EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

E.1 INTRODUCTION

Planet One Energy Limited intends to develop four (4) different PV solar power projects with a combined design capacity of 50MW, located in four different locations in Sierra Leone: Port Loko in Port Loko District, Makoth in Bombali District, Kono in Kono District and Bo/Bandajuma in Bo District. Planet Solar Energy is seeking finance for the construction and operation of the Project from Frontier Energy, to be one of the investors in the project.

E1.1 Project Location

The proposed Bo Solar PV Power Plant is located in Bandajuma Village in a greenfield site approx. 7km east of Bo Town along the Bo-Kenema Highway. The site covers an area of 78acres at an altitude of approx. 90m above sea level. The site boundary coordinates are provided in the table below.

Site Boundary Coordinates

Id	Name	Description	Lat	Long	Northings	Eastings
1	SLS97/18/BP1	BP1	7.943066	-11.6684	879481.1	867389
2	SLS97/18/BP2	BP2	7.942881	-11.6691	879459.9	867309.3
3	SLS97/18/BP3	BP3	7.943137	-11.6702	879487.3	867196.8
4	SLS97/18/BP4	BP4	7.943164	-11.6702	879490.3	867195.8
5	SLS97/18/BP5	BP5	7.944547	-11.6701	879643.5	867202.6
6	SLS97/18/BP6	BP6	7.945921	-11.67	879795.7	867211.4
7	SLS97/18/BP7	BP7	7.947259	-11.6699	879944	867221.2
8	SLS97/18/BP8	BP8	7.948163	-11.6699	880044.1	867223.8
9	SLS97/18/BP9	BP9	7.949517	-11.67	880194	867213.6
10	SLS97/18/BP10	BP10	7.95089	-11.6701	880346	867201.4
11	SLS97/18/BP11	BP11	7.952272	-11.6701	880498.9	867191.2
12	SLS97/18/BP12	BP12	7.952399	-11.6687	880514.2	867345
13	SLS97/18/BP13	BP13	7.952516	-11.6673	880528.4	867500
14	SLS97/18/BP14	BP14	7.950549	-11.667	880310.9	867543.1
15	SLS97/18/BP15	BP15	7.949195	-11.6667	880161.2	867572.3
16	SLS97/18/BP16	BP16	7.947841	-11.6665	880011.5	867601.5
17	SLS97/18/BP17	BP17	7.946487	-11.6662	879861.8	867630.7
18	SLS97/18/BP18	BP18	7.946393	-11.6669	879850.8	867556.8
19	SLS97/18/BP19	BP19	7.946098	-11.6677	879817.5	867470.2
20	SLS97/18/BP20	BP20	7.945824	-11.6681	879786.7	867416.6
21	SLS97/18/BP21	BP21	7.944477	-11.6683	879637.3	867399.8
22	Bo	Project Site	7.948348	-11.6681	880066.1	867414.9

E1.2 ESHIA Study Addendum Objectives

In order to comply with Sierra Leones Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, Planet Solar Energy commissioned a consultant to carry out Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) of the 4 sites and obtained EPA Licence in 2019. An Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) was further carried out in 2021 which established some gaps in the report and recommended an ESHIA Study Addendum. The ESDD also recommended that the 4 sites ESHIA Addenda be standalone.

This ESHIA Study Addendum Report is for the development of the 12MW Solar PV Power Plant at Bandajuma, in Bo District, Sierra Leone.

E1.3 ESHIA Study Addendum Methodology

The ESHIA Study Addendum methodology followed a systematic process that predicted and evaluated the impacts the project could have on the physical, biological, social/ socio-economic and cultural environment, and identified measures that the Project will put in place to avoid, reduce, mitigate, offset or compensate for adverse impacts; and to enhance positive impacts where practicable.

The study methodology comprised of the following activities:

- Preliminary meetings and document review;
- Environmental Baseline Data collection;
- Site inspection and discussions with site personnel;
- Air and Noise baseline monitoring;
- Ecological Assessment;
- Baseline Socio-Economic Studies;
- Community Resources Mapping;
- Meetings and engagement with stakeholders;
- Public Consultation on project impacts;
- Data analysis and assessment of impacts;
- Development of various management interventions to mitigate impacts;
- Public Disclosure Meeting;
- Reporting.

E2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Bo/Bandajuma Solar PV Power Plant will be located in a greenfield site approx. 7km east of Bo Town along the Bo-Kenema Highway. The power generated will be connected to the substation (under construction) adjacent to the site and evacuated via a 33kV double circuit Transmission Line that runs between Bo and Kenema.

E3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The applicable frameworks that have been used in this study are:

a) National Guideline

- The EPAA 2008 is the cardinal legislation on environmental protection for the government of Sierra Leone.

  The proposed Solar Plant project is listed in First Schedule of the Act. In compliance with this Act, an ESIA Study was carried out and an EIA License issued in 2019. The implementation of the project will need to comply with requirements of this Act during construction, operation and decommissioning.

b) International Standards that include:

- Under the IFC Performance Standards (2012), the proposed project has minimal environmental and social impacts that will arise during construction and operation therefore falls under Category B of IFC PS1.

The IFC PS on Environmental and Social Sustainability

PS	Performance Standard	Remarks
PS1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.	***Applicable*** *There are Environmental and Social risks that will arise during construction*
PS 2	Labour and Working Conditions	***Applicable***

PS	Performance Standard	Remarks
		The project is going to employ skilled and unskilled workers to offer services in the project and their welfare will need to be taken care of.
PS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	***Applicable*** *There are project activities like maintenance of vehicles and machines, fugitive dust and exhaust emissions that have the potential to cause pollution.*
PS 4	Community Health, Safety, and Security	***Applicable*** *Community members will be employed in the project. Project vehicles will also be transporting materials and waste outside the site exposing community members to safety risks*
PS 5	Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	***Not Applicable*** *The land has been acquired from private citizens through a commercial lease agreement. However, there are no settlements hence no persons are being displaced.*
PS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	***Applicable*** *The project site is neither a protected area nor a key biodiversity area. The site is highly disturbed through frequent fires and cutting of construction poles rendering the area a modified habitat. More than half of the site has been cleared and levelled. No part of the project area can be considered critical habitat since there are no trigger species. The wetland and riparian vegetation within this site are to be avoided during project implementation*
PS 7	Indigenous Peoples	***Not Applicable*** *There are no indigenous peoples in the project area.*
PS 8	Cultural Heritage	***Not Applicable*** *The site was previously an agricultural land and the community members confirmed absence of any known physical cultural resources. However, given the earthworks involved, a chance find procedure has been incorporated as presented in* ***Appendix 5.***

- According to EIB Environmental and Social Standards, the project is listed under Annex II - Industry Energy that requires screening and development of necessary mitigation measures and therefore falls under Category B.

The applicable EIB Environmental and Social Standards used in the study

Standards	Standard	Remarks
1	Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks	***Applicable*** *There are Environmental and Social risks that will arise during construction*
2	Stakeholder Engagement	***Applicable*** *There are stakeholders that need to be meaningfully consulted and engaged*
3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	***Applicable*** *Project will use machines and vehicles that can impact soil and other resource*s
4	Biodiversity and Ecosystems	***Applicable.*** *The project site is neither a protected area nor a key biodiversity area. The site is highly disturbed through frequent fires and cutting of construction poles rendering the area a modified habitat. More than half of the site has been cleared and levelled. No part of the project area can be considered critical habitat since there are no trigger species. The wetland and riparian vegetation within this site are to be avoided during project implementation*
5	Climate Change	***Not Applicable*** *The Solar PV Power Plant project is addressing climate change by endeavouring to reduce GHG*
6	Involuntary Resettlement	***Not Applicable***

Standards	Standard	Remarks
		The land has been acquired from private citizens through a commercial lease agreement. However, there are no settlements hence no persons are being displaced.
7	Vulnerable Groups, Indigenous Peoples and Gender	***Partially Applicable*** *The project area has gender issues*
8	Labour Rights	***Applicable*** *The project will employ people and there is potential for labour influx. Worker's rights issues will arise*
9	Health, Safety and Security	***Applicable*** *There construction activities that will pose safety risks hence require assessment*
10	Cultural Heritage	***Not Applicable*** *The site was previously an agricultural land and the community members confirmed absence of any known physical cultural resources. However, given the earthworks involved, a chance find procedure has been incorporated as presented in* ***Appendix 5****.*

- The World Bank (WB) Group's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines were also applied.

E.4 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

E4.1 The Physical Environment

The site is traversed by a stream and a lowland swamp covered by riparian vegetation. Two gently sloping southern and northern halves of the project area converge at the perennial stream area in the middle. The site is surrounded by human settlements to the South and South-Western side, while most of the North and Eastern parts of the site are unsettled bushland and secondary forest thickets. More than half of the project land has already been cleared. Typical vegetation at the un-cleared part include grassland, isolated Oil Palm and few other trees and mostly farm bush. The site covers an area of 78acres at an altitude of approx. 90metres above sea level.

E4.2 Climate

Bo experiences extreme seasonal variation in monthly rainfall. The rainy period of the year lasts for10 months, from February to December. The average annual rainfall is 2,042mm. The month with the most rain in Bo is August, with an average rainfall of 432mm. The month with the lowest rainfall in Bo is January with 5.1mm. The average annual temperature is 26.8°C in Bo. The warmest month of the year is March with an average temperature: 32,1°C. Usually, August is the coldest month in Bo is August, with average temperature of 26°C. The difference between the hottest month: January and the coldest month: August is: 6.1°C.

E4.3 Topography

Bandajuma Village and the environs are characterized by heights between 30m and 90m above sea level. The topography of the area is undulating with most areas being at fairly high elevation while the Sewa River basin being as low as 30m above sea level. The site is located at an elevation of 90m above sea level.

E4.4 Geology and Soil

The project site in Bo/Bandajuma is located in the Archaean granitic basement of the West Africa Craton. The greater part of Sierra Leone is occupied by an ancient granitic shield containing elements of early sedimentary and mafic formations and a group of supracrustal greenstone belts with banded ironstone and detrital sediments. The Archean rocks of Sierra Leone date from the early Archaean and include coarsely crystalline granites, quartz granulites, and hematitic granulites.

Upon them, apparently unconformably, lies serpentines, amphibolites, conglomerates, and ironstones of the ophiolitic Kambui Group which forms the Sula Mountains and the Kangari, Kambui, Nimini, and Gori ranges of hills. As these have also been deformed and metamorphosed together with the underlying gneisses and intruded by late and post- orogenic granites, it seems clear that there have been several epochs of granite formation.

The soils in this area are found in an Intricately dissected plains of very low relief with scattered small hills on a precambrain granite complex and local granulites. These Soils are moderately shallow to deep, brownish to reddish sandy clay loam to clays with high gravel content.

E4.5 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Hydrology

The primary watercourse in Sierra Leone close to the project area is the Sewe River, approximately 9Km south of the project site. The Bo site drains in the Sewa River Basin. The Bo Site is sited in the Sewa River Catchment. Drainages from the surrounding join a main drainage flowing through the project site before joining the Tibo River. Tibo River flow south wards of the project site, while other joining it before emptying in the Sewa River. Inhabitant of the project surrounding largely depend on ground water, especially, hand pump and open well as the principal source of potable water supply.

Hydrogeology

The Basement Complex, Leonean and Liberian Granites – Kasila Group composed of gneisses and granulites. There is typically a layer of highly weathered rock –the regolith. This is generally up to 20 m thick, although up to 37 m thick has been seen.

At the base of the weathered zone, the underlying crystalline bedrock of the Archean Gneisses is often extensively fractured and not clay rich, and can store and transmit groundwater through fractures. The average thickness of the fractured aquifer zone is 35 m, but it can be as thick as 60m Borehole yields in this formation are typically between 0.3 and 1.5 l/s. This deeper, fractured aquifer zone is typically a more sustainable groundwater source than the upper weathered zone. It also has more potential for the natural attenuation of contaminants, because of the overlying clay zone and the longer pathways. In 2017, HydroNova (USA) conducted an extensive survey on all existing hydrogeological data in Sierra Leon and estimated the average yield of the aquifers in Koidu Area at 2l/s which translates to 7.2m^3/hour.

E4.6 Baseline Data Collection and Analysis

In order to have baseline data for future monitoring purposes, on site measurements was carried out and the results are provided below.

a) Ambient Air Quality

The project site is located in the outskirts of Bo Town CBD approx. 7km east along the Bo-Kenema Highway. No comprehensive air quality baseline survey has been carried out in the vicinity of the project area prior to this, like most of Sierra Leone. Air quality in Sierra Leone is largely affected by the weather conditions especially with regards to particulate matter (dust). The presence of unsealed roads, slash and burn agriculture practices, windblown dust from exposed areas of land, and smoke from domestic wood fires contribute negatively to the air quality especially during the dry season. However, the ambient air quality is expected to be good, with levels of pollutants very likely to be below detection limits all due to the rural nature of the proposed project area.

Air samples were measured for Particulate Matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2). All the parameters measured were found to be within the limits contained in the Sierra Leone Standard Bureau (SLSB) and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

b) Ambient Noise Levels

The noise baseline measurements were carried in the same location as the Air Quality Measurements. There are no major sources of noise pollution apart from the vehicles passing along the Bo-Kenema Highway.

Like most part of Sierra Leone, no comprehensive noise baseline survey has been done in the vicinity of the project area. The results from the noise level assessment have shown that the locations registered noise levels that complied with the Sierra Leone Standard Bureau (SLSB) and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

c) Physical Cultural Resources

The proposed Bo/Bandajuma Solar Power Plant site was farming land before it was acquired by Planet Solar Energy (SL) Ltd. Currently it is lying fallow. Consultations with the local community and leaders have confirmed that there are no physical cultural resources at the proposed site. It has been a farmland for the period the landowners have owned it.

d) Ecological Resources

Typical vegetation in the un-cleared part include grassland, isolated Oil Palm trees and few other trees and mostly farm bush. The site borders a seasonal stream to the western side which flows north to join another permanent stream that flows to the east through the middle of the project area. Fauna species recorded at the site include, fourteen (14) mammals, fifty-five (55) birds and twenty-one (21) reptiles and twelve (12) amphibians. Other species include butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, spiders, grasshoppers, fish among others. Two reptile species reported from this site (African Rock Python and Ball Python) are recognised by the IUCN Red List as Near Threatened.

e) Socio-economic Environment

The proposed Solar Energy Project is situated in Nyalley Section, in Bandajuma village, approximately 7km from Bo town along the Bo –Kenema motor highway.

A total of 20 socio-economic questionnaires were administered to the project area community. The results of the analysis indicated that farming and related activities accounted for 71.4% of sampled respondents. This is closely followed by commercial enterprise accounting for 23.8% while employment in the formal sector (teaching, banking, law, medical etc.) accounts for less than 5% of the sampled population. The proposed project will create more job opportunities for the local community and impact positively on their livelihood.

E5 ANALYSIS OF PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

An analysis of “With” and “Without” Project scenario revealed that the positive impacts outnumbered the adverse impacts due to the proposed development. The adverse impacts are envisaged only during the construction phase which will be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Appropriate mitigation measures will be adopted to limit these adverse impacts during the construction phase.

The current electricity production in the country cannot meet the demand. Majority of the users who are not connected to the national grid use thermal generators which are polluting the environment and increasing GHG. The proposed project will alleviate shortage of electricity supply in the Country and at the same time reduce dependence on fossil fuel for production of power resulting into considerable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

E6 PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

Public consultations were carried out as an integral part of the social and environmental assessment process of the project with an objective to inform and educate stakeholders about the proposed actions and to receive and record public perceptions about the project.

It assisted in identification of the likely issues and problems associated with the project as well as the needs and concerns of the population likely to be impacted. This participatory process helped in reducing the public concerns and enabling participation of the local people in this development process.

E6.1 Key Informants Interviews

Initial engagement with Key Stakeholders was done in January 2022. Further consultations were carried out in February 2022. Each Key Stakeholder was visited, provided with a brief on the proposed project before their views were sought through an interactive interview session. Refer **Appendix 2** of this report.

E6.2 Public Consultation Meeting

The Public Consultation Meeting was held on 2nd February in Bandajuma Village, Bo District, Sierra Leone. The local community and relevant stakeholders including government representatives participated in this meeting.

The meeting was attended by a total of 82 participants (52 men and 30 female). The agenda, minutes of the meeting, list of participants and attendance sheets are provided as **Appendix 3**.

E6.3 Public Disclosure Meeting

Project impacts disclosure meeting was carried out on Thursday 5, May 2022. The meeting was convened to disclose the findings of the study and the project mitigation measures that will be carried out to reduce/eliminate the identified impacts. It also discussed the next steps in the project process. The meeting was attended by a total of 46 participants. The key outcomes of the meeting were:

- The identified impacts can be managed through the mitigations provided in the ESMP;
- The community and the other stakeholders supported the implementation of the project;
- The EPA Regional Manager mentioned that Planet Solar has an existing environmental license and that, an addendum work of this type is at the discretion of the company. He mentioned that EPA recognises Planet Solar is one of the companies that will help EPA by reducing GHG emissions through the developing the solar power project;
- Community committee was formed with the following representation:
  - ✓ Town chief
  - ✓ Member of Parliament
  - ✓ Councillor
  - ✓ Religious reps x 2
  - ✓ Mammy Queen (women)
  - ✓ Youth
  - ✓ Physically Challenged

The minutes of the meeting are provided in **Appendix 4**.

E7 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The project has both positive and potential negative impacts. Detailed evaluation of the impacts and mitigation measures are provided in Chapter 7 of this Report. A summary of these impacts including enhancement measures for the positive impacts and mitigation measures for the negative impact are provided below.

E7.1 Positive Impacts

a) ***Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*** – The Solar PV Power Plant will generate 12MW of clean energy that shall be evacuated to the local grid. The proposed enhancement measure is to have the youth taking interest in enhancing their knowledge in the green energy sector.

The project can impart skills and knowledge of the solar power technology to the youth through hands on engagement and training.

b) ***Employment opportunities for Youth and Community*** **-** The project will provide job opportunities for the youth and members of the community. The proposed enhancement measures include preparing and implementing a gender plan to promote equity in job issuance and offer training opportunities and apprenticeships to males and females in the project area in order to enhance their skills.

c) Opportunities to Offer Services - The workers at the solar plant will require various goods and services to be provided by the community members. Proposed enhancement measures include giving priority to Bandajuma community members to provide goods and services. Such services should be on an arranged programme making the community members offering such services maximize benefits from their services.

d) Provision of Market for Local Materials - During construction, materials that will be used at the solar plant that are available locally will be sourced locally for the development of the facility. Proposed enhancement measure includes offering opportunity to supply building materials such as cement, sand and other small accessories and tools to Bandajuma community members as first priority.

e) Generation of Electricity to the National Grid - By generating 12MW of electricity from solar power and connecting it to the Grid, this will contribute to lowering the need to use energy generated from sources that are releasing GHG. Since there is a huge power deficit in the country, the Government should encourage for more investments in solar power by IPPs and more training programmes for the youth on solar energy.

E7.2 Negative Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Land Use change

Impacts - The land use is changing from agricultural use to a commercial land for production of solar power.

Mitigation - The proponent shall undertake a detailed site drainage study to guide the development of the solar plant in protecting the wetland. The Contractor and Proponent to ensure full implementation of the ESMP.

b) Soil Erosion and Contamination

Impacts – During site preparation, soil will be excavated and made loose**.** This will result in soil erosion and siltation of downstream surface water sources i.e. the swamp and the streams passing through the site. Oils, fuels and chemicals used at the site may spill on to the soil and cause contamination.

Mitigations – Put in place soil control measures including compacting excavated soil, sprinkling of water and ensuring speedy removal of excavated soil for appropriate reuse or disposal. Machines and vehicles to be well maintained to avoid oi leaks to the ground. Oils, fuels and hydraulic fluids are to be stored on paved areas with containment.

c) Air Quality

Impacts **-** Fugitive dust and exhaust emissions will arise during construction activities at the site and vehicle movements inside the site and outside.

Mitigations – Removal of vegetation from the project footprint areas only. Control of vehicles speeds and sprinkling water to suppress dust. Vehicles should be well maintained and unnecessary raving of engines and idling should be minimized to reduce exhausted emissions.

Workers to be provided with nose masks to protect them from inhalation of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions.

d) Noise Emissions

Impacts – Machinery and vehicles being used during construction will generate noise.

Mitigations – Ensuring vehicles and machines are well maintained. Minimizing vehicle movements and instructing drivers to minimize raving of vehicles and other machinery. Workers to be provided with ear muffs to protect them from excess noise.

e) Biodiversity

Impacts – Removal of vegetation from the project site/wetland may result in loss of habitat for small mammals, and some reptiles. There is high potential for invasive species to invade cleared areas.

Mitigations – Only clear vegetation from the project footprint areas. Carry out clearing of vegetation systematically and with caution to allow for fauna to migrate to neighbouring areas. Uproot any invasive species that emerge in a timely manner. Ensure workers do not kill any fauna encountered at the site. Promote the planting of trees in areas not directly affected and nurture them to grow.

f) Occupational Health and Safety

Impacts – Injuries or accidents may occur during construction arising from using machines and tools. Those working at heights may be exposed to falls.

Mitigations – Contractor to prepare and implement an Occupational Safety and Health Management Plan (OSHMP) and provide workers with appropriate PPE to protect them from injuries. Those working at heights shall be provided with harnesses. Contractor to ensure PPEs are well used by workers.

g) Physical Cultural Resources

The site was previously an agricultural land and the community members confirmed absence of any known physical cultural resources. However, given the earthworks involved, a chance find procedure has been incorporated as presented in Appendix 3.

h) Solid and Liquid Waste

Impacts – During construction, the domestic waste from the contractor's camp and construction waste from construction activities will be generated. There will also be sanitary waste generated at the site.

Mitigations – Contractor shall provide appropriate waste bins within the site and encourage waste segregation. An approved firm shall be engaged to collect waste for appropriate disposal.

Hazardous waste like used oil and hydraulic fluid is generated, the Contractor shall manage the handling of such waste through the use of a Chain of Custody Form for accountability. Approved hazardous waste handling firm shall be engaged to dispose of such waste.

i) HIV and Communicable Diseases STIs

Impacts – The project area is susceptible to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Mitigations – Contractor to provide HIV/STIs Management Plan. And sensitize workers and the community on prevention mechanisms. Provision of protection items like condoms to be availed to workers.

j) Community Health and Safety

Impacts **-**The presence of machinery and vehicles moving in and out of the project site may pose safety risks to community members or those using the access road to the site.

Mitigation – Evaluation of risks associated with vehicle and machine movements to be done and measures put in place including identification of appropriate routes and instruction of drivers to control speeds.

k) Impact of Increased Traffic

Impacts **–** The Contractors vehicles will increase this traffic. The turnoff to the site from the major will heighten the risk of accident.

Mitigations **–** The Contractor shall prepare a traffic management plan and post traffic marshals at the identified potential accident spots.

l) Water Resources

Impacts – Construction activities will have modest demand for water. It is estimated that during operation that each event of cleaning of the 29,460 modules will be 58,920 litres of water assuming each module requires approx. 2 litres.

Depending on the level of dust in the project area, cleaning may be required as often as every month escalating the water demand to 707,040,440 litres per annum

Mitigation **–** The Contractor to drill a dedicated borehole for the project operations at the facility**.**

E8 Grievance Management/Redress Mechanism

A Grievance Redress Mechanism GRM has been formulated to receive and facilitate resolution of complainants (project affected people, local community and workers) concerns and grievances regarding the project's performance during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project. The mechanism will be able to address the concerns and complaints in a timely fashion by using an easy to understand, transparent and effective grievance redress process that is readily accessible to all segments of the project area population including workers and community members.

E9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTION/FRAMEWORK

The Consultant engaged with the local community and from these consultations, certain socio-economic areas were found to be inadequate, a list of which has been provided under Chapter 9 of this report.

E10 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

E10.1 Conclusion

The proposed Solar PV Power Plant is not expected to cause any significant adverse effects on the surrounding environment. On the other hand, it will increase the available power on the national grid and contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions.

E10.2 Recommendation

The project site is neither a protected nor a key biodiversity area and given that not many IUCN and CITES listed species are resident at the site, the project may not have major impacts on biodiversity if the proposed mitigation measures are adhered to. The Solar Project can be implemented at the proposed site. All the mitigation measures provided in the ESMP and the Monitoring Plan need to be implemented as indicated to safeguard the biodiversity and physical environment of the project area. Environmental, Social and Health issues of the project will need to be monitored, data analysed and used to improve the safeguards performance of the project. Health and Safety of the workers and community members have also been identified as key areas that require dedicated observance.