

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Cassinga electrical power supply project in Huíla and Huambo Provinces, Angola



## INTRODUCTION

In January 2024 PAK Yatirim commissioned SRK Consulting (South Africa) Pty Ltd, in collaboration with Angolan consultancy Geolab, to manage the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Cassinga electrical power supply project in Huíla and Huambo Provinces, Angola.

The ESIA adheres to Angolan national legislation and applicable international standards. Registered with the Ministério do Ambiente as a Category B project, the ESIA establishes baseline conditions, legal requirements, and assesses potential impacts with mitigation measures, including stakeholder engagement findings.

## PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Cassinga Electrical Power Supply Project, centrally located in Angola and extending about 170 km through the municipalities of Jamba, Cuvango, and Chipindo, aims to enhance the electrical infrastructure in Huíla and Huambo provinces (see map on the back page).

Powered by the Gove Hydroelectric Power Plant, the project includes a new high voltage 220 kV overhead line network, substations in Chipindo, Cuvango and Jamba, medium voltage and low voltage distribution networks, public lighting, and home connections. It aims to boost agricultural, industrial, and mining sectors, attract investment, create jobs, and improve living conditions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Project's baseline biophysical and socio-economic environment was assessed through existing documentation and specialised investigations.

The biophysical environment features diverse, agriculturally suitable soils, Miombo woodlands, and freshwater systems with high biodiversity, including the endangered Bateleur bird. Air quality is currently impacted by agriculture, fuel burning, and industry, while noise comes mainly from farming and traffic.

The area is predominantly rural with significant landmarks like the Gove Dam. Huíla Province, with a population of 2.5 million and key ethnic groups like Ovimbundu and Khoisan, faces limited educational facilities and underdeveloped healthcare infrastructure. The nearest indigenous Khoisan community is 70 km south of the Project area. The Project area has various heritage sites. The economy is driven by subsistence agriculture, with low formal employment. A Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework has been developed to guide any relocation. Assessments have noted that minimal physical relocation will be required, but economic displacement in maize fields is expected. A resettlement plan will be developed by the proponent to allow for fair and transparent management of resettlement and compensation. The ESIA demonstrated that identified impacts can be mitigated and managed whilst optimising benefits (refer to NTS for details).

## ELECTRICITY ACCESS IN THE PROJECT AREA

- As of 2014, only 32% of Angolan households had access to mains electricity, with extremely low access rates in interior provinces
- In Huíla province, 16% of households are connected to the public grid
- Despite ongoing efforts to expand Angola's energy capacity, which reached 5,880.19 MW by 2021, the actual availability of electricity in remote and less developed areas remains critically low

## KEY BENEFITS

- Enhance electrical infrastructure in Huíla and Huambo provinces
- Support agricultural, industrial, and mining sectors
- Attract investment to the region

## KEY IMPACTS

- New power lines and substations could endanger species like the Bateleur bird, (However, established management plans will mitigate these risks)
- The powerline will pass through several maize fields (However, established management plans will mitigate these risks)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Should you have any questions, need more information, or wish to comment, please contact the stakeholder engagement team as follows

**Geolab**

Representative: Ana Ramos, Social Engagement



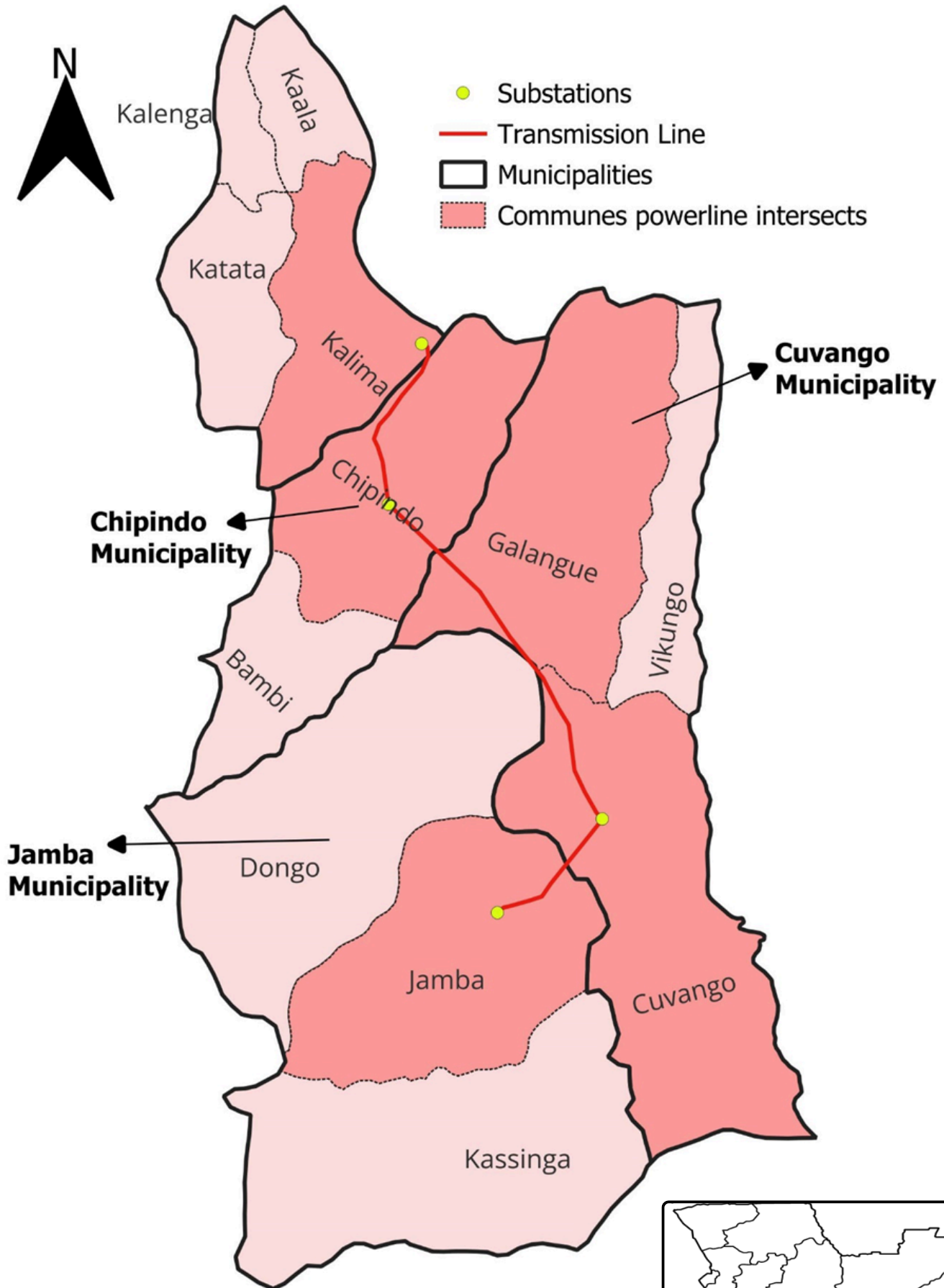
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For further details, a Non-Technical Summary can be found at - [www.srk.com/en/public-documents](http://www.srk.com/en/public-documents)



- Substations
- Transmission Line
- Municipalities
- ▨ Communes powerline intersects



Location of powerline within Angola (Red)