

Bujagali Hydropower Project (HPP)

<http://www.bujagali-energy.com>
is a 250-megawatt hydropower-generating facility being built on the Victoria Nile River near the Town of Jinja, in Uganda, by Bujagali Energy Limited. It is sponsored by Industrial Promotion Services (Kenya) Limited and SG Bujagali Holdings Ltd, an affiliate of Sithe Global Power, LLC(USA).

Status as of 30 Sept 2009



Construction Progress

Project Status:

Start: 26 June 2007

Commissioning: Mid 2011

Remaining time: 20 months

Progress:

- **Engineering:** 80%
- **Procurement:** 87%
- **Construction:** 45%

Implementation of Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP)

Implementation of various components of the Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) continued during the third quarter (July -September) of 2009. Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL) has also made significant

progress in construction of the 250MW hydro power project. The key activities undertaken during the period included equipping health facilities, completion and hand over of Namilyango Nursery school, and assistance to vulnerable persons among others.

This news letter highlights the progress on the Social, Community Liaison and Environmental interventions and activities for the period July to September 2009. This news letter is also available in Luganda and Lusoga languages.

Enjoy your reading.

BEL Commitments

BEL is committed to improving local social infrastructure including; improving water supply, education and health facilities, and support sustainable economic development as part of the CDAP.

BEL carries out environmental measures that mitigate impacts on habitats and ecosystems, ground and surface water, fish stocks and fisheries, unplanned but predictable developments such as influx of workers to the project area, disease vectors and tourism under EMMP.

Education

Construction works for the Naminya RC Primary School are on-going, works are at roofing level. Naminya Nursery School was handed over to Wakisi sub-county Local Government.



10 classroom block being constructed at Naminya RC primary school

Vulnerable Assistance Program

After identification of vulnerable persons within the project affected villages, Naminya Resettlement village and the two host communities Namilyango and Nakimboledde, BEL is assisting 356 vulnerable persons. The initial assistance included household items such as jerry cans, basins, mosquito nets, cups, plates, saucepans, blankets, soap, mattresses and beds.



One of the vulnerable persons in Namizi West receiving assistance

Health

BEL has supported 2 health units (Kalagala and Ivunamba HC11s) with medical equipment. Infrastructure upgrade requirements of Wakisi HCIII in Mukono and Budondo HCIV in Jinja are under review.



Assortment of health equipment supplied to Ivnamba Health Centre

Water

BEL is in the process of extending piped water to the project affected villages. An MOU was signed with NWSC, a consultant for the feasibility study was hired and the necessary studies have started. The draft inception report for the water line consultancy was received and has been reviewed.

Community Based Health and HIV/AIDS Programme

Village Health Teams (VHTs) facilitated by BEL have continued with health programs such as distribution condoms, sensitizations on health and sanitation, monitoring, mobilizing the communities to attend health activities and distribution of first line treatment malarial drugs.

In order to strengthening HIV/AIDS information dissemination at the grass root, BEL in collaboration with TASO has trained 83 out of school youths (10 from each affected village and 3 from Naminya Resettlement) as peer educators. Each Peer educator is expected to handle between 30-40 households in their respective villages.

Business Development

Under the micro credit component, Uganda Finance Trust has been selected to administer the community microfinance fund aimed at supporting local business initiatives.

BEL is also undertaking development of business centres in Wakisi and Budondo Sub Counties. Contracting process for renovating the premises where the centres will be housed has started. The centres will be equipped with the necessary equipment on completion.

Afforestation Programme

River bank afforestation programme was successfully completed after planting 444ha on both banks of the river Nile. 176ha were planted on east bank (Namizzi west –Bulondo), 91ha on the west bank (Naminya -Kiira –Namiyagi) and 177ha on west bank- Kayunga District (Mirembe-Kasambya). 725,305 assorted tree seedlings were planted in 3 planting seasons. Maintenance of the trees is on- going.

BEL also distributed 90,680 tree seedlings to community members in the project affected villages under the community afforestation programme. These included grafted fruit trees and timber trees like Muvule, Musizi and Grivelia.

Agriculture

First phase of livestock distribution was completed in the month of July 2009. 61

groups each comprising on average 20 members were supported. A total of 248 local female goats and 10 exotics (75%) bucks, 134 pigs and 7345 chicks were distributed accompanied with requirements such as de-wormers, antibiotics and extension services. 22 more groups have been formed bringing the total number of farmers supported by BEL to 83. Egg production at 50-75%.

PAPs in Naminya Resettlement village have continued with the agricultural programme. 13 individual PAPs have been supported with 100 layer chicks each and other inputs like coffee husks, brooding pots, charcoal, feeders, drinkers, lamps, drugs, disinfectants and chick mash. The PAPs constructed housing units for poultry.

Below is a farmer tending to her banana garden that was established with the assistance from BEL.



A PAP in Naminya tending to her garden

Market

BEL's plan to construct a market in which the project affected persons can sell the agricultural produce targeting the labour

force at the project construction site is underway. Land was secured in Malindi village and BEL is in process of procuring a contractor to construct the market.

Community Based Training

Alongside the youth's skills training, BEL is in the process of identifying for training, community members in the project affected villages in skills that can enhance income generation and improve their livelihoods. A skills needs assessment was undertaken and the following training needs (skills) were identified: Hair dressing; Agro forestry; Baking; Carpentry; Motor Cycle repair; Electronics; Organic farming; Power sew repair; Building; Tailoring; Day care related training and Local soap making. Interested participants for each training area were also established. BEL is in the process of prioritizing the training needs and determining the implementation modalities.



BEL staff meeting with the youths being trained at NVI

Public Consultation and Disclosure included:

A number of meetings were held to consult and disclose on project related issues.

- A meeting was held with Local Leaders of the host community near Naminya Resettlement (Namilyango and Nakimboledde) to identify development programs BEL can support in the host communities. Areas proposed included improvement of access roads, provision of more boreholes, assistance to vulnerable persons and provision of power. Field visits were conducted with a view of identifying development initiatives which BEL can support that can yield benefits for the majority of community members. Improvement of access roads was identified as one of the priority areas of intervention.
- Project update meetings for Wakisi and Budondo sub-county political and technical leaders were held. The leaders were informed about the project progress and the various community development initiatives being implemented in their respective areas of administration
- A meeting was held with Naminya Resettlement community to address issues concerning the use of vacant land belonging to the project. Priority of access to the land was given to the Naminya resettlement village residents.

Fisheries Programme

Implementation of livelihood restoration programme for the affected fishers has continued.

Thirty (30) fishing boats were distributed to the fishers on the east and west banks of river Nile. BEL has also facilitated registration of fishermen with District Fisheries departments of Mukono and Jinja District. This is to ease the monitoring of fisheries activities and reduce poor fishing methods that are undermining the sustainability of fisheries resources in the river. 41 and 34 fishermen had registered on the West and East Banks respectively.



Fishermen using one of the boats and life jacket provided by BEL

Tourism

Cultural Centre:

BEL is working closely with the Busoga Kingdom to establish a cultural centre at Itanda on the East Bank of the river. BEL recognizes the importance of this project and the need for a thorough discussion in order to appropriately plan the centre.

Baseline Survey:

BEL is using the results of the tourism baseline survey to generate interventions geared towards mitigating impacts on tourism operators due to the reservoir inundation and submerging the Bujagali Falls as a result of dam construction.

Some tourism operators have been integrated in the livelihood restoration programme. They will benefit from the agricultural inputs that are provided to the communities in the project affected villages. Other tourism operators will be integrated into micro credit, community based skills training, and business enhancement programmes.

River Launch/Exit Sites

Construction of a concrete stairway at the Nile River Explorers (NRE) rafting launch site in Namiyagi is complete. The developer is working on stabilizing the slope and strengthening the guard -rails as recommended by BEL. Construction work on the Nile River Explorers' exit site in Nazigo, Kilindi in Kayunga district is at roofing level. Construction completion is expected in by the end of October 2009.



NRE concrete stairway at Namiyagi – Mukono District

Environment, Health and Safety Issues

Effluent, River Water and Drinking Water Monitoring.

Routine monitoring of effluent, river and drinking water is

undertaken by the EPC contractor to ensure that National standards are observed. Drinking water and river water has continued to meet the National standards. However, effluent both at the camp site and dam site did not meet the bacteriological standards (BOD, COD, and TS/S). The EPC contractor is working on improving the efficiency of the waste treatment plants

Waste Management

Both hazardous and non hazardous waste is generated at the dam construction site. All non hazardous waste such as; paper, domestic waste, and timber is either used or disposed of at the Jinja Municipal solid waste facility. Hazardous waste is strictly collected by authorized disposal firms.



Waste skips for different categories of waste at the dam site

Visitors

- The Uganda Members of Parliament (Natural Resources Committee) visited the project site to assess progress of project activities.
- One hundred community members from each of the project affected villages visited the dam site to

acquaint themselves with the progress of construction.

Planned Activities for Next Quarter

- VHT training in family planning
- Distribution of agricultural inputs (livestock and crops)
- More assistance to vulnerable persons including energy saving stoves
- Mapping out of afforested areas and tree maintenance to continue
- Establish a demonstration on soil erosion control
- Training of fishermen in good fishing practices
- Upgrading of medical centres (Budondo and Wakisi HCIII)
- Construction of fish landing sites