



## Public Awareness Workshop Report

**TITLE:** Tsablari HPP Public Awareness Workshop with impact communities of Tsablariskhevi, Tskaltashua and Daphenili villages in Baghdati Municipal District, Imereti region.

**DATE:** 11.08.2011

**VENUE:** Tskaltashua Secondary School Building

**Speakers:**

**D. McCandles**, HIPP Head Engineer  
**M. Bakhtadze**, HIPP Environmental Specialist  
**A. Lomiashvili**, HIPP Engineer

**Facilitated by:**

**I. Iremashvili**, HIPP Project, Outreach and Communication Manager

**Background:**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP) supports development of a minimum 400 MW in new, run-of-the-river hydropower stations in Georgia. This project is managed by Deloitte Consulting. As part of this program, HIPP has identified a cluster of project sites along Tsablaristkali River. HIPP is now conducting pre-feasibility studies for two projects with a total capacity of 26.1 MW. These two HPP sites are on the River Tsablaristkali in Baghdati region.

The HIPP team is preparing basic technical studies to evaluate the technical and economical feasibility of the projects. As part of this process, public awareness workshop was held in the Building of Tskaltashua Public School with the communities of the Tskaltashua, Tsablariskhevi and Daphenili in Baghdati municipal district to ensure their involvement at the early planning stage, identify areas of community concern, and gather feedback from local residents.

The project profiles, HIPP information leaflet and special brochure on Tsablaristkali HPP Cascade, also, USAID energy map were used as supportive documentation. Meeting agenda, list of participants and photos are attached to this document as illustrative materials. The text of the brochure (in English) distributed among Community members is also attached.

**Aim of the Workshop:**

- Increase awareness of local communities on small and medium run-of-the-river hydro power plans and promote their support to such activities;
- Inform local community the goal of the project and ensure their involvement at the early planning stage.
- Identify community concerns regarding the possible development of the project and gain their feedback; ensure positive attitude towards the project and increase cooperation perspectives between public and project developers.

**Workshop Process:**

The purpose of the meetings was to provide information and get the opinions of the locals related to the project. The date, place and the scope of these meeting was preliminary informed and agreed with Baghdati local government during HIPP team field visits. Meeting date and venue were agreed with local Municipalities; Public workshop was announced to all communities in Baghdati region by local municipality, written advertisements were made at Municipality Building. The advertisement was distributed through CENN informational network. Totally 32 community members were attending the workshop.

During the workshop HIPP team members provided information about the project in general, and discussed technical characteristics of the proposed HPP project as well as possible environmental and social impact. Issue that project will not create significant impoundment causing displacement of adjacent population was stressed during the workshop.

The HIPP team stressed the importance of public participation at early project design phase. Participants have been asked to express their opinion/attitude towards the project in general as well as impact on environment and socio-economic conditions of their household.

The municipality representatives mentioned a few considerations about the project impacts both environmental and socio-economic point of view.

**Key issues/concerns raised by community members were as follows:**

- Community members asked to consider Fish path in the project implementation works;

- Local benefits of project; Community members were interested whether they could benefit from the low electricity tariffs;
- Community members were greatly concerned about the risk of emptying the river from water; they demanded to construct the HPP above the village Tskaltashua to reserve the river for this village.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- The Tsablaristskali public awareness workshop outcome is as follows:
- Community's attitude towards the project development is positive; Community members think they could benefit from development of project in case the project developers properly consider their concerns/suggestions and watershed characteristics. On the other hand, community members are willing to cooperate with HPP project developers. From operation of the HPP local population expects to receive new job opportunities;
- It was agreed that future development of the project would be further discussed with the community members and the major concern of the community regarding the location of HPP will be considered by HIPP engineers.

**Other Needs and Suggestions**

For ensuring participatory attitudes and practices in HPP community it would be reasonable to contact the most active members of the community on a regular bases in parallel with the project development and inform them about possible environmental and social implications.

***The table below shows the public awareness meeting in Tskaltashua Public School.***

**Table 1.** *Pictures of the public awareness workshop*



**Attachment A: Public Awareness Workshop Agenda**
**Public Awareness Meeting for Tsablaristskali HPP Cascade Project**
**Agenda**
**11 August, 2011, Tskaltashua Secondary School Building**

11:00–11:15	Registration		
	<b>Introductions</b>	<b>Moderator :</b>	<b>Duration</b>
11.15–11.20	Opening Remarks	HIPP/I. Iremahsvili	5 min
11:20–11:30	HIPP Project Descriptions	HIPP/D. McCandles	10 min
11:30–12:00	HPP Project Outline	HIPP/A. Lomiashvili	30 min
12:00–12:20	Identified Environmental/Social Issues	HIPP/M. Bakhtadze	20 min
	<b>Questions and Discussion</b>		
12:20–13.45	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socioeconomic Issues</li> <li>• Environmental Issues</li> <li>• Public Health &amp; Safety Issues</li> <li>• Construction Issues</li> </ul>	Facilitated by HIPP/I.Iremashvili	1 hour and 25 min
13:45–14:00	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	HIPP/Local Municipality	15 min

**Attachment B: Text of the PAW Brochure on Tsablaristskali HPP Cascade in English**

## General Description of Hydro Power Investment Promotion Project

By the request of Georgian Government, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting a three year Hydropower Investment Promotion Project (HIPP) since March, 2010. HIPP is implemented by the international consulting company Deloitte Consulting.

Georgia's hydropower potential is largely undeveloped. Currently only 25% of the country's total generation potential has been realized. The country has many rivers that can provide environmentally friendly, run-of-river hydropower projects with high annual plant factors, making them highly attractive to investors.

The goal of the HIPP initiative is to identify investment opportunities and incentivize investors resulting in private sector commitments to construct run-of-river hydropower plants – leading to increased generating capacity, locally produced energy, enhanced energy security, and the elimination of winter imports, greatly reducing the use of natural gas and other fuel sources for electricity production.

To stimulate and secure investment into Georgia's small-and medium-sized hydropower market, Deloitte/HIPP is working with local and international partners in all areas to promote awareness and investment in Georgia's hydropower resources. Key areas of activity include:

- Developing Quality Engineering and Technical Information;
- Providing Targeted and Effective Investor Outreach and Promotion;
- Supporting Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building; and
- Partnering Programs and Opportunities to Stimulate Investment.

One of the proposed projects under HIPP involves construction of the cascade of two medium sized hydro power plants on the Machakhela River in Adjara region, Western Georgia.

## Cascade of Tsablaristskali Hydro Power Plants

### General overview

The cascade of HPPs (Stablari 2 and Stablari 3) will be positioned north on the down-stream of Sairme village, on the Tsablaristskali River which is characterized by high flows in spring and summer, with maximum flow in May and in October and minimum water levels in Summer. The watershed is a heavily wooded temperate forest, with mountain vegetation at higher elevations. Mean annual precipitation exceeds 1,500 mm.

Access roads, up to 3 km long in total, will be rehabilitated for the Stablari 2 and Stablari 3 HPP construction purposes. 10 –12 km-long transmission lines of 35 kV will be rehabilitated to transmit electricity generated at the Stablari HPPs cascade.

- 1) **“Stablari 2”** HPP will be positioned in down-stream of Sairme village, on the Tsablaristskali River and will be the first stage in a cascade of two HPPs. According to the preliminary assessments, the 16.7 Megawatt (MW) run-of-river, tunnel derivation type Hydro Power Plant can



be built on the river. The site offers seasonally variable average annual generation of about 73,5 GWh, at a plant factor of about 50 percent.

- 2) **“Stablari 3”** HPP involves construction of an 9.4 Megawatt (MW) run-of-river Hydro Power Plant (HPP) on the Stablaristskali River, which will be positioned south of Stablari 2 and will be the second stage in a cascade of two HPPs (Stablari 2 and Stablari 3). The site offers seasonally variable average annual generation of about 40 GWh, at a plant factor of about 49 percent.

### Expected Results

Implementation of the project will support the realization of Georgia’s hydro potential. Tsablaristskali HPPs Cascade will substantially increase power generation and help to raise the Country’s energy security for a future with sustainable energy resources. Total hydroelectric generation of Tsablaristskali HPP Cascade will amount to more than 25 MW. Realization of the project will create good opportunities for:

- Selling electricity inside Georgia supplementing expensive thermal power during winter;
- Exporting energy during non-winter months to take advantage of the seasonal differentials in power prices between Georgia and its neighboring countries;
- Use of additional renewable energy source that will help to reduce local as well as global carbon oxide emissions to the atmosphere.

### Local Community Benefits from Project Implementation

- Local labor forces will be employed during the construction period, as well as after commissioning of the Plant to carry out operations and maintenance works. Job creation will also help the community as most of the people will get training in their proficiencies.
- New high quality access roads will be constructed that will significantly improve the village infrastructure.
- Small gabions will result in more regular water flows in river bed and help minimize flooding.
- Increased reliability of electricity supply and improved energy quality.

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