



Luxembourg, 23.05.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	CEPAC ACTION POUR LE CLIMAT II FL
Project Number:	2023-0756
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project consists of an intermediate lending facility that will support predominantly private companies promoting small and mid-sized renewable energy projects in France.
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

Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation consists of a Framework Loan (FL) to the French bank CAISSE D'EPARGNE CEPAC (CEPAC or FI). The loan is for an amount of up to EUR 350m to finance small and mid-sized renewable energy projects in France focused on solar photovoltaic and onshore wind, and potentially other technologies (energy storage and renewable hydrogen). The investment costs of the individual sub-projects will be up to EUR 50m.

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, some of the investments are expected to fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by EIA Directive 2014/52/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, which are expected to be mitigated appropriately.

In case an EIA is required, the Bank will require the Financial Intermediary (FI) to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the project (including EIA screening decisions, environmental studies, environmental monitoring reports or equivalent documents) supporting the compliance with the EIA Directive and national environmental regulations, and to promptly deliver such documents to the Bank upon request.

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). Schemes with significant negative impacts on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation areas, including bird migration routes, shall not be eligible.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty CAISSE D'EPARGNE CEPAC (CEPAC) is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting.

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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Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The FI has significant experience in financing renewable energy projects in France and other Member States, especially with solar PV and onshore wind, and is deemed to have adequate capacity to ensure compliance with the Bank's environmental and social requirements. The FI applies a comprehensive ESG policy, including reporting and monitoring, making available to the public annual reporting on sustainable activities. 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

It is considered that the environmental procedures carried out for individual schemes, verified by the Financial Intermediary, will appropriately address environmental issues and ensure that the schemes to be part-financed under this framework loan comply with national and EU legislation.

If a scheme falls under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive, the FI shall ensure that the sub-project's promoters comply with the provisions of the EIA Directive as transposed into national law. When relevant, the FI shall deliver to the Bank the EIA report and other relevant environmental documents.

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.

The FI will be required to undertake, on a best effort basis, enhanced due diligence (supply chain mapping of the solar PV module manufacturers reaching the level of silicon/polysilicon suppliers and/or declarations by the PV module manufacturers concerning the origin of the components used in the PV modules, per sub-project) also guided by the FI's human rights commitment, and ensuring that appropriate contractual provisions are cascaded to contractors/suppliers of the sub-projects.

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