

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: TENNET SOUTH-WEST 380kV WEST  
Project Number: 2019-0112  
Country: NETHERLANDS  
Project Description: The project comprises the construction of a 43-km long electricity transmission corridor connecting Borssele to Rilland, in the south of Netherlands. It includes a new 380kV line from Borssele to Rilland, combined with a 150kV line for part of the route, a new 380kV substation at Rilland, as well as extension works at the Borssele substation. The project will ensure the compliance of the transmission network with the Grid Code in Netherlands, and it will enable the evacuation of energy from onshore and offshore windfarms.

EIA required: yes (for some project components)

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no  
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The project comprises the construction of the 43 km-long electricity transmission corridor, connecting Borssele to Rilland. It includes (a) the construction of a new 380kV Overhead Line (OHL) combined with an 150kV OHL for part of the route, utilising a bi-pole tower arrangement known as Wintrack II along the entire route, (b) a new 380kV switching station at Rilland, (c) extension works at the existing Borssele 380/150kV substation and (d) the underground cable terminations that will allow the connection of the 150kV lines to the substations. The existing 380 kV and 150 kV OHLs will be decommissioned once the project will be in operation.

The project is the West section of a larger project known as SouthWest 380 ('SW380'). The SW380 concerns the construction of the electricity transmission corridor from Borssele to Tilburg and it is divided in the West and in the East sections. The East section (Rilland to Tilburg), which is still in the permitting process and will be implemented after 2022, does not form part of the project scope appraised by the EIB.

#### Environmental Assessment

The construction of the 43km-long, 380kV transmission lines falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, thus requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An EIA and the integrated biodiversity assessment

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<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

was carried out for the 380-150 kV OHLs, and the 150 kV underground cable terminations. The new 380 kV substation at Rilland and the extension works at Borssele switching station fall under neither Annex I nor Annex II of the EIA Directive and did not require an EIA.

The competent authorities have issued all the necessary permits for the project and the construction works have commenced.

The first section of the route of the transmission line runs eastwards from the substation in Borssele to Kapelle, passing through the municipalities of Heinkenszand, 's-Heer Abtskerke and Eversdijk. This section will be installed south of the existing 150kV line that connects Borssele to the 150kV Willem-Anna-Polder station. The line continues via the Smokkelhoek industrial estate, on the north side of the existing 380kV line connecting Borssele to Rilland. For the last part of the route, the line runs along Vlakte and Krabbendijke, crosses the A58 and the Vlissingen-Roosendaal railway line, terminating at the new 380kV switching station in Rilland. The line will cross flat, agricultural land, forested areas as well as several highways that intersect with its path, while avoiding densely populated areas.

One Wintrack II pylon will be erected within the Natura 2000 site 'Oosterschelde' (site code: NL3009016). Oosterschelde is a designated SCI and SPA area, which hosts species referred to Article 4 of the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Annex II of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>2</sup>. Sections of the line route will be located in proximity of other Natura 2000 sites (Yerseke, Westerschelde, Zoommeer and Markiezaat sites). The project also crosses NNN sites (Netherlands Nature Network) and geese foraging areas (which do not form part of the NNN).

The biodiversity assessment conducted for the project -as approved by the competent authorities- which integrates the requirements of Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive, concluded that the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the protected areas, nor on the protected species therein, subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. These include measures to contain the effect of noise, protection of vegetation, compensatory plantings and designation of new geese foraging areas, as well as the reduction of traffic movements along the coastal road in Oosterschelde area. Flight diverters will be installed on ground wires of the OHLs, in order to avoid birds' collision.

Other mitigating measures will be implemented to minimize the impacts of the project during construction and operation in accordance with the environmental consents. Particular attention will be paid to restrict the effects of noise, vibration and traffic disruption during the construction works, as well as to the construction of the towers' foundation –to avoid saltwater intrusion-, to avoid soil contamination and to minimise –where possible- the change in soil composition. With regards to Electromagnetic Fields ('EMF') and the use of land, the Wintrack II pylon arrangement will reduce significantly the intensity of the magnetic field and the magnetic field zone compared to standard lattice towers and will enable the optimum use of the available space around high-voltage lines.

The project will have indirect positive impact, as it will contribute to the integration of renewable energy generation. Amongst the objectives of the project is the avoidance of congestion that will occur on the transmission network following the connection of the Borssele offshore wind-farms (with total capacity of 1.4GW). In addition, the project will facilitate the future increase of on-shore wind capacity to be connected to the 150kV electricity grid.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Several public consultation events were organised as part of the permitting process, which commenced in 2009. The decision on the issuance of the permits was made public in 2016,

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<sup>2</sup> Species including, but not limited to: Oystercatcher, Red-breasted Merganser, Lapwing, Slavonian Grebe, common porpoise, Curlew, Coot, Cygnus Columbianus bewickii

followed by a period allowed for appeals. The appeals submitted during this period mainly expressed concerns relating to noise, to EMF from the OHLs and to the selection of OHLs compared to underground cables. The process resulted in minor design adjustments. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2018, the Spatial Planning Chamber of the Council of State issued its final verdict, following which the permits are considered final.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The promoter has in place an Environmental and Social Management System and manages the implementation of large projects via a dedicated project steering committee. With relation to asset management, the promoter is ISO 9001:2015, ISO 55001:2014 and NTA 8120:2014 certified. The environmental and social capacity of the promoter is deemed good.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Based on the information available, with the planned mitigation and monitoring in place, the project is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.