

## **Local monitoring of a solar power plant project in Uzbekistan has raised concerns that were overlooked by the funding international financial institutions**

### **Ezgulik NGO reporting from Uzbekistan**

During 2023 and 2024 Samarkand office of the [Ezgulik](#) Human Rights Society has arranged two monitoring missions to the Nur Navoi Solar plant outside the city of Navoi in central Uzbekistan. Activists were interested in how the USD 110 million project cofinanced by the three major IFIs was realised. The International Finance Corporation ([IFC](#)), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ([EBRD](#)) and the Asian Development Bank ([ADB](#)) have invested in construction of 100-megawatt solar photovoltaic power plant in Uzbekistan to help the country reduce its dependency on fossil fuel. The funded project was realised by Nur Navoi Solar Ltd owned by the renewable energy company [Masdar](#) (UAE).

As part of the monitoring campaign, Ezgulik have analysed the effectiveness of environmental and social standards applied to the project, including the company's commitments under the project to ensure support and further development of the local communities, to provide job opportunities and training, ensure public participation and set effective accountability mechanisms. The monitoring has shown the lack of meaningful and ongoing stakeholder engagement; limited employment of local community representatives, including women; environmental pollution and the lack of comprehensive waste management on the ground.

Unfortunately, the company refused to acknowledge the findings of public monitoring and consider the recommendations, while Ezgulik's engagement with the EBRD didn't result in any meaningful outcome either. The response from the IFC and ADB are still pending. The monitors' recommendations center around ensuring access to information about the project for the local communities, developing clear communication channels and ensuring meaningful public participation. The monitors are hopeful that they will also be able to receive answers with regards to waste collection and disposal mechanisms as well as reports on employment and training opportunities available for the residents.

**For further details, please see the full [independent monitoring report](#) published in Russian.**