



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 15th March 2021

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	INDIA SOLAR POWER – FORTUM SOLAR ENERGY
Project Number:	2017-0302
Country:	India
Project Description:	The project is an allocation under the INDIA SOLAR POWER Framework Loan (2015-0931). The project concerns the construction and operation of a solar PV plant with a capacity of 250 MWac in the Indian State of Karnataka. .

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project comprises the development, construction and operation of five PV power plants, with 50 MWac each. The PV plants are part (so called “Blocks”) of the 2000 MW Pavagada Solar Park, located in Tumkur District in the state of Karnataka. The PV plants include the internal cabling and step-up transformer station within the project area, but for further power evacuation, they profit from the shared solar park infrastructure, which has been planned and implemented by the Government of Karnataka, through Karnataka Solar Power Development Corporation Ltd (KSPDCL).

The development of the overall solar park infrastructure and grid connection was financed by the Worldbank and was subject to a full EIA process. A related Environmental and Social Management Framework had been developed. The selection of the area for the whole Pavagada Solar Park was (outside the projects responsibility but) already focusing on minimising the environmental and social impact, by avoiding populated land, fertile land, protected areas and other areas deemed to have high ecological value.

The land was leased by the Government of Karnataka from local land-owners, who were willing to lease out the land and sub-leased to the investors. Nor resettlement was involved.

Further, in accordance to the Banks requirements under the framework loan, the promoter had commissioned an external expert to carry out Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for the individual PV plants and to prepare an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the construction, the operation and the decommissioning phase of the five PV plants. Major aspects were site-specific largely reversible and readily addressed through mitigation measures during construction (impact on surface and ground water, disturbance of flora during construction, increased traffic, noise, dust and emissions or waste management). According to promoter reporting, the proposed mitigation measures had been implemented during construction.



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During the operation phase, the activities more limited and mostly relate to housekeeping, H&S, waste management or control of oil leakage to avoid ground water contamination Due to the dry module cleaning, water consumption and total wastewater volume is minimised.

A grievance redressal mechanism has been implemented by the promoter and, so far, for none of the PV plants grievances by employees or stakeholders were registered. (There is no information on potential grievances related to the overall solar park infrastructure addressed to KSPDCL)

Throughout its 25 years operational period, the project shall contribute 1 % of the project cost to the Local Area Development. The fund and its activities are managed at Solar Park level in close cooperation with the local administration for identification, planning and implementation of the measures. However, there are no activities reported as completed so far.

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

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on promoter reporting, that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.