

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>IPTO TRANSMISSION I</i>
Project Number:	<i>2013-0196</i>
Country:	<i>Greece</i>
Project Description:	<i>The project comprises a significant part of IPTO's power transmission investment programme over the period 2012-2015, including (i) construction of Megalopoli EHV s/s and its initial connection to 400 kV and 150 kV, (ii) interconnection of Nea Makri (Attica mainland) to Polypotamos (island of Evia), and (iii) three smaller transmission schemes and a new energy management system.</i>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

The Programme is part of the promoter's Grid Development plan that underwent Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Apart from the energy management system, all sub-projects have undergone Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), either as falling under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2010/92/EU or Annex II of the same Directive and having been screened in by the competent authorities. All sub-projects have been granted environmental permits.

The transmission line from Patras to Megalopoli intrudes on Natura2000 areas for a total of 20.3 km. Alternative routings are more intrusive and the interventions are limited to pylons, lines and temporary access roads, and are considered not to cause habitat fragmentation phenomena, which is the main reason for Natura2000. Other lines and all substations are located at an adequate distance from of existing Natura2000 or other sites of natural protection. The Appropriate Assessments is undertaken as a part of the EIA and is confirmed by the Competent Authority.

There are some sub-project components involving mainly installations within the boundaries of existing substations, reconductoring of existing overhead lines and installation of underground cables that were not subject to EIA. Environmental analyses carried out for some of these components are limited to landscape and archaeological assessments.

The environmental impact analyses and the appropriate assessments carried out indicate that, with the planned mitigations in place, no significant impacts are expected to result from construction and operation of the sub-projects. Furthermore, by facilitating the dispatching of renewable generation across the grid and reducing network losses, the Programme will substantially contribute to reducing CO2 emissions. The Programme is therefore acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Environmental considerations have been incorporated in the design of the sub-projects from the earliest stages. Lines and cables routes and substations locations have been selected so to minimise proximity and crossing of human settlements, sensitive areas, hydrogeological risk areas and sites of archaeological interest. All sub-projects have been designed to strictly comply with current regulations concerning electromagnetic fields.

Further to that, appropriate mitigating measures have been planned and will be implemented to minimise the impacts of the sub-projects during construction and operation, and to restore sites after installations. In densely populated areas particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works.

A number of support measures will be implemented to improve the social acceptance of the sub-project. These include measures for landscape integration of new substations, land occupation and visual impact of overhead lines and burial of existing lines to compensate for the visual impact of new lines.

As regards the natural environment, flight diverters will be installed on ground wires and on top of pylons to avoid birds' collision and mortality in sensitive areas. Felling and trimming of trees will be done in a selective way and, as necessary, compensatory plantations will be realised. In proximity or in case of crossing of sites of nature conservation importance, construction works and restoration of sites will be executed with great care and avoiding breeding periods of wildlife species.

The gross estimated annual emissions of the project are estimated to 77 kilotonnes CO₂/year in a standard year of operation. The estimated emissions savings are 69 kilotonnes of CO₂/year as the losses on the network would be likely to increase without the reinforcements, due to the reduced losses.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Public consultation is carried out within the EIA process.