



JSC “ROGUN HPP”
STATE ENTERPRISE “DIRECTORATE FOR FLOODING ZONE OF ROGUN HPP”
PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP FOR ENERGY FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION UNDER
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

ROGUN HYDROPOWER PROJECT – UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Volume 1 – Environmental & Social Impact Assessment –
Non-Technical Summary



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Rogun Hydropower Project (Rogun HPP) is being developed on the Vakhsh river, approximately 100 km east of Dushanbe in Tajikistan. The Project will form part of a cascade of hydropower facilities on the river, with the Rogun HPP being the furthest upstream.

The Rogun Project Management Group (PMG) for Energy Facilities Construction under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is managing the Project and liaising with international lenders. PMG is also coordinating the work of Rogun Open Joint Stock Company (JSC Rogun) which is responsible for the construction and operation of Rogun HPP, and the Directorate of the Rogun HPP Flooding Zone (DFZ), which is responsible for the resettlement program.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was completed in 2014. This update to the ESIA was commissioned to support World Bank Technical Assistance funding that has been made available to the Project. The ESIA describes the potential significant impacts which may arise from the Project construction and operation and sets out the measures to avoid or reduce harmful effects of Project activities or increase the benefits.

The ESIA complies with several Environmental and Social (E&S) standards, policies and guidelines which will include but are not limited to:

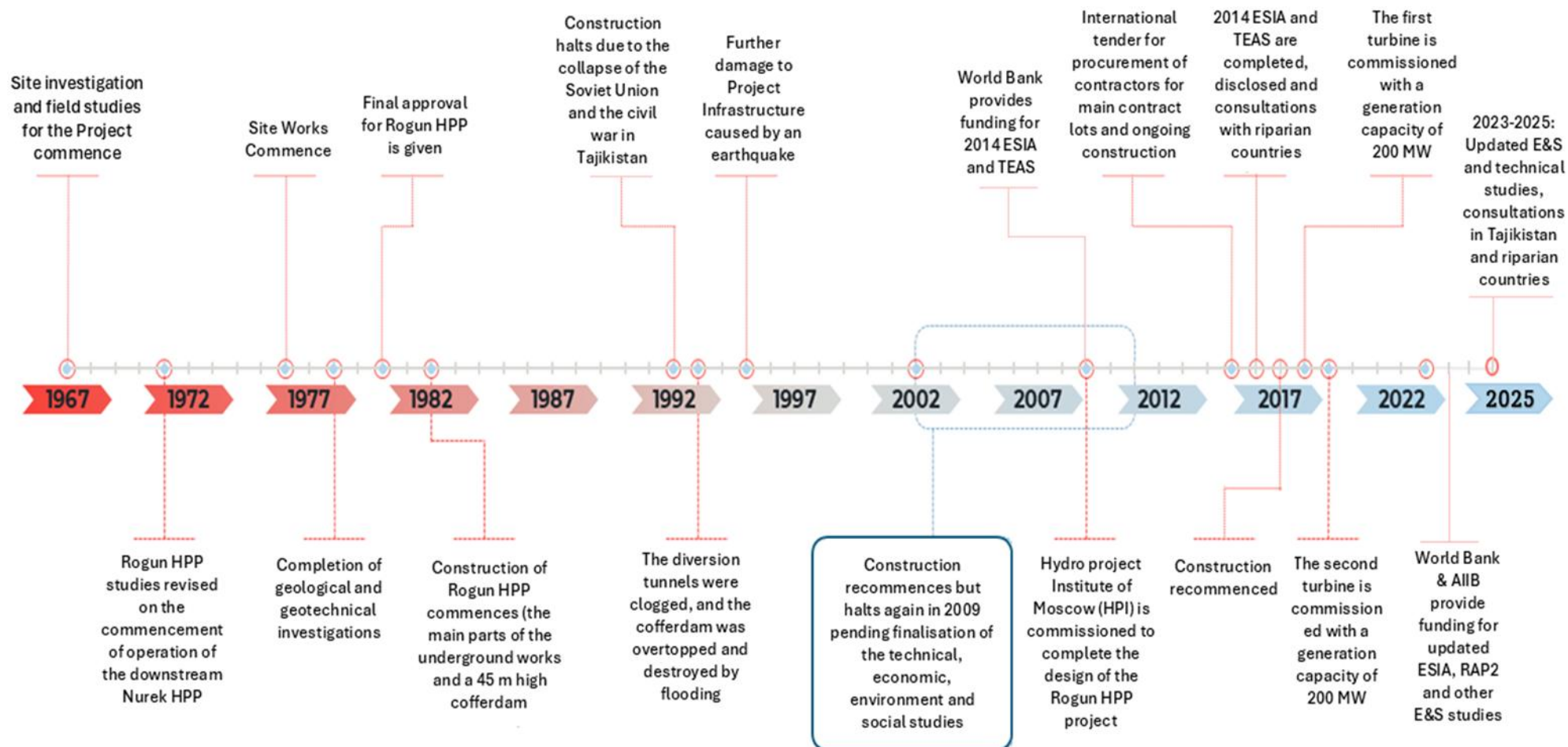
- Republic of Tajikistan law, including international agreements to which Tajikistan is a party; and
- The World Bank (WB) Environmental and Social Framework (2018) including the ten E&S standards (ESS), the WB Group (WBG) General Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (2007) in specific industry sectors.

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the ESIA.

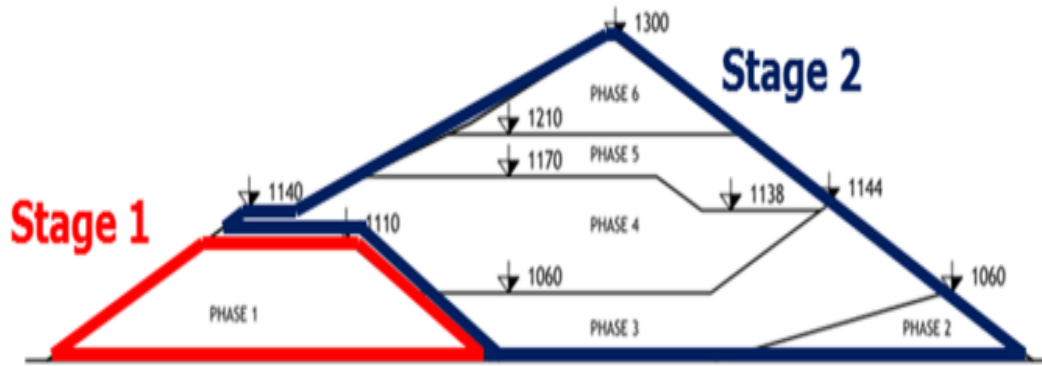
Once complete the project will consist of:

- A dam with a crest at 1,300 masl by 2032, and an overall height of 335 m;
- A reservoir with the water level progressively raised until 2038 when the full supply level (FSL) is reached at 1,290 masl. The reservoir will have total surface area of 170 km², a length of approximately 70 km and capacity of approximately 13.3 km³;
- A surface spillway, two mid-level and three high-level tunnels to protect the dam and allow safe passage of floodwaters up to the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF);
- An underground powerhouse and transformer room in excavated caverns on the left bank. The powerhouse will contain six turbines, having a combined maximum generation capacity of 3,780 MW;
- Approximately 5-6 km of above ground surface roads;
- Six transmission lines connecting the Project to the national grid and other countries;
- Reinstatement of the 55 km road on the left bank to connect with the new bridge that will span the Surkhob River to alleviate severance of the left bank villages due to the reservoir; and
- Continuation of the resettlement program until about 2032, by which time about 50,000 people in 69 villages will have been resettled into either new or existing settlements

2 PROJECT HISTORY



3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION – DAM CONSTRUCTION



The rock filled clay core dam is being constructed over a compacted concrete pad. The pad will form the base of the impervious clay core. The total volume of the Stage 1 Dam is approximately 16 million cubic meters.

Stage two involves progressively increasing the height of the dam by excavation and backfilling until the full height of the dam is reached. The rock material for the dam being provided by several borrow areas upstream of the dam in the area that will be flooded by the reservoir; and one borrow area downstream of the dam. The total volume of the dam is approximately 81 million cubic meters.

The construction of the dam also includes installation of hydraulic and grouting barriers to prevent the dam being affected by the salt wedge that crosses the Rogun site. Monitoring equipment has been installed to identify geotechnical changes over the lifetime of the dam to ensure it remains stable. Terracing and other works to stabilise the slopes of the reservoir and prevent erosion and landslides are also being undertaken.

Pre-Cofferdam

- Start of the river diversion to allow construction to proceed, improving the access road and internal roads, and finalising diversion tunnel No. 3.

Completed: 2016

Cofferdam

- An intermediate dam structure was then constructed using a geomembrane and a height of 1,050 m above sea level.

Completed: 2017

Stage 1 Dam

- An intermediate form of the dam at 1110m above sea level and 660m end-to-end was constructed to enable early electricity generation.

Completed: 2018

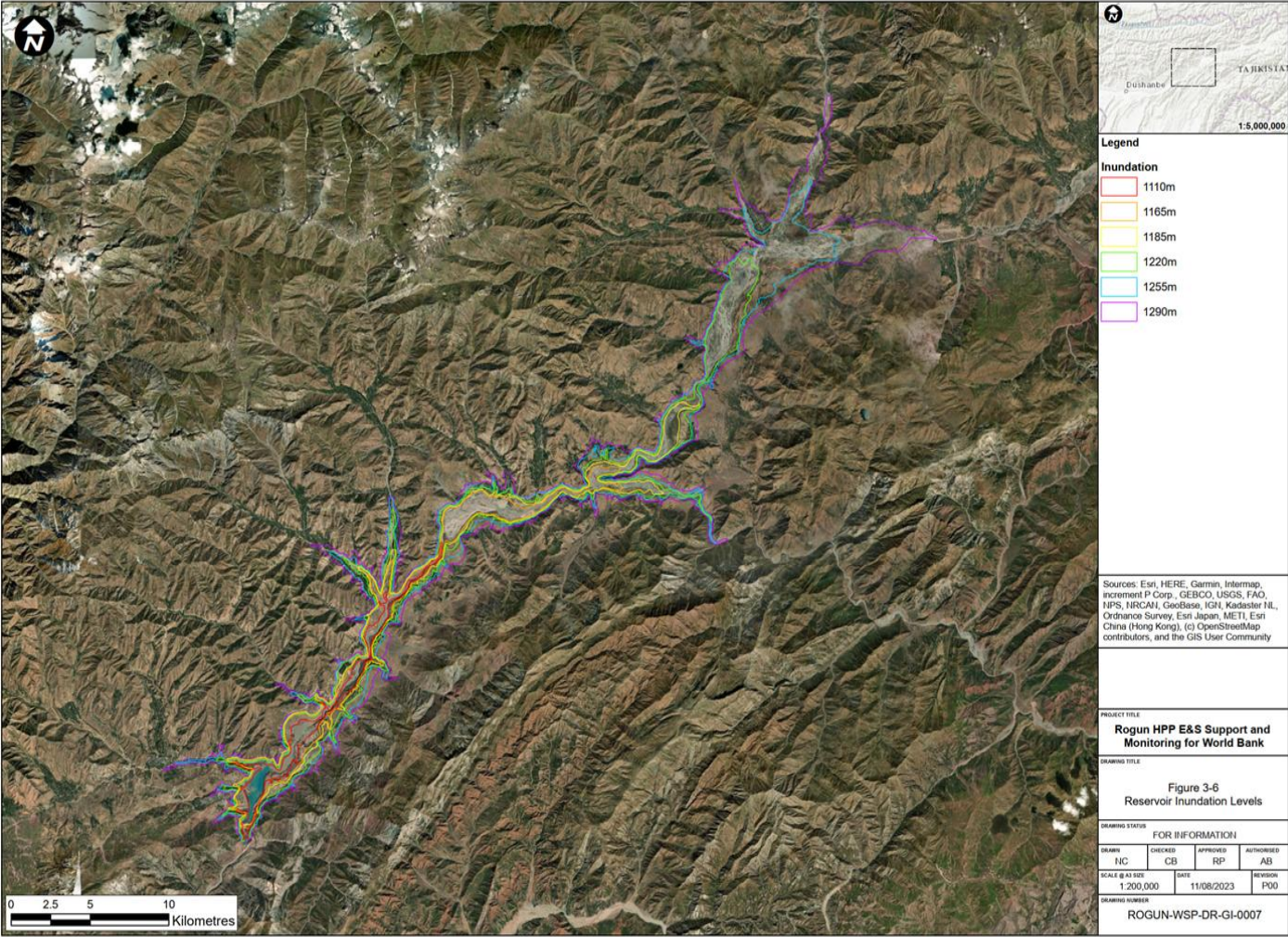
Stage 2: Full Height Dam

- The full height dam to 1300m above sea level and the reservoir level will be at 1290. Expected to be completed by 2032 with full reservoir filling by 2038.

Under construction



PROJECT DESCRIPTION – RESERVOIR








Reservoir Key Facts:
Full supply level (FSL): 1290masl
Total surface area: 170 km²
Total land take area:
 Agricultural – 9,190 ha.
 Irrigated - 1,970 ha.
 Forests & bushes – 1,070 ha.
 Others – 6,620 ha
Max. reservoir volume: 13,238 hm³





Year of Inundation*
 1075 m asl – January 2025
 1100 m asl – October 2026
 1175 m asl – August 2028
 1230 m asl – June 2032
 1290 m asl – November 2038
**subject to construction progress*



PROJECT DESCRIPTION – OTHER KEY PROJECT AREAS

PROJECT COMPONENTS			
POWERHOUSE & TURBINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 dam installed capacity: 400MW Stage 2 dam (total) installed capacity: 3,780 MW Stage 1 turbine units: 2 Stage 2 turbine units: 6 Powerhouse Cavern: 220 x 20 x 70 m Transformer Cavern: 220 x 20 x 70 m At full operational capacity the hydropower project is expected to generate more than 17 billion kWh per annum 	POWER SUPPLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Generated: Following the completion of the Stage 1 dam in 2018, the operation of the two installed turbines provides electricity to the site Non-Grid/Back-up: Prior to 2018, diesel generators and a direct power source from Nurek HPP was used for power supply. This combination now provides the back-up power supply for the Project construction phase and will continue to provide back-up during the operational phase
			
TRANSPORTATION ROUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Project site is via a single controlled checkpoint at the outskirts of Rogun City Sub-surface: approximately 70km of the Projects tunnels are being used as transport routes during construction. 6km of underground roads will remain in use during the operational phase Surface: approximately 26km of haul roads extend around the site, most of which are unpaved. Around 5-6km of these roads will remain in use during the operational phase. Supplies arrive from Dushanbe via the M41 Dushanbe-Obigarm highway Workers residing in accommodation on site are transported to their workplace by shuttle buses A twice-daily bus service transports around 300-400 workers living within 30km of Rogun City. 	TUNNELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headrace Tunnels: water from the reservoir is moved to the powerhouse and turbines for electricity production via the headrace tunnels. The maximum discharge capacity is 1626 m³/s Diversion Tunnels: during the construction phase, water is diverted using the four diversion tunnels. During the operational phase, these tunnels will be used to divert flow from the hydropower complex during maintenance or repair of the turbines Once the reservoir reaches full capacity, overflow water will be released downstream as necessary using three high-level outlets (HLO) and a remote tunnel spillway (RTS)
 			

PROJECT COMPONENTS

<p>CONSTRUCTION COMPOUNDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose-built worker accommodation and an office compound has been constructed by the Lot 2 contractor adjacent to Rogun City ▪ Worker accommodation is also provided on site in Construction Camp 1 for some of the workforce, but in 2025/2026, facilities in this area will be demolished in anticipation of inundation of the area as the reservoir fills ▪ From 2026, new accommodation facilities and office compounds will be built at Construction Camp 2 adjacent to the village of Pasi Muhraho and in Area/Site 5 downstream of the dam ▪ The remainder of the workforce is accommodated outside of the site in Rogun City and surrounding villages ▪ Concrete batching facilities, fuel storage areas, maintenance and equipment storage areas, site offices, mechanical workshops and medical facilities, are also located at the construction camps 	<p>MATERIALS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quarry 15 and Quarry 17 and stockpiles for crushing are located upstream of the dam. Material suitable for use is extracted, processed and transported to the dam via 8-9km covered conveyor. Aggregate material from Quarry 15 and Quarry 17 that does not comply with the geotechnical specification is dumped on spoil heaps located with the reservoir area ▪ Quarry 26 is located 2.5km downstream of the dam and approximately 4M m³ of aggregate will be excavated from this area. The spoil heap for Quarry 26 is in Area 5. ▪ Approximately 10% of material from tunnelling that complies with the geotechnical specification is used for dam construction ▪ Approximately 12 million tonnes of aggregate to be used in dam construction ▪ Other construction materials such as cement, grout, wood, are sourced from
			
<p>WORKFORCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Between 2025 and 2028, the peak construction workforce will reach 20,000 people on site ▪ Around 2,000 are office staff working 8am to 5pm ▪ Around 5,000 staff work 12-hour day shifts in workshops and other locations ▪ Remaining staff work 12-hour day or night shifts on a 15 day on/off schedule. Therefore, only half of these staff are on site at any given day and, of those, half work the day and half work the night shift 	<p>MEDICAL FACILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contractors provide medical facilities on-site. For the subcontractors that do not have their own medical facilities, there are central Rogun Medical Centres that can be utilized by all workers ▪ Thirteen medical facilities are provided by various contractors on-site and eight emergency vehicles are available ▪ When necessary, injured workers are transported off-site to the closest medical center in Rogun City or to a hospital in Dushanbe for treatment
			

PROJECT COMPONENTS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each shift includes a 1-hour break 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical personnel on site include 25 doctors, 44 healthcare professionals, one dentist, 13 paramedics, five nurses, 43 drivers and four janitors
<p>WASTE STORAGE AREAS</p>	<p>Hazardous waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities for waste storage areas within LOT2 construction are managed by the contractor WeBuild. The waste storage area is constructed of concrete cubicles, with waste is stored and labelled in open-top intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) Hazardous waste is stored in metal barrels inside larger containers or removed from site by a waste contractor for disposal at a certified waste disposal site. A licenced hauler takes away hazardous waste for recycling (e.g., batteries) or disposal. <p>Non-hazardous waste / construction debris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At present, most non-hazardous solid waste is taken to the Rogun municipal landfill, however, this landfill is over capacity. Rogun JSC is designing a new facility for construction wastes. Waste that has been improperly dumped on the construction site will be collected and disposed of in this new facility. 	<p>Sewage Disposal (non-municipal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewage waste is currently managed by each contractor using a system of facilities that discharge to septic tanks. Once the sewage is dosed with chlorine, the liquid is generally infiltrated into the ground and solids are removed by a contractor for treatment in the Rogun City wastewater treatment plant A treatment system comprising a series of biological ponds was installed in late 2023 for sanitary water generated at Construction Camp 1 and will be decommissioned before the area is inundated An industrial treatment plant has been installed at the hydropower plant to treat water that is used for cooling the turbines, prior to discharge to the Vakhsh river. The capacity of the plant will be increased as turbines are commissioned during the operational phase Sanitary wastewater at resettlement villages is managed in treatment plants or in septic systems designed to comply with Tajikistan National Standards <p>Medical waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All medical waste is taken for incineration at the Rogun Hospital where a new incinerator was installed in 2023 to comply with international standards Medical waste from the new resettlement area at New Nurobod will be taken for incineration at the Rogun Hospital incinerator. 	



4 WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED?

The analysis of alternatives is an important part of an impact assessment. It enables environmental and social risks to be identified to inform the decision-making process of the most financially and technically feasible alternative.

Several alternatives were considered for specific Project components, including:

- **Without Project Scenario**
- **Alternative locations for the Project**
- **Alternative Dam Structures**
- **Alternative Dam Heights**
- **Alternative sites for Resettlement Areas.**

Without the Project

The alternatives to the Rogun HPP include the increased use of fossil fuels (especially coal) to meet electricity demand in Tajikistan where alternative forms of renewable energy (wind and solar) cannot make up for electricity shortages in winter. This will result in a continued rise in carbon emissions contributing to global climate change.

Once constructed, Rogun HPP will protect the downstream cascade of dams from the sedimentation and probable maximum flood; and protect downstream riparian areas and neighbouring countries in case of a dam breach at Nurek. The Rogun HPP will also provide more consistent water flow downstream to manage minimum environmental water requirements in the Amu Darya basin and improve cooperation between neighbouring countries.

Alternative Locations

The dam has been sited to take advantage of the narrow valley which minimises the amount of material needed for construction and loss of land.

Alternative Dam Structure

Several structures were considered from clay core rockfill, earth core rockfill, and various concrete dams. The clay core was selected based on risks from fault lines, salt fill, rock quality, overtopping and staged construction.

Alternative Dam Heights

Three height options were considered: 265m, 300m, and 335m. The 335m high (1,290 Full Supply Level) provided greatest energy production, longest lifespan and greatest protection to the downstream Vakhsh cascade, extending the lifetime of the Nurek Dam.

Alternative Resettlement Sites

Sites are selected in areas with sufficient local resources, where the risk of earthquakes is low and with sufficient agricultural land. All sites are aligned with government planning and approved by relevant ministries. Five new resettlement areas are being identified and assessed.

5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement will be implemented throughout the lifetime of the Project, in line with the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The stakeholder engagement process aims to establish effective communication channels and collaborative participation with a range of interested groups on key issues and opportunities.

Extensive stakeholder engagement was carried out for the 2014 ESIA and engagement with Rogun town and the resettlement villages has continued since that time.

The current SEP details the risks and impacts on all parties that may be affected by the Project. It outlines the commitments of the PMG relating to stakeholder engagement, consultation, and disclosure throughout construction, operation and resettlement activities.

A review of Project plans, objectives, and potential impacts resulted in stakeholders being categorized into two main groups:

- Project's Affected Parties – individuals and groups, including local communities, who may be affected by the Project due to actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, safety, cultural practices, well-being or livelihoods; and
- Other Interested Parties – persons, groups or organizations with an interest in the Project, which may arise from the location of the Project, its characteristics, impacts, or issues of public interest.

Based on the World Bank definition, no Indigenous Peoples have been identified as potentially affected stakeholders in relation to the Project.

Between 2008-2011, the Resettlement Unit (the entity responsible for resettlement prior to the DFZ) led a series of community consultations as part of the Project resettlement program, and a subsequent audit of the SEP process established that the Project was well-known to people throughout Tajikistan due to its strategic importance and scale.

Since its official formation in 2011 DFZ has undertaken a series of consultation meetings with communities affected by resettlement and other impacts. In addition, PMG convened a meeting of the riparian governments in November 2023 in Kazakhstan to discuss the updated draft ESIA. Local and international NGO and CSO representatives participated in this meeting.

Engagement sessions were held in 2023 and 2024 with potentially affected communities within the Project region to obtain their concerns and views about the Project. Key issues and themes identified across the process are:

- Level of engagement with communities not affected by the resettlement program;
- Impacts of the resettlement program;
- Land allocation and compensation;
- Infrastructure, utilities and services; and
- Livelihood restoration.

In addition to the previous stakeholder consultation and engagement undertaken for the Project, PMG and DFZ will publish relevant information during the disclosure period, with further periodic disclosure as the Project evolves.

6 AREA OF INFLUENCE

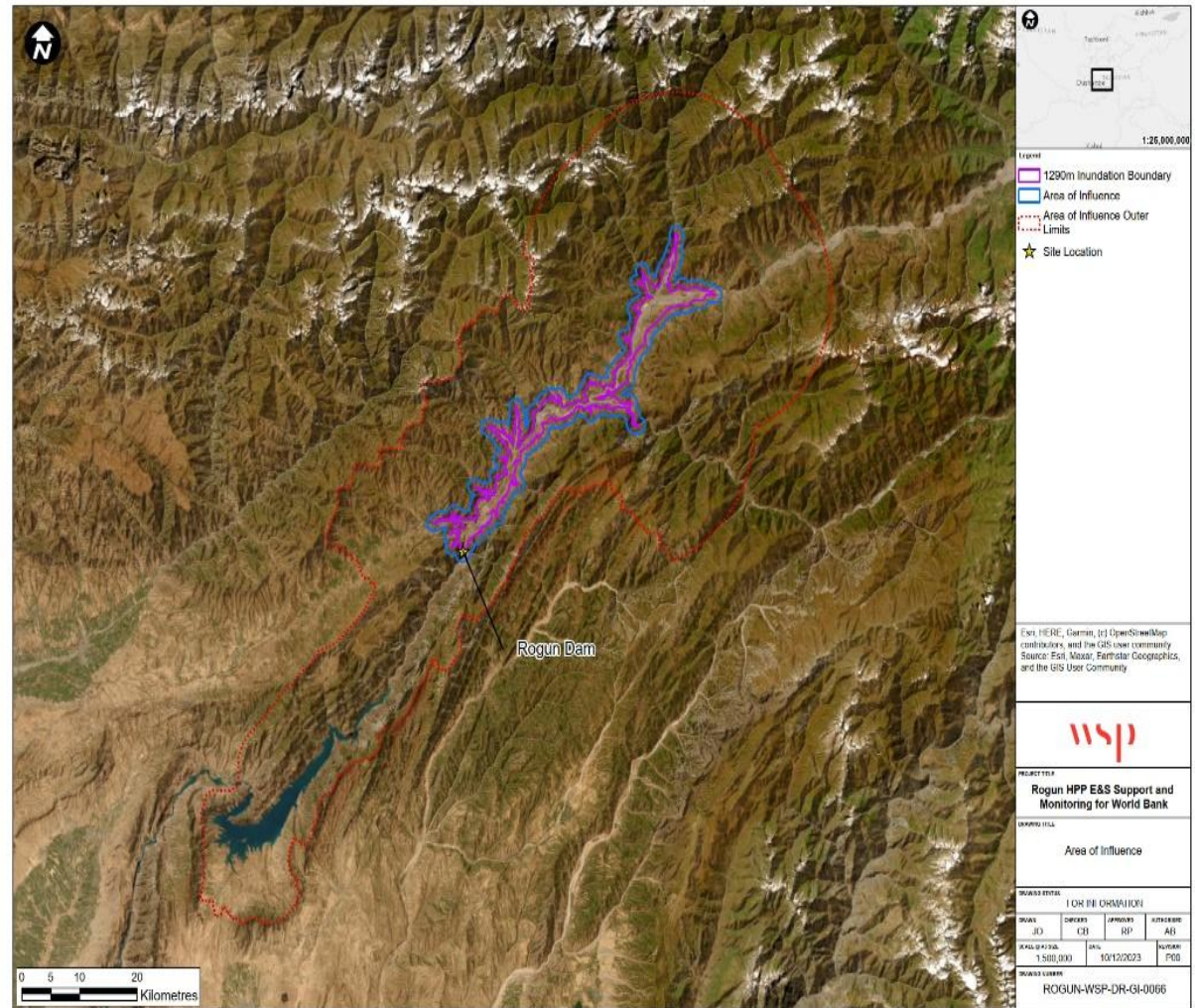
The full extent of the Project including the inundation zone and associated components together with a surrounding buffer define the spatial influence of the Project. This extent includes the receptors that are potentially impacted by the Project and is known as the Area of Influence (Aoi).

For most environmental and social topics, the Aoi corresponds to the project boundary at the reservoir full supply level, with the possibility of the buffer extending up to 1km beyond this boundary, depending on environmental, social and geographic receptors.

The connection of the Rogun HPP to the regional electricity transmission scheme is intended to provide for the export of surplus electricity to neighboring countries to alleviate power shortages that are undermining economic development.

A Memorandum (2022) between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan sets out the intention for long-term export/import of energy from Rogun HPP within summer months from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan under mutually beneficial terms.

The Rogun HPP will also be connected to the CASA-100 OHL infrastructure for export of surplus electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan.



7 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Project site is heavily disturbed due to construction activities previously undertaken over decades and this is reflected in the baseline conditions.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Tajikistan is a temperate country with a variable climate typical of Central Asia and is prone to natural disasters. Climate change impacts already experienced during the 20th Century include the loss of approximately 2.5% of glacial ice pack. Climate change predictions suggest an increase in average temperatures and a rise in extreme high temperatures. The region is also predicted to have an increase in annual rainfall.

Tajikistan has one of the lowest greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in Central Asia. In 2022, agriculture (45%) and energy (42%) accounted for nearly 90% of the total sectoral contributions to the annual 13.9 Gigatons (Gt) of GHG emissions, with industrial processes and product use (10%) and waste (3%) accounting for the remaining emission contributions.

The installation and operation of the Rogun HPP will not significantly contribute to global climate change. Compared to the 'without Project' alternative Rogun HPP aims to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to lowering carbon emissions in Tajikistan.

There will be some GHG emissions especially in relation to potential methane emissions from the reservoir, however, the removal of vegetation from areas prior to inundation and the depth of the water will limit methane formation at the bottom of the reservoir. The fact is that the waters of the Vakhsh are highly turbid and carry an average of 4.16 kg/m³ of suspended

sediment particles. The total accumulation of such sediment in the reservoir is estimated at 100 million tons per year. That is, the entire bottom of the reservoir will quite quickly be covered with a solid layer of silt/sediment, which will further prevent anaerobic conditions in deeper layers, reducing methane emissions from the vegetation remnants.

AIR QUALITY

Visible air pollution is mainly dust, including particulate matter, along the Project haulage routes. The annual average concentration of small particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) exceeds the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.

Within the tunnels, smog, as a combination of small particulate matter and engine combustion emissions, is visible in areas where ventilation is inadequate to bring fresh air into the working areas.

NOISE

Ambient noise levels are typical of construction activities with exceedances of noise limits in areas around the crushing plant and conveyors during the day; and exceedances of night-time noise limits in areas where Construction Camp 1 accommodation is located. Noise levels also exceed Project limits in some underground work areas.

Noise impacts mainly relate to the use of crushing plant, vehicles, main and secondary conveyors in the stockpiles, earthworks and the asphalt plant.

Implementation of the Noise Management plan and monitoring of worker exposure as well as enforcement of use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will reduce significant effects to acceptable levels.

Resettlement areas will be at least 500m from any existing settlement. Construction of resettlement areas is considered unlikely to exceed the noise thresholds.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The site geology is typical of the region, alternating between sandstone and siltstone, with soils typical of the area showing some local deposits suitable for arable farming mostly suitable for grazing. Soils in the construction area have been removed.

Potential impacts to soils relate to the loss of arable soils especially in the reservoir area, compaction of soils, and soil erosion due to the drying out of soils when the reservoir level falls during operation of Rogun HPP in the winter months.

Preventing soil erosion is key to extending the lifetime of the reservoir and hydropower plant and implementing soil conservation measures through stockpiling and reuse and implementing the watershed management plan to limit erosion will reduce these risks.

Some localised soil pollution has been observed especially in areas used for fuel storage and vehicle refuelling. Areas with historic use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) have also been identified. Other areas around the historic concrete batching plant and septic tanks also show low levels of soil contamination.

All areas of existing contamination will be identified, particularly in areas that will be inundated as the reservoir level increases and measures implemented to ensure that hazardous substances do not affect the reservoir or other areas.

A site wide asbestos survey and production of the asbestos register together with management procedures will reduce exposure of the workforce to asbestos fibres.

RESERVOIR SLOPE STABILITY

Slope instability around reservoirs can affect areas immediately surrounding the reservoir and large landslides could reach some distance from the reservoir edge, including landslides occurring throughout the reservoir catchment. Landslide impact waves are a significant hazard during reservoir filling and operation because they can flood above reservoir level and potentially overtop the dam.

To avoid or eliminate risk, the management of reservoir slope instability requires detailed understanding of the potential landslide mechanisms that could affect the slopes around the reservoir, therefore; the following measures will be implemented:

- A monitoring program will be informed by the landslide investigations and include a risk assessment of the various potential landslide scenarios that could affect the reservoir;
- A reservoir landslide management plan will incorporate the results of the landslide investigations, risk assessments, monitoring and emergency management planning; and
- Emergency Response Plan - developed to ensure downstream users and neighbouring countries can be warned and emergency response implemented in good time in case of any breach in the cascade.

WATER ENVIRONMENT

The Rogun HPP is in the Amu Darya River basin, on the upper reaches of the Vakhsh River. The basin extends across several countries, from its headwaters in the Pamir Mountain range to the discharge into the inland Aral Sea. The river carries high sediment loads, driven by intense upstream erosion processes.

The damming of the Vakhsh River to form a reservoir with a total surface area of 170 km², an overall length of approximately 70 km, will result in an extensive and permanent modification to the existing fluvial environment. To mitigate this impact, it will be necessary to identify opportunities to improve the ecological and water quality status upstream of the Rogun reservoir impoundment, or on the downstream river channel and hydropower cascade.

Filling of the Rogan Dam reservoir will raise ground water levels over an extensive area. Ground water modelling and monitoring will be necessary to establish any effects on the local population and mitigation identified.

There is approximately 17km of river between Rogun HPP and Nurek HPP and the controlled release of water from the Rogun HPP will act as the control for flows downstream to Nurek HPP.

MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW

A study to define the Minimum Environmental Flow downstream of the Rogun Dam has also been undertaken. The current operating regime for Rogun allows for 10m³/s of residual flow to be released downstream. A few tributaries also contribute to the flow downstream of the dam.

Studies have been undertaken to identify whether the minimum flows in place are appropriate for the operation of the hydropower dam and protect

downstream environments and users. These studies have identified a more variable flow would be more appropriate with flow regimes for typical years and drought years identified.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

The current main access to the Project site is from the Dushanbe to Obi Garm road (M41). Stretches of existing roads that will be submerged as the reservoir fills are currently being replaced.

Two new major roads are planned for the area surrounding the reservoir (and bridge) with:

- An International Highway on the left-bank of the lower part of the reservoir known as between Vakhdat - Jirgital with a 920 m Long Bridge at Darband; and
- A 50 km road on the right-bank of the upper part of the reservoir, between the Long Bridge at Darband and the village of Gharm.

Impacts from additional traffic and transport occur mainly from shift changes and the transport of the workforce as well as goods and materials along the existing roads.

A site-wide Traffic Management Plan has been developed to ensure haul roads are maintained and pedestrian movements are segregated. This will reduce the number of vehicle incidents on site.

Upgrading of transport routes is also occurring and during operation this is expected to bring a benefit to the communities with the creation of high-quality infrastructure.

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MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS

Key risks associated with major accidents and disasters include earthquakes leading to the damage or failure of the dam, overtopping or dam breach due to excessive water, landslides into the reservoir, cracks

in the dam wall leading to the loss of water storage capacity or tunnels collapse preventing the diversion of water away.

These risks may have impacts on:

- Members of the public and local communities with loss of life/injury or livelihoods.
- Infrastructure and the built environment;
- The natural environment, including ecosystems, land and soil quality, air quality, surface and groundwater resources and landscape; and
- The historic environment, including archaeology and built heritage.

To avoid or eliminate risk of the Major Hazards and Disasters, several processes including monitoring, risk assessments and Health & Safety Plans will be implemented. These include:

- Seismic Hazard Assessments – to identify seismically active zones that could cause landslides / ground collapses;
- Emergency Response Plan – measures to respond and ensure neighbouring communities and nations are notified of any emergency incident;
- Planned inspection and maintenance assessment of tunnels; and
- Construction Phase Health and Safety Plan.

8 BIODIVERSITY

Given the legacy of human influence across the Area of Influence (AoI) and the disruption throughout the AoI, biodiversity has been greatly reduced.

HABITAT

Key impacts on biodiversity are associated with the loss of natural habitats including Juniper woodland, river and floodplain habitats. Some areas for fish spawning will be lost through the creation of the reservoir, and upstream where the reservoir backs up into the rivers and streams feeding into it.

No Critical Habitat has been identified; however, both the upstream floodplain habitat and Juniper woodland are considered natural habitats.

A No-Net-Loss plan is being developed to identify locations for replanting and improving the Juniper woodland, and for enhancing any floodplain areas for fish and amphibians.

AMPHIBIANS

The desktop study identified two amphibian species within the Vakhsh River valley; namely, the green toad *Bufo viridis*; and lake frog *Rana ridibunda*. Both species were recorded during the 2023 fields surveys and are common. Nine species of reptile were observed and are considered common. Four species are listed in the Red Book of Tajikistan or are of increased conservation interest.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Ecosystem services describe aspects of the natural environment that are important to the wellbeing of communities within the AoI. Aspects identified include plants gathered for traditional and medicinal uses; cultural trees (shrines); protected areas used for ecotourism and recreation; orchards and farmland; natural habitats; floodplains; streams and species biodiversity.

Impacts associate with the beneficial services derived from the environment (Plants, water etc) are associated with the loss of wood and local vegetation/arable land, impacts (temporary) to fishing, and land clearance in general.

With a No Net Loss Plan, the lost habitats will be replaced which, once mature, will enable these services to continue. New settlements are providing land and access to these services and potential impacts will be reduced.

FISH

Within the Vakhsh River valley, including the lakes of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve, 36 fish species are known to be present, with the upper reaches of the Vakhsh River having much lower species composition than the lower parts of the river due to interruption of fish migration by the HPPs downstream of Rogun. Baseline conditions of the Tigrovaya Balka Nature Reserve have been affected by operation of the Nurek HPP dam but has not been, and will not be, affected by construction and operation of the Rogun HPP.

BIRDS

Most bird species recorded are common, which reflects the extent of habitat modification that has occurred in the Aol; although 16 species are listed on the Red Book of Tajikistan or are of increased conservation interest.

MAMMALS

Of the mammal species recorded during the desktop studies, 12 are of increased interest or have conservation status. Eight common species were recorded during field surveys, with one (the least weasel *Mustela nivalis*) being included in the Red Book of Tajikistan.

The Project may also have positive effects on mammals, particularly birds, as once construction has finished and the reservoir fills and stabilizes, it is likely that otters, osprey, egrets and herons with some migrating duck species may benefit from the reservoir.

9 SOCIAL BASELINE

This section describes the potential impacts of construction and operational activities on workers and local communities, and the key issues to be managed

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

In 2019, approximately 26.3% of the Tajikistan population was living below the poverty line, which is an improvement on the proportion below the poverty line measured in 2013. Remittances from by citizens working abroad play an important role in reducing poverty and provide income to an estimated 30-50% of households in Tajikistan.

The main source of income for residents in the Project region comes from remittances (33.1%), followed by pension (19.6%), public sector work (11.9%), agriculture (6.9%), self-employment (6.1%) and seasonal work (5.3%). Employment in the Project is stated as being the main source of income by only 5% of the households surveyed.

Women currently comprise 5.2% of the Project workforce, primarily undertaking domestic work (e.g. cleaning, preparing food for workers and washing dishes). A small number of women work as nurses, engineers, or in administrative roles.

During the construction phase there will be an increase of spending in the local economy from the increased workforce at the Rogun HPP. During the operational phase, the construction workforce will reduce. However, a benefit sharing program is being designed for the Rogun HPP which will focus on longer term development challenges in the country and Project area.

The benefit sharing program will utilize a portion of the revenue from the sale of electricity to invest in addressing priority development issues. Separate consultations regarding the design of the benefit sharing program will be conducted as a part of the overall consultations for Rogun HPP. The Rogun HPP will bring positive long-term benefits for the local area.

LABOR INFLUX

At its peak, there will be an estimated construction workforce of approximately 20,000 workers on site. Currently, approximately 23% of the workforce are from within a 50km radius of the Project.

Labor influx is associated with the migration of overseas workers into the Project area. Currently, most Project workers are from Tajikistan, with expatriates, predominantly from India, Iran and Italy, comprising approximately 5.1% of the workforce.

Key risks associated with labor include an increase in construction workers from outside the local area and the associated risk for increased pressure on community services, increase in disease (including sexually transmitted diseases), a decrease in community cohesion and potential conflict.

The Project is well known and has been under construction for many years. Existing communication channels with communities are established and many measures to reduce the impacts of labor influx have been implemented successfully, with very few incidents reported.

COMMUNITY HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

Access to healthcare services is limited in Tajikistan, and health spending in Tajikistan is the lowest in the WHO European Region. According to WHO data, infectious disease was responsible for 578 deaths in 2017, the most recent year for which data is available. Of these, 278 deaths were from tuberculosis and a further 149 were from diarrheal diseases. Tajikistan is a relatively young country, with nearly 50% of the population under the age of 25 years. Family planning services are limited in Tajikistan and in 2017 it was estimated that 21% of women were using contraceptives.

Many of the Project worker accommodation camps have their own medical facilities with basic medicines and equipment, staffed by nurses and/or doctors. The closest medical center for Project workers who do not have access to on-site facilities is the Rogun Hospital.

All community assets and infrastructure within the flooding zone will be lost as the reservoir is filled. Currently, facilities such as schools and religious meeting places provide opportunities for communities to gather and socialize and contribute to the social fabric of the existing settlements.

The availability of community facilities, such as schools, religious meeting places and healthcare services vary greatly across the affected administrative areas.

Potential impacts to the residential areas close to the Project construction sites and roads used to access these sites include increased noise and reduced air quality on the health of residents; reduced safety and security of local families, women, and children from labor influx; reduced safety from increased road traffic, including construction vehicles and increased risk of road accidents.

Outcomes from focus group discussions and household surveys highlight poor road conditions that put community safety at risk, and potential restricted access to services and facilities, especially for vulnerable groups that are disproportionately affected by severance of communities due to the inundation of roads and pedestrian bridges as the reservoir fills.

A community grievance mechanism available and community liaison officers have been employed to ensure issues can be raised and mitigated. The Project will result in improved roads in the area surrounding the reservoir that will increase road safety for local communities.

VULNERABLE GROUPS

Certain individuals and groups, based on age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, social exclusion or economic disadvantage, may be more vulnerable to potential impacts from the Project. They are likely to face the risk of social exclusion and not equally benefit from the Project. Identified vulnerable groups include:

- Disabled people, e.g., those with physical or mental disabilities or chronic illnesses, who will require physical assistance if a village is to be relocated.
- Female-headed households who may require additional assistance in building new houses.
- Elderly people with no younger family members within their household, who may also require additional assistance in building new houses.
- Young people (aged 24 or under) who may require additional assistance in finding employment in their new location.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to clean drinking water continues to be a problem in Tajikistan, particularly in rural areas. Among the general population, access to improved water sources has increased from over 75% in 2012 to over 84% in 2020, however Tajikistan has the lowest share of population (55%) with access to safely managed water supply sources.

While most of the population in Tajikistan has access to electricity, blackouts during winter due to the current power system being unable to meet demand are commonplace. From 1990, production and consumption of electricity declined due to an aging power infrastructure which was poorly maintained and not replaced.

Two new overhead transmission lines have been constructed from Rogun HPP to Dushanbe to improve electricity provision to the region. Additional capacity for a third overhead transmission line is available if demand increases.

Traffic accidents have been decreasing in Tajikistan in recent years, however, focus group discussions with people affected by the Project highlighted road safety concerns of communities, and the poor road conditions due to ongoing construction and use of heavy trucks.

New settlements will provide improved infrastructure with new schools, healthcare facilities, sports and recreational facilities. The Project will also provide a more reliable electricity supply throughout the year.

GENDER

In Tajikistan, discrimination based on gender is illegal, and equal work for equal remuneration is required. However, family-related factors and social institutions mean that gender inequality remains high. Only 14% of the Project affected women surveyed reported having a source of income.

Of these women, about 17% are engaged in public sector work (mainly as teachers, medical staff, civil servants) earning regular income. Household farming is often undertaken in the affected communities for subsistence, however only 7% of women are recorded as farmers. This could imply that women are undertaking unpaid agricultural work within their households.

Having access to land such as this is important in the future for females especially those being resettled. The updated resettlement plans will take into consideration vulnerability and gender for compensation.

Social protection and assistance systems are going through modernization in Tajikistan to include more vulnerable people in need. However, the country still faces challenges in ensuring the inclusion and protecting the rights of all members of society. Unemployment, particularly in rural areas, has led to a high proportion of Tajik migrant workers who seek employment and better opportunities elsewhere (particularly Russia). It is estimated that about 30% of the wives left behind by their migrant husbands have been abandoned, adding to the financial burden along with traditional responsibilities as carers and dealing with domestic work.

The participation of women in the local labor force is low, with over half of working age females not in paid employment. Women in rural areas are often faced with limited access to education, early marriages, family and cultural restrictions, restricted access to financial resources, and restricted rights to land ownership.

Few women are employed on the Project due to distance, working patterns, and the male-dominated construction site conditions. Whilst Tajik legislation prohibits women from working in heavy, underground, and hazardous works, collective agreements may allow for women to work in professions, and some exceptions have been granted. Sexual harassment in the workplace is prohibited by law. Training on gender-based harassment, and strict enforcement of code of conduct will reduce risks although this remains relatively high.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage resources have been recorded across the AoI. The archaeological potential of the flood plain and lower terraces of the inundation zone is limited; and most archaeological sites are located on the upper terraces and the immediate perimeter of reservoir. These include several fortress sites, broadly dated to between the 16th and 19th centuries, with high research potential, particularly in informing the archaeological record on the lower Karategin route of the Silk Roads and the Surkhob-Vakhsh river valley.

Identified cultural and sacred resources, important to communities within the resettlement villages, include (ancient) cemeteries, shrines and springs. Evidence of unique intangible cultural heritage was also recorded, associated with traditional crafts and activities, ritual ceremonies and oral history and legend.

The Project will have both impacts on several cultural heritage assets including historic fortresses settlements and fossil remains both directly and by effecting changes to their setting. There are 32 known cultural and sacred resources that will be affected during construction, including cemeteries, tombs mosques and sacred springs. Intangible heritage such as traditional music, dance crafts etc, is distinct to the region, and anecdotal evidence from stakeholder engagement suggests that older generations feel more “attachment” to their villages and heritage.

A detailed Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been developed to minimise impacts on both known and unknown heritage assets. Mitigation measures include:

- Implementing exclusion zones around known assets
- Detailed Cemetery relocation guidelines

- Ongoing engagement to ensure safe access to sacred areas
- Recording and identification through investigations of known assets
- Chance Finds Procedure

LABOR

In general, workers at Rogun HPP are paid higher than the national minimum wage and are considered above average in the current Tajikistan labor market.

Most contractors have a collective bargaining agreement in place. Project workers are free to join the Rogun Trade Union. No one under the age of 18 is engaged in the construction works of the Project. All Project workers are required to verify their age by using legally recognized documents to prove their right to work, such as a copy of passports, birth certificates etc.

Local women are employed on site typically for domestic types of work, such as cleaning, preparing food for workers and washing dishes. There are a few women nurses working on site and a few women who work in administrative roles at the different contractor organizations. The international workers include a few women in technical roles (e.g. engineers).

There is evidence that some working conditions (e.g., accommodation) require improvement to meet good international practice. These include provision of drinking water, medical facilities for all workers and sanitary facilities. New accommodation facilities will be developed which will comply with good international practice standards, and substandard accommodation will be demolished. A Labor Management Plan has been developed which sets out the measures around working patterns, conduct and other measures to improve working conditions.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Most contractors conduct mandatory health screening for workers once a year, which is paid for by the companies and includes checks on vision, hearing, heart, blood pressure, etc.

Standards of the accommodation provided for workers by contractors varies significantly across the different companies.

Improvements to various aspects have been identified and are in the process of being implemented on site, including:

- Drinking water provisions;
- Worker payments;
- Occupational health and safety (OHS) procedures;
- Information within employment contracts;
- Overtime work;
- Supply chain;
- Worker transport system;
- Worker accommodation facilities; and
- Provisions of certain personal protective equipment (PPE).

RESETTLEMENT

The Rogun HPP is expected to over 50,000 persons (estimated 6,788 households) in 69 villages of Rogun City, Nurobod and Rasht districts through physical and economic displacement.

The resettlement program of Rogun HPP is managed by the State Enterprise, Directorate of Flooding Zone of Rogun HPP (DFZ). The resettlement program follows a phased approach that aligns with the reservoir flooding. Resettlement is scheduled to be completed by 2032.

The Phase 1 resettlement process included eight villages and 2,697 project-affected people between 2008-2017 and was declared complete in a resettlement completion audit (2018) that was approved and disclosed by the World Bank.

The Phase 2 resettlement process includes the remaining 69 villages and will be managed through multiple resettlement and livelihood restoration plans. The second phase of resettlement between be undertaken between 2017 and 2025 and includes 16 villages. The Resettlement Action Plan 2 and Livelihood Restoration Plan 2 are being prepared to align with the updated requirements of the international lenders.

DFZ provides communication on resettlement-related matters. Contact details of the grievance channels were disclosed and shared with communities prior to formal consultations in November 2023.

An updated Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Framework in line with World Bank guidance has been publicly disclosed. The framework outlines a comprehensive strategy for the management of the Rogun HPP Resettlement Program to be undertaken in a phased approach. The DFZ has committed to preparing five Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) to

complete the program. The governance of the entire resettlement program requires seamless coordination among other government agencies that work with DFZ

The project commits to compensate or replace, where possible, household losses in line with good international practice and to reverse the adverse impacts into positive outcomes. Each RAP will contain an eligibility matrix which states the entitlements of all impact groups which are affected by physical and/or economic displacement. These include vulnerable groups. These entitlements will also be summarized in easy-to-read community information brochures.

To date all 2,697 Project Affected People (PAP) under RAP 1 have been resettled. The second phase of resettlement is ongoing.

RAP 2 Progress	Villages	Number of people	Total
Completely Resettled	Sicharogh Sari Pul Furudgoh (Airport) Saidon Makhallai poyon Chanor	380 1149 370 182 806 1795	4,682
In Process	Roghuni poyon Obiboriki poyon Obiboriki bolo Mehrobod (formerly Komsomolobod)	266 330 412 6016	7,024
Still to be resettled	Lughuri poyon Bedikho Aligalaboni bolo Khakimii poyon Khakimii bolo Khumrog (formerly Kumok)	362 588 1645 1000 863 755	5,213

Resettlement under RAP 3 to RAP 5 will commence in 2027 and be completed by 2032.

All PAP will know their eligibility for the Project's entitlements and this information will be disseminated through media channels, local DFZ representatives and publicly displayed in common facilities in the villages.

Affected Peoples are categorized into three main groups:

- People who have formal legal land rights recognized by the Land Code of Tajikistan;
- People who do not have formal legal land rights at the time of the cut-off date but have a claim to land or assets recognized under the national laws or that can become recognized through a process identified in the RAP. It is DFZ's responsibility to assist such people to formalize their land rights prior to receiving compensation; and
- People who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they occupy.

All three groups affected by resettlement activities of the Project are entitled to compensation for loss of assets other than land, lost income, and livelihood restoration measures.

Under this Project, the cut-off date for eligibility for entitlements will be disclosed in each RAP and is either the start date of the census surveys or asset inventories of the affected population.

The construction of fixed structures in the dam and reservoir area was prohibited in 2009 when the first batch of technical passports of households was prepared. People whose livelihoods are adversely affected, due to the resettlement activities of the Rogun HPP are entitled to livelihood restoration measures provided by Ministry of Labor, Migration and Employment of the Population (MoLMEP) and Ministry of Agriculture.

RAP PLANNING resettlement completed by 2032 and full inundation (1290m) by 2033)						
Inundation levels based on lowest point of villages (m asl)	Proposed years to complete resettlement	RAP period	No. of villages covered in each RAP	No. of households covered in each RAP	No. of PAPs covered in each RAP	RAP Status
1092-1220	2014-2017	2014-2017 RAP 1	8	326	2,697	Completed
1110-1290	2017-2025 (likely to be extended until 2026)	2017-2025 RAP 2	16	1,710	16,919	In progress
1185-1270	2026-2028	2026-2028 RAP 3	16	1,328	9,206	RAP 3 ready by 2025
1271-1295	2028-2030	2028-2030 RAP 4	17	2,215	12,547	RAP 4 ready by 2027
1296-1414	2030-2032	2030-2032 RAP 5	12	1,209	8,898	RAP 5 ready by 2029
TOTAL AFFECTED POPULATION			69	6,788	50,267	

The Government of Tajikistan and Rogun HPP have adopted and will continue to implement the following policy commitments:

- Carry out meaningful consultations with all stakeholders and in particular resettled and host communities including vulnerable groups;
 - Ensure that all private and public assets and services are fully restored their previous levels and conditions as a minimum;
 - Provide fair and adequate replacements and/or compensation for lost land, assets and income to all eligible people;
 - Provide transitional income support to re-settlers whose livelihood has been negatively impacted, until such time as their income-earning capacity has been restored to at least its previous level;
 - Provide transitional support, including transport to the new location and income support;
 - Comprehensively monitor all elements of the resettlement process until it is considered that living standards have been restored to at least pre-resettlement levels;
 - Pay particular attention to the needs and perspectives of women and vulnerable groups, and provide additional support as necessary to enable their equal participation;
 - Living standards and livelihoods of people and communities affected by the Project will be restored to at least the same level as before the Project, and improved where possible;
- Pay particular attention to the needs of women and vulnerable groups, such as those who were unemployed at their previous location, who will be provided with additional support and interventions as required;
 - All physically and economically displaced PAP will be eligible for livelihood restoration support and will be included within LRP, unless they clearly indicate that they do not wish to receive such support, or all reasonable efforts to contact them have failed;
 - The effectiveness of livelihood restoration measures will be assessed by regular monitoring and adjustment; and
 - The resettlement process will not be considered complete until livelihoods and living standards have been restored to at least their pre-resettlement levels.

Specific attention to gender aspects in resettlement planning is made that aligns with good international practice and updated Lenders' standards.

A Gender Action Plan has been prepared for the Project to support women's participation in resettlement planning and improve socio-economic opportunities for both women and men.

10 TRANSBOUNDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

TRANSBOUNDARY CONSIDERATIONS

The ESIA considered impacts beyond the borders of Tajikistan (transboundary effects). The key issues for transboundary effects are:

- water for those areas which may be affected by flows in the Amu Darya River, of which the Vakhsh River is a tributary, because of the construction of the of the Project, and
- the emergency response in case of a failure of the Rogun Dam.

Agreements between Amu Darya River Basin riparian countries have been in place since the 1980's. In 1992, the Almaty Agreement was signed to agree allocations for sharing of the transboundary water resources. Seasonal allocations of water have been developed in line with the annual agreements.

Tajikistan will not fill the Rogun reservoir immediately following completion of construction in 2032, as this could potentially affect the water quantity available for downstream users during the summer months, when demand is greatest. Filling of the reservoir may take between nine and 22 years, depending on the fill rate, until it reaches its full supply level in 2038. This will allow Tajikistan to stay within the allocation of water as agreed with neighbouring countries.

At the full height of 335 masl, the Rogun Dam is designed to withstand the probably maximum flood (PMF) of a 100,000-year return period. A reservoir slope stability assessment and dam break analysis has been done for the reservoir level of 1100 masl to inform the Emergency

Preparedness Plan (EPP) that was developed to ensure downstream users and neighbouring countries can be warned and emergency response implemented in good time in case of any breach in the cascade.

Further analysis is required to determine the potential impact of reservoir slope stability and a dam break at the FSL (1290 masl) and update the EPP.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those that arise due to an impact from the Project interacting with an impact from another activity, to create an additional impact. Projects with a potential cumulative impact with Rogun HPP include:

- Nurek Hydropower Rehabilitation Project, due to an overlapping construction programme alongside Rogun HPP;
- International Highway (Vakhdat – Jirgital) due to the proximity of the development to Rogun HPP. Due to the general poor quality of roads, increased construction traffic may impact some host communities, however; the development of new infrastructure will be considered beneficial during the operational phases of both projects with a minor impact in the short-term;
- Central Asia–China gas pipeline, Line D. due to the proximity of the development to Rogun HPP. There could be potential air pollution and noise impacts to local people and construction workers, with dust generated from the construction works. Considering the distance of the Rogun HPP to the closest potential location of the gas pipeline (approx. 30 km), there will be very limited potential for cumulative impacts; and

- Shurob is a proposed 850MW run-of-river HPP that would be located at the upper end of Nurek reservoir and with the reservoir extending nearly to the top of Rogun dam. It would occupy the Vakhsh River reach that would be affected by releases from Rogun HPP. If Shurob is indeed constructed, construction would not begin until Rogun construction is complete.

No additional mitigation is proposed as there is limited cumulative impacts. Community Liaison Officers will be available for stakeholders to contact should they feel they are impacted by potential cumulative effects from Rogun HPP and other project(s).

11 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the Rogun HPP sets out the expectation of Rogun JSC for the management, mitigation and monitoring measures to be implemented during the Project construction and operational phases.

The objective of the Project policies and ESMP is to provide a framework for contractors and subcontractors to prepare detailed management plans for implementation of mitigation measures to minimise potential impacts of activities. The management plans will also describe monitoring to be undertaken to allow for reporting of E&S performance.

The ESMP describes:

- Key impacts and mitigations identified in the ESIA;
- Policies and procedures that will be developed to implement the requirements of the ESMP;
- Responsibilities allocated to contractors and subcontractors for implementation and performance monitoring;
- Reporting on E&S performance for regulatory compliance and to meet lender requirements.

The management plans are live documents and will be updated throughout the Project lifecycle.

12 PROJECT FEEDBACK

We welcome your views on the Project. Interested parties are welcome to contact PMG to ask questions or provide comments. Communications can be directed to us through any of the methods highlighted below.



Online at: <http://www.energyprojects.tj>



By email at esia.rogun.hpp@gmail.com



By telephone at **+992 37 235 74 16** or **+992 37 235 74 17**



By post at **ESIA COMMENTS, Project Management Group for Energy Facilities Construction. 5/1 Shamsi str., 6th floor, 734064, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**



In person through your Community Liaison Officer: **Ms. Sanovbar Sherova**