

## The Bujagali Hydropower Project (BHPP):

<http://www.bujagali-energy.com>

The BHPP is a 250-megawatt power-generating facility being built on the Victoria Nile River near the Town of Jinja, in Uganda, by Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL). 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 31 March 2011**

**Project Start:** 26 June 2007

**Project Commissioning:** to fourth quarter 2011

#### **Progress:**

- **Engineering:** 99.5%
- **Procurement:** 98%
- **Construction:** 95%



## IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANS (SEAPS)

Implementation of various components of the Social and Environmental Action Plans (SEAPS) continued during the first quarter (January-March) 2011. BEL has also made significant progress in construction of the 250MW Hydro Power Project. The key activities undertaken during the period included the final works on the water pipeline to the project affected communities, improvement of community access roads, community based health, HIV/AIDS programmes and cultural heritage and tourism mitigation programmes, among others.

This newsletter highlights the progress on the Social, Community Liaison and Environment interventions activities for the period January to March 2011.

The newsletter is also available in Luganda and Lusoga.

Enjoy your reading.

April 2011

## 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 Community Development Action Plan (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 Environment Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP).

## Education

Consultations to determine additional support for the East Bank schools were undertaken. The support proposed will include provision of furniture, textbooks and undertaking minor infrastructural upgrades.

## Vulnerable Assistance Program

The main activity this quarter was fumigation of the 350 houses for vulnerable persons to exterminate and control Jiggers, cockroaches, bed bugs, Rats, Fleas and Mosquitoes (of Anopheles spp) in the nine Project affected villages. The exercise was carried out between the 9th and 26th March 2011.



Above, a fumigator working in a vulnerable person's house in Namizi village

## Water

The laying of pipes is almost complete, of the 37kms expected, about 1km is outstanding. Most outstanding works are on the yard taps, completion of booster station house and pressure testing. Completion of the entire 37 km line including East Bank Public Stand pipes, booster pump house, and reservoir is expected by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## Business development

### Micro credit

To date, UGX 263,000,000 (including money revolved UGX 51,000,000) has been disbursed in the project affected villages to a total of 402 PAPs. Loan disbursement and monitoring continues till mid 2012.

## Agriculture

The agriculture program was completed during quarter 4 of 2010 and outcomes of the programme are being periodically monitored through the socio –economic survey to capture outcomes. So far one survey has been undertaken and results indicate a positive transformation in incomes of the beneficiary PAPs.

## Community based health and HIV/AIDS Program

During the quarter, preventive treatment for Tropical Diseases (Bilharzias and Trachoma) through mass drug distribution started and is expected to end early April 2011.

The activity is being implemented in collaboration with the District Health Offices of Jinja and Buikwe and, the Village Health Teams.



Above, Village Health Teams of Wakisi Sub County undergo training on distribution of bilharzias and Trachoma drugs

The Village Health Teams have continued to carry out their role as focal persons in spearheading community based health and HIV/AIDS prevention measures such as distribution of condoms, anti malarial drugs and mobilizing communities to attend and participate in health awareness programmes.

Evaluation of submitted bids for Budondo HCIV upgrade was completed. The contract was awarded and a letter of acceptance received from the Contractor. The works will involve remodeling of the outpatient department and the general ward, construction of a maternity wing, construction of staff houses and general plumbing system. Once these are completed, the centre will be equipped with medical equipment in accordance to ministry of health guidelines. Works expected to begin during the second quarter of 2011.

## Business centers

Wakisi Sub county Business Centre is fully operational while the one of Budondo Sub-county is expected to commence after council selects the entity to run the facility. The operational centre has benefited the neighborhood communities by getting services nearer thus cutting down on the costs of transportation that were before incurred to get the same.

## Skills Training for the Youth

Of the youth sponsored by BEL, 34 students completed training during the quarter and only 23 students are still training at Nile vocational Institute where they are expected to complete training by end of Q3 2011, and graduate in October 2011 alongside other students of the institute who will complete training during the year. 48% of the trainees who completed their studies have secured jobs.

## Market

Monitoring on utilization of the market after handover shows a low utilization rate. Local authorities are devising ways of attracting users and making it a full commercial centre.

## Community Based Training (CBT)

BEL intends to equip the affected community members with competitive skills in trades marketable within the communities such as carpentry, brick-laying, hair dressing, organic farming, and a host of others. Evaluation of proposals for the service providers was completed during the quarter and Nile Vocational Institute was selected to implement the program. The training is to start during the 2nd quarter of 2011.

## Tourism

During the quarter, BEL continued to support alternative tourism activities. Adrift Adventure was supported to purchase a steam boat and a cruise boat that will be used to promote tourism downstream of the dam. Island afforestation continued.

Effective February 28, 2011, EPC Contractor Salini began preparations to undertake river diversion. River rafting companies relocated their operations to new put in and takeout sites downstream of Bujagali dam.



*Ecosystem committee member shows a tree planted on the islands*

## Rural Electrification

Discussions on the RE program implementation modalities between BEL and UMEME are ongoing. Extension initially will target the Naminya Resettlement and the larger affected community thereafter.

Works are expected to begin in the second quarter of 2011.

## Public Consultation and Disclosure included:

### Meetings

BEL continues to have an active community liaison engagement with all the stakeholders and managing grievances or complaints arising during this phase of the project. Village meetings were held in all the nine affected villages to update and get feedback on project construction progress and implementation of the community development programs. Feedback from the meetings centered on the blast report and community complaints on effects of blasting, distribution of piped water and public yard taps, restricted access to the river due to the diversion especially to fishers as well as commencement of pending programs especially Community Based Training and electrification. A meeting with Fishers was held over restricted access to the river. It was found the fishers had misinterpreted the signage warning

of barriers downstream to mean non-use of the areas where the signage was placed. Consultations were made with religious leaders within the affected villages on the organization of memorial service in remembrance of persons who died and assumed buried on the islands that are to be inundated. The ceremony is planned for April 28th 2011. Frequency of community leaders' consultations has been changed from bi-weekly to monthly due to reduction of community activities.

## Labour Force Management Plan (LFMP)

Contact is maintained with Salini Personnel and Public Relations office with respect to the grievances brought to BEL's attention and to ensure Salini's compliance with the LFMP. Many complaints received concerned failure or under compensation by accident victims. However no major accidents were reported during the quarter Meeting was held with the waterline contractor-Sumadhura and the Local Council leaders to resolve hiring casuals for digging and backfilling the trenches. It was agreed to have the casuals sourced from nearby communities with the help of LCs.

## Cultural Heritage

Construction works for completion of the shrines started and is about 95% complete.

A meeting was held with Busoga Kingdom to review progress and plan for the appeasement ceremony slated for May 2011.

## Environment, Health and Safety Issues

### Riverbank Afforestation

The afforestation and soil erosion control programs were completed. The planted trees are being managed by NEMA working with the local land owners.



*Above, the trees planted in BEL's riverbank afforestation programme*

## Biodiversity Monitoring

Biodiversity monitoring of upstream islands to be inundated continued during the quarter. A report on findings made was submitted at the start of March 2011.

Monitoring is ongoing on the islands and riverbank within the Bujagali dam tailrace area to predict and mitigate any likely effects of reservoir impoundment on wildlife.

## Waste management

Non hazardous and hazardous waste continued to be generated at both the dam site and camp site as indicated in the Table below. All hazardous wastes such as used oil and batteries are strictly collected by agencies authorized by NEMA. All the non- hazardous wastes are disposed off at the Jinja Municipal Council Land Fill. Metal scrap is taken for recycling. Timber cut offs are given out to affected communities for firewood.

## Visitors

The Panel of Experts on Social and Environmental issues visited the site to monitor and guide on the progress of mitigation measures. A team from Uganda Association of Impact Assessment composed of NEMA, Wild Life Conservation Society, ERA, UWA, MAAIF, MEMD, Ministry of Tourism, visited the site. On February 2, 2011, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda paid a courtesy visit to the Bujagali project.



*H.E President Yoweri Museveni being shown around the Bujagali project site by the Project Director*

Buikwe District Leadership, technical and political, led by the CAO and LCV Chairperson, visited the site to have a feel of the progress and feedback on some of the social and environmental issues concerning the project. A delegation from FMO one of the project sponsors visited the project. A team from Kenyan and Kampala Polytechnic Colleges visited the site.

***We hope the bulletin enriched you about the Bujagali Hydro Power Project Social and Environmental interventions look out for our next bulletin.***

***BEL team***