



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) is mandated by the Government of Ethiopia to generate, transmit, distribute and sale of electric energy through out the country.
- The existing transmission system comprises a total of about 10,884.23km of transmission lines of which 685.72 km is 400kV voltage level 3,739.64km are at the 230 kv level 4185.59 km are at the 132 kV level, 1886.54 km are at 66 kv and 386.79 km are at 45 kV level in the ICS system and the rest 245.3 km in SCS.
- EEPCo as per its development plan is now intending to transmit electric power through 230kV transmission line from Alaba to Hosanna- Wolkite and from Gilgel Gibe I to Jimma- Agaro- Bedele.
- The proposed transmission line project is located in the regional states of Oromiya and Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples (SNNPR)
- The line is also suppose to make a strong interlink between the 132 kV lines on the south west and the 400 kV lines on central south part of the country as well as the future power plant such as *Gojeb ,Halele Werabesa,*
- According to the project's feasibility study, the project is purposed to replace the aged wooden pole type of 132 kV transmission line by upgrading by 230 kV Steel Tower Transmission line in order to transmit the power generated from *Gilgel Gibe* reliably
- The Total Project Cost is estimated about 1.1 Billion USD.
- Specific to the project areas, most of the social services particularly the health, education and water development services are found quiet limited due to inadequate and little supply of electricity. The Project therefore is vital in improving the existing infrastructures to the level of providing adequate services to the communities.
- Of the total land uses, the cultivated land constitutes about 41%., which is the largest land use in the project areas.
- The vegetation coverage in the study area as a whole is low. Human induced crops due to cultivation and livestock grazing have replaced much of the natural vegetation. The coverage where the line supposes to cross specially from Alaba-Hossaina-Wolkite comparatively maintains lower forest coverage. On the other hand, the areas that the line traverses along *Jimma–Agaro – Bedele* however has relatively better coverage. There are forest reserves named *Arga Kara* and *Beddessa* which cover about, 1331ha and 1083ha of lands respectively.



Potential Impacts

- According to the line surveyor's report a total of 572 residential houses are identified as to be affected by the entire stretch of the transmission line during the construction period. Of the total affected houses 359 are thatched roofed houses (Tukuls) and 213 are tin roofed houses.
- During the line survey no community services' structures or facilities were found to be affected by the project.
- For the houses and Tukuls to be affected, they will be paid due compensation as per the Rules and regulations of the land.
- There will be a permanent loss on some crop lands due to the occupation of the tower pads, which is quite insignificant as compared with the total area of cultivated land in the project area.
- Due compensations will be paid for affected both perennial and annual crops
- The proposed transmission line project does not have any significant impacts on cultural and historical resources.
- So far, there are no known historical and cultural sites to be crossed or affected by the line
- There would be some clearing of trees, shrubs and bushes during the construction period which may negatively affect the genetic resources in the project area. Clearing of trees and bushes may also cause habitat loss as well as favors the expansion of alien invasive species in the study area.
- During the construction period, forest encroachment may also increase in the project area due to the opening of new access roads and to natural vegetation cut for clearance of the ROW. The natural vegetation coverage along the proposed line route is very low and at the same time to be affected is minimal. However, it is still very important to carry out re-vegetation activities on disturbed and open areas to maintain the ecosystem and mitigate the lost woody biomass.
- The total estimated costs for mitigation would be **Birr 43,423,655 (3,143,998.88 USD)** covers to meet for compensation, environmental management including soil conservation activities, HIV/AIDS interventions, monitoring and capacity building.