European Investment Bank

Luxembourg, 3rd September 2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WINDANKER OFFSHORE WIND FARM
Project Number:	2024-0378
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	Offshore wind farm in the German Baltic Sea with installed capacity of 315MW.

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project consists of the development, construction and operation of a 315MW fixed-bottom offshore windfarm in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Baltic Sea. It will be located 38 km to the north of the closest coast of Rügen island, and some 100 kilometres from the transition point between the submarine and land cable in the Vierow port area near Lubmin. The Promoter has chosen a turbine type with a unit capacity of up to 15 MW and the wind farm will entail 21 turbines. Electrical equipment such as internal array cabling and civil works (foundations, access) are part of the Project scope. The total Project area is c. 25km2. Offshore works will start in Q3 2025 (installation of foundations and transition pieces). The turbines will be installed in Q3 2026 and the Project is expected to be completed by Q4 2026.

The grid connection infrastructure entails the following components: (i) c.24km of offshore cable and transformer, (ii) 78km offshore cable under territorial waters and landfall, (iii) onshore 4.3km underground cable, a new electricity substation (220kV/380kV) and 400m of overhead line connection to the transmission grid. Each of the three components is permitted separately (not by the Promoter of the Project, and under separate administrative procedures). The offshore route of the export cable until territorial waters is permitted under the BSH (Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie) whilst the territorial waters part, the onshore underground cable, the new substation and the overhead line is permitted by the Ministry (Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Infrastruktur, Tourismus und Arbeit Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). The offshore cable (100km/220kV) transports the electricity generated in the wind farm from the EEZ through the coastal waters and the Greifswalder bay to the landing point in the port area around Vierow. The aforementioned grid connection infrastructure (i.e. export cable and on shore infrastructure), does not form part of the Project scope to be financed by the EIB.

Environmental Assessment

Offshore wind farms would fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, thereby leaving it to the competent authority to determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required.

[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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According to the Federal Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Gesetz über die Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung – UVPG), the construction and operation of a wind farm with facilities with a total height of more than 50 metres each and 20 or more wind turbines is a project that requires an environmental impact assessment. The Wind Energy At See Act (WindSee) allows the assessment of the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms (under the UVPG) to be limited to the additional or other significant environmental impacts based on a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) already carried out at the site suitability assessment phase. In the case of the present Project, the offshore wind farm was subject to a SEA and site suitability assessment. The Promoter of the Project prepared an EIA report which updates the assessment done at the SEA based on the final design. The Promoter has submitted their application including the EIA for the planning approval process (Planfeststellungverfahren) and obtained it on 24.01.2025.

The onshore and offshore parts of the grid connection infrastructure (onshore: 5km underground cable, new substation, and offshore part of the cable), do not fall under neither of the annexes of the EIA Directive. Under the UVPG these components are not subject to an EIA. However, the developer of the grid connection project has submitted relevant environmental reports. The final approval has been issued for all grid connection infrastructure components. Based on the approval documentation, the aforementioned grid connection components are not expected to entail significant environmental impacts on the environment.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the specific site was carried out in the course of site pre-investigation and site suitability assessment by the permitting authority prior to the auction of the implementation rights for this site. An EIA was later carried out by the Promoter based on its own final technical design and choice of equipment. The relevant environmental and inventory surveys for the EIA were carried out both by the permitting authority and the Promoter who was the original developer of the site prior to the auction of the implementation rights for the site by the authorities. The environmental studies have assessed potential impacts by the Project on the sea floor (sediment), water quality, fish populations, marine mammals and benthos organisms. Similarly, residual impacts on human environment and landscape caused by visual obstruction were assessed. It was concluded that there are no significant impacts in all phases of the Project.

In the construction phase, during the work foundations, underwater noise will be generated. Its greatest intensity will be related to driving large diameter monopiles into the seabed. Taking into account that underwater noise generated may cause significant negative impact on marine organisms (here especially on marine mammals), a noise reduction system will be implemented during the execution of the works. The noise mitigation requirements are stipulated in the environmental approval of the Project.

Additionally, there were surveys related to the quantity and birds species identified in the Project area at different times of the year. Collision risk, disruption to flight paths, and direct or indirect habitat loss were analysed in addition to cumulative impacts (in combination with other projects in the area). The studies concluded that the Project will not lead to significant impacts.

The EIA report also assessed potential significant impacts on marine protected areas in the vicinity. The Project area is located outside Natura 2000 areas. In the vicinity of the Project there are the SCIs "Westliche Rönnebank", at a distance of about 8.3 km, as well as the "Adlergrund" at 12.8km and the EU bird sanctuary "Pomeranian Bay" at about 12.8 km. The EIA report concluded that the integrity of protected sites will not be significantly impacted by the Project.

The EIA report included a cumulative impact assessment with existing offshore wind farms and others currently in planning. It concluded that the cumulative impact is not significant.

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The Project is located in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). A consultation was also conducted with the neighbouring countries. No transboundary impacts are expected.

The Promoter has submitted the final EIA report to the competent authorities, for the purpose of issuing the final planning approval. The competent authority's planning approval decision was made public and includes, amongst others, the environmental conditions and undertakings for the Project.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is deemed aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and the Bank's Energy Lending Policy.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO2 emissions of an offshore wind farm are deemed negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Germany, the total relative effect of the Project is a net reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions by 672 kt CO2e/a.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty, Iberdrola S.A., is in scope and screened into the PATH framework, because it operates in a high emitting sector. The counterparty already meets the requirements of the EIB PATH framework with its existing alignment plan.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

As per the EIA requirements, several rounds of public consultation were held, namely under SEA, EIA of the Project and during the permitting of the export infrastructure. The consultation phases have been concluded.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter, Iberdrola, is a Spanish multinational energy company with experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector. The Bank has financed other projects with the Promoter and its E&S management capacity is deemed satisfactory.

The Promoter has strict requirements for all contractors with respect to HSE, for ensuring a high level of health, safety, and environmental performance. The Promoter is certified to ISO 9001 (Quality management), ISO 14001 (Environmental management), and ISO 45001 (Occupational health and safety management systems). By entering into agreements, suppliers pledge to observe the Promoter's ethical and environmental principals and to put them into practice in their supply chains.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is deemed acceptable for Bank financing under environmental and social aspects, subject to the below loan conditions:

- The Promoter will undertake to report on the environmental monitoring progress.