



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and  
Social Review Summary  
Appraisal Stage  
**(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/09/2020 | Report No: ESRSAFA070



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Tajikistan	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Ministry of Finance	Pamir Energy Company, Barqi Tojik
Project ID	Project Name		
P175456	Additional Financing to Rural Electrification Project		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P170132	Rural Electrification Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Energy & Extractives	Investment Project Financing	12/8/2020	1/28/2021

**Proposed Development Objective**

The project development objectives are to provide electricity access to target settlements in GBAO and Khatlon regions of Tajikistan, and to improve the reliability of electricity supply for grid-connected customers in GBAO.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Current Financing</b>	<b>31.70</b>
<b>Proposed Additional Financing</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Total Proposed Financing</b>	<b>41.70</b>

**B. Is the project 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 [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]**

The project would have the following key components:



Component 1: Provision of electricity access to target settlements in GBAO region (US\$35.2 million IDA grant). This component will have the following sub-components.

Sub-component 1.1: Construction of micro-grids, and connection of consumers to micro-grids and centralized distribution network of PEC (US\$23.8 million IDA grant). This sub-component will finance provision of electricity supply to 61 settlements in GBAO region with total population of about 11,666. The investments will cover: (a) construction of electricity generation infrastructure, which will include micro-grids comprised of Solar PV, small hydro, wind, and battery energy storage systems (BESS); (b) distribution infrastructure, including expansion of 10 and 0.4 kV distribution lines and distribution transformers; and (c) connections and internal wiring for households and public facilities (e.g. hospitals, schools, kindergartens) to alleviate consumer affordability barriers.

Sub-component 1.2: Construction of Khorog-Qozideh OHL (US\$10 million IDA grant). This sub-component will finance the construction of 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh single circuit OHL, which is essential for reliable electricity supply for grid-connected consumers in GBAO. The line would also allow expanding electricity exports to Afghanistan.

Sub-component 1.3 (US\$1.4 million IDA grant): Project implementation support to PEC, technical assistance for additional geological site investigation works for Sebzor HPP, and promotion of energy efficiency (US\$1.4 million IDA grant). This will include financing of: (a) Project Management Consultant (PMC) costs to support PEC with preparation of bidding documents for procurement of goods and works required for micro-grids and connection of settlements to PEC distribution network; carrying of tenders for procurement of contractors to construct the micro-grids and connect the settlements to the distribution grid; supervision of construction works for micro-grids; and compliance with environmental and social requirements; (b) geological site investigation works for Sebzor HPP; (c) awareness raising program to promote the use of cleaner and efficient electric appliances as well as to educate the local communities about the benefits of energy efficiency renovation in buildings (i.e. building envelope insulation, EE windows, etc.); (d) technical assistance to PEC for the development of a financing mechanisms to support the local communities to purchase efficient appliances; (e) piloting EE measures in selected public buildings, especially elementary schools, boarding schools and health centers in order to demonstrate the cost-efficiency benefits of EE investments as well as improved comfort and well-being of building occupants; (f) monitoring and evaluation costs related to efficiency of citizen engagement and addressing gender gaps under the Project; and (g) incremental operating costs of PEC.

Component 2: Provision of electricity access to target settlements in Khatlon region (US\$6.5 million IDA grant). This component will have the following sub-components.

Sub-component 2.1: Connection of target settlements to the centralized distribution network of BT (US\$6 million IDA grant). This sub-component will finance connection to the electricity distribution network of 74 settlements, bordering Afghanistan, in the Khatlon region. The total population of the target settlements is about 31,460 people. The investments will cover the cost of distribution infrastructure, including construction of 35/10/0.4 kV distribution lines, installation of additional distribution transformers in existing substations; as well as connections and internal wiring costs for households and public facilities (e.g. hospitals, schools, kindergartens) to alleviate consumer affordability barriers. For all target settlements, access to energy services will be ensured by connecting the settlements to BT's centralized network because this is the least economic cost solution considering the proximity of the target settlements to the power distribution network. Most of the settlements are located within 0.5-2 km range from the distribution system.



Sub-component 2.2: Project implementation support to BT (US\$0.5 million IDA grant). This sub-component will finance the cost of: (a) PMC to help BT with preparation of bidding documents for works to connect target settlements to its distribution grid; carrying of tenders for procurement of contractors to connect the settlements to the distribution grid of BT; technical supervision of grid-connection activities; and compliance with environmental and social requirement; and (b) monitoring and evaluation costs related to measuring availability of electricity service, efficiency of citizen engagement and addressing gender gaps under the Project.

The construction of Sebzor HPP, 18 km line 110 kV power transmission line from Sebzor HPP to Khorog substation, and construction of substation at Qozideh are considered as Associated Facilities to the Project and the implementation of the ESS for these Associated Facilities will be included as part of the Bank's regular implementation review.

#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

Tajikistan is a small landlocked country in the heart of Central Asia, bordering Afghanistan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan. The project's regions -Khatlon and GBAO- are home to interesting endemic flora and fauna, including some protected species like the snow leopard; and protected areas like the Pamir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Khatlon and GBAO account for the highest level of absolute and relative poverty measures. Unemployment of the youth and vulnerable peoples is quite high, which represents a source of instability and a potential threat for the country as a whole. The economy is dependent predominantly on remittances and associated with this large-scale male migration and very high female headed households. All these have are exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, making Tajikistan even more fragile.

Geographically, the two regions share a permeable border of 1,300 km to the south with Afghanistan, resulting in increased illicit activities and the associated risks thereof. Thus, salient social characteristics of the project area include: (i) high degree of diversity in terms of linguistic as well as political orientations; (ii) inter-regional as well as rural-urban disparities; and (iii) low income and employment opportunities. These can become impediments during the construction stage, especially in the spheres of security and labor management and labor influx.

Providing power supplies in these regions is quite an uphill task as these are mountainous areas with extremely difficult accessibility. In order to resolve the issue with electricity access and supply reliability, the Government of Tajikistan embarked on electrification and supply reliability program in GBAO and Khatlon. The investments in GBAO include construction of renewable energy based micro-grids (financed by the Bank), construction of Sebzor HPP (financed by KfW and EU), construction of power transmission line to connect Sebzor HPP to Khorog substation (SECO), and construction of 63 km Khorog-Qozideh power transmission line (to be financed under this proposed AF). Sebzor HPP will be located on the Shokhdara River some 20 km south east of Khorog town. The proposed AF will finance construction the 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL.



The route of the 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh overhead transmission line (OHL) runs through rough and rocky mountain terrain along the Tajik and Afghan state border. The route does not cross, intersect, or pass near any protected area; though, it does travel parallel to and immediately adjacent to the Panj River, which is a Ramsar site. The OHL passes through 18 villages and their surrounding farmland and orchards - all considered modified habitats. Natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, and heavy snowfalls are quite common.

The total population of the villages is 5633, of whom 50.4 percent were male. The predominant occupation is subsistence and small-market farming. There is relatively little employment outside the home except in education and other public institutions. Nearly all agriculture is manual, with little mechanized machinery in use, and production is based in garden plots rather than large farms. Similarly, fewer than five percent of households have a car or truck. Perhaps 50 percent of agricultural produce, and somewhat more meat, is produced for local markets, and a substantial amount of foodstuffs (up to 60-70 percent) are purchased from local markets rather than grown. Primary agricultural products are potatoes, wheat, barley, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, cabbage, etc. Cattle, goats, and poultry are the animal products.

Due to the Sebzor HPP, the parent project also triggers Operational Policy 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways; therefore, riparian notification was made on April 25, 2019.

**D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity**

The proposed AF will be implemented by the Pamir Energy Company (PEC), which is owned 70 percent by Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) and 30 percent by IFC, and holds a 25-year concession on power sector assets in GBAO. Under the parent project, PEC is responsible for carrying of the additional geotechnical studies required for Sebzor HPP as well as electrification solutions in GBAO – both connection of target settlements to centralized distribution network and construction of renewable energy based micro-grids (solar PV, wind, batter storage systems, and micro hydro). While PEC has environmental and social staff onboard and dedicated to the project as well as some experience with project implementation and management, including mitigating environmental and social risks, the parent project is the first energy sector project in Tajikistan prepared under the Bank’s new Environment and Social Framework (ESF). Since the parent project only became effective in mid-2020, It is expected that the client’s capacity to deliver an ESF based project remains limited; therefore, capacity building for the client and contractors is included in the project ESMF, and the Khorog-Qozideh OHL ESMP, and in other environmental and social instruments already prepared/ to be prepared during preparation and implementation.

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

**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)**

Substantial

**Environmental Risk Rating**

Substantial

The Environmental Risk Rating for the AF, like the parent project, is Substantial due to the fact that the project is associated with the construction of the Sebzor run-of-river HPP (an associated facility) in the remote GBAO province and the AF is constructing the 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL along the Panj River, a Ramsar site. The capacity of PEC for addressing the relevant ESSes is expected to be moderate and require some capacity building.

Public Disclosure



Most of the expected risks related to the Khorog-Qozideh OHL are likely to occur during the construction phase (occupational health and safety hazards, generation of solid waste, air pollution and noise, disruption of traffic, etc.); however, as the Panj River is a Ramsar Site, there are potential risks to migrating birds for the lifetime of the project. A Preliminary Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the proposed OHL was prepared, consulted on, reviewed by the World Bank, and disclosed during the preparation of the Parent Project. The Khorog-Qozideh ESIA/ESMP will be finalized based on 1) a Biodiversity assessment and management plan, which is currently being finalized by PEC; and 2) final design work for the OHL. A Contractor’s ESMP, will also be prepared by the selected contractor prior to construction. PEC also prepared, to the satisfaction of the Bank, consulted on, and disclosed locally and on the Bank website: 1) an ESIA for the associated Sebzor HPP and associated OHLs; and 2) and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the activities associated with rural electrification in GBAO.

The risks related to the Sebzor HPP, which is a run of river facility, involve a weir, an upstream sediment trap, a conduit paralleling the stream, and a downstream power plant. Potential adverse risks and impacts of civil works are predictable and site-specific, limited in duration (construction phase) and can be easily mitigated with the application of modern construction practices as outlined in the Sebzor ESIA. These risks may include increased pollution due to improper care, handling and storage of construction material and waste; generation of excessive noise and dust levels from trucks and other construction machinery; soil and river bed disturbance during earth works; tree-cutting and loss of vegetation along roadside and river bank; health and safety impacts caused by construction and construction traffic; and, possibly, water/soils quality impacts in case of construction pollution. ,

The Government of Tajikistan, in coordination with the World Bank Environment and Social Team, has updated the Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) that details the timing for the above-mentioned documents and capacity building needs for strengthening Pamir Energy’s environmental and social management system.

**Social Risk Rating** Substantial

The Social Risk of this AF, like under the parent project, is Substantial owing primarily due to the construction of Sebzor HPP (an Associated Facility, being financed by KfW) as well as the need to secure lands for the construction of OHL across 63 km. The OHL will be constructed in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) region of Tajikistan which has the highest level of relative poverty measure and face fragility risks due to the proximity to unstable parts of Afghanistan as well as large un- or under employed youth populations, disparities in service delivery outcomes, and legacies of violent conflicts. These contextual issues may, at times, act as impediments to implementation. PEC, the implementing agency, is highly committed, but capacity is expected to be moderate as ESF is new to them. Given this over-arching scenario, two aspects assume significance in the context of social impacts and risks – one related to lands, and other, security. Lands are required for two purposes: one, for the erection of towers; and two, for drawing transmission lines across/ above 63 km. The erection of towers and drawing of TLs would require ‘lands’. Erecting towers, would require lands on relatively very small scale. As most lands are under public ownership, no major land acquisition and/ or physical displacement is expected. Drawing of the TLs may entail some temporary acquisition of lands and crop/ structure losses. While securing lands, it needs to be ensured that the affected people are extended appropriate and adequate resettlement and rehabilitation benefits and their livelihoods restored. The land acquisitions and resettlement, if any, would be carried out consistent with the requirements of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), which was prepared, consulted, approved by the Bank. This framework would suffice for the OHL as well.

Public Disclosure



Given the FCV region, security risks to contractors and laborers as well as migrant laborers and community safety warrant attention. Construction of OHL mostly likely would be conducted by international contractors and hence some labor influx is expected. Therefore Occupational Health and Safety as well as Community Health and Safety will also assume importance. All of these will have a bearing on the project's activities: (i) micro-grids to connect remote households; (ii) connection of some consumers to centralized power distribution network of PEC; and (iii) improving connectivity through transmission distribution lines. Labor Management Procedure (LMP) prepared for the parent project and approved by the World Bank, supplemented/ complemented with C-ESMP and SEP, will be able to address these issues effectively.

## **B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered**

### **B.1. General Assessment**

#### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

##### ***Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:***

The environment and social risks are rated Substantial. Two categories of risks are recognized: one, as related to the impacts of the project activities; and the other, contextual. The former include civil works related environmental disturbances, and land acquisition and resettlement, which are identifiable and manageable. The latter, contextual risks, at times, could have a bearing on security to contractors and laborers and community safety. These risks are covered by ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 4, ESS 5, ESS 6, ESS 8, and ESS 10.

Environmental risks relate directly to the construction and operation of the 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL such as: (i) air pollution and noise from trucks and other construction machinery; (ii) soil disturbance during earthmoving and material (gravel/sand/soil) extraction; (iii) tree-cutting and loss of vegetation; (iv) generation and disposal of construction and household solid waste; (v) construction camp management; and (vi) potential bird collisions during operation.

Social risks relate mainly to resettlement and labor management. The construction of the 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL would require lands, which may result in permanent and temporary impacts. Given that construction activities will take place in FCV areas, labor management – labor influx, camps, security, ESHS, relationship with local communities, SEA/SH- may also need attention.

Those risks will be addressed by ESF instruments prepared for the parent project as well as those prepared specifically for the 63 km OHL being financed by the AF. Those prepared for the Parent Project include:

- 1) the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF);
- 2) the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) prepared for the activities in GBAO implemented by PEC; and
- 3) The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) prepared for the activities in GBAO implemented by PEC.

For the AF, a Preliminary Environment and Social Impact Assessment/Environment and Social Management Plan (ESIA/ESMP) was prepared for the Khorog-Qozideh OHL, consulted on, and disclosed during preparation of the Parent Project. The initial ESIA/ESMP captures the key construction risks and necessary mitigation for the OHL. It also calls for the inclusion of the following in the finalized ESIA/ESMP: 1) the biodiversity assessment and management plan that includes analysis of bird migration along the Panj that is currently under preparation by PEC; and 2) ground



truthing based on the final designs, which are dependent on the completed biodiversity assessment. The Final ESIA/ESMP will be consulted on and finalized, to the satisfaction of the Bank, under the AF prior to the issuing of bidding documents for construction.

Additionally, two new ESF instruments, prepared to the satisfaction of the Bank, consulted on, and disclosed are required for the AF:

- 1) A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to be prepared for the Khorog-Qozideh OHL and implemented prior to construction.
- 2) A Contractors ESMP, based on the ESIA/ESMP, biodiversity action plan, LMP, and SMP will be finalized prior to construction.

All updated and new ESMF instruments will be disclosed on the PEC and Bank websites in association with the parent project and the AF.

Documentation and information available and reviewed as part of Environmental and Social screening are as follows:

1. Documentation related to the Tajikistan Rural Electrification Project (P170132);
2. "Tajikistan: Country Economic Update, Spring 2018." World Bank, Washington, DC.
3. OECD State of Fragility Report, 2018.
4. Tajikistan Risk and Resilience Assessment, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2017.
5. Sebzor Hydro-Power Environmental Project Brief, SWECO Energuide AB, 2015.
6. Sebzor Hydro-Power Project Environmental Impact Assessment, SWECO Energuide AB, 2016.
7. Sebzor Hydro-Power Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan, SWECO Energuide AB, 2016.
8. Sebzor Hydro-Power Project Environmental Management Plan, SWECO Energuide AB, 2016.
9. Sebzor Hydro-Power Project Resettlement and Compensation Action Plan, SWECO Energuide AB, 2016.
10. CASA 1000 Transmission Line - North Segment Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Barqi Tojik, October 2020.
11. Jobs Diagnostic Tajikistan, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2017.
12. Dodwell, Brian, Daniel Milton, and Don Rassler. The Caliphates Global Workforce: An Inside Look at the Islamic States Foreign Fighter Paper Trail. United States Military Academy Combating Terrorism Center West Point United States, 2016. Toktomushev, Kemel. "Promoting Social Cohesion and Conflict Mitigation: Understanding Conflict in the Cross-Border Areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan." (2017).
13. Government of Tajikistan. State Committee of National Security, presentation to Parliamentary Session on "Prevention of youth involvement in terrorist organization and implementation of the Law in the Republic of Tajikistan", November 7, 2018. <http://saidomardum.tj/ma-lisi-ol/peshgirii-albi-avonon-ba-tashkiloti-terrorist-vazifai-omeai-sha-rvand-niz-ast/> <https://eurasianet.org/s/tajikistan-former-students-of-islam-return-to-nothing>
14. World Bank. 2017. "REDUCING MULTI-HAZARD RISKS ACROSS TAJIKISTAN: Protecting Communities Through Quality Infrastructure.
15. Tajikistan Country Gender Assessment, ADB, 2016.

## ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure





PEC has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which defines a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the construction and operation of the project. The Plan highlights the way PEC will communicate with people and stakeholder groups who may be affected by or interested in the project. The SEP outlines the ways in which Pamir Energy and contractors will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about Pamir Energy, the contractors, and the project itself.

Stakeholders are categorized into two: one, project affected; and two, Others. The key category of people who may be affected by the project would be those who may lose land they current use or other assets, including houses, buildings, trees, or other valuable property. In addition, some people may lose access to common resources due to the project's use of the land. A second key category of PAPs will be people who live along the transmission line route who may be disturbed by project traffic, noise, dust, or other construction impacts, and who may also benefit from employment opportunities. A third category of important PAPs will be representatives of Jamoats. Head of Jamoats typically have established day-to-day communication lines with all neighboring villages and smaller communities so it will be important that they have information about the project, including employment status and upcoming activities. Other stakeholders include: ministries and government agencies at the national level; local government departments and agencies at regional and district levels. Given the socio-economic importance of the project's outcomes, Nongovernmental organizations (local, regional, national, international); business and workers' organizations as well as academic institutions and media will assume significance.

While detailed approach and methodologies have been drawn upon to engage with various stakeholders, given the Covid Pandemic, face to face interactions may not be possible. Hence, PEC is toying with different innovative methods including digital platforms to engage with the stakeholders.

The Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) developed for the parent project will be expanded to cover the activities financed under the AF to enable stakeholders air their concerns/ comments/ suggestions, if any. The GRM will be in place and operational well before Pamir Energy begins construction activities and will function until the completion of all construction activities and beyond, till the contractor's defect liability period ends. People who reside near the line and others who may be affected will be informed, in meetings and with brochures (and other electronic media) of the GRM's purpose, functions, procedures, timelines and contact persons.

The project GRM will include three successive tiers of extra-judicial grievance review and resolution: the first tier will comprise Pamir Energy E&S team including Community Liaison Officer; second Grievance Resolution Committee (GRC-1) includes, apart from PEC staff, the concerned Jamot; and third, GRC-2 will include PEC senior Officers and many Jamots. Grievance Mechanism will have a special window to address issues related to SEA/SH such as to ensure privacy and dignity of the complainant. This will be developed based on the SEA/SH guideline issued by the World Bank in October 2020.

## **B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts**

**A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.**

### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**



Risk related to labor influx is not expected to be significant, but will be mitigated by the establishment and close adherence to: 1) Labor Management Procedure (LMP) originally prepared for the parent project covering the activities in GBAO implemented by PEC; (ii) labor management plan(s) to be prepared by the Contractor hired for the construction of 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL as part of the Contractor's ESMP; and 3) a workers code of conduct acceptable to the Bank. Risk of child/ forced labor is considered to be limited.

Project workers for the proposed AF, like similar to those of the parent project, will include chiefly Direct Workers and Contracted Workers. The construction of 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL will likely entail international/regional service providers and contractors. Like under the parent project, unskilled labor under this AF is expected to be hired locally while skilled workers are expected to be hired from other areas of Tajikistan and/or internationally. Workers' Accommodation for the parent project and the AF are envisaged, which may not have more than 200 total workers at any given point of time.

In accordance with the final ESIA/ESMP, Bidding Documents prepared for the project will include a Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines. A specific Worker Health and Safety Plan for the OHL will also be developed to cover site-specific job hazards, provision of preventive and protective measures for all hazards; information about safe working methods; and road safety measures. The plan will also include procedures on incident investigation and reporting, recording and reporting of non-conformances, emergency preparedness and response procedures and continuous training and awareness to workers. Locally based GRMs specifically for direct and contracted workers, respectively, will be provided. Civil works contracts will incorporate environment and social mitigation measures (ESIA/ESMP; LMP, ESHS guidelines; SEP, RPF, RAP, Contractor's GRM, etc.). The contract for the construction of 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL will include industry standard Codes of Conduct that include measures to prevent SEA/SH.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

The ESIA/ESMP includes sections on resource efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management. Assessment of risks and impacts due to the construction of 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL and proposed mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS 3, including raw materials, water use, air pollution, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste.

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

Construction of 63 km 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL is associated with dust/noise, soil disturbances, temporary blockades, traffic management, waste disposal, and labor influx associated disturbance to local communities and labor camps management. Addressing these issues demands detailed mapping of the communities likely to be affected and an assessment of the impacts thereof. In particular, PEC will identify, evaluate, and put in place a mechanism to manage potential road safety risks and risks to workers, nearby communities, and other road users. The final ESIA/ESMP will include the assessment of the potential scale and risk of the AF due to labor influx, security along the OHL, and the COVID-19 situation on safety of local communities. Further, as appropriate, a separate OHS plan will also be prepared, as part of the Contractor's ESMP and based on the final ESIA/ESMP which will include a template to address impacts/risks including: (i) health to human and livestock; (ii) the COVID-19 pandemic; (iii) HIV/AIDS; GBV/ SEA; (iv) traffic management; (v) labor influx and labor camp management; (vi) a project security



management plan; and (vii) safe keeping of persons and communities within and outside the project site as a result of the deployment of security personnel. The Contractor will be required to appoint designated community liaison persons as part of the CHS plan who will keep local communities informed of construction schedule, expected impact and other issues of interest for them, and receive grievances or feedback from them.

### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

The project area is in a sparsely populated area. This enables designing of the alignment such as to avoid (to a great extent) settlements/ structures. So, land acquisition and resettlement impacts are likely to be not significant. The client has already done some preliminary investigations and alternatives drawn for the construction of the OHL. For the entire project, less than two hectares of land will be needed for permanent use, including up to about 1.4 hectares for the transmission line towers (250 towers x 7.5 meters square per tower) and about 0.36 hectares for the substation in Qozideh (30 meters x 60 meters). In addition, very small amounts of land will be used temporarily by workers who travel by foot from the road to the tower locations and the contractor will need small areas (up to about 0.5 hectares in total) for storage and temporary use during construction. Thus, though transmission lines may entail some physical and economic displacement, impacts of which are not expected to be significant.

Tajikistan norms allow no buildings within 20 meters of an energized 110kV line, so a corridor 45 meters wide is designated as a protection zone – 20 meters from the conductor on each side and five meters between the conductors. No one will be allowed to remain in a house within the safety zone. However, if Pamir Energy is successful in avoiding all houses and buildings, as was the case of the first 42 towers and is currently anticipated for the remaining ones, no one will need to be resettled. If they are not successful, households who live in the corridor will have new land allocated to them and Pamir Energy will construct a new house (and/or other buildings) or provide compensation so affected people can rebuild on the new land.

When towers are on agricultural or other productive land, Pamir Energy will compensate the people who are currently using the small plots of land that will be taken for towers. Agriculture can continue under the line itself so no compensation will be paid unless crops are damaged in some way or other uses are limited by the presence of the line. If trees grown for timber, firewood, or fruit/nuts need to be cut to avoid interference with the energized conductors, their owners will be compensated sufficiently to pay for replacement trees and for lost production. Nature and extent of impacts as well as number of people/households likely to be affected would become known as the detailed surveys are done and design firmed up. Hence, to address this situation, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has already been prepared and disclosed during the parent project preparation. The RPF establishes how site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared, disclosed, and implemented. The same will be re-visited and updated, as appropriate, for the AF activities. It is noted that all sub-projects/ contracts requiring RAPs will ensure that the RAPs are fully implemented prior to commencement of works.

### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

The 110 kV Khorog-Qozideh OHL is along the Panj River, a Ramsar Site, which makes up the Afghan border in this remote mountainous area of Eastern Tajikistan. The ESIA/ESMP has examined the biodiversity and living natural resources on and along the path of the OHL and specifically deals with the risk of bird and bat collision with the proposed OHL, noting that since the line follows the course of the river, which is generally parallel to migration routes, the risk is less. Nevertheless, the ESIA does recommend a biodiversity assessment and management plan that



includes the flyways along the OHL which PEC is currently carrying out. The final ESIA/ESMP, which will include the biodiversity assessment and management plan, and address the OHL's final design, will include any necessary mitigation measures for both construction and operation of the OHL. The final ESIA/ESMP will also ensure that the contractor does not extract sand/gravel from the Panj River. All of these mitigation measures will be included in the Contractor's ESMP.

Further, the ESIA prepared for the CASA 1000 Transmission Line - Northern Segment as well as the ESMF for PEC's Rural Electrification work under the parent project, are both resources that deal with bird migration along the Panj and biodiversity issues in GBAO (protected areas, critical habitats, presence of endangered species, etc.).

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

Based on the screening against ESS 7, this ESS is not considered relevant to the project.

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

Tajikistan is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Site (the Tajik National Park in the Pamir Mountains in GBAO and the Proto-urban Site of Sarazm in the Northwest) as well as sixteen candidate sites; therefore, it is clear that the planned interventions might also interact with Tajikistan's unique cultural heritage. Although construction works are not expected to have direct physical impact on any heritage monuments, indirect impacts from the movement of construction machinery, presence of work force, etc. as well as permanent impact on the visual/aesthetic view of any sites on or near the affected roads were looked at and mitigation measures provided in the ESIA/ESMP. The ESIA/ESMP includes a section on protection of Cultural Heritage along the OHL route including historic hot springs on or near the route; an historic stone, near the village of Nishusp, with Arabic inscription that has ethnographic meaning to the local population; and cemeteries in most villages. In accordance with the ESMP, these sites, as well as "chance find" procedures, will be properly reflected in the Contractor's ESMP.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This standard is not currently relevant as no financial intermediaries are party to the project implementation modality.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	Yes
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	No

Public Disclosure



**B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts**

**Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?**

No

**Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

N/A

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

Contact:	Artur Kochnakyan	Title:	Senior Energy Specialist
Telephone No:	+1-202-473-6302	Email:	akochnakyan@worldbank.org

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

Borrower: Ministry of Finance

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Pamir Energy Company

Implementing Agency: Barqi Tojik

**V. 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>

**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s): Artur Kochnakyan

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Varalakshmi Vemuru Cleared on 09-Dec-2020 at 13:03:14 GMT-05:00

Public Disclosure