## **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: Makoth in Bombali District, Port Loko in Port Loko District, Kono, Wondedu Section in Kono District and Bo, Bandajuma in Bo District. Planet One 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 25MW Solar PV Power Plant will be located in a greenfield site 750 m north of Makoth Centre along the Makeni Highway. It covers an area of 166 acres at an altitude of approx. 87 metres above sea level. The site boundary coordinates are provided in the table below.

**Site Boundary Coordinates** 

Id	Name	Description	Lat	Long	Northings	Eastings
1	95/18/BP1	BP1	8.832569	-12.2230	977479	805485
2	95/18/BP2	BP2	8.831962	-12.2228	977412	805511
3	95/18/BP3	BP3	8.830676	-12.2223	977270	805568
4	95/18/BP4	BP4	8.829398	-12.2218	977129	805625
5	95/18/BP5	BP5	8.828111	-12.2212	976987	805682
6	95/18/BP6	BP6	8.827615	-12.2225	976931	805540
7	95/18/BP7	BP7	8.827109	-12.2238	976874	805399
8	95/18/BP8	BP8	8.826728	-12.2248	976831	805292
9	95/18/BP9	BP9	8.826585	-12.2262	976814	805140
10	95/18/BP10	BP10	8.826450	-12.2276	976798	804988
11	95/18/BP11	BP11	8.826316	-12.2289	976782	804837
12	95/18/BP12	BP12	8.826182	-12.2303	976766	804685
13	95/18/BP13	BP13	8.826047	-12.2317	976750	804534
14	95/18/BP14	BP14	8.825930	-12.2330	976736	804393
15	95/18/BP15	BP15	8.827287	-12.2332	976886	804367
16	95/18/BP16	BP16	8.828644	-12.2334	977036	804341
17	95/18/BP17	BP17	8.830046	-12.2336	977191	804315
18	95/18/BP18	BP18	8.830335	-12.2324	977224	804449
19	95/18/BP19	BP19	8.830651	-12.2311	977260	804597
20	95/18/BP20	BP20	8.830966	-12.2297	977296	804745
21	95/18/BP21	BP21	8.831290	-12.2284	977333	804893
22	95/18/BP22	BP22	8.831606	-12.227	977369	805041
23	95/18/BP23	BP23	8.831930	-12.2257	977406	805189
24	95/18/BP24	BP24	8.832245	-12.2243	977442	805337
25	95/18/BP1	BP1	8.832569	-12.2230	977479	805485
26	Makoth	Project Site	8.829135	-12.2279	977095	804950

## E1.2 ESHIA Study Addendum Objectives

In order to comply with Sierra Leones Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, Planet Solar Energy had prepared one Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Study report for the 4 sites and obtained EPA Licence in 2019.

An Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) was further undertaken 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 is for the development of a 25MW Solar PV Power Plant at Makoth in Bombali 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 take 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 Solar PV Power Plant at Makoth will generate 25 MWac of solar power that will be stepped up via an 11/161 kV on site substation and connected to an existing 161 kV Transmission Line that runs along the southern edge of the site boundary. The development will be implemented in 2 Phases as part of the overall 50 MW project delivery, occurring in the following phases:

- Phase 1 proposed Capacity 15 MWp / 10 MW
- Phase 2 proposed Capacity 22.5 MWp / 15 MW

The detailed description of the project and components are provided in Chapter 2 of this report. The total power generated will be fed to the national grid.

# 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.

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## 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	Applicable
	Environmental and Social Risks and	There are Environmental and Social risks that will arise during
	Impacts.	construction
PS 2	Labour and Working Conditions	Applicable
		The project is going to employ skilled and unskilled workers to offer services in the project and their welfare will need to be
DG 2	D DCC. , 1D 11 ',	taken care of.
PS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution	Applicable
	Prevention	There are project activities like maintenance of vehicles and
		machines, fugitive dust and exhaust emissions that have the
DC 4	C	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
PS 5	Land Association and Involuntary	the site exposing community members to safety risks
PS 3	Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Applicable The land has been acquired from private citizens through a
	Resettiement	commercial lease agreement. However, there are no settlements
		hence no persons are being displaced
PS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable	Applicable
150	Management of Living Natural Resources	The project site is a modified habitat with tall grass, shrubs and
	ivialiagement of Living Ivatural Resources	scattered trees. The site is highly disturbed through frequent
		bush fires, over-grazing, fuelwood cutting and charcoal
		burning. There are no trigger species for critical habitat
		threshold and the available habitat is largely modified. Much of
		the existing modified vegetation will be cleared for the project,
		however the wetland area should be avoided.
PS 7	Indigenous Peoples	Not Applicable
	8	There are no indigenous peoples in the project area.
PS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Applicable
	C	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	Applicable
	Risks	There are Environmental and Social risks that will arise during construction and operation
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 resources
4	Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Applicable

Standards	Standard	Remarks
		The project site is a modified habitat with tall grass, shrubs and scattered trees. The site is highly disturbed through frequent bush fires, over-grazing, fuelwood cutting and charcoal burning. There are no trigger species for critical habitat threshold and the available habitat is largely modified. Much of the existing modified vegetation will be cleared for the project, however the wetland area should be avoided.
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 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 characterized by open grassland, with occasional Oil Palm trees and very few other trees. The northern half of the project area has fairly more vegetation cover that the southern half and is dominated by *Lophira lanceolata*. The mid-section of the site has swamps that dry up during the dry season, The site gently slopes southwards. The site covers an area of 166 acres at an altitude of approx. 87 metres above sea level.

## E4.2 Climate

The annual rainfall is approx. 1,420 mm. The highest rainfall occurs in the months of July-September where the highest rainfall occurs in August (299 mm). The driest months are December-February where January receives as low as 3 mm of rainfall (lowest). The highest temperature in the project area is experienced in the months of February to April, where the peak temperature is approx. 38.3°C. The lowest temperatures are recorded in the months of December and January where the lowest temperature is recorded in January at approx. 19.8°C.

## E4.3 Topography

The elevation of the project area is approx. 87 m above sea level. The site is generally flat with a gentle slope towards the south. From Makoth Centre as you drive northwards along the road that forms the eastern boundary of the site there is a gentle climb as the railway line is approached that forms the northern boundary.

# E4.4 Geology and Soil

The Makoth site sits in the Rokel River Group which comprises of Precambrian to Cambrian sedimentary and volcanic assemblages deposited unconformably on a basement complex. The sedimentary rocks include conglomerate, sandstone and clay.

The Rokel River Group was folded and slightly metamorphosed by the Rokelide Event c. 500 Ma ago, the time of the Pan-African thermotectonic event. It has been divided into four formations; the Tabe-Makani, Teve, Taia and Kasewe Hills Formations.

The soils are moderately deep to deep of loam to clays with high gravel content associated with savanna woodland, regrowth thicket and scattered cultivation suitable for drought-resistant tree crops and low-demanding arable crops, with paddy rice in low-lying areas.

## E4.5 Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Hydrology

The site has wetland areas with two streams emanating from it. The Balia Stream flows south west of the project site joining several drainages before emptying into the Mabole River. While Batkupr stream flows east of the site joining the Tabai River which then joins the Mabole River.

#### Hydrogeology

Sierra Leone has two high yield hydrogeological units namely unconsolidated sedimentary deposits and basement complex. The Contractor will need to carry out hydrogeological survey to target better yielding aquifer that can provide adequate water for the operations of the solar Power Plant.

## **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

Air pollution is mainly caused by the generators and vehicles using the tarmac highway road to Makeni. The murram road that leads to the site gets very dusty (fugitive dust) during the dry season.

Air samples were measured for Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). 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

Noise pollution is mainly caused by the generators and vehicles using the Makeni highway. The assessment was undertaken using a Casella 633A (Class A noise meter) mounted on a tripod at height of 1.5 m and set to log 5-minute averages of the following A-weighted broadband statistical noise descriptors for a monitoring duration of 1 hour per log. The results from the noise level assessment has 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 Makoth Solar Power Plant site was farming land before it was acquired by Planet Solar Energy (SL) Ltd. 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. However, a Chance Finds Procedure (CFP) is provided for use by the Contractor.

## d) Ecological Resources

Makoth site is highly impoverished in terms of vegetation cover and flora diversity. The vegetation at this site is highly disturbed through frequent fires, over grazing, fuelwood cutting and charcoal burning by the local communities, therefore constituting modified habitat.

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However, the project site has diverse fauna species comprising of nine (9) mammal, 43 bird, 16 reptile (Among them is the Ball Python which is rated as Near Threatened on IUCN red list) and 12 amphibian species. Other species include butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, spiders, grasshoppers as well as fish.

#### e) Socio-economic Environment

The Solar PV Power Plant Project site is situated in Mankeneh Section, Makoth Town with a distance of at least 18km to Makeni City. Makoth practically, is located along the Lunsar-Makeni motor highway and known for its businesslike people with fresh agricultural produce always on display by the women.

A total of 20 socio-economic questionnaires were administered to the project area community. The households were randomly selected from the study area. From the analysis, farming and related activities accounted for 40% of sampled respondents with commercial enterprise accounting for 35%. Employment in the formal sector tied with driving at 10% each; while bike riding accounted for 5%. The proposed Solar PV Power Plant will therefore enhance their mainstream economic activity by providing job opportunities as casuals and permanent employees. It is envisioned that the project will impact positively to their livelihoods.

#### 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 Kev 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 discussion meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> February at Makoth Centre, Sierra Leone. The local community and relevant stakeholders including government representatives participated in this meeting.

The meeting was attended by a total of 132 participants (70 men and 62 female). The agenda, minutes of the meeting, list of participants and attendance sheets are provided as **Appendix 3**.

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## **E6.3** Public Disclosure Meeting

Project impacts disclosure meeting was carried out on Tuesday 3, 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 79 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;
- They also want the project to start immediately;
- 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. The agency expects the company to honour projects under the community development action plan (CDAP) agreed with the community; and
- The project area community committee was formed with the following representation:
  - ✓ Town chief
  - ✓ Member of Parliament
  - ✓ Councillor
  - ✓ Mammy Queen (women)
  - ✓ Youth
  - ✓ Disabled

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 25 MW of electricity that shall be evacuated to the national grid. This amount of electricity from the solar plant will significantly contribute to the reduction of emission of Green House Gases (GHG) and positively impacting climate change. In addition, the reduction in use of bio-fuels such as wood and charcoal for energy, will lessen the impact on habitat destruction and biodiversity loss. 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. Since the demand for electricity connection is still higher than the production more PPP projects on solar energy should be encouraged
- b) *Employment opportunities for Youth and Community* The project will provide job opportunities for the youth and members of the community. The project will require both skilled and unskilled workers during the construction and operation phases of the project. This will improve the livelihoods status of the community.
- c) 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 of Makoth Village. This will include laundry, domestic, and transportation services. This will generate good business opportunities for the community members.

Planet Solar Energy (SL) Ltd/ESHIA for Solar PV Power Plant at Makoth in Sierra Leone Pan-21-016a Proposed enhancement measures include giving priority to project area 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. This will create a market for such locally sourced materials and improve the livelihood of businesses supplying the materials.

Proposed enhancement measure includes offering opportunity to supply building materials such as cement, sand and other small accessories and tools to project area community members as first priority

e) Generation of Electricity and Connection to the National Grid - By generating 25MW of electricity from solar power and connecting it to the National Grid, this will contribute to lowering the need to use energy generated from sources that are releasing GHG. It will also allow for more users to be connected to clean energy for domestic and commercial use. The enhancement measures should include the Government encouraging more investments in solar power by IPPs. More training programmes should be rolled out for the youth in the project area to gather skills in the solar energy sector for sustainability of existing and facilities to be developed in the near future.

#### **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. Part of the land contains swamps or wetlands hence swamps offer very critical lifeline to the biodiversity of the project area.

**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 two streams (Balia and Batkupr). 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

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*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

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.

#### 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

Impacts – The field survey established that the proposed 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** for use by the Contractor.

# 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 EPA registered firm shall be engaged to collect waste for appropriate disposal. Sanitary waste shall also be collected by an EPA registered firm.

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. An EPA registered hazardous waste handling firm shall be engaged to dispose of such waste.

## **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.

# **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.

Planet Solar Energy (SL) Ltd/ESHIA for Solar PV Power Plant at Makoth in Sierra Leone 3 June 2022 **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 from the highway going north to the site is busy with trade activities and drivers taking this turn to the site have to be watchful not to knock any of the traders/hawkers.

*Mitigations* – The Contractor should consider making a new access road for reaching the site and avoid using existing one which has many traders and hawkers that make accident risk high.

#### 1) Water Resources

*Impacts* – Construction activities will have modest demand for water. It is estimated that during operation that each event of cleaning of the 68,850 modules will be 137,700 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 1,652,400 litres. *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 socioeconomic 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**

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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 proposed 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. Health and Safety of the workers and community members have also been identified as key areas that require dedicated observance. Environmental, Social and Health issues of the project need to be monitored, data analysed and used to improve the safeguards performance of the project.

Planet Solar Energy (SL) Ltd/ESHIA for Solar PV Power Plant at Makoth in Sierra Leone