



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 Metu to Gambela.
- The proposed transmission line project is located in the regional states of Oromiya **and Gambela** .
- The project is purposed to extend the existing Grid further to Gambella substation and alleviating the over loading problem of the self contained system (SCS) of existing Gambela I substation.
- The Total Project Cost is estimated about 3.7 Million 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.
- The Forests in the study area are characterized by highland rain forest. However they have been largely affected by human interference mainly due to population increase, lack of awareness, etc. coffee cultivation by farmers has a serious impact on the forest and leads to decreasing the natural forest density. According to the Woreda agricultural office in the project area, there is a designated forest named Babiya forest covering about 687ha,
- The Precipitation in and around the project affected Woredas is the highest in Ethiopia, with rainfall spreading throughout the year. Total annual precipitation in these areas exceeds 1500mm.

Potential impacts.

- According to the line surveyor's report a total of 63 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 24 are tin roofed houses and 39 are thatched roofed houses (*Tukuls*).



- 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 20,822,912 (1,507,639.38 USD)** covers to meet for compensation, environmental management including soil conservation activities, HIV/AIDS interventions, monitoring and capacity building.