

**SUMMARY POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL STRATEGY**

Country:	Samoa	Project Title:	Solar Power Development Project
Lending/Financing Modality:	Project Loan	Department/Division:	Private Sector Operations Department/ Private Sector Infrastructure Division 2

<b>I. POVERTY AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY</b>
Poverty targeting: general intervention
<b>A. Links to the National Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Strategy and Country Partnership Strategy</b>
The proposed project loan will finance the 1.8-megawatt (MW) expansion of an existing 2.2 MW solar farm on Samoa's main island of Upolu, owned Pacific Energy Limited (SPEL). The project is consistent with two Asian Development Bank (ADB) strategies: the Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 and the Pacific Approach (which is used as Samoa's country partnership strategy). It also supports infrastructure and environment, two of the five core operational areas of ADB. As highlighted in ADB's country operations business plan for Samoa, 2017–2019, ADB's past support was centered on the energy sector and has helped the country improve electricity services as well as strengthen the resilience of renewable energy power generation against disasters caused by natural hazards. The project is also aligned with Samoa's Energy Sector Plan, 2012–2016.
<b>B. Results from the Poverty and Social Analysis during Due Diligence</b>
<p>1. <b>Key poverty and social issues.</b> The Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report, 2016 found a reduction in the incidence of basic needs poverty in Samoa's population from 26.9% in 2008 to 18.8% in 2014. Despite this reduction, poverty incidence has persisted, especially in urban areas (and notably in northwest Upolu, where the project is located) due to a large portion of the population being impacted by the 2008 global economic crisis, the 2009 tsunami, and the 2012 cyclone. Reconstructing basic infrastructure, restoring essential services, and rebuilding housing and private businesses is essential to employment generation, social development, and poverty reduction.</p> <p>2. <b>Beneficiaries.</b> The potential beneficiaries are Samoans in general, and those on the main island of Upolu, who will directly benefit from improved power supply during periods of dry weather when the country's hydropower generation capacity can be affected by reduced rainfall.</p> <p>3. <b>Impact channels.</b> The project will indirectly contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction, job creation, and improvement of electricity supply in Samoa. It will indirectly generate employment opportunities through improvement to electricity supply reliability that improves the enabling business environment in Samoa. As part of its commitment to local residents, SPEL will prioritize local labor during project construction and operation.</p> <p>4. <b>Other social and poverty issues.</b> None.</p> <p>5. <b>Design features.</b> Beyond SPEL's commitment to prioritize employment of local residents during construction and operation, and its contribution to reliable renewable electricity supply, the project's design includes limited opportunities to directly address key poverty and social issues in Samoa.</p>
<b>II. PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERING THE POOR</b>
<p>1. <b>Participatory approaches and project activities.</b> Project stakeholders, including nearby community members, were provided with information and directly consulted as part of the required impact assessment. During the consultation, project details and activities, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures were disclosed and feedback was registered.</p> <p>2. <b>Civil society organizations.</b> There is no anticipated civil society role in the project due to the project's location within the secure boundary of Samoa Airport Authority's Faleolo International Airport.</p> <p>3. The following forms of civil society organization participation are envisaged during project implementation, rated as high (H), medium (M), low (L), or not applicable (NA):          (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information gathering and sharing (L) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</p> <p>4. <b>Participation plan.</b> A project-level participation plan will not be prepared because there is a limited role for civil society groups beyond immediately affected persons living adjacent to the airport. The project's environmental management plan includes consultation procedures and a grievance redress mechanism.  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.</p>
<b>III. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT</b>
Gender mainstreaming category: no gender elements
<b>A. Key issues.</b> Measures to benefit women or facilitate their participation in the project are limited due to the size of the operation and the short construction time frame. SPEL, however, does not discriminate against potential applicants or candidates on the basis of gender. Employment has been limited to one local female, who will continue to work as a translator during project operation. SPEL is also exploring opportunities for a limited number of women to work in gardening and maintenance at the expanded site.



## VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. **Targets and indicators.** SPEL will implement the environmental management plan and will comply with national laws and regulations. Employment generation for the local community will also be monitored, including employment opportunities for women.
2. **Required human resources.** SPEL will monitor implementation of the environmental management plan and compliance with national laws and regulations, and it will prepare an annual environmental and social report.
3. **Information in the project administration manual.** Not applicable.
4. **Monitoring tools.** In its annual environmental and social report, SPEL will monitor and provide information on its compliance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and the relevant national laws, standards, and regulations.

Sources: ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila; ADB. 2014. *Midterm Review of Strategy 2020: Meeting the Challenges of a Transforming Asia and Pacific*. Manila; ADB. 2016. *ADB's Pacific Approach, 2016–2020*. Manila; Government of Samoa, Samoa Bureau of Statistics. 2012. *Population and Housing Census 2011*. Apia; Government of Samoa, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, and United Nations Development Programme, Pacific Centre. 2016. *Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report: Analysis of the 2013/14 Household Income and Expenditure Survey*. Apia; ADB. 2016. *Country Operations Business Plan: Samoa, 2017–2019*. Manila. Government of Samoa, Ministry of Finance. 2012. *Samoa Energy Sector Plan 2012–2016*. Apia.