Luxembourg, 27 June 2014

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BEAUCE WIND ENERGY ALLOCATION
Project Number:	2013-0462
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The Project is a large renewable scheme consisting in 17 wind turbines (for a total capacity of 51MW) in the Beauce area (France, Region Centre). The scheme will be financed through one of the banks selected under Framework Loan REGION CENTRE ENERGIES RENOUVELABLES (2011-0208).

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: yes

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

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. For onshore wind farms having a hub height over 50 m, national regulations always require an Environmental Impact Assessment to be performed. The EIA was approved by the competent authority in September 2011.

The main significant environmental risks highlighted by the EIS refer to interference of the project with birds during the breeding season and the migration season, as well as visual impact. Appropriate mitigation measures to reduce such risks are in place both during construction and operation of the wind farm and the level of residual impacts is considered acceptable to the Bank. The project will have a positive impact on local economy and will contribute to climate change mitigation (i.e. around 97,000 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent will be saved per year).

The competent authority declared that following an appropriate assessment required by Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, the project will not have significant effects on a site of nature conservation importance. This was based on information submitted by the promoter regarding project's impact on the closest Natura 2000 site (3 km away from the wind farm).

As part of the E&S Contractual Conditions, the Promoter will undertake to make available to the Bank a copy of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to be followed during project operation, as well as copies of bird behaviour monitoring reports during construction and the first year of operation.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The EIS concludes that the main significant environmental risks are interference with birds during the breeding season and the migration season, as well as visual impact. Adequate mitigation measures are in place and residual impacts are considered acceptable.

Studies on cumulative impacts of the project and nearby wind farms on local avifauna, as well as landscape, visual and acoustic impact assessments have been undertaken.

- Based on studies related to avifauna, wind turbines have been laid out in order to minimise impacts on migratory corridors, ensuring sufficient distance between turbines. In addition, no construction works will be implemented during breeding or nesting period. Monitoring of bird behaviour is planned both during construction and operation of the wind farm and the ESMP will be adapted accordingly based on the results

[1] Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

of the monitoring, if needed. Relevant monitoring reports will be made available to the Bank during the first year of operation.

- A landscape and visual impact study has been undertaken and resulting recommendations have been taken into account in the project. In particular, co-visibility with monuments nearby was assessed and following the competent authority's recommendation, two turbines affected by co-visibility with Chartres cathedral were removed from the promoter's initial proposal. No significant light flicker nuisance is expected.

- A noise impact study shows acceptable noise levels and compliance with noise regulation. This will be finally verified before commissioning. Moreover, the selected turbines can eventually be operated at low-sound levels.

The competent authority declared that following an appropriate assessment required by Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43/EEC, the project will not have significant effects on a site of nature conservation importance. The project is located at around 3 km from the Natura 2000 site "La Beauce et la vallée de la Conie" (SPA - FR2410002). The promoter assessed the project's impact on the flora and fauna of this site and proposed a number of mitigation measures to the competent authority. Based on this, no significant impact on the nature conservation is expected.

Finally, the main positive impacts highlighted in the EIS include local economy development and contribution to climate change mitigation.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

In particular, the project's contribution to climate change mitigation is estimated at ca. 97 kt CO_2-e/year. This has been calculated according to the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodology.

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.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Results of the public consultation concluded a general public acceptance of the project. National regulations require that public consultation be undertaken as part of the permitting process for such a project. This consultation started in mid-2009 with public meetings with local stakeholders, and informative panels were exposed at the three town halls concerned by the wind farm. The process conclusions were reported by the competent authority in August 2010.