Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 02/03/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03274

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Namibia	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	P179377	
Project Name	Namibia Renewable Energy Scale Up Support Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Energy & Extractives	Investment Project Financing		3/31/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
NamPower	NamPower		

Proposed Development Objective

The development objective is to enable renewable energy development in Namibia.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	4.50

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]

To support the Government's ambitious renewable energy targets, and to support Namibia in operationalizing its National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) and its Integrated Supply Plan (ISP), there is a need for ensuring that projects are structured such that they are bankable and sustainable in the long-term, and risks are allocated appropriately between the public and private sector. In addition, concessional financing can help increase the attractiveness and viability of the sector for the private sector. The SRMI mobilized concessional resources, including from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), can be applied towards mitigating development and operating risks, to improve the overall risk profile for private sector investors, and ultimately deliver affordable electricity tariffs for consumers. GCF funds are to be blended with IBRD co-financing. The joint GCF-IBRD funding, together with the proposed TA of USD 4.5 million RETF grant, is envisaged to support public investments enabling solar and wind projects, such as BESS,

that are critical to unlocking private investments in renewable energy generation. The first investments to be enabled, envisaged at this stage based on the GCF proposal, include: (i) 200MW solar dispatchable project(s), 200MW wind project(s), and 200MWh of battery storage.

The project has five components - resource assessment studies to measure wind and/or solar resources; safeguards and site studies for wind and solar projects and/or for grid investments needed for integration of variable renewable energy (VRE) as applicable; feasibility studies for wind, solar, and/or for grid investments needed for integration of variable renewable energy (VRE), as applicable; transaction advisory services for renewable energy procurement through IPPs; and capacity building for the development of a sustainable and bankable pipeline of renewable energy projects (including on VRE integration aspects). Specifically:

1) Resource assessment study for wind and/or solar: The study aims to measure and collect bankable data for wind and/or solar in selected areas. The main objective of this assignment is to provide high quality measurement data from multiple sites (covering two concurrent years for wind) to reduce the resource risk and thereby support future development of wind/solar projects at these sites. It is expected to be carried out for specific sites by an international consulting firm. The contract is expected to result with bankable reporting data (after 24 months for the wind sites).

2) Safeguards and site studies for solar and wind projects that integrate gender and other considerations to ensure all vulnerable groups benefit from the project: Once the sites are identified for solar and wind projects, site studies and environmental and social studies will be carried out and are expected to cover the following list of topics. The full scope of the studies will be finalized through the development of detailed terms of reference. These studies will enable a mitigation of the critical development risks considered while developing RE projects, it will increase their bankability and will reduce the associated risk premium embedded in the tariff proposed by the private sector when procuring the RE projects.

- Environmental and Social Studies as per the Environmental Social Framework (ESF);
- Topography study;
- Geotechnical studies/Seismic study;
- Hydrological Study;
- Logistic study (wind)

3) Feasibility Studies for Solar and Wind projects and/or VRE integration studies, including transmission line as applicable: Feasibility studies will be carried out for solar/wind projects (targeting at this stage 200 MW solar, 200 MW wind and 200 MWh of BESS to be confirmed at later stage). The feasibility studies are expected to identify synergies across solar and wind technologies as well as opportunities for exploring the use of BESS. The scope of work is expected to cover the analysis needed to inform the technical specifications of the solar/wind projects and/or VRE integration studies, including transmission line, as applicable. The feasibility studies will also take into consideration gender impacts pertinent to land resettlement in areas where installation of energy infrastructure will be necessary.

4) Transaction advisory services for renewable energy IPP-projects: Solar and wind generation capacity is expected to be developed through private sector IPPs. Transaction advisory services will support the GRN in structuring and tendering bankable and sustainable projects for IPPs. The transaction advisory services are expected to support the specific projects defined during the resource measurement and the feasibility studies stage.

5) Capacity building for GRN for RE development: Capacity building activities on development and implementation of sustainable and bankable RE projects to empower the key stakeholders will be carried out for the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the RETF and would involve key public stakeholders involved in the solar/wind bidding process such as the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and the Electricity Control Board (ECB) in addition to the Utility (NamPower - PIU). This is expected to include the appointment of experts within the PIU to provide implementation support and the organization of south-south knowledge exchanges. It is important to note that the capacity building activities will ensure meaningful engagement of women in various roles during the different project stages including training and procurement activities.

6) The Bank is supporting GRN to mobilize additional resources to complement the RETF. This additional support includes USD 300,000 from ESMAP Trust Fund to support the development of a variable VRE integration study (under procurement), and capacity building for the GRN on the development and implementation of sustainable and bankable solar and wind projects (including a risk allocation workshop to be hosted jointly with IFC).

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Namibia is a country in Southern Africa. It shares its land borders with Zambia and Angola in the north, Botswana and South Africa in the east and south and the Atlantic Ocean in the west. The country is approximately 825,615 km2 in size. The Namibian landscape consist of five geographical areas each with characteristic abiotic conditions and vegetation namely the Central Plateau, the Namib the Great Escarpment, the Bushveld and the Kalahari Desert. The Central Plateau is bordered by the Skeleton Coast to the northwest, the Namib desert and its coastal plains to the southwest and the Orange river to the South and Kalahari desert to the East. It is also home to the highest point in Namibia which has an elevation of 2,606 meters above sea level. The Namib is a broad expanse of hyper-arid gravel plains and dunes that stretches along the entire coastline of Namibia. It varies between 100 and 200 km in width. The Great Escarpment rises to over 2,000 meters above sea level and is characterized by rocky and poorly developed sandy soils. The Kalahari Desert is an arid region that extends into South Africa and Botswana, and host a variety of localized environments, such as the Succulent Karoo, which is home to over 5,000 species of plants, of which nearly half is endemic. It is estimated that approximately 10% of the worlds succulents are found in the Succulent Karoo region, therefore this region is regarded as a global biodiversity hotspot. The overall climate of Namibia is considered to be arid, descending from the sub-humid, through semi-arid and arid regions to the hyper-arid coastal plains. Winter months are from June to August and is characteristically dry months with the rains mostly occurring during summer months of February and April. The average rainfall for Namibia is 350mm which makes it the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa and therefore it depends largely on groundwater.

Namibia has several national parks, including the well-known Etosha National Park and is the first and only country to have its entire coastline protected through a national park network. The Sperrgebiet National Park is located in the Southwestern corner of Namiba, in the Namib Desert and spans the Atlantic Ocean from Oranjemund on the border of South Africa to Luderitz in the north, covering an area of 26,000km2. The Sperrgebiet National Park is considered an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. A large area (9,2 km) stretching from the mouth of the Orange-River inland has been declared as a Ramsar Site and is recognized as an Important Bird Area, which currently supports more than

1% of the Southern African and global populations of several waterbird species. Etosha Pan, the Walvis Bay Lagoon and the Sandwich Harbour are some additional RAMSAR sites which occurs in Namibia

The proposed grant will support renewable resource assessment, site studies and E&S studies for solar and/or wind projects, feasibility studies for solar and/or wind projects and/or for grid investments needed for integration of variable renewable energy (VRE), as applicable, transaction advisors for renewable energy IPPs, and capacity building activities to support RE development in Namibia.

The RETF will support the resource measurement of solar and/or wind energy resources in Namibia, and the exact locations of the future infrastructure, for which the Environmental and Social Impact studies, will be prepared are currently not known. It is anticipated that the studies supported by the RETF will lead to the preparation and/or procurement of solar and/or wind and/or BESS (expected at this stage to be potentially 200MW Solar, 200 MW wind and 200MW BESS).

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Government of Namibia has not engaged in recent project finance lending with the World Bank applying either the former Safeguard Policies (SGP) or the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Due to the limited prior engagement, there is limited experience with the institutional capacity of the national system for environmental and social assessment and management, including laws, regulations, procedures and their implementation. The recipient of the grant is the Namibia Power Corporation ("NamPower"), a state-owned enterprise that is the national electric power utility company of Namibia. NamPower has extensive experience with implementation of large infrastructure projects. While NamPower has not implemented project's applying SGP or the ESF, they do have experience implementing projects applying environmental and social sustainability policies of other development finance agencies, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). NamPower has some but limited in-house E&S capacity for the management of environmental and social risk. To ensure adequate implementation and monitoring of the project's environmental and social performance, NamPower will be required to ensure that additional and dedicated resources for the management and supervision of the preparation of the E&S instruments are done in a manner satisfactory to the Bank. The PIUs capacity and needs will be further assessed during project preparation and requirements to fill capacity gaps will be detailed in the Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). As part of the bidding documents for the feasibility studies, NamPower will ensure that the site and technology selection take into account all relevant E&S considerations consistent with the ESSs. Capacity strengthening at the PIU and other government stakeholders that will have a role in project management will specifically include recruitment and/or (as necessary) training of environmental, social and gender specialists.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

The environmental risk is substantial at concept stage and will be reviewed during implementation once more information on the location of the proposed interventions becomes available. The risks that have been assessed are not simply, the impacts resulting from the TA activities themselves but also the potential downstream environmental implications that may arise form the future investments. The risk and impacts associated with the activities supported under the TA, is considered to be minimal or negligible, site specific, predictable and can be mitigated, however the

environmental risks and impacts associated with the downstream investments are considered to be substantial due to the scale of the investments (expecting at this stage 200MW Solar, 200 MW wind and 200MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) interventions including transmission lines), the locations currently not being known and limited historical performance of PIU. The PIU capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts has also been considered in the overall E&S risk rating. The PIU has limited experience in implementing World Bank funded projects under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), it has some in-house E&S capacity and experience with executing large scale infrastructure projects. The TA will support capacity building (Type 1) and the development of technical designs and feasibility studies (Type 3), which is anticipated to have minimal to no physical impact on the environment. Type 1 TA relating to the design of future investments of RE under IPP projects is likely to have implications relevant to ESS's 1-6, 8 and 10. The environmental risks and impacts associated with geotechnical and seismic studies supported under the TA may include limited impact on biodiversity or loss of vegetation (ESS 6), potential soil and ground water pollution due to accidental hydrocarbon spills or leaks from vehicles and generation of small quantities of waste (ESS 3) and occupational health and safety hazards and risk such as noise, dust and interaction with moving machinery/ equipment. The RETF will further support the installation of meteorological equipment for data collection, however the installation of the equipment is not anticipated to have any impacts, and is therefore not further assessed. The risk and impacts associated with the downstream investments consisting of the solar and wind park, of which the locations are currently unknown, may trigger requirements under ESS 2 due to the potential occupational health and safety risks and hazards associated with the construction phase; ESS 3 due to the visual impacts, air pollution due to increase of dust and noise during construction, generation of both general and hazardous waste during construction, including generation of hazardous waste at the end-of-life for solar panels and batteries; ESS 4 due to potential impacts such as transmission of communicable diseases, interaction between community and construction vehicles etc., if locations selected is located near communities, ESS 6 due to the potential clearing of vegetation that may be required during its preparation and bird and bat collision and impact on migratory routes that will need to the assessed and lastly ESS 8 due to potential cultural heritage or archeological finds during earthworks. The risks and impacts associated with the downstream investment are currently not fully known and can only be assess to its full extend during the Environmental and Social Impact assessment (ESIA) (ESS 1) which is supported under the RETF.

Social Risk Rating Substantial

The social risk is rated as substantial at concept stage and will be reviewed during implementation once more information on the locations of the proposed interventions becomes available. The risks that have been assessed are not simply the impacts resulting from the TA activities themselves but also the potential downstream environmental and social implications that may arise from the future investments. The risks and impacts associated with the TA activities are likely to be minimal or negligible. However, the potential downstream impacts may be significant due to the scale of the investments, the limited information available during this stage of project preparation due to the sites not yet being known as well as the institutional capacity constraints. The TA activities include detailed technical design and feasibility studies (Type 3) and capacity building (Type 1). The E&S impacts of carrying out the TA activities themselves are likely to be minimal. Potential social risks and impacts that have been identified for the TA activities are; ESS2 labor and working conditions including minor risks of work place sexual harassment, in addition, conducting research in some geographic areas could require consultations with communities and possibly with Indigenous People, with implications under ESS10 and ESS7. ESS4 may also be relevant as the activities may possibly also have an impact on community health and safety, e.g. road safety through increased road circulation, possible spread of communicable diseases and minor risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) /Sexual Harassment (SH) during the technical investigations. The TA outputs may have potential downstream social implications that may arise from the future investments . The locations of the study areas are not yet known and therefore the anticipated risk and

impacts associated with the downstream development of the solar and wind parks cannot yet be fully assessed, and will only be known once the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment studies have been completed. However, drawing on similar solar and wind projects in the region, in particular, it is anticipated that the land take will be relatively large and as such may have implications relevant to the following standards, ESS1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10, and possibly 7 depending on whether Indigenous Peoples are present. These potential impacts will be assessed in the ESIA that is an output of the TA. The Borrower has limited experience in implementing World Bank funded projects under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) , however has in-house E&S capacity with experience in preparing studies for large scale projects.

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 RETF will support (i) renewable resource assessment, (ii) site studies and ESIA for solar and/or wind projects and/or BESS and transmission line infrastructure and (iii) transaction advisors for renewable energy IPPs as well as (iv) capacity building on development of sustainable and bankable RE projects. Limited to negligible environmental and social impacts are expected during the execution of the studies as the majority of the activities that will be supported by the RETF will not have any physical footprint. The TA will support the preparation of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the solar and/or wind parks,as applicable. The PIU will prepare and submit for Bank review a Terms of Reference for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Studies, which incorporates E&S sustainability considerations to fulfill the requirements of national laws and international good practices as exemplified in the World Bank ESSs such as the ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS6, ESS8 and ESS10. These standards are regarded as relevant since the execution and management of the studies will be carried out by direct civil servants and consultants, therefore, the ESS2 will be applicable. ESS4 is considered applicable since the consultants may interact with community members during site studies which may lead to spreading of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 which could negatively impact on community health, possible increase in road accidents and minor risk related to SEA/SH. The TA will further support climate change studies to assess potential risks associated with climate change on the selected technologies and sites. The geotechnical and seismic studies may include small scale physical activities such as soil sampling obtained through either hand shovel, trail pits or drilling; in-situ soil penetration and soil vibration testing which may lead to generation of small quantities of waste and soil pollution (ESS 3), isolated disturbances to vegetation (ESS6) and cultural heritage sites (ESS8). The impacts associated with the execution of the geotechnical and seismic studies are regarded as negligible and can be managed through the implementation of generic mitigation measures. As part of the site selection process, the ESCP will include requirements to conduct a pre-site selection screening to exclude areas with potential sensitive habitats and biodiversity , known bird and bat migratory routes, sites which requires resettlement or will negatively impact on livelihoods and sites within close proximity of known cultural heritage such as UNESCO heritage and RAMSAR sites. Based on its findings from the ESIA an ESMP will be prepared include recommendations and ToRs for the development of the relevant instruments or additional studies, which may include a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)/Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP), IP/SSAHUTLC Plan, biodiversity management plan (BMP) and Chance find procedures in line with national requirements and international standards such as those set out in the ESF, as identified as applicable for downstream activities not supported under this TA.

The ESCP will include measures to ensure that requirements and measures related to the Environmental and Social Standards applicable to the preparation of the studies, including but not limited to labor standards, the institutional arrangements, training needs and reporting requirements are included and met.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

Borrower framework is not being considered under this project.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

For TA projects meaningful stakeholder engagement in accordance with ESS 10 is important to ensure inclusive and sustainable design and in order to gain broad community support for downstream projects. For Type 3 TA activities supporting detailed project design, stakeholder engagement will be important during the design process itself. In addition, the ESA instruments, that will be supported under the RETF, will also need to include a plan on how stakeholders will be engaged during future implementation of the eventual construction. It is therefore expected that the RETF will prepare a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the RETF activities prior to RETF approval and as part of the TA outputs during RETF implementation prepare a SEP as part of the ESIA on how stakeholders will be engaged during future implementation of the eventual construction.

In the event that the RETF supported ESIA identifies any Indigenous people/ Sub-Saharan African Historically underserved traditional local communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) present in, or with collective attachment, to any of the potential selected sites, the ESIA will propose requirements in terms of national laws and good international practices such as those in ESS 7 and ESS 10 to engagement with affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities. The engagement process should consider including stakeholder analysis and engagement planning, disclosure of information, and meaningful consultation, in a culturally appropriate and gender and inter-generationally inclusive manner. The PIU should also consider the establishment of a grievance mechanism for the project, as described in ESS10, which is culturally appropriate and accessible to affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities and takes into account the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities. SEP will outline a GRM which includes a channel for handling GBV/SEA/SH related grievances.

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

The standard is considered to be relevant as the activities are anticipated to be executed by direct workers (civil servants, secondees and individual consultants), and contracted workers (consultancy firms). All requirements of ESS2 will apply to the contracted workers. For civil servants the application of ESS2 is limited to the child and forced labor and occupational health and safety requirements. The PIU will utilize World Bank standard procurement and contracting for the consultancy firm which reflects ESS2 requirements. Key aspects of Labor Management will equally be included in the ESCP. Potential risks and impacts associated with downstream developments may include a risk of forced and child labour, worker discrimination, occupational health and safety hazards such as working at heights,

interaction with moving machinery and exposure to dust and hazardous substances, among other. Therefore, the ToRs that will be developed as part of the ESIA supported under the TA will make provision for the developing of a Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and an Occupational Health and Safety Plan for the downstream projects.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The standard is considered relevant at this stage. The geotechnical and seismic studies (Type 1) supported under the RETF are anticipated to have small scale and site-specific impacts and risks associated with activities such as soil sampling obtained through either hand shovel, trail pits or drilling; in-situ soil penetration and soil vibration testing which may lead to potential soil pollution due to accidental spills and leaks of hydrocarbons from vehicles and generation of small quantities of waste. The anticipated risks and impacts are however considered negligible and can be easily managed through the implementation of generic mitigation measures, therefore the ESCP will make provision for the preparation of a generic environmental and social management plan proportionate to the level of risk of the geotechnical and seismic activities to be undertaken.

The downstream impacts associated with the implementation of the solar and wind park, BESS and possible transmission line infrastructure may contribute to environmental pollution and depletion of resources due to (i) solid, liquid, non-hazardous and hazardous waste generated during construction and operations of the solar and wind park, (ii) hydrocarbon spills from construction vehicles, (iii) noise, dust and vibrations during construction, (v) potential use of large quantities of water for the cleaning of solar panels. The ESIA studies, that will be supported by the RETF; will therefore need to determine the source, type, and risks associated with the likely impacts from the solar and/or wind parks on natural resources and environmental pollution, and where it cannot be avoided, the ESIA will propose appropriate measures to minimize, reduce and, where not possible, mitigate, the risks associated with the identified impacts consistent with the requirements under national laws and good international practices such as those set out in ESS 3. Mitigation measures from the ESIA will be included in the environmental and social management plans that will be prepared as part of the ESIA studies for the solar and wind park. The installation of the renewable projects are likely to have a positive contribution to climate change due to its contribution to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions which will be assessed as part of the ESIA studies supported under the RETF. However, climate risks associated with the extended droughts, potential flooding due to changes in rain patters, experienced in Namibia as a result of climate change may negatively impact on the optimum functionality of the selected renewable investments and site selection and will be further investigated as part of the climate change study that will be supported under the RETF.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is considered relevant as the site studies may require some interaction with communities during stakeholder engagements, may increase road circulation and may have minor risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) /Sexual Harassment (SH). Interaction with community members during site studies could potentially lead to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The ESCP will therefore make provision for the PIU to ensure that consultants put measures in place for preventing the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 in line with the World Bank guidelines on COVID-19 and the WHO guidelines. Specific measures for mitigating SEA/SH risks, such as requirements for worker Code of Conduct, will be included in the ESCP. The ESIA studies, supported under the RETF, should consider further identifying and assessing the potential impacts and risks on community health and safety that

the implementation of the downstream investments (solar and wind parks and transmission line infrastructure as applicable) may have on immediate communities, such as labor influx, risk of increased GBV, SEA/SH cases, road and traffic safety risks, exposure to communicable diseases and potentially hazardous substances and potential emergency situations such as risk of fire, if found to be relevant, and provide mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the identified risks and impacts. The mitigation measures will form part of the environmental and social management plan that will be developed as part of the ESIAs. The ESIA will further make provision to include ToRs for the development of a separate community health and safety management plan, if deemed relevant based on the selected site and community risks.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The standard is considered relevant at this stage. Although, it is not expected that activities supported under the RETF will require any land acquisition, restriction on land use or involuntary resettlement. Land acquisition is likely for the downstream activities, the potential impacts of the land acquisition, may include permanent displacement, loss of income and livelihoods etc. which will be assessed during the ESIA study. The ESIA should include ToRs for a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and the PIU should consider commissioning a RAP depending on the readiness of the technical studies in line with the requirements of national laws and good international practices as exemplified in ESS5 as part of the ESIA study.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The standard is considered relevant at this stage. The Type 1 TA geotechnical and seismic studies supported under the RETF are anticipated to have small scale and site-specific impacts and risks associated with isolated disturbance and loss of vegetation. The impact is considered minimal and easily reversible through the application of mitigation measures proportionate to the level of risk that will be included in the ESCP. As part of the site selection process, the ESCP will include requirements to conduct a pre-site selection screening to exclude areas with potential sensitive habitats and biodiversity, such as known bird and bat migratory routes and RAMSAR sites.

The downstream impacts associated with the implementation of the solar and/or wind park, BESS and/or transmission lines, not supported by the RETF, may have an impact on the biodiversity in the area selected for its implementation. Wind parks and transmission lines are known to have a potential negative impact on birds and bats. The ESIA study, supported by the RETF, will therefore need to determine the source, type, and risks associated with the likely impacts from the solar and wind parks and transmission lines on biodiversity and living natural resources and either put measures in place to avoid impacts and where it cannot be avoided, the ESIA will propose appropriate measures to minimize or reduce and mitigate, the risks associated with the identified impacts consistent with the requirements of national laws and good international practices as those set out in ESS 4. For the wind park, the ESIA should consider including an assessment of bird and bat migratory routes and collision impact assessment.

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

The standard is considered relevant at this stage. The geotechnical and seismic studies supported under the RETF will include some small scale and isolated physical activities which could have a potential impact on sites where such

groups are present. There are a few groups in Namibia that self-identify as Indigenous, these include the San, Nama, Ovahimba, Ovazemba, Ovatjimba, Damara and Ovatwa communities. The ESIA study will assess whether any Indigenous people/ Sub-Saharan African Historically underserved traditional local communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) have a collective attachment to any of the potential selected sites. If found applicable, the ESIA should propose measures to avoid cultural and physical impacts and if not avoidable propose measures to reduce and mitigate impacts on IP/SSAHUTLC by preparing an IP/SSAHUTLC plan in line with legislation concerning Indigenous Peoples (i.e. conventions and declarations) and good international practices as exemplified in ESS7.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The standard is considered relevant at this stage. The geotechnical and seismic studies supported under the RETF will include some small scale and isolated physical activities which could have a potential impact on cultural heritage sites if not managed appropriately. To mitigate the potential risk, mitigation measures proportionate to the level of risk will be included in the ESCP.

The downstream impacts and risks associated with the implementation of the solar and wind park and BESS, not supported by the RETF, may have an impact on the cultural heritage, depending on the final locations selected. Impacts may include restriction of access to cultural heritage sites, destruction of heritage sites etc. The ESIA study, supported by the RETF, will therefore need to determine the likelihood of any potential cultural and heritages sites occurring within or in close proximity of the selected sites, once known, and either put measures in place to avoid impacts and where it cannot be avoided, the ESIA will propose appropriate measures to minimize or reduce and mitigate, the risks associated with the identified impacts consistent with the good international practices as exemplified in ESS 8. The ESMP which will be prepared as part of the ESIA will include a chance find procedure to follow, if the ESIA study identifies that there is a possibility for cultural heritage including artifacts to be impacted on during the construction of the solar and wind parks.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	No
OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

No financing partners are considered at this stage

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower's commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

The following documents will need to be prepared prior to the Country Director Approval (no Appraisal ESRS is required as the project is a stand-alone small recipient executed trust fund): 1) Development of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) 2) Development of the Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a Grievance Mechanism (GM) proportional to the RETF activities.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

1) Update, finalize and disclose the SEP; 2) A draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment including ESMP, SEP and GBV/SEA/SH assessment and risk appropriate mitigation measures for the solar and/or wind parks; 3) Prepare, finalize and disclose the ESIA including the ESMP, SEP, GBV/SEA/SH assessment and if relevant, ToRs for a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and ToRs for the preparation of any other relevant management plan and studies in line with national requirements and international standards such as those set out in the ESSs; 4) ToRs for the feasibility studies to ensure that relevant environmental and social issues are taken into account in conducting the studies in a manner that is consistent with the ESF; 5) Preparation of a generic ESMP proportionate to the level of risks associated with geotechnical and seismic activities; 6) Labor management requirements to include in procurement documents for consultancy services.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: NamPower

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: NamPower

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Sandhya Srinivasan, Nadia Taobane
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Africa Eshogba Olojoba Recommended on 27-Jan-2023 at 13:48:26 GMT-05:00