A quick Analysis of Karuma Hydro Power Project’s Social and Environmental Concerns.

By National Association of Professional Environmentalists.

August 2013

Produced With financial assistance from Isvara Foundation and Friends of the Earth International
Frame work / Table of contents

1. Background / introduction .................................................. 3
2. Karuma tender awarded without competitive bidding .......... 4
3. Environment Concerns
   a) Submergence of Land and Vegetation ......................... 4
   b) Earth / soil material dumping ...................................... 4
   c) River water divergence .............................................. 5
   d) Air and water pollution .............................................. 5
4. Poor Valuation and Compensations ................................... 4
5. Resettlement ..................................................................... 5
6. Failure to consider alternatives ......................................... 6
7. Peoples Issues of concern on ground
   i) No Compensation ....................................................... 7
   ii) Poor compensations ................................................ 7
   iii) Delay of compensation ......................................... 8
   iv) Militarization of the place ...................................... 8
   v) Suppression of the community actions against the project activities ................................................................. 9
8. Lessons from Bujagali ......................................................... 9
9. Has Karuma’s Developers learnt any lessons from Bujagali controversies? ................................................. 10
10. Information disclosure, power parches agreement and affordability ................................................................. 11
11. Local leaders ..................................................................... 11
12. Ministry of Energy position ............................................... 11
13. Raised Expected ................................................................ 12
14. Observations .................................................................... 13
15. Issues to follow up ............................................................ 13
1. Introduction / Background

Karuma Hydro-Electric Station is a 600MW proposed power plant that will be located on Victoria Nile down-stream of Lake Kyoga. The project will be jointly developed by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and Electricity Generation Company Limited (UECDL).

Specifically, the new Karuma Hydro Power Project will be located at Karuma at Latitude 2° 15’ N and Longitude 32° 15’ E on Victoria Nile with project area falling in Kiryandongo and Oyam Districts OF Uganda. The project has been contemplated as a run-off of the river scheme with utilization of the Nile water, an outflow of lake Kyoga. It will involve a diversion of which the site is approximately 1.5 km upstream of the Karuma Bridge and at about 2.5 km upstream of Kampala – Gulu highway. The project area is within the vicinity of 2 conservation areas, the Karuma Wildlife Reserve (KWR) and Murchison falls National Park with almost 6.4 km of Tail Race Tunnel (TRT) system proposed to be constructed within Karuma Wildlife reserve.

According to the project EIA, the proposed Kruma Hydro – power project will require 465.52 ha of land located within three distinct land and property interests namely:

- 192.75 Ha to be acquired from private owners in the villages of Awoo, Karuma, Nora, affecting a total of 414 households.
- 238 Ha from Karuma Wildlife Reserve leasehold basis.
- 34.77 Ha of land acquired by NORPAK on behalf of the government of Uganda in the late 1990s. SEIA 2012.

The above mentioned land takes have led to physical and economic displacements of the original inhabitants’ and users of the land in question. This therefore, has necessitated the implementation of a Resettlement Implementation Plan (RAP), a Community Development Action (CDAP) and Environment and Social Management (ESMP).

Accordingly, characteristics of affected persons by percentage is:

- Less than 70% landowners
- 40% own land, have crops on the land and houses affected
- 31% have only crop affected
- 9% have only land and structures affected
- 7% have only land affected

The 414 households together lay claim to 621 property parcels.

The project is expected to provide over 6000 direct jobs and the public is excited with is news. However caution should be taken by those who will be regarded as lucky to get employed in the project construction activities which are a catchword and exciting news to the local communities. In the Bujagali experience, more than 150 workers got injured in course of their work, and were not well treated, wrongfully dismissed and not compensated for the injuries to the extent that they had to appeal to the IFC Ombudsman of the World Bank.
**Composition.**

The Karuma communities are mainly composed of the internally displaced persons from the Northern Uganda, who were displaced by both Lakwena, and Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) civil wars since 1986. They are mainly from four (4) Ethnic groupings including, the Alur, the Paluwo, Langi and Acholi. They have been in the area for over 25 years now, and constitutionally they are the key stakeholders of the land they occupy. In case of any other land claimants, they are termed as Bona fide occupants who according to the law, are defined as “a person who before the coming into force of the Constitution; (a) had occupied and utilized or developed any land unchallenged by the registered owner or agent of the registered owner for twelve years or more; or (b) had been settled on land by the Government or an agent of the Government, which may include a local authority”. (Section 29 (2) of the Land Act Cap 227 as Amended). In the case of Karuma people, they were settled by the government, and their settlement and stay have been unchallenged for over 25 years. It is for this reason that they are supposed to be compensated if they must vacate the land they live on.

Their main economic activity has been subsistence agriculture where Cassava, Maize, ground nuts beans simsim, sunflower, as well as animal grazing constitute their day to day activities. Fishing from the river had also become one their source of food and income. They lived in this area ever since without any knowledge of anyone ever appearing as the owner of the land they live on.

However, with the coming in of the Karuma Hydro-power project, especially after the EIA public hearing FOR THE Karuma project, some people came up claiming to be the rightful owners of the land. They disputed that the people who have been staying on their land should be compensated, but said that they, are instead the ones to be compensated.

The government however, asked the people to prove the ownership of the land and then they will be compensated. Till now, these people are trying their level best to get documents and land titles to prove their ownership of the land. The community is concerned however, and wondering:

- Why at this time that these people came up to say this land is theirs not before?
- If it was their land how come they had nothing to prove ownership till now?
- Their process to get proof of land ownership started late 2012; can’t anyone with intentions to defraud people of their land rights and get free money do that?
- And finally, if these people were to ably after all to prove the ownership of the land, what will be the fate of the communities that have lived on this land for 25+ years? These questions need to be addressed with the urgency they deserve otherwise people are very worried. It looks more like the people are trying to individualize the Karuma land now since they could not produce evidence of their ownership at the time they started claiming it.
2. Karuma tender awarded without competitive bidding.

Karuma dam Hydro Power Project, like Bujagali, promises to be one of yet another controversial dam in Uganda. Right from the onset, the initial contenders the Norpak Energy Limited pulled out of the project in 2002, citing bankruptcy. Having opened the project to new contenders, Chinese companies registered their interests after China government promise to fund the project. When the bidding process was opened however, it was discovered that a lot of fraud was ensuring in the bidding process.

A Chinese company CEW started right from the beginning by presenting false information of overrated project to convince the assessors of its ability given the truck record. According to the IGG's findings, CWE presented the 70MW Dayingjian second tier hydropower dam as having a capacity of 600MW, and the 20MW Qingshan as a 640MW power station. “There was a deliberate effort on the part of CWE to conceal the fact that the Qingshan HPP and Dayingjian II HPP were cascade dams. This fact would have rendered the two projects different from the Karuma Hydropower Project and was therefore a material fact not disclosed in the bid,” the IGG said.

Also, the media has been awash with information that highly placed and first family members are pushing their interests through the bidding companies that has seen the bidding process flouted. Finally, as if to rescue the situation, claiming that the bidding wrangles have delay of the project, the project tender has now been awarded to one of the Chinese companies Sinohydro Corporation by the president without approval from the tender board of the project. Sinohydro Co. will not only build the power dam but also to erect transmission lines to evacuate the generated electricity.

*President Museven launches Karuma Works on 12/08/2013.*
3. **Environmental concerns.**
Any project of this Magnitude has environmental impacts which if not well managed and mitigated, can be very destructive. So far community environmental concerns of Karuma project include;

**a) Submergence of land and vegetation.**
According to the project EIA, the proposed scheme consists of a Dam of maximum height of 20.0 m and length of 311.53 m at the top elevation of 1032.00 m. Full Reservoir Level will be at El. 1030.00 with 79.87 MCM storage at FRL and Live Storage will be 45.53 MCM. This means the dammed waters will flood and submerge land and vegetation in the area. The vegetation covered by water with thus decompose form and release carbon emissions into the atmosphere which contributes to global warming.

**b) Earth material dumping**
Given that a tunnel of over 8km will be made from which soil will be removed to create the tunnel, Communities and the Kiryandongo leaders are concerned with where this whole lot of soil will be dumped. It is expected that where it will be dumped will cover a very big piece of land or wetland there by destroying the existing ecosystem. If not watchful, the soils could be dumped into the Karuma Wild Life reserve or Murchison Falls NP.

**c) River water divergence.**
Evelyn, a warden at the Karuma Wild life reserve says that the management is concerned of the impact of diverting the Nile waters that run through the Karuma falls into a tunnel for electricity generation. This will make over 12 km part of the river which is now supplying water to a big number of Karuma Wild Life run dry and leave the animals starved of water. She warns, this will bare negatively on the animals and birds and the tourism sector in the area.

**d) Air and water pollution.**
The communities are also concerned that Earth removing and transportation of the earth material from or and within the area is likely to cause high air pollution due to dust raised by tracks. Unusual noise of the track sounds as well as machinery that is likely to involve a lot of parent rock blasting is feared for noise and dust as well and probably flying debris / rock particles. Also dams are known for water pollution. Water going through the cascade of electric turbines of which the material composition is not natural is prone to pollution. Besides, the tunnel construction will lead to cracking thorough a variety of rocks with different chemical compositions including the explosives that will be used to blast the rocks. These chemical are dangerous to human and animal life.
4. Poor Valuation and Compensations
In preparation for onset of Karuma project construction activities, Uganda government commissioned an evaluation exercise to identify, register, evaluate, and attach the cost to the properties of the project-affected persons (PAP). In addition, the government claims to have gone ahead and "successfully" verified the claims put forward by the affected people as having not been attended to. Sources from the ministry say, after evaluation exercise, the chief valuer went ahead to have attached monetary value and disclosed to the affected. According to the ministry of Energy, local commodity, and property prices which are considered going market rates were researched on and were used to compensate for affected people's properties. So far other properties other than land have been compensated save for a few who did not agree with the values attached to their properties. Those who feel have been cheated have petitioned the ministry of energy and are still waiting for a response. These include the Awoo community and Some of the Karuma town center itself. Together, they add up to 414 households. Those compensated, received their payments on their bank accounts which they were required to open for this exercise. However, there are claims some of the affected people who were told that their money had been paid, but they say the money never come to their accounts.

5. Lack of consultation and involvement of the local stakeholders.
It is good practice as well as a recommendation of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and also a requirement of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that development of dams should involve the local communities. However, in the case of Karuma, this has been severely minimized hence the conflicts it has begun with. The Kiryandongo District LC V Chairman, Mr. Augustine, says that the ministry of energy and the project developers have not involved the district in the Karuma developments. He says, that neither him or his technical, or admin staff has been involved. He is wondering how the project of this nature will progress without soliciting local support and involving the locals in its development. "My people from Awoo village are complaining of poor compensations and grabbing of land, but I find difficult assisting them when the project proponents have not talked to me about the Karuma developments," he says. Local affected people of Awoo also have no kind words for the project. They say the project is a destroyer of their livelihoods. The money given as compensation cannot afford you to begin a living elsewhere.

6. Resettlement
According to World Commission on Dams recommendations, one way of compensating the project-affected persons is to resettle them. It is required that the livelihoods of all affected people should either be equal to or better than the livelihoods they lived in before the onset of the project as hereunder stated in WCD key recommendation 4, "The project should provide entitlements to affected people to improve their livelihoods and ensure that they receive the priority share of project benefits (beyond compensation for their losses). Affected people include
communities living downstream of dams and those affected by dam-related infrastructure such as transmission lines and irrigation canals”. (WCD; 2002)

However, in the case of Karuma, this may be the theory but not the practice. So far, only properties on land have been compensated but not the land. Normally, on the issue of resettling the people affected by the project, people are supposed to be given a chance to choose how they want to be compensated or resettled. WCD key recommendation 4 states thus, “All stakeholders should have the opportunity for informed participation in decision-making processes related to large dams through stakeholder fora. Public acceptance of all key decisions should be demonstrated. Decisions affecting indigenous peoples should be taken with their free, prior and informed consent”. (WCD; 2002)

People in Karuma should have been given chance to either, chose land for land compensation which would probably be the option that would help many to easily settle and avoid the temptation and problems that come with cash compensations, or chose to be compensated with cash if they so wished so as to move to destinations of their choice. In the case of Karuma however, it was revealed that only the vulnerable like the orphan or child headed families, the elderly, the widowed, the terminally ill or sickly, the youth and probably the single mothers were the only ones to be resettled (land for land). But the rest have to find their own destinations to settle. The government did not want to be over bothered by the process of resettling people.

This is confirmed in this quate of Matovu Bukenya the spokes person for the ministry of Energy is quoted saying that “those people who do not want cash are advised to identify a plot of their choice ad we shall build a house for that person” “for persons wishing to get cash, we shall first council them on the best way to use their money so that they make good decisions. The goal is to make them better than before”. Sunday vision June 23rd (2013).

When scrutinizing the above statement however, Matovu is completely none committal for land compensation. While he says people are free to identify a piece of land, he does not say if the land will be bought for the person by the government but says the government will build a house. So far the area to resettle those who are considered vulnerable is not yet known to the affected, and yet the project is set to begin soon.

7. Failure to consider alternatives.
As a requirement, when considering undertaking a project of Karuma Magnitude, it should not be looked at for approval in absence of alternative options. These options should have shown what the costs of alternative options are and only then, the Karuma Hydro Power Project should have come not only as least cost but also as the best social and environmentally sound of alternatives. Alternatives in Uganda include, Solar, Wind, and Geothermal among others. As Bujagali, now Karuma is claimed to be the least cost project without comparisons.
8. **Peoples experience of the Karuma Project.**

Surprisingly, the government and their project proponents seem to have taken no lessons from the Bujagali Dam construction controversies. The very same mistakes that were in Bujagali are again appearing in Karuma, this time promising to be even worse than Bujagali.

(i) **No compensation**

People’s crops which were destroyed during the opening of access roads and not compensated for and those in the gardens now but have not been evaluated for compensation. Land has not been considered and has not been compensated and the reason being that the government says other people are claiming ownership. Bonafideship is not given as an option for compensation. The question therefore is, where should the people being evicted by the project go without compensation for their land?

(ii) **Poor compensations**

There are people whose property has been affected who feel that their properties have not been given a fair compensation befitting their value. The project began by first opening access roads which passed and destroyed people’s gardens and their crops. This was done without prior information and a few of the people compensated say that compensation of property after destruction without prior valuation was just as the government wished not
based on the real damage that was done, since the evidence had been destroyed. Also while some of the people say that they are satisfied with the pay they got, others say that the money they signed for is not the amount they finally received. Many claim to have got less than the stated amount and some say they got none. Ogik is one of the residents of Awoo and Diima villages, Mutunda sub-county, Kiryandongo district, who must pave way for the construction of the 600MW hydropower project. The Karuma dam project is to displace more than 400 families in the four villages of Karuma, Awoo, Nora, and Akurudia in Kiryandongo district.

“We want the project but we need to be reasonably compensated. We want the right value for our property,” Ogik told The Observer after appearing before the tribunal. Ogik is one of the people who has refused peanut compensation, but also, his was located to two different names a fault by the surveyors he says. He says he is not sure this was not intended to intimidate him since he has been leading his community against poor compensations and human rights abuse by the project.

The following two government valuation forms are an evidence of irregularities in valuation of affected people’s property and compensation where Okidi Santo Ali was given just Ushs 134,550 for his 88 plants (banan plantation, coffee and sisal gardens and trees), less than half of Opiro who received 280,000 for his only 3 trees. The community is still wondering the criteria used. There is no standard for reference, for one to know what to expect from which crop!!!
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development  
implementation of Resettlement action plan (RAP) and related services  
for the Karuma Hydro Power Project  
Form (B): Valuation Disclosure Notice  

Ref No: 8777590789  
Date: 28/17/2012  

As you must be aware, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) together with the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) jointly propose a new Karuma Hydro Power Project.  

A Land survey and Property Valuation exercise were conducted as part of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to value all property within the proposed project area. Arising from this exercise, it is visibly clearly that your property Reference Number: 12101009, as indicated in the Valuation Report approved by the Chief Government Valuer of September 2011, falls within the proposed site.  

I hereby disclose to you that your property was lawfully listed and assessed as below:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description/Number/Unit</th>
<th>Value (Ug. Shs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Land</td>
<td>20.59 Acres</td>
<td>1,700,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. House/Dwelling</td>
<td>2,000 square metres</td>
<td>399,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Compensateable Crops</td>
<td>13.14 acres, 22 coffee trees, 31,214,11m²</td>
<td>190,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you do consent to being compensated, please ensure that you meet the compensation team appointed for this purpose to make claim of the total value of Ug. Shs 4,99,733/= being total value of compensation rightfully due to you and your household.  

After receipt of your compensation package, kindly arrange to ensure that you vacate the proposed project site within 3 months from receipt of payment.  

For Permanent Secretary  

23/7/12  

Copies: White to Payee  
Pink for File
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
Implementation of Resettlement action plan (RAP) and related services
for the Karuma Hydro Power Project.

Form (8): Valuation Disclosure Notice

Ref No: 0010 0010
To: 0893443701

Date: 21/7/2012

As you must be aware, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) together with the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL), jointly propose a new Karuma Hydro Power Project.

A land survey and Property Valuation exercise were conducted as part of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to value all property within the proposed project area. Arising from this exercise, it is visibly clear that your property Reference Number 1234567, as indicated in the Valuation Report approved by the Chief Government Valuer of September 2011, falls within the proposed site.

I hereby disclose to you that your property was lawfully listed and assessed as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Description/Number/Unit</th>
<th>Value (Ug. Shs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Land</td>
<td></td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. House/Dwelling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Compensable Crops</td>
<td>Mango 2</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you consent to being compensated, please ensure that you meet the compensation team appointed for this purpose to make claim of the total value of Ug. Shs (in words) 200,000 for the total of compensation due to you and your household.

After receipt of your compensation package, kindly arrange to ensure that you vacate the proposed project site within 3 months from receipt of payment.

For Permanent Secretary

21/7/12
(iii) Delayed compensation
The people of Awoo community say they got frustrated after waiting for so long for compensation that was not upcoming, and as such some decided to leave to unidentified destinations. Also, people claim that when they were stopped from using the land and promised to compensate them, they missed planting crops in anticipation of receiving their compensation soon and they leave. However, the compensation never came in time and some people say they are starving had just to leave without compensation.

(iv) Militarization of the place.
People have on several occasions witnessed armed men in combat patrolling the area. They see them moving in the villages and the community thinks this is meant to instill fear among them to stop them from standing up for their rights. Recently people tried to demonstrate against the Chinese during their visit to the project area. They are demanding compensation of the land before the project construction begins. However the army detaches in the area was called to suppress the demonstrators who were arrested and detained in police. With the presence of military peoples’ rights are abused.

(v) Suppression of the community actions against the project activities.
The locals in the area have also complained of the being arrested, beaten and locked up in police cells when they tried to demonstrate and voice their compensation concerns that have not been addressed before the project proceeds. The latest of such incident having been in early July 2013.
9. Lessons from Bujagali

Bujagali Hydro Power dam has been one of the most controversial dams not only in Uganda but the world at large. Yet, Bujagali having been in Uganda, give the controversies it generated, Uganda government should have learnt lessons from it. But as things unfold on Karuma it is clear, no lessons have been taken from Bujagali Hydro power Dam. Issues on Bujagali included, corruption that involved the then Minister of Energy Richard Kaijuka which led to his loss of a UN job, faulty EIA that did not consider important project activities like the Rock blasting and their impact on the communities around, which later led to cracking in the hose structures around the project. This also led the affected households, petition the European Investment Bank as one of the project funders which is now about to conclude a mediation process between the government and BEL on one hand and the affected communities on the other hand. There were also Low or poor property compensations that saw affected persons reject monies offered for their properties and took the government to court. The out of court settlements were too far better than the first offers. The project was also surrounded with a lot of intimidations making people believe that no one can have a case against the government, a mystery that has since been demystified when the locals took it to court. Empty promises of ensuring equal or even better livelihoods to those prior the project, all went up in flames when people were asked if they had agreements to that effect, and left many of them with regrets of wishing the project had not come. Many of those who thought were so lucky to be employed once they got injured, they were not well treated of the body damages, dismissed and not well compensated. Many of them had to petition the Ombudsman of the World Banks’ IFC to be compensated – a process that has recently been completed. Also to note is that for Bujagali Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) it was not till National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE), took the
government to court that the PPA was made a public document. Finally it was found out that Buajgali PPA, was the worst South of Sahara.

10. Information disclosure, power parches agreement and affordability.
It is incumbent upon the government for the information about the project to be disclosed to the public. So far the power parches agreement for Karuma Hydro power project should be put in the public domain, so that people know the affordability of the electricity that will be produced by Karuma project. To date, this document has not been put into the public domain as required. The Bujagali PPA was never put into the public domain till NAPE took the government to court demanding the Bujagali PPA to be in the public domain.

11. Local leaders.
Local leaders have not been helped nor involved enough to help the local people to understand the project. They do not understand it themselves. During the public hearing of the environment Impact Assessment of the project, the LCV chairman complained of the project process keeping them in blind, not involving them anticipatorily in its development process as required of such a development in the modern times but also as a recommendation of the World Commission on Dams (WCD). This is an indicator of the top down approach used in the project development which will be prone to challenges and possible abuse of people’s rights.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals Development officer in charge of Karuma Project, most of the properties in Karuma including graves, crops slashed, fruits have been compensated apart from land which is yet to be compensated. She noted that this has been due to disagreements that developed between the squatters and those claiming to be the owners of the land. That a verification process to ascertain the owners is soon coming to conclusion and that land was to be compensated after that.

Mulonyi – the Uganda minister of Energy and mineral Development
What remains unanswered however, is supposing those claiming to own the land are proved to be real owners, will the people still be compensated as bona-fied occupants as is the requirement of the land act in Uganda.

It was also said that the government has to date received over 150 written complaints from the affected communities. But she also said that the addendum report for the project is ready and will cover all the complaints from the affected people.

She says the information concerning the project progress and activities is always communicated to people in the Areas through affected community meetings, radio talk shows and printed materials.

Asked about the peoples complaint that the area is to be hit by famine because they were stopped from growing food in anticipation of the project work beginning soon and with a hope that compensation will be given soon, she said that they were only stopped from planting only perennial crops like cassava, but were allowed to plant the seasonal crops like beans, ground nuts and others. However, this did not take into account that cassava accounts for a large portion of the Karuma locals peoples diet, but also that since the time they were stopped, cassava would be ready now. This study therefore found out that there was relative food scarcity in the affected villages.

13. **Raising expectations**

There are very high expectations from Karuma dam area residents which is characteristic of projects of this nature. “When the project starts generating electricity, Karuma will be getting substantive amounts of royalty which will boost revenues on top of tourism” says Benon Mutambi the ERA chief.

Local People have been promised jobs, and infrastructure and social amenities, A Karuma City and good life as is usual with projects of this nature. “We expect that the project will directly employ 6,000 people” Simon D’Ujung the state minister said. “When the project starts generating electricity, Karuma will be getting substantive amounts of Royalty to which will boost revenues on top of tourism” said Benon Mutambi ERA (Sunday Vision June 23, 2013).

However, what ensures even before such project are complete is yet another story. Experience form Bujagali has a lot of lessons to learn from for people’s expectations to be realistic. The challenge is that the project proponents decide to tell only a good story leaving the other side of bad impacts and what would be mitigated and therefore it takes people unaware

14. **Observations**

- It should be incumbent upon the government to make sure that the people affected by the project are either equal to or better than they were living before the coming of the project as is the recommendation by the World Commission on Dams.
- To avoid resettling the people who would have chosen that option as opposed for them to
find their own destination is to avoid responsibility. There is no doubt that some of them will find that the money cannot afford them what they lost and therefore live poor and regrettable lives (lost livelihoods) after the project establishment.

- There are concerns from the public that the project may be a scene of social environment and human rights abuse especially given the fact that it is funded by China which has very little or no regard for human rights. The president himself not having been pleased with World Bank, African Development Bank, and European Investment Bank for their social and environment policies, which the projects they fund must adhere to, as in the case with Bujagali where compliance was enforced after the affected persons lodged complaints with funder, the president sought a funder that would listen just to him not the people. This is what is worrying the people likely to be affected by the project, that they would never get listened to if they have any complaint.

- It has also been noted that there are a few of the people who are satisfied with the government compensation they received. While some of the people say that the money they signed for is not the amount they finally received. Many got less and some say got none.

15. Key issues for follow up / recommendations

a) The government should respect National, and International public finance principles on procurement where a project of this nature should be properly bid and procured.

b) There is urgent need to come to aid of the affected communities and give commensurate compensation for people’s properties and land.

c) Compensations should be speeded up for people not to lose their livelihoods in time wasting and waiting for the never coming compensations.

d) People should not be forced to take money compensations as they are very fragile, instead, resettlement where land for land and construction of the houses for the people displaced by the project should be an option given to them. The projects RAP team needs to review this approach.

e) There is urgent need to consult with and involve the local government and the local communities in the development process of Karuma dam hydro power project.

f) There is need to put the power purchase agreement into the public domain as this is supposed to be a public document and source of information. Minus this, it is difficult to know how expensive or cheap the power from Karuma will be and whether it will be afforded by the stakeholders or not.
g) Social and environmental impacts of the project should be made public and documents thereof translated into local languages and the mitigation measures put in made clear to settle people's concerns, but also allow them monitor the developments from a point of knowledge.

h) A project management and monitoring team that involves the local government, game park management, civil society and community representatives among others should be put in place with clear terms of reference to monitor the project developments.

Appendix 1
References
8. MEMD – RAP – Evaluation Disclosure form B
Appendix 2.

List of some of the persons and institutions interviewed.

1. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
2. Ben Grace Augustine the LC V chairman of Kiryandongo district.
3. David Onya - ........ the secretary for Environment and Production Kiryandogo District.
4. Evelyn Kyomukama the Warden at Karuma Wild life reserve
5. Ogik William the leader of the Awoo dam affected community
6. Okello Loudovick opinion leader of the Awoo village
7. Belentine Awuma the LC I chairperson of Awoo village
8. Onen Can Nestole the LC III chairperson of Deema Subcounty
9. James Opolot The Agric extension worker in Kiryandongo district
10. Irene Adeko Acaye the Sec for youth and gender – Kiryandongo District
11. Helen Labeja affected person - Awoo village
12. Valentine Akoko Affected person - Awoo village
14. Opiro Affected person - Awoo village
15. Richard affected person Awoo village.
20   Karuma Hydro Power Issues