

# Tantangan

## Environmental and Social Impact Assessment 2025

### Introduction

Apolaki Seven Inc. constructs a 99.000 MWp / 80.000 MWac Tantangan Solar Power Project in Barangays (Brgys) Magon, Mangilala, and New Cuyapo, Municipality of Tantangan, South Cotabato. The project includes the construction of a transmission line with a total length of ~ 5 kilometres traversing Barangays Kalandagan and Carmen, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, connecting to the 69 kV National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) Tacurong Substation.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been conducted in July 2025 to identify, evaluate and manage the risks and impacts of the project throughout the project cycle.

The ESIA is conducted in accordance with the applicable environmental and social policies, laws, guidelines, acts and legislations of the Philippines, and the World Bank Group (WBG) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

The assessment includes:

- Review of the applicable national environmental and social (E&S) legislative and policy,
- The existing physical, biological, and socio-economic baseline conditions in the project site, using primary and secondary data, identify and assess potential adverse and positive E&S impacts,
- Identify stakeholders that are likely to be affected or have interest or a stake in the project, with emphasis on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
- Thematic E&S Assessments which include Climate Change Risk Assessment, Cultural Heritage Assessment, Visual Impact Assessment, Electromagnetic Field Assessment, and Solar Glare and Glint Assessment
- Development of the Project Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for all stages of the project as a tool for the implementation of the suggested measures, along with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and in accordance with the company's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) Framework, which include:
  - Overarching ESMS Manual
  - Project Code of Conduct
  - Project Health, Safety, Social, and Environmental (HSSE) Policy
  - Health and Safety Plan
  - Emergency and Preparedness Response Plan
  - Traffic Management Plan
  - Non-Compliance Protocol
  - Environmental Management Plan
  - Stakeholder Engagement Plan
  - Internal and External Grievance Redress Mechanism
  - Labour and Employment Management Plan
  - Biodiversity Management Plan

Apolaki Seven Inc. will also monitor and document the local E&S compliance and submit periodic reportorial requirements to the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) through the quarterly Self-Monitoring Report (SMR) and semi-annual Compliance Monitoring Report (CMR).

# Environmental Monitoring and Pollution Control Measures

As per local requirements and commitment to the International Finance Corporation (IFC)\*\*, monthly environmental monitoring is being conducted to assess if the ongoing construction activities on the project site have adverse impacts on the environment.

## Ambient Air Quality

### Status:

Reduction of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP), PM10 and PM2.5 emission levels at several samplings point during peak site-clearing activities

### Mitigation measures:

- Maintaining wet access road surface/project site by sprinkling water at least twice a day during the dry season.
- Construction vehicles to be thoroughly washed before leaving the project site to avoid the transfer of mud/dirt on the road.
- Excavated materials to be properly stockpiled and properly disposed of or reused.
- Not to deposit excess soil materials by run-off and away from waterways and valuable crops,
- Any defective materials to be hauled by an approved third-party appointed by the Local Government Unit (LGU).

## Environmental Noise and Vibration

### Status:

Management of noise and vibration sources from private and commercial vehicles and site-clearing-related vehicles.

### Mitigation measures:

The site-clearing activities are confined to the allowable and/or coordinated work hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. An additional layer of noise reduction such as exhaust silencers and enclosure of stationery workspaces will be supplemented to block sound paths and/or absorb sound.

## Biodiversity

### Status:

Biodiversity management and awareness

### Mitigation measures:

- Tree re-planting certification and compliance to the applicable local regulations including a tree inventory and tree cutting permits
- Prohibition of workers from engaging in any mode of wildlife collection and hunting
- Biodiversity protection training for workers

## Surface Water & Ground Water Quality

### Status:

Improvement of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), phosphate, and total & fecal coliform levels in surface water - which are likely attributable to the discharge of organic pollutants from the continued agricultural runoff from the nearby farmlands, presence of animal waste due to the use of the project site for animal grazing, and infiltration of untreated sewage from nearby households.

### Mitigation measures:

- Monthly environmental monitoring
- Provision of portalet as per IRR Industrial Hygiene, PD 856 Amending Administrative Order 111 Series of 1991) and septic tank or wastewater collection system and hauling of wastewater by LGU-licensed third-party contractor.
- Provide hygiene septic tanks to treat the collected wastewater, where applicable.
- Activate sediment control measures such as sediment traps and slope stabilisation, where applicable
- Create and maintain drainage ways to allow run-off water that will not impede the water flow during heavy rains.

## Solid and Hazardous Waste

### Status:

Monthly waste data collection per project Environmental Management Plan

### Mitigation measure:

Storage for hazardous waste with proper labelling and collection by a DENR accredited third-party agency. Implementation of recovery reuse/recycling of waste materials, provision of LGU-approved solid waste bins for composting of organic waste

\*\* : refer "References" section for further details

# Stakeholder Engagement and Community Benefits

## Annual Community & Public Consultation with Local Government Units (LGU) and Local Employment Campaign

As part of the ESIA commitment, Project conducted an annual public consultation in June 2025 with communities from 5 barangays to provide project updates and increase public knowledge of the project.

In addition, Project relayed the communities' employment opportunity requests to the relevant stakeholders for consideration. In collaboration with the LGU's leadership and support from their Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs), Project has established a robust pipeline for securing local talents under the Project's Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor and subcontractors.

Project also implemented an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Program to inform and educate all stakeholders, on the environmental and human safety features of the project.



## Local Community Grievance Redress Mechanism

Aligning with the company's ESMS Framework, Project implemented a grievance redress mechanism. The project's stakeholders are informed and have installed grievance boxes in 3 accessible locations where submissions can be dropped in person. Grievance can also be submitted via Project's website.

Submissions are then handled by the local environment and sustainability ambassadors who will ensure all grievances are resolved within a reasonable timeline.

## Donation of School Supplies in support of Brigada Eskwela

Project coordinated with the Department of Education – to support 5 schools, supplying them with essential supplies such as notebooks, pens, crayons, writing pads and envelopes. School supplies were donated on 27 June 2025 for the first batch and on 24 July 2025 for the second batch. The donation will go to benefit 720 indigent students across 5 elementary schools in 5 host barangays.





### Tree Planting

Project provided 120 seedlings to the Municipality of Tantangan and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), in compliance with the Board of Investment (BOI) requirements in the tree planting activity between 24 June – 4 July 2025.

The tree planting/growing activity was done at the Municipal's historical building, supporting their environmental conservation and climate change commitment. The next tree planting activity will be conducted in the first quarter of 2026.

### Donation of computer set to Barangay Magon Health Center

The Project EPC contractor has donated a desktop computer set and blood pressure monitor apparatus on 12 November 2025 to Barangay Magon Health Center in Tantangan, South Cotabato. The donation underscores Project's shared commitment to improving access to technology and enhancing public service delivery in host communities



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme

In collaboration with the Tantangan Municipal Health Office (MHO) - the WASH program serves to raise community awareness on water safety practices, promotion of proper sanitation and waste management, hygiene education, and potential assistance to community-initiated facilities improvements. Project has committed to constructing a replacement water supply system near the affected households. The programme will be fully implemented by Q1FY2026.

## Speak with Us and Get Updated

### Lets Connect!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or grievances regarding this project, simply reach out to us, and our team will get back to you shortly.

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### Grievance & Suggestions

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## References

Environmental Receptors	Requirements and Standards
Ambient Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National Ambient Air Quality Guideline Values (NAAQGV)</li> <li>▪ Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 8749, or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 and its IRR (DAO 2000-81)</li> <li>▪ DENR Administrative Order No 2000-81</li> <li>▪ The International Finance Corporation Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines – Air Emissions and Ambient Air Quality : The World Health Organisation (WHO) Ambient Air Quality Guidelines</li> </ul>
Environmental Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC) Memorandum Circular No. 002, Series of 1980</li> <li>▪ The Traffic Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (FTA-VA-90-1003-06, May 2006)</li> <li>▪ The International Finance Corporation Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines – Noise : Guidelines for Community Noise, WHO</li> </ul>
Surface Water & Ground Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Water Code of the Philippines and its IRR</li> <li>▪ Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and its IRR (DAO 2005-10)</li> <li>▪ Further Amending the Policy Guidelines on the Processing and Issuance of Water Permits and Conditional Water Permits</li> <li>▪ Policy Defining the ECC/CNC Requirements for Water Permit Application</li> <li>▪ Water Quality Guideline (WQG) values for Class C waterbodies under DENR Administrative Orders 2016-08 and 2021-19</li> <li>▪ The US EPA Aquatic Life Criteria.</li> <li>▪ DENR WQG for Class A waterbody, Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water 2017</li> <li>▪ The International Finance Corporation Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines – Wastewater and Ambient Water Quality</li> <li>▪ The World Health Organisation (WHO) Drinking Water Quality Standard</li> </ul>
Solid and Hazardous Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Code of Sanitation of the Philippines and its IRR</li> <li>▪ Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and its IRR (DAO 2001-34)</li> <li>▪ Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DENR Memorandum Order No. 2012-02 : Uniform Replacement Ratio for Cut or Relocated Trees</li> <li>▪ National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992</li> <li>▪ Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018 and its IRR (DAO 2019-05)</li> <li>▪ Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and its IRR (Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Administrative Order No. 01 dated 18 May 2004)</li> <li>▪ Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, 1975</li> <li>▪ Requiring the Planting of Trees in Certain Places and Penalising the Unauthorised Cutting, Destruction, Damaging and Injuring of Certain Trees, Plants, and Vegetation, 1997</li> <li>▪ Expanding the Coverage of the National Greening Program (NGP), its IRR (DAO 2016-20), and Revised IRR (DAO 2019-03)</li> <li>▪ Rules and Regulations Governing the Special Uses of Forestland</li> <li>▪ The International Finance Corporation Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</li> </ul>