



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE

NELSAP

Nile
Equatorial
Lakes
Subsidiary
Action
Program

Uganda – DRC Power Transmission Study

Uganda (Nkenda) – DRC (Beni – Bunia – Butembo)



BACKGROUND

The Project was recommended by the NELSAP Strategic /Sectorial, Social and Environmental Assessment of Power Development Options in the Nile Equatorial Lakes Region (SSEA) produced in 2007.

The project will complete the regional power grid under creation by NELSAP: Tanzania – Kenya – Uganda - Rwanda – Burundi – Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC Eastern Part).

The Northern East DR Congo under consideration is isolated even from the Kivu region electricity grid. Main towns in this area are currently supplied by small diesel generators, which is expensive relative to the power supply from the respective national grids.

The Study of the Uganda (Nkenda) – Democratic Republic of Congo (Beni – Bunia – Butembo) Power Transmission Line was conducted by AECOM for the technical part and by GENIVAR for the part related to Environmental and Social Impact Assessment & Resettlement Action Plan (ESIA/RAP).

SUB-PROGRAM

Power Development and Trade

EXECUTING AGENCIES

The Project was executed by the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) represented by the NELSAP Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) located in Kigali, Rwanda, in close coordination with the Special Working Group (SWG) composed of members from the two countries.

PROJECT DURATION

Feasibility study, Detailed Design and Tender Documents: 15 months
ESIA & RAP: 10 months.

The Study planned period was 2012-2013 but the Grant Agreement was extended up to 31st April 2014.

LOCATION

DRC Eastern Part and in Kasese Western Region of Uganda

BUDGET

The study was funded by the Royal Norwegian through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Norwegian Embassy in Kampala for NOK 18 million (Norwegian Kroner eighteen million) equivalent to US\$ 3 million.

PARTICIPATION MEMBER STATES

The Governments of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Will be known in implementation phase

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of construction of a 220 kV double circuit interconnection line and associated substations (Beni, Butembo and Bunia new substations and Nkenda substation to be upgrade) from Nkenda substation in Kasese Western Region of Uganda up to Bunia and Butembo via Beni in the North Eastern of the Democratic Republic. The estimated distance of the line after design is 352.2 km as follows: The Project could be seen as a two-part project. The first part is the segment (138.0 km) between Nkenda and Beni substations which is technically the interconnector between DRC power system and Uganda power system. The second part is the segment (214.2 km) between Butembo and Bunia substations which has two legs, Butembo-Beni and Beni-Bunia, and which is an extension of DRC national grid.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the study was to investigate and assess the overall feasibility of the proposed 220 kV Transmission line Uganda (Nkenda) – DR Congo (Beni – Bunia – Butembo) considering the existing situation of the power systems in both countries, the projections for the future and the planned interconnections with neighboring countries.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study were to:

- i) carry out the technical feasibility and economic viability of the project in the context of the existing situation and future power sector development in each country and in the region;
- ii) assess and recommend appropriate rural electrification along the line route;
- iii) recommend adequate organizational and institutional frameworks for the construction, ownership and operation of the transmission line;
- iv) carry out detailed design and prepare tender documents.

KEY OUTPUTS OF THE STUDY

The Feasibility Study Consultant has prepared a Feasibility Study Report which includes an “Executive Summary” with clear conclusions as to the project’s economic, technical, environmental, and social viability. The report presents all work carried out including the required maps, drawings and figures to illustrate the technical solutions.

The Consultant conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has prepared an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and a separate Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in accordance with the Norway and the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures (ESAP, 2001).

The RAP includes information and details regarding compensation and/or resettlement of potentially affected persons.