

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ENERGY ACCESS FUND
Project Number:	2014-0458
Country:	Regional - Africa
Project Description:	The fund will target SMEs involved in providing electricity services to base-of-the-pyramid populations and micro/small businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular through power generation systems (e.g. solar home devices and micro-generation infrastructures) generally off-grid, energy distribution and related activities.
EIA required:	Multi-investment scheme
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

This operation concerns an investment into a new Fund to invest in companies and projects enabling access to electricity for rural and peri-urban bottom-of-pyramid households in sub-Saharan Africa. Given this scope, the projects supported by the Fund are expected to have large social benefits, in line with the project being one of the first under the Bank's Impact financing envelope, proposed as a Social Impact fund. Furthermore the operation intends to bring about environmental benefits by supporting sound renewable energy projects with minimal negative social or environmental impact.

The Fund has a social and environmental management system (SEMS) in place acceptable to the Bank. The team members are well aware of typical environmental and social issues related to renewable energy projects in Africa and include E&S considerations throughout investment appraisal. One of the two key partners is responsible for overall compliance with regards to E&S matters. As part of the SEMS, the Fund performs environmental and social due diligence to ensure that potential impacts and risks and appropriate prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are identified through an environmental and social impact screening/assessment, when relevant, including satisfactory and meaningful public consultation and participation. The Fund shall also ensure that where relevant, appropriate E&S conditions are included in their finance contract with the final beneficiary.

Projects with significant negative impact on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation, bird or fish migration routes will not be eligible. If a project is likely to affect a nature conservation zone or other sensitive area as defined in national or international environmental legislation, the Fund shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority - following a biodiversity assessment in line with EIB requirements - that the scheme does not have significant negative impacts on any site of nature conservation importance.

For each investment, the Fund will ensure that compliance with EIB environmental and social standards and legal obligations is enforced and that monitoring is in place.

If an underlying investment is subject to an E(S)IA, the Fund Manager is required to publish the Environmental and Social Impact Study on its website for access to stakeholders. The capacity of the Fund to manage E&S impacts and risks and to ensure compliance to the Bank's E&S requirements is considered to be adequate and the Fund is considered acceptable for Bank investment from an environmental and social perspective.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The operation is not included in the EIB carbon footprint exercise. Carbon Footprints are currently calculated for emissions above the methodology thresholds for investment loans and large allocations under Framework Loans.

Social Assessment

The Fund's social requirements include social assessment and development of a management plan for mitigation and remediation of social impacts (as applicable), compliance with national law and the principles and standards of ILO conventions, in particular prohibition of child or bonded labour, non-discrimination and equal opportunity of employment, occupational health and safety as well as the EIB E&S performance standards.