

## CERTIFICATION AND FINANCING PROPOSAL

## BORDER-WIDE GREEN LOAN FOR SOFOPLUS IN MEXICO

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **BORDER-WIDE GREEN LOAN FOR SOFOPLUS IN MEXICO**

Project Name:	Border-wide Green Loan for SOFOPLUS in Mexico
Project Type (Sector):	Projects eligible under the NADBank Green Loan Framework
Objective:	To support energy efficiency, water savings and emission reductions in the Mexican border region through lending and leasing operations for eligible project types as defined under the NADBank Green Loan Framework.
Expected Outcomes:	The Project is expected to generate environmental and human health benefits related to the following project outcomes:
	<ul> <li>Energy savings generated by energy-efficient equipment and building practices used in sustainable buildings and industrial parks.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Water savings generated by resource-efficient design and equipment incorporated into sustainable buildings, industrial parks and industrial processes.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Displacement of greenhouse gas emissions from:         <ul> <li>Investments in electric and hybrid vehicles, as well as electric charging stations; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Investments in the installation of renewable energy systems for residential, commercial and industrial facilities.</li> </ul>
Population to Benefit:	Community wide. <sup>1</sup>
Sponsor:	SOFOPLUS, S.A.P.I. de C.V., SOFOM E.R. ("SOFOPLUS").
Borrowers:	SOFOPLUS, S.A.P.I. de C.V., SOFOM E.R. ("SOFOPLUS" or the "Sponsor") and PLUS Leasing, S.A.P.I. de C.V. ("PLUS Leasing" or the "Leasing Company") as a co-borrower to the extent that it is eligible to use the loan proceeds.
NADBank Loan Amount:	Up to US\$10 million or its equivalent in Mexican pesos.

#### Project Summary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Project will reduce demand on stressed water and energy supplies and displace greenhouse gases emissions within the community or communities where the investments are made. Therefore, the population benefitted is described as community-wide, since a specific number of persons cannot be defined.

## **CERTIFICATION AND FINANCING PROPOSAL**

## **BORDER-WIDE GREEN LOAN FOR SOFOPLUS IN MEXICO**

## **1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The proposed project consists of providing a corporate loan for up to US\$10 million (or its equivalent in Mexican pesos) to SOFOPLUS, S.A.P.I. de C.V. SOFOM E.R. ("SOFOPLUS" or "the Sponsor") and, to the extent that it is eligible to use the loan proceeds, to Plus Leasing, S.A.P.I. de C.V. ("Plus Leasing") as a co-borrower. Both entities are subsidiaries of PlusCorp, S.A.P.I. de C.V. ("PlusCorp").

The proceeds of the NADBank green loan will be used by SOFOPLUS to fund eligible projects aligned with the NADBank Green Loan Framework located within the 300-kilometer (186-mile) border region in Mexico (the "Project"). The Sponsor will carry out this financing through its regular line of business, which is direct lending and leasing.

Results measurement indicators for energy and water savings, as well as the displacement of greenhouse gas emission consistent with the NADBank Green Loan Framework will govern results reporting under this loan. The Sponsor has provided an indicative list of anticipated project types based on its past portfolio of investments and current business plan. The following table shows the expected allocation of the loan proceeds by the Sponsor, along with NADBank's proposed results measurement indicators.

Carla I a arr	Loan Allocation		Results Measurement Scheme			
Sub-loan Sectors	%	US\$ Million	Investment Type	Expected Outcome	Outputs for Measurement	
Sustainable buildings	30%	\$3	Construction or improvements to buildings with LEED or EDGE certification or their equivalent, or buildings built to achieve a 30% reduction in carbon emissions	Water and energy savings, as well as emission displacement	Number of sustainable residential and commercial buildings built, improved and leased	
Sustainable industrial parks	20%	\$2	Construction or improvements of industrial parks equipped with energy and water management systems, as well as monitoring equipment for energy and water consumption.	Water and energy savings as well as emission displacement	Number of industrial parks equipped, constructed, improved and leased	
Mobility	25%	\$2.5	Electric and hybrid vehicles, as well as the construction and acquisitions of charging stations and infrastructure required.	Emission displacement	Number of electric, hybrid vehicles and charging stations financed or leased	
Water and wastewater management	15%	\$1.5	Infrastructure and equipment for the efficient supply and management of water and wastewater in industrial processes.	Volume of harvested, wastewater treated or reused, and water savings	Number of small- scale wastewater treatment plant monitoring and control systems installed	
Renewable energy	10%	\$1	Small-scale renewable energy systems installed for residential, commercial, and industrial facilities (Solar photovoltaic, thermal, concentrating solar systems, wind, hydraulic and biomass).	Emission displacement	Installed generation capacity & energy production	

# Table 1ESTIMATED LOAN ALLOCATION AND RESULTS MEASUREMENT PLAN

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

## 2.1. Project Type

The Project is consistent with the NADBank Green Loan Framework, which defines the project categories eligible for green financing. The sector allocation of the loan proceeds is estimated based on the Sponsor's outstanding balance in the following investment sectors: sustainable buildings, sustainable industrial parks, mobility, water and wastewater management and renewable energy.

### 2.2. Project Location

Given SOFOPLUS' market focus, most of the eligible green projects are expected to be financed and implemented in or near the largest metropolitan areas within NADBank's jurisdiction in the six northern border states of Mexico. Figure 1 illustrates the geographic location of the 300-kilometer (186-mile) jurisdiction of NADBank in Mexico and highlights the largest metropolitan areas where eligible projects are most likely to be implemented.

Figure 1 PROJECT LOCATION MAP



## 2.3. Project Sponsor and Legal Authority

The private-sector project Sponsor is Sofoplus, S.A.P.I. de C.V. SOFOM E.R. ("SOFOPLUS" or "the Sponsor"), a financial institution incorporated in 2006 as a subsidiary of PlusCorp, S.A.P.I. de C.V. ("PlusCorp"). SOFOPLUS provides financial products that meet the needs of micro, small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), primarily in the sectors of construction, real estate, commerce, services, industry and transportation. Another subsidiary, Plus Leasing, S.A.P.I. de C.V. ("Plus Leasing") may act as a co-borrower to the extent that it is eligible to use the loan proceeds. The Sponsor has the legal authority to obtain and use the NADBank loan to fund its lending operations. With NADBank support, SOFOPLUS will develop procedures for identifying and financing green projects, as well as to comply with the related monitoring and reporting requirements.

## **3. CERTIFICATION CRITERIA**

## 3.1. Technical Criteria

#### 3.1.1. General Community Profile

Given the location of the Sponsor's operations, eligible projects are expected to be financed and implemented in large metropolitan areas within NADBank's jurisdiction. Table 2 provides a list of the major border cities and their respective populations, which will be the main market focus for Project implementation.

City	Population 2020*	
Tijuana, Baja California	1,922,523	
Mexicali, Baja California	1,049,792	
Hermosillo, Sonora	936,263	
Chihuahua, Chihuahua	937,674	
Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	1,512,450	
Saltillo, Coahuila	879,958	
Monclova, Coahuila	237,951	
Monterrey, Nuevo León	1,142,994	
Reynosa, Tamaulipas	704,767	
Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas	349,688	
Total	9,674,060	

Table 2MAIN URBAN AREAS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

\* Source: Mexican national institute of statistics, INEGI, 2020.

These ten cities represent approximately 8% of the current population of Mexico and approximately 42% of the population of the Mexican border states. According to INEGI, the total gross production reported for these ten cities represented approximately 30% of the national total.<sup>2</sup>

#### 3.1.2. Project Scope

The proposed Project consists of providing a corporate loan for up to US\$10 million (or its equivalent in Mexican pesos) to the Sponsor in order to fund its lending operations for green projects. Eligible project categories are defined in the NADBank Green Loan Framework (GLF) certified by the Board of Directors as part of the Green Loan Program. The use of the loan proceeds will be vetted under this framework through pre-established project evaluation and reporting requirements. Any unused or unverified funds will be returned to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: INEGI, Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales de Mexico 2020 [System of National Accounts of Mexico 2020] (https://cuentame.inegi.org.mx/economia/pib.aspx?tema=e).

NADBank at the end of the 24-month availability period, which will begin as of the date of first disbursement.

The Sponsor has identified a list of potential projects, and the anticipated allocation of the loan proceeds is described in Table 3.

Sector	%	Eligible Expenditures		
		<ul> <li>Investments related to commercial and residential buildings with demonstrable energy and water efficient components. Financing activities may cover improvements to achieve the required efficiency characteristics, including:</li> <li>Modernization of buildings, with a 30% minimum reduction in carbon emissions.</li> </ul>		
Sustainable buildings	30	<ul> <li>Design, construction and maintenance of buildings certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) with a rating of GOLD or above or Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) or equivalent certifications.</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Costs associated with the retrofitting of existing buildings to comply with one of the certifications or to improve the current certification level within three years.</li> </ul>		
		Investments related to sustainable or eco-industrial parks that are managed by an entity responsible for planning, operations and monitoring. Firms/facilities located in the park must be equipped with functioning and fit-for-purpose energy management systems, from which data is shared with the park management entity for park-level planning and reporting. Financing activities may include improvements to achieve the required efficiency characteristics as defined in the GLF for energy, water supply, wastewater, waste and climate change, including:		
Sustainable industrial	20	<ul> <li>Energy metering and monitoring at facility and park level; leveraging of available renewables with plans to increase contributions to shared services; energy efficiency at facility and park level resulting in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions offset by energy management certification.</li> </ul>		
parks		<ul> <li>Water use measurement and monitoring at facility and park level with demand management practices in case of water stress; provisions to treat, recycle and reuse treated wastewater; systems to increase water savings and reuse at or above 25%.</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Waste management plan with program/mechanism for promoting reuse and recycling; reducing or avoiding the use of hazardous materials; implementing circular economy practices.</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Climate change and natural environment practices, such as preserving and enhancing native flora and fauna, as well as avoiding, minimizing and/or mitigating harmful point-source pollution and GHG emissions.</li> </ul>		
	25	Mobility options to reduce emissions from the commercial fleets and public transportation including leasing of electric and hybrid passenger vehicles, as well as charging stations for electric vehicles, including:		
Mobility		<ul> <li>Design, construction, operation and maintenance of transport programs and projects with zero direct emissions.</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Public and personnel buses, taxis, and municipal or commercial fleet vehicles with direct emissions below 50 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer travelled at full capacity.</li> </ul>		

Table 3POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Sector	%	Eligible Expenditures	
		<ul> <li>Electric buses, trams, trains and trolleybuses.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Design, construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure for low- carbon transport.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Infrastructure required for zero direct emission transport (e.g., electric charging points, power grid connection upgrades, hydrogen fueling stations or electric highways)</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Infrastructure for efficient cargo transportation with direct emissions below 50 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer travelled at full capacity.</li> </ul>	
		Acquisition or lease of infrastructure and improvements related to efficient management and monitoring of water in industrial processes, such as small-scale wastewater treatment plants and installation of monitoring and control systems for water and wastewater, including:	
Water and wastewater	15	<ul> <li>Investments related to the design, construction, operation, retrofit, maintenance, expansion and adaptation of infrastructure for the efficient and sustainable management of water and wastewater, for a reliable supply of water and for wastewater services, treatment and reuse.</li> </ul>	
management		<ul> <li>Infrastructure and systems that improve the resilient, efficient and sustainable management of water and wastewater.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Wastewater management: installation or improvement of infrastructure, including collection, treatment, reuse and disposal systems.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Monitoring systems, including smart networks, early warning systems for droughts and floods, and water quality monitoring systems.</li> </ul>	
		Acquisition or lease of small-scale renewable energy systems and components, including facilities that produce electricity from:	
Renewable	10	<ul> <li>Solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, and solar thermal.</li> </ul>	
energy	10	<ul> <li>Wind power.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Hydropower (under 25 MW), including pumped-storage facilities.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Biomass for residential, commercial and industrial facilities.</li> </ul>	

## 3.1.3. Technical Feasibility

The Sponsor has experience financing SMEs in areas of infrastructure construction, mobility, and manufacturing and has indicated that the proceeds of the NADBank loan will be used in sustainable buildings, industrial parks, mobility, water and wastewater management, and renewable energy. SOFOPLUS has demonstrated its capacity to participate in all these sectors and has a portfolio of similar project types that have been successfully implemented. More recently and going forward, the Sponsor plans to be more proactive in project types with green characteristics.

All the green projects proposed must comply with current local, state and national environmental laws and regulations. NADBank will review the specific green projects, subloans or portfolio of such projects to ensure the use of appropriate technologies for their intended purpose, proper operation and achievement of the anticipated environmental benefits. As described below, if at any time NADBank determines that a project included in the portfolio does not meet the GLF eligibility criteria, such expense shall not be considered an eligible use of proceeds.

#### 3.1.4. Land Acquisition and Right-of-Way Requirements

The Project will provide a corporate loan for constructing, improving and equipping sustainable buildings and industrial parks, mobility, water and wastewater management and renewable energy. No land or rights of way are expected to be acquired for the implementation of the Project. If loan proceeds are used to purchase facilities or property, the Sponsor will have to provide documentation regarding rights-of-way or land acquisition activities.

#### **3.1.5. Project Milestones**

Financial closing is expected to take place in the third quarter of 2024. After the first disbursement, the Sponsor will have a 24-month availability period to use the loan proceeds for eligible projects under the GLF. Projects funded previously will be eligible for the use of loan proceeds during a lookback period of up to 24 months, provided those projects were not funded by other dedicated green financing.

#### 3.1.6. Management and Operation

SOFOPLUS has demonstrated its operational capability as a non-bank financial institution during more than 25 years of operation, providing financial services to SMEs in the sectors of infrastructure construction, mobility and manufacturing in Mexico. It has implemented mechanisms to align its operations with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as well as processes to track and measure investment impacts and develops its overall sustainability and social strategies and policies on a continuous basis.

Its organizational structure includes departments focused on business development and promotion, credit, legal, operations, finance, systems and human resources. SOFOPLUS has established internal policies to maintain employee engagement, foster continuous improvements in its processes and provide staff training. It also has a code of conduct and ethics for internal staff and external service providers. Currently, the Sponsor is developing its environmental and social risk management system with the support of an external consulting firm. SOFOPLUS is in compliance with its reporting and auditing obligations as required by the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission (CNBV). Considering SOFOPLUS's current organizational structure, processes, and policies, reviewed by NADBank, no difficulties are identified or anticipated for the management and operation in the use of NADBank's resources.

NADBank will provide technical and environmental additionality to the Project by helping the Sponsor to develop its guidelines, methodologies, and tools to build its portfolio of green projects. NADBank will also support SOFOPLUS in developing appropriate reporting capabilities to demonstrate the environmental benefits of the funded projects. If required, NADBank participation will include the provision of technical assistance in line with SOFOPLUS's needs.

For the implementation of the Project, the Sponsor's business development team is responsible for identifying green projects through a credit analysis as well as reviewing the proposed transactions for consistency with the GLF. The green projects are then submitted to their Credit Committee for approval. Appropriate documentation will be required to support the technical feasibility of projects financed with the NADBank loan.

During the NADBank Green Loan availability period, the Sponsor must provide supporting documentation to prove that the loan proceeds were used for the financing and/or reimbursement of eligible projects. A list of such documentation will be referenced in the Loan Agreement. To verify the use of funds, the Sponsor must describe the green projects funded; the total balance of financing contracts for eligible green projects; and the remaining balance of unallocated funds.

### 3.2. Environmental Criteria

#### 3.2.1. Environmental and Health Effects/Impacts

#### A. Existing Conditions

Current conditions in the border region require the availability of sustainable financing for the private sector to help overcome the environmental challenges and achieve the sustainability goals pursued by Mexican public policy and state programs.

The sectors most likely to benefit from the Sponsor financing through the NADBank Green Loan are described below, along with sustainability trends that may be driving the need to access financing. An effort has been made to identify the most immediate investment opportunities, with the understanding that the Green Loan Framework provides flexibility to consider other types of projects.

#### <u>Sustainable Buildings</u>

The built environment offers important opportunities for improving efficiency in energy and water use, as well as reducing embedded energy and emissions in construction materials and any overall adverse impacts on cities, such as its location in relation to public services.

Investments in sustainable buildings that incorporate energy- and water-efficient equipment and include sustainable construction techniques and thermally efficient construction materials, along with site improvements to achieve a more climate-resilient investment, are especially important in a region with constrained water supplies. The elements considered for such projects include a strategic location, access to mobility, water conservation, energy efficiency, waste management, building materials and environment preservation. The implementation of sustainable buildings supports goals, such as:

- Reduce emissions that contribute to global climate change.
- Protect and restore water resources.

- Promote sustainable and regenerative material cycles.
- Enhance individual human health.
- Enhance community quality of life.

The Sponsor has identified opportunities to finance or lease resource efficient equipment to retrofit or improve operations in existing buildings, as well as for construction of new sustainable facilities with EDGE (minimum 20% for water and energy savings) or LEED certification, or with demonstrated efficiencies equivalent to those standards, or buildings that have at least 30% reduction in carbon emissions.

#### Sustainable Industrial Parks

There are approximately 500 industrial parks that are key to the economic development of Mexico. Approximately 54% of them are located in the northern border states, mainly for export and nearshoring opportunities with the United States. The sector generates employment, attracts foreign and national investment, promotes small business growth and exports and encourages the transfer of skills and technologies.

However, the sector also faces challenges, such as a lack of land with sufficient space and access to major trade routes and insufficient basic infrastructure such as water, clean energy, roads and telecommunications. To address those needs, many developers are investing in sustainable industrial parks, which are defined by their use of technologies to improve the management, control and metering of resources, such as energy, water and waste. Approximately 40% of the companies in Mexico located within an industrial park have an environmental-energy management system aligned with international standards.<sup>3</sup> In addition, at least 95% of the wastewater generated by industrial parks is treated in compliance with appropriate environmental standards.<sup>4</sup> These statistics demonstrate the growing interest in potential investments in eco-industrial parks and the efficient use of resources, such as water and energy.

The Sponsor has identified opportunities for investing in sustainable or eco-industrial parks that are managed by an entity responsible for planning, operations and monitoring of resource use. Financing and leasing activities may include improvements to achieve the required levels of efficiency, as defined in the GLF for energy, water supply, wastewater, waste, and climate change.

#### <u>Mobility</u>

Transportation is one of the largest energy consumption activities and one of the main sources of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants. The intensive use of gasoline and diesel fuel affects air quality and human health. Replacing internal combustion vehicles with hybrid or electric vehicles is an important tool for increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions. As these types of vehicles become more accessible and less expensive, their use for public transportation, commercial fleets or private use, is expected to increase.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Source: Mexican Association of Private Industrial Parks,

<sup>(</sup>https://www.ampip.org.mx/pdf/Mapa\_de\_Ruta\_Parques\_Industriales.pdf).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Source: Ibid.

The Sponsor has identified opportunities to lease electric or hybrid vehicles for private use or vehicle fleets, as well as charging stations for electric vehicles.

#### <u>Water and Wastewater Management</u>

In Mexico, 76% of water is used in the agricultural sector, 14% for public supply and consumption, and 10% for industry and energy production. Population growth and demand for services have put increasing pressure on water resources, mainly because of the need to manufacture various products and food, generate energy and supply water to urban areas.<sup>5</sup>

The Sponsor has identified opportunities to lease water and wastewater infrastructure and equipment that promote efficient resource management and make investments to reduce water consumption. These investments include small-scale wastewater treatment plants for pretreatment and/or reuse, as well as water and wastewater control and monitoring systems.

#### <u>Renewable energy</u>

Energy production is also one of the largest sources of GHG and other contaminants. In addition to cleaner generation (e.g., renewables), improvements in energy efficiency are necessary to achieve Mexico's climate goals. In recent years, Mexico has registered a downward trend in energy consumption from various sectors, including industrial, commercial and residential buildings. In particular, the industrial sector has upgraded its production processes to increase its use of energy-efficient equipment, among other actions, reducing operating costs in an effort to maintain its competitiveness in international markets, as well as demonstrating a strong commitment to the environment and global impact.

The Sponsor has identified opportunities to finance or lease systems that generate energy for residential, commercial and industrial facilities, including small-scale photovoltaic systems, and to take advantage of the availability of high-efficiency systems available in the current market. Financing will be available mainly for SMEs to generate savings and reduce their energy consumption.

#### B. Project Impacts

The Sponsor will use the NADBank Loan to finance eligible green projects that will generate environmental benefits in the border region. Based on the results measurement indicators established in the NADBank GLF and the anticipated allocation of the loan proceeds by eligible sector, NADBank has developed a methodology to calculate expected outcomes of the Project.

The Project is expected to generate environmental and human health benefits related to the following Project outcomes:

- Energy savings generated by energy-efficient equipment and building practices used in sustainable buildings and industrial parks.
- Water savings generated by resource-efficient design and equipment incorporated into sustainable buildings, industrial parks and industrial process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: SEMARNAT, (<u>https://apps1.semarnat.gob.mx:8443/dgeia/informe18/tema/cap6.html</u>).

- Displacement of greenhouse gas emissions from:
  - Investments in electric and hybrid vehicles, as well as electric charging stations; and
  - Investments in the installation of renewable energy systems for residential, commercial, and industrial facilities.

The measurement indicators, methodologies and reporting requirements for project evaluation and closeout for each sector are defined as part of the NADBank Green Loan Framework and included as covenants under the loan agreement.

#### C. Transboundary Impacts

No transboundary impacts are anticipated due to the implementation of the Project. Any green project that could have a negative transboundary impact will not be eligible for financing.

#### 3.2.2. Compliance with Applicable Environmental Laws and Regulations

#### A. Environmental Clearance

The Project will provide financing for modernizing, retrofitting and equipping existing buildings and industrial parks; improving the use of energy and water in commercial and industrial facilities; and acquiring or leasing efficient vehicles for private use, corporate fleets and public transportation; therefore, no formal environmental clearance process is anticipated. In addition, as part of its standard process, the Sponsor reviews loan requests for compliance with environmental regulations, operating permits and licenses, as applicable.

#### **B.** Mitigation Measures

To mitigate risks in its financing operations, SOFOPLUS has credit manuals, policies, and procedures that outline credit responsibilities and processes. These manuals and procedures help the Sponsor to provide its financial services in an orderly, efficient, safe manner and in compliance with its guidelines and business plan. The Sponsor has a specialized team of credit analysts who conduct credit studies on its clients and evaluate investment risks.

To mitigate environmental risks, SOFOPLUS requests standard information from its clients with respect to the type of project to be financed and the use of funds, sufficient experience in the activity, and necessary permits, among other information.

The Sponsor is also developing an Environmental and Social Risk Management System (SARAS) for classifying clients with high, medium and low-risk investments and promoting environmental and social responsibility practices in order to strengthen its due diligence and risk evaluation process for leased assets.

To further mitigate environmental risks of the projects funded under the GLF, the Sponsor will not use the proceeds for any investment on the exclusion list, including:

- Exploration and production of fossil fuels;
- Energy generation exclusively based on burning fossil fuels or hybrid plants with more than 15% fossil fuel support;
- Construction of rail infrastructure to transport fossil fuels;
- Generation of nuclear energy;
- Electricity transmission infrastructure and electricity systems where an average of 25% or more is fossil-fuel-generated;
- Industries for alcohol, arms, tobacco, or gambling;
- The production or trade of any product or activity that is considered illegal according to national laws or regulations or international agreements and conventions;
- Deforestation or forest degradation; and
- Activities in protected areas or activities that violate rights of indigenous peoples.

#### C. Pending Environmental Tasks and Authorizations

Since the Project consists of providing financing to a financial intermediary, there are no environmental authorizations pending.

#### 3.2.3. Environmental and Social (E&S) Due-diligence Process

#### A. Project E&S Risk Category

Based on the NADBank's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policy for evaluating and classifying potential ESG risks in its financial operations, NADBank determined that the proposed Project and its investments fall within the FI-3 category, which is assigned when a loan/line of credit has minimal or negligible exposure to adverse environmental and social impacts.<sup>6</sup>

#### **B. E&S Due Diligence Conclusions**

NADBank reviewed the Sponsor's organizational structure, operational processes, manuals and policies and concluded that SOFOPLUS has the tools and resources to comply with the environmental and social obligations related to the Project, including compliance with applicable regulations and annual compliance reports.

#### C. Summary of Proposed Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are needed since SOFOPLUS' current organizational structure, processes and potential use of funds support compliance with its E&S obligations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Source: NADBank Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy,

<sup>(</sup>https://www.nadb.org/uploads/content/files/Policies/NADBank%20ESG%20Policy%20(Eng).pdf).

## 3.3. Financial Criteria

The loan proceeds will be used by SOFOPUS to fund its lending and leasing operations for the acquisition of eligible assets under the NADBank GLF, plus cover the related costs of structuring this transaction.

Based on a comprehensive financial and risk analysis, the proposed financing is feasible and presents an acceptable level of risk. Therefore, NADBank proposes to provide a market-rate loan to SOFOPLUS for up to US\$10.0 million (or its equivalent in Mexican pesos), in the form of a corporate loan.

## 4. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

#### 4.1. Public Consultation

NADBank published the draft certification and financing proposal for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 23, 2024. The following Project documentation is available upon request:

• NADBank Green Loan Framework

#### 4.2. Outreach Activities

SOFOPLUS has published its performance and business practices through its annual reports posted on its website. One of its objectives is to promote inclusion and equity in the workplace in order to facilitate a comprehensive work environment and strengthen transparency and non-discrimination in its operations. SOFOPLUS encourages competitiveness and provides its employees and partners with sufficient tools for ongoing professional development. The company has carried out workshops and training for its employees to raise awareness about climate change.

SOFOPLUS has also published information related to its internal practices for reducing waste, eliminating the use of plastics and establishing energy efficiency mechanisms. and has designed financial products for women entrepreneurs.

NADBank conducted a media search to identify potential public opinions or publications about the Sponsor and its operations. The Sponsor's reference and its financial performance were found on the following websites:

• <u>AXIS negocios</u> (February 15, 2024), "Sofoplus contrata Glossler como auditor externo para 2022" [Sofoplus hires Glossler as its external auditor for 2022]. https://www.axisnegocios.com/articulo.phtml?id=113893

- <u>Visor Empresarial</u> (October 28, 2021), "PlusCorp ofrece una forma innovadora de solicitar un crédito" [PlusCorp offering an innovative way to request a loan]. <u>https://visorempresarial.info/blog/2021/10/28/pluscorp-ofrece-una-formainnovadora-de-solicitar-un-credito/</u>
- <u>Investing.com</u> (September 25, 2020), "Sofoplus recaba 200 mdp con dos bonos de corto plazo" [Sofoplus raises 200 million pesos with two short-term bonds]. https://mx.investing.com/news/economy/sofoplus-recaba-200-mdp-con-dos-bonos-de-corto-plazo-2023468