

LOWLANDS WATER SUPPLY UNIT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF METOLONG DAM PROJECT

November 2007



Presentation outline

Background

Public consultation and participation process

Challenges

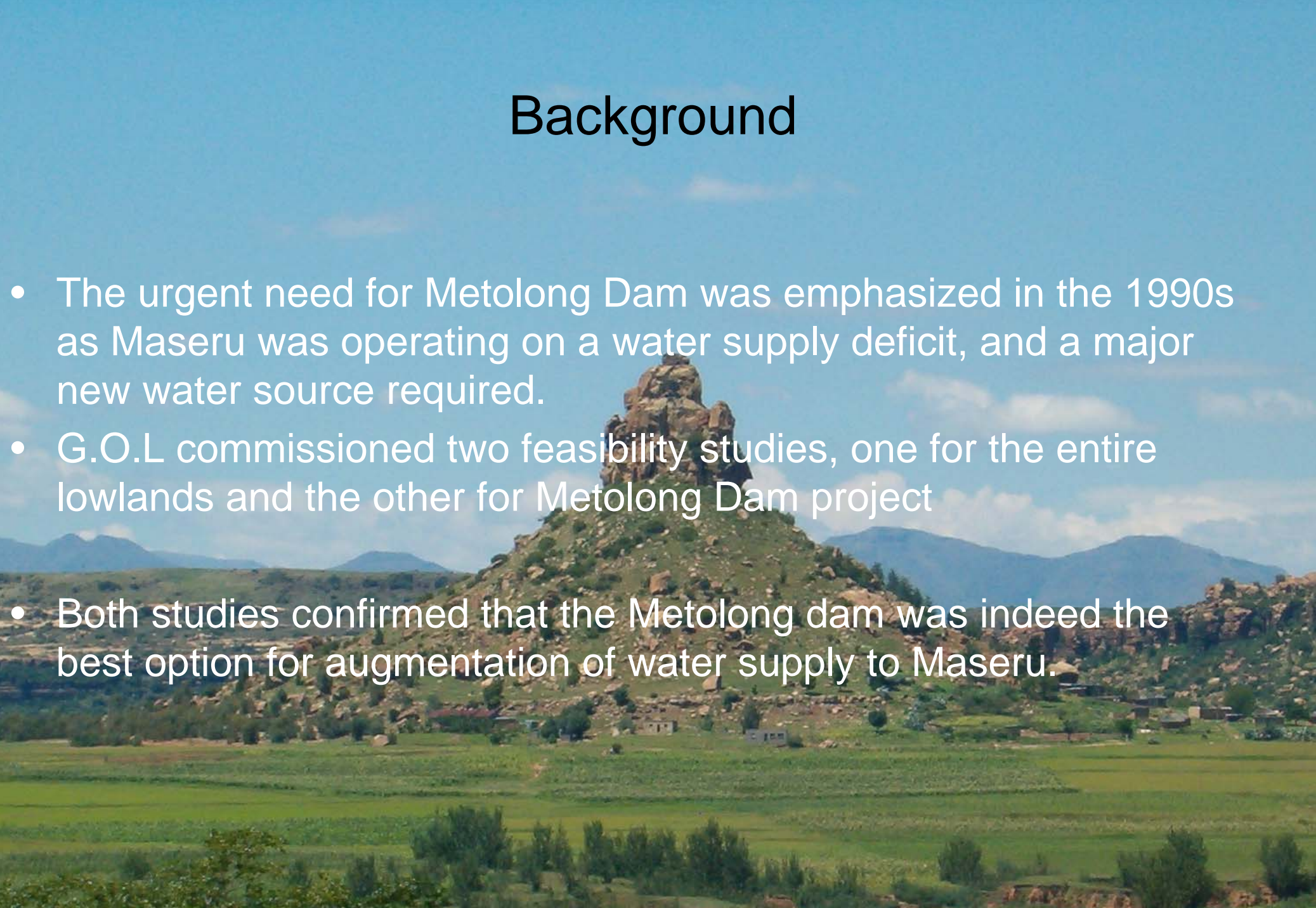
Lessons Learned

Way forward

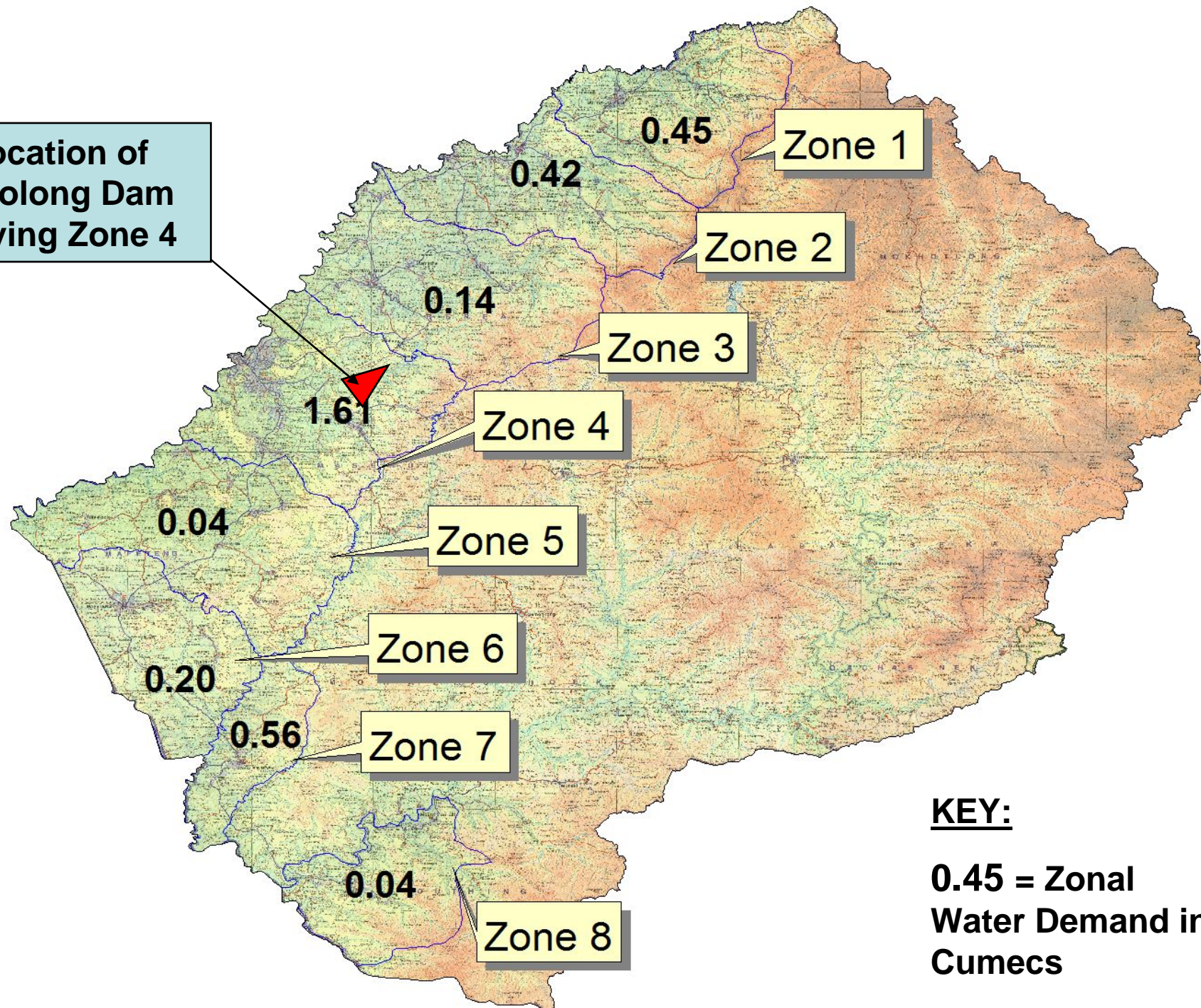


Background

- The urgent need for Metolong Dam was emphasized in the 1990s as Maseru was operating on a water supply deficit, and a major new water source required.
- G.O.L commissioned two feasibility studies, one for the entire lowlands and the other for Metolong Dam project
- Both studies confirmed that the Metolong dam was indeed the best option for augmentation of water supply to Maseru.



**Location of
Metolong Dam
serving Zone 4**



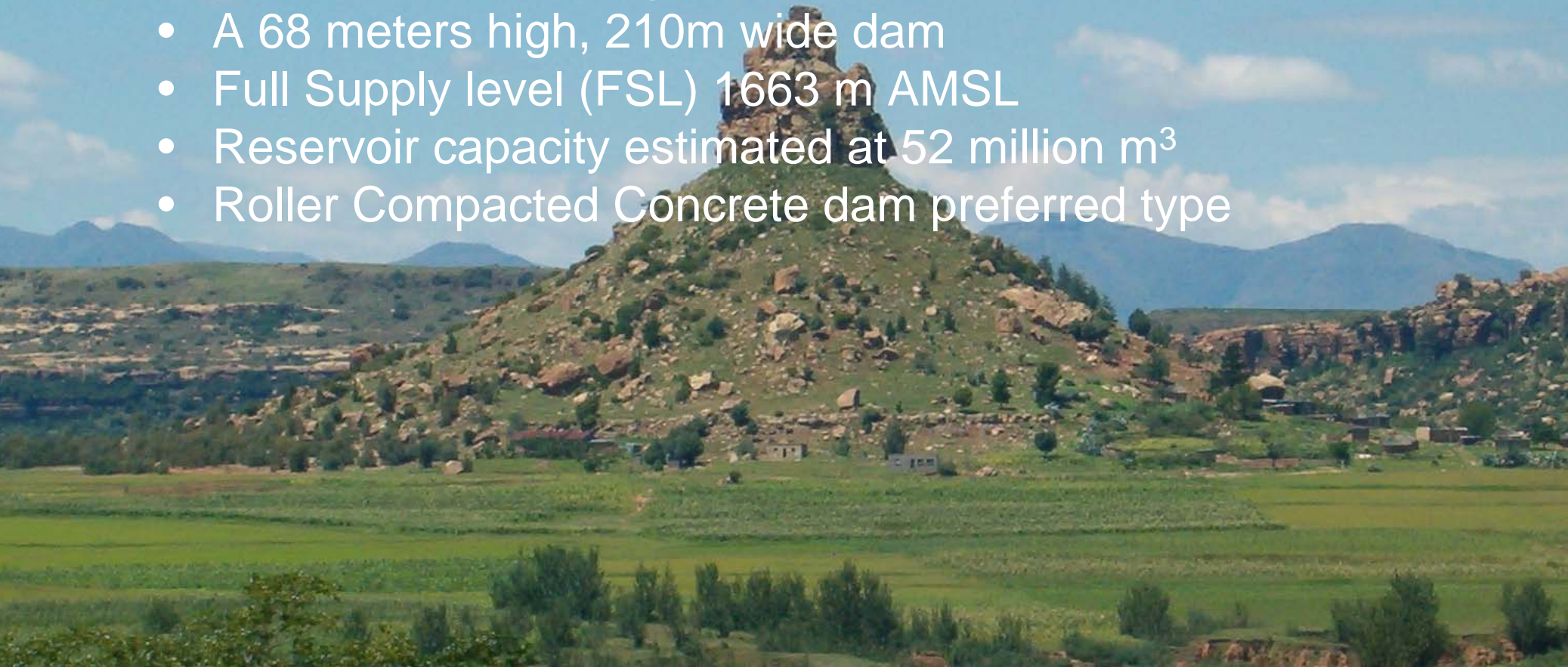
KEY:

**0.45 = Zonal
Water Demand in
Cumecs**

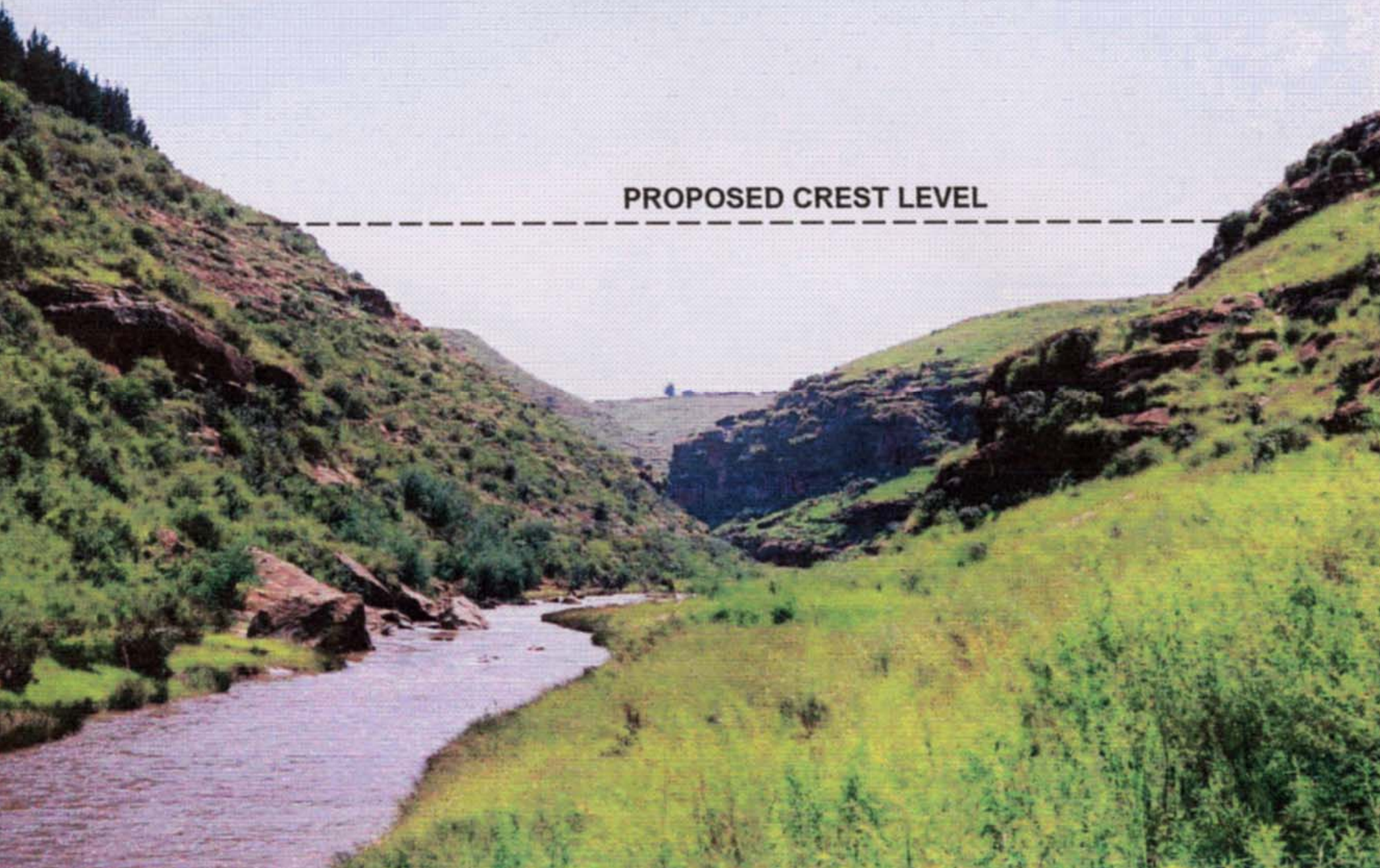
Background continued

Feasibility Study findings and recommendations:

- A 68 meters high, 210m wide dam
- Full Supply level (FSL) 1663 m AMSL
- Reservoir capacity estimated at 52 million m³
- Roller Compacted Concrete dam preferred type



Proposed site of the Metolong Dam



Background continued

Feasibility Study findings and recommendations:

The following issues of concern were identified:

Physical environment

- Thatching grass
- Private Wood Lots
- Fauna and Flora
- Medicinal plants
- Presence of archeological sites

Social Environment

- Loss of arable land
- Compensation for lost property
- Family displacements
- Socio-cultural conflicts with construction workers
- Employment policy



Issues of concern continued

Work place Health and Safety

- Noise
- Dust
- Accidents
- Sexually transmitted Infections including HIV and AIDS

ALL THESE ISSUES WERE ADDRESSED IN A FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW



The Public Participation and consultation process

Why required?

- Solicit buy-in and ownership by communities
- Identify before hand, likely complexities during project implementation
- Better understanding of community needs and expectations
- Legislative requirements

Role players

- NGO's and CBOs
- Chiefs and later chiefs and Local government structures
- Line Ministries

The process

Informal Approach

- Several Pitsos (public gatherings) held within the project catchment area, to introduce the project
- Liaison committee constituted of representatives from communities likely to be affected by the project
- Invitation of Environmental NGOs to participate in community consultation forums



The process

formal approach

Based on the requirements of the Environmental Legislation framework work

- House to house surveys
- Focus group discussions
- Public gatherings with I&AP
- Feed back and consultation via Stake holder workshops
- Publication of Project EIS (Environment Impact Statement)
- Proposed SDA committees

Public Participation Challenges

- Amount of information to impart viz a vis creating over expectation
- Frequency of meetings on progress to date
- Correct timing to involve Downstream users
- Misrepresentation of project by stakeholders and “opinion leaders”
- Comparison of project with similar national projects of a larger scale and magnitude
- Mis-match of agreed upon schedules with actual implementation e.g. selective advanced infrastructure spin-offs
- Communication break-down between minor players and the project proponent e.g. Commissioning of road works for Metolong access road.
- Lack of data to answer burning community issues e.g. Who is really going to be affected by the project (SDA declaration)



Benefits of Public Participation and Consultation

- No second guessing by all players
- Potential conflicts identified on time and solutions found
- Avoidance of unnecessary delays during project implementation
- Communities easily identify with the project
- Indigenous knowledge about aspects that can affect the project always at hand.
- Community project support and corporation assured even without legal instruments. e.g. protection of designated project site without legal declaration

Lessons Learned

- It is important to involve communities as early as possible and identify their role throughout the project
- Compensation related to expropriation should be paid on time
- Project proponents should make realistic promises and not just go with the flow to see the project through; this catches up with you at a later stage of the project. e.g. LHWP compensation and resettlement plans; inter generational compensation



Way forward??

THANK YOU