



7 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Introduction

Consultation with local communities and other stakeholders is a key feature of NLNG's corporate policy. The aim of consultation is to gather information on issues, concerns and successes by dialogue with the local communities and other stakeholders. The company then looks towards working with the stakeholders to identify methods of addressing any negative impacts and to identify ways to maximise the positive benefits. This allows NLNG to maintain good public relations in the areas of operation and has, in the context of the NLNG*Six* project, helped to give a focus to the ESHA itself.

The public consultation for the NLNG*Six* was planned as a continuation of the NLNG*Plus* stakeholder consultation which was a comprehensive process. The intention with the stakeholder consultation process was that it would:

- Be transparent in order to build trust and also allow for effective communication channels to be set up between key stakeholders;
- Be informative so that participants are fully aware of NLNG's intended activities;
- Develop iteratively in order to allow sufficient time for participants to fully understand and respond to the issues.

As in the case of NLNG*Plus*, the NLNG*Six* project consultation programme was developed to address the concerns and views of both primary and secondary stakeholders. In section 4.2 a figure (Figure 4.1) was presented, depicting all stakeholder groups that NLNG identified. Engagement with some of these groups made use of existing channels (i.e. employees, shareholders, lenders, etc.). For other groups specific stakeholder engagement processes were set up. This was done in close cooperation with NLNG's Community Relations Department which maintains cordial relationships with NLNG's host communities.

7.2 Process of stakeholder engagement

From the start of the NLNG*Six* ESHA process it was envisaged that the resulting report should be an addendum to the NLNG*Plus* report. This was possible, because the Federal Ministry consented to making use of the baseline studies that were conducted for NLNG*Plus*. This meant that the stakeholder engagement process for NLNG*Plus* would also become part of the baseline used for NLNG*Six*, i.e. stakeholder issues that were previously identified were taken into account as part of the baseline situation to decide on the impacts of Train 6.

The time schedule associated with the 'fast track' EIA for NLNG*Six* did allow for formal and informal stakeholder engagement, but because the scope of the baseline studies was significantly less than for NLNG*Plus*, the stakeholder consultation was also envisaged to be less wide ranging. It was intended to have stakeholder engagement meetings on the ESHA process as well as on the outcomes of the process – i.e. the EIA report. However, separate expert panel meetings, like those carried out for NLNG*Plus*, to initially identify stakeholder issues, were not planned for NLNG*Six*. Instead, it was planned that the stakeholder engagement process for NLNG*Six* would use a consultative panel of Bonny Island experts to provide two important inputs to the ESHA for Train 6:

- Provide an update of stakeholders' views on issues raised at the time of the NLNG*Plus* engagement process
- Add expert knowledge to the ESHA for Train 6 and its outcomes in order to erect the most suitable and appropriate mitigation for the local community.

While full stakeholder meetings were eventually used for stakeholder engagement instead of the expert panel, the two key aims outlined above were fulfilled over a number of meetings whose details are given in Section 7.2.2 below.

The outcomes of the stakeholder consultation are discussed in detail in the second part of this chapter. This chapter starts with a description of the stakeholder engagement process which was



followed, including description of stakeholder meetings. Three separate tracks were followed, relating to:

- Government agencies
- Local communities and their representatives
- NGOs and SIGs

The schedule of separate activities relating to stakeholder engagement is illustrated in Table 7.1. For obvious reasons, only key, important events are listed. This does not include telephone calls, informal meetings etc. which do form an important overall part of the stakeholder engagement process.

Stakeholder Consultation Activities	2003												
	May	June	July	August	September	October	November						
Visit to FMEnv to introduce NLNG <i>Six</i> ESHA*	■												
Notice of NLNG <i>Six</i> ESHA sent to FMEnv		■											
Visit to the Chiefs			■										
Questionnaire surveys in shanty villages			■	■									
Social team meeting with BECC				■									
Letter to FMEnv regarding change of scope**				■									
Stakeholder meeting at Port Harcourt				■									
BECC meeting with Brian Buckley				■									
Meeting with Niger Delta Wetlands Centre					■								
Visit to FMEnv to update on ESHA progress						■							
Meeting at Chiefs Council											■		
Visit by MFEnv to SGSI TA in The Hague												■	
Technical Meeting with BECC and BKDC												■	
Stakeholder meeting, at Port Harcourt													■
Notes:													
* Light blue shaded relates to engagement with the Federal Ministry of the Environment													
** Inclusion of slug catcher													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 5 July 2003, representatives of the consultants, led by Prof. C. T. I. Odu, and NLNG's Community relations Manager and some of his staff paid a visit to the Amayanabo's palace to meet with the Amayanabo and his Chiefs in order to brief them about NLNG <i>Six</i>. • The Ecosphere Social team (represented by Ms. Jane Emeruem) met with BKDC early in August as part of scheduled interaction between the Social team and BKDC on the one hand, and BECC on the other. • On the 11 August 2003, an NLNG <i>Six</i> ESHA workshop was held with stakeholders at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt. The Bonny and Finima community representatives walked out of this meeting when mitigation measures were to be discussed. • On the 13th of August, 2003, a meeting was held between BECC, NLNG and Ecosphere at the NLNG office in Bonny to iron out matters as a result of the walkout of the Bonny and Finima community representatives from the 11 August 2003 meeting. • On 3 November 2003 NLNG and the Consultants visited the Bonny Chiefs Council and discussed the holding of the NLNG <i>Six</i> stakeholders meeting. The Chiefs Council decided that a meeting between NLNG and Bonny Kingdom Technical Review Committee and Consultants be held to find out if NLNG has carried out mitigation measures proposed since the Base project. • On 7/8 November 2003, the meeting between NLNG and Bonny Kingdom Technical Review Committee and Consultants was held preparatory to the main stakeholders meeting planned for 19 November 2003. • On 19 November 2003 the NLNG <i>Six</i> stakeholders meeting was held. 													

Table 7.1. Schedule of stakeholder consultation activities for NLNG *Six*



7.2.1 Engagement with government

❖ *Notification and scope of the EIA process for NLNGSix*

A formal visit was made to FMEnv in the first week of May, 2003 to introduce the ESHA for NLNGSix. Since the NLNGSix project has three parts (an additional train and associated processing facilities, a slug-catcher and off-shore channel deepening), one of the purposes of the meeting was to define the exact scope of the ESHA for NLNGSix. It was proposed that the slug-catcher would be included in the scope of the EIA since it lies within the site boundary and poses no additional environmental, social or health hazards or effects. Furthermore it was proposed that there would be a separate ESHA exercise and EIA report for what is now called the “Channel Deepening Project”, required to increase the tidal window for shipping access for NLNGSix. Since there would be another EIA relating to offshore activities, it was proposed that all marine operations would be covered in that EIA and not in the assessment for the terrestrial aspects of Train 6. At this stage, it was proposed that the EIA Report for Train 6 be an “Addendum” to the EIA for NLNGPlus and that the EIA process would be a “fast-track” process. Reasons that the FMEnv was positive about a fast-track approach, included that there would be no additional land take associated with NLNGSix and that Train 6 would be a carbon copy of the trains being built for NLNGPlus, resulting in the same types of hazards and effects. Since the EIA for NLNGSix would be a fast-track process, this meant that the previous baseline studies used for NLNGPlus could be used for NLNGSix, resulting in important time benefits. The official notification to the Ministry of presentation of the EIA report was submitted in the first week of June, 2003 (see Appendix 6). With this letter, the EIA process for NLNGSix was officially started. See section 1.9.3 for additional information on the scoping process.

During the EIA process the Ministry has been regularly informed and consulted about the progress of the NLNGSix EIA and its expected outcomes. In response to NLNG’s presentation and notification letter, the Ministry requested that the slug-catcher be included in the scope of the EIA for the terrestrial aspects of NLNGSix. This was agreed and formalised by NLNG in a letter to the Ministry in the second week of August, 2003.

A second formal meeting with the FMEnv took place in the third week of September 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to inform and update the Ministry on progress with the NLNGSix EIA process.

❖ *Explanation to FMEnv officials of the ESHA process*

In November 2003, both national and River State EIA representatives from the FMEnv were invited by NLNG to visit The Hague (Shell Gas Nigeria B.V.) to hear more about the EIA for NLNGSix and to learn more about Shell’s experiences and practices in project development and associated environmental, social and health (impact) assessment. The purpose of the visit was four-fold:

- To be informed about Shell standards and guidelines on Sustainable Development (SD) and Health, Safety and the Environment (HSE).
- To familiarise with the outfit for project development (with NLNGSix as leading example), particularly the way in which environmental, social and health aspects are integrated in projects.
- To be informed about the details of the ESHA process for NLNGSix. This focussed on all aspects related to the implementation of SGSI’s Project Guide 1A: embedding HSE/SD items in different project phases and specifically in the Basis of Design (BOD), Project Specification, ESHA process, etc., i.e. everything that ensures compliance with Nigerian, NLNG, Shell and Financers’ standards.
- To become acquainted with Dutch EIA processes and their application in the oil&gas industry, through a visit to the secretariat of the Dutch MER (EIA) Commission in Utrecht, followed by a visit to NAM’s location for underground storage of gas (plus an explanation about the EIA



carried out for that project), and then via the Afsluitdijk (famous Dutch waterworks) to Den Helder (NAM treatment station for offshore gas with a huge slug-catcher, comparable to the GTS2/4 for NLNG).

7.2.2 Engagement with local communities

Local communities on Bonny Island are represented by their “houses” or family structures. Chiefs of each house represent their people on Bonny Chiefs’ Council, which is the seat of local governance. The Council meets monthly to discuss local issues pertaining to planning, development, administration, crime and punishment etc. Chiefs also represent their houses at independent meetings, such as those set up specifically to discuss the NLNG project and its impacts. Bonny Chiefs’ Council has set up, and delegated responsibility to the Bonny Kingdom Development Committee (BKDC) to manage, coordinate and facilitate planning and development issues pertaining to society and the lives and culture of the people. Bonny Chiefs Council has also set up, and has delegated responsibility to, Bonny Environmental Consultancy Committee (BECC) to manage, coordinate and discuss all environmental issues pertaining to the local community.

NLNG’s Community Relations Department deals with BKDC and BECC on all issues relating to people and the natural environment respectively. BKDC and BECC then communicate the outcome of these discussions and decisions to Bonny Chiefs Council.

Issues pertaining directly to the Finima community are dealt with by the Finima Development Committee (FDC). These parallel the interests and responsibilities of BKDC and BECC specifically for the Finima community, its people and environs. The FDC deals directly with NLNG on issues which may have an impact on their community and also deals with and communicates directly with Bonny Chiefs Council on these matters.

The following section describes the sequence of meetings which took place with chiefs and representatives of the local community over the period of six months between May and November 2003 to ensure that the local community was properly informed about Train 6 and that their views were fully taken account of.

❖ *Visit to the Chiefs*

For the NLNG*Six* ESHA, the stakeholder engagement process started on 5 July 2003, when representatives of the consultants, led by Ecosphere’s Director, Prof. C. T. I. Odu, and NLNG’s Community Relations Manager, Engineer S. Onyegun, paid a visit to the Amanyanabo’s palace. The purpose of this meeting with the Amanyanabo and his Chiefs was to brief them about NLNG*Six* and the fact that an EIA was being conducted. This meeting was necessary to permit the EIA environmental, social and health teams to conduct research in various communities on Bonny Island.

❖ *Questionnaire surveys in shanty villages*

A core part of the ESHA for Train 6 was the collection of information to fill gaps in knowledge about the shanty villages. Questionnaires were constructed and a series of interviews carried out by both social and health teams to glean information on living conditions and lifestyle within the shanty communities. During these interviews, informal discussions also provided information on environmental conditions and other matters relating to the shanty communities and their populations.

❖ *Social team meeting with BECC*

The social team met with BECC on 6th August, 2003 to discuss the setting up of a stakeholder meeting to discuss and appraise with local stakeholders the outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG*Six*.



❖ *Stakeholder meeting at Port Harcourt*

A stakeholder meeting was held at the Presidential Hotel in Port Harcourt on 11th August 2003. The minutes of this meeting are presented in Appendix 15. The purpose of the meeting was to give community representatives the opportunity to hear the outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG**Six** and to give their inputs which would enable NLNG to come up with appropriate mitigation measures for any adverse impacts identified in connection with NLNG**Six**.

NLNG's EIA consultants presented outcomes of the ESHA for both the construction and operational phases of NLNG**Six**, including identified impacts on environmental, social and health issues. Before the consultants' team had a chance to present mitigation measures, Dr Joshua Pepple, Chairman of BECC, stated that NLNG had not been fulfilling its promises to the local people from the very start of the NLNG **Base** project to the NLNG**Plus** project. He announced that because of this, the community was walking out of the meeting in protest. Although Bonny community attendees walked out, the meeting continued with a discussion amongst the remaining representatives of the FME_{env} and NGOs.

❖ *BECC meeting with Brian Buckley, NLNG Production Manager*

As a result of the breakdown of the stakeholder meeting on 11th August, a meeting was held on 13th August between BECC and the NLNG Production Manager, Brian Buckley, with representatives of the Ecosphere consultants. The purpose of the meeting was to identify why the stakeholder meeting of the 11th had broken down and to agree a way forward which would resolve differences between NLNG and the local Bonny community. The minutes of this meeting are presented in Appendix 16.

Mr Buckley assured BECC that NLNG was anxious to discuss past agreed promises and mitigation measures and gaps in their implementation. Dr Joshua Pepple, representing BECC, pointed out that BECC were unaware of the activities of Train 6 and that the walk-out at the Port Harcourt meeting was as a result of what they considered to be a failure on the part of NLNG to implement some agreed mitigation measures dating back to Train 1. He mentioned six key issues which had been raised at a meeting with NLNG on 6th August, 2002 which BECC believed had not been properly implemented. These were:

- Campaign to protect forests
- The Finima Nature Park
- The NLNG labour camp
- Solid wastes
- Contingency plan for possible gas disaster
- Fishermen and results of the fish-catch study

The meeting ended with a discussion of the best way to convey information about NLNG and progress on various NLNG projects to the wider community. BECC suggested that a meeting of a cross section of the community should be called to brief them on these subjects.

In light of the failure of the 11th August stakeholder meeting, a further stakeholder meeting was thus planned to discuss outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG**Six**. Accordingly, in September, NLNG engaged BECC to solicit the attendance of Bonny chiefs, other community representatives and representatives of local NGOs and SIGs at this further stakeholder meeting to discuss the outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG**Six**. The response from the chiefs was that they wished to be further briefed about NLNG**Six** before such a stakeholder meeting could take place.

❖ *Meeting to brief Bonny Chiefs Council about NLNG**Six***

Representatives of NLNG and Prof Odu, Director of Ecosphere consultants, made a presentation on NLNG**Six** to Bonny Chiefs Council on Monday 3rd November. The Chiefs Council proposed that a Technical Review Committee be set up, comprising representatives of BKDC, BECC and NLNG, together with special representatives of the Finima Community, to discuss all outstanding



past-agreed mitigation measures for Trains 1 to 5. Only once these discussions had taken place could issues pertaining to Train 6 be discussed.

❖ *Technical meeting with BECC and BKDC*

As requested by Bonny Chief's Council, a Technical Review Committee was set up and met in the Presidential Hotel in Port Harcourt on 7th-8th November, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to identify all gaps in the implementation of mitigation arising from Trains 1 to 5.

Engineer S.O. Oyegun, the NLNG Community Relations Manager, opened the meeting and indicated that outstanding promises and mitigation items would be identified from four different documents: (a) the "Agreement" between Bonny Kingdom and NLNG signed on 30th May, 2000, as well as (b) the EIAs carried out for the **Base** project (Trains 1 and 2), the **Expansion** project (Train 3) and the **Plus** project (Trains 4 and 5). He assured committee members that all items would be discussed openly and transparently, including any new points arising from the discussions. The Chairman of BKDC, Dr T.A.T. Allison, and the Chairman of BECC, Mr J. Pepple, agreed that the core concern for Bonny Kingdom was to carry out a one-by-one examination of items from the Agreement and from past EIAs for Trains 1-5 to ascertain the implementation status of each and to agree how outstanding items would be implemented by NLNG. Agreement items and mitigation items from Trains 1-5 were to be discussed first, followed by a discussion of mitigation items for Train 6. These discussions would assess issues of concern to Bonny Kingdom prior to a full stakeholder meeting scheduled for 19th November, 2003.

The "Agreement" items discussed included:

- Employment of 30 graduates
- Employment of semi-skilled and non-skilled staff
- Employment to be carried out in consultation with relevant personnel in Bonny Kingdom
- Provision of boats
- Provision of water tankers to Bonny/Finima
- Community relations and interactions
- Finima relocation
- Increased access to forests on Bonny Island
- GTS communities
- Health monitoring and health service provision
- Declaration of Nature Reserve area
- Development of rural roads
- Patronage of local contractors
- Production of acquisition documents for Coconut Estate
- The Nigerian labour camp and its environs
- Provision of exclusion zone around jetties and its implications for fishing
- Employment of indigenes of the Bonny Community
- Removal of solid waste
- Contingency plan for gas disaster
- Environmental Impact Assessment

The full text of the "2000 Agreement" is provided in Appendix 14.

Once the current status of each of the above items had been discussed in full, the meeting addressed the proposed mitigation items for Train 6. This included full discussion of those items considered to be outstanding from previous EIAs, and listed in chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this ESHA for NLNG*Six* as "Stakeholder Issues". The technical review committee critically examined the wording of these mitigation proposals and provided re-wordings where appropriate.



❖ *Stakeholder meeting at Port Harcourt*

A full stakeholder meeting was held at the Presidential Hotel in Port Harcourt on 19th November 2003. One week in advance of this meeting, all stakeholders were circulated with a briefing document which described the NLNG*Six* project, together with the ESHA impacts and proposed mitigation measures. Minutes of the meeting are presented in Appendix 17. The purpose of the meeting was to give as wide a sector as possible of Bonny Community representatives and other stakeholders the opportunity to hear the outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG*Six* and to give their own views and inputs. In total, 62 people attended the meeting, including NLNG representatives, their EIA consultants and technical advisers.

After opening preliminaries, Prof Odu, speaking on behalf of NLNG's EIA consultants, presented the outcomes of the ESHA for NLNG*Six*. The floor was then opened for full discussion on all impacts and proposed mitigations for Train 6. A range of issues were discussed, including the following key items:

- Micro-credit scheme and its functioning
- NLNG private roads and restricted public access
- Resolution of all outstanding mitigation/promises before the completion of Train 6
- Collection of health indicators for Bonny to identify NLNG's impact
- BECC to be included in all future air quality monitoring
- Jetty exclusion zone and fishing
- Removal of shanty settlements
- Combating crime and moral decay
- Cost of living on Bonny
- Management of solid waste
- Employment of Bonny indigenes

7.2.3 Engagement with NGOs and SIGs

❖ *Local community NGOs*

There are three key community NGOs on Bonny. These are:

- BKDC – Bonny Kingdom Development Committee
- BECC – Bonny Environmental Consultants' Committee
- FDC – Finima Development Committee

The role of all three organisations within Bonny community has already been outlined in Section 7.2.2 above. The Ecosphere Social team met with BKDC and BECC early in August, 2003, as part of scheduled interaction between the Social team and Bonny community representatives. In addition, all three organisations have been active participants in the stakeholder meetings and in the technical review committee.

❖ *Independent NGOs*

The Niger Delta Wetland Centre (NDWC) is the only independent NGO represented on Bonny Island. Its role in Finima is as the managing consultant, responsible for setting up and managing the Finima Nature Park until structures are in place in the local community for a board of local trustees to take of the administration, management, and day to day running of the park.

In the third week of August, 2003, the EIA team, led by Professor J. Alo, visited the NDWC and met with the Director, Mrs Miriam Isoun and Chief Arikpo, the Forest Manager for the Nature Park. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss biodiversity issues on Bonny Island and the availability of plant and animal survey data for Bonny Island. As well as these issues, a number of other subjects were raised and discussed, including the following items:

- Current status of the Finima Nature Park



- Deforestation associated with gas pipelines immediately east of the Nature Park
- Coastal erosion

The Finima Nature Park is an area of approximately 700 ha of freshwater forest and dryland rainforest mosaic, set up in 2001 with financial support from NLNG; see Map 1. It is currently managed by the NDWC and employs a staff of 35 local forest guards to ensure that further timber extraction and forest damage is restricted. The future plan is for the management of the reserve and its trust fund to be handed over to a committee of local trustees.

The landfall route of the Offshore Gas Gathering System (OGGS) pipeline has just been constructed on the eastern boundary of Finima Nature Park (see the land ownership corridors in Map 1). These activities cleared the forest along a 50 m wide strip, threatening the eastern part of the forest and the viability of its young tree nursery in the nearby village of Agaja. The NDWC pleaded for NLNG and oil companies in the area (SPDC, Chevron, Elf Petroleum Nigeria Ltd., Mobil) to collaborate to ensure that further pipelines use the same route to avoid future damage to the Nature Park in this area. In addition, NDWC requested that oil and gas companies discuss with NDWC and the Finima Nature Park methods of remediation to ensure that the forest is reinstated.

Coastal erosion has been apparent along the western tip of Bonny Island. In a 1998 forestry assessment this erosion was attributed to depletion of the mangrove forest in this area. NDWC pointed out that further forest depletion could exacerbate this problem. There has also been unsubstantiated claims that coastal erosion along the beach barrier islands could have been exacerbated by the construction of the OGGS.

The meeting concluded by summarising the following points as being of key importance to the Finima community:

- Communication: to keep local people informed about all future NLNG developments
- Training: to give local people forest and nature conservation skills
- Awareness raising: e.g. in relation to crop growing by local women
- Ecological survey: particularly the identification and cataloguing of plant and animal species present in Finima Nature Park and its surroundings.

❖ *Local community special interest groups*

There are several important local community special interest groups, including those below:

- Bonny Youth Federation (BYF)
- Bonny Institute of Women's Associations (BIWA)
- Finima Institute of Women's Associations (FIWA)
- Bonny Gentlemen's League (BGL)
- Bonny Improvement Association (BIA)
- Finima Forest Committee

All of these organisations were present and participated in the full stakeholder meeting held on 19th November, 2003.

7.3 Important stakeholder engagement outcomes

The stakeholder engagement process for NLNG**Six** benefited immensely from two factors:

- Previous groundwork carried out on stakeholder engagement for NLNG**Plus**, particularly the identification of stakeholder groups, their key representatives and the issues of most important to them
- Current good relations built up between the NLNG Community Relations Department and representatives of Bonny Kingdom community groups.



The stakeholder engagement process for NLNG**Six** was originally envisaged as a consultative panel of Bonny Island experts, who would add their knowledge to the ESHA and its outcomes in order to erect the most suitable and appropriate mitigation for the local community. The failure of the first stakeholder meeting on 11th August indicated that local community groups were so unhappy with the current status of implementation of past mitigation agreements arising from the NLNG**Base** project (Trains 1 and 2) to the **Plus** project (Trains 4 and 5) that they were unwilling to consider the Train 6 extension until past issues had been resolved.

This led to the setting up of a technical review committee, whose BKDC and BECC representative were appointed by the Bonny Chiefs Council, and whose remit was to review all past agreed mitigation measures, assess their current status of implementation and to resolve their completion prior to assessment of the ESHA for Train 6.

The review of past agreed promises and mitigation measures was not considered to be directly related to Train 6. For this reason, the technical review committee meeting on 7-8th November was not considered to provide sufficient stakeholder consultation for the NLNG**Six** ESHA. Hence a further stakeholder meeting was arranged, whose remit was to focus specifically on NLNG**Six** issues.

The following sections of this chapter detail the most important outcomes from the four main Stakeholder meetings.

7.3.1 Stakeholder meeting on August 11th 2003

The failure of this stakeholder meeting highlighted the need, at the earliest possibility of any future NLNG project expansion or development, to communicate with the local stakeholders and to engage them in decisions about the scope of any EIA work. In addition, stakeholder representatives need to be fully briefed about NLNG's plans so that they are well informed and in a good position to formulate their own opinions and inputs.

7.3.2 Meeting with BECC on August 13th 2003

The meeting between BECC and the Production Manager of NLNG was a very important turning point in the stakeholder engagement process because it was the first time that the NLNG principal management had confirmed to the Bonny community that NLNG intended to honour its past agreed promises and implement past-agreed mitigation measures. This positive approach ensured that the full stakeholder engagement process for NLNG**Six** could proceed.

7.3.3 Technical meeting of 7-8th November 2003

The setting up of a technical review committee to specifically assess the current status of past-agreed promises and mitigation started the constructive process of resolving long-standing problems. From the long list of issues listed in the "Agreement" and discussed at the meeting on 7-8th November (see Section 7.2.2 above), many issues were identified for further discussion in the stakeholder meeting on November 19th.

7.3.4 Stakeholder meeting on November 19th 2003

Although the full stakeholder meeting was called to discuss issues specific to the NLNG**Six** ESHA, it also provided the first opportunity for a large group of Bonny community stakeholders to discuss the issues raised and reviewed by the technical review committee two weeks earlier. Thus, the majority of the proceedings discussed at this meeting related to NLNG**Six** "Stakeholder Issues" (i.e. implementation of past-agreed promises and mitigation measures from previous phases of the NLNG project) rather issues unique to NLNG**Six**. The only issue relating directly to NLNG**Six** was that of air quality. NLNG currently carry out (since 2\June 2003) ambient air quality monitoring both around the plant site and in more distant areas, including Bonny Town and New Finima. It was agreed that NLNG would involve BECC in all future air quality monitoring so that local people can see clearly the prevailing air quality conditions near their own homes and work places.



A wide range of topics were discussed at the full stakeholder meeting (see Appendix 17). The main value of these full discussions was to refine the wording of agreed mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 5 and in Table 5.1 of this report. The only issue discussed at length which was additional to that of the technical review committee, was the issue of shanty villages.

The full stakeholder meeting resolved that the Bonny community, and the Finima people in particular, wished to see the shanty villages completely disbanded, not simply removed elsewhere. In this endeavour, which could be viewed as a long term aim of the local community, they sought support from NLNG, and from the Local Government Authority.

7.4 Conclusions on stakeholder engagement

All stages of the stakeholder engagement process for NLNG**Six** have highlighted the fact that local people are primarily concerned with issues which date from the **Base** project and previous expansion phases of the NLNG site. There are no significant impacts which relate uniquely to the NLNG**Six** project. The majority of impacts and associated mitigation for NLNG**Six** relate to ongoing or outstanding issues. This is partly handled in the ESHA for Train 6 by identifying "Stakeholder Issues" in Chapter 4 and in the Impacts Table (see Table 4.10) which are mainly promises and mitigations from previous phases of the NLNG project and are not directly related to NLNG**Six**.

In conclusion, the stakeholder engagement process for NLNG**Six** has achieved much more than the key objective of consultation on NLNG**Six** impacts. It has addressed, in a very comprehensive manner, all outstanding issues which have been causing problems between NLNG and the Bonny community for several years since the **Base** project. The process by which these problems have now been addressed, via a technical review committee appointed by Bonny Chiefs Council, will ensure that all outstanding issues are resolved in a manner acceptable to the highest authorities in Bonny community.

Progress made at the Technical Review Committee meeting and particularly at the full stakeholders meeting in November 2003 has gone a long way to resolving past disagreements between the Bonny Community and NLNG concerning non-implementation of promises and mitigation measures. The current stakeholder engagement process has not only ensured that relations between NLNG and its host community remain genial in the future, but has opened up a new mechanism, the Technical Review Committee, for tackling discussions problem issues as they arise.