

Indigenous Peoples Plan

South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative

(EU ASEP Rural Network Solar)

I. Project Description

Rural Network Solar (RNS) is one of the component projects under Access to Sustainable Energy Project (ASEP) program funded by European Union. ASEP is a World Bank-assisted program which aims to provide assistance to the Philippines in increasing access to electricity in a sustainable manner. The project will facilitate additional private investments into rural electrification and renewable energy through output based subsidies with implementing assistance of the National Power Corporation (NPC).

RNS aims to increase renewable energy production via small, grid connected solar power plants. It is expected that 7 MW of new renewable energy generation capacity will be brought on-line as a result of the project interventions. A capital subsidy buy-down based on a least-cost, competitive approach is expected to level the playing field for grid connected solar vis-à-vis higher polluting alternatives.

SOCOTECO II is one of the seven Electric Cooperatives qualified in the program having passed the initial screening requirements. Under the ASEP program, the EU will fund seventy (70%) of the project cost worth 51 Million pesos while the remaining thirty (30%) amounting to 22 Million pesos shall be funded by SOCOTECO II as equity counterpart. Aside from land, EC counterpart shall cover the pre-development costs on site development, fencing, tie-line from solar plant to nearby distribution substation, feasibility studies, and permits acquisition while the EU fund shall cover the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) cost of the solar plant.

The proposed SOCOTECO II RNS project is designed to have a total capacity of 1.4 MWp solar power plant (without battery energy storage system) to be situated at the back of SOCOTECO II New Society Substation located at Brgy. Apopong, General Santos City. Out of the 12-hectare land area owned by the EC, the solar plant will cover 1.5 hectares bounded on all sides by open areas.

The output of the Solar plant shall be connected directly to the nearby 35 MVA New Society Substation through a 200 meters 13.2 kV supply tie-line. The plant's generation shall form part of the supply portfolio of the EC that will serve all its grid-connected customers who are located in the city of General Santos particularly areas served by New Society Substation. It is expected to have an annual energy production of 2.207 Million kWh at 18% plant capacity factor.

II. Baseline Information on the Indigenous Peoples Group

Members of the following major Indigenous Peoples Group living within the SOCOTECO II service area can be directly or indirectly benefited by the ASEP-RNS project:

a. Blaans

In Sarangani Province, the Blaans are the dominant Indigenous Peoples groups living in the only landlocked Municipality of Malungon and the coastal towns of Alabel, Malapatan, Glan as well as some parts of Maasim. Further, the City of General Santos is dominated by Blaan tribe.

b. Tboli

The traditional Tboli homeland was marked by the Calaun (Kalaong) river. This ancestral homeland extended east from the Celebes coast to include the hinterlands of lakes Sebu, Lahit and Seloton as well as the coastal areas of the modern municipalities of Maitum, Kiamba, and Maasim. In the floodplains of Allah Valley, Tbolis live side by side another indigenous peoples group, the Blaans. Up until the present times, the Tboli has distinguished themselves in two indigenous crafts, weaving and metal working. Their craftsmanship is decidedly more advanced than in other indigenous groups.

c. Tagakaolo

The Tagakaolo is also known as Saka, Kagan (Kalagan, Calaganes, Calagars) or Laoc (Cole, 1913). The name Tagakaolo signifies “those who dwell at the head of the river”. The cultural practices of the Tagakaolo are said to be identical with those of the Kulaman Manobo and the Bagobo of Davao.

In Sarangani Province, Tagakaolos are predominantly concentrated in some Barangays of the Municipality of Malungon.

The IP’s population of the province based on 2017 Census of Population (POPCEN 2017) was 178,001 persons registering as indigenous people in Sarangani.

Among the municipalities of the province, around 38.06 percent of the province’s IP’s population reside in Glan, 46.10 percent in Malungon, 28.88 percent in Alabel, 53.47 percent in Malapatan, 29.90 percent in Kiamba, 24.87 percent in Maasim, and the remaining 27.42 percent in Maitum.

Cultural Group	Sarangani	Alabel	Kiamba	Maasim	Maitum	Malapatan	Malungon	Glan
A. IP Group	37.42%	28.88%	29.90%	24.87%	27.42%	53.47%	46.10%	38.06%
1. Blaans	111,220	16,902	1,242	6,822	413	35,876	19,713	30,252
2. Tboli	31,678	8	16,056	6,407	9,124	4	42	37
3. Tagakaolo	30,240	1,799	164	10	25	21	28,124	97
4. Manobo	2,910	57	140	48	196	19	139	2,311
5. Others	1,953	313	106	91	321	49	642	431
Sub Total	178,001	19,079	17,708	13,378	10,079	35,969	48,660	33,128
B. Non-IP Group	53.08%	65.65%	55.98%	57.49%	55.62%	32.05%	53.32%	53.72%
1. Cebuano	111,740	24,522	9,196	14,708	4,590	8,791	25,203	24,730
2. Bisaya/Binisaya	94,639	15,823	14,887	15,808	5,109	12,287	11,882	18,843
3. Hilagaynon/Ilonggo	22,681	1,670	1,476	184	1,708	259	16,795	589
4. Ilocano	17,319	660	7,013	67	8,664	94	499	322
5. Others	6,123	700	580	162	376	129	1,896	2,279
Sub Total	252,501	43,375	33,152	30,929	20,447	21,560	56,275	46,763
c. Islamized Group	9.50%	5.47%	14.11%	17.64%	16.96%	14.48%	0.58%	8.22%
1. Maguindanon	34,760	3,381	4,603	6,063	5,985	8,972	201	5,555
4. Sangil	4,838	12	3,352	360	11	14	4	1,085
3. Tausug	2,325	41	327	731	82	722	71	351
5. Sama-Samal	2,202	-	1	2,184	1	-	4	12
6. Others	1,071	180	75	151	154	30	330	151
Sub Total	45,196	3,614	8,358	9,489	6,233	9,738	610	7,154
Total	475,698	66,068	59,218	53,796	36,759	67,267	105,545	87,045

Source: Community-Based Monitoring Survey (CBMS) 2017

Public Consultation

The procedure involved in engaging with the IP's is shown in the flow chart below.



In the pre-operational stage of the project, a series of communication and coordination meetings are made with the LGU officials to conduct orientation and demonstration about the project. The focus of public consultation will be on the host barangay, Brgy. Apopong and city, Gen. Santos City, where the project will be situated. The concerned Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) and representatives from the NCIP are included in the consultations. IP's that will directly benefit from the RNS project are those that are connected to New Society Substation particularly situated in Brgy. Apopong, General Santos City. However, indirect IP beneficiaries are those that are served by SOCOTECO II.

The consultation aims to inform the LGUs and stakeholders about the project and gather concerns of the community, including those of IPs, that will be addressed prior and during the project implementation. Information presented are related to project's background, description, timeline, benefits, impacts and mitigation measures. At the end of the consultation, a resolution of support for the project is requested to officially document the support of the LGUs and ensure no objection for the implementation. Thereafter, a public consultation report shall be submitted to the project management (NPC) and DOE as documentary compliance to the requirement.

In the conduct of public consultation during the Covid19 pandemic, SOCOTECO II abides by the pre-cautionary measures imposed by the Department of Health (DOH) in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Basic pre-cautionary measures undertaken are use of face mask, face shield, proper hygiene/disinfection, practice of physical distancing, limiting size of mass gathering to what is allowed, and isolation of an individual showing symptoms of Covid-19 virus.

For stakeholders, including IPs, outside of the host barangay and city, information dissemination about the project can be done through www.socoteco2.com or visit our facebook page South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative, Inc. where they can also provide their comments/feedback.

Project Benefits

The Rural Network Solar generally impacts positively more on the economic and social aspect of the IP's living in General Santos City, Alabel, Malapatan, Glan, Maasim, Kiamba, Maitum, Polomolok and Tupi. Especially the beneficiaries wherein they can enjoy the use of renewable energy from Solar is well known to have environmental and health benefits through generating energy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels. For utility scale solar project like RNS, the benefits were magnified and extended the impact not only to the EC but more importantly to the Host Community and all customers within the EC franchise, including members of the IP communities.

Similar to other renewable energy project, residents of the host community will be given preference in employment during construction and the EC will undertake the development and training of employees for labor and staff positions needed in the operations. The EC is also required to undertake corporate social responsibility projects in coordination with Host LGUs focused on education and training of qualified and deserving beneficiaries. Finally, the EC will remit to DOE the equivalent amount of one centavo per kWh of energy generated by the plant in compliance to Energy Regulation (ER 1-94) wherein Host LGUs can tap the generated amount to fund their proposed electrification, development and livelihood, and environmental enhancement projects. Also, the cooperative and member consumer owner of SOCOTECO II can enjoy premium and incentives from Local Government Unit through real property taxes and other tax holidays.

As to the benefits of EC customers within its franchise area, the use of solar technology will ensure a sustainable power and reduce the dependence on imported fuels (i.e. diesel and coal). With majority of its capital cost funded by grant from EU-ASEP, this will eventually result to a cheaper generation cost of the EC that is estimated to reduce the monthly power cost by Php 643,860 and can generate 183,00 kwhrs a month from renewable energy which will be translated into reduction of retail rate to its customers. In addition, RNS will aid the EC in its compliance to Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) which requires additional 1% of power supply every year shall be taken from renewable energy source. This will ensure a sustainable source of renewable energy for RPS compliance with stable rate compared to securing compliance energy from supply contracts with other renewable energy developers.

Grievance Redress Mechanism

SOCOTECO II in its vision towards total electrification implements the project on Rural Network Solar for the benefit of those people who have access to electricity which are located in Brgy. Apopong and areas under 35 MVA New Society Power Substation.

In view with these SOCOTECO II proposed to have separate section intended for renewable energy (such as; solar home system, and rural network solar) electrification. As of now, we have two (2) regular employee and seventeen (17) project employee for our photovoltaic project and also to address the needs of these RNS project beneficiaries in terms of complaints and ensures the satisfaction of its IP members upon the acceptance of the installation. SOCOTECO II already created a Renewable Energy Management and Development Division to cater all renewable energy development in the franchise area.

The complaints process for the Project, involves person making a complaint to either the beneficiaries, village chief, chieftain or local staff onsite who report this to our REMDDiv personnel. In addition, the village chief, chieftain or any representative possess relevant contact numbers where they can raise their issues in line with the project. The IP's were given the SOCOTECO II hotline number for them to call if there are issues and concerns about the operation of the solar farm.

GRIEVANCE OFFICER: ATTY. CHERRY JOIE LIMA- PONCE
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

CONTACT NUMBER/ HOTLINE FOR RECEIVING COMPLAINTS

(083) 553- 5848 TO 5850	Main
0939-334-8174	REMDDiv Malungon
0948-439-9896	Engr. Angelico T. Boiser (Project in-charge)

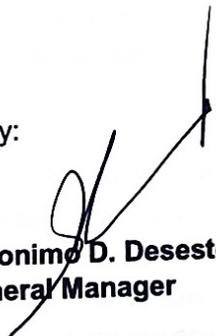
Prepared by:


Engr. Angelico T. Boiser
PVM Project In-charge

Noted by:


Engr. Lowell R. Valente
Corplan Manager

Approved by:


Geronimo D. Desesto, MBA
General Manager