



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

Nairobi 29 February 2016, updated 4 October 2016 upon request from Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.

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's projects

Winds of Change, i.e. Lake Turkana Wind Power's CSR foundation, became active in June 2015 and has since invested in a variety of community projects (listed below) together with its partners, at a cost of approximately Euro 1M to date. The projects can be categorized into four groups: *Enhancing employability (education)*, *enhancing access to health and water*, and *miscellaneous*.

Education

- Installation of a solar system at Mt. Kulal Girls Secondary School, as well as provision of desks and shelving to staff;
- Donation of 100 mattresses to Kurungu Primary School;
- Assembly and distribution of 500 desks to 24 schools located between Laisamis and Loiyangalani, as well as distribution of 3,000 books and 2,000 pens to schools in the same catchment area;
- Extension to Sarima school, by constructing an office and sleeping quarters for the teacher, as well as a kitchen for the school;
- Purchase of school uniforms worth KES 200,000;
- Part-funding of educational school trips to destinations like Nakuru and Nairobi. For the overwhelming majority of students, these trips are their first travel experiences out of Marsabit County;



- Provision of 14 days' technical training to 18 individuals from the wider project area and certified by the Energy Regulatory Commission. Participants were trained on solar installation and maintenance;
- Construction of a 80 bed dormitory at Nyiro Boys Secondary School in South Horr (ongoing); and,
- Construction of a laboratory at Nyiro Girls Secondary School in South Horr (ongoing).

Water

- Installation of a solar pump for an existing borehole and construction of three livestock troughs in Gatab;
- Installation of a water filtration system in Sarima;
- Construction and equipping of a borehole in Lonjorin and Sarima, as well as rehabilitation of a borehole in Manyatta Langima;
- Provision and installation of a new 20kva generator at a borehole in Olturot;
- Construction of a 12.5km water pipeline in Larachi, thereby providing direct access to water to residents;
- Drilling of a borehole in Lonjorin (ongoing);
- Construction of a 14km water pipeline in Arge, as well as two access points, thereby providing direct access to water to residents (ongoing);
- Rehabilitation of a 14km water pipeline, delivering water to El Molo Bay and El Molo Bay Primary School, as well as installation of additional water storage facilities (ongoing);
- Installation of water tanks (60,000l) at Mt. Kulal Girls Secondary School (ongoing); and,
- Installation of water storage tanks (40,000l) at Laga El Fereji (ongoing).

Health

- Upgrading of a dispensary in Burri-Aramia by installing a solar system, shelving units, incinerator, toilets, direct access to water, storage facilities and equipment, such as a fridge freezer, which was needed to keep vaccinations cool, as well as maternity and ward beds;
- Donation of a building to be used as a ward in Kurungu. WoC plans to rehabilitate this building and equip it in 2017;
- Installation of solar systems at Illaut dispensary and Laisamis hospital;
- Provision of a 12-month HIV/AIDS awareness campaign (ongoing);
- Provision of a 12-month road safety awareness campaign (ongoing); and,
- Erection of a fence around a rock water catchment area in Illaut in order to minimize the risk of people falling into the water body and drowning, as has previously occurred (ongoing).

Miscellaneous

- Construction of a community store and a chief's office in Illaut;
- Construction of accommodation units, toilets, washrooms and an office in Loiyangalani for the Administration Police in order to improve accommodation and office facilities;
- Rehabilitation of a football pitch in Namarei and provision of sports' jerseys to El Molo Bay Primary School;
- Environmental clean-up exercise in Gatab, with the Gatab Women Group; and,
- Though strictly speaking not a WoC activity, LTWP constructed a 208km road from Laisamis to Sarima, which has transformed the transportation network in the area. This has significantly increased access to markets as well as to health care and educational facilities for the local population.

Through WoC, LTWP will continue to invest in community projects in the wider project area for the next 15 years. To date, LTWP has employed over 2,000 people.

A short video about WoC and its activities can be accessed via the following link:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ_5FIDLnu8

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 upgraded police quarters in Loiyangalani, which has gone a long way in boosting the security in the area. A comprehensive list on how LTWP has attempted to improve the socio-economic welfare of the local community is provided above.

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 September 2016, a total of 691 members of the local community were employed by the Project. These employees were recruited through our labour office, which is 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	118	175	13	29	64	17	691

As an organization, we will continuously engage the local community on opportunities to not only change the lives of the people in a positive manner, but also optimize 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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