

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

**600 MWh Zarafshan Battery Energy Storage
Systems (BESS) Project in Uzbekistan**



REV-2

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
AMR	Annual E&S Monitoring Report
Aol	Area of Influence
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMS	Battery Management System
BSSA	Battery Storage Service Agreement
COD	Commercial Operation Date
DC	Direct Current
E&S	Environmental and Social
EMS	Energy Management System
EPC	Engineering, Procurement, and Construction
ESEL	Environmental and Social Exclusion List
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy
ESSs	Environmental and Social Standards
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBVH	Gender Based Violence and Harassment
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGSF	Green Growth Strategic Framework
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GW	Gigawatt
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
JSC	Joint Stock Company
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LFP	Lithium Ferrous Phosphate
LV	Low Voltage
MV	Medium Voltage
MW	Megawatt
MWh	Megawatt hour
NEGU	National Electric Grids of Uzbekistan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMMC	Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
OHTL	Overhead Transmission Line

PCS	Power Conversion System
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PV	Photovoltaic
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
TBD	To Be Determined
TBT	Toolbox Talk
TLBs	Tractor Loader Backhoes
TTMP	Traffic and Transport Management Plan
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Uzbekistan is the Eurasia's third-largest gas producer, after Russia and Turkmenistan, due to its abundant natural gas reserves. Energy production and consumption contribute almost 20% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 15% of industrial output, and energy exports (primarily gas) were 17.3% of total commodity exports¹.

However, with that, in recent years, Uzbekistan has faced a severe energy crisis and is going through a power system collapse – particularly during winter. The problem has affected every part of society, from businesses and industry to residents' daily lives. In December 2022, extremely low temperatures coupled with outdated infrastructure created pressure drops in the gas pipelines, which in turn created a big national crisis given that 80% of Uzbekistan's electricity comes from thermal power facilities that run on gas. The crisis has resulted in severe power outages with nation-wide blackouts².

Acknowledging the severity of the situation, the Government of Uzbekistan has taken ambitious measures to alleviate the energy crisis. One of the first priorities was to reduce reliance and dependency on natural gas for electricity generation and promote renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

The Government issued a Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 11.09.2023 No. PF-158 ("Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy), which sets a target of 25 GW of renewable energy capacity and 40% of electricity production from renewables by 2030³.

In addition, the Government has implemented further actions to encourage investment and use of renewable energy, including the enactment of new regulations and legislation. The "Law on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources of 2019", provides a legal framework for development, use and promotion of renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Measures to Stimulate Investments in Renewable Energy" and "Green Growth Strategic Framework (GGSF)" enacted in 2020 and 2022 respectively, are aimed at attracting investments in the renewable energy sector. These resolutions provide a variety of financial incentives and support mechanisms to encourage investments and facilitate the growth of renewable energy initiatives.

These national efforts to expand renewable energy make the role of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) increasingly important. The primary purposes of the BESS are energy shifting and grid support, both of which play a critical role in facilitating the integration of renewable energy into Uzbekistan's power grid by shifting the energy load to peak demand periods—particularly important as the country continues to expand its renewable energy capacity.

In accordance with the above, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company – Masdar executed an Investment Agreement with the Republic of Uzbekistan, a Battery Storage Service Agreement ("BSSA") with JSC Uzenergosotish, Uzbekistan's state-owned joint-stock company, to develop a 300 MW / 600 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project to be located in Navoiy Region within Uzbekistan (hereafter referred to as the '**Project**'). Masdar established a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) known as Zarafshan Energy Storage Foreign Enterprise Limited Liability Company (LLC) that is wholly owned by Masdar and that will be responsible for development of this project (hereafter referred to as the '**Developer**').

¹ [Uzbekistan energy profile – Analysis - IEA](#)

² [Executive summary – Uzbekistan 2022 – Analysis - IEA](#)

³ [Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 11.09.2023 No. PF-158](#)

The Project is expected to perform up to two full cycles per day (each of 2 hours), implying a daily energy throughput of 600 MWh. As a stand-alone grid-balancing asset that is not physically integrated with any specific renewable energy facility (which includes Solar PV Plants and Wind Farms) and connecting directly to the Muruntau substation, the Project will help stabilize the grid by balancing supply and demand, reducing blackouts, and enabling smoother integration of variable renewable sources. This initiative aligns with the government's strategy to diversify the energy mix, reduce fossil fuel dependence, and meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Paris Agreement, supporting a more sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed as an integral component of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the 600 MWh Zarafshan BESS Project. Stakeholder engagement forms a core element of the ESIA process and has been systematically undertaken to inform baseline data collection, impact identification, assessment of Environmental and Social (E&S) risks, and the development of mitigation and management measures.

The outcomes of stakeholder consultations conducted during ESIA preparation have been incorporated into the impact assessment and reflected in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) within the ESIA. This SEP formalizes and documents the stakeholder engagement activities undertaken to date as part of the ESIA and establishes the structured framework for continued information disclosure, consultation, and grievance management throughout the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Project.

The SEP has been prepared in alignment with applicable national regulatory requirements governing ESIA disclosure and consultation, as well as relevant international lender standards to include the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), ensuring that stakeholder engagement remains proportionate to the Project's E&S risk profile and consistent with Good International Industry Practice (GIIP).

1.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

This document constitutes a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to be implemented by the Developer throughout the construction and operation phase for the Project. The SEP outlines a systematic method to stakeholder engagement that will assist the Developer in developing and maintaining a positive relationship with their stakeholders, particularly the locally affected communities, over time. The SEP is a dynamic document which will be modified through Project construction, operation and implementation. The SEP will be reviewed and updated periodically throughout the Project lifecycle to reflect changes in Project activities, stakeholder priorities, grievances, emerging risks and lessons learned from implementation. To support day-to-day implementation, the Project's HSSE Manager will prepare and periodically update more detailed stakeholder engagement workplans identifying planned engagement activities, target stakeholder groups, communication methods, responsibilities and implementation timeframes.

The Project welcomes suggestions for improvement of this SEP. Suggestions can be submitted via the contact information for the Developer at the end of this document.

This SEP includes the following:

- Section 1 – Introduction: provides a background and introduction on the Project and SEP;

- Section 2 – Project Description: provides a summary of the Project location, main Project components, Project schedule and job opportunities for the construction and operation phase;
- Section 3 – Regulatory Context: highlights the main requirements that are relevant for stakeholder engagement to the Project to include Uzbekistan regulations and international best practice requirements;
- Section 4 – Identification of Stakeholders: identifies all relevant stakeholders for the construction and operation phase of the Project at all geographic levels to include national, regional and local levels as well as communities within the area of influence of the Project;
- Section 5 – Summary of Past Stakeholder Engagement Activities: provides a summary of past stakeholder engagement activities undertaken for the Project during the planning and design phase of the Project;
- Section 6 – Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan: identifies an engagement strategy for each stakeholder group to include objective for engagement, communication methods and tools, timeframe, and responsibilities;
- Section 7 – Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism: identifies a mechanism for managing and handling any concerns or complaints related to the Project from stakeholders during the construction and operation phase;
- Section 8 – Contact Details: provides contact details of the Developer for communication with all relevant stakeholders of the Project;
- Section 9 – AIIB Project-affected People’s Mechanism: describes the independent accountability mechanism of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and how stakeholders may access it;
- Section 10 – Monitoring and Reporting: identifies the key monitoring and reporting requirements that are applicable for the implementation of the plan; and
- Section 11 – Roles and Responsibilities: identifies the roles and responsibilities for the Developer and other involved entities in implementation of the plan.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a detailed description of the Project in relation to its location, the key Project components, and an overview of the proposed activities that are to take place during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phase.

2.1 Administrative Setup and Project Location

It is important to understand the administrative setup of Uzbekistan as several terminologies will be referenced throughout the SEP report.

Administratively, Uzbekistan is divided into 12 Regions (also known as viloyatlar), 1 sovereign republic (known as the Sovereign Republic of Karakalpakstan), and 1 independent city (Tashkent City which is the capital of Uzbekistan).

The Project site is located in Tomdi District in Navoiy Region located in the central north/northwest of Uzbekistan. The site covers an approximate area of 10 hectares, along with the 788 m underground transmission line connecting the onsite substation to the existing Muruntau substation. It is important to note that the Project site boundary and the underground transmission line route represent the footprint of Project disturbance. The Area of Influence (AoI) for the ESIA extends beyond this footprint for certain E&S parameters, and an appropriate thematic study area is determined for each parameter as discussed in the ESIA.

Table 1: Region Division of Uzbekistan

Division	Legend	Division	Legend	Division	Legend
Andijan Region	2	Qashqadaryo Region	8	Xorazm Region	13
Bukhara Region	3	Samarqand Region	9	Namangan Region	6
Fergana Region	4	Sirdaryo Region	10	Navoiy Region	7
Jizzakh Region	5	Surxondaryo Region	11	Tashkent Region	12
Karakalpakstan	14	Tashkent City	1		

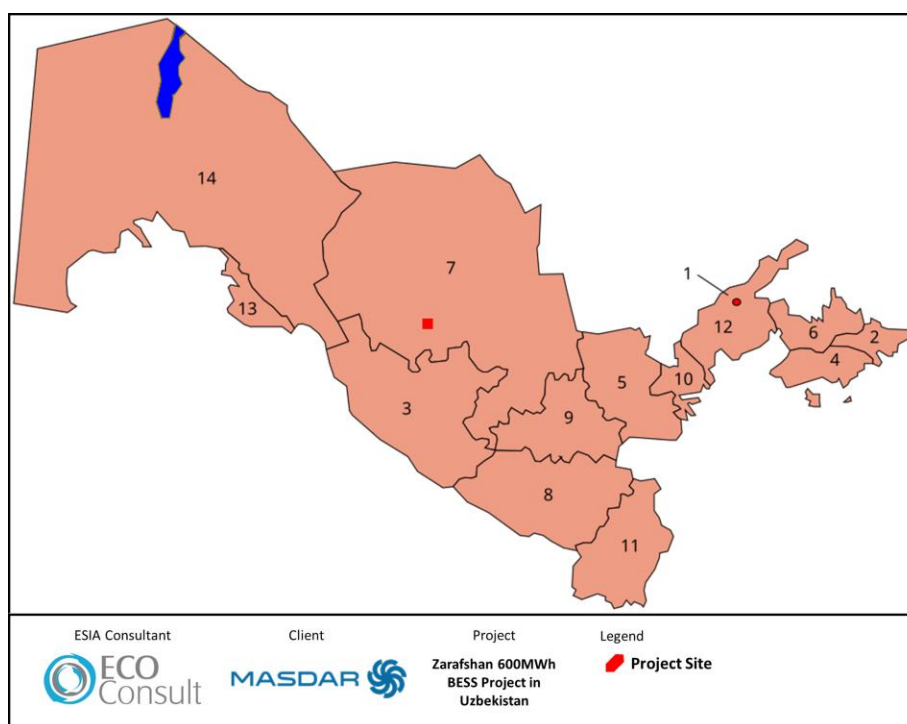


Figure 1: Region Division of Uzbekistan

The administrative setup of Navoiy Region includes multiple levels of governance to ensure effective management and service provision within the regions. At the highest level, each region is led by its own regional administration (known as **Regional Khokimiyat**, also referred to locally as Khokimligi) which is led by Governors (known as **Regional Khokim** – equivalent to a governor). The Regional Khokim – Governor is appointed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and serves for 5 consecutive years.

Generally, the Regional Khokim - Governor is responsible for regional administrative governance, economic growth, and infrastructure development. They supervise social services such as healthcare and education, ensure public safety, and contribute to regional planning. They coordinate with local authorities, implement policies, and contribute to the region's welfare and growth. In addition, the Regional Khokim - Governor contributes to the provision of essential services to the region's residents.

Regional departments that are divisions of Ministries in Uzbekistan are present in Navoiy Region. For example, there is a National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change in Tashkent, and a Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of Navoiy, under the Ministry.

Administratively, Navoiy Region is divided into eight (8) Districts (known as **Tumani**), with each district having its own local administration (known as **District Khokimiyat**) which are led by Mayors (known as **District Khokim – Mayor** – equivalent to a mayor). The District Khokimiyat supervises the administration as a whole, which includes the provision of social services such as education and healthcare. In addition, they play an important role in municipal services such as water distribution, waste management, and other essential public services.

The Project site is located in Tomdi District.

Table 2: District Divisions of Navoiy Region

District Name	Legend	District Name	Legend
Konimex District	1	Karmana District	5
Qiziltepa District	2	Nurota District	6

Xatirchi District	3	Tomdi District	7
Navbahor District	4	Uchquduq District	8

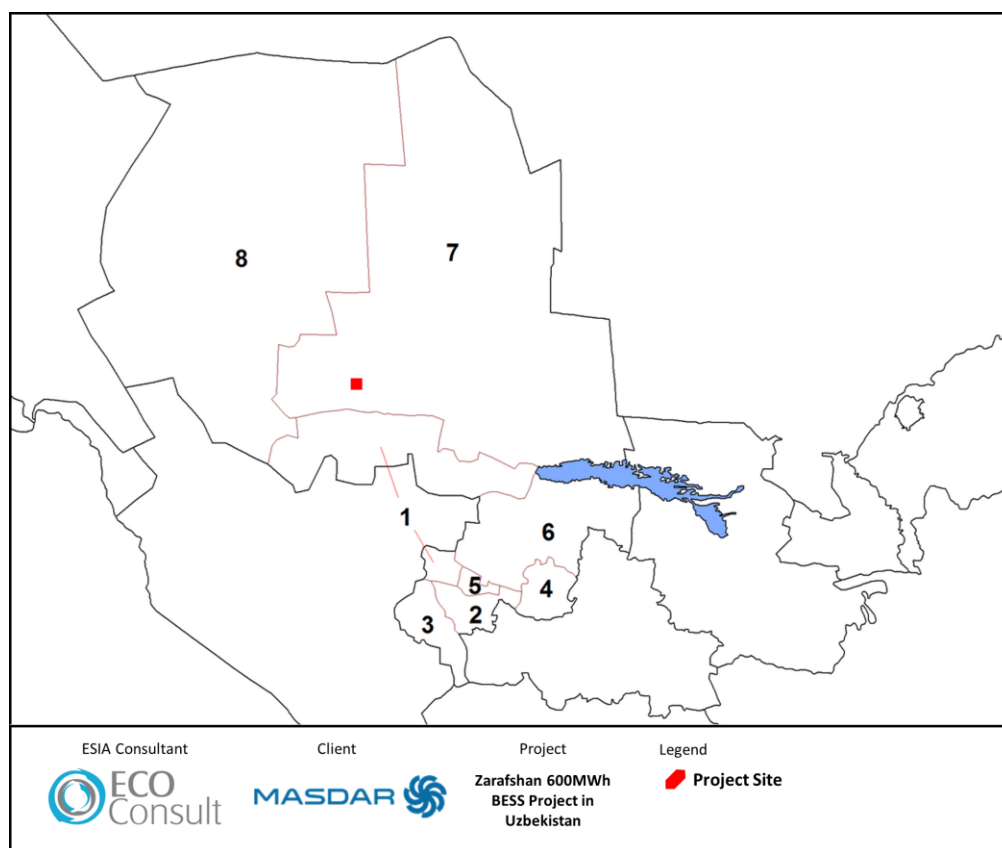


Figure 2: District Divisions in Tomdi Region

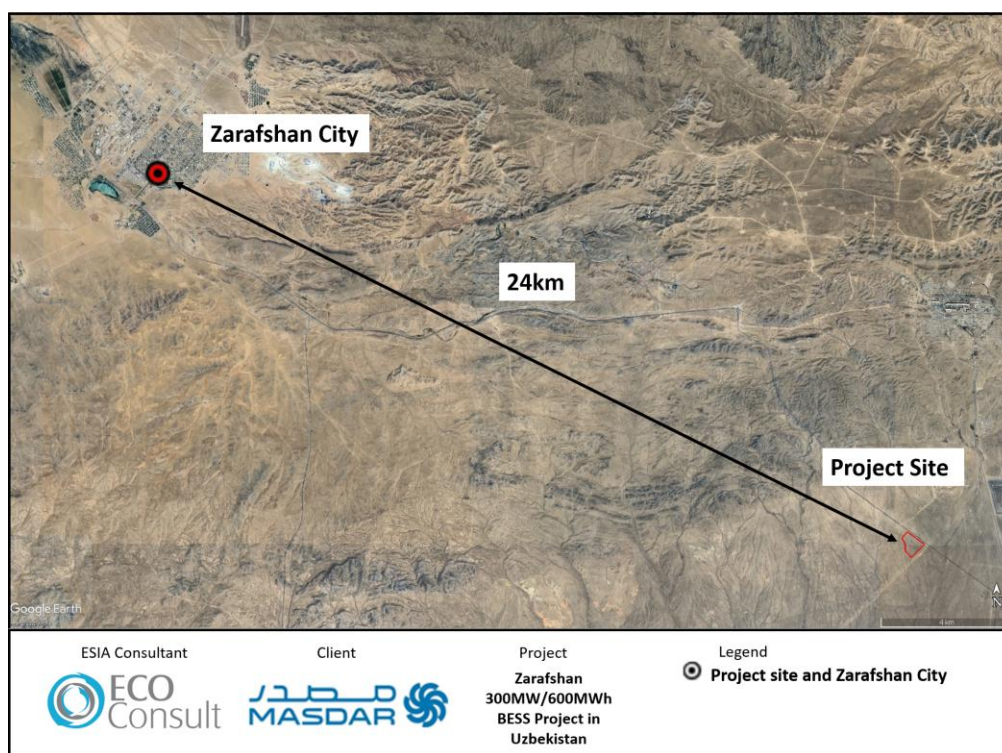


Figure 3: Project Distance from Zarafshan City

2.2 Local Communities

Throughout the SEP report, the term local communities will be used. This will refer to the Muruntau Settlement in the Navoiy Region, which is administratively part of the city of Zarafshan. Muruntau is considered the closest local community to the Project site, located approximately 12 km northeast of the Project area. Other settlements within Tomdi District, including Tomdibuloq, are located at a considerably greater distance from the Project site, with Tomdibuloq located approximately 33 km away. Given this distance, such settlements are considered less likely to physical impacts. The figure below presents the distance of the Project site to the closest local community, Muruntau Settlement.

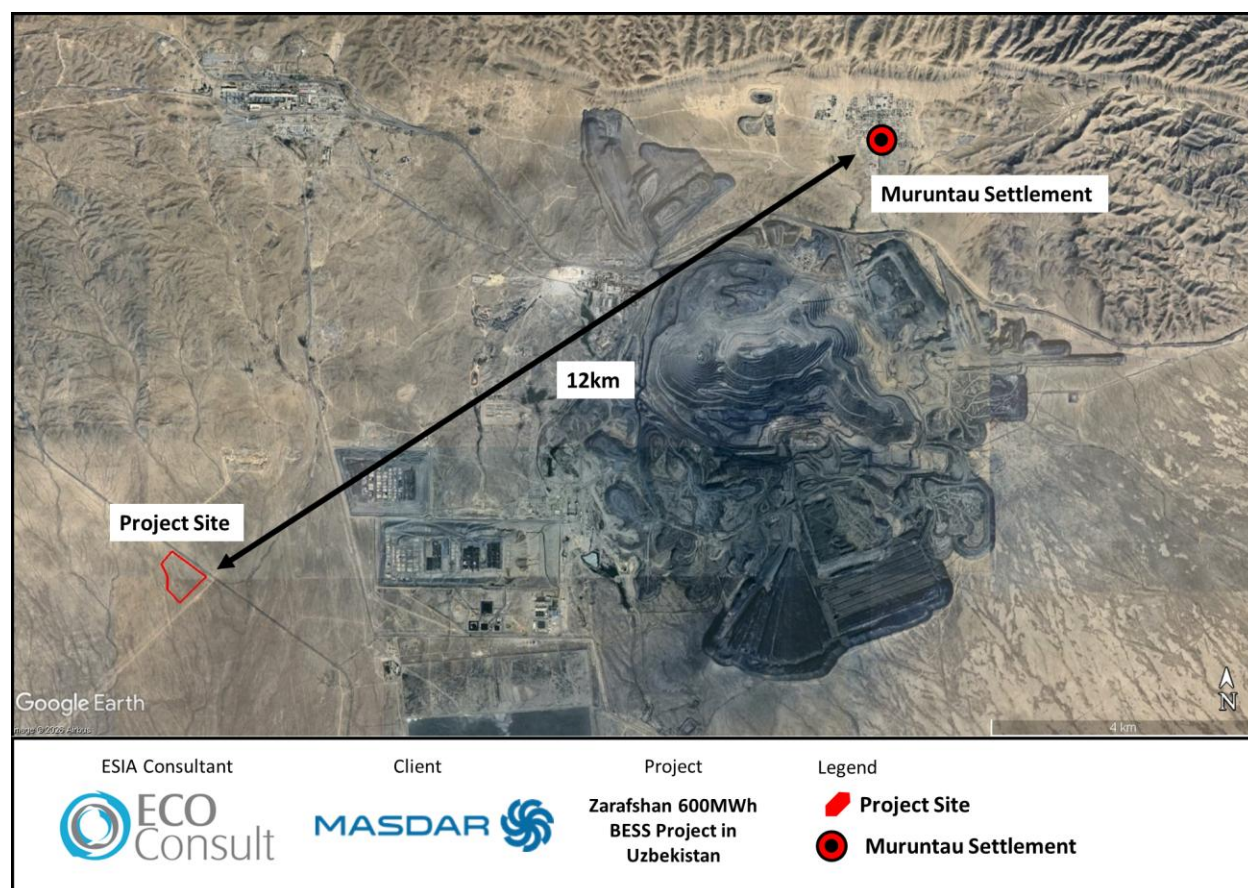


Figure 4: Project Site and Closest Community

2.3 Project Components

2.3.1 Outline of BESS Technology

The Project aims to connect a BESS with a production capacity of 300 Megawatt (MW) to the national grid to enhance grid stability and support the integration of renewable energy sources. The BESS operates by absorbing excess electricity from the grid during periods of low demand and high generation—from renewable energy—and discharging the stored energy back into the grid when demand exceeds supply.

The system is designed to discharge at maximum power for up to two hours, followed by reduced power output for an additional six hours, offering a total discharge window of up to eight hours depending on grid needs.

To enable this functionality, the stored electrical energy passes through several conversion stages. Initially, energy is stored in the battery modules in Direct Current (DC) form. A Power Conversion System (PCS) then converts the DC into Alternating Current (AC) at medium voltage. This AC power is subsequently stepped up to high voltage through power transformers to meet the interconnection requirements of the national grid. The conditioned power is then delivered to the grid via dedicated interconnection facilities.

This process enables the BESS to play a critical role in balancing supply and demand, enhancing system flexibility, and improving the reliability of renewable energy integration.

The figure below presents the key components of a BESS each of which is discussed in further details throughout the subsequent sections.

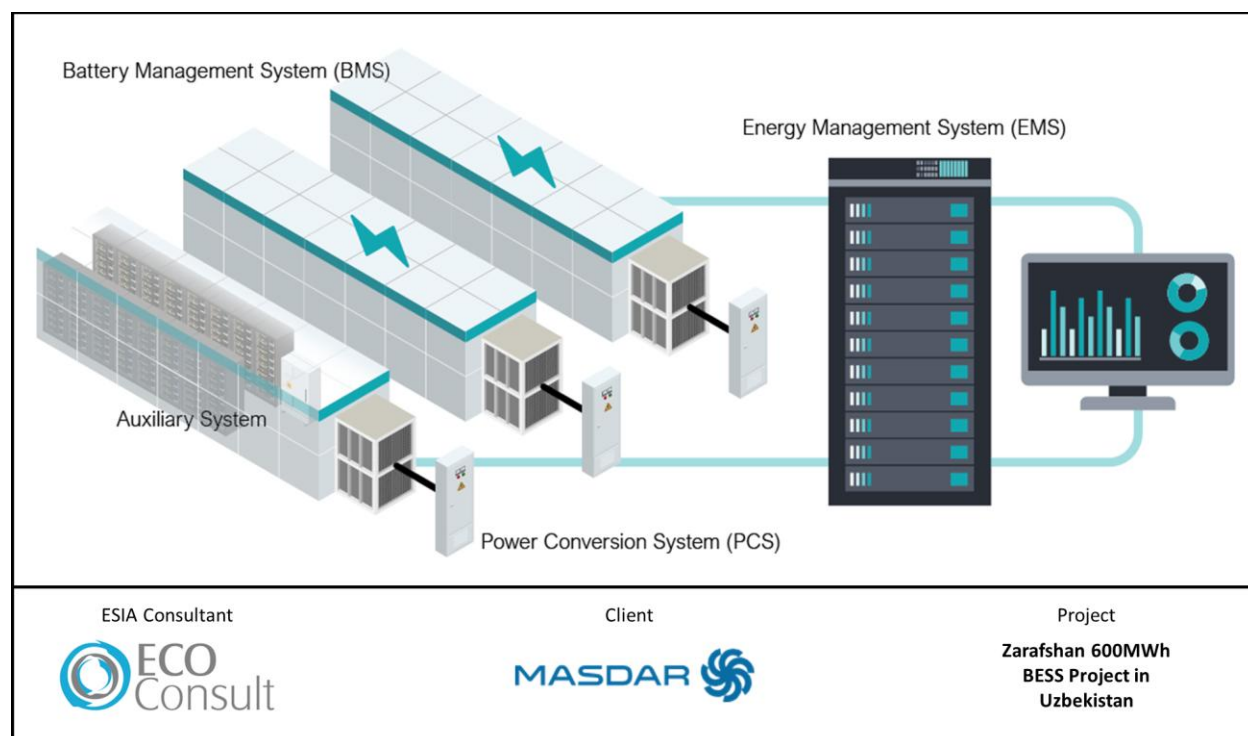


Figure 5: BESS key components

2.3.2 Infrastructure and Utilities

The following highlights the key infrastructure and utility elements that will be required for the Project.

- **Substation (including associated civils works and buildings):** A 200kV substation will be built within the Project site to manage the output from the BESS facility. It will include the necessary equipment to prepare the electricity for export to the grid.
- **Grid Connection:** this includes offsite connection works from the onsite substation to the existing Muruntau Substation through an Underground Transmission Line with a length of 788 m. The Developer will be responsible for preparing the detailed design (including identification of the route), construction activities after which it will be handed over to National Electric Grids of Uzbekistan (NEGU) for operation and maintenance. It is important to note that at this stage there are no details available on the specifications – other than the route as shown in the figure below.
- **Amenities Building:** Utility infrastructure will be provided to meet project needs and comply with

applicable standards. The building will include office and sanitary facilities.

- **Access route and internal road:** The Project will be accessed via the existing road – A379 (Zarafshan – Navoiy Road). Two short access roads connecting the site to the existing public road infrastructure will be constructed as part of the project.
- **Drainage and Stormwater Management:** Appropriate drainage infrastructure will be incorporated to manage surface runoff within the Project site.
- **Telecommunications:** Communication systems will be installed for operational control, data transfer, and emergency response, in line with utility and regulatory requirements.
- **Water supply:** Water will be supplied from through Water trucks to the site. The water will subsequently be stored on-site in storage tanks for construction activities use.
- **Security Measures:** Access to the Project area will be controlled through dedicated security infrastructure, including perimeter fencing and locked entrances. Within the Project boundary, access to the site will be controlled by the Project Developer during construction and operation.

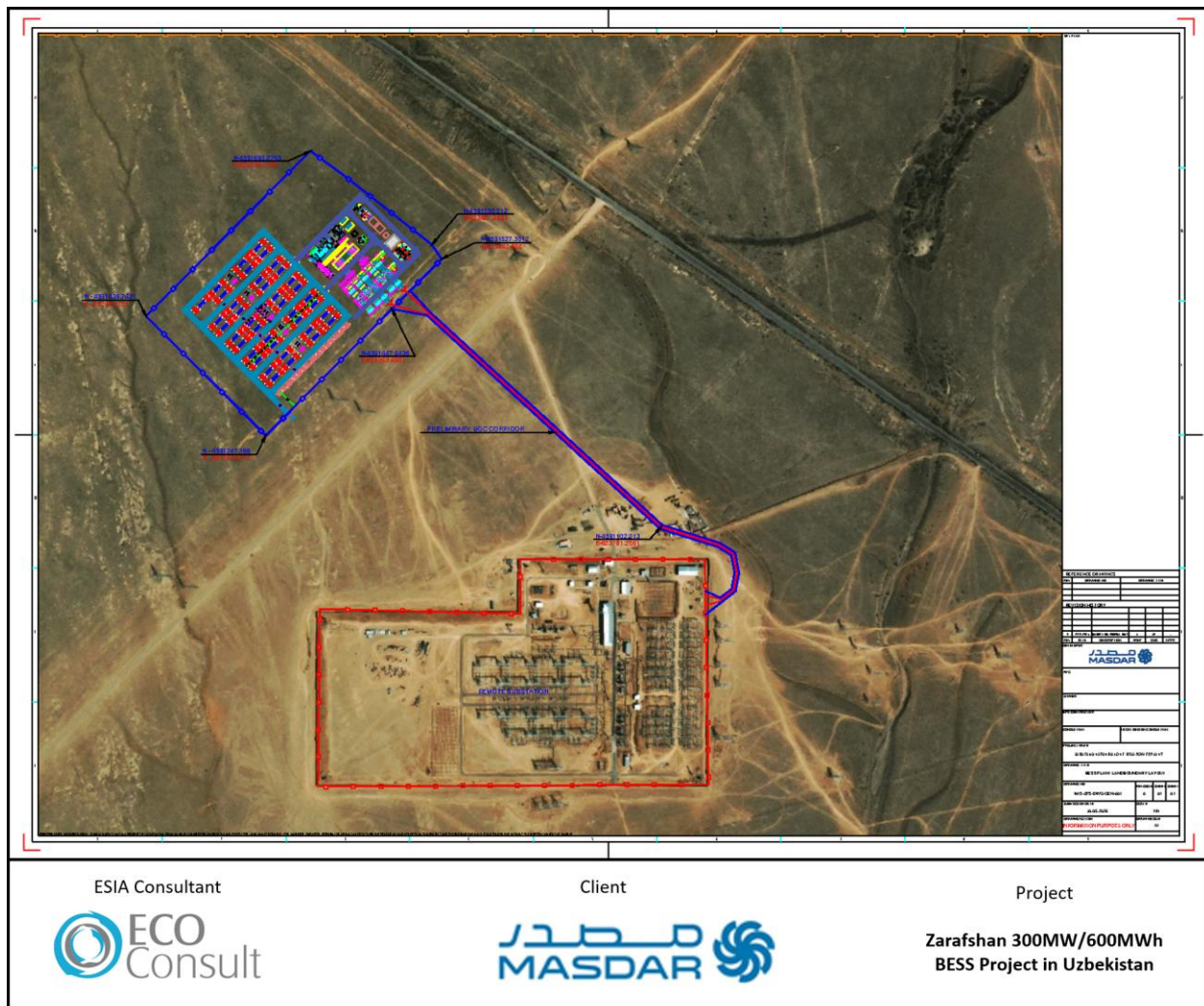


Figure 6: Project Layout

2.3.3 Other Temporary Components

There are additional Project components that will be required on a temporary basis throughout the construction phase of the Project in particular. Those are identified below. The location of such components will be within the Project footprint.

- **Site Offices:** temporary offices that will be used by Developer and EPC Contractor staff during the construction phase.
- **Worker Camp:** a temporary worker accommodation camp will be required during the construction phase to accommodate non-local workers. Based on the currently available information, the worker camp is expected to include dormitory blocks, an amenities block, kitchen, dining hall, prayer room, showers and toilets, fire stand pit, and septic tank. The final location, layout, capacity, and design of the worker camp will be confirmed once the EPC Contractor is appointed and the detailed construction planning is completed. The worker camp will be located within the Project-allocated land boundaries. A preliminary layout is presented in Figure 7 below.
- **Laydown areas:** this is a temporary storage area where tools, materials, equipment and vehicles are stored when not in use.
- **Generators:** generators will be used for supply of electricity throughout the construction phase of the Project for various power supply requirements. There will be no temporary power supply lines erected before or during the construction period.
- **Transport Vehicles and Machinery:** During the construction phase, a fleet of machinery—including excavators, Tractor-Loader-Backhoes (TLBs), concrete mixers, concrete pumps, cranes, compaction rollers, and water trucks—will be mobilized.

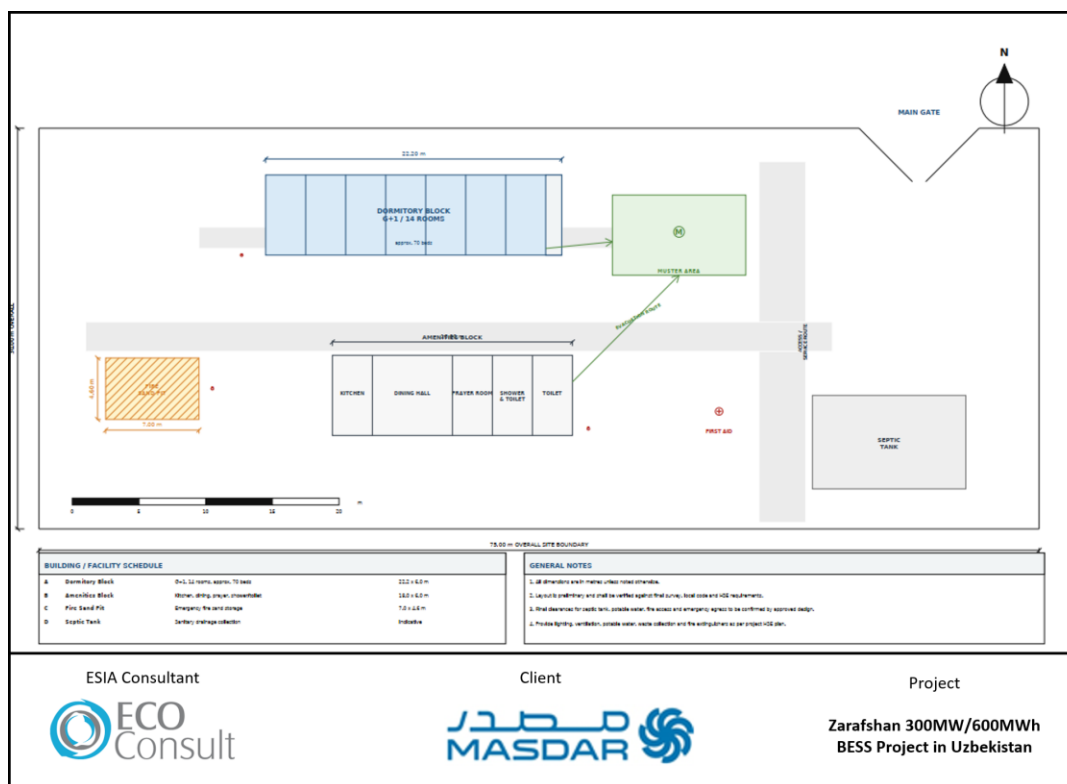


Figure 7: Worker Camp Preliminary Layout

2.4 Overview of Project Activities

This section presents the likely activities to take place during the Project development and which will include four distinct phases: (i) planning and design, (ii) construction, (iii) operation, and (iv) decommissioning. Each of which is summarized below.

2.4.1 Planning and Design Phase

This phase will involve the following:

- Completion of all required studies for the Project development. This will include but not limited to ESIA, topography study, geotechnical study, etc.;
- Obtaining and finalizing required financing from International Financial Institutions (IFIs);
- Obtaining required permits;
- Appointment of EPC Contractor; and
- Preparation of detailed design and layout requirements.

2.4.2 Construction Phase

The typical activities that will take place during the planning and construction phase includes the following:

- Mobilization of Project team and equipment to the site and recruitment of workers;
- Undertaking mobilization works for temporary facilities which will involve deployment of site offices and laydown areas;
- Shipment of the BESS components (i.e. containers) by road using hauling trucks, see Figure 8 below. Based on the currently available information, the transport route will most likely be from China to Kazakhstan through the Khorgos border crossing, and then from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan through the Yallama border crossing, before onward transport to the Project site. Each container is expected to require one truck and one trip. Around 160 vehicles are expected for the BESS containers, and around 55 vehicles are expected for the MV station containers. The battery enclosures are expected to be transported as 20-foot containers, while the MV station components are expected to be transported as 40-foot enclosures/containers. Given the size and weight of the equipment, transport requirements, including load classification, permits and route suitability, will be confirmed through a detailed route survey to be undertaken post-ESIA by the selected EPC Contractor. Assessment of transport routes, road safety risks, community receptors, and other associated transport risks will be addressed as part of the ESIA, and a Traffic and Transport Management Plan (TTMP) will be developed and implemented prior to construction;
- Site preparation for the installation of battery container foundations, involving survey works, site clearing, grading, levelling, excavation, and cement works;
- Excavation and backfilling activities for foundations and cable trenches;
- Installation of BESS components, including battery containers, associated electrical and power

- conversion systems, transformers, and auxiliary infrastructure, likely using onsite mobile cranes;
- Construction works to include civil works, electrical works and mechanical works for the development of the substation and building infrastructure, etc.; and
 - Decommissioning of temporary facilities.



Figure 8: Loading and Transportation of BESS Components

2.4.3 Operation Phase

- BESS projects generally require regular preventative, predictive, and corrective maintenance as recommended by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM).
- Maintenance activities are performed on a weekly, monthly, semi-annual, and annual basis to ensure optimal performance and safety.
- The BESS facility will maintain interconnection to the grid continuously, except during interruptions or maintenance periods, with the system actively charging and discharging for approximately 8 hours daily.
- Maintenance will also take place through a dedicated team. Typical routine maintenance time for a modern BESS is approximately 40 hours per year. Non-routine maintenance may be of a similar order. Although minimal, maintenance activities may include battery system checks, thermal management system servicing, inverter and electrical component inspections, software updates, and safety system testing.

2.4.4 Decommissioning Phase

According to the BSSA agreement, the Project is expected to be operational for 15 years. In the case of complete decommissioning of BESS, the battery enclosures and associated equipment will be taken down, disassembled into components, and removed from the site.

Prior to transportation, the system will be fully de-energized and all components appropriately packaged to ensure safe handling. Depending on their condition, battery modules and systems may be refurbished for use in other projects or sent for final disposal or recycled in accordance with applicable environmental regulations. Foundations will typically be removed, and excavated areas will be backfilled and restored with gravel or vegetation. Internal road networks may be retained, while gates and fences, including those surrounding the substation and battery units, will be dismantled.

2.5 Project Schedule

As stated by the Developer, the Project schedule includes a Planning and Design phase during Q3 2026 to Q1 2027, followed by Construction from Q4 2026 to Q1 2028. The Commercial Operation Date (COD) is expected in Q1 2028. The Project is designed to operate for a period of 15 years following the start of operations.

2.6 Workforce Requirements

The estimated workforce required for the Project during the construction and operation phases is as follows; however, this will be confirmed at a later stage of the Project.

- During the construction phase, workforce requirements will increase progressively as activities advance, reaching a peak workforce of approximately 300-400 personnel during the main construction period before reducing during commissioning and demobilization. The workforce is expected to comprise a combination of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers, including engineers, technicians, supervisors, surveyors, equipment operators, labourers, drivers, security personnel, and support staff.
- The Project is committed to maximizing local employment and procurement opportunities wherever suitably qualified personnel and services are available. It is anticipated that a substantial proportion of the construction workforce will be recruited from local and regional communities, creating employment opportunities and contributing to local economic development. Specialist personnel may be mobilized from elsewhere within Uzbekistan or internationally where specific technical expertise is required.
- A temporary workforce accommodation facility may be required for non-local construction workers and specialist personnel. Worker accommodation, where provided, will be developed and managed in accordance with applicable national legislation, lender requirements, and international good practice, including provisions related to worker welfare, health and safety, and living conditions.
- Construction workforce numbers and accommodation requirements may vary throughout the construction period depending on the final construction methodology, contractor mobilization strategy, and project schedule.
- Around 15 job positions during the operation phase for a duration of 15 years. This will include around

5 skilled job opportunities (such as engineers, technicians, administrative employees, etc.), 5 semi-skilled and 5 unskilled job opportunities (such as security personnel, drivers, etc.).

It is important to note that the workforce figures presented above represent a conservative assessment scenario. Actual workforce requirements will be confirmed during detailed Project planning and may be lower than those currently assessed. For the purposes of the ESIA, local workers are those residing within Muruntau Mahalla and Zarafshan City who are expected to commute to the Project site on a daily basis, regional workers are those residing elsewhere within Navoiy Region, and non-local workers are those who are not able to commute on a daily basis and therefore require accommodation.

The Developer is committed to adhering to transparent recruitment procedures which include local community members. In addition, the Developer is aiming to hire local community members to the greatest extent possible throughout the construction and operation phase for skilled and unskilled jobs, where community members have the prerequisite skills and qualities for the job. Recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with Uzbekistan law, on fair assessment of skills and qualities for the job. All employees will be subject to normal human resource practices and will have to conduct themselves in accordance with the Developer's disciplinary code. No discrimination, on ethnic, gender, race or other such demographic factor will be allowed during recruitment. The only preferential factor shall be the fact those that are directly affected, subject to meeting all the prerequisites for recruitment of the specific job.

3. REGULATORY CONTEXT AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1 Uzbek Legislation Requirement and Legislation

In Uzbekistan, stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements are integrated into the national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, as set out in the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 541 of 7 September 2020 on the Procedure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Mechanism (OVOS). Projects are classified into environmental categories based on their potential environmental impacts, with large-scale Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects classified as Category 1, requiring the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Assessment (PZVOS).

As part of the Category 1 EIA process, a public hearing is mandatory and forms a key component of the environmental clearance process. The public hearing is held in the affected community with participation from local residents, representatives of the relevant Khokimiyat, and the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change. The hearing must be announced sufficiently in advance to enable meaningful stakeholder participation and is conducted as an open-invitation event. During the consultation, information on the Project, its anticipated environmental and social impacts, proposed mitigation measures, environmental and social management plans, and the Project grievance mechanism is disclosed. Stakeholders are also informed of the procedures for accessing Project documentation and submitting comments, questions, and grievances, which are considered as part of the environmental review process prior to the issuance of an environmental permit.

3.2 Lender Environmental and Social (E&S) Requirements

The Project will be seeking financing from International Financing Institutions (IFIs), mainly the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Therefore, the Developer wishes to design and manage the Project in accordance with international E&S standards and requirements identified below.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

AIIB is a multilateral financial institution established to foster sustainable economic development, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia, while promoting regional cooperation through collaboration with other multilateral and bilateral development institutions. Under its Articles of Agreement, AIIB conducts their operations in accordance with policies addressing environmental and social impacts.

AIIB has established an Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) that defines the environmental and social requirements for AIIB-financed projects. The ESF consists of the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), three Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), and an Environmental and Social Exclusion List (ESEL). The ESF replaced the May 2021 version and became effective on 22 November 2022, with a further revised ESF entering into effect on 26 June 2024. The ESP contains the mandatory environmental and social requirements for all projects and is supported by ESSs and the ESEL, which defines activities that AIIB will not finance and that Developers must exclude from the Project.

The three ESSs cover the following areas:

- **ESS 1 Environmental and Social Assessment and Management:** applies to projects that may generate adverse environmental or social risks or impacts and requires Developers to undertake environmental and social assessment proportional to risks and to implement measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, offset or compensate for impacts. ESS 1 is triggered and is considered for the ESIA.
- **ESS 2 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement:** applies where projects may involve Involuntary Resettlement, including physical displacement, economic displacement, and/or restrictions on land use or access, and requires Developers to avoid it where feasible and, when unavoidable, minimize displacement and restore or improve the livelihoods of affected persons through appropriate planning instruments.
- **ESS 3 Indigenous Peoples:** applies when projects may affect Indigenous Peoples as defined under the ESF and requires Developers to prepare and implement measures to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts and enhance benefits, where applicable.

The Project has been categorized by AIIB as Category B under the ESF. This is based on the fact that the anticipated adverse E&S impacts from the Project are limited in number, largely site specific, and mainly reversible, and can be addressed through the management measures identified in the ESIA and the ESMP. It is important to note that the AIIB categorization is separate from the national classification of the Project as Category 1 as discussed in "Section 3.1".

The applicability of each ESS to the Project was screened as part of the ESIA process. ESS 1 is applicable to the Project and is addressed through the ESIA and the ESMP. ESS 2 is not applicable, as the Project is being developed on land provided by the State which is not allocated under lease and where no formal or informal land users were identified, and no physical displacement, economic displacement, loss of access to land or natural resources, livelihood impacts or restrictions on land use affecting third parties are anticipated. ESS 3 is not applicable, as no Indigenous Peoples meeting the definition of ESS 3 have been identified within the Project area of influence.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The purpose of stakeholder identification is to identify and prioritise Project stakeholders for consultation. Stakeholder identification is an ongoing process, and thus key stakeholders will be identified during different stages of the Project. A systematic approach is used to map the stakeholders based on the Project zone of impacts. In this approach, by mapping the zone of social impacts, stakeholders are identified by the impact area.

As a result of the stakeholder mapping, Project stakeholders are categorised into the following main categories:

- People and groups who will be directly or indirectly affected by the Project (such as local communities);
- People and groups who may participate in the implementation of the Project (such as investors and lenders as well as workers);
- People and groups who are not affected by the Project development per se may but have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the Project (such as Ministries or regulatory agencies).

The main groups of stakeholders identified so far are listed in the table below. The list will be updated and modified in the course of the Project development and as a result of cooperation of the parties.

Table 3: Identified Groups of Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Description	Relevance
Stakeholders who may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project		
Local communities which as identified include Muruntau Mahalla		This includes the following groups within the local communities in specific: ▪ <u>Community Members</u>: local community members have a vested interest in the Project due to mainly potential for job opportunities. In addition, local community members could potentially be impacted by Project negative impacts (e.g. noise, dust, etc.). Such impacts are identified and discussed within the ESIA. ▪ <u>Community Leaders</u>: They are socially active individuals and recognised community representatives who are widely known and respected within the local community and who may or may not hold formal government positions. ▪ <u>Business Community (local subcontractors)</u>: such groups have a vested interest in the Project due to potential for procurement opportunities such as subcontracting works (e.g. civil works, provision of food and amenities, etc.)
Stakeholders who may Participate in Implementation of the Project		
Investor / lender	Entities that will provide financing for the Project development.	They have interest in ensuring that the Project is developed and implemented in accordance with their E&S requirements and standards and will monitor the compliance of the Project against such requirements.

Workers	Includes all workforce including but not limited to workers from Developer team, workers from EPC Contractor, Project Operator and any involved subcontractors.	Key areas of interest include labor and working conditions such as contracts, working hours, grievance mechanism, leaves, and other.
Stakeholders who may have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the project and/or may have an interest in the Project		
Government Ministries		
Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	Local government body mandated to implement state laws on environment protection and management and the use of natural resources.	For this Project, this will include review and approval of ESIA, issuance of environmental permit, monitoring implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and compliance with other conditions, as applicable
Ministry of Water Resources	Local government body mandated to protect and manage water resources.	For this Project, this will include ensuring water requirements of the Project do not impact and affect existing water resources.
Ministry of Health	Official governmental entity responsible for setting health policies and legislations as well as ensuring protection of the public.	Has a vested interest in ensuring that community health and safety is maintained for local communities in accordance with public health laws and regulations.
Ministry of Transport	Responsible for the provision and maintenance of transport infrastructure including road networks used to transport personnel and equipment to the Project area.	For this Project the Ministry has interest in ensuring that transportation activities of the project (BESS in particular) are planned and undertaken properly and in compliance with relevant legislations and without impacting existing highways and road networks.
Ministry of Labor	Official governmental entity responsible for setting labor policies and legislations as well as ensuring protection of labor rights and working conditions.	Has a vested interest in ensuring that labor rights and proper working condition are maintained for the Project in accordance with labor laws and regulations.
Ministry of Culture	The ministry is the entity responsible for the preservation and protection of archaeology and cultural heritage.	For this Project, the Ministry has an interest in ensuring that cultural heritage is appropriately managed and protected. The Ministry must also be notified in case of chance finds related to archeology and cultural heritage for implementation of specific requirements.

Ministry of Emergency Situations	The ministry is responsible for preventing and responding to natural disasters, industrial accidents, and other emergencies to protect the population and national infrastructure.	Such entity must be coordinated with and notified of emergency response procedures related to the Project.
Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology	Official governmental body responsible for overall land use planning related to geology exploration, oil and gas exploration activities and other.	For this Project, the Ministry has an interest in ensuring that Project activities do not conflict with existing or planned geological exploration, mining, or mineral resource development activities. Coordination with the Ministry may be required to identify any potential interfaces, constraints, approvals, or other regulatory requirements relevant to the Project area.
Ministry of Digital Technologies	Official governmental body responsible for planning and management of telecommunication, radio/TV and other related elements.	Ministry of Digital Technologies Official governmental body responsible for planning and management of telecommunication, radio/TV and other related elements. Project area could be located within above or underground infrastructure utilities such as underground telecommunication cables.
Cadastral Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Official governmental body responsible for overall land use planning and allocations.	For this Project, the Agency has an interest in confirming land ownership, land use classification, and land allocation status, and in ensuring that the Project does not conflict with existing or planned land uses, land rights, or other cadastral restrictions within the Project area.
JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan (NEGU)	Entity responsible for electricity transmission development projects in the country.	Off-taker and entity that signed the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Company. NEGU has a key interest in the design, construction, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of the grid connection infrastructure and in ensuring the Project is integrated into the national transmission network in accordance with applicable technical and operational requirements NEGU will also be responsible for operating the Project's cable connection to the grid once constructed.
Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan	This is a government agency that works on programs and social issues for youth.	The Agency's specific focus is expected to be the potential for inclusion and engagement of young people to become part of the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project.
State Committee of Family and Women	This is a government entity that works on programs and social issues for women.	The Committee's specific focus is expected to be the potential for inclusion of and engagement of women groups within the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project.
Regional and Local Government Ministries and District Authorities		
Khokimiyat of Zarafshan District	Responsible for acting on behalf of its citizens for the sustainable development of the District.	Specific focus areas are expected to be grievance management, land-related impacts, local employment opportunities, and community development benefits implemented by the Developer.
Khokimiyat of Tomdi District		

Muruntau Mahalla	Responsible for acting on behalf of its citizens for the sustainable development of the Mahalla.	Specific interest areas are expected to include obtaining overall Project updates, grievance management, land-related impacts as well as ensuring benefits to local communities through procurement and employment opportunities as well as social responsibility programs.
NGOs		
Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds	National organization involved in the protection of nature within the Project Area and wider region. This society is the local partner for Birdlife International in Uzbekistan.	Their specific focus is likely to include the potential impacts on biodiversity during construction and operation from the Project.
Association of Persons with Disabilities of Uzbekistan	This is an active NGO for Disabled People that has branches throughout Uzbekistan	Their specific focus is expected to be the potential for disabled people to become part of the workforce as well as other overall development process of the project.
Ne Molchi	NGO that works within the area of women domestic violence.	the organisation may have an interest in the management of potential GBVH and related grievances involving Project workers or community stakeholders.
Relevant health service providers and Civil Defense	Respond to emergency incidents should they occur onsite	They could provide routine health care services to the Project and its workforce (such as routine and non-routine medical examinations, checkups, etc.) or may support emergency response activities (such as workforce occupational accidents).
Academic and Research Institutions		
RES group of Academy of Sciences	Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on environmental protection and management.	Potential interest to obtain information and updates on potential impacts of the Project on key E&S attributes to include biodiversity, archeology and cultural heritage, environment and others.
Research Institute for the Human Science under Academy of Science	Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on archeology and cultural heritage.	
National Institute of Zoology under Academy of Science	Branch under the Academy of science with specific focus on biodiversity.	

Vulnerable Groups

Particular attention is given to the identification of vulnerable groups. These are individuals or groups who, due to their socio-economic characteristics, may experience impacts more severely and/or disproportionately compared to the rest of the community members.

Vulnerable groups are project specific and depend on a range of issues which must be understood such as project location, socio-economic and demographic context, as well as the nature of the development and type of impacts anticipated. Vulnerable groups may be severely affected by the Project by virtue of

their physical disability, social or economic standing, and limited education, lack of employment or access to land.

The key vulnerable groups within the context of the Project and their relevance are summarized in the table below.

The vulnerable groups potentially present within the Project area of influence are identified below, together with the measures adopted to facilitate their meaningful participation in the consultation process. It is important to note that the Mahalla level data relating to the presence and characteristics of such groups within Muruntau Mahalla is presented in the ESIA. However, persons with disabilities identified in the Muruntau Mahalla include pensioners, single elderly persons, families that have lost a breadwinner, and poverty-register households.

Table 4: Vulnerable Groups and Their Relevance

Group	Relevance	Description
Women groups	Could be considered vulnerable as cultural norms could limit their participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project.	Women representatives were engaged as part of the scoping process. Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets women groups.
Disabled groups	Could be considered vulnerable groups mainly due to physical disability which could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project.	Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets disabled group representatives. SEP will emphasize on venue accessibility as applicable.
Ethnic Minorities	Are defined as groups within a community which have different national or cultural traditions from the main population which could include language, religion, tribe, nationality, race or a combination thereof. Such groups are considered vulnerable as they could have difficulties in accessing social protection benefits as well as social development opportunities (e.g. employment) usually as a result of discrimination, economic and social disadvantage and other. Uzbeks make up the vast majority of the country's population (86.2%), with other communities such Tajiks, Kazakhs, Russians, Karakalpak, and Tatars making up the remaining 16.2%. Approximately 85% of the population is native Uzbek speakers, and the language is recognized as the sole official language. In addition, Russian is widely used in governmental and interethnic communication. Tajik, Kazakh, Tatar, and Kyrgyz are only some of the various ethnic languages spoken there. The majority of the population (about 88%) is Muslim, with the vast majority identifying as Sunni. There are 9% Eastern Orthodox Christians and 3% adherents to other faiths in the country. <u>Karakalpak</u> are a Turkic ethnic group who live mostly in Karakalpakstan. They bring a distinct cultural identity, including their own language, to Uzbekistan's already varied population. Karakalpak are not the only people who call the autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan home; various other ethnic groups also call it their home. Despite being the majority ethnic group in Uzbekistan, Uzbeks are a sizable minority in Karakalpakstan, largely residing in cities. <u>Kazakhs</u> are a sizable minority among Uzbeks. They have deep cultural and historical ties to Kazakhstan, with whom they share a same language and bordering provinces like Tashkent and Surkhandarya.	

	<u>Russians</u> are the largest Slavic ethnic group in Uzbekistan and have been present the longest. Tashkent, the country's capital and a major center of Russian influence, is home to a sizable population of Russian speakers. <u>Tajiks</u> represent Uzbekistan's second largest ethnic group. They are predominantly located around the borders, particularly in the provinces of Surkhondaryo and Samarkand. The Tajik people have their own unique language and customs. <u>Kyrgyz</u> people in Uzbekistan are primarily concentrated in areas bordering Kyrgyzstan, such as the Fergana Valley. They have maintained their Kyrgyz cultural identity and language. Kyrgyz in Uzbekistan engage in various economic activities, including agriculture, livestock breeding, and handicrafts. Note based on information obtained through Focus Groups Discussions (FGD) with local communities, the majority of the community are primarily Uzbek with a small population of Russians, as well as Kazakh and Karakalpaks. However, all of these groups are part of the community since the Soviet Union era and are well integrated into society and are not subject to any discrimination or economic/social disadvantage. As such these will not be considered as vulnerable groups.	
People living in poverty / underprivileged communities	Could be considered vulnerable as their status could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project.	It was ensured that all consultation and engagement activities undertaken as part of the scoping process provided stakeholder materials free of charge (e.g. venue, handouts, etc.). Similarly, the stakeholder engagement strategy within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) emphasizes such a requirement as well.
The Aged	Could be considered vulnerable by limitations of access to participate in the Project related community decision-making process.	Practical logistical support will be provided to assist aged participants or their representatives to enable them to attend the disclosure process.
		Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets the elder representatives.
The Youth	Could be considered vulnerable due to their young adult, unmarried, non-asset owning status, yet likely to be savvier in 21st century technology than their elders, but may be unable to contribute in Project related community decision-making process, which will affect their generation more than most.	Youth representatives were engaged as part of the scoping process.
		Stakeholder engagement strategy and plan within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) targets youth groups.
Language	Specific groups within local communities might have different languages. This could limit their access to information on the Project as well as participation in the decision-making process in general that is related to the Project.	All consultation and engagement activities undertaken as part of the ESIA or to be identified within the SEP (including materials and presentations) were/are undertaken in accordance with the key languages of the local communities (i.e. Uzbek and Russian as applicable).

5. SUMMARY OF PAST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

This section summarizes the stakeholder engagement activities undertaken to date for the Project, primarily as part of the ESIA process. It outlines the stakeholder groups engaged, the date of engagement, and the main objectives and outcomes of each interaction.

The objectives of these consultations were to:

- Introduce the Project (rationale, objective, location, key components, etc.)
- Explain and discuss overall methodology for ESIA study
- Explain and discuss key anticipated impacts as relevant
- Identify and determine additional requirements or key issues of concern to be taken into account for the ESIA study.

Throughout the consultations a handout was prepared and distributed to such stakeholder groups with key information to include but not limited to rationale for project, project location and setting, key components and activities of the Project and other as applicable.

5.1 Targeted Consultations

The table below presents a summary for the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations undertaken.

Table 5: Summary of Stakeholder Consultations

Entity	Date	Key Outcomes
National Governmental Entities in Uzbekistan		
State Environmental Expertise Centre – National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change	02 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. ▪ The Center confirmed that planned or ongoing economic and other activities are subject to State Environmental Expertise Centre to assess potential impacts on the environment and public health, confirm compliance with environmental requirements, and determine the feasibility of Project implementation. ▪ The Center stated that Environmental Expertise is undertaken in accordance with the following: - Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Expertise, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment”, - Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 14 dated 21 January 2014, and - Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 541 dated 7 September 2020. ▪ The Center indicated that, based on the proposed Project's capacity, the Project falls under Category 1 of environmental impact, Item 32 (activities involving thermal, photovoltaic, wind power plants and other combustion installations with a capacity of 300 MW or more), and therefore requires a comprehensive Environmental Assessment to be reviewed by the Center.

		▪ The Center emphasized that implementation of the Project without obtaining a positive State Environmental Expertise conclusion is prohibited under national legislation, including: - Article 22 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Expertise, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment” and - Article 25 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Nature Protection”. ▪ Sanitary protection zones shall be established in accordance with the requirements of Resolution No. 24 (15 August 2025) of the Committee for Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SanPiN No. 0103-25). ▪ The Center noted that open water bodies are considered protected areas in general and are subject to water protection requirements in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 981 dated 11 December 2019. ▪ The project proponent is required to prepare a "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" for the construction of the Project and submit it through the electronic platform as follows: eco-service.uz, following which the project documentation will be reviewed, and the relevant Centre’s conclusion will be issued.
Navoi Regional Department of Emergency Situations – Ministry of Emergency Situations	26 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. ▪ The Department stated that the Project area is located within a predominantly desert area. Based on the information available to the Ministry, no forest fires or other major fire incidents have been recorded in the vicinity of the Project area. ▪ For past natural hazards, the Department did not provide information on flood pathways, historical flood events, mudflows, droughts, or other hydrometeorological hazards, however, information can be obtained from the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzhydromet. ▪ The nearest rescue unit to the proposed Project site is located in the centre of Zarafshan City, at an approximate distance of 65 km from the Project area. As there are no paved roads beyond approximately the first 50 km of this route, access of rescue vehicles to the specified Project coordinates is limited. ▪ Due to the remote location of the Project, the Department recommended considering the establishment of appropriate emergency response and firefighting capacity at the Project site. ▪ The Department advised that the need for a dedicated fire and rescue station should be assessed in accordance with Clause 64 of SHNQ 2.09.17-21 "Design of Master Plans for Industrial Enterprises". ▪ For information on the nearest law enforcement agencies and police units serving the Project area, the Department recommended that the Project should contact the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its relevant territorial divisions. ▪ The Department indicated that, as the BESS comprises various buildings and structures, the following regulatory requirements and standards must be taken into account during the design process, including but not limited to:

		- SHNQ 2.09.17-21 “Fire Safety of Buildings and Structures” - SHNQ 2.09.17-21 “Design of General Plans for Industrial Enterprises” - SHNQ 2.09.02-23 “Production and Administrative Buildings and Structures of Enterprises – Design Requirements” - SHNQ 2.04.09-21 “Fire Automation Systems for Buildings and Structures” - SHNQ 2.04.02-19 “Water Supply – External Networks” - SHNQ 2.04.01-22 “Internal Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal Systems of Buildings” - “Rules for Electrical Installations” - Other applicable national norms and regulations.
Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology	25 May 2026	■ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ■ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts ■ The Ministry confirmed that there are no existing facilities belonging to the Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology within the Project area, and no such facilities are planned. ■ It was further clarified that gas infrastructure does not fall within the authority or jurisdiction of the Ministry. ■ The Ministry noted that “Navoi Uran,” a state organization engaged in uranium mining, is located in close proximity, however, outside the Project site. It was stated that a joint working group be established, potentially including ecology and engineering specialists from the Developer, to assess any potential interfaces or constraints. To do that, an official request should come from the Developer and the Ministry of Energy. ■ An official response regarding ongoing and/or planned mining activities within the Project area is pending.
Uztelecom Joint Stock Company, Western Regional Branch – Ministry of Digital Technologies	29 April 2026	■ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ■ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts ■ The Ministry confirmed that optical fiber communication cables belonging to “Uzbektelecom” Western Branch of Joint Stock Company (JSC) and “IST Telecom” LLC are located within the general Project area; however, it was confirmed that the cables are located outside the Project site. Exact locations and maps cannot be disclosed at this stage due to security concerns, and a specialist will be present on site once construction commences. ■ The Ministry stated that relevant Uzbektelecom representatives must be notified prior to commencement of works, and construction activities should be carried out under their supervision. Before excavation works begin, responsible specialists should identify the exact alignment and depth of the communication lines on site. ■ Construction and excavation works within the Project area must comply with the “Rules for the Protection of Telecommunication Lines and Facilities” approved under Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 210 (15 May 1998), including adherence to all applicable telecommunication

		infrastructure protection zone requirements during construction and earthworks activities. ▪ A 2 m protection corridor on each side of underground communication cables and overhead communication lines must be maintained. ▪ If relocation of communication lines becomes necessary, the Project should submit a formal written request to Uzbektelecom in accordance with national legislation Part 9 of Article 21 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Telecommunications". All relocation costs must be fully covered by the Project as the initiating party. ▪ Project design documentation should be prepared based on the issued technical conditions and coordinated with Uzbektelecom. Additional technical conditions may be required for any works conducted within the communication line protection zone. The technical conditions are valid for one year from the date of issuance and do not constitute authorization to commence construction or operation activities. ▪ Soil compaction and additional stabilization measures near communication routes are recommended during excavation works. ▪ Any damage caused to telecommunication infrastructure during Project implementation must be fully compensated by the Project or organization carrying out the works. ▪ For additional information and technical requirements, it is necessary to contact JSC "Uzbektelecom" and LLC "IST Telecom" in accordance with the established procedure.
Ministry of Culture	04 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The Ministry confirmed that matters related to material cultural heritage objects fall within the principal areas of activity of the Agency of Cultural Heritage, in accordance with the following: - Presidential Decree No. PF-269 of 21 December 2022 "On Measures for the Implementation of Administrative Reforms in New Uzbekistan"; and - Presidential Resolution No. PQ-177 of 1 June 2023 "On Measures to Ensure Effective Organization of Public Administration in the Field of Cultural Heritage within the Framework of Administrative Reforms". ▪ The Ministry directed the E&S Team to contact the Agency of Cultural Heritage directly for information relevant to other relevant development projects.
Agency of Cultural Heritage	24 April 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The authority stated that no existing secondary information relating to archaeological sites or cultural heritage objects are available for the Project area. ▪ However, the authority confirmed that no tangible cultural heritage objects were identified within the Project area. In addition, no cultural heritage sites or protected cultural heritage objects were identified within the Project site or within a 5 km radius. ▪ The authority indicated that no specific cultural heritage risks were identified based on the reviewed Project location information. ▪ The authority did not specify any requirement for additional cultural heritage surveys within the Project area.

Institute of Anthropology (National Archaeological Centre) – Academy of Sciences	13 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The Institute stated that the Project area is located within the Central Kyzylkum mining region and the foothills of the Tomditov and Muruntau Mountains, an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive and where archaeological research has historically been conducted. ▪ Archaeological and ethnographic research has been undertaken in the wider area since 1937, with previous studies identifying archaeological remains associated with the Neolithic period, generally classified as sites belonging to the Kaltaminar Culture. ▪ The Institute confirmed that no officially registered archaeological or cultural heritage sites have been identified within the Project area or within a 5 km radius. However, the Institute emphasized that this does not exclude the possibility of previously unidentified archaeological or cultural heritage remains being present within the Project area. ▪ The Institute noted that several small mountain massifs located within the wider area of the planned Project site, which may contain archaeological remains dating from the Stone Age through to the Late Middle Ages, although this would require confirmation through field investigations. ▪ The Institute advised that archaeological reconnaissance and survey works should be undertaken prior to Project implementation and in coordination with the Institute. Such investigations should be carried out by qualified specialists to determine whether any archaeological or cultural heritage objects are present within the Project footprint. ▪ The Institute indicated that there are no previous or ongoing archaeological or cultural heritage surveys currently being undertaken within or near the Project area. ▪ If cultural heritage assets or archaeological remains are identified during the survey, further investigations may be required. ▪ The Institute stated that there is a potential risk that previously unidentified archaeological or cultural heritage remains could be disturbed during site preparation and construction activities, particularly in the absence of prior archaeological field investigations. It is important to note that an archaeological field survey was undertaken in June 2026 by archaeology and cultural heritage specialists in collaboration with the Institute of Anthropology, covering the full Project where no archaeological or cultural heritage objects were identified.
Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Committee – Ministry of Health	25 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The Project description, location, land area, coordinates, main components, and anticipated design, construction, and operation activities were presented to the Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Committee under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Project maps and a handout were also provided for reference. ▪ The Committee confirmed that it has no objection to the development and implementation of the Project, provided that the Project complies with the requirements of Sanitary Rules, Norms and Hygienic Standards SanQvaN No. 0103-25 “Sanitary Rules, Norms and Hygienic Standards for Sanitary Protection Zones”, as well as other applicable sanitary, hygienic, and occupational health and safety requirements during the design, construction, and operation phases.

		▪ The Committee stated that the sanitary protection zone for the Project should be determined based on the distance between the BESS equipment and the nearest residential building, in accordance with the requirements of SanQvaN No. 0103-25. The Committee noted that compliance with the applicable sanitary protection zone requirements should be demonstrated during Project design and implementation. ▪ The Committee identified the following electromagnetic field limits as applicable to the Project during design and implementation: - Electric field strength inside residential buildings must not exceed 0.5 kV/m; - Electric field strength within residential areas must not exceed 1 kV/m; - Electric field strength at road crossings must not exceed 10 kV/m; - Electric field strength in non-residential areas must not exceed 20 kV/m; and - Magnetic field strength must not exceed 80 A/m, equivalent to 100 μT. ▪ The Committee emphasized the importance of occupational health and safety management during both construction and operation. In particular, the Committee stated that workplace attestation should be undertaken in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 263 dated 15 September 2014 “On Further Improvement of Occupational Health and Safety Measures”. ▪ The Committee stated that workplace attestation should assess working conditions, the severity and intensity of work processes, occupational injury risks associated with equipment and machinery, exposure to harmful and hazardous production factors, and occupational health risks to workers. ▪ The Committee advised that the results of workplace attestation should be used to inform employees of workplace conditions, identify potential adverse health risks, implement measures to protect workers from harmful and/or hazardous production factors, conduct occupational risk assessments, and provide employees with appropriate personal and collective protective equipment. ▪ The Committee further noted that workplace attestation results should be used to support the identification of occupational diseases where occupational illness is suspected, and to ensure that sanitary, welfare, and medical support is provided to employees in accordance with applicable occupational health and safety requirements, rules, regulations, and instructions.
Cadastre Agency – National Committee for Sustainable Development of Urbanization and the Housing Market	28 April 2026	▪ The Project description, location, coordinates, land area, and main components, including underground transmission line elements where relevant, were presented to the Zarafshan City Branch of the State Cadastres Chamber under the Cadaster Agency. Project maps and a handout were provided to support the discussion. ▪ The authority confirmed that the Project area is located within the territory of the Tomdibuloq Rural Citizens’ Assembly, also referred to as Ovul Fuqarolar Yig’ini, in Tomdi District, Navoi Region. The nearest local community to the Project area was identified as Muruntau Mahalla Citizens’ Assembly, also located in Tomdi District. ▪ The authority confirmed that the land within the Project area is under the administration of the State Institution “Navoi Regional Pasture Management Administration under the Committee for Veterinary and Livestock Development”. ▪ The authority indicated that the land within the Project area is formally designated as pasture land and is used for livestock grazing purposes.

		- However, it was also noted that an official response from the Pasture Management Administration confirmed that the designated pasture land within the Project area is not currently allocated under lease for livestock grazing or any other use. - The authority confirmed that land plots located within a 5 km radius of the Project area include lands belonging to Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company, Diamond House Farm Enterprise, and the Navoi Regional Pasture Management Administration. This information is relevant to the identification of nearby land users and the planning of the Project's socioeconomic baseline surveys. - The authority indicated that information on existing landowners, land users, and any private or communal land uses within or near the Project area should be further confirmed with the Navoi Pasture Management Administration, as the competent entity responsible for the pasture land. - The authority confirmed that there are no existing or historical land disputes or conflicts associated with the Project area. - The authority did not identify any additional issues of concern or additional requirements to be considered at this stage.
Navoi Regional Pasture Management Administration – Committee for Veterinary and Livestock Development	05 May 2026 20 May 2026	- The Administration confirmed that the pastureland plots within the Project area belong to the State Institution Navoi Regional Pasture Management Administration pursuant to Presidential Decree No. PF-15 (30 January 2025) "On Measures for Introducing Modern Mechanisms for the Protection, Efficient and Rational Use of Pastures". - The Administration confirmed that the identified pastureland plots have not been allocated for lease for livestock farming or any other purposes. - The Administration confirmed that there are no existing land users within the Project area. - In addition, the Administration confirmed that it has no objection on the return of the land plots to the national reserve land fund of the relevant district Khokimiyat and to the change of land category.
Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment – Navoi Regional Department of Poverty Reduction and Employment	1 May 2026	- The Project description, location, coordinates, land area, and main components, including underground transmission line elements where relevant, were presented to the Navoi Regional Department of Poverty Reduction and Employment. Project maps and a handout were provided to support the discussion. - The ESIA methodology was presented to the Department, including the proposed approach for assessing labor and working condition risks during the construction and operation phases. The E&S Team explained that the assessment will consider occupational health and safety risks to workers, labor rights risks, working conditions, and worker welfare facilities. - The Department emphasized the importance of ensuring compliance with occupational health and safety requirements during both the construction and operation phases of the Project. Particular attention should be given to labor protection, safe working conditions, electrical safety, construction safety, and protection of workers' rights in accordance with national legislation. - The Department highlighted the importance of assessing and managing labor-related risks, including labor exploitation, discrimination, excessive working hours, inadequate compensation or leave arrangements, child labor, forced labor, confiscation of passports or personal documents, and inadequate worker welfare conditions. - The Department noted that the Project should ensure adequate labor facilities and welfare provisions for workers, including accommodation where relevant, sanitary facilities, access to drinking water, changing

		rooms, and other facilities required under applicable occupational health and safety and labor requirements. ▪ The Department identified the following national legal and regulatory requirements as applicable to occupational health and safety: - Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chapter 20, Occupational Health and Safety; - Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. ORQ-410 dated 22 September 2016 “On Occupational Health and Safety”; - Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 819 dated 24 December 2025 “On Approval of Certain Regulations in the Field of Occupational Health and Safety”; - Rules of the State Agency for Supervision in the Electric Power Sector No. 374 dated 29 November 2001 “Rules for the Application and Testing of Protective Equipment Used in Electrical Installations”; - Order of the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Uzbekistan, registered on 7 June 2013 under No. 2466, “On Approval of Occupational Health and Safety Rules for Working with, Repairing and Servicing Electrical Appliances and Office Equipment”; - SHNQ 3.01.02-23 “Safety in Construction”, registered by the Ministry of Justice on 14 December 2023 under registration No. 222; and - SHNQ 2.09.02-23 “Production and Administrative Buildings and Structures of Enterprises, Design Requirements”, registered by the Ministry of Justice on 2 October 2024 under registration No. 301. ▪ The Department emphasized that, where third-party contractors are engaged during construction, occupational health and safety requirements should be clearly defined and incorporated into the relevant contractor arrangements, including Permit to Work procedures where applicable. The Department also advised that responsibilities between the Project Company, client, and contractor should be clearly defined, including responsibility for implementation, supervision, and compliance with occupational health and safety requirements during construction. ▪ The Department confirmed its readiness to cooperate and provide further explanations and recommendations regarding any additional normative legal documents related to occupational health and safety, where required.
Navoi Regional Main Department of Roads – Committee for Roads – Ministry of Transport	28 April 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Department, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. ▪ The Department indicated that Highway A379 “Navoi – Uchquduq”, passing through the Project area, has an average daily traffic volume of around 10,000 to 15,000 vehicles along the 0–200 km section. The Department also noted that this section includes a total of eight (8) road structures, comprising seven (7) bridge structures and one (1) overpass, and that the average axle load is 10 tonnes. ▪ The Department stated that, in accordance with Clause 18 of SHNQ 2.05.02-23, buildings and structures located along public international and national roads shall be designed at a distance of not less than 57.5 m from the road centreline. ▪ The Department noted that, should access to the Project sites be required, the Project contractor may construct new access roads intersecting with

		or connecting to the public road network. Such roads should comply with the requirements of Chapter 7 of SHNQ 2.05.02-23, including Clauses 150, 152, and other relevant provisions. ▪ The Department further stated that any new access roads should be equipped with the appropriate road signs and supported by approved design and cost-estimate documentation. ▪ The Department stated that, pursuant to the Rules for Ensuring Traffic Safety during the Transportation of Oversized and Heavy Loads by Road Transport, approved under Annex 2 to Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 342 dated 26 December 2011 “On Measures to Ensure and Organise Road Safety on the Roads of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, standards have been established regarding the weight and dimensional parameters of vehicles operating on public roads. ▪ The Department explained that where any weight or dimensional parameter of a vehicle exceeds the established limits, whether loaded or unloaded, the vehicle shall be classified as oversized and/or heavy. ▪ The Department confirmed that transportation of oversized and/or heavy cargo by road may only be carried out under a special permit and only in cases where the cargo cannot be divided into smaller parts and transported by other means. ▪ The Department confirmed that where a special permit is required, the application shall be submitted online through the electronic licensing system in accordance with Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 86 dated 22 February 2022 “On Approval of the Unified Regulation on Procedures for Issuing Certain Permitting Documents through a Special Electronic System”, through https://license.gov.uz.
Khokimiyat of Tomdi District – Navoi Region	12 May 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The Khokimiyat confirmed that the Project site is located within Tomdi District, Navoi Region. ▪ The Khokimiyat confirmed its readiness to provide practical cooperation and support during the implementation of the Project, including assistance regarding additional information on the Project area, location maps, and engagement with local communities. ▪ The Khokimiyat recognized that implementation of the Project will play an important role in the development of renewable energy sources within the district, the establishment of modern energy infrastructure, the creation of new employment opportunities, and the enhancement of the district's investment attractiveness. ▪ The nearest settlement to the Project site was identified as the Muruntau Community area. The Khokimiyat recommended coordinating future stakeholder engagement activities with the Muruntau Community administration, which was done by the E&S Team as presented in Section 5.2 below. Regarding local labor availability, recruitment of unemployed residents and finding suitable candidates, the Khokimiyat recommended coordination with Tomdi District Department of Poverty Reduction and Employment. ▪ It is anticipated that the construction phase of the Project will create temporary employment and procurement opportunities for local businesses, with additional permanent employment opportunities expected during the operational phase. ▪ The Khokimiyat recommended organizing regular public consultations, meetings, and awareness sessions with local communities and

		stakeholders, and advised that Project updates, documentation, consultation processes, and announcements should be communicated through: - Mahalla Citizens' Assembly offices - Official information channels and social media platforms of the District Khokimiyat - Public meetings and roundtable discussions. ■ The Khokimiyat also recommended maintaining regular dialogue with local activists, entrepreneurs, livestock breeders, and land users throughout the Project lifecycle. ■ To ensure participation during scoping and disclosure sessions, the Khokimiyat recommended organizing open public consultations, roundtable discussions, and information meetings within Mahallas and coordination with local authorities and representatives of Mahallas, ecology, cadaster, youth, and women's groups, including the following institutions: - Tomdi District Khokimiyat - Rural Citizens' Assemblies (OFYs) - District Ecology Department - District Construction and Cadastre Departments - Department for Veterinary and Livestock Development - Youth Affairs Agency and Women's Representatives. ■ The Khokimiyat recommended that employment vacancies and procurement opportunities be announced through Mahallas, local authorities, official information channels, social media platforms, and employment departments (Department for Poverty Reduction and Employment) and that priority will be given to local residents, particularly youth, women, and unemployed citizens. ■ The Khokimiyat noted that the Project land belongs to the Navoi Region Pasture Management Department and is classified as pastureland. ■ The Khokimiyat emphasized on compliance with land, environmental, and urban planning legislation. ■ They expressed readiness to support stakeholder engagement activities and coordination of meetings with relevant stakeholders, including online meetings via the Zoom platform. ■ Two requests were raised as follows: - Whether the investment Project could be registered within Tomdi District so that it may be considered a local project and relevant taxes would contribute to the Tomdi District budget. Information regarding regional tax benefits was provided accordingly. - Whether a specialist could be assigned to support the land acquisition process.
Lower Zarafshan Irrigation Systems Basin Administration – Ministry of Water Resources		■ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ■ The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. ■ The Ministry confirmed that there are no rivers, canals, or other water management facilities under the jurisdiction of the water authorities within the Project area. ■ The Ministry further confirmed that there are no existing or planned water management facilities, canals, or related infrastructure within the Project area or within a 5 km radius of the site. The local ecologist additionally

		confirmed that there are no wastewater pipelines within the Project area or the surrounding 5 km radius. - It was noted that Zarafshan is characterized as a desert-like city and is primarily an industrial area. The main water supplier to Zarafshan is Vodovod, which sources water from the Amu Darya River and subsequently distributes water to the mining site and the local water utility entity. - The Ministry noted that the general Tomdi District is specialized in livestock farming and that agricultural crop production is not possible within the district. - The local water utility confirmed that no water supply facilities are located within the Project site area, as the site is situated away from Zarafshan City and the utility infrastructure is concentrated within the city and nearby populated areas.
Family and Women's Affairs Department – Tomdi Khokimiyat	28 April 2026	- The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. - The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. - The Department advised that communication of Project-related updates, disclosure materials, and other relevant information to women's groups can be coordinated directly through the Deputy Khokim, who also serves as the Head of the Family and Women's Affairs Department. - To ensure women's participation in scoping and disclosure sessions and in employment and procurement opportunities, coordination should be undertaken through the Deputy Khokim, Head of the Family and Women's Affairs Department. - No additional issues of concern or additional requirements were identified.
Academic and Research Institutions		
Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences	17 June 2026	- The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. - The ESIA methodology was presented to the Ministry, including the proposed approach for assessing key environmental and social risks and impacts. - The Zoology Institute confirmed that it has no objection to the implementation of the planned BESS Project. - The Institute noted that, if scientific studies related to fauna and fauna protection are considered necessary during Project implementation, the Institute has the scientific capacity to cooperate on such studies.
Other Stakeholders		
Muruntau 500/220 kV Substation, Technical water supply pipeline	14 May 2026	- The authority confirmed that the water pipeline running through the Project Site is operational and belongs to the Muruntau 500/200 kV Substation. It currently functions as an active technical water supply pipeline serving the substation. - Regarding any applicable buffer or setback requirements associated with the pipeline, the substation technical staff indicated that they were unable to provide this information and recommended consulting the Design Institute responsible for the original design or the third-party contractor involved in the Project development.

		The authority confirmed that there are no additional pipelines within the Project site.
Existing Water Pipeline Contractor and Design Institute	04 June 2026	- The third-party contractor responsible for the construction of the water pipeline was contacted to obtain information on the pipeline alignment, technical details, and any applicable buffer requirements. The contractor referred the E&S Team to the Design Institute that prepared the original design for the pipeline. - Following consultation with the Design Institute, it was confirmed that an as-built survey has not been undertaken for the water pipeline. As such, the actual post-construction coordinates, alignment, and dimensions of the pipeline could not be confirmed against the original design information. - The consulted parties did not provide any specific buffer or setback requirements for the water pipeline. In the absence of confirmed as-built information and defined buffer requirements, the actual location, technical details, and applicable protection requirements for the water pipeline remain unverified. - An as-built survey may therefore be required to confirm the pipeline alignment and avoid potential conflicts with Project design or construction activities.
Central Mining Administration of Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company (NMMC) JSC	15 May 2026	- The Administration confirmed that there are no planned mining projects within the immediate Project area. It was noted that the area was previously visited and reviewed in 2024. It was noted that Navoi Uran previously conducted uranium mining activities approximately 2 km from the Project site. - The Administration indicated that the NMMC Plant No. 7 facility is located approximately 2 km from the Project site, while the nearest quarry is located approximately 5 km away. - The Administration confirmed that the Project area is located within a desert zone with very limited vegetation cover, and that no protected areas, restricted zones, or specific land use constraints were identified within the Project area. - No specific geotechnical constraints, groundwater issues, or unsuitable construction conditions were identified. - The Administration stated that blasting activities are conducted approximately 2-3 times per week at the quarry site. However, due to the distance of approximately 5 km between the quarry and the Project area, blasting vibrations are not expected to affect the Project site. It was also noted that vibrations do not reach NMMC's nearby Plant No. 7, which is located closer to the quarry. - Dust emissions generated by heavy machinery and mining activities were identified as the primary environmental impact associated with quarry operations. - The Administration confirmed that the proposed BESS Project is located outside the risk zone associated with nearby mining operations. It is sufficiently far from the mine/quarry operations and is not expected to affect existing mining activities. - The Administration confirmed that the UZtelecom recently installed telecommunication lines in the nearby area, while no NMMC water pipelines are located within the Project area. It was also noted that an NMMC electrical transmission line may be present on the opposite side of the road from the proposed Project site. No specific road use restrictions or infrastructure constraints affecting the Project were identified.

		▪ The main water supplier to Zarafshan is Vodovod. Drilling a dedicated groundwater well for the Project may be more cost-effective than connecting to the existing water supply network, although connection to existing infrastructure may be possible subject to management approval and contractual arrangements. ▪ Wastewater from operations is conveyed through existing pipelines to a wastewater storage/disposal facility located approximately 35 km away. Potential connection to this system may be possible subject to approval. In case the Project generates domestic waste due to onsite personnel, a contract can be concluded with an authorized waste collection company for regular waste removal. ▪ Air quality and noise monitoring is conducted on a weekly and monthly basis in the mining facility, and monitoring results are regularly submitted to the regional environmental authorities and the nearby Muruntau settlement. The primary source of air emissions associated with mining activities is dust generated from quarry operations, blasting activities, and heavy machinery. ▪ The Administration stated readiness to assist the Project by providing updated environmental monitoring analyses upon request and confirmed willingness to support the E&S Team on environmental matters.
Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds	14 July 2026	▪ The Project description and ESIA methodology was presented, including its components, location and anticipated construction and operation activities. ▪ The Society confirmed that the construction of the BESS facility will not result in significant changes to the landscape and natural conditions of the Project area. ▪ The Society noted a number of potential indirect impacts associated with the Project. This includes that the energy storage system may become a source of light during night-time hours and attract insects, and consequently bats and nocturnal insectivorous birds. In addition, glazed surfaces, where provided, may pose a risk of bird collision where windows are illuminated or where glass reflects the surrounding landscape. ▪ Finally, the Society advised that particular attention should be given to the management of food waste and to avoiding open areas of technical or domestic water in the vicinity of construction camps, as these may attract various animal species to the Project site and create additional risks for them.

5.2 Focus Group Discussions

Two (2) FGDs were undertaken as part of the stakeholder engagement process. One (1) FGD was held with the Muruntau Community, refer to “Section 2.2” and Figure 9, and one (1) FGD was conducted with representatives of the Tomdi Khokimiyat and the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company (NMMC).

The FGD with the Muruntau Community was an open invitation session that was announced to local communities through Telegram Channels at least five (5) days in advance of the session.

In addition, key invitations were sent to the following groups in particular:

- Mahalla Committee including Mahalla Chair (for details on setup of the Mahallas please refer to “Section 2.2” earlier)
- Women that include women group representatives.
- Educational workforce (teachers in schools and school principals).

At the beginning of the session, a presentation on the Project was first provided along with a handout on the following key topics.

- Description of the Project location along with maps;
- Description of key Project components along with figures and illustrations;
- Description of the key activities anticipated in each key phase of the Project (planning, construction and operation)
- Description of ESIA study and its key components and requirements;
- Explanation of key anticipated E&S impact under each phase of the Project; and
- Explanation of the methodology and scope of work that will be undertaken for the ESIA.

Upon completion of the above informative session, each group was separated for general discussions as well as discussion on any comments or key issues of concern on the overall Project and/or the ESIA process in particular. Key discussions were undertaken in relation to the following key aspects:

- Economic activities and livelihood strategies
- Community quality of life
- Perceptions towards the Project

The presentation and handouts were provided in Uzbek language, while the delivery of the presentation was in Uzbek and Russian language depending on the audience.

Annex I present the handout and presentation that was provided during each of these FGDs as well as the forms used throughout the FGD.

The table below presents an overall summary of the outcomes of these FGDs for each community.

Table 6: Key Outcomes of FGDs

Community	Date	Key Outcomes
Muruntau Community	27 April 2026	▪ The community raised questions regarding employment opportunities for local residents. It was explained that the construction company plans to recruit temporary workers from nearby settlements during the construction phase, and information regarding employment opportunities will be shared through the Mahalla Chairperson once the Project starts. Additionally, the Mahalla Chairperson requested that the Developer give priority to local residents when hiring workers during the construction phase. ▪ Community members inquired about accommodation arrangements for workers. It was clarified that labour camps will be established during the construction phase for foreign workers, and transportation may be arranged for commuting workers. ▪ A question was raised regarding fire safety risks associated with the battery storage system. It was explained that detailed assessments have been

		conducted and recommendations obtained from the Ministry of Emergency Situations, including requirements for firefighting arrangements and emergency response. Community members commented that firefighting support may potentially be assigned to the nearby gold mining site firefighting facility. ▪ A concern was raised regarding the potential risk of explosion associated with the facility. It was clarified that the technology has undergone international testing and that appropriate preventive and mitigation measures have been implemented for emergency situations. ▪ Community members asked about the future disposal of batteries. It was explained that the batteries have an estimated lifecycle of approximately 15 years, after which disposal or recycling arrangements will be developed, through a dedicated recycling facility. ▪ A question was raised regarding potential impacts of the Project on the surrounding community. It was clarified that the facility is not expected to generate significant negative impacts on the community and that the facility will be used to store electricity and does not emit radiation, dust nor noise. ▪ Community members asked whether the facility is intended to support the Zarafshan wind turbines. It was clarified that the technology be connected to the “Muruntau 500 MW” substation to support the national grid. ▪ A question was raised regarding the cooling system of the battery storage facility. It was explained that the BESS includes a built-in cooling system, in addition to liquid cooling systems installed around the battery containers. ▪ Community members asked about the anticipated construction schedule. It was explained that construction is planned to start towards the end of the year. Community members noted that winter conditions in the area can be harsh and suggested that construction activities would be more suitable during the summer or autumn periods. ▪ Questions were raised regarding whether the electricity stored within the BESS would be sold. It was clarified that the electricity will only be stored temporarily and then returned to the substation, functioning similarly to a power bank. ▪ Community members requested additional information materials and communication channels to better understand the Project. It was confirmed that Project handouts, presentations, brochures, and other relevant materials would be shared through the Muruntau Community Telegram group. ▪ A separate conversation was held with women attendees regarding potential opportunities such as education support and employment. One woman specifically mentioned she attended to inquire about job opportunities for herself and her family members. ▪ Project consultation materials, including the Project Information Brochure and a hard-copy map showing the Project location, were provided to the Mahalla Chairperson and displayed inside the Mahalla administration building for public access.
Tomdi Khokimiyat and the Navoi Mining and Metallurgica - Company (NMMC)	30 April 2026	▪ Questions were raised by NMMC whether any market research had been conducted for the Project, whether there is sufficient demand and if customers had been identified. It was clarified that the BESS Project is not intended for commercial electricity sales. The system will primarily support the Muruntau Substation and the connected electricity network and that the Project does not depend on identifying customers or selling electricity in the market. ▪ Questions were raised by NMMC whether the stored electricity would only be used during emergency situations or if it would also improve the reliability

		of the electricity network. It was explained that the Project will support overall grid stability and reliability and that the system will benefit all users connected to the Muruntau Substation and the national grid. - Questions were raised by NMMC regarding the expected lifespan of the batteries, their replacement and disposal, and potential environmental impacts. It was explained that the Project will use lithium-ion batteries installed within dedicated containers equipped with individual cooling systems and fire safety measures. The batteries are expected to operate for approximately 15 years, after which they will be replaced or decommissioned. It was clarified that there are currently no operating large-scale lithium-ion battery recycling facilities in Uzbekistan; therefore, used batteries are expected to be transported to specialized recycling facilities, including facilities located in Kazakhstan. It was further explained that the safety of the BESS technology has been assessed by the Developer and relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and that the container layout has been designed to minimize the spread of potential incidents between containers. - Concerns were raised by NMMC raised regarding water availability for the Project, particularly in light of NMMC's planned expansion of its gold production operations and the associated increase in water demand in the area. It was explained that water demand during Project operation is expected to be minimal, with water primarily used for cooling and safety systems. - Representative of the Tomdi District Khokimiyat raised questions regarding the potential economic benefits of the Project for the district and requested that the Project company consider registering its legal address in Tomdi District. It was explained that decisions regarding the legal registration of the Project company are made by the Developer and relevant government authorities. The E&S Team confirmed that the recommendation would be communicated to the Developers for consideration. The representative of the Tomdi District Khokimiyat further noted that Tomdi District benefits from certain tax incentives as a Category 5 development area and encouraged the Project developers to review the relevant regulatory provisions and potential advantages associated with registration in the district. - The representative of the Tomdi Khokimiyat requested that, once land allocation procedures commence, the Project should appoint a dedicated specialist or focal point to coordinate directly with local authorities and provide technical support throughout the process.
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Figure 9: FGD with Muruntau Community

In addition to the above, consultations were undertaken on 27 April 2026 at Zarafshan City Khokimiyat with regional stakeholders, including representatives of Zarafshan City Khokimiyat, relevant environmental, cadastral, electricity supply, investment, mahalla, and other technical authorities, see Figure 10 below. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Project, present the Project location and key components, explain the ESIA methodology, and discuss stakeholder-specific issues relevant to Project planning and permitting. Project maps and brochures were distributed during the meeting, and the Project site location was demonstrated to the attendees.

Stakeholders raised comments and questions related to environmental permitting, battery disposal, emissions and dust control, greening requirements, vegetation surveys, infrastructure clearances, underground utilities, grid connection, construction traffic, administrative coordination, and land jurisdiction as presented in the table below.

Entity	Comment / Question	Response / Follow-up
All Stakeholders / Introductory Session	The Project was introduced to regional stakeholders, including its location, main	It was explained that the Project will support the existing infrastructure facilities and other users connected to the Muruntau 500 kV substation by

		components, purpose, and ESIA study methodology. Project maps and brochures were distributed, and the Project site location was demonstrated.	supporting more stable electricity supply. It was also noted that official letters had been sent to relevant stakeholders, and that biodiversity, ecology, and social studies were ongoing. The results of these studies will be shared during a public meeting planned for July 2026, where nearby communities and stakeholders will be able to provide opinions to be reflected in the ESIA. Please note that these were shared during the public Hearing that was undertaken on 18 July 2026 as discussed in Section 5.2 below.
Tomdi District Environmental Department		Clarification was requested on the separation distance between the BESS facility and nearby infrastructure.	It was noted that the nearest existing facility is a National Electric Grid substation located around 300 m from the proposed Project site. The substation has already obtained environmental approval and is understood to employ around 20 personnel.
		Information was requested on how batteries will be disposed of at the end of their operational life.	It was explained that the Project is expected to have an operational life of around 15 years. At the end of the battery lifecycle, batteries are expected to be sent to a specialized recycling facility, with a suitable facility most likely a currently operating in Kazakhstan.
		Clarification was requested on whether dust control or air pollution monitoring equipment would be required, noting that Government Resolution No. 81 introduced such requirements for Category I and II facilities.	It was explained that dust control equipment is not expected to be required, as the Project will not generate dust emissions during operation. The facility is also not expected to produce significant noise or other emissions under normal operating conditions.
		Clarification was requested on landscaping and greening requirements for the site, noting that construction regulations require a portion of the site area to be allocated for greening.	It was explained that the E&S Team will review the relevant decree and assess the applicable landscaping and greening requirements.
Cadastral Chamber		A request was made to provide the Project's KMZ file for review.	It was confirmed that the KMZ file will be provided, and that it had already been shared with the relevant specialist for review.
Electricity Supply / Regional Electric Networks		Clarification was requested on whether the Project connection will be established using an Underground Transmission Line.	It was explained that the Ministry of Energy will also send an official letter to the relevant electricity supply organization regarding this matter. At the time of the consultation, no information was available regarding the connection type, therefore, it was explained that the grid connection will be either through an OHTL or Underground Transmission Lines.
		It was noted that there is no major infrastructure within the Project area, although a 220 kV transmission line passes nearby and a 5 kV	It was noted that an official request had been submitted to the Regional Electric Networks, and the E&S Team requested that a response be provided once the request has been reviewed.

	line is located adjacent to the Project.	
	It was noted that telecommunications infrastructure may be present in the area, including an underground communications cable.	This information was noted and will be considered during further Project planning and coordination with relevant infrastructure owners.
	The entity stated that it can provide information on safety clearance requirements for network infrastructure. It was noted that a 500 kV transmission line requires a 30 m safety buffer, although the transmission line does not cross the Project site and changes direction nearby.	The E&S Team noted the information and will take applicable safety clearance requirements into account during design and permitting. It was elaborated that consultation were undertaken with the Uztelecom Joint Stock Company, Western Regional Branch – Ministry of Digital Technologies regarding infrastructural matters.
	Clarification was requested on the storage capacity of the BESS and whether it stores electricity for long periods.	It was explained that the BESS will have a storage capacity of around 600 MW and is designed to charge and discharge electricity multiple times per day, typically up to four cycles. It was clarified that the BESS does not store electricity for long periods, such as a month, but continuously receives and releases power.
	Clarification was requested on the expected operational life of the facility.	It was clarified that the expected operational life of the facility is around 15 years.
	Clarification was requested on the benefits that the BESS will provide to the electricity network.	It was explained that the BESS will help stabilize the grid by balancing fluctuations in electricity supply and demand. It will improve grid reliability, support the integration of renewable energy sources such as wind power plants, and provide backup support during grid disturbances or emergency situations.
Mahalla Association	The E&S Team noted that heavy vehicles will access the Project during construction and that the Mahalla Association should be informed and kept updated regarding these activities.	The Mahalla Association acknowledged the need to be informed and kept updated during the construction phase.
Zarafshan City Khokimiyat	It was noted that the Project is administratively located within Tomdi District and that relevant stakeholders in Tomdi District should also be consulted.	It was explained that although the Project is administratively located within Tomdi District, it is situated close to Zarafshan and its infrastructure and deemed it important to consult with the Zarafshan City Khokimiyat. It was also explained that consultations also took place with Tomdi District Khokimiyat and relevant stakeholders.
Family and Women's Affairs Department	Clarification was requested on the purpose of the Project.	The E&S Team provided an overview of the BESS, including its purpose, operation, and role in

		supporting grid stability and renewable energy integration.
Navoi Region Investment Department	It was noted that the Project area falls under the jurisdiction of the Pasture Management Authority in Navoi Region. The entity requested the Project site coordinates, noting that the information had not yet been received and may have been forwarded to the Construction Department.	It was confirmed that the Project map, coordinates, and supporting materials will be sent together with the official letter.
	Clarification was requested on whether the Project had been coordinated with the Ministry of Energy.	It was confirmed that an agreement is in place with the Ministry of Energy. It was also noted that consultations had been undertaken with the Zarafshan City Administration and representatives of Muruntau Mahalla.
Central Mining Administration	The entity participated in the meeting as a relevant regional stakeholder. No specific question or comment was recorded in the minutes.	No specific response was recorded.
EnergoTrade	The entity participated in the meeting as a relevant stakeholder. No specific question or comment was recorded in the minutes.	No specific response was recorded.
Muruntau MFY	The entity was referenced as part of the broader stakeholder engagement process, and consultations with Muruntau Mahalla representatives were noted.	It was noted that consultations had already been conducted with representatives of Muruntau Mahalla.



Figure 10: FGD with Zarafshan City Khokimiyat

Public Hearing Results

In line with the requirements of Resolution No. 541 of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Procedure of the EIA Mechanism (7 September 2020), and as committed during the targeted consultations described above, a formal Public Hearing for the Project was held on 18 July 2026 at the Muruntau Mahalla in Tomdi District, Navoiy Region. The hearing was chaired by the Chairman of the Muruntau Mahalla, with the Mahalla social

worker acting as meeting secretary. The session was convened as an open community event, and the proceedings were formally recorded in a meeting protocol which was subsequently signed and stamped by the attending officials.

The Public Hearing was attended by the following:

- Chairman of the Muruntau Mahalla (meeting chair);
- Social worker of the Muruntau Mahalla (meeting secretary);
- Specialist of the Tomdi District Ecology Department;
- Members of the Muruntau Mahalla Committee;
- Community Members; and
- Deputy Khokim of Tomdi District.

The session was opened by the Mahalla Chairman, who introduced the agenda to the participants. A presentation on the Project was then delivered by the E&S Team. The objectives of the Public Hearing included the following:

- Introducing the Project to stakeholders;
- Present the results, outcomes and conclusions of the ESIA study
- Allow stakeholders to raise any comments or issues of concern in relation to ESIA study to include but not limited to the baseline results, impacts, mitigation, monitoring measures, etc.
- Discuss any questions, inquiries, or issues of concern raised by stakeholders

It was further explained that the Project represents one of the advanced renewable energy technologies being introduced in Uzbekistan. Following the presentation, an open discussion was held with the participants. The table below presents an overall summary of the outcomes of the Public Hearing.

Table 7: Key Outcomes of the Public Hearing

Date	Key Outcomes
18 July 2026	▪ Participants raised questions regarding the land area required for the Project. It was explained that the Project will occupy approximately 10 ha during construction, that the land is currently classified as pasture, and that its land category will be changed and the plot transferred to the National Treasury and then to the Ministry of Energy. ▪ Questions were raised regarding noise generated by the Project. It was explained that noise levels along the Project perimeter are expected to be in the range of 50–60 dB, reducing to 10–20 dB at the distance of the Mahalla (10–12 km), which is considerably below nationally and internationally accepted standards, and that limited noise is anticipated during both construction and operation. ▪ Community members enquired whether animals would leave the area as a result of the Project. It was explained that animals may move away from the area once construction commences, that this is not considered harmful to them. ▪ Questions were raised regarding restrictions on access to the area, including for sheep and other livestock. It was clarified that the Project area will be fully fenced, and that at the current pre-construction stage bricks have been laid around the site to avoid to the return to the project area and potential harm to the central Asian tortoises. It was also explained, that through consultations and site surveys undertaken, it was confirmed that there are no formal or informal physical or economical land use activities within the Project site.

Date	Key Outcomes
	- Community members enquired whether waste generated by the Project would cause harm to the surrounding area. It was clarified that the EPC Contractor will enter into contracts with local waste transporters and that waste will be taken to the designated authorized landfill. - Questions were raised regarding the construction programme and workforce requirements. It was explained that construction is planned to commence in autumn 2026, during the fourth quarter of the year, where jobs will be available for applicants from the Muruntau Mahalla. - Community members asked whether local residents would be employed and how workers would be transported to and from the site. It was explained that local employment is anticipated, and that a temporary accommodation camp will be established during construction or bus transport could be arranged for commuting workers where required. - Questions were raised regarding the skills required among the permanent workforce, including whether electrical specialists would be needed. It was explained that many temporary jobs are required for both men and women. - A question was raised regarding the installation of a lightning protection system. It was explained that the BESS technology has been assessed in this regard and that provisions have been made for such events. - Questions were raised regarding the stability of the electricity supply provided by the system and the benefits to the local population. It was explained that the BESS is designed to deliver a stable supply and functions as both a consumer and a supplier of electricity, and that in the event of an outage the system immediately releases energy to the line, thereby improving the reliability of electricity supply for the National Grid. It was explained that the BESS will be directly connected to the National Grid. - Community members enquired whether first aid and emergency medical support would be available at the Project site. It was explained that a medical room, the necessary medicines and qualified first-aid personnel will be provided on site, with transfer to the nearest hospital in the city where required. - Concerns were raised regarding the potential consequences of a battery fire or explosion and the associated environmental risk. It was explained that a separation distance of 3 m is provided between containers so that a fire in one container does not spread to the next, in addition, it was explained that a firefighting system is provided, and that the Project uses lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, considered a safe and modern technology. It was further clarified that all required safety analyses and expert reviews have been undertaken for the Project. - Questions were raised regarding the ability of the system to withstand the ambient temperatures of 46–58 °C experienced in the area. It was explained that the Project is designed for hot climate conditions, that the batteries and associated systems are equipped with cooling systems, and that consultations have been undertaken with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, whose recommendations and requirements have been adopted. - A concern was raised regarding the possibility of children entering the site in the event that a water reservoir is provided. It was clarified that the Project area will be fully fenced and secured, and that the site is located at a sufficient distance from all settlements. In addition, it was explained that a water reservoir will not be a part of the Project. - Community members enquired whether the Developer would provide support to the Mahalla. It was explained that, as with the Developer's other projects, support to the social sphere of the Mahalla can be provided, and that specific proposals received from the Mahalla will be considered.

On the basis of the discussions, the participants of the Public Hearing concluded the following:

- No objections were raised by the participants to the implementation of the electricity storage Project to be constructed within Tomdi District;

- The Tomdi District Inspectorate responsible for control in the field of ecology and environmental protection recommended that water resources and the waste generated be subject to control during the implementation of the proposed environmental protection measures;
- The management of the BESS Project is required to keep under control the implementation of all works specified within the ESIA (OVOS) documentation; and
- Responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the resolutions of the Public Hearing discussions was assigned to the Chairman of the Muruntau Mahalla.



Figure 11: Public Hearing with Muruntau Community

6. FUTURE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY, PLAN AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The table below identifies the stakeholder engagement strategy and plan to include stakeholders relevant to the Project (as identified in earlier under Table 3), objective of consultation with each group, the communication methods and tools, time frame and responsible entity for undertaking such consultations.

A Project Stakeholder Register will be updated monthly for the Project which serves as a log for all consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project. This shall be reviewed and updated regularly by the assigned Project's HSSE Manager. A template is provided in "Annex 4" which will be used either in Microsoft Word or Excel format.

Table 8 below sets out the overall stakeholder engagement framework for the Project and is deliberately high level at this stage of Project development. During implementation, the Project's HSSE Manager will prepare, and periodically update, more detailed stakeholder engagement workplans covering monthly, quarterly and six-monthly periods as appropriate. These workplans will identify the planned engagement activities, the target stakeholder groups, responsibilities, communication methods, key messages and expected deliverables, and will be revised during construction and operation to reflect Project activities, stakeholder concerns and emerging issues.

Table 8: Future Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Stakeholder	Objectives	Communication Methods and Tools	Timeframe	Responsibility
Stakeholders who may be directly or indirectly affected by the project				
Local communities which as identified earlier includes: Muruntau Settlement	1. Announce key project milestones 2. Updates on project construction schedule and phasing 3. Announce stakeholder grievance mechanism 4. Setup employment and procurement procedure 5. Updates on employment and procurement opportunities 6. Updates on stakeholder engagement activities 7. Updates on E&S management plan implementation	Undertake consultation sessions with the local community which will include two (2) sessions as follows: Two sessions (one male and one female) in Muruntau Settlement.	Before commencement of construction	Project’s HSSE manager
		- Prepare and distribute adverts/flyers with key update messages to local communities. This should include Tomdi District Khokimiyat, Zarafshan District Khokimiyat and Muruntau Settlement along with its affiliated Hamlets. - Information may also be shared through online channels (e.g., social media platforms and relevant online job or information portals), as appropriate.	Before commencement of construction	Project’s HSSE Manager
		- Publish SEP in English, Russian, and Uzbek language online with hard copies at the District - Khokimiyat and applicable Mahallas.	Once	Project’s HSSE Manager
Women and youth groups	8. Educate on key E&S risks 9. Potential risks of influx, and how influx-related impacts are to be monitored and controlled. 10. The presence of security personnel and the steps taken to ensure their good behavior towards local people. 11. Obtain Feedback	- Local community session, where required, will target female and youth representatives, coordinated through FMC Project’s HSSE Manager and existing community communication channels. Engagement activities will consider appropriate timing, accessible locations, and suitable communication methods to facilitate participation of these groups. - In specific at the end of the local community session a focus groups will be held with women attendees to obtain any feedback and provide any additional information required in specific.	Before commencement of construction	Project’s HSSE Manager
Stakeholders who may participate in implementation of the project				
Investor/Lender - AIIB	Updates on the Project including environmental and social issues (e.g. environmental performance, grievance mechanism implementation, community integration plan, etc.)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (as required)	TBD	Developer’s E&S team as applicable
		2. Submission of E&S Monitoring Reports.	According to contractual provisions	
Workers	Provide updates on contract requirements on employment to include duration, salary, leaves, etc.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings	Upon employment	Developer Team as applicable / EPC Team as applicable
	Provide explanation on worker grievance mechanism	1. As part of Induction Training 2. As part of Toolbox Talks	Upon employment / continuous	
	Provide general/specialized training requirements as applicable to include but not limited to induction, Toolbox Talks (TBT), occupational health and safety, waste management, etc.	1. As per training plan to be developed	Upon employment / continuous	
Stakeholders who may have a possibility to influence and make decisions on implementation of the project and/or may have an interest in the Project				
Central and Local Government				
Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change	Obtain an OVOS (local environmental permit) for the Project.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Before commencement of construction	EPC Contractor
Other	Obtain all other required permits and non-objections from all relevant stakeholders to the Project as applicable.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Before commencement of construction	EPC Contractor
Institute of Anthropology (National Archaeological Centre) – Academy of Sciences	Undertake archaeological reconnaissance and survey works prior to Project implementation in coordination with the Institute to identify any archaeological or cultural heritage objects within the Project area.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Before commencement of construction	Developer
JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan	Coordinate on implementation of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and the design, construction, commissioning, handover and operation of the OHTL.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Before commencement of construction	Developer
	Some governmental stakeholders might require undertaking certain inspections or auditing exercises	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters (if required)	Upon occurrence	Developer team as applicable

Stakeholder	Objectives	Communication Methods and Tools	Timeframe	Responsibility
1. Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change 2. Cadastral Agency under the Ministry of Economy and Finance 3. Ministry of Health 4. Ministry of Labour 5. Ministry of Poverty Reduction and Employment – Navoi Regional Department of Poverty Reduction and Employment 6. Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan 7. Khokimiyat of Zarafshan District 8. Khokimiyat of Tomdi District	and/or might require certain updates/information on the implementation of the Project.		Upon occurrence	Developer team as applicable
Ministry of Culture	Reporting and communication in case archeologically remains are found through construction of project along with chance find procedures implemented.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Upon occurrence	EPC Contractor
Ministry of Transport	Submission of application and documentation required as well as discussion on Traffic and Transport Plan and coordination on requirements.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Once before construction	EPC Contractor
Muruntau Mahalla	Determine and agree on the key principles and methodology implementation for the local recruitment and procurement procedure including identification of priority for employment for Muruntau Settlement and Tomdi District. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	When required during construction and operation	Developer team as applicable EPC Contractor / Project Operator
Ministry of Water Resources	Coordination for list of private contractors approved for collection of wastewater from Project site. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Once before construction	EPC Contractor/ Project Operator
	Coordination to secure the water requirements of the Project (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Once before construction Once before operation	EPC Contractor/ Project Operator
Ministry of Emergency Situations	Present Project, location and emergency plans to take into account any relevant requirements. In addition, coordinate for any emergency response requirements related to incidents on site, including workshops or coordination meetings with relevant authorities on battery fire response and emergency preparedness. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Once before commencement of construction	EPC Contractor
			Once before commencement of operation	Project Operator
Ministry of Mining Industry and Geology	Develop a joint working group with Navoi Uran, a state organization engaged in uranium mining, including ecology and engineering specialists from the Developer as required, to assess potential interfaces or constraints related to the Project. To do that, an official request should come from the Developer and the Ministry of Energy. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Once before construction Once before operation	Developer team as applicable
Family and Women's Affairs Department – Tomdi Khokimiyat	Coordinate communication of Project updates, disclosure materials and other relevant information to women's groups through the Deputy Khokim, Head of the Family and Women's Affairs Department. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Upon occurrence	Developer team as applicable
	Coordinate women's participation in stakeholder engagement activities, employment and procurement opportunities through the Deputy Khokim, Head of the Family and Women's Affairs Department. (if required)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and official letters	Upon occurrence	Developer team as applicable

Stakeholder	Objectives	Communication Methods and Tools	Timeframe	Responsibility
Ministry of Digital Technologies	Coordinate approval of Project design documentation and applicable technical conditions prior to construction.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Before commencement of construction	EPC Contractor
	Notify relevant Uzbektelecom representatives prior to commencement of construction works.	1. Correspondence and Official Letters	Before commencement of construction	Developer team as applicable EPC Contractor
	Coordinate construction activities under the supervision of the Ministry of Digital Technologies (specifically Uztelecom Joint Stock Company, Western Regional Branch)	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	During construction	EPC Contractor
	Submit a formal request to Uzbektelecom if relocation of communication lines is required.	1. Individual/Internal Meetings (if required) 2. Correspondence and Official Letters	Upon occurrence	Developer team as applicable
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Other Organizations				
Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds	1. Announce key project milestones 2. Updates on community development initiatives 3. Announce stakeholder grievance mechanism 4. Updates on employment and procurement opportunities 5. Updates on stakeholder engagement activities 6. Obtain feedback	1. Inform relevant organisations of the availability and disclosure of Project documentation and engagement opportunities, and invite feedback on matters relevant to their areas of interest and expertise, as applicable.	As required, based on stakeholder interest, feedback, and Project developments.	Project's HSSE Manager
RES group of Academy of Sciences				
National Institute of Zoology under Academy of Science				
Research Institute for the Human Science under Academy of Science				

7. STAKEHOLDER GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

The Developer understands that management of grievances is a vital component of stakeholder engagement and an important aspect of risk management for a project. Grievances can be an indication of growing stakeholder concerns (real and perceived) and can escalate if not identified and resolved. Identifying and responding to grievances supports the development of positive relationships between projects, communities, and other stakeholders. Monitoring grievances will signal any recurrent issues or escalating conflicts and disputes.

The Developer will implement a Grievance Mechanism to ensure that it is responsive to any concerns and complaints particularly from affected stakeholders and communities. The Developer will accept all comments and complaints associated with the Project and individuals who submit their comments or grievances have the right to request that their name be kept confidential. At all times, complainants are also able to seek legal remedies in accordance with the laws and regulations of Uzbekistan.

The Developer will monitor the way in which grievances are being handled and ensure they are properly addressed within deadlines specified within the mechanism presented below. The Developer will also report regularly to the public on the grievance mechanism implementation, protecting the privacy of individuals.

7.1.1 Purpose, Scope and Principles of the Grievance Mechanism

The grievance mechanism set out in this chapter applies to external stakeholders, including members of affected communities, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, and any other party external to the Project. It provides a structured route through which concerns relating to the Project can be raised, recorded, investigated and resolved.

The mechanism is intended to operate in accordance with the following principles, consistent with the requirements of the AIIB Environmental and Social Framework:

- **Accessibility:** the mechanism is free of charge, open to all external stakeholders, and available through multiple channels, including verbal submission, so that it is usable by persons with limited literacy or limited access to written or electronic channels.
- **Confidentiality:** the identity of complainants will be protected where requested, and information will be shared only with those who need it in order to investigate and resolve the grievance.
- **Non-retaliation:** no complainant will be subject to retaliation, disadvantage or reprisal of any kind for raising a grievance in good faith, whether against the Developer, the EPC Contractor, a subcontractor or any associated party.
- **Fairness and impartiality:** grievances will be investigated objectively, and arrangements are in place for grievances concerning persons involved in administering the mechanism to be handled outside the normal reporting lines.
- **Timeliness:** grievances will be acknowledged, investigated and closed out within the timeframes set out below, with complainants informed where additional time is required.
- **Transparency:** complainants will be informed of the process, the expected timeframes and the outcome of their grievance.

- Access to other remedies: use of this mechanism is voluntary and does not prevent or restrict a complainant from pursuing judicial or administrative remedies under the laws of Uzbekistan, or from approaching the accountability mechanisms of the Project's lenders.

The figure below presents a process diagram for the stakeholder grievance procedure which is further explained throughout the section below.

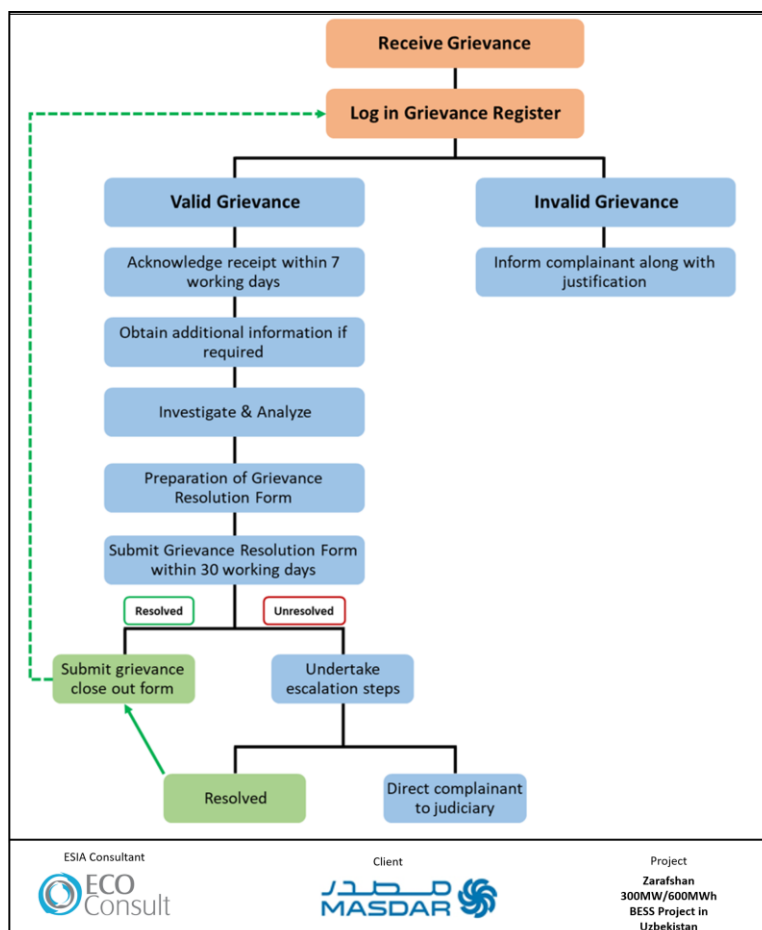


Figure 12 : Grievance Mechanism Process Diagram

7.1.2 Stakeholder Grievance Procedure

- A Grievance Disclosure Sheet will be disclosed at key locations below. The Grievance Disclosure Sheet will inform the local communities on how and where to lodge a grievance in accordance with step 2 below.
 - Muruntau Village – Local Unit Office
 - Tomdi District Khokimiyat
 - Entrance Office of the Project

7.1.3 Grievance Submission Channels

Contact details, physical addresses and locations shown as to be confirmed in this revision of the SEP will be populated, and the SEP reissued and re-disclosed, prior to the commencement of construction and activation of the grievance mechanism. Until the Project office is established and the Project's HSSE

Manager appointed, grievances may be submitted through the interim arrangements set out below, which are operational from the date of disclosure of this SEP:

In person or in writing at the Muruntau Village Local Unit Office, 19 Tadbirkorlar Street, Kimyogarlilar Residential Area, Muruntov Mahalla (MFY), Zarafshan City, Navoi region, telephone +998933185140;

In person or in writing at the Tomdi District Khokimiyat, Yangi Tomdi Settlement, Tomdi District, Navoi region, telephone +998795821317;

Through the Mahalla Community Organization of Muruntau Mahalla or the Telegram Channels of Muruntau Mahalla; or

To the Developer's interim contact point for the Project, whose name, telephone number and email address will be confirmed on the Grievance Disclosure Sheet at the time of disclosure.

Grievances received through the interim arrangements will be recorded, investigated and closed out in accordance with the procedure set out in this chapter, and will be transferred to the Project's HSSE Manager on appointment. Once the final contact details are available, they will be publicly disclosed through the Grievance Disclosure Sheet at the locations identified above, on the Developer's website and through the Mahalla communication channels.

- Stakeholders willing to lodge a grievance should be able to use the following avenues:

A. Grievance sheets (Annex 1) with grievance boxes will be made available at the following locations:

Muruntau Village – Local Unit Office

Location: 19 Tadbirkorlar Street, Kimyogarlilar Residential Area, Muruntov Mahalla (MFY), Zarafshan City, Navoi region

Telephone: +998933185140

Tomdi District Khokimiyat

Location: Yangi Tomdi Settlement, Tomdi District, Navoi region

Telephone: +998795821317

B. Direct Contact through the following:

Masdar Assistant manager, BD, CIS: Nurzod Khayrullaev

Email address: nkhayrullaev@masdar.ae

Contact phone number: +998909305111

C. Developer website at the following link:

Link: www.masdar.ae

In addition to the written channels identified above, grievances may be submitted verbally. Stakeholders may raise a grievance in person or by telephone with the Project's HSSE Manager, through Mahalla representatives or the Mahalla Community Organization, or during community meetings and other engagement activities. Where a complainant is unable or unwilling to submit a grievance in writing, including by reason of limited literacy, disability or language, the Project's HSSE Manager will record the grievance on the complainant's behalf using the grievance form, read the recorded grievance back to the complainant for confirmation, and provide the complainant with the grievance reference. Grievances submitted verbally carry the same status as those submitted in writing.

- All grievances (whether submitted through a grievance form, e-mail, telephone, etc.) will be recorded on a grievance log sheet by the Project's HSSE Manager (Annex 2).

7.1.4 Who Can Use the Grievance Mechanism

- This mechanism is available to all Project stakeholders to raise grievances. This includes but is not limited to local community members, national / regional governmental entities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), media, research, and academic institutions, and others. This mechanism addresses grievances related to the following:
 - Any grievance related to Project activities including but not limited to: (i) damage to public / private assets; (ii) degradation / deterioration of local infrastructure (e.g. roads); (iii) disturbance from noise, dust, traffic accidents, pollution, excessive speed of project's vehicles; (iv) degradation of the environment; (v) disturbance to land uses, (vi) other similar issues.
 - Any grievance relating to the actions or conduct of entities or personnel associated with the Project including but not limited to the Developer, EPC Contractor, subcontractors, and suppliers. This could include but not limited to: (i) negative behaviour of construction workforce towards local communities; (ii) misconduct of security service providers; (iii) inappropriate behaviour of workers in terms of managing employment and procurement opportunities, (iv) other similar issues.
- The grievance mechanism is intended to address concerns that are directly related to the Project and its associated activities. The following types of grievances fall outside the scope of this mechanism and will not be considered. Where such grievances are received, the complainant will be informed accordingly and provided with an explanation of the reason for non-acceptance:
 - Grievances that are not related to the Project or its activities or personnel associated with the Project
 - Grievances or personnel associated with the Project directly or indirectly involved in the Project
 - Complaints or disputes that fall within the jurisdiction of the judicial system

7.1.5 Grievance Processing and Timeframes

- Grievance procedure starts with formal acknowledgment in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified by the complainant within 5 working days of submission, or within any shorter period required under applicable Uzbek legislation.. If the grievance is not well understood or if additional information is required, clarification will be sought from the complainant during this step.

Where an investigation cannot be completed within the target period, the Project's HSSE Manager will notify the complainant before expiry of that period, explain the reason for the delay and communicate a revised timeframe. For any grievance that remains open for more than 30 days, the Project's HSSE

Manager will provide the complainant with a progress update at intervals of no more than 30 days until the grievance is closed.

- In coordination with the relevant personnel, the Project's HSSE Manager will analyze the root cause of the grievance, investigate if the grievance is correct or not, and identify the required actions to be implemented to deal with the issue and identify the timeline for their completion (if applicable). For other more complex grievances, third parties could be involved in the investigation as applicable. Specific examples on this includes the following:
 - Grievances that entail safety concerns such as personal threats. Such grievances might require consultation with and the involvement of relevant authorities
 - Grievances that entail damage to property which have been verified might require an assessment of the damaged asset with the support of an external specialist in agreement with the complainant.
- The Project's HSSE Manager will prepare a grievance resolution form (see Annex 3) which includes the nature of the grievance, date of its submission, actions implemented to resolve the grievance and date of implementation, or proposed actions to be implemented to resolve the grievance along with the timeline for their completion. Grievance resolution form will be submitted within (30) days of receiving the grievance.
- The grievance resolution form, including the necessary budget to resolve the grievance, must be approved and signed-off by the Project Manager.
- The outcomes of the grievance resolution form will be communicated to the complainant by the Project's HSSE Manager in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified.

Once the grievance has been resolved and any agreed actions completed, the Project's HSSE Manager will issue a formal closure notification to the complainant, recording the outcome and the date of closure. The closure will be recorded on the grievance log sheet. Where the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, the escalation route set out below applies.

- In case the grievance resolution form identifies proposed actions to be implemented, the Project's HSSE Manager will monitor and follow up to ensure that such actions have been implemented in accordance with the timeline proposed within the grievance resolution form. The Project's HSSE Manager will contact the complainant once such actions are completed in accordance with the preferred method of communication specified.
- The Project's HSSE Manager will ensure that the grievance forms, grievance log sheet, and grievance resolution form are always updated and maintained onsite.
- The grievance mechanism will be implemented promptly and at no cost and without retribution to the party that originated the issue or concern.
- The use of grievance mechanism shall not impede access to judiciary means.
- The grievance mechanism allows submission of anonymous complaints by community members.

Anonymous grievances are recorded, investigated and closed out in the same manner as identified grievances. As no direct response can be provided to an anonymous complainant, the outcome of anonymous grievances will be communicated publicly through the channels used for general Project communication, including notices at the grievance disclosure locations, the Mahalla Community

Organization and the Telegram Channels of Muruntau Mahalla, and will be reported in aggregate form in the Project's periodic monitoring reports. A complainant submitting an anonymous grievance may provide a contact point of their choosing, including through a third party or a Mahalla representative, in which case the outcome will be communicated through that contact point.

7.1.6 Appeals and Escalation

- In the case the complainant does not accept the proposed resolution the following steps will be undertaken:
 - The Project's HSSE Manager will raise the issue to the Project Manager for discussion and adoption of new resolutions for the grievance.
 - In the case the complainant does not accept the new resolution, the Project Manager will raise the issue to the E&S Department at headquarters for discussion and adoption of new resolutions for the grievance. Where necessary, the grievance may be further reviewed by senior management. If the grievance remains unresolved, the complainant will be informed of available external grievance mechanisms, including those of relevant authorities or applicable lenders.
 - In the case the complainant does not accept the new resolution proposes, the compliant will be asked to access judiciary means to resolve his/her grievance.

7.1.7 Worker Grievance Mechanism

The grievance mechanism described in this chapter applies to external stakeholders and affected communities. Grievances raised by workers are managed through a separate worker grievance mechanism established under the Labour and Working Conditions Management Plan (LWCMP), which sets out the arrangements for receiving, recording, investigating and resolving worker grievances, including grievances relating to terms of employment, working conditions, occupational health and safety, discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

The worker grievance mechanism applies to all workers engaged on the Project, including the Developer's own personnel and the personnel of the EPC Contractor, its subcontractors and, where applicable, primary suppliers. The EPC Contractor is required to establish and operate a worker grievance mechanism consistent with the LWCMP and to flow this requirement down to its subcontractors.

The two mechanisms operate separately, and a worker is not required to use the community mechanism in order to raise a workplace grievance. They are nonetheless coordinated: where a grievance is received through the wrong channel it will be referred to the appropriate mechanism without delay and the complainant informed; where a grievance has both community and workplace dimensions it will be managed jointly. The Project Manager, supported by the Project's HSSE Manager, is responsible for overseeing both mechanisms, for ensuring consistency of treatment and timeframes, and for consolidated reporting of grievance data under the Monitoring and Reporting section of this SEP.

7.1.2 Managing Sensitive Complaints – Gender-Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) The requirements set below are considered applicable for handling grievances related to the following and in accordance with the requirements set within the "Good Practice Note Addressing Gender Based Violence in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works" (2018, World Bank).

Throughout this SEP, the terms GBVH (Gender-Based Violence and Harassment) and SEAH (Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment) are used consistently with the ESIA and with lender requirements. GBVH is used as the umbrella term covering gender-based violence and sexual harassment affecting community members or workers. SEAH covers sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment perpetrated by persons engaged on or associated with the Project. The definitions set out below are retained for reference, and the abbreviations GBVH, SEAH, VAWG, GBV and SEA are defined in the Abbreviations and Acronyms section.

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): defined violence against women and girls as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life
- Gender-based Violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV across the globe.
- Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA): any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Sexual abuse is further defined as "the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions." Women, girls, boys, and men can experience SEA. In the context of World Bank supported projects, project beneficiaries or members of project-affected communities may experience SEA.

For the above complaints, there are risks of stigmatization, rejection, and reprisals against survivors. This creates and reinforces a culture of silence so survivors may be reticent to approach the project directly. Therefore, the following steps should be considered for any grievances related to the above.

Dedicated and confidential reporting arrangements are established for GBVH and SEAH complaints. Survivors are not required to use the standard grievance channels and may report directly to a trained female focal point designated by the Project, to the Project's HSSE Manager, or to the GBVH/SEAH service provider, whichever the survivor prefers. A survivor may report directly to the service provider without any prior contact with the Project. Reports made through these channels are not recorded on the standard grievance log sheet and are not visible to Project personnel other than those designated to handle them.

The Project will designate at least one trained female focal point and one trained male focal point to receive GBVH and SEAH complaints, and their contact details will be communicated to communities and workers through the disclosure locations and awareness activities identified in this SEP. Where a complaint concerns one of the designated focal points, the alternative reporting arrangements for complaints involving Project management apply.

- The Project's HSSE Manager will receive appropriate training from an authorized GBV Service Provider on how to collect GBV cases confidentially and empathetically (with no judgement). It is essential to respond appropriately to a survivor's complaint by respecting the survivor's choices. This means that the survivor's rights, needs, and wishes are prioritized in every decision related to the incident. The survivor who has the courage to come forward must always be treated with dignity and respect. Every effort should be made to protect the safety and wellbeing of the survivor and any action should always

be taken with the survivor's informed consent. These steps serve to minimize the potential for re-traumatization and further violence against the survivor.

- Confidentiality is essential throughout the process. Otherwise, the survivor risks retaliation and a loss of security.
- No identifiable information on the survivor should be stored including in particular the grievance log register. In addition, if a grievance is submitted through a grievance form it will be kept confidential.
- Should the grievance be received by the Project's HSSE Manager through a grievance form, telephone, email or other, the Project's HSSE Manager should not ask for, or record, information on more than three aspects related to the incident and which include the following:
 - Nature of the complaint (what the complainant says in her/his own words without direct questioning)
 - If, to the best of their knowledge, the perpetrator was associated with the project; and,
 - If possible, the age and sex of the survivor.

Prior to the commencement of construction, the Developer will identify and document the GBVH and SEAH support services available within Navoiy Region and nationally, covering medical care, psychosocial and counselling support, legal aid, police and protection services, and safe shelter. The outcome will be recorded in a referral pathway document identifying each service, its location, contact details, opening hours, the services offered and any cost, and will be reviewed and updated at least annually. The referral pathway will be held by the Project's HSSE Manager and the designated focal points, and its existence and use will be communicated to communities and workers through the engagement activities identified in this SEP. Referrals will only be made with the informed consent of the survivor.

- The Project's HSSE Manager should assist the survivor by referring them to the GBV Services Provider for support immediately after receiving a complaint directly from a survivor. It is up to the survivor, and only the survivor, whether to take up the referral.
- The GBV Services Provider provides the necessary support to the survivor until it is no longer needed. Survivors may need access to police, justice, health, psychosocial, safe shelter and livelihood services to begin healing from their experience of violence. This will be arranged by the GBV Services Provider on their behalf in accordance with the survivor's wishes.
- The Project's HSSE Manager will immediately notify the Project Manager (if the consent of the survivor is obtained). The survivor must give consent to data sharing and know what data will be shared, with whom and for what purposes.
- The Project's HSSE Manager, Project Manager and GBV Services Provider will meet immediately to agree on a plan for resolution as well as the appropriate remedy for the perpetrator in accordance with the below. Note: The survivor must give the service provider representative consent to participate in the resolution mechanism on her/his behalf.
 - Reviews the case and collectively agree upon the appropriate actions to be taken and sanctions, if any.
 - Refers the case to the police as appropriate (see note below).

- Assigns the appropriate 'Focal Point' to implement the actions—with the assistance of the GBV Services Provider.
 - Upon resolution, the Focal Point and GBV Services Provider advise that it has been resolved, who in turn advise the Project's HSSE Manager.
 - The Project's HSSE Manager notes the resolution and closes the cases and submits a close-out report to the Project Manager whom in turn reviews and approves the report.
- All entities involved above in case resolution, need to understand their legal obligations when it comes to reporting cases to the police. Reporting should be done in accordance with the law, especially in cases that require mandatory reporting of certain types of incidents, such as sexual abuse of a minor. When there is no legal obligation to report the case according to the local law, survivors hold the decision of whether to report cases for resolution and other service providers and reporting of a case to anyone can only be made with the consent of the survivor.
 - If a case is first received by the GBV Services Provider, a report should be sent to the Project's HSSE Manager to ensure it is recorded in the system. If any follow up is required by the Project's HSSE Manager, it will be provided immediately with the consent of the survivor as applicable.
 - If the survivor does not wish to place an official complaint through the grievance mechanism, the complaint is considered closed.
 - If the alleged perpetrator is an employee of the Developer, EPC Contractor, or subcontractor, to protect the safety of the survivor, and the workplace in general, the worker, in consultation with the survivor—and with the support of the GBV Services Provider—should assess the risk of ongoing abuse to the survivor. Reasonable adjustments should be made to the alleged perpetrator's work schedule and work environment—preferably by moving the perpetrator rather than the survivor—as deemed necessary.

Where a GBVH or SEAH complaint involves a worker, whether as survivor or as alleged perpetrator, the survivor-centred requirements set out in this section apply in full and take precedence over the standard procedures of the worker grievance mechanism established under the LWCMP. The complaint may be received through either mechanism and will be handled by the designated GBVH/SEAH focal points in either case; it will not be transferred between mechanisms in a manner that requires the survivor to repeat their account.

Where a worker is the survivor, access to the worker grievance mechanism, to the community mechanism and to the direct reporting channels described above is available at the survivor's choice, and the survivor may pursue employment-related remedies under the LWCMP in parallel. Where a worker is the alleged perpetrator, disciplinary action is managed by the employing entity under the LWCMP and the Code of Conduct, informed by the outcome of the GBVH/SEAH process but without disclosure of the survivor's identity unless the survivor has given informed consent. The Project Manager is responsible for ensuring that the two mechanisms are coordinated and that confidentiality is maintained across both.

7.1.8 Complaints Involving Project Management and Grievance Focal Points

The escalation route described above assumes that a grievance can be handled through the normal internal reporting lines. That assumption does not hold where the grievance concerns the conduct of a member of Project management, a human resources representative, the Project's HSSE Manager, the

Project Manager, or any other person involved in administering the grievance mechanism. In such cases a complainant may reasonably lack confidence in the impartiality of the process, and the following arrangements apply.

A complainant may submit the grievance directly to the Developer's E&S Department at headquarters, bypassing the Project's HSSE Manager, and the Project Manager entirely. Contact details for this channel will be included on the Grievance Disclosure Sheet and in the Contact Details section of this SEP.

Any person named in the grievance, or reporting to a person named in the grievance, will be excluded from receiving, investigating, reviewing or deciding upon it. Where the subject of the grievance would ordinarily approve the grievance resolution form, approval will be given by the E&S Department at headquarters instead.

Where the grievance concerns senior management, or where independence cannot otherwise be assured, the Developer will appoint an independent reviewer from outside the Project team to investigate the grievance and report directly to the E&S Department at headquarters.

The identity of the complainant will be protected to the fullest extent consistent with the investigation, and the complainant will be informed of who is handling the grievance and on what basis.

No complainant, witness or person assisting an investigation will be subject to retaliation, disadvantage or reprisal for raising a grievance in good faith. Retaliation is itself a breach of the Developer's Code of Conduct and will be treated as a disciplinary matter. Allegations of retaliation may be raised through the same alternative channel set out above.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

Throughout the Project, all stakeholders can contact the Developer throughout the contact details provided below.

Contact Details for the Public

Masdar Assistant Manager, BD, CIS: Nurzod Khayrullaev

Email address: nkhayrullaev@masdar.ae

Contact phone number: +998909305111

The Developer intends to provide all relevant information to the public and which will include but not limited to the following:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) in English (this document);
- Executive Summary of the SEP in Uzbek and English;
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) in Uzbek and English;
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in English.

The above will be provided at the Developer's website at the following link below:

www.masdar.ae

The NTS and Executive Summary of the SEP will be disclosed in English and Uzbek, with the exception of the ESIA and SEP which will be disclosed in English. Disclosure will be undertaken for a period of 30 days.

Disclosure will be announced through notifications and advertisements with Zarafshan and Tomdi Khokimiyat and the applicable Mahallas including the Mahalla Community Organization, and through the Telegram Channels of Muruntau Mahalla, consistent with the communication channels required by local communities. Stakeholders may submit comments during the disclosure period through the Project's HSSE Manager or through the stakeholder grievance mechanism identified in the Stakeholder Grievance Mechanism section of this SEP.

In addition, hard copies of the above will be available at the following locations. These documents will remain in the public domain for the duration of the Project and will be updated as appropriate.

- **Muruntau Village – Local Unit Office**
Location: 19 Tadbirkorlar Street, Kimyogarlilar Residential Area, Muruntov Mahalla (MFY), Zarafshan City, Navoi region
Telephone: +998933185140
- **Tomdi District Khokimiyat**
Location: Yangi Tomdi Settlement, Tomdi District, Navoi region
Telephone: +998795821317

9. AIIB'S PROJECT-AFFECTED PEOPLE'S MECHANISM

The project GRM described in this chapter is the primary mechanism for addressing project-level concerns and facilitating their timely resolution during implementation. AIIB's Project-affected People's Mechanism (PPM) is a separate, independent accountability mechanism operated by AIIB, intended as a mechanism of last resort where concerns relate specifically to AIIB's own failure to implement its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). The PPM does not replace, and is not a further tier of, the project GRM; it serves a different function – reviewing whether AIIB itself has followed its own policy requirements, rather than resolving day-to-day project implementation issues.

Affected persons who believe they have been adversely affected by AIIB's failure to implement its ESP, may approach AIIB's PPM, which handles project processing queries, requests for dispute resolution, and requests for compliance review. Affected persons are generally expected to make good-faith efforts to seek resolution through the project GRM and engagement with AIIB Management before approaching the PPM; exhaustion of these processes is not, however, a precondition for PPM access.

The PPM does not consider anonymous complaints, matters unrelated to an AIIB-financed project, or allegations of fraud or corruption, and complaints must generally be filed within 24 months of project closing or last disbursement. Affected persons retain the right to approach the PPM without forfeiting access to any other remedy.

For eligibility criteria, admissibility requirements, and procedural provisions, refer to the current AIIB Policy on the Project-affected People's Mechanism and website: <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/who-we-are/project-affected-peoples-mechanism/how-we-assist-you/index.html>

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING

10.1 Monitoring Requirements

The following monitoring requirements will be undertaken by the Project's HSSE Manager with regards to the implementation of the SEP:

- Weekly inspections will be undertaken: (i) at stakeholder grievance boxes to collect any grievance forms, and (ii) review of grievance log updates.
- Monthly inspections will be undertaken to ensure: (i) SEP is disclosed in hard copy at required locations; (ii) summary advertisements of grievance mechanism are available at local community platforms.
- Submission of minutes of meetings as per SEP implementation.
- Quarterly inspections will be undertaken to: (i) ensure project update leaflets are available at local community platforms; (ii) stakeholder grievance boxes and forms are available at designated locations.
- Monitoring requirements are to be updated once available for implementation of the local employment and procurement procedure as well as the social responsibility program. This could include for example submission of employment and procurement databases, proof of announcement advertisements, etc.
- Monitoring of the disclosure requirements identified in the Contact Details section of this SEP, including confirmation that the ESIA, NTS and SEP have been disclosed for the required period at the identified locations and in the identified languages, and that the disclosure has been announced through the agreed communication channels.

10.2 Reporting Requirements

The following reporting requirements will be prepared by the Project's HSSE Manager with regards to the implementation of the SEP:

- On a monthly basis the stakeholder register form will be updated as provided in Annex 4.
- On a monthly basis the stakeholder grievance log sheet will be updated as provided in Annex 2.
- The SEP will be updated on a semi-annual basis during the construction phase and as required during the operation phase.
- The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI) will be reported monthly:

No.	KPI	Measurement Action
1	Number of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken	All communication to be reported in stakeholder register
2	Number of stakeholders involved	All communication to be reported in stakeholder register
3	Number of vulnerable groups engaged (including women groups)	All communication to be reported in stakeholder register
4	Number of requests for information via websites, Project's HSSE Manager and local information centers	All communication to be reported in stakeholder register

No.	KPI	Measurement Action
5	Number of stakeholder valid grievances submitted (and number rejected as outside of scope)	All grievances to be reported in grievance register
6	Number of resolved – unresolved stakeholder grievances	All grievances to be reported in grievance register
7	Number of stakeholder grievances related to GBV	All grievances to be reported in grievance register
8	Average time for resolution of stakeholder complaints	All grievances to be reported in grievance register
9	Type of stakeholder grievances submitted	All grievances to be reported in grievance register

11. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section identifies the roles and responsibilities for the key personnel involved in the implementation of this plan.

Project Manager – Developer

- Ensure resources required (budgetary, human, and logistical resources) are available for the implementation of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Oversee the overall implementation of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including frequent interfacing with the Project's HSSE Manager.
- Participate in implementation of the requirements of the stakeholder grievance mechanism as applicable to include signing grievance resolution forms.

Project's HSSE Manager – Developer

- Update the SEP as required during the Project's lifetime, to include planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Overall responsibility for implementing the requirements of the stakeholder engagement plan as identified
- Overall responsibility for implementing the requirements of the stakeholder grievance mechanism to include distribution of grievance disclosure sheets, collection of grievance forms, updating grievance log sheet, filling grievance resolution forms and grievance close-out forms.
- Coordinate with the EPC Contractor's team / oversee the implementation of the EPC Contractor and its subcontractors of all requirements related to SEP.

Note: The EPC Contractor and its subcontractors(s) will have no role in the implementation of the stakeholder grievance mechanism. Any complaints received directly or indirectly by any EPC or subcontractor staff shall be redirected to the Developer's Project's HSSE Manager.

12. ANNEXES

12.1 Annex I – Grievance Form

PUBLIC GRIEVANCE FORM

Reference No.	
Full Name: <i>(Anonymous submission is allowed)</i>	
Contact Information Please mark how you wish to be contacted and add contact details	☐ By Post: ☐ By Telephone: ☐ By E-mail: ☐ Other (please specify)
Description of Concern, Incident or Grievance	What is your concern/grievance/what happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?
Date of concern, incident, or grievance	
☐ One-time incident/grievance (date) ☐ Happened more than once (how many times?) ☐ On-going (currently experiencing problem)	
What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?	
Signature:	Date:

12.2 Annex 2 – Grievance Log Sheet

GRIEVANCE LOG SHEET

Ref No.	How Was grievance submitted	Date of Submission of Grievance	Name and Contact Information	Description of Grievance	Actions Taken to Resolve the Grievance	Date of Communication of Solution	Has grievance been resolved (Y/N) if not explain why

12.3 Annex 3 – Grievance Resolution Form

GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION FORM

How was grievance received	
Reference No:	
Description of Concern, Incident or Grievance: <i>What is the grievance/ What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?</i>	
Date of Grievance	
Has the Grievance been Resolved?	☐ Yes ☐ No; <i><u>If not provide a justification below</u></i>
<u>Fill Out Either Section 1 OR Section 2 below</u>	
Section 1	
Summary of Actions Undertaken to Resolve Grievance	
Date of Implementation	
Section 2	
Summary of Proposed Actions to be Implemented to Resolve Grievance	
Timeline for Implementation	

Project's HSSE Manager:

Signature:

Date:

12.4 Annex 4 – Project Stakeholder Register Form

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REGISTER FORM

Stakeholder			Details of Engagement	Communication Methods and Tools	Date of Engagement Activity	Responsibility
#	Name, position, group, etc.	Role				