



# Bhutan - Dorjilung HPP

## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan



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## **Bhutan - Dorjilung HPP**

### Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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## Acronyms table

AoI	Areas of Influence
BC	Biodiversity Corridor
BPC	Bhutan Power Corporation
DGPC	Druk Green Power Corporation
DPR	Detailed Project Report
E&S	Environmental and Social
Eflow	Environmental Flows
ERA	Electricity Regulatory Authority
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESHS	Environmental, Social Health and Security
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
FRL	Full Reservoir level
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HH	Household
HPP	Hydropower Plant
IBAT	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
ILO	International Labour Organization
KHP	Kurichhu Hydropower Plant
LALRP	Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan
MDS	Muck disposal sites
MoENR	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
MoESD	Ministry of Education and Skills Development
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoICE	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment
MoIT	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAP	Project Affected People
PCS	Phuensum Consulting Services
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. BACKGROUND

The existing Environmental and Social (E&S) assessment and documentation for the Dorjilung Hydropower Project (the Project), is being updated to meet the requirements of World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and applicable requirements of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), such as the Dam Safety Guidelines for Hydropower in Bhutan (2020) and the Bhutan Guideline on Environmental Flows (2019).

The Project is being developed by Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) with the financial support of the World Bank (WB).

This document explains the stakeholder engagement process to be followed during the coming project optimization period (often referred to as pre-construction). The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed to serve as a management tool to guide stakeholder engagement during the whole project lifecycle, including the following Environmental, Social Health and Security (ESHS) issues to be addressed in this document:

- The finalization of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).
- Lenders Review Process.
- Project land identification and acquisition process
- Contractors' mobilization and project recruitment

The SEP was originally prepared based on the initial analysis of stakeholders from the DPR and existing ESIA. As a living document, it will be updated and revised as a when required. The current version includes information from the first baseline surveys carried out for the ESIA.

The objective of the SEP is to ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format.

## 1.2. THE DORJILUNG HYDROPOWER PROJECT

The Dorjilung HPP is located on Kurichhu River in eastern Bhutan. The Kurichhu river originates in the Tibet Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China, crosses into Bhutan approximately 70 km North of the Project, and then flows south from the Project to join the Manas River - a transboundary river in the Himalayan foothills in southern Bhutan.

The Manas River is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River which is in addition shared between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Due to the existence of distinct rainy and dry seasons, there are large seasonal variations in river flows.

The dam and powerhouse are in the province of Mongar Dzongkhag with parts of the reservoir extending north into the province of Lhuentse Dzongkhag. The shortcut section from the dam to the powerhouse is approximately 16 km long and the Powerhouse would be near Lingmethang.

The Dorjilung Hydropower Project is located on Kurichhu river. The powerhouse for the Project is proposed approximately 3 km upstream of the existing Kurichhu Hydropower Plant, with the dam wall located approximately 20 km upstream of Kurichhu. All the construction activities are in the Mongar Dzongkhag except

some part of the reservoir stretching into Lhuentse Dzongkhag. The dam site is located about 7 km downstream of Autsho.

**Figure 1** shows the location of the Project, and **Figure 2** details the location of various Project component in local administrative areas. Key specifications are presented in the tables in Appendix 1: Key project specifications. The key messages about the project are provided in Appendix 2: Key messages about the project.

## 1.3. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

### 1.3.1. International Requirements

The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) requires a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) be prepared before the start of construction and at an early stage in project development.

The SEP will include Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to ensure that concerns and complaints of project-affected people and other stakeholders can be freely made and addressed in a fair, transparent, objective, and constructive manner. A Grievance Register Form is attached in Appendix 3: Grievance Form.

The intent is for Project to meet national legal requirements and good international industry practice in hydropower development and operation and in particular:

- Comply with all applicable national laws, regulations, and accepted local rules and standards, governing the ESHS aspects.
- Be in alignment with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, Environmental and Social Standards and Security Framework (2018)
- Support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, the ILO Conventions and also the international conventions, treaties, and agreements to which Bhutan is a party.

### 1.3.2. Bhutanese Requirements

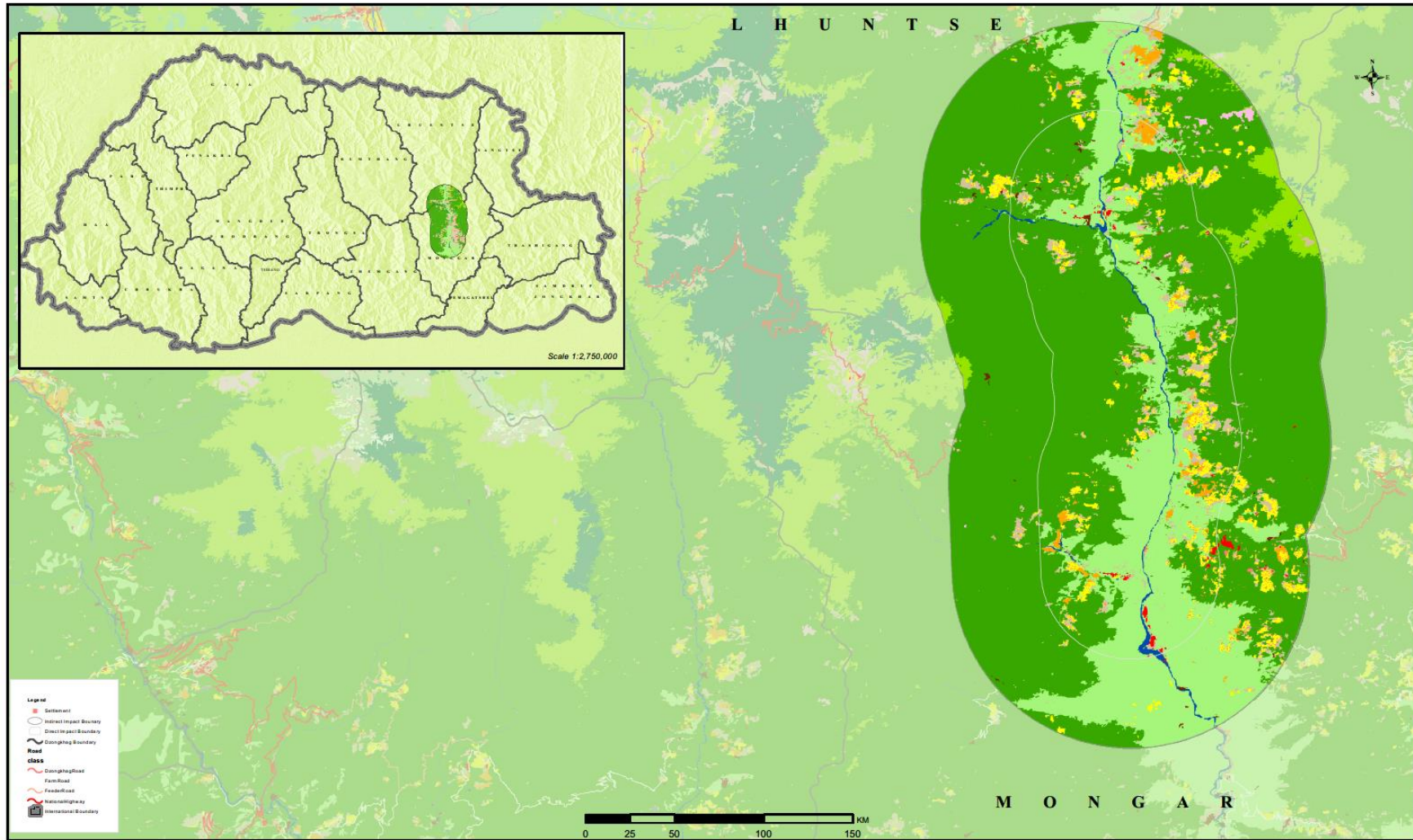
Relevant Bhutanese requirements include:

- Comply with the Local Government Act of Bhutan (2009) that requires all activities undertaken by different sectors of the government to be routed through and coordinated by Local Government offices and necessitates consultations with Local Governments before any project or program is implemented in their jurisdiction, as well their involvement in the planning and implementation of national projects.
- Article 7 of the Constitution of Bhutan provides all Bhutanese the right to life, liberty and security, freedom of speech, opinion and expression, right to information, right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act requires that all activities undertaken by different sectors of the government must be routed through and coordinated by Local Government offices. Section 213 requires that all national agencies conduct periodic consultations with the Local Government before any project or program is implemented in their area, as well as involve Local Governments both in the planning and implementation of national projects.
- The Bhutan Hydropower Guidelines emphasizes the identification of all stakeholders directly and indirectly affected by the project's activities and infrastructure and identification of appropriate communication needs for each group of stakeholders within a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Water Regulation of Bhutan, 2014 requires new users to consult existing water user(s) of the same facility to get their consensus. Chapter VI of the Regulation for Environmental Clearance of Projects 2016 details the public consultation process to be followed for all developmental activities. This includes provision of prior written notice, routing all consultations through the concerned local authorities, that are required to

ensure the concerned people are provided the opportunity to express their concerns freely, documentation of meetings. It also requires the clearing agency to disclose the project summary on its webpage for comments at least one month prior to the decision.



Figure 1 – Dorjilung HPP Location / Indirect Area of Impacts

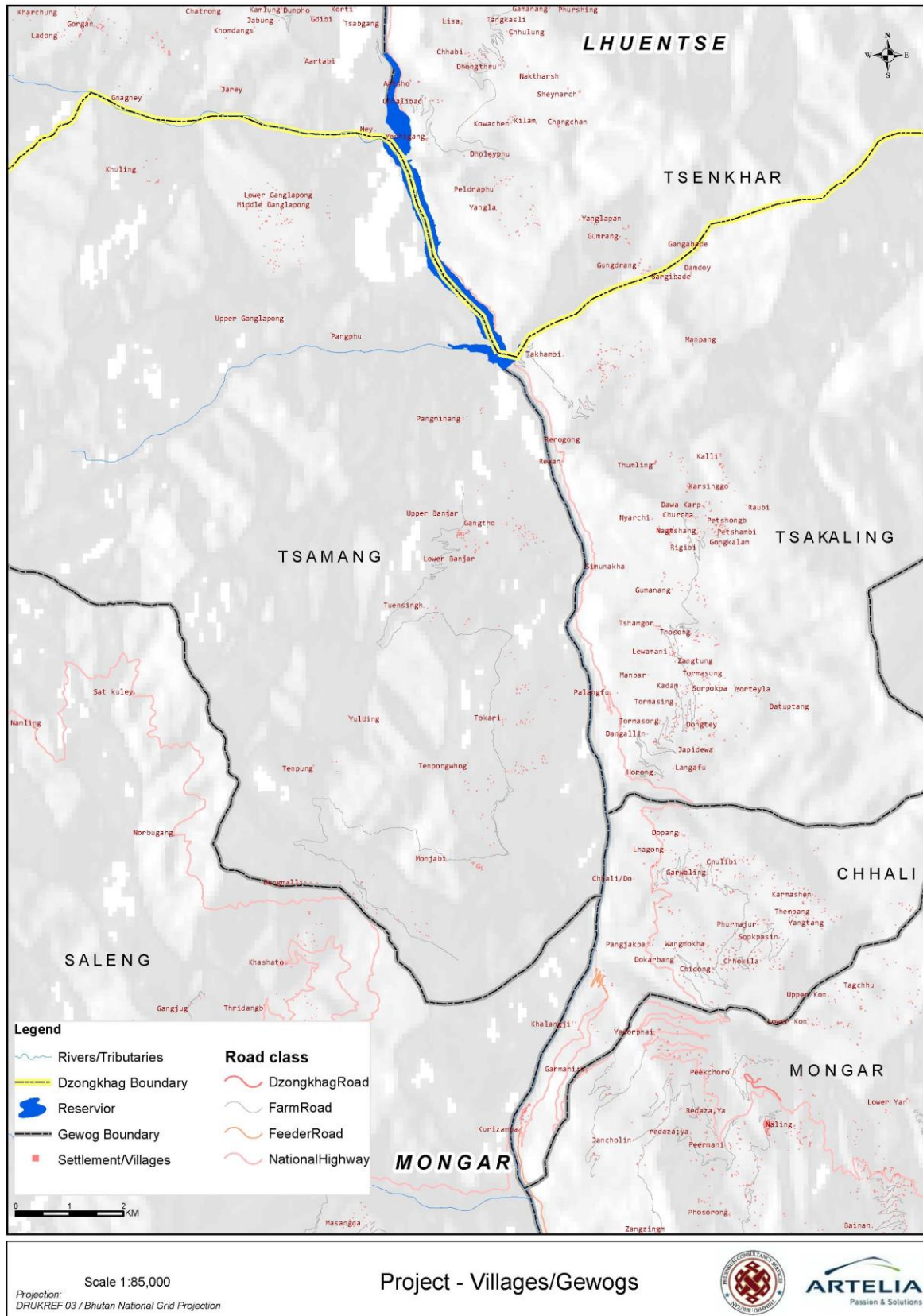


Projection: Scale 1:275,000  
 DRUKREF 03 / Bhutan National Grid Projection

Project Location



Figure 2 – Overview of key village and Gewogs in the Project area



## 2. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### 2.1. PREVIOUS ESIA

Consultations were conducted during the previous ESIA preparation phase in 2015-2016 with a) affected households, b) local communities' people in the villages and urban settlements, c) local government at the gewog level in Mongar and Tsaenkhar in Lhuentse). The objective of the consultations was to inform the public about the project, project components, the activities, the size, labor and equipment that would be employed, the positive impacts that the project will bring to the local and national economy; possible negative impacts that the people have to accommodate with that is associated with the project and invite public opinion, issues and concerns in the ESIA and RP Report.

Participant list from Saleng, Tsaenkhar, Tsakaling gewogs was prepared. This list includes a statement/summary stating that the consultation on the project was conducted and that the participants were informed that they will be provided compensation if their land or property is acquired by the project and that they do not have any reservations against the project.

Formal meetings were held with government agencies such as the National Environment Commission, National Library, National Referral Hospital, Ministry of Health, Forest Ranger, Gyelpozhing, and with the Dzongkhag Administration in Mongar and Lhuentse.

In terms of disclosure, the project was initially presented at a national workshop **on the ESIA on 18 November 2015** wherein representatives from the following agencies participated.

- Druk Green Power Corporation (8),
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forest (1),
- World Wildlife Fund Bhutan (1),
- Department of Forest and Park Services (1),
- National Biodiversity Centre (1),
- Ministry of Health (2),
- Department of Geology and Mines (2),
- Bhutan Power Corporation (2),
- Tangsibji HEP (1),
- Bhutan Electric Authority (1),
- National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries (1),
- Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (1)

It is not clear if outreach activities were undertaken in earlier phases of the Project (2011-2015).

Summary of consultations with dates, locations, primary audience, key issues / concerns raised, and responses from project proponent are provided in appendices to this SEP. Appendix 4: Consultations conducted during the previous ESIA. This Appendix summarises the consultation carried out for the previous ESIA.



## 2.2. UPDATED ESIA 2023-2024

A chronological summary of the stakeholder consultation and/or engagement carried out during the ESIA Update is provided in below table. This information is also included in **Appendix 5: Public Consultations Report – 1st Field Visit May 2023** and **Appendix 6: Summary of Consultations since 1st Field Visit**.

**Table 1 – Summary of consultation/engagement carried out during ESIA Update..**

Date	Participants	Gender	Key topic of consultation / Key message received
7 February 2023	Chief and staff Water Resources Division (now the Department of Water (DoW),		Discussion for the meeting held between Department of Water (DoW), Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources (MoENR), Druk Green Power Corporation Limited (DGPC) and ARTELIA (Consultant) regarding Environmental Flow Assessment (EFA) for 1,125 MW Dorjilung Hydropower Project (HPP).
20 February 2023	Chief, National Statistics Bureau (NSB)		To discuss the process for conducting household surveys and seek data on the project area from NSB to plan for the social surveys and field data collection.
2 March 2023	Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC), Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources (MoENR)		Following the discussion between PCS & DGPC on Feb 10, 2023, regarding the ESIA ToR issued for Dorjilung HPP (for ESIA Update), the DGPC discussed and sought clarifications on the scopes that were flagged for discussion with the DoECC.
17 April 2023	Director, Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development, Ministry of Home Affairs		Informed the Director about the project and the SEP and sought clarification on the preliminary list of PCR sites for all the gewogs and requested guidance to confirm whether all significant sites have been included.
27 April 2023	Offtg. Director, Department of Forest and Park Services		The consultant briefed the Offtg. Director about the Project and the SEP indicating the various project components on the map and discussing various points as listed in the Record of discussions that was reshared with the DOFPS for their review and comments.
17 May 2023	Introductory meeting at Mongar Dzongkhag	6 M, 0 F	Key concern: Autsho community is very concerned about the impact of the submergence/reservoir on the township and the chorten and enquired about the possibility of shifting the dam further downstream.
17 May 2023	Banjar community, Tsamang Gewog	2 M, 13 F	Concerns about the blasting- The community expressed their worries about their homes' walls cracking as a result of vibration from the blasting.
17 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre, Banjar	1M, 0 F	The HA expressed that the occurrence of violence between community people and the foreign workers is expected when the project starts. The other concern is the increase in the number of STIs in the local community.
17 May 2023	Tsamang Primary School	1M, 0 F	School is at maximum capacity.
18 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre Tsamang	1M, 0 F	
18 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre, Lingmaythang	1M, 0 F	
18 May 2023	Lingmaythang Middle Secondary School	1M, 0 F	Cannot accommodate more now.
18 May 2023	Tokari community, Tsamang Gewog	2 M, 15 F	There were no comments, clarifications, and concerns in the large group meeting. During the smaller group meetings. One serious social concern is the use of Marijuana by the youth and its sale to both locals and outsiders from as far as Thimphu. There is a risk that this could increase with the project.
19 May 2023	Gyelpozhing Hospital	0 M, 1 F	
19 May 2023	Gyelpozhing Higher Secondary School	0 M, 1 F	It is below capacity, can accommodate a maximum of 780 students.

Date	Participants	Gender	Key topic of consultation / Key message received
19 May 2023	Dangaling community, Tsamang Gewog	3 M, 8 F	Welcome
18 May 2023	Lingmaythang town and community, Saleng Gewog	7 M, 16 F	<b>Location of muck disposal sites.</b> The community had recently had a meeting with Park officials and were informed that the area between Kurichhu bridge and the Kurichhu HEP dam should not be disturbed as it was the habitat for eagles
19 May, 2023	Gyalsuung Project	3 m, 1 F	Main concern was the surgeshaft area, its access road, and if there are any structures overlooking the Gyalsuung project.
19 May, 2023	NRDCL, Gyelpozhing	1 M, 0 F	When the project is confirmed to commence, the GM will apprise his General Manager who will write to the DOT for approval to import additional fuel to cater to the increased requirement.
20 May 2023	Druk Petroleum Corporation Limited (DPCL), Gyelpozhing	1 M, 0 F	
20 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre, Chaling	1 M, 0 F	Before when the school had till class 8 they could accommodate more students but now that it is downgraded, they cannot.
20 May 2023	Chaling Gewog	14 M, 6 F	The community has expectations that the project will generate employment for the locals.
20 May 2023	Chaling Lower Secondary School	2 M, 0 F	
21 May 2023	Gyelpozhing town and community	6 M, 14 F	
22 May 2023	Mendroling Monastery, Autsho	1 M, 0 F	Project impact. He believes that project will benefit the Autsho township because in recent times, only the monks and old people seem to be left in the rural communities. The principal said that he had met with the community, and they had expressed their happiness to him with the project being initiated.
22 May 2023	Tsenkhar and Jarey Gewog and Autsho town	27 M, 27 F	The Gup said that they had heard about the Dorjilung project a while ago and most people were curious to know whether the project would start and if so when.
22 May 2023	Autsho Hospital	1 M, 0 F	
22 May 2023	Autsho Central School	1 M, 0 F	The school can accommodate additional 30-40 students based on incoming teachers.
22 May 2023	Introductory meeting at Lhuentse Dzongkhag	16 M, 3 F	Key Concern: Impacts on Autsho town. Dasho was concerned about the project location, as Autsho has been identified as the future town and the livable city for Lhuentse Dzongkhag.
22 May 2023	Lingmaythang Range Office, under Mongar Forest Division	1 m, 0 F	Critical habitat – The forest is mostly broadleaf and chirpine but there are no critical habitats in the area, except the KBA area.
22 May 2023	Tsenkhar Forest Office under Mongar Forest Division	2 M, 0 F	There are no endangered species in the area, only common species such as sambar, capped langur, giant squirrel, and barking deer.
22 May 2023	Autsho Range Office under Phrumsengla National Park	1 M, 0 F	
23 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre, Takhambi	1 M, 0 F	No questions
23 May 2023	Primary Health Care Centre, Tsakaling	2 M, 0 F	The Health Assistant replies that he sees both positive and negative effects of the project when asked what some of the issues are. He asserted that there would undoubtedly be an increase in population along with an increased number of workers; as a result, he feels the PHC will be updated and that further advancements in the health services may be expected. He also sees air pollution from the project area; thus he anticipates a rise in COPD cases in the community. There is no shortage of equipment and medicines

Date	Participants	Gender	Key topic of consultation / Key message received
			for now. But if the projects come then he feels that there will be a need to increase the quantity of medicines and equipment.
23 May 2023	Tsakaling Primary School	1 M , 0 F	
23 May 2023	Tsakaling Gewog	17 M, 11 F	There were no comments, clarifications, and concerns in the large group meeting, However, during the interview with the Gup, it was expressed that the affected communities should be given first priority in terms of benefits (employment, opportunities to earn income). There is interest to operate stone quarries as a community and supply materials to the project and that the project will respect and follow the gewog by-laws.
24 May 2023	Tokari community, Tsamang Gewog	1 M, 14 F	
24 May 2023	Mongar Gewog	8 M, 0 F	Impacts of Transmission line. The farmers do not get compensation for the land under the transmission line, which while being retained under the farmers.
24 May 2023	Forest Range office, Gyelpozhing under Mongar Forest Division	1 M, 0 F	
25 May 2023	Bhutan Power Corporation Office	1 M, 0 F	Requested further information to assessing the layout.
25 May 2023	Mongar Forest Division	3 M, 0 F	Areas inside the PNP- The project layout was discussed, and it was clarified that the area under Tsamang does not fall inside the PNP, but that Tsamang gewog in included for administrative purposes.
25 May, 2023	Mongar Regional Referral Hospital	2 M, 0 F	
25 May, 2023	Bhutan Construction and Transport Authority under the Ministry of Information and Communication (MoICE)	1 M, 0F	The BCTA has submitted the annual report for road accident, data requested.
25 May, 2023	Department of Surface Transport (DOST) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)	1 M, 0F	Plans for the road widening need to be developed
25 May, 2023	Royal Bhutan Police	1 M, 0F	Regarding social conflicts, expat workers normally do not engage in local festivities and religious occasions so there is no issue. The workers have their own festivals, wherein support is provided by the RBP.
26 May 2023	Phrumsengla National Park	1 M, 0F	The CFO overlaid the park kmz on Dorjilung HPP and found that the project components are falling outside the Park area but in the buffer zone which is under the management of PNP and the project components are not falling in BC 7 on park side.
26 May 2023	Debrief at for both Mongar and Lhuentse Dzongkhags	4 M, 0 F	Key concern: Dasho mentioned that Menchugang is the only water source for the area and the settlement is also growing with many offices and the school has been upgraded. The consultant informed the meeting that the technical team is still exploring suitable locations for PH and this is yet to be finalized, so that accordingly drinking water sources to be tapped can be ascertained.
9 June, 2023	Department of Environment and Climate Change, MoENR	1 M, 0 F	Some of the concerns with landfill sites are the cost of transportation and the landfill site maintenance issues in the future.
18 July, 2023	Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA)	1 M, 0 F	Whether the project would impact Autsho town in terms of submergence- The reservoir extent and dam location 6km downstream of Autsho was clarified



Date	Participants	Gender	Key topic of consultation / Key message received
16 August, 2023	Consultation with National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	1 M, 0 F	The PD expressed that give the extent of the reservoir area, the primary concerns would be more on aquatic species, compared to terrestrial species, due to the dewatered section, and on sustainability of the water source.
18 August, 2023	First Consultation with Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development (DoCDD), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)	1 M, 1 F	Meeting to present the project background, objectives and activities as well as the field survey findings.
28 August, 2023	Ministry of Education and Skills Development	6 ppl	Since only a skeletal crew would be manning the station after the completion of the project, certain schools would need to be closed off unless the project is willing to fund.
22 September 2023	Consultation with Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport	11 ppl	The feasibility study of the road and site survey was inquired upon.
31 October 2023	Department of Forest and Park Services	4 ppl	Presentation on field survey and CHA findings and discussion mitigation measures including compensatory afforestation
3 January 2024	Second Consultation with MoIT	7 ppl	Threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) upstream and its impact. The Ministry added that for future road development projects in the area, the mitigation measures would need to be carried out.
3 January 2024	Second Consultation with Ministry of Education and Skills Development	3 ppl	The main concern of the Ministry is to ensure that the infrastructure and facilities required can be assessed and the possibilities of working with the project in terms of building infrastructure and cost-sharing.

### 3. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

To develop a SEP for the Project, Stakeholders were identified with DGPC, ARTELIA and PCS. The stakeholder mapping is based on current understanding of the project impacts on the various stakeholder groups. This was based on previous ESIA performed in Bhutan as well as formal engagement with government agencies. The DGPC INFRA team is still in the process of identifying location of project components such as the powerhouse contractor construction facilities and muck disposal sites and the sites previously identified are not available anymore, so stakeholder identification and engagement will continue to be an ongoing process.

Stakeholders were identified into three categories.

1. Project-affected parties – all persons, local communities, or groups likely to be affected by the project because of actual impacts or potential risks
2. Other interested individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the project, because of the project location, its characteristics, impacts, or matters related to public interest.
3. Vulnerable or disadvantaged groups in the project area or its vicinity that may be from either of the two groups above. This includes individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits

Identification of stakeholders will continue throughout the project planning, ESIA preparation and implementation process. During the planning process, the following have been identified thus far.

#### 3.1. PROJECT AFFECTED PERSONS

Consideration of project affected persons includes persons/ groups directly or indirectly subjected to potential impact from the project including:

- Social adverse impacts.
- Economic or physical displacement.
- Loss of livelihood.
- Reduced access to natural resources.
- Cultural tangible or intangible heritage impact.

This was identified based on project location and proximity. Table 2 presents the project affected persons and groups. Table 3 presents the project interested parties.

**Table 2 - Project affected persons/groups.**

#	Project Affected Party	Potential Project Impact	Remarks
1	Individual households	Land Acquisition, Resettlement, loss of livelihood	Initial findings of EISA update are between 898.12 acres (363.5 ha) and 1000.82 acres (405 ha) estimated clearing required. This is to be confirmed with final layout. Initial findings of Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LALRP) survey indicated 58 PAPs impacted by project components and 29 by construction electricity transmission lines totalling 87 PAPs. 1 HH to be relocated. The numbers and exact locations will be updated after new surveys.
2a	Local communities living within the vicinity of the project	Increased traffic and accidents, dust, noise, blasting and vibration impacts (damages to property, infrastructure and water sources). Rise in E&S and security impacts due to the flow of migrant workers into the project area	The access to the project components on the right bank will be through the farmroad in Saleng (Saling, Thridangbi chiwogsi) and Tsamang gewogs (Tagkhambi, Banjar, Drangmaling_Nanggor, Ganglapong Maed, Ganglapong Toed and Thuenmong_Tokari chiwogs). Note, a chiwog is a group/cluster of villages below the level of Gewog. Settlements of Tsamang, Saleng, Chhaling, Tsakaling and Tsenkhar Gewogs near the construction sites, muck disposal sites, CCF, quarry, adits, access roads, above the HRT in the project vicinity. This also includes Autsho, Lingmethang and Gyelpozhing towns.
2b	Local communities living within the vicinity of the project	Potential impacts on livelihood due to the temporary or permanent restrictions on access to land and natural resources that might surface during the construction and operation phases of the project.	Settlements of Tsamang, Saleng, Chhaling, Tsakaling and Tsenkhar Gewogs near the construction sites, muck disposal sites, CCF, quarry, adits, access roads, above the HRT in the project vicinity. This also includes Autsho, Lingmethang and Gyelpozhing towns.
2c	Local communities living within the vicinity of the project.	Potential impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage and practices that might surface during the construction phase of the project.	Settlements of Tsamang, Saleng, Chhaling, Tsakaling and Tsenkhar Gewogs near the construction sites, muck disposal sites, CCF, quarry, adits, access roads, above the HRT in the project vicinity. This also includes Autsho, Lingmethang and Gyelpozhing towns.
3	Lhuentse Dzongkhag and Autsho town residents Gewogs along the highway in Mongar Dzongkhag	Reservoir impoundment and submergence of the highway-widening and realignment of the highway.	The highway on the left bank to Lhuentse runs through Tsakaling and Chhali Gewog in Mongar and through Tsaenkhar gewog in Lhuentse. 3.74 km of the highway to Lhuentse Dzongkhag that passes through Autsho Town will be submerged and will require realignment. The highway will also require widening and improvements to enable transportation of large equipment and materials and will also generate increased traffic.
4	Local shops and businesses	Positive or negative impacts on their businesses (during construction traffic: disruption and after: increased traffic),	Settlements of Tsamang, Saleng, Chhaling, Tsakaling and Tsenkhar Gewogs near the construction sites, muck disposal sites, CCF, quarry, adits, access roads, above the HRT in the project vicinity.

#	Project Affected Party	Potential Project Impact	Remarks
		rise in local business due to arrival of migrant workers.	This also includes Autsho, Lingmethang and Gyelpozhing towns and along the 3.74 km of the highway to Lhuentse Dzongkhag that passes through Autsho Town requiring realignment and widening.
5	Persons and their families employed by the project and contractor	Recruitment and employment of foreign and local workers during construction.	Local job opportunities/needs of the project and recruitment processes, labor standards, salaries/wages, and occupational health and safety.
6	Businesses and Communities downstream of the dam	Dam failure, Changes in River flow	Potential risk of flooding, loss of property, lives and recreational and economic activities Unsafe situation and submergence for sand extraction businesses - Public and private operators such as NRDCL.
7	Community Forest Management Group (CFMG), NWFP groups	Temporary or permanent loss of access to productive assets or natural resources and their impacts on livelihood of dependent population.	There are at least 3 CFMGs in the project area, in Banjar, Ganglapong, Tsenkhar

## 3.2. PROJECT INTERESTED PARTIES

This includes other interested individuals, groups, or organizations with an interest in the project, because of the project location, its characteristics, impacts, or matters related to public interest.

**Table 3 - Project interested parties.**

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
1	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR)			
1.1	Department of Energy	Central coordinating agency for all matters related to energy, power systems and energy markets including cross-border trade of electricity. Formulation of national energy policies, plans, procedures, and guidelines for the Hydropower Sector	Compliance with Bhutan Hydropower Guidelines Coordinate cross border trade of electricity. Review of ESIA and EMP	Consult DoE on power evacuation. Comply with Hydropower Guidelines Involve DOE during DPR and ESIA process especially for Power evacuation
1.2	Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC)	Regulatory Body for all environment related matters Issues the ToR for the National ESIA requirements and is responsible for issuance of National Environmental Clearance. Responsible for ensuring compliance with the EA Act 2000, RECOP 2016, NEPA, 2007, Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009. Environmental Standards 2020	Approval of the ToR for the National ESIA process Public disclosure of the ESIA prior to approval Review and approval of the ESIA and Issuance of National Environmental Clearance Approval of detailed implementation plan after approval of the ESIA	Submit ESIA ToR and ESIA report for issuance of EC. Apply for renewal of EC as required. Ensure compliance with Terms and Conditions of the EC Prepare and submit Detailed Implementation Plan upon receipt of EC. Submission of compliance reports during construction phase.
1.3	Department of Water (DoW)	Ensure implementation of the Water Act of Bhutan, 2011 and its Regulation 2014 and fit with the NIWRM, 2016.	Review E-flow analysis	Determine and seek approval for the minimum environment flow Synergies with the National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
1.4	Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS)	Mandated to ensure the sustainable management of Government Reserved Forests, conservation of wildlife, designation and management of protected areas including biological corridors, preparation of all types of conservation and management plans (for protected areas, community forest, forest management units), issuance of forestry clearances/permits, fishing permits, prevention and control of forest fires, afforestation and reforestation	Issuance of forestry clearances/permits, Issuance of fishing permits, Approve Compensatory afforestation programs. Monitor and evaluation compensatory afforestation programs Local Forest Offices Verify forest clearance applications and forward to the head office with their field reports and views.	Apply for Forestry clearance and Fishing permits, and approval for surveys. Consult DOFPS on Impacts on the Phrumsengla National Park and Biological Corridor #7 and government reserve forest and discuss mitigation measures for forest clearance, biodiversity, conservation measures, compensatory afforestation etc. Seek clearance from the Chairperson of the Community Forest management group for clearance of community forest.

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
				Prepare and sign MoU with DOFPS on implementation of Compensatory Afforestation Plan
1.5	Department of Geology and Mines	Ensure compliance with Mines and Minerals Management Act 1995.	Approval of quarries	DGPC to prepare and submit ESIA for quarries
1.6	Electric Regulatory Authority	Mandated to develop regulations, standards, codes, principles and procedures for power generation, distribution and sale by the electricity supply industry. Approve and set tariffs for power generation not regulated by power purchase agreement, transmission, distribution, and retail sale. Ensure compliance with the Electricity Act 2001, Safety Regulation 2008, Tariff determination regulation, 2106, Grid Code regulation, 2008, Regulatory fees regulation 2006 and System Operator Charges regulation 2022.	Process applications and issue, licences for generation, transmission, system operation, export, import, distribution and sale of electricity to monitor the performance of licensees and their compliance with provision of this Act, regulations, standards, codes, licences and contracts approved by the Authority and concession agreements entered into between the Minister and Licensees. Ensure compliance with regulations.	Compliance with all relevant regulations Process for required licence and seek approval for tariff setting
2.0	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock			
2.1	Department of Agriculture	Promote sustainable agricultural practices and appropriate agriculture technologies. Develop sustainable irrigation and water management system.	Provide agricultural extension services to farmers	Collaborate with DoA for crop protection and promotion of agricultural support services and farm related livelihood activities
2.2	National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries, Department of Livestock	The competent authority for the provision of technical advice for the sustainable use, conservation and management of fish and other living aquatic resources. Source of information on fish species distribution in the country	Implementation of fish conservation programs. Undertake fish research and monitoring programs	Consult on distribution of fish species. Engage NRCRLF in fish surveys and fisheries conservation programs during project implementation.
2.3	National Biodiversity Centre	Leads the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans The focal point for Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. Repository and national clearinghouse for biodiversity information Implements ex-situ conservation and agrobiodiversity programs.	Conduct biodiversity surveys Implement rescue and ex-situ conservation programs. Provide guidance for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs include vertebrate pests	Seek information on biodiversity. Consult on ex-situ conservation, agrobiodiversity, pest management. Collaborate on biodiversity surveys during project implementation.
2.4	National Plant Protection Centre	Focal agency for any national plans and policies regarding any PP activities and regulatory issues	Provide technical inputs for plant protection (PP) services.	Collaborate with NPPC for human wildlife reduction activities and pest management



#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
		Coordinate all plant protection activities in the country, including R&D, diagnostics, pest surveillance, and PP inputs.		
2.5	National Soil Services Centre	Focal agency for co-ordinating soil/land management research activities. Provide technical backstopping on sustainable land management.	Source of information on soils in the country.	Seek technical guidance for soil conservation measures and sustainable land management.
3	Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD)			
3.1	Department of School Education (DES)	Provision of educational services throughout the country.	Ensure adequate educational facilities for students of employee/worker families.	Based on the study on the existing educational facilities, discuss and consult with DSE the impacts on existing educational facilities from influx of students from employee/worker families and consult on measures to ensure adequacy of existing facilities to cater to additional students, and to mitigate potential project impacts on students/children.
3.2	Women and Children Division	Focal agency for gender equality and child sensitive Legislations, Policies and Plans.	Support Gender Responsive and Children sensitive programs	Inputs for gender and SEA/SH action plans Input to strengthen the capacities of Gender Focal Persons Consult on issues pertaining to women and children.
4	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE)			
4.1	Department of Labour	Labour and Employment Act 2007, Regulations on Working Conditions 2022, Regulation on Foreign Workers Management, 2022, Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare 2022, Regulation on Occupational Health and Safety for Construction Industry 2022.	Oversee labour administration and labour issue of the project. Conduct compliance monitoring of projects.	Preparation of labour management procedure Coordinate with DoL for labour compliance checks/audits and ensure compliance with all relevant regulations
4.2	Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA)	Ensure fair trade and anti-competitive practices.	Regular monitoring of market prices and practices Promote consumer empowerment through advocacy and education. Address/facilitate resolution of consumer grievances.	Incorporate measures in consultation with CCAA to minimize inflation in prices of goods.

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
5	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT)			
5.1	Department of Surface Transport	Responsible for human settlement planning & development, Surface & Air Transport and construction, Responsible for all primary and secondary highway development and maintenance works. Ensure compliance with Road Act 2013, Road Safety and Transport Act 1999 and Road Safety and Transport Regulations 2021, Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009, Water Act, Waste Prevention and Management Regulation, 2012.	Planning, designing, construction and operation of roads to ensure minimum safety standards. Provision for public transportation services. Approve Road take off from highways.	Apply for road take off from highways. Consult with MoIT on project impact on settlements and infrastructure including roads and highways, waste management, development of Autsho township and water and sanitation.
5.2	Bhutan Construction and Transport Authority (BCTA)	Responsible for issuance of motor vehicle and equipment licenses as well as ensuring the safety, reliability and efficiency of the construction sector and surface transport system including bus services. Ensure compliance with Road Act 2013, Road Safety and Transport Act 1999 and Road Safety and Transport Regulations 2021.	Issuance of motor vehicle and equipment licenses Enforce Road Safety & Transport Regulations through highway inspections and monitoring.	Collaborate with BCTA to implement traffic management
5.3	Department of Human Settlement	Prepare standards and guidelines for rural and regional settlements and regulate planning and development in areas outside urban areas including ensuring safe drinking water, sanitation, and reliable supply of irrigation water.	Review plans for settlements	Consult with DHS on Plans for development of Autsho as a liveable city.
5.4	Department of Infrastructure Development	Draft legislation, regulations, guidelines and standards related to human settlement and ensure environmentally friendly and culturally sensitive development. Responsible for construction and maintenance of all urban infrastructures in line with the approved structure plan and local area plans	Assess development applications for compliance with the approved development plans and/ or relevant development objectives. Provide technical guidance for the development of water supply and sanitation infrastructure in towns. Conduct training on controlled blasting techniques Design of foundation and bank protection works, landfill sites	

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
6	Ministry of Health			
6.1	Department of Health	Provision of quality traditional and modern healthcare and ensure the provision of sustainable healthcare services throughout the country. Ensure compliance with the Medicine Act 2003	Provision of adequate medical services in the project area, including screening, immunization and health awareness and training.	Based on an assessment on the pressure on existing health facilities from influx of workers and their families, consult MoH on existing health facilities and services available in the project area and the potential impact of additional requirements to cater to the influx of project employees, workers and their families, especially for emergency and severe health cases and in the preparation of the community health and safety plan.
7	Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)			
7.1	Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM) -Local Governance Division -Disaster preparedness and response Division -Disaster prevention and mitigation Division	Draft and/or review and revise LG related acts, rules & regulation, protocols and policies. Ensure compliance of LG Act, Rules, guidelines and other protocols by LGs Department Responsible for the formulation of policies, rules and regulations on disaster management and is the decision-making body and central coordinating agency of all disaster related planning and mitigation. Mainstream disaster risk reduction into development plans, policies, programmes and projects. Formulate national standards, guidelines and standard operating procedures for disaster management.	Provide guidance in Project Disaster management. Ensure compliance with Local Government Act 2009 and Disaster Management Act of Bhutan 2013.	Consult with DDM during preparation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan Work within the existing Disaster Management apparatus in coordinating disaster response and relief.
7.2	Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development (DoCDD)	Conservation of all tangible and intangible cultural heritage and integrate cultural heritage in developmental activities. Ensure compliance with the Cultural Heritage Bill 2016, Movable Culture Act 2005	Provide guidance on significant Cultural Heritage in the Project Area and Indigenous People and in preparation of mitigation measures.	Consult DoCDD during documentation of Cultural Heritage and preparation of Cultural heritage (both tangible and intangible) management plan based on field assessment of impacts on Physical Cultural, Historical sites and Intangible cultural heritage and Impacts on Indigenous People
8	Other nodal agencies			
8.1	National Land Commission (NLCS)	Apex agency for all matters pertaining to land registration, sale, exchange, or compensation. Ensure compliance with Land Act, 2007, Land Exchange Rules and Regulations 2022	Approve land acquisition, land lease, compensation and land replacement. Issuance of Land titles and Land user certificates.	Carry out land acquisition and compensation as per the Land Act and prevailing Property Assessment Valuation Agency (PAVA) and Bhutan Schedule rate (BSC).

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
		Land Lease Rules and Regulations 2018.		Seek the approval of the NLCS through the Dzongkhag.
8.2	National Statistics Bureau (NSB)	The NSB is the nodal agency for relevant and reliable statistics for the project area and also responsible for issuance of survey clearance.	Source of national statistical data	Determine study area and sampling frame
9	Local Government			
9.1	Dzongkhag Administration	Responsible for ensuring sustainable developmental. All necessary local government approvals and/or clearances must be approved by Dzongkhags.	<p>Approve and notify the concerned Gewogs for the public consultation.</p> <p>District Education Officers to oversee all educational institutes.</p> <p>District Health Officers -oversee all health facilities.</p> <p>District Environment Officer- oversee all educational facilities.</p> <p>District Cultural Officer- oversee all Religious and Cultural Sites.</p> <p>District Land Records Officers- verify all project land requirements.</p> <p>District Disaster Officer- Oversee all disaster related activities.</p> <p>Kidu Officers- responsible for identification and care of vulnerable people.</p> <p>Gender Focal Persons (GFPs): The role of the GFPs in the Dzongkhags include raising awareness on the benefits of gender mainstreaming and advocating for it in the sectoral policies and programmes and coordinating under the guidance of NCWC to ensure coherence in the Government's progress towards gender equality.</p>	<p>Route all consultation activities through Dzongkhag.</p> <p>Consult and involve relevant Dzongkhag officials during ESIA and ESMP preparation including project benefits and impacts to the local communities.</p> <p>Seek project developmental clearance.</p>
9.2	Local Government/Gewog Administration	Responsible for all developmental activities in their jurisdiction. -Represent the interests of local communities. Ensure compliance with the Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009.	Notify concerned people on consultations. Participate in public consultation and verify all participant lists of consultations and written consent for land or property to be acquired by the project.	Route all consultation activities through Local Government Offices. Consult and involve Gewogs during ESIA and ESMP preparation.

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
			Provide gewog data. Verify the land acquisition and compensation process and seek the approval of the NLCS. Verify local community approvals.	Involve Local Government in Land Acquisition, Resettlement, loss of livelihood.
10	NGOs/CSOs			
10.1	The NGO Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women (RENEW)	Empowerment of women and children, survivors of domestic violence (DV) and Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Implement skills development trainings and livelihood programs to women, youth and the vulnerable groups of the society	Conduct awareness programs relating to SGBV, provide support to survivors of domestic violence (DV) and Sexual & Gender Based Violence.	Use NGOs/CSOs for Gender/ SGBV awareness programs and to reach out to marginalized and vulnerable communities. Use of specialize NGO for the implementation of the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan, the GBV-SEA/SH prevention and redress plan and GBV-SEA/SH GRM.
10.2	Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), Disabled People's Organization of Bhutan (DPOB) Draktsho The PEMA	Promote and advocate inclusion of persons living with moderate to severe diverse abilities and mental health condition. Implement skills development trainings and livelihood programs to young people with disabilities	Conduct awareness programs relating to disability, promotion of rights of people with disabilities	Use NGOs/CSOs for awareness programs and to reach out to marginalized and vulnerable communities.
10.3	Tarayana Foundation	multi-sectoral support to people living especially in rural areas. The Foundation provided housing, energy, rural entrepreneurship to enhance rural livelihoods and reduce poverty.	Implement rural development programs.	Use NGOs/CSOs for awareness programs and to reach out to marginalized and vulnerable communities. Use of specialize NGO for the implementation of the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan ( women and youth livelihoods enhancement) and Local Development Plan/ project benefits sharing.
10.4	Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)	involvement of people of Bhutan in the conservation of the Kingdom's environment through, Education, Community Engagement and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities.	Environmental conservation, NRM, sustainable livelihoods, environmental awareness raising	Consult on mandates, activities, constraints and engagement and collaboration with the Project in implementing activities.
11	Autonomous bodies			
11.1	Gyalsung Infra Project	The Gyalsung Infra Project is responsible for infrastructure development and operation the Gyalsung Academic facility at Bondeyma, Mongar.	Provide assistance during health emergencies especially if evacuation is urgently required.	Consult to minimize overlap in areas and impacts on existing Gyalsung facility. Seek evacuation assistance in case of medical emergencies during project implementation

#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
11.2	Royal Bhutan Police (RBP)	Law enforcement agency, crime prevention and ensure safety of all persons. Ensure safety, security and protection of lives and properties.	Enforcement of traffic regulations to ensure road safety. Maintenance of law and order in their respective jurisdiction.	Collaborate on advocacy on rules and regulations pertaining to law and order Work with RBP to resolve social conflicts or issues arising from influx of employees and workers.
12	Corporations			
12.1	Other projects under DGPC - Yungichhu, Kurichhu	The Kurichhu Hydropower Plant is located about 20 km downstream of the dam site.	Collaborate for disaster preparedness and response.	Consult on downstream impacts including risk of dam burst on Kurichhu Dam and Hydropower generation.
12.2	Bhutan Power Corporation	Responsible for the delivery of electricity supply services in the power sector.	Issuance of approval for construction power. Assess the feasibility of provision of construction power for the project. Preparation of EIA and ESMP for Transmission lines. Conduct feasibility studies, assessment and preparation of ESIA for transmission lines. Supervision of the construction of required access roads transmission towers, substations, and transmission lines. Compliance with the National EC, and ESMP for transmission lines during all stages of transmission lines Operation and maintenance of power transmission lines.	Apply for construction power requirements. Consult on project impacts on existing transmission lines and mitigation measures for these. Collaborate with BPC – Deposit works for power evacuation and construction of transmission lines. Monitor compliance of BPC during implementation/construction of transmission lines.
12.3	Natural Resources Development Limited	NRDCL has the responsibility of sustainable and commercial management of timber, sand, stone and other natural resources as approved by DOFPS	Forest clearance Operation of sand quarries	Coordinate with NRDCL for forest clearance activities and supply of raw materials (if there is adequate supply).
12.4	Green Bhutan Corporation Limited	GBCL is responsible for implementation of afforestation and reforestation plantations in the country.	Implementation of compensatory afforestation measures as per the technical approval from the DoFPS.	Implementation of compensatory afforestation measures.
13	Donors and Developmental partners			
13.1	All Conservation Donors and Projects in the project area -WWF -Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment	Financing and implementation of conservation programs.	Financing and implementation of conservation programs.	Consult and collaborate to identify areas of significance, and mitigation measures and avoid duplication of activities.



#	Agency	Mandate	Responsibilities	Tasks for DGPC/DHEP
	Conservation (BTFEC) -Bhutan for Life			
13.2	Development Partners -UNDP	Financing and implementation of development programs.	Financing and implementation of development programs.	Inform about the project and mitigation measures to avoid duplication of activities.
14	Private Businesses			
14.1	Druk Petroleum Corporation Limited (DPCL) offices	Distributor for fuel and gas in the project area.	Apply and provision for fuel and gas.	Inform about the project and projected requirements of fuel and gas.
14.2	Restaurants, shops, hotels, suppliers, traders in the area and beyond	Businesses downstream be at risk due to dam failure or flash floods.	Opportunities and impacts. Participate in stakeholder consultations.	Inform about the project, consult on impacts and seek their views on mitigation measures.
14.3	Potential Suppliers and sub-contractors to the project	Suppliers of construction raw materials, implementation of subcontract for the Contractor	Provision of supplies and carry out sub-contract work	Inform about compliance to the ESMP and ensure compliance.
15	Educational Facilities			
15.1	Schools & vocational training institutes in project area	It is anticipated that the children of Project employees will be enrolled in the schools and/or vocational training institutes in the project area, primarily at the dam site and the powerhouse but potentially also at other project component locations.	Provision of education services including educational staff for existing schools/ vocational training institutes if required.	Consult on existing facilities, constraints and additional requirements to accommodate additional students from project employees and workers.
16	Health Facilities			
	Health Facilities in the project area	It is anticipated that additional employees and workers will exert pressure on existing Health centres and Hospitals.	Provision of medical services and medical staff.	Consult on existing facilities, constraints and additional requirements to provide services to additional patients.
17	Religious institutions			
	Religious institutions	It is anticipated that the project will indirectly impact religious institutions as well as require their services for religious ceremonies.	Provision of religious services.	Consult and utilize the services of the religious community as needed.

The database of stakeholders will be expanded as required to include additional organizations and individuals identified which have an interest in the project or knowledge that would provide insight into project issues.

### 3.3. DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

People residing in the valley have been surveyed during the baseline surveys conducted in May 2023 as a part of the updated of the ESIA and associated documentation. This assessment employed a multi-dimensional approach, using a range of data collection methods to gather valuable information. The baseline assessment incorporated the gathering of official information, Key Informant Interviews (KII), Livelihoods and Gender Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Community Mappings, and Seasonal Calendars. Additionally, the assessment aimed to further enrich the community information through the implementation of a comprehensive household survey, in which a total of 508 households were interviewed.

The vulnerability analysis in used in the ESIA 2023 is carried out in two stages. In the first, using secondary data and data from the socio-economic surveys carried out in May 2023, it is possible to indicate the greater or lesser presence of vulnerability groups or typologies in the study area (see below). This information will feed into the preparation of the questionnaires that will be applied to the Project Affected People (PAP) in the second round of surveys, so that we can define the PAP's individual levels of vulnerability, the goal of this analysis. It is therefore important to remember that in this first stage we are not yet working on the individual vulnerability of those directly affected.

Households are considered as vulnerable if they are:

- A household whose head of household is under the age of 18 or over 70.
- A single-parent household run by a woman (either divorced or widowed).
- Households who are living below the poverty-line i.e., income less than the upper bound poverty line of 6,204 (current Nu/person/month).
- A household whose head of household is impaired by a disability.

The definition and provisions made in the ESF: the World Bank's ESF (Ref. Bank Directive addressing risks and impacts on disadvantages or vulnerable individuals or groups, March 2021) defines the "disadvantaged or vulnerable" as "those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so. This will take into account considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, and including in circumstances where they may be separated from their family, the community or other Individuals upon whom they depend."

#### 3.3.1. Evaluation of Vulnerability

The analysis of vulnerability conducted in the ESIA at this stage analysed intrinsic and project induced vulnerabilities.

The evaluation of vulnerability criteria within the project's scope was conducted through a multifaceted approach. Literacy rates were assessed by collecting data on the ability to read and write across different gender and age groups, providing insight into educational disparities. Poverty levels were gauged by examining household income, access to basic services, and comparing these against national poverty lines, with particular attention to the differences between rural and urban populations. Food insecurity was evaluated by surveying households about their food consumption patterns, instances of food shortage, and the factors contributing to such conditions, including agricultural productivity and incidences of crop damage. Additionally, land ownership vulnerability was analysed by reviewing landholding records to understand the patterns and disparities in land ownership, considering factors like gender and household headship.

### 3.3.1.1. Illiteracy

There is a difference in illiteracy rates between gender and between gewogs:

- Within the study area, the illiteracy rate is at 28% for the same age group, comprising 24% of men and 33% of women.
- Chhaling and Tsakaling have a high proportion of illiterate people (respectively 42% and 45%), the gewogs of Drepong and Mongar have fewer than the average for the project area respectively 18 and 17%.

### 3.3.1.2. Poverty

In the study area, 9% of surveyed households have declared to be below the poverty line. Among these households, 5% fall below the extreme poverty line.

Female-headed households seem to be more susceptible to poverty: among households below the poverty line, 63% are managed by women, compared with 27% by men. Similarly, 83% of households below the extreme poverty line are managed by women, compared with 17% by men.

Poverty is often induced by other vulnerability factors. Thus, the incidence of poverty is higher among households:

- Which have become a female-headed household (12% of household over the past 2 years),
- Whose head of household is a widow (4% of widowers over the past 2 years),
- With only elderly people in house (6%), and that do not have able manpower for agricultural works (13%)
- With a disabled person in household (3%) or with a working member that became disabled (7% over the past 2 years)
- For whom a working member migrated out of the village (8% over the past 2 years).

These vulnerability factors are more prevalent in rural than in urban areas.

### 3.3.1.3. Food insecurity

In the study area, 7% of the respondents declared to have suffered from food insufficiency over the past two years. No significant difference was observed between rural (6%) and urban (8%) areas.

**In terms of induced vulnerability**, three groups were identified as potentially vulnerable in the study area within the framework of the project:

- Elderly people, especially those without family support,
- Women,
- Persons with disabilities.

It is noted that while the Team must assess if the identification of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups could expose such individuals or groups to risk of harm, in that case the Team will seek advice from the World Bank.

### 3.4. SUMMARY OF PROJECT STAKEHOLDER NEEDS

Stakeholder needs are tabled below. This table details the types of stakeholders, their characteristics, language or specific needs.

**Table 4 - Stakeholders / Community's needs**

Community	Stakeholder group	Key characteristics	Language needs	Preferred notification means (e-mail, phone, radio, letter)	Specific needs
Dzongkhag level	2 Districts	All relevant sector heads (Planning, Environment, Culture, land records, Health, Education)	English	Written notification to Dzongkhag/email	Working days
Gewog level	Tsamang Saleng Chaling Tsakaling Tsenkhar Mongar Drepong	All Gups (headmen), Mangmi, Tsogpas	Dzongkha Use translators	Written notification to Dzongkhag/email	Daytime meetings during field surveys
Tsamang Saleng Chaling Tsakaling Tsenkhar Mongar Drepong	Local communities	Approximately 1500 households	Dzongkha and Local language Use translators	Written notification through Dzongkhag	Daytime meetings during field surveys Use of local language
Banjar, Dangmaling, Takhambi and Tsenkhar community	Community Forest Management Groups	4 CF groups	Dzongkha and Local language, Use translators	Phone call or notification through Gewog	Daytime meetings during 2 <sup>nd</sup> field survey Use of local language
Tsamang Saleng Chaling Tsakaling Tsenkhar	Local women	About 5,000 females (based on the 1500 hhs mentioned above and population data)	Dzongkha and Local language Use translators.	Through the Gewog or Gup	“Women only” meetings especially related to sensitive subjects or to ensure they raise their voice. Meetings for businesswomen: during public holidays/ when children are not at school. For rural women: to be adapted to agricultural calendar. Use of local language
Tsamang Saleng Chaling Tsakaling Tsenkhar	Elderlies/ people with disabilities	About 1300 elderlies and 470 PwD (based on the 1500 hhs mentioned above, population data and 7% elderlies, 2,5% PwD )	Dzongkha and Local language Use translators	Through the Gewog or Gup	Helping vulnerable people to understand the complaints process. Provide transportation assistance, if necessary, to attend project and capacity building meetings. Use of local language

Community	Stakeholder group	Key characteristics	Language needs	Preferred notification means (e-mail, phone, radio, letter)	Specific needs
Tsamang Chaling Tsakaling Tsenkhar	Households who's land and property will be affected temporarily and permanently	About 80+ households are expected to be affected by the project components	Dzongkha and Local language Use translators	Through the Gewog or Gup	Ground truth the layout of the project component and identify the exact area of impact. Inform and discuss on the project impacts, affected person's expectations and compensation /livelihood restoration measures.

Special measures will be taken to address vulnerability in the SEP by ensuring the involvement of vulnerable groups to get their input on project development.

Specific measures will be put in place by the Project to ensure the participation of vulnerable households in the process of involving Project stakeholders, including:

- Helping vulnerable people understand the complaints process.
- Provide transportation assistance, if necessary, to attend project and capacity building meetings.

Considering gender equality and equal accessibility to the distribution of the project's profits will be as follows:

- All the Project's employment requirements will specifically state that women are encouraged to apply (gender-sensitive language when recruiting and contracting).
- When holding public meetings, communicate beforehand that women are particularly welcome and set appropriate timing.
- Organizing women-specific focus groups for discussions.
- Design and develop community development projects with female stakeholders and ensure that women are included in the Project's socio-economic development programs and initiatives.
- All data collected by the Project must be gender disaggregated, i.e., data collected and tabulated separately for women and men.

This is further detailed in the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan developed as a stand-alone document.

## 4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

This section presents planned stakeholder engagement program for the project optimization and preconstruction period to ensure structured and meaningful information sharing and dialogue between identified stakeholders. The Project Optimization period is scheduled early 2024 and expected to include the following main activities and processes relevant for communication as a part of the SEP during this period:

- Preparation of ESIA reports including framework ESMP.
- Identification and acquisition of the land required for the Project.
- Lenders review process of ESIA reports.
- Preparation of detailed ESMPs for Construction Phase.
- Local Labour registration and training.
- Pre-construction activities.

The scope of the SEP extends over time to the entire life of the Project.

### 4.1. PURPOSE AND TIMING OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the SEP is to plan, coordinate and provide ample opportunities for all stakeholder groups to participate in the planning, decision making, preparation and implementation and monitoring of the ESIA activities for the Project.

Section 213 of the Local Government Act of Bhutan (2009) requires that all national agencies conduct periodic consultations with the Local Government before any project or program is implemented in their jurisdiction, as well as involve Local Governments both in the planning and implementation of national projects.

Section 10, 11 and 12 of the Regulation for Environmental Clearance of Projects 2016 require that all concerned people and organizations are informed and consulted and records of public consultation, authenticated by concerned local authorities are attached with the application for Environmental Clearance, and approval of the concerned Dzongkhag and clearances from relevant agencies are attached to the application.

Chapter VI (Section 41-42) of the Regulation requires a written notification to be sent for public consultation to the concerned local authorities, that will notify the concerned people and agencies/organizations on the date, time and place for the public consultation.

The World Bank ESS10 requires that borrowers provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation. The SEP aims at establishing a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement and maintain a constructive relationship with them, assess stakeholder interest and support for the project and enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account. The engagement must be proportionate to the nature, scale, risks and impacts of the project, and appropriate to stakeholders' interests. It requires and accessible and inclusive grievance mechanisms which enable stakeholders to raise their grievances and queries.

All stakeholder engagement activities will be undertaken in compliance with applicable World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and WB Environmental and Social Standards.

## **ESIA phase**

The ESIA phase engagement activities seek stakeholder opinions on impacts, mitigation, and enhancement measures and the draft ESIA findings. For the ESIA phase, particular emphasis for engagement is being placed on:

- Present in detail the project details and discuss potential environmental and social aspects.
- Obtain local and traditional knowledge to inform the ESIA process.
- Identify issues of concern to stakeholders so these can be addressed appropriately within the ESIA process, while managing expectations and misconceptions regarding the project
- Establish the significance of environmental, social and health impacts identified.
- Provide engagement opportunities to ensure that the benefits of the project are maximized and that no major potential impacts have been overlooked.
- Provide an opportunity for those otherwise unrepresented to present their views and values, therefore allowing more sensitive consideration of mitigation measures and trade-offs.
- Reduce conflict through early identifications of any contentious issues and seeing acceptable solutions.
- Consult those households whose land is impacted during the land identification process as part of the process of the Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan preparation process.
- Discussion livelihood options and other activities that the community may like to take up or be involved in.

It is the responsibility of the concerned local authority to ensure that adequate opportunities are provided to the concerned people and agencies/organizations to express their concerns, facilitate and represent the community in negotiations with the applicant and ensure that the applicant has paid adequate attention to local concerns (Section 43-45 Regulation for Environmental Clearance of Projects 2016).

## **Project Implementation**

During project implementation, the engagement activities will seek stakeholder engagement to

- Inform about local job opportunities/needs of the project and recruitment processes.
- Implement ESIA measures,
- Conduct project compliance monitoring and evaluation,
- Identify issues of concern to all stakeholders so these can be addressed appropriately.
- Seek the active support of local communities and maintain expectations.
- Seek expertise input and information for implementing project activities.
- Collaborate, build and maintain relationships with other implementing agencies to ensure synergy of activities and seek expert input and guidance where necessary.
- Address unanticipated incidents and take corrective action.
- Reduce conflict through early identifications of any contentious issues and seeing acceptable solutions.

## **Operation Phase**

The operation phase Engagement activities seek stakeholder engagement to

- Seek key stakeholders' input and information for monitoring purposes.
- Implementation of Emergency preparedness and response measures
- Continue the active support of local communities and local government.
- Address unanticipated incidents and take corrective action.
- Preparation of project completion report

Timing of stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement will be a continuous process throughout the entire project cycle.

## 4.2. PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

The following table summarises the proposed strategy for information disclosure.

**Table 5 – Proposed strategy for information disclosure**

Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations/ dates	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
During ESIA Preparation	Disclosure of the Draft ESIA prepared by ARTELIA/PCS for DGPC. Includes associated documents: the SEP, LALRP, RAP, GRM, ESIA, ESMP with the associated management plans. Project timeline and contact information-	The documents will be disclosed on the owner’s website as well as shared via email with key project stakeholders such as the Dzongkhag, Gewogs.  Hardcopy summaries of the documents to be prepared.  DGPC will inform local and national media about the progress of the Dorjilung HPP and inform them of major milestones. The media will be invited to relevant site visits and meetings.	March 2024  The disclosure process will include a final presentation in March 2024 on these documents at the districts once approved by the owner prior to implementation.  Summaries (including hardcopies) of the documents will be made available at the project site office in Dzongkha and also share with the Dzongkhag and Gewogs for further dissemination with the local community.	Stakeholders such as the Dzongkhag, Gewogs  The local community	Project website accessible to all - internet coverage through broadband may be confined to urban areas and gewog administration office though the population has full access to internet through mobile technologies in rural areas.  Hard copies in project site office available to nearby residents and visitors.	DGPC
During ESIA Preparation	The final approved ESIA, ESMP and LALRP will be shared with local government and communities along with the project schedule so that they are aware of these in advance.	The documents will be disclosed on the owner’s website as well as shared via email with key project stakeholders such as the Dzongkhag, Gewogs.  Once the Final Draft ESIA has been approved, it may be relevant to publish a short notice in national newspapers. Ongoing use of the media may be relevant to advise on items such as project schedules,	After the draft ESIA is approved by the Lender.	local government and communities	As above	DGPC



Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations/ dates	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
		issues such as traffic, and how/where to lodge a complaint through the GRM process.				
Project Implementation	-Updated National Environmental clearances once obtained. -Periodic Environmental and Social Monitoring Reports as submitted to the Lender (including unanticipated impacts and corrective measures) -Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan with updates on consultations conducted and future consultations. -Lenders review documents -Project completion report	The project website and site specific signboards.	Site specific signboards will be designed and constructed according to the design standards and specifications. The signboards must disclose project contact information for easy contact for any issues or clarification.	As above	As above	DGPC
Project Implementation	During project implementation all HH affected by land acquisition will be consulted before finalization of LALRP.	Engagement with affected households to agree on compensation and livelihood restoration strategy. All applicable entitlements/benefits as per Entitlement Matrix are disclosed to the PAPs prior to the start of the negotiation process. The affected households will be able to question the assessment made during the preparation of the LALRP and the mitigation and livelihood restoration measures proposed by the Project.	The LALRP and will be available in Dzongkha and English at the Project site and at DGPC offices Electronic versions of these materials will also post on the Project Website and on DGPC's website.	All HH affected by land acquisition	100% of HH affected by land acquisition	DGPC
Project Implementation	During project implementation, the ESIA, EMP and project summaries will be shared with all relevant stakeholders via email for their reference as and when required. Additional informative material will also be developed and disclosed by DGPC to explain the E&S issues to the local communities, including the dam safety and natural hazards	The materials developed will be available in Dzongkha and English at the Project site and at DGPC offices Electronic versions of these materials will also post on the Project Website and on DGPC's website.	Hard copies of the project summaries will be available at the project site office, contractor's office and each Gewog office so that it is readily accessible to any interested person. Contact details for Grievances will be widely publicised and posted on at the site office	local government and communities	As above	DGPC

Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations/ dates	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
	issues.		and local DGPC office will be prepared to handle grievances			
Operation Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Updated National Environmental clearances once obtained.</li> <li>-Periodic Environmental and Social Monitoring Reports as submitted to the Lender (including unanticipated impacts and corrective measures)</li> <li>-Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan with updates on consultations conducted and future consultations.</li> <li>-Lenders review documents</li> </ul>	The materials developed will be available in Dzongkha and English at the Project site and at DGPC offices Electronic versions of these materials will also post on the Project Website and on DGPC's website.		As above	As above	DGPC

### **4.3. PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION**

DGPC is committed to openness and ensuring that communities are consulted and engaged on an ongoing basis. Much of the day-to-day communications will be handled by a Stakeholder Engagement Team under the Environmental and Social Management Unit based on site.

ARTELIA/PCS will be responsible for facilitating the public community and stakeholder engagement meetings to be carried out as a part of the ESIA process. These meetings will also be used to communicate and discuss specific issues and will be systematically attended by DGPC.

Communities will also be kept up to date about events and news via the Dzongkhag Administration, local government and DGPC website.

Contact details for Grievances will be widely publicised and posted on at the site office and local DGPC office will be prepared to handle grievances.

An initial list of key messages is provided in Appendix 2: Key messages about the project. Messages will then evolve and be adjusted to the different project's steps and specific issues.

#### **4.3.1. Summary of Project Consultation Proposed**

Stakeholder engagement is a continuous process and will continue throughout the project cycle. This is summarised in the below Table 6.

Appendix 5: Public Consultations Report – 1st Field Visit May 2023 and Appendix 6: Summary of Consultations since 1st Field Visit provide greater detail on the consultations already carried out for the EISA update process.

Following sub-sections 4.3.2 to 4.3.4 provide further detailed breakdown on the consultation proposed.

**Table 6 – SEP Summary Table**

Project Stage	Topic of consultation / message	Method used	Frequency/Timeline	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
During ESIA Preparation	Present the ESIA and ESMP, SEP and GRM, RAP/LALRP and project schedule to receive feedback project impacts, activities and proposed mitigation measures	Community consultations	May 2023 March 2024	Local communities living within the vicinity of the project	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Share the final design of proposed project components and present and discuss ESIA, ESMP, SEP, GRM, RAP, LALRP and project schedule	Formal meeting at the Dzongkhag and Gewogs	May 2023 March 2024	Lhuentse and Mongar Dzongkhag Local Gups of all gewogs	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Presentation of final project layout, field findings, potential impacts on cultural heritage and discuss mitigation measures	Formal meeting	February 2024	Department of Culture and Dzongkhag Development	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Presentation of final project layout, field findings, potential impacts and additional requirements for student enrolment, counseling and discuss mitigation measures	Formal meeting	February 2024	Department of Education and Skills Development	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Presentation of final project layout, potential impacts, additional infrastructure requirements, and mitigation measures	Formal meeting	February 2024	Ministry of Information and Transport	DGPC and PCS
	Presentation of final project layout, potential impacts, additional infrastructure and resource, health coverage requirements, and mitigation measures for	Formal meeting	February 2024	Ministry of Health	DGPC and PCS
	Share the final design of proposed project components, present and discuss ESIA, ESMP, SEP, GRM, RAP, LALRP and project schedule	One on one interviews with NGO/CSOs	May 2023 March 2024	NGOs/CSOs representing vulnerable segments of population / as potential service providers	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Share the final design of proposed project components; ESIA, ESMP, SEP, GRM, and project schedule	Community consultation	March 2024	Businesses and Communities downstream of the dam	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Temporary or permanent loss of access to productive assets or natural resources	Community consultation	March 2024	Community Forest Management Group (CFMG), NWFP groups	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	To gather women's and vulnerable persons perspectives, experiences, and opinions on given subjects, enabling a better understanding of the social, economic or cultural issues that concern them.	Focus Group discussions	May 2023 March 2024	Vulnerable persons and women	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Discuss finalized project components, and impacts on private land, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement and other alternatives	Formal meetings	February 2024	Lhuentse and Mongar Dzongkhag Local Gups,	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Discuss finalized project components, and impacts on private land, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement and other alternatives	Formal meetings	March 2024	Women and vulnerable groups	DGPC and Artelia/PCS

Project Stage	Topic of consultation / message	Method used	Frequency/Timeline	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
	Agreement on Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LALRP)	Consultation with individual households	March 2024	Project Affected households/people	DGPC, PCS, Dzongkhag land record officer, Tsogpa
	Involve Local Government in Land Acquisition, Resettlement, loss of livelihood.	Community consultations and formal meetings	March 2024 July-Sep 2024	Lhuentse and Mongar Dzongkhag Local Gups of all gewogs	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Photodocument all cultural sites (inside and outside), with the owner of the cultural site, duly verified by the local representative	Site visit for verification and agreement on baseline for heritage sites	Once, Pre-construction	Religious institutions, owners, and caretakers of heritage sites, Local representatives	DGPC and Contractor representative
	Presentation on field survey and CHA findings and discussion mitigation measures including compensatory afforestation	Formal meeting	October 2023, February-March 2024	Department of Forest and Park Services	DGPC and Artelia/PCS
	Field verification of affected land/property/livelihood to finalize compensation and livelihood restoration and drawing up of agreements and payments. Complete land acquisition and compensation operations.	Joint Field verification and consultation	Once, prior to construction	Affected persons/households	DGPC and Dzongkhags
	Field verification and selection of compensatory land from government reserve forest land	Joint Field verification and consultation	Once, prior to construction	Department of Forest, National Land Commission and Dzongkhag	DGPC and Dzongkhags and DOFPS
Project Implementation	Recruitment and employment of foreign and local workers during construction Sharing of information on labour rules and regulations	Notifications and awareness raising exercises	Once early on during construction and as and when recruitment is planned	Gewogs and local communities Persons and their families employed by the project and contractor	DGPC
	Agreement on land acquisition, compensation and restoration	Community consultation	Prior to construction	Affected persons/households	DGPC
	Awareness raising on the potential negative effects of labor influx during the construction period (prevention of the risks).	Awareness and sensitization during ESIA and ESMP, GRM, RAP presentations	Once, early on during construction	Gewogs and local communities	DGPC
	-Dissemination of information about the project and its benefits in the project area populations, particularly women, children, youth and the elders.	Awareness raising and gender sensitization workshops, community meetings,	Once, early on during construction	Vulnerable communities include women headed households	DGPC with the assistance with CSOs

Project Stage	Topic of consultation / message	Method used	Frequency/Timeline	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
	-Raising awareness about women rights, empowerment among the local leaders and the local community through, keeping the local socio-cultural conditions in view	and awareness raising campaigns			
	-Raising awareness about women rights, empowerment among the through, keeping the local socio-cultural conditions in view. -Educate on social and gender issues such as importance of educating girls, availing project benefits, reproductive health of women, pre- and post-natal care, nutritional needs and growth monitoring of children etc. - leadership trainings to encourage women in contributing to the decision making - Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment	Awareness raising and gender sensitization workshops, community meetings, and awareness raising campaigns	Once, early on during construction	PMU officials, stakeholders from concerned offices and Dzongkhag officials of Lhuentse and Mongar especially gender focal persons	DGPC with the assistance with CSOs
	Gender sensitization and capacity building of the selected teachers of the schools under the DHPP to develop understanding of gender equality, women's empowerment and the GAP approach and implementation processes, and risk prevention.	Awareness raising and gender sensitization workshops, community	Once, early on during construction	School counsellors and teachers	DGPC with NCWC
	Conduct training for both project communities (men, women and youth) and Project companies' staff and contractors to protect women and children, in particular, from the potential negative effects of labor influx during the construction period and GRM- SEA/SH GRM.	Awareness raising and gender sensitization workshops, community	Once, early on during construction	Contractor workers	DGPC with NCWC
	Discussion on the project impacts on cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) and proposed measures for mitigation impacts	Meeting (in person and virtual)	During ESIA preparation February 2024	Department of Culture and Dzongkhag Development, Cultural Officers from Lhuentse and Mongar Dzongkhags	DGPC and Consultant
	Monitoring and evaluation of the results of the implementation of the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan by documenting challenges, opportunities, successes, recommendation, and lessons learnt.	Focus group discussions	Quarterly	Women, youth and vulnerable communities	DGPC with CSOs
	Liaison and coordination with the engineering colleges to sign MoUs for apprenticeship -review of progress	Meeting	Once prior to initiation of program And as per MoU	College of Science & Technology and Jigme Namgyel Engineering College) and TVET institutes	DGPC
	Liaison and coordinate to sign MoU and promote STEM studies for girls	Meeting	Once prior to initiation of program And as per MoU	Ministry of Education and Skills Development	DGPC



Project Stage	Topic of consultation / message	Method used	Frequency/Timeline	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
	Consultations to inform about training programs and opportunities for cottage industry skills and opportunities like weaving, arts and crafts, handicraft production, etc. as relevant, Micro Enterprise Development, eco-tourism development, establishing homestays & eco lodges and establishment of womens groups	Consultation meetings	Twice a year	Women and vulnerable communities	DGPC
	Implementation of GRM process	Consultation with aggrieved persons,	Quarterly	Dzongkhag, local community, project stakeholders	DGPC
	Implementation of GRM process	GRM committee meetings	As required	Dzongkhag, project stakeholders	DGPC and GRM committee, Contractor
	Discussion on aquatic monitoring survey findings	Consultation meetings	Quarterly	Fisheries experts	DGPC
	Implementation of Biodiversity management plan/conservation measures	Consultation meetings	Quarterly	DOPFS	DGPC
	Discussion on design and implementation of Waste Management measures	Consultation meetings	Quarterly	Dzongkhag and Local Government, MoIT	DGPC
	Implementation of local development plan	Consultation meetings	Quarterly	Dzongkhag and Local Government, MoIT	DGPC
	Implementation of quarry management plan and compliance to quarry ESMP	Consultation meetings	Quarterly	Quarry Contractor	DGPC
	Discuss the EE in progress, the remedial measures taken and any other subject of current concern such as the Action Plans presented by the CC-ESHS manager.	Consultation meetings	Monthly	CC-ESHS team and the OE-ESHS team	DGPC
	implementation of compensatory afforestation plan	Consultative meetings	As per MOU between DOFPS and DGPC	Department of Forest, Green Bhutan Corporation, Contractor	DGPC
To discuss project compliance monitoring reports	Meetings	During POE site visits	Dzongkhag, Gewogs, local community, affected persons, vulnerable persons	DGPC, POE	
Operation	Planning for implementation of disaster management plan – mock drills and awareness programs	Consultation meetings	Before Operation, Quarterly	Dzongkhag and Local Government and Kurichhu HPP	DGPC
	Plan implementation of camp closure, site cleaning and site rehabilitation	Consultative meetings	Quarterly	Contractor	DGPC
	Review of project impacts and benefits -Preparation of project completion report	Consultative meetings	Completion of project construction and local area development plan activities	Dzongkhag, Gewogs, local community, affected persons, vulnerable persons	DGPC
	Aquatic monitoring surveys and discussion on findings	Consultation meetings	Bi-annually	Fisheries experts	DGPC

### 4.3.2. General approach

Considering the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the Project stakeholders, as well as the basic principles of effective communication advocated by international good practice, communication approaches and tools should include as many attributes as possible:

**Targeted:** identify priority stakeholders (based on analysis and mapping), and tailor communication tools, messages, and channels to the characteristics of each group (as usually appropriate in the socio-cultural context and as observed during the first field mission).

- Simple tools, focused on verbal and visual, less text possible.
- Communications in dialect preferably, if not in Dzongkha, if not in English
- Consider the social hierarchical structure. Traditional social hierarchy structure is that the main authority speaks on behalf of citizens or villagers, makes decisions for its subjects; tradition often requires that dialogue begin with traditional and/or administrative authority. This structure is noted, however consideration must still be given to ensure that even the most vulnerable stakeholders feel free and encouraged to express their concerns and raise any objections or questions they may have.
- Consider logistical challenges, social, cultural, and political context, and local languages when planning communication activities.

**Meaningful:** information that is understandable and tailored to the interests and concerns of targeted groups

- Current language level, properly popularizing more technical or scientific concepts
- Messages that consider audience expectations, take the time to hear, and plan to encourage expression.
- Develop special arrangements to facilitate access to information and decision-making by vulnerable groups: women, illiterate, unemployed, retired, marginalized migrants.

**Two-way:** establish channels and tools that facilitate feedback from people and demonstrate in decisions and activities that their feedback has been considered

- Remain attentive to the emergence or formation of new groups interested at all stages of the project. Although there are differences in power between stakeholders, DGPC will have to strive for the voices of the weakest to be heard.

**Paritarians:** recognize the views of all segments of the population.

- Sensitivity to spiritual beliefs and social taboos related to animism, witchcraft, and sacred sites/rituals.
- Choose a place where stakeholders feel comfortable to foster a more open and authentic dialogue.

**Free:** do not manipulate or coerce stakeholders, always invite stakeholders to express themselves openly while protecting them from the risk of reprisals

- Allow communities to identify their own representatives according to parameters consistent with international good practice and to ensure the participation of vulnerable groups either through their own representatives or, if necessary, separately.

**Prerequisites:** communicate well in advance to allow sufficient time to inform communities and learn about their concerns, and then be able to identify potential conflicts and adjust activities/approaches accordingly.

**Enlightened:** talk openly about the risks and impacts of planned activities on local people. Explain exactly who will be affected, when and how and what the company plans to do to mitigate risks and impacts.

**Documented:** to preserve the traceability of stakeholders consulted and to analyse the data to be able to detect and correct problems before they get worse. At DGPC, all this information will be stored in a computer application for environmental and social performance management.

Continuous: Maintain regular contact (regular visit schedule built into Community Relations staff work programs), not just when there is a problem or when the company needs something. Combination of formal and informal interviews.

The effectiveness of the SEP will be continuously assessed, and the necessary adjustments made during each phase of the project cycle.

### 4.3.3. Strategy for consultation with project affected parties

#### During ESIA preparation

Prior to engaging with project affected parties, formal letters of introduction were submitted to the parent national agency at Thimphu, or phone calls were made to inform about the project and to request for appointments to conduct in person consultations.

The project will aim to ensure that Consultation with the communities and households are undertaken in a transparent manner and in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion and take in all relevant views of affected people into decision making,

**First round of consultation:** The first round of consultation with local government project affected communities has been completed during the first field campaign. The project background, objective, layout, components, and potential impacts were shared during the consultation meetings. These details of these meetings are documented in the public consultation report for the first field survey.

Second round of consultation: Going forward, the project will continue to disseminate information on the objectives of the proposed project, the final design of proposed project components; developments on the potential environmental and social impacts (positive and negative) of the project, and proposed mitigation measures for the perceived negative impacts; and the final Grievance Redress Mechanism and contact details of the project.

The Project affected households will be interviewed and consulted to assess the degree of impact on each household and to seek their views and concerns. This will be carried out through PAP surveys and field verification. The consensus of the project affected families will be sought regarding compensation and for the preparation of the LALRP.

Consultation and community approval will be sought if water for drinking or construction is required to be tapped from existing sources already being utilized by the community, or for waste management, muck disposal sites.

A separate meeting will be organized with the Community Forest Management Groups (CFMG) to present the area of impact on their Community Forest, discuss and agree on compensation and mitigation measures. The required approval from the CFMG will be sought in writing.

Third round of consultation: The third round of consultations will be after the draft ESIA is approved by the Lender. The final approved ESIA, EMP and LALRP will be shared with local government and communities along with the project schedule so that they are aware of these in advance.

#### During Project implementation

During project implementation project affected communities will be consulted as follows:

- DGPC/DHEP will inform about local job opportunities/needs of the project and recruitment processes. Registration of interested local labor and their qualifications will be put in place.
- Consultative meetings will be organized with project affected families to implement the LALRP as per the LALRP and entitlement matrix.
- Communities will be given prior information and consulted when activities are being implemented in their respective settlements,
- Communities may be engaged in project activities depending on their interest and availability.

Consultations will be separately organized at each gewog at specific villages with affected households.

To ensure the participation of vulnerable groups, meetings will be conducted with vulnerable PAPs at their homes or in the closest school or BHU in the evenings so that farmers are not disturbed during the day. Prior notice to the PAPs will be provided through the Tsogpas who will be required to confirm whether these PAPs are willing/able to attend the meetings as proposed, or if adjustments have to be made.

#### 4.3.4. Consultation with Project Interested person / groups

**First round of consultation:** The first round of consultation with key stakeholders for planning and conducting the field surveys and disclosing the project has been completed. Introductory emails/letters were sent to those Agencies wherein permission was required to conduct field surveys and consult their respective offices in the districts. Meetings were held with offices in Thimphu, Regional Offices in Lingmethang and Mongar, and Divisional or district offices and local offices in Mongar, Lhuentse and Bumthang (Phrumsengla National Park Office).

Consultations with the remaining stakeholders will continue in Thimphu simultaneously as the field report and ESIA report preparation.

**Second round of consultation:** The Second round of consultations will be conducted with parent ministries and departments such as Ministries of Health, Education, Energy and Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Transport, Home Affairs (Department of culture and Dzongkhag Development) where it was found necessary to

- Share the findings of the field surveys and the views of the respective regional, district and local offices and local communities.
- Seek information on future by parent agencies for the regional, district and local offices in terms of human resources, infrastructure development including the 13 Five Year Plans.
- Understand whether there are any concerns and constraints by parent agencies in provisioning the required additional facilities that might be required due to the large influx of employees, workers, and their families into the project area.
- Seek technical support, guidance, and involvement of technical Agencies in designing appropriate mitigation measures, seeking cost estimates, and avoiding duplication of effort and resources (e.g., heritage, waste management, compensatory afforestation, biodiversity conservation, infrastructure development).
- Determine the level of engagement and collaboration of appropriate agencies during implementation phase for compliance monitoring (e.g., Environment, labour management, forest clearance and additional surveys).
- Determine stakeholder interest and level of engagement for the monitoring and evaluation phases of the project.

Where required, regular coordination meetings will be held with relevant governmental agencies in preparing the ESIA and the ESMP.

**National Consultative Workshop:** Consultations will also be conducted with both government and non-government stakeholders (CSOs, NGOS, Donors and other projects in the two districts), that will be less involved with the project during project implementation but are relevant because of the potential benefits and impacts of the project. It is necessary to seek their views, concerns, and inputs into developing appropriate mitigation measures, avoid duplication in activities. These stakeholders will be invited to a national workshop wherein information on the objectives of the proposed project, the final design of proposed project components; developments on the potential environmental and social impacts (positive and negative) of the project, and proposed mitigation measures for the perceived negative impacts and Grievance Redress Mechanism will be shared. Stakeholders will be invited to share their concerns and recommendations.

**Last round of consultation before project implementation:** When the Draft ESIA is complete, a consultative workshop will be organized for National and Local Government to share the ESIA, EMP, LALRP and LALRP and

seek their views, concerns and inputs before finalization of the ESIA and submission for Lender's approval and National Environmental Clearance.

#### **4.4. PROPOSED STRATEGY TO INCORPORATE THE VIEWS OF DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Consultations with affected groups will ensure to be gender inclusive and responsive, and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

The consultation process began with key informant interviews with gender focal persons in the districts and gewogs. Household surveys data was compiled to identify vulnerable groups and will be completed after the LRARP survey with the identification of vulnerable households. Going forward, the list will be further expanded with the assistance of the district and gewog officials.

The project will seek the views of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups identified (elderly, women, people with disabilities) through the following methods:

Measures to engage vulnerable groups will include:

**Focus group discussions.** The project will conduct focus group consultations for women, youth, elderly and disabled persons which will be led by a suitable facilitator who can speak the local language. This will allow vulnerable people to freely discuss any issues and concerns that they may have regarding the Project.

**Household visits.** If there are people not able to attend such focus group discussions, they will be approached through the gewog and consulted directly. The project will ensure that such meetings are conducted in appropriate manner, in terms of location, timing and language and with an appropriate facilitator so that the person does not feel intimidated.

**Use of appropriate materials.** The project will ensure that appropriate materials are used for illiterate persons such as printed illustrations or videos in the local language, or use of braille and sign language where required.

**Build capacities of the Gender Focal Person and Kidu (welfare) officers and utilize them.** Each Dzongkhag has a Gender Focal Person and a Kidu Officer. Kidu Officers maintain a list of destitute persons/families or old people who have no source of income. The Project can train the Dzongkhag Gender Focal Person on how to engage with vulnerable communities. The 2 Focal persons will be consulted regularly to enquire whether there are any reports on gender-based violence or poverty issues that have been reported in the project community and measures to resolve these issues will be undertaken with the assistance of the Gender Focal Person and Kidu Officer. When the project discovers a vulnerable person/household, this will be communicated to the Kidu Officer so that they can also benefit from welfare programs.

**CSOs/NGOs.** There are several CSOs and NGOs that actively promote the rights of people with disabilities (Disabled Peoples' Organization, Draktsho, Ability Bhutan Society), or work with marginalized and vulnerable groups (Tarayana Foundation, RENEW, Nazhoen Lamtoen) and have experience in engaging those who are not able to participate in the larger forums or voice their opinions or concerns. The project will collaborate with these CSOs/NGOS to conduct awareness programs, outreach programs, and develop informational materials such as brochures, posters, and flyers to raise awareness on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and its relevance to the project or also engage them in monitoring the project's progress on meeting its commitments to the GESI.

**Reporting of incidents.** The project will establish a mechanism wherein employees and the local community can report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and domestic/gender-based violence. These reports must be treated with confidentiality and addressed promptly with the assistance of the officials of the CSOs/NGOs. Allegations of SEA/SH received during project implementation should be reported by the project to the World Bank task team, for further reporting to the management in accordance with SEA/SH provisions in the Environmental and Social Incident Response Toolkit (ESIRT) (March 2023).

Further details are provided in the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan.

## **4.5. PROCEDURES TIMELINES**

See Section 4.3.1.

## **4.6. REVIEW OF COMMENTS**

During ESIA preparation, all key issues and concerns raised during each consultation will be documented and shared with DGPC through the Public Consultation Record. Wherever relevant, these issues will be incorporated into the ESMP, LALRP, and GESI action plan. Minutes of meeting will be share with stakeholder as well.

## **4.7. FUTURE PHASES OF THE PROJECT**

During Project Implementation, after each consultation, the minutes of the consultation will be documented, and issues raised will be communicated/shared with the Project management by the Social Safeguards Officer for review and action by the Project every two weeks/month as determined by management. Based on the recommendations of the management team, appropriate actions/measures will be undertaken.

During Project Operation, the Plant Head will appoint a focal officer to plan, coordinate, conduct and record all consultations and report issues and concerns from such consultations. The focal officer will document all consultations and report to management every two week/month and take appropriate action based on the management's decision.



## **5. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SEP ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1. RESOURCES**

The costs associated with the implementation of SEP-related activities (meetings, disclosure.) during the ESIA preparation will be met from the communication budget allocated to Artelia/PCS. Any additional costs for conducting SEPs including workshops at the national level will be the responsibility of DGPC.

The estimated cost of SEP implementation will be included under the ESMP budget and utilized annually as per the annual SEP plan prepared by the Dorjilung Project Management.

The tentative cost of all activities for implementation is estimated to be around USD 86,625.00.

### **5.2. MANAGEMENT FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **5.2.1. DGPC Environmental Unit**

DGPC has an established Environment and Social Unit (ESU) under the direction of the Project Director. The ESU mandate is to ensure compliance with the E&S requirements for the Project and implement Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) including this SEP.

DGPC will be the key agency responsible for the coordination, implementation and monitoring and reporting of the SEP's implementation during the ESIA preparation phase up to the establishment project management office and staff recruitment. The Project management will then be responsible for the SEP during pre-construction, construction, and operation phases.

DGPC has an established Environment and Social Unit (ESU) under the direction of the Project Director. The ESU mandate is to ensure compliance with the E&S requirements for the Project and implement Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP). During ESIA revision, the ARTELIA / PCS will support the ESU unit and, will carry out public consultation and stakeholder engagement activities. This will be mostly handled by the Team Leader and National Team Leader and the Social Team (International and National Social Development Specialists and International and National Gender Specialist).

#### **5.2.1.1. Responsibilities of DGPC/Dorjilung HEP**

The following aspects are the direct responsibility of DGPC/Dorjilung HEP:

- Provide necessary assistance (introductory letters) to Artelia/PCS to seek required approvals from parent ministries and Dzongkhags to implement the SEP.
- Coordinate with stakeholders for smooth implementation of the SEP.
- Participate in consultations with the Dzongkhags, local government, and communities.
- Seek the approval of the WB for the SEP and allocate the necessary budget required for implementation of the SEP.
- Establish the GRM mechanism and ensure implementation of the GRM process.
- Update the SEP as new stakeholders are identified after the ESIA is approved.
- Disclose the SEP and the GRM process on its website.
- Review and ensure that the views, concerns, and recommendations from the consultations are incorporated and addressed wherever relevant in the ESIA.

- Ensure that the newly established Dorjilung Project Management is briefed/oriented on the SEP planning and implementation requirements.
- Monitor the implementation of the SEP and the grievance redress mechanism during the implementation and operation phase.
- Reporting to the World Bank in relation to implementation of SEP.

#### **5.2.1.2. Artelia/PCS**

DGPC has engaged Artelia/PCS for ESIA updated and preparation. This includes:

- Lead and document stakeholder engagement activities with identified stakeholders
- Update the SEP as new stakeholders are identified or after the second round of consultations.
- Incorporate all views, concerns, and recommendations from the consultations wherever relevant in the ESIA and ESMP along with the required budget.
- Preparation of LALRP and assistance plan for vulnerable groups/households based on the SEP.

#### **5.2.2. Dorjilung Hydropower Project (DHEP)**

Once established, the DHEP will establish an Environment and Social Unit (ESU) under the Project Manager that will be staffed with adequate environmental, social, and labour management staff. The implementation of the SEP will be the responsibility of this Unit, and DGPC will then monitor DHEP's implementation of the SEP.

Dorjilung Project Management (once established) will ensure the following:

- Dedicate staff to over the planning and implementation of the SEP from DGPC during project implementation and operation and ensure adequate budget for the same.
- Prepare annual SEP plan based on the overall SEP.
- Public disclosure of SEP and GRM and Information sharing with Local community representatives
- Report to the World Bank on implementation of SEP
- Update the SEP periodically and upon major project changes.
- Establish the Project GRM with clear terms of reference for the GRM committees, and timelines for addressing grievances, and ensure reporting of grievances in quarterly ESMRs.

## 6. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

### 6.1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to ensure that all requests and complaints from individuals, groups and local communities throughout the Project life, from preparation of ESIA, through construction, operations and decommissioning, are dealt with systematically in a timely manner with appropriate corrective actions being implemented and the complainant being informed of the outcomes.

Specific purposes of the proposed Grievance Redress Mechanisms:

- To ensure that grievances, complaints, and concerns are acknowledged/registered, addressed and resolved in a fair, transparent, and easily accessible manner in order to achieve the goals of restoring or maintaining positive relationships with affected persons/households and communities.
- To ensure careful documentation and reporting of grievances, complaints and concerns and remedial actions.
- To facilitate timely feedback from local communities about Dorjilung HPP and Contractors / Subcontractor performance in order to have a good working environment for the project.

The GRM will favour an approach that emphasizes negotiation and mediation that ensures internal coordination to resolve grievances, and that is immediately responsive to community concerns and that coordinates with existing local conflicts resolution mechanisms. This will increase the likelihood that complaints / grievances could be addressed in a harmonious manner, which in turn will facilitate the promotion of a more stable working environment.

Complaints can be raised (i) at the local level in the valley, (ii) at DGPC headquarters in Thimphu. Grievances can be received in several forms: in writing, through hotline, in person, via website, and these grievances will be linked with a formal registration of the complaint to facilitate processing and analysis. Grievances will be sorted according to the nature of the grievance in order to facilitate subsequent analysis.

A Grievance Register Form is attached in Appendix 3: Grievance Form.

### 6.2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRM

Key guiding principles of the GRM are:

- **Accessibility:** Easily accessible to persons who wish to submit a grievance, complaint, or concern and with assistance provided to persons who face barriers such as language, literacy, awareness, cost, or fear of reprisal.
- **Predictability:** A clear procedure with timeframes establishing for each stage and clarity on the types of results that can and cannot be delivered.
- **Fairness:** Processes that are widely perceived as fair, especially in terms of access to information and opportunities for meaningful participation in the final decision.
- **Rights compatibility:** Consistent with applicable national and international standards and without restriction of access to other redress mechanisms.
- **Transparency:** Transparent processes and outcomes that meet the public interest concerns at stake.
- **Capacity:** Implemented with adequate technical, human, and financial resources.
- **Feedback:** Serves as a means to channel citizen feedback to improve project outcomes for the people.
- **Mode:** Grievances can be submitted in any mode (in person, writing, through a representative, or via website).

There is a need to also include specific mechanisms for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), SEA/SH- involving Gender Focal Points and specialised NGO to address the needs of survivors and the requirement to maintain

confidentiality when lodging a claim. Specifically, this should follow a survivor-centered approach that prioritizes survivors' dignity, confidentiality and safety, and moving forward with consent.

- Special cases needing special treatment: Gender-based violence and abuse of minors including rape, sexual assault including touching, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, physical assault, forced or early marriage, denial of resources, opportunities or services, psychological or emotional harm, sexual exploitation, forced labor require special process.
- It should be noted that some complaints that are considered crimes (e.g. rape) and may be subject to criminal prosecution, should be forwarded with the consent of the survivors to the most appropriate court or authorities for processing. In addition, everyone has the responsibility to report to the police or the social welfare department any case of abuse or violation of a child's rights of which they are aware.
- Specific services should be offered to survivors of gender-based violence as well as to child survivors of violence/abuse.
- A survivor can choose, whether or not, to receive support or referral to services, such as health care, psychosocial care, and legal assistance. Any actor or individual to whom a survivor confides should give her all possible information about her options and available services, if the survivor agrees. Service providers are often useful entry points. Check that they are accessible, safe, reliable and confidential.
- Referrals from people or actors who are not GBV service providers.
- Referrals between GBV service providers (for example, between a medical provider and a psychosocial service provider); and
- Referrals from specialized GBV providers to non-specialized providers, who may offer services in other areas that are not directly related to GBV services.
- In cases involving minors, specialized child protection actors should be involved and integrated in the referral process. A child's ability to give consent regarding services or information sharing will depend on his/her age, level of maturity and ability to express him/herself freely; the best interest of the child must also be taken into account.
- Whenever possible, parents or caregivers should also be involved in the case management process, and children have the right to let a service provider know which adult the child trusts most. If the alleged abuser is a family member, it is extremely important that any interview with the child take place outside the family unit and in the presence of an adult the child trusts.

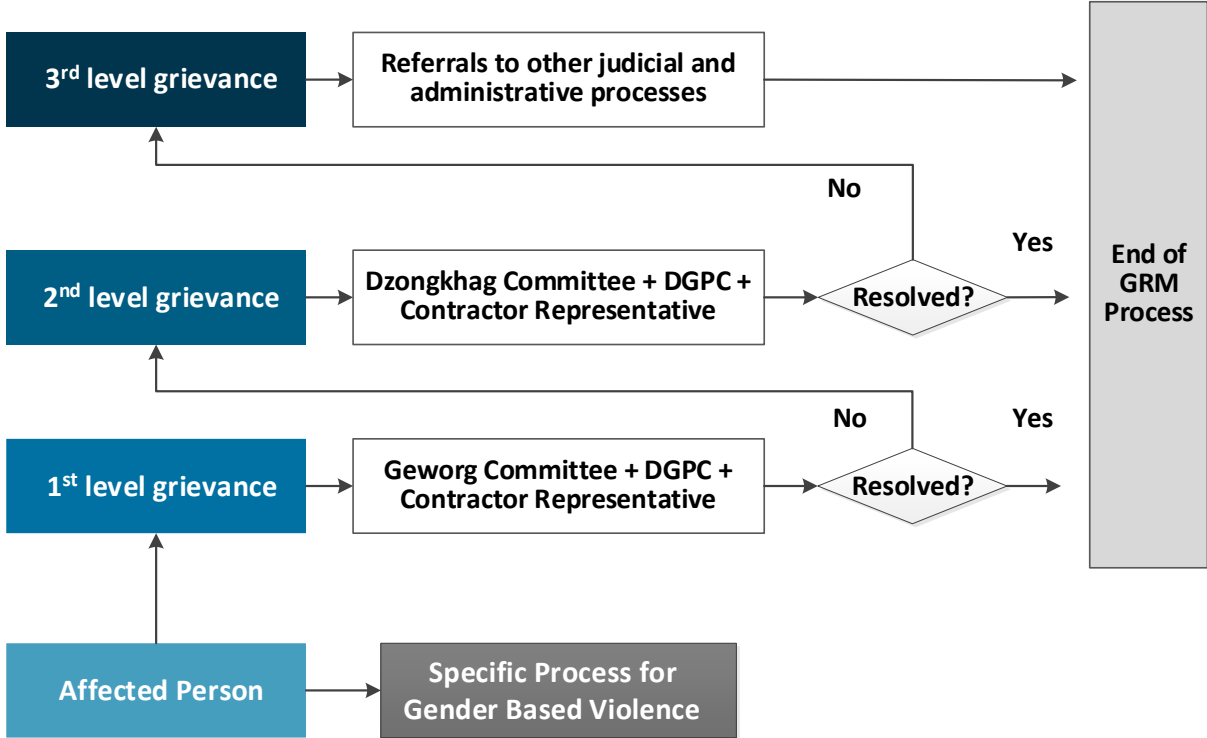
### 6.3. GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION

The diagram shown in **Figure 3** the normal processing steps of a complaint.

The specific process for Gender Based Violence is presented in the next section, it is extracted from the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan prepared separately for the project.

A workers GRM is developed under the Labour Management Plan prepared separately for the project.

Figure 3 – GRM Process



**Note: every action and outcome (positive and negative) is recorded and documented as part of the GRM process**

**6.3.1. 1<sup>st</sup> Level - Village & DGPC/Contractor on site**

The first level of GRM will involve the gewog committee composed of elected from the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and the Tsogpa/Gup, as well as DGPC and contractor representatives.

At this level, the grievances/complaints will be discussed at village level or with DGPC/contractor to address the complaint. If the proposed solution is accepted, the grievance or complaint will be classified. If not, the grievance will be submitted to the second level. The village compensation committee will consist of 5-7 persons (men and women). The compensation committees are headed by the Gup<sup>1</sup>, Gewog Administrative Officer, Mangmi<sup>2</sup>, Tsogpa<sup>3</sup> and sector officers.

The mediation will be done not later than 7 days after the registration and reporting of the grievance. The project will create conditions and empower this level to facilitate conflict resolution, as many of the conflicts will be addressed at this level.

<sup>1</sup> *Gup*: an elected head of a Gewog in Bhutan.  
<sup>2</sup> *Mangmi*: an elected representative.  
<sup>3</sup> *Tsogpa (or Tshogpa)*: a legal person appointed through open competition.

### **6.3.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Level - Mediation Committee**

The second level of grievance redress mechanism involves a Mediation committee composed with DGPC/Contractor representatives, Mongar District representatives. These include Dzongda (Chair); Relevant Gup, Environment Officer (Member); Legal Officer, Relevant Sector Head, Dzongkhag Planning Officer (GRM Focal Officer) and a representation of the complainant.

If a grievance/complaint is not resolved at the first level, the committee will review the case and seek resolution. If the complainant is not happy with the resolution, he/she will still have the right to go to court. The mediation will be done no later than 30 days (month) after the reporting of the grievance.

### **6.3.3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Level - Court resort**

The complainant has the right to access justice to court if the case has failed to be resolved at the first and second levels of the GRM.

### **6.3.4. Management and communication**

All complaints will be recorded in a central database, enabling them to be tracked and monitored. The GRM management system should allow timely extraction of report.

Information about the grievance redress mechanism will be widely disseminated throughout the project area and phases via local authorities, poster displays and reinstatement of the mechanisms in all community meetings. The project website will also inform about the project GRM.

The mechanism ensures multiple complaint uptake channels are available: verbal registration, by hotline (telephone), on-line on website (Project and/or World Bank website, complaint box etc. Details of how to access these will be integrated into the regular communication about the GRM (as mentioned above).

All the grievances will be formally registered, and a unique case number will be provided to the complainant so that he or she can make inquiry about the case. Complainants will be informed about the resolution once it is made. Project employees will be covered by a separate Workers' GM, which will be part of the labour Management Procedures.

## **6.4. GBV-SEA/SH SPECIFIC GRM MECHANISM**

The project has planned for a specific process to address GBV-SEA/SH complaints. The Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan and more specifically the GBV-SEA/SH prevention and redress plan include activities to inform various stakeholders about this specific mechanism.

The proposed GBV-SEA/SH GRM is developed according to the GBV-SEA/SH context assessment: there is limited expertise and services and capacity of internal staff at the moment- though PMU team still needs to be established and will include a gender and a GBV-EA/SH specialist. Currently, survivors of GBV-SEA/SH would refer to local authorities and local police if available- who also acknowledged limited expertise- and an NGO in providing services to survivors.

The proposed model for the project GBV-SEA/SH GRM is to link up the project grievance mechanisms to an existing intermediary to handle SEA allegations. This model will be further developed when the selection and agreement is made with a main GBV-SEA/SH service provider (potentially local institution and/or the NGO). Terms of Reference for the chosen intermediary will be tailored to also consider which activities should also be covered by the intermediary (such as communication and awareness raising). As already pre-assessed, some capacity-building will be necessary to meet the requirements of the project and compliance with international standards.



Additional specialised GBV service providers should be precisely mapped and trained to refer survivors: agencies providing health and medical support, agencies providing legal and justice related service, agencies providing safety and security-related services. Given the limited options available, existing institutions are likely to be mobilised.

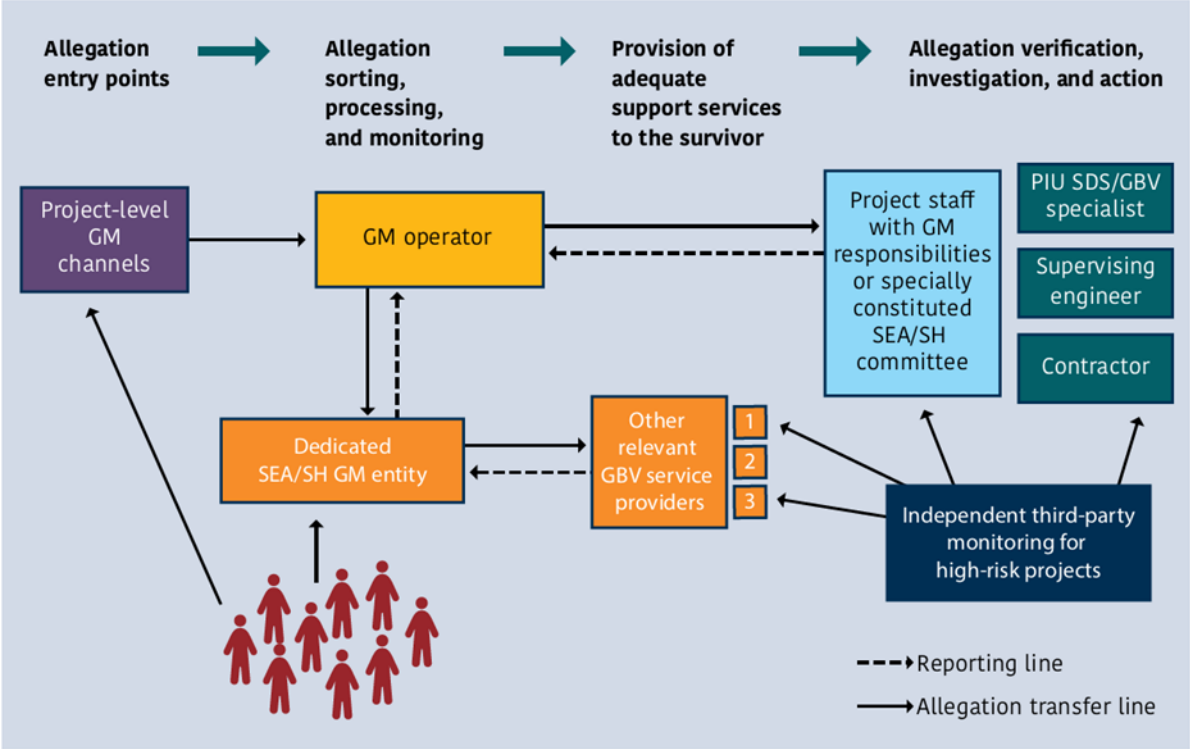
In the context of the project, we propose that the GBV-SEA/SH GRM is operated by the Dzongkhag- represented by the Gender Focal Point and with practical support from an NGO (contracted out).

Allegations could be addressed or to the gender Focal Point or to a staff/volunteer of an NGO in the project area (names to be disseminated in the community). A committee made of the Gender Focal Point and NGO staff will manage the case, i.e (1) sort, process and monitor the allegation and transfer it to the PMU GBV specialist, (2) provide adequate support services, refer the victims to the referral services.

The PMU GBV specialist will verify the allegation with the committee, investigate the case, involve interested parties (eg.employer) and directly take action against the perpetrators, or ask the employer to take appropriate sanctions as planned in the contract and CoC .

This model is referred as model 3 in the “World-Bank guide to develop community-based grievance mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse” and GMs for SEA&SH interim technical note 4.14.2020. It is further described in **Figure 4.:**

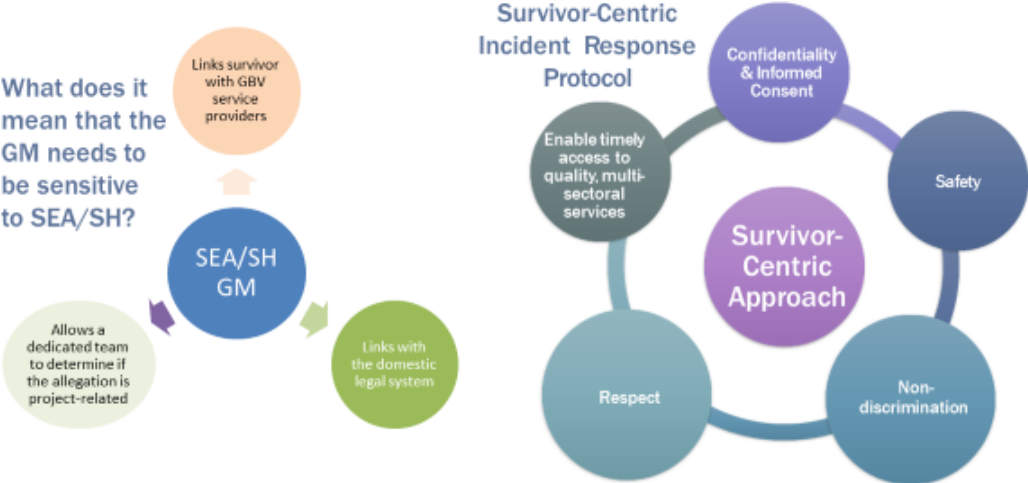
**Figure 4 – World Bank, TAG GBV SEA overview Bhutan August 2023**



GBV = gender-based violence; GM = grievance mechanism; PIU = project implementation unit; SDS = social development specialist; SEA = sexual exploitation and abuse; SH = sexual harrassment.

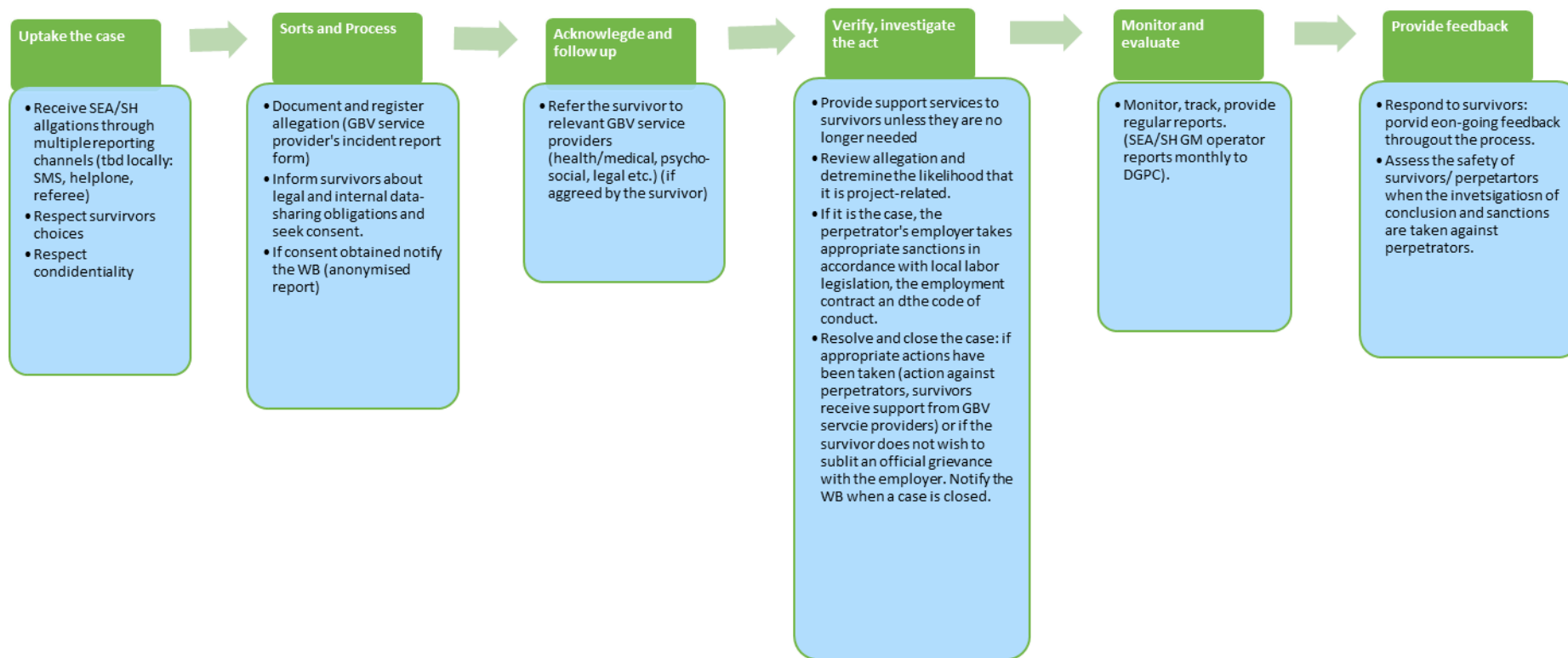
**The key principles of the GBV-SEA/SH GRM (source: World Bank)** that prevails for the development and implementation for the project mechanism are depicted in **Figure 5:**

Figure 5 – World Bank, Principles of an effective GRM, TAG GBV SEA overview Bhutan August 2023



The Grievance mechanisms operating procedure and response protocols for GBV-SEA/SH allegations is detailed in the following Figure 6:

**Figure 6 – Grievance mechanisms operating procedure and response protocols for GBV-SEA/SH allegations**



## 7. MONITORING AND REPORTING

### 7.1. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN MONITORING

The Dzongkhag and Gewog Authorities will participate in the SEP process. Additionally, support will be provided from other agencies, local government and Tsogpas<sup>4</sup> to the Project in SEP implementation Depending on their mandates, interests and needs and availability. The primary roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders are as follows:

- Dzongkhags and Gewog Authorities - Land Acquisition, Resettlement, livelihood restoration activities
- Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC): Compliance monitoring of the Project activities as per approved EC
- Department of Water (DoW): Synergies with the National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
- Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS): Forestry clearances/permits, implementation of Compensatory Afforestation Plan
- Department of Geology and Mines: Compliance monitoring of the quarry operations as per approved EC
- National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries, Department of Livestock: fish surveys and fisheries conservation programs
- Department of Labour - compliance checks/audits and ensure compliance with all relevant labour regulations.
- Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA)- Regular monitoring of market prices and practices and address/facilitate resolution of consumer grievances.

### 7.2. SEP INDICATORS

Monitoring Reports documenting the environmental and social performance of the Project will include a section regarding stakeholder engagement and grievances management. The section below proposes a set of indicators relating to the SEP performance.

**Table 7 – SEP Indicators**

Engagement with Project Affected People (PAP)
Number and location of formal meetings with PAPs
Number of men and women that attended each of the meetings above
Number, location, attendance and documentation of the meetings held with the local authorities and communities or other stakeholders
For each meeting, number and nature of comments received, actions agreed during these meetings, status of those actions, and how the comments were considered by the proponent in shaping the Project. Minutes of meetings of formal meetings and synthesis of informal meetings will be annexed to the report. They will summarize the view of attendees and distinguish view of men and women).

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<sup>4</sup> Tshogpa' means a representative of a village, or a cluster of villages.

Engagement with project interested persons/groups
<p>Number and nature of engagement activities with other stakeholder, disaggregated by category of stakeholder (Governmental agencies, Local authorities, NGOs)</p> <p>Issues raised by NGOs and other Stakeholders, actions agreed with them and status of those actions.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings will be annexed to the six-monthly report.</p> <p>Number and nature of Project documents publicly disclosed.</p> <p>Number and nature of update of the Project website</p>
Engagement with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups
<p>Number and location of meetings with Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups</p> <p>Number of men and women that attended each of the meetings above.</p> <p>Documentation of the meetings held with disadvantaged and vulnerable persons.</p> <p>For each meeting, number and nature of comments received, actions agreed during these meetings, status of those actions, and how the comments were considered by the proponent in shaping the Project. Minutes of meetings of formal meetings and synthesis of informal meetings will be annexed to the report.</p>
GRM
<p>Number of grievances received, in total and at the local level, at Thimphu headquarter, on the website, disaggregated by complainants' gender and means of receiving (telephone, email, discussion, written submissions)</p> <p>Number of grievances received from affected people, external stakeholders.</p> <p>Grievances categorised according to nature of grievance</p> <p>Number and percentage of grievances (i) opened, (ii) open during more than 30 days, (iii) resolved at the first level (iv) resolved within time (v) appealed, (vi) submitted for legal action, (vii) closed, and (viii) number of responses that satisfied the complainants, during the reporting period disaggregated by category of grievance, gender, age and location of complainant.</p> <p>Categorization of grievances (as relevant to the project), disaggregated by complainants' gender.</p> <p>Average time of complaints resolution process, disaggregated by gender of complainants and categories of complaints.</p> <p>Number of Local GRC meeting, and outputs of these meetings (minutes of meetings signed by the attendees, including the complainants will be annexed to the report)</p> <p>Trend in time and comparison of number, categories, and location of complaints with previous reporting periods</p> <p>Number of SEA/SH complaints handled based on survivor-centered principles</p> <p>Share of SEA/SH survivors referred to services</p>

## 7.3. REPORTING

### 7.3.1. ESIA preparation

The Stakeholder Engagement carried out as a part of the ESIA process will be documented the ESIA report. This will be provided though a summary in the main document and the presentation of the Public Consultation Report (PCR) as an Appendix to the ESIA.

### 7.3.2. During project implementation and operation

The reporting on Environmental and Social activities conducted by DGPC during the project implementation and operation phase will be integrated in the general E&S reports defined in the ESMP.

The stakeholder engagement reporting activities include the following:

- Monthly reports on stakeholder engagement by ESMD-Social Engagement Team to Project Director and Board of Directors
- Quarterly reports on stakeholder engagement to Lenders and Communities.
- Monitoring Reports documenting the environmental and social performance of the Project will include a section regarding stakeholders' engagement and grievances management including performance against the SEP indicators.

### **7.3.3. Reporting back to Stakeholder groups**

The ESU will follow up monitoring and evaluation of the SEP. All data, consultation, stakeholder engagement activities, information disclosure and grievances will be maintained in a database. SEP information in the database will be available for public review on request.

During Project implementation, the SEP will be periodically revised and updated. The updates will include stakeholder engagement activities carried out to date, enquiries, concerns recommendations or grievances along with responses, decisions taken, or corrective actions implemented. This will be shared on the Project website and available at the project office.

Where meetings are conducted, the Project will share the minutes of the meetings with the stakeholders for their review and input before finalizing this. Where actions are required to be taken, the people/agencies responsible for doing so will be included and accordingly, this will be followed up by the Project. Where actions (new actions or corrective ones) have been undertaken, the Project will inform the key stakeholders of this via email, or letter with a copy to the management.

Where there are certain decisions that cannot be taken by the project representative attending the meeting/consultation, this will be put up to the project management for review/discussion/approval or other actions.



# APPENDICES



## APPENDIX 1: KEY PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Key specifications are presented in the below table.

Appendix 1. Table 1 – Dorjilung HPP synoptic table

Item	Unit	Dorjilung HPP
Average discharge	m <sup>3</sup> /s	287
Design flood (PMF/GLOF)	m <sup>3</sup> /s	14,300/1,521
Reservoir-gross storage	Mm <sup>3</sup>	44.17
Reservoir-live storage	Mm <sup>3</sup>	12.62
Reservoir area at FSL	ha	145.82
Full Supply Level (FSL)	m	+850
Minimum Operating Level (MOL)	m	+840
Dam type	-	RCC/Concrete gravity
Crest length of dam	m	230
Crest elevation of dam	masl	+853
Maximum height of dam	m	136.5 of which 85m will be above the riverbed level
Spillway gates	-	6 gates 9.0 m x 12.2 m
Headrace tunnel (HRT)	-	Single 14,883 m long concrete-lined with 11 m diameter
Surge Shaft	-	Single 120 m high restricted orifice with 31 m diameter
Pressure shaft	-	3 nos. 332 m long steel-lined penstocks of 5.5 m diameter
Powerhouse	-	Underground with dimensions 210 x 23 x 60.5 m
Tailrace tunnel	-	2 nos., 350 & 360 m long, concrete-lined with 8 m diameter
Normal tail water level	m	+544
Dewatered reach between the dam and tailrace tunnel	km	About 16
Watershed area	km <sup>2</sup>	8.782 (of which 5.183 are outside Bhutan)
Installed capacity	-MW?	6 units at 187.5 MW = 1,125 MW
Rated design discharge	m <sup>3</sup> /s	451
Gross head	m	306
Annual energy generation at 90%	GWh	4,558
Firm power	MW	168
Access Roads	m	37,000

## APPENDIX 2: KEY MESSAGES ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Key Messages about the Project include the following.

- Hydropower is a cornerstone for the development of Bhutan and this priority is reflected in RGoB policies and strategies.
- DGPC is the government agency in charge of hydropower development and operations. DGPC is in charge of the Dorjilung HPP.
- Implementing Dorjilung HPP will add over 1000 MW of hydropower and contribute further to green energy generation in Bhutan and support export of energy to other countries.
- The previous Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) were prepared in 2016 and need to be revised and updated. While the main project layout are unlikely to change, it is important to revise and optimise the design and E&S management of the Project.
- DGPC received funding from the World Bank to do this revision and update of the Dorjilung HPP ESIA and DPR. The new documentation will be prepared according to WB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and international standards for E&S management, dam safety and engineering design.
- European companies have been engaged and will work closely with DGPC. Studio Pietrangeli (Italy) is in charge of the DPR while ARTELIA (France) is in charge of the ESIA. Both companies have decades of experience in hydropower. DGPC remains in charge of the entire process.
- It is expected that the revision of the DPR and ESIA will be completed by the end of the Q1 2024.
- The Project construction is to be completed in 60 months/5 years excluding 18 months of pre-construction activities. Operations would start shortly after.
- As part of the ESIA revision, there will be new stakeholder engagement and project consultation. Further details on the consultation and engagement are detailed in a SEP [this document] and there is a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for people who would like to register a complaint.

## APPENDIX 3: GRIEVANCE FORM

### Dorjilung HPP / Grievance Register Form

Received on (date): \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Tracking #: ...../.....

Received by: phone / fax / email / note /verbally

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Received by (full name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of the grievance or complaint:**

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**Suggested course of action**

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**FILL OUT BELOW ONLY IF COMPLAINANT DOES NOT WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

Complainant's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's Phone # (home/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's email: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX 4: CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED DURING THE PREVIOUS ESIA

### Discussions during the national level presentation on the ESIA. 18 November 2015 at Jambayang Resort, Thimphu

Total Participants: 22 + consultant team (2)

Druk Green Power Corporation (8), Ministry of Agriculture and Forest(1), World Wildlife Fund Bhutan (1), Department of Forest and Park Services (1), National Biodiversity Centre (1), Ministry of Health (2), Department of Geology and Mines (2), Bhutan Power Corporation (2), Tangsibji HEP (1), Bhutan Electric Authority (1), National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries(1), Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs 1), BHUCORE /Consultant team (2).

Participant	Key issues raised	Response from project proponent
	DOFPS Whether the water level indicated in the dam break scenario was confirmed through bathymetric survey	River cross sections, including the profile below the water was done at 25m intervals till 1.5km downstream of the dam and then at 500m intervals for another 15 km.
	Whether simulation of dam break analysis was considered between the head water and the dam or not If the dam break scenarios is in the event of 100% dam failure	GLOF has been assessed and has been considered in the dam break analysis, for worst case scenario of a concurrent occurrence of probable maximum flood and GLOF. Yes
	The basis of consideration of 1m depth being sufficient for survival of fish while determining eflow,	In additional to literature review, NCRLF and aquatic centre in Gelephu had been consulted for confirmation.
	Impacts on wetland ecosystem and its management.	No wetland in project area
DOFPS	Assessment of risk of transboundary issue with 65% of catchment are in Tibet	This has not been considered, but there appear to be international agreements/conventions governing riparian rights
	Whether arsenic content in water is being tested	Arsenic was not detected in water. Greater testing of arsenic shall be considered, and requested to provide literature on such for DGPC to study
	Citing the example of water sources drying up in Rubesa village in Wangdue phodrang after the Punatsangchhu HEP constructed tunnels under the village, requests the project that such aspects be considered while investigating designing and constructing underground structures.	DGPC agreed that this is a serious issue and that this was the first instance that DGPC is being informed of and that this needs examination and consideration
	Whether the project faced resistance from the local population	2 households require relocation, but there were no objections during consultations.

	Approach to mitigate impacts on economic opportunities of local population when huge numbers leave the project area at the end of the construction period	Boomtown impacts have been assessed and stressed on the need for local people to be informed on the full impacts and consequences of the project in advance
	Employment opportunities for Bhutanese since large number of foreign workers are being employed in current HEPs.	For projects where DGPC has control over implementation, the tender documents are being designed for maximum participation of Bhutanese firms and citizens in the works without risking the technical and financial viability of the project. Further provisions are included in the contracts to provide training and internships for interested Bhutanese.
	If the project accounted on the issue on the project depriving local population of the right to use available resources which could have been otherwise utilized for the community's benefit	These issues were examined and included in the report
	If any innovative plan is considered for environment restoration beside afforestation, as budget for compensatory afforestation is allocated for forestry and not available for other conservation agencies. It was suggested that budget for environment restoration may be kept under a broader topic to have flexibility in best utilization of fund	Compensatory afforestation is not limited to the project area but can also be carried out in other degraded areas in other regions. Agreed to incorporate the recommendation on budget provision as suggested.
	Study on market risk for electricity	Bangladesh and Nepal are being considered for export. There is still a huge demand for electricity in India.
	Decommissioning plan for the dam	Run of river type dams are designed with spillway systems designed to permit discharge of water at PMF level, so removal of dams at the end of life is not required from the point of view of impediment of water flow. Due to the nature of its design, removal of dams can be easily done but the relevance and practicality of having decommissioning plans to be implemented after 50 years is an issue.
WWF	If other proposed developments in the concerned Dzongkhags were taken into consideration during the assessment to determine cumulative impacts	The assessment was guided by the ToR, which did not include CIA
	Impact of sediment flushing on downstream country like India	The reservoir length is 6.8km and the study conducted by the Danish Hydraulic Institute has shown that due to the settlement of silt in the reservoir, there will be no need to construct desilting chambers and the net silt released will be substantially lower.
	Suggest listing other species recorded in the camera traps installed for the National Tiger Survey 2014-2015	Agreed to consult DOFPS for this information
Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs	Expressed concern about damage to historical structures by blasting activities. Enquired whether mapping of such historical structures was done and measures incorporated to mitigate such issues in future.	-Mapping has been done. No monuments of historical importance are located within the project area, the chortens mapped in the vicinity are recently constructed. -Informed that there are safe methods of blasting without damaging nearby structures. In view of the recent controversies on damage by blasting, DGPC is installing vibration monitoring devices in important areas in Nikachu, so

		construction methods can be modified if there are risks to structures due to construction activities. Assured that the same principle would be applied for this project.
National Biodiversity Centre	<p>Even if the project has less species diversity, some endemic species might exist. Protected species is not the only criteria for biodiversity study and using quick growing species is revegetation and not restoration. Requested for access to baseline data and the report on environmental valuation so that NBC can help formulate better plans for restoration to the natural state. Suggested completeness of sampling done for aquatic ecology.</p> <p>Supported the recommendation on innovative approach to afforestation made by DOFPS.</p>	-agreed to share the raw data and the report on environmental valuation
NCR&LF	Recommended conducting fish sampling in summer to establish an improved inventory.	Such study will be continued during EMP during construction phase
Ministry of Health	<p>Unlike other countries that spend 18% of their annual gross domestic product on health, Bhutan only spends 3.4%. Hopeful that the revenue generated by such projects will provide more resources for the health sector, thereby improving health services in future.</p> <p>Pointed out that the influx of more than 6000 workers will increase the pressure on health infrastructure and resources in the project and adjoining areas. The Department will not be able to meet all the increased health services required by the project and recommended that the project allocate adequate resources to meet the health services requirement created by the project.</p>	This consideration has not been included in the DPR of Kurichhu II Project but keeping in mind the scale of the project and the practices already in place for mega HEPs for augmenting health facilities and resources, he assured that this issue shall be taken up with appropriate authorities for consideration



**APPENDIX 5: PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> FIELD VISIT MAY  
2023**

## APPENDIX 6: SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS SINCE FIRST FIELD VISIT

### 1. Consultation with Waste Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR)

Date	Time	Venue
9 June, 2023	11.30 AM	Chiefs office, DoECC

#### Participants:

Department of Environment and Climate Change, MoENR	PCS	DGPC
Thinley Dorji, Chief, Waste Division	Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant	

#### Discussion points

Topic	Response/Clarification
The consultant explained about the stakeholder engagement and consultation process and the provided a brief introduction on the project, the project layout, change in project locations and the field surveys	-Whether this was part of the DPR or ESIA which was clarified  - Distance of the project site from Lhuentse- it was explained that the dam site is about 6km of Autsho and about 25km from Lhuentse
The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss the request from the Dzongkhags to develop landfill sites.  A land fill site had already been identified by Lhuentse Dzongkhag but as this site is not adequate, the Dzongkhag will be looking for a bigger landfill site to accommodate the project needs as well as the needs of the Dzongkhag.  It was suggested that the landfill site should be handed over to the Dzongkhag once the project is complete.	While DoECC provides overall guidance and issues the clearance and is responsible for setting policies and regulations, but the MoIT will be responsible for setting standards, planning, design and implementation as part of the transformation.  This is because creation of Livable cities is also the mandate of MoIT and waste management is also a part of creating such cities.
Requested for recommendations on waste management for the project	Some of the concerns with landfill sites are the cost of transportation and the landfill site maintenance issues in the future. Recommends assessing the possibility of the following.  - To have one contained landfill site rather than many landfill sites. However, this should not be very big because this discourages segregation and should be used only for residual waste - have weatherproof (with roof and cement floor) waste storage facilities on site - proper segregation of waste at each worker camp site/facilities, or offices - separate storage facilities for hazardous waste, waste oil, medical waste from clinics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- as cement bags can be reused by recycling firms, these should be washed off all cement and stored and delivered to these recycling companies or downstream users. Even PPE (gloves and gumboots and helmets) should not be thrown away but stored</li><li>- to reduce the pet bottles, cans- shredder and baler</li><li>- Wet waste – use small portable digesters. This requires a person to operate so if this is not possible then ensure that wet waste should not encourage vector borne diseases.</li><li>- Waste transfer stations</li><li>- microplastics, nano plastics are an issue for aquatic life.</li><li>- one option is to use incinerators instead of having multiple landfill sites.</li><li>-Make sure there are environmental officers inspecting the waste management</li></ul>
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## 2. Consultation with the Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment

Date	Time	Venue
18 July, 2023	3.30 AM	Chief Trade Office

### Participants:

Competition & Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA)	PCS	DGPC
Gopal Pradhan, Chief Trade Officer	Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant	

### Discussion points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
<p>After a brief introduction, the consultant explained about the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. This was followed by a brief introduction on the project, the project layout, change in project locations and the field surveys. The DPR and ESIA process was also detailed.along with the ESIA activities and project tentative timeline and funding of the DPR and ESIA by World Bank.</p>	<p>Whether the project would impact Autsho town in terms of submergence- The reservoir extent and dam location 6km downstream of Autsho was clarified</p> <p>Clarification on KugiGongri and Dorjilung Project locations. This was clarified using google earth and indicating project component locations.</p>
<p>The Consultant explained that during the field visit, concerns had been expressed that with the influx of workers (5000-6000) from outside the project sites, if the foreign workers are being paid more than local workers, there will be inflation that will hamper the locals as the prices of goods and items will increase affecting the local consumers, especially those already facing resource constraints.</p>	<p>Whether the Competition &amp; Consumer Affairs Authority (CCAA) will be implementing any activities- It was clarified that the office would most probably involved in issuance of notifications as it is the mandate of the CCAA.</p> <p>Whether this concerns only prices of commodities or prices land and rent. It was clarified that it includes all prices, especially rent.</p> <p>There will surely be a demand for rental accomodation due to the limited accomodation.</p> <p>Citing the example of Bajo town during the construction of the PHPA project, the local community built so many structures/buildings but were later not able to pay their EMI/loans after the project construction was completed, so there are negative impacts such as these.</p> <p>Citing the example of the Mangdechhu HEP, there was some economic activities in terms of rental income to project people. The businesses were not carried out by the locals but by outsiders. The number of licenses increased during the project, but as soon as the project construction was complete, many businesses shut down.</p> <p>Gyepozhing can cater to many consumers and Lingmithang and Autsho has many shops. As these are established towns, there are already wholesalers and the distribution chain already exists, so price commodities may not increase.</p>

	<p>Is the project allowing more shops to open as the supply must meet the increase in demand ? In other projects, vegetables are often sourced from the local market but most other items are purchased directly from suppliers.</p> <p>If the demand and supply match there should be no issues. So far the office has never received complaints from such projects, and the office has inspected the POL areas in PHPA and MHPA only. If monitoring is required the Office will definitely get involved, but there must be competitiveness to control prices.</p> <p>With so many towns, it is not expected that there will be any shortage.</p>
<p>In case in the event that inflation goes up, is there a mechanism for reporting, monitoring and control especially as there will be boom town effects ? There may be risk of locals being asked to vacate apartments to accommodate project persons paying higher rent.</p>	<p>Yes, the regional office in Mongar can be approached in case of price escalation of businesses taking advantage of situations, a complaint can be lodged at the Regional Office of Industry Commerce and Employment (ROICE).</p> <p>Yes it is possible that boomtown effect may trigger rising prices. Rents are controlled by MoIT.</p>
<p>When the project conducts a presentation on the project, the ROICE can be invited to participate in this consultation.</p>	<p>Yes, the office really supports the participation of the ROICE, so that the office is aware of the project and the office can monitor such activities.</p>
<p>The email address and contact number was requested.</p>	

### 3. Consultation with National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Date	Time	Venue
16 August, 2023	10.00 AM	NBC

#### Participants:

National Biodiversity Centre	PCS	DGPC
Karma Dema, Program Director	Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant	

#### Discussion points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
<p>After a brief introduction, the consultant explained about the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. This was followed by a brief introduction on the project, the project layout, change in project locations and the field surveys.</p> <p>The DPR and ESIA process was also detailed along with the ESIA activities and project tentative timeline and funding of the DPR and ESIA by World Bank.</p>	<p>The PD expressed that given the extent of the reservoir area, the primary concerns would be more on aquatic species, compared to terrestrial species, due to the dewatered section, and on sustainability of the water source.</p>
Engagement of NBC in project activities	<p>With other HEPs, NBC was involved in rescue of plant species and their ex situ conservation programs, and surveys.</p> <p>Engagement with the project will allow NBC to add to the existing biodiversity information, but currently the NBC is very severely constrained with staff and therefore it is difficult to say how much the office can be involved in the future.</p> <p>The NBC is actively working on the next NBSAPP to be submitted by 2026 in collaboration with other partners.</p>
Request for biodiversity data on project sites	<p>There is information on the Biodiversity portal that can be accessed- It was clarified that this has already been accessed.</p> <p>Other additional information requirements may be sent by email clearly specifying what is required as the Officer in Charge is not available at the moment.</p>

#### 4. First Consultation with Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development (DoCDD), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

Date	Time	Venue
18 August, 2023	10 AM	DoCDD

##### Participants:

DoCDD	PCS
1. Phuntsho Wangmo, Dy. Executive Engineer, Heritage Sites and Archaeology Division	Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant
2. Sonam Yangden, National Library and Archives,	

##### Discussion points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
After a brief introduction, the consultant explained about the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. This was followed by a brief introduction on the project, the project layout, change in project locations and the field surveys. The DPR and ESIA process was also detailed along with the ESIA activities and project tentative timeline and funding of the DPR and ESIA by World Bank.	Whether the consultant expects to finalize any discussion during the meeting- It was clarified that this meeting would be a first to present the project background, objectives and activities as well as the field survey findings.
The Physical Cultural Report compiled based on the first field survey was presented in brief, and shared via email to additional officers. The consultant requested for a followup meeting with the DoCDD to discuss the report and possible mitigation measures	DoCDD agreed to this and will intimate the consultant accordingly.



## 5. First Consultation with Ministry of Education and Skills Development

Date	Time	Venue
28 August, 2023	11 :00 AM	Conference Hall, MoESD

### Participants:

Department of Education	PCS	DGPC
6. Tshewang C. Dorji, Acting Secretary 7. Karma Galey, DG 8. Yeshey Lham, Dy. Counsellor 9. Dorji Wangchuk, Chief PO 10. Pema Wangmo, APO 11. Sherub Gyeltshen, CPO	1. Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant 2. Jigme Sonam, PCS	

### Introduction

After a brief introduction, the consultant explained about the stakeholder engagement and consultation process. This was a brief introduction to the project, the project layout, change in project locations and the field surveys.

The DPR and ESIA process was also detailed. Along with the ESIA activities and project tentative timeline and funding of the DPR and ESIA by World Bank

### Discussion points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
Schools that would be affected by the project.	Whether the 7 schools mentioned in the presentation are the only ones affected by the project and how much the project affects the individual schools.
Project impacts on the surrounding areas.	Whether the project would impact Autsho town in terms of submergence- The reservoir extent and dam location 6km downstream of Autsho was clarified.
13 <sup>th</sup> Five year plan and how it corresponds to the schools around the project area and moving forward.	Clarification on KugiGongri and Dorjilung Project locations. This was clarified using google earth and indicating project component locations.
Concerns about schools after the completion of the project.	Pooling of resources instead of stretching out the limited available resources at the moment. Utilizing the model school concept, where a cluster of primary, middle and high school are in 1 compound but separated. For example, Gyelposhing Higher Secondary School can be incorporated with a Primary School adjacent to one another. This could be done by increasing the capacity of certain localized schools like increase in the hostel size and can pool resources.
Gender, women and children issues.	Since only a skeletal crew would be manning the station after the completion of the project, certain schools would need to be closed off unless the project is willing to fund for it's operation as the Ministry is already stretched thin in terms of manpower and resources but will provide assistance in terms of facilities and infrastructure.
	The focal person from the Ministry will investigate the project area and the scenario currently and engage with the

<p>Proximity of the schools to the HRTs and prioritization of schools.</p>	<p>local community. Regarding the lack of local gender focal person for the project Dzongkhags, this is because of the turnover and transfer of staff in the Dzongkhags and during this shift of focal people, there could be a lack of gender focal persons for that time being, but this is not permanent.</p>
	<p>The schools are all within the area of impact from the project and are the ones most likely to be impacted. Tsakaling and Tsamang Primary Schools are least likely for expansion due to the geographical nature of the area and distance from other areas. Thritangbi School has prospects for expansion by using the forested area around the school premises as it is government land. Bussing service will be implemented along with the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan and if the project will supply busses as well, it can be incorporated with the schools in the vicinity. The educational demands can most probably be fulfilled. Also Lingmethang cannot be expanded and there is plans to downgrade it to a Primary school and relocate the excess students to Gyelposhing. Chali Primary School is also close enough to be upgraded to a hostel boarding school to facilitate more students. Pool students from the periphery schools and consolidate into model school concepts and can pool the stretched-out schools into 1. Social engagements of teachers can also be improved upon if the teachers can be allocated into a colony together.</p>
<p>Environmental and Social costs.</p>	<p>The Ministry can manage the costs for these upgrades as long as it isn't for convenience sake. Unless the project requires additional facilities, then it will be borne by the project management itself and can be collaborated with the MoESD for post project management.</p>
<p>Counsellor and mental health of the students as well as the counsellors themselves.</p>	<p>Notwithstanding the lack of counsellors as it is, there needs to be a method to verify the adequacy of the counsellors themselves and to check their mental health as they are the only ones who can deal with suicides or other social cases within their communities. Counsellors for counsellors for example.</p>
<p>Budget.</p>	<p>The Ministry will analyze and followup with the appropriate budget needed for the upgrade, sensitization and funding of the education system in the project area.</p>
<p>Followup moving forward.</p>	<p>The Ministry requested for another followup meeting with DGPC and the gender consultant to further discuss certain niche issues and topics of interest with the relevant experts and authorities. There is also a lack of landfill sites for the project Dzongkhag and who manages the waste and landfills. The project report is due by December and the Ministry will followup before that.</p>

## 6. First Consultation with Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Date	Time	Venue
22 September 2023	9.30 AM	MoIT conference Hall

### Participants:

MoIT	PCS	DGPC
<p>Tenzin, DG, DST, MoIT</p> <p>Karma Dubchu, Director, DoID, MoIT</p> <p>Tashi Penjor, Director, DoRS, MoIT</p> <p>Tshering Choden, Sanitation Division, DoID, MoIT</p> <p>Dago Zangmo, Director, MoIT</p> <p>Dorji, Chief urban planner, Housing division, MoIT</p> <p>Tshewang Dorji, Civil engineer, DST, MoIT</p> <p>Ugyen Phuntsho, Deputy executive engineer, DST, MoIT</p> <p>Pema Rabgay, PPS, MoIT</p>	<p>Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant</p> <p>Jigme Sonam, PCS</p>	<p>Pema Dorji, Sr. Environment Officer, DGPC</p> <p>Dhendup Tharchen, DGPC</p>

The meeting began with a round of self-introduction by participants followed by presentation by the consultant and DGPC on the project components.

### Key Discussion points

Topic	Clarifications /suggestions/remarks from MoIT	Response from Consultants and/DGPC
Submergence- Impact on Autsho township	<p>Enquired on changes to the FRL from the 2017 DPR. Concern was expressed implication of the project on Autsho township.</p> <p>For Autsho, the LAP plans have identified locations for sewerage treatment plant. The sewerage plant falls under the submergence area and this is of concern as the plant cannot be moved upstream due to paddy fields or downstream due to the river.</p>	<p>As per the DPR, the town is being used as a constraint by the design team and will not be touched including the Chorten. The technical team is reviewing the DPR, and this is being updated but there are no project components at Autsho for the moment.</p>
Submergence of the highway- 3.72 km of the secondary national highway from Rewan to Autsho will be submerged due to dam construction and submergence due to reservoir creation. There are no alternatives to avoid this impact and therefore road realignment is necessary. The realignment includes 8.25 km of new road, 0.75 km	<p>The feasibility study of the road and site survey was inquired upon.</p> <p>Wherever the highway is going to be affected, request DGPC to share the coordinates as the road widening from Gangkola to Autsho has already been designed but not yet awarded.</p> <p>Along the Lhuentse Highway there are 2 bridges that would fall under the project site, Rothpashong and Dorjilung are unstable areas and there is limited scope for widening as well and that this needs to be taken into</p>	Noted

highway tunnel + 1.4km improvement of existing highway	consideration as it is a landslide prone area. During construction, the blasting could lead to more problems in the future. Opposite to Dorjilung is also an unstable terrain and cannot be considered as well.	
Nganglam-Gyelpozhing Highway	<p>The RGOB does not have the finance to widen the highway or reconstruct the bridges that will not be able to carry the weight of the Project trucks.</p> <p>Most of the bridges are built to withstand 70 metric tons. Menchu zam was damaged recently and it has been reduced to 30 metric tons. Some older bridges before reaching Gyelposhing can only hold 40 metric tons and these need to be upgraded for the project.</p> <p>The bridge can only hold 18 metric tonnes and this is a major issue currently for the transportation of materials.</p> <p>Gongri zam bridge will be reconstructed by December and upgraded to 70 metric tons from 40 metric tons.</p> <p>The MoIT will share the information on this highway- including the number of bridges and their current capacity and state.</p> <p>DGPC should share the hydropower requirement for the highway in terms of width and bridge capacity. So that MoIT can plan accordingly.</p>	Noted
Alternative route from Trashigang- The consultant requested if MoIT can share the information on this highway so that the alternatives between the Nganglam-Gyelpozhing and Trashigang highway could be compared	<p>MoIT clarified that all the bridges are upgraded and may not need to be rebuilt.</p> <p>The bridge at Kurigongri will be reconstructed by Dec-Jan 2024. The capacity is 70 metric tonnes</p> <p>The information will be shared</p>	Noted
Contractor facilities- enquiry by the consultant on national requirements for drinking water and sewerage treatment	There are effluent and drinking water quality standards where the source is to be tested. These are to be followed during construction.	Noted
Dam colony at Takhambi and Ganglapong was presented.	<p>Requests the project to ensure that it will bring a positive impact to the town. Request the project not to build separate colonies but rent the infrastructure/buildings within the town.</p> <p>Citing the example of the criticism in the PHPA I and II, and the criticisms by the local communities, as the Ministry was responsible for partnering with PHPA to identify the land for the colonies.</p> <p>The project should consider Autsho for the dam colony. This is an opportunity for the township for growth in terms of drinking water, waste, and development in</p>	DGPC cited the example of Kholongchhu HPP where tripartite agreement was prepared, and the project was the collateral for private building construction

	<p>general since Autsho has no funds allocated to it for the 13th FYP. Autsho is not going to develop otherwise, and community will benefit from the projet.</p> <p>The distance from the dam to Autsho is not very far and Autsho by itself is not going to grow, plus a new road must be built to the colony.</p> <p>RGOB and DGPC can share the cost of the facilities. This will allow the township development to be considered in a holistic manner.</p>	Noted and will discuss with DGPC management.
Powerhouse colony	Suggest constructing the housing colonies within Lingmithang, and Gyelposhing as it helps the towns grow. There should be adequate land by the government for the construction. MoIT will recommend and support this.	Powerhouse colony
Bypass road	MoIT enquired on the possibility of using the bypass road as a highway in the future once the construction is complete.	The meeting was informed that the entire stretch is not connected
Project financing and timeline	Query on project financing and project timeline	DGPC informed that the DPR is still undergoing update and that by March-April 2024, the DPR and ESIA are expected to be completed. So, if financing is available, the project should commence after a year
Alternatives to road construction	The Tsamang gewog/farmroad could be considered as an alternative route to reach Dorjilung although it is long and narrow.	Noted
Project components and infrastructure development	<p>MoIT requested that DGPC share the finalized project infrastructure with MoIT</p> <p>MoIT also shared Concerns about the development of informal settlements alongside the road between the dam site and the powerhouse.</p>	Noted
Local area development	River training to be provided to the Gyelposhing area as part of the town is lost every year due to scouring. River training should be given priority over other infrastructure development for the townships.	Noted
13 FYP for the project area	The 13th FYP will include Gyelposhing, Mongar to Trashigang has been identified as a regional growth center and there will be some investment towards this mostly for road, drinking water and waste.	Noted
Waste management	Since waste is an ever-growing issue, this can be seen as an opportunity for development with this project as an	Noted

<p>The project has been requested to develop landfill sites for Mongar and Autsho. What would be the best option for the project and whether MoIT has recommendations. The DoECC has promoted waste collection centres/transfer centres and promotion of private entrepreneurs</p>	<p>example for other locations across the country. The waste issue should be targeted from a holistic approach focusing on soft components (not so much on infrastructure alone) but including composting, segregation, awareness etc.</p> <p>Instead of a dump yard or dumping site, consider whether sanitary landfill could be taken up or incineration (and feasibility for this in terms of adequacy of waste) for the project sites, or identify new technologies to handle waste as well as transportation.</p> <p>The challenge with sanitary landfill is whether there will be enough waste by promoting waste segregation. Investment into waste management must look at waste generation (construction, household, biodegradable and medical waste)</p> <p>Suggests looking at sharing sanitary landfill sites/incineration between Dzongkhags as it is not feasible to have 1 for every Dzongkhag.</p> <p>Waste policy is the mandate of the DoECC whereas identifying suitable locations and infrastructure standards these are guided by MoIT.</p>	
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## 7. Consultation with DOFPS

Date	Time	Venue
31 October 2023	2 PM	DOFPS conference Hall

### Participants:

DOFPS	Consultants	DGPC
<p>Sonam Wangdi, CFO, NCD</p> <p>Dorji Wangdi, PFO, FMID</p> <p>Dawa Tshering, Dy. CFO, FMID</p> <p>Sonam Tobgay, CFO, FRMD</p>	<p>Frederic Mathieu, Terrestrial Ecologist, Artelia</p> <p>John Philip Butler, Eflow and Aquatic specialist, Artelia</p> <p>Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant, PCS</p>	<p>Pema Dorji, Sr. Environment Officer, DGPC</p>

Frederic presented the project location, components and field findings based on which the discussions were conducted. It was clarified that the exact location of the project components is still being finalized by DGPC. He informed the meeting that the main objectives of the meeting were to share information related to the project components and to appraise findings of the recent field surveys and, to discuss possible mitigation measures agreeable to DGPC and DOFPS as per World Bank requirements, especially where there are residual impact and avoidance, and minimization efforts are not enough to generate net gain of species. This does not necessarily have to be inside the area of influence. Mitigation measures are to be included as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Project with long term monitoring programs with the engagement of relevant stakeholders.

Frederic explained the process of carrying out the Critical Habitat Assessment. The first list of species has been prepared based on the field surveys as well as species occurrence based on interviews with the local community, within the area of influence of the project.

There are 11 critical species- 1 plant, 3 fish (restricted range), 5 birds, 1 mammal and 1 insect.

For species where the project will not have a direct impact, measures could include research but where there are direct impacts on species such as fish, very specific actions need to be specified in the BAP.

Deki informed the meeting that during the field visit to Mongar, the World Bank and consultant conducted a meeting with the Chief Forestry Officer of Mongar Division and requested information from the Division which was shared with the consultant (KBA, camera trapping).



Discussion Summary.

Topics	Discussion	Comments from DoFPS
<i>Hoya Bhutanica</i>	<p>Currently <i>Hoya bhutanica</i> is known in three or four stations in Bhutan only. This species will be lost due to its location at the submergence area- measures include removal of the species and raising this in a nursery.</p> <p>Measures could include looking for additional stations/areas where the species could be found and putting in place protection measures in places where this species is found –</p>	
Biological corridor	The submergence area falls in the BC. One suggestion from Mongar Division was constructing a wildlife pathway across the river. The terrain is very steep across many sections in the BC and there is no camera trap data on wildlife using the submergence area and creation of the reservoir might make it easier for wildlife to swim across.	
	During the first meeting with the DOFPS, the possibility of offsetting the loss of forest area was discussed in terms of extending the area of the BC – this could be supported in terms of funding through the project.	The equivalent area lost could be explored if the additional area does not pass through settlement areas.
Tiger	The tiger was not considered as a critical species because less than 1% of the population is in the project area of influence, but since it is an emblematic species, WB has asked to include the species. One person in Mongar has stated that he has seen Tiger, but not within the area of influence. The current population distribution maps and literature show low probability of Tigers in the project area of influence.	
Difference in categorization	Differences in categorization between national and IUCN Red list. For example, capped langurs are Vulnerable in Bhutan but in the IUCN Red list it is listed as Endangered.	
Pangolin	Its presence is based on secondary data only and it was not enumerated during the field survey or during community consultations. There is no evidence of poaching either. If pangolin is found in the PNP, then measures could include working with the PNP to develop action plan	
Fish	<p>3 species are restricted in range, but these are also found in other river systems. In terms of residual impacts and offsetting measures, if the project could support the ambition to reserve Chamkarchhu as free flowing river under the BFL project – this could however be discussed between DGPC and DOFPS as</p> <p>The consultant explained that the rule of offsetting has the concept of additionality: if a site is being used as an offset for a project, the same site cannot be used as an offset for another project. Also, offsetting cannot be made in an existing National Park- only increase the area or create another NP. These measures are not relevant for Bhutan as the country already has adequate protected areas.</p>	As long as the particular fish species are found in the Chamkarchhu river, this opportunity could be explored.
PES	The consultant enquired whether PES could be explored. DGPC recalled that such provisions were there under the sustainable hydropower development policy where certain minimal percentage of the revenue is to be given to the	

	government for investment in conservation of catchment areas. Hydropower contributes to the sustainable development of the country.	
PNP	<p>The area of influence (AOI) of 5km was based on the ToR for the national ESIA and therefore the AOI extends over Tsamang gewog and PNP, but on the ground there are no project components inside the PNP. The google map was used to demonstrate this.</p> <p>Forest clearance needs to be secured from Tsamang as this gewog is under PNP administration.</p> <p>The request for camera trapping data for wildlife species was not shared by PNP as via email, the PNP has mentioned that the project does not fall in the park.</p>	<p>Reflect that there is no impact/no built-up area in Tsamang gewog.</p> <p>The gewog is administratively managed by PNP, but in terms of management, the area is similar to a territorial division.</p>
Supporting conservation measures in the PNP	While the project could support activities in PNP as part of the conservation measures, the consultants would like to ensure that Dorjilung is not duplicating measures supported by other projects such as Bhutan for Life Project.	The DOFPS will ensure that there is no duplication in effort, and it should be complementary. If there are conservation efforts that are proposed/ongoing but at a smaller scale and that the PNP would like to implement these at a bigger scale, the project could support these.
Giant African Snail	<p>The consultant mentioned that one of the concerns in Mongar Dzongkhag is the African snail.</p> <p>This requires an understanding of the distribution which can be earmarked by the project. This will be included in the BAP in consultation with the relevant stakeholder but requires an idea of the budget.</p> <p>The consultant sought confirmation that the counterpart for this will be NPPC.</p>	This has infested Gyelpozhing, Lingmithang and Thridangdbi area but the exact information on how this became widespread is not clear.
Calculation of surface area	<p>The consultant enquired how the project footprint is calculated- projected surface or real surface area.</p> <p>For road construction- will need a buffer for the area of impact. What is the common practice for buffer area?</p> <p>DGPC clarified for 5m road, roughly a buffer of 10m is taken to include areas affected beyond RoW during excavations.</p>	<p>Horizontal surface is used.</p> <p>ROW of way is 50ft (15m) from the center of the road.</p>
Biodiversity action plan	As the mitigation measures are prepared, the biodiversity action plan will be shared again with DOFPS	

#### Comments and Clarifications from DOFPS

Comments from DoFPS	Clarification from Consultants
Himalayan black bear and hornbill and musk deer species (top of Rewanchhu) are found in the project area.	These species are included in the list.

Information on floral species/diversity	The floral list has been prepared. The presentation today was focused on important species
What extent of forest will be lost	The project components are yet to be finalized. The ESIA of 2017 (which is being updated) has estimated the total loss in forest cover but this will be updated once the project footprint is finalized.
In many projects, the transmission lines are ignored, and this has the biggest impact. Has this been included?	<p>2 Transmission lines routes were provided to the consultants by DGPC. The consultant is required to prepare the ESMF under this assignment.</p> <p>DGPC clarified that the power evacuation will be undertaken by BPC as per their institutional mandate. BPC will carry out the detailed assessment including EIA for the same.</p> <p>To this DOFPS replied that this will then have to be discussed bilaterally between DOFPS and DGPC.</p>
Project should consider compensatory afforestation for both plantation and maintenance to ensure survival of the species for 5 years.	Yes, the consultant informed that DGPC is aware of Compensatory afforestation for twice the area. This will be estimated budgeted into the ESMP based on current rates for both plantation and maintenance for 5 years. An MOU will be signed between DGPC and DOFPS. The consultant added that compensation for Community Forest (for the loss of trees) will also be included.
Request to share the project document so that participants are aware of the meeting discussions.	The findings of the two surveys and project details will be shared through the DGPC, prior to the meeting.
Survey methodology as there has been experience with other projects where only a few plots were surveyed.	The method was also discussed with the DOFPS at the first meeting, and it was clarified DOFPS has no reservations as long as standard methods are used. It is not feasible to conduct inventory for national parks at the level of the ESIA. The survey methodology is dedicated to getting the maximum of species. 2 ten-day field surveys were conducted by 4 field experts, spending one to two hours at each plot. 20x40m for trees and shrubs and smaller plots for herbs. In total 20 plots were surveyed during the pre-monsoon, and more than 20 during the second survey. The survey is limited due to time as per the contract agreement with the client.
Hydropower is priority and while time is of essence, studies must be conducted well, and as all relevant agencies must cooperate and work together. The Department will provide any support needed.	Noted.
<p>Whether forestry clearance for the area of influence.</p> <p>The exact area for forest clearance as well as areas needed to be provided for compensation for private land must be estimated</p>	<p>The consultant clarified that as discussed with Mongar Division, FC will be processed as a whole component, but this will be only for areas where forest clearance is required. However, sometimes the difficulty is that certain activities such as road construction has to be implemented earlier in the construction phase.</p> <p>Yes, the exact area required for land for land compensation (private land) will be estimated after the project components are finalized and included in the total forest clearance.</p> <p>DGPC as a information shared that while land requirement of the project is currently being updated, as per the DPR of 2016, total land requirement is about 823 acres (SRF: 805.41 acres &amp; Private: 18.58), of which 330.8 acres is temporary requirement and 492.20 is permanent.</p> <p>This does not include power evacuation.</p>

<p>Power evacuation – The study conducted by DOFPS found that the transmission lines have a higher impact compared to the hydropower facilities.</p> <p>Suggest that maybe tap existing transmission lines.</p>	<p>The transmission grid masterplan prepared by DOE is followed by DGPC.</p>
<p>Query on planned hydropower projects. Request DGPC to share in advance all the plans for new hydropower projects so that</p>	<p>DGPC clarified the following:</p> <p>Phase I– projects already under construction include the 32 MW Yungichhu HPP at Lhuentse, 54 MW Burgangchhu HPP at Buli, Zhemgang and 18 MW Suchhu HPP at Haa.</p> <p>Phase II- 5 projects studied and FSR completed and will be processing for forest clearance. Projects include, 25 MW Begana, Thimphu, 54 MW Gamri I &amp; Bamukparongchhu Integrated HPP, Sakteng, 18+8 MW Druk Bindu 1 and 2 (Samtse) and 90 MW Jomori HPP at Jomotshangkha, S/Jongkhar.</p> <p>It was also shared that Gamri II, , Khomachhu and Dangchhu HPPs would be taken up soon under the Phase III.</p> <p>Also, it was shared that the DPR of Dorjilung HPP was completed but was not implemented due to lack of funds. To meet the standards of the WB, the DPR and ESIA is now being updated for implementation through the support of the WB</p>
<p>For information, Rewanchhu has caused flooding in the past, damaging agricultural fields and Indian peafowl is found in Gyelpozhing area. The area was named majathang after the bird.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

## 8. Second Consultation with MoIT at MoIT conference Hall

Date	Time	Venue
3 January 2024	10:00 AM	MoIT

### Participants:

	Name	Designation	Agency
1	Dasho Phuntsho Tobgay	Secretary	MoIT
2	Karma Dupchu	Director	DoID, MoIT
3	Tashi Penjor	Director	DHS, MoIT
4	Tshewang Dorji	Chief Engineer	DoST, MoIT
5	Kinzang Dorji		DHS, SSPD, MoIT
6	C.Bhoj Bhujel	Dy. Chief Statistical Officer	PPD, MoIT
7	Tshering Lhamo	SPO,	PPD, MoIT
8	Sonam Peldon	Sr. Environment Officer	DGPC
9	Pema Dorji	Sr. Environment Officer	DGPC
10	Deki P. Yonten	ESIA Consultant (National)	PCS

After a brief introduction, the consultant provided a brief background on the previous meeting and explained that this was a follow-up meeting, and the primary objective was to present the final project components of the Dorjilung Hydropower Project (HPP). The consultant presented the various project components, and discussions were carried out on the presentation and discussions from the previous meeting.

## Discussion Points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations	Action points
<p>Presentation on new roads, highway realignment, tunnel and bridges</p>	<p>2 concerns were expressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) upstream and its impact.</li> </ul> <p>Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd. (DGPC) clarified that the GLOF studies were undertaken in Detailed Project Report (DPR) 2015 and the inventory is being updated with identification of potentially dangerous lakes as part of the DPR update of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Ministry added that for future road development projects in the area, the mitigation measures would need to be carried out.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry clarified that the highway to Lhuentse is Secondary National Highway (SNH).</p> <p>Dasho Secretary, MoIT instructed the relevant officers to assess how the infrastructure work might be needed and provide feedback to the consultants and DGPC by the timeline. DGPC was asked to share the project timeline.</p> <p>DGPC informed that the financial structuring of the project is being carried out through the support of the World Bank. The target for the financial closure of the project has been set by the end of 2024 and if the financial closure materializes, the project works can start in the first half of 2025.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary emphasized on the need for coordination between MoIT and DGPC for planning these activities.</p>	<p>To ensure that GLOF studies are carried out and appropriate mitigation measures proposed.</p>
<p>Bypass road and roads on the right bank</p>	<p>Since the area on the left bank along the SNH is prone to landslides, the Ministry inquired about the extent of the road connection and length from Rewan bridge to Kurizam. DGPC clarified that this stretch (approximately 4km) will not be connected.</p> <p>Director requested the Department of Surface Transport (DoST) to assess realignment of this stretch to avoid landslides on the left bank.</p>	
<p>Connectivity to the farmroad.</p>	<p>The Ministry recommended checking the feasibility of the farm roads and to prevent future landslides due to its construction. It was clarified that farm roads are not the responsibility of MoIT as it is under Local Government (LG) and information should be sought from the LG.</p>	<p>Details of the road distances and kmz file to be shared with MoIT.</p>

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations	Action points
	<p>Gewog Centre roads and the highway (especially the Gangkola-Lhuentse highway) would be of concern and priority would be given to the road widening and bridges by the Ministry. The Gangkola-Lhuentse highway (3.5m) is planned to be upgraded to SNH and DPR has been completed.</p> <p>The Ministry stated that there should be more bilateral discussions between MoIT and DGPC, as the highway widening needs to be prioritized.</p>	<p>To continue bilateral discussions between MoIT and DGPC.</p> <p>MoIT to share information on the capacity of existing bridges.</p>
<p>Access to the project site</p>	<p>Of the four options for access to the project site, the shortest route would be from Patshala, Nganglam to Gyelposhing and would be the preferred option. During the previous discussion, there were no plans to widen the highway.</p> <p>The Ministry clarified that as mentioned in the previous meeting, there are no plans for widening of the Nganglam-Gyelposhing highway.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary enquired on whether DGPC has carried out assessment of the highway and it was clarified that this was not undertaken yet.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary mentioned that one bridge needs to be upgraded and another was damaged due to the recent monsoon. The bridge at Kuri-Gongri has been upgraded but the capacity needs to be assessed.</p> <p>The consultant requested the Ministry for a cost estimate for the widening of the road and the upgradation of the bridges so that alternatives can be assessed.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary recommended assessing whether the highway is suitable as other options might need to be considered.</p> <p>Clarification was sought on whether the DPR of highway realignment is being prepared by DGPC. DGPC clarified that the infrastructure plan is being undertaken by DGPC's Infrastructure Team as a part of DPR. The overall update of the DPR of Dorjilung HPP will be completed by the end of March 2024. However, the detailed</p>	<p>DGPC to assess the existing Nganglam-Gyelposhing highway to see which critical sections need to be widened</p> <p>/improved first.</p>

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations	Action points
	<p>technical specifications of road works and design will be prepared during the pre-construction phase.</p>	
<p>Dam colonies</p>	<p>As recommended by the Ministry during the last meeting, there will be no Dam colonies, aside from the Contractor’s Construction Facilities (CCFs) and temporary structures at the specific sites. Private houses will be rented at Lingmithang, Autsho, and Gyelposhing in similar arrangements to Kholongchhu HPP. MoIT informed that private plots are already allotted at Autsho and Gyelpozhing. It was shared that the commitment made by Kholongchhu HPP to rent private houses through a tripartite MoU signed between Dzongkhag, Bank and the Project was used as surety by Banks to lend money to private owners for the construction of house, and that similar modality could be followed for this project.</p> <p>The consultant clarified that the CCFs would be spread wherever there is an Adit (workfront).</p> <p>The consultant also stated that they would provide an estimate of how many permanent workers are estimated for Autsho, Lingmithang, and Gyelposhing through email.</p>	<p>Consultant to email project worker numbers to MoIT.</p>
<p>Sewerage Treatment Plant at Autsho</p>	<p>An issue raised during the last consultation was that the Local Area Plan (LAP) for Autsho, the Sewage Treatment Plant which was proposed would be submerged and would need to be replanned and moved. The consultant agreed to share the KMZ file of the project footprint for the Ministry to overlay the LAP and make necessary changes accordingly.</p>	<p>KMZ files to be shared with MoIT.</p>
<p>River training for Gyelpozhing</p>	<p>DGPC clarified that Kurichhu Hydropower Plant (KHP) has undertaken two phases for the reservoir protection plan and the first phase has been completed on the right bank of the Kurichhu. But before they proceed to the second phase, on the other bank, KHP is monitoring reservoir scouring with the support of the Mongar Dzongkhag Administration. Based on that, they will move forward with phase 2.</p> <p>The Ministry stated that river scouring is quite evident and needs immediate action, especially as the highway is prone to being washed away as the issue has been prevalent since the KHP time. Each year, a few meters of land are lost to scouring at the Gyelposhing township. It is unclear why monitoring is required.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary mentioned that mitigation measures are needed for GLOF as Gyelpozhing is a booming town.</p>	



Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations	Action points
	<p>The Ministry stated that during the previous meeting, three points had been agreed upon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing of cost for road/highway expansion.</li> <li>- Use of private housing instead of colonies.</li> <li>- River training works especially on the left bank.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry also inquired about the radius in terms of project impacts to determine mitigation measures.</p> <p>The consultant clarified that when an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is carried out, the project footprint is identified. Scouring has occurred due to the reservoir of KHP as Dorjilung HPP has not commenced yet. With Dorjilung HPP, the quantity of water will not change but for disaster assessment and mitigation, various flood scenarios and flood inundation map will be prepared. Based on this, an Emergency Preparedness Plan including early warning systems, equipment, training will be prepared.</p> <p>DGPC clarified that as part of the hazard mapping, the area of interest will be up to the international border so all threats will be assessed.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary instructed MoIT to take the opportunity to assess potential impacts upstream and provide these to DGPC.</p> <p>The consultant stated that it was important to receive feedback before the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) is finalized as all activities need to be approved by DGPC and budgeted.</p>	
Land.	<p>The consultant informed the meeting that the total land required by the project is about 788 acres of which half would be submerged in the submergence zone. Most of this also falls under government land and this will be followed up with the National Land Commission Secretariat and the Department of Forests and Park Services.</p>	
Waste	<p>As the project will be generating waste, and there are requests from both Mongar and Lhuentse Dzongkhags for waste landfill sites.</p> <p>MoIT stated that the establishment of a waste landfill site is not very expensive, but the site would need to be equidistant if two or more Dzongkhags use the facility.</p>	<p>Consultant to follow up and coordinate this prior to the next field visit.</p>

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations	Action points
	<p>The consultant proposed another meeting with MoIT, DGPC, and the two Dzongkhags to discuss an appropriate site for the landfill to be shared by the Dzongkhags.</p>	
Water	<p>For the towns and communities as there is no provision for water treatment, the Ministry suggested that the project should provide assistance in water supply augmentation, especially for Autsho and Lingmithang (due to the added pressure from the project).</p> <p>The consultant requested the Ministry to share all information by February-March 2024 as the ESMP needs to be finalized.</p> <p>Dasho Secretary advised the officers of the MoIT to carry out realistic estimation.</p>	MoIT to share details for review by DGPC.
Contingency budget	<p>The Ministry also inquired about any contingencies the project had in place and DGPC clarified that in general, about 10% of the project cost is kept as a contingency cost.</p>	
Geological survey	<p>Dasho informed the meeting that it was recommended that the geological study should be carried out by the Department of Geology and Mines and that this was recommended to be incorporated into the new Hydropower Policy (2021).</p> <p>DGPC informed that the Guidelines for Development of Hydropower Projects 2018 published by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (the then Ministry of Economic Affairs) are being applied for the DPR update of Dorjilung HPP.</p>	

## 9. Second Consultation with Ministry of Education and Skills Development

Date	Time	Venue
3 January 2024	4:00 pm	MoESD

### Participants:

DOFPS	Consultants	DGPC
Karma Galay, DG, DES Sherub Gyeltshen, CPO, DES Dorji Wangchuk, CPO, DSE	Deki P. Yonten, National Consultant, PCS Manju Giri, Gender Consultant (National) PCS	Sonam Peldon, Sr. Environment Officer, DGPC Pema Dorji, Sr. Environment Officer, DGPC

### Introduction

After introductions, the consultant explained that the meeting was a followup to the previous meeting on Dorjilung Hydropower Project (HPP) wherein the MoESD had requested DGPC to also be present. The consultant also explained that the project components were now finalized and that instead of constructing colonies, the project is looking to rent private buildings/houses in the three towns of Autsho, Lingmethang and Gyelpozhing.

### Discussion Points

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
Lingmethang	The Ministry hopes to expand the current school at Lingmethang into a boarding school in the future and a proposal has also been prepared.  The Ministry had requested additional land from the Department of Surface Transport and Construction Development Corporation Ltd. (CDCL) campus near Lingmethang to construct boarding facilities as this is the catchment area for students from Silambi, Gongdhu, Kengkhar, and Jurmed areas. This has been discussed in the Dzongkhag Tshogdu as well and is still under process.
Gyelpozhing	The Ministry plans to promote Gyelposhing Higher Secondary School as a model school and that there are no plans to downgrade. Previously, Gyalpozhing College of Information Technology (GCIT) had taken over the school and the Ministry is planning to request it back for the upgrade. The Ministry plans to refurbish and set up 57 model schools across the nation with Gyelposhing and Autsho being two of them in the project area.
Autsho School	Autsho is also one of the model schools but there is no possibility to expand the school but facilities would be upgraded.
Accommodation of schools	Yearly, the Ministry will review the number of students and ensure that there are adequate teachers.  The worker projection of about 1,000 students (projected from 446 workers) can be easily accommodated in the three towns and nearby schools.  There are also schools such as Thringdangbi and Tangmachhu which have boarding facilities.
Awareness in the schools on project risks	The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has included a number of provisions for awareness in schools. Sensitization is also included under the Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
Gender	<p>Concerning gender, the gender consultant stated that gender and vulnerability assessment has been carried out and the gaps have been identified (8 gaps). The existing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have also been consulted. The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) has identified the availability of resources, coordination with stakeholders, and would like to include these activities including cultural and social perceptions in the field of gender. The GAP and Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) plans have been prepared. Yeshey, NCWC and Career counseling have prepared a presentation and shared it with the gender consultant just before the meeting. Some activities already fit with the GAP and GBV plan.</p> <p>In terms of creating awareness with school teachers but the involvement of school counselors will also be added. If the teachers were well versed in all the gender stereotypes and issues, this could pass on the message to the children and students well. How the school counselors could be incorporated into this GAP would be looked into by the gender consultant with the help of the presentation from NCWC and if needed will be prepared in consultation with NCWC.</p> <p>Director General (DG) of the Department of School Education (DSE) stated that that is alright and there are no objectives with NCWC working together with the team. Awareness raising is an ongoing process by the Ministry.</p>
School Facilities	<p>The main concern of the Ministry is to ensure that the infrastructure and facilities required can be assessed and the possibilities of working with the project in terms of building infrastructure and cost-sharing.</p> <p>The consultant stated that while at this point it is difficult to give a definitive answer, if the Ministry could provide concrete plans and cost estimates for upgrading or improvements to the project. The consultant also shared some of the concerns from the field consultations with the principals (trespassing, fencing school boundaries, sexual harassment due to influx of workers) which could be linked to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) with mitigation measures included.</p> <p>DG informed the meeting that there are three or four areas where assistance is required. These include Gyelpozhing, Chali, Autsho, Tangmachhu and Minjey. The Department will share the plans with DGPC.</p> <p>The consultant mentioned that the project would prioritize places closer to the project footprint than those further away, however the DG stated that these schools have boarding facilities.</p> <p>For Thridangbi and Lingmethang schools, major upgrade work would be needed as it is a Primary School and Lower Secondary School, respectively and the town is growing. Saling School is an Extended Class Room (ECR) and Ganglapong would be too far from the project site and is therefore not relevant after the changes to the dam colony site.</p> <p>The DG stated that the Ministry was waiting for the details from the project in terms of how many students would be anticipated so that the expansion could be aligned to the required schools. The project will provide the impetus to expand the schools.</p>
ECCD	<p>The Ministry stated that Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) should be financed by the project.</p> <p>The consultant also inquired about the designs and protocols for ECCD. DG informed that these are available at the Ministry and facilitators can be trained by the Ministry.</p>

Topic	Questions/Clarifications/Recommendations
	<p>The Ministry can also hand over government structures if needed for the project near the project components. The Ministry has designed these for similar projects (such as Yungichhu HPP) and can work out the number of facilitators and recommended the use of qualified facilitators. There is a shortage of facilitators, but the Ministry can prioritize. There is also a great need for counselors in all the schools but at present the priority is in the higher schools.</p>
Timeline	<p>The ESMP has to be prepared by February-March, therefore, the Ministry has been requested to provide costing and proposals by this time.</p> <p>Construction of ECCD is standard, but for the expansion of the schools, the Ministry will conduct a field visit with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and will provide the details to DGPC.</p> <p>DGPC informed that if concrete proposals are available, these can be included under community development.</p> <p>DG said that the Department is hopeful that the two agencies can work together. The consultant agreed to show the location proposed by the Saling Tshogpa for the CCF which is available if the Ministry is interested to pursue with the Local Government.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The Ministry has agreed to conduct an assessment of the existing facilities and requirements for expansion, facilities and share the ECCD design and standards with DGPC.</p>



Hydropower & dams  
services

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