



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/15/2024 | Report No: ESRSA03509



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P181221	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	RESA	2025
Operation Name	Renewable Energy Support and Access Accelerator Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Botswana	Botswana	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Energy & Extractives
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Republic of Botswana	Botswana Power Corporation	20-May-2024	11-Jul-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
07-May-2024	122,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To enable renewable energy grid integration in Botswana and improve electricity service in selected rural areas of the country

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

[Description imported from the PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The project will support grid integration of renewable energy and improve reliability of electricity supply in rural areas of Borolong. The project is structured around three components: (i) grid upgrades to enable integration and management of variable renewable energy (including BESS, STATCOM and upgrade of SCADA), (ii) local transmission and distribution network upgrades to support rural electrification and (iii) project management and technical assistance to support deployment of variable renewable energy. The project is expected to enable the utility BPC to integrate and



manage the first large-scale pipeline of variable renewable energy projects through critical investments to manage their variability and dispatchability. In addition, the Project will support the GoB to improve reliability of electricity supply and strengthen the grid in the villages of Borolong area. Furthermore, the project will finance technical assistance to empower the key stakeholders in managing renewable energy projects and will support project management to facilitate implementation.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation’s environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 10,000]

Botswana is a semi-arid, sparsely populated country and highly vulnerable to climate change. The proposed project will support climate resilient and critical grid investments under Component 1: (i) battery energy storage systems (BESS), (ii) Static Synchronous Compensator (STATCOM) and (iii) Strengthening power system control and dispatch (upgrade of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition – SCADA and roll out of Botswana rural electrification program under Component 2 including (i) financing the grid expansion in the rural villages of Borolong and Kgatleng and (ii) contributing to financing of off-grid solar program. The two 50MW BESS will be installed where the two large scale solar PV plants will be constructed in Selebi Phikwe and Jwaneng. Both locations are considered generally disturbed with no confirmed sensitivities according to the solar PV studies and the iBat screening tools. STATCOM will be installed at the existing substations namely, Francistown 1, Legothwane, Segoditshane 1 and Ramotswa substation. While the mini-distribution control centers will be installed at 11 locations (Kanye, Maun, Molepolole, Francistown, Palapye, Serowe, Selibi Phikwe, Bobonong, Lobatse, Jwaneng and Letlhakane) to manage the grid. Component 2 will strengthen the transmission and distribution network in the Borolong rural area. A 160km 66kV transmission line will be constructed between the Lobatse substation and Mabule. Under this component there will be an expansion of the Lobatse substation within the existing footprint and construction of two substations along the 66KV line near Mabule and Pitshane. The exact location of the latter two substations is not yet known, but according to BPC, the GoB will prioritize publicly owned land for such works. The construction of the 66kV line is said to take place within an existing road reserve to the extent feasible, therefore it is not anticipated that there will be any potential environmental sensitivities. In terms of social risks, while easement and servitude impacts are anticipated, there will not be any impacts associated with physical displacement of Project-affected people (PAPs). The line alignment has not yet been fully finalized and will be further screened once confirmed. A 46km 33Kv line from Pitsane substation to Hebron and a 2.6km distribution line from Pitsane to Marojane, Mokataka and Molete villages, will be constructed to facilitate energy access to nearby villages. Similarly to impacts along the 66kV line, the risks under 33Kv do not anticipate physical resettlement of PAPs. The construction of the 33kV distribution line is anticipated to take place within existing road reserves, therefore it is not anticipated that there will be significant E&S sensitivities and will be confirmed once the route alignment has been finalized. The Pitsane grasslands can be found in the south-eastern sections of Botswana. The Pitsane grasslands is widely spread in the south-eastern parts of Botswana and are typically used for grazing and considered a key biodiversity area according to iBAT. The iBAT screening tool further indicated that there are no protected areas within the vicinity of the transmission and distribution network.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

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[Description of Borrower’s capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 10,000]

Botswana has an environmental legislative framework for assessing and mitigating environmental risks and impacts, however the legislative framework does not fully address all potential adverse impacts associated with project activities such as management of hazardous waste and assessment of environmental impacts associated with battery storage systems. Occupational health and safety is regulated by various pieces of legislation and largely orientated towards factory and mining operations. Monitoring and enforcement of both the environmental and occupational legislative frameworks are hindered by lack of adequate human resources and experience.

BPC has a dedicated environmental, health and safety unit, however lack adequate resources, capacity and experience with environmental and social risk management in particular related to lender funded projects. To ensure adequate implementation and monitoring of the project’s environmental and social performance dedicated environmental, social and health and safety specialists will be appointed as part of the PIU to be established in BPC to oversee the preparation and implementation of the E&S instruments for the project. The PIU will further be assisted by an owners engineer and consultants who will be appointed during project implementation to undertake the environmental and social impact assessments for the BESS and transmission and distribution line components. The implementation arrangements will be further set out in the Project Operational Manual which BPC will prepare and submit to the Bank for approval. The technical assistance provided under Component 3 will address any required training and staffing needs for the dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in BPC. TA to be provided under the project will follow the guidance provided in the OESRC Advisory Note on Technical Assistance and the ESF. In addition, the Bank team is currently working with BPC and MME to implement the aforementioned ESMAP Grant processed as a small grant IPF which is an opportunity to increase the capacity of BPC as to the applicable Bank procurement framework as well as to the Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The E&S capacity building needs and measures identified during the Bank’s due diligence during project preparation will be included in the Project’s Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

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II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

The environmental risk rating is Moderate, as the potential environmental risks and impacts are considered to be site specific, largely reversible and can be readily addressed through known mitigation measures. The installation of (STATCOM), and upgrading of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) and mini-distribution control centers will take place within existing facilities with the potential impacts considered to be low to negligible. Similarly, works at the Lobatse substation expansion will take place within the existing demarcated substation footprint to allow for the connection of the new 66kV transmission line. The construction of the new 66kV (160 km) transmission line, 33kV and 11kV distribution lines will not require complex tower structures. Treated wooden poles structures will



be installed following an existing road reserve, as far as reasonably possible, but is yet to be finalized. The construction of the line is, therefore not anticipated to have a significant adverse impact on potential environmental sensitivities and are considered to be site specific. The locations of the two new substations are not yet know, and selected areas will be screened to ensure any potential environmental sensitivities are avoided. Impacts and risks associated with construction of substations are generally considered site specific, and can be avoided and or reduced through known mitigation measures. Anticipated impacts and risks associated with the construction of the above mentioned activities include: (i) biodiversity loss, (ii) disposal and management of general and hazardous waste during the construction, (ii) occupational health and safety hazards associated with the erection of the wooden pole structures and electrocution risks associated with work in existing substations, (iii) potential soil and ground and surface water pollution due to inadequate storage of materials including creosote treated wooden poles, (iv) nuisances related to dust and noise emissions, and (iv) community health and safety associated with transportation of equipment. The installation of the BESS will take place at the sites for two solar PV plants. The potential environmental impacts associated with the BESS are similar to those mentioned above in addition to generation of hazardous waste at end of the battery life and potential fires and explosions during the operational phase. Environmental hazards related to the disposal of used batteries containing hazardous waste will be mitigated via risk management measures that will include product specifications and “cradle to grave” provisions in the contracts of supplier for batteries used in the BESS in accordance with International best practice. Due to these reasons, the overall environmental risks and impacts at the appraisal stage have been assessed as moderate. The risks and impacts are considered to be moderate to low in magnitude, reversible, site-specific and can be easily mitigated. Component 3 supports technical assistance and capacity building and is considered to have limited to no downstream environmental impacts. Botswana has a legal and regulatory framework in place for assessing environmental risks, however monitoring and enforcement are not always conducted diligently. BPC has an environmental, health and safety unit, however it lack capacity with implementation of ESF projects. A PIU will be established in BPC with dedicated and qualified environmental and health and safety specialists to oversee the preparation and implementation of environmental and social instruments. Funds allocated under Component 3 will support capacity building.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]

The social risk is considered as Substantial at this stage. The Project’s key interventions relate to construction of the distribution line (80 km), installation of battery storage system, and installation of STATCOM within existing substations. Downstream socio-economic effects of these activities are expected to result in improved and reliable electricity supply, potentially reduced tariffs for customers, and have other positive social impacts on the lives and livelihoods of beneficiary communities. Potentially adverse social impacts may primarily occur in connection with the physical works under proposed Components 1 and 2, and may be related to: (i) potential small to medium scale land acquisition and land easement arrangements (to be assessed further and confirmed during preparation); (ii) social aspects of environmental impacts related to construction-related activities, including community health and safety risks; (iii) temporary labor influx needed for construction activities, and associated GBV/SEA/SH risks; and (iv) risk of potential exclusion of stakeholders, which creates the need for robust stakeholder engagement, and outreach to stakeholder and beneficiaries (including any vulnerable and/or disadvantaged groups);, as well as (iv) institutional coordination risks, which involve in particular the need for strengthening and coordination of grievance redress mechanisms between BPC and MME. These social risks and impacts need to be assessed further during preparation as

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part of social assessment (to be included in the ESMF), but most of them are likely to be temporary, predictable and/or reversible, and the nature of the Project does not preclude the possibility of avoiding or addressing them through appropriate ESF instruments (ESMF, SEP, possibly RPF/site-specific RAPs, and LMP).

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 8,000]

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Physical activities under Component 1 and 2 have a particular relevance to ESS1 as it may lead to impact on community and worker health and safety, soil and water pollution, generation of dust emissions, and biodiversity loss during the construction phase and generation of hazardous waste and fires during operations of activities under Component 1.1. A feasibility study including preliminary environmental and social assessment for the BESS (Component 1.1) was prepared as part of the Botswana RETF (P178822). An abbreviated environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be prepared for the construction of BESS, after project approval as stipulated in the ESCP, once the locations within the solar farms have been confirmed. The risks and impacts associated with the activities under Component 1.2 and 1.3 include installation of STATCOM, and upgrading of SCADA and mini-distribution control centers can be managed through generic environmental, health and safety management plans and checklists that will need to be prepared prior to commencement of the works. Since the alignment and designs of the transmission and distribution lines and substations have not yet been finalized, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to screen project activities. The ESMF provides information on the anticipated environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measure in a generic ESMP and will be disclosed prior to Appraisal. It guides the preparation of the relevant environmental and social instruments proportionate to the risks and impacts such as ESIA and or site specific ESMPs. The ESIA and ESMPs will contain mitigation measures related to labor management, occupational health and safety, pollution and waste management, community health and safety, biodiversity and habitat loss, and chance finds procedure. The E&S studies and instruments will only be prepared after project approval, once the design information is available. The preparation of the E&S studies and instruments are captured in the ESCP. The need for site specific RAPs and easement/servitude arrangements for the transmission and distribution line activities will be determined as part of the screening and ESIA preparation. BPC will further be required to ensure that the relevant E&S requirements for each of the components are incorporated in the tender documents, to the satisfaction of the Bank. Where relevant the TA studies under Component 3, will need to consider ESS aspects as part of the terms of references.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

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The main stakeholders for this project various agencies in energy sector in Botswana, local governments at the respective localities, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and their representatives, community leaders and representatives, and civil society organizations (CSOs). Given that the proposed distribution line will go through rural areas consistent engagement with local communities may be a challenge during implementation. The project will require inputs from different stakeholders, including those who will be directly affected as well as those who have other interests in the project interventions. Initial consultations and engagement with Project Affected Stakeholders, other stakeholders who have interest in the proposed project, and the and members of the public has previously occurred within the communities in the Project Area engaged by the BPC in collaboration with local authorities. Consultations that were undertaken thus far were with the general public, and as well as the directly affected communities and individuals. Several methods of engagement that include telephone calls, notices, formal meetings, organised public consultations at kgotla, and meetings/presentation to district officials were used to consult with these stakeholders. A draft SEP has been prepared by BPC, and will need to be updated with minutes of more in-depth second round of consultations to be conducted by Appraisal. SEP will then be finalized and disclosed prior to Appraisal, including the record of the different stakeholder engagement activities carried out until then.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS2 is relevant to project activities. The project will engage direct and contracted workers, and primary supply workers. Community workers will not be involved in project activities. The project will adhere to Botswana’s Labor Laws and the Bank’s ESS2 requirements. The project will have construction workers who will be contracted for the anticipated civil works under Components 1 and 2, and trained technicians for the installation and maintenance of battery storage systems and STATCOM. The total number of workers is unclear at this stage, but the project will involve installation of labor camps. BPC has a health and safety risk policy in place which emphasizes safety within the workplace including all projects under its control. The policy stipulates that BPC including its contractors will ensure a safe and healthy working place for its employees, and that employees are made aware of potential hazards and risks associated with their area of works. The ESMF stipulates that the project will adopt the World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety (WBG EHS) general guidelines and those for electric power transmission and distribution projects. The ESMF identified anticipated health and safety hazards and risks associated with activities under the project, such as working at heights, electrocution, moving machinery and vehicles etc, and provide generic mitigations, which will be further assessed and elaborated during the preparation of the E&S instruments after project approval. The ESMF sets out the procedure for reporting of occupational health and safety (OHS) incidents in line with the requirements of the Bank. BPC will be required to prepare and implement OHS procedures to document, identify and mitigate hazards and risks, OHS incidents and to provide training to its employees and contractors, and to ensure relevant emergency preparedness and response procedures and equipment are in place. The timeframe for preparing the OHS procedures are stipulated in the ESCP. The contractors will further be required to prepare an OHS Management Plan prior to commencing with the works and job specific risk assessments throughout the construction phase. BPC will be required to make provision for project related OHS requirements as part of the bidding documents, including a requirement for the the owners engineer and contractor to appoint adequate and competent health and safety officers. Other labor risks include the risk of forced labor in the manufacturing of solar components to be acquired for the Project. The bidding documents for the primary providers will need to include signed forced labor declarations. Labor issues will need to be assessed and addressed through preparation of Labor Management

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Procedures (LMP). The LMP will include provisions to prevent child and forced labor. Current draft of ESMF will be updated and include the LMP prior to appraisal.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS3 is relevant to project activities. Civil works under Component 1 and 2 is likely to lead to soil and water pollution, generation of non-hazardous and hazardous waste during both the construction and operations phases. Use of construction vehicles, poor design of substation expansion and inappropriate storage of creosote treated poles may lead to soil pollution and erosion. Pollution impacts will be further assessed as part of the ESIA and mitigation measures will be incorporated in the ESMPs. The ESMF exclusion list, excludes the use of equipment containing Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) as part of the substation expansion and new construction. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on natural resources. As part of the generic mitigation measures contained in the ESMF, fill material for substation, BESS and transmission line construction will be obtained from commercial resources, and opening of new borrow-pit and quarry areas will be seen as a last option. The project is not considered a significant user of water. Sources of water is currently not known and will need to be identified during the preparation of the ESIA and ESMPs. The BESS feasibility study and ESIA for the PV solar farms (not funded under this project) where the BESS will be situated indicated that there are no facilities in Botswana for the safe disposal of hazardous waste such as end-of-life batteries. Environmental hazards related to the disposal of used batteries containing hazardous waste will be mitigated via risk management measures that will include product specifications and “cradle to grave” provisions in the contracts of supplier for batteries used in the BESS in accordance with International best practice. Hazardous waste generated during construction will need to be temporarily stored in designated areas in leak-proof storage bins/ area, and thereafter removed from site by a registered service provider for safe disposal at a registered hazardous waste disposal facility in South Africa as indicated in the ESCP. A waste management plan will be prepared in line with ESS3 and WBG EHS general requirements for pollution prevention and waste management, as part of the site specific ESMPs, as stipulated in the ESCP. BPC will be required to prepare a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Management Plan (WEEEP) as part of the ESIA/ESMP for the BESS activity within the timeframe stipulated in the ESCP. The project is not considered a significant contributor to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

Civil works may result in the presence of outside workers and/ or influx of opportunistic migrants. This has the potential to result in impacts to community health or safety. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and the spread of sexually transmitted and communicable diseases, may occur or be exacerbated by the presence of a migrant workforce. The project will therefore require a risk assessment and a plan for Gender Based Violence (GBV) / Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), to be disclosed as part of the ESMF, and measures incorporated into ESMPs to be prepared prior to the commencement of the works.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Relevant

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[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS5 is relevant to project activities. While the impacts are not anticipated to have physical resettlement of people, there is the possibility of physical and/or economic displacement of people occupying the right of way. The exact number and type of impacts associated with ESS5 will not be known until the technical designs are finalized. However, it is expected that there will be some easement and servitude along the 66Kv and 33 Kv transmission lines, particularly considering the extension of the transmission lines. In line with ESF simplification processes and taking into account that the impacts are not expected to involve large-scale physical resettlement, the ESCP will require BPC to prepare site-specific Resettlement Action Plans to address easement impacts prior to commencement of any civil works. Compensation for easement and servitude impacts will also have to be paid to PAPs prior to any civil works. Although the proposed distribution line will go through rural areas, the construction activities will not take place in densely populated areas. Proposed distribution/transmission line will mostly go through the Borolong villages and will be about 160 km long. Component 2 will also finance construction of new sub-stations in Sikwane and Oliphant in Kgatleng. The exact location of these sub-stations has not been finalized, but BPC had confirmed that they will prioritize identifying unoccupied public lands to avoid any land acquisition impacts for substations.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS6 is relevant to project activities. Based on available information from the BESS feasibility study and iBat screening tools, it is not likely that the project will have a significant adverse impact on biodiversity. No known sensitivities have been identified as part of the feasibility study and desktop screening at this stage, but will only be fully known once the designs, alignments and footprints have been finalized after project approval. The standard is therefore still considered relevant at this stage. The ESMF makes provision for screening for biodiversity sensitivities and exclusion of areas and activities which are likely to have an irreversible impact on sensitive biodiversity areas and habitats. Impacts associated with clearing of vegetation are considered site specific and will be limited to the immediate footprint of the substations and installation of the wooden structures of the transmission and distribution lines that will be installed within existing road reserves. The terms of reference for the transmission line ESIA and ESMP makes provision for assessing potential impacts on bird populations. The BESS will be installed at two areas earmarked for the installation of the PV solar farms (not supported under this project). The ESIA's prepared for the PV solar farms, indicated that the vegetation is largely considered degraded and no areas of sensitivities have been noted. The exact location of the BESS at the PV solar earmarked areas is not yet finalized. No impacts on community access to ecosystem services anticipated.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

No groups that fulfill that requirement of ESS 7 have been identified in the project areas.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

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[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS8 is relevant to project activities. Even though the exact locations of some of the interventions are not fully known at this stage, it is not anticipated that the project will have an impact on any cultural heritage. The current transmission and distribution line alignment is said to follow existing road reserves. The locations of the two new substations are not yet known. The potential impacts on cultural heritage will only be known during the preparation of the ESIA's and ESMPs after project approval. The ESMF prepared for the project includes a chance find procedure which will be elaborated and incorporated as part of the site specific ESMPs.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

This standard is not considered relevant.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

[Explanation including areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered - Max. character limit 10,000]

N/A

Use of Common Approach

No

[Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]

No common approach is being considered for this project

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]

The overall environmental and social risk rating is Substantial. Environmental risk rating is Moderate and Social risk rating Substantial. The key potential adverse environmental and social risks and impacts, is primarily associated with the physical civil works supported under Components 1 and 2. The key risks and impacts are related to: (i) potential small to medium scale land acquisition and land easement arrangements; (ii) impacts related to construction activities, including community and occupational health and safety; (iii) temporary labor influx needed for construction activities, and

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associated GBV/SEA/SH risks; (iv) need for robust stakeholder engagement, outreach to stakeholder and beneficiaries (including any vulnerable and/or disadvantaged groups); and (v) management of hazardous waste during the construction and operational phase of the BESS. The environment risks and impacts are largely considered to be moderate to low in magnitude, reversible, site-specific and can be easily mitigated. The 66kV transmission line, 33kV and 11kV distribution lines will at this stage be confined within existing road reserves however the final designs and alignment will only be confirmed after project implementation. Similarly, two new substations will be constructed of which the exact locations are yet to be determined. Other activities such as installation of STATCOM and upgrading of the SCADA and mini-distribution grids will be confined within the footprint of existing substations. Risks related to easement and small-scale land acquisition impacts will be addressed through preparation of site-specific Resettlement Action Plans to be prepared, disclosed, and implemented prior to commencement of civil works in the affected areas. This provision will be reflected in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, including the requirement that all project-affected people must receive their compensation prior to works, in line with requirements of ESS5.

Since the designs and locations are not yet fully known an Environmental and Social Management Framework including a Labor Management Plan (LMP) has been prepared to screen project activities for potential environmental and social risks and impacts and to guide the preparation of the relevant environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) and management plans (ESMP). The ESIA and ESMPs for the project will be prepared after project approval and prior to commencing with physical works, as stipulated in the ESCP. The ESMF and draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be disclosed by Appraisal. Site-specific Resettlement Action Plans will also be prepared, disclosed, and implemented prior to commencement of any civil works to mitigate any easement/servitude impacts.

A feasibility study with a preliminary environmental and social assessment was prepared for the BESS as part of the Botswana RETF (P178822). At this stage the BESS will be located at the sites earmarked for the installation of two solar PV plants (not supported under this project). The preliminary study did not identify any environmental or social impacts of significant concern. Impacts associated with the BESS is considered site specific and can be mitigated. The preliminary E&S study highlighted the need for additional investigations in options of disposal of end-of-life batteries during the preparation of the environmental and social impact assessment as there are currently no hazardous waste disposal facilities in Botswana. Environmental hazards related to the disposal of used batteries containing hazardous waste will be mitigated via risk management measures that will include product specifications and “cradle to grave” provisions in the contracts of supplier for batteries used in the BESS in accordance with International best practice. Hazardous waste generated by the project will need to be temporarily stored and collected for transportation by a registered service provider to a hazardous waste disposal facility in South Africa.

The Borrower has a legal and regulatory framework in place for managing environmental and social risks and impacts, however, lack historical performance with implementation of ESF projects and has limited internal capacity to manage environmental and social risks. To mitigate the risks, the project will establish a PIU in BPC with a dedicated and qualified environmental specialist, social specialists and health and safety specialist. Funds allocated under Component 3 will support capacity building of PIU staff.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents,



other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 10,000]

The project implementing unit in BPC will be responsible for preparing and overseeing the implementation of the E&S instruments through the lifecycle of project and within the agreed timeframes.

An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared and will be disclosed prior to Appraisal. The ESMF will set out principles for preparation and implementation of site-specific E&S assessments/EMSPs, including a SEA/SH assessment and action plan and exclusion list for activities which will have a potential adverse impact on the environment and local communities.

A draft of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared by BPC consistent with the requirements of ESS10 and will be disclosed prior to Appraisal. This SEP will include a record of the stakeholder engagement activities carried out so far, and also a detailed schedule of planned engagement activities for the various stakeholders during the project cycle. The SEP will ensure all consultations are inclusive and accessible and sets out the Grievance Redress Mechanism that will be adopted for this project.

Labor Management Procedures (LMP) will be prepared by BPC and MME, and disclosed by Appraisal, as part of the ESMF, to provide measures to address the terms and conditions of works. These procedures will outline the Borrower’s responsibilities for enforcing ESS2 requirements, applicable to the program.

A draft Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which sets out the Borrower’s commitments to implement measures and actions required for the project to achieve compliance with the applicable ESSs, has been prepared and will be disclosed as part of Appraisal.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be prepared after project approval based on the outcome of the ESMF screening checklist. The ESMPs will make provision for measures to address occupational health and safety, community health and safety, waste and pollution management and chance finds procedures which will be prepared prior to undertaking the physical activities.

Should further assessments during preparation suggest the need for preparation of RPF/site-specific RAPs, the Borrower will be responsible to prepare it as to be specified in the ESCP (preferably prior to appraisal).

The PIU shall ensure that the relevant project environmental, social and health and safety requirements consistent with the ESSs and the WBG EHSs are incorporated in the procurement documents to be prepared for the project.

III. CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Task Team Leader: Nadia Taobane Title: Senior Energy Specialist



Email: ntaobane@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Zijun Li Job Title: Energy Specialist

Email: zli4@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Nadia Taobane, Zijun Li
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Johanna Martina Whitfield
ADM Social Specialist:	Aimonchok Tashieva

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