CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cultural heritage Assessment Report of the Bulbulla IAIP and Shashemene RTC Sites of the Oromia Region

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Introduction

The preliminary scoping assessment identified that the establishment of the proposed project will result in the relocation of graves / burial tombs located within the Shashemene RTC site. Based on the outcome of the preliminary study a high-level assessment of the cultural heritage resources of the sites was undertaken. The main objective of the high-level assessment aimed to confirm the presence or absence of cultural heritage resources and provide background information on the significance of these cultural heritage sites and the possible impacts on these resources resulting from the proposed development.

Method of Assessment

The high-level cultural assessment included:

- Consultation with competent authorities and local communities;
- Desktop assessment; and
- Field assessment.

Cultural heritage resources are considered to include religious sites, such as shrines and churches, cemeteries, mosques, statues and related landscapes that could potentially be affected by the project. Identification of the presence and/or significance of cultural resources in the area would assist developers in locating sensitive resources and the sitting of project facilities in order to avoid or minimize impacts to these resources.

Findings of the Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Bulbulla IAIP site and Shashemene RTC site

According to the cultural heritage assessment carried out in September 2017 on the proposed Oromia IAIP and RTC sites, one gravesite was found within the Shashemene RTC site. Figure 1
provides a photo of the identified graves / burial tombs as well the location of the graves within the RTC site.

Figure 1: Photo of graves / burial tombs within the Shashemene RTC site

No other cultural heritage resources were identified within the Shashemene RTC site or the Bulbulla IAIP site.

**Proclamation related to cultural heritage**

Payment of Compensation for Property Situated on landholding expropriated for public purposes is done as per part two of the Council Of Ministers Regulation No 135/2007. According to article of this regulation compensation for Burial-ground states as follows:

- The amount of compensation for a burial-ground shall be determined on the basis of the estimated costs incurred for removing the grave stones, preparing other burial-ground, transferring and relocating the corpse and for conducting religious and cultural ceremonies in relation thereto;
- The amount of costs as stipulated under Sub-Article (1) shall be determined on the basis of the current local market prices of materials, transport services and labor.

The displacement of the gravesite for the purpose of implementation of the RTC in Oromia will be governed by the provisions of the Regulation indicated above.

During the field survey the community noted that the grave site is old and no longer used by the community. Furthermore, the graves pre-date the existing community and they are not aware of who the graves / burial tombs relate to, as such it will be difficult to trace back the relatives. The
graves / tombs hold no value to the community. They are located within the farming land and the ground is ploughed right up to the graves for the growing of crops.

Under such circumstance the project management, in close consultation with the community, can dismantle the tombs and relocate the remains to a new gravesite designated for this purpose. However, when the relatives of the dead bodies at the grave sites are identified it will be appropriate to contact them and request them to remove the remnants of the dead body and bury them at the sites of their preference or at the site designated by the Government for this purpose.

As far as our consultation with the communities goes and according to the information obtained from the site coordinators, the community indicated that there will not be any problem of relocating the graves / tombs as long as consultation is made with the communities, alternate sites are provided and appropriate compensation is paid.

**Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures**

1) *Assessment Methodology*

Potentially impacts, both beneficial as well as adverse impacts, on the physical, biological and socio-economic environment associated with the whole cycle of the proposed project (construction, operation and decommissioning phases) are identified with the help of site survey and consultations with stakeholders and affected parties. Once identified, further analysis on impact prediction and overall impact evaluation is undertaken.

The identified impact of the project on cultural heritage is then forecasted and the probability of the occurrence of the impact estimated. In line with this, the overall impact evaluation determines the incidence or magnitude and significance of the impact before mitigation measures are proposed.

Depending on the magnitude, special and temporal distribution of the project impact on the cultural heritage an impact score is assigned using the impact rating scale. This score then provides a measure of the impacts against the cultural heritage. This is then compared against the numerical ranges to give a final range value that in turn corresponds to a level of significance of impact.
ii) Impact Description

Construction phase

As described a grave site / burial tombs are expected to be relocated during the construction phase of Shashemene RTC site. A breakdown of potential construction, operational and decommissioning phase impacts and ratings are provided in the table below. A detailed impact table is attached as Appendix A.

Table 1: Construction Phase Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Without Mitigation</th>
<th>With Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probability</td>
<td>Severity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of cultural resources (graves)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operation

No adverse impact is expected to occur during operation of the IAIP and RTC.

Decommissioning

No adverse impact is expected to occur during decommissioning of the IAIP and RTC.

Cumulative

No adverse impact is expected to occur during decommissioning of the IAIP and RTC.

iii) Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are to be implemented during the Project development.

- Prior to the construction of the RTC at the Shashemene site the graves / tombs have to be exhumed and removed from the site and the bodies from these graves / tombs have to be buried outside of the RTC on a site agreed to by the community and in line with relevant legislation.
Management plan

The graves / burial tombs found on the site are not of great cultural value to the community or Government and there is no plan to preserve these sites at the federal, regional or Woreda levels. Once relocated no further management is required.

Management of any “Chance Findings” during Construction

If there are any accidental or “chance findings” during the project implementation the contractor shall immediately inform the project developer which in this case is the Oromia IPDC. The IPDC will then report to the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) for further investigation and appropriate follow up action.
APPENDIX A