

 Early Warning System

AIIB-001052

Brazil: Project HEFACo



Quick Facts

Countries	Brazil
Specific Location	State of Bahia
Financial Institutions	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2025-11-03
Borrower	Acelen Industrial S.A.
Sectors	Energy
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 100.00 million
Loan Amount (USD)	\$ 100.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 100.00 million



Project Description

OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the decarbonization of the aviation and transportation sectors by scaling up commercial production of cost competitive and lower GHG emissions Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Renewable Diesel (RD) as fuel alternatives in Brazil.

DESCRIPTION

The Project involves the implementation of a biorefinery complex in Bahia, Brazil, featuring a hydro-processed esters and fatty acids (HEFA) plant designed to process 20,000 barrels per day (20kbpd) of feedstock into Sustainable Aviation Fuel and/or Renewable Diesel. The output from the Project is expected to be sold to the global market and help the aviation and transportation industries lower their GHG emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INFORMATION

Applicable Policy and Categorization.

AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), including the Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) and the Environmental and Social Exclusion List (ESEL), will apply to this Project. ESS 1 (Environmental and Social Assessment and Management) is applicable for assessment of environmental and social (ES) impacts of Project activities. ESS 2 (Involuntary Resettlement) may be triggered for access road works and the development of an associated high voltage distribution line (DL) that will be implemented prior to operations, but ESS 3 (Indigenous Peoples) is not expected to apply to this Project as neither the biorefinery nor pipelines are located in or near Indigenous Peoples' land. The Project has been determined as Category A in accordance with the ESF. This assignment has been made considering the sensitive social context with low income communities present in proximity to the biorefinery and pipeline route; construction on contaminated land and elevated health risks to workers during construction; elevated reputational risks around feedstock supply chain including for Soybean Oil (SBO) and Used Cooking Oil (UCO); and the nature and scale of the biorefinery process and associated emissions and health, safety and emergency risks, alone and in-combination with the existing refinery complex and pipelines.

Environmental and Social Instruments.

The Client has developed a suite of ES assessments and management plans for the biorefinery and pipelines under Brazilian legislation that are largely consistent with AIIB's ESF. The pipelines and minor works at the port facility are addressed through the Environmental Impact Analysis Report: Application for Alteration License (LA) - Expansion of operations at the Madre de Deus Terminal (Transpetro, April 2025). The biorefinery works are covered by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Renewable Fuels Production Plant, volumes 1-4 (Acelen, September 2025). A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has also been prepared for conformity with ESS1 and other key instruments are available including a quantitative risk assessment and health impact assessment and management plan for works on contaminated land. Additional assessment and management instruments are committed by the Client or in development to address outstanding gaps against the ESF. These include finalization of a critical habitat assessment (CHA) and ES management instruments for the TL. The Client is developing an Integrated Management System (IMS) for construction and operation based on an existing fully developed IMS for the Mataripe Refinery. This is considered compliant with ESS1 in relation to Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) and the Client has strong institutional capacity to develop, implement and monitor management system performance.

Environmental Aspects.

The HEFA facility will be implemented on brownfield land that will be decontaminated. The Client is identifying and managing risks in accordance with good international industry practice (GIIP). The HEFA plant will utilize contracted Soybean Oil (SBO), Used Cooking Oil (UCO) and is capable of processing other vegetable oils and tallow as feedstock. Soybean production has been linked to deforestation in Brazil. The importance of managing feedstock risks is recognized by the Client and reflected in a suite of mitigations. Biodiversity risks have been considered and impacts on critical habitat are not presently anticipated. The



Investment Description

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)



Contact Information

AIIB

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit an information request for project information at: <https://www.aiib.org/en/contact/information-request/index.html>.

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF AIIB

The AIIB has established the Accountability Mechanism for Project-Affected People (PPM). The PPM provides “an opportunity for an independent and impartial review of submissions from Project-affected people who believe they have been or are likely to be adversely affected by AIIB’s failure to implement the ESP in situations when their concerns cannot be addressed satisfactorily through Project level GRMs or AIIB Management processes.” Two or more project-affected people can file a complaint. Under the current AIIB policy, when the bank co-finances a project with another development bank, it may apply the other bank's standards. You can refer to the Project Summary Information document to find out which standards apply. You can learn more about the PPM and how to file a complaint at: <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/project-affected-peoples-mechanism/how-we-assist-you/index.html>.

The complaint submission form can be accessed in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Chinese, English, Tagalog, Hindi, Nepali, Russian, Turkish, or Urdu. The submission form can be found at: <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/project-affected-peoples-mechanism/submission/index.html>.



Bank Documents

- [Project Summary \(November 30, 2025\)](#) [\[Original Source\]](#)