

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>SOLAR VENTURES FUND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2015-0402</i>
Country:	<i>Global, mainly non-OECD countries</i>
Project Description:	<i>Equity fund investing in solar photovoltaics projects mainly in non-OECD countries</i>
EIA required:	<i>Yes / no</i> <i>This is a multi-scheme operation. Individual schemes may require an EIA.</i>
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	<i>No</i>

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

This operation supports the realisation and operation of solar PV electricity generation projects with a capacity in the range of 10 to 50 MW mainly in non-OECD countries globally.

Although the installations are mainly expected to bring about environmental benefits through the production of renewable electricity, some projects to be financed by the Fund may have limited negative social or environmental impacts. Given the expected size of the solar PV installations significant land plots will be occupied with potential related economic and/or physical resettlement risks as well as environmental risks. In addition the risk exists of non-compliance with EIB's labour standards as well as standards on health and safety.

For each investment, the fund manager shall perform environmental and social due diligence including, when relevant, satisfactory and meaningful public consultation in order to verify and confirm that environmental and social impacts have been duly addressed and the investments are acceptable in environmental and social terms. Each investment shall comply with the Fund's Environmental and Social (E&S) requirements as well as any applicable national laws and regulations on E&S matters. The Fund will ensure that its E&S policies and procedures including an Environmental and Social Management System are in line with EIB specific E&S requirements.

The Fund's underlying investments are mostly expected to fall under Annex II of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU if they were located inside the EU. For any investment subject to an environmental and social impact assessment, according to national legislation or based on the application of the principles and standards of EU legislation, the fund manager will be required to ensure that such an assessment will be carried out and to publish the non-technical summary of the environmental and social impact study (or a link) on its website for access to stakeholders.

Investments with significant negative impact on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation areas, bird or fish migration routes shall not be eligible. If an investment has the potential to affect a nature conservation zone or any other sensitive area as defined in national legislation or European Directives, the fund manager shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority following a biodiversity impact assessment satisfactory to the EIB, that the scheme does not have a significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance.

The fund manager staff is well aware of typical environmental and social issues related to renewable energy projects and include E&S considerations throughout its investment appraisal although not yet fully integrated into the Fund's procedures. The fund manager will, to the satisfaction of the EIB, further develop the Fund's E&S Policy and implement an Environmental and Social Management System to

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

ensure full alignment with EIB requirements. The capacity of the fund manager to manage E&S impacts and risks and to ensure compliance to EIB's E&S requirements is considered to be good.

With the above conditions in place, this Fund is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.