

SELF-ASSESSMENT DIAGNOSTIC

Transmission & Interconnection Project Readiness Diagnostic

For PMUs, utilities and sponsors preparing a transmission or cross-border interconnection project for financing or construction.

This is a field-tested reference tool mapping the recurring obstacles in cross-border transmission line development — funding, planning, stakeholder alignment, PMU capacity, construction logistics, and sovereign risk — to the mitigation measures that actually resolve them. Drawn from research across four West African power pool interconnection projects. Use it to pressure-test a project at any stage, from concept through construction mobilization.

Score each item: 0 = not in place, 1 = partially in place, 2 = fully in place and documented. This is a self-diagnostic, not a substitute for lender or DFI due diligence — but it flags the gaps that diligence teams will surface first.

A. Funding & Bankability Readiness

Readiness Question	0	1	2
Off-taker creditworthiness has been assessed and documented	☐	☐	☐
Sovereign guarantee or credit-enhancement mechanism has been explored with government	☐	☐	☐
Feasibility study funding is secured independently of the main project financing	☐	☐	☐
Private investment / PPP options have been assessed for at least part of the project	☐	☐	☐
Revenue and tariff structure is sufficient to demonstrate bankability to lenders	☐	☐	☐

B. Planning & Technical Readiness

Readiness Question	0	1	2
Route selection study is complete, weighing cost, reliability, environment and resettlement	☐	☐	☐
Voltage, capacity and technology selection is based on documented techno-economic analysis	☐	☐	☐
ESIA scope and category have been determined	☐	☐	☐
Regional system planning has been coordinated with the relevant regional body	☐	☐	☐
Project timeline is grounded in a documented risk assessment, not an assumed best case	☐	☐	☐

C. PMU / Institutional Capacity

Readiness Question	0	1	2
PMU is staffed with the core roles needed (PM, procurement, civil/transmission engineers, RAP, E&S, contracts, QA/QC)	☐	☐	☐
Systems for performance tracking, reporting, and geospatial/document management are in place	☐	☐	☐
A standardized Project Implementation Manual (PIM) or equivalent has been adopted	☐	☐	☐
A donor coordination function exists for multi-donor-funded projects	☐	☐	☐

D. Stakeholder & Political Engagement

Readiness Question	0	1	2
A stakeholder map and engagement plan exist and are being actively implemented	☐	☐	☐
Key stakeholders were engaged before design was finalized	☐	☐	☐
Political commitment from beneficiary-country governments is confirmed and being sustained	☐	☐	☐
Election timing and potential stakeholder turnover have been factored into the project schedule	☐	☐	☐

E. Land, Right-of-Way & Social Safeguards

Readiness Question	0	1	2
A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) has been developed and adequately resourced	☐	☐	☐
Compensation process for Project Affected Persons (PAP) is defined and funded	☐	☐	☐
Community engagement and a grievance mechanism are in place	☐	☐	☐
Government support has been secured for right-of-way negotiations	☐	☐	☐

F. Construction & Logistics Readiness

Readiness Question	0	1	2
EPC contractor(s) have been selected with a verified track record on comparable projects	☐	☐	☐
Procurement lead times and import/inland transit logistics have been mapped and planned	☐	☐	☐
A process exists for monitoring consultant and contractor performance	☐	☐	☐
A scope-change control process is defined to limit design modifications once construction begins	☐	☐	☐

G. Operational Readiness (Post-Commissioning)

Readiness Question	0	1	2
A Transmission Service Agreement (TSA) is drafted or negotiated ahead of Commercial Operation Date	☐	☐	☐
National grid code alignment with the applicable regional grid code has been confirmed	☐	☐	☐
An O&M capacity-building plan is in place for the transition from project to operations phase	☐	☐	☐
System operations security and regional coordination protocols are defined	☐	☐	☐

Scoring Guide

Total score: _____ / 60

Score Range	Readiness Level
0 – 21	Early stage — significant preparation required before approaching lenders or regulators
22 – 42	Developing — core elements in place, but material gaps remain in at least one section
43 – 60	Advanced — largely construction- and financing-ready; remaining gaps are targeted, not systemic

Note: sections weighted equally here for simplicity. In practice, Sections A (Funding) and D (Stakeholder & Political) are the two most common points of failure on cross-border interconnection projects — a low score in either warrants attention regardless of total score.

Ready to stress-test your project before your lenders do? Sections A and D are usually where deals stall, and a second read early is cheaper than a delayed financial close.