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Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Tisza-Tur Flood Reservoir (FL 20150006)
Project Number:	2020-0588
Country:	Hungary
Project Description:	The proposed project focuses on providing flood protection from Tisza river and its tributary the Tur in the upper section of the Tisza. Flood protection is mainly enhanced through the construction of a 42 million m3 retention reservoir to be formed by the construction of some 24.7 km of dykes
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project is one allocation under the Cohesion Fund Framework Loan IV. The project is located on the Upper Tisza river in northeast Hungary and is adjacent to the Ukrainian border. The project provides flood protection from Tisza river and its tributary the Túr in the upper section of the Tisza through the construction of a retention reservoir formed by the construction of dykes. The protection system will operate in conjunction with existing retention reservoirs (Szamos Kraszna, Cigánd and Bereg) on the Tisza and its other major tributaries. The project's scope includes a large wetland/water management system, comprising components located within the boundaries of the reservoir and outside of it (Palád Csécsei channel and Also – Öreg - Túr system). This system is designed to counteract low flows and drought conditions that adversely impact on groundwater levels.

The project is part of Hungary's so-called Improved Vásárhelyi Plan (IVP), which is a strategic plan for managing flood risk in the Tisza River valley. The objectives of the IVP comply with the philosophy of Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks, in particular by promoting a river basin strategy approach and the integrated development concept of utilising floodplains within overall protection measures.

With the results to be achieved by the project, its objectives and output indicators are considered consistent with and contribute to the Energy & Environment Operational Programme, in particular Thematic Objective 5 "*Promoting adaptation to climate change*, *risk prevention and management*". The Project will contribute as well to Objective Priority Axis I "*Adaptation to the effects of climate chan*ge".

[1] 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 CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 10.11.2021

The promoter of the project is the consortium of the National Water Management Directorate (OVF) and its regional office, the Upper Tisza Region Directorate of Water Management (FETIVIZIG). These entities are both part of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, and are both responsible for river management including flood protection measures.

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The National River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2016-2021 and Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), of which this project is part of, have been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) in 2015. The National RBMP taking into account the conclusions of the SEA has been approved by Government Resolution No. 1155/2016. (III. 31.).

The FRMP and RBMP include the concept for improving flood conveyance in the Middle Tisza. The FRMP taking into account the conclusions of the SEA has been approved by Government Resolution No. 1146/2016. (III.25.)

EIA Directive

In Hungary, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) falls under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Nature Protection Divisions of the regional (county) or local Government Offices, which are the competent authorities. For this project, the Environmental Competent Authorities are the following: Felső-Tisza-Rural Environment and Nature Protection Inspectorate up to 2015, from 2016 Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government Office, Nyíregyháza.

Screening decision

The Screening Decision with ref. with ref. No. 301-12/2015, was issued by Felső-Tisza-Rural Environment and Nature Protection Inspectorate on 31 March 2015. The competent authority concluded that the project should be subject to a full EIA as it falls under scope of Annex I of the national EIA legislation (Government decree 314/2005. (XII. 25.) amended), which transposed the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU.

EIA Process

The EIA Report was submitted to the competent authority on 01 June 2017. Separate Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessments were carried out together with the EIA. All three procedures were part of the environmental permits.

The EIA procedure was completed and the Environmental Permit with ref. No. 48/2017 of 01 August 2017 was issued by the competent authority ("The 1st Environmental Permit").

The 1st Environmental Permit was appealed by the National Association for Ecology and Nature Conservation (Baja, Hungary). The competent appeal authority, Pest County Government Office, required additional information to be provided in the EIA Report. The appeal procedure was completed and the revised Environmental Permit with ref. No. PE/KTF/7787-18/2017 was issued on 21 December 2017 ("The 2nd Environmental Permit") by the appeal authority.

On 25 Sept 2019, the Promoter initiated an additional screening procedure in order to address some inconsistencies and omissions identified in the EIA and AA scope (e.g. some project

elements not covered by the assessment, minor modifications occurring after the formal completion of the environmental assessments, lack of sufficient consideration of cumulative impacts, etc.). This procedure was completed and the revised Environmental Permit with ref No. 1420-44/2019 of 07 November 2019 was issued by the competent authority ("the 3rd Environmental Permit"). This permit confirmed the validity of the environmental prevention and mitigation measures prescribed by the 1st Environmental Permit and introduced some modifications.

There were no further appeals to the Environmental Permits.

Natura 2000 sites

The AA undertaken as part of the EIA, has covered all interventions which directly or indirectly may affect Natura 2000 sites during construction and operation of the proposed project.
These areas are: :

- Szatmár-Bereg (HUHN10001) Special Bird Protection Area (SPA): Some of the proposed embankments, part of the flood retention reservoir and some of the water channels are within the boundaries of this SPA. Some of the proposed borrow pits used for source material are also within the SPA boundaries.
- Felső-Tisza (HUHN20001) High priority Nature Conservation Area: 0.46 ha of the total 29,000 ha conservation area may be minimally affected due to the proximity of the reservoir intake structure and embankments.
- Magosligeti forest and grasslands (HUHN20053) High priority Nature Conservation Area: A 2.5 km section of Palád-Csécsei Channel where bed renovation works are proposed, forms the southern boundary of the 560 ha nature conservation area. No significant impact is expected.
- Csaholc-Garbolc (HUHN20054) High priority Nature Conservation Area: Within the 4,054 ha Natura 2000 site, a new connecting channel is located. The impact is predicted to be insignificant.

As part of the EIA for the 1st Environmental Permit, the AA concluded that there would be no significant negative impacts on the Natura 2000 sites affected by the implementation and operation of the project.

Based on AA, the competent authorities (see EIA above), permitted the project subject to mitigation measures and conditions, which were prescribed to ensure that the project was not likely to have adverse impacts on the respective Natura 2000 sites.

Mitigation Measures

As an outcome of the EIA and AA processes, all issued environmental permits specified a range of environmental prevention and mitigation measures and conditions for several environmental elements and activities, such as geological environment, air quality, waste management, noise and vibration, landscape protection and nature conservation.

The prevention and mitigation measures imposed by the competent authorities have been fully and adequately integrated into the project design and implementation. A sufficient share of the project costs is dedicated to implementation of environmental prevention and mitigation measures.

The competent authority will monitor and supervise the implementation of the measures.

Luxembourg, 10.11.2021

Transboundary Impact

The project will not have any adverse transboundary effects upstream on the Tisza, therefore no transboundary procedures were initiated. The project has been agreed by the neighbouring state of Ukraine within the existing framework of professional consultation and transboundary government cooperation. The development of plans relating to the project were co-ordinated with similar flood risk interventions in Ukraine.

Climate Change

The project contributes to the Bank's priority transversal objectives regarding support to Climate Action Adaptation (increasing the resilience of the assets to floods, droughts and landslides).

The project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap.

Social Assessment

The project will provide improved flood protection to a combined population at risk of almost 134,000 people. In addition, the project reduces the adverse impacts to economic development that can be caused by flood events. The additional security provided can be seen as potential catalyst to further stimulate economic development and could assist in enhancing the capacity of the region to retain its population base.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation was carried out at the relevant stages of the EIA procedure. The decisions were published on the respective websites of the competent authorities and the beneficiary. In addition, announcements were placed at the premises of municipalities impacted by the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will provide a positive environmental outcome in terms of improved flood conveyance of the Tisza river by promoting an integrated development concept of utilising "natural" floodplains within overall protection measures. By reducing peak flood levels the project will also contribute to provide enhanced flood protection to an estimated population of 132,000 inhabitants.

The Promoter will undertake to follow all the prescribed environmental prevention and mitigation measures and conditions. These measures as well as the monitoring regime in place by the competent authorities, appear to be sufficiently robust to ensure that impacts into the environment will be minimal.

In addition to the comprehensive conditions, which are included in the Finance Contract of the parent operation, no additional E&S conditions are required.

The project is therefore acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.