

« INGA SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES » INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCUSSIONS

“WEC London Workshop on Financing the Inga Projects”

Promoting the sustainable supply and use of energy for the greatest benefit of all

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The social and environmental aspects of the Inga site, underlined by the official representatives of the Inga Hinterland are mainly related to the legacy of the existing dams and electricity facilities.

1. Social & Environmental Issues

- They consist of the following points, inter alias:
 - No compensation to the local populations expropriated from their homelands during the realization of the hydropower facilities, neither allowances, nor indemnities have been paid to them;
 - Inadequate resettlement and housing for the 8000 persons displaced from the Inga Hinterland in order to allow the infrastructure to be built;
 - Many people lost their livelihoods and are now struggling to survive;
 - Affected communities benefited insignificantly from employment created by the dams and related facilities;

1. Social & Environmental Issues (cont'd)

- The very insignificant electrification rate of the rural populations living either in the zone of the Inga projects or nearby the transmission lines (less than 1%);
- The problems caused by the “tse-tse” fly, exacerbated by the hydropower facilities in place, and likely to be aggravated by the realization of a dam reservoir for the Grand Inga project.
- The lack of disinfection of the water of the river and the irregular supply of drinkable water to the resident populations, contribute to the proliferation of skin (dermatomes) and eye diseases (conjunctivitis, visual troubles, onchocercosis).

2. Other Environmental Concerns

Other environmental concern (reported recently, but need to be confirmed by further studies and investigations) may consist of the presence of high levels of heavy metals, especially lead and cadmium, in the Inga reservoir.

This would contaminate the water, and thus constitute a serious danger to human health and to other species.

3. Addressing the S&E issues

In order to address the social and environmental issues linked with the legacy of Inga 1 & 2, and also, to pave the way for the future development of the Inga site, a “*comprehensive social & environmental development and management plan*” should be developed and implemented, in a participatory manner with the affected communities and all the stakeholders.

4. Social & Environmental development and management Plan

- This Plan would include the following actions:
- initiating consultation processes during the planning and the construction phases of the Projects;
- ensuring that the local communities are amongst the first beneficiaries of future development of the Inga Projects, in terms of job creation, electricity access, drinking water, etc.;
- streamlining the management of social and environmental impacts;
- initiating regular and detailed evaluations of social and environmental impacts, since the inception and planning processes;

4. Social & Environmental development and management Plan (cont'd)

- providing adequate standards of living for the local communities, including adequate healthcare, housing and education;
- addressing, in an anticipatory manner, displacement and resettlement schemes, as well as other local community grievances of impacts resulting from the development, construction or operation of the Inga Projects;
- setting up a proper framework for regular evaluations of social and environmental impacts related to the Projects.

4. Social & Environmental development and management Plan (cont'd)

In a nutshell, the Plan should ensure that the benefits of the Inga Projects are maximized and that negative social & environmental impacts are avoided, mitigated or compensated following the case.

This will ensure that the Inga Projects meet the “Sustainability Standards”.

5. SNC-LAVALIN input in S & E issues

- A detailed study on the S&E impact has been carried out by SNC-LAVALIN in the context of the pre-feasibility study of Inga 3
- ✓ For that purpose, 365 persons have been surveyed (including 21 public auditions, and interviews of 32 opinion leaders) and site survey conducted as well, to evaluate the impact on several factors, including: quality of life, quality of the water, electricity access, supply of drinking water, livelihoods, ecosystem, compensation, displacement, fight against diseases, etc.
- ✓ In order to overcome the possible related problems and to minimise the impacts, the study recommended creating an *Environment & Social Management Plan*, which will be implemented, managed and monitored by an *Environmental & Social Unit* to be set up by the DRC authorities.

6. WEC recommendations on the S & E aspects

- WEC also has taken note of all actual S & E issues, and acknowledges that they need a special attention from the concerned parties. Consequently, WEC promises to take them into account in its dialogue and interactions with all the actors that are going to be involved in the Inga Projects and help find suitable and sustainable solutions.
- Further cooperation should also be established with local and regional activists groups, environmental defence and civil right organizations, to work together to take into account the social interests and needs of the local population and affected communities, as well as to preserve the environment.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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