

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BPCE ACTION POUR LE CLIMAT
Project Number:	2019-0236
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project consists of an intermediated loan in support of small- to mid-sized renewable energy projects in France (on-shore wind, photovoltaic, geothermal, hydro, biomass and waste treatment/biogas).
EIA required:	Some of the underlying schemes may require an EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

EIB's intervention will consist of funding provided to BPCE, the Financial Intermediary ("FI"), in support of renewable energy projects in France, covering on-shore wind, photovoltaic, geothermal, hydro, biomass and waste treatment/biogas, with investment costs up to EUR 15m per project. Most of the individual schemes to be financed are likely to have limited negative environmental impacts and are expected to be mitigated appropriately.

The FI is known to the EIB from previous operations. It will be required to ensure compliance of all schemes with relevant EU Directives. Due to their technical characteristics, most of the investments are expected to fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, leaving it to the national competent authority to determine according to Annex III of the said Directive whether an environmental impact assessment is required. With regard to Investments subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and/or Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, the FI will be required to verify that none of the schemes' projects have a significant adverse impact on any site of nature conservation importance, including sites protected under national legislation and international agreements. For other than wind and PV projects, further sector-specific Directives (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Industrial Emissions Directive, Waste Framework Directive, Renewable Energy Directive) may apply. In addition, all underlying projects using biomass will be required to comply with the Bank's sustainability criteria for biomass.

For hydropower plant projects – if any – an allocation request will be presented to the Bank for approval prior to the allocation of part of the EIB loan to the project.

¹ Intermediated operations are excluded from the Carbon Footprint Exercise.

Luxembourg, 25/10/2019

The FI shall store and maintain relevant Environmental & Social documents (including environmental studies, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments, etc.). In case the EIB requires such documentation, the FI shall provide all documents requested promptly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The FI has significant experience in financing renewable energy installations in France, especially in the wind and solar sectors, and is deemed to have adequate capacity to ensure compliance with the Bank's environmental and social requirements.

The FI will make available the non-technical summaries for any EIAs that are required by the authorities. The FI will be required to verify that none of the schemes submitted for part-financing by the Bank have a significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance (incl. Natura 2000). The FI will be required to obtain and provide to the Bank the written confirmation to this effect from the competent authority, or equivalent, if and where relevant and make the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA available to the public.

It is considered that the environmental procedures carried out for individual schemes, verified by the FIs, will appropriately address environmental issues and ensure that the schemes to be part-financed under this framework loan meet the Bank's requirements.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable in E&S terms.