

## Bujagali Hydropower Project, Uganda

### Client

Bujagali Energy Ltd (JV of Sithe Global (USA) and IPS (Kenya))

### Project

Tonkin & Taylor was engaged, in association with RJ Burnside of Canada, to carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of this green-field 250 MW hydropower project near the source of the River Nile. The project is being developed by an Independent Power Producer (IPP) under a Build, Own, Operate, Transfer (BOOT) contract. As the project is partly financed by the World Bank Group, the European Investment Bank and international commercial banks, it was subject to the strictest international levels of environmental regulation.

### Services provided

Environmental guidelines with which the project was made to comply included:

- World Bank Group Environmental Safeguard Policies (including the IFC 2006 Environmental Performance Standards)
- EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
- Equator Principles version 2.

T&T's brief was to lead the natural resources assessment, a large component of which included baseline monitoring, impact assessment and design of mitigation and monitoring programmes in relation to aquatic biota.

Specific issues included fisheries, and fish

biodiversity issues. The fisheries programme, (designed by T&T) and implemented using experts from the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute, identified seven new species of haplochromine cichlid fish, and one previously thought to be extinct. We subsequently developed a programme of more detailed surveys along the length of the Victoria Nile, and a mitigation and compensation programme involving preservation of downstream habitat in perpetuity, and habitat enhancement within the new reservoir.

T&T staff appeared as expert witnesses (aquatic ecology) at a public hearing in Uganda, and at two World Bank stakeholder forums in the USA.



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