

## **Initial Project Summary**

Project Location: Kankiya, Katsina State, Nigeria

Name of Applicant: Azura Katsina Limited

Name of the Project: Nova Solar 5 Farms Limited

Project Description: The Project involves the construction and operation of a 100 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) plant which will be located on a 200 hectare site in Katsina State, 3 kms north-west of Kankiya in northern Nigeria. Over half of the project site is used for farming and livestock grazing while the remaining part of the site is a gazetted forest reserve area. The forest reserve is currently used by the local communities for grazing and farming and also forms part of a transit route for taking livestock to water at a nearby dam. The Project will consist of the photovoltaic panels which will be mounted on aluminum poles about 3m high and of which 1.4m will be buried underground. Also on site a switchyard and internal road network will be constructed. There is no need for additional land for a transmission line as the Project will connect via the on-site switchyard to a 130kV line that crosses the site.

Environment and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project has been reviewed against OPIC's categorical prohibitions and determined to be categorically eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the Project are considered significant and irreversible, in particular the adverse social impacts due to economic displacement of those using the site for subsistence agriculture and grazing. Other environmental, social, and occupational health and safety risks include water availability, the need for appropriate health and safety measures and a robust environmental and social management system for day-to-day aspects of construction and operation including solid waste disposal, hazardous materials management and disposal, water management and wastewater treatment and disposal.

Environmental and Social Standards: International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards (January 2012) 1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts), 2 (Labor and Working Conditions), 3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention), 4 (Community Health, Safety, and Security), and 5 (Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement) are triggered by the Project. Performance Standards 6, 7 and 8 are not triggered by the Project at this time. Guidelines applicable to the Project include the IFC's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines (April 2007) and the IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution (April 30, 2007).

Location of Local Access to Project Information

Kankia Local Government Head Quarters

Next to 1st Bank Kankia Branch (at junction of Kano-Katsina Road and Dusingi Road,  
Kankia,  
Katsina