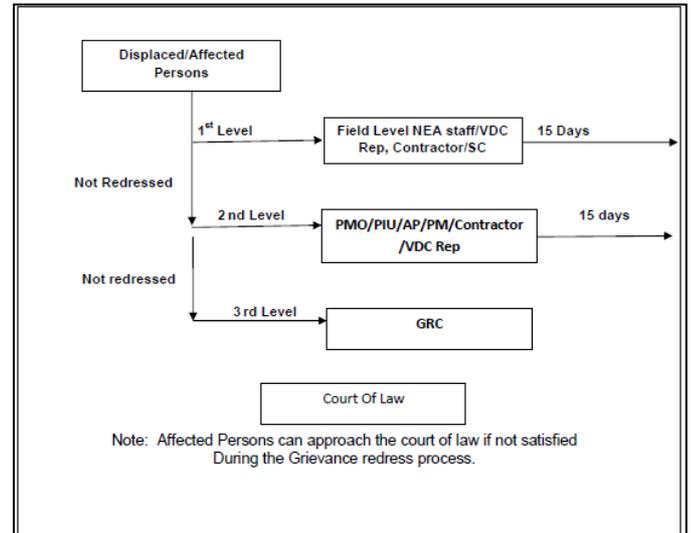
7.2.3 Third Level of GRM

If the grievance remains unresolved at the second level, Chief District Officer (CDO) of the district will activate the third level of the GRM by referring the issue (with written documentation). A Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be formed. The GRC consists of members of the PMO, affected households, RM/RC, PSC, social expert and a third-party Non-Government Organization (NGO). A hearing will be called with the GRC, if necessary, where the affected household can present his/her concern/issues. The GRC will suggest corrective measures at field level and assign clear responsibilities for implementing its decision within 15 days. The functions of the local GRC are as follows: (i) provide support to affected households on problems arising from environmental or social disruption; asset acquisition (if necessary); and eligibility for entitlements, compensation and assistance; (ii) record grievances of affected households, categorize and prioritize them and provide solutions within 15 days; and (iii) report to the aggrieved parties about developments regarding their grievances and decisions of the GRC. The consultant social expert will

be responsible for processing and placing all papers before the GRC, recording decisions, issuing minutes of the meetings and taking follow up action to see that formal orders are issued and the decisions carried out.

7.3 Court of Law/Country's Legal System

The proposed mechanism does not impede access to the country's judicial or administrative remedies. The APs have the right to refer their grievances to appropriate courts of law if not satisfied with the redressal mechanisms of the project, at any stage of the process or the APs will have the choice to approach country's judicial system. The PIU will keep records of all grievances received including: contact details of complainant, date that the complaint was received, nature of grievance, agreed corrective actions and the date these were affected, and final outcome. The flow chart showing Grievance Redress Mechanism is presented here:



8.0 Monitoring, review and reporting on stakeholder engagement

The following indicators will be used to monitor and assess the efficiency of the stakeholder engagement activities:

- Number of meetings of various kinds (public hearings, meetings, consultation, meetings/ open ended interviews etc.) held with each category of stakeholders and number of participants;
- Number of stakeholders included in the Stakeholder Register/log;
- Number of suggestions and recommendations received using various feedback mechanisms;
- Number of publications covering the Project in the local, regional and national mass media;

All stakeholder engagement activities will be adequately documented both in substance and process. The reporting shall not restrict itself to mere quantitative reporting like nos. of meeting / participants / suggestions received but shall draw analytical inferences and suggest project level modifications based on interactions /consultations. The reporting shall include analysis of content/ nature of feedbacks received, adjustments to be done in project designs, E&S risk identification & mitigation, benefit sharing initiatives etc.

In light of restriction imposed because of COVID 19 pandemic, the SEP has proposed several virtual modes of interaction / engagement with stakeholder. The change in mode of interaction significantly changes the scope of monitoring and review of stakeholder consultation process. Thus, the document proposes a set of monitoring, reviewing and reporting indicators if stakeholder engagement has been done virtually for the sake of public health or in compliance to national / provincial laws.

- Number of virtual meetings (in line with pre- meeting preparations and procedures proposed in chapter on consultation) and attendance in the same may be recorded;
- Consultation process may be recorded and archived (till project is being implemented);
- Minutes of the meeting / conclusion may be prepared and dictated by the chairperson. A virtual agreement may simultaneously be taken by the chair;
- This conclusion note / minute of meeting should be maintained as an official document and recording of virtual meeting corresponding to the meeting (along with acceptance of conclusion note / minute of meeting) may also be achieved, till the project is being implemented;
- Such virtual interactions should necessarily be done in native language.

Indicators above will be gathered on a yearly basis. All indicators will be reflected in the Environmental and Social Monitoring Report submitted to the EIB and other lenders as applicable.

ANNEX: I Checklist of Cultural Assessment

Marshyangdi Corridor 220 KV Transmission Line Project मस्र्याङ्दी करिडोर २२० केभी प्रसारण लाइन आयोजना (Manang-Khudi Section मनाङ-खुदी खण्ड) Checklist for Cultural Impact due to intervention of TL प्रसारण लाइनको हस्तक्षेपका कारण सांस्कृतिक प्रभावको लागि चेकलिस्ट

1. Project Area आयोजना क्षेत्र

Province प्रदेश:	District जिल्ला:
RM/MC गाउँपालिका/नगरपालिका:	Ward No वडा नम्बर:
Name of contacted person सम्पर्क व्यक्तिको नाम:	AP Location/ROW:
GPS coordinate:	Picture of the site
Tole/Village Name टोल/गाउँको नाम:	

2. Demography of affected area प्रभावित क्षेत्रको जनसांख्यिकी

Total No of Households घरपरिवारको कुल संख्या	Male head पुरुष	Female head महिला	Indigenous Peoples जनजाति	Total कुल

3. Major settlement Patterns प्रमुख बस्तीका ढाँचाहरू:

- Main settlement areas मुख्य बस्ती क्षेत्रहरू

.....
.....

- Market Areas बजार क्षेत्रहरू

.....
.....

- Tourism Areas पर्यटन क्षेत्रहरू

.....
.....

- Caste/Ethnicity जात/जाति Total No of Households कुल परिवार संख्या

i.
ii.
iii.

- Religion धर्म Total No of Households कुल परिवार संख्या

i.
ii.

4. Festivals, religious and cultural practices in the project area आयोजना क्षेत्रमा चाडपर्व, धार्मिक र सांस्कृतिक अभ्यासहरू



5. Type of heritage sites likely to be affected by the project. (Select one)

आयोजनाबाट प्रभावित हुन सक्ने सम्पदा स्थलहरूको प्रकार। (एउटा छान्नुहोस्)

Historic Value ऐतिहासिक	Aesthetic Value सौन्दर्य	Natural Value प्राकृतिक	Social Value सामाजिक
1. Temples मन्दिरहरू	1. Park पार्क	1. Religious Stone धार्मिक ढुङ्गा	1. Community Structures सामुदायिक संरचना
2. Monasteries गुम्बाहरू	2. Tourism Area पर्यटन क्षेत्र.....	2. Religious Plant (Peepal/Bar) धार्मिक बिरुवा (पिपल/बर)
3. Church चर्च	3. Others	3. Sprout Water with religious and medicinal values धार्मिक र औषधीय मूल्यहरू संग अंकुरित पानी	2. Pati/Pauwa पाटी/पौवा
4. Cremation Sites दाहसंस्कार स्थलहरू	3. Others अन्य.....	4. Places with religious values धार्मिक मानहरू भएका ठाउँहरू	3. Dharmasala धर्मशाला
5. Clanship God कुलदेवता		5. Others अन्य.....	4. Others अन्य.....
6. Others अन्य.....			

6. Significance of identified heritage site in community समुदायमा पहिचान गरिएको सम्पदा स्थलको महत्व

7. Sphere of significance of identified heritage site पहिचान गरिएको सम्पदा स्थलको महत्वको स्तर

Level स्तर	High उच्च	Medium मध्यम	Low तल्लो	None कुनै पनि छैन
International अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय				
National राष्ट्रिय				
Provincial प्रान्तीय				
Regional क्षेत्रीय				
Local स्थानिय				
Specific Community विशिष्ट समुदाय				

8. Cultural significance/ specific rituals and ceremonies of the location?

.....
.....

.....

9. **How many people are living or working inside the identified site?** पहिचान गरिएको साइट भित्र कति जना मानिस बसोबास गर्दैछन् वा काम गरिरहेका छन्?.....
10. **Are there any families depending only on this heritage site? If yes, write details** यो सम्पदा स्थलमा मात्र निर्भर परिवारहरू छन्? यदि हो भने, विवरण लेख्नुहोस् ।

11. **Does the heritage contribute local economy? If yes , how** के सम्पदाले स्थानीय अर्थतन्त्रमा योगदान पुऱ्याउँछ? यदि हो भने, कसरी.....
12. **What is the average monthly or annual revenue of the identified site?** पहिचान गरिएको साइटको औसत मासिक वा वार्षिक राजस्व के हो?.....
13. **Mention the number of visitors (daily/monthly/yearly)** आगन्तुकहरूको संख्या उल्लेख गर्नुहोस् (दैनिक/मासिक/वार्षिक).....
14. **Can the identified heritage be relocated ?** के पहिचान गरिएका सम्पदाहरू स्थानान्तरण गर्न सकिन्छ?.....
15. **If yes, how ?** यदि हो भने, कसरी?.....

ANNEX: II

Procedure of Cultural Assessment

8.1 Introduction

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) is the Executive Agency of Marsyangdi Corridor 220 kV Transmission Line project (MCTLP) funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The proposed MCTLP is located in Gandaki Province of Western Nepal. Marsyangdi Corridor 220 kV Transmission Line Project will evacuate approximately 1600 MW of power generated by various hydropower stations in the Marsyangdi basin/ Marsyangdi River Corridor. The MCTLP comprises of construction of 110 km long Double Circuit Transmission Line from Manang (Dharapani) to Chitawan (Bharatpur) and associated 220/132/33 kV, 160 MVA substations at Dharapani of Manang, Khudi and Udipur of Lamjung and New Bharatpur of Chitwan.

The upper Marsyangdi section is one of the two sections of the larger Marsyangdi corridor TLP, which includes Manang-Khudi-Udipur Transmission Line (MKUTLP) Section. The length of upper section of 220 kV, double circuit transmission line with twin conductor from Dharapani to Udipur is 45.57 km. The MKUTLP project components lie in Manang and Lamjung Districts. Altogether 2 Rural Municipalities (RM)s (Nashong RM of Manang and Marsyangdi RM of Lamjung) and Besishar Municipality (MC) of Lamjung will be affected by the project. .

8.2 Project Background

The Marsyangdi Corridor 220 kV Transmission Line Project (MCTLP) connects five substations (Dharapani (Manang), Khudi (Lamjung), Udipur (Lamjung) Markichowk (Tanahun) and Bharatpur (Chitwan) out of which four substations (Dharapani, Khudi, Udipur and Bharatpur) have been planned to be constructed under this Corridor. NEA has divided this TL into two sections Manang-Khudi-Udipur section and Udipur-Markichowk-Bharatpur section. This CA has been prepared to assess the potential negative impact on entire the TL alignment from Manang to Bharatpur and associated facilities. .

Overview on the Project's Land Acquisition: The Project design has carefully incorporated engineering solutions to minimize land acquisition and resettlement impacts on major human settlements in the area. However, due to technically unavoidable circumstances the proposed TL shall affect some private land and land owned by the community both permanently and temporarily. The 45.57 km long alignment requires about 130.31ha of land which shall be subject to different and use restriction.

8.3 Scope of the assessment

The scope of this assessment is to avoid and minimize land acquisition impacts that may result on Critical Cultural Heritage (CCH) aspects along the the Right of Way (RoW) of the project affected RMs of Manang and Lamjung Districts, namely Nasyong RM of Manang and Besisahar MC and Marshyangdi RM of Lamjung Districts. Noting that this approach must be done through a robust and consultative process with all the stakeholders involved, the RCA will incorporate the following:

- A Statement committing NEA to comply with the applicable EIB Environmental and Social Standards.
- Procedures describing how the applicable standards will be complied with throughout the land acquisition process, including screening approach and the application of the mitigation hierarchy to prevent negative impacts on CCH;
- Engagement with relevant stakeholders and community grievance principles, incorporating aspects related to impacts on Indigenous People *Adibasi Janajati* (AJ) where applicable.
- Monitoring and reporting provisions to demonstrate that the assessment has been appropriately implemented.

8.4 background of the project area:

Manang and Lamjung districts will be affected by the project. A short cultural background of the affected district is outlined below.

8.4.1 Manang district:

Manang district lies on the northern part of Gandaki Province bordering with Tibet. It covers a total area of 2,246 km² (867 sq. mi) with mainly mountainous landscape. Three main trails that link Nepal to Lahsa starts from Manang. The trail from Manang to Muktinath has been used by the locals for hundreds of years to transport huge herds of sheep and yak in and out of Manang. It is an important route for the people of the region. The major portion of the population of Manang constitutes Indigenous People and Ethnic Minorities. It is home mainly to Gurung people (57.1%) followed by Tamang (12.6%) with minority population of other ethnic groups like Ghale, Bhote, Kami, Magar, Newar, Damai/Dholi, Thakali, Rai, Bote, Sarki, and others. Only a small population of Hill brahmin and Chettri (4%) live in this area.

In past, nomadic Tibeto-Burman people used to move across the area hunting and gathering although they have settled in the area especially Nyeshang valley they still follow some nomadic culture today. This shows that the locals have close bond with their land. They follow buddhist, bonpo and animistic traditions. Many Chorten or Stupa, an important religious monument in Buddhism, symbolizing Buddha's presence and protection against calamities are present in the area. There are more than ten important Buddhist Gumbas in Manang where lamas reside and perform various rituals and ceremonies including death rites.

8.4.2 Lamjung district

Lamjung District lies on the central part of Gandaki Province. It covers a total area of 1,692 square kilometres (653 sq. mi) and as of 2011 had a population of 167,724. Lamjung lies in the mid-hills. It is host to probably the highest density of the Gurung ethnic population in the country. The population residing in Lamjung are of different casts and ethnicities with its major population belonging to Gurung community (31.4%) and 38.2% of the population constitutes other IPs and mixed ethnic groups or *dalits* combined. However, the majority of the population follow Hinduism 64% and 31% follow Buddhism.

Besisahar is the headquarters of Lamjung District which will be affected by the project. Besisahar houses many cultural heritage sites and sites of historical and religious importance.

Besisahar MC of Lamjung district has particular historical importance as it houses Lamjung Durbar the birthplace of the Royal family of Lamjung in 1663 AD. Kalu Shah was the first king. King Yeshe Bramha Shah was the founder of Shah Dynasty in Nepal. It also boasts a list of religious and cultural landmarks due to its diverse population composition. Besides, it is also popular among tourists in Nepal as it is the starting point to the popular trekking route the Annapurna Circuit

Source : <https://unoexplorer.com/besisahar-lamjung-annapurna-circuit-trekking-route/>

8.5 Objective:

The objective of this assessment is to identify Critical Cultural Heritage sites and sites of cultural religious or historical importance along the RoW of the upper section of the project that may be potentially directly or indirectly impacted by the Project. This assessment is a special requirement for the project as population of the project area constitutes mainly IPs and ethnic minorities who have close relationship with their land and surroundings. The priority is to avoid such impacts to potential IP/minorities by prioritizing the avoidance of significant impacts on CCH sites. In order to avoid any possible conflicts arising from entering in this culturally sensitive area, to the extent possible, NEA will try to identify alternative locations and exclude the CCH site from any further consideration in the land acquisition.

Should the avoidance not be possible, NEA will then enter into a process of site-specific consent from the affected IP communities. The process is explained in the annexure III of the SEP.

8.6 Methodology:

A checklist will be prepared to include all the necessary queries aimed to extract the important data required to assess the cultural heritage sites along the RoW of the project affected sites and to identify if any of the sites along the RoW important to the local IPs or ethnic groups or of historical importance will be affected by the project.

The below considerations will guide NEA through all the steps involved to avoid CCHs and secure land required for the project, in a manner that ensures consistency with the applicable ADB/EIB standards.

Considerations for CCH assessment checklist:

Identification of potential CCH sites:

(Commitment to avoid any impacts on CCH through change of design-re-routing. If not avoided, an FPIC process shall be implemented, reported and monitored for the site). Identification of potential sites can be done through the following mechanisms:

- Analysis of aerial photography ground cover types and any visible tangible CCH sites;
- Classify sites as being of general cultural interest and Critical Cultural heritage impact
- Consultations to be undertaken with local communities and authorities in early stage (i.e. reconnaissance) to identify potential CCH sites and where they are located;
- IP considerations: information to be collected on the specific IP/ethnic minority groups and the relation with the CCH site. Involve the IP communities in the mitigation process to avoid possible impacts on CCH sites in a manner that is consistent with the EIB applicable standards.

The enumerators will be trained by providing the background information of the project affected area and will be oriented thoroughly to extract the necessary ground information along the RoW through the survey.

8.7 Outcome of the assessment

The following outcomes will be expected from this assessment:

- Identification of sites or monuments of cultural religious or historical value to the local population that will be affected by the project.
- Evidence that alternatives have been identified to **avoid** impacts on CCH in the area.
- When avoidance is not possible, NEA will prepare a site-specific fact sheet justifying the need to access the site. The fact sheet will be submitted to the EIB for information.
- Identification of key stakeholders of the affected sites or monuments who may be the lead to make decisions or become the driver to get consent from the affected community.
- Identification of sites or monuments that may require relocation.
- Base for making a Stakeholder engagement plan.

8.8 Future Engagement Plan

The engagement plan will be developed according to the requirements of the sites that were identified through the survey and estimation of impacts that the project will pose on the said site. The Engagement plan will broadly include all or any of the following:

- FGD with various member groups of the community who may have specific interests compared to the larger community.
- Consultations with concerned community who will bear the consequence of the impact posed on the site.
- Consultations with key stakeholders like gurus, priests, head of the community, representative of a section of the community etc. who have the power make decisions on behalf of their community, recommend alterations, or get consent from the community if and when required.

- Consultations with social organizations
- Consultations with government and project official to include their view backed by their experiences in the project areas

FINAL DRAFT

ANNEX: III

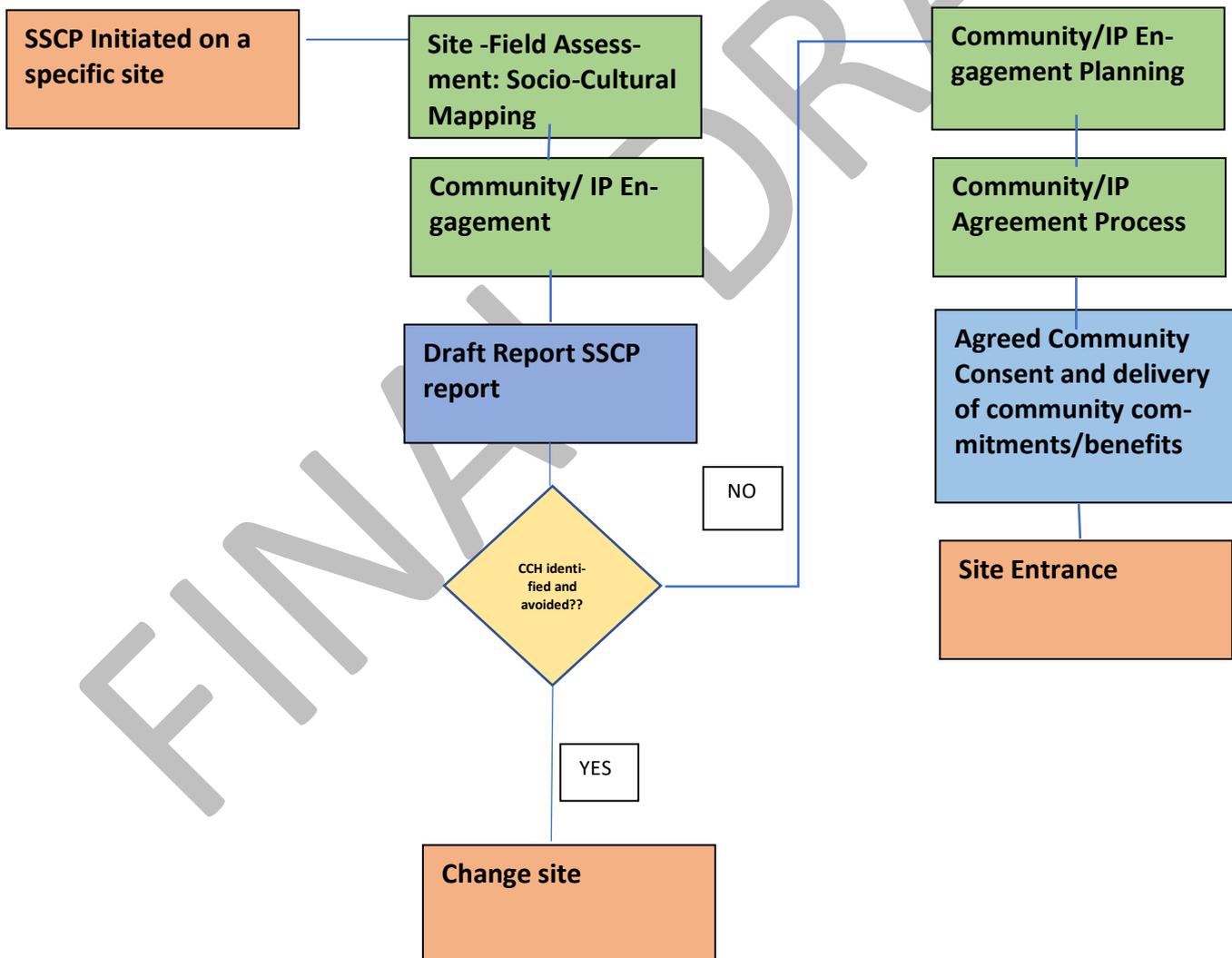
Procedure for Site Specific Consent – Site Specific Cultural Procedure (SSCP)

1.1 Overview

The procedure for the site-specific consent comprises the following three phases, as illustrated in Figure 1:

- Screening Phase.
- Consultation Phase; and
- Agreement and Consent Phase.

Figure1: Summary of Site-Specific Process for Right of Way



1. **SSCP Request:** The Request is initiated by NEA who will instruct the EnS team/field contractor to conduct a SSCP for a specific portion of the Right of Way (RoW) and in tower pad.
2. **Site Field Assessment/Socio-Cultural Mapping** – The objective of this Phase is to:
 - Identify if there are any ‘showstoppers’ that make the proposed site undeliverable.
 - Identify any possible risks (e.g. environment, civils, IP/ community, cultural heritage and safety) at a proposed site which need to be mitigated;
 - Collect information for baseline conditions that will inform the assessment of the site. Take GPS coordinates for all significant features. Baseline conditions to be covered are:

Social conditions (within the RoW)

Contractor shall conduct a broader reconnaissance and gather socio- economic data of the area that may be directly impacted by the proposed RoW. This will provide an understanding of the nature and extent of human activity within this area that could be directly affected by the site. GPS coordinates should be taken.

- Presence of communities in the area (IP and non-IP);
- Presence of homesteads within the proposed RoW. Take GPS coordinates for homesteads identified;
- Assessment of whether and how land acquisition to the site will result in physical displacement (relocation of loss of human shelter) or economic displacement (loss of portion of land assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood);
- Presence of other structures (e.g., animal shelter), within the site or the broader area of impact.

Baseline Conditions – Critical Cultural Heritage

Contractor shall assess the area and use their existing GIS datasets to identify:

- Presence of graves or historical burial places.
- Presence of natural resources that can be critical for intangible cultural heritage practices (e.g., rocks, river etc);
- Presence of tangible cultural heritage sites (e.g., temple, stupa etc);
- Culturally sensitive sites within the site for example, graves, sacred trees, medicinal trees. GPS coordinates should be taken.

Key Aspects to consider:

i) Recording stakeholder and community meetings

Maintaining a full and accurate record of community consent discussions and meetings is mandatory. This will provide a clear ‘audit trail’ of the community consent process and demonstrate that NEA has followed processes that allow good faith negotiation and prior information sharing, consultation, consent and participatory discussions with affected communities.

Minutes and notes of the meetings and discussions with stakeholders and communities must be prepared. Minutes of community meetings need to be shared with and signed by community representatives. Attendee lists should also be maintained, including whether attendees represent sections of a community such as women, youth, the elderly or IPs.

ii) Community Benefit Projects

If the site includes a CCH site and will be permanently impacted, NEA will consider identify ways to replace the location of the site whereas is possible. If not possible and in addition to that, NEA will agree with affected IP communities on a series of supporting community projects that have communal benefit for affected IPs who used the CCH site.

All costs of community benefits associated should be recorded and included as part of NEA CSR budget. The budget line is the responsibility of the NEA E&S manager.

The messages that NEA should give at community agreement meetings are that:

- NEA will consider supporting community benefit initiatives.
- NEA invites the community to identify priority projects for NEA to consider
- Without making any specific commitments in the community meetings, examples of other NEA CSR initiatives should be provided.
- NEA will consider these priorities in the light of consultation with local authorities and, cost and internal consultation with functions who will be responsible for delivering projects.
- NEA will deliver all community benefit projects within the committed date of the signed Letter of Understanding between the community and NEA.

Prior to confirming any community benefit projects within a consent agreement, NEA shall:

- **Consult with the local municipalities** to seek their opinions on potential community benefit projects to avoid NEA supporting projects which will impose on-going revenue costs on the Municipalities; avoid projects which are inconsistent with Municipality objectives, or projects which will duplicate the work of Municipalities or National Government
- **Discuss and agree the community projects with internal NEA departments and lenders (EIB) through regular monitoring reports.**

iii) Documenting Community Consent Agreements

Once the IP community has agreed for NEA to access a CCH site, and the community benefit initiatives have been agreed, the commitments of both NEA and the local community will be recorded in a Letter of Understanding (LoU).

The LoU should be checked with NEA team and signed by a representative of the local communities, and the representative of local government.

A scan of the signed LoU should be shared with Lenders through regular monitoring reports.