

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	LORDS LB 66 MW SOLAR PV PORTFOLIO
Project Number:	(20190235)
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	<i>The project under a Programme Loan (2018-0211) comprising a portfolio of 66 independent, small scale, land based PV plants with an average, individual nominal capacity of <=1MW, totalling to ~66MW.</i>
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Cluster under the Programme Loan comprises a portfolio of 66 independent, small-scale, land-based PV plants with an average, individual nominal capacity of <=1 MW, totalling to ~66 MW. The PV installations are geographically dispersed throughout Poland, with a larger conglomeration in the central-northern Poland. The entire portfolio of this Cluster 2 will be using multi-crystalline, silicon based PV modules from a reputable manufacturer mounted on fixed-tilt structure.

Small-scale PV plants are according to their technical characteristics exempted from undertaking a mandatory EIA (Annex I of EU EIA directive). National regulations require an environmental screening by the competent authority as part of a construction permit approval for PV installations, which cover an area larger than 1 ha (equivalent to Annex II EIA Directive). This is equally needed for PV installations covering an area larger than 0.5 ha and are situated within a site of nature conservation.

The competent authorities have screened out all PV installations of this Cluster from undertaking an EIA and/or an Appropriate Assessment related to sites of nature conservation. This screening includes the assessment of cumulative impacts in case of adjacent installations. All PV plants of Cluster have received a valid construction permit prior to participating at the auction for a renewable feed-in-tariff. Environmental screening decision form part of the construction permit. The regulator granting the feed-in-tariff has verified the validity of the construction permit prior to granting admission to the auction process.

Impacts on the environment will include noise, dust and increased traffic during the construction phase and to visual impacts during operation. These impacts are unlikely to cause any significant negative residual effects to the environment.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Based on a total electricity generation of 68 GWh/year, the associated emission savings are calculated at 52.3 kt CO_{2,e}/year over the project life and the Bank's Carbon Footprint methodology (75% operating margin and 25% of build margin). For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost of actually financed PV installations.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the currently available documentation of the promoter, it appears that the environmentally relevant conditionality set out for the Programme Loan is met for this Cluster 2 and thus the project would be acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.