



Luxembourg, 11 June 2025

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *EAFRD CO-FINANCING EXTREMADURA 2023-2027*  
 Project Number: *2023-0009*  
 Country: *Spain*  
 Project Description: *Co-financing investment schemes supported by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in Extremadura within the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2023-2027 ("the Project")*

EIA required:

This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation will support the Spanish Autonomous Community of Extremadura (Comunidad Autónoma de Extremadura – CAE) in the implementation of selected investment schemes co-financed with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan (CAP SP) for Spain 2023-2027, approved by the European Commission on 31st August 2022. The selected rural development interventions fall under Articles 73 & 74 (Investments), 77 (Co-operation) and 78 (Knowledge) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 determining rules for CAP SPs.

The Project will finance CAE's contribution to the above-mentioned EAFRD interventions, which include inter alia investments in afforestation on a total area of circa 6 000 hectares. It also targets 197 000 hectares of forestry area to be planted, reclaimed, restored or better protected against wildfires. Finally, the rural population of Extremadura is expected to benefit from enhanced local development thanks to local action group (LEADER) projects and public-sector investment in basic rural infrastructure.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) referred to in Directive 2001/42/EC was conducted in the frame of the CAP SP, before presenting the CAP SP to the European Commission (EC). The SEA has been published on the [website](#) of the national Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Nutrition. The main findings, which were addressed in the CAP SP, were published in the Strategic Environmental Declaration (see BOE, Number 311 of 28 December 2022, Section III).

Specifically, the interventions of the EIB Project that will contribute to Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability include:

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 11 June 2025

- 6841.1 Productive investments in agricultural holdings contributing to the mitigation / adaptation to climate change, efficient use of natural resources and animal welfare;
- 6843.1 Investments in irrigation infrastructure with environmental objectives;
- 6844 Aid for non-productive investments in agricultural holdings linked to mitigation or adaptation to climate change, efficient use of natural resources and biodiversity;
- 6871 Non-productive investments in basic services in the natural environment;
- 6881 Non-productive forestry investments; and
- 6883 Productive forestry investments.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation. For schemes that would fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the Promoter is required to act according to the Directive, with specific requirements towards the EIB as noted below.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Focus area 7 - Protecting nature and Focus area 8 - Farm to fork).

Finally, the schemes co-financed by the Project are consistent with the national and regional adaptation strategies and other climate policy documents related to the sector.

The overall net environmental and social impact of the Project is expected to be positive, due to improved environmental and social conditions for the rural population and farmers of Extremadura.

## **Social Assessment**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities have been applied over all successive phases of CAP SP programming in line with Regulation EU 2021/2115. They shall also be applied during implementation – project selection, award, and in the monitoring and control functions. In addition, the investment schemes supported by the Project shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. The Spanish CAP SP Monitoring Committee (MC), which inter alia approves project selection criteria, has permanent members with voting rights delegated from organisations representing young farmers and small farmers, respectively, as well as from civil organisations, including two representatives from regional women's associations, as well as one from the regional Consumers' Association. The above framework mitigates the risk of exclusion or discrimination of certain groups.

The Spanish CAP SP is consistent with the Cork 2.0 Declaration 'A Better Life in Rural Areas', targeting job creation and generational renewal in rural areas and promoting social inclusion. The Plan addresses the specific objective under Article 6 (h) to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The SEAs as well EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes are subject to the public consultations in line with the SEA Directive and the EIA Directive, as transposed into national law.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**



Luxembourg, 11 June 2025

The following undertakings will be required for this Project:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including EIA Directive (2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and with the national legislation.
- The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA and/or appropriate assessment according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and the EIA report having been made available to the public.
- Schemes in relation to which a screening or appropriate assessment of impacts on Natura 2000 sites is carried out, are assessed in view of site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs).

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the Project, as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and risks, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.