

Environmental Monitoring Report

Semi-Annual Report

Project Number: 44219-014
Loan/Grant: 3139/3721/0397
January to June 2020

Nepal: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Power System Expansion Project (On-grid)

Prepared by Nepal Electricity Authority
Submission date: July 2020

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ADB Loan/Grant No. 3139/0397/0398

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CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

	30 June 2020	
Currency unit	–	Nepalese Rupee (NRs)
NRs. 1.00	=	\$ 0.0084
US \$ 1.00	=	NRs. 119.4250

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACA	Annapurna Conservation Area
AP	Angle Point
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEPC	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre
ASM	Automated Safeguard Monitoring
CDC	Compensation Determination Committee
CDO	Chief District Officer
CF	Community Forest
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CPP	Compensatory Plantation Plan
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DCC	District Coordination Committee
DFCC	District Forest Coordination Committee
DFO	Division Forest Office
DKTLP	Dana-Kushma 220kV Transmission Line Project
DMD	Deputy Managing Director
DoED	Department of Electricity Development
DOF	Department of Forest
DS	Distribution System
EA	Executing Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety

EM	Entitlement Matrix
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPA	Environment Protection Act
EPR	Environment Protection Rules
ESMU	Environmental and Social Management Unit
ESSD	Environment and Social Studies Department
FY	Fiscal Year
GoN	Government of Nepal
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ha	Hectare
HH	Household
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IP	Indigenous People
IR	Involuntary Resettlement
KNBTLP	Kushma-New Butwal 220kV Transmission Line Project
kV	Kilo Volt
LF	Leasehold Forest
LRO	Land Revenue Office
M/RM	Municipality/Rural Municipality
MKTLP	Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220kV Transmission Line Project
MoEn	Ministry of Energy
MoEWRI	Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation
MoFE	Ministry of Forests and Environment
MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
NBBTLP	New Butwal–Bardaghat 220 kV Transmission Line Project
NEA	Nepal Electricity Authority
NPR	Nepalese Rupees
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product

OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAF	Project Affected Family
PAP	Project Affected People
PCC	Plain Cement Concrete
PMD	Project Management Directorate
PPE	Personnel Protective Equipment
PSC	Project Supervision Consultant
PSEP	Power System Expansion Project
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RIPP	Resettlement and Indigenous People's Plan
RM	Rural Municipality
RoW	Right of Way
SASEC	South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation
SPS	Safeguard Policy Statement
SS	Substation
TL	Transmission Line
UMBTLP	Udipur-Markichowk-Bharatpur 220kV Transmission Line Project
US	United States

NOTES

- (i) The fiscal year (FY) of the Government of Nepal and its agencies ends on 16 July. FY before a calendar year denotes the year in which the fiscal year ends, e.g., FY 2018 ends on 16 July 2019.
- (ii) In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Power System Expansion Project (PSEP) on July 4, 2011 and signed the loan/grant/project agreement with the Government of Nepal (GoN) on July 11, 2014. Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has received financial assistance from the ADB with co-financing from Norway and loan from European Investment Bank (EIB) for implementation of above project. However, the safeguard implementation and monitoring cost shall be borne by NEA.
2. The project will contribute to Nepal's energy development objectives by (i) scaling up the on-grid and off-grid renewable energy supply, (ii) facilitating cross-border power exchange, (iii) increasing access to renewable energy in rural areas, (iv) building capacity for on-grid and off-grid power sector development, and (v) utility scale solar photovoltaic project development. The project targets the strengthening and expansion of transmission and distribution systems that will enable Nepal to further benefit from power trading and development of its abundant hydropower resources. Transmission network strengthening and expansion, in conjunction with current hydropower generation development, is a precondition for reducing load shedding and increased cross border electricity trade.
3. The scope of this report is limited to the monitoring of NEA components under outputs A, B, and D.

1.2. Project Outputs

4. The Project has following four outputs:
 - (A) Power transmission capacity expansion. This comprises of:
 - A-1-1: Dana-Kusma 220kV Transmission Line and Associated Substations at Dana and Kusma
 - A-1-2-1: Kusma-New Butwal 220kV Transmission Line
 - A-1-2-2: New Butwal Substation
 - A-1-3: New Butwal-Bardaghat 220kV Transmission Line
 - A-3: Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220kV Transmission Line and Associated Substation at Markichowk and Matatirtha
 - A-5: Grid Substations Reinforcement
5. In addition, European Investment Bank (EIB) provided parallel co-financing for:
 - A-2-1 Udipur- Markichowk Bay–Extension, Bharatpur 220kV transmission line, and substation at Udipur, Bay extension at Marki Chowk, and Bharatpur.
 - A-2-2: Manang-Khudi 220kV transmission line, and associated substations at Manang and Khudi.
 - A-4: Samundratar -Trishuli 3B Hub 132kV Transmission Line and Samundratar Substation along with Bay-extension at Trishuli 3B Hub.
6. (B) Power distribution network augmentation:

- Lot 1: Expansion of Distribution Network in the Eastern and Central Region of Nepal
Lot 2: Expansion of Distribution Network in the Western Region of Nepal
Lot 3: Distribution Network Improvement

(C) Mini-grid based renewable energy systems in off-grid areas. This included installation of up to total 4.3 MW of mini hydro-electric power plants and up to total 0.5 MW of mini-grid based solar or solar/wind hybrid systems, in selected rural communities.

(D) Capacity development support to NEA and Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC). This included project management support, preparation support for distribution system/rural electrification master plan, and livelihood development activities in the project area.

7. NEA is the executing agency (EA) for Output A, B and D (on-grid components). AEPC is the EA for Output C (off-grid component). Both NEA and AEPC are EAs for Output D (capacity development component). The Project will be completed on 31 December 2021. The loan and grants closing date is 30 June 2022.

1.3. Implementation Status

8. NEA has established a separate Project Management Directorate (PMD) to expedite decision making process for the timely implementation of all ADB funded projects under SASEC and other subsequent projects. PMD is headed by Deputy Managing Director (DMD) responsible for preparation, procurement, construction and supervision of ADB funded projects.
9. A Project Supervision Consultant (PSC) is engaged to supervise the project during construction. Implementation status of the subprojects are as follows:

A. Procurement of Goods and Works:

10. There are thirteen (13) packages to be procured with estimated amount of 312.44 Million USD under goods and works, eleven (11) packages are awarded till date. Three packages i.e. A-1-2-1: Kushma-New Butwal 220kV Transmission Line, A-1-2-2: New Butwal Substation & A-2-1 (Transmission Line part only_: Udipur- Markichowk-Bharatpur 220kV transmission line have been awarded recently and the contractors are about to mobilize. In the other six packages (A-1-1: Dana-Kushma 220kV Transmission Line and Associated Substations at Dana and Kushma, A-1-2-1: Kushma-New Butwal 220kV Transmission Line, A-1-2-2: New Butwal Substation, A-3: Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220kV Transmission Line and Associated Substation at Markichowk and Matatirtha, A-2-1 Udipur- Markichowk-Bharatpur 220kV transmission line and A-4: Samundratar -Trishuli 3B Hub 132kV Transmission Line and Samundratar Substation along with Bay-extension at Trishuli 3B Hub) which were awarded in mid of 2016 (A-3-2: Marshyangdi – Kathmandu Substation Package awarded in Dec. 2016) the progress of works are not up to the mark as expected and the activities are lagging behind the schedule for Dana-Kushma 220 kV Transmission Line and Associated Substations at Dana and Kushma, Substations at Markichowk and Matatirtha. In the Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220kV TL, the progress although lagging at present but it can be completed in scheduled time

by proper time augmenting the work force. Kushma-New Butwal 220kV TL, New Butwal Substation and Udipur-Markichowk-Bharatpur 220kV TL are progressing more or less as per schedule and close monitoring of the progress with proper planning is required for completion of the project in schedule time. The reason of slow progress is generally due to delay in submission and approval of design drawings, poor mobilization of man & materials and machineries by contractors. Apart from these, for the transmission line packages, the delay in fixation in cost of the land compensation, tree cutting clearance are also adding to the reason of slow progress. There are issues of local problems and resistance by the villagers against construction of transmission lines in some cases. In the coming days, all-out effort is needed by the contractor, PSC and NEA for making up the loss of time with suitable catch up plan and implementation thereof.

B. Consulting Services:

11. There are 2 consulting services under the project. One is for project supervision (Package D-1) and other is for Preparation of Distribution System/Rural Electrification Master Plan (Package D-2). Consulting service for project supervision has already been awarded (Package D-1) and the consultant is functioning since February 2017, whereas contract for consultation services for distribution master plan (Package D-2) was signed on 20th September 2017.
12. There are 10 grid substations, 1 bay extension in the project in 4 corridors. Out of these, 9 grid substations at Dana, Kusma, New Butwal, Khudi, Manang, Udipur, Bharatpur, Matatirtha and Samundratar are proposed at private land. Markichowk substation is proposed in a land procured earlier by NEA adjacent to its 132kV Sub-station.
13. The SASEC PSEP transmission system consists of developing four number transmission corridors as given below:

Kali Gandaki Corridor

- Dana – Kushma 220kV transmission line, and substations at Dana and Kushma
- Kushma – New Butwal 220kV transmission line, and substation at New Butwal
- New Butwal – Bardaghat Section of 220kV New Butwal-Bharatpur TL
- Construction of grid substations: 100 MVA (33.33 MVA X 3 single phase unit), 220kV/132kV at each of Dana and Kushma substation and 25 MVA, three phase, 132kV/33kV at Dana and 100 MVA, 3 phase, 220kV/132kV at New Butwal along Kali Gandaki Corridor

Marsyangdi Corridor

- Udipur – Markichowk – Bharatpur 220kV transmission line, and substation at Udipur, and Bharatpur
- Manang – Khudi-Udipur 220kV transmission line, and associated substations at Manang and Khudi

Marsyangdi to Kathmandu Transmission Project

- Markichowk – Matatirtha 220kV transmission line, and associated Markichowk substation, and bay extension at Matatirtha
- Construction of 480 MVA, 220kV/132kV grid substations along Marsyangdi – Kathmandu route

Samundratar to Trishuli Transmission Project

- Samundratar-Trishuli 3B 132kV Transmission Line and Sub-station at Samundratar and Bay extension at Trishuli 3B Hub Substation
14. This Semi – Annual Environmental Monitoring Report has been prepared to cover and evaluate the environmental activities conducted by the Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU) for the period of January, 2020 to June, 2020.

2. COMPLIANCE STATUS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL COVENANTS

15. Environmental safeguard related project activities are in compliance with covenants as given in **Annexure 1**.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS IN SASEC POWER SYSTEM EXPANSION PROJECT

3.1. Environmental Safeguards

16. According to then Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1997 and then Environment Protection Rules (EPR), 1997 of Government of Nepal (GoN) and ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS), 2009, Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) is mandatory for the electricity transmission line projects. However, if the transmission line passes from protected areas (national parks, wildlife reserves, conservation areas including Chure region), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandatory according to Schedule 2 of then EPR, 1997. Moreover, considering National Energy Crisis Alleviation and Electricity Development Decade concept note, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) has issued "IEE and EIA Working Procedures for Hydropower and Transmission Line Project, 2016" effective from 20th October 2016 to simplify and expedite environmental assessment approval process by assigning authority to Department of Electricity Development (DoED). With the promulgation of EPA2019 and EPR 2020, EPA/EPR1997 has been revoked.

3.2. Planning Status of Projects

17. Following is the planning status of environmental assessment reports under SASEC PSEP (refer **Annexure 2** for details):

Kaligandaki Corridor (Dana-Kushma) 220 kV Transmission Line Project – IEE report has already been approved by the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) (then the Ministry of Energy (MoEn)). Tree clearance approval has been obtained from the cabinet on 28th December, 2017 (2074/09/13 B.S.). Division Forest Office (DFO) of Myagdi District released the tree cutting order on 3rd March, 2019 after the initiation of the Jagga

Sattabharna process whereas in Parbat District tree cutting has been issued by DFO, Parbat District on 23rd June, 2019 after the completion of Jagga Sattabharna process. The process of Jagga Sattabharna has been finalized in a Compensation Determination Committee (CDC) meeting which was held on 30th May, 2019 at Myagdi District. CDC has finalized 20-14-3-1 ropani of land from Parbat District and 31-5-1-3 from Myagdi District. The price of land ranges between 1, 66,000 to 1, 70,000 NPR per ropani. The tree cutting orders for Myagdi and Parbat districts are attached in **Annexure 3**. Similarly, tree cutting contracts made with Community Forests (CFs) are attached in **Annexure 3**.

Kaligandaki Corridor (Kushma-New Butwal) 220 kV Transmission Line Project – IEE report has already been approved by the MoEWRI (then the MoEn). The tree marking and inventory process has been completed in the alignment. For the process of tree clearance and land acquisition in forest area, all the documents have been forwarded to Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) by all the Division Forest Offices (DFOs) along with agreement letters from CFUGs. The Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) sent back all the document recommending to proceed the IEE update work due to insignificant increment in the number of trees in Nawalparasi districts. The IEE update work initiated by Project Management Directorate (PMD) in coordination with project.

The overall project activities and construction activity is partially conducted due to lock-down against the pandemic Corona Virus Diseases-2019 (COVID-19). However, erection work and earthing work is in its final stage of completion in New-Butwal Substation with following lockdown procedure, work safety and precautionary measures. Among the tower erection work (220/132/33kV), tower for 220kV completed and progressing for 132kV. While project work could not started in TL section due to lockdown and monsoonal activity. Till the date, total 91 tower foundations and 19 tower erections had been completed and 13 tower foundations & 3 tower erection works halted. Among this, total 41 tower foundation & and 5 tower erection work had been completed and 1 foundation work is halted in Palpa district. Similarly, total 12 tower foundation work had been completed in Syangja districts and 6 tower foundations work halted while in Parbat district, total 38 tower foundation and 14 tower erections had been completed and 7 foundations and 3 tower erection works halted.

The transformer setup / installed in the associated New Butwal (Badera) Substation. Similarly, Power control building finishing work, Residential building work, Car park station work, Cable trench & Earthing connection work, drainage construction work, Access road PCC & RCC work, Boundary wall & fencing work, Water tank construction work, Tower erection (6 Tower) work is in Progress.

Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220 kV Transmission Line Project - IEE report has already been approved by the MoEWRI (then the MoEn). Tree clearance approval obtained from cabinet for Kathmandu, Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan district and tree cutting process for all the districts are in process. In Gorkha district after DFO has provided forest entry permit for tree cutting process in community forest, project authority has completed agreement process with respective community forest and community forest are cutting trees in coordination of respective subdivision forest office. DFO of Gorkha has also provided forest entry permit for 3 government forest plot of Gorkha. Likewise, DFO of Chitwan district has provided forest

entry permit. Now project office has recruited contractor for tree cutting under RoW of 2 community forest plot of Chitwan and 4 government forest plots from Gorkha and Chitwan. In Dhading tabulation of the tree numbers in RoW have been completed from AP0 to AP45. Enumeration work has been completed. Compensatory amount for the RoW trees has been approved and PMO is busy in distribution. PMO has forwarded letter regarding royalty payment of forest to Division Forest Office, Babarmal on 24th February, 2020. Tree cutting work will be carried soon by awarded contract bidders.

(Note*: In previous reports 13 government forest plots were mentioned from Gorkha and Chitwan district but recently Chitwan's DFO has mentioned all 10 government forest plot as a same plot so accordingly, reports have been updated as 3 and 1 government forest from Gorkha and Chitwan respectively.)

Construction activities have been resumed partially from June month despite of lockdown caused by COVID-19.

Marsyangdi Corridor (Udipur- Markichok- Bharatpur) 220 kV Transmission Line Project

-IEE report has already approved by the MoEWRI (then the MoEn). Tree marking inventory have been completed in Lamjung and Chitwan districts and is ongoing in Gorkha district. Tree marking (Chhapan) is ongoing in Lamjung district. Consultation is ongoing with DFO, SDFOs, CFUGs, Project and Contractor for tree marking (Chhapan) work of CFs in Lamjung district. An agreement has been done between Department of Forest and Land Conservation and Marsyangdi Corridor 220kV Project for the use of forest land and clearance of trees in Lamjung district with respect to the cabinet decision held in 17th October 2019. Cadastral survey is also ongoing in Tanahun district and Gorkha district. Foundation work is ongoing in Lamjung district. Pinggao Group Co., Ltd. is working as a contractor for the construction activities of towers and transmission line. The tender of Udipur substation and New Bharatpur substation which was awarded to Shenzhen Farad Electric Co., Ltd. has been cancelled in April, 2019 and it is now awarded to L&T in the month of June. Foundation work has been resumed in Lamjung district using local labors taking into consideration of lock down implemented by the Nepal Government for preventive measures to control COVID-19 pandemic.

Marsyangdi Corridor (Manang-Khudi-Udipur) 220 kV Transmission Line Project - Since part of this transmission line project passes through Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA), EIA is mandatory requirement for this project. EIA has been approved by Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) on January 14th, 2019.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Establishment of Safeguard Unit / Safeguard Desk

18. The Office of Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU) has been established at Beni, Myagdi, (for DKTLP), Aabukhairani - Tanahun and Dharke - Dhading (for MKTLP), Butwal and Syangja (for KNBTLP) and Baradi, Tanahun (for UMBTLP) for day to day environmental, social monitoring and monitoring of resettlement impact implementation. Two site-based Safeguards Officers (each in, DKTLP, KNBTLP and UMBTLP) have been mobilized from ESSD. Likewise, four site-based Safeguard Officers in MKTLP has been

mobilized for day to day environmental and social monitoring works. In addition to this, follow up Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRC) meetings and discussion regarding the recorded issues and grievances are being held.

4.2. Establishment of Grievance Redress Mechanism

DKTLP

19. Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) has been formed in all affected rural municipalities (RMs) and Municipalities of DKTLP. A total of 16 GRCs are functional in DKTLP. GRC meetings have been conducted at different locations. Most of the grievances are regarding the valuation and compensation of crops and land, implementation of allocated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget. Three major grievances are recorded in the June month. Two are regarding the landslide issues at Pokhrebagar, Myagdi and Naya pul, Parbat. Third one is about accusation of tree cutting at Gutako pako CF, Parbat. The details are attached in **Annexure 7**.

MKTLP

20. GRC has been formed in all affected RMs and Municipalities of MKTLP. A total of 28 GRCs are functional in MKTLP. Collection of grievance letter from respective RM and follow up meeting, discussion, regarding collected issues have been done every month. Most of the grievances are regarding the valuation and compensation of crops and land. In June month, no any grievances have been recorded in MKTLP regarding environmental issues. In August, 2019 two grievances were recorded in Chitwan district which were related to impact on local road section and for the same grievances, meeting is yet to be organized.

21. While consultation meeting with local representative of Ichyakamana RM-3, Chitwan regarding the recorded grievance by local people, formal GRC meeting has been planned with active participation from grievance recorder and other concerned stakeholders.

22. Maintaining social distancing in lock down, no any formal consultation meeting were carried out during this reporting month but regular communication and coordination with local representative, project authority and contractor are carried out for report preparation and monitoring works. PMO, contractor, consulting teams and stakeholders had frequent informal meeting for the continuation of foundation work at AP 6/0 but unable to start the work due to their high demands which is beyond the teams and clause of the project. The details are attached in **Annexure 7**.

KNBTLP

23. In KNBTLP, GRC has been formed in 25 different wards of RM and Municipalities of Baglung, Parbat, Syangja, Palpa, Rupendehi and Nawalparasi districts. Most of the grievances are regarding the valuation and compensation of crops and land and budget on corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). No any grievance has been recorded regarding the environmental issues in this semi-annual period.

UMBTLP

24. GRC formation has been completed in Lamjung district. Altogether, 10 GRCs have been formed in Beshisahar Municipality-1, Beshisahar Municipality-11, Sundarbazar Municipality-7, Sundarbazar Municipality-8, Sundarbazar Municipality-9, Dordi Rural Municipality-1, Dordi Rural Municipality-2, Rainas Municipality-6, Rainas Municipality-7 and Rainas Municipality-8. There is no process of GRC formation in other districts because the route alignment has not been finalized yet. Most of the grievances are regarding the valuation and compensation of land and trees.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD MEASURES

25. Overall environmental safeguard compliance of the project is improving. Following sections provides the summary of environmental compliances in the sub-projects.

5.1. Tree Marking and Tree Cutting Status

26. Based on legal provisions as stipulated in Forest Act, 2049 BS, Forest Regulations, 2051 BS, and meeting with Ministry of council in 2074/5/4, the Government of Nepal Work Procedure for Providing Government Forest Land for National Priority Projects, 2076BS (2019) has been approved. According to the work procedure, forestry clearance and Government Land Acquisition has to be obtained from the GoN through Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) by the related MoEWRI (then MoEn). Summary sheet of forest tree marking is attached in **Annexure 4**. The corridor wise detail on status of forest clearance is presented below:

Kali Gandaki Corridor [Dana – Kushma 220 kV TLP (DKTLP)] –

27. Tree marking (Chhapan) has been already finished in DKTLP. The tree cutting activity has been finished in CFs (Suwamai, Dihidemerbot, Kimlakhark, Mauwa, Gharamdi, Dossale, Shirubari Thadikhoriya, Raghughat Salleri, Bumebarah and Tusarepani) of Myagdi district.
28. The tree cutting activity has been delayed in Parbat despite the fact that the tree cutting order was issued on 23 June, 2019 by DFO, Parbat with a deadline of one month. The tree cutting activity could not be done within the deadline here because of the late delivery of tree cutting estimates from the forest officers of Parbat. After getting the estimates, only 7 out of 8 tree cutting contracts were signed with Thulosalleri Bhirmuni, Dhulepalsing, Koreshophoksing, Bindbasini, Lasti Berneta, Gutako Pako and Naniswara CFs in the month of July, August, September and October, 2019.
29. DFO of Parbat released tree cutting orders with additional time of 21 days for Thulosalleri Bhirmuni and Dhulepalsing CFs on 2nd December, 2019. After then, the tree cutting activity had started in both CFs, but some of trees were left to cut in both CFs within the given time because of social demand of PAFs of Mallaj, Parbat. Again, DFO Parbat issued tree cutting orders for Thulosalleri Bhirmuni and Dhulepalsing CFs on 12 and 14 January, 2020 respectively. And then, the remained trees were cut in both CFs.
30. Similarly, DFO of Parbat issued tree cutting orders for Lasti Berneta and Koreshophoksing CFs on 9 January, 2020, after then, the tree cutting was done in both. Again, the contractor requested on 16 June, 2020 by an email to the project and ESSD Beni unit to facilitate the removal of 50 trees in Lasti Berneta CF as it was left previously because of objection from

the people. Again, the project dispatched a letter to DFO, Parbat to provide additional time for tree cutting. Now, the tree cutting order with additional time is under process.

31. ESSD Beni unit with Project and forest staffs visited Gutako Pako CF of Parbat and confirmed that trees lying in this CF need not be cut because of deep Valley between APs 5 and 6 located in this CF. The stringing has already been done here and sufficient vertical clearance has observed. But, the chairman of Gutako Pako accused the workers of the contractor that they have cut 40-42 small and large trees between AP 5 and AP 6 (see the annex). But the contractor denied. They strongly said that their workers are not involved here. This matter was acknowledged in writing to DAO and DFO, Parbat by the project.
32. The tree cutting order for Bindabasini CF was issued on 10 February, 2020 with additional time of 21 days. After then, the tree cutting activity has completed here.
33. The tree cutting contract with Thulobhir Chiwrikhark CF could not be signed till date because the community members are not interested to take the responsibility of tree cutting so the project should initiate the tree cutting after getting the order of DFO, Parbat. The marked trees of this CF are still being inspected by AFO and DFO along with ESSD unit and project staff. ESSD Beni unit with project staff are regularly coordinating Thulobhir Chiwrikhark CF and DFO of Parbat to commence tree cutting activity in this CF. It is expected to start soon.
34. The wood and firewood lagats of felled trees in Shiruwari Thadikhoriya, Raghughat Salleri, Tusarepani and Bhumebarah, Dosalle Salleri and Gharamdi CFs of Myagdi district with official letters have already been received at the project office, Beni whereas other official letters of remaining CFs are under process.
35. Similarly, the wood and firewood lagat of Thulo Salleri Bhirmuni, Dhulepalsing, Bindabasini, Lasti Berneta and Koreshophoksing has submitted to DFO, Parbat by Kaligandaki Sub Division Forest Office, Farse, Parbat. The wood and firewood distribution process is under process here.
36. DFO of Parbat has issued the tree cutting order of Naniswara National Forest on 20 May, 2020 with additional time of 21 days, after then, the tree cutting activity has finished here. The auction of wood and firewood is under process here. It is expected to get after the completion of lockdown period. The details of marked and felled trees number in CF wise of DKTLF has been attached in **Annexure 4**.

Marsyangdi – Kathmandu 220 kV TLP (MKTLP)–

37. Tree marking has been completed for Gorkha and Chitwan districts in affected forest (Community forest, leasehold forest and Government forest) by respective Ilaka forest office *i.e.* Taklung and Mirkot Ilaka forest office of Gorkha district and Mugling Ilaka office of Chitwan district. Division Forest Office of Gorkha district has provided forest entry permit for tree clearance process in 8 and 3 different community forest and Government forest plot respectively. Project office has completed agreement process with respective 8 community forest of Gorkha and till the end of January, 2020 all 8 CF had felled trees with coordination of project office and respective subdivision forest office. Till the date of reporting, Chitradevi, Majhuwa, Rajdevi, Ganeshthan, Aitabare Maihla, Kalikhola and Gairigaun community forest

- of Gorkha district has also received payment from project office as per agreement. Now payment process for Banautipakha community forest is in process for Gorkha district.
38. Likewise in Chitwan district, forest entry permit has been provided for 2 community forest, 3 leasehold forests and 1 government forest plot and project office has been coordinating with respective forest representative and representatives of Mugling subdivision office for the tree cutting process. Project office has done an agreement with contractor for RoW clearance under 4 government forest plots of Gorkha and Chitwan districts and same contractor has been awarded the contract for clearing trees of Gurung CF and Chepang CF of Chitwan district. Final volume of felled trees will be handover to Chepang and Gurung community forest after contractor will be clearing trees.
39. In Gorkha district, altogether 2771 trees were marked from 11 forests (8 Community and 3 Government forests). Till March 2020, 2771 trees (All marked trees) are felled from 8 community forests and 3 government forest of Gorkha. Likewise, 1937 trees were marked from 6 forest plot of Chitwan District where tree cutting procedure inside Chepang CF and Gurung CF has started by mobilizing but progress has not been achieved so far. Altogether 1153 trees has been felled to till March 2020 and 784 trees are yet to be felled from Chitwan District. In Chitwan District, same contractor has been mobilized to clear RoW from government forest plot of Chitwan district and the clearance process is in progress but same work has been halted due to lockdown caused by COVID 19. .
40. The DFO of Dhading district has given approval of forest entry pass to all 28 CFs and government forests. Out of 28, 14 forests have fulfilled contractual obligations and rests are in process. Till this reporting period, total of 2992, 284 and 3384, trees have been cut down from Gajuri, Benighat and Baireni Sub-divisional Forests respectively. Till this reporting period, 13 CFs were unable to meet the contractual clauses so, PMO has decided to award contractual bidding for felling down of the trees. For the smooth continuation of work fronts, they were on close coordination with district forest office of Dhading. From almost 13 CFs 2910 trees were left for felling down. Regarding RoW's trees, *Jagga Sattabharna* and plantation PMO have circulated letter on 8th Mangsir, 2076 for their royalty payment and also the department has requested for the additional time for remaining tree cutting. Regarding eight CFs, PMO is now in close coordination with District Forest Office for the extension of time for tree cutting process. DFO has given approval for the compensatory benefits of RoWs trees.
41. The details of marked and felled trees number in CF wise of Gorkha and Chitwan districts have been presented in **Annexure 4**.

Kushma – New Butwal 220 kV TLP (KNBTLP) –

42. The forest tree marking process in KNBTLP has been completed. Altogether, 16449 trees with pole have been marked in KNBTLP. Among them 10141 trees lie on alignment in Nawalparasi, 1216 in Rupandehi and 4785 in Palpa Districts, only bushes in Shyangja, 16 in Parnat, and 291 in Baglung districts. The detail of tree marking in KNBTLP has been attached in **Annexure 4**. The Department of Forests and Soil Conservation (DoFSC) recommend for Updated IEE for the process of land acquisition in forest area and tree clearance. The number

of trees and land requirement of forest has been increased from 7948 to 16449 and 80 ha. to 86.443 ha respectively.

Udipur – Markichowk – Bharatpur 220 kV TLP (UMBTLP) –

43. Tree marking inventory have been completed in Lamjung and Chitwan districts and it is ongoing in Gorkha district. In Lamjung district, total 2895 trees with poles have been marked and recorded. In Chitwan district, total 3633 trees with poles have been marked and recorded. In Gorkha District, total 473 trees with poles have been marked and recorded till now. Tree marking (Chhapan) is ongoing in Lamjung district. Consultation is ongoing with DFO, SDFOs, CFUGs, Project and Contractor for tree marking (Chhapan) work of CFs in Lamjung district. Tree cutting will be initiated after the completion of tree marking and approval from the cabinet followed by the receipt of forest entry permit from the respective DFOs. An agreement has been done between DoFSC and Marsyangdi Corridor 220 kV Project for the use of forest land and clearance of trees in Lamjung district with respect to the cabinet decision held in 17th October, 2019. According to the agreement, total 3195 trees with poles are recorded in Lamjung district which is different from data of inventory. The details of tree marking has been attached in **Annexure 4**.

5.2. Status of Compensatory Plantation Plan Preparation

DKTLP

44. Final Compensatory Plantation Plan (CPP) for DKTLP had been submitted in February, 2019. PMD had recommended some amendments in the submitted CPP. The CPP had been amended and finalized incorporating the recommendations and already been submitted previously i.e. July, 2019. It is expected to be implemented as soon as earlier the plan is updated.

MKTLP

45. The final copy of CPP for Marsyangdi–Kathmandu 220kV Transmission Line Project had been already prepared and submitted. PMD had recommended some amendments in the submitted CPP. The CPP had been amended and finalized incorporating the recommendations and already been submitted previously i.e. July, 2019. Very soon it is expected to be implemented as per the updated plan.

46. NEA has forwarded request letter on 2076-7-19 to Department of Forest and Soil Conservation regarding arrangement for the deposition of compensatory amount regarding compensatory plantation and Jagga Sattavarna in forest development fund as per "guideline with standard for use of national forest by national priority projects, 2076"

KNBTLP

47. The consultation and discussion conducted regarding compensatory plantation, available barren land, and open space for plantation within affected local CFUG area. The MoEWRI, GoN has also notified DFO of all three districts to put forward the report about the forest

requirements for the project and tree details and present condition of the forest as soon as possible.

UMBTLP

48. There is no due till the reporting period. Tree marking process is ongoing.

5.3. Consultation with Community

49. In DKTLTP, MKTLTP and KNBTLP consultations with the community have been regularly carried out. A total of 6 consultations with participation of 63 local stakeholders have been conducted at different project locations. Details of the community consultation is presented in **Annexure 8**.

50. Description of the consultation about environmental issues carried out in different sub-projects are described below:

DKTLTP

51. Only verbal meetings are conducted with CFUGs, AFOs and DFOs of Parbat District to commence and finish the tree cutting activity soon in Parbat District in the January month.

52. Some verbal meetings have been conducted with Project, CFUGs, AFOs and DFOs of Parbat and Myagdi regarding the Ghatgaddi, Kath Lagat, other official documentation and remaining tree cutting orders. All these forest related issues are expected to be solved after the completion of lockdown period.

53. Online and mobile communications were established with Project, CFUGs, AFOs and DFOs of Parbat regarding the Ghatgaddi, wood and firewood lagat, other official documentation and remaining tree cutting orders. The drafts of wood and firewood Lagats of Thulosalleri Bhirmuni, Lasti Berneta and Koreshophoksing CFs have been prepared. Similarly, the drafts of wood and firewood lagats of Dhulepalsing, Naniswara National Forest and Bindabasini CFs are under process.

54. Moreover, some verbal meetings were conducted regarding the grievance of Gutako Pako CF, Parbat and landslide issues from Kushma Substation towards settlement areas of Naya Pul. Similarly, landslide issues from AP 42 B and AP 43 towards Pokhrebagar were also discussed with the project and contractor.

MKTLTP

55. Representative of Gairigaun and Banautipakha community forest from Gorkha district and Chepang and Gurung community forest from Chitwan were coordinated while monitoring tree cutting process. Permanent address number (PAN) number was needed for community forest for receiving payment of tree cutting from project office and same information regarding necessary of PAN number was delivered to representative of community forest through informal consultation. Regular follow up and informal consultation has been also done with project authority and representative of subdivision forest office (Barhakilo and Mugling) for tree cutting process update and ghatgaddhi work.

56. Further during consultation meeting with local representative of Ichyakamana RM, Chitwan District on 20 January, 2020 regarding the recorded grievance by local people for impact on local road, formal GRC meeting has been planned with active participation from grievance recorder and other concerned stakeholders. The consultation meeting minutes has been attached in **Annexure 8**.
57. In Dhading, regular verbal consultation meetings have been conducted at the sites and offices as usual. Meetings were mostly regarding effects on environment due to the project, tree cutting issues, sanitation and many other environmental issues. Regarding the environmental aspect less damage to the concerned vegetation and land slope was considered with minimum encroachment. The concerned stockholders were happy for the commencement of work at their sites. Till this reporting period no works were commenced due to the pandemic of COVID-19 and all the remaining officers and work forces were in home quarantine at Gajuri quarter.

KNBTLP

58. The regular consultations have been conducted as per need during field visit and meeting regarding environmental issues to lower the impact and compensate impact. Informal consultation (during monitoring) with concerned peoples in AP 51/A, AP 51/B, AP 67, AP 67A, AP 68 have been carried out regarding access road and other environmental issues and compliances.
59. The construction activities resumed in New-Butwal SS. The social distancing and group isolation measures are strictly followed with other regular work safety and environmental compliances. During this reporting period due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Nepal has called for lockdown in the entire country due to which no consultations or meetings were conducted.
60. During this reporting period due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Nepal has called for lockdown in the entire Country. In this reporting period one meeting has been conducted on Palpa in the store of the Contractor regarding the issue of the material unloading of the tower parts, due to the protests from the locals.

UMBTLP

61. Only informal public consultation related to environmental issues and discussions have been regularly carried out with the affected households. Two public consultations have been carried out in Dordi Rural Municipality-2, Archalbot and Rainas Municipality-6, Dhamilikuwa regarding the issues of trees and land compensation.
62. Only informal public consultation related to environmental issues and discussions have been regularly carried out with the affected households and concerned stakeholder's due to lockdown implemented by Nepal Government to control COVID-19 pandemic.

5.4. Implementation of Mitigation Measures

63. At DKTL, ESMU Beni is planning to conduct one postponed NTFP's training program at Pokhrebagar. It is soon expected to be resolved all the Pokhrebagar issues regarding alignment change and the training could be implemented without any obstacle.

64. Project affected families from ward number 7 and 8 of Gandaki RM, Gorkha district whose structure are impacted while project construction were regularly consulted for the skill development program and training program will be implemented to project affected families as per their needs once current lockdown will be over.
65. Likewise, driving training to 6 participants has been started from 19 March, 2020 at Kurintar, Chitwan where training has been halted due to lockdown. The training will be resumed once the lockdown will be over. The compliance status in terms of contract clauses is attached in **Annexure 5**.

5.5. Establishment of Labour camps/Camp site management

66. In DKTL, the contractor has not provided the Television sets in common rooms and dining tables in kitchens of both substations as the contractor agreed with the ADB mission verbally on 3rd July, 2018 at Dana Substation and 4th July, 2018 at Kusma Substation. Fencing of labor camp has been done at Kusma Substation, but is not satisfactory. The Contractor has dug a channel to divert the rainwater accumulated inside the Kusma Substation towards the safe side, but the outer accumulated rain water along the northern wall of Kusma Substation has not been managed although it was recommended by ADB mission. The mission had also recommended the check dams to control landslide towards the Naya-Pul.
67. The muck about 1000 m³ was disposed at western edge of Kusma substation that is vulnerable to landslides. At the start of the rainy season, Mudflow is seen from the Kushma substation towards the Naya Pul and covers the drainage that runs along the Armadi-Maaldhunga highway. In addition, it enters the irrigation canal, cropland and ground floor of some houses. After the complaints from locals, the contractor removed the debris from the drainage of the highway. But, the drinking water pipe about 50 m of 1-1.5 inch diameter was damaged while removing the debris from the drainage. The water user group is demanding the new drinking water pipe. Likewise, the affected people are demanding the compensation of crop loss and control of mudflow from the western edge of Kushma substation. The contractor has started to remove the debris from the unstable western edge of Kushma substation.
68. Similarly, landslides have gone from AP 42 B towards Pokhrebagar. Spring water sources were also disturbed and so the locals are demanding the control of landslides and proper management of spring water sources around AP 42 B. The project and contractor are trying to resolve this issue as soon as possible.
69. In MKTL during this reporting month 5 labors are reported in Markichowk substation working for "construction of temporary roof for substation equipment in Marsyangdi SS" as per notice of intent to award the contract which was published in National daily newspaper on 30 May 2020.
70. Notice regarding invitation for Bids has also been published on 23 June 2020 for "design, supply, installation and commissioning of 220 KV AIS in Matatirtha, Kathmandu and 220 KV GIS in Markichowk, Marsyangdi". Deadline for submission of Bids as per notice is 21st august 2020. Notices have been attached in Annex.
71. Till this reporting period the camp at Dhading TL was found to be satisfactory. At Dhading labors are residing at nearby rental houses with all the facilities. Due to the Corona virus pandemic all the staffs and labors are residing at Gajuri quarter. Recently at Matatirtha SS contractor's halted work so in near future the work will be functioning smoothly.

72. In KNBTLP, the contractor (L&T Project Limited) have moving-labor-crew was instructed to make necessary arrangement for basic accommodation (warm cloths, bed and lodging sets, mosquito nets and insect repellent and colony cover and light/power system and drinking water system) with limited movement and complying other safety and lockdown precautionary measures. While, the contractor (TATA Project Limited) of New-Butwal SS have arranged labor camps with minimum basic accommodation. However, in TL section, labors are provided satisfactory arrangement and basic accommodation in rental houses.
73. The facilities of the labor camps in Syangja section are satisfactory. The contractor has rented house for the labors. The campsites are provided with LP Gas for cooking and use of the firewood has been strictly forbidden. The labors were instructed to put forward the complaints in case the contractor doesn't fulfill the facilities as promised. As well the contractor has been regularly advised to make proper arrangement for the labor and solve problems regarding drinking water and sanitation if any for the betterment of labor's health and sanitation. The contractor was also instructed to ensure the insurance of all new labors before they start their work.
74. On the month of May the regular site visits was not done due to the nationwide lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
75. In UMBTLP, the contractor has provided accommodation for labors in rental houses near AP 27A and AP 39. Toilet, drinking water and electricity facility has been provided by the house owners. Basic accommodation facility has been provided by the contractor.
76. The detail employment data record from different sub projects has been presented in **Table 5-1** below:

Table 5-1: Employment data record

Reporting month	Reporting station/T-L	Total No. of labor (Men & women)	No. of local labor	No. of local men labor	No. of local women labor	Type of labor for women, skilled/ unskilled	
						Skilled /semiskilled	Unskilled
Jan to June, 2020	DKTLP						
	Dana Substation	351	116	93	23	18	5
	Kusma Substation	400	60	48	12	6	4
	DKTLP-TL	494	107	107	0	0	0
	Total	1245	283	248	35	24	9
	MKTLP						
	MKTLP-TL	354	0	0	0	0	0
	Matatirtha Substation	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Markichowk Substation	5	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	359	0	0	0	0	0
	KNBTLP						
	New-Butwal SS	414	242	207	45	0	45
	KNBTLP-TL	424	98	93	5	0	3
	Total	838	340	300	50	0	48
	UMBTLP						

Udipur Substation	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Bharatpur Substation	0	0	0	0	0	0
UMBTLP-TL	127	17	17	0	0	0
Total	127	17	17	0	0	0

5.6. Occupational Health and Safety

77. Health and Safety Officers have been recruited by all the contractors for compliance in order to prevent potential harm to labor/ staffs while construction activities and regular trainings about occupational health and safety, use of PPEs and Health and Sanitation to the construction workers have been also installed and first aid kit box arranged in the sites. The monitoring of labor camp in each project has been described separately as below.
78. In DKTLP, it has been noticed that the labors are not using boots, gloves and helmets properly at the time of foundation works. In some cases, the contractor has not provided the sufficient PPE to the labors working in TL whereas some labors don't prefer to use the safety equipment. But, it is satisfactory for erection and stringing works. ESMU Beni unit along with project staffs advised the contractor to provide PPEs to the labors and he agreed to do so. Moreover, the contractor should focus more on excavated soil management.
79. Occupation Health and Safety (OHS) conditions are unsatisfactory in Khurkot. The labors are not using PPE properly at working time. At the time of environmental compliance monitoring, it is noticed that living rooms for labors were not sufficient at Dana substation. ESMU, Beni unit advised to contractor to provide sufficient rooms for labors at Dana. Also, the sanitation condition was not good in both labor camps. All these environmental issues are acknowledged to the contractor and the project verbally. First aid kits and emergency vehicles are available at both substations. In Dana and Kusma Substations, OHS orientations are being regularly provided to the workers before the work starts.
80. The contractor has provided the orientation to the labors regarding the sensitivity of COVID-19. The temperature of workers and visitors are being regularly checked at Kushma sub stations. The masks and sanitizers are also provided to the labors by the contractor. The labors are well aware of social distancing as well. PCR tests of four labors that came from outside of Parbat district to work at Kushma substation have been done and all were found negative. And, they are currently working at site.
81. In MKTLP, occupation health and safety condition is satisfactory in TL works while monitoring erection and stringing work but in case of protection wall construction it was found that contractor hasn't provided safety box and adequate amount of PPE to labor. TATA has been advised to comply the condition of PPE and safety box availability in all sites where protection wall construction is ongoing.
82. Despite of lockdown construction activity has was carried out in site of Gorkha district following "Operational Control Procedure for Resumption of work after COVID-19 Lockdown" for few days by mobilizing few labors where stringing work was carried out in AP 39A/0 to AP 39/0 and again work was halted. While performing construction activities in site NEA staffs, contractor's staffs and labor were mobilized with PPE maintaining social distancing norms.

83. In transmission line work mobilized labor are staying in camp near Kurintar store premises at Chitwan district. Labor are mobilized from store area to site and again returned back to camp area by contractor's own vehicle maintaining social distancing norms and avoiding close contact with community people. Contractor (TATA projects) has been found performing construction activities in site following "Checklist for Covid-19 Preventive Measures during Lockdown". While coordination and communication with safety officer of contractor for this month it was found that, contractor has not deployed new labor for construction activities after lockdown. Thermal scanning gun/IR gun made available and the screening is being conducted for fever detection by contractor. Site locations, including site office, workmen's camp, canteens, pathways, toilets, and entry / exit gates are disinfected periodically and also workers are oriented to avoid contact with sick people and avoid going to site if they are feeling sick, have fever, cough or shortness of breath. The workforce is encouraged for avoiding touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands. Contractor has made emergency arrangement including evacuation system ensuring emergency vehicle available and kept standby in case of emergency. Provision for hand wash & sanitizer is made available in camp area, office and site. Strict ban on Gutka, Tambaku, Paan etc. at site and spitting is strictly prohibited in the vicinity of working area and store. All activities with a probability of bigger gathering, e.g. training programs, celebrations are suspended.
84. At Dhading TL, till this reporting period the concerned stakeholders have improved the occupational health and safety at sites and camps. 75% work forces were provided PPE at the sites. Dhading sites labors resides at the private house near by public school at Naubise. Regarding health and sanitation every morning labors, have toolbox talk sessions and respective safety officers guide them for constructional health and safety issues at the sites and respective safety officers guide them for constructional health and safety issues at the sites.
85. In KNBTLP, the construction of TL halted & the contractor (L&T Project Limited) have moving-labor-crew was instructed to make necessary arrangement for basic accommodation with limited movement and compiling other safety and lockdown norms & precautionary measures. While, the contractor (TATA Project Limited) of New-Butwal SS have arranged Health and Safety Officers have been recruited by all the contractors for safety compliance in workplace with regular orientation/ trainings on occupational health and safety use of PPEs and Health and Sanitation etc. The contractor's effort to ensure Occupational Health and Safety Measures were satisfactory this month. The proper use of PPE's was observed and barricading was done in every worksite. First Aid kits were present in every worksite and the labor camps were also in very good condition. The construction area has been arranged with necessary precaution and warning signs. The construction area is restricted for the entry of unauthorized people
86. In UMBTLP, the contractor of T/L (Pinggao Group Co., Ltd.) has provided PPEs but not sufficient helmets, reflecting jackets, boots and gloves have been provided by the contractor. The labors are using PPEs occasionally. The labors have been instructed not to work without the use of PPEs. The contractor has also been advised to provide adequate PPEs and to give proper training to labors for the use of PPEs First aid kit has been maintained at the construction site but there are no adequate medicines. The contractor has been advised to maintain first aid kit properly. Labors are using toilet of nearby houses and are using local

source of drinking water as per the concession of the house owner. Barricading is done with reflective rope. There are no signboards at the construction sites for which the contractor has been advised to keep enough signboard at the construction sites. The contractor has not given OHS training programs yet and the contractor has been advised to give OHS training programs as soon as possible. Due to lock down implemented by the Nepal Government to control COVID-19 pandemic, construction activities have been halted.

87. The detail safeguard compliance status and issues along with corrective actions for all the sub-projects has been described in the following **Table5-2**.

Table 5-2: Compliance Monitoring Status in terms of Safety Facilities Available to Labors

S.N	Project Components	Availability of Safety Kits						Presence/ Absence Status of Other Facilities				
		Helmet	Boots/ Shoes	Gloves	Belts	Glass	Mask	First Aid Kit	Toilet	Drinking facility	Water	Child Labor
DKTLP												
1	Kusma Substation	S	S	U	U- foundation activity S- tower erection works	S- for welding works	S	P (satisfactory level= 80%)	P (satisfactory level= 40%)	P(local drinking water available, (satisfactory level= 60%)	A	
2	Dana Substation	S	S	U	U - foundation activity S- tower erection works	S- for welding works	S	P (satisfactory level= 70%)	P (satisfactory level= 70%)	P(local drinking water available) P satisfactory level= 70%	A	
3	TL– AP 43 and AP 42 B (Foundation), AP 7 to AP 10 (Stringing)	S	U	U	S- tower erection and conductor stringing works	NA	S	P (satisfactory level= 60%)	P (satisfactory level= 60%)	U(local drinking water available) satisfactory level= 60%	A	
MKTLP												
1	AP 57B (Erectionwork)	S	S	S	S	NA	S	P	P	P	A	
2	Markichowk SS (Shade Work)	U	U	U	U	NA	S	A	P	P	A	
3	Masonry Wall in AP 8B)	S	S	S	NA	NA	S	A	P	P	A	
KNBTLP												
1	New Butwal substation	S	S	Partially	S	Partially	S	S	S	S	A	
2	Foundation work	S	S	P	S	NA	Partially	U	S	S	A	

S.N	Project Components	Availability of Safety Kits						Presence/ Absence Status of Other Facilities				
		Helmet	Boots/ Shoes	Gloves	Belts	Glass	Mask	First Aid Kit	Toilet	Drinking facility	Water	Child Labor
	(AP 51/A, AP 51/B, AP 58/A, AP 58/B, AP 65/A)Foundation work											
3	Syangja and Parbat TL	S	S	NA	S	A	S	S	S	S		A
UMBTLP												
1	Udipur Substation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	New Bharatpur Substation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Foundation work (AP 36, AP 36A, AP 37A, AP 27, AP 33D, AP 33E/1)	S (80%)	U (50%)	U (10%)	NA	NA	NP	P (not in satisfactory condition)	U (nearby houses were used)	S (local drinking water available)		A
<p>Remarks: Safety shoes/gloves have been provided to the Contractor's personnel, however they were found to be used partially during the monitoring.</p> <p>Action: Safety shoes/gloves and mask, glass need to wear during the work time and same is notified during the monitoring to the worker, supervisor of contractor and project too.</p>												

Note *: S-Satisfactory, NA-Not applicable, U: Unsatisfactory, NP: Not Provided, P: Present, A

5.7. Slope stabilization and Bio-engineering Work

88. Slope stabilization works has been regularly carried out in the landslide prone areas and instable land areas in the tower foundation sites of DKTL P, MKTL P, KNBTLP and UMBTLP.
89. In DKTL P, the RCC Dhalan and drainage construction works in front of Mr. Narayan Subedi's house along the approach road at Khurkot has not started whereas the slope stabilization and drainage works along the Armadi-Khurkot approach road has finished. Only 5% Dhalan and drainage works are left in front the house of Mr. Narayan Subedi. The gabion wall to protect the cropland of Mr. Narayan Subedi has not started to construct as well. Bioengineering is needed at AP 11, AP 47 A, AP 33, AP 33 A, AP 31. AP 43 and AP 8A for the slope stabilization. The collapsed cropland nearby AP 27 A has not been revived yet. The contractor said that the maintenance will start soon. The contractor has not initiated to control the water outside the northern wall although it was advised by ADB mission. A mudflow has been seen this month because of muck disposal at western edge of Kushma substitution. After the complaints from locals, the contractor has started to remove the debris from here. But, for the long term solution check dams with bioengineering are necessary here. ESMU Beni unit also advised to them but they said that it is not in their scope. The construction of irrigation canal at Kusma Substation has finished and locals are getting the irrigation water. The spring water source at AP 25 A has revived. Now, the water is flowing as usual and all the land around it is getting the irrigation water. Protective measures are necessary at AP 43 and AP 42 B and so the project and contractor are exercising to construct protection walls along with the proper management of spring water sources around AP 42 B.
90. In MKTL P, Slope stabilization work has been regularly carried out in the erosion, landslide prone areas and instable land areas in the tower foundation sites. In order to prevent potential landslide and erosion contractor has completed protection wall in 23 tower location of Chitwan, 18 tower location of Gorkha and 2 tower location of Tanahu. Protection wall works in AP 52A of Chitwan has been completed. Furthermore, benching work in AP 55/0 is ongoing and the detail of tower name with location and status is presented in Table 5.3. Office of Marsyangdi-Kathmandu 220 KV TL Project has published notice on 28 June 2020 in National daily newspaper regarding "construction work of stone masonry and gabion retaining wall for protection of tower".
91. Where as in Dhading District, till this reporting period, retaining wall at AP 7C has been completed and AP 7D/2 is in progress as per the consultation of stakeholders.
92. In KNBTLP, the TL passes through private and public and community structure and utilities. Similarly, precaution and special measures are to be adopted for protection of foundations of towers and poles located in mountainous, rough and steep terrain. The construction of retaining wall is halted in AP 49 to maintain the width of existing rural road (shrinked due to tower foundation).
93. Till now, no such threats were observed in Syangja district where construction work has begun. In case if protection is required, in consultation with the Project office and contractor necessary design or structure will be advised to be built in such location.
94. In UMBTLP, slope stabilization work with construction of retaining wall and gabion wall is ongoing at AP 27A to protect the tower footings. AP 27A is prone to landslide as it is located at steep slope. Construction of gabion wall is ongoing for replacement of existing road at AP 36 as the two tower footings lay on the existing road.

95. Status of protection of tower footing /protection wall construction has been presented in **Table 5-3** below

Table 5-3: Protection of tower footing/protection wall construction status

Tower Name		Protection of Tower Footing/Protection wall construction status
DKTLP		
AP-37/0, AP-36/0, AP-35B/0, AP-17A/O, AP-17/0, AP-14/0, AP-50/0, AP-9/0, AP-16A/0, AP-4/0, AP-11/0, AP-25 B/0, AP-44A/0, AP-44/0, AP-27B/0, AP-15/0, AP-10/0, AP-49/0, AP-6/0, AP32/0 , AP 13 A , AP 32 and AP 26		Completed
AP45/0, AP34 B and AP 8A		On Going
AP 10 , AP 27 A , AP 43 and AP 42 B		Additional protection is Under Planning
MKTLP		
District	Tower Name	
Gorkha	AP 37B, AP 37C, AP 37D, AP 60A, AP 61/1, AP 61A, AP 64/0, AP 66/0, AP 70A, AP 72B, AP 73/0, AP 73A, AP 74/0, AP 36, AP 65A, AP 41/0, AP42/0, AP 65B	Completed
Chitwan	AP 49/0, AP 49A, AP 50/0, AP 50A, AP 51A, AP 51B, AP 52/0, AP 52B, AP 53/0, AP 54B, AP 54C, AP 56/0, AP 57/0, AP 57C, AP 58A, AP58B, AP 58C, AP60, AP 55/0, AP 59, AP 56A, AP 57A AP 52A	Completed
Tanahu	AP 75B, AP 76	Completed

Dhading	AP 2B/0 , AP 7/0, AP7C/0 , AP21C, AP 1/0 , AP2/0, AP16/0 ,AP 24G/0 AP 2B, AP 19C, AP7,AP16A,AP23, AP24	Completed
	8B	Ongoing
KNBTLP		
Palpa	AP 53, AP 54A, AP 56A	Completed
	AP 49	Partially completed, halted, wall design changed and new design not approved yet
	AP 52, AP 54B	Foundation has been Completed, Proposed slope protection wall on review stage.
	58B	Foundation has not been started yet Proposed slope protection wall on review stage.
UNBTLP		
Lamjung	AP 27A	Ongoing
	AP 36	Ongoing to replace existing road

5.8. Debris management

96. Debris and spoil due to excavation for tower foundation have been partially managed in the project areas. Slope stabilization and management work has been regularly carried at different locations. The contractors are also regularly advised to manage safe spoil dumping site with no adverse environmental and social effect. The same issues have been discussed in GRC meeting before site visit on affected land plot.
97. In DKTLP, the foundation work at AP 42 B and AP 43 has finished. The contractor could not manage the muck properly and mudflow occurred toward Pokhrebagar. Now, the contractor and the project are exercising together to control the mudflow by constructing protection walls. The issues regarding the debris or landslide have been seen in these areas at Pokhrebagar. Similarly, it has been seen at Naya Pul because of unsafe muck disposal at western edge of Kushma substation.
98. Debris also has been managed properly within Markichowk substation premises till this monitoring period. The debris generated while excavation in SS are found to be placed in low land area for maintaining slope of the site area and whenever required found to be backfilled in required site. The muck and debris generated from transmission line tower foundation works

- and excavation work are found to be used for backfilling work in the pit and remaining volume are distributed equally near the site area by assessing the geological condition of the place.
99. During this reporting month in transmission line section benching work is being carried out by contractor to maintain level near tower foundation area spreading generated muck inside tower foundation area avoiding risk and impacts to nearby communities and natural drainage systems.
100. At Matatirtha SS and Dhading TL sections debris have been compacted and filled up for regaining original land label at all the ongoing construction sites as per the requirements. Generated scraps have been sold to local secondhand market. At Matatirtha SS debris are compacted for needy land parcels as excavation works are being continued for infrastructural works.
101. In KNBTLP, partially construction works have been halted due to the outbreak of COVID 19 Pandemic but wherever the works have been conducted the social distancing and group isolation measures are strictly followed with other regular work safety and environmental compliances. , Debris and spoil due to excavation for tower foundation have been partially managed in the project areas Contractor are advised to confine construction activities with proper safety procedure and muck/spoil management measures within acquired land area or make consent with other landowner (if additional required) with proper compensation. Similarly, the contractors have been advised to recover and reinstate the site after completion of construction work.
102. In UMBTLP, debris generated during excavation work has been backfilled and compacted in the pits of tower pads after the completion of foundation work. There is no debris left in the site and the level of the ground is uniform. Some debris has been found to be fallen into the pit at AP 33D during foundation work as it is located at steep slope and the contractor has been advised to take necessary precautions. The contractor has also been advised to manage the debris properly at all the construction sites.

5.9. Drainage management

103. Drainage structure is being provided in order to minimize interference and impact on natural drainage pattern of the area. In DKTLTP, only 5% drainage construction works along the approach road at Khurkot are remained to finish. It is under control inside the Kusma substation as well; however, it has not done for the outer rainwater along the northern wall of Kusma Substation. It is under discussion at project office. A drainage structure is also needed at AP 27 A. The contractor said that it will be built soon. Similarly, the drainage is also needed near AP 42 B along the approach road and it is under process.
104. In MKTLP, one deep boring has been constructed inside Markichowk substation premises and contractor has been advised to manage the drainage system by constructing the appropriate structures without creating impact on local communities' drainage system.
105. In KNBTLP, most of the tower pads are located at the top of subdued hillocks, on the ridges and on flat agricultural land, so the interference with drainage patterns due to the construction of the tower pads seems minimal. The contractor was requested to take necessary precaution and safeguard measures while excavation, trail construction for material transportation and access road construction with minimal impact and vegetation removal/loss.

The construction of drainage structure is on progress in in New-Butwal SS and along the approach road.

106. In Syangja and Parbat districts, there are no issues regarding drainages in the newly started location. However, the contractor has been requested to take necessary precaution and safeguard measures while excavation, trail construction for material transportation and access road construction with minimal impact and minimal vegetation removal/loss.

107. In UMBTLP, drainage management is not necessary till now. So, drainage management system is not implemented yet.

5.10. Storage of construction materials

108. Construction materials at different construction sites are not properly stored. The contractors have been regularly advised for proper storage of these materials at the designated sites. **Table 5-4** presents the status of construction materials storage at different locations.

Table 5-4: Status of Construction Materials Storage

Transmission Line	Construction Material	Storage Type	Condition
DKTLP	Cement	Leased or rented land with temporary structure (camps) - In Bastari Palpa (KNBTLP TL Open air storage covered by <i>Tirpal</i> (Plastic) at TL whereas cement storage rooms are available at both substations.	The compound has been surrounds/fenced by barbed wire fence and guarded by security guard in leased land. The cement store in store room, reinforcement rod/ steel are store in open space with minimum ground clearance. The cement store in storeroom, reinforcement rod/ steel are store in open space with minimum ground clearance.
	Sand	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from aggregate, not satisfactory condition
	Aggregate	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from sand, not satisfactory condition
	Reinforcement Bars	Open air storage	Storage provided without sufficient clearance from ground, no water proofing layer, not satisfactory condition.
MKTLP	Cement	Inside Container (Markichowk SS)	Cement bags were kept inside the container and good in condition
		Open air storage and inside houses (Chitwan, Gorkha Transmission Line)	Private houses area were used for piling cements bags and in some cases open air storage as well.

Transmission Line	Construction Material	Storage Type	Condition
		Open and inside houses (Dhading, Chitwan Transmission Line)	Temporary cottages and private houses were used for piling cements bags.
	Sand	Open storage (Both substation) (Markichowk SS and Transmission line) & Matatirtha Substation and Dhading TL)	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from aggregate, not satisfactory condition
	Aggregate	Open storage (Both substation) (Markichowk SS and Transmission line) & Matatirtha Substation and Dhading TL)	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from sand, not satisfactory condition
	Reinforcement Bars	Open Storage (Markichowk Substation) & Matatirtha Substation and Dhading TL)	Bars were kept inside construction area of Markichowk and Matatirtha substation with some ground clearance but not in shade place and stored in open place. Storage did not comply the basic criterion storage was provided without sufficient clearance from ground, no water proofing layer at all the sites.
		Open Storage (Transmission line's Erection work)	For TL works, bars storage did not comply the basic criterion as storage of bars was provided without sufficient clearance from ground, no water proofing layer at all the sites.
KNBTLP	Cement/rod/ steel	Leased or rented land with temporary structure (camps)- In Bastari Palpa (KNBTLP TL) Store room and/with open space –in Substations KNBTLP SS) Store camps and/or open space	The compound has been surrounds/fenced by barbed wire fence and guarded by security guard in leased land. The cement store in store room, reinforcement rod/ steel are store in open space with minimum ground clearance. The toilets and other safety procedure found to be satisfactory. The safety sign need to written in local languages. The cement store in storeroom, reinforcement rod/ steel are store in open space with minimum ground clearance.
	Cement in Construction site	Open air storage covered by Plastic Tent	The cement is placed in wooden plane covering by plastic tent, will not suitable for long time and rainy time, need to improve

Transmission Line	Construction Material	Storage Type	Condition
			and special precaution for moisture contact (need to improve ground clearance and cover) in Palpa. In Syangja and Parbat cement are stored covered by plastic near the site with proper reflective barricading and in some cement are stacked on the side of the road with plastic covering, so satisfactory.
	Sand	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, and foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from aggregate, not satisfactory condition in Palpa. Whereas it is satisfactory in Syangja and Parbat.
	Aggregate	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from sand, not satisfactory condition in Palpa. Whereas it is satisfactory in Syangja.
	Cement steel/Bars	Open air storage	Storage provided without minimum clearance from ground, no water proofing layer and covering. Whereas it is satisfactory in Syangja & Parbat.
	Reinforcement Bars	Open storage	Storage provided with minimum clearance from ground, satisfactory condition in Palpa, Syangja and Parbat districts.
UMBTLP	Cement	No storage	Cements are supplied in fresh condition.
	Sand	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from aggregate, not satisfactory condition
	Aggregate	Open storage	Direct piling on grassland, no water proof layer, foreign material restriction facility not provided, not enough separation distance from sand, not satisfactory condition
	Reinforcement Bars	Open air storage	Stored inside the compound fenced by barbed wire and guarded by security guard in leased land.

6. AUTOMATED SAFEGUARD MONITORING (ASM) SYSTEM

Automated Safeguard Monitoring (ASM) System has been customized. The safeguard implementation performances of the project have been collected from the field level safeguard team and uploaded in the automated system. For the regular input in the application the safeguard unit and the field level team will be oriented with the automated application. A glimpse of ASM of

environmental safeguard implementation performances of the sub-project is presented in **Annexure 10**.

7. SAFETY ASSURANCE AS PER THE CONTRACTOR'S SAFETY PLAN

109. Safety assurance as per the contractor's safety plan is presented in **Annexure 6**. The objectives of the contractor's safety plan are as follow:

- To ensure compliance with applicable legal requirements and other requirements related to environmental aspects of its operations.
- To conduct all activities consistent with applicable EHS Policies.
- To prevent injury to anyone and to safeguard human lives, property and the environment.
- To promote and establish the highest standards of safety to benefit through prevention of accidents and thereby promote increased productivity, reduced schedule disruptions and mitigate the effects of any accidents/ incidents.
- To increase safety consciousness and awareness among employees by uplifting the safety standards and setting the trend in safety excellence through established goals and objectives, training programs, audits and motivations.
- To ensure that all engaged in these works commit to these same Quality & EHS principles and shall establish and utilize programs that ensure the requirements are achieved.

110. The contractor is committed to achieve EHS performance through the following policy:

- Compliance with applicable Environmental, Occupational Health, Safety legislations and regulations
- Providing safe and healthy environment for all employees including those employed by subcontractor.
- Establishing of procedures to recognize, implement, evaluate and monitor EHS performance.
- Continual improvement of EHS performance through set objectives and targets and prevent pollution.
- Periodical review to ensure that the policy continues to be relevant and appropriate to organization.
- Safe upkeep of all tools and plants and conservation of natural resources.
- Appropriate level of EHS training.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS IN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

111. To encompass the distribution system package (Lot 1 Expansion of distribution network in eastern Nepal and Lot 2 Expansion of distribution network in western Nepal) into the environmental safeguards implementation; regular monitoring and reporting mechanism have been set from the month of November, 2018. As a preparatory work for setting up the environmental safeguard mechanism for the distribution system, orientation programs have been conducted in Butwal for Lot 2 in 27th October, 2018 and in Biratnagar for Lot 1 in 29th October, 2018 with active participation of around hundreds of participants from Supervision Consultant, site staff of Employer and Contractors. Furthermore, two focal persons at site levels have been assigned for regular monitoring and reporting of the environmental safeguard implementation. Environmental monitoring checklist has been provided to the focal persons for regular monitoring of the activities at site levels. Overall the environmental

safeguards have been partially complied in the distribution system. The environmental safeguard implementation at site levels have been provided in **Annexure 9**.

9. ISSUES AND FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

112. **Table 9.1** below shows the main environmental issues and follow up actions for the effective implementation of environmental safeguard measures.

Table 9-1: Major Issues and Follow up Actions

S. No.	Major Issues	Follow up Action
DKTLP		
1	Tree cutting Activity	Total 1179 out of 1242 trees of CFs in Myagdi have been cut. Similarly, 92 out of 200 trees at Thulosalleri Bhirmuni, 108 out of 466 trees at Dhulepalsing, 91 out of 146 at Bindabasini, 184 of 367 trees at Lasti Berneta, 108 out of 153 trees at Koreshophoksing and 65 out of 526 at Naniswara National Forest after getting the additional time from Parbat, DFO. Around 50 tree at Lasti Berneta yet to be cut. The tree marking is still being checked for Thulobhir Chiwrikhark CF by DFO and AFO of Parbat. ESSD Beni unit is regularly consulting with project, CFs and forest offices to initiate the tree cutting activity in the remaining CFs and national forest of Parbat.
2	Quarry Management at TL and substation	It is not satisfactory this month. Mudflow occurred from AP 42 B and AP 43 towards Pokhrebagar. Similarly, It has gone from western edge of Kushma substation towards Naya Pul.
3	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Compliance at the time of erection and stringing but only 50% has compliance at the time of foundation activity. The contractor has advised to supply sufficient PPE to the workers.
4	Gabion wall to protect the cropland of Mr. Narayan Subedi	The gabion wall has not started to construct. The ESMU Beni unit is regularly coordinating with the project to address this issue soon.
5	Alignment change issues of Pokhrebagar	The Technical, Social, Administrative, Economical and Environmental reports are presented at CDO of Myagdi on 24 October, 2019. The reports recommended the existing alignment rather than the change of alignment. However the locals are not satisfied with the report. Foundation at APs 41 A, 41 B, 42 and 42 A has been finished. Similarly, erections at APs 41 A, 41 B, 42 and 42 A has also been completed. . Protection Walls at AP 42B and AP 43 are under process. Similarly, drainage management around AP 42 B is also under process..
6	Debris fall at AP 10, AP 8A, AP 9A, AP 43, AP 42	Protective measures are under progress

S. No.	Major Issues	Follow up Action
	B and western edge of Kushma substation	
7	Drainage canal inside the Khurkot and Substations	It has been done temporarily inside the Kusma Substation by digging a channel.
8	Tree cutting issues in Shiruwari Thadikhoriya CF	The tree cutting activity has been finished. Lagat of wood and firewood has been submitted to DFO, Myagdi. The wood and firewood are also distributed to the same CF. Yet; A plot clearance letter remained to get from DFO, Myagdi.
9	Tree cutting at Dihidimerbot CF, Myagdi	6 out of 69 trees are cut and rest is postponed. As per the technical team remaining trees are avoided as it doesn't disturb the safety limit of the cable which is at fair and safe height
10	Tree cutting Contract in Parbat	7 out of 8 tree cutting contracts have been signed and one is under process.
11	Protective measures to control rainwater passing along outside of northern wall at Khurkot towards Nayapul.	The contractor said that it is not in their scope. Contractor has worked only on drainage channelization but refused to make check dams as there is no separate budget in BOQ and hence not in their scope of work.
12	Televisions and dining tables at substations	Not provided by contractor in this month. They are not interested for Televisions but they said that they will provide dining tables soon.
13	Fencing of Labor camp at Khurkot	It has been done but not satisfactory. because only temporary rope barrier has been made around the camp area for which ESMU has instructed contractor to make fencing strong enough to resist the entry of unwanted pets, wild animals and unnecessary persons inside the camp premises
14	Landslide occurred at AP 27A	Private cropland has collapsed at AP 27 A due to landslide. The protective measures are under planning to revive the cropland yet.
15	CPP	The reviewed CPP has been submitted.
16	Grievance from Gutako Pako CF, Parbat	The chairman of Gutako pako complained that workers of the contractor had cut around 40-42 trees between ROW of 5 and 6. But the contractor denied. The project has informed this issue in writing to DAO and DFO, parbat.
MKTLP		
1	PPE is not provided to worker working for protection wall	Contractors safety officers and site manager of TATA has been advised to provide PPE to workers working for the construction of protection wall. To some extent they have shown improvement than previous month in Gorkha, Chitwan and Dhading
2	PPE compliance in Foundation, erection and stringing	

S. No.	Major Issues	Follow up Action
3	Replacement of first aid box and PPE	Contractors (TATA) has been advised to replace PPE and first aid box whenever necessary by regular monitoring of safety officers in each working site
4	Restoration of Cremation site at AP9/0	Work has been completed.
5	Protection walls constructions at AP 22/0, AP 16A/0 and AP 11/0	Work has been completed.
6	Restoration of Chautari Near AP 61A	Local people have demanded to restore chautari near AP61A and project have inspected potential site for restoration of chautari. Construction work has not started yet.
7	Restoration of Chautari near AP 71	Chautari construction as per GRC meeting has been completed
8	Restoration of Chautari near AP 68	Chautari construction as per GRC meeting has been completed
9	Local road impact on Chumling- Ruplang section	GRC meeting has been called for the recorded grievance
10	Sanitation	Contractor has been advised to maintain proper sanitation inside and outside labor camp.
KNBTLP		
1.	The construction of retaining wall is in halted in AP 49 with widening of alongside shrinking-rural road. The changed design has not been approved thus could not started construction.	The contractor and project requested to proceeds the new design & approval promptly. Design Completed but not approved yet.
2.	Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)	The PPE's were provided to every labors and proper use of PPE's was observed in every worksite but gloves were not present in some locations. . As per the safety protocol for COVID-19, temperature measurements of the labors are asked to be measured daily and also provided with sanitizers and hand wash.
3.	OHS Compliance	The contractor has done an appreciable job in OHS compliance until this reporting period. The OHS compliance is satisfactory and there is a room for improvement too. The store in Palpa lacks informative signboards and barricading in all parts of the leased land.
4.	Restoration and Rehabilitation of construction site and	The contractor has been well informed and advised to make note of muck generated and quantify the muck details and properly manage the surplus muck after backfilling and to ensure no losses are made to surrounding areas.

S. No.	Major Issues	Follow up Action
	proper muck management.	
5.	The slope protection wall in AP 52 which was demanded by land-owner as the slope failure occurred causing risk to nearby house.	The contractor and project has been requested to proceed the design approval promptly.
6.	Access of COVID-19 screening and checkup facility	The screening and check-up facility is limited and could not provide to site worker
UMBTLP		
1.	PPEs compliance	The contractor has been advised that the labors should wear the PPEs compulsorily at the site.
2.	OHS training programs	The contractor has been advised to give OHS training programs to the labor as soon as possible.
3.	Signboards	The contractor has been advised to put enough signboards at the construction site.
4.	Debris management	The contractor has been advised to manage the debris properly.
5.	First aid kit	The contractor has been advised to maintain the first aid kit properly.

10. PROPOSED MAJOR ITEM OF FOCUS FOR NEXT REPORT

113. Following activities are proposed for next monitoring in the project sites

DKTLP

- Monitoring of environmental components regarding landslide, debris fall, Muck disposal soil loss, health and safety of labors, sanitation, and first aid and labor site conditions etc.
- Monitoring of Erection and Conductor stringing at TL
- Coordination with project for tree cutting and other activities of CFs in Parbat and Myagdi.
- Consultation meeting with PAFs, contractors, community and project authorities whenever required
- Compliance monitoring at TL and substations, Access road monitoring
- Coordination for the RoW issues
- Monitoring of health, hygiene and safety issues of labor camps of substations and TL
- Coordination and consultation for the drainage canals at TL and substations
- Consultation and coordination for landslide, drainage and irrigation issues at TL and substations.
- Monitoring the health and safety issues at substations and TL.
- Coordination and consultation with the PAFs of Pokhrebagar regarding the landslide and drainage issues
- Implementation of remaining training.

MKTLP

- Monitor tree cutting process as per contract between project office and forest user groups, contractor in Chitwan, Dhading and Gorkha districts in coordination of subdivision forest forests (Muglin and Barhakilo).
- Monitoring of construction activities using monitoring log sheet as per EMP (OHS, labor conditions, sanitation, labor camp inspection, first aid) in TL section and substation area
- PPE monitoring at all the construction sites (TL and SS)
- Monitoring of felling down of government trees under RoW with contractual obligations and mutual understanding
- Monitoring and minimizing of civil works consequences for the community and environment
- Follow up for forest clearance process in Chitwan, Dhading and Gorkha districts (Meeting with Project Office, Division Forest Office, Sub Division Forest Office and Contractor for tree cutting process)
- Consultation meeting with PAFs, contractors, CFUGs, Project authorities, local representatives and other stakeholders (Government bodies) whenever required
- Monitoring of excavated materials for proper labeling, filling and compaction and safety measures as site specificity.
- Follow up the given advisory to respective contractor for compliance of the contract clause and EMP (Especially sanitation inside and outside labor camp)
- Monitoring of Safety officers and emergency vehicle availability in sites, while labor will be on work (Especially on Markichowk SS)
- Monitoring of protection wall construction activities in Gorkha, Chitwan and Tanahu districts
- Follow up of chautari restoration process near AP 61A, Sahidlakhan RM, Gorkha district
- Coordinate with project authority, community forest and subdivision forest office for actual losses of trees from respective forest plot.
- Coordinate with Project authority and forest expert regarding compensatory plantation works.
- Closely coordinated with contractor and project office regarding health and safety issues while mobilization of staffs and labor during pandemic situation caused by COVID-19.

KNBTLP

- Coordination and regular follow up meetings with Division Forest Office, Sub-division Forest Office and CFUG for incorporation of comments given by DoFSC for land acquisition and tree clearance in forest area and related work until approval from cabinet.
- Monitoring of construction activities in New-Butwal Sub-station and transmission line (tower pad foundation, tower erection) on OHS, labor conditions, sanitation, labor camp inspection, first aid etc.
- Monitoring of debris management, muck/spoil management and site restoration.
- Data collection of loss and damage of crops, trees in tower pad/RoW and facilitate for the compensation Facilitate to identification of available compensatory plantation site in effected CFUG and surrounding and project passing districts.
- Consultation meeting with PAFs, contractors, community and project authorities whenever required
- Conduction of forest and wildlife awareness training.

- Conduction of OHS and site safety training periodic refreshment.
- Follow up on the status of IEE update required for the project.
- Increase awareness on COVID-19, work safety and public health safety standard and precaution.

UMBTLP

- Consultation meeting with contractors and project authorities whenever required.
- Involvement with tree marking team and cadastral survey team.
- Coordination and consultation with Division Forest Offices, Sub-division Forest Offices of Lamjung, Gorkha and Chitwan districts for tree marking activities.
- Follow up and monitoring of tree marking activities and regular consultation with CFUGs.
- Consultation with local people and PAFs.
- EMP compliance monitoring of the construction site at regular basis.
- Follow up and regular monitoring of labor camp.
- Follow up and monitoring of health and safety issues of labor in construction site as per given advise.

11. Impacts of COVID-19 in the project implementation

114. COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold. (WHO, 2019).
115. The outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the virus has now spread to many countries and territories.
116. A high-level coordination committee for COVID-19 prevention and control in Nepal was formed under the coordination of honorable deputy prime minister and defense minister on 1st March 2020. High level inter-ministerial Committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister has been restructured as the Corona Crisis Management Centre (CCMC). The Incident Command System of the MoHP has been activated for COVID-19 response. (WHO, April 2020). GoN, on 23rd March 2020, taking cognizance of the evolving global situation and recourse to the Infectious Disease Act 2020, decided to lockdown the country effective from 24th March 2020 which was extended several times looking at the severe situation caused due to COVID-19 all across the country and the world. Government of Nepal decided to ease the lockdown adopting a phased approach from 12th June 2020. In the first phase of 21 days, GON allowed shops to open and vehicles to operate under the odd-even rule. However, public places, institutions and events with higher intensity of congregation which includes schools, colleges, shopping malls, party palaces, conferences, sports activities etc. remained closed. The detail of government decision in regards to lockdown is given in **Annexure 11**.
117. Due to Corona Virus outbreak all around world including Nepal, implementation phase of SASEC project has also been affected especially in the field/sites which includes construction work, public consultation and GRC meetings, compensation distribution, CDC meetings, letter issuance from governmental bodies etc. From the month of April 2020 to June 2020, the progress work had been halted to some extent but however, virtual consultation meetings had been conducted, compensation distribution was also carried out in some areas (which has been mentioned in report as well as in annexures) in appropriate situation and grievances were also recorded in DKTLF. So for past three months (April-June 2020), the implementation phase of the project has been affected but few progress activity have also been carried out taking safety precautions (using PPE, maintain social distance, follow the Standard Operating Procedure) in order to prevent from COVID-19 by safeguard officers, stakeholders and project itself. The following procedures are followed during the COVID-19 pandemic at project sites.

Procedure

For Existing Staffs and Contractor Labor;

- Provision of thermal screening, maintaining hygiene conditions, providing soap solutions for hand washing at site locations.
- Provision of hand sanitizers in office premises and in all workstations.
- Awareness session on COVID-19 dos & don'ts.

- Mandatory use of masks by all workmen in working sites.
- At least 1 meter distance between workmen must be ensured in new workplace design and distribution of labor force in any activity.
- Deploy the new workers / workmen not acquainted with construction activity in light and very low risk activity after proper safety induction. Close supervision is essential to avoid any incident/ injuries.
- Change the mask after six hours or as soon as they become wet.
- Labor hutment and shelters should be located and planned in such a way so that each family or max 4 labor in each room or hut or tent to be placed. Minimum 2 mtr distance between individuals is maintained all the time.
- Every weekend door to door check-up of all labor families at their hutments is done for which a local doctor services shall be taken. All check-up is documented.
- Anyone found ill then he/she has to be quarantined away from all other hutments and their treatment is tracked till he is finally found to be fit.

For new Workmen coming from local area / other parts of country to project sites;

- At each project site priority shall be of first level elimination, if a workman comes under potential carrier category.
- Thermal screening is mandated along with medical checkup (If body temperature observed more than 37.3 deg. C (OR) 99.1 deg. F, person shall be sent back to home & COVID marshal shall ensure that he doesn't come to project site.
- For existing staff / workman (if thermal screening is positive) their movement are restricted to avoid contact with other people as much as possible by staying at home/camp till the time they fully recover.
- Project Manager shall ensure that the following information for each new workman is noted and record is kept. He will instruct the contractor accordingly so that he shall be ready with such information.
- Monitor the health and wellness of the employees/workmen and allow only employees/workmen, who are healthy at the site and office. If the new workmen are found to be from COVID-19 hotspots or if exhibiting any symptoms, then those workmen should not be deployed for job and the details of such workmen to be immediately informed to Site Management. In mean time, those workmen to be kept separately and not be allowed to mingle with other workmen. Create Work zones / Zoning of workplaces where workmen from one place cannot go to another place. Similarly, people should be earmarked in office

zones so that crossing of zones should be restricted.

- All new workmen who may be potential carriers are to be kept mandatorily in a separate camp/tent with only 2-4 workmen in a camp for initial 21 days.
- In order that these new workmen are identified easily, the wrist/hand band will be used for identification.
- Avoid mixing of local laborers with resident laborers.
- Avoid frequent change of local labors.
- No labors should be engaged for work without thermal screening and mask.
- Restrict workers from using other worker's phone, desk, offices or any other work tools and equipment as much as possible
- Provision of only 2-4 members in a camp is to be allowed or the number of workmen to be finalized with respect to maintaining social distancing and size of the camp / tent.
- Separate camps to be constructed & there should be at least 10 m separation between each camp.
- In Canteens, Rest sheds, TBT sessions etc. and in any other safety briefing sessions, safe distancing of 1 m is maintained.
- Ensure that the existing & new workmen should not go to nearby community for any purpose.
- This restriction is continued for at least 30 days after resuming project activities.
- This restriction is continued, if any cases are reported in the local community.
- If required deploy a team of medical staff (paramedic staff and a doctor) for at least 2 weeks to handle onsite exigencies. This can be withdrawn after situation normalizes.

Material disinfection (incoming materials at project sites)

- Incoming materials may be contaminated while transportation and hence all incoming material vehicles admitted to the project sites shall be parked at stores at safe/ remote location and the material should not be handled/touched for at least 12 hours.
- No manual handling of the material is allowed.
- Before handling, the material is disinfected with 1% sodium hypochlorite solution.

Hygiene provisions / Resources & process for daily monitoring

- Ongoing hygiene activities to be continued & all the current resources provided for sanitization need to be ensured in future also
- Provision for Hand wash and sanitizer (preferable with touch free mechanism) to be

made available at all entry and exit points and common areas with sufficient quantities.

- Workers coming from outside, special transportation facility is arranged without any dependency to public transport system. These internal vehicles is operated with maximum 50% capacity.
- Minimum Mandatory items required for personal sanitization in stores, offices & at workmen camps along with minimum quantity is maintained.
- Examine temperature (using thermal scanner) of each workman while going to job & while coming back and register to be maintained on daily basis.
- Disinfection/Sanitization activities is carried out at all areas once in two days for at least one month (Areas to be included are open areas of stores, entrance gate of project site, open areas of workmen camp, toilets, walls etc.) using 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution.

Disposal of PPEs

Used and disposable PPE's (e.g. masks, gloves, paper tissues etc.) is first stored in the marked dust bins (**covered with top lid**) which is kept at the designated place. Designated places may be at stores, workmen camp, near to office etc. It should be ensured that the workmen are depositing the PPEs (If it is disposable) in these bins only after returning from the worksite. These dust bins are sanitized on daily basis. The items stored in these dust bins are disposed off appropriately in compliance with regulatory requirements (these may be incinerated on a daily basis).

The checklist used at site in regards to monitor safety precaution against COVID-19 is given below.

Q. No.	Questions	Options	Response	Remarks subjective response
1	Name of Project			
2	Name of Contractor/ Package No.			
3	After lockdown is there continuation of work?	Yes- with <25 workers		
		Yes- with 25-50 workers		
		Yes - with 51-100 workers		
		Yes - with >100 workers		

Q. No.	Questions	Options	Response	Remarks subjective response
		No - there is complete stop of work		
4	What is accommodation arrangement of the workers?	Staying at contractor's labor camp inside the project area		
		Contractor arranged rented building in the community		
		Outside workers staying at rented room with self-arrangement		
		Local workers staying at their house with family		
5	In case of mixed arrangement provide distribution of workers by percentage?	Staying at contractor's labor camp inside the project area		
		Contractor arranged rented building in the community		
		Outside workers staying at rented room with self-arrangement		
		Local workers staying at their house with family		
6	What is food supply arrangement for the workers?	Procured by the contractor - bulk supply to the worker group		
		Shop arranged by the contractor - workers collect from the shop		
		No arrangement from the contractor - workers buy from different local shops		
		No arrangement from the contractor - workers buy from fixed shop		
		Self-accommodated workers - go for shopping in community		
7	Does the contractor submitted	Yes- already approved		
		Yes- but working on updating		

Q. No.	Questions	Options	Response	Remarks subjective response
	updated OHS plan to IA?	No- existing OHS plan is sufficient to response COVID 19 risk		
		No- Not yet initiated		
8	Does the project prepared project specific standard operating procedure for COVID 19 risk management?	Yes- already approved		
		Yes- but under preparation		
		No- but following available instruction and guideline from government		
		No- Not yet initiated		
9	What is arrangement of workplace for the EA's supervision staff?	Workplace management plan prepared		
		Plan shared with staff and oriented		
		Staffs are following the protocol		
		No arrangement set to date		
10	What is arrangement of workplace for the consultant's supervision staff?	Workplace management plan prepared		
		Plan shared with staff and oriented		
		Staffs are following the protocol		
		No arrangement set to date		
11	What is arrangement of workplace for the contractor's executive staff?	Workplace management plan prepared		
		Plan shared with staff and oriented		
		Staffs are following the protocol		
		No arrangement set to date		
12	How executive staff arrange transportation from residence	Project arranged vehicle (individual)		
		Project arranged vehicle (in group)		

Q. No.	Questions	Options	Response	Remarks subjective response
	to work area and vis-versa	Above arrangement only for partial staff		
		Own arrangement private		
		Own arrangement public		
13	What is fooding arrangement of executive staffs?	Cooked in office in mess		
		Individual cooking		
		Outside from restaurants/shops		
		No explicit arrangement		
14	What is accommodation arrangement of executive staffs?	Office arranged (inside camp)		
		Office arranged (rented building outside camp)		
		Individually arranged		
		No explicit arrangement		
15	In near future - How many workers are expected to work at a time in an area?	<25		
		25-50		
		51-100		
		>100		
16	Can you provide tentative time of work resumption?	After one week		
		After lockdown is over		
		Two weeks after lockdown is over		
		No plan to resume work		
17	Can you please explain type of preparedness for resumption of work?	SOP prepared and approved		
		OHS plan updated and approved		
		PPE, screening kits, labor camps ready		
		No preparedness- No response		
18	What type of measures planned to ensure OHS	Screening and detection mechanism established		
		Routine orientation/awareness		

Q. No.	Questions	Options	Response	Remarks subjective response
	plan and SOP are implemented?	raising to the workforce on COVID 19		
		Established coordination with medical centers prescribed for COVID 19		
		Routine monitoring and feedback mechanism established		
19	How do you evaluate existing capacity of EA/IA or contractor to prevent COVID risk to the workforce?	Poor		
		Fair		
		Good		
		Excellent		
20	What type of support do you expect from ADB to resume work?	Support on preparing SOP		
		OHS plan update review and fine tuning		
		Training and orientation on SOP		
		No support is needed we are fully capable		