



Luxembourg, 04.11.2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	CLIMATE ACTION AUSTRIA RLBOO (FL)
Project Number:	2021-0658
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Intermediated Framework Loan with RLBOO for the financing of small and medium-sized renewable energy projects in Austria.
EIA required:	Some of the underlying schemes may require an EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

The operation concerns a Framework Loan to Raiffeisen Landesbank Oberösterreich ("RLBOO" or the "Financial Intermediary" – "FI") in Austria. The loan is for renewable energy ("RE") projects in Austria, covering on-shore wind, solar PV and other renewable energy technologies, with investment costs of the individual projects of up to EUR 50m.

Environmental Assessment

The FI, which is known to the EIB from previous operations, will be required to ensure the compliance of all schemes with relevant EU Directives as transposed into national legislation. Due to their technical characteristics, most of the investments are expected to fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, leaving it to the national competent authority to determine according to Annex III of the said Directive whether an environmental impact assessment is required.

Most of the individual schemes to be financed are likely to have limited negative environmental impacts and are expected to be mitigated appropriately. In all cases, for projects that require an EIA, the FI shall undertake to provide the EIB with a website link to the location where the EIA study is published. If a project is screened out, then, according to the EIA Directive, this should also be made public, stating the reasons for not requiring such an assessment. The respective website link will be also sent to the EIB.

The FI will be required to verify that none of the schemes has a significant adverse impact on any site forming part of the EU Natura 2000 network (falling under Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC or Birds Directive 2009/147/EC). For each sub-scheme that may have an impact on a nature conservation site, written confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority, or an equivalent confirmation satisfactory to the Bank that the mentioned scheme does not have a

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.



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significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance should be presented, as a condition for disbursement. Schemes with significant negative impacts on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation areas, including bird migration routes, shall not be eligible.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The FI has significant experience in financing renewable energy projects in Austria and Germany (especially onshore wind, solar PV, biomass and hydropower), and is deemed to have adequate capacity to ensure compliance with the Bank's environmental and social requirements. The FI has in place a management system to identify, assess, manage and monitor environmental, climate and social risks and impacts. Internal staff with relevant experience and qualifications are in charge of the management system, which includes acceptable procedures supported by external consultants. Overall, this management system is considered adequate, supported by its imminent alignment with ISO 14001, to ensure that schemes financed by the FI comply with the Bank's environmental and social requirements.

The FI will be required to undertake reasonable efforts in case of concern to mitigate against the risk of forced labour in the solar PV supply chain. This will include enhanced due diligence where practically achievable and ensuring that relevant obligations are passed on in supplier contracts.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The FI's E&S policies and management capacity to comply with the EIB requirements have been assessed and found to be adequate and commensurate with the E&S risk of the underlying projects.

The investments targeted by the operation contribute to climate change mitigation and are expected to have limited residual social and environmental impacts.

Undertakings:

The FI 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.

For each scheme that may have an impact on a nature conservation site, the Financial Intermediary shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority, or an equivalent assessment satisfactory to the Bank, that the scheme does not have a significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance.

For solar PV projects, the Financial Intermediary shall undertake reasonable efforts in case of concern to mitigate against the risk of forced labour in the solar PV supply chain. This will include enhanced due diligence where practically achievable and ensuring that relevant obligations are passed on in supplier contracts.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable in E&S terms.