

Luxembourg, 19.10.2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Somacyl Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency FL
Project Number:	2022-0398
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	The project will finance investments in biomass district heating systems and energy efficiency of public buildings, as well as re-/afforestation in the autonomous region of Castilla y León (Spain).
EIA required:	Some of the underlying schemes may require an EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project consists of a Framework Loan (FL) to support investments in renewable energy (RE) plants - mainly biomass heating production - investments in energy efficiency (EE) – EE new district heating networks and major EE renovation of buildings - and to a small extent re-/afforestation investments in the region of Castilla y León in Spain.

Due to their technical characteristics, some of the investments (biomass heating plants) could fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending (Environmental Impact Assessment) 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.

The project is to be implemented in an urban environment therefore no impact on biodiversity and protected areas is expected. However, if any of the schemes is subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and/or Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, the promoter will be required to verify that it does not have a significant adverse impact on any site of nature conservation importance. The promoter will be required to obtain and provide to the Bank the written confirmation to this effect from the competent authority, or an equivalent confirmation satisfactory to the Bank. Schemes having a significant adverse impact on any site of nature conservation importance will not be eligible under this operation.

At the appraisal of the allocations, whenever an EIA process is required, the EIA report will be provided in copy to the Bank prior to the Bank's approval of the allocation, and will be published by the Bank. For investments with a cost above 50 MEUR, a separate Environmental Social Data Sheet will be published.

The Promoter implements international best practices in sustainable forest management, through regional forest management plans and adoption of PEFC² forest certification. It has a due diligence system in place for ensuring legality and sustainability of feedstock sourcing and

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.

² Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification



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holds SURE certification, demonstrating compliance with the sustainability criteria under Article 29 of the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and with other applicable regulations.

The project is fully aligned to the goals and principles of the Paris Agreement as set out in the Bank's Climate Bank Roadmap and the Energy Lending Policy.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

It is expected that for all project components subject to EIA, the public consultation will be carried out under the EIA process, as required by the EU, and as transposed by the national and regional law.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and the Non-Technical Summary of the EIA having been made available to the public.

The promoter shall store and maintain updated the relevant documents (including environmental studies related to the EIA, the Non-Technical Summaries of the EIA reports, and Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents supporting the compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the absence of significant impact or equivalents), which will be provided to the Bank.

For schemes subject to an EIA, the promoter should deliver the environmental studies and documents related to the EIA to the Bank before the funds are allocated (including EIA report, environmental consent).

For schemes subject to a screening decision and screened out from the EIA process, the promoter should deliver such decision from the competent authority together with the related documents and studies, prior to the Bank's approval of the allocation.

Whenever applicable, the promoter undertakes to fulfil the requirements of the environmental impact studies (EIA report or others) and Environmental Permits.

For schemes that may have an impact on a nature conservation site, the promoter shall obtain confirmation from the competent nature conservation authority, or an equivalent confirmation satisfactory to the Bank, that the scheme does not have a significant negative impact on any such site. Such confirmation should be delivered to the Bank before the funds are allocated. Schemes with significant negative impacts on a nature conservation site shall not be eligible.

Forest biomass supplied to the plants shall comply with:

- biomass sustainability criteria principles as defined in the Directive EU 2018/2001 (Article 29)
- EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EU) No 2023/1115 repealing Timber Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.
- be subject to transparent, credible chain of custody, while forest management and chain of custody practices in feedstock sourcing areas should be certified by internationally accredited forest certification schemes (e.g. FSC/PEFC) or should be aligned with the same standards and principles so as to be certifiable in the future.

The schemes should comply with the Bank's E&S Standards.

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