

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GAA INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2019-0763
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	The Project is part of the Midcap Programme Loan Ireland & UK (2016-0655). The Project concerns delivering a long-term investment plan for the refurbishment and expansion of GAA's existing enterprise infrastructure and simultaneously furthering its commitment to the local community in the North-East Inner City of Dublin, which has been identified by the Irish government as an area in need of social and economic regeneration.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project consists of three main components: (a) a full-scale expansion and redevelopment of the Cusack side of Croke Park Stadium specifically to create a large capacity, multi-purpose conference and events facility, (b) the expansion and improvement of interactive exhibits for the highly-rated Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) Museum, and (c) the complimentary development of a 200-bed 4-star hotel that will achieve an NZEB rating.

The Promoter shall ensure that all energy efficiency works are based on accredited energy audits or energy assessment, or any other acceptable method, in order to lead to decreased energy consumption. Eligible investments will be consistent with the Energy Performance Building Directive (EU) 2018/844 amending 2010/31/EU) and the Energy Efficiency Directive, EED (2018/2002 amending 2012/27/EU), where relevant.

The Project involves both new construction and expansion of existing structures and renovation works. The expansion and renovation of an existing building must comply with the existing regulations, particularly with the applicable environmental law (e.g. related to the removal of asbestos).

The Promoter shall ensure compliance, as relevant, with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC) and Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The Promoter will be required to obtain a confirmation to this effect from the Competent Authority.

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

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At construction stage, the project implementation may lead to increased noise and vibration levels, and may impact air quality. Adequate mitigation measures will be implemented in accordance with the existing legal framework, together with the enforcement of good construction practices. The project's impact at construction stage will be temporary and reversible, at a level, which is deemed acceptable.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Croke Park's has a sound sustainability policy. It was the first stadium in Ireland and Britain to secure both the ISO14001 (Environmental Management) and ISO20121 (Sustainable Event Management) standards. It was also the very first stadium in the world to obtain certification to the newest international Environmental Standard ISO 14001:2015, which applies to the environmental aspects of activities, products and services that the organization determines it can either control or influence considering a life cycle perspective, and can be used to systematically improve environmental management. The Project is expected to contribute to social inclusion within an urban regeneration context, in particular through community involvement and outreach in areas such as sports, health and education, as well as through the cultural heritage aspects of the museum upgrading and the wider cultural benefits linked to the GAA.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter is required to comply with the EIA Directives and the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Given the location, size and nature of the project in a built-up urban area, any negative environmental impacts are expected to be mitigated. The Promoter is deemed to have sound environmental and social capabilities. The project is therefore considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.