

Luxembourg, 31st March 2025

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: REN ELECTRICITY SYSTEM UPGRADE III
 Project Number: 20130090
 Country: Portugal
 Project Description: Investment programme aiming at the extension and reinforcement of the electricity transmission network throughout Portugal

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Programme involved the financing of electricity transmission investments covering the period between 2014 and 2023 (10 years in total, with a 5-year delay beyond the initially envisaged calendar and a revised scope). This multi-component investment programme comprised the implementation of 70 transmission schemes dispersed throughout Portugal with voltage levels ranging from 60 kV up to 400 kV. It comprised new HV overhead lines, new substations and the installation of new transformers as well as the refurbishment, reconstruction and modernisation of existing substations. These investments addressed key needs of the Portuguese power system such as connecting and integrating new renewable energy generation and supporting the efficient operation of the network.

Given the final scope of the investments carried out during the implementation period, five components fell under Annex I of the EIA Directive and underwent a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment, while some of the remainder fell under Annex II which required a determination by the competent authority at the planning/consent stage to decide whether an EIA is required. Components were also screened with respect to the need for an appropriate assessment under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, no such studies were needed.

The Programme had low to moderate environmental and social impacts. For these types of investments, these include noise, pollution, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and nuisance during operation. The Promoter conducted monitoring of birds, ambient noise, and electromagnetic fields both before and after the commencement of construction works.

The Promoter is accredited to meet the standards of ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001, having procedures in place for proper waste management of the work sites and to ensure maximum reuse or recycling of end-of-life equipment.

Based on the information provided by the Promoter up to Programme completion, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

The Programme generated positive environmental impacts by enabling the integration of renewable energy generation in the transmission system of the country, thus supporting national and EU decarbonisation goals. Furthermore, the reconstruction and refurbishment of aged assets currently operating in the electricity transmission network reduces the environmental load, such as soil and ground water pollution.

The E&S related conditions and undertakings included in the Finance Contract are considered to have been met.



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Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.