

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<b>PROVENCE (EDP)</b>	<b>GRAND</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>FLOATING</b>	<b>OFFSHORE</b>
Project Number:	2018-0691				
Country:	FRANCE				
Project Description:	<i>The Project comprises the design, installation, operation and maintenance of a 24 MW floating offshore demonstration wind farm in the Mediterranean Sea about 15 km off the coast of France (Rhone Estuary), in about 100 m water depth. The project will consist of three wind turbines each mounted on a floating substructure fixed to the seabed by tensioned mooring lines.</i>				
EIA required:			yes		
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :			no		

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project is a pilot wind farm consisting of three wind turbines each one mounted on a floating foundation. The individual wind turbines have a rated capacity of 8 MW, a rotor diameter of 154m and a total height of about 185 m.

The foundations are submerged Tension Leg Platforms (TLP), which is triangle structure with about 30 m radius. The floaters are anchored to the seabed through three suction anchors each connected to the floating structure via two tensioned moorings; the draft is about 30 m. The grid connection facilities consist of a 66 kV cable of ca. 28 km out of which 19 km is subsea cable. The further onshore connection is partly (6 km) realised as earth cable along a main road; the last 3 km to the existing onshore transformer substation is planned as overhead line.

By virtue of their technical characteristics, wind farms fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Under French law, an EIA including public consultation is mandatory.

<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.

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The initial EIA including public consultations were already conducted in 2014. However due to substantial technical modifications, the EIA report for the wind park including the related electrical (offshore and onshore) infrastructure for power evacuation was updated. A new public consultation round was launched in 2017 and completed in 2018. The CNDP (Commission National du Débat Public) had accompanied the consultation process.

The EIA evaluated potential impacts of the project on climate, air and water quality, soil, noise (underwater and over water), safety, benthos and fish, sea mammals, avifauna, terrestrial habitats and landscape as well as the socio economic impacts during construction and operation.

Cumulative impacts were assessed in view of other planned activities in the region mainly related to the development of harbour infrastructure and other maritime activities including a test site for offshore wind equipment. The cumulative impacts were considered small and not requiring particular mitigation measures.

The EIA had identified and classified potential negative environmental impacts during construction, operation and dismantling. The majority of the investigated impacts were classified as not significant. Moderate to increased negative impacts were related mainly to the construction works and of temporary nature, nevertheless requiring adequate design, efficient mitigation and protection measures and diligent supervision of the works. With regard to the operation phase, the potential collision of birds, in particular of Puffins (classified as vulnerable) or other non-threatened Procellariidae was the only negative impact classified as moderate and permanent. To reduce potential of collision, the turbines must be equipped with a bird detection systems and provisions to keep birds away from the turbines. The project has to monitor the impact on avifauna during operation and to evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

The project (wind farm and (part of) the power evacuation line) is located within the Natura 2000 sites SPA FR 9310019 Camargue (under the *Birds Directive*) and SCA Camargue FR9301592 (under *Habitats Directive*), and in the proximity to further Special Conservation and Special Protection Areas. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the impacts on six Natura 2000 sites<sup>2</sup> in the light of their respective conservation objectives was carried out. The AA had investigated potential direct and indirect effects arising from construction and operation of the project and concluded that the project would not have significant effects in regards with the integrity of the investigated sites, if the proposed mitigating measures (see above) are duly put in place.

Based on the findings of EIA and AA, the permit contains several obligations and restrictions to limit the impact of the construction and operation, concerning for example the timing of the works or routing of the power evacuation cable or marine and land construction and transport security measures. An environmental supervisory committee will be established headed by the prefect of the department Bouche du Rhone.

The project is obliged to dismantle the installation and to restore the original status of the site after the end of the operation period.

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<sup>2</sup> SCAs Camargue FR9301592 and Côte Bleue Marine FR9301999 under the (“Habitats Directive”) and SPAs Camargue FR9310019, Iles Marseillaises-Cassidaigne FR9312007, Iles d’Hyères FR93100204 and Marais entre Crau et Grand Rhône FR9312001 under the “Birds Directive”

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The EIA and AA was reviewed by the competent authorities, which concluded the project will not have significant environmental impacts if mitigating measures are put in place.

The project is fully permitted since June 2019. However, an appeal has been filed concerning the "Law on Water" Authorisation by a local NGO. The substance of this claim is presently further assessed and EIB is closely following this process. In no case, the installation without a valid authorisation in place would be acceptable under the Bank's Finance Contract

Being a renewable wind energy power plant, there are no direct emissions of greenhouse gases related to the project. Given the forecasted generation of 99 GWh/yr the emissions saved elsewhere in the system amount to 19.800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year, following calculation methodology used by the Bank. Thereby the project falls just short of the threshold to be included in the Bank's Carbon Footprint Exercise.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The promoter had liaised with the local stakeholders, including local administration, fishermen and tourism organisation, already for the site selection and the planning of the project to minimise negative impact.

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

As required by the permit, the promoter will perform a thorough and overarching monitoring programme to assess the actual impact of the project on the environment. This monitoring programme will cover impacts on seawater quality, benthic species, fish stocks, marine mammals, avifauna, etc. during the periods relevant to each impact.

The promoter has a sound environmental management capability, a good understanding of regulatory and environmental monitoring requirements, as well as adequate knowledge of the mitigating measures to be performed during construction. The promoter's environmental capacity is considered adequate.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project is acceptable to EIB financing under environmental aspects when the following conditions are met:

- *Full implementation of all mitigation measures specified under the Law on Water authorisation and related monitoring requirements*
- *Provision of a copy of the monitoring report due to the authorities after the first year of operation to the EIB*