

6 December 2018



Dear Stakeholder

**RECOMMENCEMENT OF THE BATOKA GORGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ASSOCIATED
RESETTLEMENT STUDIES**

The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), a bilateral organisation equally owned by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe, proposes the development of the Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Project). The Project will be situated approximately 47km downstream of the Victoria Falls, on the Zambezi River.

As part of the statutory requirements in Zambia and Zimbabwe, before the Project commences, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) must be completed, and environmental authorisation granted for the Project by both the Zambian and Zimbabwean environmental regulatory authorities. In addition to these requirements, as the BGHES requires the support of international lenders, the ESIA specific to this Project will need to be undertaken to align with international good practice guidelines such as the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and International Hydropower Association (IHA) sustainability protocols.

An ESIA was commissioned in mid-2014, by the ZRA with Environmental Resources Management Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd. (ERM) and its local partners (Kaizen Consulting International in Zambia and Black Crystal in Zimbabwe) as the Project Consultants to undertake this work. Prior to the end of 2015, ERM and its team had completed the Scoping Phase of the Project, which entailed extensive stakeholder engagement and the necessary environmental and social baseline studies had been completed in order to inform the content of an ESIA. A Draft ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was prepared and submitted to the ZRA for its review in late 2015.

It was at this stage that the ESIA was placed on hold for numerous technical and commercial reasons; however, ongoing discussions have been held between ERM, the ZRA and the World Bank (the funder of the feasibility studies), and the ESIA process for the Project has since recommenced.

You were identified as a stakeholder for this ESIA Process in 2014 prior to the ESIA process being placed on hold. This letter serves to notify you of the following:

- The recommencement of the ESIA Process and its associated timeline for delivery;
- Further opportunities for the Engagement of Stakeholders;
- Changes to the Project Team; and
- Our contact details for further communication.

Page 1 of 3

1 Recommencement of the ESIA Process

As of October 2018, the ESIA process has recommenced. It is intended that a Final ESIA and ESMP report will be submitted to the Regulatory Authorities in both countries mid-2019. The scope of the remaining tasks will be to utilise the work undertaken to date to complete the remaining steps in the ESIA process. In addition, given that there is now a better understanding of the extent of land take associated with some of the Project and its associated infrastructure, the resettlement planning work will also commence. The following remaining scope items and the proposed programme for these are as follows:

Scope Item	Programme for this
Further identification of downstream water users in Zambia (this has already been undertaken for Zimbabwe).	Nov-Dec 2018
More detailed investigation into the biodiversity, heritage and social impacts associated with the two quarry sites proposed for the Project.	Nov 2018-Jan 2019
Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPFs) for the Proposed dam site and associated infrastructure (including the site for borrow pits, quarries and the transmission line corridors in both Zimbabwe and Zambia).	Nov 2018-May 2019
Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) for the Batoka South Access Road in Zimbabwe and Contractor Camps in Zimbabwe and Zambia.	Nov 2018-May 2019
Updating the Draft ESIA and Draft ESMP as per the additional scope items above and incorporating comments raised by the Regulatory Authorities and World Bank on the Scoping Report and draft ESIA.. The ESIA and ESMP will also be split following ZEMA's request that three separate ESIA reports be submitted for each of the components of the Project (the dam, staff villages and borrow pits; the roads; and the Transmission Lines).	Feb and March 2019
Feedback to stakeholders on the Draft ESIAs, ESMPs, RPFs and RAPs.	March-April 2019
Finalisation and submission of report to the Regulatory Authorities.	May-June 2019

2 Next Steps for Stakeholder Engagement

All stakeholders that have been identified in the ESIA process to date have been notified of the recommencement of the studies, and where possible, their contact details have been updated.

Further contact will be made with the relevant communities and their leadership for the gathering of additional baseline information in the proposed Project area, particularly downstream of the proposed dam wall and in the areas proposed for the sourcing of quarry materials.

Following this, your input as a stakeholder to the ESIA, will be required upon the release of the Draft ESIA for public comment. Feedback meetings will then be scheduled to discuss the results of the studies and you will be notified adequately in advance of these feedback meetings.

It is however, important, given the time that has elapsed since the last round of stakeholder engagement, that we have updated contact details available for you. If any of your details have changed since our last communications with you in early 2015, and/or you are aware of other stakeholders that now need to be engaged in the ESIA process, please do not hesitate to contact us to provide us with this information. Our contact details are presented under Section 4 below.

3 Changes to the ERM Project Team

Given the time that has lapsed since the project originally commenced, there have been changes to the Project team. Black Crystal Consulting remains ERM's local consultant in Zimbabwe and will be engaged in all aspects of the Project in Zimbabwe. In Zambia, where there is no need for a locally registered consultant, ERM will be working with a team of locally appointed subconsultants in order to fulfil the required scope of work.


4 Contact Details

For any further queries regarding the content of this letter, or to provide us with updated contact details and/or additional stakeholders, please feel free to contact us as follows:

Contact Name and Organisation	Country	Contact Details
Nadia Mol, ERM	South Africa	+27 (21) 6815400 or by email on batokagorgehes@erm.com
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We look forward to your participation in this ESIA going forward.

Yours sincerely



Nadia Mol

Stakeholder Engagement Manager



Mike Everett

Partner