# **Environmental and social assessment report • Template**

**Environmental and social screening checklist**

**Solar mini-grid**

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| **The purpose of this checklist** is to identify potential environmental and social issues related to subproject development, construction, and operation. Remember that the project may not only impact the location of the solar PV plant but also the community and the surrounding ecosystem. |

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| **Date of investigation** |  |
| **Data collector’s name** |  |

1. **Subproject background**

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| 1. | Name of proposed subproject |  |
| 2. | Location |  |
| 3. | Geographical coordinates (for powerhouse area) |  |
| 4. | Subproject objectives |  |
| 5. | Name of subproject developer |  |
| 6. | Number of beneficiary households of the subproject |  |
| 7. | Capacity (kWP) of the subproject[[1]](#footnote-1) |  |
| 8. | Powerhouse estimated area, m2 |  |
| 9. | Approx. length of transmission and distribution line (meter) |  |
| 10. | Nearest national grid and approximate distance (km) |  |
| 11. | GoN approval requirements[[2]](#footnote-2) |  |

1. **Subproject selection criteria**

| **SN** | **Screening Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments**  (In the case select "yes", provide detailed information) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12. | Is there an indication of:   1. Significant adverse impacts on ecologically sensitive areas? |  |  |  |
| 1. Significant adverse impacts on cultural heritage? |  |  |  |
| 1. Subproject in disputed area or territory[[3]](#footnote-3)? |  |  |  |
| 13. | If yes, can these impacts be eliminated or reduced to acceptable levels through adequate application of mitigation measures? |  |  |  |
| 14. | Is the ownership status of land for the powerhouse, PV array, and distribution line known? If so, precisely explain the nature of the land (private, government or forest, others). |  |  |  |

1. **Environmental and social screening**

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| **SN** | **Screening Questions** | **Yes** | **No** | **Comments**  (In the case of selecting "yes", provide detailed information) |
|  | **Subproject site** | | | |
| 15. | Define the subproject’s boundaries (direction, East, West, North and South) and area of influence. |  |  |  |
| 16. | Is the subproject site adjacent to or within any of the following sensitive receptors? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Natural habitats and/or legally protected areas (national park, wildlife reserve, hunting reserve, wetland, forest, buffer zone)? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. High-density vegetation? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Cultural heritage site (e.g. temple, monastery, mosque, church, etc.)? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the site located on aesthetically important viewpoints[[4]](#footnote-4)? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the site located in the immediate vicinity (less than 50 m) of residential houses, public building such as medical centre, school/educational infrastructures or other sensitive building that is likely to be impacted during construction activities (noise, dust, odour, traffic) or site access patterns? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the site located near the main settlement and trade centres? Description (approximate distance, no. of HH and population, nature and special feature/importance/significance). |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Are there any flood-prone/river-cutting/low-lying/ lightning areas near or within the site (PV array location, powerhouse, T&D line)? What are the challenges and opportunities associated with flood/river cutting/low-lying areas (if any)? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Are canals and irrigation systems present in direct proximity to the subproject site? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Are there any water sources or springs near or within the site? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the proposed site located on agricultural land? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the subproject site accessible around the year or only in the dry season? Describe the condition of the road/track (black top, fair weather etc.) or the need to construct a new road, total length, nearest road head, etc. |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the proposed site located in an area used by the indigenous people? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is the subproject area important for indigenous people from the point of view of communal rights and customary practices and beliefs? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Is there any expectation of vulnerable or indigenous people from the subproject? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Will natural resources (e.g. timber, water, sand, quarries) within the project area be used for construction activities in a significant quantity? |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Does the project include works underground (trenches, pit digging or similar) below 1m deep? If yes, please mention the tentative depth. |  |  |  |
|  | 1. Does the project include works in height (above 1m such as the construction of roofs, pylons, trees cutting, use of scaffoldings, etc.)? If yes, please mention the tentative height. |  |  |  |
| **Potential environmental impacts** | | | | |
| 17. | Impacts on natural resources that constitute livelihoods of the community (e.g. water resources, fishing, grazing or hunting grounds)? |  |  |  |
| 18. | Is there potential for landslide and soil erosion impacts?  If yes, please provide the following information:   * Past and present conditions and values (including tentative areas to be affected, and risky areas)   What are the challenges and opportunities associated with landslides and erosion (if any)? |  |  |  |
| 19. | Will the subproject cause an increase in waste generation? Describe the types and expected amount of waste. |  |  |  |
| 20. | Will there be vegetation loss or restrictions of use in the project area? |  |  |  |
| 21. | Will there be forest loss in terms of area (if yes, type of forest)? Will it lead to the loss of forest species (provide details of the loss of listed species according to national and international – specifically IUCN - classifications)? |  |  |  |
| 22. | Is the loss of non-forest species possible? If so, are these listed species (as above)? |  |  |  |
| 23. | Creation of barrier for migratory land animal |  |  |  |
| 24. | Other potential biodiversity impacts (specify)? |  |  |  |
| 25. | Loss or destruction of unique or aesthetically valuable land |  |  |  |
| 26. | Disturbance of large areas due to material quarrying |  |  |  |
| 27. | Is the project located near an available and sufficient quantity of water for construction and cleaning? |  |  |  |
| 28. | Is the site located in the vicinity (<100 m) of water bodies (e.g. rivers, ponds, lakes) that are reachable by effluent generated by the Project (effluents such as non-treated waste waters, chemicals, etc.)? |  |  |  |
| 29. | Availability of local construction materials   1. Stone 2. Sand 3. Wood (For door, window and roofing, etc.) 4. Wood for pole |  |  |  |
| **Labour and working conditions** | | | | |
| 30. | Is there availability of labour force (skilled and unskilled) at the local level for the construction of the subproject? |  |  |  |
| 31. | Will there be substantial migrant labour (skilled and unskilled) required? |  |  |  |
| 32. | Does the subproject plan to provide residential facilities to the workers?  (If “yes”, does it plan to construct a labour camp or manage their residency in the host community) |  |  |  |
| 33. | Does the developer have plans to provide orientation to migrant workers about local traditions, culture, costumes, norms, and values? |  |  |  |
| 34. | Does the developer (LG) have a plan to provide orientation to workers about the national laws and project policies on GBV & SEA/SH?[[5]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  |

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| **Potential community and occupational health and safety impacts** | | | | |
| 35. | Are there community health and safety risks due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of materials likely to create physical, chemical and biological hazards? |  |  |  |
| 36. | Will the construction works disturb other commercial/community/residential activities? |  |  |  |
| 37. | Will the subproject create major noise/vibration? |  |  |  |
| 38. | Will it create dust problems around the sites? |  |  |  |
| 39. | Will it impact on the water supply and sanitation system? |  |  |  |
| 40. | Any potential impacts to public health via potential water logging and degradation of land and water quality? |  |  |  |
| 41. | Will the subproject’s construction cause disturbance to the transportation on the subproject’s site? |  |  |  |
| **Potential social impacts** | | | | |
| 42. | Type of land  Private land  Government land  Forest land |  |  |  |
| 43. | Type of land procurement  Voluntary donation  Leased Land  Negotiation (Willing buyer & willing seller) |  |  |  |
| 44. | Loss of productive land |  |  |  |
| 45. | Land taking resulting in loss of income, livelihood, sources of livelihood, loss of access to common property resources and/or private residential and/or property resources |  |  |  |
| 46. | Is there any storage of dangerous products/hazardous materials near or within the site (including flammable products and explosives)?  Does the implementation of the project risk to significantly impact the activities in progress in the building or in the surroundings (power cut, noise, other)? |  |  |  |
| 47. | Adverse impact on non-title holders including loss of shelter and livelihood? |  |  |  |
| 48. | Is there any household that needs to be relocated? |  |  |  |
| 49. | Will subproject activities have an adverse impact on schools, drinking water supply systems, and other facilities? |  |  |  |
| 50. | Will the subproject need to use existing or open new access roads? What will be the impacts of increased traffic on communities? |  |  |  |
| 51. | Adverse impact to women including economic and safety concerns? |  |  |  |
| 52. | Possible conflicts with and/or disruption to local communities |  |  |  |
| 53. | Are there especially vulnerable groups of people who could be affected by the Project, e.g. hospital patients, and the elderly? |  |  |  |
| **Climate benefits** | | | | |
| 54. | Will subproject activities contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions? Describe the activities that contribute to the reduction of GHG emission |  |  |  |
| 55. | Are there any other development sectors (NGO/INGO/CBO) working on environment/climate action-related activities |  |  |  |

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| Open Comment  Specific concerns raised by stakeholders |

# **Annexes**

1. Meeting minutes
2. Pictures

1. This information could be filled in during the report-writing phase [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Need approval letter for the subproject and environmental study approval from the LG; LG might have specific approval requirements based on their working procedure [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Disputed Territory is a disagreement over the [possession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Possession_(law))/control over natural resources such as land, rivers between two or more individuals, communities, RM/municipalities, provinces and nations [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Aesthetically important viewpoints are the places with natural beauty and well-known tourist destination [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment [↑](#footnote-ref-5)