Methane to Markets Project Finance Workshop Buenos Aires, Argentina 3 November, 2005



Nicolas Werthein Commodity Financial Group Essentials of Project Finance

## **Requirements for a Capital Markets Financing**

- ✓ Sound project fundamentals
- ✓ Proven technology
- ✓ Well-defined operating costs and capex
- ✓ Solid sponsorship
- ✓ Successful track record
- ✓ Knowledge and commitment to the sector
- ✓ Robust project economics
- ✓ Ability to meet scheduled debt service
- ✓ Clarity on tax regime

Investors will be receptive to credits that meet the above criteria.

# Keys to Mobilizing Project Financing:

#### Why is debt financing important:

✓ Delivered cost of power, water, oil&gas is dominated by cost of capital, then cost of fuel, and then other costs

✓ Debt financing structure has the biggest single impact in lowering overall cost of capital for a project

#### What debt investors like:

- ✓ Sponsor track record and readiness to put capital at risk
- ✓ Long-term contracts with fixed profit margin
- ✓ Credit-worthy counterparties

#### What is hard to lend against:

- ✓Commodity price risk
- ✓ Spot market volatility
- ✓ Regulatory out clauses

In the past few years, capital markets have become increasingly receptive to financing renewable credits, a sector that has historically been dominated by banks.

Capital Markets Renewables Financings Since 2003				
DATE	PROJECT	SECTOR	FINANCING	AMOUNT
Feb '05	Hawkeye Renewables	Ethanol	Institutional Loan	\$185mm
Feb '05	FPL American Wind	Wind	Inv. G. and HY Bonds	\$385mm/\$100mm
Feb '04	Ormat Funding	Geothermal	Inv. G. Bonds	\$190mm
Dec '03	FPL National Wind	Wind	HY Bonds	\$125mm
Jun '03	FPL National Wind	Wind	Inv. G. Bonds	\$380mm
Nov '03	American Ref-Fuel II	Waste Energy	HY Bonds	\$225mm
Jun '03	American Ref-Fuel I	Waste Energy	HY Bonds	\$200mm

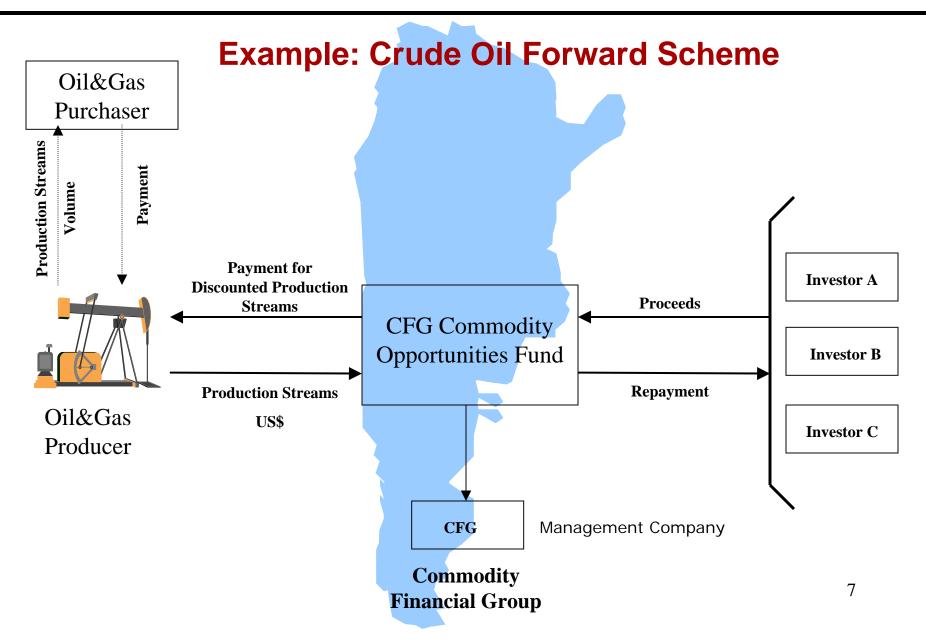
Source: Credit Suisse First Boston

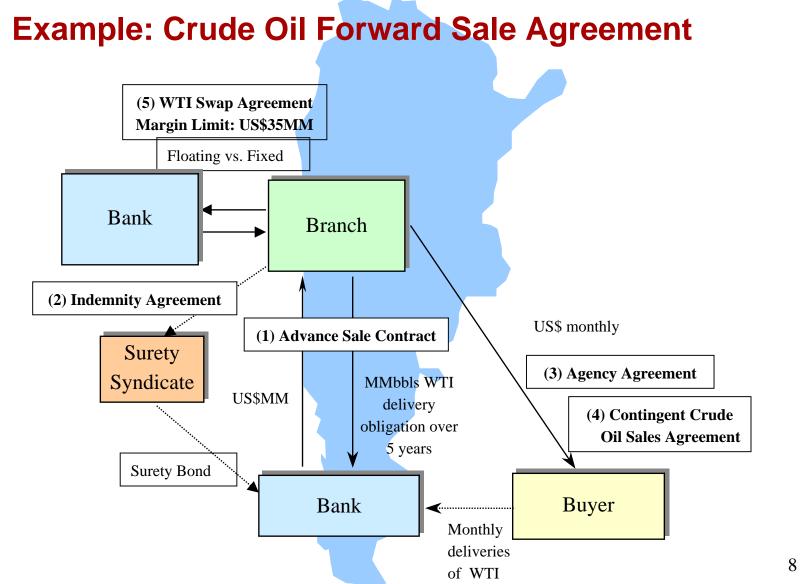
### Critical issues for financing projects with private funding

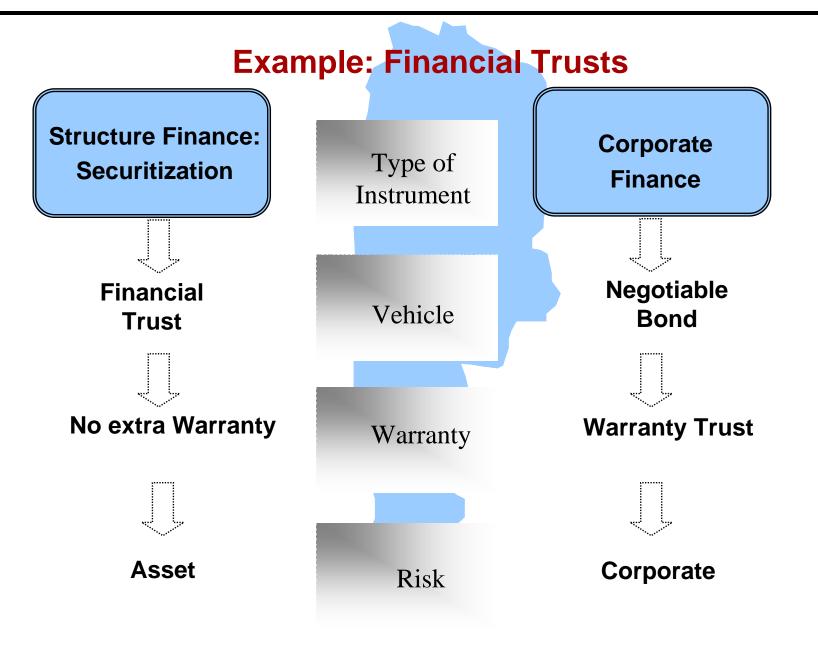
- Some emerging countries lack long-term stability, a fundamental requirement for private investors and creditors.
- Projects are constrained not only by economic & financial feasibility parameters, but also by political and social provisions: i.e. tariff as a key electoral argument, affordability by end-users, long term political support.
- Projects are often promoted by local authorities, with long termundertakings and creditworthiness sometimes difficult to assess by private funders.
- Experience has shown that macro-economic risks (foreign exchange in particular) cannot be mitigated by contracts, when host countries face major economic crises.

## **Example: Crude Oil Forward Sale Agreement**

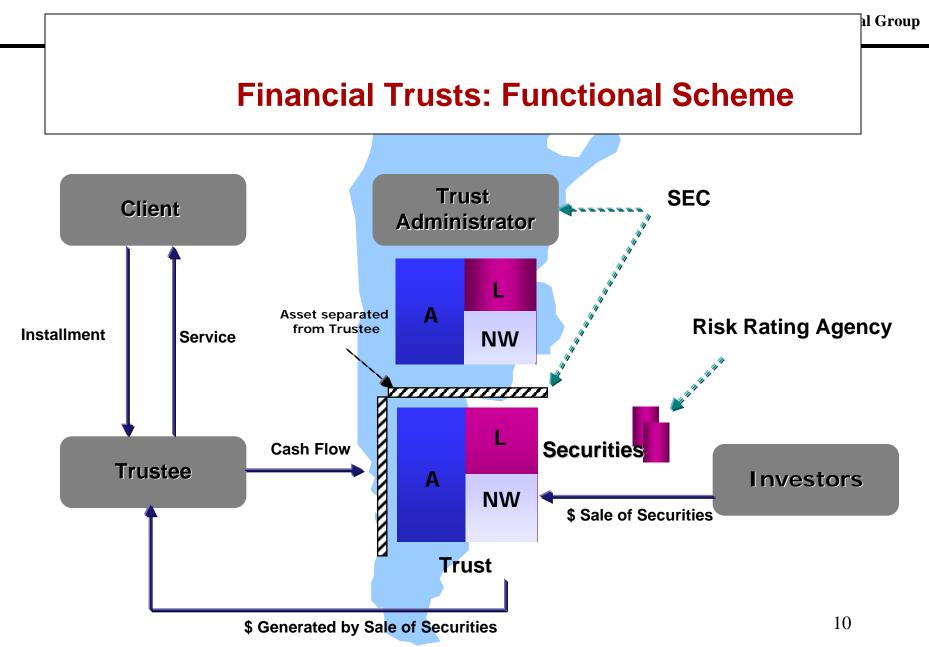
- ✓ Target Lessors: Top Tier Export Commodity Companies.
- Through Foward Sale Agreements (FSA) and short-term financial instruments (STFI) issued in connection with commodity trade finance transactions on a global basis.
- ✓ Transaction size between \$5 and \$10 MM.
- ✓ Companies with succesfull Debt Re-Structuring.
- $\checkmark$  Focus on Companies that export at least \$30 MM.
- ✓ Maximum exposure ratio (FSA/Export) of 20%.
- $\checkmark$  Companies ability to enter other FSAs will be limited by our contract covenants.







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## **Participants of Financial Trusts**

- ✓ Organizer
- Trust Administrator
- ✓ Financial Advisor
- Legal Advisor
- ✓ Security Sale Agent
- Servicer
- ✓ Audit Company
- ✓ **Risk Rating Agency**