



PRESS STATEMENT

14th August 2020 - **STATEMENT ON COMPENSATION FOR THE RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE BATOKA GORGE HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME (BGHES)**

The Zambezi River Authority (**the Authority**), a bilateral organisation equally owned by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe, in 2014, engaged Environmental Resources Management (ERM) of South Africa, an independent and internationally renowned consultant to carry out the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies for the development of the 2400MW Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES), a transboundary project located 47km downstream of the Victoria Falls.

The ESIA process is being conducted in accordance with the Zambian Environmental Management Act (Act No. 12 of 2011), pursuant to Statutory Instrument No. 28 of 1997 - the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. In Zimbabwe, the process is being conducted in line with the Environmental Management Act (the Act) (Chapter 20:27), No. 13 of 2002; Statutory Instrument 7 of 2007: Environmental Management (Environmental Impact Assessments and Ecosystems Protection) Regulations; the Environmental Impact Assessment Policy of 1997; as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines of 1997.

Further, the ESIA process is also being undertaken in conformance to international standards and best practices like the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) performance standards regarding compensation of project affected persons.

The draft ESIA report has been developed with the inclusion of a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) as well as Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs) that will be implemented to mitigate impacts on project affected individuals and communities resulting from the planned implementation of the BGHES. The ESIA studies included, livelihood study of affected communities, household census and socio-economic survey and asset inventory. The goal of the LRPs is to help restore, and potentially improve, the livelihoods and living standards of economically displaced Project Affected Households (PAHs).

The ESIA study covered the land identified for the accommodation of project staff and land for the development of the dam, powerhouses and related infrastructure including

construction camps. The Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) for these Project components are not required, as construction of these Project components will not affect any primary residential structures or social facilities and therefore will not result in physical displacement.

As part of the mandatory disclosure process, the draft ESIA report including the RPF and LRP was placed in the public domain on 2nd March 2020 for review and submission of related comments by stakeholders and interested parties. The hard copy reports were availed to traditional leaders of the host communities and also placed in public places for easy access by the general public as follows:

Zimbabwe	Zambia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hwange District Council Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livingstone City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Administrators Office in Hwange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livingstone District Commissioner's Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jambezi Clinic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazungula District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Shana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazungula District Commissioner's Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Mvutu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lusaka Kaizen Consulting Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chisuma clinic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Commissioners offices in Zimba, Kalomo and Choma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matebeleland North Provincial Administrators Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Council Offices in Zimba, Kalomo and Choma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Falls Municipal Offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Assembly Offices Zimba, Kalomo and Choma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Africa Office Victoria Falls 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Crystal's Office in Harare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiefs Palaces (Sipatunyana, Simwatachela & Chikanta)

Further, soft copy reports were posted on the Zambezi River Authority and ERM websites.

The ESIA report and the associated Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) present detailed response plans to identified project impacts. The Authority will undertake disclosure meetings with all the stakeholders, in line with COVID 19 guidelines, to discuss the ESIA reports in the coming few months.

The Government of Zimbabwe has issued a Statutory Instrument 188 of 2020, setting aside the aforesaid land for the purposes of the Project. The SI does not refer to any compensation process, being a standard excision statute to deter any opportunistic or unscrupulous settlers. In this regard, the implementation of the provisions of ESIA Resettlement Policy Frameworks and Livelihood Restoration Plans will be undertaken in such a manner that only eligible individuals and communities will be considered.

The Authority remains committed to addressing any adverse impacts on the host communities resulting from the implementation of the project by employing international and local best practices in a fair and transparent manner, with the aim of ensuring improved livelihood of the Project Affected Households.


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