



PROTECTING OUR ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE

JCM intends to build, own, and operate a 20MW alternating current solar PV plant located approximately half a kilometre from the Golomoti Substation and less than one kilometre from Golomoti Trading Centre in Dedza District, Malawi. The Golomoti Project will be constructed on a 92-hectare (ha) parcel of land and will also include the construction of a short transmission line.

The Project construction will require the clearing, leveling and preparation of the land and, as such, will necessitate the removal of all vegetation. This will include the removal of trees, some of which are listed as protected under Malawian law. Based on the detailed land and asset surveys undertaken by the Ministry of Lands (MoL) five tree species have been identified as locally protected under Malawian Law and occurring within the Project boundary.

JCM's E&S Policy commits to compliance with the IFC PS on environmental and social sustainability. Of relevance regarding protected trees is IFC PS6, which states that 'as a matter of priority, the client should seek to avoid impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services' and 'clients are expected to fully exercise the mitigation hierarchy'. Of the five locally protected tree species identified, only one species (the Baobab tree, *Adansonia digitata*) was deemed as highly

sensitive and potentially irreplaceable. Two Baobab tree specimens were identified within the Project footprint and were deemed as sensitive due to their age, cultural value and keystone role within the ecosystem.

Therefore, an internal process was undertaken in order to apply the mitigation hierarchy for these two trees. It was determined that one of the trees can be avoided through altering the design and the other cannot be avoided without causing a significant impact on the feasibility of the Project and therefore could not be avoided. Therefore, JCM was able to save one of the Baobabs through altering the design.

For the protected tree species that will need to be removed, JCM has developed a Protected Tree Plan which ensures that for each individual protected tree cut down during the land clearing, the Project will plant five or more individual seedlings of the same species in areas adjacent to the Project.

This collaborative effort between JCM's ESG Department and the Project Development Team demonstrates JCM's commitment to environmental and social international best practice.