

Samarkand II Solar PV and BESS Project Republic of Uzbekistan

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

December 2024, v1.3

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME	Samarkand I Solar PV and BESS Project
5CS PROJECT NUMBER	1305/001/154
DOCUMENT TITLE	Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
CLIENT	ACWA Power
5CS PROJECT MANAGER	Catherine Sarunday
5CS PROJECT DIRECTOR	Ken Wade

DOCUMENT CONTROL

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AUTHOR	REVIEWER	APPROVER
1.0	1 July 2024	Stakeholder Engagement Plan	CS	BK	KRW
1.1	1/12/2024	Stakeholder Engagement Plan	CS	KRW	MB
1.2	6/12/2024	Stakeholder Engagement Plan	CS	KRW	MB
1.3	10/12/2024	Stakeholder Engagement Plan	CS	KRW	MB



1	Financial Capital	Regardless of location, mode of delivery or function, all organisations are dependent on
2	Social Capital	<i>The 5 Capitals of Sustainable Development</i> to enable long term delivery of its products or services.
3	Natural Capital	Sustainability is at the heart of everything that
4	Manufactured Capital	5 Capitals achieves. Wherever we work, we strive to provide our clients with the means to maintain and enhance these stocks of capital assets.
5	Human Capital	

DISCLAIMER

5 Capitals cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of this document being relied upon by any other party, or being used for any other purpose.

This document contains confidential information and proprietary intellectual property. It should not be shown to other parties without consent from the party which commissioned it.

This document is issued for the party which commissioned it and for specific purposes connected with the above-identified project only. It should not be relied upon by any other party or used for any other purpose

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project Rationale and Roadmap	1
1.2	Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement	2
1.3	Objectives of the SEP	3
1.4	Scope of the SEP	3
1.5	Structure of the SEP	4
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	6
2.1	Key Project Information	6
2.2	Project Location	6
2.3	Land Acquisition	11
2.4	Existing Land-Use	12
2.4.1	500 MW PV Power Plant	12
2.4.2	Nurobod Sub-Station	13
2.4.3	70-km OTL	14
2.4.4	350-km OTL	14
2.4.5	Khalq'a Sub-Station	15
2.4.6	Karakul BESS and Underground Cable	15
2.5	Project Timeline	16
3	LEGAL FRAMEWORK	17
3.1	National Laws and Regulations	17
3.1.1	Public Participation in national EIA	17
3.1.2	Management of Public Grievances	18
3.2	Lender E&S Performance Requirements	19
3.2.1	EBRD E&S Performance Requirements	19
3.2.2	IFC E&S Performance Standards	20
3.2.3	ADB E&S Safeguard Requirements	21
3.2.4	Equator Principles IV	22
3.2.5	AFD E&S Risk Assessment and Management Framework	23
3.2.6	AIIB Environmental and Social Policy	24
4	STAKEHOLDER MAPPING	25
5	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM	34

5.1	Stakeholder Engagement Methods	34
5.1.1	Prior Stakeholder Engagement	37
5.1.2	Forward Stakeholder Engagement	58
5.2	Measures to Avoid Reprisal	73
6	GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM	74
6.1	Key Principles of Grievance Mechanism	74
6.2	Scope of Grievance Mechanism	75
6.3	Steps in Managing Grievance Mechanism	75
6.3.1	Publicising Grievance Management Procedures.	75
6.3.2	Submitting a Grievance	76
6.3.3	Keeping Track of Grievances	77
6.3.4	Reviewing and Investigating Grievances	78
6.3.5	Grievance Resolution Options and Response	78
6.4	Grievance Mechanism in Construction and Commissioning Phase	80
6.5	Grievance Mechanism in Operational Phase	81
6.6	Grievance Procedures for Women and Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups	82
6.6.1	Reporting of Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH)	83
6.7	Grievance Mechanism Contact Details	83
6.8	Process Flow and Timeline	84
6.9	Project Information Centre	87
6.10	Training	88
7	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	89
7.1	Roles and Responsibilities	89
7.1.1	Social Specialist (Project Company)	89
7.1.2	HSE Manager (Project Company)	90
7.1.3	E&S Manager (EPC Contractor)	90
7.1.4	Community Liaison Officers (EPC Contractor)	91
7.1.5	LALRP Steering Committee	91
7.2	Monitoring and Reporting	92
7.3	SEP Budget	96
8	REVIEW	97
	APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE OF GRIEVANCE FORM	98

APPENDIX B - GRIEVANCE REGISTER TEMPLATE	99
APPENDIX C PROJECT & GRM INTRODUCTION LEAFLET	100
APPENDIX D LIST OF PROJECT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES	101

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AoI	Area of Influence
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CESMP	Construction Environmental & Social Management Plan
CLOs	Community Liaison Officers
COD	Commercial Operation Dates
DEG	German Investment Corporation
DFIs	Development Finance Institutions
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMS	Energy Management System
EPFIs	Equator Principles Financial Institution
ESG	Environmental and Social Governance
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Potential Gender-Based Violence
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
HSSE	Health Safety Security and Environmental
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
JSC	Joint-Stock Company
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LALRP	Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan
LGA	Local Government Authorities
LILO	Loop-In-Loop-Out
LLA	Land Lease Agreement
MDAs	National Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
MEEPCC	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
NEGU	National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OESMP	Operational Environmental & Social Management Plan
OTL	Overhead Transmission Line
PAC	Project-Affected Communities

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
PICs	Project Information Centres
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSS	IFC Performance Standards
PV	Photo-Voltaic
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Rationale and Roadmap

Uzbekistan is amongst the fastest growing economies in the Central Asian region, with a steady demand for energy. In 2018, the country's power consumption reached 50 million TWh, and the domestic demand for power is projected to rise at an annual rate of 4%, due to continued population growth and industrial expansion. In 2019, the installed capacity of electricity generation in Uzbekistan totalled 63 TWh, with natural gas fired thermal power plants accounting for 85% of this production.

The steady uptrend in power consumption, declining yield of aged power plants and emergent climatic pressures have led to unprecedented power supply shortages, particularly within the regions of Tashkent, Andijan, Namangan, Ferghana, Samarkand, and Surkhandarya. In December 2022, severe grid overload ensued from widespread spikes in electrical demand for domestic heating under extreme winter temperatures, culminating in a series of power blackouts across Tashkent Region. The emerging power crisis in Uzbekistan has prompted a priority agenda for the development of the country's renewable energy base. This plan aligns with the country's policy shift towards decarbonization and a greener economy. This agenda will largely involve the establishment of additional renewable energy sources, with a view to attaining a solar power capacity of 10,000 MW by 2030, amongst other targets.

In furtherance of the master agreement, on 19 March 2023, the Joint-Stock Company (JSC) National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan (NEGU) entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with ACWA Power (hereinafter the Project Developer), for the fast-track development and operation of a 500 MW PV power plant, two 500/220 kV sub-stations, and a 500-megawatt hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), hereinafter referred to as the Project, in the regions of Samarkand, Tashkent and Bukhara. The agreement also includes the construction of related interconnection facilities (i.e., powerlines). The PPA will be executed over a period of 25 years and 20 years from the Commercial Operation Dates (COD) for the PV power plant and BESS components respectively. Upon the completion of the agreement term, the project facilities will be handed over to the off-taker (NEGU) for subsequent operation and maintenance (O&M).

To this end, the project company, ACWA Power Sazagan Solar 2 LLC, was incorporated on 2 March 2023. In preparation for the Project, the Project Developer is seeking international financing from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), International Finance

Corporation (IFC) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) (hereinafter Project Lenders).

To ensure comprehensive planning and permitting, in keeping with applicable E&S appraisal criteria, the Project Developer has commissioned 5 Capitals (hereinafter the Consultant) to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and a Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LALRP) for the Project. The Consultant has engaged Jurua md Index Consulting as local sub-consultants, for support in the completion of the ESIA and LALRP surveys, and related stakeholder engagement.

1.2 Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement

The project will involve the greenfield development of a PV power plant and electrical sub-station in Nurobod District (Samarkand Region), and one BESS plant in Karakul District (Bukhara Region), in addition to the establishment an Overhead Transmission Line (OTL) in Samarkand Region, and a long-range OTL across the regions of Samarkand, Jizzakh, Syrdarya and Tashkent. The Project Developer is seeking project finance from a number of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). The operations and activities of these DFIs are guided by E&S policies that serve to mainstream the identification, assessment and management of the E&S risks associated with investment projects, in furtherance of sustainable development objectives.

The commitment towards ensuring environmental and socioeconomic sustainability of development projects is enshrined numerous international conventions and DFI performance benchmarks addressing topical developmental issues, such as biodiversity conservation, pollution control, climate change, preservation of cultural heritage, protection of human rights, public participation in decision-making and access to information. This commitment is also founded on the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance, which underpin the mandates of the DFIs in relation to their partners, clients and stakeholders (including project-affected communities).

As set out in the broad-based international accords and industry guidelines, stakeholder engagement is a fundamental element of sustainable and socially responsible development planning and implementation. In the context of E&S risk identification, assessment, responsive mitigation planning and related monitoring, stakeholder consultation and participatory planning is aimed at leveraging expert and local knowledge and minimizing the E&S risks of projects. The disclosure of project information at all stages of project development also delivers on stakeholders' rights to information access in development planning, and alongside meaningful and consultative dialogue, builds stakeholder buy-in for specific investments.

The inclusion of stakeholders in project development is therefore crucial to minimizing E&S risks, creating sustainable and equitable project benefits for potential beneficiaries, and addressing legal, financial, and reputational risks associated with failure to meet relevant project development objectives, host country regulatory requirements and DFI mandates. As such, the Project's E&S appraisal and related stakeholder engagement processes are inextricably linked processes that should be undertaken in parallel. Accordingly, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) presented herein will serve to guide meaningful and differential stakeholder consultation and disclosure over the course of project delivery (i.e., project planning, construction, and operational phases).

The legal context for project-level stakeholder engagement is presented in Section 2.1 of this document.

1.3 Objectives of the SEP

Stakeholder engagement amongst the key requirements for the conduct of the Project's ESIA, under national law and the project lenders' E&S performance standards. According to these instruments, a meaningful and adaptive stakeholder engagement process which begins at reasonably early stages of project planning and continues throughout subsequent stages of project implementation, is intended to fulfil the following E&S performance objectives:

- To establish a participatory, informative and transparent dialogue with parties with the potential to influence the project and/or become affected by the project, as well as constituencies with an interest in the outcome of the project.
- To leverage and integrate local and expert knowledge in the identification and assessment of E&S impacts, subsequent optimization of the project design and effective mitigation planning.
- To establish community buy-in and ensure the delivery of sustainable project benefits to targeted beneficiaries.

Stakeholder engagement is a 'live' process that must be organized by means of a dedicated and documented Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

1.4 Scope of the SEP

The SEP set out in this document has been developed with the aim of guiding stakeholder consultation and disclosure in the Project's planning, construction and operational phases. This guidance aligns with legal requirements and E&S performance standards stipulated by the Project Lenders, including the IFC Performance Standards (IFC PSs), EBRD Performance Requirements (EBRD PRs), and the Equator Principles (EPs).

The SEP will apply to all project activities related to the main, ancillary and associated planned project facilities, specifically:

- 500 MW PV power plant in Nurobod District, Samarkand Region.
- 70-km 220 kV overhead transmission line in Nurobod District, Samarkand Region.
- 500/220 kV sub-station in Nurobod District, Samarkand Region.
- 350-km 220 kV overhead transmission line crossing the regions of Samarkand, Jizzakh, Syrdarya and Tashkent.
- 500/220 kV sub-station in Kuyichirchik District, Tashkent Region.
- 500 MWh BESS, 220 kV underground interconnection cable, and associated access road, in Karakul District, Bukhara Region.
- Ancillary facilities planned for the Project's construction phase.

Further, as detailed in Section 5 of this Plan, stakeholder engagement activities in the purview of the SEP include the following:

- Various modes of consultation (i.e., formal consultative correspondence, focus group discussion, key informant interviews etc.).
- Various modes of disclosure (i.e., community meetings, written notices and disclosure of E&S safeguard documents).
- Management of external grievances (i.e., collection of project related grievances on various E&S impacts and remedial action).

Considering the foreseeable evolution of the project activities at different stages of implementation, potential changes in the Project's legal framework and E&S receptors, the SEP is a live management plan. The Plan will be adapted to changing baseline conditions and outcomes of the Project's ESIA, subsequent E&S monitoring and any follow-up E&S impact assessment processes, in conformity with national regulations and compliance obligations set by the Project Lenders.

Upon the completion of the ESIA, the SEP will integrate into the Project's broader Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and updated accordingly.

1.5 Structure of the SEP

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan presented in this document is structured as follows:

1. Introduction

- Project Rationale and Roadmap
- Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement
- Objectives of the SEP

- Scope of the SEP
- 2. Project Description**
 - Project Location
 - Project Description
 - Project Construction Requirements
 - Project Operation Requirements
 - Local Context and Sensitivities
 - 3. Legal Framework**
 - National Requirements
 - Lender Requirements
 - 4. Stakeholder Mapping**
 - 5. Stakeholder Engagement Program**
 - Stakeholder Engagement Program
 - Measures to avoid Reprisal
 - 6. Grievance Redress Mechanism**
 - Key Principles of Grievance Mechanism
 - Scope of Grievance Mechanism
 - Steps in Managing Grievance Mechanism
 - Grievance Mechanism in Construction and Commissioning Phase
 - Grievance Mechanism in Operational Phase
 - Grievance Procedures for Women and Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups
 - Grievance Mechanism Contact Details
 - Process Flow and Timeline
 - Project Information Centre
 - Training
 - 7. Implementation Plan**
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Monitoring & Reporting
 - 8. Review**
 - 9. Appendices**

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Key Project Information

Table 2-1 Key Project Information

PROJECT TITLE	Samarkand II Solar PV and BESS Project
PROJECT DEVELOPER	ACWA Power
PROJECT COMPANY	ACWA Power Sazagan Solar 2 LLC
OFF TAKER	JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan
EPC CONTRACTOR	Larsen and Tourbo (L&T)
O&M COMPANY	NOMAC
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT	5 Capitals Environmental and Management Consulting (5 Capitals) PO Box 119899, Dubai, UAE Tel: +971 (0) 4 343 5955, Fax: +971 (0) 4 343 9366 www.5capitals.com
POINT OF CONTACT	Ken Wade (Director), Ken.wade@5capitals.com

2.2 Project Location

The project consists of four main components which include one PV power plant, one BESS facility, two sub-stations and three transmission lines, which will be located within the regions of Samarkand, Syrdarya, Jizzakh, Tashkent and Bukhara.

The 500 MW PV power plant will be located in Nurobod District, about 80 km from Samarkand City, and the 500/220kV Nurobod Sub-Station will be sited in Pastdargom District, about 18 km from the city. The 500 MW PV power plant will be linked to Nurobod Sub-Station by a 220 kV 70-kilometre OTL.

The BESS and the 1.1-km underground cable connecting the facility to the adjacent sub-station will be established in Karakul District, approximately 50 km from Bukhara City. The relative locations of the planned project facilities are illustrated in Figure 2-1 to Figure 2-4 below.

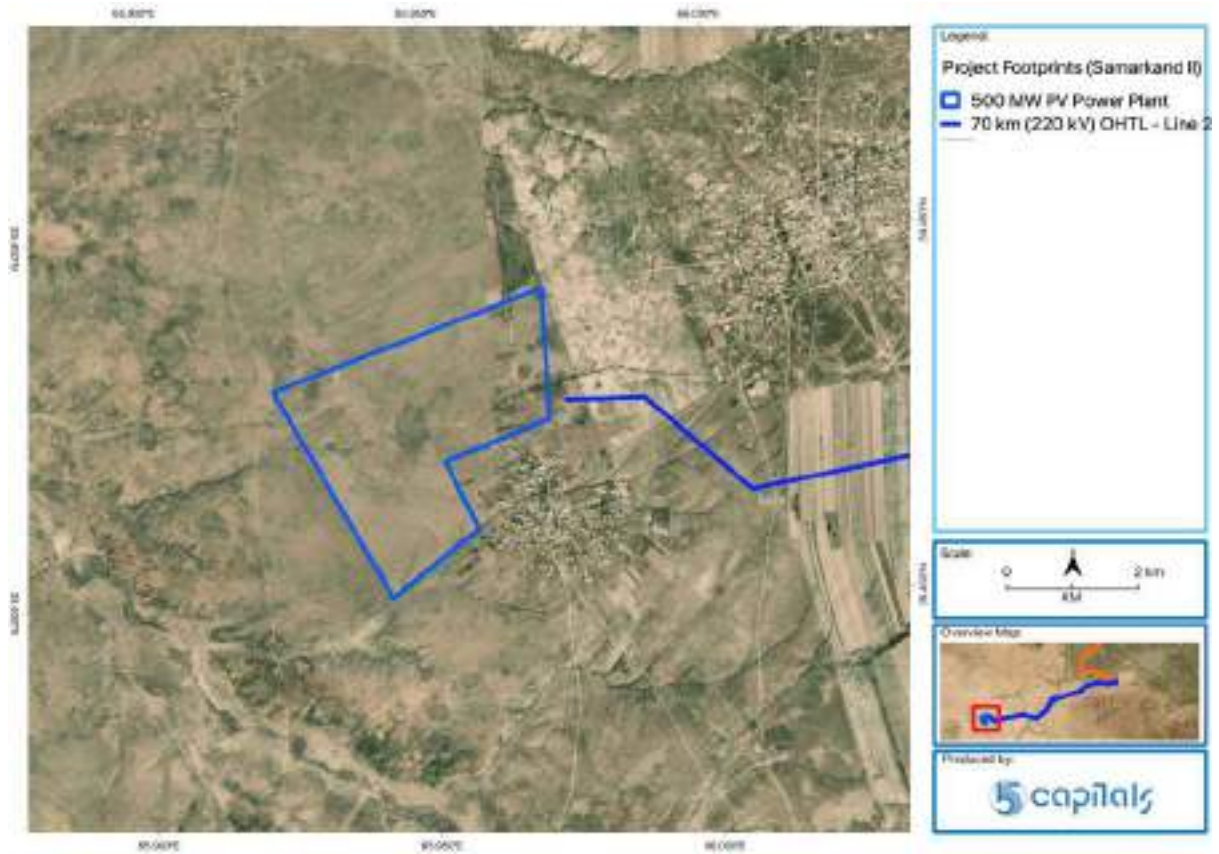


Figure 2-1 Location of the 500 MW PV power plant

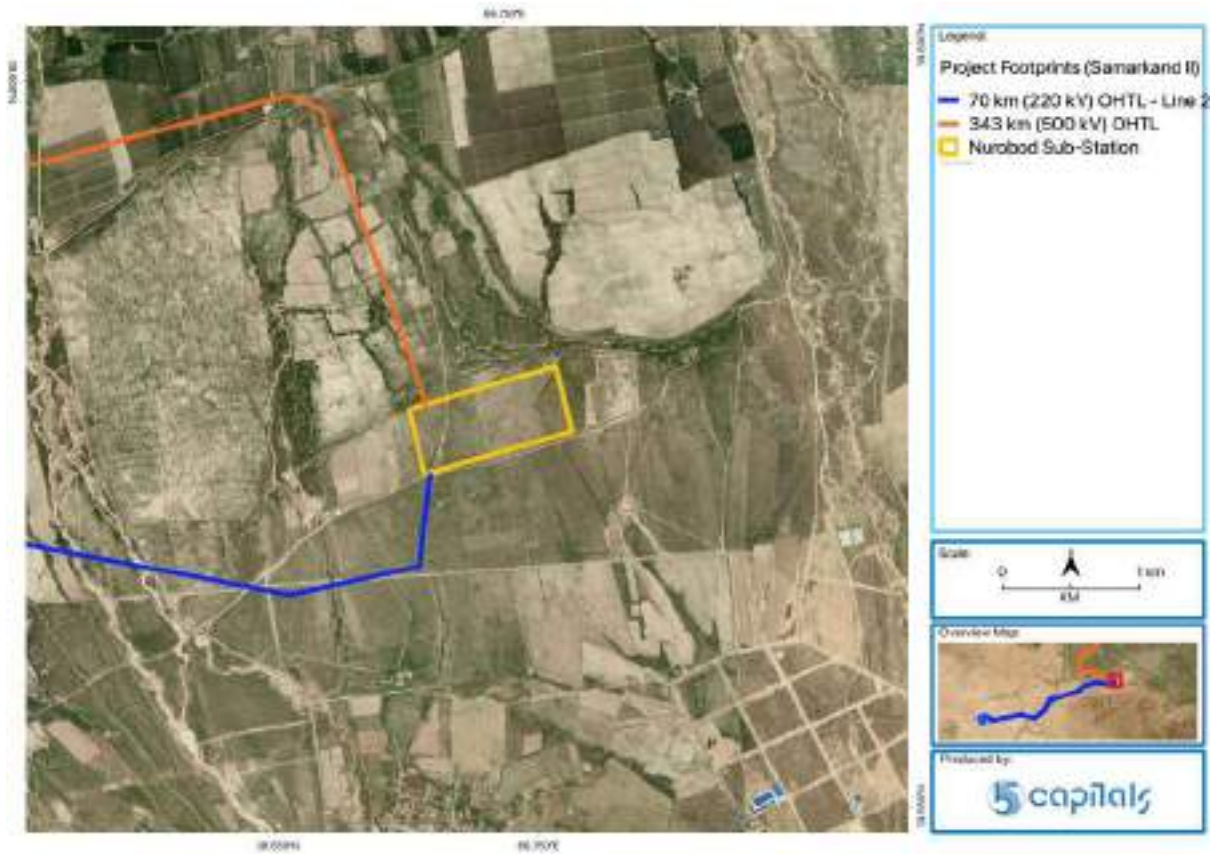


Figure 2-2 Location of the Nurobod sub-station

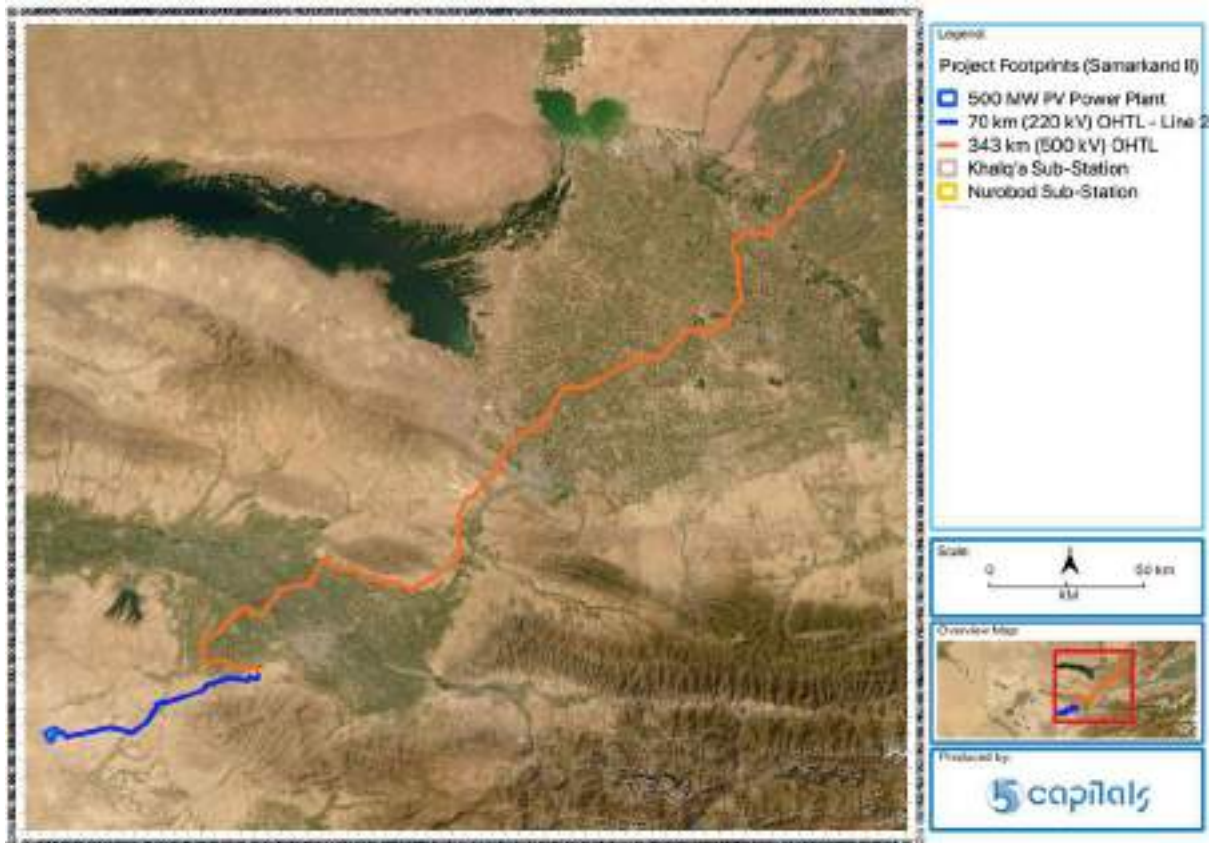


Figure 2-3 Planned 70-km OTL corridor to link the 500 MW PV power plant with the Nurobod substation; and planned 350-km OTL to link the sub-station with Khalq'a sub-station



Figure 2-4 Location of the Karakul BESS

Indicative GPS coordinates for the non-linear project facilities are provided in the table below.

Table 2-2 coordinates for the project site boundaries

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
500 MW PV power plant site	
65.92256902	39.429192
65.97054867	39.44231101
65.97144495	39.42437636
65.95266158	39.41892587
65.95825235	39.40959672
65.94276584	39.40046985
Karakul BESS site	
63.86678779	39.51636452
63.87151443	39.52032504
63.87423742	39.51847344
63.875184	39.51561925
63.8719822	39.5129059
Nurobod sub-station site	

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
66.74046363	39.57744046
66.75310882	39.57987352
66.75424104	39.57554102
66.74160068	39.57315096
Khalq'a sub-station site	
69.0855967	41.01557923
69.09104695	41.01208199
69.08700172	41.00858597
69.08148709	41.01216435

2.3 Land Acquisition

The Project Developer entered into a PPA with the Ministry of Energy (represented by NEGU JSC) of Uzbekistan in March 2023. On 4th July 2023, a presidential decree was issued to mandate the project plan and its implementation.

Amongst other provisions, the presidential decree sets the legal basis for the expropriation of land within specific sites earmarked for the development of the planned project facilities. The land expropriation process in Uzbekistan mainly begins with the withdrawal of earmarked land into state reserves, on the basis of Land Allotment Orders (LAOs) from district- and regional khokimiyats with direct, existing ownership of the land. Subsequently, land returned to state reserves is reclassified and reallocated to new landholders, on the basis of Land Lease Agreements (LLAs). The LAO for the Project was issued on 20 July 2023, however, no access restrictions and eviction have been enforced to date, and LLAs have not been established for the PV power plants and BESS sites. Further, the detailed design of the planned OTLs is underway, and the footprint of the OTL towers has not been established (i.e., both area and location for pylon types along each OTL).

At present, the majority of the project sites fall within land tracts zoned for agricultural land-use. The Project's land acquisition process will involve the reallocation of the land for industrial use. The best available estimates for the Project's itemized land-take is summarized in the table below. The land areas indicated include both permanent footprints and temporary footprints in the Project's operational and construction phases respectively.

Table 2-3 Estimated land-take during construction and operation

SN	PROJECT SITE	AREA (HA)	
		TEMPORARY (CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT)	PERMANENT (O&M FOOTPRINT)
1.	500 MW PV power plant	994	994
2.	Karakul BESS	32.4	32.4
3.	Karakul BESS and underground cable	0.34	0.00
4.	Karakul BESS access road	0.6	0.6
5.	Nurobod sub-station	54.5	54.5
6.	70-km (220 kV) OTL	376.8	3.6
7.	350-km (500 kV) OTL	2,058.6	29.7
Total		3,517.24	1,114.80

2.4 Existing Land-Use

The following sections describe the general land-use within the project sites, with a further outline of current land ownership subject to expropriation. Further information on existing land use and tenure within the project footprint is provided in the project LALRP.

2.4.1 500 MW PV Power Plant

The 500 MW PV power plant site lies within a rural area located in Nurobod District, which lies about 33 kilometres south-west of the Nurobod district centre, and 81 kilometres south-west of Samarkand City.

The site is located within a pastoral area and number of herding structures, such as livestock pens and sheds, were identified within the site. No residential assets were recorded within the site.

Land-use in the surrounding vicinity includes small-scale crop farming, and two residential communities.



Figure 2-5 Steppe landscape within the 500 MW PV plant site (left); Livestock shelter within the site (right)

2.4.2 Nurobod Sub-Station

The Nurobod sub-station site is located within a rural area in Pstdargom District, which is located about 8 kilometres south of the town of Juma (district centre), 37 kilometres east of the Nurobod district centre, and 13 kilometres south-west of Samarkand City.

The site comprises idle fallow land, with limited seasonal grazing activity. No built assets were found within the site. Land-use in the vicinity of the site relatively varied, with herding, livestock farms, crop farms and quarry sites located within a one-kilometre radius.

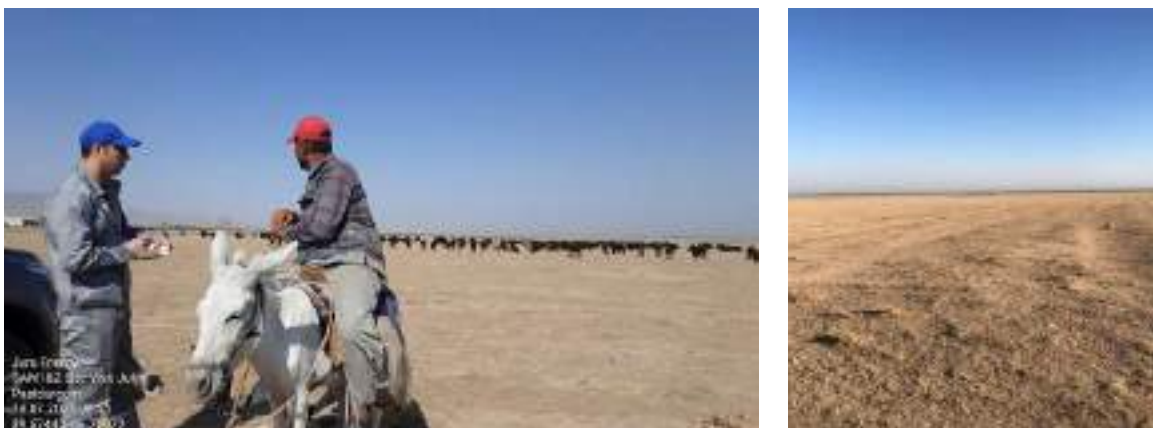


Figure 2-6 Herders found nearby the Nurabad sub-station site (left); Arid, steppe landscape within the site (right)

2.4.3 70-km OTL

The 70-km OTL route cuts across a rural, agricultural landscape in Nurobod District. Land-use in and around the OTL corridor largely includes crop farming. No residential property was identified along the impact corridor.



Figure 2-7 Pastural land-use and crop cultivation around the 70-km OTL corridor

2.4.4 350-km OTL

The 350-km OTL route cuts across a total of four regions, namely Samarkand, Syrdarya, Jizzakh and Tashkent. A total of 16 districts fall within the OTL corridor, and the major urban centres located nearby the corridor include the cities of Samarkand, Jizzakh and Tashkent.

Agriculture along the OTL footprint is dominated by irrigated crop farms. Several aquacultural establishments are also located in and around the corridor, within Syrdarya Region in particular. Small-scale industrial property located in the vicinity of the OTL include quarry sites along the Zerafshan and Syrdarya rivers.



Figure 2-8 Agricultural land along the 350-km OTL corridor

2.4.5 Khalq'a Sub-Station

The Khalq'a sub-station site is located within a rural area in Kuyichirchik District, which is located about 20 kilometres south-west of the outskirts of Tashkent City.

The site adjoins tracts of land farmed for cotton and wheat. No residential assets were found on the plot. The site is surrounded by residential communities, the nearest of which lies about a kilometre away from the site.

2.4.6 Karakul BESS and Underground Cable

The Karakul BESS site is located within a peri-urban area in Karakul District, which lies about 3 kilometres from the district centre, and 50 kilometres south-west of Bukhara Town.

Land within the BESS is part of the state forestry fund and no residential property is present within the site. The site falls within a relatively undeveloped part of the wider industrial zone. Distant residential, commercial, and industrial zones fringe the site to the west and north. The eastern and southern surrounds within a 2-kilometre sweep include a sparse distribution of established and developing industrial facilities.

The footprint of the underground cable that will link the BESS to an existing sub-station cuts across an existing railway section, and the M37 trunk road.



Figure 2-9 Sandy plains with a sparse cover of white saxaul scrub within the Karakul BESS site

2.5 Project Timeline

The Project is currently in its development and detailed design phase, which includes the completion of engineering designs, acquisition of various permits from competent authorities, and access to project financing.

Table 2-4 below provides an overview of the tentative schedule for subsequent stages of project implementation.

Table 2-4 Milestones for project implementation

PROJECT FACILITY	MOBILIZATION START	CONSTRUCTION START	COMMERCIAL OPERATION START
PV power plant (Phase I)	December, 2024	January 2025	April 2026
PV power plant (Phase II)	November, 2024	January 2025	July 2027
Nurobod sub-station	November, 2024	January 2025	September 2026
Karakul BESS	December, 2024	January 2025	July 2027
70-km OTL	December, 2024	January 2025	February 2026
350-km OTL	December, 2024	January 2025	January 2027

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 National Laws and Regulations

3.1.1 Public Participation in national EIA

Based on changes in the national legislation regarding the process of National Environmental Impact Assessment conducting public consultation is now a mandatory part of Stage I of the National EIA process.

According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On further improvement of mechanism for Environmental Impact Assessment” No. 541 dated 07.09.2020 the procedure of conducting public consultations is as follows:

- Annex 3 of the Resolution No 541 – Rules and regulations for conducting public consultations states that public consultations should include discussions and decision making regarding planned activities (for construction of any facility) that may have negative impacts on the environment.
- A non-technical summary regarding any planned project activity that is categorized as I & II group (in accordance with national requirements for categorization) shall be prepared. The NTS should include information about the following:
 - Brief description of the project;
 - Technology solutions and alternative options for the project;
 - Current state of the environment at the selected project site;
 - A brief assessment of socio-economic conditions;
 - Brief description of the causes and type of negative impacts on the environment as a result of the project;
 - Forecast and assessment of possible changes in the state of the environment, socio-economic conditions;
 - Forecast and assessment of project and non-project risks;
 - Measures to prevent, minimise and/or compensate for adverse impacts; and
 - Assessment of possible significant adverse cross-border impacts.
- A public consultation shall be based on the review of non-technical summary by providing equal rights to all participants to express their concerns, opinion and suggestions.
- The following entities shall be considered as part of public consultations:

- Representatives of local departments of State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection who will be considered as observers of public consultations.
 - Local municipalities (considered as the responsible organisation for organising and inviting participants to the meetings);
 - NGOs'
 - All organisations interested in the project;
 - Local communities; and
 - Mass media.
- Expenses, if any, related to the public consultations shall be financed by the Project Developer.

In addition to the above National requirement on conducting public consultations, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'Regarding Appeals of Individuals and Legal Entities' No 378 dated 3.12.2014 (with amendments on 17th August 2017), regulates the appeals of individuals and legal entities to state bodies as well as to their officials. Appeals can be oral, written or electronic and regardless of their form and type are of equal importance. A people's 'Reception Office' is tasked with organising a direct dialogue with the population, ensuring the functioning of an effective system of appeals aimed at the full protection of their rights, freedoms and legitimate interests. Any applications are considered within 15 days from date of receipt and any additional consideration is completed within 1 month.

3.1.2 Management of Public Grievances

The Resolution No. 728 provides for a centralized Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the resolution of broad-ranging grievances from the public. This system draws on a publicly accessible online platform for the collection of grievances from residents across the country. The Portal allows any member of the public to submit a grievance, for the attention of various authorities within the various domains of local and central Government. The application for grievance resolution can target any authority within the hierarchy of executive Government. Upon initial review of the grievance statement by the target authority, the grievance is allocated to the most relevant LGA for further review and remedial action. In the event that resolution cannot be delivered by the most relevant LGA level, the grievance is cascaded higher along the administrative hierarchy, until an appropriate executive decision is provided by a competent authority.

3.2 Lender E&S Performance Requirements

3.2.1 EBRD E&S Performance Requirements

All projects financed by EBRD shall be structured to meet the requirements of the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy which includes ten Performance Requirements (PRs) for key areas of environmental and social sustainability that projects are required to meet, including PR10 Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement. In addition, EBRD's Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM), as an independent last resort tool, aims to facilitate the resolution of social, environmental and public disclosure issues raised by Project-affected people and civil society organisations about EBRD financed projects among Project stakeholders or to determine whether the Bank has complied with its ESP and the Project-specific provisions of its Access to Information Policy; and where applicable to address any existing non-compliance with these policies, while preventing future non-compliance by the Bank.

The EBRD's ESP defines stakeholder engagement as an on-going process which involves the following elements: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) stakeholder engagement planning; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) meaningful consultation and participation leading to the client's incorporating into its decision-making process the views of the affected parties on matters that affect them; (v) an effective grievance procedure or mechanism, and (vi) ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders. The process of stakeholder engagement should begin at the earliest stage of project planning and continue throughout the project life.

An essential element in the stakeholder engagement process, to ensure meaningful and effective consultation process, is the careful identification of all involved stakeholders and the examination of their concerns, expectations, and preferences. Special attention should be paid to the identification of vulnerable stakeholders. The engagement with these stakeholder groups needs to be planned and managed differentially, based on their unique needs and challenges in the socioeconomic context of the project-affected communities.

Furthermore, the EBRD requires that the project developer establish and maintain an effective grievance mechanism, ensuring that any stakeholder complaints are received, handled, and resolved effectively, in a prompt and timely manner.

This SEP has been developed in line with these requirements and in consideration of the categorisation of the Project as Category A under the ESP (2019), requiring a formalised and participatory ESIA process.

EBRD PR10 "recognises the importance of an open and transparent engagement between the client, its workers, local communities directly affected by the project and where

appropriate, other stakeholders as an essential element of Good International Practice (GIP) and corporate citizenship. Such engagement will involve the following key elements:

- Stakeholder Identification and analysis.
- Stakeholder engagement planning.
- Disclosure of information.
- Consultation and Participation.
- Grievance Mechanism.
- Ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders.

In reference to vulnerable groups, PR10 states *“The client will identify those project-affected parties (individuals or groups) who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable”*. In addition, the client is required to *“support active and inclusive engagement with project affected parties including disadvantaged or vulnerable groups”*.

EBRD PR10 requires clients to establish a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of grievances from affected stakeholders, including affected communities.

3.2.2 IFC E&S Performance Standards

All of the IFC Performance Standards include requirements for stakeholder engagement as part of project-level ESIA and subsequent ESMS implementation. The IFC Performance Standard 1 on “Social and Environmental Assessment and Management Systems” describes the stakeholder engagement as follows:

“Stakeholder engagement is the basis for building strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are essential for the successful management of a project’s environmental and social impacts. Stakeholder engagement is an on-going process that may involve, in varying degrees, the following elements:

- Stakeholder analysis and planning.
- Disclosure and dissemination of information.
- Consultation and participation.
- Grievance mechanism.
- On-going reporting to Affected Communities.

The nature, frequency, and level of effort of stakeholder engagement may vary considerably and will be commensurate with the project’s risks and adverse impacts, and the project’s phase of development.”

The IFC Performance Standards indicate that when Affected Communities are subject to identified risks and adverse impacts from a project, the developer/client will undertake a process of consultation in a manner that provides the Affected Communities with opportunities to express their views on project risks, impacts and mitigation measures, and allows the client to consider and respond to them. Effective consultation is a two-way process that will:

- Begin early in the process of identification of environmental and social risks and impacts and continue on an on-going basis as risks and impacts arise;
- Be based on the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information which is in a culturally appropriate local language(s) and format and is understandable to Affected Communities.
- Focus inclusive engagement on those directly affected as opposed to those not directly affected.
- Be free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation.
- Enable meaningful participation, where applicable.
- Be documented.

3.2.3 ADB E&S Safeguard Requirements

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) have established an Operational Manual and Policy Statement that includes the need for an amount of consultation, participation and stakeholder engagement. Both documents set out the applicable requirements the banks investment projects should fulfil in the potential receipt of finance.

ADB Operational Manual on “*Project Design and Preparation: Item C- Consultation and Participation*” requires meaningful consultation to be carried out with affected people and the consultation processes to be appropriately documented in the EIA, IEE, resettlement plan and/or IPP as applicable to the project.

The Operational Manual requires that vulnerable groups have sufficient opportunities to participate in consultations.

ADB Safeguard Requirement 1 on Environment: Consultation and Participation states that the client will undertake “*meaningful consultation with affected people and other concerned stakeholders, including civil society, and facilitate their informed participation. Meaningful consultation is a process that (i) begins early in the project preparation stage and is carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the project cycle; (ii) provides timely disclosure of relevant and adequate information that is understandable and readily accessible to affected people; (iii) is undertaken in an atmosphere free of intimidation or coercion; (iv) is gender inclusive and responsive, and tailored to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups; and (v)*

enables the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision making, such as project design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues”.

ADB Safeguard Requirement 2 on Involuntary Resettlement: Consultation and Participation also requires meaningful consultation to be undertaken by the client as stated above for ADB Safeguard Requirement 1 but includes consultation with host communities and the need for the client to pay particular attention to the need of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, especially those below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly, female headed households, women and children, Indigenous Peoples, and those without legal title to land.

ADB Safeguard Requirement 3 on Indigenous Peoples: Consultation and Participation requires “the borrower/client will undertake meaningful consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples to ensure their informed participation in (i) designing, implementing, and monitoring measures to avoid adverse impacts on them or, when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate, and compensate for such effects; and (ii) tailoring project benefits that accrue to them in a culturally appropriate manner”.

According to the 2009 ADB Safeguard Policy Statement, ADB requires “borrowers/clients to engage with communities, groups, or people affected by proposed projects, and with civil society through information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation in a manner commensurate with the risks to and impacts on affected communities”

3.2.4 Equator Principles IV

The Equator Principles IV establish key requirements for stakeholder engagement through the following principles:

- Principle 5: Stakeholder Engagement
 - For all Category A and Category B Projects the EPFI will require the client to demonstrate effective Stakeholder Engagement, as an ongoing process in a structured and culturally appropriate manner, with Affected Communities, Workers and, where relevant, Other Stakeholders.
 - For Projects with potentially significant adverse impacts on Affected Communities, the client will conduct an Informed Consultation and Participation process. The client will tailor its consultation process to: the risks and impacts of the Project; the Project's phase of development; the language preferences of the Affected Communities; their decision-making processes; and the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. This process should be free from external manipulation, interference, coercion and intimidation.
 - There are also other requirements for facilitating engagement and engagement with indigenous peoples.

- Principle 6: Grievance Mechanism
 - For all Category A and, as appropriate, Category B Projects, the EPFI will require the client, as part of the ESMS, to establish effective grievance mechanisms which are designed for use by Affected Communities and Workers, as appropriate, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances about the Project's environmental and social performance.
 - Grievance mechanisms are required to be scaled to the risks and impacts of the Project, and will seek to resolve concerns promptly, using an understandable and transparent consultative process that is culturally appropriate, readily accessible, at no cost, and without retribution to the party that originated the issue or concern. Grievance mechanisms should not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies. The client will inform Affected Communities and Workers about the grievance mechanisms in the course of the Stakeholder Engagement process.

3.2.5 AFD E&S Risk Assessment and Management Framework

The French Development Agency has established an Environmental and Social Risk Management Policy (2017), which provides for the development of operating procedures to identify, prevent or mitigate environmental and social risks and impacts, as well as any human rights violation that could result from AFD-funded activities.

Stakeholder participation-consultation

For High and Substantial risk projects, the analyses conducted (ESA, ESMP, RAP) must be subject to a free, prior and informed consultation of the people potentially affected by the project, the central and local administrations impacted and civil society representatives involved in environmental and social issues. This consultation process is organized and financed by the client and may be conducted at various stages of the assessment process, in line with national regulations. Conclusions must be used in the final drafting of the assessment reports submitted for AFD's approval.

The initial consultation must be conducted in a transparent manner and must be accessible to all persons potentially affected by the project, particularly vulnerable populations. Stakeholders will be consulted in a culturally appropriate manner, using appropriate languages and cultural and educational references. For the riskiest projects, or when these projects are subject to major revisions or amendments, consultations of people potentially affected may also be conducted during the implementation phase, on a case-by-case basis.

3.2.5.1 Disclosure of information

Once the environmental and social documents have been approved by AFD, especially the ESA, ESMP and/or RAP, for transparency and accountability purposes, in particular towards

the main stakeholders, the client will be encouraged to make these documents available to the public, in accessible areas in the country and on Internet. AFD will, where required, provide support for disclosing such information. The timeline for consultation must allow time for collecting relevant feedback from the persons or groups who have accessed these documents. When major revisions to the key documents (ESA, ESMP, RAP) are required during the implementation of a project, the client will also be encouraged to disclose updates in the country and on Internet.

3.2.6 AIB Environmental and Social Policy

As stated in the AIB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), 2022), the Bank has established a directive for the development of an Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), which sets forth mandatory environmental and social requirements applicable to all Projects. The ESF includes the following requirements in relation to stakeholder engagement:

AIB requires clients to disclose environmental and social information in accordance with specific standards. The Bank also discloses this information early in the project assessment process and sets deadlines for disclosure, especially for high-risk projects. The Bank may defer disclosure due to legal or commercial reasons and collaborates with co-financiers on disclosure when necessary.

The AIB Environmental and Social Framework emphasizes meaningful consultation with stakeholders, especially for projects with significant adverse impacts, involuntary resettlement, or impacts on Indigenous Peoples. Clients must document these consultations.

A Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) must be established, tailored to the project's risks and impacts, and ensure accessibility, confidentiality, and protection for complainants. This mechanism should also address workplace concerns for project workers.

The framework also includes a Project-affected People's Mechanism for complaints about the Bank's failure to implement the framework, providing an alternative to project-level GRMs or management processes. This mechanism is also coordinated with co-financiers' accountability mechanisms if applicable.

4 STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

The preparation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) commenced with a stakeholder mapping exercise. The wide range of stakeholders associated with the Project were identified and categorized based on a review of the Project's legal framework and preliminary identification of E&S impact receptors. In terms of project parties, the project stakeholders were categorized as follows:

1. Project-affected landowners and land users.
2. Project-Affected Communities (PACs).
3. Local Government Authorities ((LGAs) i.e., regional and district administration).
4. National Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).
5. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
6. Project Lenders.

The stakeholders were screened further, in terms of their relevance to the project, to enable a differential engagement plan such that the scope, modes and frequency of planned consultation and disclosure are commensurate with the parties' roles, risks, and interests in relation to the Project. This analysis enabled a subsequent round of stakeholder grouping, based on their influence on the Project:

- Decision-making stakeholders (Category 'D') – entities charged with the implementation, appraisal and/or regulation of the various project aspects, which can critically affect the course of the Project (i.e., national regulators and Project Lenders).
- Impacted stakeholders (Category 'A') – entities that are potentially impacted by the Project directly or indirectly.
- Key interest groups (Category 'I') – entities that are neither affected by the project nor bear any executive influence on the project but hold certain interests in the project.

The EBRD PR1 and PR5, and IFC PS1 and PS5, define vulnerable groups as sections of project-affected communities that are subject to disproportionate adverse socioeconomic impacts from projects, by virtue of attributes such as gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, indigenous status, age (including children, youth, and the elderly), physical or mental disability, literacy, political views or social status. On this basis, the list of criteria for the identification of vulnerable community members or sections in the context of the Project includes the following:

- Any households within project-affected communities, which are (i) subject to economic and/or physical displacement, and (ii) do not have legally demonstrable (formal) rights to project-affected landholdings and pastoral areas.
- Households in which more than two members or the household head are disabled.
- Households in which more than two members or the household head are chronically sick.
- Female-headed households.
- Child-headed households.
- Households with an elderly head (over 60 years).
- Households living in extreme poverty (i.e., under the national basic poverty line).

Table 4-1 below provides an overview of the stakeholder categories and groupings, their respective consultation and disclosure agenda and the engagement mode for each.

Table 4-1 List of project stakeholders and their relation to the project

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
Project-affected and land users (PAPs)	Displaced land users (landowners and workers) Total of 268 PAPs identified to date	A: Landowners subject to economic displacement as a result of land acquisition for the Project.
Project-Affected Communities (PACs/ Makhallas)	Community residents Total of 20 affected communities)	A: Communities subject to E&S impacts from various project aspects.
	Local women	A: Community members subject to disproportionate E&S impacts from various project aspects.
	Local youth	
	Other vulnerable groups within affected communities	

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
	Residential and commercial land owners nearby the PV power plant and BESS sites	A: Entities that are subject to construction-phase impacts such as noise, vibration, dust, and traffic congestion.
Local Government Authorities (LGAs / Khokimiyats)	Makhalla leadership (i.e., chairpersons and committee for 20 affected communities)	D: -Grass-roots administration and monitoring of development projects, and coordination with district administration. - Registration of community grievances.
	District khokimiyats (i.e., for 3 affected districts of Nurobod, Pastdargom and Samarkand)	D: - District-level planning and administration of development projects. - Preparation of land-use proposals, approval of subsequent land-use plans, commissioning of cadastral registration of landholdings, and administration of Land Lease Agreements (LLAs). - Implementation of land expropriation for the Project.
	Samarkand Region Khokimiyat	D: - Regional planning and administration of development projects. - Implementation of land expropriation for the Project.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
National Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) – Energy	Ministry of Energy	D: Review and approval of project design, execution of a LLA for the Project, operational power off-take, and O&M post PPA term completion.
	National Electricity Grids of Uzbekistan (NEGU)	D: Review and approval of project design, land acquisition, operational off-take and O&M of planned interconnection facilities post PPA term completion.
	Asia Trans Gas	D: Provision of general information on transboundary/ international gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of gas supply infrastructure (e.g., appropriate buffer zones).
	Uztransgaz.	D: Provision of general information on regional gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of gas supply infrastructure (e.g., appropriate buffer zones).
	Hududgaz	D: Provision of district-level information on existing gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of gas supply infrastructure.
MDAs – Environment and Climate Change	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change (MEEPCC)	D: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of information on biodiversity and ecologically important water resources within the project-affected areas. -Execution of laws and regulations pertaining to environmental management. -Review of national EIA reports for planned project facilities.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
		<p>-Issue of environmental permits for construction and operation.</p> <p>-Follow-up monitoring of E&S compliance.</p>
	MEEPCC - Regional Offices (for Samarkand, Region)	<p>D:</p> <p>-Provision of information on biodiversity and ecologically important water resources within the project-affected areas, and related conservation programs.</p> <p>-Implementation of contingent pre-construction biodiversity surveys.</p> <p>-General monitoring of E&S compliance during the Project's construction and operational phases.</p>
	Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences – Institute of Zoology	<p>I: Provision of information on biodiversity and technical support on ad-hoc baseline surveys for specific faunal species and habitats.</p>
	Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences – Institute of Botany	<p>I: Provision of information on biodiversity and technical support on ad-hoc baseline surveys for specific floral species and habitats.</p>
MDAs – Water resources	Ministry of Water – Regional and District Offices	<p>D:</p> <p>-Provision of information on planned and existing irrigational water supply facilities within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of related infrastructure (e.g., appropriate buffer zones).</p>

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
		-Issue of permits for use of water supply system during construction (i.e., water abstraction).
	Uzsuvtaminot	Development and operation of water supply and sanitation facilities.
MDAs – Health, Sanitation, Safety and Security	Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Service of The Republic of Uzbekistan	D: -Execution of laws and regulations pertaining to public health and safety. -Establishment of health and safety buffer zones. - Regular monitoring of E&S compliance in relation to impacts on environment and public health and safety.
	Toza Hudud	A: State waste management agency that is responsible for the provision of waste collection and management services within project-affected makhallas (communities).
MDAs – Industry, Commerce and Livelihoods	State Committee for Sericulture and Wool Industry Development (SWID)	A: - Overarching custodian of designated pastoral land in Uzbekistan. Responsible for developing the wood and sericulture sector.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources	D: Provision of information on planned and existing mineral exploration surveys (and related exclusion zones within the project-affected areas, and any geotechnically hazardous land).
MDAs – Transportation and Communication	Ministry of Transportation – Regional and District Offices	I: Provision of information on the transport infrastructure within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of related infrastructure (e.g., construction of crossings, upgrade or extension of existing roads, and traffic regulation).
	Uzbektelecom	I: Provision of information on the telecommunication cables within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the security and relocation of underground cables.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE
MDAs – Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage Agency – Regional Offices	I: Provision of information on tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to cultural heritage in Uzbekistan.
	Academy of Sciences – Institute of Archaeology.	I: Provision of information on tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the project-affected areas, and completion of archaeological surveys for the national inventory of cultural heritage sites.
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds • BirdLife International • Eurasian Bustard Alliance • International Union for Conservation of Nature (Bustard Specialist Group) • Bankwatch • Reneco Wildlife Consultants • International Fund for Houbara Conservation 	I: Provision of information and technical feedback regarding key biodiversity-related issues, impacts and impact management strategies.
Project Lenders (FLs)	ADB, EBRD, IFC and JBIC	D: Providing project finance and undertaking related due diligence over the period of the financing agreement.

5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

This section presents the modes of stakeholder engagement that will be adopted for the different stakeholder groupings identified in Section 4 of this document, in the Project's planning, construction and operational phases. Further, a brief summary of stakeholder engagement activities conducted to date, and the outcome of these engagements is presented subsequently.

5.1 Stakeholder Engagement Methods

For the purposes of this ESIA, a number of stakeholder engagement modes are planned for subsequent consultation and disclosure vis-à-vis the various stakeholder groups identified. The table below outlines the applicability of these engagement modes, taking into account the stakeholder categories, the size and geographical distribution of the stakeholder groups, sensitivity of stakeholder information, and social factors affecting the participation and expression of certain community groupings.

Table 5-1 Applicability of different stakeholder engagement modes

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MODE	APPLICABILITY
Formal consultative letters/ correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inviting stakeholders to public meetings. Disclosing information to a large and/or extensive target audience. Formal project introduction and preliminary rounds of consultations with MDAs, LGAs and other authorities.
Community meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial disclosure for project introduction, description of potential E&S impacts impact management strategies, for the information of the general public within project-affected communities. Initial consultation with community members with regard to the general E&S context, potential E&S receptors and impacts, appropriate management measures and related recommendations. Responses to general project-related queries from affected communities. Presentation of the plan for subsequent rounds of engagement and grievance management.
Leaflets and infographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of lucid summary information regarding the project objectives, plan, associated E&S impacts and corresponding management measures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustration of project design, and various E&S management processes (i.e., ESIA, grievance redress mechanism etc.). • Providing reference where attendance of meetings is not possible or oral presentations delivered during prior meetings is not well understood. <p>The leaflet used for the disclosure of project information and familiarization with the project GRM is presented in Annex 3 of this document.</p>
Household surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of detailed household-level socioeconomic information, from a representative sample of households resident within project-affected communities and districts. • Collection of voluntary and sensitive information that may otherwise be reserved on public consultation platforms.
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective consultations with affected communities, which target a specific groups or guilds for discussions based around certain E&S topics. • Exclusive and safe platforms for engaging with marginalized or minority groups who may otherwise be underrepresented or intimidated with regard to self-expression, during general community meetings.
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on key resource persons and subject matter experts from local communities, district and regional administration, MDAs and NGOs. • May be conducted for follow-up consultations with various authorities, following an initial round of consultative correspondence. • Useful for collecting expert information related to key E&S topics applicable to specific locations.
Participatory site visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits for ground truthing and observation, attended by project-affected affected entities, including community members and/or relevant officials from competent authorities. • Useful for the demarcation of plot boundaries (for affected landholdings) and utility asset surveys.
Official announcements and media coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written notices posted in community centres and project information centres. • Notices disseminated to communities by phone calls, phone messages, social media/ instant messaging platforms (e.g., Telegram) emails, door-to-door visits or local media. • Useful for official announcements and notices related to project milestones of account to affected stakeholders. • Posts on Telegram channel coordinated by a designated Project Company CLO.
Local and online disclosure of E&S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for engagement aimed at consultation and disclosure within the public domain, which can result in material changes to the Project's E&S

safeguard documents	<p>safeguard documents and the Project Company's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local disclosure of E&S safeguard documents (i.e., ESIA Non-Technical Summary (NTS), LALRP, and SEP) at strategic Project Information Centres (PICs) within local communities (i.e., employment assistance centres, post offices, community school libraries, Local Government Offices and country offices of Project Lenders., as appropriate). • Online disclosure of E&S safeguard documents (i.e., ESIA, LALRP, and SEP) on the websites of project lenders.
----------------------------	---

Following the stakeholder analysis and the selection of suitable engagement modes, a forward Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was drawn up to ensure that the scope, frequency and differential means of engagement are commensurate with the role and relevance of each stakeholder group.

The above-described modes of stakeholder engagement will continue to be conducted in a manner that is culturally appropriate, understandable to target audiences, and free of manipulation, coercion and intimidation. The timing and location of community meetings and FGDs were previously organized with efforts to ensure sufficient and equitable representation of groupings or constituencies whose attendance may be constrained by a lack of mobile communication, transportation means and overriding workplace or domestic commitments. Oral and written communication will be made in local languages, namely Uzbek and Russian, as appropriate. Where engagement is focused on international stakeholders, the default language will be English. All modes of engagement will be documented by minutes of meetings and attendance and/or document dispatch logs, as relevant.

The SEP will be a live document that will be updated over the course of project planning and project implementation. Potential and actual E&S risks, impacts and receptors will change with the (i) progression of project activities, (ii) variation in project plans and (iii) exogenous developments in the Project's legal framework. Accordingly, the range of relevant stakeholders and corresponding engagement requirements will evolve in turn. The timing and frequency of engagement is set to ensure timely engagement that will play an instrumental part in minimizing the Project's adverse E&S impacts while enhancing development benefits to relevant constituencies.

5.1.1 Prior Stakeholder Engagement

The table below provides an overview of the project stakeholders (grouped by administrative capacity and relation to the project), their respective consultation and disclosure agenda, engagement modes and feedback in relation to E&S issues.

Table 5-2 Overview of project stakeholders, and their respective engagement modes, consultation agenda and summary of issues raised in consultation to date

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
Project-affected and land users (PAPs)	<p>Displaced land users (landowners and workers)</p> <p>Total of 819 PAHs and commercial entities</p>	<p>A: Landowners subject to economic displacement as a result of land acquisition for the Project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans, potential E&S impacts, and mitigation strategies. • Request for information on potentially impacted property, resources, and land tenure. • Establishment of the Project's external Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official announcements (including broadcasts/ posts on dedicated Telegram channels). • Community meetings. • Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). • Key Informant Interviews (KIs) (LALRP-stage). • Household surveys (LALRP-stage). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on usage and tenure of land parcels affected by the project. • Information on household structure, existing livelihood assets, income status and access to social services. • The majority of PAHs across different PAH categories (impact-based groupings) indicated a strong preference for cash compensation. • Most of the PAHs had a neutral opinion/ attitude towards the Project. • The majority of PAHs and enterprises indicated a preference to pursue/ maintain the same livelihoods, following the Project impacts, but showed willingness to consider any capacity development initiatives under the Project. • The PAHs were anticipating livelihood restoration assistance and development benefits in form of project employment, and other commercial

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
					<p>opportunities during construction (e.g., use of rental accommodation property, catering services).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main challenges related to current (pre-displacement) livelihoods in the districts Nurobod, Pstdargom and Samarkand are lack of employment opportunities outside of seasonal labour in neighbouring intensive farms, and the incidence of droughts which suppress the already limited yield. One crop farming enterprise in Nurobod District requested for a variation in the 70-km OTL layout, to avoid impact on a high-value orchard. After a series of consultations on design iterations, the landowner approved the most favourable subsequent change prior to the start of the asset inventory and valuation survey. Some of the PAHs expressed concern over the Project not providing compensation for impacts on productive land.
Project-Affected Communities	Community residents	A: Communities subject to E&S impacts from various project aspects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure of project plans, potential E&S impacts, and mitigation strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official announcements. Project leaflets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on existing livelihoods and access to social services.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
(PACs/ Makhallas)	For a total of 109 affected communities, as enumerated in Appendix D.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information on potentially impacted public infrastructure and resources. Request for specific information on local demography, household economy and social services. Establishment of the Project's external Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meetings. FGDs. Household surveys (ESIA-stage). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the electromagnetic radiation and safety of the power plants and OTL corridors. Unemployment rates are generally high in the rural reaches of the project-affected regions, particularly within Nurobod District. Temporary, semi-skilled labour mostly includes agricultural jobs available in the Spring and Autumn seasons. Requests for project employment for men and women alike. Women can accept semi-skilled project work (i.e., cookery, cleaning, landscaping). Communities requested for project assistance in revamping local infrastructure such as roads, existing OTLs, particularly within Nurobod District, and for entrepreneurial support such as fruit drying facilities for resident women. Residents within Nurobod District anticipate access to stable and affordable power supply following the development of the Project, due to long-standing challenges with access

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
					to gas (manure from subsistence agriculture is being used for domestic heating etc.) and power outages from dilapidated, overwhelmed power distribution systems.
	Local women	A: Community members subject to disproportionate E&S impacts from various project aspects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans, potential E&S impacts, and mitigation strategies. • Request for information on potentially impacted public infrastructure and resources. • Request for specific information on local demography, household economy and social services. • Request for information special needs and current resilience to potential socioeconomic impacts. • Establishment of the Project's external Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official announcements. • Project leaflets. • FGDs. • Household surveys (ESIA-stage). • Household surveys (LALRP-stage). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on existing livelihoods, access to social services, and social security. • In the rural reaches of project-affected regions, particularly within the Nurobod and Pastdargom Districts, most formal and semi-formal jobs outside of private (household) agriculture are temporary/seasonal. • In general, women resident in the project-affected communities are employed in full-time and seasonal jobs such as farming, cotton harvesting, small-scale harvest processing facilities, vending, food catering, textile workshops, small-scale harvest sewing, home maintenance, and a few are employed in public institutions (i.e., schools, medical centres etc). • Women in the communities of Olga and Chorvador engage in
	Local youth				
Other vulnerable groups within affected communities, including low-income households listed in the district 'Temir daftari' registers, and non-titled herders in the communities of Olga and Chorvador (Nurobod District). These residents may not be able to attend community					

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	meetings at PICs in the district centres, due to economic commitments (i.e., full-time livelihood activities)				<p>herding, as many residents (especially men) are employed and stationed outside of the communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limited civil service and commercial jobs for local youth. • Assistance such as priority credit facilities for women, youth and vulnerable households, as well as social investments to support the establishment of local SMEs (e.g., textile workshops, confectionary factories, agro-processing facilities) would alleviate unemployment and poverty within affected communities.
	Residential and commercial land owners nearby the PV power plant and BESS sites	A: Entities that are subject to construction-phase impacts such as noise, vibration, dust, and traffic congestion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). • Disclosure of the Project's GRM. • Request for any immediate queries and/or concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official announcements. • Project leaflets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information requests regarding the Project (i.e., developer, planned facilities, construction sites, and duration of construction). • No specific concerns raised to date.
Local Government Authorities (LGAs / Khokimiyats)	Makhalla leadership (i.e., chairpersons and committee for	D: -Grass-roots administration and monitoring of development projects,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). • Request for information on potentially impacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on existing livelihoods and vulnerable/ marginalized community groups.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	109 affected communities)	and coordination with district administration. - Registration of community grievances.	<p>public infrastructure and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for general information on local demography, household economy and social services. Request for general information on socioeconomically vulnerable community groupings. Request for cadastral maps and local land-use. Request for information on the progress of land expropriation and relevant procedures. Establishment of the Project's external Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIIs. 	
	District khokimiyats For a total of 20 affected districts enumerated in Appendix D	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District-level planning and administration of development projects. Preparation of land-use proposals, approval of subsequent land-use plans, commissioning of cadastral registration of landholdings, and administration of Land Lease Agreements (LLAs). Implementation of land expropriation for the Project. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on existing livelihoods, access to social services, and public infrastructure. Cadastral maps and information on the usage and tenure of affected land.
	Regional Khokimiyats (for the regions of Samarkand, Jizzakh, Syrdarya, Tashkent and Bukhara	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional planning and administration of development projects. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information regarding site selection and land acquisition for the Project. Information regarding public infrastructure and natural resources/ ecology.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
		- Implementation of land expropriation for the Project.			
National Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) – Energy	Ministry of Energy	D: Review and approval of project design, execution of a LLA for the Project, operational power off-take, and O&M post PPA term completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project design. • Updates on project implementation progress (i.e., design, construction planning). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	Approval of project design.
	National Electricity Grids of Uzbekistan (NEGU)	D: Review and approval of project design, land acquisition, operational off-take and O&M of planned interconnection facilities post PPA term completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the Project's associated facilities (i.e., LLO transmission lines). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of project design. • Provision of information relating to the design, construction and operation of the Project's associated facilities (i.e., LLO transmission lines).
	Asia Trans Gas	D: Provision of general information on transboundary/ international gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of gas supply infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). • Request for information on existing gas pipelines located in and around the project area. • Request for regulatory buffers for gas pipelines located in and around the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on operational gas pipelines nearby the project footprints and their respective capacities. • Regulatory setback/ buffer distances for gas pipelines located nearby project facilities. • The project sites are not located within the security buffers of any transboundary gas pipelines.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	Uztransgaz.	<p>(e.g., appropriate buffer zones).</p> <p>D: Provision of general information on regional gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of gas supply infrastructure (e.g., appropriate buffer zones).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). • Request for information on existing gas pipelines located in and around the project area. • Request for regulatory buffers for gas pipelines located in and around the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. • Participatory site visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on operational gas pipelines nearby the project footprints and their respective capacities. • Regulatory setback/ buffer distances for gas pipelines located nearby project facilities. • The sites for main project facilities (i.e., PV power plants, BESS and sub-station) are not located within the security buffers of any region gas pipelines. • A number of gas pipelines intersect the routes of the 70-km and 350-km OTLs. The position of these pipelines should be taken into consideration during detailed design, to ensure OTL towers are not constructed within relevant security buffers.
	Hududgaz	<p>D: Provision of district-level information on existing gas pipelines within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design and activities). • Request for information on gas pipelines located in and around the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on operational gas pipelines nearby the project footprints and their respective capacities. • The sites for main project facilities (i.e., PV power plants, BESS and sub-station) are not located within the security

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
		maintenance of gas supply infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for regulatory buffers for gas pipelines located in and around the project area. 		buffers of any region gas pipelines.
MDAs – Environment and Climate Change	Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change (MEEPCC)	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of information on biodiversity and ecologically important water resources within the project-affected areas. -Execution of laws and regulations pertaining to environmental management. -Review of national EIA reports for planned project facilities. -Issue of environmental permits for construction and operation. -Follow-up monitoring of E&S compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). Request for information on any species and habitats of conservation concern within the project-affected areas, and recommendation for the relocation/ replanting of any threatened species. Request for information on any ongoing conservation programs and protected areas in and around project-affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction to carry out comprehensive baseline biodiversity surveys within the project sites. Review of mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and issue of approvals (Stage I permit) for relevant management and monitoring plans prior to construction. Review of the report for the Central Asian tortoise population assessment survey (April/May 2024). Review of the Central Asian tortoise translocation plan and issue of advance translocation approval (Stage I).

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	MEEPCC - Regional Offices (for Samarkand, Region)	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of information on biodiversity and ecologically important water resources within the project-affected areas, and related conservation programs. -Implementation of contingent pre-construction biodiversity surveys. -General monitoring of E&S compliance during the Project's construction and operational phases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design, and activities). • Ad-hoc request for information on any species and habitats of conservation concern within the project-affected areas. • Ad-hoc request for information on any ongoing conservation programs and protected areas in and around project-affected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on local biodiversity. • Review of mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports and issue of approvals (Stage I permit) for relevant management and monitoring plans prior to construction. • Review of the report for the Central Asian tortoise population assessment survey (April/May 2024). • Review of the Central Asian tortoise translocation plan and issue of advance translocation approval (Stage I). • Tortoise translocation monitoring on the 500 MW PV power plant site and issue of translocation completion approval (Stage II).
	Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences – Institute of Zoology	<p>I: Provision of information on biodiversity and technical support on ad-hoc baseline surveys for specific faunal species and habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the extent of occurrence and are of occupancy (or population statistics), for any potentially affected faunal species or habitats of conservation concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific comments provided to date. • The institute is available for ad-hoc technical support with baseline surveys.
	Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences –	<p>I: Provision of information on biodiversity and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the extent of occurrence and are of occupancy (or population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad-hoc formal consultative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate baseline surveys should be conducted within the project sites, to ensure impacts

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	Institute of Botany	technical support on ad-hoc baseline surveys for specific floral species and habitats.	statistics), for any potentially affected faunal species or habitats of conservation concern.	letters/ correspondence.	on any species of conservation concern are identified and managed.
MDAs – Water resources	Ministry of Water – Regional and District Offices	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of information on planned and existing irrigational water supply facilities within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of related infrastructure (e.g., appropriate buffer zones). -Issue of permits for use of water supply system during construction (i.e., water abstraction). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information on existing irrigational canals in and around the project sites. • Request for regulatory buffers for potentially affected irrigation channels and rivers. • Request for any additional considerations and recommendation with regard to potential E&S impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. • Ad-hoc KIs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on setback/ protective buffers for irrigation channels and rivers. • No water supply/ distribution pipes are situated within the project sites (confirmed for main facilities i.e., PV power plants, BESS and sub-station).
	Uzsuvtaminot	Development and operation of water supply and sanitation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information on suitable wastewater treatment facilities nearest to the project sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and location of waste water treatment plants in the project-affected districts and communities.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
MDAs – Health, Sanitation, Safety and Security	Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Service of The Republic of Uzbekistan	<p>D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Execution of laws and regulations pertaining to public health and safety. -Establishment of health and safety buffer zones. - Regular monitoring of E&S compliance in relation to impacts on environment and public health and safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of project plans (objectives, design and activities). • Request for information on recommendable Health Protection Zones/ Buffers (HPZs) for planned project facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on recommendable Health Protection Zones (HPZs) for the PV power plant, BESS and OTL connections. • Physical and economic displacement not warranted in relation to HPZs for the PV power plant, BESS facilities and sub-station.
	Toza Hudud	<p>A: State waste management agency that is responsible for the provision of waste collection and management services within project-affected makhallas (communities).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information on the availability, location and capacity of waste treatment and disposal facilities in the project affected districts and the broader Samarkand Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on waste collection service providers in the project affected districts. • Information on solid waste management facilities nearest to the project sites.
MDAs – Industry, Commerce and Livelihoods	State Committee for Sericulture and Wool Industry	<p>A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overarching custodian of designated pastural land in Uzbekistan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information on the utility and ownership of affected pastural land in Nurobod District, and the availability of alternative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. • KIIs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on designated pastures held by the Committee in and around the project sites, particularly within Nurobod District.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	Development (SWID)	Responsible for developing the wood and sericulture sector.	pastures within 2 kilometres of local livestock farmers and herders.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the availability of alternative pastures nearby affected communities (where informal herders are impacted). Information regarding leaseholds for pastoral land, for project-affected, formal livestock farmers. Relocation of all affected pastoral entities is challenged by constraints such as a limited number of livestock watering wells (requisite minimum of 1 well every 3-5km), limited pastoral yield (carrying capacity) and distance from farmer or herder bases.
	State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources	D: Provision of information on planned and existing mineral exploration surveys (and related exclusion zones within the project-affected areas, and any geotechnically hazardous land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information on any mining and prospecting areas in and around the project sites. Request for information on any geotechnically hazardous land in and around the project sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. KIs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on sand quarries near the Nurobod BESS was provided, without any specific concerns. Information on a Uranium prospecting site near the 70-km OTL in Nurobod District was provided, with feedback on OTL re-routing (i.e., mine boundaries and buffer), and final approval.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
MDAs – Transportation and Communication	Ministry of Transportation – Regional and District Offices	I: Provision of information on the transport infrastructure within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of related infrastructure (e.g., construction of crossings, upgrade or extension of existing roads, and traffic regulation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for technical guidance for road and railway crossings. Request for feedback on proposed access roads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. Kills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on regulatory Rights of Way for different road categories (and feedback on Project's access roads). Information on permitting requirements for haulage vehicles. The Project Developer (and EPC Contractor) should apply to the Regional General Administration of Roads, for permits in relation to the construction of underground and above-ground transmission lines across roads and railways.
	Uzbektelecom	I: Provision of information on the telecommunication cables within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations pertaining to the security and relocation of underground cables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information on any existing telecommunication cables in and nearby the project sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No underground telecommunication cables are situated within the PV power plant, BESS and sub-station sites.
MDAs – Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage Agency – Regional Offices	I: Provision of information on tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the project-affected areas, and execution of laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information regarding any designated archaeological sites and cultural sites in and around the project sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project sites have not been surveyed for tangible cultural heritage resources previously. Accordingly, a pre-construction archaeological survey should be completed by the Institute of

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
		<p>pertaining to cultural heritage in Uzbekistan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information on any prevalent forms of intangible cultural heritage within the project-affected districts and wider regions. 		<p>Archaeology to ascertain the absence of archaeological resources.</p>
	<p>Academy of Sciences – Institute of Archaeology</p>	<p>I: Provision of information on tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the project-affected areas, and completion of archaeological surveys for the national inventory of cultural heritage sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for information regarding any designated archaeological sites and cultural sites in and around the project sites. Request for technical support for pre-construction archaeological survey within the project sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No designated (pre-existing) tangible cultural heritage sites exist within the project sites. A pre-construction survey was commissioned for all project sites and corridors. No archaeological findings have been recorded within the PV power plant, BESS and sub-station sites. A Chance Find Procedure was recommended the regional Cultural heritage offices.
<p>Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds BirdLife International Eurasian Bustard Alliance International Union for Conservation 	<p>Feedback on the management of project impacts/ risks for biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of information regarding current population of avifaunal species of conservation concern, ongoing conservation programs in the country and wider region, and any recommendations regarding OTL routing and safeguards for mitigating and/or offsetting impacts on sensitive avifauna. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal consultative letters/ correspondence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical inputs related to safeguards for avian impacts (on biodiversity scope), including viable offset measures, population statistics, key habitats, etc.

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANCE	CONSULTATION AGENDA	MODE OF ENGAGEMENT	INPUTS TO DATE
	of Nature (Bustard Specialist Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankwatch • Reneco Wildlife Consultants • International Fund for Houbara Conservation 				
Project Lenders (Fls)	ADB, EBRD, IFC and JBIC	D: Providing project finance and undertaking related due diligence over the period of the financing agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical reviews and feedback to be provided through ongoing E&S due diligence at the ESIA, LALRP and SEP preparation (project planning) stage. • Periodic E&S monitoring at the Project's construction and O&M stages. • Review and oversight of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) for any non-compliances at the Project's construction and O&M stages, 		

Select photographs and meeting dates are provided in the figures below, for FGDs held with residents and local leaders in the Project's main¹ affected communities (makhallas).

Table 5-3 FGDs held with men and women in affected communities within the districts of Nurobod, Pastdargom and Samarkand

FGD MEETINGS	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Nurobod Community: Olga Date: 2 August, 2023</p>	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Nurobod Community: Chorvador Date: 3 August, 2023</p>	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Nurobod Community: Chortut Date: 8 August, 2023</p>	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Nurobod Community: Sazagan Date: 10 August, 2023</p>	

¹ Those communities (makhallas) which are located in and around the PV power plants, BESS and sub-station sites.

Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Saroy
Date: 11 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Jom
Date: 14 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Urtabuz
Date: 15 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Ulus
Date: 17 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Dustlik
Date: 19 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Sarikul
Date: 21 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Nurobod
Community: Mekhnatkash
Date: 22 August, 2023



Region: Samarkand
District: Pastdargom
Community: Elbek
Date: 23 August, 2023



Region: Bukhara
District: Karakul
Community: Chekirichi
Date: 19 February, 2024



Region: Bukhara
District: Karakul
Community: Khojalar
Date: 20 February, 2024



Region: Bukhara
District: Karakul
Community: Tinchlik
Date: 20 February, 2024



Select photographs and meeting dates are provided in the figures below, for KIIs held with district- and regional administration in the districts of Nurobod, Pastdargom and Samarkand.

Table 5-4 KIIs held with local administration (khokimiyats) in Samarkand Region

KII MEETINGS	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Pastdargom Khokimiyat Department: Employment and Poverty Reduction Date: 7 August, 2023</p>	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: Pastdargom Khokimiyat Department: Environment and Ecology Date: 10 August, 2023</p>	
<p>Region: Bukhara District: Karakul Khokimiyat Department: Domestic and women affairs Date: 20 February, 2024</p>	
<p>Region: Jizzakh District: N/A, regional office Khokimiyat Department: Transportation Date: 10 March, 2024</p>	
<p>Region: Samarkand District: N/A, regional office Khokimiyat Department: Agriculture and Water Resources Date: 27 February, 2024</p>	

Region: Syrdarya
District: N/A, regional office
Khokimiyat Department: Agriculture and SWID Committee
Date: 4 March, 2024



Region: Tashkent
District: N/A, regional office
Khokimiyat Department: Cadastral
Date: 12 December, 2024



5.1.2 Forward Stakeholder Engagement

5.1.2.1 Disclosure of E&S Documents

Upon the completion of the E&S safeguard documents for the Project's E&S due diligence, the documents will be issued for online disclosure on the Project Developer's and Lenders' websites, where they will be publicly available. The ESIA Non-Technical Summary, LALRP and SEP (including Grievance Mechanism) will be disclosed to locally based stakeholders and project-affected communities in particular within strategic Project Information Centres (PICs), including employment assistance centres, post offices, community school libraries, Local Government Offices and country offices of Project Lenders.

The local disclosure of E&S safeguard documents will target stakeholder groups that were consulted during the ESIA and LALRP process, including Project-Affected Persons (PAPs), representatives from project-affected communities, and Local Government Authorities (LGAs). The table below provides an overview of the public disclosure process and timings.

Table 5-5 ESIA public disclosure process and timeline

ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY
Disclosure of E&S documents	All identified stakeholders	Upon agreement with the lenders, the ESIA Report, ESIA Non-Technical Summary (NTS), SEP and LALRP will be fully disclosed online. The documents will be available on the website of the Project Developer and	Minimum disclosure period – 60 calendar days prior to Financial Close.

ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY
		<p>Project Lenders for public online review, prior to financial close.</p> <p>The same set of E&S documents will be made available in project information centres as per Section 6.9 of this document.</p> <p>The E&S safeguard documents will be issued in English and Uzbek/ Russian on the websites, and in Uzbek within PICs.</p> <p>Stakeholders will have the opportunity to raise comments or request additional information during this disclosure period, through the information channels provided for community and online disclosure.</p>	<p>Maximum disclosure period – 120 calendar days prior to Financial Close (applicable to ADB exclusively).</p>
	<p>Impacted stakeholders (as identified in the project ESIA, SEP and LALRP)</p>	<p>Hard copies of the ESIA, NTS, LALRP and SEP will be provided to the PICs identified in Section 6.9, in English and Uzbek and English so that they are easily accessible to PAPs that do not have access to internet.</p> <p>This will also include distribution of leaflets and brochures.</p>	<p>Within 2 weeks of uploading the ESIA documents to the websites of the Project Lenders and Project Company.</p>
	<p>Interest-based stakeholders</p>	<p>Ad-hoc Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to disclose the Project impacts and mitigation, management and monitoring measures, conduct disclosure-related consultations in parallel to garner any final rounds of feedback, and to publicize the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) (based on the outcomes of the ESIA, NTS, SEP and LALRP).</p>	<p>Within 2 months of the Project Lenders' online E&S disclosure</p>
	<p>Impacted Stakeholders (as identified in the project ESIA and LALRP)</p>	<p>Community meetings and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to disclose the Project's impacts and mitigation, management and monitoring measures, conduct disclosure-related consultations in parallel to garner any final rounds of feedback, and to publicize the GRM (based on the outcomes of the ESIA, NTS, SEP and LALRP).</p> <p>The meetings will involve the delivery of two LALRP summary presentations in Uzbek, to affected PAPs. Content should include impacts, mitigations, entitlements and safeguards, in a manner meaningful to affected stakeholders. Content of the</p>	<p>Within 2 months of the Project Lenders' online E&S disclosure</p>

ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY
		consultation materials and summary presentation should be made with inputs from appropriate experts. Translation into Russian/English should also be provided and online participation in the presentation should be made available	

5.1.2.2 Stakeholder Engagement During Construction and Commissioning

Stakeholders most likely to be affected by construction and commissioning activities will be engaged immediately prior to and during the construction and commissioning phases of the Project. Stakeholder engagement during construction and commissioning will allow decision-making stakeholders to assess whether E&S impact management measures and SEP commitments are working as intended, and to take corrective action for any demonstrated areas of E&S non-conformance. Effective management of stakeholder engagement during the construction and commissioning phases is important as it can set the precedent for the remainder of the project duration.

Construction and commissioning related engagement processes are set out below and will be the responsibility of the EPC Contractor, although the Project Company will ensure related oversight and ad-hoc intervention throughout these project phases.

Table 5-6 Construction phase SEP schedule (applicable to both LNTP and NTP stages)

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
1	Notification to stakeholder regarding the scope, sequence and schedule of early works	Regional and district-level khokimiyats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official correspondence (letters) • Official meetings 	Prior to commencement of early works	- E&S Consultant's CLOs
		Affected communities/makhallas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus-Group Discussions (as part of early community disclosure) • Telegram broadcasts by local leadership 	Prior to commencement of early works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E&S Consultant's CLOs - Project Company Social Manager - EPC Contractor Social Manager
		PAPs (subject to loss of assets and livelihood impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus-Group Discussions (as part of early community disclosure) • Telegram broadcasts by local leadership • Phone calls (or ad-hoc meetings with local leadership) 	Prior to commencement of early works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E&S Consultant's CLOs - EPC Contractor CLOs
2	Disclosure of E&S documents and outcomes within affected communities	Affected communities/makhallas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial public hearing 	December 2024 (prior to project lenders' IC meetings) up to February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E&S Consultant's CLOs - Project Company Social Manager

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
		PAPs (subject to loss of assets and livelihood impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial public hearing One-on-one disclosure and consultation meetings 	December 2024 (prior to project lenders' IC meetings)	- E&S Consultant's CLOs
3	Signing of LRP packages	PAPs (subject to loss of assets and livelihood impacts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial public hearing One-on-one meetings 	Prior to Month 3 of early (LNTP) works schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E&S Consultant's CLOs Project Company Social Manager
4	Notification for stakeholders regarding construction and commissioning activities and timeframes, and consultations regarding key ongoing and potential impacts.	Directly and indirectly impacted stakeholders.	<p>Official announcements in form of written notices will be posted at project site entry points and at strategic locations along the project sites and access roads, to advise of construction and commissioning commencement.</p> <p>Official announcements via electronic notices and/or community meetings will also be undertaken with directly impacted stakeholders to inform them of the construction commencement and any changes in project construction schedule.</p>	<p>Announcements to be undertaken prior to the start of construction and commissioning phases, and prior to any major activity that has the potential to impact affected communities (e.g., prior to commencement of site preparation, fencing/ barricading and earthworks, etc).</p> <p>Official announcements via electronic communication and/or community meetings to be undertaken quarterly throughout construction phase of the project and upon any</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company CLO EPC Contractor CLOs EPC Contractor H&S Officers/ Supervisors

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
			<p>Updates via Telegram channel coordinated by a designated CLO.</p> <p>Specific notification will be provided to vulnerable residents (households) with the assistance of the makhalla leadership.</p>	<p>significant changes to construction activities or processes.</p> <p>Ad-hoc FGDs will be held with men, women, and youth for any gender-sensitive issues or issues raised by marginalized sections of affected communities.</p>	
		<p>Key affected communities of Olga, Chorvador, Chortut, Sazagan, Saroy and Dustlik MFY.</p>	<p>Methods specified for other communities above</p>	<p>Official announcements via electronic communication and/or community meetings to be undertaken monthly throughout the construction phase of the project and upon any significant changes to construction activities or processes.</p> <p>Meetings with community leaders to check for any grievances not submitted through the dedicated GRM, particularly those related to dust, noise and ground vibration, vehicle traffic, property damage, labour influx, and any health and safety hazards and incidents (including near misses).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company CLO - EPC Contractor CLOs - EPC Contractor H&S Officers/ Supervisors

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
				Community meetings to introduce the new CLO team under the Project Company, which will succeed the interim CLOs employed by the local ESIA and LRP Consultant (Juru).	
		Relevant LGAs and MDAs	Written notices in coordination with relevant LGAs will be sent to provide information on construction and commissioning activities and timelines.	<p>Prior to the start of construction and commissioning phases. This will be updated as necessary within the construction and commissioning phases if there are changes to the planned activities or processes.</p> <p>Official announcements via electronic communication and/or community meetings to be undertaken quarterly throughout construction phase of the project and upon any significant changes to construction activities or processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company CLO/ Social Manager - EPC Contractor CLOs

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
5	Engagement with severely impacted PAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> physically displaced PAHs PAHs losing over 50% of land permanently Vulnerable PAHs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official meetings in-person (Klls) Phone calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad-hoc, based on review of E&S monitoring reports – From start of LNTP works up to the completion of the LALRP program and completion audit Ad-hoc based on review of community grievance logs and grievance forms – From start of LNTP works up to the completion of the LALRP program and completion audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company Social Manager Project Company CLO EPC Contractor CLO District khokimiyats Makhalla leadership (including women's leader) LALRP steering Committee
6	Communication of emergency preparedness and action plan	Residents in the key affected communities of Olga, Chorvador, Chortut, Sazagan, Saroy, Dustlik MFY (in Samarkand Region) and Chekirchi, Khujalar and Tinchlik (in Bukhara Region)	Klls will be held with local authorities and community leaders to inform them of the emergency plan and to accommodate any concerns from their side. Based on the outcome of these meetings, it will be decided in coordination with LGAs whether ad-hoc community meetings and door-to-door sensitization for households in high-risk areas are necessary.	Prior to the start of construction and commissioning and updated if key changes to the plan occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company CLO EPC Contractor CLOs EPC Contractor H&S Officers/ Supervisors

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
		LGAs; relevant MDAs (including utilities and emergency service providers); relevant NGOs; Project Lenders.	Written notices to inform relevant agencies about the emergency response procedures in place and any required co-ordination for specific events. KIs will be held where necessary.	Prior to the start of construction and commissioning and updated if key changes to the plan occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company CLO - EPC Contractor CLOs
7	Sensitization to GBV and SEA/SH Prevention and Response	Women, men, and youth within communities near the Project sites.	FGDs will be held with women, men, young girls and boys in host communities nearby the Project site to educate them on reproductive health, STDs, gender-based violence and to encourage them to report any cases of GBV, SEA & SH.	On a quarterly basis throughout construction phase of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company CLO - EPC Contractor CLOs
8	Implementation of grievance mechanism	All identified stakeholders.	As described in Section 4.7.4.1 of this Plan.	Established at the start of construction and commissioning phases and updated throughout to facilitate rapid and effective response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Manager and CLOs) - EPC Contractor social team (i.e., Social Manager and CLOs)
9	Implementation of ad-hoc technical conditions and safeguards for the installation of any	Uztransgaz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical consultations (i.e., correspondence and meetings). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As specified in the compulsory technical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company HSE Manager

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
	OTL towers nearby gas pipelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint site visits. - Watching brief by Uztransgaz engineers/ technicians. 	conditions (issued by Uztransgaz).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPC Contractor H&S team - Relevant specialists/ engineers from Uztransgaz.

5.1.2.3 Stakeholder Engagement During Operation and Maintenance

The Project Company will be responsible for stakeholder engagement during the operational phase of the Project. It will be important for the Project Company to ensure a smooth transition between stakeholder engagements from construction and commissioning phase to operational phase of the Project by understating the approaches that have been most effective during construction and commissioning phases. It will be important to maintain these arrangements, to avoid decrease in the frequency of stakeholder engagements, as the stakeholders are already familiar with the typical processes for engagement.

Table 5-7 Operational phase SEP schedule

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
1	Livelihood restoration activities in line with LALRP	PAPs identified in LALRP.	In accordance with LALRP.	During operations (depending on the duration of LALRP program, up until the completion of the LALRP (as determined by the LALRP completion audit))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs) - LALALRP Steering Committee
2	Notify stakeholders of commissioning and operational activities including the timelines, and consultations regarding key ongoing and potential impacts.	All project-affected communities.	<p>Official announcements in form of written notices will be posted at entry points within project sites and strategic locations along the access road to advise of commencement of the operational phase of the Project.</p> <p>Announcements via phone calls, social media/ instant messaging platforms (e.g., Telegram) and site/ door-to-door visit)</p> <p>Community meetings to introduce the new CLO team under the Project Company, which will succeed the interim CLOs employed by the local ESIA and LRP Consultant (Juru).</p>	<p>At least 2 months prior to commencement of operations; and</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of high-risk activities such as maintenance roadworks, mobilization of heavy transportation or electrical maintenance along the overhead transmission lines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs) - EPC Contractor social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs) - O&M Contractor social team (i.e., E&S Manager etc.)

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
		Relevant LGAs and MDAs.	Written notices in coordination with relevant LGAs will be issued to provide information on operational phase activities and timelines.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs) - O&M Contractor social team (i.e., E&S Manager etc.)
3	Upon development of and any updates related to the emergency preparedness and action plan, or other HSE related matters that	Residents in the key affected communities of Olga, Chorvador, Chortut,	KIs will be held with local authorities and community leaders to inform them of the emergency plan, and gather their feedback for informed reviews. Based on the outcome of these meetings, it will be decided in	2 months prior to the commencement of operations and updated if there are key changes to the plan occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Specialist/

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
	may affect local external parties	Sazagan, Saroy and Dustlik MFY.	coordination with local government whether ad-hoc community meetings and door-to-door sensitization for households in high-risk areas are necessary.		E&S Manager and CLOs) - O&M Contractor social team (i.e., E&S Manager etc.)
		LGAs; relevant MDAs (including utilities and emergency service providers); relevant NGOs; Project Lenders.	Written notices informing the applicable government agencies/authorities about the emergency response procedures in place and any required co-ordination for specific events. Bilateral meetings will be held where necessary.		
4	Sensitization to GBV and SEA/SH Prevention and Response	Women, young girls and boys within communities nearby project sites.	FGDs will be held with women, young girls and boys in the communities nearby project sites to educate them on reproductive health, STDs, gender-based violence and to encourage them to report any cases of GBV, SEA & SH.	On an annual basis throughout operational phase of the project.	- Project Company CLOs - O&M Contractor social team (i.e., E&S Manager etc.)
5	Independent Environmental & Social monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with ESMPs, LALRP, SEP and lender requirements (including GBV-related indicators)	Project Lenders and other interest-based stakeholders.	E&S audits to assess compliance with regulatory requirements and performance requirements stipulated by Project Lenders.	On an annual basis throughout operational phase of the project.	- Independent E&S Consultant - Project Company CLOs - O&M Contractor social team (i.e.,

SN	ACTIVITY	STAKEHOLDERS	ENGAGEMENT METHOD	TIMING AND FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
					E&S Manager etc.)
6	Implementation of grievance mechanism	All identified stakeholders—including project workforce.	As described in Section 5.2 of this document.	Established at the start of operations and managed throughout the entirety of the operational phase to facilitate rapid and effective response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Company social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs) - EPC Contractor social team (i.e., Social Specialist/ E&S Manager and CLOs)

5.2 Measures to Avoid Reprisal

Stakeholders must be able to provide their feedback and raise concerns without fear of retaliation (e.g., threats, intimidation, harassment or violence) to ensure meaningful engagement during the lifecycle of the project. The following will be implemented by Project Company, appointed EPC and O&M Contractors, and all sub-contractors involved in the Project's construction and operational phases:

- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy to reprisals which will be reflected in project-specific Codes of Conduct and E&S/ HR Policies. This will be communicated to stakeholders during all engagements.
- If risks of retaliation become an issue (e.g., when stakeholder raise or signal concerns about their safety for expressing their opinions,) the stakeholder engagement process may need to be adapted to ensure safety of the participants (e.g., not disclosing venue or date of consultation etc.).
- Participants will be informed on the purpose of engagement/consultation and obtain consent to signing attendance sheet. Participants will be informed about how this information will be used and given the option not to have their names disclosed.
- Raise awareness among staff to ensure implementation of project-specific codes of conduct and train employees on expectation of their behaviours when communicating with host communities and project PAPs.
- Allegations of reprisals will be addressed with immediate effect. Responses will be taken in consultation with those at risk and measures for responding to reprisal and implementation will be agreed upon with victims. Personal information will not be disclosed.

6 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

The Project's activities (during construction, commissioning and operation) may result in potential nuisances for stakeholders, or environmental and social impacts and as such the establishment of a grievance mechanism to address potential complaints from affected parties. The aim of the grievance mechanism is establishing a system to receive and facilitate resolution of the stakeholder's concerns and grievances about the Project's environmental and social performance.

The grievance mechanism is an important part of stakeholder engagement and will be in place from the E&S disclosure process, throughout construction and operations through the end of the Project life. The grievance mechanism will use an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible at no cost; so, all stakeholders/affected parties will have the opportunity to raise a complaint.

The overall responsibility and accountability for the grievance mechanism will be held by the Project Company. However, implementation may be delegated and fall under separate parties, depending on whether the grievance is related to the construction, commissioning or the operational phases, i.e., EPC Contractor during construction and commissioning and O&M Company during operations.

6.1 Key Principles of Grievance Mechanism

The grievance mechanism for the Project will comply with the following principles:

- The purpose of the grievance mechanism procedure will be clarified at the outset;
- The process will be scaled to the risks and impacts of the Project;
- The process will be transparent and accountable to all stakeholders by putting it into writing, publicising it and explaining it to relevant stakeholders;
- The grievance mechanism will be made clear, understandable and easily accessible by providing information in the local language and orally where communities cannot read and/or write;
- Complaints or concerns will be rapidly resolved;
- The mechanism will not involve any costs nor retribution associated with lodging a grievance; and
- Precautionary measures such as clear non-retaliation policy, confidentiality measures and safeguarding of personal data collected in relation to a complaint, as well as an option to submit grievances anonymously will be in place.

6.2 Scope of Grievance Mechanism

The scope of the grievance mechanism is to evaluate and address stakeholders' problems and concerns regarding project activities, the implementation of mitigation and compensation measures as per the ESIA and environmental and social performance of the Project.

All relevant claims from affected stakeholders will be accepted and no judgment made prior to investigation, even if complaints are minor. This includes complaints in relation to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, conflict between project employees and community members etc.

However, according to good practice, the following claims will be directed outside of Project-level mechanisms:

- Complaints clearly not related to the project based on assessment of their legitimacy.
- Issues related to governmental policy and government institutions.
- Complaints constituting criminal activity and violence, which will be referred to law enforcement and the judicial system.
- Commercial disputes: Commercial matters will be stipulated for in contractual agreements and issues will be resolved through a variety of commercial resolution mechanisms or civil courts.

In the event that any of the grievances are rejected at the screening stage, the complainant will be informed of this decision including a justification why.

6.3 Steps in Managing Grievance Mechanism

6.3.1 Publicising Grievance Management Procedures.

Stakeholders categorized as "Affected Entities (A)" will be informed about the purpose and structure of the GRM, and the process for the management of project-related grievances at the early stages of the ESIA. For affected communities and vulnerable constituencies in particular, the introduction of the GRM will create awareness around the stakeholders' rights to invoke the Project's GRM facilities. The following methods will be used for publicizing the GRM:

- Formal consultative letters/ correspondence.
- Official announcements.
- Community meetings.

- FGDs and KIIs.
- Household surveys during ESIA baseline studies.

The GRM will be widely publicized within project-affected communities, using project introduction leaflets where appropriate. The information provided will be available in both English, Uzbek and Russian and will include the following:

- What Project-level mechanisms are capable of delivering and what benefits complainants can receive from using the company's grievance mechanism, as opposed to other resolution mechanisms;
- Who can raise complaints (i.e., all stakeholders);
- Where, when, and how community members can file complaints;
- Who is responsible for receiving and responding to complaints;
- What sort of response complainants can expect from the company, including timing of response; and
- What other rights and protection are guaranteed.

6.3.2 Submitting a Grievance

The GRM will allow for the delivery of oral and/or written grievance by aggrieved entities. Reporting channels for external grievances will include:

- General consultation forums (i.e., community assemblies, FGDs, KIIs).
- Phone calls.
- Email correspondence.
- Grievance box at entry points to project sites.
- Written/ oral delivery to project personnel, including CLOs, security personnel (security personnel at the Project's entry points and site office(s) must be aware and trained to deal with any grievances appropriately).

Information will be provided at the project site entry points, at the location of grievance boxes to inform people about the process and timeline to follow up their grievances.

For illiterate complainants or those that prefer to submit their grievances verbally, they will have the possibility to meet with the relevant CLOs (or other competent members of the E&S team) who will take notes on the details of the complainant and read them out loud to the complainant to confirm that the key elements of the complaint have been captured. Where the respective E&S personnel are not available, security staff will take the grievances and ensure these are registered via the formal grievance process.

If an anonymous grievance (e.g., letter or email without details about the complainant) or the grievant requests to remain anonymous is submitted, the grievance will also be accepted and processed.

Note: During the Project's construction phase, the CLOs will communicate with local community leaders and district khokimiyats on a monthly basis (or upon relevant notifications from these parties) concerning any grievances not reported through the dedicated GRM information channels.

Customary (or conventional) platforms for reporting community grievances may include written and oral communication with local community leaders and members of the district khokimiyats (including those raised in community meetings and social media broadcasts). The project CLOs will monitor any grievances raised on these alternative platforms on a regular basis and register any such complaints on the project grievance logs for redressal procedures in line with the dedicated external GRM.

6.3.3 Keeping Track of Grievances

Upon receipt of grievances through the above-listed information channels, the steps below will be followed to ensure all grievances are adequately investigated in order to avoid leaving any issues or concerns raised opened.

- The grievance will be recorded in a form of registers (i.e., internal/ worker and external/ third party grievance logs). The register will contain:
 - Details of the grievance
 - The personnel/division(s) responsible for resolving the grievance
 - Process tracking fields (receipt dates, status, result dates)
 - Response provided to the complainant
 - Corrective and preventive actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of such complaint.
- The grievances will be acknowledged as soon as possible (no later than a week from reception) by sending a formal confirmation with a complaint number and a

timeline for response to the complainant to assure the complainant that the organization is responding properly.

- In cases of sensitive grievances, such as those involving multiple interests and a large number of affected people or those relating to sexual abuse and harassment or gender-based violence, where a more complex investigation is required, the complainant will receive an update within two weeks of the grievance being received, explaining the actions required to resolve the complaint, and the likely timeframe; and
- The Project Company will explain in the first letter of acknowledgment, which claims are clearly outside the scope of the mechanism and what alternative mechanisms communities can use to address these potential issues.

6.3.4 Reviewing and Investigating Grievances

Depending on the circumstances of complaints made, various departments may need to be involved in resolving the complaints. The person(s) responsible for handling grievance will organize the process to validate the complaints legitimacy and arrange for investigation of details.

When grievances are complex and cannot be resolved quickly, an extensive investigation may be required to prevent escalation of the issue. The responsible and accountable party remains the Project Company, although the investigation and review may be delegated to the EPC Contractor, at the construction stage. The grievance mechanism must conform to the principle of 'no cost'. If the investigation team is formed internally, issues that will be taken into consideration include potential conflicts of interest, qualifications, gender composition, and budget. Meetings with complainants and site visits will be undertaken, as appropriate.

All grievances will be investigated by the responsible Project party within two weeks of submission. Where grievances require a longer duration for investigation, the grievant will be informed of this delay and advised of the expected timeline for a response.

In cases of sensitive grievances - such as those involving multiple interests or those relating to sexual abuse and harassment or gender-based violence or community related conflict- it may help to engage outside organizations in a joint investigation, or allow for participation of local or national authorities only if the complainants agree to this approach.

6.3.5 Grievance Resolution Options and Response

The approach used in resolving various types of grievances will be differential depending on the nature of the issue, frequency of occurrence and the number of grievances. Rather than prescribing a specific procedure for each particular type of complaint, the flexibility of the grievance mechanism allows for resolution options appropriate for different types of

grievances to be provided. For example, these options may include altering or halting harmful activities or restricting their timing and scope (e.g. for construction dust, noise or access road noise), facilitating reconciliation and pardons, and revising the stakeholder engagement strategy.

Resolution to the grievance will be communicated to the grievant either in written format or verbally depending on what format the grievant has selected as preferred, but in all cases a written record will be kept by the Company. In cases where the grievance/claim is rejected or where the company does not require action, the company representative will be diplomatic when informing the grievant about the outcome of the eligibility review process so as to prevent conflict from escalating.

Where the claim is accepted, a proposed solution will be provided and communicated to the grievant within a stipulated period. If the grievant does not accept the proposed resolution, the company would re-assess the situation, discuss and clarify the finding with the grievant and make sure that all alternatives within the grievance mechanism are explored. If the grievant is still not satisfied with the proposed resolution, the grievant can take the dispute resolution mechanism outside of the company grievance mechanism (external mechanism).

Note: The Project's external GRM will not impede access to alternative, pre-existing third party grievance management facilities, including those relating to public administration (i.e., administered by the Government).

Where a proposed solution is accepted or agreed upon by all parties involved, the case will be closed out and evidence that necessary actions have taken place will be collected. Such evidence includes:

- Conducting a meeting with the complainant to reach a collective agreement or get a confirmation and file it along with the case documentation to close out the claim; and
- Take photos or collect other documentary evidence to create a comprehensive record of the grievance and how they were resolved.

Where the grievant is not satisfied with the outcome of the proposed resolution, actions concerning further discussion and re-assessment shall be completed and advised within 2-weeks of notification of dissatisfaction by the grievant.

6.4 Grievance Mechanism in Construction and Commissioning Phase

The construction and commissioning phase will require two separate grievance mechanisms to be implemented for the following parties:

- Internal parties; Construction and commissioning personnel, workers, project staff, (including sub-contractors' staff and visitors); and
- External parties.

Although the Project Company will remain responsible and accountable, the EPC Contractor will manage internal and external grievance mechanisms. A member of staff will be assigned the responsibility to receive and follow up on all grievances. They will also be required to train related staff (as outlined below). Grievances will be investigated by the EPC Contractor and may require co-ordination with the project company or other sub-contractors. All received grievances will be acknowledged within a week of receipt, or quicker depending on the urgency of the grievance.

Adequate resources will be allocated to the assigned staff member responsible for managing stakeholder engagement. This designated staff member will also be responsible for following up and managing grievances. An additional team or part of an existing team may support the member of staff; however, the staff will be experienced in engagement processes and will be familiar with the lender requirement for stakeholder engagement.

External grievance forms will be made available in Uzbek, Russian, Chinese and English at the site entrance gate. Sealed and locked 'grievance boxes' will be made available at the Project site entrance for grievance form submission. The contact details of the E&S Manager will be advertised at the notice board at the site's main entrance gate, once the individual has been appointed. The process for recording, reviewing, following up and responding to will be the same as detailed in sub-section 7.3.

Where external complaints are received by telephone, letters or email these will also be formally recorded and followed up appropriately by the designated representative. The solution to the grievance will be communicated to the grievant depending on the format the grievant has selected as preferred. In cases where the grievance/complaint is rejected, the company representative will be diplomatic when informing the grievant about the outcome of the resolution process so as to prevent conflict from escalating.

The company would re-assess the situation, organise a meeting with the complainant and local community members responsible for arbitration during conflicts or mediating of conflicting groups to discuss and clarify the findings and make sure that all alternatives within the grievance mechanism are explored.

Formal records of the grievance submission, investigation, determination of root cause (if any), corrective and preventative actions and any follow up (including monitoring) will be recorded in a grievance follow up form and maintained as documented information, with all other associated evidence of follow-up or corrective/close-out actions.

The follow up form will state all actions taken to resolve the grievance and any further dialogue that had ensued, as well as any future monitoring of the situation or other planned actions. The completed and signed off forms will be kept in a dedicated grievance mechanism folder, which will be made available for review to applicable external parties such as independent environmental and social auditors.

Irrespective of the type of grievance and level of response, all grievances raised by workers and third parties (including affected communities) will be recorded and reported to the Project Company, and project lenders, as part of regular E&S monitoring and reporting. Specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be used for the monitoring and evaluation of grievance management during construction.

Note: Personal data and records will be protected and only used for the purpose of grievance resolution or analysis. No personal data will be disclosed or reported publicly.

HSSE issues requiring emergency response will be reported through dedicated emergency reporting channels, in line with the occupational and community health and safety plans, as well as the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

6.5 Grievance Mechanism in Operational Phase

The grievance mechanism in the operational phase of the Project will be similar to that of the construction and commissioning phase. The grievance mechanism will be available for both internal and external-parties.

A member of staff will be assigned and responsible for managing internal and external grievances received (recording, reviewing, investigating, and responding) appropriately. Internal grievance forms will be made available in Uzbek, Russian and English at key locations on-site with a sealed and locked 'post box' available for submitting grievance at every location. The post box will be checked regularly.

External grievance forms will be made available in both Uzbek, Russian and English at the site entrance gate. Sealed and locked 'grievance boxes' will be made available at the Project site entrance for grievance form submission. The process for recording, reviewing, following up and responding to will be the same as detailed above. All grievances during operations will be recorded for a minimum of 5 years, with records being kept on site.

Where external grievances are received by letters or email these will also be formally recorded and followed up appropriately by the designated representative. The contact details of the E&S Manager will be advertised at the notice board at the site's main entrance gate, once the individual has been appointed.

There will be worker representatives selected by workers at sites who will be involved in grievance management and in coordination with representatives from trade unions.

HSSE issues requiring emergency response will be reported through dedicated emergency reporting channels, in line with the occupational and community health and safety plans, as well as the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

6.6 Grievance Procedures for Women and Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups

The following procedures will be implemented by the Project Company and EPC Contractor to encourage reporting and sensitive handling of cases of GBVH:

- Workers will be provided with information regarding worker code of conduct in local languages as part of their employment contract which will include provisions for reporting, investigations, termination and disciplinary action against those who perpetrate gender violence and harassment.
- The Project Company and EPC Contractor will conduct mandatory regular training and awareness raising for the workforce on gender-based violence and harassment towards local community members and their colleagues especially women and the availability of a grievance mechanism to report any GBVH cases.
- The workers will be made aware of the laws and regulations that make sexual harassment and gender-based violence a punishable offence which is prosecuted.
- Ensure inclusion of a balanced representation of women on the HSE team and CLO who will be easily relatable and approachable to female workers.
- Develop tools for anonymous sexual harassment complaints by workers and host community members and protect the confidentiality of the complainants.
- The Project Company and EPC Contractor will work in close coordination with the local authorities in investigating any complaints relating to gender violence and harassment in the host communities where it relates to Project workers.

- The EPC Contractor will provide targeted training (including in life skills such as leadership and decision-making) and awareness raising to vulnerable workers such as women; and
- Develop a monitoring system to monitor GBV activities to assess the effectiveness of the controls.

6.6.1 Reporting of Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH)

Channels and tools for anonymous reporting of GBVH shall be developed. The reporting channels shall ensure safety and confidentiality to encourage reporting of such incidents. The reporting channels shall include complaint/feedback boxes, a toll -free telephone number, a designated community organisation (e.g., NGOs, etc.), service-user group or local women's organisation. Reporting channels shall include anonymous and child friendly options to encourage children and young people to come forward.

6.7 Grievance Mechanism Contact Details

The following details will be provided to the stakeholders in order to be able to submit their grievances or comments regarding the proposed Project.

Note: The engagement methods indicated in the forward SEP for the Project's construction phase will be used to introduce the Project Company's CLOs, who will take over stakeholder engagement and grievance management from the CLO team currently working for the local ESIA and LALRP Consultant (Juru Limited), upon the completion of the Project Company's E&S staffing and onboarding.

Table 6-1 Contact details for GRM points of contact (at project planning stage)

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER (CLO)	COMPANY	CONTACT DETAILS
Iroda Malikova	Juru	Email: i.malikova@juru.org Mob: +998-71-202-0440
Dinara Rustami	Juru	Email: d.rustami@juru.org Mob: +998-71-202-0440

Table 6-2 Contact details for GRM points of contact (at project implementation stage)

COMPANY	CONTACT DETAILS
Project Company	Name: Makhmudov Sherzod Tel: +99895 1150306 Email: smaxmudov@acwapower.com
EPC Contractor	Name: Havashon Parpieva Tel: +99893 9760710 Email: khavaskhon.parpieva@Intecc.com
O&M Company	Name: [TBA] Tel: [TBA] Email: [TBA]

The Project Company and EPC Contractor/ O&M Company contact details will be confirmed before the commencement of the construction and operational phases as applicable.

All projects financed by EBRD shall be structured to meet the requirements of the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy (2019) which includes ten Performance Requirements (PRs) for key areas of environmental and social sustainability that projects are required to meet, including PR10 Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement. In addition, EBRD's Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM) - <https://www.ebrd.com/ipam>, as an independent last resort tool, aims to facilitate the resolution of social, environmental and public disclosure issues raised by Project-affected people and civil society organisations about EBRD financed projects among Project stakeholders or to determine whether the Bank has complied with its ESP and the Project-specific provisions of its Access to Information Policy; and where applicable to address any existing non-compliance with these policies, while preventing future non-compliance by the Bank.

6.8 Process Flow and Timeline

The grievance redressal process includes three tiers of management. If the grievance is not resolved upon the first resolution attempt, the grievance is escalated for a high-level review involving the Project Company's E&S Manager (as well as other top management representatives as relevant). In the event that resolution is not attained at this level, the grievance is issued to the designated RAP Committee, for another round of joint review and deliberation. The final concerted course of remedial action or investigation report is then conveyed to the grievant.

In the unlikely event that the final redressal attempt fails to establish a resolution that is acceptable to the grievant, the grievant will be allowed to seek administrative or judicial recourse (i.e., outside of the project organization).

Table 6-3 Overview of the GRM process

ACTION	TIMELINE
Grievance is received/submitted.	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grievance is logged. The grievant is contacted for acknowledgement of receipt and the response timeline is confirmed. 	Within 7 working days of grievance being submitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grievance is investigated by the Consultant and Project Company's CLOs. Following reviews and internal deliberation, a decision on remedial action is made. 	Within 14 working days of grievance being submitted*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed remedial action or due clarification is conveyed to grievant. Grievant is requested to provide feedback regarding the remedial action or clarification. <p>Note: The course of action below will be taken in the event that the grievant is not satisfied with the first response.</p>	Within 19 working days of grievance being submitted
The following procedures will be followed in the event of negative feedback on first remedial response	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grievant's feedback is recorded on the grievance register (i.e., reason for dissatisfaction). If the grievant has a request for an alternative solution, this request is noted as part of the feedback. 	Within 10 working days of grievance being submitted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grievance is revisited by the Consultant and Project Company's E&S Manager. New proposed remedial action or final decision with additional clarification/ substantiation is internally prepared. 	Within 20 working days of grievance being submitted

ACTION	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new proposed solution or final decision with additional clarification/ substantiation conveyed to the grievant. <p>Note: The course of action below will be taken in the event that the grievant is not satisfied with the second response.</p>	<p>Within 25 working days of grievance being submitted</p>
<p>The following procedures will be followed in the event of negative feedback on second remedial response</p>	
<p>The grievance and relevant investigation reports are submitted to the RAP Committee for review.</p>	<p>Within 30 working days of grievance being submitted</p>
<p>A consensus on the proposed solution.</p>	<p>Within 40 working days of grievance being submitted</p>
<p>Final decision is conveyed to grievant on concerted remedial measures.</p> <p>Note: The course of action below will be taken in the event that the grievant is not satisfied with the third response.</p>	<p>Within 40 working days of grievance being submitted</p>
<p>The following procedures will be followed in the event of negative feedback on third remedial response</p>	
<p>The grievant is reminded about their liberty to pursue alternative recourse for the resolution of the outstanding grievance or claim, outside of the project organization.</p> <p>External resolution includes access to ADB's Accountability Mechanism. Complainants may submit written² grievances to designated Complaint Receiving Officers (CROs) in ADB's country office.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>*In the event that certain complexities result in protracted investigation and remedies, the Grievant will be informed of this delay and advised on the updated timeline to response.</p>	

² Official correspondence by email or posted letters.

ACTION	TIMELINE

6.9 Project Information Centre

The table below provides the proposed locations where project documents can be disclosed in the Project area so that local community members can physically access project documents.

Table 6-4 Locations for Accessing Project Documents

DISTRICT	LOCATION	JUSTIFICATION
All project-affected districts	The employment assistance centres (or post offices / public schools where appropriate) in the project-affected districts.	Employment centres are appropriate for the establishment of project grievance boxes in the districts and can serve as a PIC for residents.

The Project Company and EPC Contractor will be required to undertake further consultation with community leaders and elders to determine the suitability of the proposed locations. If necessary, the locations proposed in the table above will be updated. In addition to the availability of project information and documents at the proposed locations, grievances will also be received at these community offices/centres. All grievances received will be processed in a timely manner as outlined in Section 6.3 of this document.

Custodians of project information and E&S documents at the PICs will be appointed by community leaders and members of the district administration. The SEP will be communicated to the custodians and local leadership, to arrange for the delivery of documents for communal reference. Any questions, comments and grievances with regard to the project documents will be received and addressed as part of the external/ third-party GRM.

Furthermore, the Project Company in coordination with relevant LGAs will install an information board at the entrance of district Khokimiyat offices to provide non-technical information about the project which will include a project map, the construction schedule, GRM contact details, job opportunities available to locals, etc.

6.10 Training

- It will be the responsible of Project management to endorse the grievance mechanism and ensure that they are aware of the availability of this process. It is also necessary for Project management to ensure that personnel are allocated to manage the grievance mechanism.
- These personnel shall be made fully aware of the outlined grievance mechanism and have access to this document to ensure that they can undertake the necessary duties for effective implementation; and
- As grievances can be submitted/taken at the Project entrance, it will be necessary to ensure that security staff are trained in regard to this process and have access to this document and any applicable forms, contact details of responsible project parties etc.
- All staff will be advised of the availability of the grievance mechanism in the Project induction, including its key features such as how to submit gender-based violence & harassment incidences, processes and where to access it.

7 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In order for project SEP to function effectively, it is important to determine a management structure and assign suitable personnel for the implementation of the SEP commitments.

7.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Note: The roles below are subject to review upon the completion of E&S staffing under the Project Company, EPC Contractor and O&M Company, and the allocation of specific roles and responsibilities within E&S teams.

The responsibilities of the E&S Manager and Community Liaison Officer are to be outlined below once confirmed by the Project Company and EPC Contractor/ O&M Company.

7.1.1 Social Specialist (Project Company)

NAME	Sherzod Maxmudov
CONTACT DETAILS	Tel: +99895 1150306 Email: smaxmudov@acwapower.com

The Social Specialist to be employed by the Project Company will be responsible for the following in the duration of the construction phase:

- Overseeing the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan by the Project Company and EPC Contractor during construction, and by the Project Company (and any O&M Contractors) during operations;
- Leading the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan in subsequent phases of project implementation, in coordination with CLOs employed on the EPC Contractor's end;
- Overseeing the resolution of community grievances pertaining to land acquisition (applicability to be confirmed) prior to the commencement of the Project's construction phase as well as those pertaining to subsequent project operations;
- Overseeing grievance redressal by the EPC Contractor's CLOs in the course of project construction.

7.1.2 HSE Manager (Project Company)

NAME	Khaled AlGammaz
CONTACT DETAILS	Tel: +998 95 115 5106 Email: kalgammaz@acwapower.com

The HSE Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring stakeholders are recognised as partners in the development and delivery of strategic goals;
- Assisting the stakeholder management unit to effectively consult and engage stakeholders;
- Advising Senior Management of issues and/or risks to stakeholder relationship as soon as they arise so risk can be managed effectively;
- Supporting the implementation and management of the SEP;
- Getting involved in stakeholder engagement activities that relate directly to HSE concerns or emergency planning; and
- Engaging with any external stakeholders with respect to emergency planning, drills, and instances of emergency as appropriate.

7.1.3 E&S Manager (EPC Contractor)

NAME	Revaz E nukidze
CONTACT DETAILS	Tel: +998959897378 Email: revaz.enukidze@Intecc.com

The EPC Contractor will employ/nominate the Environmental and Social Manager during the construction and commissioning phase and the Project Company during the operation phase. The Project Company HSE Manager will oversee the Environmental and Social Manager. The Environmental and Social Manager is responsible for:

- Implementation of all aspects of the SEP ensuring that the Project is compliant with lenders requirements;
- Identifying stakeholder issues and acting appropriately to address those issues.
- Ensuring that the SEP and the available engagement methods are publicised by the Community Liaison Officer;
- Ensuring that Project personnel are well briefed in regard to the SEP and grievance mechanism (including security personnel), and that the required resources (e.g. vehicles, company phones, office materials) are provided;
- Ensuring stakeholder meeting and disclosure of information are managed properly.

- Supervising the processing and resolution of all grievances; and
- Supervising the independent periodic monitoring and disclosure of the non-technical summary of the audit reports and of the full reports if required.

7.1.4 Community Liaison Officers (EPC Contractor)

NAME	Havashon Parpieva
CONTACT DETAILS	Tel: +99893 9760710 Email: khavashon.parpieva@Intecc.com

In order to maintain regular communication with affected stakeholders, a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will be employed/nominated (this role may be shared by the nominated E&S Manager). The CLO will be knowledgeable about the project region and will have a working proficiency in Russian and Uzbek. The responsibilities of the CLO include:

- Identifying, informing and recording public views, opinions & grievances and or relaying them to the necessary personnel for follow up;
- Setting up a grievance complaint tracker system to keep track of the type of complaints filed, the complainant and status of each complaint;
- Publicising and distributing information to applicable stakeholders and translation of the material into applicable languages;
- Handling minor, straightforward issues such as those related to a complainants request for information;
- Obtaining clarification from other members of management in regard to dealing with specific grievances, such as a need to notify the Project Company (or other Project parties) in regard to the content or response to specific grievances;
- Ensuring all received external grievances are properly recorded, addressed and managed within the specified timelines as detailed in this procedure; and
- Keeping up to date with any changes in compliance obligations with respect to stakeholder engagement and grievances.

7.1.5 LALRP Steering Committee

A cross-cutting LALRP Steering Committee will be established with the primary aims of (i) aiding the resolution of community grievances pertaining to the implementation of the LALRP, and (ii) validating the eligibility of any additional (emergent) PAHs for LALRP entitlements.

The Committee will be instituted upon the disclosure of the LALRP to local communities within the project-affected districts (and Nurobod District in particular) and remain operational for up to one year from the start of construction activities within the project sites.

The Committee will serve to fulfil the following specific responsibilities:

-
- Create local awareness around the role of LALRP Steering Committee in relation to the Project's LALRP.
 - Establish the verification procedures and criteria for claims to compensation and supplementary LALRP benefits in connection with project-related economic displacement.
 - Establish a timeline for the disbursement of compensation payments and other livelihood restoration support after a claim has been verified.
 - Maintain a record of all related claims, review, and delivery of additional entitlements (i.e., minutes of meeting etc.).

The committee will be instrumental in verifying potential claims to compensation and supplementary livelihoods restoration assistance from any PAHs who were not identified at the time of this assessment. The LALRP Steering Committee will be constituted by the following parties:

- Local leaders from affected communities/ makhallas.
- Representatives from the cadastral departments in Nurobod, Pastdargom and Samarkand Districts.
- Social Specialist/ senior CLO from the Project Company
- Elected representatives of PAHs

All external parties constituting the LALRP Steering Committee will receive comprehensive induction training in the objectives of livelihood restoration planning in line with key mandatory and lender requirements. The parties will be familiarized with the Project, livelihood impacts from associated land-take, livelihood restoration remedies, and the E&S organization dedicated to LALRP implementation and management of community grievances.

7.2 Monitoring and Reporting

The following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be considered to evaluate the progress or successful implementation of the SEP. KPIs should be accounted on a monthly basis.

Table 7-1 KPIs for monitoring and evaluation of the construction-phase and O&M SEP

KPI No.	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)	TARGETS	TARGET TIMEFRAME	MEANS OF VERIFICATION (MOV)	M&E FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Cumulative number of grievances related to local community health, safety, security, social and environmental issues, by topic ³	Increasing trend of complaints closed to satisfaction of complainant	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly; quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Company • EPC Contractor (during construction) • O&M Contractor (during operations)
2	Fraction of cumulative grievances that are pending/ unresolved	100% of lodged grievances have been closed out	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly; quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Company • EPC Contractor (during construction) • O&M Contractor (during operations)
3	Number of grievances not resolved in less than 3 months and 6 months (separately)	100% of lodged grievances have been closed out within 6 months from the time of their receipt	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly; quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Company • EPC Contractor (during construction)

³ This count will include both closed and pending grievances. The cumulative grievance count will be broken down by grievance topic, for due monitoring, reporting, and management.

KPI No.	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)	TARGETS	TARGET TIMEFRAME	MEANS OF VERIFICATION (MOV)	M&E FREQUENCY	RESPONSIBILITY
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O&M Contractor (during operations)
4	Average cumulative time for grievance resolution	Less than one month from receipt of grievance	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly; quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company EPC Contractor (during construction) O&M Contractor (during operations)
5	Number of grievances received and resolved in regard to SEA, SH and GBV etc.	100% of grievances related to SEA, SH and GBV resolved	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly; quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company EPC Contractor (during construction) O&M Contractor (during operations)
6	Percentage of scheduled SEP activities implemented and reported to project lenders	100% of scheduled SEP activities implemented and reported to project lenders	Throughout construction and operation	Third-party (external) grievance logs	Monthly, quarterly, biannually and annually (as appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Company EPC Contractor (during construction) O&M Contractor (during operations)

The Project Company will issue a sustainability/ E&S performance report for the Project, at least annually. This report will be posted on the Project Developer's website. Hard copies of the report will also be made available at the Project Information Centres (PICs).

7.3 SEP Budget

A provisional budget of USD 70,000 has been allocated to the implementation of the SEP. This sum is part of the overarching budget for the implementation of the Project Company's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

8 REVIEW

The SEP is a live document that will be utilised in the ESMS throughout the project's lifecycle as a reference document. As such, there is a need to update the SEP as necessary to include any relevant changes such as changes in projects circumstances, new requirements, new affected stakeholders, reviews of techniques, changes to engagement methods, changes of relevant personnel, changes to grievance mechanism, etc. There may also be a need to update the SEP and Grievance Mechanism as part of corrective actions linked to audit, or other findings.

As a minimum, the SEP will be reviewed on an annual basis and prior to any material changes in the project plan, with the aim of achieving continual improvement.

APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE OF GRIEVANCE FORM

GRIEVANCE FORM	
INSTRUCTIONS	Please fill in this Grievance form in clear handwriting and submit through one of the following means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directly to Environmental & Social Manager - By email to: - Deposit in the letter box at the Project main entrance
Full Name	First Name:
	Last Name:
	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to raise my grievance anonymously
Contact Information Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).	<input type="checkbox"/> By Post: <i>Please provide mailing address:</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> By telephone:
	<input type="checkbox"/> By email:
Preferred Language of Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Uzbek
	<input type="checkbox"/> Russian
	<input type="checkbox"/> English
Description of Incident/Grievance	<i>What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem?</i>
Date of Incident/Grievance	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time incident/grievance (date...)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Happened more than once (how many times?)
	<input type="checkbox"/> On-going (currently experiencing problem)
What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?	
Signature:	
Date:	

APPENDIX B - GRIEVANCE REGISTER TEMPLATE

ID	DATE	NAME OR GRIEVANT	CONTACT DETAILS	PREFERRED LANGUAGE	REQUESTED ANONYMITY?	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN	DUE DATE	RESULTS OF THE ACTIONS	CLOSING DATE	EVIDENCE (IF APPLICABLE)

APPENDIX C PROJECT & GRM INTRODUCTION LEAFLET

APPENDIX D LIST OF PROJECT-AFFECTED DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES

Region	District	Makhalla
Samarkand	Nurobod	Chorvador
		Olga
		Jom
		Urtabuz
		Ulus
		Dustlik
		Sarikul
		Mehnatkash
		Chortut
		Sazagan
		Saroy
		Pastdargom
	Elbek	
	Khonchorbog	
	Navbakhor	
	Yangiavlod	
	Ilm	
	Utarchi	
	Mustakillik	
	Beklar	
	Navruz	
	Yangiobod	
	Boldir	
	Durmansoy	
	Istikbol	
	Beshbola	
	Qushchinor	
	Shombuloq	
	Oqdaryo	
		Guzalkent
		Kumushkent

Region	District	Makhalla
	Payariq	Khalqobod
		Choshtepa
		Ernazarqurgon
		Khuja Ismoil
		Maniobod
		Sarisuv
		Tupolos
		Oqqurgon
		Bobur
		Polvonarik
	Jomboy	Polvonarik
		Nogokhon
		Qulbosti
		Qungirof
		Gazira
		Sariqipchoq
	Bulungur	Bogbon
		Beshkuton
Yangiobod		
Kattaqishloq		
Lalmikor		
Gubdin		
Jizzakh	Gallaorol	Khominkurgon
		Oktom
		Mulkush
		Mirzabulog
		Kukbulok
		Kukgunbaz
	Sharof Rashidov	Yangi-Diyor
		Madaniyat
		Kulpisar
		Tarakkiyot
		Buston
		Samarkandkuduk
	Zafarobod	Yorkin

Region	District	Makhalla
	Pakhtakor	Birlik
		Ok bulok
		Olmazor
		Pakhtakor
		Mingchinor
	Dustlik	Manas
Syrdarya	Syrdarya	Zarbdor
		Obi khayot
		Obi zilol
		Khisobdon
		Ankhor
		Khamdam
		Tinik
		Ta'minotchi
		Khamkor
		Sohil
	Mirzaobod	Mirzachul
		Dekhkonobod
		T.Akhmedov
	Akaltin	Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Bobur
		Sardoba
		A.Toirov
	Sardoba	Sharof Rashidov (Mingchinor)
		T.Malik (Bogzor)
	Saykhunobod	Zafarobod
	Tashkent	Kuyichirchik
Djumagul		
Pakhtachi		
Uch chinor		
Birlik		
Dustlik		
Chinobod		
Pakhtazor		
Bukhara	Karakul	Chekirchi
		Khujalar

Region	District	Makhalla
		Tinchlik