

Attracting private investment through NAMAs: the role of risk, return and policy design

Part 2: deep dive into the investor logic

Regional workshop on promoting international collaboration to facilitate preparation, submission and implementation of NAMAs

Mexico City, December , 2013 Speaker: Tobias Schmidt, ETH Zurich

To invest, or not to invest?





Cash flow? Payback time? Net present value? Rate of return? Capital structure? Risk?

What to consider when designing NAMAs/LEDS?



- Provide basic finance terminology
- Show important concepts that private investors use to assess investment opportunities
- Discuss how NAMAs can be designed in order to address policy

Cash-flow



- Cash-flow is the stream of expenses and revenues over a period of time
- Investors need to maintain liquidity => cash-flow matters



Payback time (1/2)



- Time taken for a project to recover (i.e., payback) its initial investment
- Investment attractive if Payback time < certain threshold (e.g. 5 years)



Payback time (2/2)



• Payback time important for liquidity, but costs of capital (financing costs) not considered



Cost of Capital (1/2)



- Opportunity cost of capital is the return foregone by investing in the project rather than investing in securities
- A project's specific risks drive the cost of capital



Net Present Value (NPV) (1/2)

- Takes into account the cost of capital
- A project's net contribution to wealth (beyond cost of capital)
- Expresses the expected money to be earned by the investment at today's value

$$NPV = investment_0 + \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{cashflow_t}{(1+r)^t}$$

r= cost of capital n= expected lifetime of investment





Net Present Value (NPV) (2/2)

- NPV = 1USD => 1USD earned above cost of capital
- Rules for investor:
 - Investment attractive if NPV > 0
 - Alternative chosen based on highest NPV





Internal Rate of Return (IRR)



- Rate (in %) at which the investment has zero net present value (NPV)
- Expresses the return rate of an investment

$$NPV = investment_0 + \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{cashflow_t}{(1+r)^t} = 0 \implies r = IRR$$

- IRR > cost of capital => project is more profitable as minimal desired return
- Rules for investor:
 - Investment attractive if IRR > Cost of Capital
 - Alternative chosen based on highest IRR

Cost of Capital (2/2)

- Typically an investment has different sources of capital:
 - Equity by an equity sponsor (e.g. a project developer)
 - Debt (in form of a bank loan)
- Due to their seniority debt has lower cost than equity







Cost of Debt

Capital Structure



• The capital structure indicates the share of debt and equity



• The Weighted Average Capital Costs (WACC) combine the capital structure and the cost of debt and cost of equity in one number

$$r = WACC_{pretax} = Equity \ share * k_E + Equity \ share * k_D$$

 $k_e = cost of equity k_d = cost of debt$







Weighted Average Capital Cost (WACC) (2/2)





The role of risk for WACC

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- Higher risks increase the cost of capital, as investors (debt and equity) want to see more return
- Additionally banks are less willing to lend => more equity in capital structure



=> Higher risks increase the WACC in two ways

The role of risk for NPV



- Higher risks results in higher WACC
- Higher WACC result in a lower NPV

$$NPV = investment_0 + \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{cashflow_t}{(1+r)^t}$$

r = cost of capital

n= expected lifetime of investment





- In order to attract investors risk-return profiles must be attractive
- NAMAs can provide such attractive risk-return profiles by addressing both return and risk (the CDM was a mere revenue instrument)





Designing NAMAs that attract private investors



Illustrative case-study – Mongolia (1 GW, wind) Risk waterfalls





Source: UNDP, *Derisking Renewable Energy Investment (2013)*. Data obtained from interviews with wind investors and developers. See Annex A of the report for full assumptions. The post-derisking cost of debt and equity show the average impacts over a 20 year modelling period, assuming linear timing effects.

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Derisking Renewable Energy Investment Reports & Financial Tool





Available at www.undp.org/DREI