

ANNEX 5

COMMENTS ON LAKE OI Bolosat

From: John Otuoma <jmotuoma@yahoo.com>
Subject: Proposed power line
To: "serene68ke@yahoo.com" <serene68ke@yahoo.com>
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6:29 AM

Dear Ms Karanja,

Following our conversation yesterday, please find an overview of the proposed power project and give us your opinion.

The Government of Kenya has been in talks with the Government of Ethiopia over the possibility of purchasing electricity from Ethiopia. In recognition of this, the two countries have identified financiers to support the construction of a high voltage power line (400 megawatts) from Ethiopia to a sub-station in Suswa in Kenya through Moyale, Marsabit, Matthews Range, Rumuruti, Aberdare ranges, Naivasha and Longonot.

The proposed power line passes 3 km away from Lake OI Bolosat (on the edge of Aberdare ranges). The flat marshy terrain in which the lake lies, is an important Bird Area. In order to protect birds during their movement to and from the wetland, conductors / transmission wires will be made of material that is clearly visible to birds to protect them from flying into the conductors. Also, the power will be transmitted as DC and not AC in order to protect the birds in the event that they fly into the conductors. The DC will be converted to AC at Suswa sub-station before connecting it to the national grid.

Given the background provided above, please provide us with your opinion, concerns and recommendations on actions that should be considered during the design of the power line, in general and for Lake OI Bolosat in particular.

Kind regards,

John Otuoma.

[Re: Proposed power line](#)

TO: You 1 recipients
CC: 4 recipients You 4 More
BCC: recipients You

[Hide Details](#)

FROM: [serene serene](#)

TO: [John Otuoma](#)

CC: [Wanyoike Wamiti](#)

[Moses Ziro](#)

isaackkairu@yahoo.com

[Joseph Mbugua](#)

[Message flagged](#)

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 11:39 AM

Message body

Hi,

I hope this email finds you well. I circulated your email to a number of stakeholders working around the wetland. I am sure their comments will complement mine.

First, i do not have a very clear picture of where the power line will be erected since the lake is approximately 43km². Perhaps when you are in the area we can visit and see the exact location.

Secondly, i hope you will furnish my office and other concerned ministries with a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report for comments. The report will also inform of the negative impacts identified and the mitigation measures.

As you mentioned the wetland is an IBA and it is home to an overwhelming bird species, particularly 17 Palaeactic species. My concerns are: How high from the ground will the power lines be? Will they be in the migratory route of the birds? How do you ensure that there are minimal bird accidents as they come and go?

Also noteworthy is that the proposed site of the power line which is the Aberdare range is a forest. The KFS has a stake in the exercise.

Regards,

Lydia Karanja
NEMA, Nyandarua.

--- On **Wed, 9/21/11**, **John Otuoma** <jmotuoma@yahoo.com> wrote:

[Re: Proposed power line](#)

TO: You + 2 More³ recipients

CC: recipients You More

BCC: recipients You

[Hide Details](#)

FROM: [kianjata Springs](#)

TO: jmotuoma@yahoo.com

serene68ke@yahoo.com

mosesziro@yahoo.com

[Message flagged](#)

Sunday, October 2, 2011 12:06 PM

Message body

Without facts on exact high voltage power path near Lake Olbolossat, safe to say migratory birds have been recorded in this 61st IBA nationally already a seriously degraded ecosystem. Perhaps it is worthy to consider a CNN news item of July 19 2004 where a hawk hit a power line, dropped dead, burnt, causing a big fire in Los Angeles forest and consider necessary mitigating factors. Assurance on Aberdares forest welcome. I do not know if there are high voltage line over/near the Kenyan recognised Ramsar sites and what are the experiences.

Joseph Mbugua, Lake Olbolossat Conservation Networks

Re: Fw: Proposed power line

TO: 1 More1 recipient

CC: 1 recipients You

BCC: recipients You

[Hide Details](#)

FROM: [serene serene](#)

TO: [Wanyoike Wamiti](#)

CC: [John Otuoma](#)

[Message flagged](#)

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 3:10 PM

Message body

Hi Wamiti,,

Thanks alot for taking the time to send your concerns and suggestions on the Proposed power line. I have not come across a copy of the EIA but i hope to sooner than later.

I am sure your thoughts will be of great assistance to Mr. John Otuoma.

Regards

Lydia