

**Minutes of public consultation meeting related to Environmental and Social Management Framework and Resettlement Policy Framework for Implementing Secondary and Local Roads Project II held at Roads Department of Georgia**

02.02.2012

Tbilisi

***Head of the meeting:*** Irakli Litanishvili

***Secretary of the meeting:*** Bezhan Parkosadze

***Speakers:*** Gia Sopadze, Zaur Apshinashvili

***Attendees of the Meeting:***

From Roads Department – Tengiz Gvelesiani, Zurab Lebanidze, Natalia Bekauri, Gia Ninidze.

Gia Abramia – Executive Director of Environmental Research Center.

Gia Zhorzholiani – Environmental Expert, The Greens Movement of Georgia Friends of the Earth.

Irakli Kaviladze – Information Center of Social Reforms, Director.

Maia Stamateli – Gamma Consulting, Social and Environmental Consultant.

***Agenda of the Meeting:***

1. Public review of Environmental and Social Management Framework and Resettlement Policy Framework for implementing Secondary and Local Roads Project II.

Information: Roads Development and Resettlement Division of Roads Department (Resettlement Unit);

Division of Technical Policy at Roads Department (Environmental Unit)

***Topics presented:*** Background information was presented by Mr. Irakli Litanishvili regarding Environmental and Social Management Framework and Resettlement Policy Framework for

implementing Secondary and Local Roads Project II. The speaker mentioned that both documents were prepared according to the requirements set out in the World Bank Safeguard Policies OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment and OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement. The project is classified as environmental category “B”, since it only covers the rehabilitation of existing roads and accordingly, under national legislation does not require environmental permissions. Mentioned document is disclosed on the website of Roads Department of Georgia.

Information concerning the World Bank OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment will be introduced by Mr. Gia Sopadze and on OP/BP E4.12 Resettlement Policy Framework will be presented by Mr. Zaur Abshinashvili.

- Mr. G. Sopadze explained World Bank Guidelines for Environmental and Social management.

Checklists to be completed for each section of road included in the project will carry: brief description of a site, technical outline of planned works, potential environmental and social risks of such works, set of measures for their mitigation, and a plan for monitoring application of mitigation measures.

Contractor will ensure public disclosure of draft EMPs for receiving feedback.

Contractor shall also prepare status reports on environmental management and any emerging social risks.

Speaker also talked about the measures taken by RD MRDI in terms of improvement of environmental and social safeguard issues.

- Mr. Z. Apshinashvili provided information on present document and focused attention on Safeguard Policy Requirements and main principles, also on evaluation method and methodology. No major land acquisition or physical displacement of residents is expected to be required under the project since rehabilitation works do not consider acquisition of additional land plots. However, the project triggers OP4.12 A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) - if and as necessary should be required to acquire additional plots and implement resettlement procedures. The purpose of the RPF and implementation of the RAP is to ensure that there is no adverse effect on the living conditions and livelihoods of the affected people as a result of loss of land.

Feedback: I. Kaviladze – it would be better if present document is given a form of normative act in relation to all ongoing projects, because the document can protect environment and social interests of the population much more.

G. Zhorzholiani - as the requirements of International Convention became more stringent, therefore donor organizations strictly require adopting their safeguard policy principles. In this

respect it would be advisable if NGOs carry consultations with local population and involve them into monitoring process. Also increase environmental consciousness in builders.

Concluding speech was made by the head of the meeting, who noted that respective documents are open to public for all persons concerned and accessible for their comments. Concerning involvement of NGOs, we welcome this fact and are ready for further cooperation.

At the end of the meeting he thanked attendees for support.

***Head of the meeting:*** Irakli Litanishvili, Deputy Chairman of Roads Department of Georgia

***Secretary of the meeting:*** Bezhan Parkosadze, Main Specialist of Technical Policy Division