



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 07/11/2022

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	IBERDROLA NUNEZ DE BALBOA PV
Project Number:	2018-0584
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	Financing of the Nuñez de Balboa PV plant (total power of 500MWp and 391MWac at the grid connection point), located in the Spanish region of Extremadura (cohesion region - less developed region).

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.

The project comprises the construction and operation of a solar PV plant with a total power of 500 MWp (391 MWac at the point of injection into the grid). The project scope included the power plant and the associated infrastructure required to make the project operational, such as access roads, substations, grid connection, a ca. 12km transmission line (400 kV) to connect to the Bienvenida substation (property of the Transmission System Operator - TSO), and other ancillary facilities.

The project is included in Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU) and, based on national and regional environmental regulations, has been screened in, requiring full EIA, including public consultation in July 2016. The competent authority issued the environmental permit, for both the plant and the transmission line, on this basis.

The appraisal concluded that the project was acceptable under environmental aspects, subject to the following conditions:

Undertakings:

- The Promoter undertakes to provide, as soon as available and to the satisfaction of the Bank, a report detailing, for each parcel of the PV plant and of the transmission line, location, surface, status type and specifics of the ownership agreement/land titling reached, ownership and use of the land prior to such agreement/land titling.

This undertaking has been met.

- The Promoter also undertakes to provide, for each project component (i.e. site and accessory infrastructure) to the satisfaction of the Bank, as soon as available and unless already provided, notice of any new expropriation process to be initiated on the lands that are not yet covered by a land agreement/land titling, together with the related documentation.

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs



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This undertaking has been met. EIB received the information requested. Regarding the transmission land, 20% was public land, 47% of the plots of land were issue of bilateral lease agreements, 4% were purchased and the rest was expropriated. There are outstanding litigation issues around the acquisition of land.

- Promoter undertakes to fulfil the requirements of the EIAs and Environmental Permits and to deliver to the Bank the copy of the environmental reporting as required by the permits, with the annual reporting, including the detailed study of bird populations to be performed during construction and operation, and the associated avifauna monitoring plan.

This undertaking was fulfilled.

The Bank received the environmental monitoring plans (PVA). The promoter reported compliance with requirements set by environmental authorities.

According to the received PVAs, the project implemented the following site-specific mitigation measures:

- the installation of 50 nesting boxes on the towers of the transmission line to foster the breeding of the Lesser Kestrel and the European roller
- the installation of nesting-tiles on the roof of the buildings on site, and the installation of 30 holes and 15 nesting boxes in areas close to the site, to foster the nesting the Lesser Kestrel, the European Roller and other species
- the creation of two areas for agro-environmental management (45 ha each) and two reserves (5 ha each), both targeting the preservation of steppe birds present in the area.

And also, the following mitigation measures were either executed or under implementation, as requested by the environmental permits:

- restauration activities.
- preservation of vegetation in soils in calcareous bedrock.
- collaboration in censusing and conservation of Montagu's Harrier.
- construction of a dung heap to feed birds of prey that scavenges on carrion.
- construction of a flora reserve area inside the PV plant including a project to foster environmental awareness.

The project was implemented as assessed. During the implementation phase and the first year of operation, no significant environmental or social issues were noted –other than the outstanding litigation issues mentioned above, which will be monitored by the Bank.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The EIB is of the opinion based on reporting from the promoter, that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.