

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

**FP290: PURE Rural Mozambique Climate Project:
Driving Mozambique's climate resilience through
energy access and climate-smart Productive use of
Renewable Energy**

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b44-02-add06>

We welcome this project's efforts to increase vulnerable populations' access to clean, renewable energy and thus address persistent energy poverty in underserved rural districts in Mozambique, particularly as electricity access in Mozambique's rural areas remains low at an estimated 9%. Decentralized solar mini grids, if implemented in a way that takes into account accessibility and affordability, can be a cost-effective way to bring high quality electricity to underserved areas and population groups, especially women and girls, so we support the aims of this project.

However, we are a bit concerned about the relatively low number of direct and indirect project beneficiaries for the targeted up to 9,000 new electricity connections. We also question whether climate vulnerability and adaptation logic are sufficiently considered in the project design, specifically in the uptake of the productive use of renewable energy technologies for building the resilience of the MSMEs and farmers, including women farmers, and in the selection of the sites for the suggested micro-grid clusters.

On the cluster sites specifically, we share the concern of ITAP that the selection of the site, if not sufficiently aligned with market assessments by private developers, may require adjustments or flexibility. This could affect developer participation and potentially delay implementation.

Given the high subsidy component, noting though that there is relatively little financial contribution by Enabel as the project proponent, there is also the question of the proposed project's long-term viability in the absence of public support, for example through a clear linkage to local finance institutions.

Enabel as both AE and EE proposes a twinning arrangement with FUNAE for learning-by-doing to strengthen its institutional, organizational and technical capacities. We welcome this in general as a useful approach, as long as care is taken by Enabel to have a clear plan to transfer increasingly more of the project implementation and fiduciary capacity to FUNAE.



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Lastly, we appreciate the quite detailed gender action plan with some clear commitments of focusing on strengthening the gender and social inclusion (GESI) capacities and framework of FUNAE as well as making GESI aligned criteria and bid requirements mandatory in all tender documents for the commercial developers. We think, however, that scoring and milestone requirements of 5 -10% are too low to ensure the gender-responsiveness of the benefits of the mini-grids, as well as to help transform the gender-awareness and responsiveness of the engaged business sectors.