

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: MONEGROS WIND
 Project Number: 2020-0120
 Country: SPAIN
 Project Description: Implementation of a portfolio of onshore wind farms located in the Spanish region of Aragon, for a total capacity of 487 MW.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises 12 plants with a total nominal capacity of 487.3 MW, grouped in three clusters located in the province of Zaragoza, region of Aragon, North Eastern Spain.

The present operation will contribute to the achievement of the EU and Spanish targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions and use of renewable energy, which require additional capacity to become operational in the upcoming years.

Details of the individual plants are shown in the following table:

Cluster	Plant	Nominal capacity (*)	Closest municipalites	Closest Natura 2000	Installed capacity	# Turbines
Valdejalón	Virgen de Rodanas I	49,5	La Muela and Borja	ES2430086 "Monte Alto y Siete Cabezos (2,5 km)	49,8	13
	Virgen de Rodanas II	49,5	La Muela and Borja		49,8	13
	Cabezo	49,4	La Muela and Borja		49,8	13
	El Portillo II - 1	44,8	La Muela and Borja		46,0	12
	El Portillo II - 2	38,0	La Muela and Borja		38,3	10
	Subtotal	231,2			233,6	61
Moncayo	La Muga I	15,0	Borja and Alagón	ES2430091 Planas y Estepas de La Margen derecha del Ebro (2 km)	15,3	4
	La Muga II	49,4	Borja and Alagón	ES2430085 Laguna de Plantados y Laguna de Agón (3 km)	49,8	13
	Venta del Ginestar	48,0	Borja and Alagón	ES2430086 Monte Alto y Siete Cabezos (6 km)	49,8	13
	La Muga III	30,4	Borja and Alagón	ES0000293 Montes de Zuera, Castejón de Valdejasa y El Castellar (9 Km)	30,6	8
	Subtotal	142,8			145,5	30
Alenza	Las Majas VI B	49,4	Azuara	ES0000300 Río Huerva y Las Planas ES0000136 Estepas de Belchite	49,8	13
	Las Majas VI C	49,4			49,8	13
	Las Majas VI D	14,5			15,3	4
	Subtotal	113,3			114,9	30
Total		487,3			494,1	121

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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The competent authority has granted environmental licences for all facilities. The plants are included in Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU), and have been screened in by the regional environmental agency, requiring full EIA, including public consultation. Similarly, some common interconnection facilities have been permitted as separate projects, fall under the same annex and have also been screened in, carrying EIA processes: substations Las Majas VI 30/220 kV and Valcardera 30/220 kV; as well as the overhead lines Tolosana-Plaza 132 kV (11.4 km) and La Mahas IV-Las Majas II 220 kV (7.2 km).

The authorisation procedure and compliance with EU EIA, Birds and Habitats directives is deemed satisfactory, following the Bank's review of individual EIA documentation and support biodiversity studies. Similarly, no negative impacts on Natura 2000 are expected, as indicated in the environmental licences.

Most of the lands are used for rainfed agriculture, cereals, as well as olives and vineyards, and are in a very anthropised estate. There are also some patches of steppes with no economic use.

Birds are the most critical fauna affected by wind farms, and some species observed in the area have the character of vulnerable, such as "águila – azor perdicera" (*Hieratus fasciatus*), "cerninca primilla" (*falco naumani*), "aguilucho cenizo" (*Circus pygargus*), "ganga ibérica" (*Pterocles alchata*), or "Sison Común" (*Tetrax tetrax*). However, since the wind farms are not located in the high-risk zones, no significant impact on those species is expected with adequate mitigation measures.

The EIA reports included an adequate identification of the individual and cumulative impacts of the wind farms (such as visual and noise impacts, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems – mainly collisions and disturbance of avifauna, and impact on cultural and archaeological patrimony), the determination of their significance, as well as the measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and compensate the impacts. All EIA reports included the corresponding "Plan de Vigilancia Ambiental" (Environmental Management Plan), which mentions efforts to minimise disturbance during construction. Specific relevant measures will be defined before the start of the construction. In the case of birds and bats, continuous surveys are required during the whole operational phase, as well as some additional measures, such as the requirement to avoid luminic pollution with special aviation lighting.

These studies were complemented by archaeological survey reports (Prospección Arqueológica) approved by the relevant competent authority together with the environmental consent; Birds and Bats Impacts Study, including the results of surveys (all year round) in selected vantage points and transects relevant to the project sites; and perceptive Environmental Management Plans (EMPs - "Plan de vigilancia ambiental") for the construction and operational phases.

The promoter has extensive experience in the sector, and has hired a skilled technical consultancy to support the environmental monitoring during construction.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The wind farms will not generate any absolute CO₂ emissions. In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Spain (75%

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operating margin and 25% build margin), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 532.4 kt CO₂-e/year.

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 the project cost.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The implementation of the project will not lead to involuntary physical or economic displacement or resettlement. The current use of the lands is mostly for agriculture, and such activity will continue to be carried out in the area with the normal safeguards and will not be affected by the project.

The promoter is engaging with the land owners in order to secure voluntary agreements for the lands required by all project infrastructures, in the form of leases with annual payments mostly for the projects and substations; and surface rights or rights of way with single payments, typically for the interconnection lines. All pieces of land required by the plants are secured. For some of the interconnection facilities, if a voluntary agreement cannot be reached, the promoter intends to require expropriation, in line with Spanish legislation. In Spain, all projects required for the implementation of the different activities within the electricity sector, including generation, promoted by public or private companies, are considered public utility, and are subject to urgent forced expropriation to be carried out by the authority in the interest of the promoters.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The public consultation was carried out under the EIA process, as required by the EU, and as transposed by national law. The declaration of public utility process has its own public information phase. The promoter has not developed further stakeholder engagement activities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The main negative impacts of all project components have been evaluated to be minimal and will mainly be concentrated during construction. They will be mitigated with the help of detailed project control mechanisms, as defined in the environmental documents.

The promoter will have to demonstrate that the environmental and social mitigation and compensation programmes, as part of the EMP developed and included in the individual EIA reports, including measures to avoid, reduce and mitigate the impact, as well as monitoring indicators, were put in place during the construction phase.

With the mentioned conditions in place, the EIA processes and their results are acceptable to the Bank.