



# Uzbekistan photovoltaic pv systems

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To support Uzbekistan's energy transition through the expansion of solar photovoltaic (PV) installed capacity.

The Project involves the design, financing, construction, ownership, operation, and maintenance of three solar photovoltaic independent power plants representing a combined 897 megawatt (MW) of installed capacity (Samarkand 220MW plant, Jizzakh 220MW plant and Sherabad 456.7MW plant) (the PV plants), and their associated interconnection facilities.

The PV plants are being developed by Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC), a global leader in renewable energy and sustainable urban development, through three separate special-purpose entities domiciled in Uzbekistan. Masdar was selected through an international competitive tender set up by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Energy with assistance from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Scaling Solar 2 program (Samarkand and Jizzakh PV plants) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s PPP Advisory Office (Sherabad PV plant).

The Project is expected to be financed by a group of international financial institutions including the ADB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), in addition to AIIB (the Lenders).

The Project is underpinned by three separate long-term power purchase agreements (PPA) with JSC National Electric Grid of Uzbekistan (NEGU). Each plant has its own separate Government Support Agreement and Investment Agreement, Land Agreement, and Land Lease Agreement.

**Environmental Aspects.** The site selection for three PV plants was undertaken prior to the sponsor securing the project by the Government of Uzbekistan, with support from international consultants. The site selection process has balanced environmental and social and other factors and largely avoided key ES impacts. All three PV plants are not located in protected areas. The areas of land for Samarkand, Jizzakh, Sherabad are 438ha, 562ha and 631ha respectively, and located in modified habitats. All PV plants will require new 220KV OHLs to connect to the nearest sub-station, with 5.5km for Samarkand, 14.7km for Jizzakh and 50.5km for Sherabad. Those OHLs mainly cut across agricultural land or cultivated land.

**Biodiversity.** The CHA undertaken for the three PV plants has identified Central Asia Tortoise and other reptile species that are classified as Priority Biodiversity Features (PBFs) under EBRD PR6. No Net Loss is required and can be implemented through a combination of mitigation measures including pre-construction translocation, adapted fencing, and offset of lost habitat through the restoration of the available modified habitat within the PV site. The Khaudag Ridge area at the eastern end of the Sherabad OHL has also been classified as Critical Habitat for Tajikistan Toadhead Agama. While permanent impacts will be limited to areas affected by tower footings, an NG of the species will be likely achieved through habitat restoration in



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this area.

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