

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *GAMBIA RENEWABLE ENERGY*  
Project Number: *2017-0305*  
Country: *Gambia*  
Project Description: *Implementation of an energy sector programme in Gambia, including the following components: (1) up to 20 MW grid-connected PV plant, (2) grid reinforcement investments, (3) electricity sector institutional and technical support and (4) off-grid PV systems installed on up to 1100 public schools and health facilities.*

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

If the project were located within the EU, some of the investments under Component 2 would fall under Annex I of the EU EIA Directive, where an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. This is the case for the Kotu-Brikama power line, of ca. 30 km in length and a voltage level of 132 or 225 kV, depending on the results of the feasibility studies currently under way. Components 1 and 4, and other investments under Component 2 – such as the 30 kV distribution provincial backbone, would fall under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive, requiring the competent authorities to determine whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required.

The Gambian regulations governing the environmental and social assessment process are:

1. National Environment Management Act (NEMA), 1994
2. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 Arrangement Of Regulations

The project components have not yet been subject to an ESIA, as they are in their early planning phase. For Components 1 and 2, the World Bank has performed an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), which have been reviewed by the Bank to its satisfaction. The ESMF and the RPF set the requirements to be fulfilled – including compliance with WB and EIB respective E&S guidelines – by the subsequent ESIA and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), as and when they are developed.

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<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 13.11.2018

### **Components 1 & 2:**

According to the ESMF, the project site of the grid-connected PV plant (Component 1), located in Brikama, does not include any rare, threatened or endemic flora and fauna species or that are of special scientific value. A site visit was carried out in April 2017, where it was noted that the site is anthropised and currently used as agricultural land, including sparsely located trees that would need to be felled. The main negative impacts of the component are loss of livelihood and economic displacement. For the grid reinforcement (Component 2) the ESMF related to the Kotu-Brikama power line indicates potential economic displacement in certain points alongside the line trace, in addition to impacts on national forests that are adjacent to the trace. The ESMF indicates that the final tracing will be determined to minimise these impacts. The rest of the investments under Component 2 will be subject to a similar process, with an ESMF setting the overarching environmental and social requirements and issues to be addressed in the ESIA process.

The Finance Contract will include as a condition that the promoter will need to develop an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) that will provide the subsequent measures and actions required in line with the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards. Overall, the ESMF and process carried out to date are satisfactory to the Bank. With the appropriate conditions in the ESAP, the components are acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.

**Component 3** consists of technical assistance and support to the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) to assist in the turnaround and modernisation of the power sector, which as such will not generate any environmental and social impacts. This component includes support to the implementation of Components 1 and 2 above, through a PIU. This PIU will include an environmental specialist, who will ensure that these two components comply with WB and EIB E&S guidelines.

### **Component 4:**

The PV systems installed in up to 1100 schools and health clinics will be of moderate size and will be located in already-built environments. The component environmental impacts will be mainly related to noise or dust during construction, and to recycling of PV panels and batteries at the end of their life. These impacts will need to be adequately managed within the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). The National Environmental Agency (NEA) will put in place an Environmental Scoping process to assess each of the sites for the rooftop PV installations. A generic ESMP will have to be followed by the promoter and its contractors during construction and operation, complemented by any additional conditions set out by the environmental agency for any particular site. The ESMP will be required for the Bank's review, as a condition for disbursement in the EIB Finance Contract.

In addition, this component will be supported during its implementation by Technical Assistance (TA) activities, which will include, inter alia, support to ensure that the component is in line with EIB E&S guidelines.

On this basis, the project is deemed acceptable for the Bank.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, the project will result in: relative emissions savings of 32 000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per annum. This is based on; a) the avoidance of electricity generation from the existing and new thermal plants and b) a combination of the T&D losses and the existing and projected new diesel gensets plants.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost

## **Social Assessment, where applicable**

### **Components 1 & 2:**

The RPF clearly states that the potential economic displacement will be managed through Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) in line with WB and EIB standards. The project's finance contract will include an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) that will provide the subsequent measures and actions required in line with the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards.

### **Component 4:**

There are no major social impacts expected for this component. In line with the environmental assessment process, NEA will put in place a social Scoping process to assess each of the sites for the rooftop PV installations. A generic ESMP will have to be followed during construction and operation, complemented by any additional conditions set out by the environmental agency for any particular site. Social impacts will be managed within the ESMP, which will be required for the Bank's review, as a condition for disbursement in the EIB Finance Contract. This is deemed acceptable for the Bank.

By providing a more reliable source of energy to up to 1000 schools and up to 100 health facilities, the project will contribute to a better quality provision of health care, and primary and secondary education in the Gambia. As such, investments in the health and education sectors can potentially contribute to an enabling environment for girls' and women's empowerment, as they will enhance quality of health and education. However, gender inequality is due to multiple and complex overlapping social, economic and cultural phenomena and hence the contribution of this project to gender equality per se will be indirect.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The RFP for all the components requires close consultation with all stakeholders, including communities, groups of vulnerable and marginalised peoples, NGOs, key line ministries and local government officials. In addition, all documents and other relevant materials shall also be disclosed in websites and site-specific locations, which can be accessed by all potential stakeholders and interested parties and will include a record of the public consultations. This general framework is in line with the Bank's standards, and acceptable to the Bank.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project will be financed under two separate Finance Contracts: one that will cover Components 1 and 2, with the other covering Component 4.

E&S contractual conditions are listed below:-

### **Components 1&2:**

At this stage, the only documents produced have been an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prepared by the World Bank, and acceptable to the Bank. Terms of Reference for the ESIA's are being prepared.

### **General disbursement conditions:**

The promoter will provide the Bank with the following information to the satisfaction of the Bank:

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA),
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP),
- Resettlement Action Plan (RAP),
- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and

Luxembourg, 13.11.2018

- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the solar PV plant and the new Kotu-Brikama transmission line.
- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the 30 kV distribution backbone
- Approval by the environmental authority (NEA)

The Finance Contract shall require the promoter to keep updated any document that may be relevant for the Project supporting the compliance with the provisions of the Bank's environmental and social requirements, here in particular screening decisions from authorities and declarations with regard to the protection of natural sites. The promoter shall promptly upon request deliver such documents to the Bank. The Finance Contract will also contain an undertaking that the project will be implemented and operated in compliance with EIB's Environmental and Social Standards, as well as being in line with the measures and actions outlined in the various plans.

**Component 4:**

Given the small size and dispersion of sites, an E&S screening process will be put in place to ensure that environmental and social impacts are adequately managed.

The finance contract will also contain an undertaking that the project will be implemented and operated in compliance with EIB's Environmental and Social Standards, as well as being in line with the measures and actions outlined in the various plans as and when applicable after the screening. In addition, the finance contract will include the following disbursement conditions:

1. The Promoter will make available the appropriate approvals of the environmental authority (NEA) of any RAP, ESMF or ESMP.
2. Any resettlement related to the component will follow the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards and also the World Bank's Land Acquisition and Resettlement Policy Framework, with all population affected being compensated prior to the start of construction on site.

With the above conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.