

BUMBUNA II HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

News Update- March 2021



Seli Hydropower is responsible for the development, construction management and subsequent operation and maintenance of the 143 MW Bumbuna II Hydropower Project.

Welcome to our second newsletter. Through these newsletters, we will update all of our stakeholders with an overview of Bumbuna II's development progress.

Our second newsletter provides updates on:

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Meet the Project Director - Øystein Lilleland

Øystein Lilleland joined Bumbuna II sponsors, Joule Africa in April 2020 as Chief Technical Officer. He leads the Seli Hydropower team as Project Director, to begin preparation for the business moving its focus into being construction ready prior to Financial Close of Bumbuna II. Øystein has a comprehensive career in the hydro sector, including 9 years with Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, Statkraft and leading on Global Markets division for NorConsult, an internationally recognised consulting engineering company in power generation. Having had a wide range of responsibilities covering early project development through to construction and commissioning in developing markets, Øystein brings with him a mix of technical and commercial experience and a depth of knowledge in the international hydro sector.



Øystein says "With climate change increasingly recognised one of the biggest challenges facing us globally today, Seli Hydropower are proud to be developing and building a power plant to establish a long-term low-carbon power generation backbone for Sierra Leone. But just displacing fossil fuels is not enough. At Bumbuna II, we are also working hard to minimise even the early years carbon footprint of our reservoir and are consulting widely to plan for possible seasonal variations created by climate change to make sure that we build and manage a power plant that is fit for purpose, both now and for Sierra Leone's future."

Construction Of The Kathanda Crossing On The Mawolokor River

Accessing the proposed Yiben hydropower dam site and project affected communities through the Kathanda - Mawolokor river route in Diang Chiefdom, Koinadugu District has been a major challenge, particularly when the rains set in. In anticipation of further geotechnical studies taking place at Yiben and for resettlement planning workstreams, Seli Hydropower constructed a causeway at the Kathanda crossing point.

The project was performed by the Infrastructure and Housing Department of Seli Hydropower in consultation with the Paramount Chief and local stakeholders with active involvement from local youth groups. The causeway construction provided short-term employment for 32 local artisans and unskilled labourers which included both men and women from within the communities for a period of three weeks.

It is envisioned that a permanent bridge, which will be able to accommodate heavy machinery and equipment will be constructed by the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor prior to construction of Bumbuna II.



Seli Hydropower Engages with Civil Society Groups

Seli Hydropower has engaged with civil society groups (“CSGs”) in order to share updates on the Project and to ensure transparency and cooperation with key stakeholders. The Seli Hydropower team held meetings with The Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Energy for All (CSPSEA) and Campaign for Human Rights Development International (CHRD), as key voices in the Energy sector and Human Rights in Sierra Leone and globally.

The Acting General Manager of Seli Hydropower, Will Lunn-Rockliffe, provided an overview of the Project and stated the importance of engaging with CSGs to include them in regular updates on the development of the Bumbuna II project. Similar stakeholder engagements will be rolled out to relevant organisations in due course.

Meeting with CSPSEA Team



Meeting with Mr. Fatorma (Left) CEO CHADI



InfraCo Africa Invests \$6m Agile Financing for Bumbuna II

InfraCo Africa, part of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), has signed an agreement to provide US\$6 million of funding to the 143MW Bumbuna Hydro II initiative in Sierra Leone. The funding forms part of a package involving the private sector and development finance institutions designed to ensure that Bumbuna Hydro II can go the “last mile,” reaching construction and operations to deliver year-round, renewable baseload power in Sierra Leone



InfraCo Africa’s CEO, Gilles Vaes said, *“As part of the PIDG, InfraCo Africa is uniquely positioned to be nimble and flexible, providing timely development capital and expertise at any point in the lifecycle of a project. Often we are needed in the early stages to develop a concept or prove a pioneering model but, as in the case of Bumbuna Hydro II, we can also come in at a later stage to help with the critical and final push across the finishing line participating in the project’s steering committee, particularly in these challenging times. Bumbuna Hydro II is expected to have a tremendously positive impact powering sustainable economic development in Sierra Leone.”*

The General Manager of Seli Hydropower, added, *“InfraCo Africa’s commitment to Bumbuna Hydro II and Joule Africa comes at a crucial stage for us as we enter the last lap in the development of the Project. With InfraCo Africa’s commitment and a respected equity partner shortly to come in, we now have the funding in place to reach financial close next year. We’ve been working with PIDG over a number of years and we’re delighted to be able to expand that relationship with InfraCo Africa today.”*

Seli Hydropower supports the fight against COVID-19 in its Project Affected Communities

In its bid to complement the government's effort in the containment of the COVID-19 virus, Seli Hydropower distributed a large consignment of hygiene promotion materials to authorities in three chiefdoms: the Diang Chiefdom in Koinadugu as well as the Dansogoia and the Kalanthuba Chiefdoms in Tonkolili. All of these chiefdoms are located within Seli Hydropower's operational area in the Northern Province.

The support provided is in recognition of the strains the disease has placed on the health care system and public services, across the country.

All three Paramount Chiefs expressed similar sentiments and registered their gratitude to Seli Hydropower for the timely gesture and for recognizing them during these trying times. They assured the Company of their commitment to use the materials judiciously and also the strict observance of the COVID 19 protocols as stipulated by health professionals.



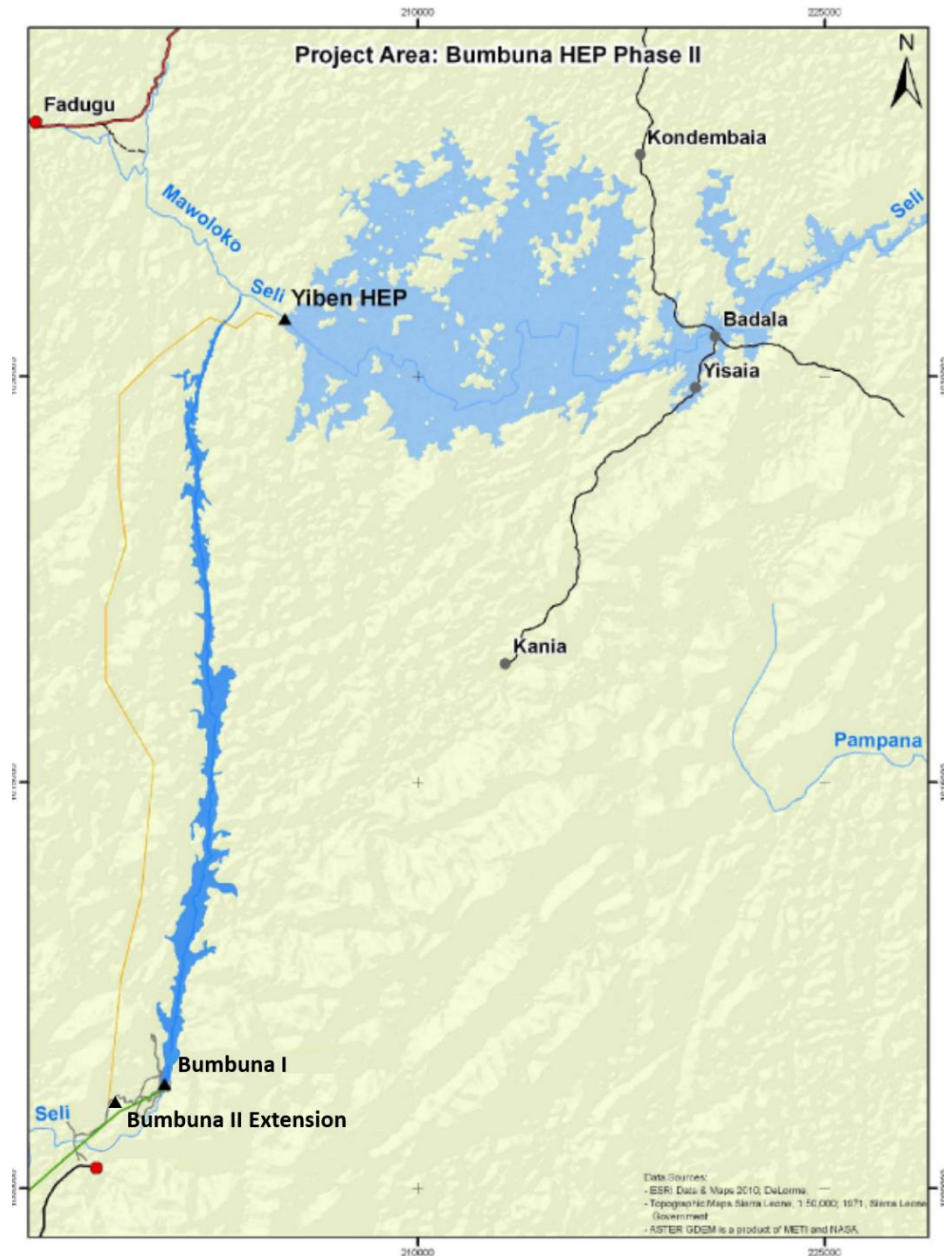
The Parliamentary Committee on Energy conducts an Oversight visit to Project Affected Communities

The Parliament of Sierra Leone is the legislative branch of the government. Parliament has three statutory functions including representation of citizens, making of laws and oversight of government activities. Following the Government's recent endorsement of Seli Hydropower and the Bumbuna II project, the Parliamentary Committee on Energy requested to conduct an oversight visit of the project site and to meet with the Chiefdoms that will be affected by the project. The Parliamentary committee wanted to assess the level of awareness of the Bumbuna II project amongst the communities and get a better understanding of the relationship between these communities and Seli Hydropower.

In consultation with the Ministry of Energy, the Parliamentary Committee and the Chiefdoms, the visit was conducted from 6th to 9th August 2020. The visit was led by the Parliamentary Committee Chair – Hon. Keikura C. Vandy, a representative from the Ministry of Energy also attended with Seli Hydropower team members.

By the end of the 3-day visit, The Parliamentary Committee Chair commented on the successful engagement of the local communities by Seli Hydropower. He noted that the communities had an appreciable level of understanding of the Bumbuna II project including its impacts and benefits for the country. "There is clear evidence that Seli Hydropower has fully consulted the communities on project activity and that the community members have respect and confidence in the Seli Hydropower team". The Hon. Keikura C Vandy also noted that the communities showed great enthusiasm for the construction of the project to begin and agreed to relay their keenness for the government to support Seli Hydropower to reach this stage.





If you have an enquiry, please reach out to us at any of the addresses provided below:

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Seli Hydropower Regional Office
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Romankneh,
Makeni Bombali District

Seli Hydropower Field Office
Makeni Highway, Kamankay,
Kalanthuba Chiefdom,
Tonkolili District.

Seli Hydropower Field Office
Magbaia Road,
Kondembaia Village
Daing Cheifdom
Koinadugu District

For further enquiries, please contact us on: +232 75984549 or communications@selihydropower.sl

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE: Seli Hydropower has a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Officer that handles all concerns and queries for Project affected communities.

For any concerns, queries or recommendations related to Bumbuna II Project. Please call / send your SMS Text/WhatsApp to; +23276-767640/+23280-949888 or email: grievance@selihydropower.sl