

Luxembourg, 11/11/2020

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *ICICLE WIND FARM*  
 Project Number: *20200037*  
 Country: *Portugal*  
 Project Description: *The project concerns the construction and operation of 2 new, medium sized wind farms located in the north and the west of Portugal with a total capacity of 125 MW.*

EIA required: yes  
 Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: yes  
 (details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The project comprises the design, construction and operation of two new, medium-scale wind farms in Portugal, with a total nominal capacity of ~125 MW. In total, the project comprises 31 turbines of two different suppliers and unit size (3.6 MW and 4.2 MW). Hub heights and rotor diameter of the turbine type are adapted to each of the wind farm site conditions. Depending on its location, each wind farm will be connected to either the high (HV) or medium voltage (MV) network, thus being connected respectively to the TSO or DSO network. Electrical equipment such as internal array cabling and transformers (LV/MV) and civil works (foundations, access and internal roads) are part of the project scope.

#### Environmental Assessment

Windfarms fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) according to which the Member States shall determine whether the project shall be made subject to an assessment based on defined criteria. According to national legislation, wind farms with more than 20 turbines or more than 10 if located inside sensitive areas or wind farms situated in a distance of less than 2 km from other wind farms are subject to a mandatory EIA, including public consultation. Further, even if exempted from a mandatory EIA according to the Annex II criteria, national legislation requires for windfarms to undertake environmental incident studies as part of their application for a production licence, if the infrastructure of the windfarm interferes with or is situated within sites of nature conservation, including national ecological sites.

Although the Tocha II wind farm with nine turbines would fall into the latter category, the competent authorities requested to undertake an EIA, as the wind farm is located within a site of nature conservation (SCI "Dunas de Mira, Gândara e Gafanhas", PTCON0055<sup>2</sup>). National EIA legislation transposing EU environmental law contains as integral part a screening for an Appropriate Assessment of sites of nature conservation, if such screening would result in significant impacts onto the site. The authorities concluded that the wind farm will not have any significant impact on the site of nature conservation. The Sincelo wind farm was equally subject to an EIA as it comprises more than 20 turbines.

<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.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www2.icnf.pt/portal/pn/biodiversidade/m2000/resource/doc/sic-cont/dunas-de-mira-gandara-e-gafanhas>

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Competent authorities have granted approval to both wind farms in 2019, subject to conditions, such as environmental monitoring and mitigation measures. Mitigation measures the promoter is requested to apply comprises common industry-practice measures to minimise sector-typical risks, such as potential earth movements during construction, maintenance of normal run-off of water resources to prevent from contamination of water lines and alteration of their natural drainage; appropriate waste management and sediment control, in order to prevent possible contamination; impacts from noise and bird collision. Residual impacts on biotopes, avifauna and loss of habitats were classified of being of limited significance.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a wind farm are deemed negligible. In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, it is calculated that based on the avoidance of combined margin intermittent electricity generation for Portugal. the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by approximately 98 kt/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 project cost.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

In compliance with the provisions of article 15 of Decree-Law no. 151-B / 2013, of October 31, in its current wording, the public consultation for the wind farm Sincelo took place during 30 working days, from June 28 to August 8, 2019, with seven received exhibitions.

For the Tocha wind farm a public consultation period ran for 30 working days, from July 30 to September 10, 2019.

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

None.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Based on the information made available by the promoter it is concluded that this project has been found environmentally acceptable and compliant with the relevant EU and national environmental legislative framework by the national competent authorities.