



Luxembourg, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	UZBEKISTAN SOLAR IPP
Project Number:	20190886
Country:	Uzbekistan
Project Description:	100MW solar PV located in Samarkand region promoted by Total Eren

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The project comprised the construction and operation of a PV power plant with capacity of 100 MWel (about 131 MWp) located 1.7 km from Tutly village in Samarkand province, in Uzbekistan. The project included the construction of a high voltage substation to connect the plant to the national grid via a new high voltage line (in-out, about 2x2 km). The transmission system operator (TSO) was responsible for the connection; it has also taken over the substation including its long-term operation and maintenance.

The project has been implemented as planned at the time of appraisal, however, the completion was delayed by about 5 months, due to supply chain issues caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based on the results of the ESIA process the Bank's approval of the project was subject to the fulfilment of the following environmental and social conditions to be addressed in the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP):

- Completion of the additional biodiversity surveys, related to the protection of steppe tortoises (*Testudo Horsfieldii*, classified vulnerable by IUCN): **fulfilled**
- Development of a robust Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), focused on key impacts and mitigation measures during project construction and operation, with a clear No Net Loss (NNL) objective: **fulfilled**
- A tortoise protection programme will be developed by a qualified biologist with local experience with the tortoise needs and included as part of the BMP: **fulfilled, further details below**
- Completion of the final version of the BMP, SEP, ESMS and ESMMP (Supplemental Environmental Projects, Environmental and Social Management System and Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan; each with its subdocuments) to the satisfaction of the lenders and of their advisors: **fulfilled**
- Technical solution for sustainable water consumption for the cleaning of the PV modules, including evidence of no negative impact on the water availability for the neighbourhood settlements: **fulfilled, see below**



Luxembourg, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Additionally, the promoter undertakes to:

- Update and maintain ESAP, ESMS, ESMMP and SEP, incorporating project changes and permits and ministerial requirements as soon as available: **fulfilled**
- Obtaining relevant permits in line with local legislation: **fulfilled**
- Progress monitoring on compliance with the ESAP: **fulfilled**

The implementation of the ESAP has been monitored by the Lenders' Technical Advisor (LTA) and the Bank on regular basis. The monitoring included the review of the documents, developed as part of the project, as well as site visits to assess the project progress and ESHS (environmental, social, health and safety) performance and to discuss with the responsible ESHS personnel. Some minor non-compliances with the ESAP that had been raised by the LTA during the construction monitoring (for example concerning storage of materials, refuelling and burning of materials on site or improvements of the workers accommodation) had been reasonably addressed by the project company.

As part of the tortoise protection program under the BMP, (among other measures) nearly 5000 tortoises have been relocated to a nearby site with similar suitable living conditions, prior to the major construction works. To verify that the No Net Loss objective is reached, the BMP includes a detailed monitoring strategy over five years and specifies key performance indicators (KPI) with regard to the tortoise population or its health and nutrition status. The first on-site surveys indicate, that the KPIs are reached, however, the development of the population is depending on various factors and thus fluctuating. The experts have also proposed a few improvements of the BMP to be implemented for the remaining monitoring period.

The project applies a mix of wet and dry module cleaning with a vehicle mounted rotating brush. With this method the water demand for cleaning could be significantly reduced if compared to the (manual or machine) wet cleaning as assessed in the ESIA. The cleaning water stems from a well within the project site, therefore no water is taken from the village supply systems. There are no complaints or reports from the villagers regarding any impact on the water availability.

#### Social Aspects

The sponsor had initially considered to drill a well for drinking water during the construction and for the supply of the village afterwards, however the ground water turned out to be not suitable for drinking water. Alternative CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) measures has been agreed with the villagers and were implemented, mainly the restauration of the elementary school or the improvement of the village electricity supply of the village. Further measures are planned or under way, such as education or improvement of communication means.

#### **EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social aspects to be monitored during operations:**

The Tortoise protection program including the proposed improvements shall be continued over the entire five years period.

#### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, and/or inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors and others, where applicable, during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.