

Luxembourg, 22nd December 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>GRAND CONTOURNEMENT OUEST DE STRASBOURG (A355)</i>
Project Number:	20150234
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project consisted of the construction of a 24km motorway by-passing the city of Strasbourg by the west. It will connect the A4 motorway, located in the north of Strasbourg, to the A35 and the A352, in the south. It therefore aims at ensuring the continuity of the motorway connection on the corridor and providing an alternative to the saturated section of the A35 running through the centre of Strasbourg (up to 160.000 vehicles per day). The project is located on the TEN-T network. The project will be subject to real tolls under a 54-year PPP-DBFOM concession.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project did not belong to a plan or investment program that needs to comply with SEA Directive 2001/42/EC relative to the evaluation of environment impacts as the French Ministry of Transport approved it before the SEA Directive came into force.

The project falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC and an EIA, including public consultation, was performed in 2006 in accordance with the Directive.

The DUP, including the EIA, was approved with a validity of 10 years in 2008 and extended until 22 January 2026 by decision of the Conseil d'Etat on 22 January 2018. The EIA report was updated in 2018 in the context of the preliminary "CNPN derogation" required for the implementation of the project and in view of the ongoing Single authorisation procedure (Dossier d'Autorisation Unique [DAU]). The update presented a more global vision of the project's potential impacts on the environment as well as the related mitigation and compensation measures. It also covered the update on elements that evolved since the EIA was approved in 2006, namely: i) traffic volumes, ii) road noise and iii) air quality as well as iv) updates resulting from design features developed by the concessionaire since 2016.

Following an appeal by Alsace Nature against the Environmental Permit in September 2018; the Tribunal Administratif de Strasbourg in its July 2021 judgement requested that the Dossier Unique is expanded on a number of aspects, such as air pollution, public health, urban development, ecosystem services provided by soils, protected species and cumulative impacts. The additional studies were submitted for public consultations in April 2022 and the Arrêté préfectoral complémentaire was issued on 1 July 2022.



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No Natura 2000 area is located in the vicinity of the project but several “Zone naturelle d'intérêt écologique, faunistique et floristique” (ZNIEFF) are affected by the project; beside two protection areas for the “Grand Hamster d’Alsace”.

The main impacts of the project are related to noise, landscape impact, change in land use, in particular the loss of the agricultural land, habitat fragmentation and impact on water bodies. Specific mitigation and compensation measures have been included in the environmental management plan and integrated in the concession contract (Annex 12). The mitigation measures comprised mainly noise reduction measures, landscaping and reforestation, water protection measures and crossing passages for human activity and fauna. Specific compensation measures mostly included the creation or protection of in-situ and 170ha ex-situ habitats for fauna and flora, as well as wetlands. The monitoring of the sites evidences good progress with the majority of them still in the process of ecological restauration and consolidation.

The loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land, both due to the Project’s footprint and of the ex-situ compensation measures, led to an “Aménagements Fonciers Agricoles et Forestiers” (AFAF) procedure by the “Conseil Départemental du Bas-Rhin”.

To ensure that the project will have minimal impact on the “Grand Hamster d’Alsace”, further compensation measures such as the restoration of an ecological corridor are implemented by the public authority and the concessionaire. The 2018 EIA update report indicates that the measures put in place are effective. An increase in the number of “Grand Hamster d’Alsace” in the area has been observed: its population has more than tripled between 2015 and 2018.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on reports from the promoter, EIB is of the opinion that site visits are necessary by the EIB team and/or inputs provided by Lenders’ Supervisors and others, where applicable. This is to ensure that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.