

Statement by Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited on concerns raised in the IWGIA report titled 'Renewable energy projects and the rights of marginalised/indigenous communities In Kenya'

Nairobi 29th February 2016,

Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited (LTWP) states the following in relation to claims attributed to the aforementioned report regarding the welfare of the communities living around Lake Turkana and specifically the area covered by the LTWP Project in Marsabit County.

Co-existing with the local community

Approximately a decade ago, LTWP embarked on the feasibility studies for the wind farm. Among the key concerns was how the project would impact the community from both a social and economic perspective. The complex study involved engaging multiple stakeholders in the entire Marsabit County. It involved the local state administration as well as the community leaders in the area covered by the land lease. Community leaders in the wider Loiyangalani Division (representatives of the Turkana, Samburu, Rendille and El Molo communities); gender and youth-based groups; and non-governmental organisations were also consulted during the entire Project feasibility and inception process.

After the consultation LTWP obtained a concession area of 150,000 acres; however, the actual project site is 40,000 acres of which 87.5 acres has been used to set up the wind farm. The rest of the land serves as the buffer zone to free wind flow. To further minimise any adverse environmental or social impact to the local community, LTWP has committed to transferring up to US\$ Cent 1/kWh to the Ministry of Energy, via KPLC, from the carbon credits earned by the Project. The funds accruing from the carbon credits will be applied to benefit the communities living near the wind farm and along the power transmission line. Based on a CER price of Euro 0.5, the carbon credit value of the Project could be in the range of Euro 2.8 to 6.3 million for the entire project. LTWP has assured the residents that the only fenced areas will be the substation, operations village and the select transformers. This will ensure that the pastoral communities are able to access the land and pastures for their livestock.

Winds of Change Foundation projects

LTWP through Winds of Change Foundation (WoC) committed to several community initiatives aimed at uplifting the socio-economic welfare of persons and communities affected by the Project. The current focus of WoC is on enhancing employability through education and vocational training, supporting health services provision and water supply as a step towards developing livelihoods. WoC is active not only within the project site area, but also in the wider Laisamis Constituency in order to enhance the area of shared benefits.

Winds of Change Foundation (WoC), has continuously sunk boreholes and set up watering troughs to provide water for the large herds of livestock that provide for the livelihood of the local communities. To date, LTWP through WoC has installed a solar powered reverse osmosis system in Sarima village, has provided water from 5 boreholes to the communities from Laisamis to Sarima, and has also built several watering troughs. Construction of a 7km water pipeline in Arge is currently ongoing.

Another benefit to the community around the Lake Turkana Wind power project has been the upgrading of the USD 36 million, 207km C77 public road from Laisamis to Sarima. This has opened up the area, reducing travel times to Loiyangalani and Laisamis and allowing easier access to Lake Turkana.

Socio-economic welfare of the local community

LTWP appreciates the fact that the areas are governed by both the county and national government. These two arms of government are mandated with the provision of basic needs including security, food and water. Nevertheless, due to the deficiency that was noted during the feasibility studies as well as from engagement with the various community leaders, LTWP felt the need to complement the government efforts not only to ensure the peaceful co-existence with the community but to also improve the standards of living for the people in the largely arid land.

Prior to Project inception, the area was prone to inter-community conflicts. LTWP has however been at the forefront of supporting initiatives to avert these conflicts. For instance, we have Community Liaison Officers who work with local leaders and play a proactive role in preventing potential conflicts. Additionally, in partnership with the government, LTWP is in the final phase of upgrading police quarters in Loiyangalani, which will go a long way in boosting the security in the area. Construction of the police quarters is scheduled for completion by end of March 2016. Another ongoing project to improve health service access is that of supplying medical equipment to Burri-Aramia dispensary. A road safety campaign along the Laisamis-Sarima road, which has been upgraded by LTWP, is also currently underway. We have ensured that the local community is fully involved in the implementation of the above activities

Community benefits from LTWP

LTWP has committed to invest a portion of its operating revenues to WoC to improve the livelihoods of the communities in the Project area. Once the wind farm is operational, through WoC, it is expected that LTWP will contribute about Euros 10 Million over the operational life of the Project (20 years).

As at the end of November 2015, a total of 596 members of the local community were employed by the Project. These employees were recruited through our labour offices in Loiyangalani and Kurungu, which are supported by the local community leaders to ensure equitable distribution among the community members in the project area. LTWP is one of the largest employers in Laisamis constituency.

Currently, the distribution is as shown below:

AREA	LOIYANGALANI	SOUTH-HORR	MT -KULAL	KARGI	SARIMA	OTHERS	TOTAL
TOTAL	143	170	142	51	90	73	669

As an organisation, we will continuously engage the local community on opportunities to not only change the lives of the people, but also optimise the overall socio-economic benefits of the largest wind power project in Africa.

If you have any other questions please contact the Project General Manager, Phylip Leferink.

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