

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Project Name:  | EAFRD FUNDS CO-FINANCING ANDALUCIA   |
| Project Number:  | 2020-0239  |
| Country:   | Spain  |
| Project Description:   | Co-financing investment schemes supported by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Andalusia within the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2014-2020. |
| EIA required:  | yes<br>The Project is a multi-scheme Framework Loan; some individual underlying schemes may require an EIA.  |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> : | no   |

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation will support the Spanish Autonomous Community of Andalusia in the implementation of its Rural Development Programme (RDP) under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for the extended 2014-2022 programming period.

The Project will finance the region's contribution to the RDP, which includes the modernisation of close to 12 000 farm holdings, as well as a total agricultural area of 15 360 km<sup>2</sup> benefitting from enhanced biodiversity, improved water management, better soil management or prevention of soil erosion. It also targets 11 170 km<sup>2</sup> of forestry area benefitting from better protection against weather and fire risks and enhanced ecosystems. The Project also includes investments in physical assets, as well as capacity building activities. Finally, two thirds of the rural population is expected to benefit from enhanced local development thanks to local action groups (LEADER projects).

The RDP has been developed in line with the key international strategies on sustainable development, biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, landscape and cultural heritage, as well as in line with 1997 Kyoto Protocol for Climate Change and 2004 Aarhus Agreement on environmental management.

The integration of the environmental concerns into the RDP is ensured through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The results of RDP's environmental assessment were released in the form of the Environmental Report<sup>2</sup>, annexed to the RDP.

<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> [Memoria ambiental](#)

Luxembourg, 04.04.2022

Environmental sustainability, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation constitute transversal objectives of the RDP. However, some physical works to implement the measures, might have short-term negative effects on the environment. The appropriate mechanisms are in place to avoid, reduce, minimise or compensate for these undesirable effects. A fundamental element of these mechanisms is the requirement that all investments with potential negative impacts on the environment be submitted to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure in accordance with the applicable legislation to be determined by the competent screening authority.

The investment measures, which are likely to need an environmental impact assessment include investments in reforestation and the creation of new forest areas, investments in modernisation of farms, public irrigation infrastructures and investments in food processing and marketing.

Particularly, the Environmental Report of the RDP specifies that any plan or project that may affect Natura 2000 sites must, as a precondition for its eligibility (i) undergo an assessment of their environmental impact in accordance with the provisions of Law 42/2007, of 13 December 2007, on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and other applicable provisions; and (ii) have a declaration of non-affectedness issued by the Regional Ministry for the Environment.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation and all relevant key documents will be published in line with the EIB's Disclosure Policy.

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

The Project promotes social inclusion, poverty reduction and sustainable economic development in rural areas. In addition, development of research, innovation, experimentation and technology transfer in agriculture, livestock and forestry generate knowledge and broader benefits for the society as a whole. In case of agri-food SMEs, schemes under this Project will help smaller economic actors gain or maintain market shares, thus increasing competition. All investments envisaged under the RDP are subject to applicable EU and national social regulations.

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

During the preparation of the RDP, public consultation and stakeholder engagement were conducted in line with the requirements of the Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds. The relevant public, private and NGO partners, affected by or involved in rural development in Andalusia, participated in all four key phases of the RDP programming. Public representation, information and consultation will also be required in programme-specific monitoring and awareness activities, such as through the socio-economic and environmental representation in the Monitoring Committee and through the rural network established in support of the RDP, as well as in the EIA process, in accordance with the EIA Directive. In addition, the RDP commits to incorporate the principle of equality into its monitoring and evaluation functions.

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

The Autonomous Community of Andalusia is considered to have the required experience for the implementation of the schemes according to the environmental and social requirements

Luxembourg, 04.04.2022

and to be able to monitor the proper implementation of the environmental mitigation measures, approved by the environmental competent authority.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for this project:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU) amending 2011/92/EU, the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives, as applicable.
- The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to the EU acquis without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and having the EIA process successfully completed, including information to and consultation with the public, if and when required by applicable EU legislation.
- When an EIA is required for schemes financed in the project, the Promoter shall submit a copy of the EIA to the Bank for publication. The Promoter shall also store and maintain updated the relevant documents (including environmental studies related to the EIA, the Non-Technical Summaries of the EIAs, and Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents supporting the compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives - Form A/B or equivalents) to be provided to the Bank upon request.
- In case the EIB requires such documentation, the Promoter shall provide all documents requested promptly. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the field of environment.
- The Promoter shall only commit schemes for allocation to the EIB loan, which are Paris aligned as per the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025. In the case of doubt whether an investment is Paris aligned, the Promoter shall consult the EIB to ensure Paris alignment of that investment.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the project as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and issues, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.