



nile basin discourse

one Nile, one family

Fact Sheet on Ethio-Sudan Power Transmission Interconnection Project

Background

Ethiopia and Sudan have some of the lowest levels of electricity generation per capita in the world. For example, in Ethiopia, only 13 per cent of the population has access to electricity. Ethio-Sudan Power Transmission Interconnection Project (hereinafter "ESTIP") which is one component of the fast-track projects that was identified for implementation under the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Program (ENSAP). The project is being implemented under the auspices of the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and the power authorities in both Ethiopia and Sudan, namely, the Ethiopian Electricity and Power Corporation (EPCO) in Ethiopia and the National Electricity Corporation (NEC) in Sudan which is under the Ministry of Electricity and Dams.



The up-to-date accomplishments include 1) Feasibility study update completed, 2) ESIA and RAPs approved, disclosed in-country and on World Bank Info shop on January 12, 2007, 3) Sudan side construction was completed by mid 2009, 4) Ethiopia side construction completed by 2010.

Project Favorable Impacts

Ethiopia and Sudan derive several benefits from the power interconnection project at the national level. Ethiopia will benefit from generating revenue from exporting power to Sudan and the latter will benefit by replacing its current thermal power generation with surplus hydropower from Ethiopia thereby reducing Sudan's greenhouse gas emissions. The project improves the availability and reliability of power supply to both countries since it provides benefits in terms of meeting the variability in peak demands (where Sudan can be provided with power during the day time when demand is higher and Ethiopia can use the power during the night time when demand is high). Meanwhile, the project may generally have potential socio-economic benefits for the two countries in terms of stimulating national and local economies through providing more employment opportunities and access to improved health care and education etc. Moreover, the project may provide additional incentives for both countries to embark on additional cooperative activities including cross-border trade and cultural exchanges furthering improved relations between the participating countries



Electric Power Transmission Lines from Ethiopia to Sudan

Electric Power Transmission Lines from Ethiopia to Sudan
The project involves the construction of a high voltage transmission line from Ethiopia to Sudan. The immediate objective is to facilitate cross-border trade between the two countries and thus optimize utilization of existing and planned generation capacity. The long-term objective is to promote regional power trade through coordinated planning and development of power generation and transmission interconnections in the context of multipurpose water resources development in the Eastern Nile Basin. The line is to generate 500 kV-AC through an interconnection of 2 lines 2 circuits 544 Km.

Project Unfavorable Impacts

A socio-economic impact is more to be felt by the project-affected communities in Ethiopia as compared to Sudan. In Ethiopia, 283 buildings with residential households are permanently relocated while in Sudan, the permanent relocation affects only 24 residential households. This is mainly due to the fact that the first section of the transmission line in Ethiopia (Bahir-Gondar) passes through a relatively highly populated small-scale farm land. On the other hand, the areas in Sudan are mostly in sparsely populated areas where semi-pastoralists and pastoralists reside except in areas where there are towns (e.g. Gallabat and Gedaref) and where large-scale rain-fed irrigation exists.

The table below summarizes the total of permanently and temporary affected land and number of buildings that would permanently be relocated as a result of the project, as taken from the ESIA Final Report, November 2006)

Country	Route Option	Line Length (km)	No. of Towers	No. of Permanently Affected Hectares (tower bases)	No of Temporarily Affected Hectares (RoW)	No. of Buildings within Residential Households to be Permanently Relocated	Main area of impact
Ethiopia	C	296.0	603	2.95	532.0	283	Farmlands Houses Eucalyptus trees
Sudan	C	157.5 (109.5 km arable land)	312	1.53	430.0	24	
Total		453.5	915	4.48	962.0	307	

The Project Monitoring Report for Ethiopia indicates that the interviews conducted with some of the project affected communities show that the majority of the project affected communities were satisfied with the compensation amount received. However, some of the project affected communities interviewed were not satisfied with the compensation amount and had little or no knowledge about the project and that they did not participate in the discussions as to the actual amount of compensation.

The negative environmental impacts associated with the project are: temporary noise and air pollution due to construction activities; minor permanent loss of vegetation and commercially important trees due to the establishment of rights-of-way (RoW) and construction activities; increased risk of communicable diseases during the construction phase (that may result from temporary employees at camps).

The Role of the NBD:

NBD should take immediate actions towards influencing decision-makers to take appropriate measures to address concerns of local communities potentially affected by the project that involves:

- Conducting independent field research by allocating sufficient funds for this purpose in order to confirm that adequate measures have been taken in relation to compensation and resettlement of project affected communities. This will include environmental measures to mitigate potential negative environmental impacts.
- Providing training programmes on socio-economic and environmental analysis of projects, and relevant funds, so that NBD can be able to review and evaluate the projects and identify how such projects will affect project affected communities.

Coordinating with international financing agencies (e.g. World Bank); ENTRO and NELSAP and national implementing agencies, to get commitment from those organizations, in order to include NBD/NDFs in environmental steering committee to be established for monitoring environmental mitigation measures. However, at the national and local levels, the governments should promote the following actions:

- Promote the role of civil society in the development activities, as well as engage them in the planning and implementation stages.
- Get the Relocation and Compensation Committee to include representatives from the project affected communities and be on board during the regular monitoring and evaluation of the project.



Nile Basin Discourse
PLOT 32, Nsamizi Rd,
Tel +256 414 322 432
Fax: +256 414 323 930
P.O. Box 185, Entebbe - Uganda
Email: info@nilebasindiscourse.org
Website: www.nilebasindiscourse.org

